



Jan Koch, chairwoman of the Shawano-Menominee Counties Democratic Party, watches as a protester holding the American flag upside down passes her on the sidewalk June 27 during the No More Wars protest at the Shawano County Courthouse.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

Small contingent protests President Trump's war actions

Want war funding to be used for health care, more at home

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

Protests against President Donald Trump continued June 27 in Shawano as locals came out in a No More Wars protest to show opposition to one of the president's latest actions — getting directly involved in the Middle East conflict between Israel and Iran.

Although it didn't get the same turnout as the No More Kings protest two weeks earlier, which was an organized national protest effort, about two dozen people lined the sidewalk in front of the Shawano County Courthouse just in time for



Protesters stand with signs June 27 outside the Shawano County Courthouse in a No More Wars rally to oppose what President Donald Trump has done with direct action in the war between Israel and Iran.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

Ethics complaints declared 'dead issue' by Kautza

Supervisor claims \$1M allegedly missing from county coffers

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Investigations into ethics complaints against Shawano County elected and appointed officials have ended with no action taken by the county's ethics and executive committees.

Tom Kautza, county board chairman, told supervisors June 25 the matters were settled, but Supervisor Lowel Hammett refused to let it go.

He asked for a closed session meeting at next month's board meeting to discuss the ethical issues and more.

"We can first discuss past and current employee matters," he said. "Second, the notarized statement and complaint already given to the executive committee by Carney Garcia and others. Third, to determine where the missing million dollars is and who lost it."

Those comments brought out a heated exchange between Hammett and Kautza.

"What million dollars, Lowel?" Kautza asked, his voice rising.

"You're the one that said it," Hammett said.

"This is ridiculous," Kautza said. "I'm not going to get into a big argument here. This is nonsense."

"So you're denying it?" Hammett shouted back.

Supervisor Joe Miller seconded Hammett's motion, which eventually was defeated 19-5.

Voting to hold a closed session discussion were Hammett, Jeremy Gretzinger, Jacob Hartwig, Miller and Lynn Tober-Steinke.

Allan Kuhn, Kathy Luebke and Mike Wizner were absent from the meeting.

"The issue is dead," Kautza said. "Let's get back to something serious. That's what we're here to do."

Two days later, Jim Davel, the county's administrative coordinator, told local me-

PROTEST, CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

ETHICS, CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

INSIDE

Rindt wins another feature race at Shawano Speedway.

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Study favors rerouting Mountain-Bay Trail

Final report expected by late summer, early fall

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

A feasibility study that reviewed options for rerouting a segment of the Mountain-Bay Trail in the Town of Richmond is leaning toward a path parallel to state Highway 29.

About a dozen people attending a public hearing June 25 to hear about the study and review the five plans that made the final cut.

“There have been some concerns about the location on the west side of the city,” said Dan Rammer of MSA Professional Services. “There’s some safety concerns out there, there’s some wayfinding concerns out there, the road isn’t really wide enough to have a pedestrian trail on it.”

The 81-mile trail from Green Bay to Wausau includes 53 miles in Shawano County. All of the trail is on an old railroad bed except for 4 1/2 miles in the Town of Richmond.

Richard Karth, of the Friends of the Mountain Bay Trail, explained why the railroad bed gap exists.

The trail runs along the tracks of the abandoned Chicago and North Western Railway from Green Bay to Wausau. However, Shawano’s paper mill still needed rail service.

At the same time, the Soo Line Railroad was abandoning some of its tracks.

A curve in the Soo Line tracks between Shawano and Thornton was created and connected to the portion of the CNW line that is still used by the paper mill.

Today, where the trail connects with Maple Avenue, it routes north to Oak Avenue, east to Poplar Road, south to County Road MM and then back to the railroad bed north of County Road M.

Matt Hietpas, supervisor in the Town of Richmond, said Oak Avenue is very narrow and costly to widen the road, and the expansion of Krueger Dairy Farm means more traffic with large agricul-



Dan Rammer, of MSA Professional Services, points to one of the five maps showing options for rerouting the Mountain-Bay Trail in the Town of Richmond. A public hearing about a feasibility study to change the route was held June 25.

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

tural equipment on the road.

“We have had a lot of requests, because they can’t take their younger kids anymore, because they’re too scared of the high traffic count,” he said.

The possibility of rerouting this segment has been discussed on and off since 2013.

“It’s not a straight road,” said Nancy Brown-Koeller, president of the nonprofit Shawano Pathways group that facilitates the development, implementation and maintenance of a biking and walking trial system in Shawano County. “It’s a narrow, busy road, and there’s a lot of turns and back-and-forth on it. People get lost on it, and there’s also multiple railroad crossings that are difficult for biking, also.”

Rammer said the study reviewed several options and studied traffic patterns, traffic volumes, crash history and more.

“The feasibility study is really about looking at environmental impacts, right-of-way impacts, safety,” he said.

Five final options were chosen to be presented at

the public hearing.

The first option is to leave the trail as is but add signage and widen some areas.

A second option is to run along the railroad spur and abandoned area by Maple Avenue.

Third, create a path parallel to state Highway 29.

A fourth option is to use Maple Avenue, Clark Drive and County Road MMM.

A final fifth option would use Maple Avenue and County Road M.

Each option has its positives and negatives, with financial considerations, easements and property purchases among the things to be considered.

Rammer said ideally a final report will be wrapped up in late summer or early fall, just in time for the next round of funding for the trail design. That process will take a year or two, depending on the chosen path, with construction starting in 2027 or 2028.

The Mountain-Bay Trail will celebrate its 30th year in 2026.

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Bahr sentencing pushed back 6 weeks

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

Tracy Bahr will have to wait at least another six weeks to see what his fate is after a planned plea hearing June 25 had to be delayed due to a plea deal not being finalized.

Defense attorney Christopher Froehlich said he was still waiting for the district attorney’s office to provide the deal but noted it was understandable due to the fact that Bahr is facing 100 charges in Shawano County.

The next hearing is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Aug. 8 in Branch II of the Shawano County Courthouse, where it’s expected that Bahr will give a guilty or no contest plea and then be sentenced. Bahr said he would likely be appearing via Zoom due to his current incarceration at the Oshkosh Correctional Institute.

A witness wanted to testify but later backed down after an impromptu conference with Shawano-Menominee County Assistant District Attorney Edward Burke. She is expected to return to speak at the sentencing hearing.

In the latest case, Bahr is facing one count of failure to comply with an officer’s attempt to take a person into custody, nine counts of possessing a firearm by a convicted felon, one count of possession of methamphetamine, one count of possession of THC greater than 1,000 grams with intent, 22 felony counts of bail jumping, one misdemeanor count of resisting or obstructing an officer, three misdemeanor counts of possession of drug paraphernalia and seven misdemeanor counts of bail jumping.

The maximum Bahr faces is up to 3 1/2 years in prison and \$10,000 in fines for failure to comply

with an officer’s attempt to take a person into custody, 10 years and \$25,000 in fines for each count of possessing a firearm by a convicted felon, 3 1/2 years and \$10,000 in fines for possession of methamphetamine, six years and \$10,000 in fines for possession of THC with intent, and six years and \$10,000 in fines for each bail jumping count.

Bahr could also face nine months in jail and \$10,000 in fines for one count of resisting or obstructing an officer, 30 days and \$500 in fines for each misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia, and nine months and \$10,000 in fines for each misdemeanor bail jumping count.

According to the criminal complaint, on Aug. 4, 2022, at 7:35 a.m., a Shawano County sheriff’s deputy responded to a complaint in the Town of Angelica, where Bahr was allegedly contacted by another deputy, as he was allegedly washing a piece of equipment in the driveway. Eight minutes later, Bahr allegedly fled from the residence on a three-wheeled ATV. While searching, another deputy allegedly found one firearm in a vehicle at the residence.

When law enforcement asked residents if they have seen Bahr, one neighbor allegedly said that they saw Bahr leaving a field edge on County Road S with a shotgun across his lap, according to the complaint.

Before noon that day, Bahr’s mother was leaving to the residence where Bahr was spotted. She allegedly told law enforcement, according to the complaint, that Bahr told her he planned to commit suicide, or was going to “shoot it out with the cops.” She then allegedly

gave law enforcement two spots where Bahr could be.

On Aug. 7, Bahr was located and brought into custody at Motel 6 in Green Bay. When searching Bahr’s residence, deputies found seven firearms, one box of meth smoking drug paraphernalia with two digital scales, THC drug paraphernalia, 667.8 grams of THC, four Mason jars with green, leafy substances, a plastic gallon-sized bag with a green, leafy substance, aluminum foil with several cut straws and six shotgun shells that were on a sling.

According to Wisconsin Circuit Court Access, Bahr has six other open cases in Shawano County, with the first coming from October 2020. The first case is a misdemeanor disorderly conduct with a domestic abuse repeater.

Things accelerated from there when, in December 2021, Bahr was charged with intimidating a victim with the threat of force with a domestic abuse repeater, along with another disorderly conduct charge and two bail jumping charges. A second case in that year involves another charge of intimidation, as well as battery and disorderly conduct charges and four more bail jumping charges. Another disorderly conduct charge and two more bail jumping charges are included in a third case.

In January 2022, Bahr was charged with nine counts of second-degree recklessly endangering safety, three counts of resisting an officer, three counts of hit and run, and 12 counts of bail jumping. In February 2022, Bahr was charged with theft of movable property, criminal damage to property, six counts of felony bail jumping and five counts of misdemeanor bail jumping.

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Parent reports child in vandalism spree

Three juveniles have been identified as suspects in a string of vandalism across Shawano County late last week.

A Facebook post by the Shawano County Sheriff’s Department led a parent to call in and report suspicions about their child’s involvement. The three individuals admitted to involvement in nearly all of the vandalism incidents.

Information on the vandalism at a church in Bowler remains unsolved.

Mailbox damage was reported on East Hazel Drive, County Road A, Hillview Road, Mill Creek Road, County Road G and U.S. Highway 45. Multiple stop signs were intentionally run over in the Town of Germania.

The three were issued citations and are working

with property owners to repair the damage.

Anyone noticing property damage, even if it seems minor, is encouraged to contact the sheriff’s department.

Also, anyone with information about the church vandalism can contact Deputy Chase Mason at 715-526-3111 or chase.mason@shawanocountywi.gov.

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City's manufactured housing regulations expected to change

Homes will require 23-foot width to avoid mobile homes in zoning areas

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

The city of Shawano plans to bump up its requirements for manufactured homes in the hopes that mobile homes don't continue to come into areas where mobile homes are not designated.

The matter was discussed June 25 by the Shawano Plan Commission, and formal approval is expected to come later this summer for the commission to give its recommendation and then give to the Shawano Common Council for final approval.

The city consulted with Vandewalle and Associates Inc., and Jackie Mich and Evan Hoier sent the commission a memo on its recommendations. A manufactured home is allowed in zoning districts wherever single-family and two-family homes are allowed, often looking like conventional stick-built homes. Mobile homes, which are more transportable on city streets, are only allowed in one zoning district, currently at The Village along Teddington Lane.

The memo recommended the city look at additional standards, such as requiring basements, orientation toward the street and adopting a minimum floor area.

According to David Moesch, zoning administrator, a mobile home managed to make it through the city's process of regulating manufactured homes. Current policies allow for homes to have a minimum width of 22 feet. The mobile

home in question was 18 feet wide and 26 feet long but had a vehicle port that added four more feet to meet the 22-foot minimum.

That's when officials decided the regulations needed more scrutiny.

Moesch said he spoke with representatives with from North Country Homes, the manufactured home company in Bon-duel, to look at their policies when building such homes. He said those homes are generally 864 square feet with a 24-foot width, which is slightly above both the current and proposed regulations.

"The cleanest way to deal with this is to change the manufactured home definition to come up with a way that this doesn't happen again," Moesch said.

The plan is to require manufactured homes to be at least 23 feet wide with a minimum square footage of 860 square feet, according to Moesch. He noted that the original plan was to require a minimum of 960 square feet, but after speaking with North Country Homes, that was changed.

City Administrator Ed-die Sheppard said that the new regulations would stop trailers from coming into undesignated areas, a concern he expects to increase due to the rising demand for affordable housing.

"You can build them, but you can't move them that way," Sheppard said. "If it's on a trailer, it's not a manufactured home."

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Jazz ensemble debuts in Shawano



ABOVE: Brayden Bellile sings Frank Sinatra's "Fly Me to the Moon" on June 27 during the NEW Jazz Ensemble's debut concert in Shawano. The NEW Jazz Ensemble has four more performances at Franklin Park, with director Hunter Krolow promising some different songs in the future. The other dates are 7 p.m. July 14 and July 28, and 9 a.m. Aug. 9 and Aug. 23.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

LEFT: Jayce Gorski performs a saxophone solo June 27 under the bandshell at Franklin Park in Shawano during the NEW Jazz Ensemble's debut concert.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

BELOW LEFT: Mary Nowinski, left, and Nathan Edwards, a Shawano Community High School alum, perform the jazz tune "Chameleon" during the debut concert of the NEW Jazz Ensemble on June 27 at Franklin Park. A number of SCHS grads make up the band, along with musicians from Wausau and Stevens Point.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

BELOW: Nicholas Waldoch, left, and Eli Oitzinger make sure the horns are heard as the NEW Jazz Ensemble performs "Groove Merchant" June 27 under the bandshell at Franklin Park.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA



Godlewski launches public records database

Wisconsin Secretary of State Sarah Godlewski announced the launch of a new, online, searchable database of public records — marking the latest step in what she says is her office's commitment to transparency, accessibility and modernization.

The searchable database is part of a new portal that streamlines access to public government documents. In addition to free access, certified copies can be ordered directly through the portal for a small fee, as required by state law, according to Godlewski.

"Our goal is to have

documents available online within 10 business days of filing," Godlewski said. "This kind of real-time access strengthens trust in government by ensuring Wisconsinites can see and understand what's happening in their state."

Access the site by visiting <https://sos.wi.gov/Pages/Records/Requests.aspx>.

The launch is part of a broader effort by the secretary of state's office to modernize operations and better serve the public through user-friendly technology and transparent service.

Delinquent real estate sales resume

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

Shawano County officials are trying a second time to conduct a first-round sale of real estate foreclosed on by the county.

The county has taken possession of five properties due to the owner not paying back taxes.

A first attempt to sell the properties by the county was halted when officials realized they were not following the law that required the sites be

advertised for sale with an appraised value attached to them.

- Properties include:
- 23.5-acre lot on North Airport Drive and Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott. \$3,200 appraised value.
 - 8.26-acre lot at W18776 County Road Z in Aniwa. \$80,000 appraised value.
 - Lot and building at 519 Flint Ave., Mattoon. \$12,000 appraised value.
 - Lot and building at 502 S. Andrews St., Shawano. \$10,000 appeared value.
 - Lot on Weed Street in

Shawano. \$3,000 appraised value.

The appraised values are the same as the minimum bids advertised a month ago with the exception of the Aniwa property that had a minimum bid of \$8,000.

All property is sold as is. Sealed bids will be accepted at the county treasurer's office at the Shawano County Courthouse, 311 N. Main St., Shawano, until 1:59 p.m. July 15. All bids must be equal to or greater than the appraised value.

The parcels will be sold to the person offering the

highest bid equal to or in excess of the asking price.

A 10% good faith deposit in the form of a certified check, cashier's check or money order payable to "Shawano County" must accompany the bid. The balance is payable within 14 days from the date of notification of approval of the bid or down payment is forfeited.

Deposits of successful bidders will be applied to the purchase price. All others will be returned.

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COURT NEWS

▪ Duran S. Teller, 38, Green Bay, pleaded no contest June 23 to driving or operating a motor vehicle without consent, felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of operating while revoked. Judge Katherine Sloma levied fines and sentenced him to 180 days in county jail.

▪ Anthony M. Teller, 41, pleaded no contest Jan. 7 to two counts of fleeing an officer in his vehicle, possession of methamphetamine, nine counts of felony bail jumping, two misdemeanor charges of operating while revoked and misdemeanor counts of negligent operation of a motor vehicle, possession of cocaine, resisting or obstructing an officer, and bail jumping. Sloma sentenced him June 26 to two years in prison followed by three years of extended supervision with conditions.

▪ Vernon A. Parrott, 28, Tigerton, pleaded no contest June 25 to battery or threat

to a law officer, two counts of second-degree recklessly endangering safety, six counts of felony bail jumping, four counts of misdemeanor bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (third offense), and resisting or obstructing an officer. Sloma imposed and stayed a prison sentence June 25 and placed him on five years of probation with conditions including one year in county jail with Huber work-release privileges.

▪ George J. Bruette, 45, Neopit, was charged June 23 with second-degree recklessly endangering safety and misdemeanor counts of causing injury while operating under the influence and bail jumping. Sloma set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for Aug. 12.

▪ Travis J. Schedler, 41, East Troy, was charged June 23 with two counts of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor

counts of disorderly conduct and bail jumping. Sloma set a \$1,000 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for July 21.

