



Disparti Law Group attorney Cass Casper discussed a federal lawsuit against the Oconto Falls School District, alleging sexual abuse and grooming by several staff members over the past 20 years. He is flanked by two plaintiffs, Grace Williams, left, and Amanda Watzka, right. A third plaintiff, Brooke La Count, was not at the March 11 press conference announcing the lawsuit. SCREENSHOT | DISPARTI LAW GROUP

Childhood vaccination rates decline in Wisconsin

Oconto County reported 36 measles cases in 2025

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Wisconsin’s childhood vaccination rates continued to decrease last year, causing alarm among officials with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

While nearly seven of every 10 children (66.9%) had the recommended vaccinations at age 24 months, nearly three of every 10 did not. This is a decline of almost 2% from 2024.

“In public health, we use data like this as an alert system. Today that alert system is sending a clear signal that the health and well-being of Wisconsin kids and communities are at risk,” said Paula Tran, state health officer and Division of Public Health administrator. “Vaccination rates aren’t just numbers on a chart, they represent real people – children, families and neighbors. Even small declines in vaccination rates increase the risk of preventable diseases spreading and outbreaks occurring.”

In 2025, Oconto County reported a summer outbreak of 36 confirmed cases of measles. Two of the 36 people were hospitalized.

All of the cases involved unvaccinated people.

As of Oct. 21, 2025, DHS and Oconto County Public Health declared the outbreak over. An outbreak is considered over once two incubation periods (42 days) have passed since the last reported case.

Most Wisconsinites are vaccinated against measles as children, which provides lifetime immunity. People who have never been vaccinated and are exposed to a person with measles can spread the virus to others in the community, leading to outbreaks.

The best way to prevent measles is to get vaccinated with the measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine. Two doses of MMR vaccine are about 97% effective at preventing measles; one dose is about 93% effective.

Alongside the decline in childhood vaccination rates, 2025 data also show very minor decreases in adolescent vaccines such as the human papillomavirus (HPV) and tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) vaccines. At the same time,

Lawsuit claims school district ignored multiple abuse cases

Oconto Falls teachers, coaches, administrators accused in federal case

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

A federal lawsuit against the Oconto Falls School District accuses officials of ignoring and condoning sexual abuse and grooming of students by teachers and coaches over the past 20 years.

“This was a school that had unwritten policies, customs and practices that enabled sex abuse and grooming and sexualized conduct toward students to flourish,” said Cass Casper, lead attorney in the case filed March 11 by Disparti Law Group. “The culture, the environment enabled this conduct, tacitly at least, condoned this conduct by teachers, despite warning sign after warning sign.”

The civil rights lawsuit was brought on behalf of three former students – Amanda Watzka, Brooke La Count and Grace Williams – who all claim they were abused and groomed by teachers and coaches, while district officials did nothing to stop the abuse.

Oconto Falls School District Superintendent Stuart Russ released a statement on behalf of the district. In it, the district noted that the complaint against two former employees was dealt with internally and then referred to law enforcement, resulting in one person serving time in prison.

“Plaintiffs threatened to sue the District and made substantial monetary demands in August 2025,” according to the district. “Since August, the District has responded to plaintiffs and their attorney to recognize the wrongs by these two former employees, but also to help them understand that the District took prompt action when it was made aware of the misconduct.”

District officials believe they have taken appropriate action when notified of misconduct allegations.

“The District’s staff of excellent professional educators strive every day to deliver a great educational experience for all students,” according to the statement. “This is not diminished by the inexcusable actions of these identified former employees. In every instance in which the District became aware of allegations against an individual, definitive action has been taken.”

Casper said through attorneys’ investigation over the past eight months, they identified at least nine teachers and staff who engaged in sexual abuse, grooming or severe sexualized misconduct with other students.

Besides the three women named in the complaint, at least 14 other victims have come forward, citing abuse over 20 years from 2005-25.

“All of them are willing to help and participate in this case,” Casper said.

Three teachers are named in the lawsuit, although none are named as defendants. They are David Heisel, Brynn Larsen and Gayle Gander. Five others were mentioned but not named.

Casper said some of the accused continue to work for the school district.

Gander was arrested in December 2025 on multiple charges of sexual misconduct. Larsen served two years in prison on charges of third-degree sexual assault. There are no charges against Heisel in the Wisconsin court system.

Watzka said she was groomed and sexually abused while she was a student from approximately 2010-13, when she was between the ages of 16 and 18.

La Count said she was groomed and sexually abused while a 15-year-old sophomore during the 2013-14 school year.

Williams said she was groomed and sexually abused when she was a 17-year-old junior in February through April 2018.

“At the time Grace was abused by Brynn Marie Larsen, the district already had notice that Brynn Marie Larsen presented a problem – presented a risk of sex abuse to children, yet Brynn Marie Larsen was working at Oconto Falls

INSIDE

Organization bringing discussion of fair maps to Oconto.

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LET'S PLAY, WISCONSIN!
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Find these games at our website: www.newmedia-wi.com and have some fun!

ABUSE, continued on page 2

DECLINE, continued on page 2

Hillside Assembly to host Easter egg hunt

Hillside Assembly of God will host area kids from age 2 through fifth grade to its Easter Eggstravaganza on April 4 at the church, 5890 State Highway 22, Gillett. Doors open at 10 a.m. Registration can be done online at www.hillsideassembly.com/egghunt.

Kids will win candy while playing carnival style games. Bags will be provided. There will be a special presentation followed by an egg drop. After finding as many eggs as they can, kids will exchange their eggs for a bag of candy and prizes. Admission is free.

Hillside Assembly will also have an Easter breakfast at 9 a.m. April 5 in the church gym. The church's Easter Sunday service will begin at 10 a.m.

For information, call the church office at 920-855-2962 or go to www.hillsideassembly.com.

Wimberger, Steffen comment on lawsuit against school district

State Sen. Eric Wimberger, R-Gillett, released a statement after a lawsuit was filed in federal court March 11, alleging that three students were sexually groomed and abused by teachers and coaches employed by the Oconto Falls School District.

"All sexual abuse allegations deserve serious investigation by our justice system," he said.

"Students in our community should feel safe when they walk the halls of our schools – and especially safe from predators who disguise themselves as someone their victims know and trust."

This lawsuit highlights the need for the results of a statewide audit of how the Department of Public Instruction handles grooming and sexual misconduct allegations, Wimberger said.

"I look forward to the audit report's release in the coming weeks to provide transparency regarding Wisconsin's education leaders' highest responsibility: ensuring our children are safe at school," he said.

Last November, as co-chair of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, Wimberger led the committee in approving an audit to examine the DPI's policies for tracking teachers accused of grooming and sexual misconduct. This audit came after a Capital Times investigation into the process was published last fall.

Rep. David Steffen (R-Howard) also commented.

"Teachers and school staff have the essential responsibility to protect our students, and I am grateful that the vast majority of staff go above and beyond in carrying out this responsibility," he said. "I am deeply disturbed by the allegations within this lawsuit. In any case involving guilt of abuse, predators must be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law."

Earlier this session, Steffen co-authored Acts 88 and 89 to create and clearly define the crime of grooming as well as to require schools to adopt policies surrounding appropriate communications among staff, volunteers and students.

"These new laws are critical steps to keeping students safe and ensuring prosecutors have a clear pathway to pursue justice for victims," Steffen said.

ABUSE, continued from page 1

still in 2018, after abusing Brooke so she could victimize Grace," Casper said.

Attorney Larry Disparti said the case is not just about the individual abusers.

"It's about a school district that allowed these activities to go on even though there were multiple years of reporting and warning signs, yet they failed to act," he said.

The three women are seeking compensation and meaningful change to prevent future cases of abuse.

"My personal abuser has not been held accountable at all at this point, and we're over a year from me coming forward," Watzka said. "It's been an ongoing cause of hurt and pain. Coming forward, having the voice to do so and the means to do so and the support to do so is important, because not everybody has that opportunity that is in the same position that we are in."

Casper said the three women are seeking compensation for real and lasting emotional harm they suffered, trauma, lost opportunities, self-doubt and the inability to trust adults.

They also want new district policies that would require more training for staff about the warning signs of grooming and abuse, mandatory reporting on mere suspicion of abuse and punishment for those who cross boundaries.

"The goal of this lawsuit is to cause cultural change, both at Oconto Falls High School where this happened and hopefully throughout the region," Casper said.

"It's gotta stop, right? So it takes somebody to have the courage to step up and stop it; otherwise, it's going to continue for another 20 years," Watzka said. "I just want to prevent that as much as possible, because it has impacted my life greatly."

In Loving Memory of

Wendi L. Krueger

who went to heaven

27 years ago March 21, 1999



"We Little Knew"

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

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

Love you always,

Mom, Dad, Sisters, Dustin, Dillon & Friends

DECLINE, continued from page 1

the vaccination rates to protect against meningococcal disease (meningitis) for adolescents increased, and rates across all adult vaccinations stayed steady.

"Vaccines prepare our immune systems to recognize and respond to serious diseases, and they also protect entire communities," said Dr. Ryan Westergaard, chief medical officer and state epidemiologist for communicable diseases. "When everyone can access the recommended vaccinations on time, it can stop vaccine preventable diseases from spreading."

Wisconsinites are encouraged to use the Wisconsin Immunization Registry to check their and their child's vaccine status and to talk to a health care provider about recommended vaccines. Families can access free or low-cost vaccines through programs like Vaccines for Children and Vaccines for Adults.

Learn more about vaccines at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/vaccine-facts.htm.

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OBITUARIES

WAYNE W. PAHOLKE

Wayne W. Paholke passed March 2, 2026.

He was born April 20, 1939, in Oconto Falls to Walter Carl Paholke and Eleanor Schmidt Paholke. Growing up, he helped at his dad’s service station, pumping gas since he was 5 years old.

Upon graduating from Oconto Falls High School in May 1957, he decided to enlist in the Air Force where he became a diesel mechanic, probably influenced by the many years around the service station. He chose the Air Force, along with four of his best buddies from high school, because they didn’t want to be foot soldiers. While in the Air Force, Wayne spent time in Nashville, Tennessee, Japan and finished his enlistment in Fallon, Nevada, where he discharged



May 31, 1961, as an airman first class.

On June 2, 1961, Wayne married Gail Harrigan in Fallon. They moved to

Wisconsin for a brief stint, then returned to Fallon in September 1962 where Wayne ran a feed mill for 17 years. Together they owned and operated Fallon Florist from 1980 until 2001, becoming friends with their many employees and customers.

Wayne was a member of the Fallon Elks Lodge, Ducks Unlimited and life member of the Greenhead Hunting Club.

Wayne’s world was made up of his family and friends. He liked to fish, camp and chop wood with Gail and their kids. Wayne loved the annual trips to

Indian Lakes in the summer where they stayed for weeks at a time. He treasured a lifetime of these rich memories of his children and grandchildren.

Wayne was blessed with three children, Kurt Paholke (Renaë) of Fallon, Kim Manha (Mike) of Fallon and Kory Paholke (Julie) of Sparks; grandchildren, Karina Paholke Davis (Jacob), Jordan Paholke, Gray Paholke and Ella Paholke; and great-granddaughter, Elise Davis, and great-grandson, Kyler Davis. Wayne is also survived by his sister, Janis Schumacher (Bill), nephews, Brian Schumacher

(Amy) and Brett Schumacher (Amy), all of Minnesota; nieces, Tracy Pagni (Terry Richardson), Leslie Bell Christenson; nephews, Mike Harrigan (Cindy), Mitch Harrigan (Beverly); and several great-nieces, great-nephews and cousins.

Wayne was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Gail of 58 years; brother-in-law, Gary Harrigan; and so many family and friends.

Wayne’s ashes will be buried next to Gail’s at the Churchill County Cemetery under the direction of The Smith Family Funeral Home, 505 Rio Vista Drive,

Fallon, Nevada, 89406 (775-423-2255). Memorial donations may be made to a charity of your choice in Wayne’s name.

There will be no funeral services per Wayne’s request; however, a memorial potluck will be held March 22, 2026, at noon at the Fallon Eagles Hall, 7977 Reno Highway, Fallon, Nevada.

Wayne’s family would like to extend a special thank you to the South Hills Adult Care Family for the wonderful care they provided our father; you were such a comfort for him and us.

“One day at a time.”



NANCY SCHEFDORE

Nancy Lynn Scheffdore, 85, of Gillett, died peacefully at 12:07 p.m. early Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 17, 2026, at Care Partners Assisted Living, Oconto, with family by her side.

She was born June 18, 1940, in Elmhurst, Illinois, to Charles Hoover Blum and Mildred Ann (Bankow) Blum. Nancy grew up in Illinois and moved to Wisconsin in 1998. There she worked with her sister and brother-in-law at Vorpahl’s Business Services. Nancy also was employed by Cruisers Yachts until retirement in 2015. She married Anson Scheffdore in 2000.

Her family includes sons and a daughter-in-law, Jerry of Armstrong Creek, and Doug and Kim of Cambridge, Illinois; grandchildren, Nathan, Jason, Jeremy, Tasha, Tyra, Porter and Savannah; sister, Shirley Vorpahl of Oconto Falls; nephews, Jeff and Steve; and nieces, Valerie and Gina.

Preceding Nancy in death were her parents; sons, Tim and Mark; sister, Carol; brother, Roy; and brother-in-law, Leslie “Butch” Vorpahl.

Private family services will be held with interment in Illinois.

Condolences may be expressed and a photo tribute viewed at www.ackerman-cares.com.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Ackerman Funeral Directors & Cremation Service, 563-659-8574.

03/20/2026

VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on Election Day may submit a request to vote an absentee ballot to their municipal clerk.

A qualified elector is any U.S. citizen who:

- will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day.
- has resided in the ward or municipality where they wish to vote for at least 28 consecutive days before the election.

The elector must also be registered to vote to receive an absentee ballot. Proof of identification must be provided before an absentee ballot may be issued*.

