WITTENBERG BIRNAMWOOD

# ENTERPRISE & NEWS

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## *Big party invades Wittenberg*

**ABOVE: The Glam Band heralded in the evening with cover songs from music's greatest hits during Wittenberg Community Days on July 25 at Washington Park. The annual festival kept locals entertained with a carnival, food vendors, raffles, parade and more.** LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

**RIGHT: Children wander around some of the bikes being offered in a raffle July 25 for Wittenberg Community Days. The bikes had the business and personal sponsors taped to the handlebars in appreciation for their donations.** LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

# Drama in the courthouse

## Pollock named to District 27 seat vacated by Serrano

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

Pollock, a retired We Energies employee, was nominated by Chairman Tom Kautza and approved by the board with 19 in favor, five against, one abstention and one member absent.

Voting against Pollock's appointment were Jeremy Gretzinger, Curt Korth, Randy Mallmann, Joe Miller and Mike Wizner. Collin Pomplun abstained, and Matt Pleshek was absent.

The drama – a word used often by supervisors – began immediately after the Pledge of Allegiance.

Miller requested a change in the order of the agenda to place public comment and the reading of letters to the board before the appointment of Pollock.

Kautza had set the agenda with the appointment to immediately follow the opening of the meeting.

"We have public comments and also communication pertaining to this that the supervisors should hear before …," Miller said.

"Does somebody have something against Steve?" Kautza interrupted, to which Miller responded, "That's so narrow-minded it's pathetic."

And so it began.

Enough supervisors agreed with Miller to change the agenda.

Kautza, as is his prerogative as board chairman, limited public comment to five speakers at two minutes each. Only two members of the public addressed the board.

Tim Steffen, the only District 27 resident to actively seek the appointment, spoke first. Kautza refused to nominate him, first due to him being chairman of the Shawano County Republican Party (the county board is nonpartisan) and then because Kautza viewed him as the cause of too much drama in the past year.

"I never expected the kind of reaction that I received from the chairman," Steffen said. "It's been a long time since I have been so disrespected and so slandered by this man. It's unbelievable. What we have just witnessed here is the manipulation of an agenda to avoid public comment."

He said when residents can speak out, it leads to suspicion and loss of trust in government.

"When we lose that trust, we have chaos," he said.

**POLLOCK,** continued on page 2

**INSIDE**

Shawano author pens children's book about a pet pig.

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## POLLOCK, continued from page 1

As Steffen's two minutes expired, Kautza said, "Tim, your two minutes are up. This isn't a movie. We're not making 'Shawano As The Days Turn.'"

"Why are you making comments like that?" Gretzinger immediately asked. "Be a professional."

Mallmann agreed.

"Tom, you don't help yourself when you make comments like that," he said.

"I never heard or got a phone call from a member of the public telling me that I'm doing something wrong," Kautza said.

Mallmann reminded him that he talked to Kautza in person about this issue.

"We need a leader that has to act professional," Mallmann said.

Miller said Kautza's refusal to consider Steffen due to his GOP leadership role was discriminatory.

"You cannot discriminate against anybody, a member of the public or any one of us, for political affiliation," he said. "You can't do that."

Kautza said his decision to pass on Steffen was not the first time he overlooked an interested candidate for a seat on the board. He cited the case when he chose Dick Olson over Al Kuhn (a current supervisor) for a vacant District 17 seat a few years ago.

"I knew Dick Olson personally, so I picked him," Kautza said. "Nothing personal."

He also said he wasn't initially in favor of then-Supervisor Raymond Rigsby being appointed to the vacant county clerk position. He said Rigsby had a set of predetermined conditions.

"Why weren't we informed of that?" Miller asked.

"Why didn't you ask?" Kautza responded.

Jackie Miller also spoke. She said she was appalled by what she has witnessed at this and the previous meeting. She also filed a written complaint against Kautza.

"It concerns the selective enforcement of public comment rules, the suppression of discussion on a matter of significant public concern, and the appearance of a conflict of interest when the presiding officer used procedural authority to prevent public discussion of his own official actions," she wrote.

Her letter and three others were read into the minutes of the meeting.

As public comment and the reading of letters drew to a close, Kautza officially nominated Pollock, and the nomination was made and seconded.

"We have a good candidate, nothing controversial," Kautza said. "It's time to get away from this nonsense that went on last year and move forward."

Pollock, who sat with the supervisors and not the audience members even before he was nominated, addressed the board.

"Since I had time and did want to learn more about the county rather than just the Township of Almon, I thought this would be a good opportunity," he said.

Gretzinger said he would oppose Pollock's appointment.

**Shawano County Supervisor Bill Switalla, left, listens to discussions July 22 about the appointment of Steve Pollock, right, to the vacant District 27 seat on the county board. After a 19-5-1 vote, Pollock took his oath of office later in the meeting.** GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

"This is nothing against Mr. Pollock, but I'm going to have a no vote just because of the process," he said. "I would hope my other supervisors step up and do the right thing."

Mallmann agreed.

"My biggest problem is the process of how this happened," he said. "The board did not even have an opportunity to consider (Steffen), and exactly what you said in the meeting Mr. Chair, that this is supposed to be a nonpartisan position. You made it a personal and partisan decision not to allow him to take the open district seat. It's not fair to District 27, and it's certainly not fair to Mr. Steffen. I disagree with the whole process that's happening here."

Miller also noted his opposition.

"My concern again … is of the chairman repeatedly boohooing in the media about this nonsense, about this drama, about everything here," he said. "You created the drama. What you see from us is disagreement. It is our right to disagree with things that are said. It is everybody's right to disagree with me, and I respect that. You don't. You do not respect our right to disagree with you. You call it drama."

Bill Switalla, who made the motion to appoint Pollock, spoke in favor of Kautza's desire to keep the board nonpartisan.

"I stand behind Tom, because every time the Republican Party has come and attacked our board, they stood in front and said they were here from the Republican Party," he said.

For his part, Switalla has been a Democratic candidate for the State Assembly four times in the past decade.

"We don't need that drama here," Kautza said, and after Pollock was confirmed, added "Congratulations, Steve. You are the new board member, and hopefully, we're done with the drama."