▪ April M. Westphal, 30, Suring, was charged June 24 with three counts of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of resisting or obstructing an officer and possession of drug paraphernalia. Sloma set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for July 14.

▪ Danny S. Wedde, 30, Clintonville, pleaded no contest June 16 to five counts of felony bail jumping, possession of methamphetamine, two misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct, and misdemeanor charges of resisting or failing to stop and possession of THC. Judge William Kussel Jr. withheld sentencing and placed him on four years of probation with conditions.

▪ Derrick J. Grignon, 45, Keshena, pleaded no contest

June 17 to felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor charge of operating while revoked. Judge Katherine Sloma levied fines, suspended his license for 90 days, and sentenced him to 60 days in county jail.

▪ Travis J. Morris, 45, Shawano, pleaded no contest Feb. 28 to second-degree recklessly endangering safety and fleeing an officer in his vehicle. Kussel withheld sentencing June 13 and placed him on three years of probation with conditions including 60 days in county jail.

▪ Bradley P. House, 25, Green Bay, had his probation revoked Sept. 24 from a 2023 conviction for possession of narcotic drugs, battery by prisoners, two counts of felony bail jumping, two counts of misdemeanor bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of theft. Sloma sentenced him June 18 to 18 months in prison followed by three years of extended supervision with

conditions. He was credited with 490 days already served.

▪ James W. Lyons Jr., 46, Gresham, had his probation revoked May 19 on a 2023 conviction for possession of narcotics drugs, two counts of felony bail jumping, and misdemeanor counts of possession of THC and resisting or obstructing an officer. Judge Rick Cveykus sentenced him June 16-18 months in prison followed by two years of extended supervision with conditions.

▪ Charles T. Hawley, 60, Shawano, pleaded no contest Sept. 3 to possession with intent to distribute cocaine and maintaining a drug trafficking place. Sloma imposed and stayed a prison sentence, then placed him on five years of probation with conditions.

▪ Anthony W. Tepiew, 19, Shawano, was charged June 16 with felony bail jumping. Sloma set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary

hearing for June 25.

▪ Hunter A. Lampinen, 28, Shawano, was charged June 19 with burglary and two counts of misdemeanor theft. Sloma set a \$2,500 cash bond. In a separate file, Lampinen was charged with two counts of felony theft, and Sloma set a \$1,000 cash bond. She scheduled a status conference in both cases for July 22.

▪ Lianne R. Soman, 35, Menasha, was charged June 19 with 10 counts of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (third offense) and operating while revoked. Sloma set a \$3,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for June 24.

▪ Harley Dean Stands, 31, Crandon, was charged June 19 with two counts of felony bail jumping. Sloma set a \$1,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for June 24.

PUBLIC RECORD

SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

June 29
Officers responded to 22 incidents, including a curfew violation at Sturgeon Park, 811 S. Water St.; a disturbance on South Park Street; a disturbance on Mountain Bay Trail Drive; vandalism on Estates Lane; two 911 calls; three reckless driving incidents; two welfare checks.

June 28
Officers responded to

23 incidents, including a disturbance at Quality Inn and Suites, 104 N. Airport Drive; suspicious activity on Madison Way; bail jumping on South Sawyer Street; trespassing on North Lafayette Street; a disturbance on South Hamlin Street; a disturbance near East Fifth Street and Fairview Way; one 911 call; one reckless driving incident; one traffic hazard; one welfare check.

June 27
Officers responded to

27 incidents, including an assault at Shawano Community Middle School, 1050 S. Union St.; trespassing on South Union Street; suspicious activity on South Main Street; a missing person on Dallman Lane; two reports of property theft on Madison Way; fireworks at Arlington Park, 300 N. Humphrey Circle; operating a motor vehicle without a license near state Highway 47-55 and Cherry Avenue; harassment on Madison Way; a distur-

bance on South Andrews Street; a noise complaint near Acorn and Waukechon streets; two 911 calls; two welfare checks; one crash.

June 26
Officers responded to 17 incidents, including drug offenses on South Smalley Street; trespassing on Madison Way; a death investigation at Woodport Doors, 1275 Industrial Drive; juvenile alcohol at Memorial Park, 901 S. Lincoln St.; suspicious activity on South Lutz Street; suspicious activity near South Sawyer and East Randall streets; a disturbance on South Lincoln Street; one 911 call; one welfare check; one crash.

June 25
Officers responded to 20 incidents, including an internet sex crime at an undisclosed location; suspicious activity at Hope Community Baptist Church, 302 Tristan Drive; property damage on East Green Bay Street; a disturbance near Subway, 1230 E. Green Bay St.; assisting the fire department for a gas spill at Kwik Trip, 1241 E. Green Bay St.; one 911 call; one traffic hazard; four welfare checks; one crash.

June 24
Officers responded to 16 incidents, including drug offenses on South Sawyer Street; property theft on Maple Street in Birnamwood; a disturbance on West Picnic Street; a disturbance outside Walmart, 1244 E. Green Bay St.; one 911 call; two welfare checks.

June 23
Officers responded to 29 incidents, including threatening at ThedaCare Medical Center, 100 County Road B; lewd and lascivious behavior on Estates Lane; drug offenses on South

Sawyer Street; a disturbance on South Franklin Street; a scam on Channel Trace Drive; child abuse or neglect at an undisclosed location; a disturbance on Pearl Avenue; suspicious activity at Cornerstone Chiropractic, 153 S. Main St.; three 911 calls; two reckless driving incidents; three welfare checks; one crash.

SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

June 29
Deputies responded to 26 incidents, including a disturbance on West Express Way in Birnamwood; an animal bite on Granite Street in Tigerton; trespassing on Lake Drive in the Town of Washington; one 911 call; three reckless driving incidents; two traffic hazards; four welfare checks; two crashes.

June 28
Deputies responded to 37 incidents, including suspicious activity near North Beech and Cedar streets in Tigerton; an animal bite on River Road on the Stockbridge-Munsee Reservation; six 911 calls; five reckless driving incidents; two traffic hazards; three crashes, one involving deer.

June 27
Deputies responded to 47 incidents, including four reports of criminal damage on Mill Creek and Hillview roads and County Road G in the Town of Herman and also on County Road G in the Town of Seneca; bail jumping on County Road T in the Town of Waukechon; an animal bite on Riverside Road in the Town of Pella; suspicious activity on Maple Leaf Road in the Town of Belle Plaine; a disturbance on Country Lane in the Town of Washington;

a disturbance on Cedar Avenue in the Town of Wescott; four 911 calls; four reckless driving incidents; one traffic hazard; one welfare check; three crashes, one involving deer, one involving a bear.

June 26
Deputies responded to 26 incidents, including a disturbance on High Street in Birnamwood; an animal bite on Elm Road in the Town of Angelica; three 911 calls; one reckless driving incident; one traffic hazard; one welfare check; one crash.

June 25
Deputies responded to 24 incidents, including trespassing on Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; a restraining order violation on Johnson Road in the Town of Germania; an animal bite on West Campfire Road in the Town of Waukechon; a disturbance on Anderson Avenue in the Town of Wescott; four 911 calls; two reckless driving incidents; two traffic hazards; one welfare check.

June 24
Deputies responded to 38 incidents, including a disturbance on West Express Way in Birnamwood; disorderly conduct at the county jail, 405 N. Main St., Shawano; threatening on Riverside Drive in the Town of Wescott; suspicious activity on Frailing Road in the Town of Wescott; one 911 call; three reckless driving incidents; two traffic hazards; one welfare check; two crashes.

June 23
Deputies responded to 31 incidents, including a disturbance on Putnam Lane in Bowler; three 911 calls; five reckless driving incidents; four traffic hazards; one welfare check; one crash, involving deer.



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June 20, 2025.
Eberhardt-Stevenson

Juan M. Torres
June 18, 2025.
Eberhardt-Stevenson

Joyce E. Krolow
June 20, 2025.
Eberhardt-Stevenson

Juan M. Torres
June 18, 2025.
Eberhardt-Stevenson

Funeral Home and Crematory, Clintonville.

Funeral Home and Crematory, Clintonville.

More heartwarming tales could come to state

Legislative bills would reopen Wisconsin film office, offer production companies tax incentives

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

Bills currently circulating through the Wisconsin Legislature could result in more calls for “Lights, camera, action” in the state.

Assembly Bill 231 and Senate Bill 231 are currently going through committees to get approval, and if signed into law, it would reestablish offering a 30% tax credit to production companies that film movies and television shows in the state. It would also bring back the state’s film office, which has been closed for well over a decade.

Currently, Wisconsin is one out of about a dozen states that does not offer a film and television tax incentive. It is one of only four that does not have a film office.

The pair of bills could potentially attract not only big-time filmmakers to the state, especially the natural beauty of northern Wisconsin, but it would also encourage independent dreamers to come to America’s Dairyland to create their own amazing films.

The potential that the film tax credits could bring has Rep. Elijah Behnke, R-Town of Chase, very excited.

“Those iconic films that say ‘Produced in Georgia,’ I think we’re just following in their footsteps,” Behnke said. “Wisconsin seems kind of iconic from ‘That 70s Show.’ That was supposedly Wisconsin. We’re just trying to build a brand that would increase movies being produced here in Wisconsin. It has shown in Georgia to be very good for the local economy, so we think it would actually increase tax revenue and be good for our state.”

Providing companies with the 30% tax credit would encourage more spending in Wisconsin by film companies, according to Behnke, and the credit would reward them for utilizing Wisconsin’s backdrop and spending money at local businesses, which would include eateries and hotels.

“The state would not be giving them a rebate check,” Behnke said. “They just wouldn’t have to pay taxes, up to 30% of the production expenditures (spent in Wisconsin).”

Behnke noted that Montana, with its scenic backdrops of Yellowstone National Park, saw film



Filming takes place at a Wisconsin hotel for the film “February.” Efforts to reestablish a film office and production tax credits are making their way through the Wisconsin Legislature.

AARON KRUSE



Milwaukee director of photography Leo Purman lines up a shot on a frozen lake in Wisconsin while filming “February,” which came out earlier this year. The show’s director, Nathan Deming, hopes Assembly Bill 251 and Senate Bill 251 make it through the Wisconsin Legislature to allow more films to be shot in Wisconsin.

AARON KRUSE

companies spend \$730 million last year in the state, and that generated \$44.5 million in tax revenue.

“It’s adding jobs, thousands of jobs,” Behnke said. “We can expect up to \$1 billion of output (in Wisconsin) if there was a big series of shows here.”

The 21st season of “Top Chef” recently put Wisconsin in the spotlight, Behnke said, spending about \$5 million in the state. He noted the hotels in Milwaukee saw about \$1.5 million of that housing crew members and contestants.

“That’s just a little taste of what could be,” he said.

Nathan Deming, a filmmaker based in Eau

Claire and Los Angeles, is another advocate for seeing AB 231 and SB 231 pass and be signed by Gov. Tony Evers. He recently showed his film “February” at Shawano Cinema, and seeing the 30% tax credit would help him as he works to make his movies, many of which would be set in Wisconsin like “February” was.

Wisconsin has one of the largest television and film archives in the country, Deming said, and he noted that a document from the 1970s proposed the original film office, which continued as part of the Wisconsin Department of Tourism until 2005, when then Gov. Jim Doyle

asked for 10% departmental cutbacks.

“That was pretty ahead of its time,” Deming said.

Deming said the Shawano area could be a prime spot for filming, if the community could figure out how to entice film companies to come here. He estimated that independent and regional companies are looking for small towns, and having the tax incentive could help make northeast Wisconsin “a regular stop on the map.”

“Even a few days of filming in a place like Shawano brings immediate economic impact — hotel stays, meals, hardware rentals, gear storage, even local hires for crew and extras. That money goes straight into the community,” Deming said. “Shawano is especially well-positioned because it offers a wide range of locations, small-town streets, lakefronts, rural land, all close to Green Bay, which makes it very attractive

from a production logistics standpoint. Filmmakers are constantly looking for compact, versatile towns like this to shoot in.”

He added that filmmakers who come to Shawano County wouldn’t have far to go to reach a production center in Green Bay, so that would cut down on travel expenses.

Deming noted there’s a minimum spend of \$100,000 required for film companies to get the tax credit, which is an easy benchmark for Hollywood blockbusters, but it’s also obtainable for smaller film companies. He noted that neighboring states have a threshold of \$1 million for its tax incentives.

“What I really love about this bill is that it’s not just for Hollywood,” Deming said. “It’s for independent filmmakers like myself, as well. It makes it a lot easier on the small people.”

Deming hopes to produce the other movies in his month series like “February” in Wisconsin, but he’s an advocate for the bills so that many more filmmakers with lofty dreams can make them come true in this state. He noted that a Hallmark movie titled “A Cherry Pie Christmas” filmed in Door County last winter and spent about \$600,000 in the area.

“A rising tide raises all boats,” Deming said. “I truly believe there’s all kinds of movies that could be filming here, and filming, unfortunately, is an expensive art form and requires these kinds of programs. I think we could support a lot of filmmaking here, all the way from big-budget movies to Hallmark and Lifetime movies. There’s plenty that could be shot at any time of year — Christmastime or summertime.”

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com



“Hundreds of Beavers” producer Kurt Ravenwood stands with two of the film’s stars during one of its screenings in 2024. The movie was filmed in Wisconsin.

CONTRIBUTED

“Even a few days of filming in a place like Shawano brings immediate economic impact — hotel stays, meals, hardware rentals, gear storage, even local hires for crew and extras. That money goes straight into the community.”

NATHAN DEMING, Wisconsin filmmaker



Chris Caldwell, president of the College of Menominee Nation in Keshena, sits with student Avari Fernandez in the campus atrium.

Tribal colleges threatened by federal funding cuts

Leadership plans for cuts to budget, student services if bill is approved

By ANNA MARIE YANNY
Wisconsin Public Radio

Tribal colleges in Wisconsin stand to lose significant federal support following proposed cuts under the Trump administration, including an 83% cut to certain Bureau of Indian Education funds. If approved, those cuts, along with proposed changes to the federal Pell Grant program, could hamper the services tribal colleges provide students in Wisconsin. There are two tribal colleges in the state, together enrolling about 700 students: the College of Menominee Nation in Keshena, and Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University, which is about 100 miles north of Eau Claire. "The tribal colleges and universities across the country already operate at bare minimum funding," said Karen Breit, interim

president at Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe. "So any projected decrease to that funding is going to have a major impact." University staff are looking at budget cuts in anticipation of the possible loss of federal funding, she said. The possible Bureau of Indian Education cuts include slashing post-secondary programming from about \$127.4 million in 2025 to just about \$22 million in 2026. The cuts are included in a budget request sent by the Department of the Interior to Congress. In a statement, an Interior Department spokesperson told Wisconsin Public Radio it is committed to supporting "high-quality education that honors the unique needs and cultures of Native students. We will continue to advance academic excellence, student well-being and culturally relevant instruction with the resources entrusted to us." The One Big Beautiful Bill recently approved by the Republican-controlled House of Representatives

included a change that would eliminate Pell Grant eligibility for part-time students. The Senate version of the bill does not include the eligibility cuts, but that could change by the time the bill comes to a vote. CMN President Chris Caldwell said the changes to Pell Grant criteria could be "pretty devastating." "We have a large number of part-time students just due to work, family or both, as they try to advance their education," Caldwell said. "That's around 70% of our student population." He said federal funds are important for tribal colleges, following historic non-investment in Native communities. "We're still recovering from that," he said, adding that the tribal college has helped build their community workforce. "A lot of our people are now the leaders in our institutions." He said if federal cuts go through, his college might have to reduce the amount of student services and degree programs they offer. Community programs through the college, such as energy assistance programs, food preparation and professional development programs, would likely go first, he added. "It would just slowly back us into a corner of just focusing on teaching and learning," he said. "We'd have to figure out what staff we could afford to keep." Tribal colleges and universities have a significant economic impact on their local communities, Breit said. "If our funds from the federal government changed, they don't only affect the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University, but the surrounding area," she said.

Shawano man faces federal porn charges

By KEVIN MURPHY
Correspondent

A Shawano man has been charged in federal court with the production of child pornography, allegedly involving a two-year-old girl, an offense punishable by a statutory minimum of 15 years in prison. According to an affidavit by FBI Agent Sharon McLaughlin, Brandon M. Boogren, 29, was apprehended after FBI in Milwaukee-Green Bay received a lead from the FBI in Houston on June 3 regarding a case they were investigating. FBI Houston passed information from a May 16, 2019, conversation on WhatsApp including a phone number later identi-



BRANDON BOOGREN

fied as belonging to Boogren. On the same day, Boogren sent four videos of a minor appearing to be about two years of age engaged in a sexually explicit activity. The videos weren't saved to the phone, but two thumbnail images were which depicted Boogren and the child inside a residence. On June 3, 2024, FBI and Shawano police interviewed Boogren during which he confirmed that the phone number had been his. After initially de-

nying any wrongdoing, he was shown the images and portions of the WhatsApp chat and admitted to his involvement in the offense. Brandon was arrested, made his initial court appearance on June 6 and was placed in temporary detention. On June 13, he was released from custody on standard conditions. He was indicted on June 17 and arraigned June 23. No further court dates have been set. In addition to a mandatory minimum 15-year sentence, if convicted, Boogren also faces a fine of up to \$250,000, assessment imposed on child pornography producers, placed on the sexual offender registry and a maximum of lifetime supervised release.

