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Crowds gather for the annual Town of Townsend Forth of July Parade on July 4.

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GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Accusers: School district had ‘deliberate indifference’ to abuse

Lawsuit against district one of the largest cases about student sexual assault in Wisconsin

By CORRINNE HESS
Wisconsin Public Radio

Throughout high school, Amanda Watzka and David Heisel would go on long drives across Oconto County. Heisel would stroke Watzka’s hand and talk about his family’s wealth. He would let her know he could protect her once they were finally together. Watzka and Heisel were not teenage sweethearts – Watzka was a 15-year-old

technical education student at Oconto Falls High School, and Heisel was her teacher. Watzka considered Heisel a mentor, a friend and, in some ways, her boyfriend. Now that she’s in her 30s and has a daughter of her own, Watzka believes she was groomed by Heisel for years. When Watzka talks about how the relationship went from grooming to an alleged sexual assault her junior year of high school, her reaction is physical.

According to a federal complaint and police reports, in 2012 Heisel sexually assaulted Watzka during a Skills USA competition at Chula Visa Resort in Wisconsin Dells. “It’s hard to talk about. It’s hard,” Watzka said, rocking back and forth and patting her left arm. “I don’t know that I’ve fully processed that yet. I know what has happened. It is that he did not stop.” In March 2026, Watzka and two other former students filed a federal complaint

against the Oconto Falls School District alleging school officials ignored ongoing grooming and sexual abuse. The complaint has since grown to include more than a dozen former students, teachers and parents connected to the Oconto Falls School District who allege that for 35 years educators and school board members were aware of sexual misconduct in all forms – whether

SCHOOL, continued on page 3

INSIDE

United Way report shows an increase in local poverty levels.

PAGE 2



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New data shows 32% of Oconto County households can't afford basics

United Way recommends those in need use 211 resource line

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

The Tri-County United Way in partnership with United Way of Wisconsin released the 2026 State of ALICE report, a data-driven look at the realities faced by asset limited, income constrained, employed (ALICE) households.

The report reveals that 32% of households in Oconto County cannot afford the basic cost of living and struggle to get by.

National and state ALICE reports are authored by United For ALICE, a project of United Way of Northern New Jersey.

The ALICE Report goes beyond traditional poverty measures to reflect the true costs of living in the community. The report establishes a household survival budget, which includes the true cost of housing, childcare, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, taxes and a modest allowance for miscellaneous expenses, specific to every county in Wisconsin.

While the report describes 9% of Oconto County households (1,577 households) live beneath the federal poverty line, the new research demonstrates that 23% (3,917 households) were



According to the ALICE Essentials Index, the cost of essentials in Wisconsin has risen faster than overall inflation since 2023, seeing a 4.8% annual increase. CONTRIBUTED

beneath the ALICE threshold, earning above the poverty level but still unable to cover basic needs.

When combined, the data reveals that 32% of all households in Oconto County are experiencing financial hardship.

While the poverty level has remained fairly steady, the ALICE population has consistently increased over the last four years, with 2024 seeing the sharpest increase.

"It would be really hard to pinpoint a specific cause of the increase, because each household faces unique challenges,"

said Melanie Stahl, executive director of the Tri-County United Way. "It could be anything from a job loss or reduction in hours to a rent payment or insurance premium increase. The most likely culprit is that, generally, the rising cost of basic needs is outpacing wages."

According to the ALICE Essentials Index, the cost of essentials in Wisconsin has risen faster than overall inflation since 2023, seeing a 4.8% annual increase.

Stahl also referred to data through the 211

Wisconsin Social Determinant of Health Dashboard.

"If you filter down to Oconto County calls made to the 211 Wisconsin Resource line, you'll see that some of the most requested services include housing, healthcare and food," she said. "Filtering the data further shows that within housing most people were looking for rental assistance. Within healthcare, most people are looking for aging and disability resources, and within food, most people are looking for a food pantry."

Correlating the ALICE data and the 211 call data, the numbers demonstrate even more the issues faced by families.

"If we correlate that to the 211 calls in Oconto County for the same time period, calls for housing assistance increased by 107% and calls for food assistance increased from four to 24, which if I'm doing my math correctly is a 500% increase in the number of calls for food assistance," Stahl said. "Based on this year's report, an Oconto County family of four (two adults, two children in childcare) would need to make \$87,264 to cover just the basics included in the ALICE Essentials Index."

"Yet when we look at data from the ALICE Economic Viability Dashboard, we can see that the most common industry for ALICE workers is manufacturing and the average wage is \$18.95 per hour. Even if both adults in the household make this wage, they still fall short of covering the essentials by about \$8,400 per year. Monthly, that shortfall is about \$703, so that family is having to make some really tough choices every single month."

"The single most important resource I can recommend is the 211 Wisconsin resource line," Stahl said. "211 is a free and confidential service that connects you with thousands of local programs and services."

Dial 211 on your phone to reach a trained community resource specialists 24 hours a day, seven days a week, or visit 211 Wisconsin online to search

for services in the community. The service referrals are based on the caller's ZIP code and include a wide range of human service organizations.

There are also a number of resources available through the Oconto County Public Health Department and the University of Wisconsin Oconto County Extension. The Disability and Senior Services - ADRC Wolf River Region is also a resource.

"Unfortunately, there is no single solution that will solve the challenges this rapidly growing sector of the population is experiencing," Stahl said. "Instead, organizations like the once listed above and like local United Ways continue to work together to provide resources aimed at reducing the burden on the ALICE population."

"Recently, Tri-County United Way made the decision to strategically increase our investments in local, proven initiatives that will be carried out through an integrated, three-pronged approach that includes reducing barriers to stable employment and income, strengthening financial literacy and expanding access to income supports. We are still working through exactly what those programs will be and how they will be delivered."

More state and local data is available through the State of ALICE Report and the ALICE Essential Index, both of which can be accessed online at unitedwaywi.org/page/ALICE.

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Green Bay man dies in traffic accident

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

the Town of Stiles, getting stuck in the water.

A Green Bay man died June 25 after his pickup truck left U.S. Highway 141 and ran into a creek.

An Oconto County Sheriff's Department traffic report identified the victim as Richard John Kennedy, 75.

The report indicates that at about 11:56 a.m., the pickup truck left the roadway south of Highway 141 near Guelig Road in

Sheriff Todd Skarban said in a press release that deputies located Kennedy unresponsive inside the cab. The driver was beyond medical assistance and was pronounced dead at the scene, Skarban said.

The sheriff's department was assisted by the Brown County Medical Examiner's Office, the sheriff said.

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SCHOOL, continued from page 1

perpetrated by teachers against students, by students against other students, or by staff against staff – but practiced “deliberate indifference.”

The complaint is one of the largest cases dealing with student sexual assault in Wisconsin, said Chicago attorney Cass Casper, who is representing the former students.

The complaint includes seven plaintiffs and 19 sworn affidavits to support their allegations.

The complaint names 12 staff members as alleged perpetrators going back to the early 1990s.

“I’ve never seen facts like this, ever, in my practice,” Casper said. “There are all of these people, staff members, students reporting it. The scope of this suit, and the number of witnesses who have come forward, reflects a severe problem in how the district responds to these situations.”

West Bend attorney Ron Stadler is representing the school district. Stadler did not return requests from WPR for comment.

“Teachers who engage in sexual misconduct should face consequences – the loss of their employment, criminal prosecution and civil liability for the damages they cause,” Stadler’s motion to dismiss says. “In the context of sexual misconduct, a school district is not liable for the bad actor’s conduct.”

Under state law, all school employees are mandated reporters who are legally required to report suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse.

According to state guidelines, school staff must “learn to recognize manipulation and grooming by adults and peers and to communicate those concerns to appropriate authorities such as school leadership per school policies. In plain language, grooming is a process where a maltreater gains trust, builds rapport and compliance, and ensures secrecy of a child with the intent to be sexually abusive.”



Amanda Watzka wears her Oconto Falls High School construction crew hoodie in Oconto Falls. ANGELA MAJOR | WPR

School staff and other mandated reporters who knowingly fail to report abuse can face criminal charges and the loss of professional licenses.

Watzka graduated from Oconto Falls High School in January 2013. She returned in May 2013 to walk with her class and receive her diploma.

Watzka said she left school early to get away from Heisel, who was in his mid-30s at the time.

Her teacher and alleged sexual abuser was many things to Watzka, who excelled in his class.

Throughout high school, Heisel invited Watzka on weekly drives to his job sites, restaurants, his house and his grandmother’s house.

During these trips, Heisel discussed what life would be like with Watzka, who was a teenager. He asked her about her sexual experience, while discussing his marriage and complaining his wife had cheated on him, according to the federal complaint.

Heisel told Watzka he could marry her and take care of all her problems. He sang to her and made romantic comments. He also engraved his initials

after Watzka’s name on her tools.

Then in spring 2012, when Heisel took students to the Dells for the annual Skills Competition, he allegedly escalated his behavior.

According to the complaint, Heisel went into Watzka’s hotel room. She felt threatened and went into the hallway. He followed her into the hotel stairway, where he allegedly accused her of being a tease, partially undressed and forcibly kissed and fondled her.

“Amanda always remembered the facts of what occurred between her and Heisel,” the complaint says. “However, due to her youth, Heisel’s manipulation, and the grooming process, she did not understand until March and April 2025 that Heisel’s conduct was predatory, criminal, and constituted actionable civil wrongs.”

Watzka said she continued to confide in Heisel even after the assault because she felt like he had always been there for her.

Child sexual grooming is a complex and deceptive process that masquerades as trust-building or

mentorship, according to the National Children’s Alliance. It is estimated that 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 13 boys have experienced child sexual abuse.

“The way I look at it is I’ve lived a very hard life,” Watzka said. “From what I’ve experienced and what I’ve reflected on, I don’t think that victims can come forward until they’re safe enough to do so.”

That safety came last year, once Watzka was

married to her second husband and had three children.

In March 2025, Watzka, now 31, sent Heisel a text that was different from any type of contact they had previously had.

“I didn’t realize how incredibly messed up it was until I had my own daughter,” Watzka wrote. “Now that I’ve accepted it for what it is, I’m ready to share it openly so that I can move forward with

my life and in hopes to prevent you from doing it to anyone else.”

According to a police report filed in April 2025, Heisel showed his co-workers at Oconto Falls High School the text messages and asked them what he should do.

They told him to get a lawyer.

Heisel did not respond to phone calls and text messages from Wisconsin Public Radio. His attorney, Clarence Duchac III, did not return multiple requests for comment from Wisconsin Public Radio.

Heisel has never been criminally charged.

The Oconto Falls district did not respond to requests for information on the status of Heisel’s employment.

However, Heisel surrendered his teacher’s license to the Department of Public Instruction on March 31, 20 days after being named in the civil rights complaint against the Oconto Falls School Board.

During an interview in March with WPR, Oconto Falls Superintendent Stuart Russ said the plaintiffs had been making “substantial monetary demands” on the school district since August 2025.

Russ referred all questions for this story to the school district’s attorney, who has not responded to requests for comment.

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Oconto County celebrates the Fourth of July



The horse pull winner, center, celebrates in Gillett.



Oconto County Sheriff Todd Skarban meets and greets paradegoers to the delight of those attending.



Gillett's Zip-pel Park was home to the July 3-4 celebration. The theme this year was "250 Years, We The People 1776-2026."



PHOTOS BY GREG MELLIS

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Hwy. 47 work to continue for another month

Focus after that moves to Highway 55, road repaving on 47

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

Work on state Highway 47 between County Road VV in Keshena and the Langlade County line is expected to keep the road closed to most traffic until mid-August, at which point attention will be diverted to state Highway 55, according to a report from the Wisconsin

Department of Transportation presented at a public information meeting June 30 at the Wolf River Development Company.

Highway 47 has been closed to all but emergency vehicles or reduced to a single lane since construction started, and it will remain closed to traffic traveling through the reservation until next month, but local traffic will be allowed to proceed, albeit with some delays. Traffic will be traveling on gravel surfaces for portions of the project, and flaggers are not going to be present.

Trevor Kalkofen, DOT project manager, said that

it's anticipated that a second work crew would be coming in due to things falling behind schedule. Work will proceed from south to north, he said. Once the culverts are upgraded, asphalt will be placed on them.

"Other than that, it's pretty much status quo for the next few weeks, we'll call it for now, putting up walls and then putting asphalt over them," Kalkofen said.

Once culvert work has been completed on Highway 47 in August, work will begin on Highway 55, specifically culvert replacement, patching and

guardrail work, allowing for those tasks to be finished this year.

