

Steffen not giving up on county board appointment

Issue could resurface at July 22 meeting

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

Tim Steffen wants a seat on the Shawano County Board, but he's having a nearly impossible time convincing Chairman Tom Kautza to appoint him to fill a vacancy.

"I have nothing personal against Tom," Steffen said. "I disagree with him on some of his decisions, but he's taken this to a personal level. I'm not giving up, and I'm not going anywhere at this point."



TIM STEFFEN

At the June executive committee meeting, Kautza said he was working on finding a replacement supervisor for District 27, following the resignation of Tess Serrano.

Kautza first said he denied Steffen the post because Steffen is chairman of the Shawano County Republican Party, and Kautza wanted to ensure the board remained nonpartisan.

"Because the role is intended to remain strictly nonpartisan, Kautza is carefully evaluating all interest and potential candidates with a focus on preserving the impartial and nonpolitical nature of the office and its responsibilities," according to the minutes of that June meeting.

Later, Kautza said Steffen was a source of too much controversy and drama, which would be detrimental to board operations, and that was why he was denied the appointment.

Over the last year or so, Steffen and others have been critical of Kautza when it came to ethics complaints against former Supervisor Lowel Hammett, a request for a forensic audit of the county's books to determine if \$1 million was indeed missing as asserted by Hammett, the search for an alternative location for a new courthouse and government complex and his overall leadership of the county board.

Steffen said that after Serrano's resignation, he was approached by several people who urged him to apply for the job. He demurred at first, then

STEFFEN, continued on page 19

INSIDE
Hall of Fame inductees honored at Shawano Speedway.

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Cool times on hot days



Above, the 10th annual Cone with a Cop was held July 8 at the Shawano Dairy Queen parking lot. Officers from the Shawano Police Department and first responders interacted with children and community members while anyone attending got a Dairy Queen ice cream treat. Below, at left, dramatic summer sunsets have been a staple since summer began. Shawano Lake was a perfect spot for a young group casting for fish. For more Cone with a Cop photos, turn to page 5.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA



Shawano Downtown and Shawano Park & Recreation Department held ShawanoFest on July 11. The event, sponsored by Qualheim's True Value, included a car show, craft vendors, children's activities, music, the Shawano Farmers Market, food trucks and many more family activities. At the end of the event, Shawano Business Improvement District Board President Amy Stuber cleared the signs placed on Main Street. In addition to the local stores and food, vendors set up booths, and shoppers were happy to get the last-minute sales.

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Beach bash makes for hot afternoon



ABOVE: Local families enjoy the sand and water July 10 at Smalley Park as the Shawano Parks and Recreation Department held one of its beach bashes. Besides the fun on the beach, there were also activities at the shelter — including completing a fish craft facilitated by the Shawano County Library, meeting some animals through J&R Aquatic Animal Rescue and enjoying games and learning moments with the Waterways Association of Menominee and Shawano Counties.

RIGHT: Archer Naumann, left, 4, and Wesley Naumann, 5, both of Shawano, enjoy the beach balls, hula hoops and other objects available for children to play with during the Smalley Beach Bash on July 10.



Absentee ballots can be cast July 28

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Wisconsin's next partisan primary election will be Aug. 11, and voters can start to cast absentee ballots at the end of July.

Voters must be registered to vote to request an absentee ballot. Proof of identification must be provided before an absentee ballot may be issued.

Voters can apply with their municipal clerk for an absentee ballot in person, by mail, by fax, by email or at MyVote.wi.gov.

A written request must list your voting address within the municipality where you intend to vote, the address where the absentee ballot should be



Voters can begin to cast absentee ballots July 28 for the Aug. 11 partisan primary election.

sent, if different, and your signature.

The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is 5 p.m. Aug. 6 or Aug. 7, depending on your voter status. Contact the municipal clerk for details.

You may also request

and vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office or other specified location during the days and hours specified for casting an absentee ballot in person. The first day to vote by absentee ballot in the municipal clerk's office is July 28.

No in-person absentee voting may occur on the day before the election.

On the ballot will be candidates for governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, treasurer, U.S. Congress, Wisconsin Assembly, sheriff (Shawano and Oconto counties), coroner (Shawano County) and clerk of court.

The Aug. 11 election is a partisan primary. You may vote in only one party's primary. If you choose a party, votes cast in that party will be counted. Votes cast in any other party will not be counted. If you do not choose a party, and you vote in more than one party, no votes will be counted.

4 bids received for sheriff's patrol boat

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Bids were received from American Marine and Motorsports in Shawano, Appleton Boats and two firms in Florida.

"I have not looked at them obviously, so I don't know how they compare," said Dana Ritchie, office manager at the sheriff's department.

Chaves Brothers Management LLC in Florida bid \$168,499, while the other Florida firm, Technology International, bid \$62,300. Appleton Boats bid \$64,909.50, and American Marine bid \$64,744.

"We also want to make sure that everything on there is something that the DNR, through the program, would allow for purchase and be able to be reimbursed for that program," Ritchie said.

Chairman Steve Natzke suggested Ritchie review the bids and make

a recommendation at the Aug. 5 meeting. Committee members agreed.

It was in 2010 when the sheriff's department bought the current boat for patrolling county waters, search and rescue efforts, and recovery cases.

It was purchased with a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources grant that reimbursed the county for the cost of the boat over the next five years.

The money now rests in a designated boat replacement fund, but nothing has been added to the fund since then. The balance is about \$18,000. The remaining funds will come from a \$200,000 Wisconsin Department of Administration grant received by the county.

The current boat and its trailer have a trade-in value of \$8,500, Ritchie told the committee back in May.

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KerberRose presents good audit for Shawano

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

The city of Shawano's finances are in good shape, according to an annual audit by KerberRose that was presented July 8 to the Shawano Common Council.

In the audit's unmodified opinion, it's reported that the city's financial statements were in accordance with United States accounting principles, but one ding to the city was in the journal entries, according to Brianna Olson, the audit's senior manager. Recent turnover at City Hall was the cause, she said, but it's something common in a municipality Shawano's size.

"I hear you're fully staffed again, so I see this turning around in the next year," Olson said.

The city had delivered a net-zero budget for 2025, where income and expenses were equal, but the city wound up with a \$383,000 increase to its fund balance, which

currently sits at 26.8% of its budget, according to Olson. Financial experts recommend government entities have a fund balance between 20-30% to have handy while waiting on state funding and in case unforeseen circumstances arise.

"You just had more revenues overall, most of it from investment income, and then your expenditures stayed relatively to where you had them," Olson said to the council.

Debt went up slightly due to the city borrowing \$4.7 million in 2025, according to Olson, although debt from the utilities went down.

Olson also noted the water utility's rate of return in her report. The average rate of return is 6.3%, she said, but last year, the rate was 5.69%.

