



Some of the children of Gillett toss dirt during the July 8 groundbreaking ceremony at Zippel Park. The new playground is expected to be finished in October and will replace the old playground, which has some equipment that's 70 years old.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

Gillett turns over dirt for new playground at Zippel Park

8Pine heading project with plans to open new playground in fall

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

Gillett's 70-year-old playground equipment and other iterations will soon be relegated to the past as the city broke ground July 7 on a new \$1 million playground at Zippel Park being paid for by a Community Development Block Grant.

The project is being handled by 8Pine, a relatively new construction firm based in Shawano that has impressed a number of entities in the last two years with its work. Besides the new playground, the CDBG funding will also help to build new restroom facilities at the park.

Alderman Jerry Luther told about 50 people in attendance at the groundbreaking ceremony that the new playground will be more inclusive for children of all abilities, as the previous one had been built at a time before the Americans with Disabilities Act came into existence.

"Look around. See what it is now," Luther said. "This playground is over 70 years old. Now imagine what it will be



Gillett Alderman Jerry Luther talks about what the new playground will mean to the community during a groundbreaking ceremony July 8 at Zippel Park as the old playground equipment is set up behind him. The project is being paid for through \$1 million of Community Development Block Grant funding.

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— a vibrant, inclusive playground for all to play on. Today is much more than the start of a construction project. It is the beginning of a place where children can laugh, families can gather, friendships will grow and memories will be made for

generations to come."

Parks are at the heart of any community, but especially Gillett, according to Luther. Besides the neighbor component in

Plaintiffs create suit petition, website

Judge yet to decide on district's motion to dismiss sex abuse case

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

A plaintiff in the sexual abuse lawsuit against the Oconto Falls School District, as well as several supporters, have collected nearly 500 signatures on a Change.org petition to bring pressure on the district to drop its attempt to dismiss the lawsuit.

Brianne Cariveau and seven others are listed as petition advocates. An attempt to reach the petition organizers was unsuccessful.

The petition can be found at <https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-oconto-falls-school-board-from-dismissing-the-sexual-abuse-lawsuit>.

As of July 10, there were 486 signatures on the petition.

"The Oconto Falls School Board must withdraw its motion to dismiss and allow survivors their day in court," according to the petition. "State authorities should also investigate the nine staff members who remain uncharged despite credible allegations spanning decades."

Cariveau and others claim that for more than 35 years, students at Oconto Falls High School were sexually groomed and assaulted by their teachers — and the adults in charge knew.

Seven plaintiffs and 19 sworn affidavits describe a school district where abuse was reported, documented and ignored — time and again.

The lawsuit alleges this pattern created an environment where abuse was allowed to continue with impunity across multiple generations of students.

Multiple individuals named in the lawsuit are still currently employed within the school district.

In May, the school board filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit, arguing the district cannot be held financially liable for the actions of "reprehensible teachers."

The judge has yet to decide on the district's motion.

Cariveau has also created a website regarding the lawsuit, <https://ocontofallslawsuit.com>. It features court filings, a timeline, exhibits and media coverage of the case.

kpaddon@newmedia-wi.com

PLAYGROUND, continued on page 17

INSIDE
Suring woman crowned TOPS queen after losing 120 pounds.

PAGE 11



bi Bay Impressions

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Andersons celebrate 75th anniversary

Decades spent translating Bible into tribal language

Lambert and Doris Anderson recently celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary, a milestone reached by only some 1,000 married couples in the United States today.

Lambert Anderson grew up in Wisconsin on his father Emil Anderson's dairy farm on County Road K and graduated from Oconto Falls High School in 1945. He went on to study at St. Paul Bible College, where he met Doris Geist.

It was there that the two were introduced to Wycliffe Bible Translators, a mission organization dedicated to translating the Scriptures into the languages of tribal peoples who had never had the Bible in written form.

The Andersons were married and joined Wycliffe in 1951, then traveled to Peru, South America, the following year. Their assignment was to learn the language of the Ticuna people, and then translate the Bible into their language. The Ticunas are a tribal group living in the rainforest along the Amazon River in the remote border region where Peru, Colombia and Brazil meet.

It was not an easy beginning. In 1953, when Lambert Anderson set out



Lambert and Doris Anderson recently celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary. A book about the Andersons' early years in the Amazon, "City in the Jungle," was published in 1975. A feature-length documentary film about the Andersons' life and legacy among the Ticuna people is currently in production, scheduled for release in 2027.

to visit the Ticuna village of Cushillococha, he first stopped by the office of the police chief in the district capital of Caballococha. There he was warned that it was too dangerous to visit the Ticuna community, as it had a reputation for alcohol-fueled violence.

The police chief made clear he would not be held responsible for what might happen if Lambert Anderson went there. He went anyway.

In the years that followed, with the Ticunas having had no written language, the Andersons developed a standardized Ticuna alphabet that accurately represented this complex five-tone language, so that the Ticunas

could be taught to read and write in their own language, as well as in Spanish.

With limited literate Ticuna speakers to work with, local teachers were trained from scratch so those teachers could in turn educate their own people.

Today, schools in Cushillococha provide K-12 instruction in Ticuna and Spanish to a current enrollment of more than 1,000 students. Also, the Ticuna Bible Institute provides a higher level of four-year Biblical and vocational training.

The Cushillococha settlement the Andersons first entered in 1953, a population of 125 people at the time, has now grown

to a thriving municipality of some 6,000, with three churches in the three areas of the community.

Beyond translation and literacy, the Andersons have been involved in a wide range of practical development efforts including securing a government land grant to establish Ticuna land rights surrounding the community, town planning, road construction, village electricity, clean water wells and water distribution lines, a sawmill, farming assistance, poultry and cattle projects, a medical clinic, vocational training, solar power and church construction, among others.

The New Testament in Ticuna was published in 1986. In 2023, more than

70 years after the Andersons first arrived, the complete published Old and New Testament Ticuna Bible was dedicated in Cushillococha, Peru.

The Ticuna ministry work continues to expand today. Their son, Carl (Cam) Anderson, and grandson, Jacob Anderson, are working through the Amazon Mission Foundation (<https://www.amazonmission.org>), operating from the original mission station in Cushillococha, Peru. Other volunteers have joined the effort.

Current ministry priorities include distributing the Ticuna Bible and planting churches in Ticuna villages along the Amazon River in Peru, Colombia and Brazil. There are an estimated 100,000 Ticuna people today, living in roughly 250 communities in the Amazon rainforest region.

Lambert and Doris Anderson now live near their family in Tucson, Arizona. He is 98 and his wife is close behind, yet they continue on with Ticuna translation work.

Lambert Anderson is working online with a Ticuna team in Brazil to adapt the Ticuna Bible for Brazilian Ticunas. This is needed as the national language of Portuguese in Brazil has influenced the Ticuna spelling and punctuation of many Biblical names and terms. This Brazil Ticuna Bible project is estimated to be completed and published in 2027.

FYI

Here is a sample of the written Ticuna language, from John 3:16 of the Ticuna Bible.

"Rũ Tupana rũ poraãcũ nütũ nangechaũ i ñoma i nañecũax i duũxũgũ. Rũ yemacax inanamu ga Nane ga nũgũmaxã wũxicacũ nax guxãma ya texẽ ya nũxũ yaxõgũxẽ ru tama itarũt-auxexũcax rũ tũxũ nangex-maxũcax i maxũ i taguma gũxũ."

It translates to "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Doris Anderson is producing a Ticuna song book with more than 100 songs, which are commonly sung in Cushillococha and surrounding communities but not yet formally written and published in proper musical format.

A book about the Andersons' early years in the Amazon, "City in the Jungle," was published in 1975. It was a catalyst to inspire many others to get involved with the Bible translation mission movement around the world. With more than 7,000 known languages being spoken today, there are still many unreached languages to be served, and there are many ways for volunteers to be involved.

A feature-length documentary film about the Andersons' life and legacy among the Ticuna people is currently in production, scheduled for release in 2027.

Invasive pale swallow-wort detected in Krakow

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources announced the confirmed presence of pale swallow-wort, an invasive vine, in Oconto and Shawano counties.

The vine was found within the outskirts of the Town of Krakow along the shared county line. These are the first known populations in the state, making rapid response efforts critical to preventing the establishment of this species in Wisconsin.

The sites were first reported by the Timberland Invasives Partnership via the Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System, an online invasive species reporting tool. These reports were subsequently brought to the attention of the DNR. The Timberland Invasives Partnership is a nonprofit organization focused on controlling and raising awareness about



The state's first confirmed presence of pale swallow-wort, an invasive vine, was recently made in Oconto and Shawano counties.

TIMBERLAND INVASIVES PARTNERSHIP

invasive species in Langlade, Menominee, Oconto and Shawano counties.

Despite not having tendrils,

this invasive vine twines and grows on top of surrounding vegetation, resulting in the displacement of native species in

forests and grasslands. Both pale swallow-wort and its close relative, black swallow-wort, are within the milkweed family and can outcompete native milkweed. Monarch butterflies have been observed laying eggs on swallow-wort, but once they hatch, the caterpillars can't survive on these non-native milkweed relatives.

Due to these impacts, pale swallow-wort is classified as a prohibited invasive species in Wisconsin. Invasive species are not native and cause harm to Wisconsin's environment, economy or pose threats to human health.

The leaves of pale swallow-wort occur opposite of each other along the stem and are oblong-to-oval in shape with a pointed tip, smooth edges, are light to dark green in color and can sometimes appear glossy. Slender seedpods, resembling

those of milkweed plants, appear from mid to late summer.

The flowers are the best key diagnostic feature and will help distinguish pale from black swallow-wort.

For both plants, the flowers are star shaped with five petals and appear in clusters where the leaf connects to the stem (the axil). Pale swallow-wort flower petals are smooth on top, are longer and tapered and pinkish or light brown in color. Black swallow-wort petals are triangular, hairy on top and dark purple or blackish in color.

Anyone who finds pale swallow-wort should report it to invasive.species@wisconsin.gov. All reports should include the location and clear photos of the plant's identifiable features. Other important details such as population size and landownership are also encouraged.

OCONTO COUNTY

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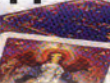
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Dryak named DA for Oconto County

He will serve remainder of unexpired term

Gov. Tony Evers has announced his appointment of Joshua Dryak to serve as Oconto County district attorney.

The appointment fills a vacancy created by former District Attorney Hannah Schuchart's appointment to the Oconto County Circuit Court. Dryak will serve for the remainder of the unexpired term that ends January 2029.

"Joshua Dryak's experience as a prosecutor and his commitment to serving the public will make him a great district attorney for the people of Oconto County," Evers said.