Parade highlights Tilleda Fun Dayz



A tractor hauls a trailer packed with partying representatives from the Tilleda Falls Campground and adds a touch of whimsy June 29 to the Tilleda Fun Dayz parade.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA



A trio of horses and riders are decked out in bright colors June 29 as they move along County Road D for the Tilleda Fun Dayz parade.

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It's recommended to go to professional fireworks shows on Independence Day, but if that's not possible, medical professionals recommend that people should take care when handling fireworks.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

Fireworks fun but can be dangerous

Aurora doctor recommends caution when handling fireworks

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

Independence Day celebrations have a tendency to bring out fireworks as millions of people celebrate the birth of America.

From backyard barbecues to community celebrations, fireworks generate a lot of excitement for people. They also increase the risk of injury.

Dr. Ryan Murphy, who practices emergency medicine at Aurora Bay Care Medical Center, noted that body parts being severed as a result of exploding fireworks exists, but is more of a rarity. The injuries related to fireworks that he sees this time of year are more burns and eye injuries.

"Often, burn injuries will come from sparklers," Murphy said. "The other injuries that we'll see will be foreign bodies in the eyes, especially like when people go to the fireworks shows and they're all close and staring up as that debris falls down. It's dark at night, and you can't see, and you'll get some of that in your eye and it causes a corneal abrasion or a scratch on your eye."

Risk of injury with fireworks increases when alcohol is mixed in, according to Murphy.

"You start to see people who are falling and tripping," he said.

People that Murphy have dealt with surmise

that the more common firework injuries he sees are fingers blown off or other severed parts. He noted those are the exception rather than the rule, and he might see one such incident every two or three years.

"We do see it, but it's not the most common injury we'll see over the holiday," Murphy said.

He recommended people who purchase their own fireworks remember that they always run hot, so they should be very careful.

"Even after the firework goes off, a lot of times those containers that they come in are still fairly hot," Murphy said. "People come up and grab them to move them off to the side, and that's when they get a burn to the hand. You'll also see occasionally where a firework doesn't go off completely, but people assume that it has, and go up to move it, and the bottom reignites and catches back on fire."

Fireworks injuries for children usually consist of burns to arms and hands, according to Murphy. He said children are less likely to realize how hot fireworks can get and will toss them into the air only to touch the burning end when they come down.

"With little kids, you should supervise them and make sure there's plenty of space in between the kids running around and

making sure they're not throwing the sparklers up in the air," Murphy said. "When they're done with the sparkler, put it in a bucket of water. As far as the bigger fireworks, keep kids away from them."

While Independence Day and the days before and after tend to be the most common time for fireworks injuries, Murphy said he sees them occasionally throughout the year, especially New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, birthday celebrations, weddings and other holidays. He expects to see more fireworks injuries simply because the holiday starts on Friday and results in a three-day weekend.

"It's few and far between, but we see some fireworks injuries throughout the year," Murphy said.

It's usually safer for people to go to shows like the ones taking place in Gillett and Bonduel, but Murphy doesn't expect that everyone will heed such a recommendation.

"Certainly, we recommend leaving it to the professionals, but we know people won't," Murphy said. "We just encourage people to be safe, to have common sense especially if someone has been drinking, have someone there who maybe hasn't been drinking to oversee anything, because it is high risk."

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Making the most of summer



Above and at left, the Shawano Parks and Recreation Department sponsored a week of lessons on sailing, windsurfing and standup paddleboard yoga at the Shawano County Park. A windsurfing youth camp was also held. Events were held in conjunction with International Youth Sailing of Oshkosh and Shawano Adventure Sports.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA



Charlie's County Market in Shawano hosted a RibFest on June 27, with hundreds of orders taken throughout the afternoon. As if the weather wasn't hot enough, a couple of guys spent several hours grilling the savory food for customers.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA



A horse and buggy travels along a lonely stretch of a Shawano County road. The county is home to a growing Amish community, particularly in the Bonduel area. Their focus on simple living includes horse-drawn buggies for transportation.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA



Above, Dave Lupella, of White Lake, polishes up the wheels of his 1938 Ford Deluxe Coupe that he entered in the Menominee Casino Resort inaugural car show June 28. Lupella has owned the car for 52 years, and with a rebuilt engine, he has driven it 238,000 miles since 2006, including a couple of trips to Florida. Below, Ron Peterman, of Purlaski, sits behind the wheel of his 1985 Chevy Monte Carlo SS. Peterman bought the car brand new and has been its only owner since then. The car show had entries in the categories of 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s to the present.

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA



Dems propose simplifying ballot questions

Bill comes as
GOP governs via
constitutional
amendments

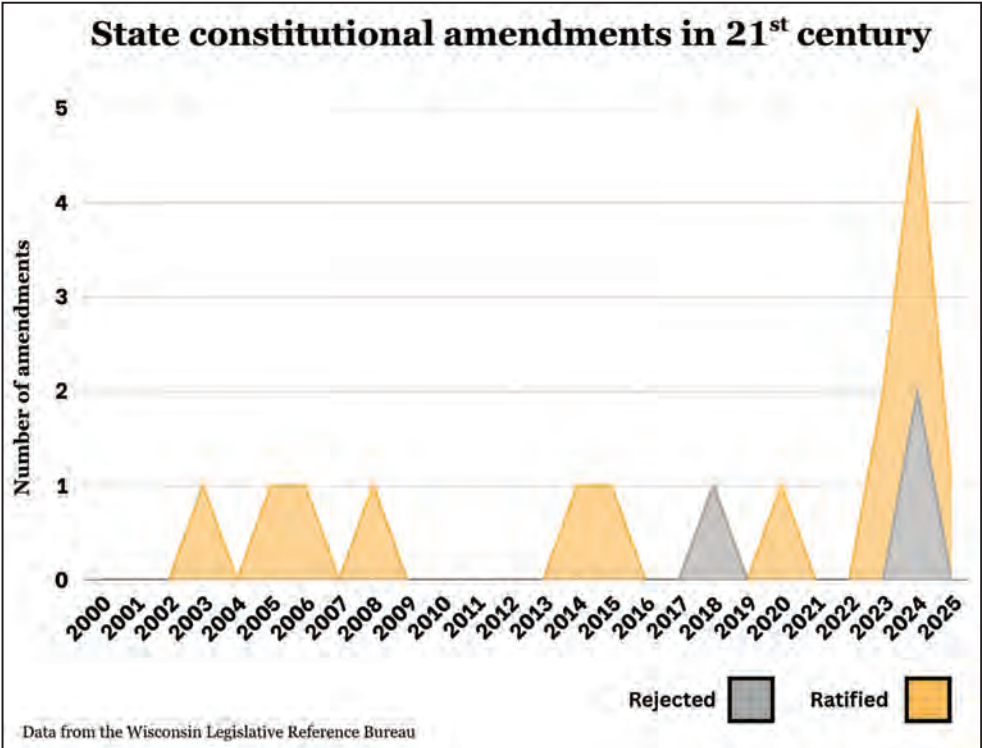
By ANNIE PULLEY
The Badger Project

In last November's election in Wisconsin, a question on the ballot asked voters if the state's constitution should be amended to order that only American citizens age 18 or older may vote. Voters approved it with an overwhelming 79%, but the state constitution already mandated that voters must be adult citizens.

The constitutional amendment changed who can vote in Wisconsin from "Every United States citizen age 18 or older" to "Only a United States citizen age 18 or older."

The referendum question could have led some voters to think Wisconsin did not already prohibit noncitizen voting, according to the State Democracy Research Initiative at the University of Wisconsin Law School.

In March, Democratic Reps. Lee Snodgrass and Deb Andraca and Sen. Jodi Habush Sinykin proposed legislation to ensure ballot questions to change the state constitution are written in plain language and clearly indicate whether any part of the amendment already exists in state statute. State law already



The number of constitutional amendments posed to voters jumped to five in 2024. Three were approved. THE BADGER PROJECT

mandates that referendum questions be written concisely, but it does not require they be easily understandable for the general public.

Between 2015 and 2023, Wisconsin voters had the chance to weigh in on five constitutional amendments. In 2024 alone, voters saw another five amendments on their ballots, and the top Republican in the state has called for more.

"Over the years," Andraca said in an interview, "we have seen these questions coming more and more, and it's usually an attempt to go around the governor."

Anything the Wisconsin Senate and Assembly do by

legislation can be vetoed.

"We have seen an escalating use of constitutional amendments since the election of Gov. Evers," said Anthony Chergosky, a political science professor at UW-La Crosse. "The context of the legislation is interesting."

In Wisconsin, both chambers of the legislature must vote to pass a joint resolution in consecutive legislative sessions amending the state constitution. If successful, the amendment goes to the voters for their approval or rejection. Amendments are not subject to the governor's veto or signature.

Republicans have held majorities in the Legisla-

ture since 2011, and Evers has consistently threatened to use his veto pen since his election in 2018. In a political atmosphere of divided government and polarization, they have turned to constitutional amendments, Chergosky said.

After voters rejected two constitutional amendments in the state primary election last August, Assembly Speaker Robin Vos told The Cap Times that the state Legislature should "double down" and continue to add amendments to ballots.

Vos and his office did not answer questions for this story despite repeated requests.

Bringing constitutional amendments to voters can provide a way to "get a legislative victory on a topic without having to negotiate with the governor, without having to compromise," said Dane County Clerk Scott McDonnell.

McDonnell, who has served in that position since 2013, oversees elections across the deep blue county. It's not uncommon for his office to receive phone calls and complaints from voters about what's on their ballots, he said.

If voters are confused about how to vote because of unclear language, it can obscure the larger take-aways from the election.

"What meaning does it have?" McDonnell said.

About 23 states have some sort of plain language requirements for their ballot measures, and in Wisconsin, ballot measures require an average of 18 years of education to comprehend, according to Ballotpedia analyses.

About 33% of Wisconsin residents 25 years and older have at least a bachelor's degree, according to the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

Since 1848, state voters have seen 206 amendments appear on their ballots, according to Madeline Kasper, a managing analyst with the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau. Of those amendments, 152 were ratified.

The number of constitutional amendments posed to voters jumped to

five in 2024. Three were approved.

"Constitutional amendments can have long-lasting and often surprising implications," Chergosky noted, pointing to a 1930 amendment that gave the governor the power to partially veto appropriations bills.

Amendments, Chergosky continued, are challenging to reverse and constrain the courts because constitutional interpretation is a "different ball game than statutory interpretation," he said.

"The stakes are high when it comes to changing the constitution, and we have seen that changes to the Wisconsin State Constitution have had significant effects."

Like all legislation, the Democrats' bill on referendums must get approved at the committee level before getting a full vote in the state Legislature, both of which the GOP majority are unlikely to facilitate.

"Republicans control what does and does not come to the floor for a vote," Chergosky said about the bill's chances. "The fate of this legislation will be determined by Republican leaders in the legislature."

The legislature sees about 1,500 to 2,000 bills introduced in every two-year session. About a quarter of them will become law, according to a state guide.

The Badger Project is a nonpartisan, citizen-supported journalism nonprofit in Wisconsin.

ThedaCare recommends sharing health care wishes

It's important to decide ahead of time, before a crisis, who you would want to make your health care decisions and what kind of care you would want.

Completing advance care planning is the best way to ensure people avoid unwanted care in the event of serious illness or incapacity, said Leslie Koffke, an advance care planning social

worker with ThedaCare.

"Completing advance care planning is crucial for all adults," Koffke said. "This process can lead to peace of mind for all involved. A serious accident or health crisis doesn't plan ahead. But you can."

Advance care planning documents are formal, legal documents specifically authorized by state laws that

individuals complete. The documents are referenced when a person becomes seriously ill and unable to make decisions. People can revoke or change the documents at any time.

In 2017, health policy journal Health Affairs reported that only around 36% of adults had completed advance care planning. It further stated that the treat-

ments people would choose to receive often don't align with those they do receive at the end of life.

National Health Care Decisions Day offers an ideal time to complete the Advance Care Planning (ACP) process, Koffke said. Before doing so, people should contemplate their wishes. Then take it a step further and discuss them

with loved ones.

Around half of ThedaCare patients 65 older have completed an ACP, also often called an advanced directive. That percentage is much lower for younger patients.

Koffke encouraged all people 18 years of age and older to complete an ACP. That includes young adults heading off to college or

into the workforce.

An ACP includes a power of attorney for health care form. This form allows people to identify a health care agent who will make decisions on their behalf if they become incapacitated. People can also choose the kind of care they would want to receive in the event that they become unable to speak for themselves.

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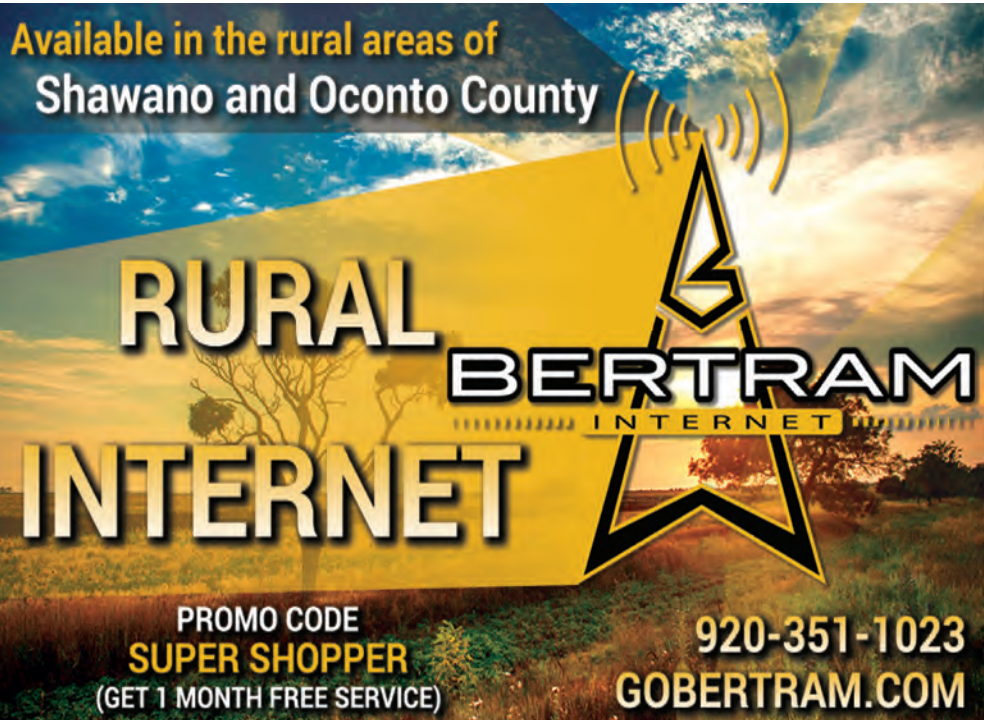
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FROM DAIRY TO SHRIMP

Brei's Aqua Farm bringing seafood to Leopolis area

By KAY REMINGER
Correspondent

From dairying to shrimp, the Brei family traded in one farm for another.

Located in Leopolis, the sprawling, picturesque family-owned dairy farm is now raising a different sort of livestock – shrimp.

Craig Brei is co-owner with his brother, Curt, in the new endeavor.

“Our shrimp are raised using a heterotrophic recirculating aquaculture system (RAS) a closed-loop, zero-exchange method that recycles the same water,” Brei said. “This allows us to closely control water quality, which directly impacts shrimp health and flavor. Most store-bought shrimp come from crowded, outdoor farms or wild-caught sources with limited oversight.”

Brei said the shrimp are raised free of antibiotics or chemicals. He noted many commercially-farmed shrimp are raised with antibiotics, hormones and toxins.

“We prioritize health and safety, resulting in shrimp that are clean, natural and safe for your family,” Brei said.

Brei sells his shrimp live to get maximum flavor and freshness, noting that the head provides a natural sweetness commonly lost of processed shrimp.

“Because our shrimp are never frozen, they retain their true texture and taste, unlike store-bought shrimp, which are often frozen and thawed multiple times, reducing quality and flavor,” Brei said. “Fresh shrimp is very perishable. They are good for two days with head on in the coolest part of the fridge, then you must remove the head. You then have an additional two days with head off.”

The shrimp are raised in nursery tanks. Brei receives them when they’re about 10 days old and the size of an eyelash.

“We get 40,000 to 80,000 at a crack,” he said. “The females lay 80,000 eggs but only reproduce once a year. Our shrimp come out of Florida or from our consultant in Indiana.”