Making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail:

Contact your municipal clerk and request that an application for an absentee ballot be sent to you for the primary or election or both. You may make written application to your municipal clerk for an absentee ballot by mail, by fax, by email or at MyVote.wi.gov. Or you may apply in person at the clerk’s office during the In-Person Absentee Voting period listed below.

Your written request must include:

1. your voting address within the municipality where you wish to vote
2. the address where the absentee ballot should be sent, if different from the address above
3. your signature
4. a copy of your photo identification*

The deadline for making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail is:

5:00 p.m. on the fifth day before the election, Thursday, April 2, 2026**.

*Voters who are indefinitely confined due to age, illness, infirmity, or disability may not be required to provide photo ID. If this applies to you, contact the municipal clerk regarding deadlines for requesting and submitting an absentee ballot.

**Special absentee voting application provisions apply to electors who are indefinitely confined, in the military, hospitalized, or serving as a sequestered juror. If this applies to you, contact the municipal clerk regarding deadlines for requesting and submitting an absentee ballot.

Voting an absentee ballot in person

You may also request and vote an absentee ballot in the clerk’s office or other specified location during the days and hours specified for casting an absentee ballot in person. ***Absentee voting is by appointment; unless noted.

Towns of:

Abrams	Jean Hansen	(920) 826-2299	5877 Main Street, Abrams, WI 54101
Bagley	Alan Sleeter	(920) 590-0198	10005 Madsen Rd., Suring, WI 54174
Brazeau	Melissa Andrist	(920) 897-3855	10892 Parkway Road, Pound, WI 54161
Breed	Kristen Telford	(920) 842-2166	11155 State Highway 32, Suring, WI 54174
Chase	Jeromy Delebreau	(920) 822-1560	8481 County Road S, Pulaski, WI 54162
		Or (920) 562-3957	
Doty	Cheryl Field	(715) 276-7554	14899 County Road T, Mountain, WI 54149
Gillett	Renee Carlson	(920) 819-7475	10908 Town Hall Road, Gillett, WI 54124
			Mailing Address: PO Box 605 Gillett, WI
How	Becky Dickson	(920) 842-9851	12896 State Highway 32, Suring, WI 54174
			Mailing Address: PO Box 187, Suring, WI
Lakewood	Michelle Moczynski	(715) 276-3579	17181 Twin Pines Rd, Lakewood, WI 54138
			Mailing Address: PO Box 40 Lakewood, WI
Lena	Dawn VanArk	(715) 281-4672	6087 Goatsville Road, Lena, WI 54139
			Mailing Address: 8489 Sunshine Rd, Lena, WI
Little River	Amy Peterson	(920) 834-3617	3627 County Road A, Oconto, WI 54153
Little Suamico	Lisa Glinski	(920) 826-7655	5964A County Road S, Sobieski, WI 54171
Maple Valley	Cindy Tousey	(920) 598-0601	9088 County Road Z, Suring, WI 54174
			Mailing Address: PO Box 384, Suring, WI
Morgan	Erin Mooers	(920) 846-0699	3276 County Road C, Oconto Falls, WI 54154
Mountain	Lynn Kauzlaric	(715) 276-6474	13503 Weller Road, Mountain, WI 54149
			Mailing Address: PO Box 95, Mountain, WI
Oconto	Lori Scanlan	(920) 834-4351	6120 Cream City Road, Oconto, WI 54153
			Mailing Address: 3649 Hwy 22, Oconto, WI
Oconto Falls	Susan Mogged	(920) 373-6663	8680 State Hwy 22, Oconto Falls, WI 54154
			Mailing Address: 5076 Golden Corners Road, Oconto Falls, WI
Pensaukee	Trudie Chico	(920) 826-2010	4684 Brookside Road, Abrams, WI 54101
Riverview	Beth Hartman	(715) 276-6914	15152 Island Lake Rd, Mountain, WI 54149
			Mailing Address: PO Box 220, Mountain, WI
Spruce	Lisa Peitersen	(920) 829-5111	346 Jackson Street Oconto Falls
			Mailing Address: PO Box 52 Oconto Falls, WI
Stiles	Terrah Patton	(920) 634-5348	5718 Watercrest Road, Lena, WI 54139
Townsend	Linda Ziegler	(715) 276-6856	16564 Elm Street, Townsend, WI 54175
			Mailing Address: PO Box 227, Townsend, WI
Underhill	Tracy Winkler	(920) 855-2942	5597 Cardinal Road, Gillett, WI 54124
Village of Lena	Jodi Marquardt	(920) 829-5226	117 E. Main Street, Lena, WI 54139
Village of Suring	Kim Gruetzmacher	(920) 842-2333	604 E. Main Street, Suring, WI 54174
***Village Suring Office Hours Monday – Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm No appointment necessary			
City of Gillett	Chelsea Anderson	(920) 855-2255	150 N. McKenzie Avenue, Gillett, WI 54124
***City of Gillett Office Hours Monday – Thursday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm No appointment necessary			
City of Oconto	Brittney Burrue	(920) 834-7711	1210 Main Street, Oconto, WI 54153
***City of Oconto Office Hours: Mon.– Fri. 7:30 a.m.– 4 p.m. No appointment necessary			
City of Oconto Falls	Jenny Friedman	(920) 846-4505	500 N. Chestnut Ave Oconto Falls, WI 54154
***City of Oconto Falls Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:00am to 4:30pm No appointment necessary			

The first day to vote an absentee ballot in the clerk’s office is: Tuesday, March 24, 2026***

The last day to vote an absentee ballot in the clerk’s office is: Friday, April 3, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.*

No in-person absentee voting may occur on the day before the election. The municipal clerk will deliver voted ballots returned on or before Election Day to the proper polling place or counting location before the polls close on Tuesday, April 7, 2026. Any ballots received after the polls close will not be counted.

WNAXLP

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20.70	20.90	21.10	21.30	21.50
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DEADLINE: 3p.m. Thursday Prior.
Mail to: NEW Media, 1464 E. Green Bay St., Shawano, WI 54166

New website details highway work in Gillett

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation announced the launch of a dedicated 511 Wisconsin construction website for the upcoming reconstruction project on state Highway 22 in Gillett.

The new site, available at <https://projects.511wi.gov/22gillett>, provides comprehensive details on construction operations, anticipated traffic impacts, detour routes and information for local businesses on temporary signing opportunities during the 2026 project.

The project involves full reconstruction of approximately 1.08 miles of Highway 22 from Finnegan Lake Road to the Highway 22/32 intersection in downtown Gillett.

Key improvements include new concrete pavement, sidewalk, and curb and gutter; new storm sewer installation; culvert replacements (including extension of the Christie Brook box culvert); multiple intersection enhancements; and addition of parking lanes between West Park Street and East Washington Street.

A project display map on the website illustrates these construction elements for easy reference.

Construction is scheduled to begin in spring and conclude by October. During this period, Highway 22 will be closed to through traffic, with access maintained for residents, businesses and emergency services within the work zone. Primary detours include County Road R, County Road H and Highway 32 (with a temporary one-month change due to a separate bridge project in Cecil).

Businesses affected by the project may apply for free temporary business signing permits through the website to help guide customers during construction.

This reconstruction will replace aging infrastructure with modern standards, improving safety, accessibility and quality of life in downtown Gillett, according to the DOT.

Southern Oconto County Indivisible to discuss fair maps

Oconto County community members will gather at 5:30 p.m. March 24 at Oconto City Hall, 1210 Main St., Oconto, to learn more about redistricting, gerrymandering and voting maps in Wisconsin.

Jane Benson from the Fair Maps Coalition is the scheduled speaker.

This event is in response to voting map redistricting happening across the United States. Southern Oconto County Indivisible is organizing this public event to foster conversation and community in Oconto County.

“Voters should pick their representatives; politicians should not pick their voters,” said Pam Kritz, one of the leaders of Southern Oconto County Indivisible.

“We are excited to bring this presentation to our area. I think it’s a great idea for Wisconsin and is something that will ensure gerrymandering stays out of our elections,” added Mimi Gerner, co-leader of Southern Oconto County Indivisible. “Everyone’s vote should count. We should be able to elect representatives that truly represent what people want and what communities decide is best for them ... not whichever political party has the best maps drawn to influence their votes.”

“We hope to offer more events like this in the future, and get more people involved in participating in political engagement, civics and thinking critically about what would make a difference in our state.”

This event is open to the public, and all ages are welcome.

Southern Oconto County Indivisible is a progressive, grassroots, nonpartisan organization that focuses on community education, local organizing to support progressive candidates, and holding elected leaders accountable to represent the best interests of the communities they represent.

3/20/26, 3/27/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
OCONTO COUNTY

INVITATION TO BID LRIP PROJECT
TOWN OF OCONTO FALLS
5469 Elm Lawn Road
Oconto Falls WI 54154

The TOWN OF OCONTO FALLS requests sealed bids for the following LRIP project;
Chestnut Road from **Busy Nook Road** north to **Beaver Lake Rd**, about 1 mile.
The road will be 20 feet wide with 2 foot wide shoulders on each side of road.

Work to be performed
(1) pulverize existing road bed
(2) add minimum of 2 inches of new gravel
(3) level and compact new gravel
(4) furnish and replace all culverts in this section of road
(5) ditch as needed
(6) fine grading
(7) mulch and seed as needed
Staking, traffic control and proof of insurance will be the bidders' responsibility.

Direct questions to:
Dave Alsteen
5469 Elm Lawn Road
Oconto Falls WI 54154
920-373-7435
dalsteensouthernfire@hotmail.com

All bids are due by 4 pm, April 13 th , 2026 and will be opened at the regular meeting of the Town Board at 6pm April 13 th , 2026 at the Town of Oconto Falls Town Hall, 8680 State Highway 22, Oconto Falls, WI, 54154. The project will need to be completed by July 31 st , 2026. If the work is not completed by July 31 st , 2026, there will be a \$500 per day deduction from the winning bidders' contract.

Dave Alsteen
Town of Oconto Falls Chairman

WNAXLP
OCO041

3/20/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
OCONTO COUNTY

CITY OF OCONTO FALLS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC TEST

In accordance to Wis Stats 5.84(1),
Notice is hereby given that a Public Test for the voting machine to be used at the Spring Election on April 7, 2026 will be conducted for the City of Oconto Falls on Monday, March 30, 2026 at 9:00 AM at the City Municipal Building, 500 N Chestnut Avenue. The Public Test is open to the general public. Jenny Friedman Deputy Clerk

WNAXLP
OCO040

3/20/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
OCONTO COUNTY

TOWN OF MAPLE VALLEY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC TEST

A Public test of the electronic Voting equipment for the April 7, 2026 Spring Primary will be held on March 31, 2026 at 5:30 PM At the Maple Valley Town Hall 9088 Cnty Hwy Z Suring, WI 54174

WNAXLP
OCO043

03/20, 03/27/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE: Public Test

In accordance to Wis Stats 5.84(1), Notice is hereby given that the Public Test of the Automatic Tabulating Equipment to be used at the April 7, 2026 Spring Election in the City of Gillett will be conducted on TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2026 at 1:00 PM at Gillett City Hall, 150 N McKenzie Ave, Gillett, WI. This test is open to the public.

Chelsea Anderson, Clerk Treasurer
WNAXLP

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**Brunner
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Seed Corn**
Starting at
\$185/bag
80,000 kernels

**Bio-Gene
Soybeans
Round-Up Ready**
\$52.00/bag
140,000 kernels

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Cash bond lowered in stalking case

Behling's attorney asks to reduce bond from \$50K to \$5K

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

A \$50,000 cash bond for Aaron Behling was reduced during a hearing March 10, but it may not be enough for the suspect in a stalking case to get out of jail.

John Swimmer, representing Behling in Joe Furnstahl's place, reminded the court Behling has been in jail since Oct. 12. Swimmer said Behling could be able to produce \$5,000 in cash and recommended that the bond be reduced to that, claiming the defendant did not have any priors or any failures to appear in court.

"We don't really believe we need that high bond," Swimmer said. "Five thousand should suffice."

That was disputed by Shawano-Menominee County Assistant District Attorney Edward Burke, who noted the \$50,000 bond was determined because Behling has committed previous crimes, including a couple in Shawano County. One was resolved with a no-contest plea in 2024 for disorderly conduct with a domestic abuse repeater. The other case, resolved in 2018, resulted in a three-year prison sentence with three years probation for amphetamine possession, burglary, felon in possession of a firearm and taking and driving a vehicle without consent.

Behling also has criminal convictions from other counties.

"The victim was consulted in this case," Burke said. "She is very frightened of Mr. Behling."

Behling has been charged with stalking by intercepting an electronic communication, misuse of a GPS device, possession of THC with a repeat offense and possession of methamphetamine with a repeat offense.

According to the criminal complaint, the victim told police she found a tracking device, later identified as a Logistimatics

Mobile 200 4g GPS tracker, on her vehicle after having an oil change completed. The mechanic doing the oil change had discovered something unusual near one of the tires and asked to do a tire rotation.

The victim told police she and Behling, 36, had broken up recently and that he had accused her multiple times of cheating on him. Behling allegedly said that was not the case when he was initially interviewed by police.

An Act 79 search, which allows law enforcement to conduct searches without a warrant for people on probation for felony crimes, was executed. Police reportedly found in his basement another Logistimatics GPS tracker, along with five empty syringes, a vape cartridge that tested positive for marijuana and a syringe with white residue that tested positive for meth.

"I don't know what (Behling) had in mind," Burke said. "I'm certain that he's very possessive of this individual."

According to the complaint, the victim said she and Behling had been in a relationship since September 2022. The pair had a son together, and the victim alleged that the accusations of infidelity began when she was pregnant. Behling was arrested for domestic violence and served one year in prison.

The victim also detailed instances when Behling allegedly parked down the road and watched her workplace. One such incident included when she started a training session in Antigo. Behling allegedly called her and accused her of going to Antigo to meet someone.

