

Fireworks everywhere!



July 3 was the busiest day of the year for Fireworks Country on state Highway 29 west of Wittenberg. Customers posed for selfies and packed their trucks, anticipating celebrating the 250th anniversary of our country's independence with their own fireworks display.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA



The main Shawano Independence Day fireworks display took place July 3 at the Shawano Municipal Airport. Families and kids gathered at the Lighthouse Bar and Grill parking lot to view the event.



Changing landscapes

What's new with the high school building project?

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

The new weight room is already being used, crews are digging the orchestra pit, Dumpsters are filled with old lighting fixtures and, oh yes, the stadium is nearly ready to welcome the Hawks football and soccer teams for the 2026 season.

Those are just some of the updates underway at Shawano Community High School.

"Pretty much every square foot of the high school is being touched at some point," Superintendent Kurt Krizan said during a tour in late June.

Updates include work on the ceilings, lighting, HVAC systems painted walls, new additions, the auditorium and remodeled spaces, as well as the parking lot and athletic complex.

The commons has been turned into a warehouse-type atmosphere and is used as a staging area for the construction crews.

"We've been running about 120 workers on site every day," said Sean Duncan, senior project manager for Hoffman Planning, Design and Construction.

Work is on schedule and on budget, he said. There have been a few supply issues, but the company and school district have worked through them, substituting products when necessary. Those issues are few, as supplies were ordered far enough in advance to ensure they would be here when needed.

"Every time I come in, there's a lot of updates, a lot has happened," Krizan said.

The chairs, stage, control room and all else from the auditorium have been removed. An orchestra pit is being dug.

"They went down 10-12 feet and are now framing up the walls," Krizan said.

Equipment, chairs and other parts of the auditorium have exceeded their life cycle.

"We've been scrapping what we can, recycling what we can as well," the superintendent said.

The family and consumer education rooms are nearing completion.

In addition to the standard classroom, there is the kitchen that features six work stations for students a teacher's station.

"It has a full camera system in it, where they can demonstrate," Krizan said. "It will project on the TVs out to the kids."

There is also a commercial oven and refrigerator.

SCHOOL, continued on page 19

INSIDE
Former deputies successfully transition to pastor roles.

PAGE 11



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Stockbridge-Munsee get dual-language signs

Tribe last in state to receive new highway signage

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

The Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohicans was the last, but they certainly weren't the least as they received a visit from Gov. Tony Evers on June 30 and unveiled dual-language highway signs for the reservation at a presentation at Mohican North Star Casino Resort.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation signs show in the Mahican and Munsee languages where people are officially entering the reservation, as well as three of the lakes and the Red River crossing. The signs will be put up in early August, according to Stockbridge-Munsee President Shannon Holsey, just in time for the tribe's annual pow wow.

The Stockbridge-Munsee are the last of the 11 federally recognized tribes in Wisconsin to receive dual-language signs. The neighboring Menominee Nation received its signs in 2022, while the Ho-Chunk Nation, which has land in and around Wittenberg, received its signs in 2025.

"Today represents more than a ceremony," Holsey said. "It is a moment of recognition of who we are, where we come from and the future we are shaping together."

The tribe depends on its language teachers and cultural affairs committee to keep its native tongues and traditions alive. By showing people what road designations are translated to in Mahican and Munsee, Holsey believes it will remind tribal members that their languages are still alive and well, despite removal from

its ancestral lands and attempts by European settlers to erase Native Americans from the United States.

"These dual-language signs are not just markers along a roadway — they are expressions of our identity," Holsey said. "They are declarations of our presence, and they are reminders of our language. The voice of our ancestors still lives, still breathes and still guides us forward."

Holsey added that the signs also show the strong relationship it has with state government, especially under Evers' leadership. She thanked the governor for recognizing the sovereign rights of tribal nations through programs like the dual-language signs.

"Today, our language stands visible on our homelands, where it belongs," she said. "This moment reflects something deeper than signage. It reflects partnership. It reflects respect, and it reflects what happens when tribal nations are engaged as sovereign governments and decisions that affect our people."

Evers echoed Holsey's sentiments about preserving Indigenous language and culture, saying he's proud of the state's five-year partnership with the tribes. He noted that language programs are "vital" to preserving tribal traditions.

"This is something to celebrate," Evers said. "Through these partnerships, we've promoted tribal sovereignty and language preservation. In fact, with our last state budget, I used my veto pen to make sure that all 11 federally recognized tribes in the state receives \$1 million each during the biennium for tribal programs and



Gov. Tony Evers, left, helps to remove the tarp showing the large sign that will be set up at one of the entrances to the Stockbridge-Munsee Community during a ceremony June 30 at the Mohican North Star Casino Resort. The dual-language sign translates the words "Stockbridge-Munsee Community" in the Mahican language in the top line and the Munsee language just below.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

language revitalization efforts."

Evers noted that, since 2019 when he first became governor, the state has improved 9,600 miles of road and 2,400 bridges in Wisconsin.

"Our roads connect our communities and tell our history, and that's why dual-language signs are so critical," Evers said. "This increases our Native nations' tourism, also."

Transportation Secretary Kristina Boardman noted that improvements to

the roads and bridges have improved tourism and commerce across the state, but that's not the only purpose for upgrading infrastructure in Wisconsin.

"Transportation is more than just roads and bridges," Boardman said. "It's about connecting people to family, education, healthcare, jobs and opportunity. Now these dual-language signs can connect people to your language."

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Investigation in girl's death continues

Child fell into pond at mini-golf course

By **NEW MEDIA STAFF**

Shawano police continue to investigate the death of a 5-year-old girl at a local mini-golf course July 1.

Charlotte Johnson, daughter of Cruz and Erin Johnson, was pronounced dead at the scene after she was pulled from a pond at Shawano Mini Golf, an 18-hole mini-golf course at 1056 E. Green Bay St.

Officers responded to a report of an unresponsive child at 8 p.m.

Lifesaving efforts by police and emergency medical personnel were unsuccessful.

"When we reopened Shawano Mini Golf, our only goal was to create a place where families could laugh, make memories and spend time together," Dusty DeLorme, owner of Shawano Mini Golf, wrote in Facebook post. "Never in a million years did I think anything

so heartbreaking could happen here.

"I was only a short distance away and quickly responded when I heard the need for help. I began lifesaving measures until medical professionals took over once they arrived to the course. Despite everyone's effort, this precious life was lost."