The heated tanks are regulated by testing the water every day for pH, alkalinity, nitrites, nitrates, ammonia, oxygen, salinity and carbon dioxide. They used RDM Shrimp as a consultant, “to point us in the right direction,” Brei said.

Shrimp are fed according to weight



Co-owners Curt and Craig Brei get ready to grow some beans, the vegetable part of their new endeavor at Brei's Aqua Farm.

KAY REMINGER

and maturity, with a supplemental diet weighed out in grams. Shrimp molt, which means losing their shell every three to five days. Every full moon all the shrimp in the tank will molt.

What used to be their free-stall barn has now been converted for 12 additional tanks of shrimp.

“We dropped the ceiling down, redid the concrete and replaced the poles. This room was built in 1971, so it needed much remodeling,” Brei said.

After purchasing the farm in October 1983, the dairy at its peak housed 450 total head. Selling the herd after 40 years, the Brei family decided to invest in shrimp

and build a greenhouse in which peas, beans, cucumbers, zucchini, four types of tomatoes, three types of peppers and three different types of strawberries are grown.

“There are two types of systems being used. The first is a NFT (nutrient film technique) system,” Brei said. “This system uses pumps to circulate a thin film of nutrient solution through pipes, where plant roots can dip to receive nutrients. The second is an ebb and flow system. This floods the plant roots in water for 55 minutes to an hour. The roots get pushed down to the bottom, there is a little water left so they never get dry — that is also how they get their fertilizer.”

Brei added that changing the amount and type of fertilizer enhances the taste of the shrimp, and it will last longer in the refrigerator.

“We will grow what people request,” he said. “We would like to try micro-greens, which are young seedlings of vegetables that can be harvested in about 14 days. For people that are really, really health-conscious, they can be up to 40 times more nutritious than the mature vegetables.”

Brei knows the ins and outs from researching online, but there’s also some knowledge that comes from flying by the seat of his pants.

“The first strawberries we put in we got fertilizer from a guy and he said just follow the instructions on the jug,” said

SHRIMP, CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

AT A GLANCE

WHAT: Brei's Aqua Farm
WHERE: N5354 County Road D, Leopolis
PHONE: 715-853-1769. Customers should call ahead of time to place an order.
ONLINE: www.breisaquafarm.com, or find the business on Facebook under Brei's Aqua Farm.
FYI: The farm currently only accepts cash or check.

Case for vaccines, wellness not either/or

Today, it's common to hear different opinions about what we've long understood about germs and health.

One idea that's gaining popularity is the belief that if we take good enough care of ourselves, we don't need things like vaccines to stay healthy. This is



Nick Mau
Guest columnist

understandable. We all want to feel in control of our health, and focusing on nutrition, exercise and self-care are great ways to do that.

However, we must also continue to use the tools that science and medicine have developed over decades to strengthen our health, immunity, longevity and overall well-being. As someone who really values both wellness and science, I wanted to share my perspective and maybe open up more respectful dialogue about what keeps us safe.

Before getting into this dialogue, let's go back to when the germ theory was first proposed in the 1800s.

Scientific study led by Louis Pasteur proved that tiny, invisible organisms, like bacteria and viruses, can make you sick. That discovery led to lifesaving tools like vaccines and antibiotics, and helped turn once-feared diseases like smallpox and polio into rare or eliminated threats.

We know that not all germs are bad, and being around them doesn't always make you sick. However, some germs cause illness even in the healthiest people, and when they do, they're the reason you get sick — not because your immune system is weak, but because the germ itself is capable of causing disease (Panthagani, 2025).

Today, a different idea has taken hold in some circles: that germs aren't such a big deal if you're healthy enough. Maybe you've heard it too: "If you eat right and take care of your immune system, you don't need vaccines." Or, "Only people with underlying conditions need to worry."

This belief is true to some extent — of course, a healthy body fights infection better, but it's a risky oversimplification. Even healthy, fit people can get very sick from infections like measles, meningitis or the flu. Sadly, we've seen this happen.

We are seeing this right now, measles is making a comeback, especially in places where vaccination rates have dropped. Around the world, measles deaths are rising again — not because people didn't eat their veggies or take supplements, but because the virus is incredibly contagious and dangerous without the protection of vaccines.

In today's mentality of "us versus them," we often hear it framed as a choice: focus on nutrition and immune support or trust vaccines and medicine. It doesn't have to be either/or.

We can do both. We should do both. A balanced diet, exercise and self-care are all important for overall health, and vaccines are a powerful tool that work alongside those things to protect us from serious infections. And while opinions on these topics may differ, it's important

WELLNESS, CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



A ripe berry hangs ready to pick at Brei's Aqua Farm in Leopolis. The main greenhouse for the farm is expected to be up and running this fall.

KAY REMINGER

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IN THE KITCHEN WITH FRANCESCA



Combining red velvet cake mix with white frosting and blue M&M's produce a patriotic treat for Independence Day. FRANCESCA ULLMER

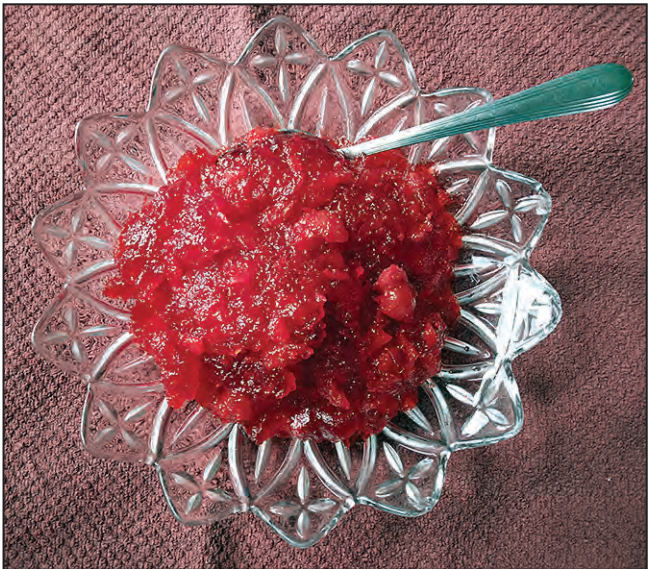
Tasty treats bring out red, white, blue

The Fourth of July is upon us, and summer, the season of picnics and cookouts, is getting under way.

Cake mix cookies are something I have always wanted to try baking. I tasted them for the first time several years ago at a family gathering. My aunt made them using strawberry cake mix, but as I am not the biggest fan of strawberry cake, I was hesitant to try it. However, I decided to try them and really enjoyed them. Also, the fact that you could make cookies using cake mix intrigued me.

When I was thinking about what to make for this column, I looked in our pantry and saw a red velvet cake mix. Because the Fourth of July is nearly here, and the cake mix was red, I decided to make up some Fourth of July cookies. I used red velvet cake mix, cream cheese frosting (although you could use another white frosting such as vanilla), and blue M&M's — red, white, and blue. However, if you don't like red velvet cake, you could simply add red food coloring to a white or yellow cake.

A few tips on cake mix cookies. They can



If the cookies aren't enough to properly celebrate America's birthday, then preparing some cherry pineapple Jell-O should help to get the party started. FRANCESCA ULLMER



be made with any cake mix, but one article I read said that 15.25-ounce cake mixes work best. "Scant" in cooking and baking means just a little bit less than the stated amount. So, a half scant cup of oil means just a little bit less than a half cup of oil. I would not recommend using a whisk when mixing these cookies,

because these cookies are much thicker than a cake. After struggling with a whisk, I switched to a sturdy fork, and that worked much better. Chilling the dough is not required, but I would recommend it, as the dough was much less sticky after chilling for a while. Finally, do not over-bake these cookies. These cookies are meant to be soft, but set. One recipe I read said to bake these cookies for 9-11 minutes. I have learned from bitter experience that most cookie recipes lie about baking time (or their ovens are cooler). Generally, I bake cookies for 5 minutes, check them, and then add any additional time needed. It was a good thing

that I am in the habit of doing this, because these cookies only needed 7 minutes of baking time. If I would have left them in for 9 minutes without checking, they would have burned. Jell-O is a staple at many parties, potlucks and cookouts. While simple Jell-O is just fine, fancy Jell-Os are a special treat. Cherry-pineapple Jell-O is one of my favorite fancy Jell-Os. Its sweet cherry flavor pairs perfectly with the pineapple flavor. The cherries and crushed pineapple add a great texture as well. Make sure to use canned pineapple; fresh pineapple causes gelatin to not set. This Jell-O looks so pretty too, and letting it set in a nice glass bowl highlights its beauty.

This is also a super simple recipe. You begin by making the Jell-O the normal way, mixing the Jell-O powder with the hot water, and then simply adding the cherry pie filling and crushed pineapple in place of the cold water. This Jell-O works just fine with generic gelatin; you do not have to use name brand Jell-O. In fact, I only use generic gelatin, and I have never had any problems. Happy Fourth of July.

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

RED, WHITE, AND BLUE CAKE MIX COOKIES

1 15.25-ounce box Red Velvet cake mix
1/2 scant cup oil
2 large eggs
Blue M&M's
White frosting, vanilla or cream cheese flavored

Mix the cake mix, oil, and eggs together. Refrigerate the dough for 15-20 minutes. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Using a cookie scoop or a spoon, scoop the dough onto the baking sheet, leaving some space between each cookie. Bake for 5-9 minutes, checking after 5 minutes. Do not overbake. Cookies are done when set and very lightly browned on the bottom. Let cool for a few minutes on a baking sheet, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely. When cookies are cool, spread frosting on them, and decorate with M&M's.

CHERRY-PINEAPPLE JELL-O

4 small boxes cherry Jell-O
1 can crushed pineapple, well drained
4 cups boiling water
1 can cherry pie filling

Place the Jell-O in a large bowl, add the boiling water and mix well. When the Jell-O has completely dissolved, add the cherry pie filling and drained pineapple; mix well. Transfer to a decorative glass bowl, optional. Refrigerate 4 hours, or overnight, until set.

WELLNESS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

to remember that at the heart of it, we all want the same thing: to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe and healthy. If you're feeling unsure or have concerns about vaccines or germs, that's completely OK. Asking questions is how we learn. I'd encourage you to bring those questions to your trusted primary care provider. They're trained to talk through these issues, explain the science and help you make informed choices for yourself and your family. It's great to read and explore different viewpoints online, but sometimes a Facebook post or forum

doesn't tell the full story. Health care providers can offer insights grounded in research and experience, and they truly want to help. We've come such a long way in protecting ourselves from infectious diseases and vaccines have saved countless lives over the last 200 years. It's worth remembering how we got here and keeping an open and respectful conversation about how we continue to stay safe and healthy, together.

Nick Mau is the health officer for the Shawano-Menominee Counties Health Department with a master's degree in public health.

SHRIMP, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Brei. "After a couple of days, we found out the fertilizer was 5 1/2 times too high, and we basically fried our plants. We started over. Experience is the best teacher."

The Breis' first intention was to also raise salmon, but after doing research regarding aquatic systems, which took them to University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's Northern Aquatic Research Facility in Bayfield, they decided to stick with shrimp and greens.

"There was no money in this (fish business) without backing from a corporation," Brei said. "We just couldn't do it on a big scale. It was the most money-saving trip we ever took."

Brei has all mechanics set up with an alarm system directed to his phone.

"The central nervous system has been set in place to safeguard all products," he said. "Shrimp can only survive one-half hour if oxygen levels should drop. Shrimp farming means

you have to remain vigilant, just like cows coming in heat. The scientific part of shrimp farming is the same (as dairy), but this farming is a lot easier on my knees."

Brei got the idea of shrimp farming from his nephew, Adam, who is majoring in agriculture at UW-River Falls. He was student teaching in Bay Port and traveled with a group of students to the National FFA Convention in Indiana and visited a place called RDM Shrimp. Brei got a call from his nephew suggesting the uncle look into shrimp farming.

Brei's wife, Karleen, takes care of the book-keeping, but he handles the daily monitoring and paperwork. He monitors the greenhouse as well as the shrimp systems and takes care of ordering and running for parts.

The main greenhouse is expected to start operating in the fall. Shrimp, however, are ready now and are sold direct for \$22 per pound.



Heated tanks of growing shrimp are closely monitored at Brei's Aqua Farm. The shrimp are currently available to customers for \$22 per pound. KAY REMINGER

FARM LIFE FROM A FARM WIFE

There’s a home for every creature under the sun

Mouth agape, looking up, I exclaimed to my husband, “Listen to that!”

One day early spring, we were working at buttoning up our sap season then and spending one of the last afternoons in the woods — the sun winking between sparse clouds, promising warmer days ahead. Breezeless, the woods was tranquil yet the birds in the trees were going crazy — singing up a storm like they were holding a concert just for us. We noticed bluebirds, blackbirds, orioles and robins.

Later, reflecting on the wonder of the birds tucked in the woodland, I realized there’s a home for every creature under the sun.

My husband loves to hunt. He has numerous blinds and a few tree stands strategically positioned on our property along with three trail cams. Never once did I complain he spends too much money on hunting — no brag, just fact. Whenever we discuss hunting-related equipment to buy, I invariably agree.

One day, he paused, eyebrows knit together, looked at me quizzically and asked, “Why don’t you ever make a fuss when I wanna buy something?”

Without hesitation, I responded, “You don’t smoke, drink or gamble. You hunt.”

End of discussion. He’s a very hard worker and has provided well for



A male pheasant is captured in all his glory. According to birdfact.com, males have iridescent green necks, bold white neck rings and red faces. Their tails are long and coppery in color with fine black bars.

KAY REMINGER



Kay Reminger
Columnist

our family all these years. He continues to make wise business decisions regarding our farm and future, always discussing things together. If he splurges a bit on his hunting hobby, I don’t care one whit.

Our trail cams have provided an inside look at all the forest creatures that call the woods their home — the nighttime, their social life.

My hunting husband shares the pics he gets with me and I marvel. It’s diverse and interesting and altogether amazing. Once in a while, we’ve even caught a few different species on one frame.

From late in the night to wee morning, through our motion-triggered trail cameras, we’ve captured coyotes, woodchucks, raccoons, opossum, fox, deer, turkeys, bear, skunks, bobcats, mice, squirrels, rabbits, porcupines, wolves, sand hill cranes, pheasants, male and female — and an occasional feral cat.

The difference between the genders of a pheasant is astounding — the males are

beautiful where females are blah. Under birdfact.com, I found: “Female pheasants are duller in color than males. Males have iridescent green necks, bold white neck rings and red faces. Their tails are long and coppery in color with fine black bars. Only male pheasants can be hunted.”

My husband has never hunted pheasant, sticking to deer and turkey. We both think the male pheasants are stunning, and every pheasant season they are able to survive I always cheer, “Yay! He made it!”

During our treks in the woods, I look for fox dens or places where a bear

might have been hibernating or a woodchuck may have trod. There are literal paths that deer wore down from the top of the hill to the fields to the fresh-water spring in our swamp that never freezes.

The adjacent fields are planted with either corn, alfalfa or soybeans to supplement deer diet and in the woods wild berries grow for bear to consume. It’s a veritable paradise for the creatures that call our woods their home.

Back on the farm, the cows and heifers have their own place, too. They have shelter, food, fresh water and clean bedding to hunker down during lazy afternoons and night-time rest.

The large, round, corn-stalk and soybean-straw bedding bales are stored in the barn mow, handy for my husband to haul down with the skidder when he needs to re-bed the heifer barn. The cows are bedded down with sand which makes it soft to lay on, yet easy to hoist themselves up on.

Perfect accommodations — they’re all treated like queens over here.

My three barn kitties have their own shelter up in the mow and I’ve introduced them before — Little Yellow, Graycie and Fred. We’ve been perplexed, though. We have a night-time trespasser, a huge, well-fed raccoon, who’ve we caught on a trail cam

set up in the mow. (On my persistence ... “Can I borrow one? For a little while?”)

The unwelcome visitor literally steals the mini marshmallows I’ve been trying to lure him in with — and leaves the live trap intact. It’s maddening. He helps himself to late-night suppers, complete with drink and dessert. In the morning, the bowls for my kitties are empty. Three cats do not eat and drink full bowls in one day. Scram, coon. You belong in the woods.

We also house pigs here for about six months. They have a roofed partition, dirt floor with room to root and ready access to food and water up front on a cement base for ease of cleaning. Growing swiftly they are not fussy, consuming whatever we offer them, in addition to their grain mix and ready tub of fresh water.

Every creature has their own home and we are privileged to either enjoy from afar or tend where needed.

“You turn off the light and it becomes night and all the beasts of the forest come out to prowl.” Psalm 103:20, The Passion Translation)

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

WHAT’S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, JULY 4

GILLET: Fourth of July Celebration, 9 a.m. to 11 p.m., Zippel Park, McKenzie Street. Antique/Classic Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., horse pull 9 a.m., live music by Fun Time Polka Band 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., mini and modified tractor pulls 1 p.m., parade 2 p.m., music by Acoustic Vinyl 3-6 p.m., antique tractor pull 5 p.m., fireworks at dusk.