Another incident took place in Shawano at a local gas station where Behling allegedly arrived and caused a scene. The victim told officers she had not told Behling she was going to the gas station.

Another incident took place at a Shawano fast-food restaurant where Behling allegedly grabbed the victim's cell phone and started looking through it, later driving her back to work but not returning the phone.

Other erratic behavior

the victim alleged includes when the victim met with her boss to express her concerns about Behling's controlling tendencies, and he called and demanded she send a photo of her in her office to prove she was at work. Behling also allegedly purchased semen tests to test her underwear.

Behling was initially taken by police to ThedaCare Medical Center-Shawano, according to the complaint, because he claimed he'd taken a lot of suboxone and was then transferred to another hospital in Neenah. While at the Neenah hospital, according to the criminal complaint, Behling allegedly called the victim and begged her to drop the charges.

A ThedaCare employee requested Behling be placed in the hospital's psychiatric unit, according to the complaint, but because of the severity of the charges, police opted to arrest him and bring him back to the jail in Shawano.

Swimmer, in his argument to reduce the bond, said he understood the safety concern, but he feels that 4 1/2 months in the Shawano County Jail has changed him.

Judge William Kussel Jr. agreed to drop the bond to \$35,000 cash, but he said dropping it to \$5,000 was not wise due to the existing charges.

"The allegations are significant with the stalking," Kussel said.

During the hearing, Behling also waived the right to a preliminary hearing and asked to proceed to an arraignment.

If convicted, Behling faces up to six years in prison on the stalking charge. However, he was convicted on felony drug charges in Fond du Lac County, so his sentence could get an additional four years.

For the misuse of a GPS device, it could get him another nine months imprisonment. He also faces another 3 1/2 years on each of the drug counts. The drug charges could also add four years to his sentence because of the Fond du Lac County case.

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

Weight limits begin on county roads

Seasonal weight limits on select county roads in Shawano County went into effect March 11.

Haulers will need to watch for the signs restricting load limits. A list of the posted roads

is available at www.co.shawano.wi.us/.

The weight restrictions are 6 tons for a single axle and 10 tons for a tandem axle, with a maximum gross weight of 26 tons.

Seasonal weight

restrictions are placed on specific highways during the spring thaw period. The restrictions are placed to prevent damage to the pavement structure and extend the life of the pavement.

Board to set max borrowing amount for building

Supervisors' decision will be made March 25

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

It's not the actual green light needed to build a new courthouse in Shawano County, but it's close as you can get until then.

Supervisors will meet at 3 p.m. March 25 to vote on a maximum amount to borrow to build a new courthouse — a decision that will guide them when any future borrowing votes are taken.

Last month, consultants unveiled a base plan of \$88.5 million for a two-story courthouse west of the current building at 311 N. Main St.; this also included some auxiliary areas for the jail and a secure connection between the jail and the courthouse.

Also unveiled was a \$32.5 million alternate for a 150-bed housing pod at the jail; this would allow the county to close the work release center on Engel Drive and increase operational efficiencies within the jail.

County Board Chairman Tom Kautza stressed the



Shawano County supervisors will vote March 25 to set a maximum borrowing amount to guide them if they later decide to approve building plans for a new courthouse and jail housing unit.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

importance of the meeting to supervisors last month.

"Next meeting is very important," he said. "That vote, it's an awful big vote, and hopefully everybody can attend. If you can't attend and you still want to vote, there is the option to call in and do it remotely."

Three times in the past week, supervisors and other officials had the chance

to share information about the projects with the community and collect feedback. Informational meetings were held in Shawano, Bonduel and Wittenberg.

If supervisors approve of a borrowing limit and later approve the actual borrowing to build, a few other pieces will likely fall into place.

First, a new courthouse

will have space for three circuit court judges: courtrooms, judges' chambers, rooms for judicial assistants and jury rooms. The Wisconsin Senate is expected to pass a bill later this month to add a third judgeship to Shawano County, effective in August 2028.

"The Assembly voted and, in the vote, passed a

third judge," Kautza said to supervisors in February. "It passed by a pretty good margin. So the only steps left with that would be it goes to the Senate next, possibly in March for their vote, and then it gets to the governor's office. That'll tell us, too, what we'll have to get ready for space needs in the future."

Second, a new jail pod, according to the plans, will require the county to purchase the home at 217 W. Third St.

The purchase has already been approved by the public property and executive committees. The full board needs to give approval for it to move forward.

"There's no use in buying a house over there if everybody decides not to borrow and not to do any project," Kautza said. "We'll decide that all next month."

The county would pay \$300,000 for the house, and the owners would have to move out by fall.

According to Shawano County online tax records, Amber Hetzer owns the Third Street property, which has an assessed value of \$82,400 and an estimated fair market value of \$96,700.

Third, after a new courthouse and jail pod are built, there are long-range plans to build a new sheriff's department and another housing pod, which would lead to the razing of the current sheriff's department and jail.

Kurt Berner, of The Samuels Group, suggested the county consider those building plans in 2036.

The current county tax rate is \$3.76 per \$1,000 of equalized value. Building the new courthouse alone would result in a decrease in the rate due to increases in valuation of properties across the county.

For the \$121 million project, the \$3.76 would increase to \$3.81 in 2027 and peak at \$3.87 in 2028. After that, it would decrease.

Berner said that in 2036, the rate would be down to \$2.97, which would be a good time to take on the additional debt.

The new sheriff's department and jail pod are estimated to cost \$50 million to \$60 million in today's dollars.

For information on the county's building plans, visit www.shawanocounty-masterplanning.com.

kpasson@newmedia-wi.com

Sheriff's deputy on leave after shooting man

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

A Shawano County deputy is on administrative leave following the shooting of a man in the Town of Green Valley on March 10.

About 1:41 a.m., deputies with the Shawano County Sheriff's Department were dispatched to a disturbance at a residence in the 2300 block of state Highway 22. Upon entry, deputies located a man locked inside a bathroom.

The man refused to exit the bathroom, and

the subject announced that he had a gun, according to a press release. Initial attempts to resolve the issue were not successful.

The man then advanced toward the deputies with what they reported was a firearm. One deputy discharged a firearm, striking the subject. The incident was captured on body cameras.

EMS was contacted, and life-saving measures were attempted. The subject was transported to a local hospital where he was later pronounced

dead.

No one else was injured during this incident.

The Wisconsin Department of Justice Division of Criminal Investigation is conducting the investigation.

All involved law enforcement are fully cooperating with DCI during this investigation. DCI is continuing to review evidence and determine the facts of this incident and will turn over the investigative reports to the Shawano-Menominee County District Attorney's Office when the investigation concludes.

County officials eye purchase of 4th St. home

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Shawano County officials said they have finally resumed contact with the owner of a Fourth Street home the county is interested in purchasing.

Nick Hesse, Shawano County's facilities management director, told the public property committee March 12 he recently talked with Meshan Latender, owner of 211 W. Fourth St.

"We got the deed straightened out," Hesse said. "It's just her name on the deed now."

The late Pedro Guerrero

Jr.'s name had been on the deed, and Latender signed appropriate documents to remove his name from the deed.

Now, the two sides are haggling over the price of the house and 0.0185 acres of land.

If the county purchases the house, it would be razed to make way for a new courthouse and jail, assuming the county board gives the OK to that construction project.

Hesse said Latender has no money to put toward closing costs.

"She says \$120,000 is what she wants for it, but

she's \$31,000 in the hole for taxes (and other assessments)," he said. "I told her \$110,000. You look it up — it's \$95,000-\$110,000 is what it would go for."

Attorney fees and closing costs would run about \$5,000, Hesse said.

He also noted Latender is two years behind on paying her taxes on the property.

According to online tax records, the property has an assessed value of \$67,300 and an estimated fair market value of \$79,000.

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Stetson Sperberg, a 4-year-old kindergarten student at Sacred Heart Catholic School, gets comfortable with some books in his classroom during Read Across America Week.

CONTRIBUTED

Pair of events encourage reading

Sacred Heart Catholic School had two key events during Read Across America Week that encouraged reading and promoted literacy.

Sacred Heart's 4-year-old kindergarten class wrapped up Read Across America Week on March 6 with a celebration that transformed reading into a full-room adventure. Students arrived in their pajamas, flashlights in hand, ready for a day of stories and creativity.

To mark the final day of the weeklong literacy celebration, teacher Jessica Cumberland and her students turned their entire classroom into a giant reading fort. Blankets draped over tables, soft corners tucked into every space and bins of books

created an inviting environment where young readers could curl up and explore stories in a new and exciting way.

The flashlight reading experience encouraged students to slow down, get comfortable and enjoy books in a unique setting. The combination of pajamas, forts and flashlights made reading feel like an adventure – one that sparked imagination and deepened their love for books.

Sacred Heart students also took part in the Read Across the Rooms Buddy Reading adventure March 5. Throughout the afternoon, classes paired up and rotated through themed classrooms filled with books and cozy reading spaces designed to

spark imagination and a love of reading.

The Buddy Reading experience remains a highlight for students and staff, because it brings together learners of all ages in a meaningful way, according to Autumnne Gee, Sacred Heart's director of admissions and development.

Older students step into leadership, reading aloud with confidence and helping younger students discover new stories. Younger students light up as they read alongside their "big kid" buddies, feeling supported, encouraged, and excited about books.

Read Across America Week is designed to cultivate a lifelong passion for reading.

SCHS bands get top ratings at jazz festival

Shawano Community High School's award-winning jazz bands came home after taking top honors Feb. 27 from the University of Louisville's annual jazz festival – an invitation only event that features outstanding high school ensembles from across the country.

Shawano was the only school representing Wisconsin at the festival.

Shawano Jazz II performed at midday, earning a rating of Excellent. For many members of Jazz II, this marked their first time performing at a major jazz festival, making the recognition even more meaningful.

Later in the afternoon, Shawano Jazz I took the stage and also received an Excellent rating, scoring 97 out of 100. The festival clinician praised the group's performance, noting that they played so exceptionally well he had no critique to offer.

Individual musicians were recognized for their talent and artistry. Ireland Setterman on alto saxophone and Drew Hagedorn on tenor saxophone each received Outstanding Soloist Awards for their performances. Also honored as outstanding musicians were Jill Guenther, Derrick LiVigni, Sawyer Keuschel, Jericho Moses, Evie Kuehl and Payton Skalitski.

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JDoggs in Shawano serves up more than hot dogs, burgers

Food truck biz opens in former bowling alley

By **KAY REMINGER**
Correspondent

Serving up more than just hot dogs and burgers, JDoggs has tucked within the restaurant a fun, family-oriented environment geared toward kids of all ages.

Offered at 136 S. Main St. in Shawano – along with various menu items – are simulated golf courses, cornhole games, Frisbee and much more.

On the menu, patrons will find Chicago-style hot dogs, burgers, homemade pizza, fresh-squeezed lemonade and chili, all offered in a casual, family-friendly place, serving beer and wine, no liquor. Takeouts and DoorDash are provided.

Owner Amber Arneson and boyfriend Jeremy Weed (aka JDogg) gave the former Rades Bowling Alley a facelift but kept the ambience of the past intact as much as possible.

“It was important for us to honor the history of the place,” Arneson said. “We kept the old bowling alley floor and old bar as well as the exposed ceiling – it is all part of its rich history and adds character. We worked with the building and then added a little Chicago flair.”

Running a business in Chicago for 20 years, Arneson was friends with the owner of Vienna Beef and realized she had the desire to bring Chicago north – basically focusing on the Chicago dogs.

“Training in restaurants in Chicago to learn how to do everything just right, we brought that knowledge up to Shawano,” Arneson said. “We knew what we wanted to do.”

Years ago, after sitting down at the kitchen table and forming a plan, the pair literally drew a picture of how they wanted their food truck trailer to look. After serving food out of the truck for seven years, they purchased the building about five years ago.

Arneson and Weed together remodeled the storefront location while still running their business out of their food truck. In March 2024, they opened their doors on South Main and discontinued the trailer.

The original food trailer is recreated in the front of their storefront kitchen. The trailer, then, appears as if it’s been relocated into the stationary business.

Arneson and Weed have worked as a team for the past 11 years.

Arneson handles ordering, works in the kitchen and manages the restaurant’s bookkeeping and inventory.

Devoting his time and energy into keeping the restaurant’s maintenance needs met, Weed is also JDoggs’ main cook and prepares much of the food, including his chili. His own recipe won several trophies and cook-offs and has become a big part of the business.

“We offer a simple menu with different lemonades, a variety of burgers and of course, Jeremy’s famous chili,” Arneson said.

The restaurant has room to hold birthday parties and family celebrations. With virtual golf, disc golf, cornhole, bowling, football and baseball simulators, the restaurant is unique and offers more than simply a place to dine.

With thousands of golf courses to choose from, JDoggs just finished its first golf league this year and its new



Wanting to honor the history of the Rades Bowling Alley, owner Amber Arneson and boyfriend Jeremy Weed left much of the old bar intact. JDoggs, located at 136 S. Main St. in Shawano, offers various menu items including Weed’s award-winning chili. KAY REMINGER



JDoggs storefront is a restaurant complete with room to hold birthday parties and family celebrations. With virtual golf, disc golf, cornhole, bowling, football and baseball simulators, the restaurant is unique and offers much more than simply a place to dine. KAY REMINGER

league started the first week of March, going through the end of April.

“We are thinking about having a junior golf league during the summer,” Arneson said.

Partnering with Shawano Lake Golf Course, participants may sign up at the course or contact JDoggs.

“Our golf league is different than

most,” Arneson said. “We have a flexible schedule. If a team can’t make it a certain day, any time we’re open between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., you can put in your time with your league.”

Stressing a family-friendly atmosphere, those with children are more than welcome.