Shawano Mini Golf reopened in June after closing its doors in 2022.

The business is closed until further notice, according to its Facebook page.

Charlotte is survived by her parents; a brother, Brantley; and other family members.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. July 8 at Swedberg Funeral Home in Shawano with the Rev. Scott Ludford officiating. Visitation will be held from 4-7 p.m. July 7 at the funeral home and again from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the service July 8.

Burial will be held at Woodlawn Cemetery in Shawano.

Shawano County, New North partner to recruit veterans

\$425K grant will encourage service members to relocate to northeast Wisconsin

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

Shawano County is partnering with New North Inc. to recruit members of the armed forces transitioning from military life and bring them into northeast Wisconsin to fill vacancies at key businesses in the area.

To facilitate that effort, called the Hiring Heroes initiative, New North received a \$425,000 grant from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. In the press release announcing the grant award, it is noted that Shawano County holds specific strategic value due to economic appeal and cultural readiness. The cost of living is below the national average, and the average commute is less than 16 minutes.

New North has already been utilizing Hiring Heroes for five years, according to Peter Thillman, chief economic development officer for Shawano County Economic Progress Inc. Part of the work involves going to military bases around the country and meeting with service members whose commitments are nearing an end.

"They've been recruiting at these

job fairs for service members who are leaving the service and pitching northeast Wisconsin as the place to do business," Thillman said.

The program is currently set up through Shawano County and any counties adjacent to it, including Menominee, Oconto, Langlade, Brown, Outagamie, Waupaca and Marathon. Thillman noted that to do it for all 18 counties would require cooperation from economic representatives in each of those counties, which would have been too much red tape for the project.

Instead, Rebecca Deschane, New North's vice president of talent development, encountered Thillman at a conference, and the pair agreed to have Shawano County be the main hub for the grant.

"We can't do it on our own, so we need a regional group to do it," Thillman said. "My budget is nothing. There's no way I could afford to do it, a trip to any of the bases for a week to do the recruitment."

Thillman sees the recruitment effort as not only benefiting northeast Wisconsin, but also the service members who sometimes struggle to find employment once military life ends.

He noted Wisconsin is among the top 10 states in terms of benefits given to veterans.

"It's an easier sell to get them," Thillman said. "We just need them to be aware of northeast Wisconsin and the job opportunities."

Besides recruiting service members and their families to come to the area, it's been necessary to make sure anyone who comes here has a place to live, which is why SCEPI has been working with municipalities to get housing projects going in Shawano, Bonduel and Wittenberg.

"Our companies are not having too difficult a time in recruiting, maybe in some of the skill sets," Thillman said. "When I got here, the numbers haven't changed dramatically, but in 2020, before COVID, 40% of our workforce left the county to go to work on a daily basis."

He said that he's made the argument with industrial businesses that have set up shop here that, by paying the wages here that they pay in the bigger cities, that will encourage people to work locally instead of commuting longer for better paying careers.

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New data shows 35% of Shawano County households can't afford basics

United Way invites individuals, businesses and policy makers to be part of the solution

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

The report reveals that 35% of households in Shawano County and 48% of households in Menominee County cannot afford the basic cost of living and struggle to get by.

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

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

While the report describes 13% of Shawano County households (2,167 households) live beneath the federal poverty line, the new research demonstrates that 22% (3,827 households) were beneath the ALICE threshold, earning above the poverty level but still unable to cover basic needs.

When combined, the data reveals that 35% of all households in Shawano County are experiencing financial hardship with a



Minimum wage workers in Wisconsin have seen no hourly pay raise since 2009. Yet for one full-time adult worker with one school-age child, that wage still was not enough to support the ALICE household survival budget, the minimum cost of basics, in any county across the state of Wisconsin.

CONTRIBUTED

significantly higher percentage for Menominee County.

"ALICE data represents more than just numbers. It reflects our communities, our neighbors and the families who work hard every day and still can't get ahead," said Uriah Williams, executive director of Shawano Area United Way, "Local United Ways see this reality up close, and we're committed to bringing partners together to create solutions that make stability possible."

The State of ALICE in Wisconsin also reveals that in 2024:

- Wisconsin ranked seventh in financial hardship among all 50 states plus the District of Columbia (with first place representing the lowest

rate of hardship).

- ALICE households were found in every major industry statewide, with the highest levels of hardship experienced by those working in accommodation and food services.

- Poverty rates in the Shawano area have remained relatively flat since 2010, while the number of ALICE households has steadily increased.

- Minimum wage workers in Wisconsin have seen no hourly pay raise since 2009. Yet for one full-time adult worker with one school-age child, that wage still was not enough to support the ALICE household survival budget, the minimum cost of basics, in any county across the state of Wisconsin.

The Shawano Area United Way works to strengthen the community for ALICE households by supporting local agencies through grant funding, volunteerism efforts and advocacy, guiding local strategic efforts such as the food and housing coalitions, and running direct programs like a diaper bank and community dinner.

"We invite individuals, businesses and policy makers to be part of the solution," Williams said. "You can volunteer your time, donate to our local United Way or advocate for policy and workplace changes in your community."

More state and local data is available through the State of ALICE Report

Wisconsin food prices increase 7.5% from 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and the ALICE Essential Index, both of which can

be accessed online at unitewaywi.org/page/ALICE.

County finances reported in good shape

Annual audit shows healthy fund balance

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Shawano County's debt remains below average while the fund balance continues to grow, as reported in the county's annual audit.

John Rader, certified public accountant and managing director with Baker Tilly, presented highlights of county's 2025 financial statements to the executive committee in June.

For starters, the county is only using 5% of its state-allowed debt limit, as of Dec. 31, 2025.

The debt limit based

on the county's equalized value, which is \$290.46 million, up from \$258.28 million in 2024.

"It's had a really nice, solid, consistent growth year over year the last five years," Rader said, referring to the total equalized value. "It's actually up 12% from 2024."

The county's debt is \$15.89 million, which is \$72,000 more than the previous year. This also includes \$3 million in short-term debt borrowed to work around the levy limits of the state.

"You're only using 5% of your debt limit," Rader said. "That's quite low."

Supervisors have also adopted a limit on the debt per capita of \$1,500. Today, that debt number is \$388 per person.

In 2025, the county paid

\$1.4 million toward its debt. This amount, compared to the rest of governmental expenditures, excluding capital, is 2.8%.