DOT will begin pavement resurfacing this fall on Highway 47 between Keshena and Neopit, and paving will continue north of Neopit as long as warm weather allows. The rest of the work on Highway 47 will resume in spring 2027, along with the pavement work on Highway 55. During paving work, roads will be reduced to one lane with flaggers directing traffic.

Both highways are expected to be fully reopened in mid-summer 2027.

Jim Peck, project leader for the Highway 47-55

project, said that people are becoming more aware of the project and detouring when necessary. The official detour requires motorists to take state Highway 29, which is itself under construction and then U.S. Highway 45 into Langlade County, and while Peck said the state usually can't officially detour on roads that aren't maintained by the state, he said locals on the reservation are figuring out their own detours to get to where they need to go.

However, out-of-town traffic is a different matter, he said.

"The out-of-town people are trying to map

through Google and trying to force their way through," Peck said, noting that efforts are being made to get the closures onto digital mapping apps.

A question was raised about the work being done on state Highway 22 in Shawano County and how the detour utilizes County Road BE. Peck said that to do that, the state has to come to an agreement with counties or municipalities in the event that the added traffic damages their roads, and those agreements usually have to happen before road projects begin.

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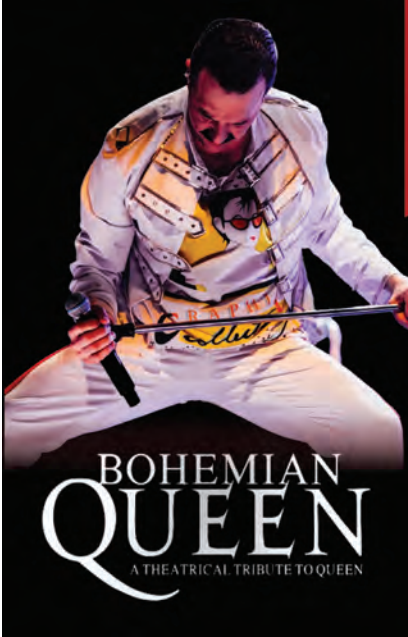
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Shawano County to sell repossessed homes online

Bids to be accepted through Wisconsin Surplus Auction

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Shawano County surplus equipment and vehicles are already sold online, and now, repossessed homes will also be auctioned off that same way.

The success of those first home sales will be reviewed Aug. 19 by the executive committee. The first online auction starts July 21 and will run for four weeks, with the committee expected to select the winning bid at that meeting.

Homes to be sold are located at 502 Mission St., Wittenberg, and 324 Fourth St., Mattoon. They will be sold through <https://wisconsinsurplus.com>.

At a recent conference of county treasurers, Shawano County Treasurer Emily Kazik talked with other officeholders about how they handle the sales.

"Of those 50 treasurers, there's probably about half of them who do online auctions, and all of the online auctions they go through Wisconsin Surplus Auction," she told the committee in June.

To explore local options, she contacted several area Realtors to gauge interest in assisting with the sale of in rem properties on behalf of Shawano County. O'Connor Realty Group, Clintonville, expressed interest and presented a concept plan to the committee.

"We propose that we could probably do it all online," Gerry O'Connor said. "And we can probably get you a lot better results."

Under both options, a buyer's fee would be charged, and the seller would collect payment and forward it to the county.

Wisconsin Surplus requires approval of the winning bid within 48 hours, while O'Connor would prefer to appear at a committee meeting to obtain approval.

Kazik said either option would improve efficiency by reducing the time spent preparing and mailing packets, collecting payments from bidders and issuing refunds to unsuccessful bidders. New software may allow e-mail or text message notices to be sent to neighbors and interested buyers instead of mailing postcards, further reducing the time invested by Kazik's office.

O'Connor said the sale of the county-owned homes would not be a big money-maker for this company. Rather, they would use the sale as a way to collect names and contact information of prospective buyers that they can use in future sales.

"We're trying to use their customer base and their advertising to be able to promote the property," Kazik said of the O'Connor proposal. "The only downfall I see is we can't take a profit in this."

Any proceeds over and above the county's costs to repossess and sell the property is returned to the original owner.

O'Connor Realty would offer in-person customer contact and local support, while Wisconsin Surplus assistance is by email only.

Kazik said she is not aware of any other county that uses a private company to sell its in rem properties.

The county will use Wisconsin Surplus Online Auction for in rem sales on a six-month trial basis.

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Furnishings, Appliances, Antiques & Collectibles: 100 yr. old Triple-curved Glass China Cabinet, 48" S-curve Oak Rolltop Desk, 1920's walnut & oak Dressers, Cedar blanket chest, Ornate Art Nouveau rocker, Quarter-sawn Oak Secretary, Black mantle clock, Frigidaire upright Freezer, Frigidaire 40" white electric range, Whirlpool Refrigerator w/ bottom Freezer, Maytag Dishwasher, Maytag Washer & Dryer, Sharp Carousel microwave, KitchenAid Artisan mixer, Chrome mixmaster, vintage Dormeyer mixmaster, Emeril Lagasse air fryer, Farberware grill, Oster blender, Maple dinette, Lighted curio, About 50 German Hummels, TY Beanie Bear collection, Blue fruit jars, Collection of baskets including rare "Oriole Brand" store display, Bird cages & stands, Wicker patio chairs, 1930's Child's wicker chairs, Waterfall walnut desk, Pottery planter, Mid-Century table & pole lamps, New Old Stock Ski-doo sweaters, Magazine end table, Bookshelves, Cook Books, Bushel baskets, Farm pail, Floor fan, Chrome broiler oven, Zenith wood table radio, Steel files, Golf clubs, Tool box, Coleman cooler & lantern, Singer treadle sew machine, Leather suitcases, Neevel Gadabout suitcase, Silver serving pieces, Holmes & Edwards silverware, 16ft alum ladder, Shop Vac, CD stereos, CD music, 8-tracks, Records, Crock pots, Blue roasters, Christmas Village, McCoy & Hull Art pottery, Glasses & Barware, Beam Trophy & Executive decanters, Old spice tins, Cambridge cake plate, Rosepoint bowl, Carnival glass bowls, Kitchen roosters, Miniature china seals & deer, 1920's painted Mirror, Floral sofa, LG HDTV, TV stand, 4-stack Bookcase, Mahogany hutch, Art Glass basket & swan and an Outstanding Collection of Household Items & Collectibles of All Kinds!

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Swimmers, Sharks enjoy summer heat before weather changes



Despite a heat wave and thunderstorm warnings, Smalley Park was the destination the evening of June 30.
GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA



Swimmers looking to beat the heat headed to the Wolf River to cool off. They dodged cloudy skies and thunderstorm warnings.



The Shawano Ski Sharks team began the 2026 season with three of their first four shows cancelled because of poor weather conditions. The team braved the rain and warnings to perform June 30.



Menominee cruises in 15-1 win over Shawano

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

Menominee handed Shawano a 15-1 loss July 5 in a BABA East Division game in Keshena.

East Division
Menominee 15, Shawano 1 (7 inn.)

Mitchell VandeWalle, Pete O'Kimosh and Kristoffer Kalles each had three hits in the Indians' win over the Lakers in Keshena.

Garrett Kadonsky, Ryan Pensis and Lowell Chevalier each had a hit for Shawano.

Ray Lemieux III picked up

the win on the mound, and Jacob Springborn took the loss.

Gresham 9, Marion 1

The Gophers defeated the Meisters on July 5.

West Division
Wittenberg 7, Tilleda 6
Wittenberg 5, Tilleda 1

The Pilots came from behind in both games July 3 and improved to 8-2 in West Division play.

Erik Steigerwald had three hits for Wittenberg in the first game, while Dalton Zeinert added two.

Brad Bartz had three hits for

Tilleda.

Dominik Anderson picked up the win on the mound, and Zach Fehrman took the loss.

Adin Brei had two hits for Tilleda in the second game.

Nathan Waupekenay got the win on the mound, and Bartz took the loss.

North Division
Eland 6, Crandon 1

The Engineers defeated the Kentucks on July 3 in the first game of a doubleheader in Eland. Results from the second game were not reported.

Hatley 8, Antigo/Polar 2

The Braves defeated the Bears on July 5.

Birnamwood 11, Elderon 6
Birnamwood 6, Elderon 0

The Kings swept the WhiskeyJacks in a doubleheader July 5.

West Division
Little Falls 5, Tigerton 2

The Loggers headed to Tigerton on July 2 and picked up a win over the Tigers.

July 10 schedule (all games start at 7:30 p.m. except where indicated)

East-West Division: Menominee at Wittenberg; Shawano

at Tigerton; Clintonville at Caroline.

North Division: Antigo/Polar at Birnamwood, 7 p.m.

July 12 schedule (all games start at 1:30 p.m.)

East Division: Leopold at Gresham; Marion at Tilleda. West Division: Leopold at Gresham; Little Falls at Scandinavia; Marion at Tilleda. North Division: Elderon at Crandon; Aniwa at Hatley; Eland has bye. South-Central Division: Weymont at New London; Little Falls at Scandinavia; Plover has bye.

Cecil hands Bonduel first Dairyland League loss

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

Cecil picked up a 12-2 win over Bonduel on July 2 in a matchup of Dairyland League baseball teams.

It was the first league loss for Bonduel.

Cecil 12, Bonduel 2 (7 inn.)

Cecil outthit the Broncos

13-8 and scored in five of the game's seven innings.

Reece Stoltenow led Cecil at the plate with three hits while batting in the No. 9 spot in the lineup, while Noah Beilfuss and Braden Uelmen added two hits each. Easton Engel added a two-run home run in the second inning.

Uelmen and Isaac Bolt drove in three runs each.

Bonduel scored both of its runs in the bottom of the seventh inning. Chase Reinke and Adam Frost had two hits for the Broncos, and Eric Yogi Gruenwald drove in both of Bonduel's runs.

Beilfuss picked up the

win on the mound for the Mudhens, and Boldt pitched the seventh inning to get the save. Noah Weier took the loss for Bonduel.

Hofa Park at Navarino

A makeup game July 2 between the Panthers and Rangers was rained out and will be rescheduled.

Pulaski vs. Shawano

Results not reported from July 1.

July 12 schedule (all games start at 1:30 p.m.)

Hofa Park at Cecil; Hortonville at Bonduel; Marinette at Shawano; Pulaski at Waupaca. Navarino, Nichols have bye.

Bonduel tournament

Six Dairyland teams

— Bonduel, Cecil, Hofa Park, Nichols, Shawano and Navarino — will compete in the 47th annual Bonduel Invitational Baseball Tournament. First-round games were played July 6, and the championship game is set for 7 p.m. July 10 at Jack Reinke Field in Bonduel.

BABA Hall of Fame & Museum receives nonprofit status

The BABA Hall of Fame & Museum Inc. has officially received recognition as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization from the Internal Revenue Service, marking an important milestone in preserving and celebrating the history of amateur baseball throughout BABA communities.

The new designation allows the organization to accept tax-deductible charitable contributions, pursue grant opportunities and continue building toward its long-term vision of establishing a permanent hall of fame and museum dedicated to honoring the players, coaches, volunteers, families and communities that have shaped BABA baseball for generations.

"This is an exciting step forward for our organization," said President Craig Brei. "The Hall of Fame has always been about preserving our history and recognizing those who made amateur baseball special. Receiving our 501(c)(3) status gives us the tools to ensure that legacy continues for many years to come."

The organization is now preparing for its annual Hall of Fame Banquet

this October, where 12 new inductees will be honored. The event will once again bring together former players, families, supporters and baseball enthusiasts from across the region to celebrate the traditions and stories that define BABA baseball.

As part of this next chapter, the Hall of Fame is launching several new initiatives, including:

- A Founding Supporter Program, scheduled to launch later this year and continue through Dec. 31, 2027, recognizing the individuals, families and businesses that help establish the organization during its formative years.

- The creation of a BABA Hall of Fame & Museum Facebook page to share historical content, inductee spotlights and organizational updates.

Community members interested in becoming Founding Supporters, volunteers or artifact donors are encouraged to contact the organization at babahalloffame@gmail.com or follow the Hall of Fame on Facebook for future announcements and opportunities to get involved.

For information, visit <https://www.bababaseball.com/>.



Wausau's Jeff Feck (21F) and Shawano's Cody Hokenstad battle it out July 4 in the IMCA modified race at the Shawano Speedway. In the first heat, Feck placed second with Hokenstad in third. In the feature race, Hokenstad finished second, and Feck was eighth.

S&A PHOTOGRAPHY

Clintonville drivers sweep sport compact feature race

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Jeffrey Teske started in ninth but earned the checkered flag in the IMCA modifieds 20-lap feature race July 4 at the Shawano Speedway.

Teske defeated Shawano's Cody Hokenstad, who finished second, and New London's Tanner Janke, who placed third.

