

# Rodriguez visits Gillett Public Library

Lt. governor concerned about loss of federal funds

BY LEE PULASKI  
City Editor

Federal funds for libraries are expected to be slashed like many other programs, and that has Lt. Gov. Sara Rodriguez concerned.

Rodriguez went on a fact-finding mission Aug. 11 to the Gillett Public Library, and she spoke with Library Director Shannon Stoner and others about what the local library provides and what it needs to remain a vital community hub.

Rodriguez was amazed to find out how much the small library does for city residents and those living in the surrounding towns.

“They are truly part of the community hub,” she said. “They do so much more than books. We were just going through this library, and they do programming for young adults. They do programming for seniors, for kids. They have a free pantry here that people can get food from if they need it. It’s so important to make sure we’re supporting our libraries.”

A lot of the federal funding goes through the states in the form of grants. Stoner noted a lot of the library programming in Gillett is made possible through grants.

“If we do not get that federal funding that we are used to, that is going to curtail our ability on the state level to be able to support libraries like this,” Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez said she’s worried about what will happen to libraries in small towns like Gillett. She noted that there’s more funding in the 2025-27 state biennial budget to help libraries, but questions if



Gillett Public Library Director Shannon Stoner, right, tells Lt. Gov. Sara Rodriguez about the adult programming that the library has Aug. 11 as a log cabin on loan from Gillett resident Jane Davis stands in the background. There are video games available to check out, as well as puzzles and more.

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that bump from the state will just be swallowed by the federal cuts.

“We need to talk to our federal representatives about how important it is to have funding and support for our community libraries,” Rodriguez said.

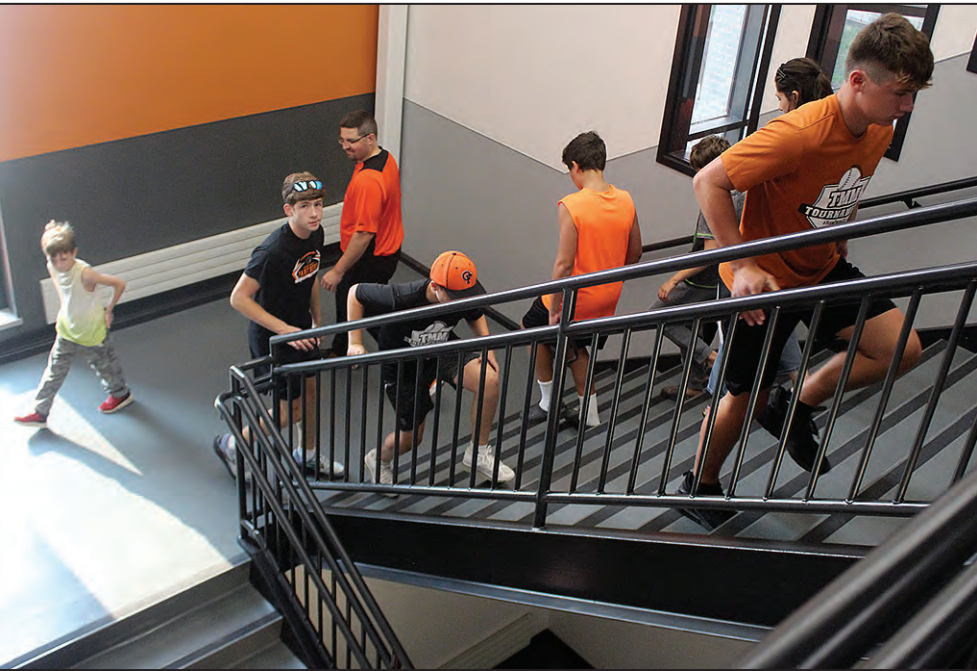
The lieutenant governor’s visit yielded a lot of information about how libraries

make good use of the limited funding they have and how they’re keeping up with technology. She noted that the federal government’s thought that libraries don’t need to be funded is a mistake.

“They were talking about how individuals are coming in and wanting more large-print books, so they’re ordering

large-print books,” Rodriguez said about her meeting with library representatives. “Kids are needing to learn more about STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and trying to make sure that they’re prepared for what’s going to

RODRIGUEZ, CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Visitors to the new Oconto Falls Middle School go up and down the stairs Aug. 4 as they explore the new classrooms and other facilities that will welcome students in less than a month.

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## New middle school opens in Oconto Falls

Decade of planning, preparing ends with ribbon cutting and open house

BY LEE PULASKI  
City Editor

Students and their parents got their first look at the new Oconto Falls Middle School on Aug. 4, eager to see how the new place could enhance their education much more than the former Washington Middle School.

Voters in November 2022 approved a \$37.6 million referendum that enabled the new school along with security upgrades and roof replacements at Oconto Falls High School and Oconto Falls and Abrams elementary schools.

Savings from construction enabled the district to move forward with a new cafeteria and commons area at the Abrams school. The work was considered necessary but was removed after a \$49.9 million referendum question was defeated in April 2022.

Stuart Russ, the new superintendent

SCHOOL, CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

### INSIDE

Lakes Country Public Library hoping, one year after expansion.

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WE NEED  
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IDEAS!

- We're looking to select no more than 30-50 participants to serve on our Strategic Planning Task Force
- Members will be selected to balance stakeholders from various groups and will be announced by August 27th
- If interested, visit the link or scan the QR code to submit an application for consideration by August 22nd
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# Northern library hopping place after expansion

Lakes Country explodes with activity, serves as community hub

By LEE PULASKI  
City Editor

Lakes Country Public Library expected more people to enter its doors once its expansion was completed last year, but they did not expect such a huge response from the four small towns it serves and surrounding communities.

It's a pleasant surprise for those who worked for years to raise funds and bring the communities together to turn its tiny library in the Town of Lakewood into an adequate community hub that residents and visitors can use as a resource, not only for literature and entertainment, but for learning and enrichment as well.

Tom Thielke, who was on the expansion committee, noted there are about 3,000 people in the towns of Lakewood, Townsend, Doty and Riverview, and besides those towns, people from Mountain and Silver Cliff utilize the library. However, there is also a swelling of use during the summer when visitors come to their cabins for vacations.

The 2024 annual report shows that 37% of Lakes Country's circulation of 33,575 items borrowed comes from outside the area, with Lakewood accounting for 31%, Townsend 19% and Doty and Riverview the remaining 13%.

"Our summer population is immense," Thielke said.

Linda McKenna, who



A patron utilizes the computers available for job searches, research and other activities on Aug. 7 at Lakes Country Public Library.

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sits on the library board as a representative of Lakewood, noted that the library's usage occasionally eclipses that of the Farnsworth Public Library in Oconto, Oconto County's largest library.

"We have a good circulation up here," McKenna said. "We're very proud of our circulation. There are six libraries (in the county) and we do really well. What surprised me is that we were the highest visited area in Oconto County."

McKenna said there are a number of people moving up to the Northwoods permanently, and she figures a lot of those people will use the library.

"That's saying something, because there's so many amenities up here, the

library being one of them," she said. "For me, it was one reason I moved here."

One big plus for Lakes Country is the reliable Wi-Fi connection available. Thielke noted his son and family vacationed in the area and used the library to go online and deal with needed work issues.

"We get all kinds of that here," Thielke said.

The library even added an outdoor pavilion for people to use their computers on nice days. They can sit at a table with their laptop and use the Wi-Fi to their heart's content.

McKenna noted that the library's summer reading program has grown in leaps and bounds, as well. This year, 127 children signed up for the program.

McKenna also ticked off several other items that makes Lakes Country a warm and inviting library, including:

- An extensive DVD collection, which McKenna said is necessary due to home Internet availability making it difficult for residents to utilize streaming services.
- Puzzles set up on tables that patrons regularly work on. Some of the finished puzzles hang on the library's walls.
- New escape rooms set up monthly for families to practice teamwork and deductive reasoning.
- Programs for elders in the community, including art classes, sewing sessions and social gatherings.
- A Community Con-

nections program held once a month for adults to join together with a hobby, art project or game being held the first hour and a Lunch 'N Learn program for the second hour with various public speakers. On Aug. 21, Margaret Brubaker will be the featured speaker, talking about German heritage.

- Another speaker series that's held in the evening.

"We really have improved our programming," McKenna said. "We're really just the hub of the community in so many ways."

She noted that all the activities are helping to keep the communities and visitors to the Northwoods engaged.

"It's just a matter of finding the things people want," McKenna said, noting that the library and all of its activities provide warmth for folks.

Neither McKenna nor Thielke think its necessary to look at future expansion, even with all the activities keeping library staff hopping, but they are concerned about keeping everything funded. The library's expenses were more than \$176,000, according to the 2024 annual report, which was partially covered by \$81,525 from the county that year. However, Oconto County cut Lakes Country's funding by about \$10,000 for 2025, according to McKenna, and there are concerns library funding could be cut again in the 2026 budget.

"The county has to make budget cuts, and one of the places they go to are the libraries, and that's what we're afraid of," McKenna said. "The reason we became a joint library is so that the taxes that Townsend, Riverview and Doty pay no longer go down there, they go right here."

One thing helping to cut costs for the library in the future are the recently installed solar panels on the roof. McKenna said it will be a benefit for the library to make its own electricity.

"That's 30 years of free electricity or something like that," McKenna said.

The reputation of Lakes Country's inviting atmosphere has even resulted in a woman pursuing her doctoral thesis using the library's community room as her subject, according to Thielke. The community room is a benefit to those working to enhance their careers, he and McKenna said.

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Although quiet on Aug. 7, the new teen room that came into existence after the expansion has been heavily used, along with other amenities of the Lakes Country Public Library.

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Solar panels were recently added to the roof of Lakes Country Public Library and will help to lower the costs to keep the lights on for patron visits and the many activities taking place within the building.

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Students pause for a smile after receiving new backpacks and other back-to-school essentials Aug. 9. This year's school supply drive provided materials to 450 students in Oconto County. NATHAN BIRR

# Over 450 children get school supplies

By NATHAN BIRR  
Correspondent

The sixth annual Oconto County School Supply Drive took place Aug. 9 at Holy Trinity Parish in Oconto.

Over 450 children received back-to-school aid from this year's volunteer effort. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., school supplies, hygiene packets and haircuts were provided free to those registered for the event.

Registration opens June 1 and closes Aug. 1 annually.

"Any child that is enrolled in an Oconto County school can be registered on our website," said Amy Huggett, who started the supply drive with Brittney Dequaine in 2020.

"We have so many amazing volunteers who help with the event," Huggett said. "We are here for families who need a little extra help getting their school supplies."

Each year the supply drive has increased the number of students helped.

"Thanks to the generous giving of sponsors, meeting the increasing need is made possible," Huggett said. "People are finding out about this great program and how happy it makes



Jaelyn Dequaine, owner of Feyre Salon Spa of Oconto, provides free haircuts to 50 students attending the school supply drive at Holy Trinity Parish. This is Dequaine's second year providing haircuts at the event. NATHAN BIRR

the kids and families of our community."

Founding sponsors include American Family Insurance — Kevin Huggett Agency Inc.; Westy's Trucking; GFWC Oconto Women's Club; Stephenson National Bank; Stewarts Heating and Cooling;

Chiropractic Advantage; Unlimited Services; and Dorsch Ford Lincoln Kia. A complete list of sponsors, information on how to donate and the registration form for next year's drive can be found at <https://www.ocontocountyschoolsupplydrive.org>.

## HSHS introduces Community Connect

To address the needs of its communities, Hospital Sisters Health System launched HSHS Community Connect, a digital database of free or reduced cost community-based programs and services available in the communities the health system serves.

"HSHS is committed to improving commu-

nity health and addressing ever-changing needs and factors within the community landscape," said Kim Luz-Mobley, system executive director of community health.

In 2024, HSHS hospitals conducted a Community Health Needs Assessment to identify the health status, needs and issues in the communities it serves.

Patients can also access HSHS Community Connect at [hshs.org/connect](https://hshs.org/connect) or through MyHSHS. If you need to create a MyHSHS account, be sure to use your full proper name that matches your HSHS medical record. For information, call the MyChart support line at 866-312-5023 or email [MyHealthRecordhelp@hshs.org](mailto:MyHealthRecordhelp@hshs.org).

### Barbie



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

### HENRY



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

### DOWNY



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

### DAWN



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



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## Coleman High School Class of 1965

*Celebrated their 60 Year Class Reunion  
on August 3  
at Rivers Edge Supper Club, Marinette, WI*



There were 22 classmates scheduled  
to attend the occasion.

#### Front Row:

Karen Henseler, Joanne Shallow, Charlene Hurley,  
Sue Bayer, Jean Kavnesky, Ruby Fisher, Mavis Laronay,  
Linda Welty, Mary Thibodeau, Fred Kinziger, Jim Rich.

#### Back Row:

John Darga, Jim Piencikowski, Joe Piencikowski,  
David Badora, Paul Wilting, Jack Martin, Paul  
Payhonen, Larry Peterson, Dan Goddard.

Two members that were absent were Barb Hempel and Bill Prue.



# Utility helps school district study energy efficiency

The Oconto Falls School District has secured more than \$8,200 in funding to optimize its building systems, an effort that is expected to reduce energy costs and waste.

The funding comes from WPPI Energy, the joint action agency for Oconto Falls Municipal Utilities (OFMU), through its energy saving programs for schools and governments.

This grant will support a three-year retro-commissioning study at Oconto Falls High School. A retro-commissioning

study is a comprehensive assessment of existing building systems, such as HVAC and electrical controls, to identify opportunities for improvement and fine-tuning.

The school district will collaborate with Data Wrangler, an energy data analysis service by CLOC-works Inc., to install energy monitoring equipment. This will provide experts with continuous data on the high school's energy usage.

Monthly meetings with OFMU staff and the energy

service provider will allow the district to identify potential building improvements and track anticipated savings.

According to the Department of Energy, retro-commissioning can lead to a 5-30% reduction in a building's energy bills. The data from this project will be used to identify energy waste, address power factor issues and highlight how energy use varies between different departments. This information can also be leveraged for future funding requests

and to analyze the potential return on investment for adding battery storage or optimizing solar power.

"We're glad that as a member-owner of WPPI, Oconto Falls can help the district identify opportunities to cut costs and reduce energy waste," said Beth Rank, OFMU interim manager. "It will be interesting to see how having more data and insight can empower the district to make its buildings more efficient and potentially receive more funding in the future."



From left, Oconto Falls High School principal Steven Linssen and business manager Kim Sinclair receive a check from WPPI Energy and Oconto Falls Municipal Utilities interim manager Beth Rank and Energy Services manager Frank Barth at the school July 9 to help fund the district's planned study of its energy use over three years.

CONTRIBUTED



## Green Valley-Morgan Fire Department holds annual picnic

By NATHAN BIRR  
Correspondent

Parking was limited in Green Valley on Aug. 9 as crowds of people gathered in the town's usually empty streets.

The annual Green Valley-Morgan Firemen's picnic began in the morning with a parade and car show. The fun, food and music continued into the night, despite

the unexpected afternoon rain.

This picnic is a major fundraiser for the department.

"Planning for the picnic is yearlong," Fire Chief Leonard Wahl said. "It's there every month on the meeting agenda."

Proceeds from the picnic will help the department reach its goal of replacing the 23-year-old fire truck, housed at the department's Pulcifer station, in 2028.