"We always recommend 20% or lower," Rader said. "Counties are typically 10% or lower."

The general fund is the primary operating fund for the county, probably the No. 1 indicator of the financial health of the county, Rader said.

The fund includes five categories: nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned and unassigned.

The nonspendable category increased from \$1.4 million in 2024 to \$1.89 million in 2025.

"The bulk of this, \$1.2 million, is made up of the non-county portion of the delinquent taxes receivable," Rader said, noting

that state law requires the county takes this over from local municipalities.

The restricted category increased from \$327,221 to \$292,116. These are external restrictions, such as state statutes or grant stipulations.

The committed category total dropped from \$2.57 million to \$1.13 million

"These are determined by board resolutions for things like vehicle replacements, inmate welfare and maintenance," Rader said.

Assigned category funds increased from \$863,041 to \$2.8 million.

"The biggest chunk of that by far is what you've applied to balance the 2026 budget," Rader said. "You're spending down your fund balance by \$2.7 million. There's a little left in there

for carryovers and such."

Finally, the unassigned category increased from \$14.02 million to \$15.91 million.

Overall, the total general fund rose from \$19.19 million to \$22.02 million.

"Your fund balance actually increased by \$2.8 million even though you planned or budgeted to spend it down by about \$600,000 after all the amendments and such that flowed through there," Rader said.

The reason for the increase is because revenue came in \$1.18 million more than projected.

"That was driven by sales tax collections ... and also investment income," Rader said.

Also, expenses were \$2.29 million less than budgeted.

"The ones that kind of drove the under the most were administration, courthouse maintenance, jail operations, sheriff, land conservation and planning," he said.

Shawano County has a policy that its fund balance should be between 20-25% of the subsequent year's budgeted appropriations for the general, public health, human services and library funds.

"You've been above or right at your policy for the last five years in a row," he said.

That percentage was 30.3% in 2024 and increased to 34.6% in 2025.

"To sum it up, John, we are in good shape," County Board Chairman Tom Kautza said.

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Bonduel celebrates America's 250th



Meat is the name of the game as a hot dog and bull march along East Green Bay Street for the Bonduel Independence Day parade, representing Pingel's Processing in the Town of Richmond. Pingel's meat must have been sizzling, as the company's float won first place, according to Celebrate Bonduel's Facebook page.



Patriots Olivia Sprangers, left, and Kaela Kroening greet parade watchers July 4 as they relax on one of the couches from The Mill during the Independence Day parade in Bonduel. The Mill took third place overall for its float, according to Celebrate Bonduel's Facebook page.



Ava Reinke, the Bonduel Broncos Queen for 2026, waves to people watching the Independence Day parade in Bonduel.



The Oshkosh band Road Trip keeps the music going and people dancing July 4 at Village Park prior to the fireworks show.



Jim Bleick, of Pulaski, takes the honor of having the oldest vehicle in the Bonduel Independence Day parade, a 1911 Mitchell.

PHOTOS BY LEE PULASKI



Fireworks lit up the night, along with the corn field July 4 next to Village Park. Crew Fireworks provided about 30 minutes of fun and color in Bonduel.

ABOVE: Bonduel Independence Day parade marshal Dianne Adkins waves an American flag as she helps to lead the annual tradition along East Green Bay Street.
RIGHT: Bonduel's 115th annual Independence Day parade kicks off July 4 with local veterans displaying American and other flags in celebration of the United States' 250th anniversary as children watch in anticipation of colorful flags and, of course, candy.



One cow is all smiles while the other is not as the Shawano County Farm Bureau float travels along East Green Bay Street in Bonduel for its Independence Day parade.

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Hwy. 47 work to continue for another month

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

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

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

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

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

Trevor Kalkofen, DOT project manager, said that

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jim Peck, project leader for the Highway 47-55

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

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

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

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

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

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Shawano County to sell repossessed homes online

Bids to be accepted through Wisconsin Surplus Auction

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Swimmers, Sharks enjoy summer heat before weather changes



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



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



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



Menominee cruises in 15-1 win over Shawano

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

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

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

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

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

Ray Lemieux III picked up

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

Gresham 9, Marion 1

The Gophers defeated the Meisters on July 5.

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

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

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

Brad Bartz had three hits for

Tilleda.

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

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

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

North Division
Eland 6, Crandon 1

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

Hatley 8, Antigo/Polar 2

The Braves defeated the Bears on July 5.

Birnamwood 11, Elderon 6
Birnamwood 6, Elderon 0

The Kings swept the WhiskeyJacks in a doubleheader July 5.

West Division
Little Falls 5, Tigerton 2

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

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

East-West Division: Menominee at Wittenberg; Shawano

at Tigerton; Clintonville at Caroline.

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

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

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

Cecil hands Bonduel first Dairyland League loss

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

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

It was the first league loss for Bonduel.

Cecil 12, Bonduel 2 (7 inn.)

Cecil outhit the Broncos

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

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

Uelmen and Isaac Bolt drove in three runs each.

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

Beilfuss picked up the

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

Hofa Park at Navarino

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

Pulaski vs. Shawano

Results not reported from July 1.

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

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

Bonduel tournament

Six Dairyland teams

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

BABA Hall of Fame & Museum receives nonprofit status

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

S&A PHOTOGRAPHY

Clintonville drivers sweep sport compact feature race

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

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

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

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

and Shawano's Jordan Bartz won the third heat.

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

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

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

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

Springborn won the lone heat race.

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

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

Belle Plaine's Nate

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

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

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



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

S&A PHOTOGRAPHY

Danielczak a top pick for NEC softball

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

Danielczak, who was

a senior last season, was honored as a catcher.

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

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

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

Delfosse as an infielder.

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

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FROM BADGES TO COLLARS

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

By KAY REMINGER
Correspondent

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

CONTRIBUTED

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

Law enforcement and pastoral duties have similarities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Three years after retiring from the force,



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

CONTRIBUTED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Childhood classic comes to Mielke stage

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

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

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

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

Empire State Building.

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

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

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

She suffered some health problems a few

years ago when acting in a show.

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

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



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

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

IF YOU GO

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

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

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

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

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

Then, Demaski ran with the idea.

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

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

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

kpasson@newmedia-iw.com



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

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Salty Anchor serves taste of sea to diners

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

By **GREG SEUBERT**
Correspondent

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Townsend.

