

Hospice wing set to open

Unity, northeast Wisconsin's first nonprofit hospice and palliative care provider, has partnered with Meadowbrook at Oconto Falls, to open a dedicated hospice wing.

The collaboration enables Unity and Meadowbrook to meet the growing demand for hospice care delivery.

The Unity Sunset Wing at Meadowbrook, located at 100 E Highland Drive, Oconto Falls, provides a homelike, caring environment for around-the-clock hospice care until the end-of-life, as well as for temporary caregiver relief.

Patients and families can benefit from a full complement of compassionate staff who provide medical, emotional, spiritual and grief support, as well as amenities such as private and semi-private rooms, freshly prepared meals and a family gathering area. Visits from family, friends and pets are welcome at any time.

Members of the public are invited to attend a ribbon cutting celebration June 30. A ribbon cutting presentation will begin promptly at 10 a.m., followed by light refreshments and tours.

"We are thrilled to be partnering with Meadowbrook. Collaboration between nursing homes and hospice is essential to improve access to quality care for more patients

HOSPICE,
continued on page 18

Summer solstice



The 2026 summer solstice occurred June 21. It officially marked the beginning of astronomical summer in the northern hemisphere and was the longest day of the year, providing the most hours of daylight. The dramatic sunset over northeast Wisconsin concluded the first of the 93 summer days.



Attendees honor the flag at the opening ceremony of the eighth annual Roy Hubbard Memorial Truck Show on Friday in Gillett. Trucks, residents and visitors filled Zippel Park on June 20-21. The event has grown into one of the region's premier trucking events.



Father Andy Blaser and his 6-year-old son, Wade, from Oconto Falls, walk the grounds the night of June 19. For more photos, turn to page 18. GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

PHS marching band performing in Philadelphia

The Pulaski Red Raider marching band will perform in the July 3 Salute to Independence Semiquincentennial Parade in Philadelphia.

The parade will feature representation from all 50 U.S. states and U.S. territories.

The parade will also include 50 marching bands, 13 floats, military elements, special units and historical elements, as well as international groups from countries around the globe — all traveling through the streets where the nation's independence

was born 250 years ago.

Participating in a prestigious parade is not new to the Red Raider marching band. In 2007, 2012, 2017 and 2024, the band marched in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California. The band also

performed at Disneyland each of those years while in southern California.

In 2001, 2005, 2015 and 2022, the band performed at Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

Other past performances include the St. Patrick's Day

Parade in New York City in 2019, as well as a Carnegie Hall performance.

PHS also performed in the 2003 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City, in which the marching band was the Midwest representative.

INSIDE

Historic church repurposed into antique store.

PAGE 13



August 6, 7, 8, 9!

The 40th Annual Oconto Falls Fest

Rummage Sale Weekend

City-wide Garage & Yard Sale

OBITUARY

CLAYTON SMITH

Clayton Smith, 95, of Gillett, passed away Monday, June 15, 2026, after a short illness at St. Vincent's Hospital.

He was born Feb. 11, 1931, in the Town of How, the son of Gwynne and Alice (Meles) Smith. Clayton was inducted into the U.S. Army on Oct. 23, 1951, and was discharged Oct. 8, 1953. He was sent to Fort Knox, Kentucky, where he spent his basic training with the D32 3rd Armored Division. In April 1952, he was shipped overseas with Company F 3rd Battalion 351 Infantry Division TRUST, where he played baseball throughout the Mediterranean area until he was based permanently in Trieste, Italy, until his discharge.

On Aug. 30, 1958, Clayton married Barbara Meyer in Sibley, Illinois. After returning from the Army, Clayton worked at Linwood Inc., the family business, and worked with his father running the Smith

Bus Lines, contracted by the Gillett School District. He later owned the bus company from 1976-81.

For some years, Clayton leased buses to various individuals until 1993 when the last bus was sold and he retired.

He continued to work as an ambulance driver on call for the Gillett Joint Ambulance and also worked two days a week at the Recycling Center in Gillett until retiring permanently.

Clayton is survived by his two sons, Kevin Smith and Darrell Smith; two grandsons, Andrew Smith and Alex Smith; sister, Nancy Smith; nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Barbara; and two sisters, Jean Gandt and Gail MacSwain.

A memorial service will be held for Clayton in the future. He will be interred beside his wife, Barb, at Wanderer's Rest



Cemetery in Gillett. Gruetzmacher Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences can be expressed at www.gruetzmacherfuneralhome.com.

Rounding up for literacy



Customers at Iverson's Piggly Wiggly in Oconto Falls rounded up their grocery bills in May to benefit the Marinette and Oconto Counties Literacy Council. Store owner Bryce Iverson presented the \$2,000 donation to Vicki Dobratz and Janet Glime, representatives of the literacy council.

CONTRIBUTED

DIXIE



Dixie has a wonderful personality that truly shines once she's had time to build trust. She can be a bit shy when meeting new people, but her loyalty and affection are worth the wait.

KAREN



Karen is a 2 year old cat with a strong personality. She is very confident around the shelter and has made great friends with the staff. She would prefer a calmer home and few visitors. She is suited for an adopter who understands cat-itude!

SHERBERT



Sherbert is a 3 month old large sized mix breed looking for a home. She is the last in her litter looking for her forever home. If you're ready for young pup energy, stop by the shelter to meet her!

LILY



Lily is a quiet and well-mannered cat looking for a calm home. She is very affectionate and playful once she gets to know you. We hope to find this sweet gal a home soon.

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City of Oconto Falls Job Posting:
Full Time Deputy Treasurer

The City of Oconto Falls is accepting energetic government accounting professional for a full-time Deputy Treasurer position. This position is scheduled for forty hours a week from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. Salary \$25.00-\$29.00 hour depending on qualifications.

GENERAL POSITION DESCRIPTION: The Deputy Treasurer is responsible for the overall maintenance of the City and Utility financial accounting and reporting system including, but not limited to, tax roll recording and settlement, general ledger, payroll including benefits, cash receipts, accounts payable, accounts receivable, coordination of current GASB requirements, and budget preparation. In addition, this position is responsible for City cash and investment management. This position requires a technical background in accounting and computers. The Deputy Treasurer reports directly to the City Administrator and communicates with all departments to ensure that all required accounting information is being completed appropriately and on a timely basis.

QUALIFICATIONS Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business administration, public administration or a related field preferred. Minimum three years of accounting experience, preferably in a local government or utility; or any combination of education and experience that provides the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities. Strong oral and written communication skills and analytical abilities.

BENEFITS The position includes a comprehensive benefit package including medical, dental and vision insurance, Wisconsin Retirement Plan, life insurance, paid holidays, vacation, and sick leave. Apply provide a complete resume, cover letter indicating match to qualifications, and city application. Application can be accessed on City website <https://cityofocontofalls.com/employment/>

Apply at info@cityofocontofalls.wi.gov
any question please call 920-846-4505.

The City of Oconto Falls is an equal opportunity employer and a drug-free workplace.

OBITUARIES

THOMAS LEISCH

Thomas J. Leisch, 81, Oconto, passed away June 16, 2026, at home surrounded by family after a short illness.

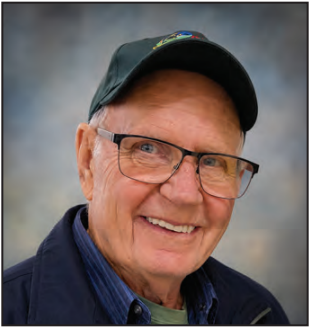
Tom was born Feb. 8, 1945, along with his identical twin brother Bill in Lena, the son of Ralph and Florella (Huncosky) Leisch.

He attended Kelly Brook and Oconto Falls schools, graduating with the class of 1963.

He married Sandy Bickel on July 31, 1965, and they were going to celebrate 61 years of being together.

Tom enjoyed gardening and farming especially with his nephew, Chad Denowski, on the Golden Ridge Dairy Farm. He loved canning everything he raised in his garden his favorite being dill pickles. He was an excellent welder and could fix anything. He worked at many different jobs including the Oconto Brewery and Northwest Engineering until they closed. Then he went on to work at Mid-central Tool and Neroco.

He became a millwright in 1989 with Local 1056 and loved travelling not only for his job but taking camping family vacations every summer. He worked



in many different paper mills and nuclear plants until his retirement. While still working as a millwright, he worked at Whispering Pines Tree Farm cranking up his old John Deere and giving wagon rides to customers. At that same time, he thought it would be fun to own and drive a dump truck, he did that until he said it wasn't fun anymore, probably about seven years.

A few years ago, he purchased his "happy place" at the South Shore Trailer Park, Chute Pond. He and his family made many new and lasting friends there. He also enjoyed camping with his granddaughters, Olivia and Reese Kryger, niece Marissa Axtell and her children, Lexi and Abby.

Tom is survived by his wife, Sandy; three children, Jamie, Tina (Chad) Kryger and Jason (Kelly);

grandchildren, Spencer and Addison Leisch, Nelson de Leon Bran, and Olivia and Reese Kryger; sisters, Karen MacLeish, Chicago, and Linda Leisch, Austin, Texas; brother, Michael (Penny) Leisch, Austin, Texas; sisters-in-law Sandy Leisch, Mary Leisch, Dawn Mastejko, Angela (Dale) Monnette, Carol Uhl and Sheila (David) Denowski; brothers-in-law, Jim Hertwig, Chris (Karen) Bickel and Nick (Jeanie) Bickel; and many nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, Ralph and Florella; in-laws, Gordon and Loraine Bickel; brothers, Vernon and twin Bill; sister, Marilyn; brothers-in-law, John Mastejko and Terry Uhl; nephew, Adam Hertwi; and niece Sharon Davidson.

A celebration of Tom's life will be held at Romy's Holiday Inn, Kelly Lake, Thursday, June 25, 2026, from 4-6 p.m.

In lieu of flowers please donate to Unity Hospice of Northeast Wisconsin.

Special thanks to Dr. Rebecca and Jeanie Young, also Madison and her team from Unity Hospice.

AUDREY DE BORD

Audrey Malitta De Bord (née Kohls), a beloved wife, mother and grandmother, peacefully passed away June 12, 2026, at the age of 83. She was born Aug. 9, 1942, in Gillett.

Her life was a tapestry woven with love, laughter and dedication to her family. She was the devoted wife of Doug De Bord, with whom she was married for 62 years, and together they built a life grounded in love and resilience.

Audrey's memory will be forever cherished by her surviving family, including her husband, Doug De Bord; and her children, Tim (Kim) De Bord and Lori (Chuck) Bunker. Her legacy continues through her three grandchildren, Evan Bunker (21), Sara De Bord (19) and Brad Nelson (37). In addition to her husband, children, and



grandchildren, she is survived by her brother, Ken (Mary) Kohls; as well as many cousins, nieces, nephews, in-laws and friends.

Audrey lived a full life as a wife, mother and supervisor at Molded Rubber and Plastics.

Beyond her career, her passions included

camping at Plymouth Rock, gardening flowers, winning at bingo and baking cookies for her family. A proud supporter of the Green Bay Packers and Milwaukee Brewers, Audrey could often be found cheering on her favorite teams, surrounded by the warmth of family and friends. She was also an active member of the women's club in Hartland, often volunteering to bake or work at Culver's for fundraising events.

Audrey's funeral service will be held at 6 p.m. June 17, 2026, at North Point Church, 400 W. Capitol Drive, Hartland. Family and friends are invited to visit the church directly from 4:30 p.m. until the time of the service. A reception will follow.

Burial will be at the Village of Hartland Cemetery-Upper Annex.

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- ✓ Nicolet Pharmacy, Lakewood
- ✓ Riverview Community Center, Mountain



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WisconsinPublicNotices.org

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THERE ARE 3 EASY WAYS TO REGISTER: Email us at tmurphy@newmedia-wi.com, or go to our website at www.newmedia.wi.com, or Stop By Our Office at, 420 N. Chestnut Avenue, Oconto Falls. any Friday from 8am until noon. There will be a \$20.00 registration fee which includes an ad of up to 30 words, (over 30 words, add 50¢ per word), your approximate location published on a map in the July 31st and the August 7th Oconto County Times Herald, and one large rummage sale sign. **Make checks payable to New Media.**
The deadline is Noon, Friday, July 24, 2026.
No "on the map" Ads Will Be Accepted After This Date.

