

Safe Haven raising alerts on sexual assault

Organization helps survivors even as funding drops

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and it's a crime that can be very underreported, according to Mindy Lohff, executive director for Safe Haven in Shawano.

In 2024, Safe Haven's shelter housed 58 adults and 63 children, but its outreach went much further, helping a total of 462 people with almost 7,500 services, Lohff said. So far this year, Safe Haven has helped 45 survivors of sexual assault, and of those, 38 of them also endured domestic violence.

"We, at Safe Haven, use the month to do some education," Lohff said. "We do different events around the community to recognize survivors and their journey, and then bring awareness to the community of the real situations that are going on."

Among the activities were a presentation at Bonduel High School about human trafficking.

"Human trafficking is a form of sexual violence," Lohff said. "That was in preparation for the NFL draft. Recognizing that hundreds of thousands of people coming to the area and ample money coming to the area, often sex trafficking follows, as well."

Safe Haven also posts a number of items to its Facebook page throughout the month about sexual assault and how to get help. There are also signs of sexual assault awareness around Franklin Park as teal ribbons were put up for the month.

Larger ribbons were also put up throughout Shawano with the help of Leadership Achievement Community Engagement and Service. LACES works with Safe Haven on a variety of matters, including sexual assault awareness.

Lohff said Safe Haven has seen an increase in the number of calls regarding sexual assault, with the ascent starting during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. With sexual assault being one of the more underreported crimes not only locally but nationwide, Lohff attributes the increase more to the courage of survivors coming forward to report and less on the number of people being sexually assaulted going up.

SAFE HAVEN, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Scott Frechette stands and discusses his concerns about tribal sovereignty during a listening session held March 31 at the Shawano Civic Center. Frechette, a member of the Menominee Nation, said the tribe is giving out IDs to people to hopefully stave off confrontations with Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

Dems listen to constituents while Wied remains MLA

Shawano meeting looks at tribal issues, immigration, education

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

Democrats are vowing to be the ears of northeast Wisconsin with a lack of in-person town halls from U.S. Rep. Tony Wied, and one of those listening sessions took place March 31 at the Shawano Civic Center.

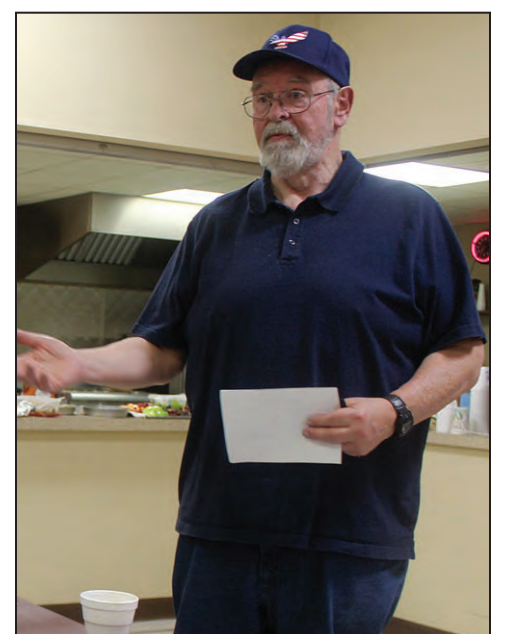
Several liberal candidates who lost in the November election, including Kristin Lyerly, Wied's opponent, spoke to a full house and listened as the crowd expressed concerns on a number of issues ranging from immigration to education to tribal sovereignty. With the success of the

listening session, Democrats are looking at organizing future ones on a possible monthly basis.

Lyerly, who stood next to an empty chair with a sign that read "Tony Wied is a Coward," noted that Wied's absence is a similar trend for Republican representatives in Congress at a time when people are worried about their lives and livelihoods. She said she made a trip to Washington, D.C., to talk with Wied in person on some issues, including Medicare and Medicaid.

"He came out of his office, and he was real happy. He had just had a good meeting," Lyerly said. "We were, the three of us, sitting on a couch. He walked over to the first person, and he shook their hand and said, 'Hi, I'm Tony Wied. Nice to meet you.' Then he realized it was me sitting in the middle, and he had this momentary look of terror on his face. He said, 'I know you,' and I said, 'It's nice to see you.' Then he shook the next person's

LISTENING, CONTINUED ON PAGE 23



Dan Weidner, a biology teacher for 33 years, talks about the need for school referendum even as the state of Wisconsin sits on a \$4 billion budget surplus during the March 31 listening session at the Shawano Civic Center.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

INSIDE

Stockbridge-Munsee buys back land in Massachusetts.

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Teal ribbons are tied to trees in Franklin Park for the month of April, symbolizing the month being National Sexual Assault Awareness Month. LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

SAFE HAVEN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Sometimes it’s the awareness piece,” Lohff said. “The more that we’re out there, the more that we’re hoping that people will come to Safe Haven for the services.”

Oftentimes, sexual violence and domestic violence go hand in hand, according to Lohff. While Safe Haven works to help everyone they can, having adequate funding can sometimes be a challenge.

“We’re very lucky to have a gracious commu-

nity to lean into, and I also work with a variety of foundations, so we have diversified funds,” Lohff said. “We’re still battling the reductions of funding from the end of 2024, where we experienced a reduction of \$100,000. That’s a big cut for a little organization.”

Safe Haven serves all of Shawano County, and those services extend to the Menominee Reservation. Lohff said the shelter is often at capacity, so some of the funding goes

to providing hotel rooms for the overflow and other services.

“Not everyone is looking for shelter,” Lohff said. “Some may just be looking for safety planning or assistance with restraining orders or help with no contacts (orders) or navigating the legal system. We also have support groups and emergency financial assistance, as well.”

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Milliliters make meds safer for children

Measuring liquid medications with household spoons might seem convenient, but it can lead to serious dosing mistakes, area health officials said. Using milliliter (mL)-only dosing helps ensure safer and more accurate medication measurements for children and families.

“Using milliliters for dosing liquid medications is important because it ensures we’re getting the patient the correct dose,” said Olivia Bishop, an Aspirus Pharmacy resident. “If we’re not measuring it correctly, we can either be overdosing our patients, which puts them at risk of side effects, or underdosing, which means the infection or issue we’re treating isn’t being addressed.”

Oral liquid medications are involved in more than 80% of pediatric home medication errors, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics.

This statistic highlights the importance of standardized dosing practices to prevent potentially serious consequences.

To support national guidelines, Aspirus pharmacies provide tools like oral syringes with clear milliliter markings to help caregivers measure medications accurately.

“You want to make sure you’re using a device that has lines for milliliters so you know you’re getting the exact dose,” Bishop said. “And always measure at eye level if you’re using a dosing cup.”

If caregivers are unsure about how to measure medications correctly, pharmacists are available to provide guidance.

“You can always ask your pharmacist to walk you through the process,” Bishop said. “If you’re nervous about using an oral syringe or dosing cup for the first time, you

can even practice with water to make sure you’re comfortable.”

Aspirus has also implemented milliliter-only instructions on prescription labels to further enhance clarity and accuracy. This approach helps caregivers avoid common mistakes, such as misreading units or misusing household utensils.

“You always want to double-check the label and the amount you drew up to make sure it matches the prescribed dose,” Bishop said. “This is especially important when dosing for pediatric patients. If you’re ever unsure, contact your doctor or pharmacist. We’re here to help.”

Aspirus encourages families and caregivers to adopt this safer approach to liquid medication dosing. If you’re picking up a liquid medication, ask your pharmacist for an oral syringe or demonstration.



Aspirus Pharmacy resident Olivia Bishop said using milliliters for dosing liquid medications ensures patients are getting the correct dose. If not measured correctly, patients can either get too much medicine, which puts them at risk of side effects, or not enough, which means the infection or issue being treated isn’t being addressed. CONTRIBUTED

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Menominee County backs Crawford, Underly

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Shawano County voters went against the grain Election Day and cast a majority of ballots for Brad Schimel for Wisconsin Supreme Court and Brittany Kinser for superintendent of public instruction.

Menominee County voters favored winner Susan Crawford in the court race; she won the statewide race by roughly 55% to 45%. They also favored Jill Underly, the incumbent state school superintendent, who won by a narrow margin of 53% to 47%.

Wisconsin's photo ID requirement for voting was approved statewide and will become part of the state constitution instead of merely a state law.

Unofficial results show a 57.7% voter turnout in

Shawano County with 15,177 ballots cast and 249 people registering on Election Day.

Local voters backed Kinser 62.4% to 37.5% and Schimel by a similar 63.8% to 36.2%.

The proposed constitutional amendment was approved 77.7% to 22.3%.

In the Town of Angelica, voters opted for challenger Allan J. Maroszek over incumbent Town Chair James Przybalski 398-379.

In the Town of Bartelme, Lyle Grosskopf and Art Buelter were elected as supervisors, and Lance Trinko was turned away. Votes were 182, 108 and 103, respectively.

Luke Heling picked up 431 votes to win the race for Supervisor 2 in the Town of Belle Plaine. He defeated Mike Petruzates, who had 266 votes.

Town of Birnamwood

residents gave Wayne Clark 177 votes compared to 55 for Dennis Rochwite in the Supervisor 2 race.

For treasurer, Deb Kessen won with 221 votes, compared to Steven Steinke's 30.

Anita Kernen defeated registered write-in Mark Tauferner 206-43 for Supervisor 1 in the Town of Fairbanks.

Town of Grant voters picked Bill Bowers over Todd Malueg 206-177 for Supervisor 2.

Rose Nygaard earned 192 votes to win the town clerk race in the Town of Green Valley. Jean Forelich received 129 votes, and registered write-in Jenna Krause had 69.

Jeremy Metko held off Patrick Meverden 117-115 to win the Town of Hutchins chair position.

In a four-way race for two supervisor seats, Shawn

Williams and Daniel Wolf won with 112 and 99 votes, respectively. David Tuma had 79, and Brent Copas had 70.

Town of Navarino residents chose Tyler Anvelink as town chair, defeating Lloyd Allen 140-45. Anvelink also had the most votes in a four-way race for two supervisor seats. He collected 87 votes, with Steve Schinke getting 79, Dennis Bohm with 75 and Allen with 58.

Town of Pella residents chose Sean M. Shumaker over Duane Buettner for the Supervisor 2 seat 276-106.

In the Town of Wittenberg, voters chose Justin Hartleen with 185 votes and Bill Timm with 158 votes for two supervisor seats. Raymond Knaup picked up 155 votes.

Mattoon voters were given a choice of five candidates for three trustee

positions. Winners were Donald Fuller with 82 votes, Chaz Rueter with 54 and Tomas Zarda with 49. Jeffrey Steig had 49 votes, and Rachel Torres Rodriguez had 40.

Pulaski voters (in Shawano and Brown counties) had four choices for three trustee posts. Winning were Becky Beaulieu, Howard L. Zernicke and Keith Gering. Stephen M. Kehler placed fourth.

In the Richmond Sanitary District, Steve Dreher collected 18 votes as a registered write-in to win a seat on the board.

School districts with all or part of their boundaries within Shawano County also had several contested races.

Antigo School District: Abby Mattek, Kristin Mattmiller and Dave Bardo each won a seat; Billy Roff placed fourth.

Clintonville: Mark

Zachow and Christopher Hoffman won; Laurie Volrath and David Battenberg lost.

Gillett School District: Tonia Krsuchke, Lorie Beyer and Robin Banaszynski won; Trisha Ondik placed fourth.

Menominee Indian School District: Regina Washinawatok defeated Leah Pamoncutt for the Keshena area seat. Carrie Waukau-Grignon beat McKaylin Peters for the at-large post.

For the Menominee County Board, Dawn M. Wilber and Eva M. Johnson won the two at-large seats with 406 votes and 365 votes, respectively. Linda S. Kaquatosh came up short with 225 votes.

In the race for the Ward 1 seat, Sandra Wescott Gauthier beat Gregg Malmstrom 156-65.

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Shawano County finance director stepping away from courthouse

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

After serving four years as the finance director for Shawano County, Carrie Buntjer is stepping away from the courthouse.

Buntjer will resign her post effective May 2, said Jim Davel, administrative

coordinator.

"She's done an incredible job," Davel said. "She's an absolute superstar. It will be hard finding someone of that same quality."

Buntjer said family played a big role in her decision.

"Family is really important to me, and I want

to take the summer off to be with my kids," she said. "I'm thankful for the opportunity I had to serve the residents of Shawano County for the past four years."

The finance director manages an annual budget of about \$70 million..

Davel said it's some-

times difficult for the finance director to balance what he or she believes is the right financial decision against the desires of 27 elected county supervisors.

"This position can be a challenge," Buntjer said. "There's difficult decisions to make and policies to enforce. I've always tried

to suggest what is best for the county for the long term, whether popular or unpopular."

Buntjer started with the county in April 2021.

"When fall comes around, I'll be looking for another opportunity, preferable part time to keep the balance with my fam-

ily," Buntjer said. "I have an interest in working with a nonprofit or government to give back to the communities around us."

The county is offering a salary between \$99,611.20 and \$113,838.40.

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CMN study highlights \$16M economic impact

The College of Menominee Nation in partnership with Lightcast and the American Indian Higher Education Consortium has announced its findings from a recent economic impact study, reflecting CMN’s effects on the local and regional economies, as well as the benefits created by the college in its continued pursuit of student employability and community enrichment. The impact study’s results reflect the col-

lege’s 2022-23 fiscal year, showcasing more than \$16,000,000 in added income to the Menominee Indian Reservation and Shawano County economy. With 321 jobs supported from this income, the college and its students support roughly one out of every 68 jobs in this region. Included in the findings are:

- Operations spending for full-time and part-time staff and faculty total \$7

million.

- Visitor spending by out-of-region visitors attracted to the Menominee Indian Reservation and Shawano County total \$30,100.
- Student spending that includes relocated and retained students, money spent on groceries, rent and other living expenses were \$287,700.
- Another \$8.6 million was attributed to local and regional employment from CMN alumni.

- For every \$1 taxed in the region, students gain \$6.80 in lifetime earnings, while local communities gain \$2.80 in added income and social savings.

The study also highlights industry-specific job impacts, focusing on the college’s emphasis in health care and social assistance, as well as other non-public administration services.

A similar study was conducted in 2014, and this follow-up endeavor re-

flects the college’s ongoing commitment to investing in and strengthening the local and regional communities and economies.

Lightcast’s study was conducted using industry and employment data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Census Bureau, outputs of Lightcast’s Multi-Regional Social Accounting Matrix model, and a variety of studies and surveys relating education to social behavior.

The study applies a conservative methodology and follows standard practice using only the most recognized indicators of economic impact and investment effectiveness.

To view the executive summary of the impact study, visit www.menominee.edu/about-cmn/2024-economic-impact-study. For a full description of the data and approach used in the study, contact the college for a copy of the main report.

Drug Take Back Day scheduled for April 26

Safely dispose of unused prescription, OTC drugs

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

It’s that time of year again – Drug Take Back Day is coming up April 26. It’s a day set aside each spring for people to clean out their medicine cabinets and safely dispose of any unused or expired prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications and other related items.

“There is no cost. We just want to get these people to get their stuff off the street,” Shawano County Sheriff George Lenzner said. “It’s nice to get these drugs off the street so they don’t fall

into other hands.”

Medications should be kept in their original containers with the medication name visible. People can remove their names from the containers.

Special drop-off sites will be set up from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Bonduel Police Department, 207 S. First St., Bonduel; Stockbridge-Munsee Public Safety, W13445 Camp 14 Road, Bowler; and Siga Funmaker Community Center, W17634 Radke Road, Wittenberg.

Permanent drop boxes are also at the Shawano County Sheriff’s Department, Bonduel Police Department and ThedaCare Medical Center-Shawano.

“We get a lot of strange things in there,” Lenzner said about the box at the sheriff’s department. “We’ve had human teeth, dog teeth. People put stuff in these pill bottles and then pass away, and

the family comes in and just throws everything in there.”

Drug Take Back Days are scheduled each year in April and October.

In October 2024, there were 4,425 law enforcement agencies participating nationwide with 4,644 collection sites. The total weight collected that day was 629,953 pounds, equal to 314 tons.