"It's not too significant of a dip, but it's something to keep an eye on for a simplified rate case in the future," Olson said.

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Bond motion delayed in Hofman case



Brent Hofman is wheeled into Branch I of the Shawano County Courthouse for a status conference July 8 in his homicide case. A motion to reduce bond will be discussed next month after Hofman had difficulty hearing some of the participants in the hearing.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

Defendant being held on \$1M cash for homicide

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

The defense's plans to argue why Brent Hofman's cash bond in a first-degree homicide case should be reduced from \$1 million were delayed July 8 when Hofman was unable to hear most of the proceedings.

The 75-year-old defendant from the Town of Belle Plaine, brought into the courtroom via wheelchair, received audio headphones but said at first he couldn't hear anyone speaking at the hearing, and then he noted that he could hear the judge but not the attorneys. He commented that he didn't know he had a hearing today, and if he had, he would have put on his hearing aids.

Defense attorney Eric Maciolek said he wanted to address Hofman's bond issue as soon as possible, so another hearing was set for 4 p.m. Aug. 5 at the Shawano County Courthouse. Marathon County Circuit Court Judge Rick Cveykus, who appeared via Zoom for the July 8 hearing, said he would be in Shawano County in person for the bond hearing due to the seriousness of the case and to make sure any audio difficulties could be resolved in courtroom instead of remotely.

Hofman has been

charged with one count of first-degree intentional homicide, which carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, and one count of attempted first-degree intentional homicide, which carries a maximum sentence of 60 years. Both charges carry an increased penalty because the victim was an elderly person. Hofman has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

The criminal complaint reports that the Shawano County Sheriff's Department received a call at 9:15 p.m. Nov. 12 from the surviving victim that his friend, a 67-year-old man from the Greenleaf area, had been shot by Hofman after the victims had been at a property on County Road M in the Town of Germania. Six minutes into the call, the surviving victim said he shot Hofman with a .22 Ruger, telling the dispatcher beforehand he would do so if Hofman came into the house.

The surviving victim told the dispatcher that Hofman was talking "weird" and said he had to kill people, according to the complaint. Hofman had allegedly arrived to the house intoxicated. The three men had a few cocktails and were talking about deer hunting before Hofman allegedly started talking about "killing you

guys."

A deputy on the scene reported in the criminal complaint that he saw Hofman leaning against the side of the house and ordered him to the ground. Hofman allegedly did not comply but soon fell to the ground after claiming he "hurt everywhere." When the deputy took Hofman into custody, Hofman said "thank you" and "I love you."

The surviving victim did not have any injuries, according to the criminal complaint. He told investigators neither he nor his friend said anything that would aggravate or upset Hofman.

The victims had been hunting at the site in the Town of Germania for 10 years, according to the criminal complaint, and said there had been no issues with Hofman before that night.

Hofman allegedly said, "I never hurt anybody" when he was being booked for homicide after being treated at ThedaCare Medical Center-Shawano, according to the complaint.

In the initial forensic report, it was reported that the deceased victim had multiple gunshot wounds, including one in the chest and one in the left wrist.

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United Way filling void in key county areas

Local group hopes to handle funding for homelessness

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

United Way is getting more involved in area activities, especially when it comes to food and homelessness.

Uriah Williams, executive director for Shawano County's United Way

program, told the Shawano Common Council on July 8 that the sudden closure of Newcap earlier this year left a void in the services provided for emergency homeless shelters.

"That had a significant impact for a few reasons," Williams said. "Reason one is that, in order for federal funding to come into our area for our housing nonprofits, there's a need for balance in the state through a housing coalition. We are in talks with the organization that has accepted the federal funding on what

it would look like for our United Way to help support that role."

While those talks are going on, a new, local housing coalition has formed for Shawano and Menominee counties, according to Williams. He said Alderman Jack Young, City Administrator Eddie Sheppard and City Clerk Lesley Nemetz have been involved with Shawano, but there have also been a number of representatives from the Menominee Nation and area nonprofits working on the issue of

homelessness in the area.

"For me, it feels very, very positive in the sense that, when Newcap was running this coalition, I'm not sure the right key stakeholders were at the table," Williams said. "We're working on how we can get some grant funding to hire a coalition coordinator."

The need for a coordinator stems from the fact that Williams is the only paid staff member for the local United Way, and he is part-time.

Williams noted that the

cost of living has gone up significantly, which impacts not only keeping a roof over families' heads but maintaining food security, as well. A married couple with two children needs to bring in at least \$39.36 an hour to make ends meet, he said, citing the recent United Way ALICE report that came out.

"I think we still have this perception in general in this area that making \$15 an hour is pretty good pay," Williams said. "If you're making \$15 an hour, you're already

behind the ball."

Williams said he brought the issue up with Rep. Elijah Behnke, who asked what is causing the cost-of-living concerns.

"I shop at Aldi, and I'm paying \$6 for coffee right now that used to be \$2," Williams said. "It's all adding up and coming due."

United Way has also taken over the monthly community meal program, which had previously been managed by the First Presbyterian Church.

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Fundraiser collects \$20K for Johnsons

By **NEW MEDIA STAFF**

A July 10 fundraiser organized by Bullfrogs and Butterflies Childcare Center raised more than \$20,000 for the Johnson family following the death of 5-year-old Charlotte Johnson.

Charlotte, daughter of Cruz and Erin Johnson, died July 1 after she was pulled from a pond at Shawano Mini Golf, an 18-hole mini-golf course at 1056 E. Green Bay St.

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

Funeral services were held July 8.

A police investigation continues.

Childcare officials said they started organizing the event July 6. Kayla Brendemuehl and her family organized a raffle, which raised most of the proceeds.

Walmart donated food for the event. Full

Bloom donated a bouncy house for the children's entertainment.

Dozens of individuals assisted before, during and after the fundraiser.

Also on July 10, the mini-golf course owners announced they would reopen for the season.

Owner Dusty DeLorme had previously put out a public statement offering condolences to the family.

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

AirVenture Cup Race coming to Shawano

Shawano Municipal Airport will once again be the first flyover point of the EAA AirVenture Cup Race, set for July 19.

Wausau Downtown Airport in Wausau will be the start and finish line for the 28th annual event, when about 100 unique aircraft in 40 race classes finish the race of more than 400 nautical miles.

The air race will begin at 9 a.m., weather permitting. The course will include the planes flying over (and some landing) at the airports in Wausau, Shawano, Menominee, Escanaba, Manistique, Sawyer, Land O' Lakes, Tomahawk and Merrill.

Shawano Municipal Airport will host

a watch party for the planes as they fly just 500 feet above the airport.

Gates will open at 7 a.m. Admission is free.

The EAA AirVenture Cup Race provides pilots and aircraft builders an opportunity to race their aircraft in a safe and fun environment, all while promoting aviation in and over the communities where the races are held.