Pollock will serve until April 2028. He completes the term vacated this spring by Tess Serrano.

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

7/31/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT
MARATHON COUNTY
Plaintiff:
Heights Finance Corporation
101 N. Main St.
Suite 600
Greenville, SC 29601
-VS-
Defendant:
Jenna L. Gray
183848 Oakcrest Dr.
Birnamwood, WI 54414
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**Case No.** 2026SC001014
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# Early impressions of county pleasing to Cicero

## Administrative coordinator settling into role at courthouse

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

**Stacey Cicero, the new administrative coordinator for Shawano County, stands next to a rendering of the proposed new courthouse. Just a few weeks into her new job, Cicero said she is impressed with quality of the county staff and the department heads that run the day-to-day operations of the county.** KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

Butterflies are nothing new for anyone changing jobs, but when your new co-workers genuinely welcome you, it makes your first days go a lot smoother.

That's what Stacy Cicero said when shen started just weeks ago as the new administrative coordinator for Shawano County.

"The one thing that really pleased me when switching jobs … I cannot speak more highly of the staff here," she said. "They've been very welcoming. They've been very supportive. They're excited to have new energy, new direction, and I am really impressed with the quality of staff in this building. They really know their work, and they care bout the community and want to do right by it."

Her first day on the job was June 29. She's met all department heads and is working to having sit-down meetings with each of them.

"I am really impressed with the work that people are doing, the ideas that they have, the passion that they have for their work, how they want to better the county and do good things for the people that are in their community," Cicero said.

For 20 years, Cicero worked as executive director of Safe Haven in Shawano, which serves victims of domestic and sexual violence.

"The shelter building itself had been just built, so I had to hire all the staff, create all the policies, do the whole opening," she said. "When I started, there were three employees, and when I left, we had 19 full- and part-time."

Those two decades with Safe Haven brought her into regular contact with local law enforcement, the district attorney's office and the courts.

"Working at Safe Haven, I was in the courthouse a lot, in the courtroom," she said.

Now that she's on the inside, she can see many of the safety issues brought up when discussing plans for a new courthouse – escorting inmates across Third Street from the jail to the courthouse, courtroom security for contentious cases and close contact in the halls between the victims and the accused.

"This was a great building 75 years ago, but it wasn't built for the type of technology that we have today," Cicero said. "The courthouse has grown in staffing. We also want to potentially have another judge. We have more ADAs (assistant district attorneys). We just need more space."

She's also more aware now of the space constraints and ADA compliance issues.

"I don't know all the different aspects, but I can tell you that the team that has been working on the plan and the building have put a lot of thought, a lot of studying … a lot of time and energy and thought went into where they are now," Cicero said.

In 2021, she resigned from Safe Haven and took a job with the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families.

"It was very difficult to leave an organization that was my baby," Cicero said. "I built it from the ground up, with a lot of help."

While at Safe Haven, she had worked with her predecessor at DCF.

"It was managing the domestic violence grants for programs around the state of Wisconsin," Cicero said. "It was a natural progression."

She worked from an office in her home's basement, while using the Green Bay office as her base. She also traveled the state for site visits and drove to Madison for meetings.

Earlier this year, a friend suggested she consider applying for the administrative coordinator position. Her three children are now adults, so she opted to once again work in her local community.

Her older son lives and works in Chicago, while the younger son works in Shawano. Her youngest, a daughter, is studying to be a pilot at Fox Valley Technical College.

Working at Safe Haven, DCF and Shawano County are each unique experiences.

"I think the biggest difference I'm going to have to learn is county government work," she said.

There are some things in common as well.

"I'm used to state work, state statutes, working with that type of thing, writing grants, reading proposals, budgeting, monitoring, all of those types of things, so that will come in very handy in this role," Cicero said.

Budgets, collaboration and troubleshooting have been consistent themes in her career, as is communication.

"I think communication is going to be key," she said, "but that's a two-way street. If you put out events or meetings, you want the public to attend. We want input."

Cicero has called Shawano home since 1994. Her grandmother lived in the city, and her mother grew up here. Her parents moved to Shawano in 1986 when Cicero was in college.

She studied psychology and sociology in college.

"The social work aspect was always something that I was going to go into," Cicero said.

When her children were in school, she was involved in the parent-teacher organization. She has served on the Salvation Army board the past 20 years or so.

"It's a nice community. It's a great place to raise your kids," Cicero said. "You have the low crime rate, and you don't have to worry about driving across town in traffic. And you're close enough to places like Green Bay, Appleton, Milwaukee, Chicago if that's where you want to go."

Today, she is also the chair of the Shawano-Menominee Resiliency Coalition, which operates Rise Wellness, a center for people in recovery, and is treasurer for the Behind the Badge nonprofit group that organizes Ball of the Badges each year.

# Sunny's health improving since harrowing ordeal

## Dog has forever home on horizon once he recovers from injuries

**By LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

**Sunny is still recovering from wounds that include broken ribs, a broken leg and at least nine bullet holes, but the dog will be going to a forever home soon once he is healed. Donations are being accepted through the Shawano County Humane Society's website, www.shawanocountyhumanesociety.org.** CONTRIBUTED

A dog found with multiple bullet wounds and other injuries is making a slow but steady move toward a happy ending but is not out of the woods yet, while the Shawano County Sheriff's Department is still investigating who might have caused him harm.

The 35-pound brown mixed-breed dog, named Sunny by the folks at the Shawano County Humane Society, has found a forever home as many in the community have provided an outpouring of support in the days since he was brought in for treatment. Sunny was found July 15 in the Town of Maple Grove near Cedar Drive and Maple Road and was transported to Specialized Veterinary Care of Shawano for treatment.

An initial examination of Sunny showed eight gunshot wounds and a broken leg, all appearing to have occurred two to four days before he was found. Pam Nowak, humane society executive director, said that a ninth gunshot wound has since been discovered along with broken ribs and heavy bruising around the stomach area.

"He is moving around. He is walking around the clinic a little bit," Nowak said.

She added that the bruising seemed to indicate Sunny had been kicked by someone.