Since the event began, 19,200,440 pounds (9,600 tons) have been collected.

Items accepted include capsules, creams, inhalers, non-aerosol sprays, ointments, patches, pills and vials.

Liquids must be in their original containers.

Pet medications are accepted.

Vape pens and other e-cigarette devices are accepted with the batteries removed.

Illegal drugs are not accepted; neither are



Drug Take Back Day is set for April 26 at three special locations in Shawano County. Items accepted include capsules, creams, inhalers, non-aerosol sprays, ointments, patches, pills and vials. Liquids must be in their original containers. Vape pens and other e-cigarette devices are accepted with the batteries removed.

CONTRIBUTED

personal care products like shampoos, soaps, lotions, sunscreens, etc.

Also not accepted are aerosol cans, anything con-

taining blood or a bodily fluid, household hazardous waste (paint, pesticides, oil, gas), iodine containing medications, mercury ther-

mometers or syringes.

For information, call 715-526-3111.

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BBB warns taxpayers about seasonal scams

Tax scams are often as predictable as taxes themselves; they reappear each tax season with a slightly different spin, but the central theme is scammers posing as the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) trying to trick people into paying up or sharing personal information.

Tax scams may start with a phone call and take two primary forms. In the first version, the scammer claims to be an IRS agent that says you owe back taxes and pressures you into paying with a prepaid debit card or wire transfer. If you don’t comply, the

scammer threatens you with arrest and fines.

In the other version, scammers claim they are issuing tax refunds and ask you for personal information to send your refund. This information can later be used for identity theft. Scammers also use this approach to target college students by claiming a federal student tax has not been paid.

These impostors often go to great lengths to appear real. The scammer may give a fake badge number and name. If it’s a phone scam, your Caller ID may show that the call

is coming from Washington, D.C. Con artists sometimes follow up scam calls with an email that uses the IRS logo, colors and official-sounding language. Often, these scams start with a serious and official-sounding “robocall” recording.

Scammers typically try to push you into action before you have time to think. The IRS will allow you to ask questions or appeal what you owe. Also, their first contact with you will always be by mail, not by phone or email.

Scammers may also demand that payment

be made by wire transfer, prepaid debit card or other non-traditional payment methods because these methods are mainly untraceable and non-reversible. The real IRS will never demand immediate payment, require a specific form of payment or ask for a credit card or debit card number over the phone.

Another tax scam to look out for is tax identity theft. This occurs when a scammer uses your government-issued identity number (Social Security number) to file a tax return in your name and collect your refund. It

can also be someone using your information to get a job. Consumers don’t usually realize they have been victims of tax identity theft until they get a written notice from the IRS saying that more than one tax return was filed or they were paid by an employer they don’t know.

These emails appear to be from the IRS and include a link to a bogus website intended to mirror the official IRS website. These emails state, “You are to update your IRS e-file immediately.” The emails sometimes mention USA.gov and IRSgov

(without a dot between “IRS” and “gov”). These emails are not from the IRS.

The IRS warned taxpayers of a new mailing scam that tricks victims into believing they are owed a tax refund. In this scam, taxpayers receive a cardboard envelope from a delivery service, which includes a fake letter from the IRS about an unclaimed refund and asks for personal and financial information that scammers could use.

If you are the victim of tax identity theft in the U.S., contact the IRS at 800-908-4490.

Stockbridge-Munsee reacquires land in Massachusetts

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

The Stockbridge-Munsee Community has closed on the purchase of 372 acres of undeveloped land on Monument Mountain in Massachusetts.

The purchase is the

culmination of about two years of effort to regain the land important in the tribe’s history and culture to protect it for future generations.

“It represents a Land Back movement to reclaim land in a way that differs

from the western colonial way of thinking about it,” Stockbridge-Munsee President Shannon Holsey said. “We are trying to reclaim our way of being, which was never based on money. It’s the reclamation of our kinship systems, our

governance systems, our ceremony and spirituality, our language, our culture, our food and our medicinal systems. Those are all based on our relationship to the land.”

The tribe has long historic ties in this area

of what is now Massachusetts. Monument Mountain itself has been considered sacred and ceremonial land with springs and offering sites. Despite the tribe’s removal from the area, Monument Mountain has continued to be a place

of pilgrimage for tribal members.

The tribe obtained a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant from Massachusetts to assist with the purchase and the goals of habitat preservation and climate resilience.

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Flash bulbs capture Wendy Engel in all her glory as she features an outfit from Dreier's Pharmacy in May 2024 during the Shawano Woman's Club annual fashion show at The Gathering in Shawano. This year's fashion show will be at the Northwinds Banquet Hall in Marion.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

Fashion show moving from Shawano to Marion

Fundraiser helps to keep Shawano Woman's Club moving forward

By KAY REMINGER
Correspondent

The Shawano Woman's Club is setting the stage to host an entertaining fundraiser.

The club's 19th annual fashion show will be held May 8 at Northwinds Banquet Hall, 1103 N. Main St., Marion. Doors open at 10:30 a.m., and price of admission is \$40.

According to Lynn Zaffrann, the fashion show's publicity chairwoman, there are only a few tickets remaining, and those interested in purchasing tickets can call 715-570-0531.

The fashion show will have a cash bar available along with wine pull and swag bag sales, plus ticket sales for raffle baskets. A luncheon will be served at noon. Featured from downtown Shawano will be spring and summer clothing, footwear and jewelry from Dreier Pharmacy Gift Shoppe, Ultimate Closet and Thornberry Cottage. Items from B&H Fashionwear and Footwear from Clintonville will also be modeled.

Gift certificates and cards, in-kind donations or cash/check contributions are welcomed by calling 715-570-0531. To

mark the club's appreciation, all donations are acknowledged at the fashion show. The deadline to donate is April 15.

The fashion show is the signature event of the woman's club. Through holding this event for 18 years, they've managed to raise a substantial amount of money. Last year alone, the club raised more than \$17,000, thanks to guests who purchased wine, swag bags and also raffle tickets for the popular gift baskets. A silent auction was held as well. All of these events plus a new 50/50 raffle will be found at this year's event.

As far as the change of venue, they've had a few different venues during the show's tenure; most recently, it was held at The Gathering, which closed last year. In the past, they've held it at the Shawano Lake County Park Pavilion. This year, the event will take place at Northwinds, because it affords the club much more space, and in turn, they may accommodate more guests.

"Working on the annual fashion show allows the members the opportunity to utilize the strengths and talents they've gained throughout their lives," Zaffrann said. "Committees working together consist of publicity, decorations, greeters and

tickets and sales. Most committees have a chairperson."

The club's members also gain new knowledge by working alongside one another as a team, to put together an enjoyable event for supporters of their mission. Creative juices of various members work and organize with each other to produce fun themes.

In years past, club members had themes that included Roaring '20s, Barbie Movie and this year's Garden Tea Party theme. Bonding together to create an atmosphere of fun, they are able to give back to the generous attendees of the show.

"The fashion show, along with other fundraising projects, enables us to provide scholarships for high school and non-traditional students to help them pay for their college endeavors," Zaffrann said.

Along with their scholarship mandate, the club also donates to local community organizations and nonprofits such as Shawano Area Food Pantry and Resource Center, Shawano Area Matthew 25, Wolf River Habitat, Wee Care and many others. These groups are culturally important to the entire community. The Woman's Club members come together as a group to determine how to raise money and as well, how to disperse it effectively.

With generous support from the Shawano area and beyond, the club members gratefully anticipate continuing their agenda for years to come. A declaration of the club's core values on its website states: "Education is a life work and not a matter to be crowded into a few early years."

Information about the fashion show can be found at www.shawanowoman-club.com. Find them on Facebook under Shawano Woman's Club.



The members of the Shawano Woman's Club's fashion show committee pose during a meeting planning out this year's event.

KAY REMINGER

Wiley helps care for top athletes

ThedaCare doctor travels overseas to work with Olympic skiers

A health care provider with ThedaCare was officially part of the medical team accompanying elite U.S. Ski Team athletes that headed to the World Juniors and U23 Cross-Country World Championships in Italy.

Dr. Jasmine Wiley, a family medicine physician who sees patients in Tigerton and Shawano, is no stranger to overseeing the care of high-performing athletes.

For the past three seasons, Wiley has traveled with the U.S. Ski and Snowboard (USSS) Cross Country junior development team to Finland, Slovenia, Austria and Italy for competition and training camps. This past November, she volunteered with the World Cup Cross Country and Moguls teams, working with Olympic-level athletes at the first World Cup races of the season in Ruka, Finland, just miles from the Arctic Circle.

"Having a physician with the team is very important," Wiley said. "We can address any overuse or acute injuries or illnesses that may occur, and we help keep the athletes healthy and in top condition for their competitions and long seasons."

She's also no stranger to skiing. Raised in Clintonville, Wiley grew to love cross-country skiing as a child, skiing with her family. Her passion rekindled in college when she started skiing annually in the American Birkebeiner races, among other races with friends in college and throughout medical school and residency. Having helped coach a youth ski group at a local club in Madison during medical school, she sought her coaching certification through U.S. Ski and

WILEY, CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



Dr. Jasmine Wiley, a family medicine physician who sees patients in Tigerton and Shawano, has traveled with the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Cross Country junior development team to Finland, Slovenia, Austria and Italy for competition and training camps. Last November, she volunteered with the World Cup Cross Country and Moguls teams, working with Olympic-level athletes at the first World Cup races of the season in Ruka, Finland, just miles from the Arctic Circle.

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Unity reverberates from tribal college gathering

The message of the 2025 tribal college gathering resonated far beyond America's northern Great Plains.

Last month, the American Indian Higher Education Consortium's Student Conference was held in Rapid City, South Dakota. While this gathering pitted the 37 tribal colleges and universities against one another in a variety of academic and athletic competitions, the message received by participants is that TCUs across Turtle Island are unified in honoring Indigenous culture and educational values.

In her letter welcoming participants to the land of the Lakota, Oglala Lakota College President Dawn Tobacco Two-Crow Frank offered her vision about what the TCU movement means.

"As we gather in the spirit of learning and unity, we must remember our responsibility to protect and uphold our treaty and trust obligations," she said. "As relatives, we are bound by our commitment to higher education and the future of our nations."

College of Menominee Nation students have a history of excelling in the AIHEC competitions they enter, and this year marked another successful outing for the school. Coached by Lucy Fenzl, CMN's Science Bowl tied for second place in their competition. Comprised of Alexandria Ehlert, Evelyn Schmidt and Elora Waupoose, the team proved to be adept at answering questions from a variety of STEM fields. Ehlert also presented a poster.



CMN's Knowledge Bowl revealed their comprehension of Lakota texts. Coached by Vicki Besaw, team members Gary Miller, Emerald Otradovec and Dakota Waupoose took eighth place in this year's event. Waupoose was also elected the vice president of the AIHEC Student Conference, and he will serve in that role until March 2026.

For the third consecutive year, CMN students won both Duo Interpretation categories in the Speech Competition. This year, Gary Miller and Emerald Otradovec took home first place in both the Humorous and Serious competitions. Evelyn Schmidt and Elora Waupoose won second place in the Duo Interpretation Serious category. I was honored to be the team's coach.

Otradovec said: "Although we were there for competitions of a wide variety, I still felt a sense of unity as one people. I find it so beautiful to be able to have the opportunity to join other Natives who come from similar and different backgrounds and feel absolutely valued as a Native person, with no judgement on whether we are all 'Native enough' to be there."

Schmidt said: "It was the camaraderie between all of us who attended. We shared laughter, food,



Among the College of Menominee Nation delegates participating in the American Indian Higher Education Consortium's Student Conference in Rapid City, South Dakota are, from left, front row, Alexandria Ehlert, Vicki Besaw, Lucy Fenzl, Evelyn Schmidt, and Elora Waupoose; back row, Christopher Caldwell, Dakota Waupoose, Emerald Otradovec, Gary Miller and Ryan Winn.

stories and memories that enhanced the experience and made it something personal within our community."

CMN's American Indian College Fund's Student of the Year, Dawn Wilber, was lauded for embodying the essence of a tribal college student. Although Wilber was honored at her own banquet among fellow recipients at other TCUs, her focus was on supporting her CMN peers.

Wilber said: "I am so proud to represent CMN, and I am so proud of all of my fellow students. I truly enjoyed spending time with them all."

That time included informative trips to Mount

Rushmore and the Crazy Horse Monument, and, inspired by their coursework, students requested to visit the site of the 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre. Placing tobacco down in prayer to honor the ancestors, the CMN delegation supported the local vendors, were gifted with stories from the descendants of those who lost their lives at the site and received further affirmation that the ability for tribal nations to meet to celebrate their educational and cultural endeavors was only made possible by the sacrifices of those who came before them.

Miller said: "It's because of my awareness

of the past that I truly appreciated the opportunity to meet with peers from across the country in friendly competition. The ability to view significant historical landmarks in the area during the bit of downtime was absolutely captivating."

Elora Waupoose said: "I loved traveling with everyone and connecting with my peers and supervisors. I felt like I was a part of something special."

CMN President Christopher Caldwell said: "The AIHEC Student Conference is a chance for our students to push boundaries through competition but also to get to know their student peers at other

tribal colleges and universities. I was very honored to witness great leadership by our faculty coaches and our students as they competed in a way that brings honor to themselves and the College of Menominee Nation."

The theme of the conference was "Ancient Wisdom, the Foundation of Our Future: Sovereignty, Unity, and Strength for Future Generations." CMN students' reflections prove that message resonated far beyond America's northern Great Plains.

Ryan Winn, Ph.D., teaches communications, English, history and theater at the College of Menominee Nation. Visit www.menominee.edu for more information about the school.

GARDENING WITH MELINDA MYERS

There are many ways to be waterwise gardener

Too much or not enough water and never when your garden needs it. This is a common complaint of gardeners no matter where they live. Make a few changes in your plant selection and garden care to help manage water use while growing healthy plants.

All plants need sufficient moisture after planting and for several months to a year or two to develop a robust root system. Those labeled as drought tolerant are better able to tolerate periods of drought once established. Always water the area surrounding new plantings thoroughly when the top few inches of soil are crumbly and moist. Gradually reduce the frequency, and once the plants are established, you'll need to water less often.

Moisture-loving plants are good choices for areas receiving sufficient and consistent moisture



throughout the growing season to meet their needs. In locations where this is not the case, consider grouping moisture-loving plants together so you use less water and can concentrate watering efforts to just one or two locations in your landscape.

Fluctuating periods of excessive and insufficient rainfall add to the challenge. Many native plants, once established, tolerate periods of wet and dry soil and can be found on lists of rain garden plants suited to your area.

Keep water in the garden, out of the storm sewers, and reduce the risk of flooding while improving your garden. Adding sev-



Leaf mulch conserves moisture, reduces the risk of erosion and compaction, suppresses weeds and improves the soil as it decomposes. MELINDAMYERS.COM

eral inches of compost to the top 8-12 inches of soil increases the soil's ability to absorb and retain water. It also improves drainage in heavy soils.

Top dress existing gardens by spreading an inch of compost over the soil surface. Soil organisms will help move it into the soil to improve plant

growth. Lend nature a hand by using an auger bit on a drill to aerate compacted soil. This pushes some compost into the top 4-6 inches of soil.

Mulching the soil with leaves, evergreen needles or other organic matter also helps. This task has many benefits, including conserving moisture, reducing the risk of erosion and compaction, suppressing weeds, and as the mulch decomposes, improving the soil. A 1-to-3-inch layer over the soil surface is all you need. The finer the mulch material, the thinner the layer of mulch that is needed.

Collect rainwater in rain barrels or cisterns when it is plentiful, and store it until needed. Use this to water ornamental containers and plantings. Always check with your municipality first, because some restrict this practice while others offer rebates

or rain barrels at a discounted price.

You won't need to worry about mosquitoes breeding inside your rain barrel if you place an organic mosquito control product like Mosquito Dunks (www.summitresponsiblesolutions.com) in rain barrels and other water features. Mosquito Dunks provide 30 days of control, are natural and organic, and won't harm pets, fish, wildlife or children.