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

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

weren't the only improvements he made.

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

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

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

what people want."

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

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

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

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

Ciuplinski wanted to establish consistent hours for the business.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

seubert4@gmail.com

'Showcase' puts Menominee theater skills on display

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

This summer's cast and crew

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Actor Christina Warrington added to those assertions.

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

Under the revealing moniker "Showcase," the production

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

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

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

Assistant director Taylesia Pamonicutt agreed.

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

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

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



RYAN WINN
COLUMNIST

Summer fun impacted by water leak, tourists

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

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

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

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

treasure from the wrecking ball.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

KATHLEEN MARSH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Five minutes all that's needed for garden maintenance

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

GARDENING WITH
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MELINDA MYERS
COLUMNIST

past their prime. Fight the overwhelming desire to give up.

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

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

Use this time to remove spent flowers



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

WWW.MELINDAMYERS.COM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rotary elects officers, hands out scholarships

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

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

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

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

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

Each scholarship was \$1,000 per student.

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



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

CONTRIBUTED

THEME:
ROM-COMS

ACROSS

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

DOWN

1. Without further ____, pl.
2. Departed
3. Hip bones
4. *Actor Foley of #13
- Across
5. Kind of block
6. Healing gel producing plant
7. *How many days to lose a guy? (2003)
8. O and 2, e.g.
9. Diplomat's forte
10. ____-perspirant
11. One quark plus one antiquark
12. Spilled the beans
15. Dull surfaces
20. Fertile topsoil, pl.
22. Boat propeller
24. Army bathroom
25. *Fifty of these, to jog her memory (2004)
26. Newton of science
27. Dissect
29. *AOL delivery (1998)
31. Org. with a mission
32. Last letter, to Homer
33. *Pretty one (1990)
34. Nigerian money
36. Part of a hammerhead
38. Villain's rival
42. *When has she been kissed? (1999)

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13					14			15			
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65					66	67		68			
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45. Books, in Paris

49. Langley, VA org.

51. Fauna member

54. Peruvian beast of burden

56. Rive Droite and Rive Gauche separator

57. Hand-to-hand combat weapon

58. Unconstitutional and

uncommon have it in common

59. Indian flatbread

60. Odds' partners

61. Arial, e.g.

62. Naive, alt. spelling

63. Olden days "do", second person singular

64. Files suit

67. Fall into it

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2	8	9	7	3	5	6	6
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4	6	3	5	8	1	9	7
9	6	5	7	3	6	7	4
8	3	7	5	2	1	4	8
8	5	1	3	4	6	7	2
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, JULY 10

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY, JULY 11

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shawanoarts.ludus.com or at the door.

SUNDAY, JULY 12

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

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

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

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

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

TUESDAY, JULY 14

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

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

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAY, JULY 16

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

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

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY, JULY 17

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

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

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

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

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



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SHAWANO LEADER

OCONTO COUNTY TIMES HERALD

WITTENBERG ENTERPRISE & BIRNAMWOOD NEWS

Ad Deadline: 3pm Thursday Prior

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DNR seeks input on Wolf River Trail master plan

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is seeking public comment on the future management of the Langlade County segment of the Wolf River State Trail.

A master plan establishes the levels and types of resource management and public use permitted on DNR-managed properties. Under the master planning process, DNR staff will develop a property specific master plan for the Wolf River State Trail in Langlade County.

The full length of the Wolf River State Trail corridor extends 44 miles (north-south) on a former rail corridor from the Menominee and Langlade County line, north through Langlade County and into Forest County. The Forest County portion of the trail is managed in partnership with the county and was planned in the North Central Forest Regional Master Plan.

The second half of the trail runs through Langlade County and, until April 2026, had been managed in partnership with Langlade County. With the termination of the cooperative agreement with Langlade County, planning authority for the Wolf River State Trail returned to the DNR. An existing master plan authored by Langlade County in 2006 is the active plan for the trail.

On May 27, the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board approved the DNR’s request to initiate a master planning process for the Langlade County portion of the Wolf River State Trail to update the 2006 plan. Existing sections of the trail in Langlade County are used for hiking, biking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing (un-groomed), ATV/UTV riding, horseback riding and snowmobiling. All DNR lands are open to foot travel, unless posted as

closed. Specific segments of the existing trail within the county limited different recreational uses.

Members of the public are invited to learn more about the Wolf River State Trail, become engaged in the DNR’s planning process and share their thoughts on the future use and management of DNR properties in the region by visiting the DNR’s Wolf River State Trail (Langlade County) Master Plan webpage, by attending the public meeting and open house hosted by the DNR, or both.

The public meeting will be held July 15 at the Antigo Public Library. DNR staff will give a short presentation at 6 p.m.

In addition to attending the public meeting to submit comments and questions, the public is encouraged to submit their input by mail, email, phone or through the DNR’s online survey form at [https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/](https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/fl/PropertyPlanning/WolfRiverStateTrail)

[fl/PropertyPlanning/WolfRiverStateTrail](https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/fl/PropertyPlanning/WolfRiverStateTrail).

Printable versions are also available. Complete the survey and submit

comments by July 31 to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, c/o Dominique Swangstu, DNR Property Planner,

1027 W St. Paul Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233, at Dominique.Swangstu@wisconsin.gov or 920-492-8822.

More than 3,000 support Kenosha casino project

About 3,000 individuals submitted comments in support of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin’s proposed Hard Rock Casino and Hotel project in Kenosha during the recently concluded public comment period on the environmental assessment.

The volume of supportive comments is six times greater than those in opposition.

Supportive comments were submitted by tribal members, Kenosha County residents and supporters from across Wisconsin, as it advances through the final stages of federal review. The Bureau of

Indian Affairs is now reviewing the administrative record following the close of the comment period.

“The response during the public comment period clearly shows the excitement and support surrounding this project,” said Joey Awonohopay, tribal chairman.

Awonohopay said the volume and consistency of supportive comments reflect years of engagement and collaboration, and he encouraged the Bureau of Indian Affairs to take the next step in the process.

“This level of support sends a clear signal that the community is ready,” he said. “We respectfully

encourage the Bureau of Indian Affairs to advance the project promptly so it may continue moving through the approval process.”

Once the BIA completes its review and analysis of all comments provided, it will determine whether the project would result in any significant environmental impacts. If it concludes that there are no such impacts, it can then make a finding that the project is both in the best interest of the tribe and not detrimental to the Kenosha community.