Name: _____
City: _____
Phone: _____
Address of Sale: _____
Thurs. Hrs: _____ Fri. Hrs.: _____ Sat. Hrs.: _____ Sun. Hrs: _____
List type of merchandise offered (any special items).
Please separate items with a comma, or a period. 30 words or less \$20.00. Over 30 words add 50¢ per word. **Make checks payable to New Media.**
DEADLINE: Noon Friday, July 24, to be on the map.

ONE WORD IN EACH SPACE

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

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Residents are invited to explore the healing plants growing along the Mountain-Bay State Trail during a Native American Plant Medicines Walk from 6-7 p.m. June 30. Walkers will meet at the Red Bridge, 310 W. Rollman St. in Bowler, for a guided half-mile round-trip walk.

CONTRIBUTED

Native American Plant Medicines Walk set for June 30

Community members are invited to explore the healing plants growing along the Mountain-Bay State Trail during a Native American Plant Medicines Walk led by author and herbal educator Misty Cook from 6-7 p.m. June 30. A rain date is scheduled for July 1.

Participants will meet at the Red Bridge, 310 W. Rollman St. in Bowler, for a guided half-mile round-trip walk focused on traditional Native American medicines used by the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans Tribe.

Cook, author of “Medicine Generations: Natural Native American Medicines Traditional to the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans Indian Tribe,” will share the history, identification, gathering, drying,

preservation and traditional uses of medicinal plants found throughout the area. Attendees will learn how local plants have been used for generations in teas, tinctures, salves, and poultices to support healing and health.

Drawing on more than 20 years of experience working with traditional medicines, Cook has documented 58 Native American herbal medicines passed down through oral tradition within her family’s Wolf Clan lineage. Her book highlights the cultural significance of these plants and provides guidance for their identification and traditional preparation.

This special program is part of the yearlong celebration marking the 30th anniversary of the

Mountain-Bay State Trail. The anniversary celebration includes a variety of educational, recreational and family-friendly events taking place throughout the summer and fall across the trail corridor.

The walk offers a unique opportunity to learn about the natural resources growing along the Mountain-Bay State Trail while gaining insight into Indigenous knowledge and traditions.

For information about this event and other activities planned as part of the Mountain-Bay State Trail’s 30th anniversary celebration, visit the Friends of the Mountain-Bay State Trail- Shawano County website at friendsofthemountainbay-trailshawano.org and check the Events section for updates.

WAMSCO holding 5th annual scavenger hunt

The Waterways Association of Menominee and Shawano Counties is holding its fifth annual Where’s WAMSCO event June 19 through July 19.

This is a family-friendly scavenger hunt adventure highlighting local waterways within the borders of Shawano County. There will be four “treasure boxes” placed strategically in recreational areas along waterways.

Each location showcases a different area of natural resources in Shawano County. Each box contains fun facts, activities and token prizes to take home.

For participants that find all four treasure boxes, there will be a raffle drawing for prizes donated by local businesses.

WAMSCO will post weekly clues for each of the four locations on its website and social media pages. Registration is open for the event now through July 19. You must register prior to submitting proof of discovering all four boxes to be

entered into the prize drawing.

A registration link can be found at <https://www.wamsco.org/events/wheres-wamsco>, on WAMSCO social media pages or by scanning the QR code on posters. The treasure boxes are all clearly labeled with a WAMSCO logo standing sign, and nothing will need to be disturbed to find them.



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Indiana teen charged for sex with girlfriend

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

An Indiana teen claimed he could not be arrested for sexual assault with a girl under age 16 because of Romeo and Juliet laws in his state, but he was arrested anyway and could wind up spending much of his adult life in prison.

Clinton Joseph Lawler Bradley, 17, who lives in Groverton, Indiana, was charged with one count of second-degree sexual assault and two counts of child enticement after a Shawano police officer approached his vehicle and learned that a sexual act had taken place in a vehicle in front of Klee-man Family Park with a 14-year-old girl.

The incident took place on the afternoon of June 4, according to the criminal complaint, and a neighbor claimed a green vehicle was parked in front of the park on Alpine Drive with two people having sex. The vehicle allegedly pulled away as the officer approached, but when emergency lights were flashed, the vehicle stopped. The officer reported seeing a torn condom wrapper inside the vehicle.

Bradley allegedly claimed that this was the first time he'd engaged in sex.

The neighbor reported that a teen girl had walked away from the scene prior to the officer's arrival and believed that something "not nice" had taken place, according to the criminal complaint.

Prior to the arrest, Bradley allegedly told the officer that he had been dating the girl for six months, but the encounter in Shawano was the first time he'd met her face to face. The two had allegedly started communicating via Snapchat but then switched to text messaging, according to the complaint.

The officer told Bradley he believed the teen had been having sex and

placed Bradley under arrest. When that happened, Bradley claimed he didn't know what he'd done was illegal and that there were Romeo and Juliet laws in his state, so he couldn't be arrested.

Indiana law, specifically statute 35-42-4-9, allows for a close-in-age exemption protecting teens in consensual sexual relationships from statutory rape laws when the age of the parties is within four years. This only applies to teens who are 14 or 15, as the age of consent in Indiana is 16. The law does not apply to anyone under the age of 14, and it is designed to ensure young people are not automatically labeled as sex offenders.

Wisconsin, on the other hand, does not have a Romeo and Juliet law, and the age of consent is 18. There is no close-in-age exemption, but a marital exemption exists if either of the parties is 16 or 17 years old.

The vehicle was owned by Bradley's father, who was contacted by police and claimed Bradley was driving to Wisconsin to see his girlfriend.

The victim allegedly told a detective that Bradley had forced her to kiss him and repeatedly asked

to do something, indicating sex. She said she agreed so Bradley would stop asking about it, but after the intercourse, she quickly walked away from the scene so it wouldn't happen again.

The victim allegedly claimed Bradley said the vehicle was his father's, but the father was taking a walk so the two could hang out. She told the detective that seemed odd because it doesn't take an hour to go for a walk.

The sexual assault charge comes with a maximum sentence of 40 years in prison and fines of up to \$100,000. The same fines apply to the child enticement charges, but the maximum sentence is 25 years for each charge.

Bradley, who turns 18 on June 24, according to court records, and was assessed a cash bond of \$15,000 on June 10, which has been paid. He is allowed to return to Indiana but must return in person for future court hearings.

A preliminary hearing is scheduled before Shawano-Menominee Circuit Court Judge Katherine Sloma on July 31 at 1:15 p.m., and he has an attorney listed.

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Bea Sagen, 5, gets her first water skiing lesson at Smalley Park Beach in Shawano. Ski Sharks team members use special ropes and boards in acclimating Bea to balancing. Although it was Bea's first skiing experience, she managed to ski solo behind the ski boat. Her first loop was a success, and she stayed upright without falling. She ended the day with two loops and no falls.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA



The Shawano Ski Sharks' annual Community Learn To Ski days bring team members together to help children from the community learn the basic skills of skiing and the safety aspects of the sport. Using boats equipped with training booms, special ropes and special skis, the children learn how to ski in a very controlled environment with very little frustration. The event was held June 19 on the Wolf River.

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- Marie Grady,
Meadowlands Tenant



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Groshek's walk-off homer lifts Elderon to 4-3 win

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

Brandon Groshek's solo home run in the bottom of the ninth inning broke a 3-3 tie and gave Elderon a 4-3 North Division win over Hatley on June 21 as part of a full slate of BABA games played over the Father's Day weekend.

North Division
Elderon 4, Hatley 3
Groshek's walk-off homer lifted the WhiskeyJacks over the Braves.
No other game details were available.
Eland 14, Aniwa 11
Shane Larson had four of Eland's 17 hits in a win on the Orioles' home field.
Nic Barnes and Jeremy Jensen added three hits for the

Engineers, while Jared Richter and Jacob Ligenza added two home runs each.
Chris Wiesman hit a pair of home runs and had three of Aniwa's 14 hits. Wade Farmer, Tanner Graham and Ryan Govek added two hits for the Orioles.
Tyler Nelson picked up the win on the mound and Farmer took the loss.
Birnamwood 19, Crandon 1 (6 inn.)
The Kings picked up a win over the Kentucks on June 19 in a game that ended in the sixth inning because of lightning in the Birnamwood area.
Tommy Gagnon, Zandyr Barke, Mason Meverden and Connor Meverden each had three of Wittenberg's 20 hits, while Grant Praslowicz and Logan Thiex added two.

Trent Palubicki and Cody Schultz had Crandon's only hits. Mason Meverden improved to 3-1 on the season by getting the win on the mound and Palubicki took the loss.
West Division
Wittenberg 3, Leopold 0
The Pilots improved to 4-1 in West Division play by shutting out the Bulldogs in a rain-shortened game June 19 in Wittenberg.
Nathan Waupekenay held Leopold hitless over five innings to pick up the win on the mound, and Pierson Potrykus led the Pilots at the plate with two hits.
Little Falls at Tilleda
Results not reported.
East Division
Gresham at Clintonville
Results not reported.

Menominee at Marion
Results not reported.
South-Central Division
New London 19, Caroline 10
Klay Finger drove in seven of Caroline's runs with a grand slam and three-run double, but the Cougars still fell to the Irish on June 21.
Jared Cartwright added four hits for Caroline, while Gavin Christopherson had two.
Austin Warren hit a grand slam for the Irish, and Colby Schmude and Noah Hanson also homered for New London.
Plover 3, Tigerton 0
Josh Opiola and Kaden Thauer combined to hold Tigerton scoreless June 21 in a home win over the Tigers.
They also struck out 16 batters.

Scandinavia at Weymont
Results not reported.
June 25 schedule
South-Central Division: Scandinavia at New London, 8 p.m.
June 26 schedule (all games start at 7 p.m. except where indicated)
North Division: Antigo/Polar at Eland; Hatley at Birnamwood. West Division: Leopold at Caroline, 7:30 p.m. South-Central Division: Plover at Weymont.
June 28 schedule (all games start at 1:30 p.m.)
North Division: Aniwa at Elderon; Crandon has bye. West Division: Caroline at Wittenberg; Tigerton at Tilleda; Little Falls at Leopold. East Division: Marion at Clintonville; Gresham at Shawano; Menominee has bye.

Cecil edges Nichols in Dairyland League matchup

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

Cecil handed Nichols a 6-5 Dairyland League loss June 21 in Cecil.
Cecil 6, Nichols 5
Neither team scored until Cecil came up with four runs in the bottom of the sixth inning.
The Nitros cut into the lead with a three-run seventh, but the Mudhens answered with two more runs in the bottom half of the inning to go up 6-3.
Nichols scored the game's final runs in the

top of the ninth inning.
The game turned into a pitching duel between Nichols' Cade Johnson and Cecil's Noah Beilfuss.
Johnson held the Mudhens without a hit through the first five innings, while Beilfuss allowed three hits in the first five frames.
Cecil's Jake Polzin broke the scoreless tie with a solo home run in the bottom of the sixth inning before a walk, error and bunt single loaded the bases with nobody out. Beilfuss drove in a pair of runs with a single, Brodie

Hartman walked to load the bases again, and Trace Brehmer hit into a fielder's choice to drive in another run.
Cecil's runs in the seventh inning came on home runs from Easton Engel and Beilfuss.
Bonduel 9, Navarino 5
The Broncos remained undefeated in league play with a home win over the Rangers.
Jett Thielke struck out 15 batters to get the win on the mound and gave up two runs on one hit.
Navarino scored three

runs off reliever Jack Reinke, and Beckett Hartlaben pitched two innings and didn't give up a hit.
Easton Reinke had three of Bonduel's 14 hits, scored twice and drove in three runs. Hartlaben added three hits with three RBIs, and Noah Weier scored twice.
Marinette 15, Pulaski 7 (12 inn.)
The Redbirds needed 12 innings to pick up a win over the Reds in Pulaski.
Marinette came up with eight runs in the top of the 12th inning.