Dryak is currently an assistant district attorney in the Outagamie County District Attorney's Office. Dryak has previously



JOSHUA DRYAK

worked in the Brown County and Milwaukee County District Attorney's Offices and with the child welfare system in the Brown County corporation counsel's office.

Since 2018, he has also served as a judge advocate in the United States Army Reserve, with active-duty experience as a special victims litigator and a deployment to Europe from 2023-24. Since 2022, he's also taught law enforcement cadets as an adjunct faculty member at Fox Valley Technical College.

"A strong partnership between law enforcement and the district attorney's office is essential to ensuring justice, accountability and public safety," said Oconto County Sheriff

Todd Skarban. "We are confident that District Attorney Dryak will be a valuable asset to our community, and we look forward to a productive and collaborative relationship working together to serve and protect the citizens of Oconto County."

Dryak is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and Marquette University Law School. He will be relocating to Oconto County to serve in this position.

"I am humbled and honored to be appointed as the district attorney of Oconto County," Dryak said. "I look forward to making Oconto County my home and promise that I will work hard to keep this community and its citizens safe, to hold offenders accountable for their conduct and to treat those who interact with my office with fairness, dignity and respect."

Suring church celebrates 150 years

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suring recently celebrated its 150-year anniversary.

The church, 8540 Trinity Church Road, traces its roots to 1875.

According to church history, the first regular service of which there is any record was conducted by the Rev. P. Thorlaksson on the 14th Sunday after Trinity in that year. On the second Sunday in advent, a group of Lutheran Christians of Norwegian and Swedish extraction banded together as a congregation to be known as the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Maple Valley.

The preliminary declaration of purpose was signed by Aaron Olson, Magnus Arveson, John Ericsson, Morten Hanson, Thorger Hansen, Gustav Erickson, Daniel Cederblade and John Johnson. Later, a formal constitution was adopted to which the names of Lars Slang, Hans Peterson and Severin Johnson were added.

On Dec. 8, 1876, the congregation was formally incorporated. The articles of incorporation were signed by P. Thorlaksson as pastor and John Ericsson, Aaron Olson and Lars Slang as trustees.

The first church building was erected in 1887 on land donated by Mr. and Mrs. Herman Sorenson. Prior to this, services had been conducted in homes and school buildings.

In the spring of 1935, plans for a new church building materialized. A building committee consisted of Martin Olson, A.C. Arveson and Torvell Hanson was formed. Land for the new building was donated by Hans Slang.

The cornerstone was laid Sept. 29, 1935. The building is 30 feet by 60 feet and of brick and tile construction. Construction

costs amounted to \$6,500. The sanctuary seats 150 and includes a balcony for additional room.

The building of a new sanctuary was also the occasion for choosing a new name for the congregation. The congregation now became known as Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Although the new building was far from completed, the first service – a children's Christmas service – was held in it Dec. 29, 1935. In April 1936, the first regular service was held.

However, formal dedication did not take place until Aug. 27, 1939, when the building, including the basement, was finally completed. This new building contains, in remodeled form, the altar, altar painting, pulpit, altar rail and baptismal font from the original building. Since its construction in 1935, the sanctuary has been redecorated twice – first in 1952 and again in 1976.

From its incorporation until 1933, the congregation was served by pastors of the Norwegian Lutheran in America,

Beginning in 1933, Trinity's pastors have been of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and in 1960, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church officially affiliated with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Throughout the years, many memorials have been given to Trinity, which have served to enhance the beauty of the sanctuary and to serve the liturgical functions of the congregation.

A service of celebration was held June 21 at Trinity with the Rev. Nicholas Buchholz presiding. Guest speaker was the Rev. Tim Shoup. After the service, members and guests enjoyed a luncheon at sister congregation St. John's in Suring.

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Excited to tour Shawano police vehicles, children filled the Shawano Dairy Queen parking lot at the 10th annual Cone with a Cop. Everyone received a free ice cream treat.



Far left, above, Croix Wussow, 1, started with a cone before interacting with officers. In addition to ice cream, officers shared stickers with the attending kids. Far left, below, Tekla Onsesti, 3, enjoys the foam axe throw game set up at ShawanoFest.

PHOTOS BY
GREG MELLIS



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C O U P O N

ATV crashes up, prompting legislators to take action

Tavern League stands in way of strengthening OWI laws

By ANNIE PULLEY
The Badger Project

In April, a woman in Green Lake County was driving three passengers on a UTV when she took a curve too quickly.

The vehicle rolled and hit a tree head-on. One passenger died at the scene and a second just days later. The 26-year-old driver's blood alcohol concentration was three times the legal limit, according to the police report.

So far this year, 18 people have died in fatal crashes on off-road vehicles like ATVs and UTVs statewide, according to data reported by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The latest reported fatality was June 13, when a 71-year-old ATV driver collided with a UTV while both vehicles were cresting a hill. The man was pronounced dead at the scene.

Alcohol was involved in at least four of the deaths reported so far in 2026. Blood alcohol results are still pending in 11 of those fatalities.

Riding off-road vehicles is becoming an increasingly popular pastime in Wisconsin. The total number of registrations for these vehicles has increased by about 20% since 2020, according to the DNR.

Crashes and fatalities are also on the rise. Drugs and alcohol are involved in about half of those crashes, said Jacob Holsclaw, an off-highway vehicle administrator for the DNR.

"In a lot of those cases, if the folks had not been drinking and driving, they may even still be alive today," he said. "I think that's an important thing to remember."

Forty-two people died in ATV or UTV crashes last year, a 90% increase since 2015, according to DNR data. There were 300 total crashes reported in 2025, about a 45% increase from 10 years ago. A rise in the



A utility-terrain vehicle drives along East Green Bay Street in Bonduel just before the village's Independence Day parade. Crashes and fatalities for off-road vehicles are on the rise, according to data from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

number of UTV crashes significantly contributed to that increase. About 30% of the fatalities in 2025 involved alcohol or THC, and toxicology results are pending for a handful of those fatalities.

In recent years, municipalities have opened more roads to ATVs and UTVs across the state. All-terrain vehicles often seat just one passenger and are steered by handlebars like a motorcycle. Utility-terrain vehicles allow the passenger and driver to sit side-by-side, and drivers control the vehicle with a steering wheel. UTVs are generally larger and often include a partially enclosed cabin that can seat four.

Drivers of both vehicles can now operate them across more than 65,000 miles of roadway. Unlike snowmobiles, ATVs and UTVs aren't as weather-dependent and can be used all year, especially during mild winters. In some communities, it's normal for people to use their recreational vehicles for everyday errands. Holsclaw said the pandemic also contributed to the upward trend in their use.

With more people using off-road vehicles, more people will get hurt, he said. The tires aren't designed for pavement, and the vehicles handle differently than cars; that's another reason why "it's really important that

folks are driving sober," Holsclaw said. Riders tipped or rolled their machines in more than half of the fatal crashes last year.

Driving an ATV or UTV while drunk and on property open to the public is illegal in Wisconsin. Even if drivers don't exceed the 0.08 limit, they can be stopped, cited and arrested if law enforcement believes they are impaired, Holsclaw said. It's about coordination and reaction time, he said. But the penalties are lighter than for cars.

Drivers convicted of a first offense for operating an off-road vehicle while intoxicated — a civil forfeiture and not a crime — would pay a \$450 fine, Holsclaw said.

"It is a fair amount less than the motor vehicle world," Holsclaw said. "It is unfortunate that the fines are lower because it almost sends the message that an OWI is not as important."

A first offense for an OWI in a motor vehicle comes with about a \$700 bill and a license revocation.

Regulating alcohol use in the recreational vehicle world is different, Holsclaw said. Some people don't want to be told what to do. In Wisconsin, drinking is a part of the culture.

"That's all well and good, as long as you're not operating a vehicle,"

Holsclaw said.

The state DNR's power to tighten gaps in law is limited.

Its most recent batch of regulations, which went into effect June 1, closed a loophole by requiring both passengers and operators in UTVs to wear seat belts. Taken literally, state law had only required passengers to wear them. Even still, the DNR can't change the fact that an OWI from an ATV or UTV doesn't affect your driver's license, Holsclaw said. If it did, maybe that would keep people from driving drunk.

More substantive change "comes down to the state representatives," Holsclaw said. "They're the ones that have to make that decision."

Lawmakers in Madison have tried and failed to toughen state laws that regulate the overlap between alcohol use and recreational vehicles. Both Democratic and Republican legislators say the Tavern League, the state's influential beer lobby, has stymied serious progress.

When it comes to drinking and driving cars and ATVs, "Wisconsin has among the worst laws in the country," said state Sen. Chris Larson, D-Milwaukee.

Larson, who said he lost a good friend in a head-on collision with a

repeat drunk driver when he was in high school, believes special interest groups like the Tavern League have helped keep things the way they are.

The league did not respond to requests for comment.

At the moment, if a person gets their first OWI on an ATV and soon after gets their first OWI while driving a snowmobile, the courts treat them both as first offenses.

"They don't talk to each other," Holsclaw said.

OWIs for automobiles also accumulate separately.

In 2019, a bipartisan band of legislators tried to change how this works. If they had succeeded, the person in the earlier scenario would instead have a first and second-offense OWI, the latter of which is a misdemeanor. The bill would also have restricted people from operating recreational vehicles like snowmobiles, boats or UTVs if their driver's license was currently suspended because of a normal OWI.

The bill failed. When lawmakers resurrected the attempt in 2021, it died again.

The 2021 bill passed seamlessly out of its committee in the state Senate, Larson said, but then stalled for nine months and eventually died.

"That's unfortunately the power of some special interests who don't want to change the law," Larson said, "but I think that they are coming out of power."

The senator said he believes the influence of organizations like the Tavern League will fade in parallel with the Republican majority, which must now face competitive political maps it didn't draw for the first time in nearly two decades.

The powerful lobbying organization that advocates for bar owners did not register in opposition to the 2021 bill, according to the Wisconsin Ethics Commission website. Instead, Larson said the organization often works through long-established expectations that

lawmakers won't advance bills related to drunk driving.

"There's just an agreement that they know they don't have to lift a finger or do anything, but the Republicans are beholden to that interest group," Larson said.

Not all Republicans. State Sen. André Jacque, a Republican from the Green Bay area who is retiring at the end of the year, also worked on the 2021 bill and similarly criticizes how the Tavern League operates. He said it exercised its "silent veto" to put the 2021 bill to sleep.

"I would argue that in some cases there are groups that fail to indicate the actions that they have taken to stop legislation," Jacque said, referencing how the state requires lobbyists to register with the Wisconsin Ethics Commission and report their activity.