Clintonville's Lucas Lamberies won the first heat. Marion's Adam Abbey won the second heat,

and Shawano's Jordan Bartz won the third heat.

In the 20-lap IMCA sport modifieds, Seymour's Tim Jorgenson won after starting fourth. Oconto Falls' Cole Magnin was second, and Shawano's A.J. Springborn was third.

The heat race was won by Tigerton's Forrest Kernen.

Mosinee's Andy Karl won the 20-lap dirt late models feature. He moved up one spot after starting

second. Shawano's Troy Springborn finished second, and New London's Justin Ritchie was third after starting on the pole.

Springborn won the lone heat race.

The IMCA stock cars 20-lap feature was won by Jeremy Christians, of Horicon, after starting in third.

Trent Nolan, of Shawano, was second, and Kyle Stedjee, of Shiocton, was third.

Belle Plaine's Nate

Michonski, Christians and Manitowoc's Brett Wenzel won the heat races.

The IMCA sport compact 12-lap feature race was a clean sweep with Clintonville drivers capturing the top three spots. Calvin Stueck started third and finished first, Tanner Westphal started 10th and finished second, and Brad Wedde started 14th and placed third.

Heat races were won by Stueck and Shawano's Landon Braatz.



Shawano's Landon Braatz (04) wins the second heat in the IMCA sport compact division July 4 at the Shawano Speedway. Green Bay's TJ Everard (88) placed third. In the feature race, Everard finished fifth, and Braatz placed seventh.

S&A PHOTOGRAPHY

Danielczak a top pick for NEC softball

Amelia Danielczak of Oconto Falls was a unanimous selection for the first team all-conference softball team for the North Eastern Conference.

Danielczak, who was

a senior last season, was honored as a catcher.

Honorable mention awards went to teammates Katelyn Kurek, a senior, pitcher; and Delaney McNichols, senior, infield.

Four Oconto Falls High School baseball players were named to the NEC all-conference team.

First team honors were earned by Carter Heroux as a pitcher and Landon

Delfosse as an infielder.

Trace Brehmer was named to the second team as a catcher, and Teagan Tate earned honorable mention status as an infielder.

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FROM BADGES TO COLLARS

Sorlie, Conradt let faith take over after decades of protecting people of Shawano County

By KAY REMINGER
Correspondent

Two men from different parts of Shawano County had at one point in time served together at the county sheriff's department.

Both men have since traded their badges for clerical collars – still serving people, but in a totally different capacity. Both have learned to listen to the Holy Spirit directing their lives through every phase.

When Keith Sorlie graduated high school, he'd narrowed his life's choices down to four things: teacher, law enforcement, military or pastor.

"When I talked to my pastor at Bethel, he said, 'Well, do you feel like you're being called by the Holy Spirit?' and I remembering responding 'What does that feel like?' and he had said, 'If you have to ask, it's probably not happening,'" Sorlie said. "So I crossed that off the list."

"I'm a hometown boy and thought the military might be too daunting. So that left teacher or law enforcement, and teaching was inside work. Law enforcement seemed to me to be more of a challenge, so law enforcement it was."

Sorlie graduated in 1986 from Carroll College in Waukesha, with a criminal justice degree and a minor in English and psychology, which spawned a law enforcement career lasting close to 29 years.

First employed with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, Sorlie went on to work as a patrolman with the Wisconsin State Patrol in 1991. Then his wife, Lisa, was hired by Shawano County as a dispatcher in 1995.

"Shawano County expanded its force, and I got hired there as a patrol officer for a number of years, then was a drug detective for the next 15 years," Sorlie said. "After that I switched jobs, working for the city of Shawano Police Department."

The biggest challenge in law enforcement is to balance career and home life.

"It's incredibly demanding, and it never leaves a person. For example, even to this day, my wife and I can't go on a trip together without me pointing out expired plates," Sorlie said.

Retiring from the police force in 2020, Sorlie discovered in the fall of 2021 that his home church, Bethel Lutheran, was in dire need of a pastor.

"The spirit started calling me," Sorlie said. "Every time I tried to say no, it got funneled into a yes. My supportive wife teased me I failed at retirement. She had encouragingly said, 'Gee, if only we knew someone who had some extra time on their hands.'"

Starting in the fall of 2022, Sorlie's seminary training was completed with an online degree through Wartburg Theological Seminary located in Dubuque, Iowa. Sorlie earned a certificate, which allowed him to serve as an ordained pastor, in May of 2025, with an ordination ceremony taking place less than a year later at Bethel Lutheran Church in Cecil.

Fully supported by his family and congregation, Sorlie said, "I've been very blessed. A couple of lay people are able to fill in and preach when I'm not here, but for the most part I am by myself. I enjoy being with people and writing sermons; the old English degree kicks in."



Keith Sorlie was ordained March 22 at his childhood home church, Bethel Lutheran in Cecil. Sorlie contributes his pastoral life to listening to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and his loving, supportive family and congregation. Sorlie's dedication to law enforcement spanned close to 29 years before he retired from police work in 2020.

CONTRIBUTED

"I am blessed on this whole journey from the beginning to the end. I get to come full circle back to my roots, serving people at the church I was baptized in. I just kept following the Lord's nudges. Listen and obey, and He'll take us on an adventure."

Law enforcement and pastoral duties have similarities.

"I just listen to people and what they need," Sorlie said. "The outcomes are a little different, obviously. If someone breaks the law they have to suffer the consequences, but I tried to be compassionate and kind during my time on the force. It's all about listening to what people are going through. I can't solve their problem, but I can be there offering support and guidance and prayer."

Steve Conradt began his law enforcement career after a ride-along with his brother – who was an officer with the Wisconsin Rapids police department – piqued his curiosity.

The last of three boys in the family, Conradt had felt obligated to help his parents out on the family farm. He had worked at a slaughterhouse for about a year, cutting the feed out of cow stomachs.

"I'm sitting there, emptying out those stomachs, and you just kind of think to yourself: 'Is this something I want to do for the rest of my life?'" Conradt said.

He heard the Shawano County Sheriff Department was hiring, and he applied for

and got a position within the force, starting Jan. 1, 1977, for \$2 per hour.

"I had to buy my own gun and ammo and hung with the department long enough to get a uniform and a badge. All the training we did was in-house," Conradt said.

From 1977 through 1984, Conradt served as a deputy sheriff and also helped his mom and dad run their family farm.

"All my vacations were taken to get farm work done and the hay off in the summer," he said. "I caught a break in August 1984 when my parents sold the farm."

Through the years, Conradt advanced from jailer to dispatcher, moving to patrol, to criminal investigator, to lieutenant and finally promoted to chief deputy under Sheriff Robert A. Schmidt. A highly-decorated officer, Conradt was named Arson Investigator of the Year for the state of Wisconsin by the International Association of Arson Investigators, Wisconsin Chapter.

"Pretty good for a kid from the twin cities of Pella and Leopolis," Conradt said.

Retiring from law enforcement after over 30 years, Conradt considered the possibility of becoming a pastor. At his baptism in 1956, the pastor of St. John Lutheran Church-Hermansfort had prophesied to Conradt's mom that someday he would become a pastor.

Close to 60 years later that came true, but not without sacrifice.

Three years after retiring from the force,



Steve Conradt contributes his success at completing his pastoral training to relying on the strength of Jesus and his loving, supportive wife, Bernie, pictured after the Easter service at St. John-Hermansfort in 2025. Conradt's prolific law enforcement career spanned over 30 years with the Shawano County Sheriff's Department, until he retired in 2007.

CONTRIBUTED

Conradt's wife, Bernadette, saw an advertisement by Fort Wayne seminary recruiters in their church bulletin. After some convincing, Conradt agreed to meet with Pastor Steve Wagner in Green Bay, which started the ball rolling.

At 56 years of age, in February 2011, after taking some courses at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College-Shawano, Conradt was accepted into the Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Spending 2½ years there, including summer classes to more swiftly complete his degree, followed by a year of vicarage at St. John Hermansfort, meant during training, Conradt was away from his beloved family for extended periods of time.

"My wife – my soulmate – Bernadette, was and still is, a saint," Conradt said. "When I left for Fort Wayne in June 2011 to do a 10-week Koine Greek class, she stayed at home working as a third-grade teacher at Olga Brenner (Intermediate School). We had never been separated during our marriage. Now we'd be separated 10 weeks at a time. It was rough."

Managing the grief their separation caused, both found strength in God. Surrendering to Christ, Conradt understood his success was not accomplished by his own strength.

"We hit a point that we both knew we got divine help with this, now let's finish the task," Conradt said. "We got through it by the grace of God."

Conradt served at both St. John Church-Hermansfort and St. Paul-Stony Hill, officially retiring from pastoral duties on June 29, 2025. Currently, Conradt occasionally fills in around other Lutheran churches, Missouri Synod.

Much like Sorlie, Conradt sees similarities in both law enforcement and pastoral care.

"You are always dealing with hurting people. You have to have compassion in both jobs. As pastor, you have to be ready and able to share the love of Jesus Christ in very trying times," Conradt said. "It's not about me. The Bible verse I cling to is 'Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.' Isaiah 12:2."

Childhood classic comes to Mielke stage

Mostly young actors star in ‘James and the Giant Peach’

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Eleven of the 15 cast members performing in “James and the Giant Peach” are children, which director Sabrina Demaski has found both challenging at times and pleasantly surprising.

“We only have four adults. We have a cast of 15. The rest of them are all between the ages of 8 and 16,” Demaski said. “I think it’s really cool that they’re doing so well. Some of the singing is written for more mature and seasoned voices. I have been pleasantly surprised.”

The show opened July 9 at the Mielke Arts Center. More performances are scheduled for July 10-12 and July 16-19.

“It’s really fun, especially with how young my cast is,” Demaski said. “I get to teach the younger generation. It’s been very rewarding to pass on everything I know about doing shows here.”

Demaski quickly realized she needed to schedule several small breaks throughout practice sessions to allow the young actors to run around and burn off some energy.

“There are definitely times that we get a little silly, but I like to try to give them enough balance with small breaks and stuff,” she said. “It’s been fun. It’s been a little challenging sometimes. Once they get the giggles, it goes on forever. Some of the adults are the ones instigating those giggles.”

The play is based on Roald Dahl’s same-titled book.

When James is sent by his conniving aunts to chop down their old fruit tree, he discovers a magic potion that results in a tremendous peach. Suddenly, James finds himself in the center of the



Lillianna Anderson, center, plays the part of Grasshopper. She is rehearsing with Bryce Rades, who plays the part of Glowworm, left, and Mia Schmalz, who plays the part of Spider.

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

gigantic peach, among human-sized insects with equally oversized personalities. But after it falls from the tree and rolls into the ocean, the group faces hunger, sharks and plenty of disagreements.

Thanks to James’ quick wit and creative thinking, the residents learn to live and work together as a family. The dangerous voyage is a success, but the adventure takes a whole new twist once they land on the

Empire State Building.

This is Demaski’s first time directing a musical, although she did direct “Cafe Mocha Murders” in the spring of 2025.

She first performed on the Mielke stage in “Seussical” in 2014.

“I’ve always been interested in all aspects of theater,” Demaski said. “Acting has always been kind of like my primary interest.”

She suffered some health problems a few

years ago when acting in a show.

“I was actually fainting backstage in between scenes. I couldn’t figure out what was going on,” she said. “I had some scary health stuff going on for a while, but I didn’t want to give up theater. I was looking for other ways to be involved.”

With the help of Alex Konen, Shawano County Arts Council president and her theater teacher in high



Kelly Donahue, left, plays the part of Earthworm while David Woosencraft plays the part of Caterpillar as they rehearse a scene from “James and the Giant Peach.”

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

IF YOU GO

WHO: Box in the Wood Theatre Guild
WHAT: “James and The Giant Peach”
WHERE: Mielke Arts Center, N5649 Airport Road, Shawano
WHEN: 7 p.m. July 10-11, July 16-18; 2 p.m. July 12, July 19
COST: Reserve seating, \$25 (\$27 online with fees); general admission, adult \$15 (\$16.50 online with fees); child \$10 (\$11.25 online with fees).
TICKETS: Available at <https://shawanoarts.ludus.com/index.php> or at the door if not sold out in advance.

school, she worked side by side with him as assistant director before going out on her own.

Demaski enjoys the creative decision making that goes with being director.

For example, before she had decided on a theme for the play, she was scrolling social media one day.

“I saw a playground for sale, and I was like, ‘This show is very much part of my childhood. It very much invokes a childhood feeling. Wouldn’t it be fun if we just did it on a playground instead?’” she said.

Then, Demaski ran with the idea.

“All of the costumes are based on childhood toys that I had,” she said. “We have the sandbox. We have the playground. Everything is based on that idea of childhood nostalgia – childhood whimsy.”