The first race in 1998 started in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, with 10 aircraft. It has grown to the major aviation event it is today, drawing thousands of spectators.

Additional information is at www.airventurecuprace.com.

Criminal felony cases see massive jump

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

There's no predicting when crimes will be committed. The only way to know is after the fact. For Shawano County, the number of criminal felony cases took a significant jump in June, when court officials filed dozens of charges to bring the 2026 to-date total to 413. "Another busy month for criminal felonies charged out in the month of June," Ethan Schmidt, clerk of courts, told the

public safety committee July 8. "We had 85 criminal felony cases filed for Shawano County. Comparing that to Oconto County, who had 110 for the entire year, we're extremely busy." He offered a couple reasons for the dramatic increase. "The DA's office being fully staffed is going through cases and filing the older cases," Schmidt said. "Our jail list every day, we have at least four or five new in custody people that are alleged to have committed crimes

from the day before." He said the number of other cases was "normal" for June. These included 48 criminal misdemeanor cases for a 2026 total of 296, eight criminal traffic cases for a year-to-date total of 83, 314 traffic citations for a total of 1,512 and 71 small claims cases for a total of 352 for the year. There were no jury trials in June. There have been six thus far in 2026.

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

Invasive swallow-wort detected in Krakow

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources announced the confirmed presence of pale swallow-wort, an invasive vine, in Oconto and Shawano counties. The vine was found within the outskirts of the Town of Krakow along the shared county line. These are the first known populations in the state, making rapid response efforts critical to preventing the establishment of this species in Wisconsin. The sites were first reported by the Timberland Invasives Partnership via the Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System, an online invasive species reporting tool. These reports were subsequently brought to the attention of the DNR. The Timberland Invasives Partnership is a nonprofit organization focused on controlling and raising awareness about invasive species in Langlade, Menominee, Oconto and Shawano counties.

Despite not having tendrils, this invasive vine twines and grows on top of surrounding vegetation, resulting in the displacement of native species in forests and grasslands. Both pale swallow-wort and its close relative, black swallow-wort, are within the milkweed family and can outcompete native milkweed. Monarch butterflies have been observed laying eggs on swallow-wort, but once they hatch, the caterpillars can't survive on these non-native milkweed relatives. Due to these impacts, pale swallow-wort is classified as a prohibited invasive species in Wisconsin. Invasive species are not native and cause harm to Wisconsin's environment, economy or pose threats to human health. The leaves of pale swallow-wort occur opposite of each other along the stem and are oblong-to-oval in shape with a pointed tip, smooth edges, are light to

dark green in color and can sometimes appear glossy. Slender seedpods, resembling those of milkweed plants, appear from mid to late summer. The flowers are the best key diagnostic feature and will help distinguish pale from black swallow-wort. For both plants, the flowers are star shaped with five petals and appear in clusters where the leaf connects to the stem (the axil). Pale swallow-wort flower petals are smooth on top, are longer and tapered and pinkish or light brown in color. Black swallow-wort petals are triangular, hairy on top and dark purple or blackish in color. Anyone who finds pale swallow-wort should report it to invasive.species@wisconsin.gov. All reports should include the location and clear photos of the plant's identifiable features. Other important details such as population size and landownership are also encouraged.

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Tools - Boat

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ThedaCare named among top health organizations

ThedaCare was named one of the 15 Top Health Systems in the nation by Modern Healthcare and Premier Inc. The announcement follows an objective quantitative analysis conducted by Premier, a technology-driven healthcare improvement company. The annual study evaluates health system performance considering clinical outcomes, operational efficiency and patient experience to identify high-performing health organizations. "This latest recognition further demonstrates to our patients, their families and communities across northeast and central Wisconsin our ongoing commitment to continuous improvement, innovation, efficiency and high-quality care," said Lynn Detterman, president of the north region of Froedtert ThedaCare. "It also reflects the expertise and compassion of our team members, while affirming the trust our patients place in us to deliver the exceptional care they need and deserve." Compared to peer health systems,

ThedaCare and the rest of this year's top performers outperformed other health organizations across all measured performance indicators included in the study while continuing to deliver high-quality care and operational efficiency. Key findings from this year's analysis include 22.3% lower inpatient mortality compared to peers; fewer healthcare-associated infections, with a 28.6% difference in performance; shorter average length of stay; and lower overall episode-of-care costs. The results demonstrate the ability of top-performing systems like ThedaCare to deliver high-quality care while maintaining operational efficiency and alignment across their hospitals. Participation in the study isn't determined by an application process. Health systems don't opt in or out and aren't charged for inclusion, which helps ensure objectivity and transparency. To develop the list, Premier researchers evaluated 336 health systems nationwide using publicly available data.

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Kids know how to have free fun at ShawanoFest, Cone with a Cop



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



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

PHOTOS BY
GREG MELLIS



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ATV crashes up, prompting legislators to take action

Tavern League stands in way of strengthening OWI laws

By ANNIE PULLEY
The Badger Project

In April, a woman in Green Lake County was driving three passengers on a UTV when she took a curve too quickly. The vehicle rolled and hit a tree head-on. One passenger died at the scene and a second just days later. The 26-year-old driver's blood alcohol concentration was three times the legal limit, according to the police report.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Holsclaw said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The league did not respond to requests for comment.

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

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

OWIs for automobiles also accumulate separately.

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

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

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

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

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

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

lawmakers won't advance bills related to drunk driving.

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

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

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

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

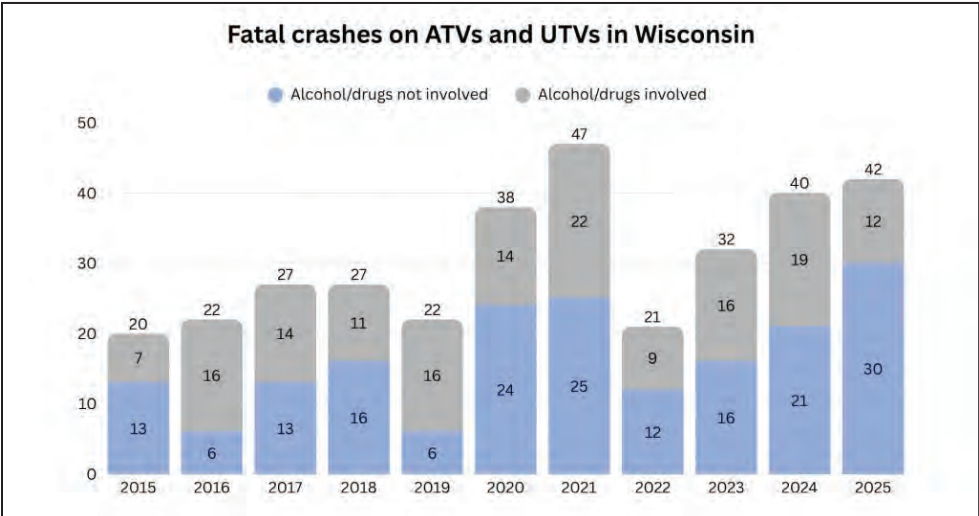
In Minnesota, a first offense for driving an off-road vehicle while impaired is a crime that could result in up to a \$1,000 fine and 90 days in jail. In Wisconsin, the same offense results in a fine but no jail time. Unlike in Minnesota, your driver's license won't be affected if you get busted for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