The fight isn't over, though. Under the right circumstances, Jacque said, the bill could return. He said law enforcement wants tougher laws. Other states already have them.

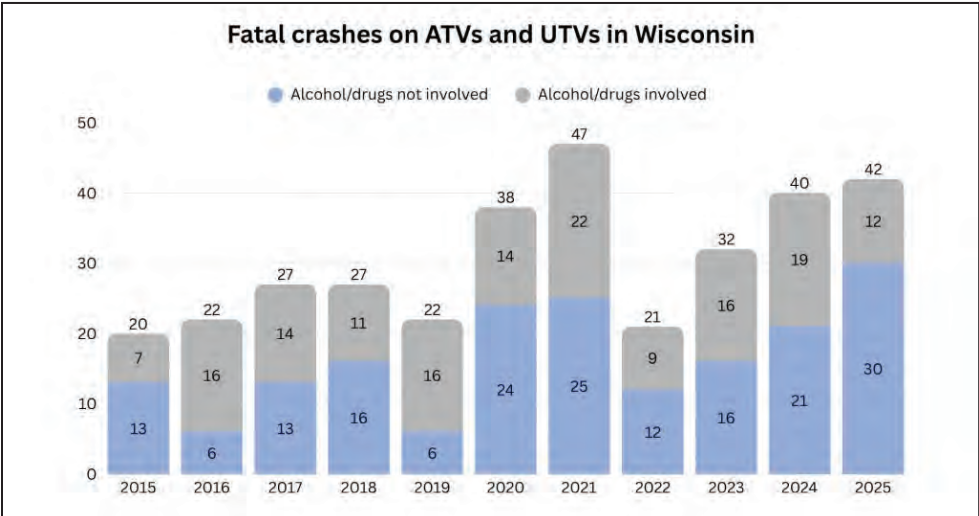
In Minnesota, a first offense for driving an off-road vehicle while impaired is a crime that could result in up to a \$1,000 fine and 90 days in jail. In Wisconsin, the same offense results in a fine but no jail time. Unlike in Minnesota, your driver's license won't be affected if you get busted for driving an ATV or UTV while drunk in Wisconsin.

More recently, Wisconsin lawmakers tried to ban having open containers of alcohol in or on off-road vehicles. No groups registered in opposition to the bipartisan bill, but it failed in April 2024.

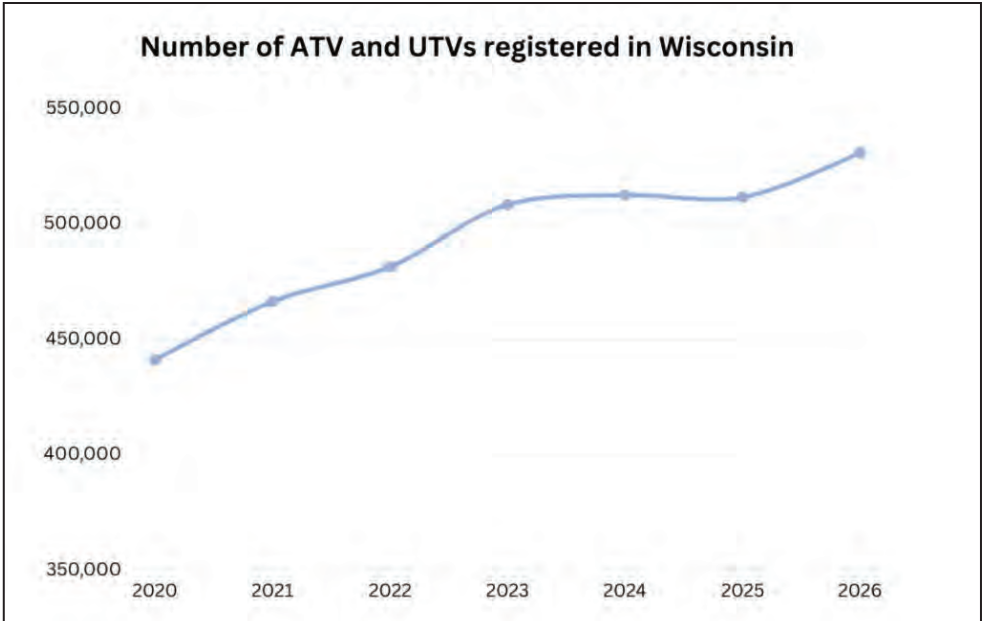
That bill would have been relevant in the fatal crash in Green Lake County where law enforcement found empty containers of alcohol strewn about the crash site.

Larson said people want common-sense drunk driving laws in Wisconsin.

"It's going to be a new day in Madison," Larson said.



DATA FROM THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



DATA FROM THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Peshtigo bank offers fair project scholarships

Peshtigo National Bank is accepting applications for its 2026 Fair Project Scholarship Program, continuing an initiative designed to support young livestock exhibitors and recognize the dedication, responsibility and hard work required to raise and care for animals.

Now entering its third year, the program reflects the bank's commitment to agriculture and rural communities throughout Wisconsin. Scholarships are available to youth exhibitors participating in county fairs within Oconto and Shawano counties.

The scholarship program was launched to help offset the costs associated with livestock projects, including feed, veterinary expenses, equipment, transportation and show-related costs.

During its first two years, Peshtigo National Bank awarded more than \$10,000 in scholarships annually, providing more than \$20,000 in total support to youth exhibitors throughout northeastern and central Wisconsin. Scholarship recipients have represented a wide variety of animal projects, including beef cattle, dairy animals, swine, sheep, goats, poultry, rabbits and other livestock exhibits.

For many young exhibitors, a fair project represents far more than a ribbon or auction sale. It teaches responsibility, time management, financial stewardship, animal husbandry and the value of hard work, skills that often carry into future careers and community involvement.

"A livestock project requires commitment every day of the year, not just during fair week," said Brian Rieth, senior vice president at Peshtigo National Bank. "These young people are developing skills that will serve them throughout their lives. Whether they pursue careers in agriculture or another field, the lessons learned through raising and caring for animals are invaluable. We're proud to support those efforts and invest in the next generation."

Peshtigo National Bank has a deep connection to Wisconsin agriculture through its agricultural lending services and longstanding relationships with farm families throughout the region. The scholarship program serves as another way for the bank to support the future of rural communities while recognizing the important role youth exhibitors play in preserving agricultural traditions.



Gray wolves are listed as an endangered species in the lower 48 states (excluding the northern Rocky Mountains region). An Angus calf was reportedly killed by a wolf July 7 on a farm east of Suring.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Wolf suspected in calf death

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

An Angus calf was reportedly killed by a wolf July 7 in Oconto County, according to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

The killing occurred on a farm east of Suring.

The DNR classified the death of the calf as a "probable wolf depredation." That means there was "clear evidence strongly suggesting that one or more wolves were responsible."

Gray wolves are listed as an endangered species in the lower 48 states (excluding the northern Rocky Mountains region). As such, wolves are federally protected. Harvest and lethal depredation control are prohibited.

For livestock and pet owners dealing with a potential wolf-involved conflict, swift reporting to United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services remains critical for the collection of evidence and the timely implementation of conflict resolution options.

In northern Wisconsin, call 800-228-1368 (in-state) or 715-369-5221.

Also, on Dec. 30, 2025, two hunting dogs were injured by wolves in the Waupee Lake Swamp near Pound. The dogs were 7- and 10-year-old female Plott hounds.



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Speedway Hall of Fame inductees honored

Shawano's Nolan wins stock car feature

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

The three newest Shawano Speedway Hall of Fame members were honored July 11 at the racetrack.

Inductees in 2026 were Willard Raddant, LeRoy Raddant and Mike Schmelzer. Also, the Vandenlangenberg family was honored as a Hall of Fame Contributor.

Marcus Yarie, of Wausau, started on the pole in the IMCA modifieds 20-lap feature race and went on to win July 11 at the Shawano Speedway.

Yarie finished in front of second-place Dylan Waldvogel, of Antigo, and third-place Jeffery Teske, of Shawano.

Yarie also won the first heat, while Waldvogel won the second heat.

Oconto Falls' Cole Magnin won the IMCA sport modifieds 20-lap feature race after starting back in the 10th spot.

Shawano's AJ

Springborn started ninth and finished second, while Seymour's Tim Jorgenson started 14th and placed third. Greenville's Shane Bahr started on the pole and finished in fourth place.

Heat winners were Michael Springborn, of Shawano, and Jordan Endries, of Kaukauna.

Trent Nolan, of Shawano, captured the checkered flag in the 20-lap feature in the IMCA stock car division. Nolan started in 10th place and worked his way up nine spots.

Shiocton's Dylan Stadjee started third and finished second. Clintonville's Jeremie Hedrick started fourth and placed third.

Tigerton's Dustin Wudstrack finished ninth after starting on the pole.

Chad Guyette, of Black Creek, won the first heat, and Hedrick won the second.

In the sport compact division, Clintonville's Brad Wedde won after starting



Shawano Speedway Hall of Fame members were honored July 11 at the racetrack. From left are LeRoy Raddant, Willard Raddant and Mike Schmelzer. WILD IMAGE PHOTOGRAPHY

eighth in the 12-lap feature. He topped Clintonville's Tanner Westphal, who started seventh and placed second, and Clintonville's Seth Collar, who

started fourth and placed third.

Pole sitter Jake Rupert, of New London, crossed the finish line in seventh place.

Westphal and Shawano's Lucas Hacker won the heat races.

Racing continues in all four divisions July 18. Racing begins at 6 p.m.

Tickets for adults 17 and older are \$15, teens 12-16 are \$6, youth 11 and younger are free with a paid adult, and seniors are \$12.



Shawano's Trent Nolan wins the IMCA modifieds feature race July 11 at the Shawano Speedway. CONTRIBUTED



Oconto Falls' Cole Magnin and his crew pose with the winning car July 11. Magnin took the checkered flag in the 20-lap feature in the sport modifieds division at the Shawano Speedway. CONTRIBUTED

Grand slam helps Antigo/Polar top Birnamwood

Shawano beats Menominee in BABA makeup game

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

A home field advantage didn't help the Birnamwood Kings on July 10 in their Badger Amateur Baseball Association North Division matchup with Antigo/Polar.

Brady Renfro's four hits — including a grand slam — helped the Bears pick up a 14-4 win in Birnamwood.

North Division
Antigo/Polar 14,
Birnamwood 4
Milo Salvesen, Braxton

Olson, Ben Robrecht and AJ Kirsch each had two of Antigo/Polar's 15 hits, and Chris Sippl improved to 2-0 after picking up the win on the mound.