Demaski also works with Safe Haven, the domestic abuse and sexual assault center in Shawano.

The actors’ final dress rehearsal is a performance for the Safe Haven clients.

kpasson@newmedia-iw.com



Caroline Lepscier, who plays James in the Box in the Wood Theatre Guild production of “James and the Giant Peach,” waits for her next line during a recent rehearsal.

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Salty Anchor serves taste of sea to diners

Former Water's Edge opens in May with new sign, purpose

By **GREG SEUBERT**
Correspondent

What is a salty anchor? Bill Ciuplinski probably hears that question a lot as the new owner of The Salty Anchor, the former Water's Edge, on state Highway 32 between Suring and Mountain.

Ciuplinski purchased the business, located across the road from Anderson Lake, in April and opened it May 16. Besides the bar and grill, it also features upstairs living quarters.

"My parents had a place on the Townsend Flowage for 30 years — not a business, but a regular cottage on the water," Ciuplinski said.

He's currently on leave from his position as vice president of Toys For Trucks, which provides off-road parts for trucks, Jeeps and four-wheeled vehicles.

"I still do that," Ciuplinski said. "I'm actually on a 90-day hiatus. I go back Aug. 1 on a part-time basis. I was living in Appleton, so I sold my house by the airport and moved up here. Being on the water and being up north is where I



Bill Ciuplinski recently purchased the former Water's Edge at 12058 State Highway 32, Suring, and renamed it The Salty Anchor. He held an official grand opening May 16, and the bar and grill is open seven days a week.
GREG SEUBERT

want to be. Did I ever think I was going to buy a bar and grill? No."

Ciuplinski said he spent 91 days on the road last year for Toys For Trucks.

"I was living in hotels and flying in airplanes," he said. "It just got to be too much. Once I finally told people what I was doing, they said, 'Well, you just bought yourself a job; you're married to that place.' That's kind of how I felt anyway with Toys For Trucks. I looked at it as an opportunity here; it's right on the water."

Ciuplinski purchased the business from Doreen Thompson. He used to pass by it on his way to the family cottage in

Townsend.

"Doreen had a good business here, and she was here for 21 years," he said. "You hope you keep the locals, but you also want to grow the business. It's been around since '48. It was Tip Top way back in the day. I did my homework on it. I was up here snowmobiling and saw a for sale sign last winter and figured it was going to be out of my price range. When I looked it up online, I said, 'It's doable.' I went into it head-first to see if I was going to be able to do it."

Ciuplinski eventually set up a website, www.saltyanchorbarandgrill.com, and a Facebook page, but they

weren't the only improvements he made.

"I've been coming up here for 37 years, and one of the things I noticed is you drive right by this place. You miss it," he said. "There wasn't a sign out front for quite some years. I said, 'I'm going to make it so you can't miss it.' I painted it aqua and put lighting all around it."

Ciuplinski also designed a logo and ordered merchandise that includes shirts and hats.

"I went into it knowing how to do a lot of that," he said. "I'm not a marketing specialist or anything like that, but I know enough from doing shows and consumer shows to know

what people want."

Ciuplinski's keeping The Salty Anchor's menu simple for now. It includes the usual fare of hamburgers, cheeseburgers, chicken sandwiches and appetizers.

"We didn't change the menu a lot," he said. "We added a few easy-prep items, but at the same time, it's a little different than other places."

A banquet room is also set up to serve Friday night fish.

"We just had our third fish fry," Ciuplinski said. "We did 65 (orders), then 75 and last week, we had 125. It's been very good, and weekdays have been consistently steady. We do well on Mondays and Tuesdays because a lot of the places up here are closed."

Ciuplinski wanted to establish consistent hours for the business.

"I'm a snowmobiler. I'm a fisher. I'm a hunter," he said. "Coming up here on a Monday, who's open? Who's not open? Who's open on Tuesday? What time do they start serving food? We're open seven days a week at noon and until at least 10 p.m., regardless if it's slow. On the weekends, we'll stay open as late as we can."

Ciuplinski said many of his customers are impressed with the improvements.

"They're really blown away by how clean and bright it looks in here," he said. "They love the patio out front."

Ciuplinski waited for more than a month before finding out his loan to purchase the business was approved.

"Inspections had to happen," he said. "It could have all fallen apart because I was already invested in the clothing. I had to order all that stuff to be ready for my opener."

Although Ciuplinski has his local customers, he realizes that businesses like his depend on tourists heading to northern Oconto County.

"There's a snowmobile trail that comes in on the east side of the property, and a UTV trail that comes in on the south side of the property," he said. "There were some issues on how to get here, so I'm working with the clubs to get that out in the open so everybody knows."

So what's the idea behind the name of Ciuplinski's new business venture?

"I came up with it myself," he said. "My son's a Navy vet, but I also like the nautical theme. With nautical, nothing gets old. I look at it as something catchy, more of a destination place, different. I wanted people to notice me."

seubert4@gmail.com

'Showcase' puts Menominee theater skills on display

The Menominee word for theater is mamātāweqtan. It can also translate to English as a "wonderful performance."

Shawano news publications have covered the Menominee Nation's mamātāweqtan for more than 150 years, with perhaps the earliest story running in 1874. Theater is one of the Menominee peoples' traditional artforms, and this column is just the latest local coverage.

For the second summer running, I had the good fortune to direct the current generation of performers. These budding thespians enrolled in a theater production course offered through a partnership between College of Menominee Nation and Menominee Nation High School, and that meant that I was able to introduce them to my persnickety ways of teaching this storied artform.

As actor Ashaylex Awonohopay put it, "Ryan is awfully particular about all things theater. If you're not doing something right, he will tell you. And if you proceed to not listen to him, he will tell you again until you do."

These diligent student-theater practitioners were participating in CMN's Learn and Earn program. Funded by the Wisconsin



Cast and crew for "Showcase," a joint effort between College of Menominee Nation and Menominee Nation High School in June, are, from left, Johnathan Sechrist, Sara Kelley, Christopher Wilber Jr., Ashaylex Awonohopay, James Awonohopay, Cece Grignon, Harmony Doud, Nevaeh Pecore, Taylesia Pamonicutt, Dacey Webster, Kenzie Webster-Wayka and Givon Peters.
COLLEGE OF MENOMINEE NATION

Technical College Systems Grant, the program "allows high school juniors and seniors to get a head start in college while gaining confidence in their ability to succeed in higher education."

Actor Harmon Doud noted what helped her thrive in the classroom.

"The three pieces of advice I'd share is to stay on top of your work, listen to the lecture so you know what you might be doing, and have fun and interact during discussions. That goes for any college course," Doud said.

This summer's cast and crew

included Ashaylex Awonohopay, James Awonohopay, Harmony Doud, Cece Grignon, Sara Kelley, Taylesia Pamonicutt, Nevaeh Pecore, Givon Peters, Payton Poca, Johnathan Sechrist, Christina Warrington, Levi Warrington, Kai Wayka, Kenzie Webster-Wayka, Dacey Webster, and Christopher Wilber Jr.

The course required the students to select the scripts we staged, with the roles being assigned through auditions.

While stage fright is understandable, actor Kai Wayka shared his secrets to success.

"Stay open-minded when it comes to acting, and don't stress about feeling awkward," Wayka said. "Trying new things can be

intimidating at first, but once you're on stage, it often becomes enjoyable. You might be surprised by how freeing and exciting acting can actually be."

This summer witnessed the production of five short scenes depicting a futuristic interrogation room, a Jane Austin penned confrontation, a high maintenance knight preparing for a quest, a studious college student justifying his low-key life and a high schooler lamenting the gap between his real-life and online personas.

While the scenes were each different, assistant director Levi Warrington discussed universal truths about the craft he gleaned from the course.

"You're going to feel scared, but once you find joy in this and get to know your crew, you will feel a whole lot better about going up on that stage," Warrington said. "The next thing I would say is to focus on action, not emotion, to make it believable."

Actor Christina Warrington added to those assertions.

"Some advice I would share with any upcoming student is to stay consistent, live in the truth of the moment, and practice your critiquing," she said. "I share these pieces of advice specifically because they all focus on improvement in techniques that are necessary for this class."

Under the revealing moniker "Showcase," the production

went off without a hitch at MNHS on June 24. The patrons in attendance exceeded expectations, spilling out of the classroom and into the campus' commons.

Actor Givon Peters reflected upon his thoughts about the secret to having a strong performance.

"I would say not to overthink," Peters said. "It is so easy to get all in your head about getting on the stage and putting on a show, but no amount of anxiety can change the future. I think you should just get up there and give it your best. This is only something I've recently come to understand, but it has helped me immensely."

Assistant director Taylesia Pamonicutt agreed.

"You need to get out of your comfort zone in order to do things," she said. "You need to find the truth of the moment when executing your acting or whatever type of role you have in a play. Make sure you do it well and that you're working well with any other actors you're with."

The upshot is that this summer's mamātāweqtan was a "wonderful performance" that capped an educational milestone for the students.

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



RYAN WINN
COLUMNIST

Summer fun impacted by water leak, tourists

It's a stunningly beautiful summer night on the Townsend Flowage. The lake is smooth as glass, a mirror reflecting the full moon lording it over an inky sky. I can hear music from across the lake. I sure wish it was coming from Little Tipsy.

Built in 1898, Topsy is the original Wheeler Hotel, the oldest commercial building in Townsend. Built for railroad and lumber businessmen, the Wheeler was a welcome stopover on the Laona Line. It has a colorful past, and logging history oozes out of the place.

I was smitten by the Wheeler when I first saw it. It was a key reason why I got involved in saving the logging camp in Lakewood. Over the 128 years of its existence, the hotel has changed hands and been updated several times. Old-timers may remember it as the Wheeler Inn; more recent folks as Markuby's.

Historic buildings are very special, often serving as both museum and commercial enterprise. They are not for the casual investor and usually require a deep commitment in time, effort and money. I cherish the current owners, Robbie and Kasha Calloway, who rescued this priceless

treasure from the wrecking ball.

As is customary, the Calloways were planning a special Memorial Day celebration. Sadly, they were forced to close due to a catastrophic water leak in April. Here's hoping they can reopen soon. Losing the income anticipated during the summer season can be devastating for small businesses.

Summers are short here as it is. The months from Memorial Day to Labor Day are critical to the economic health of tiny Northwoods towns like ours. Everything depends on weather. The past few years we've had three months of March – cold, wet and windy. Not good when all you have to sell is a plethora of outdoor activities.

Still, every year businesses optimistically roll out the welcome mat at the end of May to mark the opening of high tourist season. If the weather cooperates, our population doubles, even triples. It reaches full saturation over the Fourth of July when we host thousands of out-of-towners who flock here to celebrate.

This year, which marks the 250th anniversary of America's founding in 1776, is one grand birthday party. Local

businesses are spending a lot of time, energy and money providing special things to do. Over the Fourth, there was the annual kids fishing tournament, parade, craft show, Friends of Townsend Fire picnic. As always, the celebration concluded with a fantastic fireworks display. Many more promotions are coming up. All good.

Unfortunately, there is trouble in poor man's paradise. It stems from a steadily growing number of visitors who do not know how to live in the woods. I get it. I didn't either, but from the time we bought our place in 1993, we knew life here could not be lived as if we resided in a city. Jon and I quickly adapted; we had to.

Unfortunately, more and more of our "guests" think that up north is a no-holds-barred party place. We have heard, "Hey, there are no laws north of Highway 64" for years. Now, it's some version of, "We spend a lot of money here, so shut up and be grateful." Really.

One of the most common ways we see this attitude manifest itself is rude behavior. Yesterday I stopped for gas at the station in town. As I was carefully navigating my way to an open filling spot, a UTV almost as big as my Escape whizzed past. Cutting me off, he nearly hit me as he pulled up to that pump.



Little Topsy is the oldest commercial building in Townsend and one of the funner places in the town, but a catastrophic water leak has closed the original Wheeler Hotel while repairs are made, impacting the building's summer revenue potential.

KATHLEEN MARSH

Clearly inebriated at 11 a.m., he and his buddies gave me the middle finger salute and laughed uproariously.

Okay, being obnoxious while intoxicated is nothing new. Best to ignore it. It's offensive, but not dangerous. Ah, sweet karma, the laugh was on them. As I was filling my tank at another pump, I heard the driver yell: "Can you f'n believe this; it's (f'n) out of order!"

As he angrily drove off, I couldn't help but notice he had to express

his political views to the world. They were proudly displayed on his clothing and a flag attached to the back of his ride.

I hesitate to write this, but I sincerely want to know. With the country so polarized, why would you choose to wear political swag when you're on vacation? Are you looking for endorsement or for trouble?