Jake McMahon got the win on the mound for the Redbirds, and Rylie Nelson opened the scoring for Marinette with a two-run home run in the second inning.
The Reds had tied the game at 4-4 in the bottom of the eighth inning.
June 26 schedule (all games start at 7:30 p.m. except where indicated): Nichols at Bonduel; Navarino at Shawano; Hofa Park at Waupaca; Marinette at Cecil; Hortonville at Pulaski, 7 p.m.
June 28 schedule (all games start at 1:30 p.m.): Marinette at Bonduel; Cecil at Hortonville; Pulaski at Hofa Park; Navarino at Waupaca; Shawano at Nichols.



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From the choir loft of the repurposed historical church building, the view showcases many various booths with vintage and antique items on display. The original stained-glass windows remain intact.

KAY REMINGER

Historic church repurposed

Antique goods share space with stained glass windows

By **KAY REMINGER**
Correspondent

Bethany Baptist Church, a historic building located in rural Shawano County, has been repurposed with a new title and mission, thanks to owner Karen Benishek.

The Vintage Church Mouse is a vintage and antique store located at W12902 State Highway 29 in Tilleda. The historic church dates back to 1912 and is graced with original stained-glass windows and charming woodwork throughout the building. The ambience was maintained during the remodeling efforts.

Offered for sale is a variety of antique and vintage items curated by vendors who rent their space.

Previously owning coffee shops, the Benisheks sold them and, deciding to take a break from that pursuit, checked out places to sell antique and vintage items.

Benishek's husband, Jim, is handy with carpentry and remodeling. The couple discovered Bethany was for sale. Having an appreciation for old buildings, one thing led to another and they purchased the building as is, with nothing guaranteed.

"Deciding to purchase the property, there were risks involved," said Benishek. "We knew that, but we took the chance, leaving it in God's hands that whatever worked out would be for our good."



Owner Karen Benishek poses before one of her many unique booths at her business called The Vintage Church Mouse, located at 12902 State Highway 29 in Tilleda.

KAY REMINGER

The couple noted the building was structurally sound.

"We purchased the building in November 2025 and opened June 1, 2026," said Benishek. "In the meantime, my husband had retired from his job as a maintenance director in nursing homes, so he had more time to work on the building. He constructed the booths and sanded the stairs and choir loft floors. The rest remain as we bought it. He hired help to build a wheelchair accessible ramp. I have the vision, he has the skills. I help, but he can do it so much better."

With a heartfelt vision, Benishek had

in mind finding a space where vendors with unique skills can express their creativity, presenting their style and display their unique finds to the public. Most of her vendors are from Shawano and Waupaca counties.

Some of the contributing vendors have more a boho (bohemian-style) hippy, funky kind of vibe. Various booths offer a unique mix of things such as furniture refinishing, painting furniture, and upcycling. Other booths offer kitchen-cottage core, granny core, with vintage clothing upstairs in the choir loft.

"Also featured are various dark, moody décor, dark furniture, more of a library-type, man-academia booths. I also have a mixed, early-Americana, pioneer-woman type booth," said Benishek.

Everything offered for sale is required to be vintage, which in the shop's definition, is 20 years old at least.

There is a books booth called Flut-terby Nook, which offer vintage and used books utilizing a credit/exchange interaction.

"You can bring books in and get credit to buy other books, which encourages fresh stock coming in," said Benishek.

Even when Benishek was younger, she resonated with the traditional way of life, admiring the old ways.

"As a teenager I'd always loved antiques and even wore vintage clothing. My mom was into antiques. I love the nostalgic feel of that era," said Benishek.

Wanting the name vintage in the title – not antique, because not everything is antique – Benishek settled on The Vintage Church Mouse.

"I wanted the word 'church' in my

CHURCH, continued on page 14

Five North American native shrubs for the garden

Here are a few of the many North American shrubs you may want to include in your landscape. As always, make sure each is suitable for the growing conditions, hardy for your location and will fit the available space once mature.

Support a wide range of pollinators and songbirds with buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis), which is native to much of North and Central America. It grows 5-8 feet tall, prefers full to part sun, moist to wet soil and is tolerant of heat and compaction. It is late to leaf out but your patience is rewarded when the 1-inch diameter, fragrant white flowers appear in summer, attracting a variety of pollinators. The flower heads mature to red and the round seed heads provide food for songbirds.

Consider including one or more of the North American native roses to your landscape. Look for those species native to your area and ones that complement your garden design. Grow them in a sunny location with plenty of space and good air circulation for the best flowering and fewest disease problems. Enjoy the flowers and many pollinators that visit and the colorful fruit (rose hips) that songbirds enjoy.

When looking for a drought tolerant shrub consider ninebark, Physocarpus opulifolius. Watch for white or pinkish flowers and visiting pollinators and songbirds dining on the seeds. Place the plant where you can appreciate the exfoliating bark which reveals layers of reddish to light brown inner bark and looks great against a winter sky. Hardy in zones 2-8, it prefers full sun in northern locations and benefits from a bit of afternoon shade in the south.

Plant common elderberry (Sambucus canadensis) if you need a vigorous plant to control erosion, support pollinators and songbirds and naturalize large spaces. Hardy in zones 4-8, it tolerates both wet and dry soil and is often included in rain gardens. The fragrant white flowers appear in summer and are used to make elderflower

SHRUBS, continued on page 14



Buttonbush *Cephalanthus* has flowers that turn into spherical fruit that persist through winter.

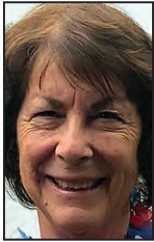
MELINDAMYERS.COM

Marsh presentation looks at Townsend history

Kathleen Marsh will be the featured speaker in Lakes Country Public Library's Speaker Series on July 15 at 5:30 p.m. in a presentation that includes rare photos and fascinating facts that might have been lost to history.

The Town of Townsend, originally known as Johnson Siding, was born in the late 19th century. A tiny, tenacious logging settlement, it was a rough and tumble remote outpost with a bad reputation. At its founding, no one could have imagined that one day Townsend would be home to million-dollar mansions and find itself in the top two assessed value municipalities in Oconto County.

It could not have happened without Chicago and Northwest Railway



KATHLEEN MARSH

using it as a transportation hub. The railroad shipped millions of sawlogs to the mills in Oconto and provided passenger service for decades, selling the last ticket in 1950. The route later became a corridor to facilitate construction of state Highway 32.

Townsend's unique history was recounted by Marsh in three volumes of "The Truth About Townsend" and "Townsend Time, a 2016 Centennial Tribute." All are available at Lakes Country Public Library, 15235 State Highway 32, Lakewood. A limited supply of free copies of Volume II and III.

CHURCH, continued from page 13

title, and thought I should have a mascot so I thought of 'poor as a church mouse' or 'quiet as a church mouse,' well-known sayings," said Benishek. "We decided 'The Vintage Church Mouse' would be appropriate."

At this time Benishek runs the shop by herself.

"I have no helpers. A vendor I'm in the process of training is learning, but as of now there is no one but me," said Benishek.

Celebrating the opening of The Vintage Church Mouse, Benishek plans on holding a ribbon cutting ceremony June 30 at noon, with the Shawano County Chamber of Commerce promoting the event. The public is welcome to attend.

"I'm hiding a dozen mice throughout the store for the ribbon cutting event. For every mouse you find, your name will be placed in a drawing for a free gift

basket," said Benishek.

Karen and Jim Benishek have been married for 41 years and have seven adult children and four grandchildren, with one on the way.

"I have customers that stop in and tell me they looked up to admire the church and seeing that it's a store, decide to stop in," said Benishek. "I want my place to be welcoming and comfortable, where people are encouraged to bring friends, bring kids, or come alone — to find something that they enjoy and what they'd like in their home, or just to browse. I feel God closed other doors for me and then opened a window and especially these stained-glass windows. I trust God and know His good hand is on me always."

For hours of operation and other information, like them on Facebook at The Vintage Church Mouse.

SHRUBS, continued from page 13

water. The purple-black fruit is used to make jams, jellies and wine and is eaten by birds.

The fruit of another native elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) is also black and not considered as tasty as those of the common elderberry. Always cook or ferment the fruit of both as eating uncooked fruit can cause nausea, diarrhea and vomiting. The flowers are edible and can be eaten raw or cooked.

Give elderberries plenty of space as they quickly grow and spread. Regularly remove suckers and seedlings if you need to contain the size of these vigorous plants.

Add year-round greenery along with shelter and food for songbirds by growing one of the North American native junipers. They tolerate full sun and well drained to dry soil once established. Songbirds and small mammals

feast upon their fleshy cones that have also been used to flavor gin and season some foods.

Check with your local garden centers and plant nurseries as more of them are selling native plant species. You will also find cultivars of native plants being bred for unique features or more compact growth to better fit into urban and suburban landscapes. Find out more about native plants at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center website, www.wildflower.org, and from your local extension service.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the "Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition" and "Small Space Gardening." She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" streaming courses and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Her website is www.melindamyers.com.

THEME: THE 4TH OF JULY

- ACROSS
1. Dagger's partner
 6. Elephant party, acr.
 9. Do like volcano
 13. Fire (2 words)
 14. Pro football org.
 15. Jonas Salk's conquest
 16. Like a Harvard building?
 17. ET carrier
 18. Bedeck
 19. *Tasty Fourth of July outings
 21. *Float processions
 23. Black gunk
 24. Ivan the Terrible, e.g.
 25. The Jackson 5's 1970 hit
 28. Caffeine source
 30. TV classic "____ Heroes"
 35. Folio page
 37. Abel's big brother
 39. Fortune teller's card
 40. Rank in British peerage
 41. Archipelago parts
 43. Head for (2 words)
 44. Beseech
 46. Impermanent employee
 47. Prayer's end
 48. Gardener's trimmer
 50. Part of speech
 52. Am is to I as ____ is to we
 53. Calista Flockhart's husband
 55. Likewise
 57. *Salad tuber
 60. *____ Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest
 64. Nonsense

- DOWN
1. Hair holder
 2. First name in jeans
 3. Auricular
 4. ____ provocateur
 5. Island off Alaskan coast
 6. Wildebeests
 7. *For most, the 4th is a day ____
 8. Onomatopoeia for splash
 9. *Drink at a barbecue
 10. Weary walk
 11. Ireland, once
 12. *Patriots ____ over Loyalists
 15. Long John Silver's pet
 20. Crocus, pl.
 22. Ooh partner
 24. Last part (2 words)
 25. 1st letter of Hebrew alphabet
 26. Famous Memphis street
 27. Felt concern
 29. *"...twilight's ____ gleaming"
 31. Lady of "A Star is Born"
 32. Smell
 33. Post-it user
 34. *"Born on the Fourth of July" director
 36. *Popular July 4th decoration
 38. Captain of Nautilus

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Spring migration ends; memories remain

As spring bird migration comes to an end, I feel a hint of melancholy. The season's excitement, anticipation and daily discoveries give way to quieter days. Still, this year's migration left me with a set of experiences and memories that will linger long after the last migrants have passed through to their northern breeding grounds.



LISA JANSEN
COLUMNIST

Many of my migration adventures come through field trips organized by the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin. This year, they offered 280 educational excursions across the state, all aimed at supporting conservation, connecting people with nature, and promoting stewardship.

My migration season began at Wyalusing State Park in Wisconsin's southwest corner. I had never visited before and was hoping to see a Kentucky warbler, one of the state's most sought-after "forest phantom" warblers known to breed there.

Like most birding trips, the day began early, when birds are most active. The forest was filled with song as males sang vigorously to establish territories and attract mates. There was more going on than just singing.

Throughout the morning, males of various species pursued females

through the trees in aerial chases resembling fighter jets weaving and diving through the canopy. Females darted and maneuvered to evade their suitors while determined males followed closely behind. Watching this seasonal drama unfold was every bit as fascinating as spotting the birds themselves.

As our group explored the park, we walked along Sentinel Ridge overlooking the confluence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers. There we learned about the Native American mounds that overlook the valley and the area's connection to one of North America's greatest conservation tragedies: the extinction of the passenger pigeon.

The ridge once lay along a migration corridor traveled by immense flocks of passenger pigeons. Once numbering in the billions, the species vanished in the early 20th century, the last dying in captivity in 1914. A monument overlooking the river honors the species and serves as a reminder of what can happen when wildlife is taken for granted.