Town residents, from left, Carol Dittman, Bob Wolfe and Derick Dittman share some conversation at the annual Green Valley-Morgan Fire Department picnic.

NATHAN BIRR

### SCHOOL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for the Oconto Falls School District, told a crowd of more than 200 people that the new middle school was completed ahead of time and under budget, welcome word to a community eager to have its middle school education and infrastructure come into the 21st century.

"This couldn't be done without your support," Russ said to the crowd.

Although Russ inherited the new middle school, a lot of the legwork came from the leadership of Dean Hess, the previous superintendent, who retired earlier this year. Hess noted the planning for this new middle school goes all the way back to 2015.

"This is not something that happened in a short duration," Hess said. "Back in 2015, when I came in for an interview process, the board actually let me know that this was something that they expected us to accomplish."

The first step was determining what the district's finances were to see if a new middle school was possible, according to Hess. After that, the Gauthier family sold their homestead across the street from Oconto Falls High School to the district and work began in earnest to make the new middle school a reality.

"Our first attempt to pass the capital referendum didn't work out the way we were hoping for,"

Hess said. "However, we talk about grit and the importance of responding. We reached out, we got this information, and you supported the opportunity to get this accomplished. This doesn't happen without you."

Hess noted that he'd never been through a school design process before, but Somerville Architects in Green Bay and Nexus Solutions in Madison made it easy. He noted that staff and community members took part in the design and planning.

Hess praised the fact that the middle school would now be adjacent to both OFHS and Oconto Falls Elementary School.

"We're excited to have our students step forward

and be the benefactors of this new learning environment," he said.

Oconto Falls School Board President Clint Gardebrecht said the new middle school will be more than the textbook definition of a school in Webster's dictionary, which is an institution for educating children. He believes the school will benefit more than the students planning to start sixth, seventh or eighth grade in less than a month.

"A school is so much more than simply a building to teach our youth," Gardebrecht said. "Schools have increasingly become the social hubs of communities, and this community has truly come

together. Children, teachers, support staff, parents, grandparents and the community-at-large visit our schools throughout the year to participate in or attend amazing events like sports, theater, dance, Grandparents Day, homecoming — the list goes on and on."

Gardebrecht also paid tribute to the old middle school, imagining that there must have been tremendous pride when that school opened in the 1950s.

"It is undeniable that Washington Middle School served our students well for a great many decades," Gardebrecht said. "Here we stand in the present day ... with that same sense of

pride as we christen the new Oconto Falls Middle School at 330 County Road I."

The ribbon cutting and open house also featured the debut of the Oconto Falls Middle School band, although some were band members with the former Washington Middle School.

Russ commented that the new middle school matches the work that the school's staff has been doing, but allows it to do so with access to more and better technology.

"The art room is much larger than we've had before," Russ said. "We've got some flexible space over in the kitchen area."

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### RODRIGUEZ, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

be happening in the future, so they're purchasing books about science and technology, and they're also doing programming about that."

The Gillett library is very responsive to the community, in Rodriguez's view.

"We want to make sure we're supporting them," she said.

Rodriguez noted that, when her children were younger, the family made regular trips to the neighborhood library, because it was something for the family to do.

"It doesn't cost anything for families," Rodriguez said. "Libraries are the one

place where people can congregate where they're not expected to pay, and that is such a unique part of the community. I loved taking my small kids there, and now they're a little bit older, 16 and 18, but I still make sure they realize how many resources are here in a library."

Stoner told Rodriguez about some of the adulting classes she holds for teens getting ready to go out into the world, and how she teaches things like budgeting and more.

"Talking about a resume, how do you apply for a job, how do you make a budget and how do you balance a checkbook, so

to speak?" Rodriguez said. "Those are really important skills for young adults, and the library is preparing them."

Rodriguez said she doesn't know why the federal government is cutting library funding and claimed the governor's office would be reaching out to find out more. However, she felt it was important to hit the road now and get information about what libraries are doing so she and Gov. Tony Evers can push back.

"It is really concerning to me that we are cutting services for everyday Wisconsinites," Rodriguez said. "That's going to hurt

people particularly in smaller towns and areas like here. The cuts across the board at the federal government are very concerning to me, and just one of those is for libraries. This is in service of tax cuts for very wealthy people. I would see that money go into the communities to support programs like this."

Stoner said the library provides a lot of outreach, including housing a food pantry and produce stand, hosting National Night Out and even providing an outlet each Halloween for exchanging costumes so they get more use.

The library also pro-

vides resources for those who are looking for jobs. Besides searching online via computers, there is a binder at the main desk where Gillett residents can look, not only within the city, but also neighboring Oconto Falls and Shawano County.

"We look for local jobs preferably for those who don't have cars," Stoner said. "Gillett is pretty small, so you can pretty much walk anywhere you want to work."

Stoner said the library grants from the state fund Libby, which provides access to e-books and audiobooks online, as well as the inter-library

loan program that allows Gillett patrons to borrow books from other libraries without having to go to those libraries. She said she worries about what would happen if that funding were to go away.

"That's really important to us to provide services and provide materials for people," Stoner said. "Now I'm getting ready for budget for 2026, so if something has to be cut, I will have to cut it from somewhere in the budget. I'm going to do everything I can — fundraising, anything — in order to provide for my community."

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## Sacred Heart hosts church picnic



Paul Clark, of Shawano, leans in for a closer look at the items in a basket as part of the raffle at Sacred Heart Catholic Church's annual picnic Aug. 10. Dozens of baskets were featured, and there were even more in the silent auction. Proceeds benefit the parish.

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

## Sex offender to be released in Shawano

A 34-year-old registered sex offender is scheduled to be released into the Shawano community in August, according to the Shawano County Sheriff's Department.

Branden J. Broughton will be in the Shawano area and considered homeless.

Broughton was convicted of second-degree sexual assault of a child in Shawano County on Dec. 27, 2010.

He is required to register with the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry program for life and is required to comply with GPS tracking.

The sex offender registry can be found at <https://doc.wi.gov> and [www.WIstaysafe.gov](http://www.WIstaysafe.gov).

Anyone with concerns or questions regarding Broughton can call the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry main line at 608-240-5830.

# Dispatch staffing improving for Shawano

## Vacancies persist, but strong candidates in wings

By KEVIN PASSON  
Editor-in-Chief

There might be a light at the end of the tunnel for the Shawano County Dispatch Center. At least a little light.

While there still remain four vacancies among 16 positions, Kasey Cross, communications supervisor, told the public safety committee Aug. 6 that a new dispatcher will start Aug. 11, training on the night shift.

However, a full-time employee is resigning effective Aug. 24 for a position with the Menominee Tribal Rescue Service.

Interviews were held July 30 with many strong candidates, and another 11 are set to be interviewed soon. Three dispatchers are currently in training.

"Right now, we're kind of at a standstill, because onboarding is being held up for our training to get done, so I have trainers," Cross said.

To help retain employees, Cross is working with Julie Hasser, human resources manager, to add a supervisory layer in the department to mirror what is done with patrol deputies and correctional officers, and to offer some upward mobility within the department.

"I'm hoping to keep them engaged and want to stay here with us for a potential for advancement," Cross said.

Pay raises for supervisors would be paid for through the vacancies at the department, including the 16th position Cross is willing to give up completely.

"We want to give up the 16th position in dispatch and the extra position in the jail," Sheriff George Lenzner said. "We're going to ask for weekend premium with money we're saving from those positions."

"Our biggest hurdle has been to retain employees. They are leaving for other counties."

All county department heads are meeting with the county executive committee to make their case for their 2026 budget requests.

Ty Raddant, chief deputy, echoed the comments about staff.

"In the last five years, we hired 19 people," he said. "Ten have been local, and nine have been from the outside."

Of the 10 local candidates, five were let go when they failed the training. Four of the other five left on their own for various reasons.

"If we haven't got to the point where we pretty

much drained our resources locally, we're getting close to it," he said.

Lenzner said the newest dispatcher was offered a job with Brown County that was willing to pay \$2.50 per hour more, not counting a shift differential or weekend premium pay.

All Oconto County dispatchers and corrections officers are paid an additional \$2 per hour hazard pay, plus night shift differential and weekend premiums.

Some executive committee members have consistently opposed a shift differential or weekend premium for the sheriff's department, because they said all other department heads would want the same, and the county cannot afford that.

Hasser and sheriff's department officials met with all the department heads recently. She said they were all supportive of the extra pay for the sheriff's department, because they understand it's a 24/7 job.

Other department employees are paid overtime if they work weekends.

"The other department heads were really supportive of these changes," she said.

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# Highway 29 improvement project now underway

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

It may be August and some may consider summer to be winding down, but road construction season is still in full swing. The newest project is improvements on state Highway 29 westbound from state Highway 22 east to the Wolf River on the Highway 29 westbound exit ramp to Highway 22 in the towns of Belle Plaine and Waukechon. Silty, sandy soils below the roadway pavement section and the lack of an effective drainage system

to remove surface water from the roadway sub-soils are causing distress to the overlying concrete pavement and to the Wolf River bridge embankment, officials with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation said. Motorists can expect single-lane traffic on the eastbound side of Highway 29 from Rose Brook Road east to just west of the County Road K interchange while work proceeds on the westbound lanes. A temporary speed reduction from 65 mph to 55 mph will take place within the eastbound

two-way traffic area. In addition, the Highway 29 westbound exit ramp to Highway 22 will be closed during the duration of the project to allow an access route to the underside of the Wolf River structure as well as for ramp repairs. Detours for Highway 29 westbound traffic to access Highway 22 will be as follows:

- Traffic on Highway 29 westbound wanting to proceed north on Highway 22 will be detoured on state Highway 55 north to state Highway 55/22.
- Traffic on Highway

29 westbound wanting to proceed south on Highway 22 will be detoured north on Highway 55, west on Highway 55/22, then south on Highway 22. Construction was set to begin Aug. 11 and will wrap up by late October, contingent on weather and construction progress. Relyco Plus, LLC will lead the project, which includes grading, drainage improvements and concrete pavement repairs. For updates, follow @WisDOTNorthCent on X or visit the North Central Region's 511 website.



Evelyn Suehring and a goat strike smiles at Shawano County's first ever AgStravaganza. The event was created to give youths a space to experience agriculture close up, have fun and learn about joining and supporting FFA and 4-H in Shawano County.

CONTRIBUTED

## FFA, 4-H join forces at AgStravaganza

Shawano County youths from 4-H and FFA recently teamed up to offer the county's first ever AgStravaganza. More than 65 youths attended the premiere event, which featured activities and games for youths, information about FFA and 4-H, live animals and free food (courtesy of the Shawano 4-H Leaders Inc.). This event was planned and hosted by Morgan Staszak, FFA, and Taya Jannusch, 4-H. The event was developed out of an idea for a service project from Staszak's attendance at Washington Leadership Conference. With leadership from 4-H through Extension staff, the gathering was created to give youths a space to experience agriculture close up,

have fun and find out more information about joining and supporting FFA and 4-H in Shawano County. 4-H is a community that provides supportive relationships and opportunities for youths to serve and lead. 4-H youths have anchor experiences in their home community while also having opportunities to participate in state, national and international experiences. Helping Staszak and Jannusch were Bonduel FFA and Shawano 4-H for leadership, with assistance from Allison Zernicke. Those who brought animals included the Wolf family, the Zernicke family and the Staszak family/Paulson Club Lambs, as well as 4-H and FFA youths who helped out from Bonduel FFA, Gresham FFA and Tiger Tribe 4-H.

## New scam has callers posing as county staff

Shawano County law enforcement officials have been made aware of a scam that has impacted other counties and has started targeting local residents. Individuals posing as county employees are contacting applicants listed in public hearing and meeting notices and requesting additional payments to complete an application or process. Know that Shawano County employees will never contact applicants to request payment beyond any established application or processing fees.

All official payments must be submitted through the proper channels, and any additional payment requests made by phone, text or email should be treated as suspicious. If you receive a request that seems unusual or demands additional payment:

- Do not provide any personal or financial information.
- Contact the relevant department directly to verify the request.
- Report the incident to local law enforcement, the county clerk's office or both.



## Performing under the trees

ABOVE: Two of the four members of Turkeyfoot Road wait to take the stage at Ridges Amphitheater on Aug. 10 at Mielke Park as part of the 47th annual Shawano Folk Music Festival. A dozen bands performed over the weekend. KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

RIGHT: Band O' Barley's members played a variety of instruments during their performances at the Shawano Folk Music Festival on Aug. 9-10. Among them are the Highland bagpipes, smallpipes, Irish whistles, concertina, harmonium, melodion, bohran, harmonica, rhythm guitar, banjo, fiddle, cello and bass guitar. KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA







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# Colors, traditions abound at Mohican Pow Wow



**ABOVE:** Colorful regalia and carefully timed movement kept the crowd focused Aug. 10 on the dancers at the 49th annual Mohican Pow Wow held at Many Trails Park near Bowler. Although stormy weather impacted the grand entries on the previous day, the weekend featured plenty of dancing and excitement.

**LEFT:** Francis Delabreau, head male dancer, dances as one of the drum circles behind him sings and beats the drum during the Mohican Pow Wow held Aug. 10 at Many Trails Park.

**RIGHT:** The movement of the jingle dress rings through the arena at Many Trails Park as Sage Okimosh, head female dancer, performs for the crowd.

**BELOW:** The Iron Gate drummers, a home drum band for the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans, set the beat for the dancers in the arena during an intertribal dance during the Mohican Pow Wow on Aug. 10.

PHOTOS BY LEE PULASKI  
CITY EDITOR



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A staple every summer on the Wolf River, the Shawano Ski Sharks practice each Monday and Tuesday and perform each Wednesday. As the season end nears, members practice in preparation for the final 2025 performance.

# Dog Days of summer on area waterways



Members of the Shawano Ski Sharks ballet line, top, and swivel line, above, enjoy the final days of the 2025 season.



Canadian wildfire smoke filled northeast Wisconsin skies in recent weeks. The smoke clouded the skies for boaters on the Wolf River and swimmers at Shawano County Park Beach last week.

PHOTOS BY GREG MELLIS



Sun Drop Museum, 920 S. Franklin St., Shawano





A lot of work went into creating an accurate 3-D depiction of the Woodland Bowl in Keshena, and PBS Wisconsin and Nebraska Public Media worked with a lot of Menominee people to create accurate characters in "Powwow Bound: A Menominee Homecoming." PBS WISCONSIN

# Woodland Bowl goes digital for Menominee video game

'Powwow Bound' teaches players about Menominee culture and traditions

By LEE PULASKI  
City Editor

Any teacher struggling to find resources that fit Act 31 (American Indian Studies in Wisconsin), there's something new to be added to the list.

PBS Wisconsin and Nebraska Public Media have recently launched "Powwow Bound: A Menominee Homecoming," a 3-D narrative-driven adventure game sponsored by Vision Maker Media, with one of the creators, Jacob Schwitzer, being a Menominee first descendant now working in Lincoln, Nebraska, as a game producer and developer.