While the humane society regularly cares for abandoned and injured dogs, Sunny's case has been one of the more heartbreaking ones, according to Nowak.

"I've lost so much sleep over this," she said. "It's so sad, so heartbreaking for all of us."

Nowak said there were a lot of offers to provide a permanent home for Sunny, but it appears one of the people who helped Sunny the day he was found will be the one to care for the dog once he recovers. She said the man let her know as soon as Sunny was brought in for treatment that he was interested in being the dog's new owner.

"He was high on the list, has everything he needs," Nowak said. "He'll be able to care for Sunny all during the day at his work. He'll be able to take Sunny to work with him."

Despite what has happened, Sunny has been showing a positive attitude, according to Nowak.

"This dog that has been through so much will still wag his tail and greet and try to get up," she said. "It's really amazing. It doesn't seem to have to broken his spirit or his will to survive."

Sunny's story has seemed to galvanize the Shawano community, as donations and other forms of support have been pouring in.

"The support has been wonderful – the care, the concern, the phone calls, the letters we get," Nowak said. "It has impacted us and shown how many people really, truly care and want to help and do everything can to make sure the person who did this is found and make sure we have all the support we can to care for Sunny."

The Shawano County Sheriff's Department has not reported any developments in the investigation, but a $2,500 reward has been offered for information that leads to the arrest of anyone responsible by The Center for a Humane Economy and the Wisconsin Puppy Mill Project. Anyone with information on Sunny or who might have been responsible for hurting him can contact the dispatch center at 715-526-3111 or email Deputy Josh Heider at josh.heider@shawanocountywi.gov.

As for those who want to support Sunny in his recovery, they can go to www.shawanocountyhumanesociety.org and click on the blue button at the top of the page to donate.

"It's a huge help, because, even though we're covering all of Sunny's medical bills, we are a nonprofit, and everything is from donations," Nowak said.

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## *Birds of prey swoop into Naberhood*

**A barn owl named Storm is in the foreground as a representative with Raptors Education Group Inc. talks about the bird's attributes during one of the block party events July 21 at the Naberhood Plaza. Storm was raised in captivity for education purposes, but she is not from Wisconsin, according to Samantha Brooks, REGI's director of education, because barn owls are extinct in Wisconsin due to the proliferation of rodenticide in the state. Mice and rats are a primary food source, and the poison can affect the owls, too.**

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

**Cinna Smallwood, wildlife educator with Raptors Education Group Inc., holds up an American kestrel falcon for about 50 people in the crowd July 21 at the Naberhood Plaza. Named Benji, the falcon was found as a chick by humans and imprinted on them, making it impossible to release him into the wild as a result. Kestrels like Benji can be seen along highways in Wisconsin.**

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

# DOT rep gives update on road projects

## Frontage road considered by Harley dealership

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

**Eastbound and westbound traffic on state Highway 29 is limited to one lane for much of Shawano County, as the Wisconsin Department of Transportation works on several reconstruction projects.**

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

"Your county has a lot of orange barrels and cones."

Tony Kemnitz, of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, made that understatement of the year when he summarized the road construction projects underway in Shawano County this summer.

Kemnitz spoke at the July 21 meeting of the Shawano County Highway Safety Commission.

First he addressed the state Highway 29 project from County Road J to the area of Spruce Road.

"My understanding is they've extended (it) so that's one long 19-mile project," he said. "I think there's about 26 miles of Wisconsin 29 under construction right now."

All of the projects are similar.

"They remove and replace the failing concrete panels. They are all placing new asphalt shoulders," Kemnitz said. "Then obviously when all that's done, we'll dress that up with pavement markings."

Single-lane closures will continue.

He said the project should be wrapped up by mid-September.

Also, state Highway 29 from County Road M to Highline Road near Bonduel will feature 11 miles of pavement improvements.

This work includes ramp closures and making improvements to the park-and-ride lot on state Highway 117.

This work will also continue into the fall.

Five miles of pavement resurfacing on state Highway 156 in the towns of Lessor and Maple Grove is substantially complete. What remains is finishing work that will take a few more days.

Of course, the County Road BE repaving was completed in early June, and work on County Road D is nearly complete.

"It's a county project, but DOT has involvement with it as far as oversight and funding," he said. "That removed a bridge and replaced it, installed a new 28-foot wide bridge."

It is substantially complete with the exceptions of adjustments to the guardrail.

Kemnitz also provided updates on several safety and operation reviews of select roads.

A DOT study determined there is a need for stoplights at County Road BE and state Highway 22 near ThedaCare in Shawano.

"I understand the city has agreed to take control of the intersection; however, instead of a signal, they would prefer a roundabout," he said. "But then the funding is going to be up to the city to figure out."

Kemnitz said funding is available at a 90/10 split for the lights (10% being the city's cost), but no funding is there for a roundabout.

At County Road F and state Highway 29, crash data shows 12 accidents from 2020-24; none were fatal crashes.

"Enough of a crash history that it would support us applying for federal safety money to get that intersection rebuilt in some manner," Kemnitz said.

He said a design team would have to evaluate several alternatives, including an R-cut intersection similar to the new one at County Road MMM.

"I like the County U one a little better than the MMM," noted Shawano County Highway Commissioner Grant Bystol. "It has that turn-lane separation."

The project could be funded by the federal government at a 90/10 cost share. Kemnitz will submit a request for money in September.

Kemnitz also noted the hot spot for crashes, including fatalities, between Broadway Road and County Road F on state Highway 29. This includes the area in front of Doc's Harley-Davidson.

One alternative is creating a frontage road and an improved interchange at County Road F, also fundable through federal dollars. This would result in no direct access between Doc's and the highway.

"That will be submitted as well in September," Kemnitz said. "I'm excited about that one, making it safer on 29."

He will also submit a request for funds to improve the state Highway 47 and Landstad Road intersection, also the site of a fatal crash.

A single-lane roundabout at state Highway 117 and County Road E is expected. Federal safety money has been applied for to complete the project.

Bystol said the county will reinstall rumble strips on westbound County Road E approaching state Highway 117.