“The kids can be loud, can roll on the floor and just have fun, we’re OK with it,” Arneson said. “Being a family-friendly place, it’s like the parents don’t have to be afraid the kids will be disruptive. We encourage them to hang out, have fun and just be kids.”

“The community here is very supportive. Plus there are people from Kenosha, Fond du Lac, and Green Bay that heard about us, found out about our uniqueness and wanted to try it. They just come out for a drive. Saturdays here are amazing, full of out-of-towners.”

Long-range plans are to focus on more Chicago food items. By adding a new deep fryer, they can keep their french fries gluten-free and will soon be able to offer other gluten-free item choices.

“Also partnering alongside of us is my 28-year-old daughter, Morgan, who is deeply involved in the business and does an amazing job. She handles all of our social media, and I’m very proud of her. Along with our great staff, we all work together to make our small business go,” Arneson said.

For information, call 715-701-8000, go to www.jdoggs.com, or find them on Facebook.

License fee hikes, deer, wolf issues on the ballot

As sure as the arrival of robins, rain and green grass, the statewide combined Wisconsin DNR and Conservation Congress hearings are another sign of spring.

Some of the 44 conservation questions may touch most of us, including the topics of deer hunting and possible license fee increases, while others may be specific to a distant lake or river, and not interest us at all.

You have a chance to vote in person for any or all questions that interest you at the public hearing in your county, or the county you most often hunt or fish in, if you choose.

Many will take the easiest way and vote online from 6 p.m. April 13 through 6 p.m. April 15.

All results serve only as an advisory tool to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Advisory Board but frequently are used to help them make lasting decisions regarding hunting, fishing, trapping and other activities. A few of the questions would require legislative action to fulfill.

Questions 12-18 could potentially affect everyone who hunts, fishes and traps. The questions seem to be a feeler for how much sportsmen are willing to bear for license increases.

These include proposals to increase hunting, fishing and trapping licenses by 25%-75%, a one-time license fee increase with smaller increases later, based on inflation, or a \$6 increase in the inland trout stamp fee from \$10 to \$16.

Questions 19-22 propose a 0.125% sales tax increase to fund conservation programs, spending about \$20 million in general fund taxes to cover reduced or free licenses, charging a user fee (similar to that charged at state parks) for using all public lands, and requiring registration fees for all non-motorized watercraft, such as kayaks and canoes.

One question that most bow and crossbow deer hunters in this area will likely appreciate is the suggestion to allow the archery (bow and crossbow) deer season to be extended to Jan. 31 in all Farmland Deer Management Zones.

In the past, this extension was left up to the individual County Deer Advisory Councils, although former DNR senior deer biologist Jeff Pritzl said the state never intended for CDACs to make season decisions. Many hunters prefer to avoid the bitter cold of late season, but this would give archers and crossbow hunters nearly an additional month to harvest a buck or doe.

Another question recommends allowing tree stands and ground blinds

BALLOT, continued on page 11



ROSS BIELEMA
COLUMNIST

AT A GLANCE

Spring Wisconsin DNR and Conservation Congress hearings will be held at 6 p.m. April 13 statewide. Meeting locations of area counties are:

- Shawano: Shawano Community Middle School LGI Room, 1050 S. Union St., Shawano.
- Oconto: Suring High School Cafeteria, 411 E. Algoma St., Suring.



Five generations celebrate Betty Geiger's 94th birthday

Dozens of family members and friends gathered March 7 in Oconto Falls to celebrate the 94th birthday of Betty Geiger, a beloved mother, grandmother and friend whose life has been filled with family, music and community.

Geiger was born in 1932 in Little Chute to John and Anna Jansen. She later raised her own family in Little Chute, where she was known not only as a devoted mother of four children but also as the owner and operator of the local establishment Jacks or Better.

Those who know Geiger often remember her warm spirit and joyful personality. She has always loved music and dancing and was known to hum a tune while working during the busiest times in the kitchen. Her love of dancing is well known in the family – she even taught her son Jim how to do the Twist.

Betty also has a creative side. She enjoyed crocheting and spent many hours making beautiful blankets that have been treasured gifts for family members and dear friends over the years. Her daughter, Margo, fondly recalls helping Geiger reupholster barroom chairs during the family's restaurant days.

In August 1987, she married Kenneth Geiger after the two met while she was working weekends as a hostess at the Lilac Plantation in Gillett. During that time, Geiger worked weekdays at a meat market in Darboy and spent weekends at the Lilac. When she married 36 years ago, she welcomed six more children into her life, embracing them as her own.

Geiger's kindness has always been one of her defining traits. Family members say she always greets people with a warm smile, whether she has known them a lifetime or has just met them.

Her recent birthday celebration was especially meaningful as it brought together five generations of family, a testament to the strong and loving family she has built.

Betty Geiger sits next to her birthday cake during a celebration March 7 at Oconto Falls. CONTRIBUTED

Wildlife lies in wait out in those wintry woods

Dangling my feet off the end-gate of our old white farm truck parked along our ridge, I was waiting for the wand pump to inhale the sap stored in the tote. The totes, placed at the bottom of a south-facing ridge, is the perfect set up for sap collecting and convenient to unload. It's a hobby my husband and I enjoy. Early spring, as soon as the weather cooperates, we're up in the woods as often as the trees release their ambrosia.

FARM LIFE FROM A FARM WIFE



KAY REMINGER
COLUMNIST

So as I was daydreaming that one mild spring day – the sky cloudless, the wind speechless – I noticed an industrious ant making its way through dry leaves and twigs. It hadn't warmed up very much, we were only in the mid-40s, so I was surprised to see insects. This ant was on a mission, intent on going somewhere and doing something.

Totally engrossed in the little bugger, I asked my husband, "Where do ants go in the winter?"

"They burrow

underground. Remember we see them in the wood we cut sometimes?" says he.

As we split wood in the winter, at times I'd see a bunch of ants looking dead as a doornail. They're not in every hunk, just some of the ones that are hollow. (We call them dozy and those quickly burn.) The ants looked like they burrowed right into the wood, sort of calcified, and had gotten stuck there as the weather abruptly turned cold.

Because I'm naturally curious, I double-checked with Siri and she informed me: "Ants don't hibernate but enter a dormant state called 'diapause,' retreating deep underground below the frost line where temperatures remain stable. The queen stops laying eggs, workers stop foraging, and the colony seals its entrances to conserve heat until spring."

Aren't they the clever little things? They take a winter hiatus.

Along with creepy crawling insects, our



Along with various woodland creatures, the Remingers caught Wisconsin's state animal on a trail cam one night. Badgers sustain the bulk of their diet with earthworms.

KAY REMINGER

woods is alive with motion. Before we'd put up trail cameras, we had little idea of the vibrant, busy night life of our forest.

Now with multiple trail cams in our woods, we capture, not those creeping insects but much larger wildlife. We have discovered to our great amazement that we have a remarkable variety: bear, fisher, bobcat, fox, coyote, woodchuck, raccoon, opossum, squirrel, deer, skunk and turkey – all caught one time or

another on our trail cams. Those seem to be the regulars. We then discovered a very different one on camera that completely floored us – a badger.

Our state animal resides in our Leopolis woods? It's rather flattering.

Our good buddy, Tim, who is a lover of all of God's woodland creatures, laughed when we shared that trail cam picture with him, retorting, "Oh, those things are grizzly bears with short legs!"

We indeed discovered

they are aggressive, or can be, and 80% of their diet is earthworms. No wonder they have those long claws.

From www.woodlandtrust.org.uk, I found that, "Badgers can eat several hundred worms each night, but being omnivorous, they will eat almost anything, from flesh and fruit to bulbs and birds' eggs to slugs and insects. They also have a keen sense of smell."

Along with collecting sap and harvesting wood to keep our farmhouse warm and toasty (there's nothing like wood heat), my husband likes to hunt.

One night as dusk was hunkering down, he was walking the trail from his hunting stand to the four-wheeler, parked a ways down. All of a sudden along Highway 29, about a quarter mile from our woods, an ambulance came screaming down the highway toward Green Bay, sirens blazing.

Just then, my husband heard a sound that made his blood run cold.

Coyotes – provoked by the sound of the siren – started howling. He realized then that he was encircled by a pack. He never even saw them and didn't know they were there, but

after he heard them, and that close, he scrambled to the four-wheeler as fast as his legs could carry him.

Afterwards he told me, "It was pretty spooky."

If I'd have been there, "pretty spooked" was the least I'd have been. I'd have had goosebumps reproducing along with cold chills down my spine.

"Did you feel like the hunted instead of the hunter?" I asked, eyes wide, reliving it as he explained.

"Ya."

While our busy and beautiful woods produces for us in so many ways, I rather prefer to visit during daylight when the wildlife is snoozing.

("Four things on earth are small, yet they are exceedingly wise: the ants are a people not strong, yet they provide their food in the summer; the badgers are a people not mighty, yet they make their home in the cliffs." Proverbs 30:24-25, English Standard Version)

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

BALLOT, continued from page 10

on public lands to be left overnight from September through January. Currently, the state only allows leaving stands and ground blinds overnight on public lands north of state Highway 64, an experiment that started in 2017.

Prior to that, the law required all stands and ground blinds to remain only during daylight hours. That law created two problems: the noise

and hassles of removing stands and blinds at the end of the hunt and then returning them the next morning (almost absurd if you've hunted in a state without such a law) and a very dangerous hazard, as studies show most tree stand accidents occur when a hunter is setting up or taking down a stand.

Another deer hunting question recommends extending the registration

deadline from 5 p.m. the day after harvest to 11:59 p.m. This new deadline would align with neighboring states and help eliminate unintentional law violations, according to the questionnaire wording.

One law that is probably long overdue is specifying that only centerfire cartridges larger than .22 caliber be allowed for deer hunting. Currently, any rimfire .22 cartridge could

also be used legally for deer hunting, including a .22 Long Rifle, but virtually anyone knowledgeable about ammunition would agree that rimfire cartridges are not a humane option.

Other topics on the questionnaire include:

- Reauthorizing the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program for funding conservation grants.
- Allowing the use of

trained dogs to chase or "harry" and track specific wolves that are causing livestock or other issues.

- Eliminating the north and south zones for waterfowl hunting.
- Allowing placement of mineral supplement blocks in the woods to help deer fight CWD.
- Allowing underwater spearfishing for catfish.
- Increasing the turkey stamp fee to \$10.

- Creating a youth muskrat and mink trapping season.

For a full list of this year's questions, last year's results and more, visit <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/wcc/springhearing>.

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



Buttermilk bread boasts a lovely soft crumb and a slightly chewy golden crust. FRANCESCA ULLMER

Buttermilk, cinnamon-raisin bread ideal for blessed feast

March 19 is the Feast of St. Joseph. St. Joseph is the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster father of Jesus. He is also the patron of the Catholic Church.

The tradition of having a St. Joseph's Day table originated in Sicily in medieval times. Loaded with many kinds of breads to share with everyone, this is a tradition that many Catholic churches and private homes still follow to this day.

Buttermilk bread is yet another recipe from "The New Artisan Bread in Five Minutes a Day." As with every recipe in this book, this recipe does not require any kneading and is very simple and quick to throw together.

If you do not have buttermilk, a homemade substitute works great. Simply place a tablespoon of lemon juice or vinegar into

a liquid measuring and add enough milk to make 1 cup. Stir gently and wait at least 5 minutes before using.

While there are many ways to "correctly" use yeast when baking bread, I've found that sprinkling the yeast lightly over the surface of the warm water works best for me. This ensures that the yeast is evenly distributed on the water, and it gets moistened evenly. I don't stir the yeast into the water unless the recipe specifically calls for it.

Because this bread uses sugar, which reacts with the yeast, you may notice a slightly sour smell. This is completely normal and will disappear as the bread bakes and cools.

Cinnamon-raisin bread, a simply delicious classic, is also really easy to make. You can use whatever bread dough you wish, even frozen bread dough.

It is very customizable

IN THE KITCHEN WITH FRANCESCA



FRANCESCA ULLMER
COLUMNIST



Loaded with juicy raisins and cinnamon, cinnamon-raisin bread is a classic. FRANCESCA ULLMER

as well. You have to adjust the amount of sugar to personal preference or use brown sugar. You can add other spices. You can even add other dried fruits such as dried cranberries.

Soaking your raisins is optional. Ever since I learned about soaking raisins to reconstitute them a little, I try to soak my raisins whenever I have time. Soaking them just ensures the maximum amount of juiciness. Although it sounds a little counterproductive, just make sure to drain the raisins well. If your raisins are dripping water, this will probably make your bread bake

unevenly – it may not bake completely.

Bread pan size is also optional. You can use normal size pans or large pans or mini loaf pans. Just remember that baking times will vary. Remember to let the bread cool completely. Bread continues to bake as it cools and it may not appear done if you slice into it too early.

Happy Feast of St. Joseph.

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

CINNAMON-RAISIN BREAD

2 lbs. buttermilk bread dough, or other plain bread dough

Sugar	Cinnamon	Approx. 1 cup raisins
If desired, soak raisins in water for about 10 minutes or until plump. Drain well on paper towels. Divide dough in half and using enough flour to prevent sticking, roll into a long rectangle. Sprinkle on desired amount of sugar and cinnamon. Sprinkle on drained raisins. Starting at a short end roll dough up jelly-roll style. Pinch edges and ends together, and tuck the ends under to form an oval loaf. Place in greased loaf pans and let rise for 60-90 minutes. Brush with melted butter. Bake in a 375-degree oven for 35-45 minutes or until golden. Brush with melted butter. Let cool in pans for 10 minutes then remove from pans and let cool completely on a wire rack.		