The project then would advance to Gov. Tony Evers for his approval.

Bonduel student gets silver medal for SkillsUSA

Career and technical education students from Wisconsin exhibited excellence and brought home medals at the 2026 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference held June 1-5 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Audrey Keller from Bonduel Middle School received a silver medal in the job interview competition.

The annual SkillsUSA conference for middle school, high school and college-level students who are members of SkillUSA was a showcase of the best career and technical education students in the

nation. Students competed in 101 trade, technical and leadership events, working against the clock, proving their expertise in occupations such as advertising design, carpentry, cosmetology, diesel equipment technology, first aid/CPR, masonry, medical math, photography, prepared speech, technical drafting and welding fabrication.

SkillsUSA Wisconsin sent 102 students representing 42 schools to compete in the national workforce event, with the students participating in 65 different events. In addition, six state officers attended and participated in the conference.

Delta Kappa Gamma scholarship available

The Nu Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, an organization of women educators, has announced that it is offering one \$500 scholarship to an eligible college student who is pursuing a degree in education.

Applicants must be college or university students who have been admitted to an education program.

Interested college students from Wau-paca and Shawano counties (Clintonville,

New London, Shawano, Marion, Tigerton, Bonduel and Bowler) are encouraged to apply.

Scholarship application forms may be obtained by contacting Faith Webster, N6806 S. Forest Haven Road, Shawano WI 54166 or by email at faith.bwebster@gmail.com.

Completed applications are due Aug. 15.

7/10/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

Request for Bids

The Village of Eland is seeking bids for the reconstruction of East Lull Steet, beginning at CTY 00 and ending at the bridge over the South Branch of the Embarrass River, approximately 1,500 ft long x 20 ft wide. Specifications include:
Remove existing asphalt, approximately 435 ft, from 7 designated areas, at a depth of 8 inches and haul away.
Install 8 oz fabric in cut out areas over the full width of the road.
Saw cut joints at the bridge and CTY 00.
Cover entire roadway (1,500 ft) with 700 cubic yards of ¾" or less, crushed recycled asphalt.
Grade and compact all material.
Sealed bids will be accepted up until the start of the Village of Eland board meeting at 7:00 pm on Monday, July 13, 2026. Bids will be opened during the meeting. Bids may be mailed to the Village of Eland Clerk at PO Box 65, Eland, WI 54427 or submitted by hand prior to the meeting.
Interested parties may contact Howard Graves at 715-216-2828 to schedule a visit to the work site and/or review specifications.
The Village of Eland retains the right to accept or reject any and all bids without cause.

WNAXLP
SHA-250

7/10/26, 7/17/26, 7/24/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
SHAWANO COUNTY

Electronically signed by Gwen Hoffman

Probate Registrar
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
JEFFREY J. LINGL
06-29-2026
Register in Probate
Shawano County, WI
2026PR00041
COUNTY

Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 26 PR 41

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 09/07/1951 and date of death 04/21/2026 was domiciled Shawano County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 712 Maiden Lane, Shawano, WI
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is October 9, 2026
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano Courthouse,
311 N. Main Street.
Room 202, Probate Office
Shawano, Wisconsin 54166
James Vomastich
1488 E Green Bay St.
Shawano, WI 54166
715-851-3669
1045783

WNAXLP
SHA-252

7/10/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

Publication Summons and Notice (Small Claims)
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, SHAWANO COUNTY
Case No. 2026SC000214

Plaintiff(s):
Easy Cash ASAP, LLC
15280 Metcalf Ave
Overland Park KS 66223
VS.
Defendant(s):
ELISA KATCHENAGO
123 W PINE ST
TIGERTON WI 54486

TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE AS DEFENDANT(S):

You are being sued by the person(s) named above as Plaintiff(s). A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. The lawsuit will be heard in the following small claims court:
SHAWANO County Courthouse
Telephone Number of clerk of court: 715-526-9347

Courtroom/Room Number:
Address: 311 N Main Street
Address:
City: Shawano, WI 54166
on the following date and time:
Date: 07/28/2026 Time: 01:00 pm

If you do not attend the hearing, the court may enter a judgment against you in favor of the person(s) suing you. A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate (property) you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property. You may have the option to Answer without appearing in court on the court date by filing a written Answer with the clerk of court before the court date. You must send a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff(s) named above at their address. You may contact the clerk of court at the telephone number above to determine if there are other methods to answer a Small Claims complaint in that county.

Electronically Signed by EMMA N. SCHRAM
State Bar # 1116788
7/1/2026
DLF Law Group, LLC (formerly Dobberstein Law Firm, LLC)
225 S. Executive Dr. Suite 201
Brookfield, WI. 53005
262-641-3715

WNAXLP
SHA-255

7/3/26, 7/10/26, 7/17/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
SHAWANO COUNTY

MENOMINEE COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Horst F. Mielke
DOD 3-24-2025

Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 25 PR 02

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 3-7-1935 in and date of death 3-24-2025 was domiciled Menominee County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of W1250 Deerpath Lane, Keshena, WI 54135
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is September 30, 2026
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano County Courthouse,
311 N. Main Street
Wisconsin, Room Probate 202
Shawano, WI 54166
James E. Aschenbrener
P.O. Box 146,
Shawano, WI 54166
715-524-6258
Bar Number 1008896

WNAXLP
SHA-244

7/10/26, 7/17/26, 7/24/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT
Notice and Order for
Name Change Hearing
Case No.
26CV112

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF
Ariana Faith Suehring
By
Ariana Faith Suehring
NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: Ariana Faith Suehring
To: Noah Wyatt Suehring
Birth Certificate: Ariana Faith Suehring

IT IS ORDERED:
This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Shawano County, State of Wisconsin
Hon. William F Kussel Jr,
311 Main St Br 2
Shawano, WI 54166
August 03, 2026
8:15 a.m.