Although the Kentucky warbler never appeared, the trip still delivered highlights. A striking cerulean warbler descended from the tree tops for close

views, and a black-billed cuckoo posed with a worm dangling from its beak. Baltimore orioles seemed to be flitting everywhere. It was as if a clown hidden in the canopy was juggling oranges between the branches.

The next NRF trip took me to Door County, where favorable winds had concentrated migrating warblers. Our group recorded 19 species including a Canada warbler hopping between shrubs so fast I couldn't keep up, a Nashville warbler foraging among catkins, and a black-throated green warbler whose buzzy song helped us track him down.

The only warbler with a tubular tongue, a striking Cape May warbler was sipping nectar from flowering buds. Alexander Wilson first observed the species in Cape May, New Jersey, giving it its name, though it was not seen there again for more than 100 years.

American redstarts appeared to be singing everywhere, fitting for a species whose males may hold multiple territories. We also were ecstatic to see a Blackburnian warbler unusually low in the canopy, its flame-orange throat flashing in the spring light. Did you know they are the only warbler in North America with an orange throat?

On the drive home, I stopped at Ken Euer's Nature Area in Green Bay, where birds were fully



A Cape May warbler uses his unique tongue to enjoy a sweet treat among the blossoms.
LISA JANSEN

engaged in the business of spring — establishing territories, attracting mates, building nests, and a couple of tree swallows in the process of, well, filling those nests.

Wilson's phalaropes swam in tight circles while northern waterthrush patrolled the shoreline. Nearby, short-billed dowitchers rapidly probed the shallows for food, sometimes plunging their entire heads underwater. The entire landscape buzzed with activity.

My final NRF trip took me to Wisconsin Point, the narrow sandspit between Superior and Duluth. There, birders can scan Lake Superior for waterbirds, search

mudflats for shorebirds and explore nearby woods for songbirds, all within a relatively small area.

While seeing a great crested flycatcher up close and an American bittern in the open were memorable, the true highlight was learning from our guide. His unique and creative lessons on bird identification while they are flying, swimming, and at rest, were both entertaining and unforgettable, leaving me a better birder and deeply appreciative of the experience.

As spring migration winds down, I feel both gratitude and a touch of wistfulness. The season

offers a chance to witness nature's most remarkable spectacles and, briefly, to feel part of them.

The passenger pigeon remains a sobering reminder of how quickly abundance can vanish when stewardship is neglected. By learning from the past and supporting conservation efforts today, we can help ensure future generations continue to experience the wonder of spring migration for years to come.

Lisa Jansen is a Wisconsin master naturalist, nature writer, and award-winning photographer. She specializes in raising awareness of birds and butterflies of the Midwest.

Columnist got hooked, but he was a Keeper

Father's Day was really special this year because our daughter treated us to a weekend in Madison. Isn't it wonderful when your kids do things like that? We wouldn't have missed this for the world,



KATHLEEN MARSH
COLUMNIST

though getting there and back was an adventure. Navigating traffic on highways 41 and 151 has gone from bad to worse. Jon actually follows speed limits, but many vehicles whizzed by at ridiculous speeds. They change lanes without signaling, cut in and out, tailgate, take foolish chances. Are they in a hurry to get to their own funerals? By the grace of God, we made it.

On Friday night, we sat by the Marriott pool watching our granddaughter wow us with her swimming skills. Saturday morning featured the Bubble Run, a 5k fun event where participants are enveloped in bubbles at checkpoints. I was happy to be a spectator. Running with my daughter, granddaughter alongside 2,000 other people on city streets, isn't on my to-do list. Nevertheless, it was a blast and a spectacle to behold.

What was on Jon's bucket list was seeing Allison Krause in concert. Thanks to Jina, we did that Saturday night. We had a fantastic dinner at Delmonico's, then walked to the Orpheum Theatre for a memorable concert in a magnificent setting. With her band Union Station,



Kathie and Jon Marsh still like to hold hands and cuddle, even after four decades together.
CONTRIBUTED

Allison absolutely rocked the place. I was ecstatic when she did my favorite: "Ghost in This House."

The song is sad but a perfect description of me without Jon. He's definitely a keeper, not perfect but I couldn't live with perfection. My faults would be magnified in the mirror of his faultlessness. Who wants that?

Our life has been so blessed. We've ridden the river together for four decades, and it's been an adventure. Here's hoping every woman reading this thinks her better half really is the better half. Jon is, and the icing on the cake is that

he makes me a better person, which is as fine a quality as any spouse can bring to a marriage.

What defines a keeper? As I see it, there are significant qualities found in men who are. If you're happy with a guy who doesn't fit the criteria, no worries. It probably means one or both of you are exceptional.

Keepers are kind, resilient, informed and honest. They share your faith, your values, your dreams, your tears and fears. They let you be you but give you the support you need. When you succeed, they're genuinely happy for you and let others know they're proud to be your mate. When things don't go your way, they never say you overreached or tell you how you should have done it.

Keepers are committed but not controlling. They are loyal providers, devoting time, talent and treasure to meet you and your family's needs. They have bud-dies, hobbies and toys, of course, but when it's all on the line, what they have at home comes first.

You know you can count on them to be there when they say they will, do what needs to be done, and keep their promises, including and especially your commitment to each other.

Keepers are chivalrous but not chauvinistic. They are man enough to be gentlemen — open doors, walk on the outside, stand behind you in line, drop you off at the door, surprise you now and then, and treat you like a lady, even if you're not acting like one at the moment.

Keepers are a bit vain but never arrogant. They love themselves enough to

take care of their personal appearance and possessions. They dress for the occasion, look and smell good when you're going out. They are good sports, have a sense of humor, and aren't afraid to try something new.

They have high expectations but know how to praise when it's earned and gently offer constructive criticism when appropriate. Extra credit if they can cook, shop, fix stuff, tell funny stories, like to dance and listen without offering advice.

Keepers are forgiving but not manipulative. When you make a mistake, they forgive you. They don't traffic in petty revenge, constantly bring up the past, or use your remorse against you. And when they're wrong, they admit it, apologize and sincerely try to do better.

Keepers are romantic and loving, but they don't smother. They express appreciation and affection, give you compliments and go out of their way to please you.

Lucky for you if you have a keeper. Try to make every day Father's Day. Encourage and enable him to do what makes him happy. For my guy, it's going fishing. Lucky for me, he's good at it. I should know. When he cast his line my way, I took the bait, and he reeled me in. Turns out, I was the one who caught the keeper.

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

WHAT’S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

OCONTO FALLS: Burger and Brats, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Iverson’s Piggly Wiggly, 409 E. Highland Drive. Fundraiser for Oconto Falls Lioness Club; group order information on the Lioness website.

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.

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

TOWNSEND: Kids Fishing Tournament, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wendt’s Sandbar and Resort, 16688 Nicolet Road. Hosted by Townsend Flowage Protection District. Ages 3-15, \$1 registration fee.

SHAWANO: FRESH Project Shawano Farmers Market, 8 a.m. to noon, Franklin Park, 235 Washington St. Check Facebook page for cancellations and weekly updates.

SHAWANO: Freemasons Car Show, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Shawano Masonic Center, 2324 E. Richmond St. Registration 8-11 a.m., \$10 fee. Trophies awarded 2 p.m.

STILES: St. Patrick’s Rummage Sale, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 5760 County Road I.

BOWLER: Nature Bathing Along the Trail Walk, 10 a.m., Snowmobile Pavilion, 104 E. Railroad

St. Outdoor enthusiast Nikole Koszarek leads a 1.5 mile walk designed to help participants slow down, engage their senses, and experience the natural beauty of the the Mountain-Bay State Trail.

TILLED: Tilleda Fun Dayz, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Pack It In Pub, N6185 County Road D. Parade 1 p.m. Food and beverages, vendors, bounce house and children’s games, Music by Thunder Country 2-5 p.m. and Money to Burn 6-10 p.m.

BOWLER: Mountain Bay Trail Section Rides, 5:30 p.m., Paviion on County Road A east of VP Racing Fuels. 20-mile bike ride to County Road A in Gresham hosted by Shawano Pathways.

SHAWANO: Auto racing, 6 p.m., Shawano Speedway, 990 E. Green Bay St. Gates open 4 p.m. Adults \$15, seniors \$12, younger than age 11 free. Check the Shawano Speedway page on Facebook for updates and weather-related conditions.

KESHENA: International Boxing, 7 p.m., Menominee Casino Resort Four Clans Ballroom, N277 State Highway 47-55. Featuring Jason Komanekin Jr., lightweight state champion. General admission \$45, must be 21 or older.

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

SHAWANO: Zurko’s Flea Market, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Shawano County Fairgrounds, 990 E. Green Bay St. Admission \$2.

BONDUEL: 42nd annual Shawano County

Brunch on the Farm, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Kurowski Dairy, W3052 Swamp Road. Dairy Dash and 5K stroll, farm tours, hearty country breakfast, petting zoo and more. \$10; ages 4-11 \$5; 3 and younger free.

STILES: Parish Picnic, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., St. Patrick Parish, 5760 County Road I. Booyah, burgers, drinks, desserts, silent auction, raffles, adult and children games, music by Positive Energy. Mass 9:30 a.m. at the church, 5246 St. Patricks Road.

ABRAMS: Farmers Market, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Town Square, 5877 Main St.

SHAWANO: Music in the Park at Arlington, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Arlington Park, 300 N. Humphrey Circle. Music with Paul Rich. Bring your lawn chairs.

SHAWANO: Shawano Ski Sharks Waterski Show, 6 p.m., Wolf River Beach at Smalley Park, 211 Riverside Drive. Special Sunday Show Pre-show 5:30 p.m. Free admission, donations welcome.

MONDAY, JUNE 29

SHAWANO: American Red Cross blood drive, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Hope Community Church, 302 Tristan Drive. Appointments at RedCrossBlood.org or 800-733-2767.

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

TOWN OF RICHMOND: Mountain Bay Trail Section Rides, 5:30 p.m., Maple Road Trailhead, W5872 Maple Ave. 12-mile bike ride from Maple Road to County Road A hosted by Shawano Pathways.

TUESDAY, JUNE 30

OCONTO FALLS: Oconto County Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m., Memorial Field. Red, White and Blue Night. Music by Jimi Anderson.

BOWLER: Native American Plant Medicines Walk, 6-7 p.m., Red Bridge, 310 W. Rollman St. Author and herbal educator Misty Cook leads a half-mile round trip walk on the Mountain-Bay State Trail focused on traditional medicines of the Stockbridge-Munsee.

SHAWANO: Naberhood Block Party, 6 p.m., The Naberhood, 214 S. Main St. Family Yoga.

BELLE PLAINE: Shawano Paddlers Evening Paddle, 6 p.m., Cloverleaf Lakes, N2754 County Road Y. Check Shawano Paddlers Facebook page for updates.

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, JULY 1

STILES: St. Patrick’s Rummage Sale, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., 5760 County Road I.

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

SHAWANO: Show and Tell in the Parks, 4-5 p.m., Water Tower Park, 605 S. Smalley St. People invited to show cool items such as antiques, collectibles, etc.

SHAWANO: Shawano Ski Sharks Waterski Show, 6 p.m., Wolf River Beach at Smalley Park, 211 Riverside Drive. Pre-show 5:30 p.m. Free admission, donations welcome.

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, JULY 2

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.

NAVARINO: Senior Safari Lunch and Learn, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Kaylee Lietz presentation on Wisconsin Canine and Cats. \$5 program fee; RSVP at 715-758-6999 or navarino.org.

SHAWANO: Thursdayz at Franklin, 6-8:30 p.m., Franklin Park, 235 S. Washington St. Kids from Wisconsin. Bring your own chairs, food and drink available, 50/50 raffles.

SHAWANO: The After Party, 8-10 p.m., The Naberhood, 214 S. Main St. Music with Olivia Maro.

FRIDAY, JULY 3

GILLETT: Fourth of July Celebration, 4-11 p.m., Zippel Park, McKenzie Street. Lawn Chair Concert 4 p.m., Live music by Petty Cash 7-11 p.m., food and beverage stands.

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.

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

SHAWANO: Fireworks, dusk, launched from Shawano Airport, 248 Airport Road.