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

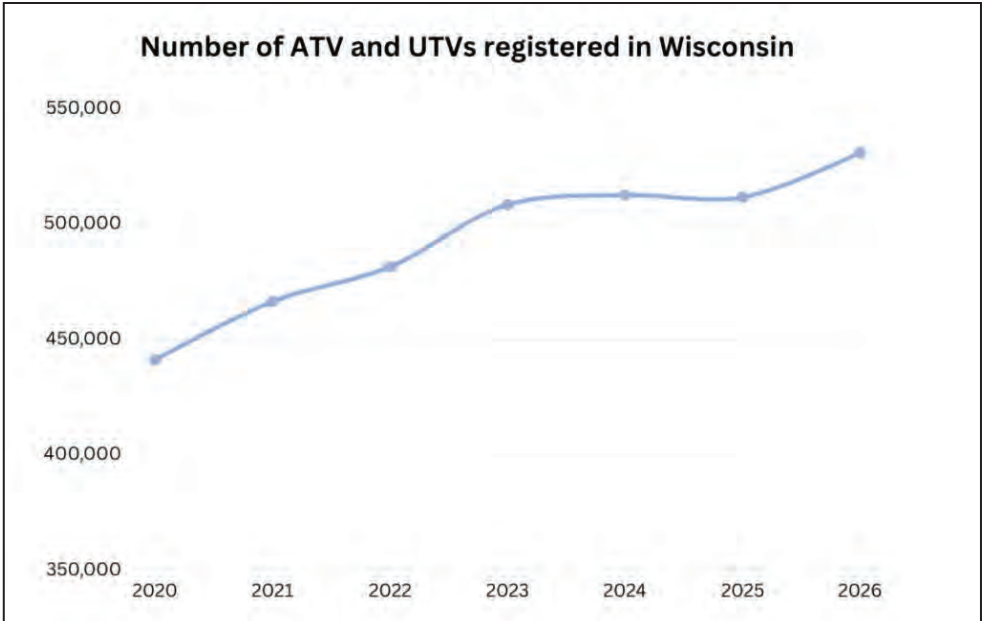
That bill would have been relevant in the fatal crash in Green Lake County where law enforcement found empty containers of alcohol strewn about the crash site.

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

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



DATA FROM THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



DATA FROM THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Peshtigo bank offers fair project scholarships

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Wolf suspected in calf death

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

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

The killing occurred on a farm east of Suring.

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

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

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

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

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



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Speedway Hall of Fame inductees honored

Shawano's Nolan wins stock car feature

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shawano's AJ

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

started fourth and placed third.

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

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

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

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



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



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

Grand slam helps Antigo/Polar top Birnamwood

Shawano beats Menominee in BABA makeup game

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Szews took the loss for the Orioles.

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

West Division

Shawano at Tigerton
Results not reported.

Marion at Tilleda
Results not reported.

Tigerton 12, Shawano 2

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

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

Wittenberg 9, Menominee 3

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

East Division

Shawano 13, Menominee 8

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

Leopolis at Gresham
Results not reported.

South-Central Division

Weymont at New London
Results not reported.

Little Falls at Scandinavia
Results not reported.

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

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

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

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

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

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

By **GREG SEUBERT**
Correspondent

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

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

Bonduel 7, Hortonville 3

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

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

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

cleared the bases and gave the Broncos the win.

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

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

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

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

Hofa Park at Cecil

Results not reported.

Marinette at Shawano

Results not reported.

Pulaski at Waupaca

Results not reported.

Bonduel tournament

Navarino 4, Bonduel 3

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

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



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

NAVARINO NITROS FACEBOOK PAGE

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

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

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

July 15 schedule

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

July 17 schedule

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

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

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

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

Early sports physicals may help student athletes

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

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

Completing the annual

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

periods.

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

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

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

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



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Suring woman becomes state's TOPS weight-loss queen

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

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

CONTRIBUTED

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

CONTRIBUTED

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

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

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



Lights on the dashboard alert to problems

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

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

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

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

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

ing. Clever little thing. Nothing happened. Glancing at the guy, I blurted out, “Sorry to bother, but do you know how to work this thing?”

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

I looked over at the truck guy. “Hey, do you need some air?”

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

Taking off, I noticed my dashboard was clear of my tire-pressure issue. I did it. Noted, with some help.

The other little light weeks earlier took a bit more effort to resolve.

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

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

Mice.

LIGHTS, continued on page 12

QUEEN, continued from page 11

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

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

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

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

BY THE NUMBERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Huncosky reiterated that weight loss is possible for anyone.

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

LIGHTS, continued from page 11

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THEME: KIDS' CLASSICS

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

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

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Vehicle purchase turns into labor of love



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

Shawano man spent 8 years restoring car

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

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

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

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

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

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

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

another four years.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

seubert4@gmail.com

Peshtigo Fire told through loving couple's eyes

'Conflagration' brings to life overlooked heroism of Menominee

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

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

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

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

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

She began writing after her oldest son died.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

CONTRIBUTED

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Gordon now lives in Olympia, Washington.

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

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

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

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

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

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

AT A GLANCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

she will officially launch her book.

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

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

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

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

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Hunting fossilized shark teeth amid seashells

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

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

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

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

After a few days of

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

ROSS BIELEMA

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

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

"For every 100 black

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

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

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

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

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

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

With renewed enthusiasm, Kali and I hit the

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

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

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

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

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Washboard, Washtub, Sprinkler can, Metal yard chairs, Fur coat, Gumball machine, Ride-on Bumble Bee, Burlap feed bags, Bongo drum, Salt & Pepper shakers, Motorcycle fender, Diecast Harley, Planes & Diecast Cars, Star Wars toys, Carved wooden elephants, Depression glass, Megaphone, Diamond Matches wood crate, Matchbooks, Marbles, Brass horns, Brass candlesticks, Tobacco cans, Old beer cans, Wooden beer cases, Green Bay Beverage Co. crates, White Rock crates, End of Trail bookends, Ant. Trunks, African floor screen, Birdcage, 1950's Milwaukee Braves silk fans, Old books, Stoneware, Old cameras & photos, Art pottery, Autographed Carlos Mencia shirt, Ant. Typewriter, Lantern, Cedar chest, Bookshelf, Kerosene stove, Mobil cans, Enamelware, Ant. Scale, Double Cola sign & crate, Lap coffee grinder, Chrome coffee urn, Lionel KW Trainmaster controller, Cyclone sower, Bucksaw, Costume jewelry

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WHAT’S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, JULY 17

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

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

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

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

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

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

SHAWANO: “James and the

Giant Peach,” 7 p.m., Mielke Arts Center, N5649 Airport Road. Box in the Wood Theater Guild musical presentation. Tickets \$10-\$25 at Shawano-arts.ludus.com or at the door.