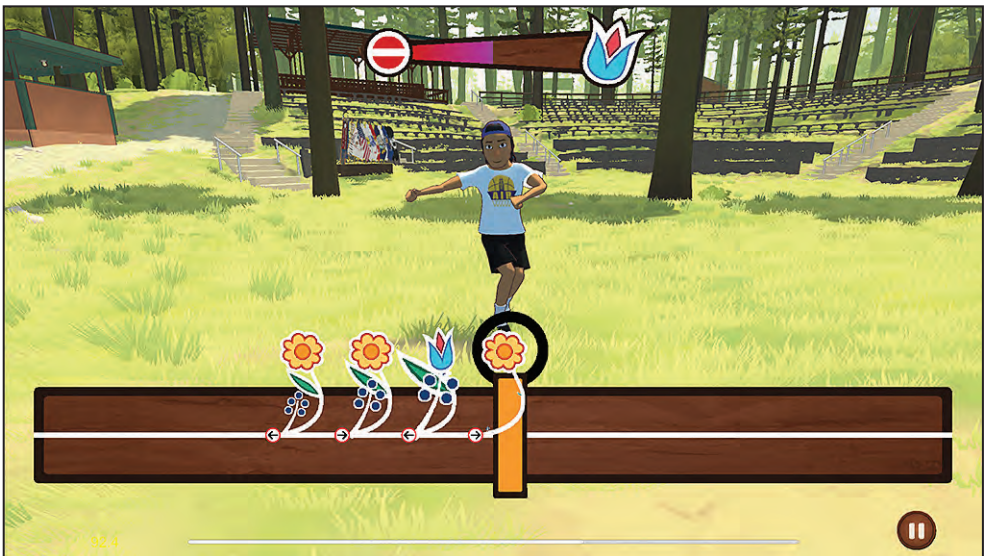
The game is set on the Menominee Reservation, and players get to be Deborah Jo (D.J.), a teen who returns home and is working to reconnect with her Menominee roots. The family is preparing for a special dance for her deceased grandfather, and work is being done to get D.J.'s mother to rejoin the dance circle.

"For the last few years, we have been exploring video games as a new form of media," Schwitzer said. "My mom said, 'Hey, if you ever want to do a video game about your tribe, we can look into doing that.'"

He noted that his mother, Lela Schwitzer, who works for the Bonduel School District, told him that finding resources that fit the requirements of Act 31, which requires schools to teach about the Indigenous tribes of Wisconsin, can be difficult, so Jacob Schwitzer started looking into the possibility of teaching about the Menominee through the lens of a powwow.

"I wanted to create something that taught about the Menominee culture in a modern setting through an interactive media," Schwitzer said. "That was the genesis of it all."

Schwitzer was able to tap into his childhood recollections of going to powwows in Keshena to add a little personal



"Powwow Bound: A Menominee Homecoming" follows the character Deborah Jo (D.J.) as she returns to the Menominee Reservation with her family and prepares to take part in a special dance to honor her deceased grandfather. PBS WISCONSIN

touch to the game. PBS and NPM also worked with local Menominee to provide voices for the game with the help of the College of Menominee Nation.

"It's like our county fair," Schwitzer said about the tribal powwows. "It's like our homecoming for a lot of folks, so it really has a lot of cultural and familial moments tied to it. The idea of focusing on the powwow came more from the sense of people coming home, and that sense of homecoming that comes with it."

He added that, living in Nebraska, he occasionally feels homesick, so he can relate to D.J.

Schwitzer said it was important to have a Menominee character come from an urban environment to the rural tribal lands, as many who are raised off the reservation do not always have the full grasp of their cultural traditions. D.J. gets to learn with the players.

The game has taken almost three years to be completed, according to Schwitzer. Production of the game started near the end of 2022.

Being an Indigenous voice for "Powwow Bound" is important to Schwitzer. However, he knew other voices had to be included on the project for it to be culturally sensitive and relevant.

"Indigenous games should be told with

Indigenous input," Schwitzer said. "Even though I am a first descendant Menominee and our writer is enrolled, we can't speak for the whole tribe. For this game, we brought on a lot of community advisors and worked with the community to develop this game and make sure that it was a conglomeration of many Indigenous perspectives and attempted to capture the general sense of the tribe and the culture."

Authenticity was something that writer Justin Eagle Gauthier, a Menominee now living in Oregon, also wanted to be sure was part of the game, so that players can learn about Menominee culture and traditions.

"The team has been very intentional in how the story, characters and world are portrayed to a larger gaming public," he said. "At its core, this approach has involved many members of the Menominee community representing an array of experiences and belonging to that community."

The game made its debut Aug. 1-3 in Keshena during the Menominee Nation Contest Powwow. Angelina Shi, an interactive media producer with PBS Wisconsin, was Schwitzer's partner on the project and said she was delighted to see

## FARM LIFE FROM A FARM WIFE

# Back road scenery grows by leaps, bounds

Taking the Seymour/Pulaski exit off state Highway 29 one morning, I was on my way to a breakfast date, meeting up with two friends I've known for 60-plus years. How that happens I'll never understand, since I myself am only 40-something. Wishful thinking.

Slowing down, I noticed how every field of corn was looking simply magnificent.

Voice-texting my husband, I exclaimed,

"There's lots of fields with great looking corn and farmers have hay laying all over the

place out here!"

What does this farmer girl notice? Not beautiful landscapes and plush lawns but how much hay is laying and what the corn fields look like.

Late afternoons when our chores and work are done for the day, sometimes just to cool off and relax, we go on a lazy jaunt around the county roads in our four wheeler. Those drives are conducive to mindless observations. Very laid-back and calming.

"That alfalfa sure looks good. Gee, that's really beautiful hay. Is that third crop?"

Back in the day when we were farming, cutting hay was my most favorite thing to do when it came to hauling myself up in a tractor cab. My husband would hook me up to the disc bine, drive down to the field and opening it for me, cut one round around and then doubling back to cut the outside round closest to the edge of the field.

With my boundaries established in that fashion, I'd take over. When I got a field cut, I'd feel an immense sense of satisfaction. Plus, I barely left any tufts (missed standing hay). I'd smack that field down right nice and clean.

Back to our county road musings.

"That field of soybeans look amazing."

"There's some corn that's tosseling."

"You don't see much oats planted these days."

SCENERY, CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



A beautiful field of soybeans can be viewed while driving along some of the back roads of Shawano County. KAY REMINGER

WOODLAND, CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



IN THE KITCHEN WITH FRANCESCA



Waffles can get some taste from vanilla or almond extract, but to really give them some kick, adding some blueberries and whipped cream will get the job done.

FRANCESCA ULLMER

# Switching up waffle recipe gets mixed reviews at home

National Waffle Day is Aug. 24.

There are many different kinds of waffles, different add-ins and different recipes. Waffles are pretty popular in my family; we have them almost every Sunday. However, we usually just use Mom's pancake recipe, in waffle shape. Most of the time, they turn out just fine.

I was curious about trying a real waffle recipe though, so I found one in an old cookbook and gave it a try. I forgot to add the family favorites though, almond and vanilla extract, so I got some flak from the family.

"There is no flavor," said my sister.

I thought the waffles tasted pretty good. In all subsequent attempts, I was careful to add the extracts. I don't really measure the extracts; I just add a splash of each.

Most waffle recipes call for the eggs to be separated, with the yolks mixed into the batter, and the stiffly beaten egg whites to be folded in last. I'm not exactly sure



This quick coffee cake earns its reputation, only requiring 25 minutes in the oven to bake to perfection.

FRANCESCA ULLMER



why this is so, but I still do it. Also, it is not necessary to smooth out the batter in the waffle iron, but I think it cooks better if you do.

My favorite toppings for these waffles are butter, blueberry pie filling and whipped cream. Of course, butter is not nec-

essary, but I like how the salt in the butter cuts the sweetness of the toppings. Any toppings will work with these waffles; experiment with what you like, and you will figure out what you like the best.

I found this coffee cake recipe in the Farm Show magazine my dad gets. The "quick" part of the recipe attracted me, and I decided to give it a shot. I regretted it pretty quick. This recipe was very confusing.

It instructed me to "cream the butter with the dry ingredients." I have never, ever seen this in all of my years of baking. So, I ignored that direction, and creamed the butter and brown sugar before I added the flour and cinnamon. The other confusing thing was the pan size. The recipe simply stated "pan," so I used a square pan, and I think it turned out just fine.

Aside from that, I was pleasantly surprised when the baking time turned out to be nearly spot-on. This recipe is really quick, which is perfect for when you need a quick addition to breakfast.

To make a 1/2 cup of sour milk, add 1/2 tablespoon of lemon juice or white vinegar to 1/2 cup of milk.

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.

## QUICK COFFEE CAKE

1/3 cup butter  
1 1/4 cups flour  
1/2 cup sour milk

3/4 cup brown sugar  
1/2 tsp. cinnamon  
1/2 tsp. baking soda

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Butter and flour a 9-inch square pan. Cream the butter and brown sugar. Add the flour and cinnamon and mix well. The mixture should look like a bowl of crumbs. Add the baking soda to the sour milk; give it a quick stir. Pour into the brown sugar mixture. Stir quickly until almost completely mixed, then finish by folding the batter over a few times with a rubber spatula. Pour into prepared pan; level with a spatula. Sprinkle with a mixture of butter, brown sugar, cinnamon, and flour. Bake for about 25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

## WAFFLES

1 3/4 cups flour  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1 cup milk

3 tsp. baking powder  
3 tbsp. melted butter  
2 eggs, separated

Melt the butter; set aside. Mix and sift the dry ingredients. Mix the egg yolks with the milk; add the slightly cooled butter. Beat the egg whites until stiff peaks form. Add the egg yolk mixture to the dry ingredients and mix well. Fold in the stiffly beaten egg whites. Grease a hot waffle iron. Pour in about a 1/3 cup of batter, spreading slightly if necessary. Bake until golden. Serve with desired toppings.

## SCENERY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

We also have been known to intensely discuss wildlife.

"See those fawns? Are they ever little. She must have had them late."

"There's some deer way back near that woods, in the field. Must be bad weather coming."

Deer can give us a more accurate forecast than a weatherman. When we spot them out eating during the day, they're filling up so they can hunker down — knowing instinctively there's a storm brewing.

"What's that? Is that a bear?"

Slowly traversing on back county roads with lots of woods, I rubberneck out the window something fierce, trying to spot a bear. Safely tucked in our side-by-side, I'd love to see one in the wild. I notice large uprooted tree roots and many rocks looking suspiciously like a rotund bear, but alas, I've never actually spotted one.

One day while on my daily walk down our lane — which clears my mind and sets my endorphins in proper order — I noticed a pile of scat. The "present" told me in no uncertain terms that a bear had been there and done that.

Walking between two cornfields with stalks towering makes me feel very small and, if you want to know the truth, rather vulnerable. Setting my podcasts on full volume, I also hoot a bit along the way. I don't want to startle one, I want to let him know I'm coming so he runs away.

When I was a little kid I had a recurring nightmare where a bear was chasing me round and round our empty barn. Going in and through the vacant stanchions, I was always just one or two steps ahead of it and would awaken in a cold sweat. My fascination of (or rather, fear of) bear has been with me for years.

Along our county drives,

## WOODLAND, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

so many children giving the game a try.

"I was very happy with the reception at the powwow," Shi said. "We had a fairly continuous stream of mostly kids come by and play the game on those three days. We had kids stop by multiple times during the powwow to play and kids bringing their friends. That was nice to see."

Shi said that it was a natural merging for PBS Wisconsin to work on the Menominee video game, although she noted it was an ambitious project for public media to undertake.

"What we ended doing over here at PBS Wisconsin was we contributed to the art direction as well as a lot of the UI (user interface) design, as well as the play-testing and promotion of the game," Shi said. "In terms of play-testing, that would be essentially

I do also notice landscaping. Many places have beautifully kept lawns and gardens and flowers galore. Everything is lush and green. A few places, though are unkempt and look forlorn.

My sister brought this thought to my attention, "Maybe the people who live there can't keep up with it."

Very good perspective.

There's been just about perfect weather for growing just about everything — heat and moisture. Years ago, an old-time farmer once told me, "You can hear the corn growing in this weather," referring to hot and humid conditions.

The garden is taking off, and we've been eating and giving surplus of spinach and cucumbers away. I've been vacuum-sealing green beans for a few days. While not quite ready to eat, the garden corn is the tallest I've ever seen it.

Peering at a stalk of corn, I marvel. Each stalk produces about two or three cobs. Tucked inside those cobs are rows and rows of kernels stacked in military precision. Each kernel has the capacity to produce another stalk of corn. It's marvelous when you really ponder it — it truly is. Such a provisional Father.

We've had beautiful weather conducive to growing food and enjoying nature at its finest. I'd like to bottle this stuff and haul it out come mid-January.

("Then God said, 'Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.' And it was so." Genesis 1:11)

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.

putting earlier versions of the game out in front of people, trying it out and telling us what does and doesn't work."

"Powwow Bound" was considered an ambitious project because the video game realm differs from what is produced for television, according to Shi.

"It also involved a lot of folks on both sides together and contributing to what is a fairly accurate 3-D representation of people in the local area," she said. "That took quite a few people. There were a ton of assets created in terms of 3-D models."

"Powwow Bound" can be played on Mac and Windows computers but is not available on tablets or mobile devices. It can also be found at www.pbswisconsin.org/powwow-bound or www.wisconsinfirstnations.org.



# Mild winters mean plenty of fall venison

The abundance of deer in our little northeast section of hunting paradise is obvious to those of us who travel daily through Shawano, Waupaca, Oconto and other counties abounding with bounding bucks and does.

As regular readers of my column already know, one of those bouncing brown devils found my front bumper last month in the middle of a four-lane highway and his 100-pound frame demolished my 4,000-pound mini-van. RIP, Honda Odyssey. You were a great machine.

As for the deer, she continued across the road and into a deep, grassy ravine. Although I doubt she survived the crash, she could have run a half-mile. Or maybe she's still alive. But the roadside carcasses tell the story of a habitat with far too many deer. And we deer hunters aim to do something about it starting in September.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has biologists who dedicate their careers to studying deer and other critters. Sure, we sometimes doubt their words when we don't see anything during a brief sit on a deerstand for a few hours opening weekend, but the visible browse line in the woods and pastures teeming with deer from early spring through fall tell another story.

Back-to-back mild winters have helped most does drop two or three fawns and boosted the survival rate of both young and adult deer. Local hunters like Jim Schoenike, of Pella, are also seeing ample deer for hunting, both in person and on trail cameras. Schoenike has produced a calendar for years that uses trail camera photos from dozens of cams he places around his own 400 acres of farmland and woods in Shawano and Waupaca counties.

"The 2025 deer season



Jim Schoenike, right, harvested this 12-point buck that rough scored 150 points in 2019 in the Pella Swamp near his home west of Clintonville. Helping him with the search was his father, Jerry Schoenike. Jim Schoenike noted the deer was shot on the day of his uncle Jack Schoenike's funeral, and his uncle had a hand in sending the arrow straight.

CONTRIBUTED



Ross Bielema  
Columnist

is looking up," said Schoenike, president of Clintonville Bow Hunters and an accomplished bowhunter, with about 30 deer under his belt since he shot his first deer in the Pella Swamp at age 13. "Deer populations seem high, and I have seen many fawns and family groups in Waupaca and Shawano counties. The buck-to-doe ratio seems high in this area."