"They are on eastbound approaching 117," he said. "I think they used to be on the westbound, but since it got resurfaced, they were never reinstalled."

Paving on County Road M from Range Line Road to Pond Lane east of Caroline will be completed by the end of July, and the road will open Aug. 7.

Coming up the second week in September will be an asphalt resurfacing of County Road H from Stark Road to County Road HH, north of Shawano Lake. Bystol said the work will be done while the road remains open to traffic.

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# Motorcycle driver dies in head-on crash in Town of Wescott

A 39-year-old Shawano area man died July 22 as the result of a two-vehicle crash on Hillcrest Lane in the Town of Wescott, according to the Shawano County Sheriff's Department.

At 9:22 a.m., the dispatch center received a report of an accident involving a motorcycle and FedEx delivery truck. Initial reports indicated the driver of the motorcycle was not wearing a helmet and had possible head injuries.

Multiple Shawano County sheriff's deputies responded to the scene along with fire and EMS units. When deputies and EMS arrived on scene, they provided medical attention to the driver of the motorcycle, but he pronounced dead at the scene.

The driver of the FedEx truck was identified as a 25-year-old man from the Green Bay area.

Preliminary investigation indicates the FedEx truck was traveling northbound on Hillcrest Lane. The motorcycle was traveling southbound on Hillcrest Lane when it crossed into the northbound Lane and struck the FedEx truck head on.

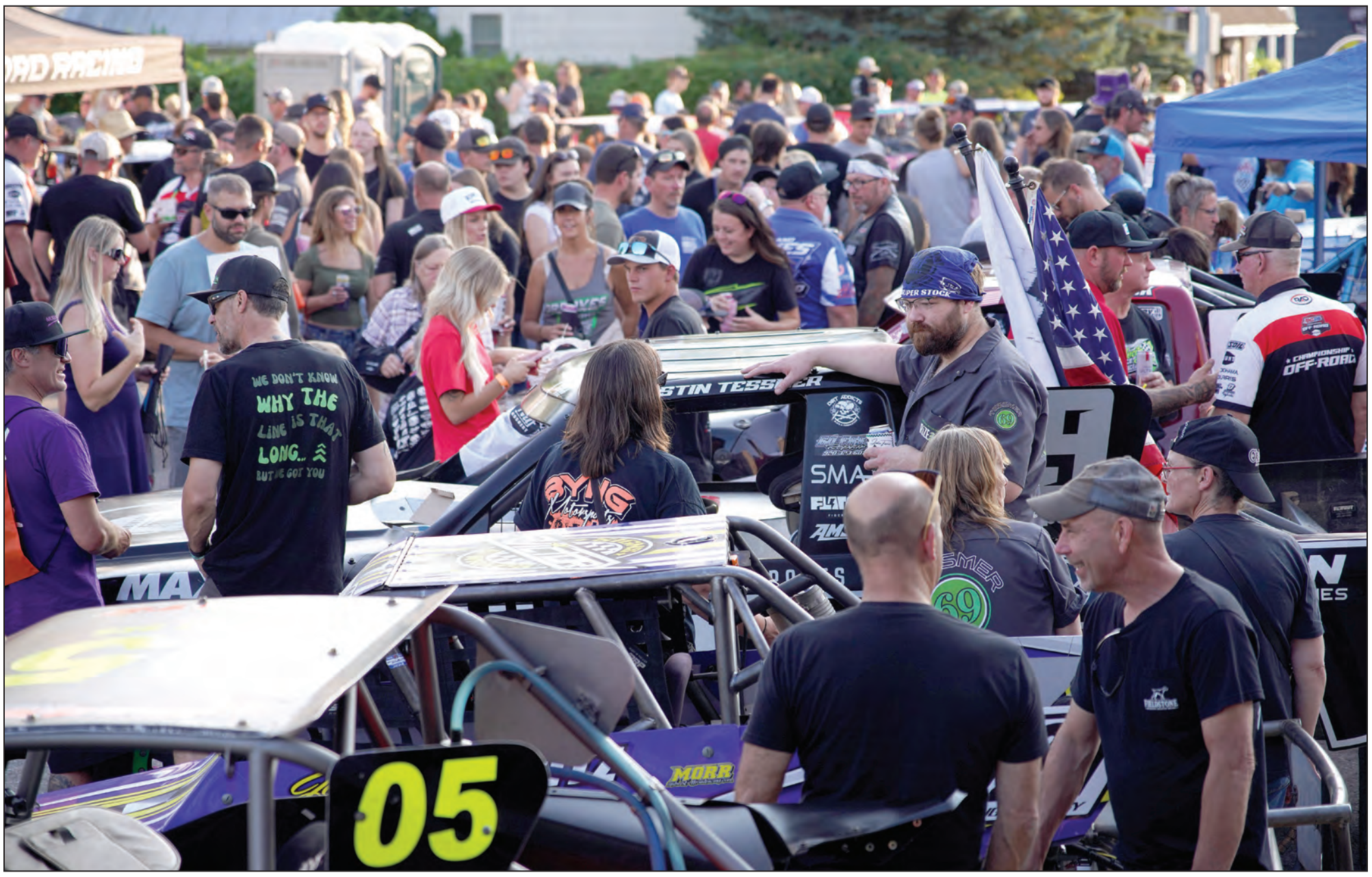
The FedEx truck came to rest in the northbound lane of traffic, and the motorcycle came to rest in the east ditch line.

The sheriff's department was assisted by Wescott EMS, Shawano Ambulance and Shawano Fire Department.

No more details, including the names of the individuals, are being released as the investigation continues.

# DIRT CITY MOTORPLEX AND EVENTS DRAW 10,000 TO LENA, ORGANIZERS SAY

Local resident Ed Patenaude counted 164 racers who traveled in Friday's parade from the Dirt City Motorplex to downtown Lena where they lined the streets from 6-8 p.m. for the Thunder on Main event.




Crowds filled Main Street Lena mingling between, off-road race vehicles, drivers, food and drink.

Eli, of Gillett, is a supporter of the Christensen Racing team of Shawano.