Periods of heavy rainfall create another challenge. Covering the soil with plants and mulch helps protect your soil from compaction and erosion that often happens during these events. Planting trees, shrubs, and groundcovers will slow the flow of rainwater, increase the amount of water that stays in your landscape for plants to use and help filter dust and pollutants out of

rainwater before it enters groundwater.

Rain gardens are another strategy for managing water in your yard. These are designed to capture excessive rainfall, drain within 24-36 hours, tolerate dry and wet periods, and filter pollutants from the rainwater before it enters the groundwater.

Start by incorporating one or more of these strategies to help manage rainwater in your landscape. Continue to monitor success, adapt as needed, and include more options to help you successfully garden even during periods of excessive or limited rainfall.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including "Midwest Gardener's Handbook," "Revised Edition" and "Small Space Gardening." She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds and Blooms magazine. Myers' website is www.melindamyers.com.



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Spirit moves columnist’s chair at cook shack

(Editor’s note: This is the first in a two-part series about the supernatural goings-on in northern Oconto County.)

Following up on my column about the Holt and Balcom Logging Camp in Lakewood, I begin by saying I used to be agnostic about ghosts, goblins, witches and such. Maybe they existed; maybe they didn’t. Truth be told, haunted houses and horror movies have always creeped me out, though I love the ghost scene in the George C. Scott film version of “The Christmas Carol.” “Ghost,” starring Demi Moore, Patrick Swayze and Whoopi Goldberg, is one of my all-time favorite movies.

Now I only mention all of this because things changed drastically in my paranormal world about 20 years ago when I first heard about Dr. Fred. The good doctor supposedly haunts Hillcrest Lodge in Townsend.

Hillcrest is on Nicolet



Kathleen Marsh
Columnist

Road, a mere mile or so away from our home at Otter Run. This is very convenient for us, especially because Jon and I can walk home if need be. That’s never happened, so please don’t chalk up what I am about to relate to my being overserved by our favorite bartender, Shelly.

When I first heard about Dr. Fred, I was more than skeptical. His story was related to me in 2006 by Lois Harms, a lovely church-going lady I interviewed for my books on the history of Townsend. Lois, now deceased, insisted that the elderly doctor once resided at Hillcrest.

“He lived in an upstairs apartment, but he was tragically hit by a car driving in

front of the lodge on a dark and rainy night. Fred may have died from his injuries, but he’s never really left the place,” she emphatically declared.

Nah, I thought. Lois has always had a vivid imagination. Even when I saw a Discover Wisconsin piece on Hillcrest and Dr. Fred, I was not convinced. It was only when I interviewed Karla Schuessler, then owner of Hillcrest, that I began to wonder.

Karla described Fred’s antics with eye-witness detail. It seems the good doctor had a habit of regularly opening windows, slamming doors, rearranging the chairs, scattering money out of the till, even opening the taps. She was really credible. Whoa, Bessie.

About that same time, I got involved with the Holt and Balcom Logging Camp Museum in Lakewood. Our summer Saturday tours start at 10 a.m., but sometimes we don’t get visitors

until after 11. That leaves some dead (pun intended) time for me to sit alone in the cook shack. I had almost forgotten about Fred when one Saturday morning, I was overcome by a presence, like when you sense someone is watching you from behind. The back of my head tingled. I looked around. No one was there.

The presence wasn’t frightening, more the opposite, protective and affirming. I couldn’t help but wonder, were there spirits about? I found myself asking aloud: “Who are you? What do you want?”

Suddenly, the answer rushed into my subconscious. This will, of course, sound ridiculous to the unbelieving, but somehow I just knew. This was a manifestation of spirits of long-dead lumberjacks, approving of the work I was doing in saving the camp. After that, they began to visit regularly, until we started the restoration in earnest,

that is. I assumed that all that activity upset them.

I missed their presence, but they didn’t return during the long challenging years of the restoration (2008-13). Then, in early May 2014, something extraordinary occurred when I was at the camp cleaning. I finished in the bunkhouse, making sure everything was arranged just so and went into the cookshack to fetch my phone. When I returned a minute later, one of the four old wooden chairs was sitting at a 45-degree angle to the table. I scolded myself for not positioning it properly, pushed it back where it belonged and closed the door.

I worked for a while in the cookshack, then went to use the bathroom in the McCauslin Golf Course Clubhouse, which is close by. Just for peace of mind, I checked the bunkhouse. The same chair was at that same 45-degree angle. Now I was more than annoyed.

Was someone playing tricks on me?

I put the chair back, bolted the access doors, double-locked the bunkhouse and called Jon to tell him what had happened. He insisted someone was pranking me, perhaps Pat Lowery or Ken Klein or Sherm Laundrie. They all worked Saturdays at the golf course and were perfectly capable of carrying out a practical joke.

I assured him that no one could have entered the museum without me seeing, but I could tell he didn’t believe me. As I hung up, I was consumed by curiosity. I went back to the bunkhouse. Oh, my God. The chair was askew again, sitting at the exact same angle. That was my introduction to our Camp Ghost Charlie.

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

BONDUEL: American Red Cross blood drive, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Bonduel High School, 400 W. Green Bay St. Appointments at RedCrossBlood.org or 800-733-2767.

KESHENA: Winter Farmers Market, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., College of Menominee Nation Cultural Learning Center, N172 State Highway 47-55. Free corn meal and beans bags. Local vendors, artisan native crafts, baking, food, honey, woodcraft, maple syrup, cans, crochets, tea, more.

SHAWANO: Easter Bunny Parade, 5 p.m., Memorial Park, 909 S. Lincoln St. Sponsored by Shawano Area Free and Accepted Masons.

SHAWANO: Shawano Uncorked, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Shawano County Park Pavilion, W5791 Lake Drive. More than 35 varieties of wine, local brews, desserts, and the chance to take home an assortment of prizes. Fundraiser for Boys and Girls Clubs of Shawano, Tickets \$60.

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

SHAWANO: Shawano Menominee Relay for Life, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Shawano Community High School. 220 County Road B. relayforlife.org/shawano-menomineewi

SHAWANO: Bash Bros Drift Event, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., USAir Motorsports Raceway, W5901 County Road BE. Tandem race competition. Admission \$20.

SHAWANO: Easter Eggstravaganza, 9:30 a.m. to noon, St. James School Gym, 324 S. Andrews St. Egg hunt, face painting, crafts, music and snacks.

KESHENA: 33rd annual Sturgeon Feast and Celebration Pow Wow, noon to 6 p.m., Menominee Nation High School, xxxx. Sturgeon Walk at Keshena Falls 10 a.m., grand entry noon, Maec-Micehswan “Big Feast” 6 p.m.

SHAWANO: Easter Egg Hunt, 1 p.m. registration, 2 p.m. hunt, Methodist Church on the Hill, 1000 Engel Drive. Over 1,000 prizes, Beja Shriners, and over 30,000 eggs. Shawano Police Department handing out stickers. Sponsored by

Shawano Area Free and Accepted Masons.

SHAWANO: Opening Night, 4 p.m., Shawano Speedway, 990 E. Green Bay St. Gates open 4 p.m., races start 6 p.m. \$12, ages 12-16 \$6, and under 11 free. shawano-speedway.net

LENA: Lions Fish Fry, 4:30-7:30 p.m., St. Anne Church Hall, 221 E. Main St. Walleye, smelt, baked haddock. Adults and 13 \$15, children 6-12 \$12.

GRESHAM: American Legion Meat Raffle, 5 p.m., Legion Hall, 951 Main St. 50/50 drawing

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

ABRAMS: Machickanee Cross Country Ski Club Spring Cleanup, 9 a.m. to noon, 6625 Timberline Road.

SHAWANO: Bash Bros Drift Event, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., USAir Motorsports Raceway, W5901 County Road BE. Tandem race competition. Admission \$20.

GILLET: FFA Alumni Consignment Auction, 10:30 a.m., Zippel Park.

LENA: Machickanee Cross Country Ski Club Spring Fling, 5 p.m. social, 6 p.m. social, Bavarian Inn, 104 E. Main St.

MONDAY, APRIL 14

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, APRIL 15

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

TOWNSEND: American Red Cross blood drive, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Town Hall, 16564 Elm St. Appointments at RedCrossBlood.org or 800-733-2767.

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

mthunder@mitw.org.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

SHAWANO: God’s Little Wonders: Parent/Tot Hour, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1254 S. Union St. Hands-on activities and crafts, songs and stories, faith nurturing.

OCONTO FALLS: American Red Cross blood drive, 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., United Methodist Church, 165 N. Farm Road. Appointments at RedCrossBlood.org or 1-800-733-2767.

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

GILLET: Cross Walk, noon, Gillett Secondary School, 208 W. Main St., to St. John Lutheran Church, 101 W. Main St. Hosted by Gillett-Suring Clergy Association. Brief scripture readings and prayer at each of four stops.

SHAWANO: American Red Cross blood drive, 1-6 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 910 E. Zingler Ave. Appointments at RedCrossBlood.org or 800-733-2767.

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

GILLET: Easter Eggstravaganza, 10 a.m., Hillside Assembly, Hillside Assembly, 5890 State Highway 22. Carnival style games, presentation followed by Easter egg hunt.

PULASKI: Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m., Saputo Stadium at Pulaski High School, 1040 S. St. Augustine St. Open for kids 11 and younger.

WITTENBERG: Artists’ Free Play XII, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal St. A collection of artwork by a variety of area artists.

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

GILLET: Easter breakfast, 9 a.m., Hillside Assembly, Hillside Assembly, 5890 State Highway 22. Easter service 10 a.m.

WILEY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Snowboard and is a USSS level 200-certified cross-country ski coach.

Since returning to northeast Wisconsin, she has been an assistant and head coach with Bay Nordic Junior cross-country ski team in Green Bay, as well as having served on the coaching team for multiple end of season championship trips for the regional Great Lakes division team. She also serves as the volunteer medical director for Ariens Nordic Center in Brillion that hosts biathlon and cross-country races and training year-round.

After an application process, physicians receive on-snow emergency training to become certified and officially join the U.S. Ski and Snowboard medical pool, Wiley said. The medical pool serves all disciplines of USSS from cross-country to alpine and snowboard, and physicians who travel with the teams volunteer their time and resources to travel during training and competition season.

The physicians serve as the primary resource for the team head coach, physical therapist/athletic trainer and medical director regarding any medical issues relating to an athlete’s ability to train or compete during the physician’s assigned trip. They also make recommendations regarding any follow-up care that may be needed, make ongoing treatment plans and oversee the medical needs of all the athletes on a trip in collaboration with USSS sports medicine director and the head team physician.

“Getting to be a part of the USSS programs and teams and helping these athletes to compete at a high level and keep them in their peak performance is deeply enjoyable for me,” Wiley said. “We sometimes have to help make those tough health-related calls about whether or not the athletes should compete if there is injury or illness, but the support teams are excellent and collaborative, and I am incredibly grateful to be a small part of what they provide for athletes.”

Wiley brings a wealth of knowledge to the U.S. ski team from her experience as a family medicine physician.

“As a family medicine doctor, I see a little of everything,” she said. “I’m uniquely fitted to address a lot

of the concerns that potentially arise while the teams are travelling, especially for the cross-country athletes. As opposed to the alpine disciplines where there is a lot higher chance of acute injuries that need orthopedic coverage, cross-country skiing is an endurance sport. A lot of what we have come up are training related or chronic injuries, illnesses and the occasional more acute injury.”

She explained that her daily work as a physician allows her to support the athletes and their general health and well-being during competition.

“I just absolutely love skiing,” she said. “I was not a super athletic kid growing up, and so skiing has been something that got me back into fitness and physical activity for health and enjoyment. The best part of coaching is getting to share and instill that joy in others.”

In addition to the excellent health benefits of cross-country skiing, Wiley said it has been important for her mental health as well to help reduce stress.

“My brain can take a break, and I can focus on skiing, being outside in nature and moving,” Wiley said. “It is a big stress management tool for me and has helped me get through some challenging times. That included using skiing as stress relief during those intense medical school and residency years.”

The U.S. Cross Country ski team’s culture resonates with Wiley. The team instills within its athletes a culture and expectation of support, whether members are an athlete, technician, coach or a doctor.

“I hope that I carry that through into my practice every day in my interactions with colleagues and our patients,” Wiley said. “I hope my experience carries over and helps create that same positive, welcoming environment that encourages people to be their best.”

Wiley wants people to feel empowered to connect with their primary care provider (PCP). A person’s PCP is a proactive partner in health, an advocate and a guide on a person’s health care journey. Through wellness visits and preventive care, teams work together to identify potential health issues early, manage chronic conditions and promote well-being.

DNR seeks artwork for 2026 stamps

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is accepting artwork entries for the Wild Turkey, Pheasant and Waterfowl Stamp Design Contests.

Each year, local artists from around Wisconsin compete for an opportunity to showcase their talents, commemorate their work and promote wildlife conservation across the state. The winning designs will appear on the 2026 collection of stamps.

Hunters are required to purchase a species-specific stamp to legally harvest any of these game birds in Wisconsin. The sales of these three stamps generate hundreds of thousands of dollars annually for species management throughout the state, including habitat management, restoration, education and research projects.

Stamp design entries must be received or postmarked by Aug. 1. Judging will take place Aug. 23 at

the Waterfowl Hunters Expo in Oshkosh.

All stamp contest applicants should review the contest rules carefully to ensure the eligibility of their entries. Artwork must meet technical requirements to be properly processed and prepared for judging and display.

Rules, entry information and reproduction rights agreements are available at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/stamps>.



The DNR is now accepting artwork entries for the 2026 Wild Turkey, Pheasant and Waterfowl Stamp Design Contests. Jon Rickaby, of Suamico, created the winning 2025 waterfowl stamp. WISCONSIN DNR

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Shawano students learn to read through technology

Elementary students in the Shawano School District are discovering a new way to improve their reading skills through a district-wide technology initiative this year.

Using Keynote, an Apple presentation app, students recorded themselves reading lessons in digital journals. They were astonished and excited when they played back their recordings.

“Our primary students’ determination to read accurately and with expression for their fluency journals was excit-

ing to see. ‘Can we take a picture of another story and record ourselves?’ was excitedly echoed by so many students,” said Instructional Coach Brittney Firari, adding that the journals helped engage and motivate her students.

The digital journals were just one of several projects implemented throughout the district this year with the help of Jim Weber, a senior specialist for Apple Professional Learning. Nicknamed “Apple Jim” by district staff, Weber

was assigned to help staff explore new ways to use existing technology.

According to district Learning Director Elisha Wagenson, the district’s instructional coaching team met with Weber to determine how to best utilize his expertise. For the digital journal project, he trained one teacher at each K-3 grade level, who then introduced the technology in their classrooms. Weber modeled the process alongside teachers before they, in turn, trained their peers. A follow-up meeting was

held to review the results.

Wagenson said digital journals were chosen because of the district’s strong emphasis on literacy at the K-3 level. By allowing students to hear themselves read, they were able to improve their fluency and accuracy.

“We anticipate continuing this type of feedback,” she said.

Bonduel Farmers Market moving to Wednesdays

The Bonduel Farmers Market is making a major change this year, shifting from Sundays to Wednesday evenings from 4-7 p.m. at the corner of Cecil and Green Bay streets.

Organizers revamped the event based on vendor and public feedback, aiming for greater accessibility and participation.

The market runs from June 18 to Sept. 17.

It will feature fresh produce, local crafts and an expanded selection of food trucks. Additional details and vendor applications can be found at villageofbonduel.com or the village’s Facebook page.

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Abrams' Berna retires from racing

Captured 12 titles at Shawano Speedway

By **TODD TURNER**
Special to *NEW Media*

As a young man at Shawano Speedway, Ron Berna had a hard time envisioning that he'd be racing until he was nearly 60 years old. In a previous generation during the glory days of the track's potent Big Three — Terry Anvelink, M.J. McBride and Pete Parker — Berna was a fresh-faced racer impressed by the old guard.

"I remember back when I was a kid and watching Parker and M.J. McBride race, (and) Parker was thirty-something years in it, too," Berna recalled. "I was like, 'I'm never gonna do that. I'll never race that long.' And here it is. It's kind of funny."