DNR deer specialist Jeff Pritzl compiled a detailed look at the statewide deer population, new deer management units (marking a return to numbered zones within some counties) and regional forecasts. To see the full report, visit <https://widnr.widenet/s/jw98q65tgf/2025->

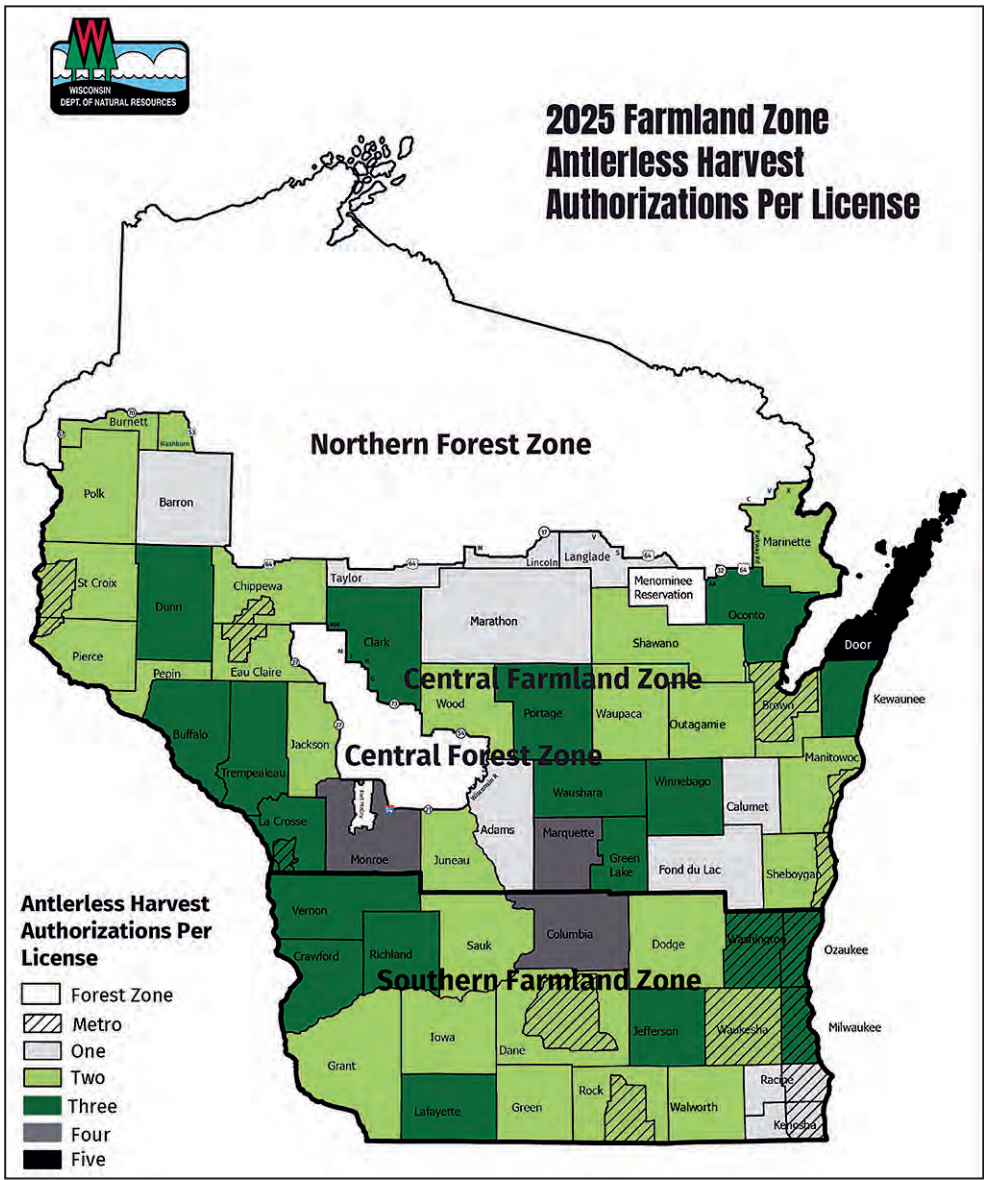
deer-fall-forecast.

A total of 44 counties will have an antlerless-only Holiday Hunt Dec. 24 through Jan. 1, including Shawano, Oconto and Outagamie counties. Of those 44, 37 counties will also extend the archery deer season from the normal Jan. 4 closure to Jan. 31. Waupaca County's Deer Advisory Council is the only one in our region to reject both. Shawano, Waupaca and Outagamie counties will provide two antlerless deer tags per gun and archery buck tag, while Oconto County will provide three for each gun and archery buck tag.

A portion of Oconto County is now part of the new numbered zones, with bonus antlerless tags available there but not included in the free bonus antlerless tags.

DNR wildlife biologist Steve Burns offered his insights into the hunting prospects for our area.

"Deer hunters through-



This map shows the free antlerless deer harvest authorizations (tags) given to hunters for each archery and gun buck tag they purchase. This year marks the DNR's return to numbered zones in the northern areas, versus the traditional county Deer Management Units used in recent years.

WISCONSIN DNR

out the Northeast District have reason to be optimistic about the 2025 hunting season," he said. "For the second year in a row, the district experienced a mild winter, setting the stage for high winter survival and reproductive rates. Last year, six counties in our district had the highest buck harvest ever since 1980. However, only one county's antlerless harvest ranked in the top 10 over that same period. This likely reflects an abundant huntable population but less willingness to harvest antlerless deer when bucks are so available."

Harvest overall last year was above the five-year average in the Central Farmland zone and

should equal or surpass that this year, depending on the timing of crop harvest, weather and, of course, hunter efforts, he noted.

The archery (bow and crossbow) season opens Sept. 13 and ends on Jan. 4 in counties without the extended bow season. The youth firearm season (bows and crossbows also legal) is Oct. 11-12. The nine-day gun deer season is Nov. 22-30, the muzzle-loader deer season is Dec. 1-10, and the statewide antlerless deer season is Dec. 11-14. The gun deer hunt for the disabled is Oct. 4-12.

If you need bonus antlerless deer tags to hunt does in another county or your current county, they

go on sale beginning Aug. 18 (for Northern and Central Forest zones), Aug. 19 (Central Farmland zone) and Aug. 20 (Southern Farmland zone). Remaining tags will be sold Aug. 21 and after.

Don't forget that you must register your deer online or by phone no later than 5 p.m. the day after you harvest your deer. The online site is [gamereg.wi.gov](http://gamereg.wi.gov) and the phone number is 844-426-3734. You will be given a 10-digit registration number to confirm that your deer has been legally registered.

Ross Bielema is a freelance writer from New London and owner of Wolf River Concealed Carry LLC. Readers can contact him at [Ross@wolfriverccw.com](mailto:Ross@wolfriverccw.com).



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, AUG. 15

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

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

**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. Adult Night: "Weekend at Bernie's."

**SATURDAY, AUG. 16**

**OCONTO:** Team Wisconsin Carnage Event, 5:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Breakwater Park, 1301 Harbor Road. A special day for active duty, reserves, Guard members and veterans, featuring a morning of fishing followed by lunch, a DJ and more. Hosted by the Fallen Outdoors.

**SHIOCTON:** Sporting Clay Shoot, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., J&H Game Farm, W5810 JH Road. Shooter prizes, raffle items, food and more. Fee \$35, reentry \$25. Event supports Navarino Nature Center.

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

**GILLET:** Oconto County Youth Fair Horse, Dog, Cat, and Small Animal Show, 8-11 a.m., Fairgrounds, Zippel Park.

**SHAWANO:** Fly-In and Car Show, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Shawano Airport, N5468 Airport Road. Antiques, classics, warbirds, show cars and skydivers, police and fire, demos, food vendors. static aircraft displays, children's activities, free airplane rides for ages 8-17. Free admission.

**LAKEWOOD:** Bead Character Pins, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Lakes Country Public Library, 15235 State Highway 32. Recommended for ages 7-17. Information: 715-276-9020 or lake@lakescountrylibrary.org.

**LAKEWOOD:** Brat Sale, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Lakewood SuperValu, 17186 Twin Pines Road. Proceeds to benefit Lakes Country Public Library. Information: 715-276-9020 or lake@lakescountrylibrary.org.

**SHAWANO:** Shawano Has History Walking Tour, 10 a.m., Franklin Park, 235 S. Washington St., to Stubborn Brothers, 220 S. Main St. \$10 admission includes a free drink at Stubborn Brothers.

**CECIL:** Cecil-Washington Fireman's Fest, 1-11 p.m., Fire Station, 111 E. Hofman St. Food, drinks, raffles, cornhole tournament 1 p.m., meat raffle 4 p.m., DJ by Beantown Entertainment, live music with the Glam Band 7 p.m.

**MOUNTAIN:** Hidden Bear Trail ATV Club fundraiser, 1-5 p.m., Animal's Bear Trail, 16895 State Highway 64. Food, meat raffles, refreshments.

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

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

**SUNDAY, AUG. 17**

**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.

**OCONTO:** Battle on the Bay Walleye Tournament, 5 a.m., Breakwater Park, 1301 Harbor Road. Hosted by Sheboygan Walleye Club. \$7,000 first prize based on 100 teams. Applications deadline Aug. 10; details at www.thesheboygan-walleyeclub.com/forum.

**SHAWANO:** Fox Valley Sports Car Club Lapping Day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., USAir Motorsports Raceway, W5901 County Road BE. Admission \$20.

**ABRAMS:** Farmers Market, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Town Square, 5877 Main St.

**SHAWANO:** Music in the Park at Arlington, 6:30-8:30

p.m., Arlington Park, 300 N. Humphrey Circle. Live music with Jacob Fannin.

**MONDAY, AUG. 18**

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

**TUESDAY, AUG. 19**

**SHAWANO:** Give Kids The World Ladies Fall Fling, 10 a.m., Shawano Lake Golf Course, W5714 Lake Drive. 18-hole, four-lady scramble, registration 10 a.m., shotgun start 11 a.m., dinner 5 p.m. \$80 includes golf, cart, lunch, dinner and prizes. Event supports Give Kids The World Village in Kissimmee, Florida.

**LAKEWOOD:** Stitch Happens, 2-4 p.m. Lakes Country Public Library, 15235 State Highway 32. Gathering of knitters, crocheters and stitchers to create, learn and share with each other. Information: 715-276-9020 or lake@lakescountrylibrary.org.

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

**SHAWANO:** Naberhood Block Party, 6 p.m., The Naberhood, 214 S. Main St. Cloud Nine Fire Show.

**WITTENBERG:** WOW Concert in the Art Park, 6 -8 p.m., 114 Vinal St. Music with the Drovers. Bring your own chairs, snacks and beverages.

**CECIL:** Shawano Paddlers evening paddle, 6 p.m., 215 W. Freeborn St. Check Facebook page for latest information.

**ABRAMS:** Auditions for "Magic Tree House," 6-8 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St. December play to be produced by Abrams Spotlight Productions.

**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, AUG. 20**

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

**NAVARINO:** Storytime, 10-11:30 a.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Story topic: Dinosaurs. Admission \$3.

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

**GILLET:** Oconto County Youth Fair, 4:30-9 p.m., Zippel Park, 150 N. McKenzie St. Food trucks 4:30 p.m., mariachi band and mechanical bull riding 6-9 p.m.

**ABRAMS:** Auditions for "Magic Tree House," 6-8 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St. December play to be produced by Abrams Spotlight Productions.

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

**THURSDAY, AUG. 21**

**SHAWANO:** Strong Women,

Strong Coffee, 9-11 a.m., Glas Coffeehouse, 511 N. Main St. Guest speaker Suzanne Witman, executive director of Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce. Free event; register by Aug. 19 at wwbc.com/trainings or on site.

**CAROLINE:** Shawano Paddlers morning paddle, 9 a.m., Cloverleaf Lakes, N2754 County Road Y. Check Facebook page for latest information.

**GILLET:** Oconto County Youth Fair, 9 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., Zippel Park, 150 N. McKenzie St. Swine show 9 a.m., Stray Bales band 3-5 p.m., special swine show 5 p.m., opening ceremony 6 p.m., Homegrown band 6:30-10:30 p.m., Ag Olympics 7 p.m.

**GRESHAM:** Wolf River Habitat for Humanity Golf Outing, 9 a.m., Pine Hills Golf Course, N9498 Big Lake Road. \$120 individual, \$400 team, includes 18 holes of golf with cart, four-person scramble, rolling lunch and dinner. All players receive a North Star Casino Resort gift and free play.

**LAKEWOOD:** Community Connections, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Lakes Country Public Library, 15235 State Highway 32. Social time to connect with others for the first hour, followed by Lunch 'N Learn, featuring Margaret Brubaker on German heritage. Information: 715-276-9020 or lake@lakescountrylibrary.org.

**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 Star Six Nine.

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

**FRIDAY, AUG. 22**

**OCONTO:** Aim Pro Walleye Series Wisconsin State Championships, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Breakwater Park, 1301 Harbor Road. Take-off 7 a.m., Return 3 p.m.

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

**GILLET:** Oconto County Youth Fair, 9 a.m. to midnight, Zippel Park, 150 N. McKenzie St. Rabbit show 9 a.m., beef show 10 a.m., Randy Peterson 12:30 p.m. and 5 p.m., Mischief and Magic Show 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., goat show 3 p.m., Ken and Kris 3-7 p.m., rabbit kiddie showmanship 4 p.m., 4x4 truck pulls 7 p.m., Petty-Cash band 8 p.m. to midnight.

**LAKEWOOD:** Rainbow Science Lab, 11 a.m. to noon, Lakes Country Public Library, 15235 State Highway 32. Recommended for ages 5-11. Information: 715-276-9020 or lake@lakescountrylibrary.org.

**SHAWANO:** Smalley Beach Bash, 2-7 p.m., Smalley Park, 211 Riverside Drive. Presented by city Parks and Recreation Department. Giant water slide and Slip n Slide, crafts with Shawano Library, food truck, Dunk a Cop and Popsicles with the Police, Shawano Ski Sharks, music with a DJ, Shawano Paddlers.

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# Top seeds survive first round of BABA playoffs

By GREG SEUBERT  
Correspondent

**East Division**

**Aug. 10**

**Neopit 11, Marion 4**

The top-seeded Chiefs advanced to the East Division final with a win over the fourth-seeded Meisters in the opening round of playoffs for the Badger Amateur Baseball Association.

Anthony Leeman led Neopit with three hits, and Wendell Waukau, Ray White and Bob Peters added two each.

Nick Schoen had two hits to lead Marion.

Walker Miller picked up the win, and Hudson Miller took the loss. Clintonville 9, Gresham 8

The third-seeded A's headed to Gresham to face the second-seeded Gophers and returned home with a one-run win.

Hunter Vollmer had three hits to lead Clintonville, while Brock Smejkal, Jake Van Allen and Aaron Hoffman added two each. Smejkal drove in three runs.

Treyvon Granquist hit a home run and led Gresham with three hits, while Tom Nietzer added two hits.

Jaden Doornink picked up the win, and Paul Murphy took the loss.

**West Division**

**Aug. 10**

**Little Falls 12, Leopold 1**

Little Falls took an early lead with a run in the top of the first inning, but the top-seeded Loggers outscored the fourth-seeded Bulldogs 12-0 the rest of the way.

Chris Dunn held Leopoldis to one hit over six innings and struck out 17 batters.

Dunn, Kal Fischer, Parker Gullixon, Carter Kurki and Tanner Nienhaus each had two of the Loggers' 14



Ryan Malueg bats for Leopoldis in the top of the first inning of a BABA West Division semifinal playoff game Aug. 10 in Little Falls. Leopoldis took an early lead, but the Bulldogs' season ended with a 12-1 loss to the top-seeded Loggers.