TOWNSEND: Fourth of July Celebration, 9 a.m. to dusk, Fire Department and Veterans Memorial Park. Craft fair 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., food, raffles, live music to 5 p.m., parade at noon, concessions and evening fun at park, 6 p.m. until after fireworks at dusk.

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

BONDUEL: Celebrate Bonduel, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Village Park. Parade 11 a.m., bike raffle, two bands, kids events, baseball game, fireworks at dusk.

BREED: Fourth of July Parade, noon, Arrowhead Saloon, 13486 County Road AA. Meat raffle, live music, mechanical bull, food and drink, \$3 cover charge.

TIGERTON: Let Freedom Ring Family Fun Run, 5 p.m., Legion

Park. Fund raiser for fireworks display.

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

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

SATURDAY, JULY 5

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.

MOUNTAIN: Independence Day Celebration, 8 a.m. to after dusk, Community Center, 13412 State Highway 32-64. Breakfast 8-10 a.m., lunch 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., 3-5 p.m. kids games, 5:30-7:30 p.m. meat raffle, fireworks at dusk.

CRIVITZ: Crooked Lake Fire Department Parade, 10:30 a.m. 15445 County Road W.

CRIVITZ: Crooked Lake Sportsmen’s Club Annual Picnic, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., 15526 County Road W. Food and beverage, live music, raffles, kids activities.

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

SHAWANO: Fifth annual Craft and Flea Market, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Bottle House Antiques, 701 S. Main St. Outdoor event

with free admission adjacent to store; more than 40 antique/collectible vendors.

CLOVERLEAF LAKES: Kiddie Parade, 10 a.m., from boat launch down Adams Beach Drive to Rustic Drive and looping back. Sponsored by Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association.

GRESHAM: Fourth of July Celebration, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Veterans Park. Parade at 11 a.m., food trucks, girls fast pitch exhibition game, kickball tournament, vendors, bounce houses, food truck, fireworks at dusk.

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

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.

CLOVERLEAF LAKES: Boat parade, 6:30 p.m. Register until 5 p.m. July 4 at Cloverleafakes-fireworks.com. Fireworks 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 6

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: Music in the Park at Arlington, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Arlington Park, 300 N. Humphrey Circle. Live music

with Sarah Koenigs and the Hus Band.

MONDAY, JULY 7

SHAWANO: Recovery talking circle, 6-8 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, Room 4, 100 W. Presbyterian St. Information: Dallas Gast, 715-701-5388 or dallasgast8@gmail.com.

TUESDAY, JULY 8

WABENO: Free Veterans Breakfast, 9:30 a.m., American Legion Hall, 4494 N. Branch St. Coffee ready 9 a.m. Chef’s choice, hosted by Donna and Vicki, 715-889-3731.

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

LENA: Classic Car Show, 4:30-7 p.m., Main Street. All vehicles welcome; oldies music, vendors, food.

SHAWANO: Shawano Pathways monthly meeting, 5 p.m., The Lighthouse, W6440 Gumaer Road.

WITTENBERG: Tuesday Concert in the Art Park, 6-8 p.m., 114 Vinal St. Free concert sponsored by Crossroads Community Theater, Village of Wittenberg and Walls of Wittenberg. Bring your own food, beverages and chair.

SHAWANO: Naberhood Block Party, 6 p.m., The Naberhood, 214 S. Main St. Rondini Hypnosis.

OCONTO: Tunes on Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m., Beyer House and Carriage Museum, 916 Park Ave. Live music with Fine Line. 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 9

GRESHAM: American Red Cross blood drive, noon to 5 p.m., St. Francis Solanus Catholic Church, 1050 Main St. Apointments at RedCrossBlood.org or 800-733-2767.

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.

CECIL: Shawano Paddlers Evening Paddle, 6 p.m., Korth Lake, W3776 State Highway 22. 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.

SHAWANO: Kids From Wisconsin Tour, 7 p.m., Shawano

Community High School, 220 County Road B. Tickets \$13-\$16 at kidsfromwi.org.

THURSDAY, JULY 10

NAVARINO: Digging Dinos 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.

CECIL: Shawano Paddlers Morning Paddle, 9 a.m., 215 W. Freeborn St. Check Facebook page for latest information.

SHAWANO: Mooseyard Golf Outing, 10 a.m. registration, 11 a.m. shotgun start, 5 p.m. dinner and awards, Shawano Lake Golf Course, W5714 Lake Drive. \$75 per player; register at 715-524-4890 or joinus@shawanolake.com.

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 Copper Box.

SHAWANO: “Oliver!” 7 p.m., Mielke Arts Center, N5649 Airport Road. Presented by Box in the Wood Theatre Guild. Adults \$15, 18 and under \$10 at shawanoarts.org/buy-tickets.

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

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

Want a closed session? Explain yourself

Probably the most commonly used — and, in my opinion, abused — exemption in our state's Open Meetings Law is the one that lets governmental bodies meet behind closed doors “whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.”

The exemption, 19.85(1)(e) in Wisconsin state statutes, is used by all manner of public bodies, from city councils to school boards. It is supposed to be used sparingly, when needed to protect ongoing negotiations. But many bodies use this exemption to conceal everything about a potential deal or development, keeping the public in the dark until it is too late for their input.

Thankfully, the Wisconsin Court of Appeals issued a recent opinion, in a case known as Oitzinger v. City of Marinette, that should significantly curtail such abuses. The court ruled that the city's attempts to use this exemption on two occasions violated the law.

The first involved an agreement (negotiated for months behind the scenes and presented to the common council for the first and only time in that closed session) that released a PFAS polluter from liability in exchange for a “donation” toward equipment to help address the pollution it caused. The second involved an engineering analysis of methods to provide safe drinking water for people whose well water had been contaminated.

Both closed sessions were illegal, the appeals court ruled, because neither included discussions of negotiation strategies that needed to be kept secret. The court's ruling does three very important things.

First, the court held Marinette officials accountable for their illegal behavior. The plaintiff, Douglas Oitzinger, was a city council member who thought his colleagues had abused this exemption. He was willing to stand up to his colleagues, endure their scorn and not give up until he won. (His efforts earned him an award from the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council in 2022.)

Second, the case reaffirms an important principle: The law's exemption protects bargaining tactics, not all discussions about a possible deal. It



Tom Kamenick
Guest columnist

exists so that government boards don't have to negotiate at a disadvantage by divulging their strategies, such as the most it is willing to pay to buy a piece of land. But those kinds of discussions are the only thing that is supposed to happen in closed session. Other discussions — particularly debates about the merits of a course of action — need to be held publicly.

Third, the court emphasized that a board's members need to cast an informed vote to go into closed session. That means it needs to be explained to them — on the record in open session — what kind of information is going to be discussed and why secrecy is necessary.

Too often, the process for going into a closed session is just a formulaic reading of a vague agenda item and a vote with no explanation or discussion. The court of appeals concluded that more is necessary — not just in this case, but whenever this exemption is invoked.

I believe this is the part of the court's decision that has the most impact. Government board members usually do this work on a part-time basis for little or no pay. They're frequently happy to follow the lead of full-time government administrators or experienced board members.

Administrators or presiding officers now must take the time to explain why they want to go into closed session. That will not only provide more information to the public, it will help board members think about and answer the question of whether secrecy is really necessary.

As an advocate for government openness, my hopes are high. I've seen reports from around the state that government attorneys are advising their clients about this case and explaining these requirements. I'm hopeful that abuse of this exemption will significantly decline.

Tom Kamenick is the president and founder of the Wisconsin Transparency Project. Your Right to Know is a monthly column distributed by the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council (wisfoic.org), a group dedicated to open government.



Freedoms won, maintained with guns

America has much to celebrate today. The freedoms we take for granted here are only distant dreams in many other nations. Although some countries besmirch our capitalism, wealth and priorities, they imitate us, watch our movies, illegally copy our products and risk their lives to come here for a shot at American life.

It's easy to pick on the younger generations, but as I grow older, I realize that the ignorance of younger folks is mostly not their fault. Public schools in particular spend so much time on gender equity, the dangers of drugs, cultural history, preferred pronouns (ignoring English rules) and more PC drama that there's barely time for math, science and English, let alone American history.

Those of us fortunate enough to travel outside our borders have perhaps seen why so many distant nations look at America with envy. On the way to posh resorts in Mexico, Belize and St. Lucia, I've seen little glimpses of abject poverty from the window of an air-conditioned bus. I've bought some of their handmade reed baskets and jewelry in open-air markets and even on the beach, where they struggle to sneak past security guards for a chance to make a few bucks from tourists.

A recent radio talk show commented about those Blacks who feel oppressed in 2025 America. No matter that we've



Ross Bielema
Columnist

already had a Black president and many Black leaders. Whoopi Goldberg recently commented on “The View” that Blacks are still as oppressed as women in Iran, prompting outrage from Iranian dissidents and others who have lived under Sharia law.

A Black woman recently made the news for fleeing to Africa as a political protest, but then quickly returned to America after realizing the poverty, lack of most creature comforts and wildlife dangers made life there far worse.

I wish our educators would start a program that would get those who have lived under socialist, communist or fascist rule to share their stories, either in videos or in person. Our soldiers, of course, saw these oppressive regimes and their resident victims firsthand. Probably the most vivid and shocking of these were the World War II soldiers who freed the Jewish people from German concentration camps.

My father, Raymond Bielema, spent part of his young life as an Army infantryman in Okinawa, Japan, the war's last battle and the one with a 50% casualty rate. He once worked with a Jewish man who bore the tattooed number given him in a concentration camp.

How have Americans overcome so many odds for the past 249 years, starting with our Declaration of Independence in 1776 and our defeat of the British in 1783?

How did we face bears, mountain lions and other wild animals, as well as attacks from Native Americans during our push west to settle the frontier (we'll save the moral issues for another time)?

How do we as Americans avoid a dictator taking control of our government?

We need only look at history for the answers: both our history and those of other nations.

Historian Keith Stanglin in a Newsweek article noted that James Madison observed (in one of the Federalist Papers): tyrannical governments “are afraid to trust the people with arms.”

Mao Zedong, Stalin, Lenin, Hitler, Pol Pot, Castro and Chavez all launched their murderous dictatorships with the same plan: disarming their people. Unarmed people are powerless to fight tyranny, which is why our Founding Fathers were so insistent on including the Second Amendment in the Bill of Rights. The right to keep and bear arms has nothing to do with hunting and everything to do with letting the citizens themselves retain their power to self-govern.

From the Brown Bess flintlock muskets of the Revolutionary War and the single-shot and lever-

action rifles and shotguns of the western settlement to the bolt-action rifles of World War I and the semi-automatics and machine guns of World War II, America has fought for freedom with firearms at every turn.

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Those of us old enough to have lived through wars or who had relatives in the trenches owe it to our children and grandchildren to share these stories. Those who have lived under socialist, communist or fascist regimes who now live in America legally need to share their stories, too.

On this Fourth of July, we owe a debt of gratitude to our wise forefathers, our Armed Forces and the firearms of freedom that still keep us free. God bless America.

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

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Hofa Park tops Shawano in Dairyland

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

June 29
Hofa Park 7, Shawano

Shawano took an early lead in the top of the first inning on Tom Keszo's sacrifice fly in Dairyland League action.

Hofa Park took a 2-1 lead in the second on a triple from Brett Ellestad and RBI singles from Ethan Volz and Peyton Dorn.

The Lobos used a Hofa Park error and Keszo's single to tie the game in the next inning.

Hofa Park regained the lead in the bottom of the fourth on an RBI single from Mason Dorn.

The Panthers later added three insurance runs.

Ellestad gave up five hits and three runs over seven innings to get the win on the mound, while Kasey Kristof took the loss for Shawano. He allowed four runs on nine hits and struck out three batters.

Dorn, Volz and Brinton Anderson each had two of Hofa Park's 12 hits. Dorn and Ellestad each drove in two runs, and Volz stole a pair of bases.

Keszo led the Lobos with two hits and drove in two of his team's three runs.

Hortonville 4, Nichols 3

The Nitros took an early lead in the top of the first inning in Hortonville on a home run from Will Debrune.

The Stars took a 3-2 lead in the next inning after Ty Dreier's two-run double and an RBI single



Navarino first baseman Ethan Bemowski slaps a late tag on Waupaca's Alex Pankratz during a Dairyland League game in Waupaca on June 29.

GREG SEUBERT

from David Sell.

Debrune grounded into a double play in the third inning, which drove in a run and tied the game.

Dreier's RBI single in the fourth turned out to be the game-winning hit.

Chris Atwood picked up the win after allowing four hits and three runs over six innings. Javon Leisgang took the loss for Nichols. He gave up four runs on eight hits over six innings.

Debrune led the Nitros with two RBIs, while Tony Dietzen, Justin Krull, Leisgang and Jace Midbon each added a hit.

Dreier, Maikol Gonzales and Brett Kramer led the Stars at the plate with two hits each.

Marinette at Bonduel

Bonduel held a 3-1 lead over the Redbirds when the game was suspended

in the middle of the fourth inning.

The game will resume at 7:15 p.m. on July 16 in Bonduel.

Cecil at Pulaski

The game between the Reds and Mudhens was suspended due to rain in the third inning with the score tied 1-1.

The game was scheduled resume at 7 p.m. July 2 in Pulaski.

Navarino at Waupaca

No results reported.

June 28

Navarino 12, Nichols 2

Navarino picked up its second Dairyland win of the season by handing the Nitros a 10-run loss.

Kyle Mrozinski opened the scoring for the Rangers with a sacrifice fly that scored Mason Dingeldein in the first inning.

Nichols came up with

two runs in the first to take a one-run lead but never scored again.

Navarino regained the lead in the top of the fourth on Brett Krull's grand slam. Dawson Schmidt led off Navarino's half of the seventh with a single and later scored on an Ethan Bemowski single.

The Rangers loaded the bases in the eighth inning and scored three runs before adding three more in the ninth on a fielder's choice from Marcus Jens and Nick Dagneau's two-run single.

Spencer Dauphinee struck out seven batters and gave up six hits over five innings to get the win on the mound, while Owen Weber worked the final four innings to pick up a save.

Krull led the rangers



Mason Dingeldein has a lead at first base in the top of the first inning of Navarino's Dairyland League game in Waupaca on June 29.

GREG SEUBERT

at the plate with three hits and four RBIs, while Bemowski and James Mutchie added two hits each. Bemowski also drove in three runs.

June 27

Waupaca 12 Bonduel 2 (7 inn.)

The Lakemen improved to 10-0 in league play with a win on the Broncos' home field.

Waupaca outit the Broncos 18-4. Jack Reinke took the loss on the mound, giving up six runs in three innings.

Bonduel fell to 6-3 in the league standings with

the loss.

Hortonville at Shawano

No results reported.

Upcoming schedule

July 2: Bonduel at Navarino, 7 p.m. (makeup game)

July 6 (all games 1:30 p.m.): Hofa Park at Navarino; Waupaca at Cecil; Pulaski at Bonduel; Marinette at Nichols; Shawano and Hortonville have byes.

Standings (as of June 23): Waupaca (9-0); Pulaski (7-2); Hortonville (7-3); Bonduel (6-2); Hofa Park (6-4); Cecil (4-6); Shawano (3-5); Navarino (1-6); Nichols (1-7); Marinette (1-8).

Neopit, Shawano score 34 runs in BABA matchup

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

East/West Division
June 29

Neopit 18, Shawano 16

The Chiefs and Lakers combined for 34 runs, with Neopit getting the win.

Mequon Frechette led Neopit with five hits and four RBIs, and Wendell Waukau added three hits.

Arkin Verhein had four hits to lead the Lakers at the plate, while Noah Jones and Garritt Kadon-sky added two each.

Jamison Beasaw picked up the win, and Verhein took the loss.

Marion 10, Menominee 9

Nick Schoen had three hits, including two doubles, to help lead the Meisters to a win over the Indians.

Hayden Miller and Blake Weatherwax added two hits for Marion, and Joe Weyenberg picked up the win on the mound.

Mitch Vanderwall and Jordan Johnson led Menominee with three hits each.

Ray Lemieux Jr. took the loss for the Indians.

Tigerton 11, Crandon 4

The Tigers headed north to Crandon and returned home with a win over the Kentucks.

Connor Harris and Eric Kroening hit home runs for Tigerton, while Austin Hoffman and Dylan Berg led the team with two hits each.

Matty Schallhorn and Braden Brauer led the Kentucks with two hits.

Hayden Harris got the win on the mound, and Curtis Paschen took the loss.

Clintonville vs. Gresham

Gresham's game at Clintonville was called due to rain in the middle of the first inning.

Little Falls vs. Tilleda

Little Falls was sched-

uled to host Tilleda for a doubleheader, but both games ended up getting rained out.

June 27

Clintonville 24, Shawano 7

Clintonville defeated the Lakers in a makeup game in Shawano.