SATURDAY, JULY 18

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

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

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

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

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

Admission \$20.

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

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

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

SUNDAY, JULY 19

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

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

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

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

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

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

TUESDAY, JULY 21

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

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

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

Main St. Public welcome.

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

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

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

THURSDAY, JULY 23

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY, JULY 24

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY, JULY 25

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

07/17/2026

NOTICE TO THE ELECTORS

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

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

Renee Carlson, Town Clerk

Town of Gillett, Wisconsin

WNAXLP

CLASSIFIEDS

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WWW.NEWMEDIA-WI.COM

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SHAWANO LEADER

OCONTO COUNTY TIMES HERALD

WITTENBERG ENTERPRISE & BIRNAMWOOD NEWS

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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1350 E Lieg Ave

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2 bedrooms

Great loc. Garage avail.

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715-280-0525

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 12/27/26.) Call 1-844-260-2934

NTC selected for national apprenticeship cohort

Northcentral Technical College has been selected to participate in the Association of Community College Trustees Scaling Apprenticeship at Community Colleges project, a national initiative designed to help community colleges expand registered apprenticeship programs in nontraditional occupations.

NTC was one of only 11 colleges nationwide selected for the cohort. The selection recognizes NTC's strong employer partnerships, workforce expertise and readiness to develop new apprenticeship pathways in high-demand fields. It also reflects the college's continued commitment to serving as a workforce anchor for central Wisconsin by helping employers build structured, long-term talent pipelines.

"Being selected for this national cohort is an exciting opportunity for NTC and for our region," said Brad Gast, dean of workforce training, professional development and apprenticeship. "Apprenticeship is one of the most powerful workforce strategies we have because it connects education directly to employment, mentorship, skill development and long-term career growth."

Through the project, NTC will receive national technical assistance, planning resources, peer learning opportunities and access to apprenticeship experts to strengthen the college's role as a registered apprenticeship program sponsor.

This project will help NTC move from supporting apprenticeship related instruction and employer driven training to building a more formal, scalable apprenticeship sponsorship model. As a registered apprenticeship program sponsor, NTC would help coordinate key components of apprenticeship programs, including employer partnerships, related instruction, on the job learning expectations, competency development, wage progression, apprentice support, reporting and long-term program sustainability.

The work will include developing registered apprenticeship standards for nontraditional occupations, strengthening employer partnerships, designing internal processes for apprenticeship sponsorship, building systems for apprentice recruitment and support and creating a sustainable model that can expand into future occupations.

"Through this project, we will build the structure needed to expand apprenticeship into non-traditional occupations where our communities and employers need strong talent pipelines," Gast said. "This is about helping employers solve real workforce challenges while creating paid, meaningful career pathways for students and working adults."

By the conclusion of the project, NTC expects to submit registered apprenticeship standards for nontraditional occupations and enroll apprentices in approved pathways. The repeatable apprenticeship framework will be able to support future workforce priorities across the region.

Area bank market president named NWTC develops aviation certification program

Bank of Wisconsin, a branch of Bank of Sun Prairie, welcomes Rick Bondowski as new senior vice president, market president. Bondowski is the executive leader of the Bank of Wisconsin brand of banks now with locations in Birnamwood, Wittenberg, Hatley and Antigo.

His areas of expertise include strategic planning, leadership development, data analysis and forecasting, new product development and operational excellence.

Bondowski has worked in banking for more than 35 years, most recently as regional vice president for Union Home Mortgage and prior to that in executive positions in lending and retail for banks, credit unions and other financials in the Great Lakes region – including Associated Bank in Green Bay and Wells Fargo in Minneapolis. He holds a bachelor's degree from Marquette University and is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Graduate School of Banking.

New branch managers Ashlee Anderson and Kayce Cherek are both seasoned leaders with 34 years of combined professional experience.

Anderson has held leadership roles at financial institutions for more than eight years, most recently as lending adviser with Summit Credit Union and assistant market manager with Incredible Bank. She studied early childhood education and psychology at Northcentral Technical College before transitioning to a customer-service career path. Anderson serves as treasurer and volunteer on two nonprofit boards – one focused on equality and inclusion, the other on disabled veterans and children.

Cherek spent six years as client financial services manager with Graebel, based in Wausau. She led the client accounting and invoicing team responsible for auditing and processing relocation supplier invoices. Prior to that, she worked for Aspirus Revenue Cycle as payment posting and credit manager for more than eight years. Cherek earned her degree at Northcentral Technical College in business management.

Bank of Wisconsin is a branch of Bank of Sun Prairie and is a full-service community bank with \$840 million in assets and eight branches in six communities – Sun Prairie, Cottage Grove, Birnamwood, Hatley, Wittenberg and Antigo.

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and Aviate Flight School have partnered to launch the region's first Professional Aeronautics Certification program, providing a direct pathway for aspiring pilots to enter the aviation industry.

As the nation faces a growing shortage of professional pilots, the PAC program was intentionally designed to help meet industry demand through focused training aligned to Federal Aviation Administration certification requirements. The non-degree program combines classroom instruction, simulation and flight training through a structured, cohort based model that prepares students to earn FAA certifications and pursue professional pilot careers.

Students may choose to pair the program with additional coursework or an area of study that complements their aviation training, depending on their career goals. Depending on certification goals and pace, students may complete the program in 12-16 months. Previous flight time and successful course completion can quicken the program.

"We built this program to leverage the structure and rigor of collegiate aviation training while aligning with NWTC's commitment to accessible, affordable, local education," said Christopher Johnson, the program architect and former professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. "Unlike traditional aviation pathways that pair flight training with broader degree requirements, this program intentionally focuses on the federal licenses and flight preparation students need to pursue professional pilot careers."

Students will split their time training between NWTC's Green Bay campus and Aviate Flight School's facility at Austin Straubel International Airport.

Weekly instruction includes 15-20 hours of classroom learning, one-on-one instruction, simulator training and aircraft-based experience, preparing students to earn all of FAA certifications to become professional aviators, including private pilot license, instrument flight rating and commercial pilot license.

Optionally, students can also earn additional ratings in the program for certified flight instructor, certified flight instructor instrument and multi-engine instructor.