Indeed the 57-year-old Abrams driver of the No. 66 late model recently decided to retire, meaning Shawano's half-mile oval is losing a loyal driver who owns 12 championships, the most in the history of the 79-year-old facility. In nearly 40 years of racing, 30 of them in the late model division, Berna has been a fixture at Shawano and among the favorite drivers at the sprawling oval.

"Every year we've been talking about (retiring) and then we just seem to move on to another year," said Berna, saying health concerns for he and crew members, and time with grandkids factored into the decision. "It was just getting harder and harder and we're getting older and older, you know, try to keep that car going. It's money and everything. It's just time to maybe do something else, you know. It's just been almost 40 years for me."



Ron Berna of Abrams captured the dirt late models feature race at the Shawano Speedway on Aug. 3, 2024. In his 20 feature races, he won twice, finished in the top five 10 times and had 17 finishes in the top 10. Earlier this year, Berna announced his retirement, ending nearly a 40-year career on the legendary half-mile.

BACKCOUNTRY CAPTURES

Summer Saturdays won't be the same for Berna, who scored nearly 100 multidivision victories over his career, the lion's share of them at Shawano along with his richest career victories, back-to-back \$5,000 triumphs in 2005-06s Indian Summer Classic at Langlade County Speedway in Antigo. Along with nine late model titles at Shawano, the most recent in 2023, Berna was also a three-time points runner-up on Wisconsin's Wabam Dirt Kings Tour. He'll miss being behind the wheel.

"The driving part of it was always the best part of it," said Berna, who operates Action Auto Sales & Repair with his brother John. "Getting there and keeping everything running was always the hard part, but when I got to drive, that was always my highlight. I'll miss that part of it. And the people, you know, at Shawano, we were always out in front where the grandstand was

and I talk to the people right across the fence ... I could walk up to the fence and talk to them, so I'll miss that part of it, too."

Berna's 2024 campaign started after heart treatment for atrial fibrillation, but as it was for so many years at Shawano, he was quickly back in the groove at a track that "Rocket Ron" says he could navigate blindfolded.

"For me, it's like riding a bicycle, the same thing every year," he said. "For a lot of years, most of my life I (raced), so it was pretty easy no matter what sickness I had throughout the years. I could get in that car, and that would cure it."

While he ran many Wisconsin tracks, his loyalty to Shawano "was just a routine that we got so used to doing," Berna added. "We had a lot of fans there. I think that was part of it, and it's kind of close by for me. Like Seymour or Luxemburg or 141, they didn't run late models that

much, so Shawano dedicated every Saturday night, so we kind of just got in that groove of doing that and just kinda kept doing it I guess. Sometimes a guy don't sit down and think about what (you do), you just keep doing it."

Berna is grateful to steadfast crew members over the years including Jim Kibilowski, who missed three weeks last season after having a kidney removed, and 70-year-old stepbrother Steve Machuirck, whose interest had waned in recent years. Berna's nephew, Ray Berna, had the enthusiasm to continue, and Kibilowski pitched the idea of cutting back to part-time racing, but Berna wasn't interested.

"It's hard enough to be competitive when you run every single weekend, and then you start missing here, missing there, you're not gonna really, to me, you're not gonna get better unless unless you're really on top of it. It's hard to do

that," Berna said. "We put too much time in the car and too much money into it to say we're gonna race once in a while."

Berna's pursuit of titles is a throwback to a long-ago era at Shawano, said Bob Schafer, a longtime official, publisher and racing historian from Oshkosh.

"When he started racing 40 years ago, track championships meant a lot. And 30 years ago, they still meant a lot," Schafer said. "That championship thing has kind of gone away, but it never seemed to leave him. Which I give him credit for, because that's a lot of time and effort to be there every week. To come prepared, plus chase other Dirt Kings races or whatever it may be, but he always made Shawano as part of his realm, and you're not gonna find that anymore with anybody that's under 30 years old. It's just not gonna happen. That's long gone, and it'll be hugely missed, I think."

Bert Lehman, a former

McBride crew member and longtime columnist and racing publicist at Shawano, witnessed most of Berna's successful career.

"Berna, back in his earlier days, he wasn't afraid to ruffle some feathers. Let's just put it that way. He kind of mellowed a bit as he got older," Lehman said. "He didn't have seasons where he had 10 feature wins and that sort of thing, but he was just consistently up front, (but while) other drivers would travel to other tracks on a Saturday night to race at a special or something, Berna was pretty loyal to Shawano and was there weekly."

With Berna's retirement and 69-year-old Shawano racer Tom Naeyaert, who grabbed a late model triumph last season at Outagamie Speedway in Seymour, also stepping away after a lengthy career, it marks the "ending of an era" at Shawano, Lehman said. It was Naeyaert and his 1999 late model title at Shawano that broke the dominance of Shawano's Big Three, ending an 18-year stretch of consecutive titles for McBride, Parker or Anvelink.

"I think all late model fans in northeast Wisconsin knew that the day was coming where the older guard would start retiring," Lehman said. "And so we weren't looking forward to the day when Tom Naeyaert and Ron Berna and some of the other older drivers retire. I think for true late models in this area, there's a little bit of apprehension about who's gonna step up and and replace them."

"It just seems like, you know, drivers who are successful in other divisions now, they just stay in those divisions. They don't move up to the late model division for a variety of reasons."

Terry Anvelink's son, Nick Anvelink of Bonduel,

BERNA, CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Shawano Speedway prepares for another season

Opening night set for April 12

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

With a little help from Mother Nature, the 2025 Shawano Speedway season will open to the roaring sound of dozens of race cars April 12.

Pit gates open at 3 p.m., and the ticket booth opens at 4 p.m. Hot laps begin at 5:30 p.m., and racing gets

underway at 6 p.m.

Admission is \$12 for those 17 and older, \$6 for those 12-16 and free for those 11 or younger with a paid adult.

A grandstand full-season pass with 20 punches is \$200, with a half-season pass with 10 punches available for \$100.

Pit passes are \$30 for anyone 12 and older, and \$10 for anyone 11 and younger.

Season passes for the pits is \$500 for a full season and \$250 for a

half-season.

Dogs and glass bottles are not allowed.

There are special events, race sponsorships and other programs available each night through the championship night during the Shawano County Fair on Aug. 30.

As in years past, the track will feature races in five divisions — IMCA sport modifieds, IMCA modifieds, late models, IMCA stock cars and Mighty 4's.

IMCA sport modifieds:

This is an affordable open wheel division designed to help drivers get behind the wheel with minimum expense. The cars have a crate engine program, are nationally sanctioned by IMCA and race on tracks throughout the United States.

IMCA modifieds: Nationally sanctioned, this open wheel class competes throughout the state. The minimum wheelbase on these cars is 108 inches, and they may not have wings or spoilers.

Late models: The fastest cars on the track, these late models are governed by rules that have been crafted to allow cars from several sanctions to compete together at the Shawano Speedway.

IMCA stock cars: Nationally sanctioned, this division is designed as affordable for drivers and teams. The division allows for minor modifications to the chassis and engines.

Mighty 4s: This economical class for anyone who has the urge to run on

the dirt features 4-cylinder front-wheel drive cars.

Jeffery Teske won the IMCA sport modifieds championship in 2024. Other title winners were: Jordan Barkholtz, late models; Jordan Bartz, IMCA modifieds; Trent Nolan, IMCA stock cars; and Dalton Nelson, Mighty 4s.

Questions can be directed to the office at 715-526-7069 or by email at shawanospeedway@gmail.com.

kpasson@newmedia-wi.com

Track athletes make their way to the podiums

April 5
Pulaski's girls placed sixth with 40 points and the boys were 13th with 12 points at the Midwest Indoor Championship at UW-River Falls.

The girls team of Addison Krueger, Lily Urben, Faye Brunke and Olivia Sprangers won the 4x200-meter relay in 1:48:77, fewer than three seconds faster than Osseo.

Sprangers earned a second-place finish in the 60-meter dash in 7.92. Brunke was eighth in 8.14.

Sprangers was also third in the 200-meter dash in 26.81. Brunke was seventh in 28.07.

Emerson Fabry finished third in the 1,600-meter run in 5:18.48.

Lydia Gwidt placed fifth in the long jump at 15-7.5.

In the 60-meter hurdles, Katelyn Jossie was sixth in 10.26.

Ellie Murphy placed 10th in the 800-meter run in 2:36.47.

Aiden McGlinn, Sawyer Goodness, Kam McKeefry, and Keaton Dauk placed third for the boys in the 4x200-meter relay in 1:37.27.

The 4x800-meter relay team of Parker Marshall, Dayne Groth, Arden Gillen and Mitchell Pilon placed fifth in 8:53.77.

In the 3,200-meter run, Gillen was seventh in 10:18.79.

McKeefry ran to ninth in the 200-meter dash in 24.07.

In the high jump, Isaac Lom placed ninth at 5-10.

April 4
Shawano runners earned five top 10 finishes at the Point Indoor Distance Carnival in Stevens Point.

Adalyn Barkley led the girls with a third-place finish in the 800-meter run in 2:28.47. Bailey Hendricks was 10th in the 1,600-meter run in 5:40.70.

For the boys, Teagan Harkey placed second in the 1,600-meter run in 5:21.94. Right behind him in third place was Aloysius Frechette in third in 5:29.20. And, Quinten Harkey placed sixth in 5:32.53.

April 3
Rosholt-Webko-Politos Invitational
Bonduel

It was a late night at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point where five local teams competed.

Bonduel showed why they are one of the most feared mammals in the animal kingdom as the girls team finished first and the boys team finished seventh out of 35 schools.

A pair of Bonduel girls captured three first-place finishes.

Mariah Wondra won the 1,600-meter run in 5:26.64 and the 3,200-meter run in 11:29.30. Her time in the longer run is a new meet record.

Josie Pawlak took first in the long jump at 15-9. She was joined by teammates Cierra Schnell, who placed third at 15-4.5, and Peyton Westrich, who was fourth at 15-2.5.

The 4x400-meter

relay team placed third in 4:29.01, and the 4x200-meter relay team placed sixth in 1:59.16.

Audrey Weier finished fourth in the high jump at 4-8.

Audrey Jacobs placed fourth in the triple jump at 31-9, while Weier was seventh at 30-4.

Westrich was also sixth in the 400-meter dash in 1:03.43.

For the boys, Sam Roberts took second in the triple jump in 40-7 and second in the long jump at 20-3. Griffin Uelmen was second in the high jump at 5-10.

The 4x200-meter relay team was fourth in 1:40.99, and the 4x400 team was seventh in 3:49.73.

Oconto Falls

Evan Yuma grabbed the top spot in the 400-meter dash in 52.95 to pace the Panthers boys team. Brant Laluzerne was fifth in 55.96.

The 4x200-meter relay team was second in 1:39.74, and the 4x400-meter relay team was fourth in 3:44.96.

Emerich Skarban finished third in the high jump at 5-8 and was sixth in the 60-meter hurdles in 8.99.

Elijah White was fourth in the 60-meter dash in 7.27, and Emerson Rice was fourth in the 800-meter run in 2:09.99. Brady Bursa placed fourth in the long jump at 19-9.25 and was sixth in the triple jump at 39-4.

Griffin Kopke was 10th in the 800-meter run in



Bonduel's girls 4x400-meter relay team placed third in 4:29.01 at UW-Stevens Point on April 3. The girls team placed first out of nearly three dozen schools. In front are Peyton Westrich, left, and Amelia Wilcox. In back are Paige Niquette, left, and Cierra Schnell.

CONTRIBUTED

who placed third in 8.25, and Emery Pagel, who was fifth in 8.34.

Brooke Hodkiewicz finished fourth in the 400-meter dash in 1:02.27 and fifth in the 800-meter run in 2:39.90.

Hailey Delzer ran to a fourth-place finish in the 3,200-meter run in 13:11.19 and to an eighth-place finish in the 1,600-meter run in 6:01.71.

The 4x200-meter relay team was fifth at 1:58.90.

Suring

Suring's girls were led by Aliya Cox taking first in the triple jump at 35-0. She was also second in the high jump at 4-10 and seventh in the 60-meter hurdles in 11.14.

Ellayna Skarban placed fourth in the high jump at 4-8.

Tessa Losurdo placed eighth in the pole vault at 7-0.

Bunny Cramer was 10th in the 3,200-meter run in 14:14.75.

For the boys, Dayne Ermis placed fourth in the high jump at 5-8.

Gresham/Bowler

The best finish for the girls was Emily Jensen placing 14th in the shot put at 28-6.

The boys were led by the 4x200-meter relay team that placed 19th in 1:50.10.

Gillett

Bradyn Wendorff finished 10th in the 1,600-meter run in 4:51.00. the 4x400-meter relay team

TRACK, CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

BERNA, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

the seven-time Dirt Kings tour champ, remains in his prime and is five victories away from overtaking Parker as the all-time winningest late model driver at Shawano, while the track's elder statesman becomes 58-year-old hometown racer Troy Springborn, who battled Berna throughout his 40-year career.

"It just makes you think, you know, he's stepping back, and you know we're probably the same age. So is it my turn to

step back? So as the people that you race with for years start stepping away it's like, 'OK, am I next? Or am I gonna be next? Or should I be next?' So it leaves a lot of questions," said Springborn, whose sister, Jamie, is Berna's longtime partner.

"I think about that when we're the oldest guys, me and Troy and Tom," Berna said. "It used to be Gordie Seegert and all them guys. They were all there before I was, and they all finally

disappeared, and pretty soon I started looking around thinking, 'Jesus, there's only, I think there's three of us left.' They've been doing this so long. You know, altogether, there's just not that many late models left anymore either, you know, like Shawano we're lucky if we get seven to eight cars, 10 cars. It's nice for being easier on the car and easier on the drivers, but when we used to have 20 cars and two or three heat races, it was a lot more ex-

citing I think. But I think it's just the way it is."

Fewer than 30 drivers officially entered at least one late model event last season at Shawano with eight drivers competing in at least 10 of the 13 feature races. The track, whose engine rules have largely mirrored the Dirt Kings circuit, last season announced plans to transition back to WISSOTA-rules late models by 2026, and there's been off-and-on discussion in recent years about shortening the

half-mile layout.

"Half-miles are tough," Schafer said. "They're a dying breed. To race a car there weekly is extremely difficult."

Berna will move on to his hobby of restoring and modifying hot rods — he's tinkering with a 1956 Chevy Bel Air and 1928 Ford Model A — but he hopes late model racing at Shawano finds a way to successfully move to the next generation.

"It might be some of the other guys I hear com-

ing up (from other divisions), the mod guys," Berna said. "And maybe that'll happen, too, as we disappear, maybe they'll see that maybe they should get involved in that, and that'll help to keep going. You hate to see anything racing die anywhere, you know, that's for sure. So hopefully it all works out in the long run."

This article first appeared on DirtOnDirt.com. It is reprinted with permission of Todd Turner, the site's managing editor.

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Pulaski softball team goes 2-0 at tournament

April 5 Pulaski 6, Baraboo 4
Pulaski went 2-0 with a pair of wins at the D.C. Everest Tournament. The Red Raiders closed out the tournament with a 6-4 win over Baraboo.

Pulaski 19, Wausau East 0
Green Bay NEW Lutheran/Providence Academy 10, Gillett/Suring 1

April 4 Three Lakes/Phelps 17, Marion 3
Mosinee 9, Shawano 5
Wittenberg-Birnam-

wood 12, Westfield 2
April 3 Luxemburg-Casco 2, Oconto Falls 1
After postponements of games against Coleman and Oconto, the Oconto Falls girls softball team opened its season at Luxemburg-Casco High School.

The Panthers lost 2-1.

Bay Port 5, Pulaski 3
Pulaski's 2025 season opened with a Fox River Classic Conference loss to Bay Port. The score was 5-3.

Pulaski, Shawano soccer teams open seasons with wins

April 4 Pulaski 2, Marshfield 0
A scoreless first half turned in favor of Pulaski as the Red Raiders defeated Marshfield 2-0 in their season opener.

Emmah Hyer and Anya Hasser each scored for Pulaski.