Above, Marcus Watts holds son Oliver, in the tan hat, enjoying Thunder on Main on Friday evening. At left, Marek Watts, 3, leans out from his brother Draxton's racing truck as his family enjoy Friday's Thunder on Main.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

# Folk music festival set for Aug. 7-9

## Daytime and evening shows, quilt raffle, dance, children's programs make up schedule

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

About to celebrate its 48th year, the Shawano Folk Music Festival is set to return to the Mielke Park and the Mielke Arts Center on Aug. 7-9.

Co-directors for the 2026 festival are husband and wife Linda Blohowiak and Mike Stiefvater. The two had been crossing paths at the festival for more than 30 years without realizing it. A few years ago, they met up at a house concert, and their mutual love of live music – and each other – resulted in an exchange of wedding vows July 20, 2024.

"Our wonderful, hard-working committee has been working and playing all year long to bring you some of the best music around," they said in a joint statement. "We've rounded up talented artists, crafters and food vendors. So, get ready to sit back and relax, sing along, get a few good laughs and maybe shed a tear or two."

Anne Hills is the honorary director.

"Selecting musicians … actually begins on the last day of the festival (Sunday) when we select an honorary director from among the current year's musicians," said Norm Cook, one of the organizers. "We look for someone who understands the kind of festival we try to create. That person is the first booked artist for the following year."

Art Stevenson and High Water have been performing traditional bluegrass music in Wisconsin and surrounding states since 1993. Since then, they have released seven CD recordings of well-chosen songs and original compositions.
CONTRIBUTED

The honorary director then suggests two or three others not on the radar of the organizing committee.

"We'll choose one of them, and if they're available, interested and affordable, we've got two artists," Cook said.

From there, organizers select six artists for the evening concerts and a few others for daytime shows only.

"Committee members submit names of solo artists and bands that they know," Cook said. "We'll listen to their music and debate each one. Eventually, we'll have a list that we think will make a great festival. We look for a weirdly eclectic mix of musicians – men, women, solo artists and bands; folk musicians, blues, jazz, bluegrass, classical, pop, dance music, string bands and anything else we run across.

"It's the eclectic mix that sets us apart from many other festivals."

The list is given to the directors who contact the artists, check availability and affordability, and fill the schedule with a mix that's unique.

A pair of evening concerts are scheduled in the air-conditioned theater.

Pat Wiley and John Wilson will be masters of ceremonies Aug. 7. Performing will be Tom Pease; Ellis, Cohen and Ellis; Hills; and Steve March-Torme.

March-Torme is the master of ceremonies Aug. 8. Playing that night will be Wiley and Wilson, Ilene Weiss, Patty and Craig, and Art Stevenson and High Water.

There are three outdoor venues during the day featuring musicians, crafters and food vendors.

Test out your own voice with an open mic all day Aug. 8 in the food tent.

The evening concert performers will also play at these venues and will be joined by Door County Sound, Anything You Want, Wattle and Daub, Schwenke and Srubas, Cigar Box Scott, Pinolio, Dayshawn Taylor, and Brenda Belongia.

The theater comfortably holds 250 for the evening concerts. There are about 500 people attending the festival each day.

"Many audience members are local; others come from across Wisconsin and neighboring states. A few will come from farther away," Cook said. "Many come back year after year, greeting the friends they've made. A few have been coming since the first year."

He said there are many reasons audience members return year after year.

"We're the only weekend-long folk music festival in the area (there's one in La Crosse and another in Marquette Michigan)," Cook said. "We're small enough for it to be an intimate musical experience and big enough to attract regional and national artists. The artists come for the weekend, not just for a single set, so the audience has a chance to really get to meet them.

"The Mielke Park setting is a perfect site for this kind of festival – beautifully wooded and big enough for multiple outdoor stages for daytime programs, and small enough to be easily maneuverable."

Cook said artists often ask to return as well, knowing the festival doesn't feature any artist more than two years in a row.

"Some tell us it's their favorite small festival – friendly staff, friendly appreciative audience, incredible site," he said. "And they all mention how much they enjoy spending the weekend with other musicians. They comment on the high quality of the artists we get and how much they appreciate working with artists they've never met before, some in completely different musical genres. Some have even returned as audience members, driving from several states away."

The festival tradition of a quilt raffle is back with this year's quilt created by Jennifer Tagliapietra, Clintonville.

"This year's quilt is my take on the Star Pop II pattern by Emily Dennis," she said. "This uses the Sawtooth design. The Sawtooth Star is one of the oldest and most popular American quilt blocks, dating to the late 18th century, representing strength, protection and hope. Spring and summer time are my inspiration for the quilt, using contrasting colors throughout."

The longarming was donated by Rose Fast.

Programs for children include arts and crafts projects, a chance to play percussion, dance and movement, clowning around, writing Haiku poems, making a washtub bass, giggling a tune and the rockin' stompin' buzzin' music of Cigar Box Scott.

Souvenirs include the musicians' recordings, T-shirts, book and other products. There are also festival T-shirts, hats, coffee mugs and the festival CD.

kpasson@newmedia-wi.com

### AT A GLANCE

**WHAT:** Shawano Folk Music Festival
**WHEN:** Aug. 7-9
**WHERE:** Mielke Park and the Mielke Arts Center, N5649 Airport Road, Shawano
**COST:** A daytime pass is $15 per day (free for those 12 and younger. Each evening concert is $30. A Saturday (Aug. 8) pass is $40 and includes the daytime events and evening concert. A weekend pass for both daytimes and both evening concerts is $80.
**TICKETS:** Available online at shawanofestival.ludus.com, in person at the box office (only open festival weekend) or the Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce (exact cash or check), 1263 S. Main St., Shawano.
**ONLINE:** Visit www.shawanofestival.org for information.

**"Some tell us it's their favorite small festival – friendly staff, friendly appreciative audience, incredible site."**
NORM COOK, organizer for the Shawano Folk Music Festival


FOOD COLUMNIST

The food column in NEW Media's publications has been a favorite as families have learned to make tasty treats, healthy dinners and breakfasts, warm soups for cold days and more. Our previous columnist has moved on, but we want to keep up efforts to help folks try new and delicious stuff.