Carson Meverden hit a home run and had three of Birnamwood's nine hits. Logan Thiex and Zandy Barke added two hits each, and Mason Meverden took the loss.

Hatley 10, Aniwa 6
The Braves and Orioles combined for 28 hits and 16 runs July 12 at Legion Memorial Park in Hatley.

Braxton Olson, Nick Cotter and Kodie Kocher each had three of Hatley's 17 hits, while Tanner Kocher added two hits. Sam Meerstein picked up the win on the mound.

Gavin Steppart and Kody Szews had three of Aniwa's 11 hits; Wade Farmer added a home run. Tanner Graham and Chris Weisman each had a double.

Szews took the loss for the Orioles.

Elderon 3, Crandon 1
The WhiskeyJacks headed to Crandon July 12 and returned home following a win over the Kentucks.

West Division

Shawano at Tigerton
Results not reported.
Marion at Tilleda
Results not reported.
Tigerton 12, Shawano 2

Tigerton defeated the Lakers on July 10 in a matchup of teams from the West and East divisions.

Caleb Dahlstrom picked up the win on the mound, and Mike Korth took the loss.

Wittenberg 9, Menominee 3

The Pilots clinched a spot in the upcoming BABA playoffs July 10 with a win over Menominee in Wittenberg.

East Division

Shawano 13, Menominee 8

The Lakers picked up a win over the Indians in a makeup game.

Leopolis at Gresham
Results not reported.

South-Central Division

Weymont at New London
Results not reported.

Little Falls at Scandinavia
Results not reported.

Scandinavia at Plover
A rescheduled game between the Vikings and Pterodactyls on July 8 was rained out.

July 17 schedule (all games start at 7:30 p.m. unless indicated)

West Division: Tigerton at Wittenberg, 7 p.m.
East Division: Gresham at Marion; New London at Clintonville. South-Central Division: New London at Clintonville.

July 19 schedule (all games start at 1:30 p.m.)

North Division: Antigo/Polar at Aniwa; Eland at Birnamwood; Crandon at Hatley; Elderon has bye. West Division: Tigerton at Wittenberg; Caroline at Little Falls; Scandinavia at Tilleda; Plover at Leopolis. East Division: Menominee at Gresham; Weymont at Shawano; Marion has bye. South-Central Division: Plover at Leopolis; Weymont at Shawano.

Weier's walkoff grand slam gives Bonduel 7-3 win over Hortonville

By **GREG SEUBERT**
Correspondent

Two days after coming up short in their own invitational baseball tournament, the Bonduel Broncos picked up a 7-3 Dairyland League win.

The Broncos hosted Hortonville on July 12 at Jack Reinke Field and handed the Stars a loss while improving to 10-1 in league play.

Bonduel 7, Hortonville 3

Hortonville opened the scoring with a run in the top of the first inning, but the Broncos answered with two runs in the bottom of the third and added another run in the sixth.

Hortonville tied the game at 3-3 in the seventh inning with a two-run home run.

The teams headed into the bottom of the ninth inning tied at 3-3. The Broncos loaded the bases on a leadoff double from Beckett Hartlaben, a walk to Chase Reinke and an intentional walk to Adam Frost. The Broncos were down to their last out after strikeouts to Wyatt Reinke and Easton Reinke, but Noah Weier delivered a walkoff grand slam that

cleared the bases and gave the Broncos the win.

Jett Thielke got the start on the mound for the Broncos and gave up one unearned run on three hits while striking out 10 batters over five innings.

Reliever Jack Reinke gave up two runs on four hits over 3 1/3 innings. Bonduel's third pitcher, Brooks Hartlaben, ended up getting the win after pitching a scoreless ninth inning.

Weier and Beckett Hartlaben each had two of Bonduel's nine hits.

The same two teams have a rescheduled game set for 7:30 p.m. July 15 in Hortonville.

Hofa Park at Cecil

Results not reported.

Marinette at Shawano

Results not reported.

Pulaski at Waupaca

Results not reported.

Bonduel tournament

Navarino 4, Bonduel 3

Navarino defeated Bonduel July 10 in the championship game of the 47th annual Bonduel Broncos Invitational Tournament.

The teams headed into the bottom of the eighth inning tied at 3-3 before Nick Dagneau led off with a single and later scored



In Dairyland League action, the Navarino Nitros defeated Bonduel on July 10 in the championship game of the 47th annual Bonduel Broncos Invitational Tournament. The teams headed into the bottom of the eighth inning tied at 3-3 before Nick Dagneau led off with a single and later scored what turned out to be the winning run after Ryan Niles hit into a fielder's choice.

NAVARINO NITROS FACEBOOK PAGE

what would be the winning run after Ryan Niles hit into a fielder's choice.

Ryan Boettcher threw 6 2/3 innings of relief to get the win on the mound for the Rangers.

Owen Weber, Boettcher, Dagneau, Braylon Krull and Bailey Dingeldein each had multiple hits for the Rangers. The team shared the tournament's MVP award.

July 15 schedule

Bonduel at Hortonville, 7:30 p.m. (rescheduled game)

July 17 schedule

Nichols at Navarino, 7:30 p.m.; Hortonville at

Shawano, 7:30 p.m.; Cecil at Pulaski, 7 p.m.

July 19 schedule (all games start at 1:30 p.m.)

Bonduel at Hofa Park; Navarino at Marinette; Waupaca at Nichols.

Early sports physicals may help student athletes

When school's out for the summer, parents can take advantage of the breather to schedule the children for early sports physicals, according to a ThedaCare pediatrician.

A sports physical is a medical assessment required by most schools and community sports leagues to ensure a child can safely participate in sports. Scheduling these appointments early in the summer can help make time for any necessary treatment and recovery before the start of the sports season.

Completing the annual

checkup and sports physical in the same visit can help students and parents feel confident going into the upcoming season, Dr. Kevin Gentile said.

The care team reviews family history; allergies; medications; conditions such as asthma, diabetes or seizure disorders; past injuries; hospitalizations and surgeries; and history of dizziness, chest pain or trouble breathing during exercise.

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association oversees middle and high school sports. The WIAA requires student

athletes to complete a sports physical every two years. April 1 is the earliest date of examination.

"That means a physical performed April 1 or later is valid for the following two school years," Gentile said.

Physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants can perform sports physicals. Sometimes schools also offer clinics that provide sports physicals.

"These qualify, of course, but note that sports physicals alone do not replace the need for a child's annual checkup,"

Gentile said. "It's important for your child to keep up with routine care through their pediatric or family medicine office."

Before the child's appointment, parents or guardians will be asked to complete a form that asks several questions about their young one's medical history.

During the child's sports physical, the care team typically checks height, weight, blood pressure, pulse, vision, heart, lungs, muscles, bones and joints. Doctors often also ask boys about testicle pain and girls about their

periods.

"These are all areas also covered in a child's annual checkup," Gentile said. "Through completing an annual checkup and sports physical in the same visit, we can provide a comprehensive exam while also ensuring your child is up to date on vaccines and other preventive care."

A few steps may help ensure a smooth and quick process, Gentile said. They include completing all forms and questionnaires before arriving at the child's appointment, scheduling

extra time to be present at the appointment with a minor child, writing down questions to ask, printing and bringing the appropriate WIAA form for sports physicals, and having copies of records or signed paperwork available as a reference.

Sports physicals are designed to ensure children can safely participate in sports. It's rare for them to disqualify students from participating, Gentile said. More often, they may prompt a need for medication, follow-up care or additional treatment, such as physical therapy.



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Suring woman becomes state's TOPS weight-loss queen

Going from more than 295 pounds to 175 part of two-year journey for Huncosky

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

Many people would consider the term “less of a person” to be an insult, but for Ellen Huncosky, she’s perfectly fine being less than she was.

The Suring woman has lost more than 120 pounds in the last two years with the help of Taking Off Pounds Sensibly, along with strict adherence to Keto dieting guidelines and a lot of walking. Because of her weight loss, Huncosky was crowned a TOPS 2025 Wisconsin Queen.

Huncosky has always considered herself to be a big farm gal. Huncosky said having four siblings meant her mother always had to cook for a big family, and she got plenty to eat.

When reaching adulthood, Huncosky spent much of her time working at a factory job and raising three children of her own. Giving birth always came with extra weight, and although she’d find a way to lose some of it after each child came into the world, the bathroom scale would always indicate Huncosky was getting heavier.

“You never get rid of all of it, but even as a teenager, I was a farm girl. So I was a big, strappin’ girl,” Huncosky said. “I was overweight but not real bad.”

Huncosky said life was fast-paced in those middle years, and she had very little time to focus on herself as she was raising her children. One exception was that she gave up smoking in 2015 because of breathing issues.

“That puts on an extra 50 pounds, because you’ve got to get over the smoking part,” Huncosky said.

However, Huncosky soon realized that she needed to do more to improve her health. Her higher weight numbers yielded higher numbers on her yearly lab blood work, and her doctor wanted to put her on three medications to deal with those issues.

“I got diagnosed with type 2 diabetes when I went in for my check-ups, and my A1C was getting too high,” Huncosky said. “They want to put you on medication for that. I tried that, but I decided there’s got to be another way.”

She started looking online, and most of the answers were the same – exercise and diet. Huncosky started walking more, but it wasn’t doing enough, as she was already doing a lot of walking at her factory job. As her scale started moving closer to the 300 number, she knew she had to lose the weight before she retired this past January.

“I decided it was time to get on the ball and do something,” Huncosky said.

Huncosky traveled with one of her sisters to visit another sister in Ava, Missouri, who had lost more than 100 pounds while in the TOPS program and was crowned the state queen for her weight loss in 2023. That inspired Huncosky to finally take action and lose the weight she needed to have a healthier lifestyle in retirement.

“She was always the skinny one of the family,” Huncosky said of her sister in Missouri. “When she retired and got older, suddenly the weight came on her like the rest of us in the family.”

Huncosky discovered the nearest TOPS program was in Shawano, so after seeing her sister’s program, she sought out the local group and started attending meetings. Her challenge was that the local TOPS met in the morning, and she was still working a very early shift at the factory. Fortunately, she had plenty of



ABOVE: Ellen Huncosky dropped more than 120 pounds to get to her target weight of 175 pounds. Her rapid weight loss earned her the designation of TOPS 2025 Wisconsin Queen. Even though she reached her target weight seven months ago, she continues to abide by Keto guidelines and walks twice a day to keep the weight from coming back.

CONTRIBUTED

RIGHT: Ellen Huncosky weighed more than 295 pounds when she first joined TOPS in January 2024. Through the Keto diet introduced to her by her daughters and increasing the amount of daily walking she did, Huncosky lost the weight and said she feels like she’s 45 years old instead of 65.