SATURDAY, JULY 4

SHAWANO: Zurko’s Flea Market – Special Holiday Market, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Shawano County Fairgrounds, 990 E. Green Bay St. Admission \$2.



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SHAWANO LEADER

OCONTO COUNTY TIMES HERALD

WITTENBERG ENTERPRISE & BIRNAMWOOD NEWS

Ad Deadline: 3pm Thursday Prior

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Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-888-425-2108 today!

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Consolidating two houses. Furniture, antiques, household items and lake toys. Reasonable prices, everything must go! Friday, June 19th, 9:00-4:00, and Saturday 9:00-Noon. W2535 Tall Moon Road, Keshena.

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COURT NEWS

SHAWANT-MENOMINEE
CIRCUIT COURT

• Chelcia Rose Cloud, 36, Redby, Minnesota, pleaded no contest June 16 to possession of narcotic drugs and a misdemeanor charge of possession of an illegally obtained prescription. Judge William Kussel Jr. levied fines and sentenced her to 110 days in county jail, time deemed served.

• Brandon J. Chagnon, 25, Rhinelander, pleaded no contest June 16 to intimidating a domestic abuse victim and felony bail jumping. Judge Katherine Sloma withheld sentencing and placed him on five years of probation with conditions.

• Maria J. Pecore, 37, pleaded no contest June 11 to possession of methamphetamine, possession of THC (second or subsequent offense) and a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. Kussel imposed and stayed a prison sentence, then placed her on two years of probation with conditions consecutive to any other sentence she is currently serving.

• Joshua L. Slewinski, 36, Shawano, pleaded no contest Feb. 20 to exposing himself to a child and child enticement. Kussel sentenced him June 15 to seven and a half years in prison followed by five years of extended supervision with conditions.

• Shane J. Schreiber, 46, a Shawano man serving a sentence at Redgranite Correctional Institution, pleaded no contest June 19 to two counts of manufacturing with intent to deliver amphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia to manufacture or store methamphetamine, possession with intent to deliver heroin, possession of cocaine (second or subsequent offense) and maintaining a drug trafficking place. Sloma sentenced him to 10 years in prison

followed by seven years of extended supervision.

• Dakota L. Tomow, 37, Wausau, pleaded no contest June 18 to battery or threat to a judge, prosecutor or law enforcement officer, six counts of misdemeanor bail jumping and a misdemeanor charge of disorderly conduct. Kussel withheld sentencing and placed her on four years of probation with conditions.

• Destiny M. Spruce, 45, Bowler, pleaded no contest June 17 to first-degree recklessly endangering safety, fleeing an officer in her vehicle, possession of an electric weapon, battery or threat to a judge prosecutor or law enforcement officer, two counts of misdemeanor bail jumping and misdemeanor charges of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (third offense), criminal damage to property, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Kussel imposed and stayed a prison sentence, then placed her on three years of probation with conditions.

• Samantha M. Johnson, 38, a Green Bay woman serving a sentence at Taycheedah Correctional Institution in Fond du Lac, pleaded guilty June 18 to two counts of fraud against a financial institution and no contest to a third count. Sloma imposed and stayed a prison sentence, then placed her on three additional years of probation with conditions consecutive to her current sentence.

• Jayden J. Escalante, 18, Shawano, was charged June 15 with escape from criminal arrest, two counts of misdemeanor bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of resisting or obstructing an officer. Sloma set a \$1,000 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for Aug. 5.

• Taurus Andrew Holmes, 55, Shawano, was charged June 15 with possession of a firearm by a person convicted of a felony, first-degree recklessly endangering

safety and a misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct. Sloma set a \$2,500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for June 17.

• Allen J. Jackson, 52, Suring, was charged June 15 with attempting to flee an officer in his vehicle, two counts of first-degree recklessly endangering safety, five counts of misdemeanor bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of hit and run and operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (third offense). Sloma set a \$2,500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for June 25.

• Erika Lynn Wayka, 17, Keshena, was charged June 15 with criminal damage to property and a misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct. Sloma set a \$2,500 signature bond and scheduled a status conference for Aug. 10.

• Denae L. Sanapaw, 17, Shawano, was charged June 15 with criminal damage to property and a misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct. Sloma set a \$2,500 signature bond and scheduled a status conference for Aug. 11.

• Qlaylah R. Escalante, 19, Shawano, was charged June 16 with chronic neglect of a child and misdemeanor counts of possession of THC and possession of drug paraphernalia. Sloma set a \$5,000 signature bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for July 1.

• Camellia R. Muhs, 35, Mattoon, was charged June 16 with manufacturing with intent to deliver amphetamine, manufacturing with intent to deliver cocaine and two counts of felony bail jumping. Sloma set a \$100,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for June 25.

• Shawn L. Matson, 50, Bowler, was charged June 16 with manufacturing with intent to deliver amphetamine and felony bail jumping. Sloma set a \$25,000 cash

bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for June 26.

• Corey L. Welch, 40, Mattoon, was charged June 16 with manufacturing with intent to deliver amphetamine, manufacturing with intent to deliver cocaine and six counts of felony bail jumping. Sloma set a \$100,000 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for Aug. 13.

• Bradley L. Cox, 43, Antigo, was charged June 16 with manufacturing with intent to deliver cocaine and manufacturing with intent to deliver amphetamine. Sloma set a \$2,500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for June 25.

• Corey P. Zarda, 40, Mattoon, was charged June 16 with manufacturing with intent to deliver cocaine. Sloma set a \$5,000 cash bond and scheduled a final pre-trial hearing for Aug. 11.

• Shaun C. Whited, 48, Wausau, was charged June 16 with manufacturing with intent to deliver amphetamine and misdemeanor bail jumping. Sloma set a \$50,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for June 26.

• Curtis L. Vele, 31, Bowler, was charged June 16 with manufacturing with intent to deliver amphetamine. Sloma set a \$25,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for June 25.

• Tony R. Rootes, 36, Green Bay, was charged June 16 with manufacturing with intent to deliver amphetamine. Sloma set a \$5,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for June 26.

• Joshua E. Howard, 39, Antigo, was charged June 16 with manufacturing with intent to deliver amphetamine and misdemeanor bail jumping. Sloma set a \$25,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for June 25.

• Tina M. Baalman, 41, Bowler, was charged June 16 with manufacturing with

intent to deliver amphetamine. Sloma set a \$25,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for June 25.

• Hassan N. Malley, 37, Shawano, was charged June 17 with theft of movable property valued at between \$2,500 and \$5,000. Sloma set a \$1,000 signature bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for June 30.

• Adam Fredrick Juckett, 43, Shawano, was charged June 19 with 13 counts of felony bail jumping. Sloma set a \$25,000 signature bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for July 7.

OCONTO COUNTY
CIRCUIT COURT

• Michael A. Holtger, 34, Winnebago, was ruled not competent to stand trial and unlikely to regain competency, so Judge Jennifer Moeller dismissed two charges of battery or threat to a judge, prosecutor or law enforcement officer along with misdemeanor counts of criminal damage to property and disorderly conduct.

• Justin R. Sherpard, 47, a Laona man serving a sentence at Jackson Correctional Institution in Black River Falls, pleaded guilty June 16 to felony bail jumping. Judge Jay Conley levied fines and sentenced him to six days in county jail, time deemed served.

• Shaun Jeffrey Warwick, 38, Crivitz, pleaded no contest June 16 to a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. A related felony bail jumping charge was dismissed in a plea agreement. Conley withheld sentencing and placed him on one year of probation with conditions.

• Christopher Bolian Dixon, 37, Oconto, was charged June 15 with strangulation and suffocation, false imprisonment and misdemeanor counts of battery and disorderly conduct. Judge Hannah Schuchart set a \$5,000 cash bond and

adjourned his initial appearance until July 16.

• Robert L. McDermid Jr., 49, Oconto Falls, was charged June 15 with possession of methamphetamine. Schuchart set a \$1,000 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until July 16.

• Grayson Wayne Earley, 24, Lena, was charged June 15 with second-degree recklessly endangering safety. Schuchart set a \$500 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until July 16.

• Gerald J. DePouw, 69, Oconto, was charged June 16 with stalking. Schuchart set an \$8,000 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until July 16.

• Jacob Paul David Fendley, 30, Abrams, was charged June 16 with possession of narcotic drugs, possession of THC (second or subsequent offense) and a misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. Schuchart set a \$1,000 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until July 16.

• Anthony S. Lonzo, 47, Oconto, was charged June 17 with felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of resisting or obstructing an officer. Schuchart set a \$500 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until June 18.

• Jonathon L. Wrycha, 44, Sobieski, was charged June 17 with maintaining a drug trafficking place, possession with intent to deliver non-narcotic drugs, possession with intent to deliver amphetamine or methamphetamine, felony cocaine possession, possession of amphetamine/LSD/psilocin (second or subsequent offense), possession of THC (second or subsequent offense) and a misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. Schuchart set a \$4,000 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until July 16.

PUBLIC RECORD

SHAWANO COUNTY
SHERIFF'S
DEPARTMENT

June 21
Deputies responded to 33 incidents, including a disturbance at The Wedding Barn, 451 State Highway 32, Pulaski; operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated on Bennett Street in Gresham; fireworks near Highview Road and West Green Bay Road in the Town of Maple Grove; six 911 calls; two reckless driving incidents; one traffic hazard; three welfare checks; three crashes.

June 20
Deputies responded to 33 incidents, including suspicious activity at the Driftwood Inn, 714 Fourth St., Mattoon; attempted theft and bail jumping at Texas Jay's, N11004 U.S. Highway 45, Town of Aniwa; fireworks near Elm and River streets in the Town of Grant; criminal damage on state Highway

29 in the Town of Morris; bail jumping on Swanke Street in Tigerton; a disturbance on Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; nine 911 calls; one reckless driving incident; one welfare check; three crashes, one involving deer.

June 19
Deputies responded to 39 incidents, including disorderly conduct on Lindsten Road in the Town of Navarino; suspicious activity on Hayman Falls Lane in the Town of Pella; suspicious activity near Lake Drive and Oak Park Road in the Town of Wescott; harassment on South Jefferson Street in Bonduel; trespassing on Riverside Drive in the Town of Wescott; bail jumping at Sassy's Bad Habit, 1219 Main St., Gresham; suspicious activity on Frailing Road in the Town of Wescott; five 911 calls; two reckless driving incidents; one traffic hazard; five welfare checks; three crashes.

June 18
Deputies responded to 32 incidents, including suspicious activity on state Highway 29 in the Town of Hartland; trespassing at The Novitiate, W9711 Butternut Road, Town of Herman; five 911 calls; five reckless driving incidents; one traffic hazard; one welfare check; three crashes.

June 17
Deputies responded to 44 incidents, including six 911 calls; two reckless driving incidents; one traffic hazard; one crash.

June 16
Deputies responded to 37 incidents, including criminal damage on Shady Lane in the Town of Washington; identity theft on County Road HH in the Town of Wescott; fraud on County Road K in the Town of Waukechon; operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated near South Pathfinder Circle and Oakwood Road in the Town of

Wescott; six 911 calls; two reckless driving incidents; one traffic hazard; three welfare checks; three crashes, one involving deer.

June 15
Deputies responded to 43 incidents, including property damage on Oak Avenue in the Town of Richmond; a vehicle fire near state Highway 29 and Valley Road in the Town of Hartland; a disturbance on Lenz Road in the Town of Grant; threatening on Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; eight 911 calls; three reckless driving incidents; two traffic hazards; two welfare checks; three crashes.

SHAWANO POLICE
DEPARTMENT

June 21
Officers responded to 25 incidents, including vandalism at Four Seasons, 201 N. Airport Drive; a noise disturbance on East Riddlington Avenue; a drug offense at

Memorial Park, 901 S. Lincoln St.; threatening on East Green Bay Street; two 911 calls; three traffic stops; two reckless driving incidents; one traffic hazard; four welfare checks.

June 20
Officers responded to 15 incidents, including fireworks near South River and West Richmond streets; two traffic stop; two reckless driving incidents; one traffic hazard; one crash.

June 19
Officers responded to 40 incidents, including a disturbance on Richmond Court; harassment on West Richmond Street; trespassing on Riverside Drive; 16 traffic stops; two reckless driving incidents; one welfare check.