WNAXLP
SHA-251

6/26/26, 7/3/26, 7/10/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
SHAWANO COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Dawn Mary Dey

Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 26 PR 38

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth April 6, 1946, and date of death June 5, 2026, was domiciled in Shawano County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 115 Sunset Ave, Shawano, WI 54166
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is September 30, 2026
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano County Courthouse
311 N. Main St 202 probate office
Shawano Wisconsin, 54166
Andrew Dey
21545 Vintage Way
Lake Forest CA 92630

WNAXLP
SHA-241

7/10/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

At the June 24, 2026 Shawano County Board of Supervisors meeting, the following ordinances were adopted. A summary of the ordinances is as follows:
Ordinance No. 10-26, Adopting a Moratorium on Data Centers in Shawano County Pending Enactment of Permanent Ordinance Provisions
Ordinance No. 11-26, Ordinance to Amend Chapter 40 - Zoning of County Code of Ordinances
The Ordinances in their entirety can be viewed at the County Clerk's office and are available on the Shawano County Government website at www.co.shawano.wi.us

WNAXLP
SHA-249

7/3/26, 7/10/26, 7/17/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
SHAWANO COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Rosemary A. Koeller
Name
DOD 5-2-2026

Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)
Case No. 26PR39

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 11-14-1934 and date of death 5-2-2026 was domiciled in Shawano County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of W4956 Beeler Drive, Bonduel, WI 54107
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is September 25, 2026
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano County Courthouse,
311 N. Main Street,
Room Probate 202
Shawano, Wisconsin 54166
James E. Aschenbrener
P.O. Box 146, Shawano, WI 54166
715-524-6258
1008896

WNAXLP
SHA-242

7/10/26, 7/17/26, 7/24/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
SHAWANO COUNTY

Amended
Notice and Order for
Name Change Hearing
Case No.
26CV101

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF
Estella Sherriemonee Gonzales
By
Estella Sherriemonee Gonzales
NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: Estella Sherriemonee Archer
To: Billie Page Dillinger
Birth Certificate: Estella Sherriemonee Gonzales

IT IS ORDERED:
This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Shawano County, State of WI
Katie Sloma
Shawano Co Courthouse BR1
311 N. Main St.,
Shawano, WI 54166
August 18, 2026
8:15 a.m.

WNAXLP
SHA-253

7/3/26, 7/10/26, 7/17/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
SHAWANO COUNTY
Notice and Order for
Name Change Hearing
Case No. 26CV133

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF
Vanessa Joan Madosh
By Vanessa Joan Madosh
NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: Vanessa Joan Madosh
To: Vanessa Joan Waukau
Birth Certificate: Vanessa Joan Madosh
IT IS ORDERED:
This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Shawano County, State of Wisconsin
Judge Name: William F Kussel Jr
Place: Shawano County Courthouse
311 N. Main St, Shawano, WI 54166
Date: July 30, 2026
Time: 8:15 a.m.

WNAXLP
SHA-248

PUBLIC RECORD

SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

July 5

Deputies responded to 35 incidents, including fireworks on Hillside Drive in the Town of Belle Plaine; a noise disturbance near Pioneer Court and Pioneer Drive in the Town of Wescott; trespassing on County Road PP in the Town of Germania; an animal bite on state Highway 22 in the Town of Washington; suspicious activity near state Highway 47-55 and Frailing Road in the Town of Wescott; six 911 calls; two reckless driving incidents; two welfare checks; two crashes, one involving deer.

July 4

Deputies responded to 55 incidents, including property damage on Norway Lane in the Town of Belle Plaine; criminal damage on Cloverleaf Lake Road in the Town of Belle Plaine; fireworks on East Loon Lake Circle in the Town of Wescott, near Midway Court and River Bank Road in the Town of Belle Plaine, near Wolf River Road and Wolf River Court in the Town of Richmond, near North Beach Boulevard and Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott, on Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott and on Foesch Road in the Town of Wescott; bail jumping on Third Street in Leopolis; a disturbance on Riverview Road in the Town of Waukechon; theft on Adams Beach Drive in the Town of Belle Plaine; assault at the county jail, 405 N. Main St.; 10 911 calls; seven reckless driving incidents; one traffic hazard; two welfare checks; six crashes, two involving deer.

July 3

Deputies responded to 51 incidents, including a fight in

progress at Bamboo Bar, W5884 Cedar Court, Town of Wescott; criminal damage on Old Dump Road and on South Broadway Road in the Town of Hartland and on Cloverleaf Lake Road in the Town of Belle Plaine; animal bites at ThedaCare, 110 Cedar St., Tigerton, and on Torn Apple Drive in the Town of Wittenberg; suspicious activity at OHV Park and Campground, 1100 Quad Park Lane, Tigerton; suspicious activity on Quartz Avenue in Mattoon; 14 911 calls; one traffic stop; three reckless driving incidents; four traffic hazards; two welfare checks.

July 2

Deputies responded to 40 incidents, including operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated near state Highway 47 and Shady Road in the Town of Lessor; a disturbance on Meyer Street in Cecil; trespassing at The Novitiate, W9954 Butternut Road, Town of Herman; fireworks at Tavern Front, 207 W. Vinal St., Wittenberg, and near Oakcrest Drive and County Road T in the Town of Washington; seven 911 calls; five reckless driving incidents; five traffic hazards; three welfare checks; three crashes, one involving deer.

SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

July 5

Officers responded to 30 incidents, including suspicious activity on South Bartlett Street; automobile theft on South Sawyer Street; operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated near Green Bay Court and East Fifth Street; theft on East Randall Street; fireworks at El Tequila, 1240 E. Green Bay St., and near South Andrews and East Center streets; three 911 calls; 18

traffic stops; three reckless driving incidents; two crashes.

July 4

Officers responded to 25 incidents, including an intoxicated person at Hensel's Shawano Inn, 134 S. Washington St.; harassment on East Fifth Street; lewd and lascivious behavior on North Franklin Street; threatening at Charlie's County Market, 521 S. Main St.; fireworks near South Lincoln and East Schruz streets, near East Division and South Hamlin streets, and on East Richmond Street; harassment on East Richmond Street; three 911 calls; three traffic stops; one welfare check.

July 3

Officers responded to 38 incidents, including a disturbance on South Franklin Street; assault at an undisclosed location; fireworks outside Automax Automotive Center, 400 Lakeland Road; property damage at Lakeshore Lanes, 210 N. Airport Drive; an animal bite at ThedaCare Medical Center, 100 County Road B; fireworks near Waukechon Road and South Prospect Street and on West Richmond Street; 16 traffic stops; one reckless driving incident; one traffic hazards; one crash.