Caroline 9, Leopoldis 6

Caroline scored six runs in the eighth inning in a win over the Bulldogs.

Jared Cartwright had two of Caroline's six hits, while Ryan Malueg had three of the Bulldogs' 10 hits. Nate Laude added two hits for Leopoldis.

Justin Reminger picked up the win and Anderson Schmidt took the loss.

North Division

June 29

Elderon 7, Aniwa 2

Kaleb Schulist went the distance on the mound for the WhiskeyJacks in a win over the Orioles.

Justin Meronk led Elderon with three hits, including a home run, while

Ian Zeinert added two hits and also had a homer.

Ryan Govek had a double for Aniwa.

Kody Szews took the loss for the Orioles.

Eland 11, Hatley 4

The Engineers picked up a road win over the Braves.

Ryan Richter had three hits, including two doubles, to lead Eland at the plate. Peyton Flees, Jarod Richter, Jacob Ligenza and Joe Buss added two hits apiece as the Engineers had 13 hits in the game.

Hayden Davidowski had three of Hatley's eight hits.

Tyler Nelson picked up the win on the mound, and Braxton Olson took the loss.

Birnamwood 13, Antigo/Polar 9

Winning pitcher Logan Thiex led the Kings with four hits, while Connor Meverden hit a home run and added two hits.

Mike Prebiski homered

and had three of Antigo/Polar's 12 hits, while Ben Robrecht, Will Kubeny and AJ Kirsch added two hits each.

Reed Kuenzli took the loss on the mound.

South-Central Division

June 29

New London 6, Plover 0 (6 inn.)

Ethan Hertzfeldt held Plover to two hits in a six-inning game shortened by rain.

Andrew Parker led the Irish with three hits, while Hertzfeldt, Dylan Moeller and Tyler Gerrits added two each.

Kaden Thauer and Josh Marcione had a hit for Plover and Zack Hintz took the loss.

June 27

Scandinavia, 22, Weymont 1

The Vikings had no problems knocking off the White Bass in Weyauwega.

Braden Hunkins had a

big night at the plate for Scandinavia with a pair of home runs and six RBIs. Ben Lee added three hits and five RBIs and scored twice, while Landon Moe had a pair of hits and scored three runs.

Tyler Wetzels drove in Weymont's run and had a hit, along with teammates Luke Schwenn and Kolden Baehman.

Cyle Zblewski picked up the win, and Schwenn took the loss.

Upcoming Schedule East/West Division

July 6: No games scheduled.

North Division

July 3: Elderon at Wittenberg, 7 p.m. (makeup game)

July 6 (all games 1:30 p.m.): Hatley at Aniwa; Birnamwood at Wittenberg; Eland at Antigo/Polar; Elderon has bye.

South-Central Division

July 6: No games scheduled.

Rindt wins sport mods feature race in Shawano

Shawano's Tommy Rindt moved up from sixth place to win the checkered flag in the sports modified division at the Shawano Speedway on June 28.

In doing so, he topped AJ Springborn, of Shawano, who placed second, and Cole Slezewski, of Pulaski, who placed third.

Springborn won the first heat race in the division, and Tanner Pari, of Clintonville, won the second heat.

Rindt also took second in a two-car late model feature race, losing to Andy

Karl, of Mosinee. Karl also won the two-car heat race.

In the stock car 20-lap feature, it was Vern Stedjee, of Shiocton, moving up from fourth to first, as he defeated Mark Eswein, of Wisconsin Rapids, who placed second, and Mitch Stankowski, of Wausau, who was third.

The three heat winners were Devin Snellenberger, of Pulaski, Stankowski and Kyle Frederick, of Oconto Falls.

Tanner Westphal, of Clintonville, captured first place in the Mighty 4's.

Shawano's Scott Blanke placed second, followed by Justin Haufe, of Marion, in third.

Shawano's Dalton Nelson won the first heat, and Marion's Shayne Collar won the second heat.

The 20-lap modifieds feature race was won by Konnor Wilinski, of Seymour. Clintonville's Lucas Lamberies was second, and Wausau's Kevin Feck was third.

Wilinski also won the first heat race, and New London's Tanner Janke won the second heat race.



Tommy Rindt races around the Shawano Speedway on June 28 in pursuit of his third feature win of the season. Rindt moved up from a sixth-place start to earn the checkered flag in the sports modified division.

BACKCOUNTRY CAPTURES

Shawano's Swedberg wins latest Dirt Kings race

Brett Swedberg put it all on the line when he made a move to the outside of Nick Anvelink as they raced into turn three as they worked through the tail end of the field with just four laps to go in the crown jewel of the 2025 WABAM Dirt Kings Late Model Tour, The Diamond 47 at 141 Speedway on June 21.

Swedberg took the lead, with Anvelink trailing by .370 seconds. Swedberg had a clear track in front of him and maintained his lead and increase his advantage over Anvelink. Swedberg went on to

finish .632 seconds ahead of Anvelink, to secure his fourth WABAM Dirt Kings Late Model Tour victory in The Diamond 47.

Swedberg was crowned king in BMRE Electrick Carts Victory Lane, taking home a check for \$4,700 and adding his name of the list of The Diamond winners.

The first 43 laps of The Diamond 47 were all Anvelink, who was the Ken's Sports Pole Sitter after winning his heat race and drawing the pole for the race.

Anvelink took the lead from the start while Troy

Springborn and Swedberg battled for second, with Springborn challenging Anvelink for the lead on lap three, after caution slowed the field. Anvelink maintained his lead, stretching out 2.365 seconds over Springborn, who continued to battle with Swedberg and Joel Bennett for second.

Caution slowed the field on lap 12 for debris, allowing Swedberg to move to second on the restart. Swedberg followed Anvelink, holding off challenges from Taylor Scheffler over the course of a couple of restarts,

before finally getting a long green flag run with 18 laps to go.

Anvelink maintained his advantage and with a clear track ahead of him, stretched out his lead over Swedberg and the real battle was for third with Springborn, Scheffler and Gunner Frank and three wide racing throughout the field.

With 10 laps to go, Swedberg started to close in on Anvelink as they approached the tail end of the field. Anvelink preferred the inside of the track, while Swedberg ran the outside. With the tail

end of the field racing for position, Anvelink and Swedberg maintained their respective lines and with four laps to go, Swedberg made his move, the Autoworx Clean Move of the Race, to win The Diamond 47.

Anvelink finished second, followed by Frank, Scheffler and Springborn. Justin Ritchie finished sixth followed by Cole Czarneski, who earned an additional \$107, sponsored by Larry McReds, Diamond Jim Letizia's longtime crew chief, Brad Mueller, Mike Mullen and Jake Redetzke.

Through four races, Scheffler leads with 178 points, followed by Swedberg in second with 162, Mueller in third with 156 points, Mitch McGrath in fourth with 148 points and Springborn in fifth with 146 points.

Next up is the King at the Park race at Angell Park Speedway in Sun Prairie on Aug. 10.

Brett Swedberg was crowned king in BMRE Electrick Carts Victory Lane following the WABAM Dirt Kings Late Model Tour The Diamond 47 at 141 Speedway on June 21.

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Turn to the experts

Bartels named Bonduel parade marshal

Longtime Bonduel resi-
dent Dave Bartels will serve
as the parade marshal for
the village’s annual Fourth
of July parade.

Bartels graduated from
high school in 1962 and
went directly into the
military. He served in the
Korean and Vietnam Wars.

He enlisted and served
in the Army for three years
and then he reenlisted in
the Air Force for another 4
years. He completed three
overseas deployments
that included two armed
conflicts and one peacetime
deployment.

Bartels graduated for
University of Wisconsin-
Stout with with dual
degrees in industrial
technology and vocational
rehabilitation counseling.
He worked as a rehabilita-
tion counselor for the state
for 17 years.

He and his wife, Carol,
were at-home caregivers for
two adults with disabilities,
in their home, during the
same time that they were
raising their three children,
Denise, Cara and Dan.

Bartels and his fam-
ily moved to Bonduel in
1978. He began serving
as an emergency medical
responder and continues
doing so today.

He also worked for the
Shawano ambulance service
and helped out in the emer-
gency room at the hospital
when there was a need.

The couple also operated
a day care in their home
and continue to volunteer
throughout the community.

The Independence Day
celebration starts with the
traditional parade down
the streets of Bonduel and
continues at Village Park,
300 E. Park St., with baseball
games, live music, food and
drink, and fireworks.

The parade will step off
at 11 a.m. from Bonduel High
School, proceed east to
Washington Street and then
to Village Park.

Live music at the park
will be performed from 1-5
p.m. and again from 5:30-9
p.m.

A bicycle raffle will be
held at 3 p.m..



Longtime Bonduel resident Dave
Bartels will serve as the parade mar-
shal for the village’s annual Fourth
of July parade. CONTRIBUTED

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COURT SHAWANO COUNTY
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c/o Bank of America, N.A.
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Plaintiff,
vs.
Jay F. Krueger
N6002 Wolf River Rd
Shawano, WI 54166-6005
Rhonda M. Krueger
117 S Main St # 7
Shawano, WI 54166-2357
Defendants.

PUBLICATION SUMMONS
Case No. 25-CV-000117
The Honorable
William F. Kusel Jr.
Case Code 30404
(Foreclosure of Mortgage)
The amount claimed exceeds \$10,000.00
THE STATE OF WISCONSIN
To each person named above as a
defendant: You are hereby notified that
the plaintiff named above has filed a
lawsuit or other legal action against you.
Within 40 days after June 27, 2025 you
must respond with a written demand for a
copy of the complaint.
The demand must be sent or delivered to
the court, whose address is 311 N. Main
Street, Shawano, WI 54166-2145 and to
Gray & Associates, L.L.P., plaintiffs
attorney, whose address is 16345 West
Glendale Drive, New Berlin, WI 53151-
2841. You may have an attorney help or
represent you.
If you do not demand a copy of the
complaint within 40 days, the court may
grant judgment against you for the award
of money or other legal action requested
in the complaint, and you may lose your
right to object to anything that is or may
be incorrect in the complaint. A judgment
may be enforced as provided by law. A
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now or in the future, and may also be
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property.
Dated this 18th day of June, 2025.
Gray & Associates, L.L.P.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Patricia C. Lonzo
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Case No. 25-CV-000117
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269a972d
06/27/25, 07/04/25, 07/11/25
Notice to Creditors –
Joann M. Kuehl Revocable Trust dated
March 16, 2006
Pursuant to Sec. 701.0508, Wis. Stats.,
notice is hereby given as follows:
1. Joann M. Kuehl, whose date of birth
was September 29, 1934, and a date
of death of May 13, 2025, died a resident
of Shawano County, Wisconsin, with
a mailing address of 1125 South Main
Street Unit 41, Shawano, WI 54166.
2. That, during her lifetime, the decedent
established a revocable trust known
as the Joann M. Kuehl Revocable Trust
dated March 16, 2006.
3. That the names and address of the
current Trustees are: Richard Kuehl and
Dale Kuehl, P.O. Box 265, Hustisford, WI
53034.
4. In accordance with Sec. 701.0508,
Wis. Stats., all creditors' claims must be
filed with the trustees, Richard Kuehl and
Dale Kuehl, on or before October 27,
2025, or be barred against the trustees,
the trust property, and any recipients of
the trust property.
Dated this 27 th day of June, 2025
By: Attorney Ian Prust, SBN 1079977,
Prust Legal, LLC,
PO Box 114, West Bend, WI 53095
262-201-0210
WNAXLP

56343879
06/27/25, 07/04/25, 07/11/25
STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT
COURT, SHAWANO COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Gregory S. Kidwell
DOD 12/27/2024
Date Signed June 12, 2025
Electronically signed by Gwen Hoffman
Probate Registrar
**Notice to Creditors (Informal
Administration)**
Case No. 25-PR 31
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal
administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth March
2, 1973 and date of death 12/27/2024,
was domiciled in Shawano County, State
of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of
1360 Eas Lieg Ave. Apt 4 Shawano, WI
54166.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against
the decedent's estate is September 25,
2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano
County Courthouse, 311 N. Main Street,
Shawano, Wisconsin, Room 202,
Probate Office
Form Completed by:
Atty. Brandon Carlin
Carlin Law LLC
508 N. Central Ave. Suite 103
Marshfield, WI 54449
715 207 0513
WI 1098310
WNAXLP

f4769ab2
06/20/25, 06/27/25, 07/04/25
STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT
COURT, SHAWANO COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Patricia M. Hoffman
DOD 04/07/2025
**Notice to Creditors (Informal
Administration)**
Case No. 25 PR 38
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal
administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth
10/12/1938 and date of death
04/07/2025, was domiciled in Shawano
County, State of Wisconsin, with a
mailing address of 1341 Schabow ST
Gresham, WI 54128.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against
the decedent's estate is September 19,
2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano
County Courthouse, 311 N. Main Street,
Shawano, Wisconsin, Room 202,
Probate Office
James E. Aschenbrenner
P.O. Box146, Shawano, WI 54166
USA 715 524
8258 1008896
WNAXLP

ebdd634a
06/27/25, 07/04/25, 07/11/25
STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT
COURT, SHAWANO COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
James L. Popp
DOD 05/08/2025
**Notice Setting Time to Hear
Application and Deadline for Filing
Claims (Informal Administration)**
Case No. 25 PR 34
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal
administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth
03/17/1939 and date of death
05/08/2025, was domiciled in Shawano
County, State of Wisconsin, with a
mailing address of 1046 S. Main St
Shawano, WI 54166.
3. The Application will be heard at the
Shawano County Court House Shawano,
WI Room 202 before Gwen Hoffman
Probate Registrar, on July 8, 2025 at
10:00 am
4. The deadline for filing a claim against
the decedent's estate is September 08,
2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano
County Courthouse, 311 N. Main Street,
Shawano, Wisconsin, Room 202,
Probate Office
6. This publication is notice to any
persons who's name and address are
unknown.
The names or addresses of the following
interested person (if any) are not known
or reasonably ascertainable.
Janet Swearingen, Jill Swearingen,
Melissa Swearingen & Lance Swearingen
Paul F. Kersten
610 W. Green Bay St.
Shawano, WI 54166
715 524 2302
WNAXLP

Legals WNAXLP

ef14c806
06/20/25, 06/27/25, 07/04/25
STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT
COURT, SHAWANO COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Bruce Robert Patza
DOD 06/01/2025
**Notice to Creditors (Informal
Administration)**
Case No. 25 PR 39
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal
administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth
06/17/1933 and date of death
06/01/2025, was domiciled in Shawano
County, State of Wisconsin, with a
mailing address of N863 Lawn Rd.
Seymour, WI 54165.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against
the decedent's estate is September 22,
2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano
County Courthouse, 311 N. Main Street,
Shawano, Wisconsin, Room 202,
Probate Office
David Patza
N2427 Two Creek RD
Bonduel, WI 54107
715 853 1097
WNAXLP

3863403a
06/13/25, 07/04/25
STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT
COURT, SHAWANO COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
SYLVIA CAROL ADAMSKI
Amended
**Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)**
Case No. 25-PR-07
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal
administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth
03/07/1937 and date of death 11/06/2024
, was domiciled
in Shawano County, State of Wisconsin
, with a mailing address of N1218 Maple
Rd., Pulaski, WI
54162
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against
the decedent's estate is September 12,
2025
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano
County
Courthouse,
311 N. Main Street, Shawano
Wisconsin, Room 202, Probate Office
Form completed by:
Wm. J. Vande Castle
VANDE CASTLE, S.C.
303 S. Jefferson St.
Green Bay, WI 54301
Telephone
(920) 822-8232
1016919
WNAXLP

6465c8d0
07/04/25, 07/11/25, 07/18/25
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUITCOURT SHAWANO COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME
CHANGE OF
Derek James Bowen
Notice of Name Chance Hearing
Case No 25cv131
NOTICE IS GIVEN: A petition was filed
asking to change the name of the person
listed above.
From: Derek James Bowen
To: Derek James Delzer
Birth Certificate: Derek James Bowen
This petition will be heard in the Circuit
Court of Shawano County State of
Wisconsin
Shawano Court House Branch 2
311 N Main St Shawano WI
August 05, 2025 8:15 a.m.
If you require reasonable
accommodations due to a disability to
participate in the court process, please
call 715-526- 9347 prior to the scheduled
court date. Please note that the court
does not provide
WNAXLP