April 1 Shawano 0, Hortonville 0
The Hawks had their season opener relocated to Hortonville, and after battling back and forth for 80 minutes, the Hawks came out with a 0-0 tie.

Senior goalkeeper Lily Glysch had 16 saves and earned her first shutout of the year.

TRACK, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

also placed 10th with a time of 3:56.69.

Bluejay Indoor Invite
Wittenberg-Birnamwood captured several of the top spots at Merrill.

For the girls:

400-meter run: Heat 4, Harper Krull, first, 1:08.60; Harper Rogowski, third, 1:06.50; Lily Metropulos, fourth, 1:09.70.

800-meter run: Nora Bushman, first, 2:45.00; Metropulos, second, 2:55.00; Charlie Eichman, third, 3:02.00.

4x400-meter relay: Heat 2, Kylee Beversdorf, Bushman, Rogowski, Faith Resch, first, 4:20:00.

Long jump: Resch, first, 16-06; Krull, fourth, 14-06; Beversdorf, fifth, 14-01.75.

Triple jump: Resch, first, 34-06; Bushman, fourth, 31-06; Metropulos, sixth, 28-03.

Shot put: Flight 1, Kaitlin Tuskowski, second, 25-0. Flight 2, Brooke Huffman, eighth, 31-10; Kelsie Davis, third, 28-9.

4x800-meter relay: Metropulos, Gabrielle Timm, Rogowski, Bushman, second, 10:45.00.

200-meter dash: Heat 3, Izzi Schmalpus second, 40.50. Heat 4, Addison Schmid, third, 33.60. Heat 5, Beversdorf, second, 28.70.

3,200-meter run: Timm, second, 13:45.00.

4x100-meter relay: Heat 2, Davis, Ella Vincent, Schmid, Tuskowski, third, 1:38.50.

High jump: Eichman, third, 4-4.

1,600-meter run: Eichman, fourth, 6:55.00.

4x200-meter relay: Heat 2, Davis, Ella Vincent, Schmid, Tuskowski, fourth, 2:35.60.

And for the boys:

Shot put: Landen Schmidt, first, 45-0; Mason Wierzba, fourth, 36-2; Cordell Carlson, eighth, 28-0.

Long jump: Jett Rogowski, first, 18-00; Bryson Schmid, second, 17-08; Aydrean McGeschick, fourth, 17-01.75.

4x200-meter relay: Heat 2, Rogowski, Alex Sanderson, Schmid, Kaden Yaeger, second, 2:13.50.

4x400-meter relay: Heat 2, Rogowski, Sanderson, Schmid, Yaeger, second, 4:00.00.

200-meter dash: Heat 1, Carlson, second, 33.10. Heat 2, Rogowski, first, 26.20; McGeschick, fourth, 26.90.

400-meter dash: Heat 1, Carlson, fourth, 1:10.00. Heat 2, Sanderson, second, 58.50; McGeschick, third, 59.75.

1,600-meter run: Marty Nowinsky, fourth, 5:51.50.

Triple jump: Yaeger, fourth, 37-02.50; Sanderson, fifth, 35-00.

800-meter run: Nowinsky, fifth, 2:33.50.

April 1 UW-Oshkosh Girls Small Schools Invite
Suring earned 46 points and placed 10th out of 43 schools at an indoor meet at the Kolf Sports Center in Oshkosh.

Shawano collected 32

points and placed 14th, while Gillett's 12 points placed them 33rd.

Among 25 Division 2 schools, Shawano placed sixth. In Division 3, Suring was sixth and Gillett was 15th among 18 schools.

Suring's Aliya Cox won the high jump and triple jump. She also placed second in the 400-meter dash.

Shawano was led by Adalyn Barkley taking second in the 200-meter dash and the 400-meter dash. Bailey Hendricks placed third in the 1,600-meter run, and Maci Beyer finished third in the high jump

Audrey Pate led Gillett with a third-place finish in the triple jump.

Podium finishes were:

Shawano

200-meter dash: Adalyn Barkley, second, 26.58.

400-meter dash: Barkley, second, 58.37.

1,600-meter run: Bailey Hendricks, third, 5:36.16.

High jump: Maci Beyer, third, 5-2.

Suring

High jump: Aliya Cox, first, 5-2.

Triple jump: Cox, first, 34-11.50.

400-meter dash: Cox, second, 1:03.78; Gillett

Triple jump: Audrey Pate, third, 32-6.25.

Red Hawk Challenge
Pulaski's Keaton Dauk won the 60-meter hurdles and a pair of girls teams won the 4x200- and 4x400-meter relays when they

competed at Ripon College.

Dauk finished in 8.64 seconds. The 4x200-meter relay team had a time of 1:50.48, and the 4x400-meter relay team had a time of 4:15.21.

Other top 10 finishers for the girls were:

200-meter dash: Olivia Sprangers, second, 26.83.

800-meter run: Olivia Stedl, second, 2:26.23.

60-meter dash: Sprangers, third, 7.99; Faye Brunke, fifth, 8.18.

60-meter hurdles: Kate-lyn Jossie, fourth, 10:06.

3,200-meter run: Adelaide Bruckert, fifth, 12:18.78.

400-meter dash: Emerson Fabry, fifth, 1:04.81; Anna Friedman, sixth, 1:05.30.

Long jump: Lydia Gwidt, ninth, 15-7.

Claiming top 10 spots for the boys were:

800-meter run: Daniel Augustine, third, 2:05.56.

4x400-meter relay: Third place.

4x200-meter relay: Fourth place.

High jump: Bennett Vanschyndel, third, 6-2; Isaac Lom, fourth, 6-0.

400-meter dash: Mitchell Pilon, fifth, 53.23.

1,600-meter run: Parker Marshall, fifth, 4:45.40.

200-meter dash: Kam McKeefry, sixth, 24.16.

3,200-meter run: Arden Gillen, seventh, 10:34.66.

60-meter hurdles: Joe Mijal, eighth, 9.31.

60-meter dash: McKeeefry, 10th, 7.39.

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The Newsday Crossword

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

TALK TO THE ANIMALS: Wolf, lion, etc.

by Steve Faiella

ACROSS

1 Word on oven dials

5 West African nation

9 Latin 101 verb

13 Sets as a price

17 Pisces follower

19 B-school subject

20 High-minded

22 Horn's sound

23 React to a great joke

26 Tavern fare

27 Don't listen to

28 Slugger's stats

29 Strangely amazing

31 Divested (of)

32 Shirt with no collar

33 Member of *la familia*

34 Notices in the distance

38 Stadium's oral approval

46 Riding horse

47 Stitch up

48 Luau adornments

49 Weapon with electrodes

50 Command like drill sergeants

54 "In my view..."

55 Days before holidays

56 Unspoken assent

57 Alumnae directory word

58 Contented sound

61 Smoke detector output

62 Low grade

63 Wintry complaint

64 Served meals to

65 20-Across standards

67 Express elation

72 Newly made, as wine

73 Batteries for remotes

74 What some spouses are called

75 Poke fun at

78 ___-Seltzer

81 French article

82 Well-phrased

83 Brit. lexicon

84 Knowledgeable and sensible

85 Extreme anxiety

87 Stop the auto suddenly

91 Essential ___ acids

92 Get together

93 Tummy muscles

94 Metal-rich deposits

95 Try to upset a person

99 Elegant and excellent

100 "Zip-a-Dee-Doo-__"

101 Novelist Tan

102 Elevator compartment

103 Singer Etheridge or actress McCarthy

107 Unsuccessful film

109 Espresso server

113 Cameo-shaped

114 Update your status online

118 Otter cousin

119 Target sport

120 Ally (with)

121 Fund, as a foundation

122 Pub servings

123 Just adequate

124 Shoe's back

125 84-Across mentor

DOWN

1 Ebenezer exclamation

2 Yankee retiree nickname

3 Fuzzy fruit

4 Snaky swimmers

5 Doled (out)

6 Feeling sore

7 "ur a riot"

8 Measured two-dimensionally

9 Home services website

10 Hardness scale inventor

11 Approx.

12 Private eyes

13 Simple rhyme scheme

14 Spotted

15 Very perceptive

16 Surprisingly agile

18 Avowed

21 Hemingway nickname

24 Wading bird

25 Driver-summoning app

30 Arizona flora

32 Dot on a state map

34 Plant firmly

35 Italian wine

36 Baby food, frequently

37 Printer supplies

38 Peruse

39 Antique, in the past

40 Price of admission

41 Harsh oratory

42 Pungent salad veggie

43 ___ buco (veal meal)

44 Withdraw gradually

45 Prohibition supporters

47 Warehouse's purpose

51 Imaginary

52 "That's ___ haven't heard"

53 Bureaucratic tangle

59 Football gear

60 Coif

63 Coiled 60-Down

64 Email letters

65 Passports, for short

66 South Korean TVs

68 Passé but charming

69 Diminish

70 Have no use for

71 Threesomes

76 Archipelago's parts

77 Nickname like Liz

78 On ___ with (comparable to)

79 The Dalai ___

80 Sort of sweater

82 "Lively" pursuits

83 "___ quiet!"

84 Steed-stopping shout

86 Nose woes

88 Mediocre mark

89 Shrewdly cautious

90 Bailiff's directive

92 Iroquois Confederacy group

96 Bridge seats

97 Hunter's garb

98 Surprise attack

99 Show concern

102 Llama cousin

103 NYC cultural venue

104 Diabolical

105 Pool path

106 Categories

107 Buzzers that fly

108 Bart's bus driver

109 Expressed, as a farewell

110 Payroll IDs

111 Cry of success

112 Avidly eager

115 Job listing letters

116 Plastic bag closer

117 Fleece source

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YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

Improve access to local court records

Wisconsin's municipal courts can have a significant and devastating impact on the lives of people who can't afford to pay a citation due to poverty. Without critical legal protections, unpaid municipal citations can lead to warrants, arrests and incarceration.

There is no right to counsel in Wisconsin's municipal courts, meaning people unable to afford an attorney face court alone, compounding the cycle of poverty and punishment. These courts risk operating in ways that undermine constitutional standards and disproportionately harm vulnerable communities; hence, there is a heightened need for transparency and accountability.

Public access to accurate court records and data is essential to upholding constitutional and statutory requirements. In December, a Milwaukee County Circuit Court judge ordered the Milwaukee Municipal Court and its judges to comply with statutory requirements mandating electronic recordings of all hearings on motions to reopen because of a defendant's inability to pay a judgment due to poverty. Judge David Borowski found that the court and its judges "have violated and very likely will continue to act in violation of their plain duties" to record these hearings.

These hearings can determine whether an individual faces severe sanctions, including arrest warrants, writs of commitment or driver's license suspensions. They also establish whether a judge is required to abide by certain poverty protections, like community service in lieu of payment for a defendant who faces incarceration due to poverty.

The ACLU of Wisconsin, for which I work, released a report last fall that underscores both the scope and the severe consequences of municipal court practices. The data used in this report was gathered from open records requests sent to each of Wisconsin's 219 municipal courts and 73 county jails.

Each court and jail operates independently, with differing policies, procedures and levels of transparency. Many courts and jails either failed to respond to our open records requests or provided incomplete data. Some jails claimed they could not separate out municipal warrants or commitments, while others demanded



Emma Shakeshaft
Guest columnist

exorbitant fees to locate records.

Municipal courts face minimal oversight and reporting requirements. They are encouraged, but not required, to submit an annual voluntary questionnaire.

The only statewide municipal court data published consists of the total number of cases by state, count and year, but these statistics are self-reported, unauthenticated and often incomplete. The result is an unreliable, outdated and incomplete dataset that fails to provide the transparency necessary for meaningful review.

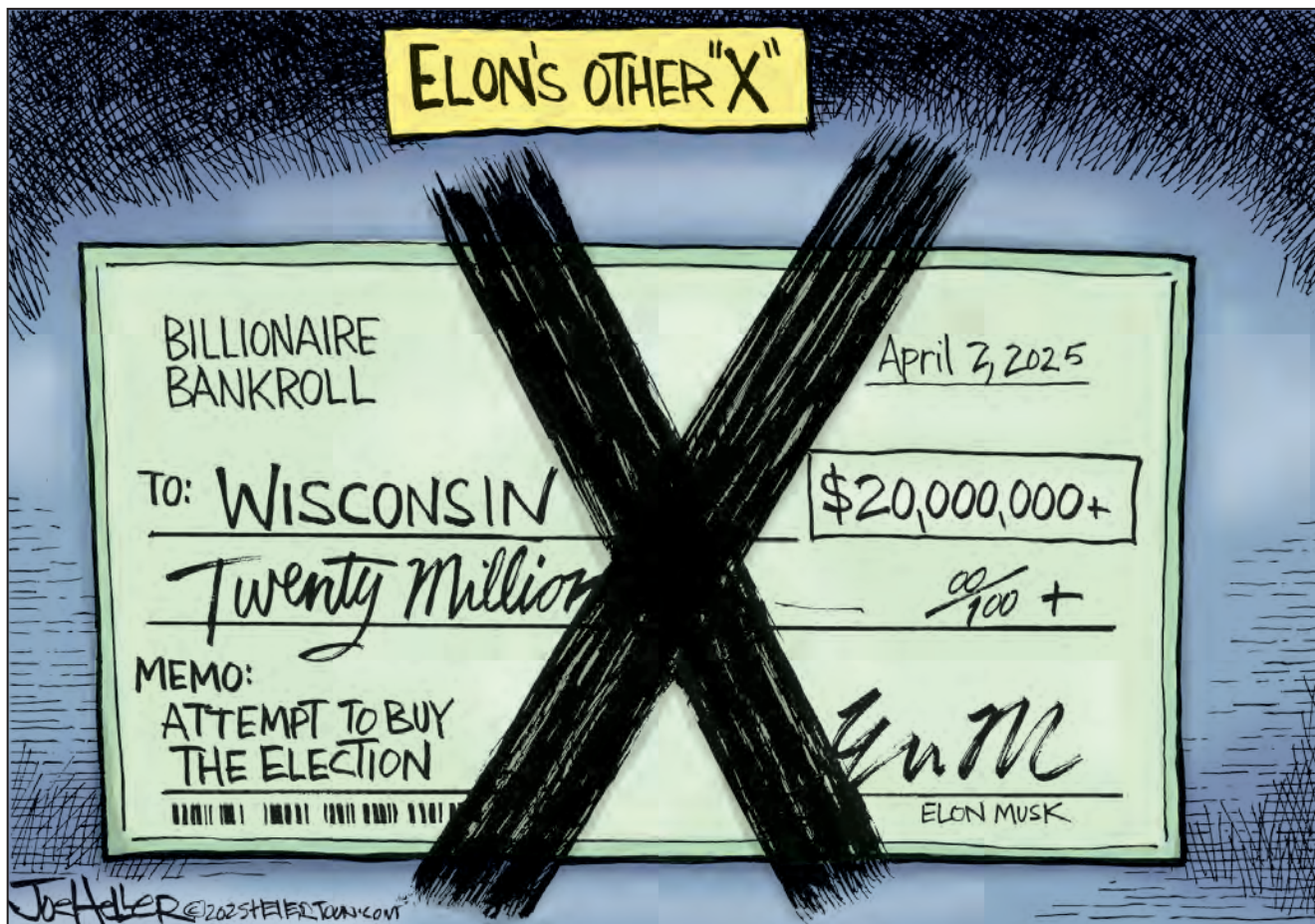
We can't rely only on open records as the primary tool for oversight. Governments must implement systems for collecting, vetting and reporting court data. Basic information, such as the number of warrants and commitments issued annually, how many people are jailed for failure to pay, and for how long, should be readily available. If a court or jail cannot provide this information, it should not have the ability to impose or enforce these sanctions.

Transparency is not an abstract ideal; it is a safeguard against unconstitutional practices and a tool for ensuring justice. When courts operate without transparency, individuals, especially those who are economically disadvantaged, are at a heightened risk of having their rights violated.

Courts and carceral institutions must have standardized, reliable systems for recording, analyzing, and reporting data. Wisconsin's municipal courts must be held to higher standards of transparency, and the state must implement policies that ensure courts are accountable to the communities they serve.

Without meaningful change, without appropriate oversight, many municipal courts will continue to punish poverty, making it difficult to ensure that community members receive the constitutional and statutory protections they are entitled to.