GREG SEUBERT

hits. Gullixon and Kurki hit home runs.

Jackson Krohn had the Bulldogs' only hit, and Jaden Stuhr took the loss on the mound.

**Caroline 9, Tigerton 8**

Justin Reminger drew a bases-loaded walk to drive in the winning run in the bottom of the ninth inning to give the second-seeded Cougars the win over the third-seeded Tigers.

Klay Barkow, Neil Hoffman and Kyle Finger had two hits for Caroline, and Finger also drove in four runs.

Connor Harris, Logan Wanta and Izaiah Hidde had two hits to lead Tigerton at the plate. Harris and Paul Sellner hit home runs.

Reminger picked up the win, and Patrick Bailey took the loss.

**Aug. 6**

**Marion 10, Menominee 4**

Marion defeated the Indians in a play-in game after both teams tied for fourth place in the final division standings.

Kaden Jueds led Marion with two hits, and Nick Schoen drove in a pair of runs.

Isaiah Moss and Pete O'Kimosh each had three hits to lead Menominee.

Hudson Miller picked up the win on the mound, and Ray LeMieux took the loss.

**North Division Aug. 10**  
**Birnamwood 9, Elderon 0**

The second-seeded Kings shut out the third-seeded Whiskey Jacks in Birnamwood.

**Wittenberg at Eland**  
Results not reported.

**Aug. 8**  
**Wittenberg 6, Antigo/Polar 5**

Wittenberg hosted Antigo/Polar in a play-in game and stayed alive in the playoffs with a win after both teams tied for fourth place in the final division standings.

**South-Central Division**  
**Scandinavia 7, Weymont 0**

Winning pitcher Ben Lee struck out 14 Weymont batters over seven innings to help lead the top-seeded Vikings over the White Bass.

Lee and Landon Moe led Scandinavia with two hits each. Moe also drove in a pair of runs.

Colin Jorgensen and Kolden Baehman each had a hit for Weymont, and Luke Schwenn took the loss on the mound.

**Plover 8, New London 2**

The third-seeded Pterodactyls headed to New London and picked up a win over the second-seeded Irish.

Kaden Thauer led Plover with three hits, and Josh Marcione added two.

Brent Helsten led New London with two hits.

Josh Opiola got the win on the mound, and Mike Helsten took the loss.

**Upcoming schedule Aug. 17**

Division finals (all games 1:30 p.m.)

**East Division**  
No. 3 Clintonville at No. 1 Neopit

**West Division**  
No. 2 Caroline at No. 1 Little Falls

**North Division**  
No. 1 Eland or No. 4 Wittenberg vs. No. 2 Birnamwood (highest seed hosts game)

**South-Central Division**  
No. 3 Plover at No. 1 Scandinavia



Dane Hodkiewicz takes a swing at a pitch from Little Falls pitcher Chris Dunn. Dunn went on to strike out 17 batters in the Loggers' 12-1 win over Leopoldis.

GREG SEUBERT



Jaden Stuhr pitches for Leopoldis in a season-ending 12-1 loss to Little Falls in the first round of the BABA playoffs.

GREG SEUBERT



# Bonduel, Pulaski advance in Dairyland League playoffs

By GREG SEUBERT  
Correspondent

Aug. 10  
Bonduel 7, Hofa Park 3

Cooper Campshure's three hits helped lead the sixth-seeded Broncos to a road win over the third-seeded Panthers in the opening round of playoffs in the Dairyland Baseball League.

His hits included singles in the third, five and ninth innings.

Campshure's RBI single gave Bonduel a 1-0 lead in the third inning.

Race Anvelink and Campshure each had three of Bonduel's 12 hits, while Chase Reinke added two hits and a team-high three RBIs.

Winning pitcher Noah Weier added two hits. He gave up five hits and three runs over seven innings and Jack Reinke worked the final 1 2/3 innings to pick up the save.

Trevor Cornell had two hits to lead Hofa Park, and Robbie Schuettpelez drove in a pair of runs.

Pulaski 12, Cecil 2 (7 inn.)

The fourth-seeded Reds ended the season for the fifth-seeded Mudhens in a seven-inning game in Pulaski.

Jason Infusino had three of Pulaski's 12 hits and also drove in a team-high three runs.

Cecil had runners in scoring position numerous times but came up empty.

Noah Beilfuss accounted for both of the Mudhens' runs with a home run in the sixth inning.

Beilfuss took the loss for Cecil after giving up nine hits and eight runs over 3 1/3 innings.

Waupaca 8, Navarino 0

Top-seeded Waupaca opened the postseason by shutting out No. 8 Navarino.

Winning pitcher Cam Seidl broke Keith Peterson's team strikeout record during the game. He now has 1,207 strikeouts as a Lakeman.

Hortonville 5, Shawano 1

No. 2 seed Hortonville, the defending grand champion, handed the No. 7 Lobos a season-ending loss.

Upcoming schedule

Aug. 17

Semifinals (both games at 1:30 p.m.): No. 6 Bonduel at No. 1 Waupaca; No. 2 Hortonville vs. No. 4 Pulaski.



Hunter Larson watches the action from first base after reaching on a single in the top of the seventh inning of Navarino's season-ending 8-0 loss to Waupaca in the first round of the Dairyland League playoffs.

GREG SEUBERT

# It's time for high school sports

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Local high school girls golf meets are on the schedule for this week, with football coming next week.

Bonduel, Shawano, Oconto Falls and Pulaski golf teams are on the schedule at various locations Aug. 14-15. More meets are scheduled for Aug. 18-21.

Tennis will begin Aug. 18, with Pulaski at Appleton West and Shawano at Bay Port (also scheduled for Aug. 19). Shawano will be at Green Bay Preble on Aug. 22.

Swimmers from Pulaski will participate in the Green Bay Pentathlon on Aug. 21.

Football season will begin Aug. 21 when Suring hosts Wausaukee.

Several teams will play Aug. 22.

They include Bonduel at Wittenberg-Birnamwood, Gillett vs. Three Lakes, Lena vs. Niagara, Tigerton/Marion vs. Rosholt at Tigerton, Oconto Falls vs. Oconto, Pulaski at Oconomowoc, and Shawano at Denmark.

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| MISCELLANEOUS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | SERVICES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | MARINE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | APARTMENTS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | APARTMENTS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | APARTMENTS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| <div><p><b>TRAIN RIDES! BOOK NOW!</b><br/><b>Bed &amp; Breakfast Train</b><br/><b>Wine &amp; Cheese Train</b><br/><b>Elegant Dinner or Family Pizza</b><br/><b>Order Now for Best Availability!</b><br/><b>Reservations 715-635-3200</b><br/><b>www.spoonertrainride.com</b></p><p><small>DISCOVER AMERICAN EXPRESS VISA</small><br/>N6639 Dilly Lake Rd<br/>Trego, WI</p></div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |



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# Community foundations award grants to local organizations

The Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, Greater Green Bay Community Foundation and Oshkosh Area Community Foundation announce the distribution of \$1.5 million in grants through the 2025 Otto Bremer Trust Community Responsive Fund.

This regional philanthropic partnership leverages the combined knowledge of the three foundations to address needs and opportunities across 10 counties in north-east Wisconsin.

“We were pleased to be selected for a second year as an intermediary for the Otto Bremer Trust Community Responsive Fund,” said Curt Detjen, president and CEO of the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region. “Through our collaboration with the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation and the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, we were able to expand to 10 counties making an important impact.”

Several area organizations were selected to receive funding based on alignment with the Otto Bremer Trust’s focus areas and the potential for meaningful impact in their service areas. They include:

- Boys & Girls Club of the Bay and Lakes Region: To support direct, targeted mental health services for the most vulnerable youths.
- CORE Treatment Services: To meet the growing demand for trauma-informed clinical care for individuals impacted by substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders in Shawano and Waupaca counties.
- Encompass Early Education & Care: To support high-quality, affordable early childhood care centers providing literacy development and wrap-around care.
- Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin: To support the Parent Connection Program, improving children’s health outcomes and social, emotional and developmental well-being.
- NorthLakes Community Clinic: To provide school-based behavioral health services in Oconto County.

## PUBLIC RECORD

### OCONTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

**Aug. 7** Deputies responded to 49 incidents, including harassment on Parkway Road in the Town of Spruce; theft on Reservoir Pond in the Town of Townsend; two fire calls near County Road D and Sandalwood Road in the Town of Abrams; a disturbance on County Road J in the Town of Oconto; 10 traffic stops, two traffic offenses, one citizen assist, two miscellaneous traffic incidents, one welfare check; two 911 hangups and three open lines; 10 ambulance calls; one crash.

**Aug. 6** Deputies responded to 51 incidents, including fraud on Washington Street in Oconto; an internet crimes against children incident in the Town of Little River; suspicious activity on Horn Lake Road in the Town of Townsend; 14 traffic stops, traffic hazards, one traffic offense, three citizen assists, three welfare checks; two open-line 911 calls; five ambulance calls.

**Aug. 5** Deputies responded to 59 incidents, including fraud on Shamrock Way in the Town of Little Suamico; suspicious activity near U.S. Highway 41-141 and County Road D in the Town of Abrams; harassment at Krist Oil, 916 E. Main St., Suring; a noise disturbance on West Shore Drive in the Town of Mountain; suspicious activity on Central Road in the Town of Breed; five traffic stops, two traffic offenses, one citizen assists, five miscellaneous traffic incidents, two welfare checks; three 911 hangups and four open lines; two ambulance calls; five crashes, one involving a bear.

**Aug. 4** Deputies responded to 47 incidents, including suspicious activity on Pecor Point Lane in the Town of Pensaukee; suspicious activity on Pioneer Park Road in the Town of Stiles; identity theft

on South White Potato Lake Road in the Town of Brazeau; a fire control burn at Bonita Barns, 5659 Business 41, Town of Oconto; harassment on Mueller Hill Road in the Town of Gillett; theft near Markusen Lane and County Road T in the Town of Doty; a wanted person on Warrington Lake Drive in the Town of Underhill; suspicious activity near North Stiles Tower and East Stiles Tower roads in the Town of Abrams; suspicious activity at Kwik Trip, 102 Main St., Oconto; five traffic stops, one traffic offense, four citizen assists, four miscellaneous traffic incidents, three welfare checks; one 911 hangup and four open lines; four ambulance calls; one crash.

**Aug. 3** Deputies responded to 74 incidents, including suspicious activity at City Park, 5182 County Road N, Town of Oconto; suspicious activity on Bell Bridge Road in the Town of Pensaukee; 19 traffic stops, three traffic hazards, two traffic offenses, four citizen assists, eight miscellaneous traffic incidents, one welfare check; six open-line 911 calls; two ambulance calls; four crashes, one involving deer.

**Aug. 2** Deputies responded to 64 incidents, including a wrong-way driver on U.S. Highway 41 near County Road A in the Town of Little River; a structure fire on Birchwood Lane in the Town of Brazeau; fraud on Belgian Road in the Town of Lena; suspicious activity on Old 141 Road in the Town of Lena; a wrong-way driver on U.S. 41-141 near East Brown Road in the Town of Little Suamico; internet fraud on Dorn Lane in the Town of Little Suamico; suspicious activity on Brazeau Avenue in Oconto; an ATV accident near Old 32 and Thielke roads in the Town of Lakewood; trespassing on Bailey Lane in the Town of Lakewood; harassment on North Rosera Street in Lena;

suspicious activity at Old Smashin’s, 700 E. Main St., Suring; harassment at Krist, 916 E. Main St., Oconto Falls; a disturbance on Bagley Rapids Campground Road in the Town of Mountain; underage alcohol in the Town of Maple Valley; four traffic stops, xxx traffic hazards, four traffic offenses, three citizen assists, seven miscellaneous traffic incidents, three welfare checks; two 911 hangups and five open lines; one ambulance calls; one crashes, xxx involving deer.

**Aug. 1** Deputies responded to 68 incidents, including suspicious activity on School House Road in the Town of Little Suamico; suspicious activity near U.S. Highway 41 and Erdman Lane in the Town of Pensaukee; suspicious activity on County Road J in the Town of Little Suamico; suspicious activity near Sampson and East Frontage roads in the Town of Riverview; suspicious activity near County Road W and Martini Lane in the Town of Underhill; fire near County Road V and Klatt Road in the Town of Underhill; suspicious activity near County Roads R and H in the Town of Underhill; a disturbance on Lydie Lane in the Town of Bagley; a noise disturbance on Chicken Shack Road in the Town of Stiles; a wanted person on North Main Street in Oconto Falls; 11 traffic stops, three traffic hazards, two citizen assists, six miscellaneous traffic incidents, one welfare check; four open-line 911 calls; one ambulance call; three crashes.

**July 31** Deputies responded to 65 incidents, including fraud on Brookside Cemetery Road in the Town of Pensaukee; a fire control burn on Krakow Road in the Town of Morgan; a wanted person on West Main Street in Lena; internet fraud on Bell Bridge Road in the Town of Pensaukee; fraud on Lilly Road in the Town of Little Suamico; an animal bite

on Stiles Road in the Town of Stiles; fireworks near South Thielke and Laurene roads in the Town of Lakewood; an unwanted party on County Road T in the Town of Doty; eight traffic stops, three traffic hazards, two traffic offenses, two miscellaneous traffic incidents, two welfare checks; eight open-line 911 calls; six crashes, two involving deer.

**July 30** Deputies responded to 67 incidents, including a disturbance on Chestnut Road in the Town of Oconto Falls; suspicious activity on County Road G in the Town of Spruce; a fire control burn on Superior Avenue in the Town of Little River; suspicious activity near County Road W and Bonila Road in the Town of Mountain; trespassing on Tar Dam Road in the Town of Riverview; suspicious activity on East First Street in Gillett; fireworks on South Birch Avenue in Gillett; suspicious activity on Good Lane in the Town of Abrams; suspicious activity on Kelly Jo Drive in the Town of Little Suamico; drugs in the Town of Lena; child abuse in the Town of Chase; suspicious activity at St. John Lutheran Church, 101 W. Main St., Gillett; 20 traffic stops, two traffic hazards, five traffic offenses, one citizen assist, one miscellaneous traffic incident; three 911 hang-ups; two ambulance calls; three crashes, one involving deer.

**July 29** Deputies responded to 54 incidents, including threatening on County Road EE in the Town of Abrams; a noise disturbance on Sumac Lane in the Town of Townsend; animal neglect on Circle Hill Lane in the Town of Chase; fire near Business 41 and County Road S in the Town of Little River; a noise disturbance on Cheyenne Drive in the Town of Abrams; a disturbance on Jones Lane in the Town of Gillett; a disturbance on County Road I in the Town

of Stiles; suspicious activity on Morgan River Road in the Town of Morgan; 14 traffic stops, one citizen assist, three miscellaneous traffic incidents, three welfare checks; three 911 hang-ups and four open lines; one ambulance call; three crashes, two involving deer.

**July 28** Deputies responded to 46 incidents, including suspicious activity near North Stiles Tower and East Stiles Tower roads in the Town of Abrams; an animal bite on Andrews Lane in the Town of Brazeau; an animal bite near County Road E and Brehmer Road in the Town of Abrams; fraud on Klatt Road in the Town of Underhill; suspicious activity on County Road G in the Town of Spruce and on Nelson Road in the Town of Gillett; suspicious activity on Thomas Way in the Town of Little Suamico; property damage at BP, 2531 E. Frontage Road in the Town of Abrams; a wanted person on Muehl Drive in Suring, harassment on County Road P in the Town of Underhill; eight traffic stops, one traffic offense, two citizen assists, three welfare checks; four 911 hang-ups and two open lines; one ambulance call.