"Northwest Wisconsin employers – and industries across the country – continue to face workforce shortages, and aviation is no exception," said Jim Draeger, NWTC dean of corporate training and economic development. "This partnership creates a clear, local pathway for students who want to become professional pilots while providing the focused, high-quality training needed to prepare them for the realities and responsibilities of the profession."

COURT NEWS

• Cody L. McLester, 31, Oneida, pleaded no contest July 6 to a misdemeanor charge of criminal damage to property. The charge was amended from a felony in a plea agreement. Judge William Kussel Jr. withheld sentencing and placed him on one year of probation with conditions.

• McKenzie L. Boogren, 27, Shawano, pleaded no contest July 10 to possession of narcotic drugs and felony bail jumping. Kussel withheld sentencing and placed her on two years of probation with conditions.

• Bryon James Cole, 42, Adams, was charged July 6 with felony bail jumping. Kussel set a \$750 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for July 13.

• Isabella S. Fonseca, 18, Keshena, was charged July 6 with possession of methamphetamine, felony bail jumping, misdemeanor bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. Kussel set a \$5,000 signature bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for July 9.

• Curits W. Hoffman, 65, Phoenix, Arizona, was charged July 6 with false imprisonment and misdemeanor counts of battery and disorderly conduct. Kussel set a \$500 signature bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for July 17.

• Antonio L. Perez, 22, Keshena, was charged July 6 with felony bail jumping and misdemeanor bail jumping. Kussel set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for July 7.

• Jacob J. Upton, 24, Cecil, was charged July 6 with felony theft and five counts of misdemeanor bail jumping. Kussel set a \$1,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for July 9.

• David P. Kellogg, 44, Gillett, was charged July 6 with felony theft and two counts of felony bail jumping. Kussel set a \$1,500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for July 13.

• Latasha M. Teller, 35, Shawano, was charged July 8 with felony bail jumping, misdemeanor bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct. Kussel set a \$2,000 signature bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for July 17.

• Max G. Moede, 38, Shawano, was charged July 9 with assault by a prisoner. Kussel set a \$2,000 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for Sept. 1.

• Kyle A. Collins, 38, Shawano, was charged July 10 with four counts of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of possession of cocaine, possession of amphetamine/LSD/psilocin, possession of THC and possession of drug paraphernalia. Kussel set a \$50,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for July 13.

NEWS CORRESPONDENTS

NEW Media is always on the lookout for talented freelance correspondents who can write stories AND take stunning photographs for the Shawano Leader.

Self-starters find a lot worth writing about as we showcase the best of what Shawano County and Menominee County has to offer. We seek correspondents with a knowledge of government workings and the ability to come up with stories from public meetings, interviews with public officials and getting information from a variety of sources, along with an interest in covering community events. The main coverage area is Shawano, Bonduel, Gresham, Pulaski and the Menominee Reservation.

We pay a minimum of \$60 per story and \$10 per photo in print and/or online.



To apply, send a cover letter and samples of work (if any) to City Editor Lee Pulaski at lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com.

Have a story idea? Email us!
news@newmedia-wi.com

07/17/2026

Ad For Bids

The Town of Green Valley, Shawano County, requests bids for "ditch to drain" on approximately 1½ mile of Green Valley Road from Church Road south to Bohn Road. The work is expected to take place within the current right of way of 66'/33' from the center. Ditches will be shaped to a rounded bottom with gradually tapered front and back slopes. Trees within 33 feet of centerline will need to be removed and disposed of. Most culverts have recently been replaced. The town will supply any additional culverts that are deemed necessary and be installed as per current installation best practice standards, with endwalls. The current road surface will remain in place while the ditch work is being performed. Work to be completed by 9-18-2026. The contractor will be responsible to post "Road Closed" signs as required during their work period. The Town of Green Valley reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Send bids to: Terry Tipton, W2485 Old Hwy 22, Cecil WI 54111. Bids will be opened at a Board meeting 7-27-2026 at 7PM at the Community Center N1734 Hwy E, Cecil WI 54111.

WNAXLP

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 Sherriemoneee Gonzales
By
Estella Sherriemoneee Gonzales

NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: Estella Sherriemoneee Archer
To: Billie Page Dillinger
Birth Certificate: Estella Sherriemoneee 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

7/17/26

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Lakeland Storage 722 Waukechon Street, Shawano WI 54166 August 1, 2026 to August 3, 2026 at 1PM. Bidding is on complete contents of unit. Sale will take place on www.storage treasures.com.
Owner: Sue Miller Contents: mattress/ box spring, luggage, totes, bags, boxes, bicycle, backpack, misc.

WNAXLP
SHA-256

7/17/26

STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

CLAIMS DEADLINE NOTICE
IN THE MATTER OF Jerome H. Rohde and Grace E. Rohde Joint Revocable Trust dated October 28, 2004

Pursuant to Section 701.0508, Wisconsin Statutes, Jodie A. Tiede, as successor trustee of Jerome H. Rohde and Grace E. Rohde Joint Revocable Trust dated October 28, 2004, with power to pay the debts of Jerome H. Rohde, D.O.D. April 4, 2026, hereby provides notice that the deadline for filing claims for payment of debts of Jerome H. Rohde with Jodie A. Tiede, as Trustee of the Jerome H. Rohde and Grace E. Rohde Joint Revocable Trust dated October 28, 2004, is November 17, 2026, being the date four (4) months after the date of the first insertion of the Notice. By: /s/ Attorney Carissa Giebel
Legacy Law Group, LLC,
5740 Grande Market Drive, Ste D, Appleton WI 54913

WNAXLP
SHA-262

HELP US KEEP UP ON THE NEWS!

If you know of something happening in Shawano, Oconto or Menominee counties, drop us an email at

news@newmedia-wi.com

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
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
2026PR000041
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 Vomastic
1488 E Green Bay St.
Shawano, WI 54166
715-851-3669
1045783

WNAXLP
SHA-252

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

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

7/17/26

STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT
Nsighttel Wireless LLC. d/b/a Cellcom
P.O. Box 5301
De Pere WI 54115
plaintiffs.
-VS-
Nery I. Cardenas Gonzales
N7224 Juniper Rd
Gresham WI 54128
Defendant(s):

Publication Summons and Notice (Small Claims)
Case No. 2026SC000319

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-526-9347 least 10 working days prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

Publication Summons and Notice of Filing 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 Courthouse Branch 2
715-526-9347
311 N Main St
Shawano, WI 54166
on the following date and time:
Date: 07-28-2026
Time: 1:00 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.
Plaintiff Janel Angi
Telephone Number 1-800-550-8091
Date 06/30/26

WNAXLP
SHA-258

7/17/26, 7/24/26, 7/31/26

STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Angela D. Owen

Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)
Case No. 26 PR 40

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 03/22/1974 and date of death 05/13/2026 was domiciled in Shawano County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 115 S. Smalley Street, Shawano, WI 54166