Yes, there's a wide diversity of viewpoints in Townsend. No, it isn't 50/50. So far, we've learned to live in peace,

perhaps because, as Charles Dickens wrote long ago, "We are all fellow travelers to the grave." Amen.

Coming for a visit? Great. Love to have you. Please be on your best behavior and pretty please, keep the politics at home.

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.

Five minutes all that's needed for garden maintenance

Improve a garden's beauty, increase enjoyment, and reduce stress five minutes at a time. As gardeners we know, and research proves that gardening is good for the mind, body and spirit. However, busy schedules often lead to neglected projects, weedy gardens and long to-do lists.

GARDENING WITH
MELINDA MYERS



MELINDA MYERS
COLUMNIST

We often delay tackling these tasks until we have an afternoon or evening to dedicate to our landscapes. By then, the weeds have overtaken the garden, perennials become floppy and veggies are past their prime. Fight the overwhelming desire to give up.

Instead, look for small tasks that can be done in between other activities or when you need a brief break from work to clear your mind and stretch your muscles.

Keep a weather-proof container or two filled with gloves, a favorite weeding tool, and pruners in a convenient location near the garden. This ensures that the time available will be spent weeding or deadheading instead of looking for tools. A bucket with kneeling pads and tools by the door or an old mailbox set in the garden will save time and steps retrieving these items.

Use this time to remove spent flowers



A mailbox is filled with garden tools and set in the garden for convenient access.

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or cut back perennials in need of a trim. Prune off any dead or damaged twigs above a set of healthy buds when you are out working in your garden. Use a bypass hand pruner to make clean cuts that leave your plants looking their best.

Dig weeds, roots and all. This task is easiest when the soil is moist and the weeds are small. Eliminating weeds from the garden before they set seed means fewer weeds to pull in the future.

Prioritize projects into Must Do, Should Do and Might Do tasks. This is a great way to reduce what seems like an overwhelming project into manageable steps.

The Must Dos ensure your plants will survive. Focus on watering as needed, weed control and managing plant-threatening pests.

Should Dos include mulching, fertilizing and winterizing as needed and can

be done after you take care of the Must Dos. These could wait a year but should be addressed soon. Tackling the Should Do tasks eventually reduces time spent on the Must Do ones. Might Do tasks are those like deadheading and staking that boost beauty but are not critical for the plant's survival.

This is just one way to divide your gardening tasks, but priorities will vary from gardener to gardener based on your desired goals. Some may feel deadheading or staking is critical and add it to the Must Do or Should Do list while others consider it a task to do once the others are complete. You may decide to replace higher maintenance plants with those that are free flowering, self-supporting and have fewer pest problems.

If the Must Do tasks are difficult for you to accomplish, consider asking for help or hiring a professional. Pay for big jobs and those you prefer to skip so you can focus on those you can do and that bring you joy.

You'll be surprised how much you can accomplish in just a few minutes. Plus, tackling your landscape one small task at a time can be less overwhelming and less stressful.

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.

Rotary elects officers, hands out scholarships

The Shawano Rotary Club recently elected officers and awarded scholarships to graduating high school seniors. At the meeting, the club voted for Mike Morse to become the president, succeeding Gary Tauchen, who will now serve as past president. Treasurer Paula Wegner and secretary J.R. Habeck were re-elected. All officers were sworn in by Shawano-Menominee County Circuit Court Judge William Kussel.

Morgan Staszak, daughter of Grant and Melinda Staszak of Bonduel, earned the Emmereth Brunner scholarship through her achievements and impressive essay that envisioned how she can help improve the world. Brunner was a farmer in Green Valley who spread agricultural advancement techniques to other countries. Staszak will attend the University of Minnesota and study architecture.

Dr. Paul Dibley scholarships were awarded to two Shawano graduates, following a vote of their fellow students with high academic achievement. Dibley was a Shawano dentist for over 40 years who headed the club's scholarship committee for years.

Joshua Lesperance, the son of Aaron and Catherine Lesperance, already runs a business and will study business matters at University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Jillian Guenther, the daughter of Joseph Guenther and Yu-Chin Fang, plans to study microbiology at UW-Eau Claire, preparing for medical school.

Each scholarship was \$1,000 per student.

The Shawano Rotary, which is more than 100 years old, has engaged in activities that benefit the Shawano area and other parts of the world.



High school graduates, from left, front row, Jillian Guenther, Morgan Staszak and Joshue Lesperance received \$1,000 scholarships from the Shawano Rotary Club. Standing with the scholarship winners are Rotary treasurer Paula Wegner, secretary J.R. Habeck, president Mike Morse and past president Gary Tauchen.

CONTRIBUTED

THEME:
ROM-COMS

ACROSS

1. Anti-seniors sentiment
6. Ingested
9. "Lights out" tune
13. *Sweet" villa (2025)
14. Leo, in Moscow
15. Mood disorder
16. Blooming bulb
17. *It happened on how many nights? (1934)
18. Follow up on (2 words)
19. *Sleepless where? (1993)
21. *Certain London Hill (1999)
23. "____ Te Ching"
24. Future J.D.'s hurdle, acr.
25. Chips accompaniment
28. Tibetan monk
30. Celebrity
35. Please do not delay, acr.
37. S.A.T. section
39. Polynesian island country
40. Scarlet O'Hara's home
41. Singing femme fatale
43. Rig or truck
44. Artist's support
46. Italian money, 1861-2002
47. Petri dish gel
48. Like a longer route?
50. ____ Scotia
52. RNs' org.
53. Morally reprehensible
55. Ensign, for short
57. *Not a wedding (1994)
61. *They were reaping benefits (2011)

DOWN

1. Without further ____, pl.
2. Departed
3. Hip bones
4. *Actor Foley of #13

Across

5. Kind of block
6. Healing gel producing plant
7. *How many days to lose a guy? (2003)
8. O and 2, e.g.
9. Diplomat's forte
10. ____-perspirant
11. One quark plus one antiquark
12. Spilled the beans
15. Dull surfaces
20. Fertile topsoil, pl.
22. Boat propeller
24. Army bathroom
25. *Fifty of these, to jog her memory (2004)
26. Newton of science
27. Dissect
29. *AOL delivery (1998)
31. Org. with a mission
32. Last letter, to Homer
33. *Pretty one (1990)
34. Nigerian money
36. Part of a hammerhead
38. Villain's rival
42. *When has she been kissed? (1999)

CROSSWORD

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, JULY 10

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.

TOWN OF HOW: Suring Summer Craft and Vendor Show, noon to 6 p.m., How Community Building, 12896 State Highway 32.

SHAWANO: Smalley Beach Bash, 2-5 p.m., Smalley Park, 211 Riverside Drive. Obstacle course and games, crafts with the Shawano County Library, food trucks, music with a DJ and karaoke.

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

SHAWANO: "James and the Giant Peach," 7 p.m., Mielke Arts Center, N5649 Airport Road. Box in the Wood Theater Guild musical presentation. Tickets \$10-\$25 at Shawanoarts.ludus.com or at the door.

SATURDAY, JULY 11

OCONTO: Escape Reality Walleye Open, all day, Breakwater Park, 1301 Harbor Road. Details at Escape Reality Walleye Open Facebook page.

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

OCONTO FALLS: Oconto Falls Dri-Tri, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., West Side Beach, North Flatley Avenue. Half-mile paddle on Oconto River, bicycle race and 5k run/walk. \$85; register at https://runsignup.com/Race/WI/OcontoFalls/OcontoFallsDriTri. Registration and check-in opens 7:30 a.m.

TOWN OF HOW: Suring Summer Craft and Vendor Show, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., How Community Building, 12896 State Highway 32.

SHAWANO: ShawanoFest, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Main Street

downtown and Franklin Park, 235 S. Washington St. Car show, craft vendors and music on Main Street, and the farmers market, music and children's games at Franklin Park.

TOWNSEND: Northern Lake Archers Club Shoot, 10 a.m., Northern Lake Archers, 16230 Village View Lane. Registration 9 a.m. 28 targets on 30 acres. Members shoot free, non-members \$10, youths younger than 18 with adult shoot free.

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.

SHAWANO: "James and the Giant Peach," 7 p.m., Mielke Arts Center, N5649 Airport Road. Box in the Wood Theater Guild musical presentation. Tickets \$10-\$25 at

Shawanoarts.ludus.com or at the door.

SUNDAY, JULY 12

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

OCONTO: Aim Walleye Series Bell Ford Open, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Breakwater Park, 1301 Harbor Road. \$350; details at aimfishing.com. Boat inspections 5:30-6:45 a.m.; fishing 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. or 7:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

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

SHAWANO: "James and the Giant Peach," 2 p.m., Mielke Arts Center, N5649 Airport Road. Box in the Wood Theater Guild musical presentation. Tickets \$10-\$25 at Shawanoarts.ludus.com or at the door.

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

TUESDAY, JULY 14

OCONTO FALLS: Oconto County Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m., Memorial Field. Hawaiian Water Party. Music with Patrick Rades.

LENA: Car Show On Main, 4:30-7 p.m., Main Street. Each classic car parked on Main Street will get one ticket for a free hamburger from the Wooden Shoe. Vendors welcome.

SHAWANO: Naberhood Block Party, 6 p.m., The Naberhood, 214 S. Main St. Mischief and Magic Music Show.

OCONTO: Tunes on Tuesday, 6-8 p.m., Beyer Home, 917 Park Ave. Music with Jesse Aron (tribute to Roy Orbison).

KESHENA: Recovery talking circle, 6-8 p.m.

Omaeqnomenewak Weto-hkatikamek Center, 2700 Mianaceqtawak Road. Information: Mindy Thunder at 715-799-3835 or mthunder@mitw.org.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

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.

LAKEWOOD: Speaker Series, 5:30-7 p.m., Lakes Country Community Library, 15235 State Highway 32. Kathleen Marsh discusses "Historic Townsend: How one tiny, tenacious Northwoods settlement transformed itself into a thriving community."

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 Weto-hkatikamek Center, 2700 Mianaceqtawak Road. Information: Mindy Thunder at 715-799-3835 or mthunder@mitw.org.

THURSDAY, JULY 16

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: Navarino at Noon, noon, Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Topic: Navarino History of Logging. Opportunity for seniors to learn more about local history, wildlife, management and more around the nature center. Suggested donation \$5. RSVP at 715-758-6999 or navarinonc@gmail.com.

PULASKI: Pulaski Polka Days, 4-11:30 p.m., festival grounds, 419 E. Pulaski St. Music, dancing, food. Admission \$5. Crowning Miss Pulaski Polka Days 6 p.m. in Tent 2. Fireworks at dusk.

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

SHAWANO: "James and the Giant Peach," 7 p.m., Mielke Arts Center, N5649 Airport Road. Box in the Wood Theater Guild musical presentation. Tickets \$10-\$25 at Shawanoarts.ludus.com or at the door.

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

FRIDAY, JULY 17

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.

PULASKI: Pulaski Polka Days, 2 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., festival grounds, 419 E. Pulaski St. Music, dancing, food. Admission \$20.

LAKEWOOD: Mardi Gras, 4-11 p.m., Lakewood Memorial Park, 17258 North Road. Music, softball, pickleball and cornhole tournaments, kiddie carnival, rides and games, food booths.

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

OCONTO FALLS: Music by the River, 6-9 p.m., East Side Beach, 631 N. Main St. Hosted by the Oconto Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, with food and refreshments available for purchase. Music by Stray Bales. Bring a lawn chair.



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APARTMENTS

Mountain Bay Trail Apartments
1/2/3 Bedrooms
Onsite Management
Heat Included
Single Car Garage
W/D in apartment
Rent begins at \$885
715-526-8790

APARTMENTS

445 Humphrey Cr.
Beautiful Fully Remodeled
1 or 2 Bedroom
Convenient location
Garage Available
Starting at \$855 + Deposit Tom
715-280-0525

APARTMENTS

1350 E Lieg Ave
Beautiful recently Fully Remodeled
2 bedrooms
Great loc. Garage avail.
Starting at \$950 + Deposit Tom
715-280-0525

PUBLIC RECORD

OCONTO COUNTY
SHERIFF'S
DEPARTMENT

July 5

Deputies responded to 81 incidents, including a wrong-way driver on U.S. Highway 141 near County Road M in the Town of Lena; a disturbance at the Wooden Shoe, 100 W. Main St., Lena; squad damage on East Main Street in Lena; a disturbance on Maple Ridge Circle in the Town of Chase; a disturbance on East Railroad Street in Lena; fire on Barkman Street in Suring; suspicious activity near Paya Lake Road in the Town of Riverview; suspicious activity on Early Lane in the Town of Abrams; a noise disturbance on Red Fox Lane in the Town of Townsend; fraud on Allen Road in the Town of Little Suamico; six traffic stops, one traffic hazard, five traffic offenses, five citizen assists, seven miscellaneous traffic incidents, one welfare check; two 911 hang-ups and six open lines; four ambulance

calls; two crashes, both involving deer.