BUTTERMILK BREAD

2 cups lukewarm water	1 cup buttermilk
1 tbsp. yeast (active dry)	1-1½ tbsp. salt
1½ tbsp. sugar	6½ cups flour

Pour water into a large bowl. Sprinkle yeast on top and let sit for about a minute. Add the buttermilk, salt, and sugar and mix gently with a wooden spoon. Add in the flour until mixture forms a loose ball. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise for approximately 2 hours. The dough can be used immediately after the initial rise but it is easier to handle when cold. Refrigerate until ready to use, up to 5 days. When ready to bake, dust surface of dough with flour. Divide the dough in half – shaping each dough half into a ball. Stretch each ball slightly into an oblong shape and place in greased 9x5 inch loaf pans. Cover loosely and let rise for about 60 to 90 minutes. Brush with melted butter and bake at 350 degrees for about 35-45 minutes or until golden brown. Brush with melted butter immediately after taking out of the oven and let bread cool in pans for 10 minutes. Then, remove from pans and cool completely on wire racks.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

OCONTO: Storytime, 10:30 a.m., Farnsworth Public Library, 715 Main St. Story and crafts for preschool children. A caregiver must stay with the child.

WITTENBERG: Murder Mystery Dinner Theater, 6 p.m., WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal St. Crossroads Community Theatre presents "Eat, Drink and Be Murdered (An Irish Family Feud)." Dinner catered by Hidden Valley Supper Club. Doors open 5:30 p.m. Advance tickets only, available at Wittenberg Sentry Foods, Wittenberg or call 715-253-3525.

CLINTONVILLE: "Mary Poppins," 6 p.m., Clintonville High School, 64 W. Green Tree Road. Presented by Wolf River Homeschoolers Performing Arts. Admission free; donations accepted.

OCONTO: Dukes and Darlings, 6-8 p.m., Room 902, 902 Main St. Black-tie event for fathers and daughters. Tickets \$52.81 available through eventbrite.com. Details at Room 902 Facebook page.

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

MOUNTAIN: Maple Sugar Festival, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., 14000 Bear Paw Camp Lane. Details at Bear Paw Maple Syrup page on Facebook.

SHAWANO: Cooking School and Expo, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B. Shawano Flavorfest. Vendor fair and open house 9 a.m. to noon; cooking school 12:30-2:30 p.m., Amish haystack meal 3-5 p.m. Must pre-register, no walk-ins, registration fee \$15. Call 715-526-2192, ext. 3202.

NAVARINO: Willow Trellis Workshop, 9 a.m. to noon, Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Make your own willow trellis with real willow harvested from the wildlife area. Registration fee \$50, space limited to 10 people, call 715-758-6999.

SHAWANO: Zurko's Indoor Flea Market, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Shawano Community Hall, 115 E. Division St. Free admission.

BONDUEL: Meat raffle for Mit Liebe German Shepherd Dog Rescue, noon, Lumbeyard Bar and Grill, 815 North St.

NAVARINO: Piece Out Fundraiser, 2-4 p.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Teams of four compete to finish a 500-piece puzzle in the shortest amount of time. Light refreshments and snacks, limited to first 16 teams to register for \$50 at 715-758-6999. Prizes donated by Ravensburger and Gnome Games.

OCONTO FALLS: Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser, 4:30-7:30 p.m., Oconto Falls Fire Department, 431 Union Ave. Tickets \$10, seniors 60-plus \$8, children 5-12 \$5, 4 and younger free. Dinner, desserts, refreshments, bucket raffles.

WITTENBERG: Murder Mystery Dinner Theater, 6 p.m., WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal St. Crossroads Community Theatre presents "Eat, Drink and Be Murdered (An Irish Family Feud)." Dinner catered by Hidden Valley Supper

Club. Doors open 5:30 p.m. Advance tickets only, available at Wittenberg Sentry Foods, Wittenberg or call 715-253-3525.

CLINTONVILLE: "Mary Poppins," 6 p.m., Clintonville High School, 64 W. Green Tree Road. Presented by Wolf River Homeschoolers Performing Arts. Admission free; donations accepted.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

CLINTONVILLE: "Mary Poppins," 2 p.m., Clintonville High School, 64 W. Green Tree Road. Presented by Wolf River Homeschoolers Performing Arts. Admission free; donations accepted.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

SHAWANO: Youth Leadership Information Session, 9 a.m., Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce, 1263 S. Main St.

OCONTO: Small Group Bible Study, 6-8 p.m., The Good Place Bowling Center, 1128 Main St. For information, call 920-516-7390.

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

NAVARINO: Junior Investigators Homeschool Program: Weather, 1-2:30 p.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Ages 6-12, \$5 per child. Maximum 30 children, registration required at 715-758-6999 or navarino.org.

SHAWANO: Adult Open Swim, 4-7 p.m., Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B. \$3 at the door. Lap swim lanes and water walking available. Age 16 and older; no registration needed. Entry not permitted after 6:30 p.m.

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, MARCH 26

OCONTO: Thursday Play Group, 10:30 a.m. to noon, Farnsworth Public Library, 715 Main St. Meant for children to play and interact with other children at the library. A caregiver must stay with the child.

OCONTO: Faithful Readers Community Bible Study, 2:30 p.m., Farnsworth Public Library, 715 Main St. Multidenominational study of the book of Genesis. For information, call/text Steve at 920-360-0883.

SHAWANO: Youth Leadership Information Session, 4 p.m., Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce, 1263 S. Main St.

CLINTONVILLE: "Mary Poppins," 6 p.m., Clintonville High School, 64 W. Green Tree Road. Presented by Wolf River Homeschoolers Performing Arts. Admission free; donations accepted.

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

SHAWANO: American Red Cross blood drive, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., City Hall, 127 S. Sawyer St. Appointments at RedCrossBlood.org or 800-733-2767.

Small lifestyle changes may help with nutrition

Nutrition experts at ThedaCare are offering advice to help people eat healthier amid a range of dieting options, conflicting social media messages and an updated food pyramid.

Nicole Havlichek and Carlissa Spreeman, registered dietitians with ThedaCare, provide science-backed guidance for people seeking to improve their nutrition.

“It can be a challenge for someone to know what to put in their grocery cart and on their plate,” Havlichek said. “It’s not uncommon for us to hear patients tell us that when it comes to healthier nutrition, they are confused and don’t know where to start.”

A first step in deciphering nutrition fact from fiction is to consider the source, Spreeman said.

“Chances are the person on your social media feed or your favorite celebrity hasn’t completed the necessary credentials to be deemed an expert in nutrition, like a registered dietitian,” she said. “A registered dietitian holds a bachelor’s degree and master’s degree and has completed a post-graduate internship to fully learn the complexities of nutrition.”

Both experts encouraged people to fact-check the nutrition information they may be considering to determine if it is



ThedaCare nutrition experts recommend eating a fair amount of fruits and vegetables like grapes and bell peppers shown on display at Aldi in Shawano.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

evidence-based and has supporting research.

“Nutrition is individualized. No one online knows your personal health needs, especially if you have medical conditions or specific nutrition-related goals,” Spreeman said. “Consider asking your primary care physician or advanced practice provider for a referral to a dietitian so they can help personalize recommendations to your needs.”

There are several considerations that may help inform people about what they should eat or avoid, Havlichek said.

“From food preferences to lifestyle factors and medical conditions, many considerations come into play,” she said. “Multiple factors may influence what people can and should eat. A registered dietitian can provide recommendations specific to your individual needs.”

Common considerations include:

- Medical diagnoses like heart disease, diabetes, eating disorders and gastrointestinal conditions such as irritable bowel syndrome, Celiac disease and Crohn’s disease.

- Budget and food preferences.
- How much time a person has for meal planning, shopping and cooking.
- Cultural foods.
- Religious restrictions.

Improving one’s nutrition should be a lifestyle change, not a diet, Spreeman said.

“The word diet can have a lot of baggage. It may imply we’re making short-term changes, seeking a quick fix and that we may not be enjoying ourselves while doing it,” she said. “Rather than following any one diet, it’s best to consider making lifestyle changes. A lifestyle change may help promote long-term success and satisfaction.”

A good place to start is with people choosing wholesome and nutrient-dense foods to help nourish their bodies and minds, Havlichek said. She shared additional tips including eating regularly throughout the day, along with consuming a variety of foods in balanced proportions (for example: 1/2 plate produce, 1/4 plate grains/starches, 1/4 plate protein).

People should include protein with each meal but include other foods, too. Most Americans get enough protein but not enough fiber.

People are also encouraged to eat whole grains, fruits, vegetables and plant-based proteins such as beans, lentils, legumes, nuts and seeds.

“Eat whole foods when possible,” Havlichek said. “It’s OK to eat some packaged and processed foods as well. We encourage people to avoid extremes.”

Another important step in embracing healthier nutrition is for people to identify their nutrition goals and write them down, Spreeman said.

“However you set goals, you want to ensure they are SMART: specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound,” she said. “Writing down your SMART goals encourages improved prioritization and higher success rates.”

Both experts recommended making small changes that may be easier to build upon and said nutrition is only one piece of the health picture.

“Look at ways to improve your stress level, sleep, relationships, medication adherence, exercise pattern, and smoking or drinking habits,” Havlichek said. “Your primary care team is a great place to start if you need help with addressing any of these concerns.”

Cross walk in Gillett to coincide with Good Friday

The Gillett-Suring Clergy Association will hold a cross walk April 3. Local pastors will be leading community members as they begin the journey at noon at Gillett High School, 208 W. Main St., Gillett. There will be a brief scripture reading and prayer at each of four stops as the cross walk makes its way through the city. The cross walk is being held as part of Good Friday and will end at St. John’s Lutheran Church, 101 W. Main St., Gillett. Coffee and snacks will be available. For information, call Hillside Assembly Church at 920-855-2962.

2026 Event Schedule

Near Memorial Park, Shawano

Friday June 5th

EVENT TIME • 4:00 PM-10:00 PM

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Wet Possum 7:00

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Right to information remains under attack

Good journalism is usually unpopular, because it drags into the sunshine things those with vested interests prefer to either keep secret or spin into a favorable narrative.

Yet our framers believed news reporting was so important they made it a foundational building block of the republic.

Journalists either learn to live under attack or get out of the business. Those are the only options.

In a career spanning 50-plus years, I've experienced death threats, bomb threats at our building, assaults on our reporters, and had liberals call me a right-wing fascist and conservatives call me a lefty communist. Goes with the territory.

Journalists make mistakes. Plenty of them. Criticism is often deserved. The only time I saw journalism under this kind of relentless attack, though, was at the height of the Watergate crisis. Let's look at some issues facing journalism today.

Start here. What's the difference between news and opinion? The lines have been blurred, and we're all the worse off for it. This piece is opinion, not news, because I am expressing my own views, which are no more or no less important than yours. The purpose of opinion writing is to spark discussion and debate. It should be clearly identified. Real news should be presented without opinion.

That model is turned on its head with how many people consume information. Examples abound. Talk radio slants left or right. FOX News and other outlets on the right always support the conservative narrative. MS Now (formerly MSNBC) and other liberal outlets always take the progressive line. Podcasts look to persuade based on political points. This is not journalism. It is advocacy. If that's where you get your news, well, you are not getting news. Don't get me started on the unreliability — and worse — prevailing on social media.

Challenges in reporting today can be blunt and rough. Consider the arrest of Don Lemon for accompanying demonstrators into a Minneapolis church. I am not a Don Lemon fan. His record is mostly as an advocate, not a journalist. Yet he was recorded telling both protesters and congregants that he was not part of the group invading the church but rather was there

to ask questions and report.

Should he have stayed outside the church? Probably. We always made sure our reporters understood the difference between reporting from a public space and entering private property without invitation,

and the risks involved. Lemon may have exposed himself to a trespassing charge. Being accused of more serious crimes — and the risk of prison — seems not only absurd but intended to

intimidate. Expect a judge to throw out the charges at the earliest opportunity.

Likewise with execution of a search warrant for the home and devices of a Washington Post journalist, accused of obtaining leaked information from government officials. That's how journalism works, whether in Washington or Beloit. Many of our most successful and award-winning investigations relied on leaks from inside local government organizations. Officials never like it, yet the public is usually better off for knowing than not knowing.

The White House press-room removed privileges for a number of legacy media and replaced them with friendly, often obscure, agencies unlikely to ask unwelcome questions. The Pentagon told reporters they had to sign a document promising not to release information without permission or lose their access to the building. All legacy media refused — including FOX News — and their space was reassigned to friendlier reporters. Think about this. Would the Pentagon Papers have been reported under this restriction? The My Lai massacre?

Back to the part about journalists being unpopular. Good journalism steps on toes. Indiscriminately. To the left. To the right. The best journalists do not want or need your love. They do want you to have facts, including the facts you might prefer not to see or read. The framers thought that was how self-governing people could preserve their liberty. They were right then and they're right now.

Be a smarter news consumer. Start by accepting that your own narrative is an opinion, not a fact, and open your mind to the possibility that your side — left or right — can be wrong.

Bill Barth is the former editor of the Beloit Daily News and a member of the Wisconsin Newspaper Hall of Fame. Readers can contact him at bbarth@beloitdailynews.com.



BILL BARTH
GUEST COLUMNIST

EDITORIAL

State newspapers urge passage of legislation to protect free speech

State Sen. Eric Wimberger (R-Oconto) and Rep. Jim Piwowarczyk (R-Hubertus) have introduced Wisconsin Senate Bill 666/Assembly Bill 701, which would adopt the Uniform Public Expression Protection Act (UPEPA), bringing long-overdue free speech protections for citizens and journalists in Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Newspaper Association and this newspaper applaud Wimberger and Piwowarczyk for introducing SB 666/AB 701 and enthusiastically urge its passage. Designed to protect free speech and the right to petition the government, SB 666/AB701, will allow the courts to quickly dismiss lawsuits that are filed not to win on the merits, but to intimidate, silence or financially exhaust critics.

So-called SLAPPS

— Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation — are often used against individuals who speak out on matters of public concern, such as government accountability, tax and spending decisions, consumer protection, environmental impacts or workplace conditions.

Even when these cases are weak or baseless, the cost and stress of litigation can be enough to deter people from speaking at all. Anti-SLAPP laws are intended to stop this abuse of the court system.