CONTRIBUTED

vacation time saved up over 20 years, so her bosses graciously let her take three hours of vacation time to compensate for the time when TOPS met.

“That was a way to use it up for something that actually benefited me,” Huncosky said. “A lot of times I was ahead enough (at work) to leave for a while.”

Huncosky’s starting weight when she joined TOPS in January 2024 was 295.4



Lights on the dashboard alert to problems

Running errands around Shawano, I noticed a little light had popped up on my car’s dashboard. I was gun-shy, as just a few weeks earlier another little light had appeared – that one much more serious than this one.

This light was one I could decipher easily. A tire was low. Reasoning with myself, I figured I could probably make it home and have my husband pump it up with our air compressor.

Just then, another thought popped in. I could hear him say, “Why don’t you drive it to the gas station and stick some air in it?”

With his unspoken words in my head, that’s just what I did. Pulling into 22 Shell station, I saw a guy with a big black truck in front of the air pump. Parking beside him, I got out. “Ah, hi? I just wanted to get some air.” “Oh, wait. Sorry, I’ll move.”

After getting closer to the pump, I looked intently into the machine. Too much explanation. Too many decisions. How much pressure did I need? I wasn’t sure. I pressed the plus key up one notch. Taking the nozzle out of its holster, I unscrewed the valve stem on the front left tire – the tire the dashboard showed me was slack-

ing. Clever little thing. Nothing happened.

Glancing at the guy, I blurted out, “Sorry to bother, but do you know how to work this thing?” “You have to pay for the air.” I was speechless. Evidently, even air isn’t free. Who knew? I didn’t. This nice man talked me through the procedure. As soon as I had enough air in my tire, it shut off the air supply but the machine kept going like there was more air left. I’d paid for three bucks worth of air and only used one.

I looked over at the truck guy. “Hey, do you need some air?” Pleasantly he responded, “I do,” and proceeded to back up quickly, almost colliding with a car coming around the corner to order from Arby’s. A quick beep-beep stopped him in his tracks. Poor fella. In his haste for free air, he almost backed into a car.

Taking off, I noticed my dashboard was clear of my tire-pressure issue. I did it. Noted, with some help. The other little light weeks earlier took a bit more effort to resolve.

One day, I was again running errands in Shawano when I noticed the check-engine light had come on, unblinking. Calling the dealership where we’d purchased our car, he informed me as long as it was not blinking I could probably safely drive it for errands that day, but advised coming in sooner rather than later to have it checked out.

The very next day, we got an appointment. Getting to the dealership at 9 a.m., we were optimistically thinking it would be a quick solution and looking forward to breakfast out at our favorite haunt before heading home. Much later, we were informed we had a problem.

Mice.

LIGHTS, continued on page 12

QUEEN, continued from page 11

pounds, and she lost almost 80 pounds in her first year alone.

With farm families, there was plenty of meat, fruits and vegetables available, which make up much of the Keto diet. For Huncosky, the challenge was eating in a way that eliminated many of the carbohydrates from her meals that were contributing to the weight gain.

Huncosky's daughters had used Keto to lose weight, so they introduced their mother to it. She said she had tried to no-fat/low-fat diet to try and lose weight after she had her third child, losing 80 pounds in the process. But because a lot of food has its taste from the fat, the bland-tasting dishes did not motivate her to stick it out. The weight came back when she started eating fatty foods again, so she decided to try Keto.

"I was not aware of (Keto) back when I was trying to lose baby weight and stuff," Huncosky said. "I loved meat. I

BY THE NUMBERS

- 295.4: Starting weight for Ellen Huncosky.
- 120.4: Number of pounds Huncosky has lost since she joined TOPS.
- 1 IN 3: Number of American adults who are obese.
- 37.4%: Obesity rate in Wisconsin.
- 8,372: Pounds lost by Wisconsin TOPS members in 2025.

wasn't real fond of vegetables, but I learned to love them, too. You got to watch your dairy."

At the time, Huncosky walked a mile once a day, but she upped it to twice a day, morning and evening. On the days when the weather doesn't cooperate, she has a stationary bicycle and a pedal device to fall back on to get her daily exercise.

"It took me a long time when I first started. I couldn't make it to a mile," Huncosky said. "You're out of shape as far as continual exercise."

On Dec. 9, 2025, Huncosky reached her goal weight of 175

pounds. She lost more weight than any other female TOPS member in the state, which is why she was named the state's TOPS queen.

Being surrounded by others going through their weight loss journey through TOPS has helped Huncosky to keep the weight off.

"Hopefully, we can get some more people interested," she said. "We're there to support each other and help each other any way we can."

Seven months after she reached her target weight, Huncosky continues to abide by Keto dieting guidelines. When she goes for her walks, she brings up her music on Pandora and just enjoys the movement.

Huncosky reiterated that weight loss is possible for anyone.

"You don't have to live your life heavy if you don't want to," she said. "There is a better way, and you'll feel so much better. My goodness, it's like night and day."

LIGHTS, continued from page 11

They'd chewed through wires, causing damage to the system. Five hours and a \$597.58 bill later, we left. The dealership was sympathetic, offering different methods of dealing with the problem.

This was much more serious than a low-pressure tire issue.

A friend of mine recalled years ago her husband had noticed his truck had started to have a peculiar smell. He took it to Nat and Don's in Shawano where they discovered about 10 pounds of dog food pilfered from the dog dish. As the truck warmed up, the food did, too.

Our son dealt with this same problem when he lived in California. The rodents there caused thousands of dollars of damage, gathering the soy coating on the wires for their nests.

After getting it fixed, he'd solved the problem by putting a handful of rat repellent bags that looked like hand-warmer packs under the hood, removing them before starting out. He stuck a bar of Irish Spring soap under the car as a last resort and what

worked for them was sprinkling wolf urine from Amazon around the perimeters of the car.

We opted for glue traps placed around the front end and stuck a bar of soap on the floor under the engine. So far, no captures, but thankfully no lights showing up on the dashboard, either.

Earlier in the year, I'd hit a deer with my car, now mice invading and a low-pressure tire.

I am not hurt. My car got fixed. I've learned lessons. I'm counting my blessings, one-by-one.

("Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things." Philippians 4:8, New International Version)

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

THEME: KIDS' CLASSICS

- ACROSS
- 1. Capital of Ghana
 - 6. Pilot's announcement
 - 9. Bog deposit
 - 13. Banned aerosol propellant
 - 14. Lake, in France
 - 15. ____ firma
 - 16. Source of chocolate
 - 17. Sensitive subject?
 - 18. Twig of a willow tree
 - 19. *Certain secret spot
 - 21. *Beezus' little sister
 - 23. Half a dozen
 - 24. Final notice
 - 25. CEO's deg.
 - 28. Spew profanities
 - 30. Swamp
 - 35. Gateway ____
 - 37. Boisterous play
 - 39. *"All for one and one for all," to Musketeers
 - 40. Steak preference
 - 41. Flower's peak
 - 43. *Butter____, Hogsmeade beverage
 - 44. Like some East Coast universities
 - 46. Archipelago unit
 - 47. Plaintiff
 - 48. Loads
 - 50. Tiny bit
 - 52. Snoop
 - 53. Bruce and Spike, e.g.
 - 55. Ovine mom
 - 57. *Pocketful
 - 60. *Cat's ____
 - 63. *Lemony Snicket, to Daniel Handler

- 64. Shel Silverstein's "A Boy Named ____"
 - 66. The company one ____
 - 68. *Peanut butter and jelly sandwich to a kid
 - 69. Lt.'s subordinate
 - 70. Snail mail replacement
 - 71. Says "What?"
 - 72. As opposed to yeses
 - 73. *Mystery solver
- DOWN
- 1. Half of NFL
 - 2. Rugged rock
 - 3. Cecum, pl.
 - 4. Lion sounds
 - 5. Relating to anode
 - 6. Dashing style
 - 7. *"It" game
 - 8. Sour
 - 9. 100 centavos, in Mexico
 - 10. Actress Moriarty
 - 11. Equals 1/2 b x h
 - 12. Smoker's lung residue
 - 15. Double drum
 - 20. Beyond suburb
 - 22. Heart to Cupid
 - 24. Reverse one, in the kitchen
 - 25. *Super Bro.
 - 26. "Music to my ears!"
 - 27. Like thick smoke
 - 29. Same as solos
 - 31. Schneider and Reiner, e.g.
 - 32. Consumed (2 words)
 - 33. Ranch grazer
 - 34. *Game of apologies
 - 36. Achilles' weakness
 - 38. Ralph Lauren's inspiration
 - 42. Same as metre

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- 45. Yummy
- 49. *" ____ Spot Run"
- 51. Rouse
- 54. Ruhr's industrial center
- 56. Swelling
- 57. Arithmetic operation
- 58. Piglet sound
- 59. Cul de ____, pl.
- 60. ____pool or ____pit
- 61. Like hard times
- 62. "The Iliad," e.g.
- 63. Pie ____ mode
- 65. *Shedding-type card game
- 67. *Like Aesop's fox

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Vehicle purchase turns into labor of love



Randy Ladwig, of Shawano, shows off his 1955 Chevrolet Belair during the first day of this year's Iola Car Show, which took place July 9-11 in Iola. GREG SEUBERT

Shawano man spent 8 years restoring car

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

After it had been sitting in a garage for more than 30 years, it was time for Randy Ladwig to buckle down and get to work.

The Shawano man spent eight years restoring a 1955 Chevrolet Belair he had purchased almost 50 years ago. He showed off the fruits of his labor July 9-11 at the Iola Car Show.

"I was working at a Pontiac garage in Shawano, a coworker of mine had this, and I wound up buying it from him in 1977 for \$200," Ladwig said.

He restored everything on the red and cream-colored two-door car.

"New floor, new quarter panels, disc brakes on the front of it, rebuilt the front fenders, rebuilt the motor, rebuilt the transmission. Everything's brand new," he said. "It sat in the garage for 35 years. I was always going to restore it. My daughter was going to get married and she wanted it in her wedding, so I had to push. That was the plan. It was half done and all of a sudden, the push was on. It had to get finished."

At that time — 15 years ago — Ladwig was four years into a restoration that took

another four years.

"I worked in a garage as a mechanic pretty much my entire life," he said. "I did it all by myself in the garage."

He has no idea how much he spent over the years on the restoration but said he can find out.

"I've got a book at home with all the receipts in it," he said. "If I ever get bored one day, I'm going to add it up."