July 4

Deputies responded to 104 incidents, including an unwanted party on Parkway Road in the Town of Brazeau; suspicious activity near County Road C in the Town of Chase; a noise disturbance on County Road VV in the Town of Underhill; a disturbance on Hogsback Road in the Town of Little River; a disturbance at the Crooked Lake Fire Department, 15445 County Road W, Town of Riverview; trespassing near Funk and Stiles roads in the Town of Oconto; an ATV accident on Nicolet Trail near state Highway 32 in the Town of Lakewood; fireworks on Berry Lake Road in the Town of Underhill, near Kroll Road in the Town of Chase, on Main Street in the Town of Abrams, on North Big Pickerel Lake Lane in the Town of Townsend, near Downtown Lane in the Town of Underhill, and at St. Mary's Church, 15480 Chapel Lane, Town of Riverview; a disturbance at the Blind

Walleye, 15463 County Road W, Town of Riverview; assault on School Street in the Town of Townsend; suspicious activity near County Road H in the Town of Gillett; a disturbance on East Railroad Street in Lena; four traffic stops, one traffic hazard, seven traffic offenses, one citizen assist, four miscellaneous traffic incidents, three welfare checks; nine open-line 911 calls; six ambulance calls; two crashes, one involving deer.

July 3

Deputies responded to 97 incidents, including harassment on Cedar Valley Lane in the Town of Breed; a disturbance on Meyers Road in the Town of Brazeau; trespassing on Joyce Lane in the Town of Chase; an animal bite on Clair Lane in the Town of Breed; trespassing near Stiles and Funk roads in the Town of Oconto; a boat accident off West Rost Lake Road in the Town of Brazeau; fraud on Rustling Pine Court in the Town of Abrams; fireworks on Grosse Road in the Town of Little Suamico and on Jaworski Road in the Town of Chase; a domestic disturbance at a redacted location; 10 traffic stops, one

traffic hazard, four citizen assists, seven miscellaneous traffic incidents, five welfare checks; one 911 hang-up and nine open lines; six ambulance calls; four crashes, two involving deer.

July 2

Deputies responded to 73 incidents, including threatening on Krakow Road in the Town of Morgan; lewd and lascivious behavior on Ranch Lake Drive in the Town of Brazeau; trespassing on County Road H in the Town of Underhill; fireworks on Timber Edge Lane in the Town of Townsend, and at the Pour Haus, 15297 State Highway 32, Lakewood; suspicious activity on state Highway 22 in the Town of Stiles; a noise disturbance on Groh Lane in the Town of Riverview; 16 traffic stops, four traffic hazards, one traffic offense, one citizen assist, nine miscellaneous traffic incidents, two welfare checks; one 911 hang-up and five open lines; four ambulance calls; two crashes.

July 1

Deputies responded to 77 incidents, including trespassing on Harrys Road in the Town of Underhill; a disturbance on Wiskow Road in the Town of Underhill; suspicious

activity near Wiskow Road and County Road V in the Town of Underhill; fraud in the sheriff's department lobby, 220 Arbutus Ave., Oconto; fraud on Lund Lane in the Town of Mountain; fireworks on County Road A in the Town of Lena; squad damage near County Road W and Bachman Rapids Road in the Town of Riverview; a disturbance on North Chestnut Avenue in Oconto Falls; eight traffic stops, four traffic hazards, three traffic offenses, two citizen assists, three miscellaneous traffic incidents, one welfare check; two 911 hang-ups and seven open lines; six ambulance calls; three crashes, one involving deer.

June 30

Deputies responded to 63 incidents, including two wanted persons at the county jail, 220 Arbutus Ave., Oconto; a wanted person at Laundromat, 15636 State Highway 32, Lakewood; a disturbance on Unity Drive in the Town of Townsend; fire on Thelen Road in the Town of Riverview; animal neglect near County Road V and Maple Lane in the Town of Maple Valley; fire east of Holtz Road in the Town of Morgan; intoxication on Fuller Lane in the Town of Stiles; a

wrong-way driver on U.S. Highway 141 near Chicken Shack Road in the Town of Stiles; three traffic stops, one traffic hazard, three miscellaneous traffic incidents, five welfare checks; one 911 hang-up and two open lines; five ambulance calls; three crashes, one involving deer.

June 29

Deputies responded to 58 incidents, including suspicious activity on East Crooked Lake Lane in the Town of Riverview; intoxication near state Highway 32 and El Dorado Road in the Town of Townsend; animal neglect on Woodridge Lane in the Town of Doty; suspicious activity near County Road S and Wood Road in the Town of Pensaukee; an unwanted party on East Main Street in Suring; a disturbance on Prairie Gardens Lane in the Town of Chase; a disturbance on Broadway Avenue in Oconto; an animal bite on South Range Line Road in the Town of Little River; three traffic stops, one traffic hazard, one traffic offense, two citizen assists, four miscellaneous traffic incidents, one welfare check; three open-line 911 calls; three ambulance calls; three crashes, two involving deer.

COURT NEWS

• Roemance Larquell Toney, 33, Menasha, pleaded no contest June 30 to a misdemeanor charge of possession of THC. A related felony bail jumping charge was dismissed in a plea agreement. Judge Jay Conley withheld sentencing and placed him on probation for one year with conditions.

• JoAnna F. Albertz, 48, Green Bay, pleaded no contest July 1 to a forfeiture charge of disorderly conduct. A number of charges, including felonies, were dismissed in a plea agreement. Conley levied fines and court costs totalling \$617.50.

• Travis M. Grun, 31, Crivitz, pleaded no contest July 1 to felony bail jumping and misdemeanor charges of battery and disorderly conduct. Conley imposed and stayed a prison sentence, then placed him on three years of probation.

• Debra T. Denny, 64, Little Suamico, pleaded no contest July 1 to misdemeanor charges of battery and disorderly conduct. A related felony charge was dismissed but read into the record in a plea agreement. Conley withheld sentencing and placed her on one year of probation.

• Michael Lee Haskins, 56, Green Bay, was charged June 29 with possession of methamphetamine, possession of an electric weapon, felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. Conley set a \$500 cash bond and adjourned her initial appearance until July 16.

• Chad W. Fischer, 47, Oconto Falls, was charged June 29 with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia to manufacture methamphetamine in the presence of a child younger than 14, possession of THC (second or subsequent offense) and a misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. Conley set a \$1,000 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until July 16.

• Suzanah Erin Wilson, 43, Oconto Falls, was charged June 29 with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia to produce or store methamphetamine and misdemeanor charges of possession of THC and possession of drug paraphernalia. Conley set a \$250 cash bond and adjourned her initial appearance to July 16.

7/10/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
OCONTO COUNTY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Absentee Voting to be Administered at
The Cottages July 20th, 2026 at 4:00pm
& July 27, 2026 at 4:00pm Location: 751
E Highland Drive Oconto Falls WI. 54154

Special Voting Deputies appointed by the
City of Oconto Falls will be administering
absentee voting for the residents of
this facility for the August 11, 2026 at
the above time and place. Any qualified
elector who is unable or unwilling to
appear at the polling place on Election
Day may request to vote an absentee
ballot. A qualified elector is any U.S.
citizen, who will be 18 years of age or
older on Election Day, who has resided
in the ward or municipality where he
or she wishes to vote for at least 28
consecutive days before the election.
The elector must also be registered in
order to receive an absentee ballot.
Only observers from each of the two
recognized political parties whose
candidates for governor or president
received the greatest number of votes
in the municipality at the most recent
general election may accompany the
deputies to each facility where absentee
voting will take place. The observers may
observe the process of absentee ballot
distribution in the common areas of the
home, facility, or complex. Each party
wishing to have an observer present shall
submit the name of the observer to the
clerk or board of election commissioners
no later than the close of business on the
last business day prior to the visit. Family
members of residents may be present
at the time of voting. If you have further
questions, please contact:

Jenny Friedman 500 N. Chestnut Oconto
Falls WI. 54154 920-846-4505 ext 106
Jfriedman@cityofocontofalls.wi.gov

WNAXLP
OCO081

Annual Lena Area
Rummage Sales

The Village of Lena Area Wide Rummage Sales are slated for
Friday, July 17 and Saturday, July 18, 2026.

Rummage Maps will be available on the Village of Lena
Facebook page, at local Lena businesses and at
the Lena Village Hall.

For more information,
please contact the
Village of Lena
920-829-5226

40th ANNUAL
OCONTO FALLS City-Wide
RUMMAGE SALE WEEKEND

August 6,7,8,9
WELCOME TO THE
CITY WIDE GARAGE AND YARD SALE

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
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

OCONTO COUNTY
TIMES HERALD

420 N. Chestnut Avenue,
Oconto Falls WI 54154

07/10/2026

2025 Consumer Confidence Report Data
VILLAGE OF LENA WATERWORKS, PWSID: 44304931
Public locations posting of 2025 CCR

The 2025 CCR Report will not be mailed to customers. The Report was posted on June 11, 2026, and available for your review at the following four (4) locations and on the Village of Lena website:

- Lena Village Hall, 117 E. Main St., Lena, WI
- Lena Public Library, 200 E. Main St., Lena, WI
- US Post Office, 135 E. Railroad St., Lena, WI
- Lena High School, Lena, WI

WNAXLP

Suring Public School District

HELP WANTED

Full-Time & Part-Time Paraprofessionals

Full-time Paraprofessional
Part-time Paraprofessional

Suring Public School District has openings for full-time and part-time paraprofessionals The full-time position includes full benefits including medical, dental and retirement.

Please apply by completing a Support Staff Application. This form is available at the Suring Public School District Office at 411 E Algoma Street, Suring, WI or on the school website at www.suring.k12.wi.us Please select the "Employment" link at the bottom of the homepage.

The deadline for applications will be Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 4:00 pm. Drop off or mail completed application to Suring Public School District, PO Box 158, Suring, WI 54174.

www.newmedia-wi.com

07/10, 17/2026

2026 Town of Lena
Open Book and Board of Review
Lena Town Hall, 6087 Goatsville Road

OPEN BOOK
Pursuant to Sec. 70.45 Wis Stats. Town of Lena 2026 Assessment Roll will be open for review Tuesday, July 14, 2026, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM. M&O Survey & Assessor Services will be present or you may schedule an appointment with them if needed at (920) 897-2681.

BOARD OF REVIEW
Notice is hereby given that the Board of Review for the Town of Lena will convene on Tuesday, July 21, 2026 from 6:00-8:00 PM., at the Lena Town Hall at 6087 Goatsville Road. Please be advised of the following requirements to appear before the board of review and procedural requirements if appearing before the board:

- No person will be allowed to appear before the board of review, to testify to the board by telephone, or to contest the amount of any assessment of real or personal property if the person has refused a reasonable written request by certified mail of the assessor to enter onto property to conduct an exterior view of the real or personal property being assessed.
- After the first meeting of the board of review and before the board's final adjournment, no person who is scheduled to appear before the board of review may contact or provide information to a member of the board about the person's objection, except at a session of the board.
- The board of review may not hear an objection to the amount or valuation of property unless, at least 48 hours before the board's first scheduled meeting, the objector provides to the board's clerk written or oral notice of an intent to file an objection, except that upon a showing of good cause and the submission of a written objection, the board shall waive that requirement during the first 2 hours of the board's first scheduled meeting, and the board may waive that requirement up to the end of the 5th day of the session or up to the end of the final day of the session if the session is less than 5 days with proof of extraordinary circumstances for failure to meet the 48-hour notice requirement and failure to appear before the board of review during the first 2 hours of the first scheduled meeting.
- Objections to the amount or valuation of property shall first be made in writing and filed with the clerk of the board of review within the first 2 hours of the board's first scheduled meeting, except that, upon evidence of extraordinary circumstances, the board may waive that requirement up to the end of the 5th day of the session or up to the end of the final day of the session if the session is less than 5 days. The board may require objections to the amount or valuation of property to be submitted on forms approved by the Department of Revenue, and the board shall require that any forms include stated valuations of the property in question. Persons who own land and improvements to that land may object to the aggregate valuation of that land and improvements to that land, but no person who owns land and improvements to that land may object only to the valuation of that land or only to the valuation of improvements to that land. No person may be allowed in any action or proceedings to question the amount or valuation of property unless the written objection has been filed and that person in good faith presented evidence to the board in support of the objections and made full disclosure before the board, under oath, of all of that person's property liable to assessment in the district and the value of that property. The requirement that objections be in writing may be waived by express action of the board.
- When appearing before the board of review, the objecting person shall specify in writing the person's estimate of the value of the land and of the improvements that are the subject of the person's objection and specify the information that the person used to arrive at that estimate.
- No person may appear before the board of review, testify to the board by telephone, or object to a valuation if that valuation was made by the assessor or the objector using the income method of valuation, unless no later than 7 days before the first meeting of the board of review the person supplies the assessor with all the information about income and expenses, as specified in the assessor's manual under s. 73.03 (2a), Wis. stats., that the assessor requests.
- The board shall hear upon oath, by telephone, all ill or disabled persons who present to the board a letter from a physician, surgeon, or osteopath that confirms their illness or disability. No other persons may testify by telephone.
- No person may appear before the board of review, testify to the board by telephone, or contest the amount of any assessment unless, at least 48 hours before the first meeting of the board, or at least 48 hours before the objection is heard if the objection is allowed under s. 70.47 (3) (a), Wis. stats., that person provides to the clerk of the board of review notice as to whether the person will ask for the removal of a member of the board of review and, if so, which member, and provides a reasonable estimate of the length of time the hearing will take.