Under UPEPA legislation, which was developed by the nonpartisan Uniform Law Commission, a person who believes they are the target of a SLAPP lawsuit could ask the court to dismiss the case if it arises from their exercise of free speech

or their right to petition on a public issue. If the court agrees, the lawsuit would be dismissed, and the party who filed it could be required to pay the defendant's attorney fees and costs. The fee-shifting provision is critical, as it discourages the use of litigation as a weapon rather than a legitimate means of resolving disputes.

Wisconsin is currently behind much of the country in providing these protections. According to the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, 31 states have anti-SLAPP laws in place. As a result, journalists, activists and ordinary citizens in Wisconsin are more vulnerable to retaliatory lawsuits than their counterparts in other states.

Passage of Senate Bill 666/Assembly Bill 701 will address this disparity.

SLAPP lawsuits are powerful tools for silencing dissent, not because they are likely to succeed in court, but because they impose crushing legal costs and risks. For many people, the mere threat of such a lawsuit is enough to discourage them from speaking out, even when their speech is lawful and important to the public.

The good news — both SB 666 and AB 701 have passed committee with unanimous, bipartisan support. We urge legislative leaders to ensure SB 666/AB 701 receives votes in the full Assembly and Senate so that Wisconsinites can feel free to express their opinions on public issues without fear of being subjected to a costly lawsuit.

Contact your legislator and voice your support for passage of Senate Bill 666/Assembly Bill 701.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

US will suffer from poorly planned war

To the editor:

America First started as an isolationist promoting organization in 1939 just prior to World War II opposing the U.S. entering the war against Germany. Its most prominent member was the aviation hero and Nazi sympathizer Charles Lindbergh. After Pearl Harbor, it dissolved in importance as Germany declared war on the U.S..

The historian George Santayana famously stated, "Those who cannot

remember the past are condemned to repeat it." The war in Vietnam started with the now debunked Gulf of Tonkin attack. The war in Iraq was started on the false premise that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction.

Now Donald Trump states that he initiated the attack on Iran, because an attack on the U.S. was imminent. Tulsi Gabbard, the director of national security, testified to Congress in March 2025 that Iran was not actively building nuclear weapons. After the June 2025 bombing,

Trump claimed that Iran's nuclear facilities had been "completely obliterated."

Given the number of countries that Trump has ordered bombed in recent months, even his MAGA base aren't happy with this interventionist policy. By any measure, Israel and America's daily intensive bombing constitutes a war, not an excursion, police action or whatever fictional parlance is conjured up.

America First believers could look at it this way though. There is an America First in Trump's

bombing Iran. This is the first war the U.S. has conducted in support of an individual indicted as a war criminal. Benjamin Netanyahu's specialty is relentless bombing of civilian populations, with American weapons to boot. Plus, the rapid rise in oil prices helps the Russian economy.

Truth be told, we will suffer from the consequences of this colossal, poorly planned war. Santayana is proved correct yet again.

Stephen Menard, Shawano

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Who's ready for another trip to state?

Bonduel boys top Marathon, Kewaunee in D4 sectional

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

Thanks to the Bonduel boys basketball team, two No. 1 seeds for this season's WIAA state tournament aren't in the mix for a state title.

The Bears, however, are heading back to the Kohl Center in Madison for the second time in a row and second time in program history after a 78-68 win over Marathon March 14 in a Division 4 sectional final at D.C. Everest High School in Weston.

The win came two days after Bonduel knocked off previously undefeated Kewaunee 73-62 in a semifinal.

Bonduel improved to 26-3 and is the No. 1 seed among the four remaining Division 4 teams. The Bears will face No. 4 Cambridge at 6:35 p.m. March 19 in one of two Division 4 semifinals, while No. 2 Milwaukee Juneau and No. 3 Regis will meet in the other semifinal. Winners will advance to the championship game, set for about 1:30 p.m. March 21.

Bonduel 78, Marathon 68

Senior Griffin Uelmen, who came into the game with the Red Raiders averaging fewer than eight points a contest, scored 19 of his game-high 26 points



BONDUEL'S JACK ZERNICKE PUTS UP A SHOT IN FRONT OF KEWAUNEE'S DANE HARRELL.

GREG SEUBERT

in the first half that helped the Bears take a 41-25 lead into the locker room.

Marathon cut the lead to 64-60 with just under five minutes remaining, but the Bears answered Marathon's rally with a 10-3 run that pushed the lead back to 11. Bonduel's final eight points came from the free-throw line.

While most teams focus a lot of their attention on Ryan Westrich, the Red Raiders had problems with Uelmen, whose 19 points in the first half included four 3-pointers and a 3-point play.

"Griffin's a really good player," coach Duke Copp said. "He's a senior, he's been to state in cross country and track, he's a great athlete and he hit some huge shots in the first half."

Quinn Wesenberg added 22 points for Bonduel to go along with Westrich's 14.

The Bears advanced to the Division 4 championship game last season before falling to Aquinas in the team's first-ever trip to state.

That experience, as well as making it to a sectional final two seasons ago but falling to Marathon, helped the Bears this season, according to Copp.

"Our kids have been there," he said. "Making this run last year helps a lot. Today, getting a good start was key. We almost gave it away, but we hung on."

Bonduel 73, Kewaunee 62

The Bears spent most of the first half trailing the

Storm at Kaukauna High School, but a 13-2 run to start the second half gave Bonduel a lead it never lost.

Bonduel trailed by as many as six points in the first half before Uelmen's buzzer-beating 3-pointer for the Bears sent the teams into the locker room tied at 30-30.

"That was huge because we were struggling," Copp said. "We weren't playing that well in the first half, and we knew it. To tie it up was awesome."

The Bears took the lead for good by scoring the first seven points of the second half. Kewaunee's Connor Kilgore ended the run with a basket to cut the lead to five points, but the Storm never got any closer the rest of the way.



Quinn Wesenberg scores two of his eight points for Bonduel on March 12 in a 73-62 win over Kewaunee.

GREG SEUBERT

Westrich later scored 12 straight points for the Bears and ended up leading all players with 27 points.

Four 3-pointers helped the Storm cut the Bears' lead to 68-62 with less than a minute remaining. A turnover gave Kewaunee an opportunity to get even closer, but a carrying violation on Kilgore with 35 seconds to go gave the ball back to the Bears.

Bonduel then sealed the win with two free throws from Westrich and Uelmen and one from Carter Moesch.

Moesch and Uelmen finished with 19 and 11 points, respectively, while Wesenberg and Jack Zernicke added eight each.

Diesel Bosdeck led four Kewaunee players in double figures with 15 points, while Kilgore, Mason Kovacs and Dane Harrell added 12, 11 and 10, respectively.

"It came down to gritty, tough basketball plays,"

Copp said. "What a great team they are. There's a lot of talent on that floor. They play so hard and play tough defense, but I thought we did at times, too."

Bonduel's postseason has included wins over a pair of No. 1 seeds — Marathon and Kewaunee — as well as a come-from-behind win over Iola-Scandinavia in a regional final in which the Bears trailed by a point with a minute to go, but ended up winning 70-65. The Bears had opened tournament play with an 82-40 win over Oconto.

"We had a tough run through the tournament and the season," Copp said. "We played a lot of good teams this year, so we felt we were ready for this, but you never know how it's going to go."

"This is exhausting, but this is what it's all for. It's great to see our community out here and Marathon. What a great atmosphere. This is what high school basketball's about."

Tigerton's 'magical' season ends with sectional final loss

Tigers held to 12 points in 2nd half

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

Plans for the Tigerton boys basketball team's first trip to state in program history have been put on hold.

The Tigers headed into their WIAA Division 5 sectional final with Reedsville on March 14 with a 28-0 record, but the Panthers ended Tigerton's season with a 56-45 loss at Oconto

Falls High School.

The loss came two days after the Tigers kept their unbeaten season alive with a 54-41 win over Wabeno/Laona in a sectional semifinal in Antigo.

Reedsville 56, Tigerton 45

Tigerton trailed by as many as six points in the first half, but closed the half with a 16-5 run to take a 33-28 lead at the break.

The lead didn't last long, however, as the Panthers opened the second half with seven straight points in less than two minutes and held the Tigers to 12 points in the half.

"They came out and hit us hard in the mouth right away," coach Dan Hoffa said. "They scored seven unanswered (points). We got a little flustered. That's why I took a time out. We were able to tame ourselves and get back in it. We tied it and took the lead again."

Baskets from James Brady turned a 37-35 deficit into a 29-37 lead, but Reedsville responded with 3-pointers from Jack Schwahn and Connor McDonald, and the Panthers never trailed again.

TIGERS, continued on page 18



James Brady ends up with the ball for Tigerton. The junior scored 28 of the Tigers' points March 14 in a 56-45 loss to Reedsville.

GREG SEUBERT

Shawano hockey team to join GNC in 2027-28 season

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

The Shawano/Bonduel boys hockey team only has one more year of an independent schedule before joining the Great Northern Conference in 2027-28.

The WIAA board of control voted March 10 to approve Shawano's request to join the conference.

"We're excited about it," said Adam Gafner, Shawano/Bonduel head coach and president of the Shawano Hockey League. "There is a lot of value and purpose in joining a conference."

Current teams in the GNC are Tomahawk, Northland Pines, Mosinee, Waupaca, Antigo, Lakeland, Medford and Rhinelander.

Gafner said the Shawano youth hockey teams and the high school team plays most of the GNC teams already.

"This is 15 years in the making," he said. "We are finally in a conference we belong in."

An early vote by the athletic directors of the existing GNC schools was against allowing Shawano to join. Gafner holds no animosity because of the vote.

"They voted based on what they thought was the best interests of their students," he said. "I understand that."

As conference members, the team can now compete for a conference title, and players can compete for conference awards, both of which are lacking when teams play an independent schedule.

The move could also generate some rivalries for the Hawks.

"We sort of have one now against Antigo," Gafner said. "We could develop one with Rhinelander, with even more over time."

Adding Shawano to the mix isn't the end of the realignment, though.

A fast-track application placing Merrill in the Great Northern Conference for boys hockey will be addressed by the WIAA board following the completion of the realignment process in April.

Merrill currently is part of a co-op team called East/Merrill United with Wausau East and Newman Catholic.

Next season, Merrill will have its own independent team.

kpasson@newmedia-wi.com

TIGERS, continued from page 17

Once the Panthers had the lead, they began milking the clock and ran off more than two minutes on one possession.

"I know this has been a debate for a couple of years now, but should we or shouldn't we have a shot clock," Hoffa said. "They started pulling it out with about 13 (minutes) to go when they were only up by 2 or 4. We talked about if we get down, that's exactly what's going to happen. Sure enough, that's what happened."

Another Brady basket cut Reedsville's lead to 45-41, but the Panthers closed the game with an 11-4 run and scored their last five points from the free-throw line after the Tigers needed to foul to get the ball back.

Brady scored 18 of Tigerton's 33 points in the first half and 10 of the team's 12 in the second half to finish with a game-high 28. Brody Miller added 10 points, but no other Tigerton player scored more than three.

Schwahn led the Panthers with 21 points, including five 3-pointers. Arden Strenn and Ben Prochnow also finished in double figures with 15 and 13 points, respectively.

Tigerton 54, Wabeno/Laona 41

Brady's 26 points and 18 rebounds helped the Tigers keep their season alive with a win over the Rebels.



Tigerton's Caleb Dahlstrom guards Reedsville's Zach Prochnow.

GREG SEUBERT

Tigerton took a 29-21 lead into the locker room at halftime and outscored the Rebels 25-20 over the final 18 minutes.

"Our strength is inside, obviously," Hoffa said. "(Brady) did what he had to do and our guards did just enough to get us over that hump. Anytime there was a run, we were able to hold our composure and continue to stay the course and get a bucket. That's always been our motto: get a bucket, get a stop."

Brady was the only Tigerton player to score in double figures, as Miller and Sam Anheuser added eight points each.

"Once we were able to pull away and give ourselves a little bit of breathing room, you could tell (Wabeno/Laona) panicked a little bit," Hoffa said. "Give them credit. They put that pressure on us, and it's something honestly I don't think we really expected. Nobody's really pressured us all year long. We had our turnovers, but we were able to overcome it and get some easy buckets down the stretch."

Besides Brady, the Tigers' defensive effort also led to the win, Hoffa said.

"That defense is so

tough," he said. "(Wabeno/Laona) is guard-oriented, and they live and die by that 3. Kudos to these guys. They played awesome."

Although the season ended with a loss, Hoffa hopes his players will remember the most successful season in program history.

"It was a magical season for our boys, for the school, for the town," he said. "I can't be prouder of what we've done and accomplished. Unfortunately, we fell one short. It hurts, it stings, but like I told the boys, if you give it a week or two and go back and look at the entire season, they're going to be proud of what they've done."

Bay Conference will expand to 10 schools

Beginning in the 2027-28 school year, the Bay Conference will expand to 10 teams in all sports except for football.

The change was approved by the WIAA on March 10.

According to the realignment plan, Appleton

West will exit the Fox Valley Association to enter the Bay Conference.

Teams already in the Bay Conference are Fox Valley Lutheran, Green Bay East, Green Bay West, Menasha, New London, Seymour, Shawano, Winneconne and Xavier.

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Local deer hunting chapters counting on annual banquets

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

A statewide organization based in Shawano that wants to promote deer hunting and other outdoors-related activities is looking for new members and new chapters.

Chuck Dallas, of Shawano, is president of the Wisconsin Deer Hunters Inc. board of directors and is past president of the group's Shawano chapter.

"The old-timers, when they created this thing back in 1988, they were all involved in White-tails Unlimited, wild turkeys and all that," he said. "They were disappointed that they would work really hard as volunteers at these banquets and see the money leave the community."

Wisconsin Deer Hunters Inc. was originally known as Wisconsin Whitetails Inc. until a name change in 1998.