That's where we need your help.

We're looking for someone who not only knows how to cook but also has knowledge — or is willing to research — information on food like how healthy it is and/or the historical background on it. Whether it's a single item or several recipes for a special occasion, we seek someone who loves food, loves to make it, and loves to write about it and take awesome photos of it. The food column would run twice a month, along with some extras for key special sections.

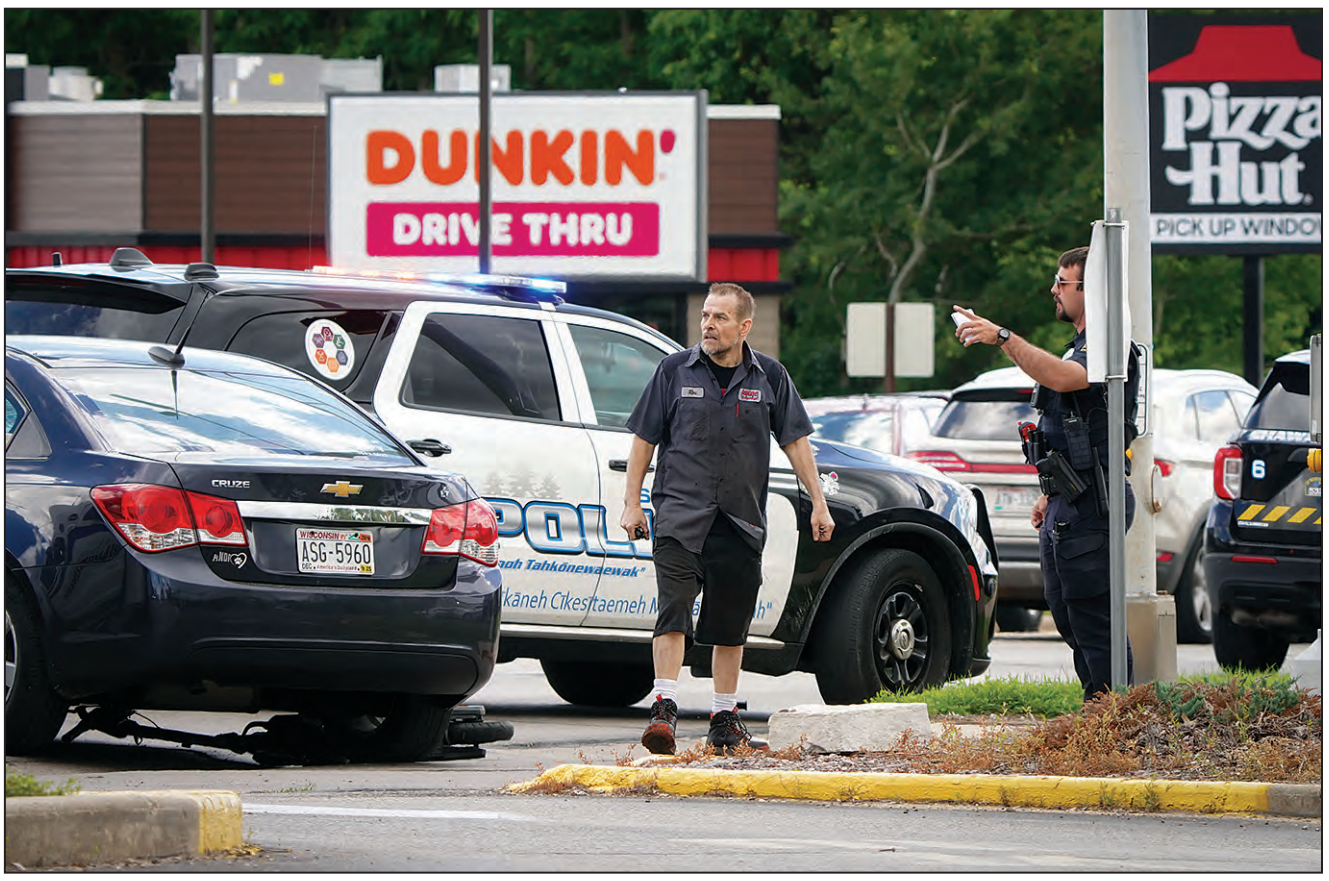
We pay a minimum of $60 per column and $10 per photo in print and/or online.

Contact City Editor Lee Pulaski at lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com if you'd like to be NEW Media's new food columnist!

# ‘THIS IS NOT YOUR FATHER’S BICYCLE’

## E-bikes, scooters combine efficiency with danger

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




**Riders of e-bikes and e-scooters are expected to follow the same rules of the road as traditional bicyclists. These include obeying traffic signals, yielding when required and avoiding reckless behavior such as weaving in and out of traffic. A crash between the rider of an e-scooter and a car in mid-June sent the e-scooter rider to the hospital.** GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Electric bikes and scooters have changed how we get around, whether for a daily commute, riding the trails or hauling cargo.

Modern e-bikes have transformed from heavy, clunky novelties into sleek, high-tech and efficient machines. The change is similar to the classic General Motors’ rebranding of the Oldsmobile cars in the late 1980s.

The new e-bikes and e-scooters also bring confusion and the increasing possibility of injury.

“What are these things?” asked Randy Wiessinger, Bureau of Transportation Safety, at the July 21 Shawano County Highway Safety Commission meeting. “It’s the hottest topic.”

According to the Shawano Police Department, Class 1 e-bikes provide pedal assistance and stop assisting once the rider reaches 20 mph. Class 2 e-bikes can be powered by a throttle without pedaling and also have a maximum speed of 20 mph. Class 3 e-bikes provide pedal assistance up to 28 mph, but riders must be at least 16 years old and the bicycle must be equipped with a speedometer.

“We have received complaints about e-bikes, e-motos and e-scooters traveling at excessive speeds in residential neighborhoods and city parks,” Chief Mike Musolff said. “We have not moved forward with banning these devices in the parks at this point in the year, although it remains an option for future consideration.”

Under Wisconsin law, e-bikes must have fully operable pedals, a motor rated at no more than 750 watts and a manufacturer-applied class label identifying the bicycle as a Class 1, 2, or 3 e-bike. Riders who operate compliant e-bikes do not need a driver’s license, registration or insurance.