3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is October 23, 2026

5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano County Courthouse, 311 N. Main Street, Wisconsin, Room 202, Probate Office. Shawano, WI 54166

WNAXLP
SHA-261

PUBLIC RECORD

SHAWANO COUNTY
SHERIFF'S
DEPARTMENT

July 12

Deputies responded to 47 incidents, including operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated near South Airport Drive and East Richmond Street in

7/17/26, 7/24/26

STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

Notice of Public Hearing
Planning, Development and Zoning Committee Meeting
Wednesday, August 5, 2026 @ 9:00 AM
Shawano County Courthouse, Rooms A & B
Members: Ken Capelle, Curt Korth, Kathy Luebke, James Radtke, Vacant

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Shawano County Planning, Development and Zoning Committee under the Shawano County Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 40, in Rooms A/B on August 5, 2026 at 9AM, to consider the following application:
Z-8-26: Micah R Laude, vendee and Agent for Dorothy M Hofman, Vendor and owner request zone change from the FP, Farmland and Forest Preservation Zoning District to OAR, Open Lands, Agriculture and Residential Zoning District for the purpose of razing an existing Single-Family Dwelling and constructing a new Single-Family Dwelling on approximately 22.083 total acres. Property is located and described as Part of the West ½ of the Fractional Southwest ¼, Section 6, T26N R12E, Now Known As Lot 1 of Certified Survey Map #5211, located in the Town of Fairbanks. Tax Parcel: #014-06320-0020. Property Address: N4618 Malueg Road.
Z-9-26: William Bowers, agent for Bradley W Bowers, owner and Matthew J & Stephanie L Mielke owner request zone change on 63,709 feet of parent parcel #018-33220-0010 from the FP, Farmland and Forest Preservation Zoning District to the A-R Agricultural Residential Zoning District to combine with parcel #018-33220-0000 via Certified Survey Map. Parcel 1 is located and described as the Northwest ¼ of the Northwest ¼ Except the North 136' of the East 265', Section 33, T26N R13E, Located in the Town of Grant. Currently vacant land. Parcel 2 is located and described as the North 136' of the East 265' of the Northwest ¼ of the Northwest ¼, Section 33 T26N R13E. Property Address: W13617 Draeger Road. Any interested person may address the Planning, Development and Zoning Committee by letter or appear in person, or by agent, and be heard at the public hearing. Written correspondence must bear a legible signature of the author as well as the primary address of the signer. The Committee will accept and review all previously received pertinent information relative to the above listed item(s) during the open session of the public hearing on August 5, 2026. Notice is further given that printed copies of these proposals are available for public inspection in the Planning and Development office during regular business hours.
Please note that upon reasonable notice, effort will be made to accommodate the needs of any person wishing to attend who, because of disability, requires special accommodation through appropriate aids and services. Call 715-526-6766 to leave a message for arrangements.
Dated this July 8, 2026
For: The Shawano County Planning, Development and Zoning Committee
By: Kyle Waelchli, Zoning Administrator

NOTE: Any person may appear at the public hearing and be heard and/or submit comments to be read into the record for Committee consideration. Correspondence must bear a legible signature of the author as well as the primary address of the signer. Accommodations due to disability can be made by calling: 715-526-6766
Meeting notice emailed/posted:
Shawano County Courthouse, Department of Human Services, Shawano County Library, Shawano Leader, WTCB Radio, Shawano County Civic website @ coshawanowi.civicweb.net

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Shawano; a failure to report to the Huber Work Release Center, 1240 Engel Drive, Shawano; property damage on Belle Plaine Avenue in the Town of Belle Plaine; disorderly conduct at the North Star Casino, W12180 County Road A in the Town of Bartelme; six 911 calls; two traffic stops; five reckless driving incidents; seven traffic hazards; five crashes, one involving deer.

July 11
Deputies responded to 62 incidents, including trespassing on County Road E in the Town of Washington; suspicious activity on Gu-maer Road in the Town of Wescott; 10 911 calls; 15 traffic stops; three reckless driving incidents; two traffic hazards; three welfare checks.

July 10
Deputies responded to 52 incidents, including criminal damage at the county jail, 405 N. Main St., Shawano; a disturbance on state Highway 47-55 in the Town of Wescott; suspicious activity on North Main Street in Shawano; an animal bite on Main Street in Birnamwood; five 911 calls; 11 traffic stops; six reckless driving incidents; one traffic hazard; two welfare checks.

July 9
Deputies responded to 76 incidents, including suspicious activity on Maple Leaf Road in the Town of Belle Plaine; threatening at the courthouse, 311 N. Main St., Shawano; suspicious activity on U.S. Highway 45 in the Town of Wittenberg; a disturbance on Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; five 911 calls; 44 traffic stops; two reckless driving incidents; one welfare check; one crash.

July 8
Deputies responded to 38 incidents, including operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated near County Road MMM and Locust Road in the Town of Richmond; a scam on Graves Road in the Town of Wescott; three 911 calls; 13 traffic stops; one reckless driving incident; one traffic hazard; three welfare checks; two crashes.

July 7
Deputies responded to 57 incidents, including an animal bite on Hoff Street in the Town of Angelica; fraud on Glacier Trail in the Town of Pella; an animal bite on County Road E in the Town of Green Valley; 18 traffic stops; one reckless driving incident; two welfare checks; one crash.

July 6
Deputies responded to 54 incidents, including suspicious activity on Flauger Lane in the Town of Red Springs; operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated near state Highway 22 and Cheese Factory Road in the Town of Washington, near County Roads A and G in the Town of Herman, and on County Road C in the Town of Angelica; a hazardous materials spill at Remington Oil, 444 U.S. Highway 45, Birnamwood;

a disturbance at Memorial Park, 1300 Knoke St., Gresham; a vicious animal on Spruce Road in the Town of Angelica; trespassing on Rustic Drive in the Town of Belle Plaine; a missing person on Rocky Ridge Lane in the Town of Belle Plaine; threatening on McDonald Road in the Town of Navarino; seven 911 calls; nine traffic stops; three reckless driving incidents; two traffic hazards; four welfare checks; three crashes, one involving an animal.

SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

July 12
Officers responded to 19 incidents, including disorderly conduct on South River Street; attempted theft at Shawano Health Services, 1436 S. Lincoln St.; two 911 calls; two traffic stops; one traffic hazard; two welfare checks; one crash.

July 11
Officers responded to 18 incidents, including trespassing near Black Cherry Court and Thomas Avenue; theft on North Lafayette Street; trespassing on South Maiden Lane; two welfare checks; two crashes.