Notice is hereby given this 10th day of July 2026.

Lena Town Clerk
Dawn VanArk

WNAXLP

Wisconsin food prices increase 7.5% from 2025

The total cost of 12 food items used to host a summer cookout for 10 totaled \$75.50, an increase of 7.5% from last year's state average, according to the latest informal Wisconsin Farm Bureau Marketbasket survey.

At \$7.55 per person, this price marks the highest total for the summer Marketbasket survey since its inception in 2013.

"Wisconsinites can expect to see a higher total when shopping for their Fourth of July barbecue," said Cassie Sonnentag, WFBF senior director of public relations. "From availability to inflation, we are seeing increases across many of the food items on the shopping list."

The same survey conducted on the national level by American Farm Bureau totaled \$73.82, a jump of 4% from last year's national average.

The increase of Wisconsin's picnic price is largely driven by the cost of ground beef, which came in at \$7.30 per pound, a 23.3% increase over the 2025 average. This increase is due to a combination of a tight cattle supply and a continued demand for beef.

Ground beef remains a summer staple, especially across the holidays. Ground beef sales surpass \$337 million in sales for Memorial Day, and \$422 million during the week of July 4.

Ground beef was not the only staple item seeing an increase. Fresh strawberries increased 25.5% to \$8.10 for a two-pint package, and vanilla ice cream increased 25.3% to \$4.67 for a half gallon. Additional items, including chocolate chip cookies, pork chops, potato chips and beans also saw marginal increases contributing to this year's price.

The Marketbasket Survey is an informal measure of prices at grocery stores in Wisconsin. The prices reported reflect variations in communities and retailers. The prices reported are not validated by any outside source.

Prices were collected for this survey in the communities of Shawano, Beloit, Burlington, Chippewa Falls, DePere, Dodgeville, Eau Claire, Frederic, Kenosha, Madison, Medford, Menomonie, New Richmond, Sauk City, Sheboygan, Sun Prairie, Tomahawk, Waupaca and West Bend.

Wimberger gets WCA legislator award

State Sen. Eric Wimberger (R-Gillett) has been honored by the Wisconsin Counties Association with a WCA Outstanding Legislator Award for his work on behalf of county government during the 2025-26 Legislative Session.

The WCA Outstanding Legislator Award is handed out biennially to a select group of legislators who have represented county interests in the legislature and in their districts.

These legislators have demonstrated leadership for counties on key issues and the state budget.

07/10, 07/17, 2026

AD FOR BIDS

The Suring Public School District is accepting bids for milk to be delivered to the school and for a food distributor and bids for snow plowing/snow removal at the Suring School for the 2026-2027 school year.

To request bid specifications please call the district office 920-842-2178 ext. 1041. The deadline to receive bids will be Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 4pm.

WNAXLP

07/03, 10/2026

Notice of the City of Gillett to Adjourn
Open Book & Board of Review to a later date

NOTICE OF OPEN BOOK FOR ASSESSMENT ROLL EXAMINATION
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to s. 70.45, Wis. Stats., the assessment roll for the Year 2025 assessment will be open for examination on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 from 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. at the City Municipal Building, 150 North McKenzie Avenue, Gillett WI 54124.

Open Book by Appointment ONLY
If property owners have questions regarding the valuation of their real estate or personal property and are unable to attend Open Book examination date, you are encouraged to contact R & R Assessing, 307 N Chestnut Avenue, Oconto Falls, Wisconsin (920-846-4250) prior to this date to discuss any concerns.

NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING
Notice is hereby given that the Board of Review (from here on referred to as BOR or board) for the City of Gillett shall meet on Monday, August 17, 2026 from 9:00 am until 11:00 am at the City Municipal Building, 150 North McKenzie Avenue, Gillett WI 54124 to hear objections from property owners who follow requirements pursuant to s.70.47(7), Wis. Stats.

Please be advised of the following requirements:

- Sec.70.47(7)(aa), Wis.Stats., provides that the BOR may deny a hearing to a property owner who does not allow the assessor to complete an exterior view.
- After the first BOR meeting and before the BOR's final adjournment, no person who is scheduled to appear before the BOR may contact, or provide information to, a member of the BOR about that person's objection except at a BOR session.
- No person may appear before the BOR, testify to the BOR by phone or contest the amount of any assessment unless, at least 48 hours before the first meeting of the BOR or at least 48 hours before the objection is heard if the objection is allowed under sub.(3) (a), that person provides to the BOR clerk a notice as to whether the person will ask for removal under sub.(6m) and if so which member will be removed and the person's reasonable estimate of the length of time that the hearing will take.
- When appearing before the BOR, the person must specify in writing, his or her estimate of the land value and improvements that he or she is objecting and the person must specify the information that he or she used to arrive at that estimate.
- No person may appear before the BOR, testify to the BOR by phone or object to a valuation; if the assessor or objector made the valuation using the income method; unless the person supplies the assessor with all the information about income and expenses, as specified in the manual under state law (sec.73.03(2a), Wis.Stats.), that the assessor requests. The municipality or county must provide by ordinance for the confidentiality of information about income and expenses provided to the assessor under this paragraph and provide exceptions for persons using the information in the discharge of duties imposed by law or of the duties of their office or by order of a court. The information that is provided under this paragraph, unless a court determines that it is inaccurate, is not subject to the right of inspection and copying under state law (sec.19.35(1), Wis.Stats.). The Board shall hear upon oath, by telephone, all ill or disabled persons who present to the Board a letter from a physician, surgeon or osteopath that confirms their illness or disability. No other persons may testify by telephone.

Respectfully submitted, City of Gillett Clerk Chelsea Anderson
Published as a Class I Notice

WNAXLP

Pat's Market

GILLETT (920) 855-6040



STORE HOURS: Mon-Fri 7:00 am-7:00 pm
Deli Hours: 8am - 6pm
Sat 8:00 am-5:30pm Sun 8:00am-1:00pm

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

These Prices Good July 13th thru July 19th, 2026
While Supplies Last!

Accepting Mastercard, Visa, Discover and Quest Cards
We reserve the right to limit quantities.

**Patrick Cudahy
Virginia
Smoked Ham**



\$3.99

Shaved or Sliced
Original or Honey lb.

**Blue Bunny
Classic
Ice Cream**



\$4.99

Asst Variety 4 qt. pail



**Boneless
Country
Style Pork
Spare Ribs**

\$1.99

lb.

**Food Club
Breaded Chicken
Nuggets, Patties,
Popcorn, and Strips**

\$5.79

32 oz. Bag



**USDA Choice
Boneless
Chuck Mock
Tender Steaks
or Roasts**

\$6.79

lb.

**Food Club
Meatballs
Original or Italian**

\$4.99

26 oz. Bag



**Gerber
Amish Frying
Chicken Leg
Quarters**

\$1.99

lb.



**XLG Green
or Red Seedless
Grapes**

\$2.79

lb.



**Blackberries,
Blueberries, or
Raspberries**

\$3.69

5.5-16 oz.



Cauliflower

\$2.99

Each



**Prego
Alfredo or
Spaghetti Sauce**

Asst Variety 14.5-24 oz.

2/\$4.00

Each



**Wisconsin
Russet
Potatoes**

\$2.49

5 lb. Bag

**Blue Ribbon
Classic
Novelties**



\$4.99

Asst Variety 12-20 pk

**Sweet P's
Donut
Holes**



2/\$4.00

Asst Variety 12-14 oz.



**Crav'n
Tortilla Chips
& Salsa**

2/\$3.00

Asst Variety 11-15.5 oz.



**Food Club
Cream Cheese**

2/\$3.00

8 oz.



**Daisy Squeeze
Sour Cream**

2/\$4.00

Regular or Light 14.oz.



**Cheetos
& Fritos**

2/\$8.00

Asst Variety 8-10 oz.



**Food Club
Orange
Juice**

\$3.99

Asst Variety 46 oz.



**Vide Awake
Coffee
Creamer**

\$3.49

Asst Variety 32 oz.



**Chobani
Flips**

4/\$5.00

Asst Variety 4.5 oz.



**Malt-O-Meal
Family Size
Cereal**

\$3.99

Asst Variety 23-30 oz.

FREEDOM FROM HIGH ENERGY BILLS STARTS HERE

SAVE \$1,000
ON YOUR WINDOW PURCHASE
**with a minimum purchase of four windows*
Present this coupon to redeem offer. Offer valid through July 31, 2026



\$500 OFF
FLOOR COATINGS
Or a New Pellet, Wood, or Gas Stove
Present this coupon to redeem offer. Offer valid through July 31, 2026



Due to high demand our
**Freedom from
High Energy Bills**
promotion has been
extended to July 31st!

We offer 5 levels of windows!

Now is the perfect time to upgrade your home with energy-efficient windows from Earth Sense Energy Systems. Improve comfort, reduce drafts, and enjoy a better view in every season.

*Minimum purchase of four windows required. See store for details.

Earth Sense Energy Systems now offers professional floor coating services designed to help transform everyday floors into durable, easy-to-maintain spaces.

PLUS



*This model qualifies for the charitable donation.

Red Freedom PS 21
Vintage Edition Stove



FREEDOM STOVES

***PLUS, this year, a portion of proceeds from all Freedom Stoves brand product sales will be donated to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation.**



Schedule your free estimate today.

920-779-6647
EarthSenseEnergySystems.com
DALE | GREEN BAY | JUNCTION CITY



Pulaski

**Pulaski, WI
July 16-19**

Polka Days

Pulaski Polka Days Grounds
15 Miles West of Green Bay
Hwy. 29 & 32



**Published
Friday, July 10, 2026**



**Shawano Leader
Oconto County Times Herald
Wittenberg Enterprise and
Birnamwood News**

Pulaski Polka Days returns July 16-19 with 22 top bands and four polka styles

Pulaski Polka Days return July 16-19, bringing a lively celebration of music, culture and community to northeast Wisconsin.

As one of the Midwest's largest polka festivals, it draws thousands to enjoy varied styles — Polish, German, Slovenian and Dutchman — at the festival grounds, 419 E. Pulaski St. Non-Polish styles will be featured in the KC Building, while Polish music plays under two tents.

Entertainment
Pulaski Polka Days will feature 22 of the nation's top polka bands, including groups traveling from Connecticut, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Minnesota, along with many Wisconsin favorites.

Traveling to Wisconsin to perform will be John Stevens' Doubleshot (Pennsylvania), Polka Country Musicians (Connecticut), Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze (Illinois), Dynabass (Ohio), Polka Family (Pennsylvania); Twin City Soundz (Minnesota) and Craig Ebel's DyVersaCo (Minnesota).

Featured bands from Wisconsin include Copper Box, Mark Jirikovec Orchestra, GRD-Bruegen Family Band, Polish



As one of the Midwest's largest polka festivals, Pulaski Polka Days draws thousands to enjoy varied styles — Polish, German, Slovenian and Dutchman — at the festival grounds, 419 E. Pulaski St. Non-Polish styles will be featured in the KC Building, while Polish music plays under two tents.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

Connection, Steve Burclaw's New Polish Sound, Cynor Classics and Music Connection.

Pulaski-area talent includes The Maroszek

Bros, Nu Tymes, The Natural Talent, Aaron Socha's LIVEwire, The Mix, Zander Music Raymakers, Chad Przybylski's Polka Rhythms and The New

Generation, with a pop-up performance from the newest band, Hometown Sound.

Admission, hours and key events

Thursday, July 16: Admission is \$5 for ages 12 and older. Music runs from 4-11:30 p.m. Don't miss the crowning of the Pulaski Polka Queen. Fireworks

will be held at dusk. All proceeds go to improving the quality of life in the surrounding community.