E-bike riders are expected to follow the same rules of the road as traditional bicyclists. These include obeying traffic signals, yielding when required and avoiding reckless behavior such as weaving in and out of traffic.

Not following the rules can lead to accidents.

“I heard about a reported collision involving a scooter and a child, possibly at Franklin Park or Naberhood Park, following Thursdayz at Franklin,” Musolff said. “My understanding is that the child was transported to the hospital.”

On June 16, police responded to a crash involving an e-scooter and a car.

“The crash at McDonald’s involved a vehicle exiting the restaurant and an e-scooter traveling at a relatively high speed on the sidewalk,” Musolff said. “The vehicle was exiting slowly when the collision occurred. The scooter rider was transported to the hospital.”

A 2024 U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission report said e-bike injuries doubled every year from 2017 to 2022.

Officials also warn riders against modifying e-bikes in ways that push them beyond legal limits. E-bikes capable of speeds greater than 28 mph, motors exceeding 750 watts or bikes altered to remove pedals or bypass factory speed controls may be considered motor vehicles under Wisconsin law and could be subject to additional regulations.

Local law enforcement are also seeing increased use of e-motos, electric dirt-bike-style devices that lack pedals and are not legal for use on public roads, sidewalks, or multi-use trails.

“If it goes over 20 mph by power of an electric motor, it is not an e-anything,” Wiessinger said. “It is a motorcycle. E-motos, e-scooters, a bunch of them go 50 mph, obviously they can’t be registered as a motorcycle, so they’re illegally operating on the roadway.

“The biggest thing we’re seeing right now is e-motos. They’re basically like … a minibike. They go 50-60 mph, but they have no pedals. Those are e-motos. By definition, they’re motorcycles, but they can’t be licensed or registered as a motorcycle, so they’re illegal to operate anywhere except on your own private property, but people are buying them left and right.”

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# Change made to roadside markings

## Width of white lines won’t be altered on Shawano County roads

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

Anyone cruising down state Highway 29 at 70 mph (or even at slower speeds due to construction efforts) probably hasn’t realized the width of the white lines on the side of the road has changed.

Tony Kemnitz, of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, briefly discussed the change at the July 21 meeting of the Shawano County Highway Safety Commission.

“Paint lines have gone from 4 inches to 6 inches,” he said. “We’ve done that on all the state highways; however, on county highways, they’re still allowed to go to 4 inches.”

Many counties have opted to stay at 4 inches of county roads due to the cost.

“We’re staying with 4 inches except for certain ones that line with state roads,” said Grant Bystol, Shawano County highway commissioner. “Bottom line is it’s 50% more product. A lot more money.”

Kemnitz and Randy Wiessinger, Bureau of Transportation Safety, said they understood the reasoning behind the county’s decision, while Kemnitz said there is a known safety benefit going to wider lines.

“Wider lines and pavement markings, there’s evidence to show that that’ll slow people down,” Wiessinger said. “The perception (is that) the lane is narrower, so narrower lanes, the slower people tend to drive.”

Bystol said if the Shawano County made the switch to wider lines, it would cost an additional $150,000.

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# Pulaski School District makes summer fun

## Summer school offerings provide academic help, also cater to students' interests

By MIRANDA DUNLAP
Wisconsin Watch

Instructor Bill Mihalski works with students in a class on how to play chess as part of the Pulaski Community School District's summer school program on July 9 in Pulaski.
MIKE ROEMER | WISCONSIN WATCH

On a Thursday in early July, more than 1,000 kids flooded the halls of Pulaski Community Middle School.

Heaps of backpacks were piled in corners of classrooms and hallways. Bikes crowded the racks outside. At lunchtime, lines of children snaked around the building as they waited for hamburgers.

Summer school is a phrase usually wielded as a threat to keep students on task in the classroom.

Not in Pulaski.

For six weeks each summer, the middle school transforms into the place to be, instead of a punishment.

More than 2,600 kids – 68% of the school district's enrollment – sign up for summer classes ranging from knitting and cooking to swimming lessons and science experiments. Students who need extra academic help get it, but the focus is on exploring new interests, spending less time on screens and nurturing children's creative sides in a way classwork doesn't always encourage.

At a time when affordable child care can be hard to find, the free program has become a lifeline for the community. Signing up for classes is as competitive as queuing to buy Bruno Mars tickets, staff said – the most popular classes fill up in minutes.

"You get to see a lot of kids from other schools that you don't get to see normally," sixth grader Xiomara Lloyd said as she strung beads to add to the stack of bracelets on her wrist, each adorned with her nickname, "Xio." "I love it."

The classes help students build a positive association with school, explore new hobbies, get offline and into the real world – and, of course, learn.

"There's a lot of anxiety and different things as soon as they get close to those (school) doors, because now they're asked to do a lot of things that are difficult for them to do," said Pulaski Area Community Education director Mark Heck, who leads the summer school. "But when we can have them come in and have great success and really enjoy it, that's a win."

### Different type of learning

Walking through the halls is like stepping between different worlds.

In one classroom, students dressed in Halloween costumes have a dance party. In another, students take turns using American Sign Language to describe emotions. Upstairs, students cook pizza from scratch in a home economics classroom. And in the gymnasium, shrieks and shouts echo as kids play an intense game of dodgeball.

The chaos is organized – every classroom has at least two adults, and kids wear a badge printed with their name and their schedule, so adults know where they belong if they get lost.

"Summer school is stuff that you learn new, like swimming floats, or you learn how to make diamond art, or even make hearts made out of clay … Summer school lets you have fun in the summer, if you don't know what to do at your house," said elementary student Ava Lentz.

It's not all fun and games. Those behind in classes or on tests take reading and math classes designed to catch them up. Several teachers also host tutoring sessions.

Generally, the classes take a more creative approach. That includes a science class where kids gleefully partake in a series of science experiments – on that Thursday, they combined soda and Pop Rocks and watched the fizzy reaction.