Emma Shakeshaft is a senior staff attorney and researcher for the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin Foundation. Your Right to Know is a monthly column distributed by the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council (wisfoic.org), a group dedicated to open government.



GUEST COLUMN

Medicare fraud should be next for DOGE

The Department of Government Efficiency's crack-down on waste, fraud and abuse is off to a fast start, but as an engine of government savings, DOGE still has substantial untapped potential.

That's because it hasn't yet addressed the fraud crippling one of the federal government's largest programs: Medicare. In fiscal year 2023 alone, "improper payments" in Medicare eclipsed \$50 billion.

If DOGE wants to put a real dent in government overspending while changing millions of Americans' lives for the better, it won't find a better target than Medicare fraud.

The legacy of Medicare after 60 years is one of relentless growth — both in the number of beneficiaries and in spending. Medicare expenditures now exceed \$1 trillion annually.

But the program's growth has only weakened its ability to effectively oversee its finances — creating a fat target for scam artists who calculate their odds of success are high and their risk of getting caught



Sally C. Pipes
Guest columnist

is low.

The numbers paint an alarming picture. In fiscal year 2024, 7.66% of the payments Medicare's Fee-for-Service program made to providers were "improper," meaning they failed to comply with legal requirements. Those payments totaled more than \$31 billion.

The improper payment rates for Medicare Advantage and the Medicare prescription drug benefit were not much better — 5.61% and 3.7%, respectively. That translates into a total of over \$22 billion in improper payments across the two programs in fiscal 2024.

In all, Medicare accounts for nearly one-fourth of the funds improperly spent by the government each year, according to a report from the Government Accountability Office.

That's a pitiful record — and has real human conse-

quences, both for seniors and for taxpayers.

Consider some of the most egregious cases of Medicare fraud. Earlier this year, a couple from Arizona "pleaded guilty for causing over \$1.2 billion of false and fraudulent claims to be submitted to Medicare and other health insurance programs for expensive, medically unnecessary wound grafts that were applied to elderly and terminally ill patients," according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

In 2023, the Department of Justice charged 23 Michigan residents with nabbing more than \$61.5 million from Medicare for unnecessary home health services. The feds allege that the defendants set up a complex web of home health care agencies in Detroit using straw owners — such as family members — and then paid bribes and kickbacks to recruiters to gain additional patients.

Every dollar spent improperly — or fraudulently — in Medicare is a dollar that can't go to a senior with legitimate health care needs.

Policymakers have

already identified numerous concrete strategies for reforming the program. One is to ensure that Medicare pays the same amount for equivalent services no matter where they're provided. This change, which has long been championed by GAO, could save taxpayers more than \$140 billion over the next decade.

Another potential reform would be to conduct more thorough audits of payments and claims. Auditors working at the state level have historically been successful at identifying fraud. Using their insights to improve federal Medicare oversight could help policymakers keep managing the program effectively as it continues to grow.

Work of the sort DOGE is doing is sorely needed. Waste and fraud run rampant in the federal government. Reforming Medicare can save not just money but lives.

Sally C. Pipes is president, chief executive officer and Thomas W. Smith Fellow in Health Care Policy at the Pacific Research Institute. This piece originally ran in the Detroit News.



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Letters must be typed and no longer than 400 words. All opinion pieces must be signed by the author, and an address and telephone number must be included for verification. Anonymous opinion pieces will not be published under any circumstances. The newspaper reserves the right to edit letters for accuracy, brevity and clarity, without changing the meaning or intent of the letter. Avoid personal attacks. Only one letter per writer will be published in a 14-day period, and letters from new writers will be considered first over more frequent participants. Longer pieces of up to 800 words will be considered for guest columns. All columns require a photo of the author. The newspaper reserves the right to decline to publish any letter for any reason.

Modest weight loss can provide potential health benefits

ThedaCare has some advice for those planning to shed some weight — make small reductions the first goal.

“Modest weight loss is a great initial goal,” said Dr. Ben Duffy, ThedaCare obesity medicine specialist. “Just a modest reduction in weight can yield significant health benefits, including improved cardiovascular health, reduced risk of diabetes and joint pain relief.”

There’s research supporting that, he said.

“Achieving and maintaining this small level of weight loss doesn’t require extreme dieting or rigorous workouts,” he said. “It involves simply adopting consistent, sustainable habits.”

With almost half of people in central and north-eastern Wisconsin having some form of obesity, it’s crucial to help people find ways to maintain a healthy weight, Duffy said. The Weight Wellness Solutions program is designed to do

just that.

Obesity is a complex disease, not a choice, Duffy said. A narrative persists that losing weight just takes eating less, exercising more and having willpower. It’s not that simple.

“Research shows that there are hormonal changes in a person who is obese,” he said. “In some people who diet and decrease calories, their hormones of hunger and metabolism start to look similar to a person who is of normal weight and malnourished.”

That results in people trying to fight the natural response in their body to eat, he said. As a result, metabolism slows. Thus, even if a person is eating less, they’re unable to lose weight.

Studies consistently show that small reductions in body weight can significantly decrease the risk of chronic diseases. Small is defined as a 5% to 10% reduction in body weight. For a 200-pound person,

that would be weight loss of 10 to 20 pounds.

Outcomes can include improvements in:

- Blood sugar control: A modest amount of weight loss helps the body use insulin more efficiently. This can prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes.
- Blood pressure: Weight loss lessens heart strain, which can lower both systolic and diastolic blood pressure. This reduces the risk of heart disease and stroke.
- Cholesterol levels: Reducing body fat can improve the balance of LDL (bad) cholesterol and HDL (good) cholesterol, helping to reduce plaque buildup in arteries.
- Joint pain: Weight loss can reduce stress on joints, helping to alleviate pain from conditions like arthritis.
- Mental health: Losing weight can improve mood and self-esteem, and reduce symptoms of anxiety and depression.

There’s no one path to

weight loss.

Some people may need to try more strategies than others. Some universals do apply, Duffy said.

Anyone striving to maintain weight loss should focus on the fundamentals of weight management: healthy eating,



DR. BENJAMIN DUFFY

regular exercise, ongoing self-monitoring and adequate sleep.

A balanced, nutrient- and fiber-rich diet is key to weight loss, Duffy said. Instead of focusing on calorie restriction or fad diets, aim for a diet that is varied and full of whole foods.

Incorporating sources like chicken, fish or legumes can help keep a person feeling satisfied and help preserve muscle mass during weight loss. Foods like brown rice,

quinoa and oats provide fiber. Fruits and vegetables foods are low in calories but packed with vitamins, minerals and fiber.

Avoid processed foods, and limit eating foods that come in packages and in wrappers.

Mindful eating involves paying attention to hunger cues and eating slowly. This can make eating more enjoyable and help a person more accurately realize when they’re full.

“And avoid drinking your calories,” Duffy said.

PUBLIC RECORD

SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

April 6

Deputies responded to 27 incidents, including operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated near Old Lake and Curt Black roads in the Town of Wescott; failure to report to jail on Engel Drive in Shawano; assisting at a fire on Sunrise Road in Gresham; trespassing on County Road F in the Town of Angelica; fleeing an officer near state Highway 22 and River Bend Lane in the Town of Green Valley; three 911 calls; three reckless driving incidents.

April 5

Deputies responded to 28 incidents, including operating while intoxicated near state Highway 29 and County Road U in the Town of Herman; a fire control burn on School House Road in the Town of Morris; one 911 call; one crash.

April 3

Deputies responded to 33 incidents, including fraud on Rolling Hills Court in the Town of Belle Plaine; animal bite on County Road A in the Town of Herman; noise on Hiawatha Court in the Town of Wescott; operating without a license on North Main Street in Shawano; assisting the fire department on East Wall Street in Bowler; juvenile alcohol on U.S. Highway 45 in the Town of Wittenberg; animal noise on Hiawatha Court in the Town of Wescott; bail jumping on County Road A in the Town of Richmond; four 911 calls; one reckless driving incident; one traffic hazard; two crashes.

April 2

Deputies responded to 35 incidents, including harassment at the Shawano County Jail, 405 N. Main St., Shawano; harassment on Hiawatha Court in the Town of Wescott; warrant at Menominee Tribal Jail, W3292 Wolf River Drive, Keshena; vehicle

fire on Birch Drive in the Town of Maple Grove; assisting the fire department at Dollar General, 243 S. Cecil St., Bonduel; animal bite on Valley Road in the Town of Waukechon; trespassing on Curt Black Road in the Town of Wescott; operating without a license on East Elizabeth Street in Shawano; one 911 call; two reckless driving incidents; one traffic hazard; one welfare check; 10 crashes.

April 1

Deputies responded to 23 incidents, including an animal problem on Leopold Road in the Town of Herman; ignition interlock violation on East Green Bay Street in Shawano; sick animal on Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; bail jumping on Shady Lane in the Town of Washington; animal noise on Hiawatha Court in the Town of Wescott; three 911 calls; one traffic hazard.

March 31

Deputies responded to 40 incidents, including eight failures to report to jail at the Huber Work Release Center, 1240 Engel Drive, Shawano; noise on Sandy Drive in the Town of Washington; repossession on Porter Road in the Town of Waukechon; weight restriction violation on County Road E in the Town of Washington; sick animal on state Highway 47 in the Town of Hartland; operating without a license on state Highway 47 in the Town of Lessor; threatening on South Warrington Avenue in Cecil; animal problem on Big Lake Road in the Town of Red Springs; sick animal on Riverside Drive in the Town of Wescott; property theft on County Road B in the Town of Waukechon; two 911 calls; two reckless driving incidents; five traffic hazards; one welfare check; two crashes.

SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

April 6

Officers responded to a disturbance and harassment calls on East Center Street;

drug offenses on Prospect Circle; harassment on Engel Drive; fraud on Engel Drive; a disturbance on East Green Bay Street; an intoxicated person on South River Street; 911 call.

April 3

Officers responded to 22 incidents, including threatening on South Bartlett Street; juvenile problem at an undisclosed location; threatening on South Maiden Lane; death investigation at an undisclosed location; drugs at Walmart, 1244 E. Green Bay St.; recovered stolen property at the Shawano Police Department, 125 S. Sawyer St.; repossession on South Lutz Street; truancy at an undisclosed location; one reckless driving incident; three welfare checks.

April 2

Officers responded to 24 incidents, including truancy at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B; four tobacco problem calls at Shawano Community Middle School, 1050 S. Union St.; juvenile problem at Olga Brener Intermediate School, 1300 S. Union St.; trespassing on South Lincoln Street; ATV theft on South Andrews Street; five 911 calls; four welfare checks.

April 1

Officers responded to 23 incidents, including animal noise on South Humphrey Circle; custodial interference on Pearl Avenue; shoplifting at Walmart, 1244 E. Green Bay St.; vandalism on South Evergreen Street; warrant on South Prospect Street; four welfare checks; two crashes.

March 31

Officers responded to 21 incidents, including an animal problem on South Humphrey Circle; repossession on East Green Bay Street; juvenile problem at Olga Brener Intermediate School, 1300 S. Union St.; fraud at Pink Shears Pet Grooming, 1488 E. Green Bay St.; one 911 call; one traffic hazard; one welfare check.

Listen to

~ Health Talk ~

Saturdays at 10:00 am on

WTCH am960 and FM 96.1

Surgery the Ultimate Placebo? New Updates

April 12

Dr. Ian Harris, Orthopedic Surgeon and Epidemiologist

Social media and your brain - good, bad, or both?

April 26th

Dr. Matt Minich, UW-Madison

Hosted by

Dr. Brian Grieves, DC, MPH

04/11, 04/18/2025

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Housing Authority of Shawano County, Wisconsin

- Replacement of the Roof at the Oakridge Apartment Building, 504 Oak Drive, Shawano WI. 54155

Bids / Proposals will be received at the Office of the Housing Authority of Shawano County, 1259 Engel Dr, Shawano WI 54929, until Thursday, April 17, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. Bids for the Oakridge Roof Replacement Project will be officially opened and read aloud.

Bids will be accepted for the Oakridge Roof Replacement Project on the Bid Form in the Project Manual.

Successful Bidder will be determined upon the Project Manual's requirements; Reference checks, experience working with Davis Bacon wage rates, warranty provisions, schedule to complete the work, relative response time when service calls are required, and all other items will be reviewed for the identification of the responsible, responsive bidder.

Copies of the bid requirements may be obtained at the office of Daniel J. Meissner AIA, LLC, 1230 E. Calumet St., Appleton, WI 54915. Email: daniel.meissnerarch@gmail.com., Contact Dan Meissner, Architect, 920-428-0982 or Jeff Theis, Executive Director, 715-526-6960, if you have questions or if you are interested in reviewing the projects and submitting a bid/proposal for the project.

The owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids / proposals and to waive any informalities thereof. No bidder may withdraw his bid/proposal within 30 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Oakridge Roof Replacement bids shall be submitted including a 5% bid bond to the Housing Authority of Shawano County as noted.

The Requirements of Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 apply to this project and that, to the greatest extent feasible contractors shall fulfill their obligation to use lower income residents as trainees and/or employees. * Reference Federal Register (33884-33887), June 30, 1994, Subpart 135.38.

Pursuant to the Build America, Buy America Act (BABA), enacted as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Pub. L. 117-58, 41 U.S.C. § 8301 note, the Federal Financial Assistance used to fund this infrastructure project is required to apply a domestic content procurement preference (the "Buy America Preference" or "BAP") for all construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure, including buildings and real property, unless application of the BAP has been waived by HUD. Additional details on fulfilling the BABA requirements can be found at:

https://www.hud.gov/program/offices/general_counsel/build_america_buy_america.

Attention of bidders is particularly called to the "Notice of Requirement for Affirmative Action to ensure Equal Employment Opportunity (Executive Order 11246) and Supplemental Instructions to Bidders" contained in the bid documents, which sets forth, in part, goals, and timetables for the employment of women and minorities in the project area.

Contractors and subcontractors must pay not less than the Davis-Bacon prevailing wage rates established by the U.S. Department of Labor included in the project manual information.

Mr. Jeff Theis
Executive Director / CEO
The Housing Authority of Shawano County
1259 Engel Dr,
Shawano, WI 54929
715-526-6960
WNAXLP

COURT NEWS

• Nicole A. Kaquatosh, 41, Shawano, pleaded no contest March 31 to possession of THC (second or subsequent offense). Judge Katherine Sloma levied fines and sentenced her to five days in county jail.

• Maria A. Webster, 31, Keshena, pleaded no contest April 1 to possession of narcotic drugs. Sloma withheld sentencing and placed her on three years of probation with conditions.

• A jury Oct. 9 found Armando Valencia, 42, Shawano, guilty of first-degree child sexual assault, repeated sexual assault of the same child, causing a child under age 13 to view or listen to a sex act and a misdemeanor

count of bail jumping. On April 4, Judge William Kussel Jr. sentenced Valencia to 60 years in state prison, followed by 18 years of extended supervision with conditions.

• Jared J. Lane, 30, Shawano, pleaded no contest April 1 to substantial battery intending bodily harm, false imprisonment and possession of methamphetamine. Judge Michael Moran withheld sentencing and placed him on four years of probation with conditions.

• Darcy A. Spruce, 43, Shawano, was charged March 31 with second-degree recklessly endangering safety, substantial battery intending bodily harm, and misdemeanor counts of disorderly

conduct and resisting or obstructing an officer. Sloma set a \$2,500 signature bond and scheduled a status conference for May 27.

• Nicole Lee Bessert, 31, Mattoon, was charged March 31 with possession of methamphetamine, possession of THC (second or subsequent offense) and a misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. Sloma set a \$250 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for May 12.

• Rupert L. Welch, 34, Bowler, was charged March 31 with possession of methamphetamine, possession of THC (second or subsequent offense) and a misdemeanor count of possession of drug

paraphernalia. Sloma set a \$2,500 signature bond and scheduled a status conference for May 27.

• Amber L. Burke, 34, Shawano, appeared April 1 on charges of manufacturing with intent to deliver amphetamine, manufacturing with intent to deliver heroin, possession of narcotic drugs and six counts of felony bail jumping. With bond set at \$50,000 cash, Sloma scheduled a status conference for April 29.