Friday, July 17: Admission is \$20. Music and dancing run 2 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Free dance lessons will be offered in the afternoon.

Saturday, July 18: Admission is \$20 for the entire day. Music and dancing run noon to 12:30 a.m., with free dance lessons again offered in the afternoon.

The World Concertina Congress will start the day in the KC Building with a two-hour jam session beginning at noon; the WCC invites everyone to join in; just bring your key-of-C concertina.

The Assumption B.V.M. Parish Craft & Vendor Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 19-20. The fair extends along Pulaski Street from the church to the festival grounds.

Sunday, July 19: Admission is free as a way for the Pulaski Polka Days Committee and sponsoring organizations to show appreciation to the community and surrounding area

POLKA, continued on page 3

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PLAN YOUR VISIT! Come Play and Learn!



Pulaski Polka Days attendees will find plenty of parking, live internet broadcasts, three wooden dance floors, souvenirs, refreshments, children’s fun, and Polish and American food.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

POLKA, continued from page 2

for its support. Grounds open at 8 a.m. with breakfast served from 8-11 a.m. A Global Methodist service will be held at 8 a.m. A Catholic polka Mass with the Maroszek Bros will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m.

Pulaski Polka Days Parade

The parade will step off at 11 a.m. sharp. The parade, which starts at the Pulaski Middle School and

Pulaski High School on St. Augustine St., will travel north on St. Augustine Street, then west on Pulaski Street to the festival grounds.

After the parade, live music and dancing continue at the festival grounds from 12:30-6 p.m.

Mark and Jennifer Heck are the grand marshals. The honor recognizes their longstanding dedication to the Pulaski

community and the many ways they have served others — through the PACE program, teaching and coaching local youths, volunteering with the Lions Club and stepping up whenever help is needed.

All weekend

Attendees will find plenty of parking, live internet broadcasts, three wooden dance floors, souvenirs, refreshments, children’s fun, and Polish and

American food. A limited number of campsites are available.

Questions: email Nora Scray at polkacamp@yahoo.com.

While you’re in town, visit the Pulaski Museum, located downtown, with special hours from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 18, showcasing a historic displays of Pulaski. Admission is free.

Pulaski Polka Days is a nonprofit corporation,

built on community spirit and volunteer power. The organization is governed by a board made up of seven nonprofit organizations and supported by hundreds of volunteers. Every hour they work directly supports their cause as 100% of the proceeds are returned to those nonprofits based on volunteer hours.

All proceeds from this event is funneled directly

back into the community as this event serves as the largest revenue stream for American Legion Post 337, American Legion Auxiliary 337, Tri-County Optimist Club, Knights of Columbus 4439, Pulaski FFA, FFA Alumni and supporters, BSA Scout Troop 1468 and Pulaski VFW Post 9719.

For more information, visit www.pulaskipolka-days.com.

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What would Polka Days be without music?

You'll be sure to get your fill of music during the four-day Pulaski Polka Days festival, with a variety of music offered each day July 17-20.

The festival gates open at 4 p.m. July 17, with a \$5 entry fee for the music tents and Knights of Columbus building.

There will also be free fireworks at dusk presented by American Tradition Fireworks LLC and sponsored by Tri-County Optimist Club and Pulaski Polka Days Inc.

Here's the music lineup for all four days.

July 16
\$5 admission
Tent 1
4-4:45 p.m.: The Mix
4:45-5:30 p.m.:
LIVEwire
5:30-6:15 p.m.: Chad Przybylski & Polka Rhythms
6:15-7 p.m.: The Mix
7-7:45 p.m.: LIVEwire
7:45-8:30 p.m.: Chad Przybylski & Polka Rhythms
8:30-9:15 p.m.: The Mix
9:15-10:30 p.m.:
LIVEwire
10:30-11:15 p.m.: Chad Przybylski & Polka Rhythms
Tent 2
4:15-5 p.m.: Zander's Music Makers
5-5:45 p.m.: Maroszek Bros
5:45-6:30 p.m.: The



Copper Box will perform from 6:30-9:30 p.m. July 16 in the KC Building. The quartet is based in Oshkosh and was started in 2002 with co-founders, Danny Jerabek and Michelle LL (Jerabek). Recently Copper Box has won 2025 Album of the Year, 2025 & 2024 Folk Rock Band, and 2024 Artist of the Year from the Wisconsin Area Music Industry. The Copper Box name implies "the squeeze box being a great conductor of energy." With the help of some incredible talented musicians, Copper Box plays familiar songs with a twist in a multigenre accord (polka-rock-blues), as well as their own originals for concerts and events.

New Generation
6:30-7:15 p.m.: Zander's Music Makers
7:15-8 p.m.: Maroszek Bros
8-8:45 p.m.: The New Generation
8:45-9:30 p.m.: Zander's Music Makers
9:30-10:15 p.m.: Maroszek Bros
10:15-11 p.m.: The New Generation
KC Building
6:30-9:30 p.m.: Copper Box
July 17
\$20 admission

Gates open at 1 p.m.
Tent 1
2-3:30 p.m.: The Mix
3:30-4:15 p.m.:
DyVersaCo
4:15-5 p.m.: Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze
5-5:45 p.m.: DyVersaCo
5:45-6:30 p.m.: Tony
Blazonczyk's New Phaze
6:30-7:15 p.m.:
DyVersaCo
7:15-8 p.m.: Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze
8-8:45 p.m.: The New Generation
8:45-9:30 p.m.: Polka Country Musicians

9:30-10:15 p.m.: The New Generation
10:15-11 p.m.: Polka Country Musicians
11-11:45 p.m.: The New Generation
11:45 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.: Polka Country Musicians
Tent 2
2:30-3:15 p.m.: Polish Connection
3:15-4:15 p.m.: NuTymes
4:15-5 p.m.: Polish Connection
5-6 p.m.: NuTymes
6-6:45 p.m.: Polish Connection
6:45-7:45 p.m.: NuTymes
7:45-8:30 p.m.: Dynabrass
8:30-9:15 p.m.: John Stevens' Doubleshot
9:15-10 p.m.: Dynabrass
10-10:45 p.m.: John Stevens' Doubleshot
10:45-11:30 p.m.: Dynabrass
11:30 p.m. to 12:15 a.m.: John Stevens' Doubleshot
KC Building
4-8 p.m.: GRD-Brueggan Family Band
July 18
\$20 admission
Gates open at 11 a.m.
Tent 1
12:30-1:30 p.m.: Cynor Classics
1:30-2:30 p.m.: Chad Przybylski & The Polka Rhythms
2:30-3:30 p.m.: Cynor Classics

BANDS, continued on page 5



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Polka Family will play at various times in Tent 1 on July 18-19. The band started in 1979 for an appearance for the Southern cCalifornia Polka Booster Club in Chino, California.

CONTRIBUTED

BANDS, continued from page 4

3:30-4:30 p.m.: Chad Przybylski & The Polka Rhythms	4:15-5:15 p.m.: Dynabrass	p.m.: Natural Talent
4:30-5:30 p.m.: Cynor Classics	5:15-6:15 p.m.: LIVEwire	1:30-2:30 p.m.: Polka Family
5:30-6:30 p.m.: Chad Przybylski & The Polka Rhythms	6:15-7:15 p.m.: The Natural Talent	2:30-3:30 p.m.: The Natural Talent
6:30-7:30 p.m.: Twin City Sound	7:15-8:15 p.m.: Polka Country Musicians	3:30-4:30 p.m.: Polka Family
7:30-8:30 p.m.: Polka Family	8:15-9:15 p.m.: The Natural Talent	4:30-5:15 p.m.: The Natural Talent
8:30-9:30 p.m.: Twin City Sound	9:15-10:15 p.m.: Polka Country Musicians	5:15-6 p.m.: Polka Family
9:30-10:30 p.m.: Polka Family	10:15-11:15 p.m.: The Natural Talent	Tent 2
10:30-11:30 p.m.: Twin City Sound	11:15 p.m. to 12:15 a.m.: Polka Country Musicians	Noon-1 p.m.: Maroszek Bros
11:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.: Polka Family	KC Building	1-2 p.m.: Steve Burclaw's New Polish Sound
Tent 2	Noon-2 p.m.: World Concertina Congress	2-3 p.m.: Maroszek Bros
12:15-1:15 p.m.: Dynabrass	3-7 p.m.: Music Connection	3-4 p.m.: Steve Burclaw's New Polish Sound
1:15-2:15 p.m.: LIVEwire	July 19	4-5 p.m.: Maroszek Bros
2:15-3:15 p.m.: Dynabrass	Free admission	5-6 p.m.: Steve Burclaw's New Polish Sound
3:15-4:15 p.m.: LIVEwire	Gates open at 8 a.m.	KC Building
	Tent 1	1-4 p.m.: The Mark Jirivec Band
	9:30 a.m.: Maroszek Bros, Polka Mass	
	12:30-1:30 p.m.: The	



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While many who attend Pulaski Polka Days can confidently dance to the music, that's not the case for everyone. For those who don't know the traditional dance, free lessons are offered in the afternoon of July 17-18.

FILE | NEW MEDIA



Can't dance the polka? Stop by for free lessons

The polka was designated as Wisconsin's state dance in 1993.

The legislation was introduced at the request of a second grade class from Charles Lindbergh Elementary School in Madison and supported by

several groups — including the Wisconsin Polka Boosters Inc. and the Wisconsin Folk Museum.

What if you don't know how to dance the polka? No need to worry. Learn to dance the polka with instructors Duane and

Robin Wilks from Omaha, Nebraska.

Free lessons will be offered at 3:30 p.m. July 17 in Tent 2 and again at 1:15 p.m. July 18, also in Tent 2. Bands playing for the lessons have yet to be announced.

Win \$1,000 in raffle

Pulaski Polka Days will again hold a cash raffle throughout the weekend of the festival.

Tickets are available from members of the six organizations that are part of Pulaski Polka Days Inc.

and will be sold at the polka grounds daily during the event.

First prize is \$1,000 cash.

Other prizes are \$500 for second, \$200 for third, \$100 for fourth and fifth,

\$50 for sixth and seventh, and \$25 for eighth and ninth.

The drawing will be held at 5 p.m. July 19.

Winners need not be present at the time of the drawing.

Start festival's final day with breakfast, church service

The final day of Pulaski Polka Days begins with breakfast and worship services.

A pancake and porkie breakfast will be held from 8-11 a.m. July 19 on the

festival grounds.

Global Methodist Church with the Rev. Dominic Petit will hold a worship service at 8 a.m. in Tent 1.

A Catholic polka Mass

will begin at 9:30 a.m. in Tent 2.

The Maroszek Bros will perform at the Mass.

Lawn chairs are encouraged for the worship services.

Check out assortment of arts, crafts, vendors

The Assumption BVM Parish Fundraiser Craft and Vendor Fair, will be held July 18-19.

This fair will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Booths will be set up on East Pulaski Street.

Direct questions to Carrie Sievert, event coordinator, at craftandvendor@abvm.org.



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Parade set to kick off at 11 a.m.

One of the largest attractions of Pulaski Polka Days is the Pulaski Polka Days parade, which will begin at 11 a.m. sharp July 19.

Units will line up at Pulaski Community Middle School and Pulaski High School on St. Augustine Street. Units should be in place by 10:30 a.m.

The parade will travel north on St. Augustine Street and turn onto Pulaski Street, right down to the Pulaski Polka Grounds.

Candy and other small items can be handed out along the route from people walking along the floats. Candy should not be thrown from moving vehicles.

The parade is held on the final day of the four-day festival, which has free admission throughout the day.

For more information or to register for the parade, visit <https://pulaski-polkadays.com/polka-days-parade/> or contact Mike Hughes at 920-655-6983 or mhughesh59@gmail.com.

Who will wear the crowns this year in festival pageant?

The Miss Pulaski Polka Days Pageant is more than crowns and sashes. It is an opportunity to represent the community of Pulaski with pride, leadership, kindness and purpose.

Contestants in the three age divisions will be interviewed at 6:30 p.m. July 15 in the Knights of Columbus Pavilion, next to the Pulaski Polka Grounds.

The ceremony will be held at 6 p.m. July 16 in Tent 2 at the polka grounds.

Divisions are Little Miss, ages 6-10; Junior Miss, ages 11-13; and Miss, ages 14-18.

The royalty serve as ambassadors for the community throughout the year by participating in local events, engaging in community service and promoting positive values among their peers.



The much-anticipated Pulaski Polka Days parade will step off at 11 a.m. July 19 from the grounds of Pulaski Middle School and Pulaski High School, make its way north on St. Augustine Street, turn onto Pulaski Street and end at the Polka Grounds.

FILE | NEW MEDIA



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