Ladwig is no stranger to cars. He's been coming to the Iola Car Show for 38 years. He retired four years ago and plans to keep the car in the family, as well as a 1966 Pontiac GTO that he recently restored.

Ladwig drives his Belair on occasion and takes it every year to the Back to the Fifties, a car show in St. Paul, Minnesota.

"They have 10,000 cars, nothing newer than 1962," he said.

Ladwig said there's a reason why people are fascinated with cars from the 1950s and why events such as the Iola show draw thousands of spectators.

"It's the style," he said. "I just like talking to people and everybody's got a story. I like listening to the stories."

seubert4@gmail.com

Peshtigo Fire told through loving couple's eyes

'Conflagration' brings to life overlooked heroism of Menominee

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Similar to how the Peshtigo Fire is often overlooked for the Great Chicago Fire, so too are the Menominee people for their actions before and after the 1871 blaze that devastated northeast Wisconsin.

Both are given new life in Susan Gordon's historical fiction book "Conflagration: How Love and Courage Survived America's Deadliest Fire."

Her research unveiled the real-life couple of John Mulligan and Jennie Lenerville, who survived the fire and are the central figures in the book.

The idea for a story about the fire percolated with her for decades. Gordon, a Shawano native, tried to get others to write it, but most said it was her story to tell.

She began writing after her oldest son died.

"I started writing a poem to let out my feelings and thoughts," Gordon said. "I cried and cried and cried."

That's when she decided to gather information for the book.

"It took me three or four months to write it," she recalled. "I hired an editor, and we worked together for another four months. She was awesome. She brought a lot more depth to the book."

Her research gave her insights into the lives of people in northeastern Wisconsin and how they lived.

"Logging was a very interesting and dangerous life," Gordon said.

She also learned about the Menominee people and their lives during that time.

Gordon also wrote of Abraham and Elizabeth Place, discovering the knowledge of the Menominee people.

"I didn't realize how important they would be," she said. "I definitely wanted to tip my hat to them."

Her book tells of the treatment Menominee tribal members faced from white settlers for their way of life and proactive safety measures like digging trenches around their settlements.

"The book is informative and accurate, and finally acknowledges the Menominee people who tried to help others when the



Susan Gordon, a native of Shawano who now lives in Olympia, Washington, is the author of "Conflagration: How Love and Courage Survived America's Deadliest Fire."

CONTRIBUTED

fire struck Peshtigo," David Grignon of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin wrote in praise of the book. "This area is the aboriginal territory of the Menominee people, and we are still here, close to where the fire went through."

After 35 years of dedicating his life to revitalizing and protecting traditional Menominee language and culture, Grignon recently retired from his duties directing the tribe's Historic Preservation Office.

Gordon recounts that even though the Menominee people faced judgment, they immediately opened their homes to fire victims who were injured and in need of shelter.

Born in Shawano, Gordon's father, Bob Brunner, ran Brunner's Barbershop in downtown Shawano for many years.

Gordon graduated from Shawano High School in 1975. She still has relatives in the area.

After graduation, she worked at the then-Northeast Wisconsin Technical College. She met her first husband, Bill Lemke, and the couple moved around the state before settling in Green Bay.



The couple divorced after 18 years, and Gordon went on to become a registered nurse in Green Bay.

She took a job in the medical storage field in Milwaukee, working her way into selling defibrillators. She met Reed Gordon, married and moved to the Los Angeles area, continuing to sell medical devices.

The last eight years of her career were in the Olympia area, where she was in sales for AccuVein. Her territory included Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska. She retired in 2023.

Gordon now lives in Olympia, Washington.

She will return to northeast Wisconsin at the end of July to visit family and friends, and to promote her book at various events.

During her research, she discovered Jennie Lenerville is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Manitowoc.

"When I'm back, I'm going to pay homage to her and bring flowers to her grave," Gordon said. "She truly gave me something to write about."

Lenerville's husband, John Mulligan, is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Florence.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 30, Gordon will be at Heather's Beans and Books, 1235 E. Green Bay St., Shawano.

From noon to 3 p.m. Aug. 2, she'll be at the ice cream social at the Peshtigo Fire Museum, 400 Oconto Ave., Peshtigo, where

AT A GLANCE

The synopsis of "Conflagration: How Love and Courage Survived America's Deadliest Fire":

Jennie Lenerville leaves her family's bustling Wisconsin farm after marrying Big John Mulligan, a Civil War veteran and prize-fighter, determined to build a life far from the battlegrounds that shaped him. Drawn north by promise and timber, they settle in Peshtigo, where John runs a lumber camp and Jennie assists the local doctors.

Through their friendship with Abraham Place and his wife, Elizabeth, they become part of a tight-knit community, but the land begins to warn them. Drought tightens its grip. Smoke drifts where it should not. Animals flee, and those who know the forests best begin to whisper the same unease: Something terrible is coming.

On the night of Oct. 8, 1871, Peshtigo ignites.

A firestorm hotter than iron and faster than wind tears through the town — consuming forests and homes, driving animals and people mad with terror and turning the river itself into flame. As the world burns, Jennie and John must fight not only to survive, but to hold on to each other and the life they dreamed of.

The exact number of deaths is debated, but most estimates put it between 1,500 and 2,500.

By the time it was over, between 1.2 million and 1.5 million acres of land had been burned. In addition to Peshtigo, 16 other communities were destroyed in the fire.

For readers drawn to catastrophic history, haunting beauty and romance forged under unbearable pressure, "Conflagration" brings to life the deadliest fire in American history and the overlooked heroism of the Menominee people who helped save lives when it mattered most.

she will officially launch her book.

Gordon will also give a presentation to a book club at 11 a.m. Aug. 3 at the Peshtigo Public Library, 331 French St., Peshtigo.

"I never thought of myself as a writer," she said. "It gave me a great sense of accomplishment when it was done."

For now, Gordon said she will promote the book, relax and enjoy what comes next. But, thoughts of a second book are there, too.

Topics include the life of John Mulligan before the fire or the lives of Abraham and Elizabeth Place.

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Hunting fossilized shark teeth amid seashells

We try to keep our family vacations real and natural. That means we avoid Walt Disney World and other theme parks like the plague. The natural world is so much more unpredictable, and it's reality, not fake concrete waterfalls and \$20 plastic mugs.

I'm always surprised at people who spend a week in Florida and never see a roseate spoon-bill, an alligator or live sand dollars at the beach. You will never stand in a long line to see nature in natural habitat.

My wife, Michelle, is a master at planning vacations. When we decided to return to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, this June, she mapped everything out and booked our nights on the road and our beachfront condo months in advance. Our daughter, Kalispell, and Michelle's dad, Roger Nitschke, of Oshkosh, were joining us.

When Michelle booked the condo through Vrbo, we never realized that the Cherry Grove Beach location would play an important part in finding ancient treasures we hadn't expected.

After a few days of

collecting shells, we planned to go to Murrells Inlet to look for shark teeth.

Michelle had read that it was a hotspot for them, but when we did further research online, we found that our condo was smack-dab in the middle of one of the best beaches in the state for them.

I started looking up shark tooth hunting clubs on Facebook, and the first video I watched of some successful hunters was a stretch of Cherry Grove Beach about 300 yards from our condo.

We canceled the trip to Murrells Inlet and went back to our beach.

Like more mushroom hunters who have never found their first 'shroom, Kali and I had no idea what to look for. One morning, I walked all the way north to Cherry Grove Pier about 8/10 mile away, and stumbled upon an elderly gent patiently sifting the sand with an odd long-handled sifter with a small round end that looked like a golf-ball retriever.

I struck up a conversation with John "Butch" Aughtry from Charlotte, North Carolina, who said he had been hunting shark



Kalispell Bielema, 20, found her first shark teeth June 19 on Cherry Grove Beach near their rented condo north of North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Fossilized shark teeth are 10,000 to 400 million years old, depending on the species found.

ROSS BIELEMA

teeth since childhood. He showed me a small pill bottle half full of tiny, black teeth that still had their serrations along the edges.

Most were about the size of a pinky fingernail. I had been looking for something two or three times bigger.

"For every 100 black

teeth, you find one white one," he explained.

The black ones are fossilized, having absorbed the phosphate from mineral deposits in the soil where they rested for thousands of years. The white ones are from live sharks. According to online experts, one shark can shed up to 30,000 teeth in its lifetime. There are other colors, too, including one in the Carolinas called "Carolina cream." This explains the color variations: <https://www.fossilguy.com/topics/shark-teeth-colors/index.htm>.

Aughtry dug at least three teeth from the sand while I watched him. He'd see an edge sticking out of the sand, usually next to a pile of shells that the tide had brought in.

"Look for piles of shells, and you'll find shark teeth," he said.

I thanked him for his help and hurried back to the condo with my newfound knowledge.

I ran into two members of a local tooth-hunting club (one was wearing a club shirt), who advised hunting three hours before and after high tide. High tide brings large quantities of seashells and other materials from the ocean floor, including these toothy treasures of the deep.

With renewed enthusiasm, Kali and I hit the

beach again on our last day. Kali crouched down near a large mound of shells, and in about 10 minutes let out a shout: "I found one!" It was a near-perfect black shark tooth, bigger than most of the ones Aughtry had found earlier.

I began searching where the water lapped at the shore, in the same area with large shell deposits. Although many shells and pieces are black, I spotted a flat one with an unmistakable triangle shape and grabbed it before the next wave hit it. Jackpot! It was a black beauty, slightly larger than a dime, with clear serrated edges. Our first shark teeth were the highlight of our trip.

We are already planning our next shark tooth hunts, perhaps going for megalodon teeth normally found by diving. I have purchased some of these giant teeth that belonged to the largest animal on earth, prehistoric sharks that exceeded 60 feet and made T. rex look wimpy.

There are many books on the topic and plenty of information online, too. When seashell hunting gets boring, look a bit closer for these fascinating fossils that will grab your attention and take a nice bite out of your beach vacation time.

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WHAT’S HAPPENING

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.

WITTENBERG: 48th annual Wittenberg FFA Alumni Corn Roast, 6-10 p.m., Village Park, 208 W. Vinal St. Tickets \$10 through July 14, \$15 at the door. Music by 49 Deluxe.

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 Shawano-arts.ludus.com or at the door.

SATURDAY, JULY 18

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

PULASKI: Craft and Vendor Fair, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Pulaski Street from Assumption BVM Parish, 124 E. Pulaski St., to Pulaski Polka Days festival grounds, 419 E. Pulaski St.

LENA: Rusty Nutz Car Show, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Ray’s Boneyard Saloon, 9089 D and B Frontage Road. Registration 9 a.m. to noon, trophies awarded 2 p.m. Food, DJs and live music, swap meet.