**July 27** Deputies responded to 59 incidents, including an unwanted party on County Road C in the Town of Morgan; a disturbance near Red Bank Road and County Road M in the Town of How; burglary on Moshawquit Lake Road in the Town of Underhill and on Nelligan Lake Lane in the Town of Riverview; an animal bite on Andrews Lane in the Town of Brazeau; suspicious activity on state Highway 22 in the Town of Stiles; suspicious activity on Zion Lane in the Town of Little Suamico; suspicious activity at Chute Pond Campground, 12436 Chute Dam Lane in the Town of Mountain; 12 traffic stops, three traffic offenses, one citizen assist,

five miscellaneous traffic incidents; four 911 hang-ups and 12 open lines.

**July 26** Deputies responded to 76 incidents, including suspicious activity on state Highway 32 in the Town of How; theft on Oak Orchard Road in the Town of Abrams; property damage on state Highway 32 in the Town of How; trespassing on Valley Haven Court in the Town of Little Suamico; a disturbance on McCaslin Crossing Lane in the Town of Lakewood; fire on Berry Lake North Shore Road in the Town of Underhill; a weapon offense on Angel Crest Lane in the Town of Lakewood; fireworks near North Thielke Road and County Road F in the Town of Lakewood; suspicious activity near D and B Frontage Road in the Town of Lena; 15 traffic stops, five traffic offenses, one citizen assist, four miscellaneous traffic incidents, three welfare checks; three 911 hang-ups and eight open lines; one crash.

**July 25** Deputies responded to 59 incidents, including suspicious activity on Landing Lane in the Town of Stiles; fire on Pickerel Lake Road in the Town of Townsend; a disturbance on Sunrise Court in Oconto Falls; a disturbance on Berry Lake North Shore Road in the Town of Underhill; a hazmat incident at Kwik Trip, 102 Main St., Oconto; a disturbance near Parkway Road and County Road M in the Town of Spruce; an unwanted party on Berry Lake North Shore Road in the Town of Underhill; a wrong-way driver near U.S. Highway 41-141 and County Road D in the Town of Abrams; 10 traffic stops, one traffic hazard, one traffic offense, one citizen assist, three miscellaneous traffic incidents, three welfare checks; one 911 hang-up and seven open lines; three ambulance calls; six crashes, one involving deer.

## COURT NEWS

- Raymond A. Tourtillott, 45, Bayfield, pleaded no contest Aug. 4 to fleeing an officer in his vehicle. Judge Michael Judge imposed and stayed a prison sentence, then placed Tourtillott on two years of probation with conditions.
- Lucas L Rueckert, 48, Appleton, pleaded guilty Aug. 6 to misdemeanor counts of battery and disorderly conduct. A related felony count was dismissed in a plea agreement. Judge Jay Conley

withheld sentencing and placed Rueckert on one year of probation with conditions.

- Ryan K. Bartlett, 42, Oconto, was charged Aug. 4 with battery or threat to a law officer and misdemeanor counts of disorderly conduct and unlawful phone use threatening harm. Conley set a \$750 cash bond and scheduled a plea and sentencing hearing for Aug. 27.
- Chris Kevin VanderSteen, 58, Gillett, was charged Aug. 4

with two counts of felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of possession of THC.

- James L. Valley, 40, Suring, was charged Aug. 5 with battery or threat to a law officer, making terrorist threats, felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct. Conley set a \$500 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance

until Aug. 14.

- Raymond Douglas Le Mieux II, 43, pleaded guilty July 28 to operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fourth offense). Judge Michael Judge withheld sentencing and placed him on three years of probation with conditions, including 10 months in jail and a 36-month revocation of his driver’s license.
- A charge of felony bail jumping against Tyler Maurice Jubenville, 25, Niagara, was

dismissed after Judge ruled he had successfully completed the terms of a 2023 deferred judgment agreement.

- Lee C. May, 49, Waupun, was charged July 28 with operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fourth offense). Judge set a \$1,200 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until Aug. 14.
- Tara L. Dehut, 37, New Holstein, was charged July 31 with possession of methamphetamine, two counts of

misdemeanor bail jumping and misdemeanor charges of resisting or obstructing an officer, possession of drug paraphernalia and operating while revoked. Judge Jay Conley set a \$1,000 cash bond and adjourned her initial appearance until Aug. 14.

- Matthew Walter Ducaine, 34, Oconto Falls, was charged July 31 with felony bail jumping. Conley set a \$250 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until Aug. 14.



# ASPI holding audition for children’s show

Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. is looking for youth singers, dancers, and actors for its production of “Magic Tree House: A Ghost Tale for Mr. Dickens Jr.”

Show dates are Dec. 4-7 and Dec. 11-14. Children ages 6-18 are invited to audition anytime from 6-8 p.m. Aug. 19-20 at the Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St., Abrams. No previous performance experi-

ence is required.

Prior to auditions, individuals should visit [www.abramsspotlightproductions.com/auditions](http://www.abramsspotlightproductions.com/auditions) to register and to learn about the show and its characters. Those auditioning should prepare 30-45 seconds of song, preferably from a musical, to sing at the audition. The audition also consists of a short reading from the script and learning and perform-

ing a short choreography routine. Children should wear comfortable clothes and footwear.

In addition to needing youth actors, ASPI has openings for youths and adults to work behind the scenes in various tech and production roles. Anyone interested can email [aspi@gmail.com](mailto:aspi@gmail.com) or call 920-826-5852 to volunteer.

“A Ghost Tale for Mr. Dickens Jr.” is based on a

book by Jenny Laird and Will Osborne; lyrics by Randy Courts and Will Osborne; and music by Randy Courts.

Directed by Bobby Buffington, the show brings to life book 44 of the Magic Tree House series by Mary Pope Osborne. This holiday adventure follows Jack and Annie as they travel back in time and meet author Charles Dickens. Through the power of friendship and kindness, they help him rediscover the spirit of the season.

Individuals who are not able to attend auditions are encouraged to contact [theater.aspi@gmail.com](mailto:theater.aspi@gmail.com) for information about submitting a video audition.

## Food trucks taking over St. Anthony’s Church

Food trucks will be in the parking lot of St. Anthony’s Church, 253 N. Franklin St., Oconto Falls, selling their specialties Sept. 15 from 4-7:30 p.m.

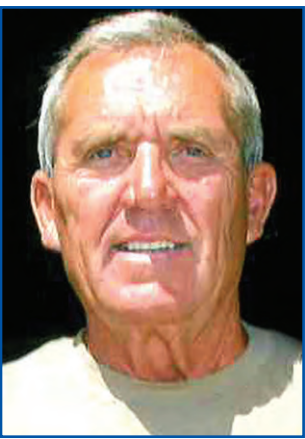
Among the offerings are Greek gyros, Kona shaved ice, fried cheese curds, corn dogs, funnel cakes, cookie dough, barbecue and Caribbean foods. Art vendors will have a variety of items for sale. Water, soda and beer will also be sold, and there will be live music, along with a play area for children.

# OBITUARIES

## William A. Ehlers

William A. Ehlers, 86, of Townsend, passed away Sunday, Aug. 3, 2025, at St. Vincent Hospital, Green Bay.

William was born June 10, 1939, to the late Allan and Madge (Wheeler) Ehlers. He married Carmen Retrum on Nov. 10, 1962. She preceded him in death on Nov. 19, 2022.



William served his country in the U.S. Army National Guard. He owned and operated Ehlers Super Market and was in the grocery business his entire life. William enjoyed the outdoors and spending winters in Fort Meyers, Florida. He loved spending time with family.

William is survived by two sons, Chip (Julie), Little Chute, Dan (Dana), De Pere; sisters, Bunny Maloney, Debbie Ehlers-Brozek; grandchildren, Aimee Larson, Ashlee Larson, Nathan (Lizzy) Ehlers, Kristen (Sam) Santkuyil, Adam Ehlers; and seven great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Beverly

Angelich.

The family will receive relatives and friends from 9-11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 15, 2025, at St. John Lutheran Church, 17963 State Highway 32, Townsend. Memorial services will be conducted 11 a.m. Friday at the church with the Rev. Wes “Bo” Baumeister officiating. Burial with military rites will be at Forest Home Cemetery.

The Gallagher Funeral Home, Oconto, is assisting the family. Online condolences may be expressed at [www.gallagherfuneral-home.net](http://www.gallagherfuneral-home.net).

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08/15/2025, 08/22/2025

### Newcap, Inc., in Oconto, WI

Is requesting bids for HVAC Subcontractors for their Furnace Program Services covering Brown, Florence, Forest, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto and Shawano Counties. The above noted counties are grouped into 4 geographical territories. Contractors may choose which territory(s) to bid. **There will be a mandatory bidders meeting, September 10, 2025.**  
Contact Julie Mueller to request a bid package  
(920) 863-9455.  
**WNAXLP**

08/15/2025

### Oconto County Fair Housing Ordinance

Oconto County is dedicated to promoting fair housing and equal choice for people looking to buy or rent a home in the County.

Oconto County has a fair housing ordinance. This ordinance states that persons cannot be treated unfairly in their search for housing because of:

- Race
- Lawful Source of Income
- Sex
- National Origin
- Sexual Orientation
- Ancestry
- Family Status
- Disability
- Age
- Color
- Religion
- Marital Status

\* Status as a Victim of Domestic Abuse, Sexual Abuse or Stalking

Any individual who has been refused housing or otherwise discriminated against in the provision of housing on the basis of any of the above characteristics can contact State of Wisconsin, Equal Rights Division at: <https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/er> or call 608-266-6860.

Community Development Block Grant-Northwoods Housing Region

**WNAXLP**

07/25/2025

### Smyth Road Bridge Project

Oconto County, working with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and local stakeholders, is exploring options to rehabilitate or replace the steel truss bridge over the North Branch of the Oconto River on Smyth Road (National Forest System Road 2101). Construction is expected to begin in 2027.

The Smyth Road Bridge is an important infrastructure component for the Town of Lakewood, the National Forest, and the surrounding region. It provides access for recreation and industry operations. The nearest alternative crossings are seven miles to the north and more than 15 miles to the south.

The purpose of the Smyth Road bridge project is to provide a reliable, long-term crossing of the North Branch Oconto River for all users (including snowmobiles) in the vicinity of the existing bridge that meets current design standards. Alternatives are being evaluated based on their potential impacts to wetlands, waterways, private property, wildlife, recreation, and cost.

The existing bridge, built in 1928, is structurally and functionally deficient and is reaching the end of its useful life. The concrete is cracking and deteriorating, and the abutments are shifting, which threatens the structure’s integrity. The bridge’s limited vertical clearance (12 feet – below the 14-foot minimum) poses risks for larger vehicles.

The existing bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places due to its engineering significance. The project must comply with federal regulations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act. These regulations require that alternatives be considered that would avoid or minimize harm to the historic structure.

We want to hear from you! Keep updated on the project or contact the project team on the project website at <https://www.ocontocountywi.gov/284/Highway-Department>. We are particularly interested in any stakeholder comments on the historic nature of the bridge and other items of concern to residents, property owners, businesses, and recreational users of the bridge.

**WNAXLP**

### Legals WNAXLP

9b05039f  
08/08/25, 08/15/25, 08/22/25  
STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT OCONTO COUNTY

BMO Bank N.A.  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
Jason D. Pedersen, et al.  
Defendants.

Case No. 2024CV000172  
**NOTICE OF SHERIFF’S SALE**  
By virtue of a judgment of foreclosure made in the above-entitled action on February 25, 2025 in the amount of \$21,905.59, I will sell at public auction, located in the lobby, in front of the Treasurer’s Office, in the Oconto County Courthouse, 301 Washington Street, Oconto, WI 54153, on  
**September 4, 2025**  
At 10:00 AM, all of the following described premises, to wit:  
LOT TWENTY-ONE (21), VOL. 8 CERTIFIED SURVEY MAPS, PAGE 114, MAP NO. 1252, AS DOC. NO. 364584; SAID MAP BEING PART OF THE NORTH HALF OF THE FRACTIONAL SOUTHWEST QUARTER (N 1/2 OF FR’L SW 1/4), OF SECTION THIRTY-ONE (31), TOWNSHIP TWENTY-EIGHT (28) NORTH, RANGE SEVENTEEN (17) EAST, IN THE TOWN OF UNDERHILL, OCONTO COUNTY, WISCONSIN. TOGETHER WITH A NON-EXCLUSIVE EASEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS FROM COUNTY TRUNK HIGHWAY HH OVER THE UNIMPROVED PRIVATE ROADS SHOWN OF SAID MAP.  
Street Address: 5067 County Hwy HH, Underhill, WI 54124  
Tax Key No. 044-313104634  
**THE PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD AS IS AND SUBJECT TO ANY AND ALL REAL ESTATE TAXES, SUPERIOR LIENS OR OTHER LEGAL ENCUMBRANCES.**  
**TERMS OF SALE:** CASH, CASHIER’S CHECK OR CERTIFIED FUNDS, payable to the Oconto County Office of the Sheriff (10% down payment at sale, balance due within ten (10) days of Court approval; down payment to be forfeited if payment not received timely). Buyer must comply with minimum bidder qualifications as set forth in Wis. Stat. § 846.155. Buyer to pay applicable Wisconsin Real Estate Transfer Tax in addition to the purchase price.  
Todd Skarban  
Sheriff of Oconto County, Wisconsin

Codilis, Moody & Circelli, P.C.  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
(414) 775-7700  
50-24-01319  
**NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector.**  
**WNAXLP**

# Shoe box collection campaign begins again

Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child shoe box collection is in full swing for 2025 at Grace Lutheran Church, 501 S. Main St., Oconto Falls.

Basic back-to-school supplies such as markers, crayons, pencils, coloring books, small toys or anything suitable for young children ages 2-14 are needed. No soaps, toothpaste, candy, liquids or war items will be accepted. Every shoe box will also be

packed with a wash cloth and various acceptable hygiene items. These shoe boxes provide supplies to children in need around the world. Monetary donations are also welcome.

Samaritan’s Purse requests new items, not used. Donations can be dropped off at the church anytime in the blue tote provided by the church office door.

For information, contact Ellen Pritzlaff at 920-362-5752 or [ellpritz@gmail.com](mailto:ellpritz@gmail.com).