• Avion A. Aleman, 19, Shawano, was charged April 2 with felony bail jumping and misdemeanor bail jumping. Sloma set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for May 20.

• Justin M. Wilber, 34, Keshena, was charged April 2 with possession of THC (second or subsequent offense) and four counts of felony bail jumping. Sloma set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for May 20.

• Kia J. Gaston, 19, Schofield, was charged April 4 with four counts of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (second offense), operating while revoked and resisting or obstructing an officer. Sloma set a \$1,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for April 14.

• Wade A. Waupoose, 59, Shawano, was charged April 4 with felony bail jumping. Sloma set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for May 6.

• Alexandria M. Sturdevant, 33, Keshena, was charged April 4 with possession of narcotic drugs and misdemeanor counts of criminal trespass to a dwelling, disorderly conduct and resisting or obstructing an officer. Sloma set a \$2,500 signature bond and scheduled a status conference for May 19.

State's 2024 honey crop value down 9% from previous year

Honey production from producers with five or more colonies in Wisconsin totaled 2.51 million pounds in 2024, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – Honey report.

This was 10% lower than the 2.79 million pounds produced in 2023. The number of honey-producing colonies in the state, at 57,000, was down 5,000 from 2023.

This number does not include producers with fewer than five colonies or producers who did not harvest honey. Yield per colony in Wisconsin averaged 44 pounds, compared to 45 pounds per colony in 2023.

Colonies that produced honey in more than one state were counted in each state where the honey was produced. Therefore, at the United States level, yield per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted.

On Dec. 15, 2024, producer honey stocks in Wisconsin, excluding stocks under government loan programs, were 1.104 million pounds, 10% higher than 2023. The state's 2024 honey crop was valued at \$8.85 million, down 9% from the previous year's \$9.74 million. The average price per pound for all marketing channels in Wisconsin was \$3.53, up 4 cents from 2023.

United States honey production in 2024 totaled 134 million pounds, down

4% from 2023. There were 2.6 million colonies producing honey in 2024, up 3% from 2023. Yield per colony averaged 51.7 pounds, down 6% from 2023.

Producer honey stocks were 43.4 million pounds on Dec. 15, 2024, down 2% from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

United States honey prices increased 5% during 2024 to \$2.69 per pound, compared to \$2.55 per pound in 2023. United States and state level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through cooperatives, private and retail channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel.

Prices for the 2023 crop reflect honey sold in 2023 and 2024. Some 2023 crop honey was sold in 2024, which caused some revisions to the 2023 crop prices.

The average prices paid in 2024 for honey bee queens, packages and nucs were \$18, \$89 and \$109, respectively.

Pollination income for 2024 was \$226 million, down 11% from 2023. Other income from honeybees in 2024 was \$51.3 million, down 11% from 2023.

The complete report can be found on the USDA NASS website at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications.

Wisconsin milk cows number 1.27 million head

Milk production in Wisconsin during February totaled 2.48 billion pounds, down 4% from the previous February, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – Milk Production report.

However, production was down less than 1% when adjusted for the leap year. The average number of milk cows during Febru-

ary, at 1.27 million head, was unchanged from the previous month but down 5,000 from February 2024.

Monthly production per cow averaged 1,960 pounds, down 65 pounds from last February.

Milk production in the 24 major states during February totaled 17.0 billion pounds, down 2.6% from February 2024.

Legals
WNAXLP

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04/04/25, 04/11/25, 04/18/25
STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT SHAWANO COUNTY

Mortgage Solutions of Colorado, LLC, D.B.A. Mortgage Solutions Financial Plaintiff, vs. Amanda Gross, Joseph M. Gross. The United States of America acting by and through the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Green Bay Anesthesia Associates, S.C. Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
Case No. 24-CV-000144

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that by virtue of a judgment of foreclosure entered on January 16, 2025 in the amount of \$208,228.18 the Sheriff will sell the described premises at public auction as follows:
TIME: May 14, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
TERMS: Pursuant to said judgment, 10% of the successful bid must be paid to the sheriff at the sale in cash, cashier's check or certified funds, payable to the clerk of courts (personal checks cannot and will not be accepted). The balance of the successful bid must be paid to the clerk of courts in cash, cashier's check or certified funds no later than ten days after the court's confirmation of the sale or else the 10% down payment is forfeited to the plaintiff. The property is sold as is, and subject to all liens and encumbrances. **PLACE:** In the front lobby of the Shawano County Courthouse, City and County of Shawano
DESCRIPTION: THAT PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4 OF SW 1/4), SECTION ELEVEN (11), TOWNSHIP TWENTY-SEVEN (27) NORTH, RANGE SIXTEEN (16) EAST, IN THE TOWN OF WESCOTT, SHAWANO COUNTY, WISCONSIN, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE WEST 1/4 CORNER OF THE SAID SECTION 11; THENCE SOUTH 01 DEG. 15 MIN. 37 SEC. EAST ALONG THE SECTION LINE 1326.21 FEET TO A FOUND SNM AT THE ONE-SIXTEENTH CORNER; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEG. 09 MIN. 42 SEC. EAST ALONG THE ONE-SIXTEENTH LINE 891.74 FEET TO A FOUND 2" IRON PIPE AND THE PLACE OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEG. 09 MIN. 42 SEC. EAST CONTINUING ALONG THE SAME LINE 153.90 FEET TO A SET 1" IRON PIPE, THENCE SOUTH 00 DEG. 48 MIN. 56 SEC. EAST 499.15 FEET TO A SET 1" IRON PIPE; THENCE SOUTH 44 DEG. 54 MIN. 04 SEC. WEST 245.19 FEET TO A SET 1" IRON PIPE AT THE INTERSECTION WITH THE NORTH LINE OF CTH; THENCE NORTH 47 DEG. 46 MIN. 26 SEC. WEST ALONG THE SAID NORTH LINE 325.77 FEET TO A FOUND 1" IRON PIPE; THENCE NORTH 43 DEG. 23 MIN. 28 SEC. EAST 373.54 FEET; THENCE NORTH 01 DEG. 01 MIN. 21 SEC. WEST 184.67 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING; TOGETHER WITH THE RECIPROCAL EASEMENT RECORDED AS DOC NO. 751815.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: W5634 Lake Dr Shawano, WI 54166-1472
DATED: February 17, 2025
Gray & Associates, L.L.P.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
16345 West Glendale Drive
New Berlin, WI 53151-2841
(414) 224-8404

George Lenzner
Shawano County Sheriff

Please go to www.gray-law.com to obtain the bid for this sale.
Gray & Associates, L.L.P. is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. If you have previously received a discharge in a chapter 7 bankruptcy case, this communication should not be construed as an attempt to hold you personally liable for the debt.

WNAXLP

Legals
WNAXLP

69d84491
03/28/25, 04/04/25, 04/11/25
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, SHAWANO COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF SYLVIA CAROL ADAMSKI
Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)
Case No. 25-PR-07

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 03/07/1937 and date of death 11/06/2024, was domiciled in Shawano County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of N1218 Maple Rd., Pulaski, WI 54162.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is [Date].
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano County Courthouse, Shawano, Wisconsin, Room Form completed by Wm. J. Vande Castle
VANDE CASTLE, S.C.
303 S. Jefferson St.
Green Bay, WI 54301
(920) 822-8232
Bar Number 1016919

WNAXLP

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04/11/25, 04/18/25, 04/25/25
STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT SHAWANO COUNTY
COVANTAGE CREDIT UNION
PO BOX 107
ANTIGO, WI 54409 PUBLICATION SUMMONS
Plaintiff, vs. OSCAR LOPEZ
703 S. HARRISON AVENUE Wis. Stat. §810 Replevin
WITTENBERG, WI 54499
Defendant.

PUBLICATION SUMMONS
CASE NO. 25-CV-34
HON. WILLIAM F. KUSSEL JR.
Money Judgment: 30301 The amount claimed exceeds \$10,000.00
Other Contracts 30303: Wis.Stat. §810 Replevin

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN.
To each person named above as a defendant:

You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The Complaint, which is attached, states the nature and basis of the legal action. Within 40 days after the date of first publication, you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in Chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the Complaint. The Court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The answer must be sent or delivered to the Court, whose address is Shawano County Courthouse, 311 N. Main Street, Shawano, WI 54166, and to Galanis, Pollack, Jacobs & Johnson, S.C., plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is 413 North 2nd Street, Suite 150, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not provide a proper answer within 40 days, the Court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

DATED at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on March 27, 2025.

GALANIS, POLLACK, JACOBS & JOHNSON, SC
Attorneys for Plaintiff
413 N. 2nd Street, Suite 150
/S/ Electronically signed
Milwaukee, WI 53203 Joshua J. Brady
Telephone: (414) 271-5400 WI State Bar No. 1041428

WNAXLP

Legals
WNAXLP

04/11/25, 04/18/25, 04/25/25
STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, OF SHAWANO COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE
Legend James Caldwell
By Katalina Gabrielle Rivera

Amended NOTICE and ORDER for Name Change Hearing
case No. 25cv26

NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: Legend James Caldwell To: Legend James Rivera Birth Certificate: Legend James Caldwell
IT IS ORDERED:
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Shawano County State of Wisconsin: Judge's name: Judge William Kussel 311 N Main St Shawano WI May 02, 2025 08:15 a.m.
If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-526-9347 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

WNAXLP

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03/28/25, 04/04/25, 04/11/25
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT SHAWANO COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF
Alexis Jane Hayburn
By Alexis Jane Hayburn

NOTICE AND ORDER for Name Change Hearing
case No. 25cv45

NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: Alexis Jane Hayburn To: Alexis Jane Stutleien Birth Certificate: Alexis Jane Hayburn
IT IS ORDERED:
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Shawano County State of Wisconsin: Judge's name: Judge Katherine Sloma 311 N Main St Shawano WI 04/16/2025 8:45 a.m. If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-526-9347 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

WNAXLP

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04/11/25
Notice of Public Sale
Lakeland Storage, 722 Waukechon St, Shawano, WI 54166.
Bidding will take place on www.StorageTreasures.com
Sale ends April 28, 2025, at 11AM.
Bidding is on the complete contents of the unit.

Owner- Monica Naja Contents: grill, toys, boxes, mirror, fish tank, misc.

WNAXLP

c382eee2
04/11/25, 04/18/25, 04/25/25
COURT, OF SHAWANO COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE
Ronald John Minter
By Ronald John Minter

NOTICE AND ORDER for Name Change Hearing
case No. 25cv57

NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: Ronald John Minter To: Jack Watson Birth Certificate: Ronald John Minter
IT IS ORDERED: This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Shawano County State of Wisconsin: Judge's name: Judge William Kussel 311 N Main St Shawano WI May 14 2025 08:15 a.m. If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-526-9347 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

WNAXLP

Legals
WNAXLP

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04/11/25, 04/18/25, 04/25/25
STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, OF SHAWANO COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE
Lucas Allen Grignon
By Lucas Allen Grignon

NOTICE AND ORDER for Name Change Hearing
case No. 25cv59

NOTICE IS GIVEN: A petition was filed, asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: Lucas Allen Grignon
To: Tracy Elliott Veil
Birth Certificate: Lucas Allen Grignon
IT IS ORDERED:
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Shawano County State of Wisconsin: Judge's name: Judge William Kussel 311 N Main St Shawano WI May 13 2025 08:15 a.m. If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-526-9347 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

WNAXLP

e9f4470c
04/04/25, 04/11/25, 04/18/25
STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT SHAWANO COUNTY
MidFirst Bank
Plaintiff, vs. Cassidy A. Welch, Newcap Community Development Fund, LLC and Hoganson, LLC
Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
Case No. 24-CV-000209

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that by virtue of a judgment of foreclosure entered on February 3, 2025 in the amount of \$137,402.97 the Sheriff will sell the described premises at public auction as follows:
TIME: May 14, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
TERMS: Pursuant to said judgment, 10% of the successful bid must be paid to the sheriff at the sale in cash, cashier's check or certified funds, payable to the clerk of courts (personal checks cannot and will not be accepted). The balance of the successful bid must be paid to the clerk of courts in cash, cashier's check or certified funds no later than ten days after the court's confirmation of the sale or else the 10% down payment is forfeited to the plaintiff. The property is "sold as is" and subject to all liens and encumbrances.
PLACE: In the front lobby of the Shawano County Courthouse, City and County of Shawano
DESCRIPTION: Lot 2 of Certified Survey Map No. 2307 recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Shawano County, Wisconsin, in Volume 8 of Certified Survey Maps on Page 274, as Document No. 544072; being a part of the NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 7, Township 29 North, Range 11 East, in the Town of Aniwa, Shawano County, Wisconsin.
PROPERTY ADDRESS: W18977 1st St Aniwa, WI 54408-9775
DATED: March 4, 2025
Gray & Associates, L.L.P.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
16345 West Glendale Drive
New Berlin, WI 53151-2841
(414) 224-8404

George Lenzner
Shawano County Sheriff

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Gray & Associates, L.L.P. is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. If you have previously received a discharge in a chapter 7 bankruptcy case, this communication should not be construed as an attempt to hold you personally liable for the debt.

WNAXLP

LISTENING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hand and said, ‘I’ll be right back.’ He couldn’t get out the door fast enough. He ran out of his own office.”

Lyerly added that her group had an appointment with him.

“He couldn’t be any more absent,” she said.

Not all Republicans are like that, though. Shirley Hinze, a Democrat who faced off against Rep. Elijah Behnke for the 6th Assembly District seat, said that Behnke has held several in-person listening sessions, including one she personally attended in Shawano. She lamented that the Shawano town hall did not have any Republicans present and speaking on issues.

Once the criticism of Wied ended, the discussion continued to other issues. Scott Frechette, a young tribal member of the Menominee Nation, said he was worried that the federal executive orders from President Donald Trump, especially on immigration, could threaten the sovereignty of his and other tribes.

“Trump is not for us as a tribal people,” Frechette said. “Within his first day in office, he changed the Indigenous Alaskan name of Denali (back) to Mt. McKinley. Two Bureau of Indian Affairs offices closed, one right here in Shawano. He’s rescinded funding for tribal colleges and educational initiatives for tribal colleges. Because of that budget cut, Haskell University had to let go of nearly one-third of their staff.”

Frechette continued that the Navajo Code Talkers web page had been removed by the Trump Administration. That causes him to worry about whether the Menominee people and its tribal government could be in jeopardy.

“I’m sure as hell worried,” Frechette said. “The whole ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) situation got so bad on our reservation that they started handing out tribal IDs for free because they were afraid they would get stopped by ICE.”

Continuing on the



Shirley Hinze, the Democratic candidate for the 6th Assembly District seat last November, rails against the lack of sufficient funding for schools and other issues during a listening session March 31 at the Shawano Civic Center. LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

subject of immigration, Shawano resident Richard Sarnwick said he was worried for dairy farms, which rely heavily on undocumented labor.

“The people who own these big farms, they need workers,” Sarnwick said. “How are we going to staff these things?”

Health care was also an issue for many in attendance. Dr. Heather Nennig, a Shawano resident who works for the Menominee Tribal Clinic, said that rural health programs could suffer because of proposed cuts to Medicare and Medicaid. She cited the recent closing of a birthing center in Waupaca by ThedaCare as an example.

“There’s this constant question of, ‘When are we next?’” Nennig said. “A lot of our pregnant patients use Medicaid, which is Badger Care here in the state, to fund their pregnancy, as well as to have their newborns and their children on insurance. It affects elders who are in nursing homes. It affects our children. It affects our working families who

can’t afford insurance otherwise.”

School funding was discussed at the listening session, especially when it comes to schools going out for referendum. The Bonduel School District just had a referendum to override the budget caps set by the state, while the neighboring Shawano School District asked for \$51 million for facility improvements and expansion.