July 2

Officers responded to 24 incidents, including a disturbance at Haven Hotel, 104 N. Airport Drive; disorderly conduct on Riverside Drive; trespassing at Mountain Bay Depot, 620 S. Main St.; bail jumping outside Walmart, 1244 E. Green Bay St.; a disturbance and harassment on Madison Way; soliciting on North Humphrey Circle; fireworks on South Evergreen Street; two 911 calls; one traffic hazard; two welfare checks; one crash.

COURT NEWS

- Tanya S. Cooper, 42, Cranston, pleaded no contest June 29 to felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor charge of operating while revoked. Judge William Kussel Jr. levied fines and sentenced her to 90 days in county jail.
- Beatrice A. Zhuckkahosee, 40, Ashwaubenon, pleaded no contest June 29 to possession of methamphetamine, possession of narcotic drugs and a misdemeanor charge of possession of cocaine. Judge Louis Molepske Jr. withheld sentencing and placed her on two years of probation with conditions.
- Matthew P Urbanczyk, 31, Tigerton, had his probation revoked May 11 from a 2024 conviction for battery or threat to a judge, prosecutor or law enforcement officer, two counts of a prisoner throwing or expelling bodily substances, three counts of misdemeanor bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of resisting or obstructing an officer. Judge Katherine Sloma sentenced him July 2 to two years in prison, followed by two years of extended supervision with conditions.
- Philip E. Boyd, 50, Shawano, was charged June 29 with two counts of felony bail jumping. Kussel set a \$50 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for July 17.
- Ashley Louise Dick, 42, Shawano, was charged June 29 with two counts of felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of possession of THC. Kussel set a \$500 cash bond and a \$2,500

- signature bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for July 16.
- Bernard G. Doud, 34, Neopit, was charged June 29 with three counts of felony bail jumping. Kussel set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for July 17.
 - Alberta L. Sanapaw, 36, Shawano, was charged June 29 with possession of an electric weapon, possession of methamphetamine, possession of narcotic drugs and misdemeanor counts of resisting or obstructing an officer and bail jumping. Kussel set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for July 14.
 - Andrew B. Warrington, 48, Keshena, was charged June 29 with possession of methamphetamine, possession of THC (second or subsequent offense), two counts of misdemeanor bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. Kussel set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for July 14.
 - Marissa R. Lutz, 23, Shawano, was charged June 30 with felony bail jumping. Kussel set a \$50 cash bail and scheduled a status conference for Sept. 26.
 - Jeremiah M. Gambsky, 19, Clintonville, was charged July 1 with two counts of felony bail jumping and two counts of misdemeanor bail jumping. Kussel set a \$10,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for July 7.
 - Jeremiah Edward Mader, 45, Neosho, was charged July 1 with

- two counts of child abuse intentionally causing great bodily harm and misdemeanor counts of battery and disorderly conduct. Kussel set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for July 17.
- Haskell R. Pamanet, 35, Shawano, was charged July 2 with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia to produce or store methamphetamine, two counts of misdemeanor bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of an illegally obtained prescription. Kussel set a \$1,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for July 9.
 - Danielle Kaye Tomow, 31, Keshena, was charged July 2 with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia to produce or store methamphetamine and misdemeanor counts of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of an illegally obtained prescription. Kussel set a \$2,500 signature bond; further court proceedings had not yet been scheduled at press time.
 - Elissa R. Peters, 39, Keshena, was charged July 2 with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia to produce or store methamphetamine, two counts of misdemeanor bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. Kussel set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for July 8.

OBITUARIES

DONALD 'DON' SCHULTZ



Donald A. "Don" Schultz, 89, of Shawano, passed away Tuesday, June 30, 2026, surrounded by loved ones.

Born on April 1, 1937, in Shawano, Don is the son of the late Alfred and Barbara (Stempa) Schultz. He grew up on the family farm in the Town of Herman, Shawano County.

After graduating from Gresham High School in 1955, Don drove log truck for Kroenke Sawmill and gravel truck for MJ Zimmerman, followed by employment at Little Rapids Corporation in Shawano for 37 years where he retired as a machine tender.

He proudly served in the Army National Guard, trained as a tank driver.

On Sept. 19, 1959, Don was united in marriage to Donna Quandt, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Gillett. After nearly 60 years of marriage, she preceded him in death on Sept. 13, 2019. They graced many dance halls and wedding dance floors with their various moves, particularly the waltz, polka and their energetic jitterbug. Each year, they took pride in their large garden, spending many hours making it beautiful and gathering all it produced.

Don had quite a variety of interests, many involving the outdoors, including fishing, ice fishing, deer hunting and feeding the birds, which were especially entertaining. Folks could rely on his reports of all the wildlife he saw in his backyard, including deer, pheasants, cranes and turkeys.

He bowled in both couples' and men's leagues at R&R Bowling Alley in Shawano. Don enjoyed playing cards, especially cribbage and sheephead.

Don lit up when watching his children and grandchildren participate in both sports and music performances. He was a loyal member of Zion Lutheran Church in Shawano, where he served as an usher for summer lake park services.

His love of sports was evident in his dedication to the Richmond

Athletic Club (Red River Diamond), where he served as president for many years, along with coaching and managing Little League. Don was the director of fastpitch, softball leagues, tournaments and spent many years calling the shots and dusting off the plate as an umpire. He was also involved with the Gresham BABA and the Red River Sportsman Club. As an avid sports fan, Don loved watching all Wisconsin's professional sport teams, along with listening to the Shawano High School boys and girls sports on the radio.

Don is survived by his children, Dawn (Bob) Brock, of Shawano, Dale Schultz, of Shawano, Danny (Barb) Schultz, of New London, and Debbie (Bart) DeFere, of Shawano; his grandchildren, Mason (Madeline) Brock, Erin Brock, Brett Schultz, Aaron Schultz and Bailey DeFere; his step-granddaughter, Angela (Kyle) Konitzer; and his great-grandchildren, who affectionately called him "Bepaw," Braedon Brock, Norah Brock and Callan Brock. He is further survived by his brothers, Kenny (Judy) Schultz, of Shawano, and Henry Schultz, of Shawano; and by many nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Donna; his parents; Alfred and Barbara Schultz; his brother, John Schultz; his sisters-in-law, Nancy Schultz and Shirley Schultz; and his step-granddaughter, Erin Hill.