June 18
Officers responded to 50 incidents, including an intoxicated person on East Richmond Street; a disturbance on Aspen Court; suspicious

activity on East Richmond Street; bail jumping on North Main Street; trespassing on North Lafayette Street; a scam on East Fifth Street; a drug offense at Franklin Park, 235 S. Washington St.; threatening on Acorn Street; a disturbance on South Main Street; disorderly conduct at Domino's Pizza, 704 E. Green Bay St.,; three 911 calls; 23 traffic stops; one reckless driving incident; one welfare check; one crash.

June 17
Officers responded to 26 incidents, including vandalism on South Sawyer Street; suspicious activity at Olga Brener School, 1300 S. Union St.; harassment at Ole Town Tap, 115 N. Main St.; an animal bite on South Lincoln Street; a disturbance on Aspen Court; a noise disturbance on South Main Street; one traffic stop; three welfare checks; one crash.



Roy Hubbard founded Roy Hubbard Rental Trucking Inc. in the 1930s and spent 45 years in the trucking industry until his death in 1987 at the age of 74. At one point in Hubbard's trucking career, his company was the sole transporter of Gillett Canning Company's canned goods. The show was created in late 2018 to honor Hubbard and his lifetime of work in the Gillett area.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Truck show honors Roy Hubbard



GILLETT SCHOOL DISTRICT HELP WANTED

Maintenance Custodian. 12-month position, 30 hrs/week, flexible schedule. Duties include building maintenance, repairs, custodial care, grounds upkeep, and preventative maintenance. Experience in plumbing, electrical, HVAC, carpentry, and custodial work preferred.

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HOSPICE, continued from page 1

during end-of-life,” said Alisa Gerke, Unity Hospice executive director. “The hospice wing is a reflection of our unwavering commitment as a nonprofit hospice to respond to the needs of our communities and put people over profits.”

“While residents continue to receive quality care and services from Meadowbrook staff, our partnership with Unity enables our hospice patients and families to receive

an extra layer of personalized support from Unity nurses, social workers, chaplains and grief counselors,” said Chris Pryor, Synergy senior care chief marketing officer. “Hospice services offered by Unity are fully covered by Medicare and most insurance plans.”

To schedule a patient consultation or tour Unity Sunset Wing, call Meadowbrook Oconto Falls at 920-848-3272.

Learn more at <https://unityhospice.org>.



A homelike, caring environment for around-the-clock hospice care is offered at the new hospice wing at Meadowbrook Oconto Falls. The hospice was created in conjunction with Unity.

CONTRIBUTED

6/19/26, 6/26/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
OCOTO COUNTY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
VILLAGE OF LENA, WISCONSIN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Plan Commission of the Village of Lena will hold a public hearing on July 6, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

The meeting will be held at the Lena Village Hall, located at 117 E Main St.

The hearing will be held to provide the public a reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed creation of Tax Incremental District No. 3, its proposed boundaries, and its proposed Project Plan.

The District's proposed boundary includes the following parcels: 146-043501222R2, 146-043500121, 146-043500121A, 146-012603043A (414 E. Main St.), 146-012603043B (408 E. Main St.), 146-012603043C (410 E. Main St.), 146-012603043, 146-012603042, 146-012603034, 146-012600232, 146-012600333A (140 E. Pelkey St.) and 146-012602433W1.

Based on the planned use of properties within the proposed District boundary the Village expects to designate the District as suitable for mixed use development.

Projects to be undertaken within the District and costs to be incurred (Project Costs) will be for the purpose of promoting mixed use development and may include acquisition of property, rights of way or easements, site preparation, installation or rehabilitation of utilities and streets, payment of cash grants as development incentives to owners, lessees, or developers of land located within the District, professional services and organizational costs, administrative costs, financing costs and other costs as may be necessary to implement the District's Project Plan. Projects may be undertaken within the District's proposed boundary and in areas located in the Village within ½ mile of that boundary.

All interested parties will be given a reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed creation of the District, its proposed boundaries, and its proposed Project Plan. A copy of the proposed District Project Plan, including a description of the proposed boundaries, is available for public inspection and will be provided on request during normal business hours at the office of the Village Clerk at the Lena Village Hall, located at 117 E Main St.

By Order of the Village of Lena, Wisconsin
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06/26/26, 07/3/26

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PIONEER PARK ROAD FROM CTH I NORTH TO DUAME RD 3000 LF, 21' OF ASPHALT, 3' SHOULDER

BID# 2 PAVING AND SHOULDERING

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PROVIDE TWO 1 ½" LAYERS OF HMA PAVEMENT 21' WIDE FROM CTH I NORTH 3,000 FT TO THE INTERSECTIONS OF ST. PATRICKS ROAD

SUPPLY, PLACE AND COMPACT 300 TON OF ¾" CRUSHED ROCK ON 3' WIDE SHOULDERS

BIDS CAN BE SUBMITTED TO TERRAH PATTON, TOWN CLERK 5718 WATERCREST RD LEAN, WI 54139

NO LATER THEN 6:00 PM WEDNESDAY JULY 8TH.

ALL SEALED BIDS WILL BE OPENED AND REVIEWED BY THE TOWN BOARD AT THE MAY MEETING.

CONTACT JASON FLYNN, TOWN CHAIRMAN AT 920-609-3541 WITH ANY QUESTIONS
WNAXLP

2026 GILLETT 4TH of JULY CELEBRATION

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Food Special – July 3 • 4-5:30 PM • \$2.50 Hamburger, Hot Dog & \$2.00 Beer

Parade – July 4 at 2:00 PM starting from Zippel Park

Grand Marshals: MITCH & JULIE MEUNIER

Theme: 250 Years, WE THE PEOPLE 1776-2026

Antique & Classic Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show – July 4 • 9 AM



GRAND STAND ENTERTAINMENT

MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT

- **Truck Pull • July 3 • 7:00 PM**
- **Horse Pull • July 4 • 9:00 AM**
- **Antique Tractor Pull • July 4 • 5:00pm**

FIREWORKS DISPLAY - JULY 4 AT DUSK

- **Lawn Chair Concert: Next Time Around • July 3 • 4-7 pm**
- **Petty Cash • July 3 • 7-11 pm**
- **Country Rewind • July 4 • 10am-1pm**
- **Acoustic Vinyl • July 4 • 3-6pm**
- **Highway 32 Band • July 4 • 7-11 pm**

*Entertainment
is subject to
change.*

Thank you to all of our major donors for making Gillett's 2026 4th of July a Success!

BLUE LEVEL

- City of Gillett / Tourism & Mkt Commission
- Ebenreiter Family Fund / Greater Green Bay Community Foundation
- Finnegan Lake Walleye Club
- Diane Rivard - In Memory of Stu Rivard
- Gillett Lions Club
- Iverson's Piggly Wiggly
- Lisowe Heating & Cooling LLC
- OJ's Midtown Restaurant
- Pat's Market Inc
- Todd & Micki Carlson
- Town of Gillett

RED LEVEL

- Anonymous donation
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- GFJ Community Chest
- GFL
- Gillett Milling Co Inc
- Gillett Women's Club
- Joe Arndt Trucking
- Jones Funeral Service
- Kohl's Dairy Farm LLC
- KS Plumbing LLC / Mainstreet Laundromat
- Mitch & Julie Meunier
- Lamers Bus Lines Inc
- Milk and Honey Café

RED LEVEL

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- Tims Harvesting LLC
- Town of Underhill
- Tri-County Pumpers, LLC
- Owen & Jean Vanden Huevel
- Wagner Farms Inc
- Wildfire Trails / Sleepy Hollow
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YELLOW LEVEL

- American Legion Post 283
- Bethel Lutheran Church
- Gary Braun
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- Caseys Tree Service LLC
- JT & Traci Crocker
- Dimension Lumber Co Inc
- Vicki Dobratz
- Karen Eiseth
- Faith United Lutheran Church
- Gerbers LLC
- Gillett Area Ambulance Service

YELLOW LEVEL

- Gillett Area Chamber of Commerce
- Gillett Dental Care SC
- Gillett Shell
- Golden Sands Golf
- Gregg Young Abrams
- Gruetzmacher Funeral Home Inc
- Hillside Assembly of God
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Happy 250 USA 4th of July 2026



Published: June 26, 2026
Oconto County Times Herald
Wittenberg Birnamwood Enterprise & News
The Shawano Leader

SUMMER ORIGINALS

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Shawano Ski Sharks
Special Sunday Show
June 28th • 5:30 pm

2 Revolutionary War veterans buried in northeast Wisconsin

Both members of Stockbridge tribe

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Forty veterans of the American Revolutionary War have their final resting place in Wisconsin, with two of them in Outagamie County.

Both were members of the Stockbridge Tribe, which did not officially merge with the Munsee community until 1836, at which time both men had already died.

According to the Wisconsin Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, the 40 veterans moved to the Wisconsin Territory later in life and are buried in 25 cemeteries across the state.

The gravesites for Hendrick Aupaumut and Jacob Konkapot Jr. are impossible to locate. They are buried in the old Stockbridge Cemetery on the former Frank Thelen farm, near Kaukauna in Outagamie County.

The Thelen farm no longer exists, and the area is now a residential development.

A historical marker, in tribute to Konkapot and Aupaumut, is located in Thelen Park, nearly where the cemetery existed.

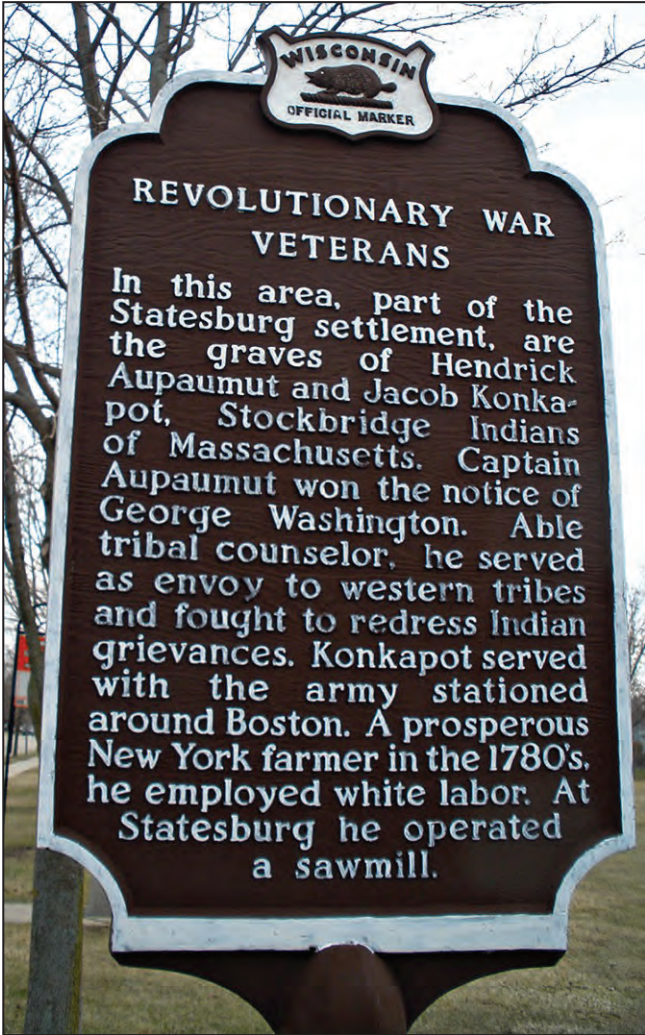
The Wisconsin Society of the Sons of the American Revolution provided biographical sketches of the veterans based on the accounts given by the soldiers in their pension applications and, in some cases, their military service records.

Hendrick Aupaumut (c. 1757-1829)

Hendrick Aupaumut,



A historical marker honoring Stockbridge tribal member Hendrick Aupaumut is located on a traffic island near the intersection of Reaume Street and Hendricks Avenue in Kaukauna. Aupaumut is one of 40 Revolutionary War veterans buried in Wisconsin. FINDAGRAVE.COM



Stockbridge tribal member Jacob Konkapot Jr. served in the Revolutionary War and is buried somewhere in Kaukauna. The exact location is not known, but a historical marker in tribute to Konkapot and fellow tribal member and veteran Hendrick Aupaumut is located in Thelen Park in Kaukauna, nearly where the cemetery existed. FINDAGRAVE.COM

the son of a chief sachem, was born in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. He enlisted in the Continental Army at age 18 on June 23, 1775. By August of that year, he was serving as a private in Capt. William Goodrich's Company of Indians, Col. John Paterseon's Regiment, during the siege of Boston.