July 10
Officers responded to 31 incidents, including disorderly conduct on Estates Lane; a scam on South Sawyer Street; a missing person on East Robin Lane; property damage at Lieg Park, 1013 W. Water St.; four 911 calls; seven traffic stops; one traffic hazard; one welfare check; one crash.

July 9
Officers responded to 34 incidents, including suspicious activity on East Elizabeth Street; theft on Waukechon Street; vandalism on East Lieg Avenue; suspicious activity on Briarwood Lane; a drug offense near Lake Drive and Korth Road; disorderly conduct at ThedaCare Medical Center, 100 County Road B; fireworks at Kuckuk Park, 700 Oak Drive; two 911 calls; 12 traffic stops; two crashes.

July 8
Officers responded to 23 incidents, including disorderly conduct at Walmart, 1244 E. Green Bay St.; bail jumping at ThedaCare Medical Center, 100 County Road B; suspicious activity on South Andrews Street; harassment on South Lincoln Street; theft on Mills Street; a noise disturbance at Smalley Park, 211 N. Riverside Drive; a sex offense at a redacted location; one 911 call; two traffic stops; two welfare checks; one crash.

July 7
Officers responded to 28 incidents, including theft at Smalley Park, 211 N. Riverside Drive; disorderly conduct on South Bartlett Street; A disturbance at American Marine, 830 E. Green Bay St.; property damage on South Hamlin Street; disorderly conduct at Smalley Park, 211 N. Riverside Drive; three 911 calls; five traffic stops; one welfare check.

Can you spot heat exhaustion or heat stroke?

As far as weather-related hazards go, extreme heat is among the most dangerous. According to the Centers for Disease Control, extreme heat causes more deaths each year than floods, hurricanes and tornadoes.

That's because not everyone realizes how stressful high temperatures can be to the body.

"Extreme heat forces both the heart and skin to work really hard," said Dr. Dylan Wyatt, emergency medicine physician at Aspirus Health. "The body wants to pull heat away from the core. The hotter it gets, the harder that

becomes."

Heat exhaustion and heat stroke are the two main heat-related illnesses to watch for. Wyatt explains what each is and how to spot the signs early.

Heat exhaustion

"Heat exhaustion is when the body is struggling to keep up with the demands of its cooling," said Wyatt.

This occurs when the body becomes overheated and dehydrated and is no longer able to effectively regulate its temperature.

Common symptoms include:

- Heavy sweating.
- Weakness or fatigue.

- Headache.
- Dizziness or lightheadedness.
- Nausea.
- Muscle cramps.
- Fast heartbeat.

It is often accompanied by a strong sense of thirst and cool, clammy skin.

If these symptoms start to develop, it is important to move to a cooler or shaded area, rest, and drink water or electrolyte fluids to rehydrate.

Heat stroke

Heat stroke is the most severe form of heat-related illness and is a medical emergency.

"The difference between heat exhaustion and heat

stroke is between a red flag warning sign and an emergency siren," said Wyatt.

This happens when the body's temperature rises to 104 degrees or higher, and the body can no longer cool itself down.

Symptoms can include:

- Confusion.
- Agitation.
- Slurred speech.
- Severe headache.
- Nausea or vomiting.
- Rapid pulse.
- Fainting or loss of consciousness.
- Very high body temperature.

Skin may feel hot, and in some cases dry, though sweating may still occur.

Heat stroke can quickly lead to organ failure, brain damage or death if not treated promptly. Call 911 immediately while trying to cool the person until help arrives.

How to protect yourself

In addition to recognizing and responding to the symptoms of heat-related illnesses, there are important steps you can take to prevent them.

Staying hydrated should be the top of your priorities.

"You need to be drinking eight ounces of water for about every 15 minutes of activity in the heat," said

Wyatt. "If you start to feel thirsty, you are already behind."

He added that a reliable indicator of hydration is urine color. If it is lighter than lemonade, such as clear or pale yellow, you are well hydrated.

It is also important to avoid physical exertion during the hottest parts of the day.

"Try to schedule work or intensive training exercises earlier in the morning when temperatures are cooler," Wyatt said.

If you have questions about how to stay safe in hot weather, talk to your primary care provider.

Native plant medicine walk highlights traditional healing knowledge

Participants explored the rich tradition of Native American plant medicine during a guided walk along the Mountain-Bay State Trail in Bowler on July 1.

Led by educator and author Misty Cook, the program welcomed 12 participants eager to learn about the medicinal plants growing around them.

Cook opened the walk by sharing the history of how native plant medicine knowledge was passed down through generations by oral tradition.

She traced the lineage from Granny Gardner (1830-1936), through her daughters, and then to her granddaughters, Mary Burr (1901-91) and Ella Besaw (1902-90). The knowledge was later passed to

David Besaw (1944-2011), Cook's cousin and teacher.

Recognizing the importance of preserving these traditional teachings for future generations, Cook became the first to document many of them in writing. Her book, "Medicine Generations," was published in 2013 and is available through most major bookstores.

As the group walked the trail, participants discovered and learned about several native medicinal plants including yarrow, wild strawberry, tag alder, pine pitch, burdock, nettle, plantain and sumac. Cook explained the traditional methods of identifying, preparing, storing and using each plant, providing a glimpse into centuries of Indigenous knowledge

and healing practices.

The walk was one of many special events being offered throughout 2026 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Mountain-Bay State Trail. Organizers expect to add another native plant medicine walk to this summer's anniversary activities.

Community members are encouraged to watch the Friends of the Mountain-Bay State Trail-Shawano County events calendar and Facebook page for updates, as well as information on other anniversary events, guided hikes, family activities and educational programs.

For a complete schedule of events, visit <https://www.friendsofthemountainbaytrailshawano.org/events.html>.



Misty Cook leads participants on a Native American plant medicine walk along the Mountain-Bay State Trail in Bowler on July 1. The walk was one of many events mark the 30th anniversary of the trail.

CONTRIBUTED

STEFFEN, continued from page 1

reconsidered when others continued to press him.

"I called Tom, and without hesitation, he said, 'Absolutely not,'" Steffen said. "It put me back on my heels. I offered to quit as chairman of the

Republican Party. I told him I was standing up for a friend of mine (Hammett). I offered to meet him (Kautza) face to face to talk, and he hung up on me."

Steffen said he was

treated poorly at the executive committee meeting and against at the June county board meeting, when Kautza refused to allow him to talk during the public comment portion at the start of the meeting.

"I can't back down now," Steffen said. "He insulted me in public. I've never been treated so shabbily in a professional setting as this."

Steffen said he is considering writing a letter

to the board and having it read aloud at the July 22 meeting when County Clerk Raymond Rigsby reads letters and correspondence received.

"After that, I may have to consider a legal course

of action," he said.

District 27 includes all of the towns of Hutchins and Almon, Mattoon and Ward 2 in Bowler.

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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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