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Equal Opportunity Housing



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Deli Closing at 6:00 pm\*\*  
Sat 8:00am-5:30pm Sun 8:00am - 1:00pm

HSBS PHARMACY HOURS:  
MON-FRI 9:00AM - 5:30PM

These prices good Aug 18th thru Aug 24th  
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Get One  
FREE!**

Asst Variety  
7.25-10.75oz

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**\$1.99**  
lb

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### Food Club IQF Boneless Frying Chicken Breasts

**\$7.29** 2.5lb Bag

### Gerber Amish 8-piece Cut-Up Frying Chicken



**\$3.29**  
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### Food Club Pasta

**99¢** Asst Variety  
12-16oz

### Food Club Pasta Sauce

**2/\$3** Asst  
Variety  
24oz

### XLG Seedless Green or Red Grapes



**\$2.29**  
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### Super Select Cucumbers



**59¢** each

### XL Green Bell Peppers



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### Yellow Onions



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3lb Bag

### Idaho Green Giant Russet Potatoes



**\$2.59**  
5lb Bag

### Kretschmar Off-the-Bone Smoked Ham



**\$4.99**  
lb  
Shaved or Sliced

### JJ's Fruit Pies



**69¢**  
Asst Variety  
4oz

### Betty Crocker Suddenly Pasta Salad



**2/\$4**  
Asst Variety  
6.2-8.3oz

### Ritz Crackers



**\$3.29**  
Asst Variety  
11.8-13.7oz

### Food Club Frozen Vegetables



**99¢**  
Asst Variety  
10-12oz

### Daisy Sour Cream



**\$2.99**  
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### JIF Peanut Butter or Smucker's Grape Jelly



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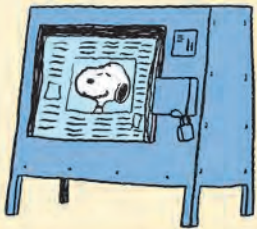
  
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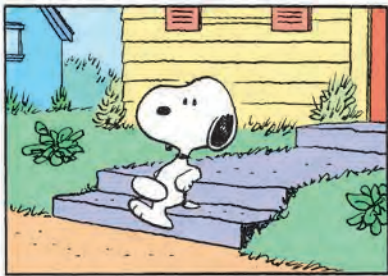
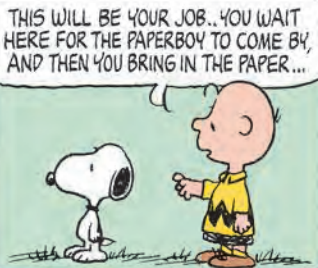
I'VE DECIDED THAT YOU SHOULD DO SOMETHING TO EARN YOUR KEEP...



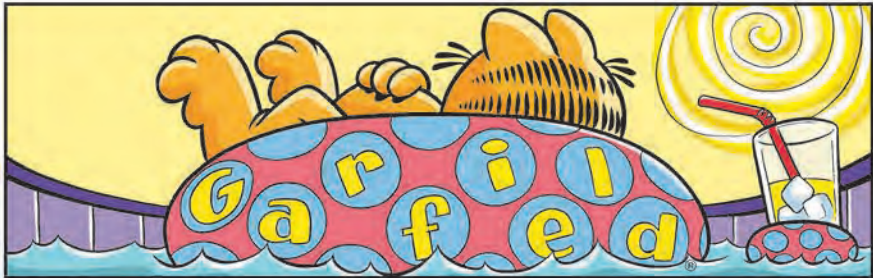
IT'S SORT OF TRADITIONAL FOR A DOG TO BRING IN THE NEWSPAPER SO THAT'S WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO...



THIS WILL BE YOUR JOB... YOU WAIT HERE FOR THE PAPERBOY TO COME BY, AND THEN YOU BRING IN THE PAPER...



I KNOW ONE THING... I'LL NEVER TRAIN HIM TO BRING IN THE GROCERIES!



CRACK! WHOA! CRACK! POP! THUD! BANG! CRACK! POP!

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STUB! OUCH! KRIK! SLAM! CRUNCH! POP! POP!

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**the OTHER COAST**

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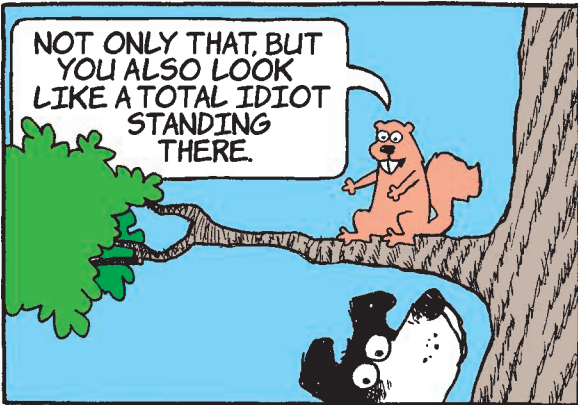
OH, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD. HE'S BACK AGAIN.



DOG, YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME AND MINE STARING AT ME.



NOT ONLY THAT, BUT YOU ALSO LOOK LIKE A TOTAL IDIOT STANDING THERE.



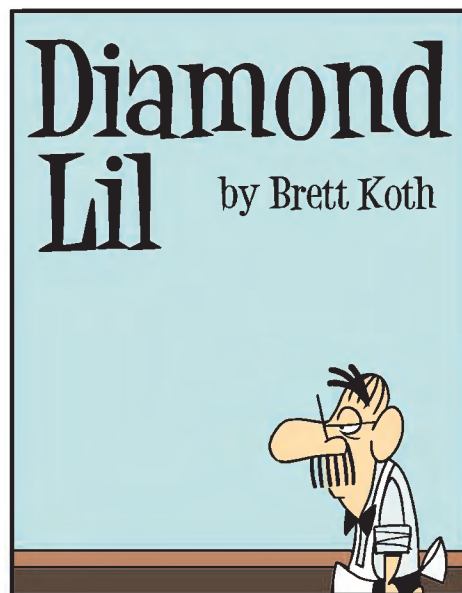
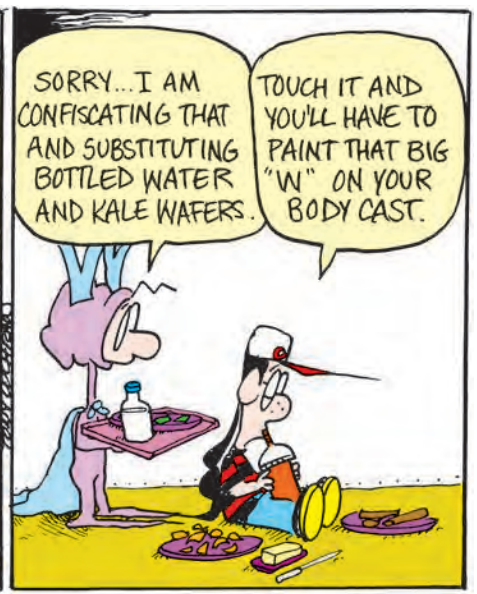
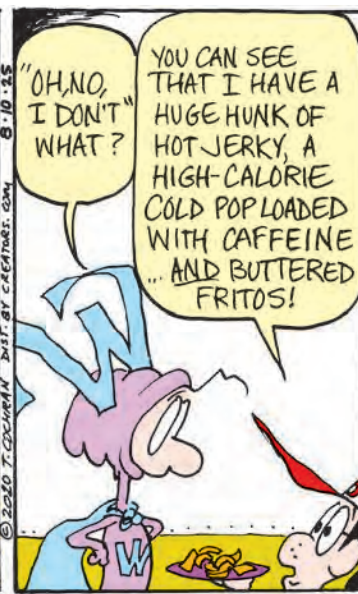
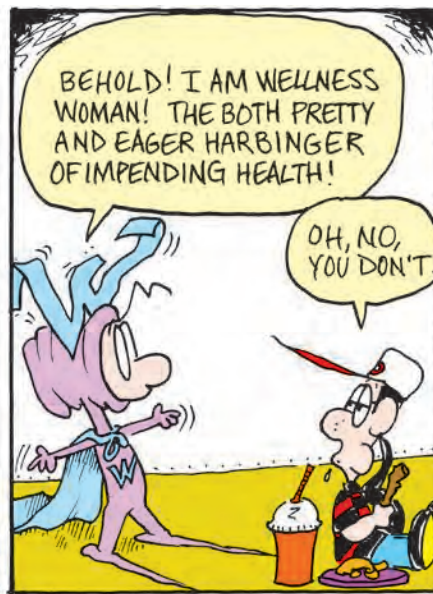
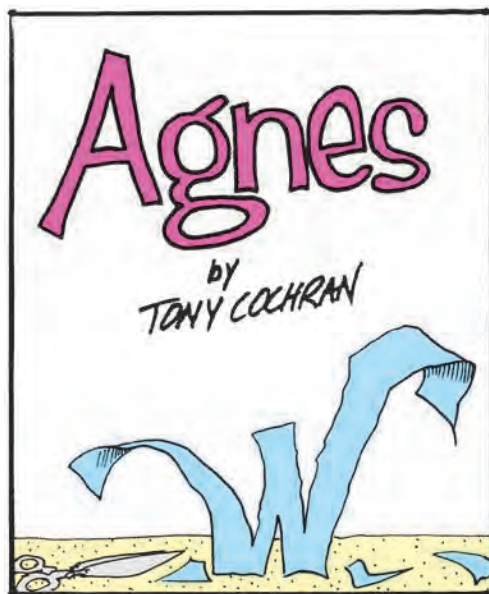
YOU SHOULD DO SOMETHING WITH YOUR LIFE. TAKE UP A HOBBY, PERHAPS.



I'M TAKING UP STAMP COLLECTING.



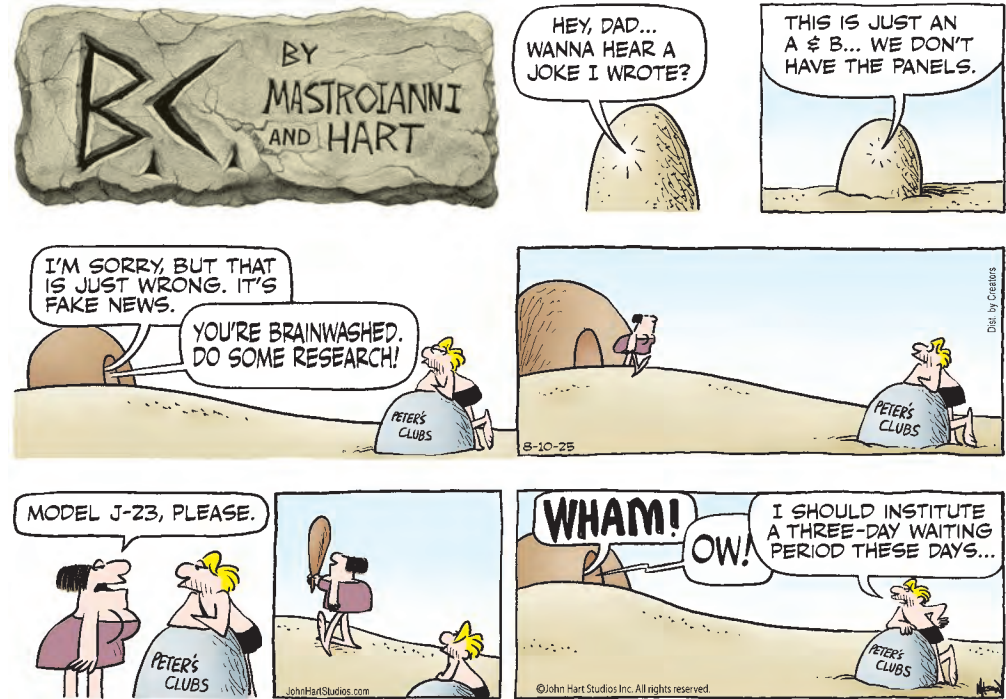
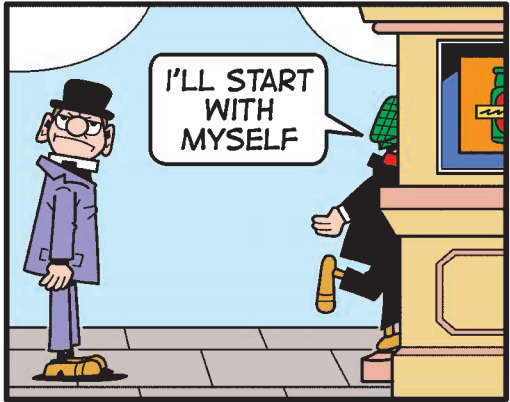
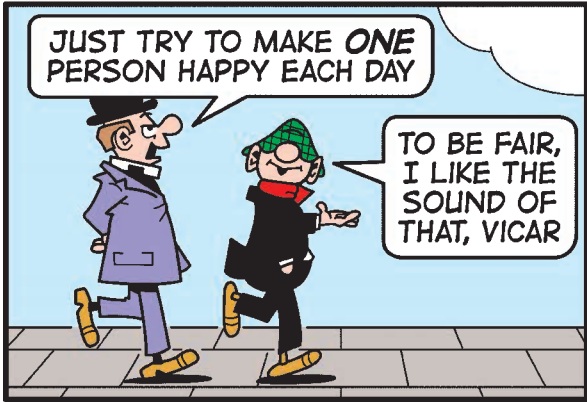
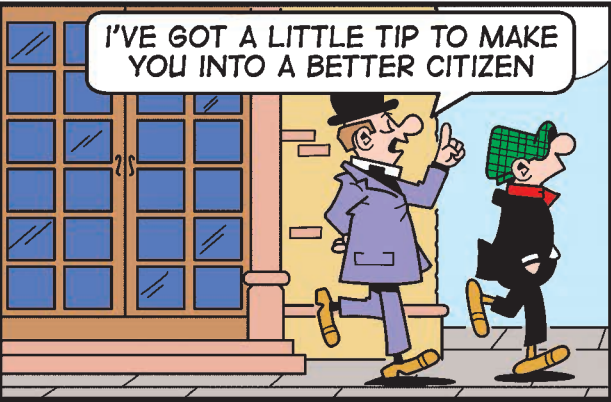
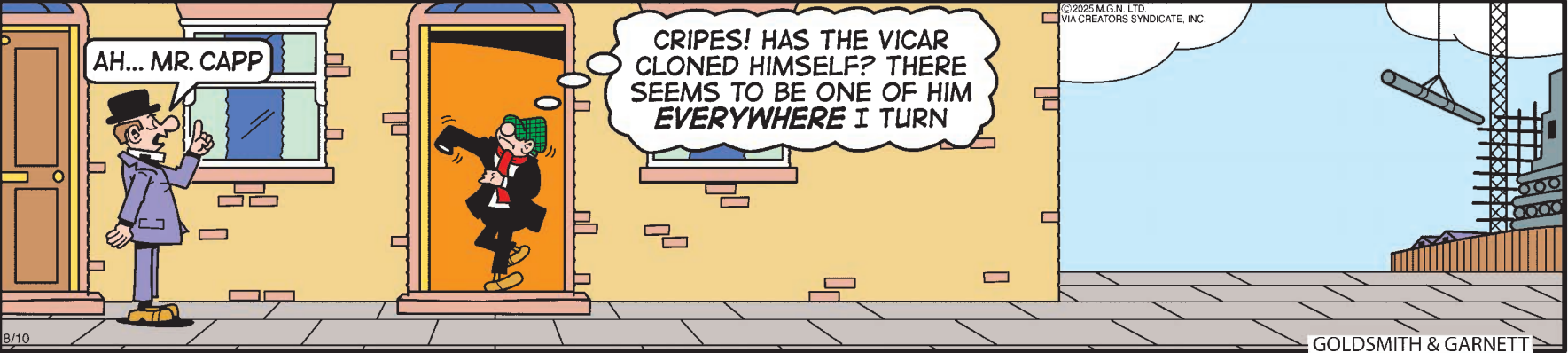






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Oconto County

# FAIR

August  
21-24  
2025



OCONTO COUNTY  
**TIMES HERALD**

Published Friday, August 15, 2025





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It's suppertime for some of the stars of the Oconto County Youth Fair.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

# There's something for everyone at the Oconto County Youth Fair

By **GREG SEUBERT**  
*Correspondent*

It's an Oconto County tradition that's been going strong for almost 90 years. The Oconto County Youth Fair is scheduled for Thursday through Sunday, Aug. 21-24, at Zippel Park in Gillett.