"Most of what our six chapters are doing is helping promote things within our own communities," Dallas said. "A lot of this is youth organizations, trying to get youths involved in shooting sports, hunting, fishing. It's kind of the same with veterans and disabled individuals. We're funding food pantries, homeless shelters, you name it. I think it's very impressive that the six chapters have given out over \$132,000 to their local communities."

Dallas said it's important for organizations like Wisconsin Deer Hunters to get new people interested and involved in the outdoors.

"In this area, we have trap-shooting teams at the high school level," he said. "We have shooting sports through 4-H."

The organization also provides financial support to Raised at Full Draw, a youth camp for hunters and bowhunters that has been held in Shawano



Brynn Hannes, a 2025 graduate of Shawano Community High School and now a student at Iowa State University, received the Clarence Manthei Scholarship from the Wisconsin Deer Hunters Inc.'s Shawano chapter. Chapter President Ron Schmalz presented Hannes with a check last year. Hannes is majoring in agricultural studies with an emphasis in international agriculture. The chapter will hold its annual banquet Sept. 10 at the Crawford Center in Shawano.

CONTRIBUTED

County since 2020.

Dallas said the six chapters include about 1,200 members. Four of those chapters are located in Shawano County.

Each of the six chapters have scheduled a fundraising banquet in 2026.

Upcoming banquets for area chapters are:

- Witt-Birn Chapter: 5 p.m. April 11 at Chet & Emil's, Birnamwood. Contact Denny Brahmer at 715-454-6637 or bucksinbotoms@gmail.com for details.

- Northwinds Chapter: 5 p.m. Aug. 28 at Northwinds Banquet Hall, Marion. Contact Al Beyersdorf at 715-853-6586 or northwindschapter@yahoo.com.

- Shawano Chapter: 5 p.m. Sept. 10 at the Crawford Center, Shawano. Contact Scott Parsons at 715-853-6772, 715-524-1951 or Sparson63@gmail.com for details.

- Woodland Chapter: 5 p.m. Oct. 1 at Woodland Supper Club & Banquet Hall, Gresham. Contact Michael Prey at 715-940-0401 or WoodlandCWDH@gmail.com for details.

Dallas is involved with the Shawano chapter's banquet and estimated about half of the organization's members are deer hunters.

"It's our major fundraiser for the year," he said. "Some (chapters) may have other events, but

this determines how much money we have to support the communities. It can be as high as 300 people and as low as 80."

Two of the chapters – Shawano and Woodland – are fewer than 20 miles apart, and several WDH members attend both banquets.

"Both of them are very successful with about 180 people showing up," Dallas said. "Back in the day, the old-timers had different thoughts on what the banquet should look like. We run things a little differently, and our banquets are about a month apart. We have some members that go to both, which is fine, but some that are just a member of

one (chapter) and not the other."

Raffle and door prizes such as firearms attract many people to each banquet.

"Some of us will bundle raffles so you can be in more at a cheaper cost," Dallas said. "There are youth guns, things for the ladies like apparel or jewelry."

The Shawano chapter has added exhibitors to its banquets.

For the most part, banquet attendees are WDH members.

"We'll have members come and go depending on what happens with family activities," Dallas said. "We have a fun activity where there's a gun (prize) for every table. We have round tables with eight people, so you have a one in eight chance of winning, and people love it."

Many of the raffle and door prizes are purchased at a discount, while others are donated.

"In Shawano, we moved to Scheels, and they supply us with guns all tied to a gift card," he said. "You win a \$500 gun, and you get a gift card that night. You can go get that gun within 10 days if you like, or you can buy anything you like in the store. Some of our chapters are still doing the registration right at the banquet, but the vendors we work with are pretty open. If you don't want this Ruger 10/22 that you just won, but you're shopping for a shotgun, come on down and we can work with you."

WDH is currently open to the idea of adding additional chapters throughout Wisconsin. A chapter in the Appleton area recently folded after running out of volunteers, and Dallas said ideal areas for new chapters include the Fox Valley, Madison, La Crosse and Eau Claire.

Anyone interested in starting a chapter can contact Dallas at cdallas@cornerstone-business.com or 715-304-9484.

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Youth hockey teams play at state tournaments

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

A pair of Shawano Hockey League Pee wee teams and the Bantam team recently competed in state tournament games across the state.

The U12 Pee wee A team went 2-1 March 7-8 at the Oshkosh YMCA.

On March 7, Shawano defeated Beaver Dam 7-4, then lost 8-1 to Marshfield. On March 8, the Hawks beat Amery 6-5.

The U12 Pee wee B team had a 1-2 record March 7-8 in Rhinelander.

On March 7, Shawano lost 4-0 to Somerset and 5-1 to Rhinelander. The next day, the local team defeated Barron/Chetek 7-2.

On Feb. 21-22, the U14 Bantam team went 2-1 at the Waupun Ice Arena.

Shawano opened tournament play Feb. 21 with a 7-1 loss to Sun Prairie, then defeated Waupun 7-6. On Feb. 22, Shawano defeated Rhinelander 6-4.



Shawano's Charlie Nooyen falls forward toward the puck as he and teammates Issac Szymanski, left, and goalie Kamdyn Braatz compete against Rhinelander in a state tournament contest March 7.

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THEME: PLANTS

ACROSS

- 1. Canvas primer
- 6. Chlorofluorocarbon, acr.
- 9. Heroin, slang
- 13. Poetic although
- 14. Indochinese language
- 15. Part of a whole
- 16. Like certain suspects
- 17. Rainbow, e.g.
- 18. Not mainstream, as in art
- 19. *Coast _____, world's tallest tree
- 21. *Vanilla-producing plant
- 23. Classic film production company, acr.
- 24. _____ in the neck
- 25. _____ the season!
- 28. Ready and eager
- 30. "Reader's _____" magazine
- 35. "Do _____ others..."
- 37. Rubber bulb on an old bike
- 39. "Lord of the Flies" shell
- 40. Bear's den
- 41. *Colorful daisy-like bloom
- 43. *The corpse flower emits a foul one
- 44. Spouse's parent
- 46. EU money
- 47. Unadulterated
- 48. Fish food unit
- 50. Karl of politics
- 52. Between NE and E
- 53. Fat Man or Little Boy
- 55. Major time period
- 57. *Fastest-growing plant

- 60. *Coffea _____ a.k.a. coffee plant
- 64. Dam
- 65. Slovenly abode
- 67. More painful
- 68. Change the Constitution
- 69. Old Man's turf, according to Hemingway
- 70. Black tie one
- 71. Shakespeare, a.k.a. _____ of Avon
- 72. Kum Ba follower
- 73. What defense does, after presenting

DOWN

- 1. India's wild ox
- 2. Something _____
- 3. Poker variety
- 4. Medieval oboe
- 5. Study of bird eggs
- 6. Armor-_____
- 7. Distant
- 8. Cold-weather drink
- 9. Hyperbolic sine
- 10. Ghana money
- 11. Battery fluid, e.g.
- 12. "Wow!"
- 15. Alfresco meal
- 20. Nebraska's largest city
- 22. Antonym of keep
- 24. Throw out of kilter
- 25. *It once was more valuable than gold
- 26. Absurd
- 27. Static picture
- 29. *U. S. national flower
- 31. Gwyneth Paltrow's brand
- 32. Empower
- 33. Open disrespect

CROSSWORD											
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- 34. *Leaves of _____, let them be
- 36. Non-written exam
- 38. Infamous Roman tyrant
- 42. Space exploration vehicle
- 45. Like duck's foot
- 49. Likewise
- 51. Pencil tip
- 54. *Covered with sphagnum

- 56. Beyond's partner
- 57. Pulpit predecessor
- 58. Affirm with confidence
- 59. Darn a sock, e.g.
- 60. Nursemaid, in India
- 61. Wraths
- 62. One-tenth of a dime
- 63. Liberal pursuits
- 64. Blood testing site
- 66. *Camellia sinensis drink

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		5				7		
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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Lena to host Easter Egg-Stravaganza

Families are invited to celebrate the season at the annual Lena Easter Egg-Stravaganza, hosted by the village of Lena on April 4 from 10 a.m. to noon at St. Anne’s Parish Hall, 221 E. Main St., Lena.

The free community event will feature a variety of family-friendly activities for children and their families. Highlights of the morning include an Easter egg hunt, visits with the Easter bunny, Easter-themed games, a coloring contest, craft activities, and plenty of prizes and treats for participants.

Families are encouraged to bring their baskets and join in the festivities.

COURT NEWS

• Randy L. BremPELL, 54, Lena, pleaded no contest March 10 to burglary to a building or dwelling. Judge Michael Judge withheld sentencing and placed him on two years of probation with conditions including five months in county jail.

• Robert Lee McDonald, 47, Howard, pleaded no contest March 10 to misdemeanor charges of battery and disorderly conduct. Related felony charges were dismissed but read into the record in a plea agreement. Judge withheld sentencing and placed him on two years of probation with conditions.

• Justin Joseph Navin, 43, Hortonville, pleaded guilty March 9 to operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fourth offense). Judge imposed and stayed a one-year county jail sentence, then placed Navin on three years of probation with conditions, including 90 days in jail.

• John J. McDonald, 45, Oconto, had a deferred judgment agreement revoked from a 2024 conviction for child abuse intentionally causing harm and misdemeanor charges of resisting or obstructing an officer and disorderly conduct, and he pleaded no contest in a second case of child abuse intentionally causing harm. Judge withheld sentencing and placed him on two years of probation with conditions.

• Jonathan Scott Chandler, 24, Elkhorn, pleaded no contest March 11 to substantial battery intending bodily harm. Judge withheld sentencing and placed him on 18 months of probation with conditions.

• Michelle Jean Jasmin, 50, Appleton, pleaded no contest March 11 to a misdemeanor charge of resisting or obstructing an officer. Two counts of felony bail jumping were dismissed but read into the record in a plea agreement. Judge Jay Conley sentenced her to 20 days in county jail.

• Morgan K. Scarpino, 33, Clarendon Hills, Illinois, pleaded guilty March 10 to driving or operating a vehicle without consent. Judge withheld sentencing and placed her on one year of probation with conditions.

• Jeremy W. Heise, 40, Suring, had his probation revoked Oct. 17 from a 2025 conviction for possession of methamphetamine and two counts of felony bail jumping. Judge sentenced him March 11 to four years in prison followed by three years of extended supervision with conditions.

• Amanda Amber Monfort, 40, Oconto Falls, pleaded no contest March 13 to misdemeanor charges of battery and disorderly conduct. A felony count was dismissed but read into the record in a plea agreement. Conley withheld sentencing and placed her on one year of probation with conditions.

• Thomas R. Speck, 39, Clintonville, pleaded no contest March 13 to theft from a corpse. Judge withheld sentencing and placed him on three years of probation with conditions.

• Max H. Mayer, 57, Oconto Falls, pleaded no contest March 13 to issuing worthless checks and theft by false representation. Judge withheld sentencing and placed him on two years of probation with conditions.

• Samuel Aron Monheim, 18, Oconto, pleaded no contest March 13 to second-degree recklessly endangering safety and a misdemeanor charge of resisting or obstructing an officer. Conley approved a deferred judgment agreement for the felony count and placed him on one year of probation with conditions for the misdemeanor.

• Zachary L. Robenhorst, 23, Oconto, was charged March 9 with strangulation and suffocation, victim intimidation, and misdemeanor counts of battery and disorderly conduct. Conley set a \$2,500 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until April 16.

• Connor William Christian, 22, New London, was charged March 9 with felony bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of possession of THC, operating while revoked, and violating an ignition interlock device order. Conley set a \$500 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until April 16.

• Cameron Michael Krause, 26, Oconto, was charged March 9 with possession of narcotic drugs and misdemeanor counts of possession of drug paraphernalia and bail jumping. Judge set a \$1,000 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until April 16.

PUBLIC RECORD

OCONTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

March 12
Deputies responded to 77 incidents, including disturbances on South White Potato Lake Road in the Town of Brazeau; fire control burns near South Chase Road and state Highway 32 in the Town of Chase and on Business 41 in the Town of Oconto; a wanted person at the courthouse, 301 Washington St., Oconto; threatening on Golf Course Road in the Town of Maple Valley; 13 traffic stops, one traffic hazard, six traffic offenses, five citizen assists, three miscellaneous traffic incidents, three welfare checks; one 911 hang-up and two open lines; nine ambulance calls; one deer-related crash.

March 11
Deputies responded to 71 incidents, including drugs at an undisclosed location; two death investigations at undisclosed locations; an internet crimes against children incident at an undisclosed location; harassment on East Frontage Road in the Town of Little Suamico; a wrong-way driver on U.S. Highway 41-141 in the Town of Little Suamico; a drug-endangered child incident at an undisclosed location; property damage on County Road VV in the Town of Underhill; five traffic stops, one traffic offense, two citizen assists, two miscellaneous traffic incidents, two welfare checks; one 911 hang-up and two open lines; nine ambulance calls; one crash.

March 10
Deputies responded to 45 incidents, including suspicious activity on U.S. Highway 41 in the Town of Oconto; trespassing on South Rosera Street in Lena; a disturbance on County Road E in the Town of Abrams; a disturbance on Columbia Street in Oconto Falls; a disturbance on state Highway 22 in the Town of Oconto; two traffic hazards, two traffic offenses, three citizen assists, three miscellaneous traffic incidents, three welfare checks; one 911 hang-up and two open lines; two ambulance calls; one deer-related crash.