97e1e97a
06/27/25, 07/04/25
STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT
COURT
FAMILY COURT BRANCH
SHAWANO COUNTY
In Re The Marriage Of:
Craig Armour;
Petitioner,
V.
Jennifer Armour,
Respondent.
NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING
Case No. 20 FA 118
To: Craig Armour
N3991 Maple Lane
Tigerton, WI54486
IT IS ORDERED:
This Notice be published advising you
that a Notice of Motion and Motion for
Contempt in this matter be heard at the
Shawano County Courthouse, Branch 1,
2nd Floor, 311 N. Main Street, Shawano,
Wisconsin 54166 on Wednesday, July 9,
2025, at 10:00 a.m., or as soon
thereafter as counsel can be heard,
before the Honorable Katherine Sloma,
Circuit Court Judge.
IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR, the court
may hear testimony in support of the
allegations in the Motion for Contempt
and grant the request of the Respondent
to find the Petitioner in contempt.
If you require reasonable
accommodations due to a disability to
participate in the court process, please
call 715-526-9352 prior to the scheduled
court date. Please note that the court
does not
provide transportation.
Attorney Mark J. Tyczkowski
Remley Law, S.C.
2 Neenah Center - Suite 100
Neenah, WI 54956
Telephone: 920-725-2601
State Bar: 1011571
WNAXLP

Legals WNAXLP

bc2ba580
06/20/25, 06/27/25, 07/04/25
STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT
COURT, SHAWANO COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
ARLENE A. GRIMM
**Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)**
Case No. 25 PR 41
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal
administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth
08/12/1940 and date of death 03/13/2025
, was domiciled in Shawano County,
State of Wisconsin , with a mailing
address of W11750 North Branch Road,
Marion, WI 54950.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against
the decedent's estate is [Date]
September 23, 2025
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano
County Courthouse, 311 North Main
Street Shawano , Wisconsin, Room 202,
Probate Office
Attorney Michael A. Maas
Heritage Law Firm, LLC
2050 Riverside Drive
Green Bay, WI 54301
920-785-8570
1061377
WNAXLP

0837be9b
07/04/25
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT
COURT,
SHAWANO COUNTY
Nsighttel Wireless LLC, d/b/a Cellcom
First name Middle name Last name
P.O. Box 5301
De Pere WI 54115
-vs-
Michelle L. Enrio
N838 State Highway 47 55
Shawano WI 54166
**Publication Summons
and Notice
(Small Claims)**
Case No. 25 SC000346
**Publication Summons and Notice of
Filing
TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE
AS DEFENDANT(S):**
You are being sued by the person(s)
named above as Plaintiff(s). A copy of the
claim has been sent to you at your
address as stated in the caption
above. The lawsuit will be heard in the
following small claims court:
Shawano County Courthouse
715-526-9347
Branch 2
311 N Main St
Shawano State WI Zip 54166
on the following date and time:
07/29/25 Time: 1:00 p.m.
**If you do not attend the hearing, the
court may enter a judgment against
you in favor of the person(s) suing
you.** A copy of the claim has been sent to
you at your address as stated
in the caption above. A judgment may be
enforced as provided by law. A judgment
awarding money may become a lien
against any real estate (property) you
own now or in the future, and
may also be enforced by garnishment or
seizure of property.
You may have the option to Answer
without appearing in court on the court
date by filing a written Answer with the
clerk of court before the court date. You
must send a copy of your
Answer to the Plaintiff(s) named above at
their address. You may contact the clerk
of court at the telephone number above
to determine if there are other methods to
answer a Small Claims
complaint in that county.
WNAXLP

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07/04/25
Notice of Self Storage Sale
Please take notice
All-Stor Self Storage
Shawano located at N5857 Hwy 47-
55N/4844 Waukechon S/1003
Waukechon St., Shawano WI 54166
intends to hold a Auction of storage units
in default of payment. The sale will occur
as an Online Auction via
www.storageauctions.com on
7/24/2025 at 10:00AM
Unless stated otherwise the description of
the contents are household goods,
furnishings and garage essentials.
Marsha Miller Unit #A-05;
Ryan Vannnewkirk Unit #A-21; Mary Prue
Unit #A-24; Marcia Zhuzakahosee Unit
#B-1; Norris House Unit #C-23; John E
Martin Units #D-18, #DS-19; Winona
Pyawasit Unit #H-30. This sale may be
withdrawn at any time without notice.
Certain terms and conditions apply.
WNAXLP

Legals WNAXLP

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07/04/25, 07/11/25, 07/18/25
STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT
COURT, SHAWANO COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
CLAUDIA JENSEN
Case No. 25PR42
A Petition for Formal Administration was
filed.
THE COURT FINDS:
The decedent, with date of birth
September 9, 1945 and date of death
March 1, 2025 was domiciled in Shawano
County, State of Wisconsin with a mailing
address of
P.O. Box 453, Gresham, WI 54128
THE COURT ORDERS:
1. The Petition be heard at the Shawano
County Courthouse, 311 N. Main St.,
Shawano Wisconsin, Room Branch 1 or
via Zoom, before Circuit Court
Judge/Circuit
Court Commissioner Judge Katherine
Sloma on August 11, 2025 at 8:45
AM. You do not need to appear unless
you object. The petition may be granted if
there is no objection.
2.The deadline for filing a claim against
the decedent's estate is September 26,
2025.
3. A claim may be filed at the Shawano
County Courthouse, 311 N. Main Street,
Shawano Wisconsin, Room 202
4. Heirship will be determined at the
hearing on petition for final judgment.
5. Publication of this notice is notice to
any persons whose names or addresses
are unknown.
If you require reasonable
accommodations due to a disability to
participate in the court process, please
call (715) 526-8631 prior to the
scheduled court date. Please
note that the court does not provide
transportation.
Form completed by:
Melissa Richer
Cade Law Group LLC
PO Box 170887, Milwaukee, WI 53158
(414) 255-0525
WNAXLP

da67458d
07/04/25, 07/11/25, 07/18/25
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT
COURT, SHAWANO COUNTY
**Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)**
Case No. 2025PR46
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Vernon John Busch
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal
administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 11-
12-1938 and date of death 05-14-2025
, was domiciled
in Shawano County, State of WI ,with a
mailing address of W5915 Lake Drive,
Shawano,
WI 54166
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against
the decedent's estate is [Date]
September 29, 2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano
County Courthouse, 311 N Main St,
Shawano, WI 54166 . Wisconsin, Room
202, Probate Office
Form completed by:
Atty. Thomas J Martell
117 N Main St, PO Box 237
Shawano, WI 54166
715-201-3364
Bar Number
WNAXLP

5a7150ac
07/04/25, 07/11/25, 07/18/25
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT
COURT, SHAWANO COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
**Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)**
Case No. 2025PR000040
Lyle John Nickodem
Deceased : 03/11/2025
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal
administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth
09/12/1959 and date of death 03/11/2025
, was domiciled in Shawano County,
State of Wisconsin with a mailing address
of 833 S. Park St., Shawano, WI 54166
3. All interested persons waived notice
4. The deadline for filing a claim against
the decedent's estate is October 9, 2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano
County Courthouse, 311 N. Main Street,
Shawano, Wisconsin, Room 202,
Probate Office
Konstantakis Law Office, LLC
5217 S. 51st Street
Greenfield, WI 53220
1135643
(414) 427-6181 1135643
WNAXLP

There's a lot of talk about "the media," the talking
heads on cable TV who pander to political views for profit.
That's not the news, and it's certainly not this newspaper.
Our goal every day is to fully and fairly report the news about
this vibrant community and the people who live here.
That's at the heart of American newspapering—preparing
timely and thoughtful reports about what matters most,
prepared by hometown journalists who love this town and care
about its future.
That's our pledge and our purpose.

SHAWANO LEADER
GOSHUTOWN
TIMES HERALD
WITTENBERG
ENTERPRISE
GREENAWAY COUNTIES

**FREE SPEECH
CENTER**

07/04/2025, 07/11/2025
June 26, 2025
PUBLIC HEARING
Shawano City Airport
Commission Meeting
Tuesday, July 15, 2025
Airport N5468 N. Airport Road, Shawano, WI
Members: John Seidel, Doug Engel, Bruce Milavitz,
Mike Bloedorn, Jeff Brunson, Linda Meyer and Jim Hauer
Notice of Public Hearing

The City of Shawano and the Shawano City Airport Commission is considering petitioning the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aeronautics, to perform a number of actions in connection with its most recently updated Airport Master Plan, to include the following:

Clear obstructions for airfield lighting; Clear obstructions for airfield markings; Install/Replace/Move/Relocate Automatic Weather Reporting System; Acquire Land or Easement for Runway 12/30 Approach; Acquire Land or Easement for Runway 17/35 Approach; Conduct Environmental Study for Seaplane Base and Adjacent Apron; Rehabilitate/Reconstruct/Improve Seaplane Base; Construct Apron for Seaplane Base; Install Watermain in Existing Hangar Area; Rehabilitate/Extend Apron, including lighting; Install/Replace/Move/Relocate NAVAIDS; Install/Replace/Move/Relocate Airport Rotating Beacon; Crack Seal/Fill, Sealcoat, and Markings for Airfield Pavements; Construct parallel taxiway to Runway 12/30, including lighting; Construct parallel taxiway to Runway 17/35, including lighting; Install Guidance Signs; Construct Snow Removal Equipment Building; Construct/Improve Fuel Farm; Construct/Rehabilitate Parking Lot; Construct/Expand/Rehabilitate Access Road; Rehabilitate or Reconstruct Runway 17/35 (including lighting); Update airport master plan; Conduct Environmental Study for airport; Extend Runway 12/30; Construct Hangar Area; Construct/Rehabilitate/Reconstruct Taxilanes; Clear and maintain runway approaches as stated in Wis. Admin. Code Trans §55, and any necessary related work.

Meeting Date – Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at 4:30pm, at the Airport, N5468 N. Airport Road, Shawano, Wisconsin.
Accommodations due to disability can be made by calling 715-526-2465
WNAXLP

06/27/25, 07/04/25
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
Before the Town of Hartland Planning Commission

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on Monday, July 14, 2025, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Town of Hartland Town Hall located at W3454 County Road BE, Bonduel, Wisconsin, the Town of Hartland Planning Commission will hold public hearings for the purpose of considering the following two (2) petitions:

1) Peters Concrete Company, requests a conditional use permit renewal to continue operating the Przybylski Gravel Pit facility on the property addressed N3303 Moonlight Lane (tax parcel number 022-30120-0000; Applicant is looking to continue operating the facility as they currently are.

2) Peters Concrete Company, requests a conditional use permit renewal to continue operating the Peters Concrete Company, Ready Mix and Wash Plant facility on the property addressed N3601 STH 47 (tax parcel number 022-20110-0070; Applicant is looking to continue operating the facility as they currently are.

3) Steve & Karen Luepke Revocable Trust, request a zoning change, from Farmland Preservation to Agricultural and Forestry General.

Additional information or copies of the conditional use permit application, and rezoning application, are available upon request filed with the Town Zoning Administrator, Tim Leitermann, at (920) 228-1109 or tim@slabcitywoodworks.com

The hearings are open to the public and all interested parties are encouraged to appear in person or by an agent and be heard. If you cannot appear in-person, any person may submit written comments by letter addressed to: Tim Leitermann PO Box 4, Bonduel, WI 54107 or by email to tim@slabcitywoodworks.com

Town of Hartland
Tim Leitermann
Zoning Administrator
WNAXLP

06/27, 07/04, 07/11/2025
FOR SALE BY SHAWANO COUNTY
TAX DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE – 1st Round

Pursuant to Chapter 75.69 Wis. Stats., Shawano County acquired the tax delinquent real estate by tax foreclosure per state statutes and will be conducting a sale of tax delinquent real estate via a closed bid process. Sealed bids will be accepted at the office of the County Treasurer at 311 N. Main Street, Shawano, Wisconsin, 54166, until July 15, 2025 at 1:59pm, for the purchase of tax delinquent real estate, at a price not less than the appraised value, as described below.

Bid forms may be picked up at the Shawano County Treasurers Office at 311 N. Main Street in Shawano. Each parcel number must be submitted on its own bid form. ANY BID THAT CONTAINS MORE THAN ONE PARCEL WILL BE REJECTED. Each bidder must designate the amount he/she is offering for the parcel. A 10% good faith deposit in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, or money order payable to "Shawano County" must accompany the bid. The balance is payable within 14 days from the date of notification of approval of the bid or down payment is forfeited. Deposits of successful bidders will be applied to the purchase price. All others will be returned. Successful bidders will be given a Quit Claim Deed to the property from Shawano County upon full payment.

The described parcels will be sold to the person offering the highest bid equal to or in excess of the asking price. Bids for less than the appraised value will be rejected. Bids unaccompanied by a 10% good faith deposit in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, or money order payable to "Shawano County" will be rejected. The County reserves the right to accept any responsible bid most advantageous to Shawano or to reject any and all bids. All property is sold "AS IS", with no written or implied warranty.

Shawano County does not purchase title insurance for these properties. All properties are subject to any and all existing easements, deed restrictions, covenants and applicable ordinances.

Municipality	Parcel Number	Address	Description	Approximate Acreage	Appraised Value
Town of Wescott	048-20440-0001	N/A	PRT OF SE 1/4 SE 1/4 THAT PRT LYG SE OF EDGEWOOD ROAD SEC 20 T27N R16E	.23.50	\$3,200
Village of Aniwa	101-08210-0010	W18776 County Road Z, Birmamwood, WI	VIL OF ANIWA NE 1/4 NW 1/4 E 600' OF W 804' OF S 600 FT SEC 8 T29N R11E	.8.26	\$80,000
Village of Mattoon	151-70050-0300	519 Flint Avenue, Mattoon, WI	VILLAGE OF MATTOON ORIGINAL PLAT LOTS 4 & 5 BLK 18	.33	\$12,000
City of Shawano	281-40400-2770	502 S. Andrews Street, Shawano, WI	CITY OF SHAWANO ASSESSORS MAP LOT 3 BLK 33 TH W 60'	.137	\$10,000
City of Shawano	281-75200-1880	N/A	CITY OF SHAWANO SMALLEYS ADDITION LOT 5 BLK 28	.172	\$3,000

If you have any questions regarding this publication, please contact the Shawano County Treasurers Office.
Respectfully submitted by:
Debra Wallace, Shawano County Treasurer
WNAXLP

07/04/2025
Notice that the Assessment Roll is open for Examination and Open Book
Village of Cecil, Shawano County

Pursuant to s. 70.45, Wis. Stats. The assessment roll for the Year 2025 assessment will be open for examination on the 21st day of July, 2025, from 2PM-4PM at 111 E Hofman Street, Cecil, WI. Instructional material will be provided at the open book to persons who wish to object to valuations under s. 70.47, Wis. Stats.

Notice is hereby given this 23rd day of June, 2025 by:
Teri Westerfeld
Village of Cecil Clerk/Treasurer

WNAXLP

07/04/2025
Public Notice

Community Alternatives, Inc. hereby provides notice that it intends to apply to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for the following transportation projects under Section 5310 to serve seniors and individuals with disabilities in Shawano County:

One Side Entry Minivan with the seating capacity of two wheelchairs and three ambulatory persons with disabilities.

Individuals or agencies wishing to comment or receive additional information about this application should contact Julie Miller at 715 526-5570 or jmiller@newcommunityalternatives.com

Formal comments or requests for additional information must be received in writing or by email 14 days after publication.
WNAXLP

06/27/25, 07/04/25
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
TOWN OF WAUKECHON

The Town of Waukechon, Shawano County, is accepting bids for the following for 2025.

Snow plowing of approximately 40 miles of town roads:

Bid #1 Cost per hour for Machine and manpower

Bid #2 Price per ton of salt/sand if available

Road Work as follows :

Bid #1 Price to Pulverize 1 mile of town road and grade back to travelable road

Bid #2 Price to blacktop 1 mile of town road

Contact Town Chairman, Jay Vomastic @ (715) 851-4555 for specifics on this bid.

Sealed bids and Certificate of Insurance are to be mailed or delivered to: Town of Waukechon – Christine Prey, Clerk W7005 St Johns Church Rd., Clintonville, WI 54929 Bids must be received by July 14, 2025 at 7:00pm and will be opened at board meeting, at approximately 7:30pm, that night, at the Waukechon Community Center, N3999 County Hwy K, Shawano, WI

The Town of Waukechon reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive irregularities in the bidding, and to accept the bid deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Waukechon.
Christine Prey, Clerk
Town of Waukechon

WNAXLP

07/04/2025
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

NOTICE: Sealed bids will be accepted for reclamation, repaving of Elm Road, Tony Street, and Julius Street, in the Town of Angelica, Shawano County, Wisconsin.

PROJECT:

1. PULVERIZING: (leveling instructions needed) A. Elm Road approximately one (1) mile from State Highway 160 to Deer Drive, B. Tony Street approximately 475' from Center Street to Julius Street including intersection. C. Julius Street, approximately .25 mile from Tony Street to the end, not including cul-de-sac and not including intersection of Julius and Wencel Street.

2. STONE: Place 1 1/4 "crushed stone and level on Elm Road to produce a 6" lift and 22' wide on a per ton basis. This needs to be coordinated with the contract winner of pulverizing to be completed promptly. A delivered price for 1 1/4" crushed stone can be quoted per ton for Tony & Julius Street if needed. Contact Chairman Allan Maroszek for leveling instructions at 920-655-8988.