During the 1777 Saratoga campaign, Aupaumut acted as the lieutenant of Native American scouts under Capt. Nimham and Mtohsin. In 1778, he survived the massacre of Stockbridge tribal members in the Bronx, New York, and took command of the Indian company on the death of his captain.

In 1779, Gen. George Washington promoted Aupaumut to the temporary rank of captain. He enlisted regularly and remained in the service through 1782.

Aupaumut reenlisted with the Army during the War of 1812 and served under Gen. William Henry Harrison, who would go on to be elected president of the United States in 1840.

In 1829, he moved to tribal lands on the Fox River near Green Bay. Late in life, Aupaumut translated religious texts into the Mohican language, wrote a traditional history of the tribe and, after 1811, became chief sachem of the Mohicans.

Aupaumut died in 1830 at the age of 72.

A bicentennial marker about Aupaumut is located on a traffic island near the intersection of Reaume Street and Hendricks Avenue in Kaukauna.

Also, near and south of the Calumet County village of Stockbridge, south of Kaukauna on state Highway 55 is another Stockbridge cemetery. An engraved stone in that cemetery lists Aupaumut.

Jacob Konkapot Jr. (?-1835)

The birth date of Jacob Konkapot Jr. is not known, but he was also a scout in the American War for Independence.

He enlisted May 2, 1775, for an eight-month term in the same company as Aupaumut.

Konkapot served at the siege of Boston for three months and seven days.

He moved to Wisconsin with the first migration of Stockbridge members around 1822 and established a small sawmill on a creek near Kaukauna, which today is known as Konkapot Creek.

Today, a highway marker can be found on the bridge over the creek.

Konkapot bled to death as the result of an accident felling timber.

kpasson@newmedia-wi.com

Local

Fourth of July

Events

JULY 3 & 4

GILLETT

JULY 3

Food and beverages at the Civic Club Stand and the Beer Stand
July 3 - Food Special 4-5:30 pm \$2 hamburger, hot dog & \$2 beer.
4pm-7 pm Lawn Chair Concert ; 7 pm Truck Pull, 7-11 pm, Live Music by Petty Cash.

JULY 4

9 am Antique/Classic Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show; 9 am Horse Pull; 5 pm Antique Tractor Pull; Live Music by Country Re-wind 10am-1pm, Acoustic Viny 3-6pm, Highway 32 Band 7-11 pm.

JULY 3

CLINTONVILLE

Clintonville A's fireworks will begin at dusk July 3 at W.A. Olen Park, 10 Memorial Circle. Food and refreshments will be available for purchase and there will be music and baseball.

MOUNTAIN

Fire Department Auxiliary Annual Independence Day Event starts at 8am. Serving food all day including breakfast. 1-4 pm Kids Games; 4:30-8 pm Meat Raffle featuring Edleman Meats, Basket Raffle (winners announced after meat rafle). Fireworks at dusk.

SHAWANO

Fireworks at Shawano Airport at dusk

JULY 4

BONDUEL

Red, White & Blue Parade 11 am with live music by Fabulous Johnny following the parade at Village Park, 6 pm music by Road Trip. Food Trucks, Baseball Games, Bounce Houses, Bike Raffle, Bull Ride, Rock Climb and more!

BREED

Breed Parade in Suring 12 noon. Meat raffle, live music, mechanical bull, food, drinks. All proceeds benefit Suring American Legion Post #283.

CLOVERLEAF LAKES

Boat Parade 6:30 pm, Kiddie Parade 10 am, Fireworks at dusk. Rain Date July 5.

LEOPOLIS

Triathlon, registration 8-9:30 am Races 10am (Jocks, under 16 and Beer Belly divisions). Parade at 12:00 noon.

TIGERTON

Tigerton's 4th of July Block Party 4pm to 8 pm. Food, live music, meat raffles, and activities for all ages. After dark a spectacular fireworks show near the high school.

TOWNSEND

Annual 4th of July Celebration. Craft Fair 9 am to 4 pm, food and drink, live music, meat raffles. Parade at noon. Concessions at 7 pm until fireworks at dusk at Veterans Memorial Park, 16564 Elm St., Townsend.

Events may be subject to change based on the weather or other factors.



Stephen “Doc” Hopkins works on a motorcycle in the repair shop of his business that he started out of a rented garage in Shawano in 1979.

GREG SEUBERT

‘Doc’ keeps Harley-Davidson brand going strong after 50 years

Multiple businesses spring from repair shop

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

What started as a motorcycle repair shop in a rented Shawano garage almost 50 years ago is now a motorcycle mecca that draws visitors and customers from throughout the world.

The person behind the venture is 75-year-old Stephen “Doc” Hopkins, who can usually be found at Doc’s Harley-Davidson off of state Highway 29 between Bonduel and Pulaski.

“I started April 1, 1979,” Hopkins said. “I rented a tiny little stall in a half-garage in Shawano. Five years prior to that, I was working for the Harley-Davidson dealer in Shawano, which is what S&S Marina is today. I asked him if it was OK if I started a little repair shop. I wasn’t a Harley dealer yet, but we had quite a following of people and I was extremely busy.

“Two days before I opened my door, I was fixing the place up, painting and putting my tools away and a man came to me and said, ‘I need my bike fixed, I have to have it for work

in the morning, can you fix it right now?’ I said, ‘Sure,’ so I dropped what I was doing and fixed his motorcycle. I made 75 (dollars) on the parts and labor. That was my month’s rent, so I knew I’d be there at least a month.

“I was working in my little workshop and I had a lot of work to do myself. There was also a Harley dealer in Manawa, and he had three mechanics working for him. They had all the tools and equipment, but they had no way of knowing how to use them. They could not build motors and transmissions.

“The fellow that owned the Harley shop was bringing me all of his heavy engine and transmission work twice a week, dropping it off and picking it up. One day, I said, ‘Hey, if you ever want to sell your Harley franchise, let me know.’ He walked out the door and I thought he doesn’t want to. Two weeks later, the phone rang and he said he has all the figures together. I ended up buying it from him and moving it back to Shawano. By then, I had moved over to Shawano’s industrial park. Once I got going with Harley, I had to open a 5,000-square-foot showroom. We outgrew that three times and added on when we could.”

Fast forward to the late 1990s, and Hopkins started thinking of expanding his business and relocating again. He purchased 72 acres of farmland

along Highway 29 in 1997 and opened Doc’s Harley-Davidson of Shawano County in April 1998.

“Harley recommended that we get out of the industrial park and get out on a major highway where we could be seen,” he said.

Besides a showroom and repair shop, the business has grown over the years and now includes a classic car and motorcycle museum, Timeline Saloon and BBQ, Timeline Antique Mall, Doc’s Full Bore Outdoor, Hog Barn Banquet Hall and Doc’s Zoo.

“I never thought it would get quite this big,” Hopkins said. “Once I moved out here, I had plenty of room to expand. I’ve always loved animals, so I made room to put my animals out here. Now, we have camels, kangaroos, tortoises and alligators.”

Hopkins’ love for cooking led to the Timeline Saloon and BBQ, which opened in 2010.

“I brought all my homemade recipes to the restaurant,” he said. “I didn’t really have that vision for a long time, but I decided that if I could come up with a good recipe for baby back ribs, I’m going to do that. I built my own rib-cooking machine and fine-tuned and worked on my recipe for three years. I figured it out.”

Branching out into

DOC, continued on page 5



This Ferris wheel with Harley-Davidson motorcycles instead of seats is one of the one-of-a-kind attractions at Doc’s Harley-Davidson, which opened its doors in 1998 between Bonduel and Pulaski. GREG SEUBERT

DOC, continued from page 4

other ventures has worked out for Hopkins, who said he's met visitors from all over the world.

Harley-Davidson Inc. began manufacturing motorcycles in Milwaukee more than a century ago and the brand is as popular as ever, according to Hopkins.

"I think it's the fact that it's made right in Milwaukee," he said when asked about the brand. "It's an American thing and the Harley has a certain sound. You can't reproduce that sound, and people love the sound of the Harley, the size of the Harley and the fact that it's made in America. It's always been an iconic motorcycle that people have followed for many, many years."

However, Hopkins has noticed a shift over the years.

"It seems like all the baby boomers were the ones that really wanted to be in the Harleys, get Harleys and couldn't get enough of them," he said. "For years, we could not get enough motorcycles from the factory. Over time, we were able to get more. We used to sell 250 motorcycles a year. Now, we're down to 47. It's not just Harleys. It's the motorcycle industry across the board."

"They are not selling like they used to. Maybe the moms have got the



Clothing and other Harley-Davidson merchandise can be found at Doc's Harley-Davidson. GREG SEUBERT

youth freaked out about how motorcycles are not safe. It seems like the younger generation would rather be on their cell-phones or playing a game pretending they're riding a motorcycle instead of actually riding a motorcycle."

On the other hand, Harley-Davidson merchandise — everything from clothing to gear to dartboards to plush animals — remains popular.

Although he missed it last year, Hopkins will ride in Bonduel's upcoming Fourth of July parade.

He doesn't have any special events scheduled for America's 250th celebration at his business but expects plenty of visitors and customers during the weekend.

"My gal Joy (Tuminic), she and I are going to drive a 1924 four-cylinder

Henderson motorcycle that we're going to doll up with 250th flags and drive it to the Bonduel parade," he said. "I have some pretty cool flags ordered, and that'll be a fun event. We didn't do it last year, but we'll be back at it again this year."

Although Hopkins is 75, he doesn't see a day in the near future when he'll stop showing up at the business he spent almost 50 years building from scratch.

Once he does, however, it'll free up more time for him to take a ride in the brand of motorcycle he's been loyal to since he was a teenager growing up in Algoma.

"It's a freedom of being out on the road," Hopkins said. "It's a feeling you can't really describe. You have to experience it."



The showroom at Doc's Harley-Davidson includes several new and used motorcycles. GREG SEUBERT



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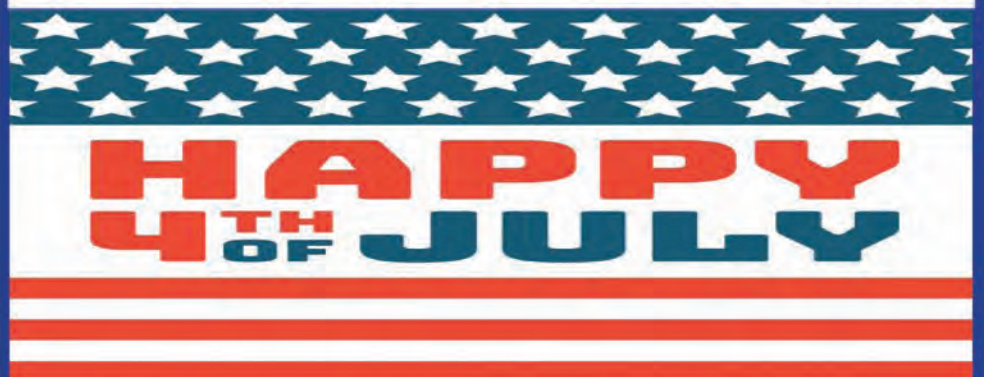
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Who parked an army tank at a Shawano city park?

Children played on it instead of a swing set. Adults drove past it day after day, most likely not giving it a second thought.

For those who did wonder, how did a World War II Sherman tank end up at the corner of Lieg Avenue and South Main Street in Shawano?

According to the Shawano County Historical Society, in the late 1940s and early 1950s, as the U.S. military was modernizing its hardware, and there was lots of WWII surplus.

At the same time, communities around the nation and organizations like AM-VETS, American Legion and the VFW were looking to build memorials to WWII.

Shawano's Sherman tank arrived in July 1953 through the efforts of VFW Post 2723 and the TACOM group of the U.S. military. The tank was named by the British for American Civil War Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman.