The park has hosted the fair since its inception, according to Cindy Arndt, secretary of the fair's board of directors.

"This will be our 84th year, and it's always been at Zippel Park," she said. "The Zippel family created and left that land, and the only thing they asked is we aren't allowed to charge admission to the fair. That's part of being able to use those grounds. We have to come up with other creative ways to raise money to keep the fair going. We rely heavily on all of our sponsors."

Thousands of county residents from children to senior citizens have exhibited their animals and other items over those 8 1/2 decades, according to Arndt.

"It has brought many youths into the arena to show their animals and other exhibits," she said. "It gives kids the opportunity to step out, get their feet wet and get into dealing with the public and speaking in public. I was a 4-H leader for 10 years, and when I would go to school conferences, the teachers would always say, 'When kids have to speak, we can always pick out a 4-H kid, because they're able to get up in front of a group at a young age and be able to speak.'"

Although visitors to this



Contestants line up during the exhibitor/animal formal show at the 2024 Oconto County Youth Fair.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

year's fair will see some familiar attractions, such as the midway carnival, there will also be new things to see.

Those new features will begin Aug. 20, the day before the fair's official opening day.

"We will have food trucks, in and we'll have a mariachi band playing and mechanical bull riding," Arndt said. "Food trucks will be there at 4:30 and the rest of the stuff starts at 6 and goes until 9. We've never done that before."

"The only food vendors that we actually have on the property are with the carnival. (The food trucks) is something new we're trying to do this year. The local 4-H association out of

**PREVIEW, CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**



PREVIEW, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Oconto County has a food stand, as well as the Lions Club and the Gillett Civic Club.”

Organizers always try to find something for children as well as adults.

“We have a group that’s doing magic tricks,” Arndt said. “We have a gentleman, Randy Peterson, who’s coming to sing. We have bingo on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.”

Christman Amusements of Wautoma will provide midway rides at this year’s fair.

“I think this is only their third year of doing that, and they’re always well-received by the community,” Arndt said.

Presale tickets at a discounted price of \$20 for carnival rides are available at Peshtigo National Bank branches in Gillett and Oconto Falls; N.E.W. Credit Union branches in Oconto Falls and Suring; and Gillett Handi-Works in Gillett.

Wristband hours are 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Aug. 21; noon to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Aug. 22-23; and noon to 4 p.m. Aug. 24.

Weather can play a role in attendance, and Arndt said it’s too early to tell if that will be the case this year.

“If it’s really hot or a rain event that’s going to last a few hours, that does affect attendance,” she said. “We can’t house everything that kids take to the



The midway is a popular spot in Zippel Park during the Oconto County Youth Fair, scheduled for Aug. 21-24 this year.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

fair. We will have the horse show and cat and dog show on Saturday, Aug. 16, for people who would like to come and check that out.”

Exhibitors put a lot of work into their fair projects, especially farm animals.

“It’s not just a summer project, these are year-round projects with a lot of work, a lot of sweat and tears,” Arndt said. “We don’t just limit this

to just 4-H or FFA kids. We do have an open class for juniors, an open class for anyone 20 years and older and a nursing home category. We have a group who makes a quilt and enters it in the veterans category. Names are drawn and the quilts are given to veterans.”

This year’s fair will also include a swine show with special guests.

“We will have a swine

show for special needs people,” she said. “They get to follow a mentor all day on Aug. 21 and see what they do. At 5 p.m., they’re going to show a swine themselves. It’s not going to be something they own, it’s probably going to be one of their mentors. Some of these children have ADHD or have special needs, so we try to keep the lights low and don’t clap until everything’s done so they

feel comfortable going into the ring.”

The sale of champions is scheduled for noon on Aug. 24, the final day of the fair.

Local businesses, organizations and individuals purchase the animals.

“All the qualifying animals will be sold,” Arndt said. “That’s one of the last big things that will close out the fair.”

Other scheduled events

include a truck pull on Aug. 22 and a tractor pull on Aug. 23.

Planning has already started for next year’s fair, according to Arndt.

“We’ve already done some of the things for next year like booking a couple of bands,” she said. “It’s an all-year thing. We try to get our judges in January or February so we have everything ready by the time it comes for the fair.”

Arndt is unsure of how many people attend the fair each year, but estimated crowds to be in the thousands.

“Since we can’t charge admission, it’s kind of hard to say for sure how many come,” she said. “I saw more people starting to come back out again in the last three years.”

Arndt joined the fair’s board of directors last October, but is no stranger to attending the event.

“I was a 4-Her from age 8-18,” she said. “I’m 68, and I’ve probably only missed four.”

She said there’s a good reason to visit the fair.

“I think it’s checking out what the youths of the county have done and seeing the different exhibits that come in,” she said. “You meet your neighbor, have a chat, maybe you haven’t seen that person in awhile. I think it’s just a great place to come, have a good time and enjoy the company that’s there.”

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2025 Oconto County Fair Event Calendar

Saturday, August 16

|                                                                  |                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 8:00am                                                           | Small Animal/Caged Bird Registration |
| 8:30am                                                           | Small Animal/Caged Bird Show         |
| 9:00am                                                           | Horse Show                           |
| 9:00am                                                           | Cat/Dog Show Registration            |
| 9:30am                                                           | Cat Show                             |
| Immediately After the Cat Show<br>(approximately 10:00-10:15 am) | Dog Show                             |

Monday, August 18

|               |                                           |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 4:00pm-7:00pm | Open Class Exhibits (Non-Animal) Check In |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------|

Tuesday, August 19

|                                              |                                            |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 9:00am-11:00am                               | Open Class Exhibits (Non-Animal) Check In  |
| 1:00pm - Until Completed                     | Open Class Judging (Non-Animal)            |
| 1:00pm-8:00pm<br>(Dinner Break 4:30-5:00 pm) | Junior Class Check-In/Judging (Non-Animal) |

Wednesday, August 20

|                                         |                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00am-1:00pm                           | Junior Class (Sheep, Goats, Swine, Beef) Check In               |
| 3:00pm-8:00pm                           | Junior Class (Poultry and Rabbit) Check In                      |
| 1:30pm-4:30pm                           | Weigh Ins (Starting with Hogs, Sheep, Goats and Beef to follow) |
| 5:00pm - Until Completed                | Ultrasounds 1) Beef, 2) Hogs 3) Goats 4) Sheep                  |
| Food trucks: 4:30 to ? 6:00pm to 9:00pm | Food Trucks, Mariachi Band and Mech bull riding                 |

Thursday, August 21

|               |                               |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 9:00am        | Swine Show                    |
|               | Sheep to Follow Swine Show    |
| 1:00pm-5:00pm | Junior Class (Dairy) Check In |



Prizes wait to be won along the midway at the 2024 Oconto County Youth Fair.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

|                   |                                                  |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 3:00pm to 5:00 pm | Stray Bales (in front of the expo building)      |
| 5:00pm            | Special Swine Show                               |
| 6:00pm            | Opening Ceremony (in front of the expo building) |
| 6:30pm-10:30pm    | Homegrown Band (Beerstand)                       |
| 7:00pm            | AG Olympics                                      |

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Local youths learned the secrets for a winning show day at the Oconto County Youth Fair Goat Clinic in late July. Cheer them on at the goat show at 3 p.m. Aug. 22. CONTRIBUTED

2025 Oconto County Fair Event Calendar

Friday, August 22

|                |                               |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| 9:00am         | Rabbit Show                   |
| 10:00am        | Beef Show                     |
| 12:30pm        | Randy Peterson Music for Kids |
| 2:00pm         | Mischief and Magic Show       |
| 3:00pm         | Goat Show                     |
| 3:00pm-7:00pm  | Ken and Kris Band (Beerstand) |
| 4:00pm         | Rabbit Kiddie Showmanship     |
| 5:00-6:30 pm   | Truck Pull Registration       |
| 5:00pm         | Randy Peterson Music for Kids |
| 6:30pm         | Mischief and Magic Show       |
| 7:00pm         | 4x4 Truck Pulls               |
| 8:00pm-12:00am | PettyCash (Beerstand)         |

Saturday, August 23

|                  |                               |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 9:00am           | Dairy Show                    |
| 9:00am-12:00pm   | Cake Registration (Expo Hall) |
| 9:00am           | Poultry Show                  |
| 9:00am           | Draft Horse Pull              |
| 10:00am          | Mischief and Magic Show       |
| 12:30pm          | Randy Peterson Music for Kids |
| 2:00pm           | Mischief and Magic Show       |
| 3:00pm           | Cake Auction                  |
| 3:00pm-7:00pm    | JD Pickers (Beerstand)        |
| 4:00pm           | Poultry Kiddie Showmanship    |
| 4:00pm-5:00pm    | Tractor Registration          |
| 5:00pm           | Mischief and Magic Show       |
| 6:00pm           | Tractor Pulls                 |
| 6:30pm           | Randy Peterson Music for Kids |
| 7:00pm           | Exhibitor/Animal Formal Show  |
| 8:00 pm-12:00 am | Boom Box (Beerstand)          |



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Bradin Bjelland showed young exhibitors how to get there beef animals ready for show day during a clinic at the fairgrounds July 24. Watch the exhibitors put their skills to the test at 9 a.m. Aug. 23. CONTRIBUTED

## Animals + carnival rides = Oconto County Youth Fair



Children enjoy the roller coaster near the 4-H food stand at the 2024 Oconto County Youth Fair.

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Riders spin on the Roundup with the Tornado sparkling in the background at the 2024 fair.

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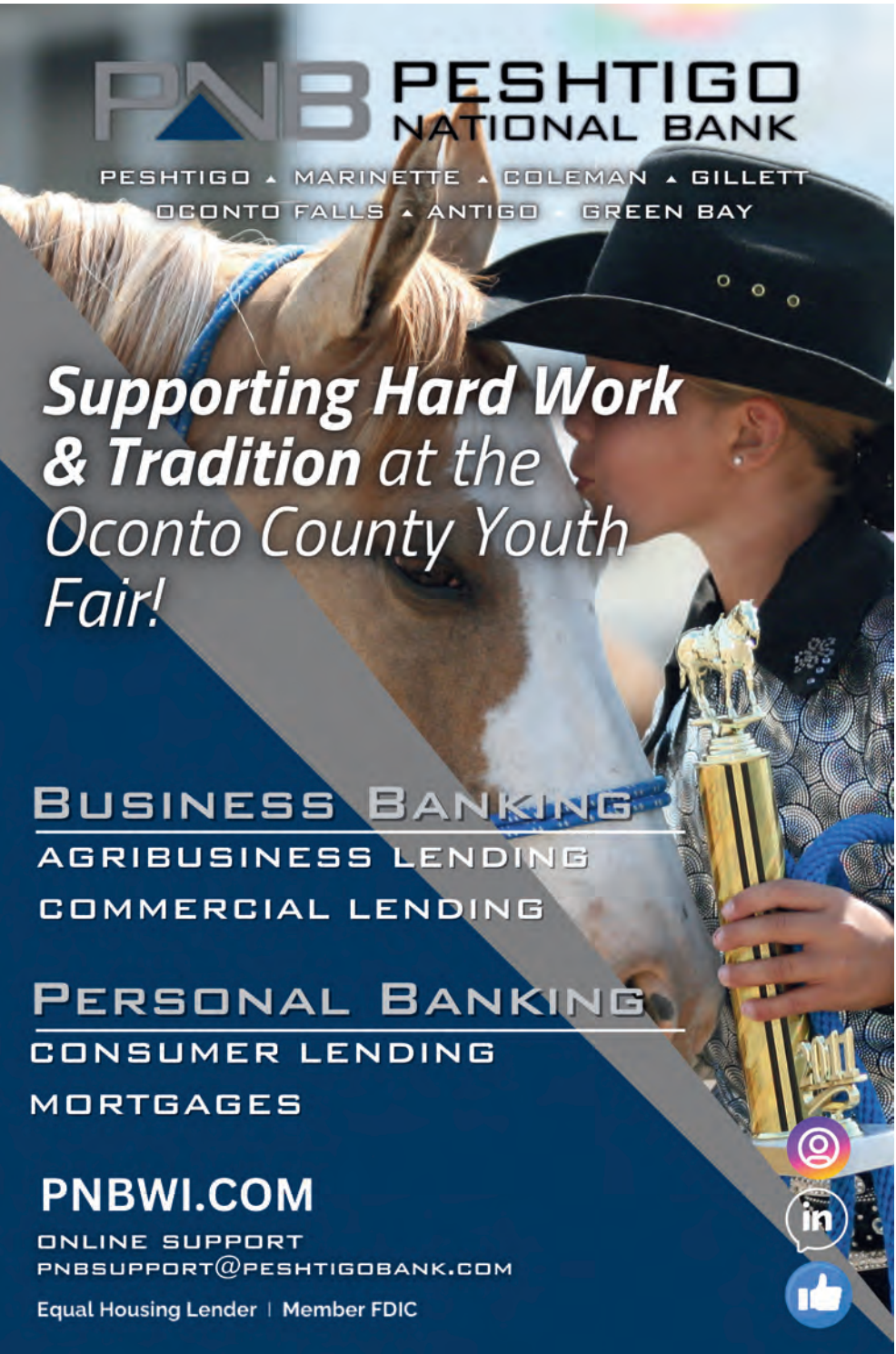


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Grace Seefeldt is the 2025 Fairest of the Fair for the Oconto County Youth Fair. CONTRIBUTED

# Seefeldt to serve as Fairest of the Fair

Grace Seefeldt is the 2025 Fairest of the Fair for the Oconto County Youth Fair. She graduated from Lena High School, where she was a member of Lena FFA, 4-H, National Honor Society and cheerleading squad, along with being a manager for wrestling and baseball. She is now a student at South Dakota State University and is a member of the Pre-Vet Club, Collegiate Cattlemen's and Agriculture LLC. Seefeldt is the daughter of Dale and Becky Seefeldt.

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| 228 Arrowhead Saloon          | Sandy Corners Bar & Grill   |
| 242 Blue Spruce               | 196 Schoolhouse Bar & Grill |
| Bullpen                       | 210 Skinny Dave's Bar       |
| Club 32                       | 222 South Shore Pub & Grill |
| Gillett R-Store               | 247 Spirits of Gillett      |
| 243 Gillett Shell             | Take A Chance In Advance    |
| 234 Legends Trailside         | 174 The Olive Pit           |
| OJ's Midtown Restaurant       | The Shop                    |
| 238 Old Smahin Bar            | 180 Thunder Lake Bar&Grill  |
| Old Still Saloon              | 182 Wheel Inn               |
| 130 Old Town Bar & Restaurant | Wildfire Trails Bar         |
| 136 Phill's Philling Station  | Woody's Bar and Gril        |
| Randy's Place Bar & Bowl      | 227 Wouters'                |

##### Rules

- \$10 per Poker Hand payed at event
- Pay out based on entries
- 5 Stops gets you 5 cards for poker hand
- A card for every 5 stops after 5
- Up to 10 cards for all 30 stops
- Starts as soon as trails are open

**Poker run ends at Club Building October 11, 2025**  
**6021 Klaus Lake Rd Gillett, WI 54124**  
**Poker Hand Drawing 3pm-5pm**  
Check Facebook page for more info on event  
#s on stops are the #s on Oconto County trail