3. PAVING: Pave with three (3) inches of hot mix asphalt including Elm Road, Tony Street, Julius Street (not to include cul-de-sac and intersection of Julius Street and Wencel Street). All paved intersecting driveways and roads saw cut and matched with butt joints to produce a smooth transition. Contact Town Chairman Allan Maroszek 920-655-8988 for questions concerning.

NOTE: Certificate of insurance needs to be on file or presented with a bid proposal. Pre-bid site inspection will be on July 2nd at 8:00 a.m. (Elm Road-Deer Drive intersection) Completion Date: October 1, 2025. Bids may be mailed or hand delivered to Chairman: Allan Maroszek N2653 Maple Road Pulaski, WI 54162.

TIME: Bids will be received until 6:30 pm. Local time on Monday, July 14, 2025, at the Town Hall of Angelica, N3285 County Road C Pulaski, WI 54162.

BID REJECTION: Town has the right to reject any and all bids, to be in the best interest of the Town of Angelica.

Chairman, Allan Maroszek
WNAXLP

PROTEST, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the evening rush hour with signs reading things like “Healthcare not warfare,” “Don’t use our military as pawns for a political game” and “Peace not war.” One man walked the length of the sidewalk with an American flag flying upside down.

It’s clear that the United States is being dragged into another war years after the national military was pulled out of Afghanistan, according to Adam Nelson, who organized the latest protest, and it’s important for people to stand up and say this is not what voters had in mind when Trump was voted into office.

“Today, we are protesting warfare, mostly in the

Middle East,” Nelson said. “We’re not happy with money being spent over there with bombs and such. We think it should be spent here on health care, infrastructure — anything that could benefit people here in Shawano.”

The United States, Israel and Iran are all claiming victory following the U.S. airstrike June 21 on three Iran nuclear facilities and the subsequent Iranian attack on a U.S. airbase in Qatar. Nelson is adamant that this country should not be involved.

“He’s been going back and forth, but it’s pretty clear we’re being dragged into another war,” he said. “He declared peace, even

though there are bombings still happening, and it feels like Iraq all over again.”

Instead of funding military attacks with “\$50 billion bombs,” Nelson said he would prefer that the Trump administration restore full funding to Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

“It’s going to start to hurt people here pretty soon,” Nelson said. “It’ll hit people around November, probably. It’s coming, especially with this Big Beautiful Bill that (Trump) wants to get passed.”

Nelson said, as horns honked in support of the protesters, that it was important for people to see that there are people op-

posed to Trump’s actions and that it is possible to still stand up for freedom. He admitted it was an uphill battle for local Democrats, given Shawano County’s reputation for being a GOP stronghold.

“We’re also trying to have a good time and get to know each other,” Nelson said. “Progress starts locally, and it starts with us. We get more honks than haters, so that’s good.”

People voted for Trump in the hopes that change would be coming, but the change that has come about is not what voters in the Make America Great Again coalition was looking for, in Nelson’s view.

He understands the need for change, seeing how the current and previous administrations have been for the American people.

“Unfortunately, they were sold on a lie,” Nelson said.

He added that the frustration of the Democrats not doing more to stop Trump’s efforts has frustrated liberals at the local level. Nelson said that Democrats have “blown up” Sen. Tammy Baldwin’s phone and are not happy with the slow response.

“From Republicans, there’s a lot of pushback, but then it falls on deaf ears from Democrats,” he said.

Nelson believes as

reality hits more and more people, many of those people will be joining the protest. Democrats are holding listening sessions in the area for people with concerns about issues at the federal level, he said, and another nationwide protest effort is in the works for July 17.

“This is what fascism looks like,” Nelson said about Trump’s actions since taking the oath of office in January. “It’s consolidating of power by one man, and it takes a lot more than one man to fix it. This was not what democracy was meant to look like.”

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Crews repair heat-damaged roads



Shawano County Highway Department crews repairs areas of state Highway 29 where the road buckled due to heat June 22-23. The eight damaged segments ranged from County Road J to state Highway 161. Buckling was not reported on any other roads. Highway Commissioner Grant Bystol said repairs varied from minor to major. Minor repairs include air hammering out loose pieces of concrete and patching back in. Major repairs include a full lane closure, full depth saw cut, removal of existing buckled pavement and a new concrete panel pour. Bystol said pavement can buckle when the weather quickly goes from cool to very hot. This causes the slabs of pavement to expand and push against each other. When the pressure becomes too great, the pavement buckles and creates heaves or bumps. It is very difficult to predict if or when buckling may occur but it is a combination of weather and existing pavement conditions, he said.

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ETHICS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dia Hammett’s claim about missing money was wrong.

“Nothing could be further from the truth,” he said. “In face, we just finished our largest audit of the year. Financially, the county is in an incredible position.”

Lack of transparency claimed

The meeting began with resident Carney Garcia questioning the actions of the county board when dealing with ethics complaints.

“I’m here to formally address a matter involving serious ethical misconduct and what appears to be a systemic failure of oversight in Shawano County government,” she said.

Garcia said she initially filed a certified and notarized ethics complaint

with Kautza and Jim Davel, administrative coordinator, May 18, 2023.

“Today, that complaint has not been acknowledged, investigated or forwarded to any functioning ethics body,” Garcia said, noting that Hammett, as chairman of the ethics committee, has not been informed of the complaint.

“This raises serious questions about transparency,” Garcia said.

She claimed Davel, Kautza and Larenda Maulson, corporation counsel, were suppressing information related to ethics complaints.

“This is not a procedural oversight,” Garcia said. “It’s a deliberate act of concealment.”

She said the county has failed to maintain a func-

tioning ethics committee for several years in violation of state law.

Garcia closed her comments by telling supervisors if no action was taken in a reasonable time, she would contact state officials.

Kautza denied Garcia’s accusations.

“The ethics committee did receive her complaint, and Lowel recused himself, because he knew the other party the complaint was about,” Kautza said. “They have been holding meetings. In fact, they held their last one the other day, and the result was they decided not to pursue any further action.”

Later in the meeting, Hammett corrected Kautza.

“I did not recuse myself from Miss Garcia’s; I only

recused myself from the one issue that we had,” he said, noticing the expression on Kautza’s face. “Is something funny? Explain it to me.”

Stay inside the lines

Kautza reiterated several times during the meeting that the county board has rules to follow, and those rules were followed in dealing with the complaints.

“There’s nothing that came to the ethics committee the hasn’t been answered,” he said. “The process is being followed as it should.”

To bolster Kautza’s case, Andy Phillips, general outside counsel for the Wisconsin Counties Association, gave a 60-minute presentation on the history of Wisconsin counties; the roles of supervisors, hired

staff and constitutionally elected officers; the importance of a county board committee structure; and a brief review of the Open Meetings Law.

“The procedures were followed in the past. They always will be. They’ll be followed again in the future,” Kautza said. “We have a set of rules. You follow the procedures. You start going outside the lines, you never know what you’re going to get.”

He said the executive committee reviewed three cases, without saying what those cases were about, and decided no more action would be taken.

He said a 2022 complaint was addressed by outside counsel who recommended no action.

“There’s nothing hap-

pening,” he said, alluding to talks of a conspiracy. “There’s no hidden scenario.”

Miller was upset because he’s not on the executive committee and did not attend the closed session when the issues were discussed. Now, even he can’t find out details of the discussion.

Kautza claimed anyone involved in a closed session is prevented by the law from discussing those topics in the open.

“I’m a board supervisor, and I’ve got a right to know,” Miller said. “In other words, if I’m not present at that meeting, I don’t have any right to know what went on in there?”

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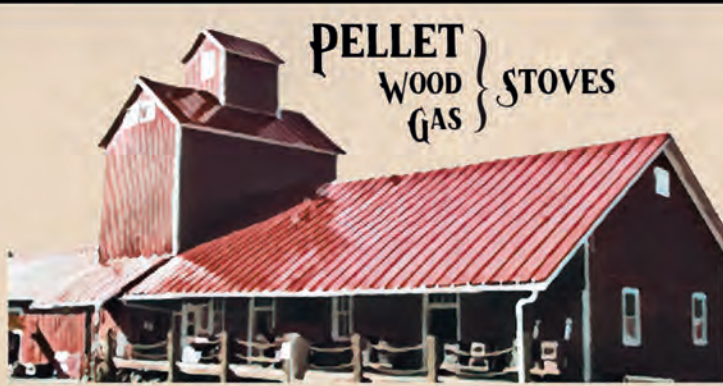
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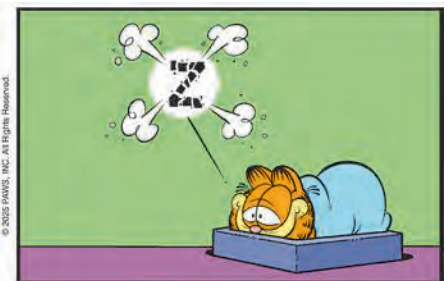
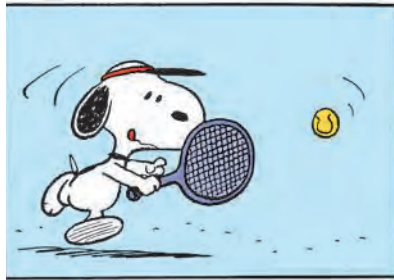
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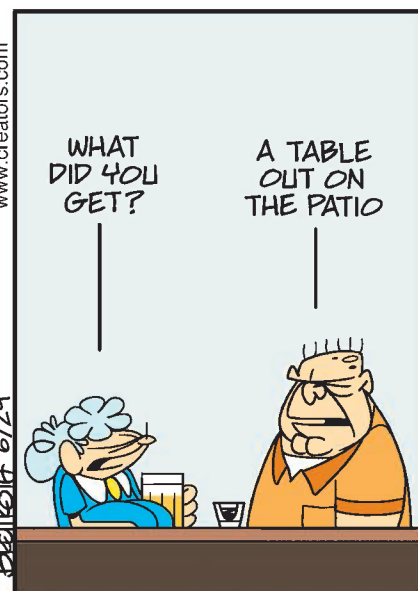
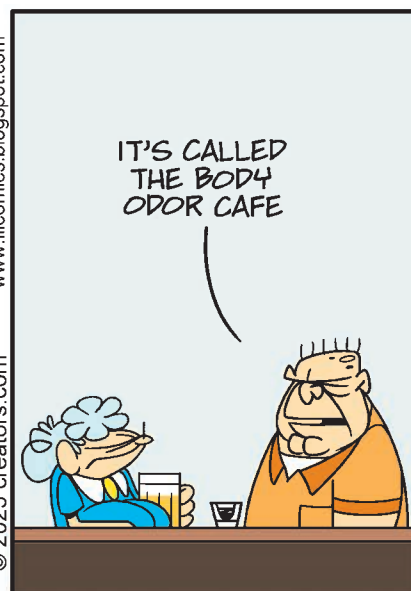
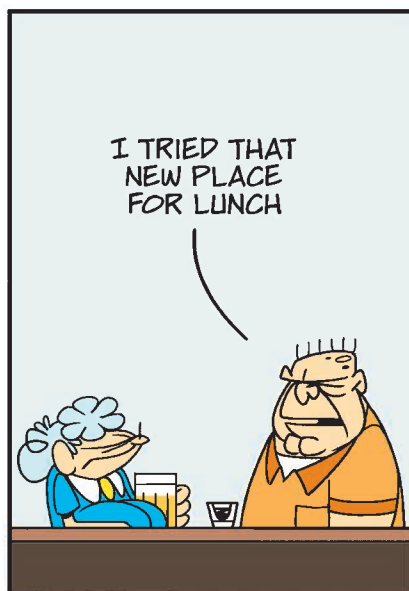
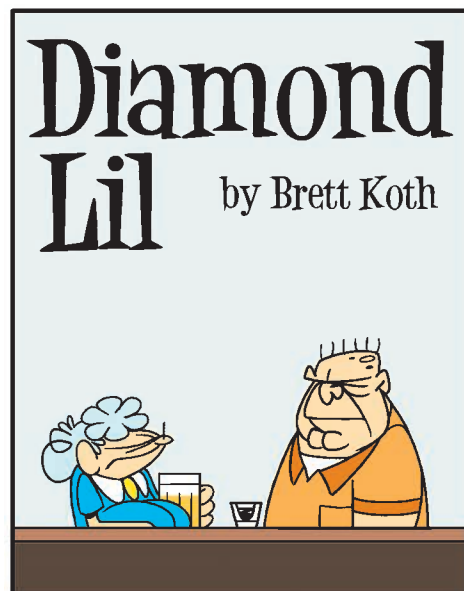
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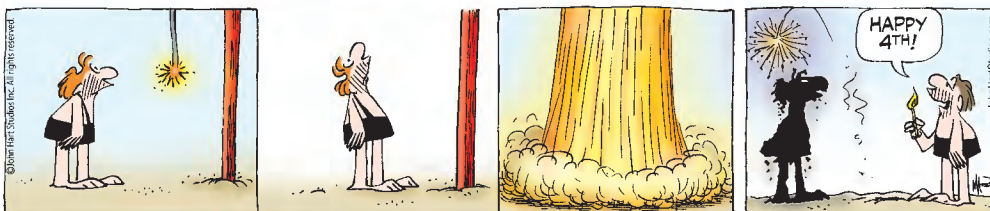
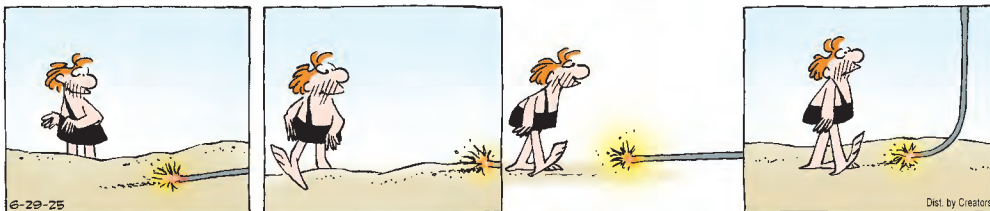
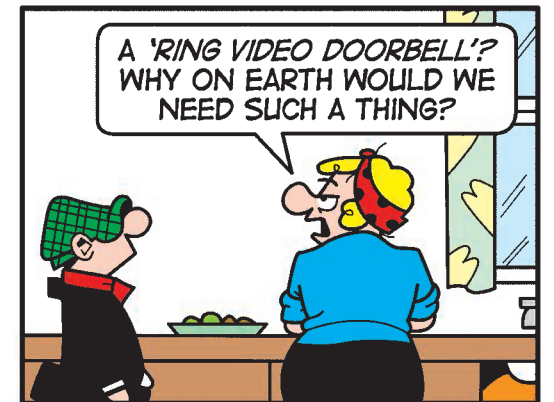
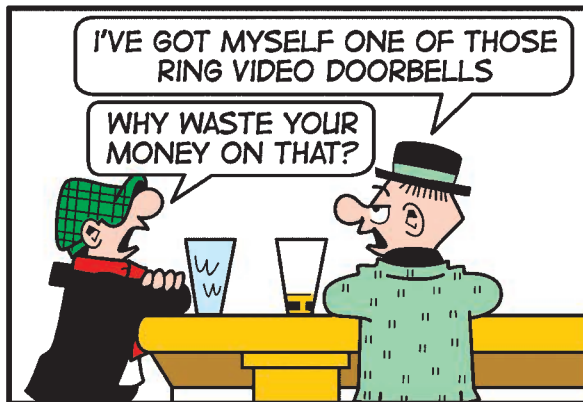
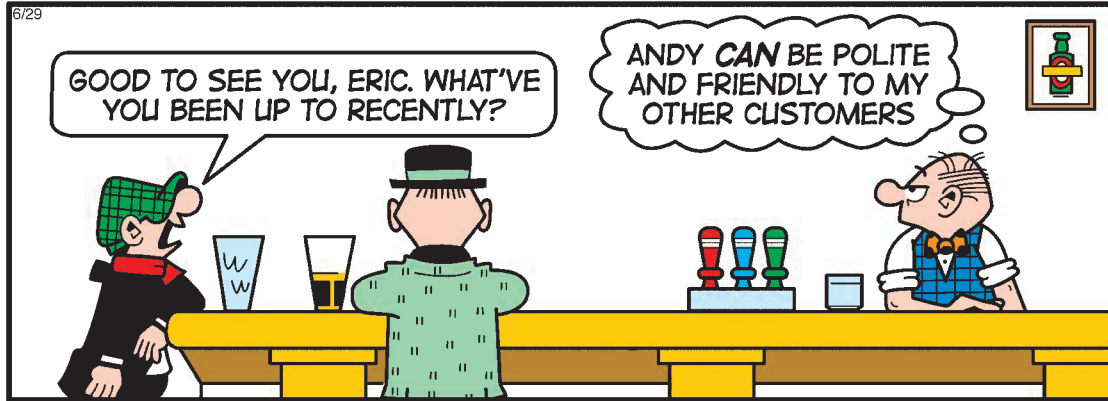
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