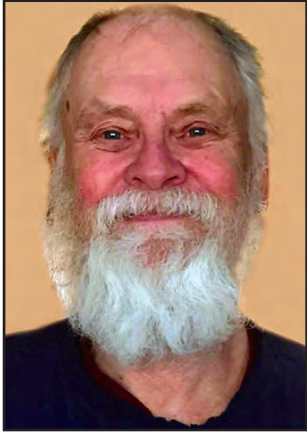
A funeral service for Don was held Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at Zion Lutheran Church in Shawano. Burial was in Woodlawn Cemetery in Shawano.

Swedberg Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be directed to the Zion Lutheran Church Wee Care Program.

The family would like to send a heartfelt thank you to the staff at Shawano Place and Moments Hospice, especially Jolene, for the kind and compassionate care that Don received.

www.swedbergfuneralhome.com

TOMMY 'PEARLY' L. GATZ



Tommy "Pearly" L. Gatz, 77, of Birnamwood, died on Friday, June 19, 2026, at Rennes Health and Rehab, Weston, under the care of Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice.

Tom was born Feb. 4, 1949, in Wausau, the son of Stanley and Meta "Mickey" (Jensema) Gatz.

In 1972, Tom was united in marriage to Linda Hanson in Mineral Point. They later divorced.

Tom graduated from Eau Claire Memorial High School before earning a degree in police science from UW-Platteville. Dedicated to serving and protecting his communities, he began his career as a Wisconsin DNR warden before continuing in law enforcement with the Shawano County Sheriff's Department. Tom also proudly served for 30 years with the Birnamwood Fire and Ambulance Department.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, being outdoors, shooting and

collecting guns, and spending time at his cabin. Tom loved traveling to Alaska, where he would pan for gold.

Tom is survived by two children, Daniel (Rachel) Gatz and Theresa Gatz; three grandchildren, Jaxon, Evelyn and Frank; siblings, Jeanne Gatz, Jim Gatz and David (Diane Williams) Gatz; brother-in-law, Gary Menard; sister-in-law, Ann Pretzel; as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Dean Gatz; and sister, Patricia Menard.

A time of sharing was held Thursday, June 25, 2026, at Schmidt and Schulta Funeral Home, Birnamwood. Burial was in Forest Cemetery, Birnamwood.

The family would like to thank Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice for their kind and compassionate care given to Tom.

Memories and messages of support may be shared at schmidtschulta.com.

Destination: Fireworks Country



Fireworks Country owner Jerry Bamke said, “We haven’t had crowds this big since the first year of COVID, 2020.” Fireworks enthusiasts and buyers from Milwaukee, Minneapolis and throughout the area filled the Wittenberg store on July 3. Bamke said, “We sell smiles.” Customers and employees filled shopping carts and dolly carts before packing their vehicles with fireworks.

PHOTOS BY
GREG MELLIS



SCHOOL, continued from page 1

“A lot of thought went in here,” Krizan said. “Our teacher can teach six classes over a two-day time, and she’s full.”

There are 150-180 students enrolled each semester.

The weight room and expanded fitness area fill the space formerly occupied by Shawano School District offices. Summer school classes used the space already.

“Kids started in here on June 8 and have been using it ever since,” Krizan said. “The response from the kids has been great. They love working out in here.”

Parents who had to drop their children off for summer school faced challenges when entering the school grounds, as the reconstruction of entrances and driveways is

in a constant state of flux, Duncanson said.

Work is done on the new entrance to the school, with access from County Road B between Union and Evergreen streets.

Then there is the crown jewel – the football stadium and athletic complex.

“The field is down. The base layer of the track is down,” Krizan said. “The yard lines on the field came on the turf, but the numbers, the hash marks, the letters in the end zone, the Hawk logo all got cut in and sewed in.”

Duncanson said there are six secure storage areas underneath the grandstand, five for sports teams and one for maintenance.

“We had to move the whole thing (football field), because there wasn’t a track here,” he



An average of 120 workers are on site every day at Shawano Community High School. Crews are touching nearly every square foot of the building as well work in the parking lot and athletic complex.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

said. The drainage system underneath allows the

field to be used without having to wait days for the field to dry.

“As hard as it rained (June 24), they could have played on it last night,”

Duncanson said. “I walked it this morning, and there wasn’t even a drop of water anywhere. That’s how they’re designed.”

While most of the work from the \$51.2 million referendum is focused on SCHS this summer, there are some more projects taking place at other schools.

Krizan said new playground equipment is being put in place at Hillcrest Primary School, while mechanical work is slated for Olga Brener Intermediate School. Both schools’ work will take place after summer school ends in July.

An open house for the athletic fields will be held in August, and an open house for the school will be held in early September.

kpasson@newmedia-wi.com

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF SHAWANO COUNTY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Housing Authority of Shawano County will hold a Public Hearing regarding proposed changes to its ACOP (Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy) and Lease/Handbook. The Housing Authority will have it available at their office for review to the public during an open public comment period now until the date of the Public Hearing.

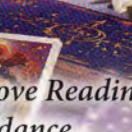
The Public Hearing will be held at their Shawano office on August 31, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The office is located at 1259 Engel Drive in Shawano, Wisconsin. Please call the office at 715-526-6960 with any questions.

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**Published
Friday, July 10, 2026**



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Pulaski-area talent includes The Maroszek

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

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

Admission, hours and key events

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

POLKA, continued on page 3

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What would Polka Days be without music?

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

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

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

Here's the music lineup for all four days.

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



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

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

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

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

BANDS, continued on page 5

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

CONTRIBUTED

BANDS, continued from page 4

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



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

FILE | NEW MEDIA



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

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

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

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

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

Robin Wilks from Omaha, Nebraska.

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

Win \$1,000 in raffle

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

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

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

First prize is \$1,000 cash.

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

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

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

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

Start festival's final day with breakfast, church service

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

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

festival grounds.

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

A Catholic polka Mass

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

The Maroszek Bros will perform at the Mass.

Lawn chairs are encouraged for the worship services.

Check out assortment of arts, crafts, vendors

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

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

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



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Parade set to kick off at 11 a.m.

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

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

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

Candy and other small

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

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

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

Who will wear the crowns this year in festival pageant?

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

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

The crowning

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

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

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



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

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P & D Sales and Service, your area PATZ dealer, would like everyone to join us in celebrating PULASKI POLKA DAYS!!



Watch for the P & D Shop on wheels in the parade on Sunday, pulling TNT - The Natural Talent, a band that is very and near and dear to us!!

(920) 822-5145

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