March 9
Deputies responded to 60 incidents, including a wrong-way driver on U.S. Highway 141 near Timberline Road in the Town of Abrams; a wanted person at the courthouse, 301 Washington St., Oconto; threatening at the Morgan Town Hall, 3276 County Road C, Town of Morgan; internet fraud on County Road J in the Town of Pensaukee; suspicious activity on Waxwing Lane in the Town of Townsend; fire near Frog Pond Road and U.S. Highway 41 in the Town of Oconto; suspicious activity on U.S. Highway 41 in the Town of Oconto; a disturbance on Gregory Lane in the Town of Little Suamico; suspicious activity on Lake Shore Lane in the Town of Mountain; suspicious activity on County Road S in the Town of Chase; one traffic stop, one traffic offense, one citizen assist, one miscellaneous traffic incident, two welfare checks; one open-line 911 call; six ambulance calls; two crashes, one involving deer.

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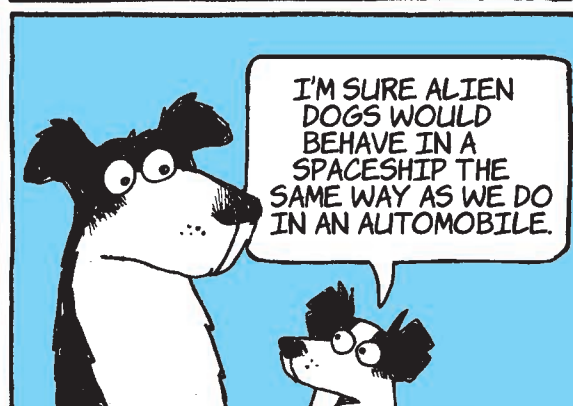
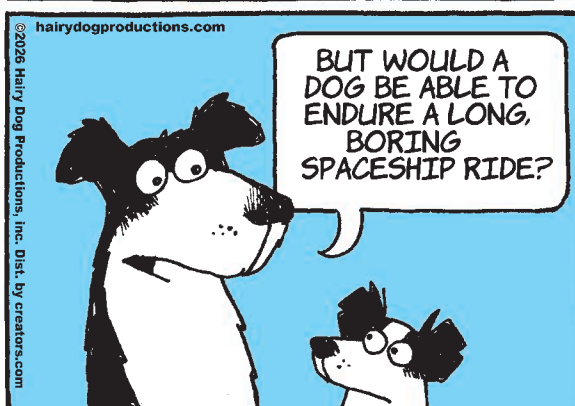
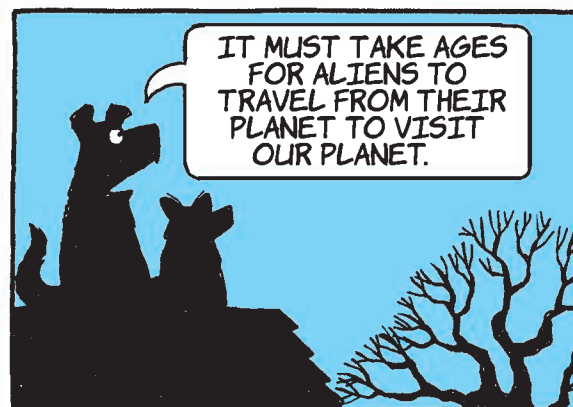
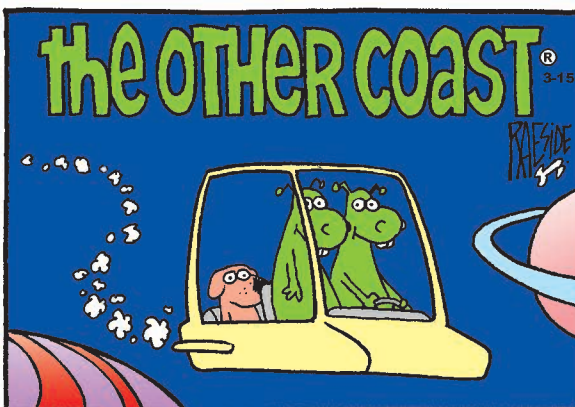
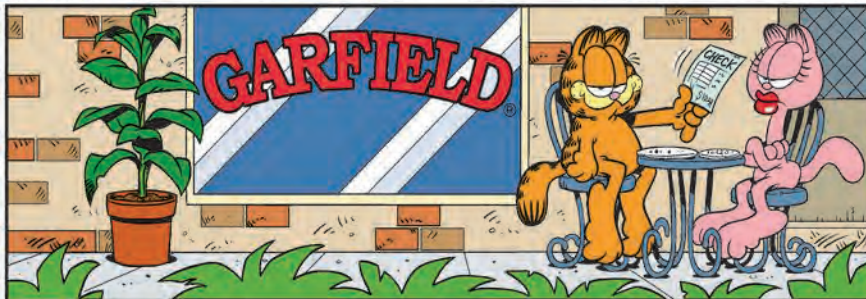
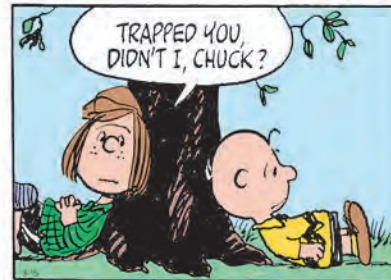
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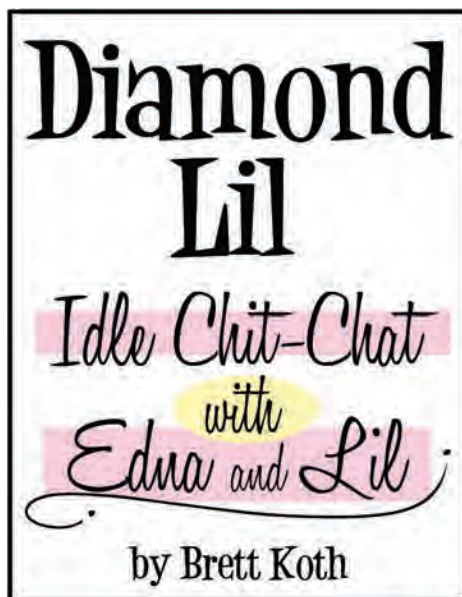
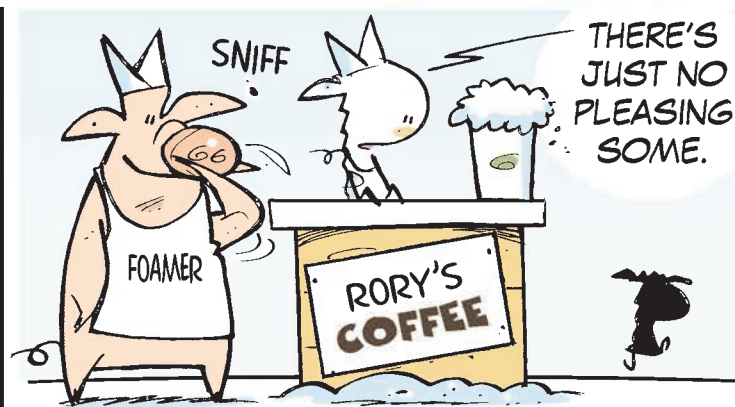
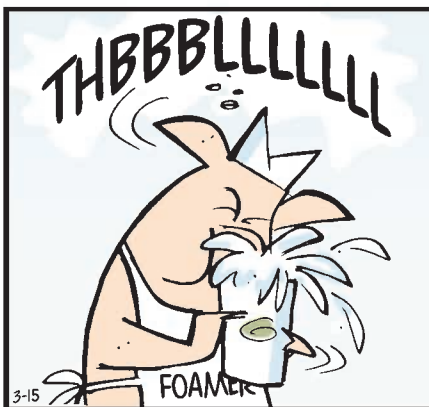
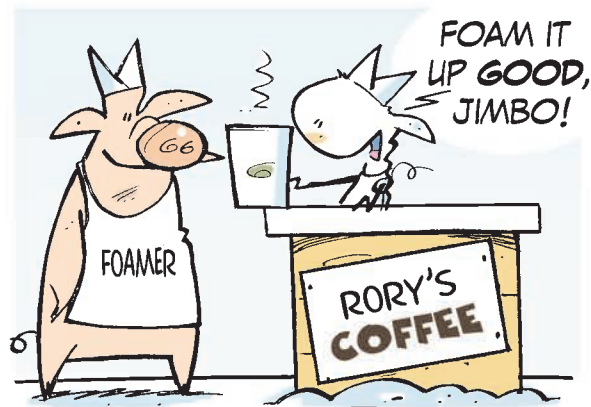
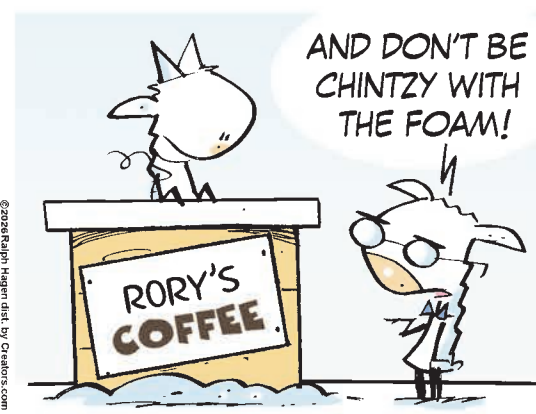
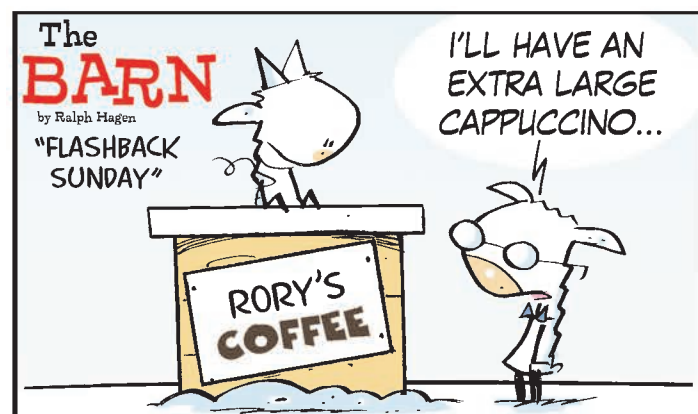
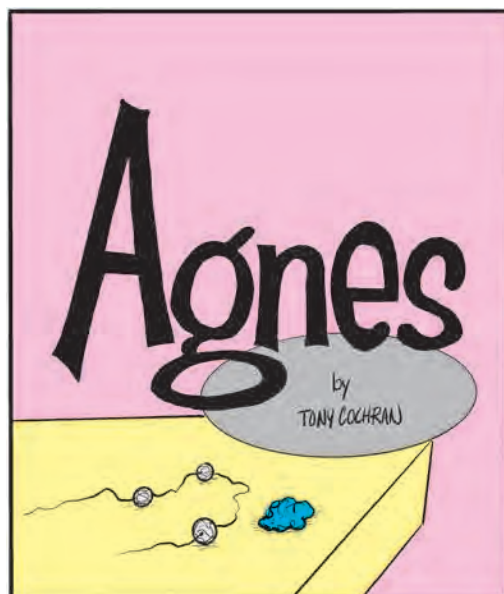


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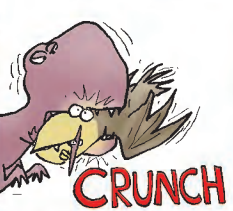
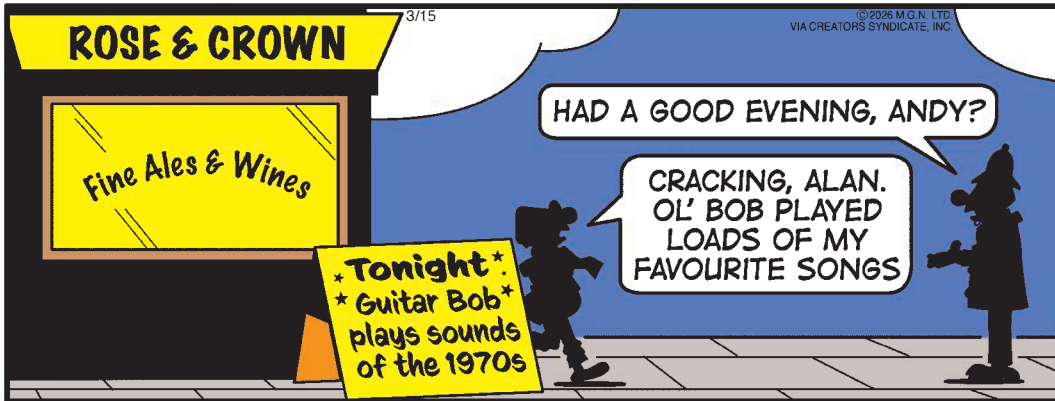






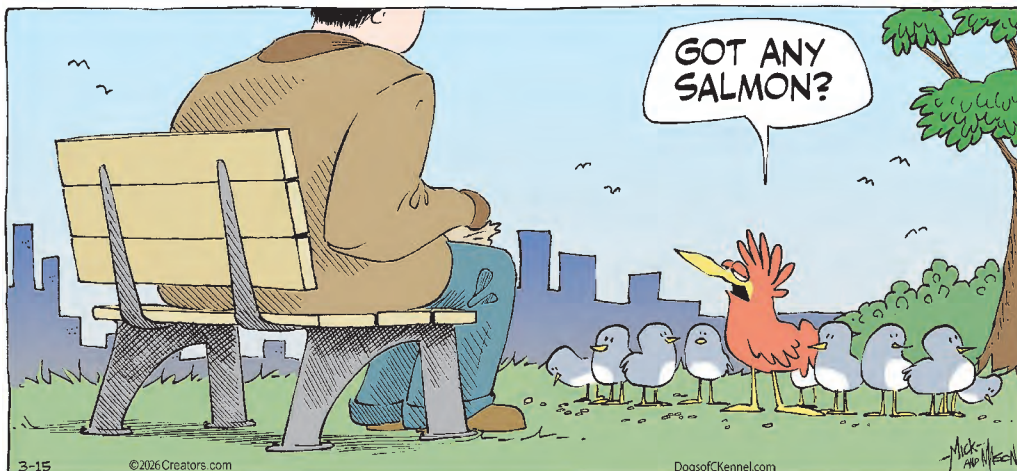
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