Dan Weidner, first vice chairman of the Shawano County Democratic Party and a biology teacher for 33 years, noted that schools are being limited

OBITUARY



Peter Kaufman

A service of remembrance for Peter Kaufman will be held on Friday, April 11, at the Bradley Funeral Home. Visitation will begin at 9:30 a.m. with a service at 11 a.m. and a meal to follow. A complete obituary can be found at www.bradleyfh.com.

in when they can call for a referendum, specifically the spring and fall elections. He noted that the referenda had a 77% passing rate, even as someone else in the audience pointed out that Shawano’s referendum failed in April 2024 before passing seven months later.

“Most people respected and liked their local school systems enough that, three-quarters of the time, they were passing the referendum,” Weidner said. “They want to cut that back. Another thing that bothers me is that the state is still sitting, because they can’t get together and make their minds up about it, they’re still sitting on \$4 billion of excess money.”

Lyerly said the antidote to all that the GOP is doing to the American people is to come together and tell their stories and their concerns at listening sessions like this one.

“We are not alone,” Lyerly said. “Their strategy is to divide us with fear so that we feel like we’re the only ones, that there’s no hope for us, and to demoralize us. We’re just suffering and can’t reach out for help. When you tell your story, and someone hears it, and they say, ‘That’s my story, too,’ that’s when we start to organize and come together, and that’s how we’re going to get through this.”

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

Legals
WNAXLP

983f9228
04/04/25, 04/11/25, 04/18/25
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, SHAWANO COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF RICHARD B. KESSEN
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 25-PR-17
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth April 24, 1950 and date of death January 11, 2025, was domiciled in Shawano County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of N7502 Hummingbird Road, Eland, WI 54427.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent’s estate is 06/30/2025
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano County Courthouse, 311 N. Main Street, Shawano, WI, Room 202
Attorney Miranda M. Lamb
Nolan & Deffner Legacy Law
1803 Stewart Avenue,
Wausau, WI 54401
715-842-0888
1112872
WNAXLP

04/04, 04/11/2025

Advertisement for Bids
Wittenberg Sidewalk Improvement Project
Village of Wittenberg, Shawano County, Wisconsin

Federally Funded WisDOT Transportation Alternatives Project I.D 6107-03-70
Sponsor: Village of Wittenberg, Wisconsin

The Village of Wittenberg will receive sealed proposals for the Wittenberg Sidewalk Improvement Project in the Village of Wittenberg, Shawano County, Wisconsin. Improvements include construction of approximately 0.9 miles of new concrete sidewalk in seven areas throughout the Village of Wittenberg to provide a more connected sidewalk system. Work will include topsoil stripping, grading, and providing stone base for construction of the concrete sidewalk. Minor storm sewer improvements are proposed in three areas to provide proper drainage.

Bids will be received until **10:00 a.m. local time, Friday, May 2, 2025 at the Village of Wittenberg Hall, 208 W. Vinal Street, Wittenberg, Wisconsin**, at which time and place all proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Public is welcome to attend the bid opening.

Bids: Proposals shall be prepared and submitted on the forms provided in the bid documents. All proposals shall be submitted in a sealed envelope labeled "Proposal – Sidewalk Improvement Project, Village of Wittenberg". No proposal shall be accepted after 10:00 a.m. on **Friday, May 2, 2025**.

Examination/Purchase: The Information for Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Contract, Plans, Specifications, and Forms of Bid Bond, and Performance and Payment Bond are on file and may be examined at the following locations. There will be one full set of plans & bid documents (hard copy) for viewing.

Viewing Locations:
Martenson and Eisele, Inc.: 1377 Midway Rd., Menasha, WI 54952 (920) 731-0381
Village of Wittenberg Village Hall, 208 W. Vinal Street, Wittenberg, WI (715) 253-6063
Builders Exchange of WI: W2518 County Road JJ, Appleton, WI (920) 687-8782
Blueprint Services offers website viewing at www.m-eplanroom.com prior to purchase

Purchase Method:
Plans and Specifications can be purchased at www.m-eplanroom.com from Blueprint Services.

Bid Security/Withdrawal/Rejection: No bid will be received unless accompanied by a certified check or bid bond equal to at least 5% but not more than 10% of the bid payable to the Village of Wittenberg as a guarantee that if the bid is accepted, the Bidder will execute and file the Contract, Performance and Payment Bonds, and Certificate of Insurance within fifteen days after the award of the Contract. If the successful Bidder files the Contract, Bonds, and Certificate of Insurance, the Owner shall return the check or bond upon execution of the Contract. If the Bidder fails to file the Contract, Bonds, and Certificate of Insurance, the amount of the check or bid bond shall be forfeited to the Village of Wittenberg as liquidated damages.

No bid shall be withdrawn after the opening of the bids, without the consent of the Owner, for a period of ninety (90) days after the scheduled time for closing of the bids. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in the bidding.

Prequalification: All Contractors that supply a proposal shall be a pre-qualified contractor by Village of Wittenberg. A "Bidders Proof of Responsibility" form and information shall be filed with the Village prior to the bid opening. **Pre-qualification information shall be submitted to Martenson & Eisele, Inc. at 1377 Midway Road, P.O. Box 449, Menasha, WI 54952 not later than 4:00 p.m. Friday, April 25, 2025.**

Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Transportation Alternatives Program: The project is proposed to be funded with federal funding from the WisDOT TAP Program that has statutory requirements described in the bid documents, including but not limited to:

- Labor Compliance, FHWA-1273
- Title VI Nondiscrimination
- American with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)
- Non-Collusion
- Prime Contractor Participation
-

Prime Contractor Participation: The Prime Contractor shall perform at least 30 percent of the original contract amount with the contractor's own organization. The contractor's own organization is defined as workers the contractor employs and pays directly as well as equipment the contractor owns or rents, either with or without operators.

DBE's: Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, including minority business enterprises and women business enterprises, are encouraged to submit bid proposals. Contractors are encouraged to use DBE's as subcontractors. DBE requirements of WisDOT 49 CFR part 23 for this project is Discretionary. All required documentation shall be submitted with bids.

Engineer:	Owner:
Martenson & Eisele, Inc. 1377 Midway Road Menasha, WI 54952 (920) 731-0381	Village of Wittenberg Traci Matsche, Village Clerk P.O. Box 331 208 W. Vinal Street Wittenberg, WI 54499 (715) 253-6063

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A stylized illustration of a two-story house with a red roof, white walls, and a yellow fence in front. The house has a chimney and several windows.

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04/11, 04/18/2025

INVITE TO BID

The Town of Almon, Shawano County is seeking Road Work bids for the following specifications:
Cold Mix Wedging – Cost per mile and road maintenance.
The Town of Almon Board has the right to accept or reject any or all bids. **Sealed bids will be accepted no later than April 22, 2025 by 5:00pm.** Bids are to be delivered to the Town of Almon, Attention: Almon Town Chairman, W16163 Hennig Lake Ln, Wittenberg WI 54499. Questions can be directed to Steve Onesti, Chairman, at 715-881-0279.
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All Flavors Authentic Jose Cuervo
Margaritas

\$13.59
1.75 ltr.



All Flavors Chi-Chi's
Cocktails

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Rum Chata Cream
Liqueurs

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Canadian Whiskey

\$8.99
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Crown Royal
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\$42.99
1.75 ltr.



Windsor
Canadian Whiskey

\$9.99
1.75 ltr.



Jameson
Irish Whiskey

\$42.99
1.75 ltr.



Handmade Tito's
Vodka

\$29.99
1.75 ltr.



Small Batch Elijah Craig
Bourbon Whiskey

\$23.99
750 ml.



Yellowstone
Bourbon Whiskey

\$38.99
1.75 ltr.



Regular or Light Kessler
Whiskey

\$15.69
1.75 ltr.



Seagram's 7 Crown
Whiskey

\$18.99
1.75 ltr.



Coconut, Cherry or Spiced Admiral Nelson
Rum

\$12.69
1.75 ltr.



Distilled Platinum 7x
Vodka

\$11.99
1.75 ltr.



Canadian Mist
Whiskey

\$13.99
1.75 ltr.



Canadian Club
Whiskey

\$16.99
1.75 ltr.



Early Times
Whiskey

\$16.99
1.75 ltr.



Original, Honey, Apple or Fire Jack Daniel's
Whiskey

\$37.99
1.75 ltr.



Light Rye, Light Cherry or Light Mount Royal
Whiskey

\$20.99
1.75 ltr.



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Vodka

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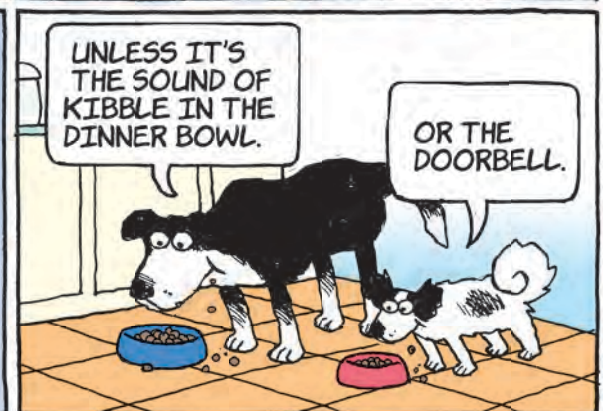
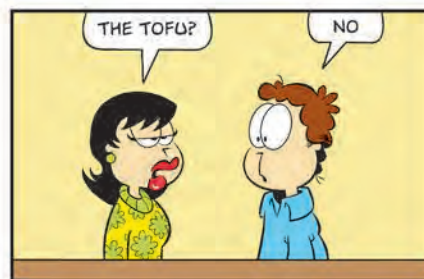
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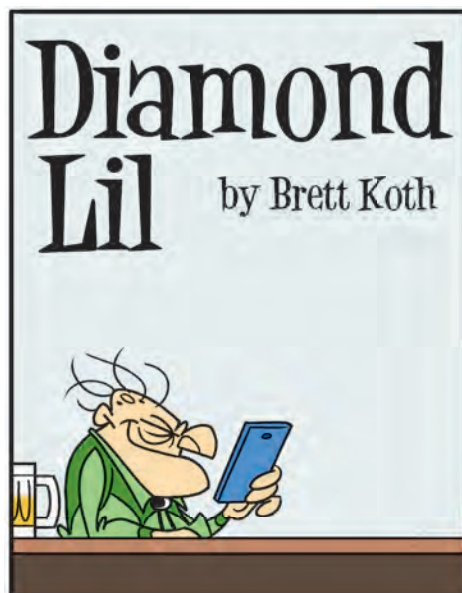
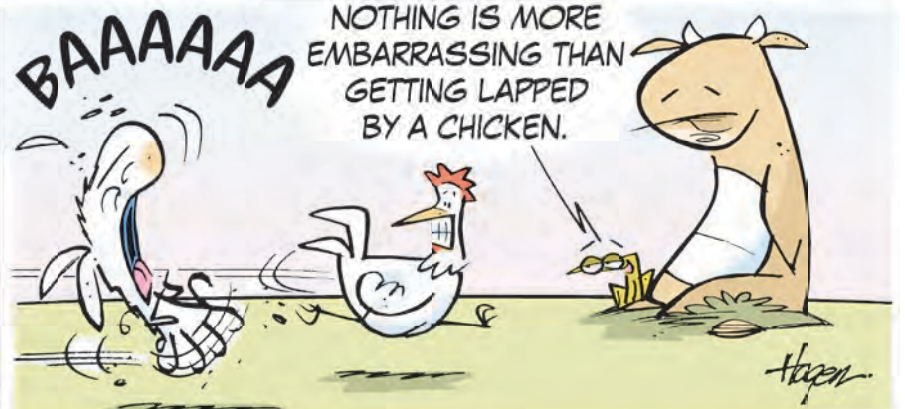
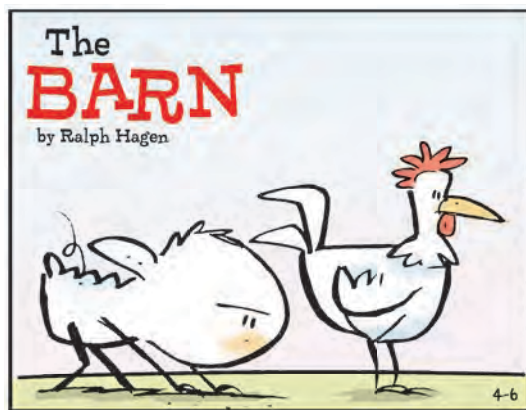
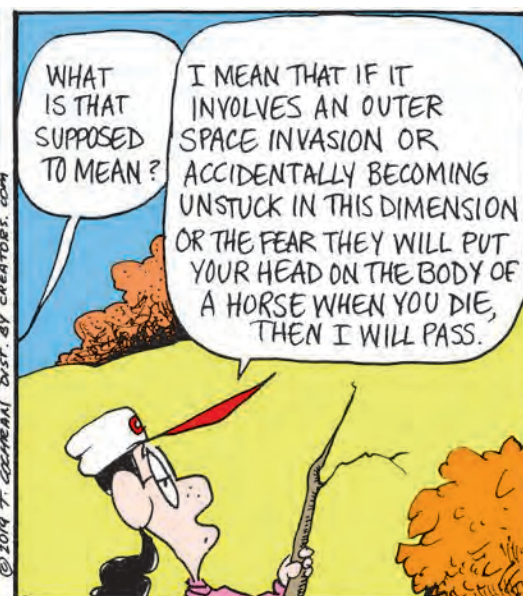
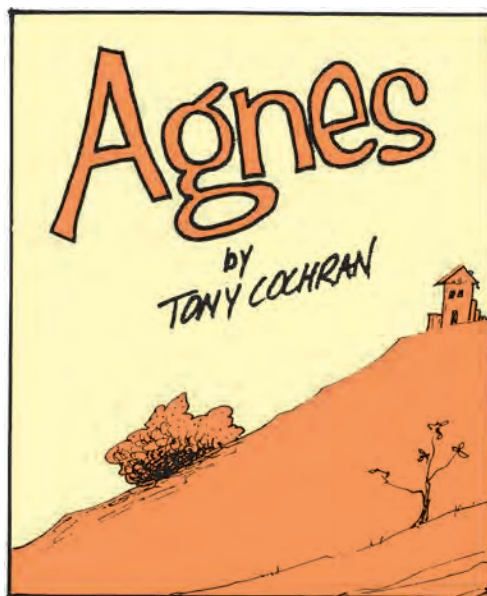
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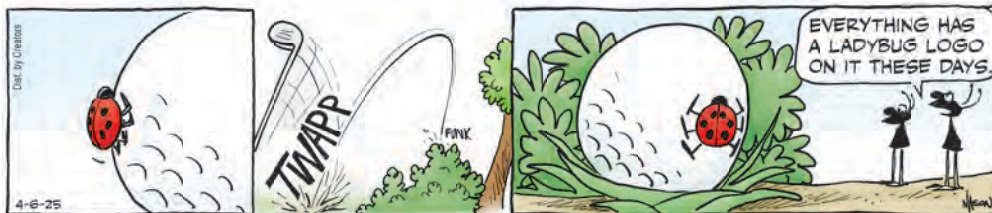
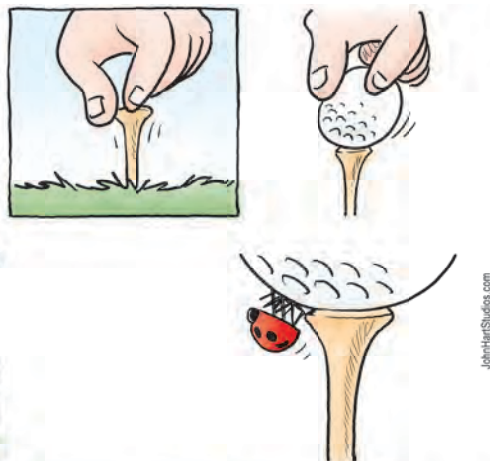
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I'M HAPPY. COME PLAY WITH ME.	I'M TIRED. I MAY CLAW YOUR FACE.
	
I'M SCARED. PLEASE COMFORT ME.	I'M ANGRY. I MAY CLAW YOUR FACE.
	
I'M EXCITED. PLEASE RUB MY BELLY.	I MAY CLAW YOUR FACE.
	
I'M TIRED. PLEASE PET ME.	I MAY CLAW YOUR FACE. WHO KNOWS? ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN.