LAKEWOOD: Mardi Gras, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Lakewood Memorial Park, 17258 North Road. Music, softball, pickleball and cornhole tournaments, kiddie carnival, rides and games, food booths, meat raffles and 50/50 raffles.

PULASKI: Pulaski Polka Days, noon to 12:30 a.m., festival grounds, 419 E. Pulaski St. Music, dancing, food.

Admission \$20.

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 Shawano-arts.ludus.com or at the door.

OCONTO: Flashlight and Fireflies: A Nighttime Garden Walk, 8:30 p.m., Discovery Meadow, Oconto Elementary School, 810 Scherer Ave. Details at Facebook page for Flashlights and Fireflies Night Walk.

SUNDAY, JULY 19

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

PULASKI: Pulaski Polka Days, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., festival grounds, 419 E. Pulaski St. Breakfast served 8-11 a.m., Global Methodist service 8 a.m., polka Mass 9:30 a.m., parade 11 a.m., music and dancing 12:30-6 p.m. Admission free.

SHAWANO: AirVenture Cup Race Watch Party, 7-11 a.m., Shawano Municipal Airport, 248 Airport Road. More than 100 racing planes fly overhead at 500 feet. Bring a lawn chair.

LAKEWOOD: Mardi Gras, noon to 4 p.m., Lakewood Memorial Park, 17258 North Road. Parade at noon, music, softball, pickleball and cornhole tournaments, kiddie carnival, rides and games, food booths, meat raffles and 50/50 raffles.

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 Shawano-arts.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 Mike Magee. Bring your lawn chairs.

TUESDAY, JULY 21

OCONTO FALLS: Oconto County Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m., Memorial Field. Carnival Night. Music with Jake Rock. Special event: NAMI Walk Night.

SHAWANO: Naberhood Block Party, 6 p.m., The Naberhood, 214 S. Main St. Raptor Education: Learn about birds and wildlife.

OCONTO: Tunes on Tuesday, 6-8 p.m., Beyer Home, 917 Park Ave. Music with Bob and Missy Tucker and Friends.

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

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

OCONTO FALLS: Friends of the Library, 1 p.m., Oconto Falls Community Library, 261 N.

Main St. Public welcome.

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

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

THURSDAY, JULY 23

SHAWANO: Volunteerism Roundtable, 8:30-10:30 a.m., Elizabeth Street Business Complex, 607 E. Elizabeth St. Discussion led by Shawano Area United Way, Nonprofit Leadership Initiative, and Volunteer Fox Cities.

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.

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

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

FRIDAY, JULY 24

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

WITTENBERG: Community Days, 5-11 p.m., Washington Park, 104 Park St. Carnival rides noon to 10 p.m., live music, food stands, raffles, face painting, balloon animals, fireworks at dusk, bike giveaways at 5, 6 and 7 p.m. (must be present to win)

LAKEWOOD: Weinerfest North, noon to 8 p.m., Memorial Park, 17258 North Road. Food, live music, raffles, demonstrations.

p.m., Main Street. See the cars and meet the drivers from AMSOIL Champ Off-Road Nationals. Giveaways, music, food and drinks.

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

SATURDAY, JULY 25

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

LENA: AMSOIL Champ Off-Road Nationals, gates open 8:30 a.m., Dirt City Motorplex, 414 E. Main St. Tickets \$27 to \$369. Information at dirtcitylmc.com.

OCONTO: Emplify Health by Bellin Kids Triathlon, 8:30 a.m. to noon, Bond Community Center, 1201 Park Ave.

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

LENA: Carol’s Cow Camp, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Alsteen Farms, 9399 Belgian Road. Hands-on farm experience for children and families. \$35 per child.

CROOKED LAKE: Crooked Trails ATV Club Hamburger and Brat Fry, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Crooked Lake Sportsmen’s Club, 15526 County Road W. Basket raffles, meat raffles, food and drink.

WITTENBERG: Community Days, noon to 11 p.m., Washington Park, 104 Park St. Carnival rides noon to 10 p.m., live music, food stands, raffles, face painting, balloon animals, fireworks at dusk, bike giveaways at 5, 6 and 7 p.m. (must be present to win)

LAKEWOOD: Weinerfest North, noon to 8 p.m., Memorial Park, 17258 North Road. Food, live music, raffles, demonstrations.

07/17/2026

NOTICE TO THE ELECTORS

On April 27, 2026, a resolution was offered, read, approved and adopted whereby the Town of Gillett, Wisconsin authorized the issuance of its reissued Tax-Exempt Solid Waste Disposal Revenue Bonds, Series 2026 (WI RNG Hub North LLC Renewable Natural Gas Production Plant Project) in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$41,585,000 (the "Reissued Series 2026 Bonds"). The closing was held on July 9, 2026. A copy of all proceedings had to date with respect to the authorization of said Reissued Series 2026 Bonds is on file and may be examined in the office of the Town Clerk, 10908 Town Hall Road, Gillett, Wisconsin.

This notice is given pursuant to Section 893.77, Wisconsin Statutes, which provides that an action or proceeding to contest the validity of such financing, for other than constitutional reasons, must be commenced within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice.

Renee Carlson, Town Clerk

Town of Gillett, Wisconsin

WNAXLP

CLASSIFIEDS

In Person or Call: 715-526-6188 • 715-526-2121

Monday thru Friday 9:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Online: classifieds@newmedia-wi.com

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Ad Deadline: 3pm Thursday Prior

SHAWANO LEADER

OCONTO COUNTY TIMES HERALD

WITTENBERG ENTERPRISE & BIRNAMWOOD NEWS

MISCELLANEOUS

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Beautiful Fully Remodeled

1 or 2 Bedroom

Convenient location

Garage Available

Starting at \$855 + Deposit Tom

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Libraries hosting descendants of prehistoric creatures

Families are invited to travel back in time and discover the living descendants of prehistoric creatures as J&R Aquatic Animal Rescue presents Prehistoric Pets at the Library on July 23 at two Oconto County libraries.

J&R will first stop at Oconto Falls Community Library, 251 N. Main St., Oconto Falls, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. After that, the animal rescue will present from 1-2 p.m. at Farnsworth Public Library, 715 Main St., Oconto.

These free, family-friendly programs are part of local summer reading programs and feature live animal encounters, hands-on learning and lessons about evolution, adaptation and survival.

Through interactive presentations, attendees will meet reptiles, amphibians and other animals that share traits with species that lived during the age of dinosaurs. The program combines science, natural history, conservation and live animal encounters to create an engaging educational experience for all ages.

The presentations will feature live animals that share traits with prehistoric species; hands-on learning and up-close encounters; fun and educational facts about evolution, adaptation, and survival; lessons about responsible pet ownership and animal conservation; and opportunities

for photos and questions during the presentations.

“Prehistoric Pets brings the story of Earth’s ancient past to life through the animals we care for today,” said Megan Anderson, J&R education specialist. “Families leave with a greater appreciation for how reptiles, amphibians and other species have adapted over millions of years, while also learning how each of us can help protect wildlife through responsible stewardship.”

Designed for curious minds and animal lovers alike, the program offers a memorable way to explore the prehistoric world through the lens of living animals.

Comedy City performing for one night in Abrams

Comedy City will bring its group of improv performers to Abrams on July 24 for a night of fun and laughter.

The De Pere troupe has performed improvisational theater for over 30 years. Nothing is scripted. By incorporating

audience suggestions, the performers create a series of short scenes, songs and sketches that keep the audience laughing.

This event is presented by Glovers Bar and Grill and Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the

show starts at 7 p.m. at the Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St., Abrams. General admission tickets are \$15 and are on sale now at www.abramstheater.com.

The Comedy City performance is family-friendly.

PLAYGROUND, continued from page 1

bringing friends and family together and making everyone feel welcome, parks also promote healthy lifestyles through play and exercise, he said.

“This new playground reflects our investing in the future of Gillett and providing a safe, fun and inclusive place for children and families to enjoy,” Luther said.

He added that the work by the Gillett City Council, the city’s parks committee and other entities have resulted in a long period of planning to make the park the best that it can be for the community. There has been a lot of enthusiasm by residents for the new playground, and it is because of those people that the city was able to break ground.

“Your hard work and commitment have brought us to this exciting day,” Luther said. “This playground is being built for you, for our children, grandchildren, neighbors, visitors, everyone who will enjoy it for years to come. We’re laying the ground for countless adventures, new friendships, birthday celebrations, family

picnics and joyful afternoons at Zippel Park.”

Luther noted that donations are still being accepted for the playground project through the Friends of Gillett.

Bert Pieper, one of the founders of 8Pine, said his company is proud to be handling a project that will benefit Gillett for years to come.

“Parks like this are more than places,” Pieper

said. “We appreciate the trust you place in our team. At 8Pine, we believe in building projects that leave a lasting impact. We are committed to delivering this park safely with quality, integrity and pride. We’re excited to get this project and to celebrate with you all again when the project is complete.”

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

PARKVIEW APARTMENTS

Oconto Falls WHEDA

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MERIDIAN GROUP

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Equal Opportunity Housing



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

07/17/2026

Milk and Dairy Bid Public Notice

OCONTO FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Milk and Dairy BID

The OCONTO FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS is requesting sealed bids for milk and dairy products for the 2026-2027 school year. The awarded contract will include the option of four one-year renewals. The Board of Education of the Oconto Falls Public School District is accepting bids for the 2026-2027 school year for the following dairy products:

½ Pint Skim Milk- White
½ Pint 1% Milk-White
½ Pint Whole- White
½ Pint Fat Free Chocolate Skim Milk and Other Flavors
4- 1 Gallon 1% Milk-White

Sealed bids are due to 210 N. Farm Road, Oconto Falls, 54154 no later than 9:00 A.M, Monday, July 27th. No late bids will be accepted. No changes will be allowed after the bid opening date and time specified. The outside envelope of the bid must be marked "Milk and Dairy Bid."

The Oconto Falls Public Schools reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in whole or in part and to waive informalities therein. The Oconto Falls Public School reserves the right to award the bid in its best interest. Questions may be referred to Emily Marcheske, Food Service Director, at emily.marcheske@of-ps.org or 920-848-4466 Ext 1. Thank you

Bread Bid Public Notice

OCONTO FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Oconto Falls Public School is requesting sealed bids for bread products for the 2026-2027 school year. The awarded contract will include the option of a four one-year renewals. The Board of Education of Oconto Falls Public School District is accepting bids for the 2026-2027 school year for the following products:

Whole grain hamburger buns
Whole grain hot dog buns
Whole grain loaves of bread
Whole grain hoagie/steak buns
Whole grain dinner rolls

Sealed bids are due to 210 N. Farm Road Oconto Falls WI, 54154 no later than 9:00 A.M. Monday July 27th. No late bids with be accepted. No changes will be allowed after the bid opening date and specified time. The outside envelope of the bid must be marked "Bread Bid".