"It was acquired by the VFW post in 1953 for display in town," Joe Dillenberg with the VFW told the historical society. "Technically, it is still on loan from the federal government. It seems that quite a few veterans' organizations in Wisconsin and Minnesota secured tanks for display in the mid-1950s from TACOM."

TACOM is the United

States Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command, and they have a program where organizations can request surplus military equipment to display.

The program still exists but when contacted, TACOM, which is based in Michigan, doesn't have any records of this Sherman arriving to Shawano. However, the Sherman tank was built by Ford and was turned over to the military on May 19, 1943. Its serial number is 12236, and registration number is 3054391. These numbers and dates are still on the tank today.

According to Pierre Olivier, a tank expert with the Tank Encyclopedia group, "I think this Sherman tank served for training state-side during WWII. It was later rebuilt and upgraded in the 1950s and most probably served with a National Guard unit or was simply kept in storage before being sold as surplus."

Technically, it's an M4A3 Sherman where the A3 designates that it's built by Ford. The Sherman was the most widely used medium tank by USA and Western Allies in WWII. The total number of M4s produced was more than 49,000 with 1,690 by Ford.

The following account is from Danny Staub. His grandfather, SSGT Reuben Staub, drove the tank from Madison to Shawano.

"My grandfather, SSGT Reuben P. Staub, from Shawano, was the head of the local VFW. He was given a police escort from an army base by Madison, up the highways and what is now Interstate 41 as he drove it alongside on the shoulder of the highway. He talked of this journey until the day he passed in 1969. He stated on how the tracks ripped up the roadways. At that time, the tank still had an engine, it and can be fully functional, which was part of the deal when it was donated.

"My grandfather owned Stauby's Refrigeration after he got out of WWII. He was MIA presumed KIA for 15 months at age 20. He and his B24 bomber crew were ordered to bail out over Ploesti Romania on D-day June 6, 1944, as his squadron, the 98th bomb group 415th division, was on an easy mission out of Lecce, Italy, to bomb the oil yards in Romania as they were supplying the Germans with fuel.

"After their plane was shot up and hit by flak, the right engine caught on fire. The pilot gave the order to the six guys in the back to bail out over Romania. My grandfather never jumped out of a plane before that. He had his shoes and socks off as he was the belly gunner, and they needed the traction to kick the big gun around in a circle

underneath the plane.

"Just prior to being hit, my grandfather was asked by SSGT Celestino H. Garcia from Bexar, Texas, if he would like to switch gunner positions for the day as Grandpa had the best view of the country below. Grandpa Reuben obliged, and before he was able to get his socks and boots on, they came under fire from the enemy.

"The back crew all bailed out. My grandfather was a bit slower and drifted away from his crew mates that were picked up by friendly civilians in a communist-occupied Romania. Grandpa, with a map and

coordinates in his pocket started walking, but only at night, through enemy territory at 20 years old. He walked from Romania to Turkey, more than 1,500 miles in 15 months. He escaped being captured twice by German officers.

"My grandfather never spoke of his war time days except to his sister immediately after he got home. Her name was Ardis Staub from Shawano. Grandpa told her that the day he jumped from the plane that his best friend had asked him to change gunner positions, and we all know that my grandpa did. SSGT Celestino H. Garcia from Bexar, Texas, was

the only fatality that day. He died from an enemy airship gunshot to the head as he sat in the glass bubble under the plane where my grandfather had just been seated a moment before.

"I cannot imagine what my grandfather must have endured. I know that he traded my grandmother's Shawano High School class ring for a pair of sandals from a farmer. I also know that Romania is a very mountainous area that would not be easily traversed in summer and frigid winter. Grandpa Reuben died of brain cancer at the King Veterans Hospital in 1969."

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Tasked with accurately preserving the county's past and recording the present for future generations is the Oconto County Historical Society. Founded in 1940, OCHS showcases its rich history with three museums — including the Beyer Home and Carriage Museum. A restored Victorian home, it also boasts a must-see antique vehicles collection.

CONTRIBUTED

Oconto County history traced back 12,000 years

Museums offer unique look at the past

By KATHLEEN MARSH
Correspondent

Oconto County is a significant historical and cultural center in northeastern Wisconsin. Its history reflects its importance as a blend of ancient indigenous cultures, European settlement and industrial development.

Archaeological sites indicate that Paleo-Indians settled in the area 10,000-12,000 years ago. About 6,000 years later, the Old Copper culture began. The Oconto Archaeological Site contains burial grounds and artifacts, including copper tools that highlight their early metalsmithing practices.

Oconto County has been governed by four political entities in its recorded history: the Menominee, before European contact; the French, who claimed the Great Lakes region in 1671; the English, who took possession in 1763; and the United States, which claimed it in the 1783 Treaty of Paris that ended the Revolutionary War.



Holt and Balcom Logging Camp Museum is located in Lakewood. As the oldest logging camp in America standing on its original site, it captures the myth and magic of the Big Pine Era.

CONTRIBUTED

The county's name is derived from Oak-a-toe, an early Menominee settlement. In 1669, Jesuit missionary Father Claude Allouez introduced Christianity to local tribes. French traders followed, bartering knives, axes, beads and blankets for prime fur pelts, and a mostly peaceful coexistence ensued.

In the early 1800s, wealth-seeking adventurers arrived to harvest the region's majestic white pines, creating a logging industry that attracted European immigrants. Settlement began in earnest when John P. Arndt established Wisconsin's first commercial sawmill and lumbering

operation on the Pensaukee River in 1826.

In 1851, Oconto County was formed by carving it from Brown County. There wasn't a single regular road in the county, only trails that led from nowhere to nowhere. The sawmill settlement of Oconto, which lies at the mouth of the Oconto River, was chosen as county seat.

By the 1860s, the city of Oconto had become a major industrial and commercial center with more than 1,000 residents and 12 sawmills operating simultaneously. Industrial growth swelled again when the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad reached Oconto

in 1871. Largely escaping the Peshtigo Fire that year, Oconto's economy continued to thrive on lumber, trade and, later, diversified industries. Marinette County was separated off in 1879.

Fueled by the country's insatiable demand for sawlogs, lumber barons like Farnsworth, Holt and Stephenson acquired fame and fortune. Immigrant laborers flooded into the area, which soon served as a hub for the logging industry. Steadily marching north and west, logging crews systematically sawed down the Northwoods.

For a first-hand account, read "A Wisconsin Lumberman Looks Backward" by W.A. Holt (available online). Holt's book recounts events as the logging boom went bust. Ruthless "cut and run" practices decimated the pines; a second cutting took out the hardwoods. Thankfully, the Civilian Conservation Corps, a key part of FDR's New Deal, restored much of the woodlands. The Forest Service, founded in 1905, has been tasked with preserving them.

The first newspapers published in the county were the Oconto Pioneer in 1859 and The Lumberman in 1864.

The Oconto Reporter was founded in 1871, gradually absorbing other publications and operating as the Oconto County Reporter. The Oconto County Times Herald was created in 1952 by combining the Oconto Falls Herald, founded in 1899, and the Gillett Times, which published its first issue in 1927.

Over the past century, Oconto County has flourished and flourished. Major employers like Bond Pickle, Carver Yachts and Suring Even-Flo closed, but the beat goes on with employers like ST Paper in Oconto Falls and Nicolet Plastics in Mountain.

There are two first-rate hospitals, Bellin Health in Oconto and HSHS St. Clare Prevea in Oconto Falls. Quality public schools operate in Gillett, Lena, Oconto Falls, Oconto and Suring. Six exceptional independent libraries meet the demand for 21st century services.

All of this and so much more happens despite unique geographic and demographic challenges. Shaped like three steps, Oconto County is composed of three distinct regions. The most densely populated is the southern part, the center for

government services. Residents find work locally and in the Green Bay area.

The middle section is rural-agricultural, with small towns, farms and a mega dairy operation in Suring. The northern portion is forested with natural and man-made lakes. It relies on retirees, logging and tourism for economic survival.

Despite these divergences, close-knit communities provide essential services and help to those in need.

Tasked with accurately preserving the county's past and recording the present for future generations is the Oconto County Historical Society. Founded in 1940, it showcases its history with three museums.

The Beyer Home and Carriage Museum, a restored Victorian home, also boasts a must-see antique vehicles collection.

The Copper Culture Museum is a gem that captures the area's Native American heritage.

Holt and Balcom Logging Camp Museum in Lakewood is also a treasure. As the oldest logging camp in America standing on its original site, it captures the myth and magic of the Big Pine Era. All are well worth a visit.

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Wisconsin Veterans Museum anchors state's contribution to time capsule

As part of the America250 national celebration, a time capsule will be buried on July 4 at Independence National Historical Park, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

America's Time Capsule contains objects from all 56 U.S. states and territories and the three branches of the federal government. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum contributed items that represent the state of Wisconsin and its many people.

Wisconsin's submission includes items related to Old Abe the Civil War eagle: a feather of Old Abe's, a photocard of Old Abe sold at the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exposition and a military badge with his likeness.

In addition to the Old Abe materials, letters from Wisconsin's Gov. Tony Evers, Lt. Gov. Sara Rodriguez, Secretary of State Sarah Godlewski, State Supreme Court Chief Justice Jill J. Karofsky, Wisconsin Sen. Dianne Hesselbein and Wisconsin Veterans Museum director Chris Kolakowski were sent.

Rounding out the submission are items from Native nations within the state. Two of those nations, the Oneida and Stockbridge-Munsee, fought with the colonies during the War of Independence.

"It is an honor to help assemble this message for generations 250 years in the future," Kolakowski said. "As we considered what to include, Old Abe was a stand-out choice. He was a star of Wisconsin's contribution to the Centennial Exposition in 1876 and remains an enduring symbol of the state to this day."

As an official America250 project, America's Time Capsule creates a national record of the United States at 250 that will not be seen again until 2276.

About Old Abe Orphaned in the North Woods, the eaglet was captured by Ogi-maa Weigiizhig, Chief Sky, of the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians in 1861. The eaglet was sold and later offered to a militia company in

Eau Claire. The company organized with the 8th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment for service to the Union Army.

The eagle was named Old Abe after President Abraham Lincoln and became the regiment's mascot. Old Abe survived many Civil War battles as he rallied the troops. His service to the Union resulted in widespread fame, and his life after the war reflected the esteem with which Wisconsin and the nation held him.

As a well-loved veteran, he lived with a caretaker in the Wisconsin State Capitol when he wasn't touring the nation in support of veteran causes. Today, a statue of him overlooks the State Assembly Chamber.

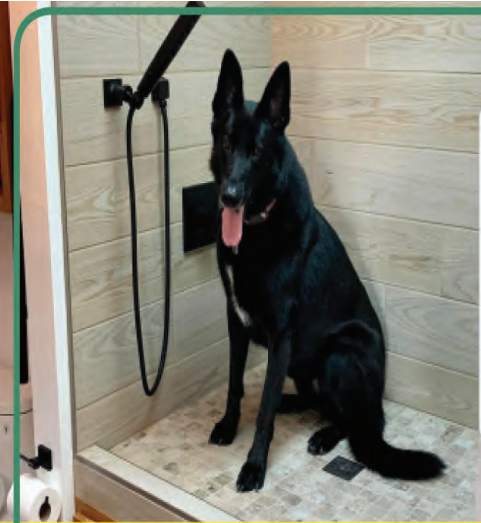
A feather from Old Abe is included in the capsule. When Old Abe died in 1881, his body was preserved in taxidermy and remained in the State Capitol. Unfortunately, in 1901, a fire destroyed the building and Old Abe's remains.

However, the eagle was such a celebrity that Wisconsin governors would present his feathers as gifts to dignitaries and citizens. These many feathers were returned to the state after the fire to represent Old Abe and are now in the care of the museum.

A card with a photograph of Old Abe from the 1876 centennial celebration is also included.

Old Abe toured the nation for the centennial and was exhibited for six months at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. The card is signed by Wisconsin Gov. Harrison Ludington, himself a descendent of the American Revolution, with one ancestor who was one of George Washington's aides-de-camp, Sybil Ludington.

A badge from the 101st Airborne Division is the third Old Abe related item included. Created in 1921 as the 101st Infantry Division in Milwaukee, the division used Old Abe on their insignia as a nod to the state's military tradition.



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