The Oconto Falls Public School reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in whole or part and waive informalities therein. The Oconto Falls Public School reserves the right to award the bid in its best interest. Questions may be referred to Emily Marcheske, Food Service Director, at emily.marcheske@of-ps.org OR 920-848-4466 Ext. 1. Thank you.

WNAXLP

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

OBITUARIES

DOUGLAS MCMAHON

Douglas Allen McMahon, 84, of Suring, died Friday, July 3, 2026, at Evergreen Health Services, Shawano.

Born on Feb. 7, 1942, to Clarence and Lola (nee Hodgins) McMahon of Gillett, Doug first attended Spring Hill School in the Town of Gillett. He graduated from Gillett High School in 1960.

He played baseball for the Gillett city team for several years; his uniform sponsor was Whiting's Cheese Factory. After high school, he attended Northland College, Ashland, then transferred to University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. During a break from school, he worked at Friday Canning Company, Gillett.

In March 1966, he joined the Oconto County Traffic Police Department as a patrol officer. The OCTP would later merge into the Oconto County Sheriff's Department during the 1970s, where he would continue to serve his community with the OCSD, serving under Capt. Eugene Berken and Sheriffs Rupert Haave, John Fisher, Robert Holman, Gerald Gehling and Kenneth Woodworth. During his service with OCSD, Doug held the positions of deputy, sergeant, courtroom security officer, undersheriff and chief deputy (under Sheriff Woodworth).

Doug campaigned for and was elected Oconto County sheriff in 1995. He served in that capacity until his retirement in 2003. He was instrumental in the launch of 911 service within Oconto County and worked to introduce K-9 officers to the county.

He loved patrolling his beloved Oconto County, visiting with its citizens in coffee shops and diners, festivals, parades, corn roasts and picnics. He continued his service to the county as an Oconto County Board supervisor, representing District 26, from 2012 until retiring in 2024 after his health began to fail. All told, he served Oconto County and its residents for more than 49 years.



On Nov. 9, 1973, he married the love of his life, Pamela (nee Ammerman), at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Suring. He and Pam settled into a small home on Groninger Street, and together, they raised a family consisting of their son, Scott, and two daughters, Kimberlee and Tiffany.

He would call Suring his hometown for the remainder of his life. He served as a trustee for the village of Suring for many years and was also a member of the Suring Area Fire Department. He was an umpire for Suring Little League and was also a WIAA football official for several decades.

Doug was very involved with conservation and outdoors. He was a founding member of the Oconto River Watershed Chapter of Trout Unlimited, serving as its treasurer for many years. He was also active with the Oconto County Sportsmen's Alliance, serving as treasurer and, eventually, its president. He loved to attend local sportsmen's banquets, often being quite lucky and winning many prize raffles. He loved to fish, whether for trout on the Oconto or for panfish through the ice in the winter.

But at the forefront of it all, his favorite place to spend time away from Oconto County was in the Big Hole River Valley in Southwestern Montana, that "last best place."

What began as a last-minute invitation to replace Berken with a group headed there in 1970 quickly evolved into an almost annual trip to spend a week or more chasing brown

and rainbow trout in the cool, clear waters that flow through the Pioneer Mountains in Beaverhead County. Melrose, the small town at the confluence of Camp Creek and the Big Hole, and became a home away from home for more than 50 years. There he made memories for a lifetime with his Montana friends, fellow Wisconsin anglers and his family.

In 2000, Doug and Pam purchased the former Dick & Toni's Bar in Suring and together, they operated McMahon's Irish Waters, welcoming guests for fun, Friday fish fries and homemade pizzas until Pam's death in 2015.

Although not allowed to play football because his mother deemed him too small, he loved the game – not just the Packers and the Badgers, but the game itself. He was famous for his notepads full of notes in anticipation of the annual NFL college draft each April, poring over any information he could gather about the potential draft picks.

Doug is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, David and Rebecca McMahon of Gillett; his son and two daughters, Scott and Jennifer McMahon of Neenah, Kimberlee and Mitch Taylor of Gillett, and Tiffany and Jon Ringelstetter of Sheboygan; grandchildren, Leo, Shamus, Lillie and Margaret Alice; two sisters-in-law and a brother-in-law, Joyce Anderson of Suring, and Melvin and Lois Reichwald of Gillett. Also surviving are many cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was proceeded in death by his wife of 41 years, Pam; his parents, Clarence and Lola McMahon; aunts, uncles, in-laws, cousins and many other brothers who wore the badge of the Oconto County Sheriff's Department.

Visitation will be held on Monday, July 27, 2026, at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Suring from 10 a.m. until the funeral service at 2 p.m. with Pastor Michael Paholke officiating. He will be interred at Pine Hill Cemetery, Town of Spruce.

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

A memorial fund in Doug's name will be established to benefit conservation efforts in Oconto County.



JOANN MYRA DAMS



JoAnn Myra Dams, of Oconto Falls, died peacefully Monday, July 6, 2026, in Oconto Falls at the age of 90.

She was born Oct. 31, 1935, in Manawa to Alfred and Myra (Lehman) Bozile. She grew up in Merriman, Michigan, the middle child of seven brothers and sisters. She and Irving Dams raised six children together.

She worked various jobs over the years, eventually moving to Oconto Falls and bartending at Salscheider's Antique Bar for almost 20 years. In her free time, JoAnn enjoyed arts and crafts, gardening,

bowling and cheering on her favorite sports teams.

JoAnn is survived by five children, Theresa (Allen) Thomas, of Fayetteville, North Carolina,

Harold (Anna) Dams, of Tacoma, Washington, James Dams, of Oconto Falls, Elise Dams, of Marinette, and Alana (Ken) Gardner, of Brookfield; son-in-law, Roger Wreath, of Bartlett, Illinois; eight grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and brother, Tom (Sandy) Bozile, of Neenah.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Diane Wreath; great-granddaughter, Ashley Wreath; parents, Alfred and Myra Bozile; three brothers and two sisters.

A private service will be held for family.

PUBLIC RECORD

OCONTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

July 9

Deputies responded to 46 incidents, including property damage on East Canoe Lane in the Town of Breed; trespassing on Claywood Road in the Town of Maple Valley; sexual assault at a redacted location; property damage on Munger Lake Lane in the Town of Lakewood; a disturbance on state Highway 32 in the Town of Lakewood; a disturbance on County Road G in the Town of Spruce; two traffic stops, one traffic hazard, two miscellaneous traffic incidents, two welfare checks; five open-line 911 calls; three ambulance calls; three

crashes, two involving deer.

July 8

Deputies responded to 43 incidents, including suspicious activity on North Flat Rock Lane in the Town of Gillett; property damage on Silver Hill Road in the Town of Mountain; threatening on state Highway 32 in the Town of Townsend, an animal bite on state Highway 32 in the Town of Breed; harassment on East Shore Drive in the Town of Mountain; trespassing on County Road H in the Town of Underhill; a disturbance on Tracey Lane in the Town of Riverview; a disturbance on County Road A in the Town of Spruce; threatening on East Main Street in Suring; one traffic hazard, four citizen assists, one

miscellaneous traffic incident, one welfare check; two 911 hangups and four open lines; five ambulance calls.

July 7

Deputies responded to 75 incidents, including animal neglect on County Road V in the Town of Maple Valley; trespassing on Joyce Lane in the Town of Lakewood; fire on Snapdragon Circle in the Town of Little Suamico; suspicious activity at Little Suamico Rec Park, 1015 County Road J, Little Suamico; 19 traffic stops, two traffic hazards, six traffic offenses, four citizen assists, three miscellaneous traffic incidents, three welfare checks; one 911 hangup and two open lines; eight ambulance calls; two crashes, one involving deer.

COURT NEWS

• Kurtis Lee Peters, 29, Keshena, pleaded no contest to felony theft on June 27, 2025, but failed to appear at a Sept. 2 sentencing hearing. He was returned to custody in April and held on \$15,000 cash bond. Judge Jay Conley withheld sentencing at a July 6 hearing and placed Peters on probation for two years with conditions.

• Clayton R. Frehse, 22, an Oconto Falls man serving a sentence at Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution in Plymouth, pleaded no contest July 6 to taking and driving a vehicle without consent. Conley sentenced him to two years in prison followed by three years of extended supervision with conditions, concurrent with the term he is now

serving.

• Seth M. Fidler, 31, Oconto Falls, pleaded no contest July 2 to a misdemeanor charge of resisting or obstructing an officer. A related felony count was dismissed but read into the record in a plea agreement. Conley withheld sentencing July 10 and placed him on one year of probation with conditions.

• Jaden J. Cole, 17, Little Suamico, was charged July 6 with forgery. Judge Hannah Schuchart set a \$1,000 signature bond and adjourned his initial appearance until July 16.

• Shannon M. Westphal, 47, Oconto Falls, was charged July 6 with possession of methamphetamine. Schuchart set a \$500 cash

bond and adjourned her initial appearance until July 16.

• Thomas O. Folts, 21, Oconto, was charged July 7 with first degree recklessly endangering safety, threatening to cause bodily harm to certain individuals involved with a court or legal system and misdemeanor counts of battery, disorderly conduct and operating a firearm while intoxicated. Conley set a \$20,000 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until July 16.

• Roy L. Boucher, 38, Oconto, was charged July 8 with possession of methamphetamine and a misdemeanor or count of possession of drug paraphernalia. Schuchart set a \$1,500 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until July 16.

1 dead after motorcycle collides with truck

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

An Escanaba, Michigan, man died July 12 after his motorcycle collided with a truck in the Town of Chase.

Oconto County Sheriff Todd Skarban said in a news release that the crash occurred just after 1:30 p.m. at the intersection of County Road S and Schwartz Road, in the Town of Chase.

The preliminary

investigation indicates that a truck was stopped at the stop sign on Schwartz Road, facing south. The truck then proceeded into the intersection, where it was struck on the passenger-side box area of the truck by an eastbound motorcycle traveling on County Road S, Skarban said.

The operator of the motorcycle, a 39-year-old man from Escanaba died from injuries sustained in

the crash. The driver of the truck, a 48-year-old man from Oconto Falls, and his passenger, a 25-year-old Oconto Falls man were evaluated at the scene by medical personnel and released.

The crash remains under investigation by the Oconto County Sheriff's Department, the Wisconsin State Patrol and the Brown County Medical Examiner's Office, Skarban said.

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