"It's really great learning, but it might not be exactly what they're learning during the school year, where (educators are) worried about standards, and worried about the tests that they're going to be getting kids ready for, and things like that," Heck said. "All of those things are very important, but during the summertime we can do a little different type of learning."

That philosophy has guided the program for two decades.

When Pulaski leaders launched the summer school 22 years ago, it was a small program consisting of one or two classes at several schools, because the state would only fund a few hours a day.

Busy parents begged for a full-day program. Not long after Pulaski schools started offering afternoon programming at a cost, the state's rules changed. Now, schools can get funding for eligible programs all day, all summer long. So Heck dreamed of something bigger.

"I just had this idea in my head that was going, 'I think we could do something a lot better than this.' … I want to make a program where your kids say, 'No, I want to go to summer school,'" he said.

Nowadays, they do.

Kids beg to sign up to be where their friends are. About 68% of the district's 3,800 students will enroll in at least one summer school course. Signing up for classes is "an Olympic sport," staff say. Parents take off work to refresh the computer. They post to Facebook the night before registration, wishing each other luck. The best classes fill up in minutes.

### It takes a village

Keeping such a behemoth summer school running smoothly takes a village, but in the tight-knit community, it works.

The district employs roughly 130 teachers, 25 classroom aides, various high school and college students and other community members to keep over 2,500 students busy.

"When we hire our teachers … The first thing I say is, if you weren't here right now, what would you be doing?" Heck said.

Those answers often become classes. For example, a local farmer teaches kids about horses, even bringing in equestrians as guest speakers and taking kids to visit the farm animals. Two food service workers teach students how to cook. A hobby fisherman took students to different ponds in the area during a previously offered course.

Running such a major operation has also brought challenges. It was tough getting all of the departments – transportation, food, academics – on board, but that's much easier to do in a small district like Pulaski, Heck said.

Ironically, another major challenge is child care.

Many educators have young children who are too young to attend summer school but still need care during the workday. Without viable child care, they couldn't commit to working in the warmer months.

The district's solution: One classroom is transformed into a "babysitting room," where fellow teachers and aspiring early childhood educators change diapers, make bottles and keep a handful of babies entertained.

The program has become a workforce pipeline, too. Heck estimates about 15 young adults who first worked summer school have since returned as full-time educators either in Pulaski or in neighboring districts.

### A lifesaver

Affordable child care has become increasingly difficult to find, and securing spots in summer camps is notoriously competitive. For that reason, the free summer school that turns away no one has become a lifeline for local families.

Parent and Pulaski Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Stacey Von Busch said her kids have participated in the camp for years, calling its affordability a "lifesaver."

"To have something like this in our community, where we don't have to drive 30 minutes to get our kids to (other camps), is huge," she said.

The district provides bus transportation for students who need it, and thanks to a federal grant, children can eat breakfast and lunch at school.

While by law the school must be tuition-free, the district may charge modest fees for supplies, such as beads for making bracelets or yarn for knitting and crocheting. Course fees range between $0 and $40 for each two-week term.

The school is funded by the state – Wisconsin schools can receive funding for summer school classes that meet certain academic requirements. Rather than paying schools a flat amount for each student, the state bases funding on the total instructional time students attend. Therefore, Heck is on a mission to keep enrollment high, as more students involved equals more funding.

That includes everyone. Parents of children with disabilities often struggle more to find summer schools and camps that serve them, Heck said. He didn't want that to be the case in Pulaski.

Many of the district's special education employees staff a classroom dedicated to children with disabilities. That includes those who require federally mandated "extended school year instruction," an individualized academic program meant to stop students from regressing over break.

"I look forward to this every year," said special education teacher Tessa Badtke. "You just get to know them in such a different way, because there's not this academic pressure like at school, so you can just build these relationships."

Then, Badtke said, students have a better school year. Heck agreed.

"What's the win out of it for us? We got our kids to walk through the school doors and actually not be angry and upset when they came in," Heck said. "They're coming in and they're happy. Our hope is maybe next year, when they come back in the fall, they're coming in and they're saying, 'I'll give it a chance.'"

Student Quinn Kitzman watches balloons inflate after dropping Pop Rocks into bottles of soda as part of a class called edible chemistry.
MIKE ROEMER | WISCONSIN WATCH

# Bonduel improves to 12-2 in Dairyland

## Cecil rallies to win Shawano tournament championship

By **GREG SEUBERT**
Correspondent

The Bonduel Broncos are still in the mix for a Dairyland League championship.

Bonduel hosted Pulaski on July 26 and picked up a 7-4 win over the Reds to improve to 12-2 in league play.

**Bonduel 7 Pulaski 4**

Jett Thielke held the Reds hitless over seven innings while striking out 16 batters. Jack Reinke and Noah Weier each pitched an inning of relief and gave up two runs.

Bonduel had 14 hits, with Cooper Campshure, Adam Frost, Weier, Eric Yogi Gruenewald, J.C. Reinke and Jack Reinke leading the way with two each.

**Cecil 11, Waupaca 5**

The Mudhens hosted league-leading Waupaca at Joe Peterman Field and handed the Lakemen a loss.

It didn't take long for the Lakemen to take the lead, as leadoff hitter Parker Krcmar sent the first pitch of the game over the right field fence.

Cecil returned the favor in the bottom half of the inning on Garrett Engel's solo home run.

Cecil took the lead in the second inning after Isaac Boldt reached on an error, Mason Zuleger hit into a fielder's choice and Reese Stoletenow's RBI double.

The Mudhens added to their 2-1 lead in the third inning with five runs, scored in every inning except the seventh and improved to 8-6 in league play.

Engel, Easton Engel and Ken Casper hit home runs as the Mudhens had 15 hits. Stoltenow, Boldt, Braden Uelmen and Mason Meverden each had two hits.

Meverden started on the mound for Cecil and pitched five innings to pick up the win while allowing eight hits and four runs. Noah Beilfuss completed the game by holding the Lakemen without a hit over four innings. The pair also combined to strike out batters.

Following the game, the Mudhens inducted Robbie Uelmen, Jesse Uelmen, Bill Uelmen, John Uelmen, Chris Popp, Justin Popp, Ryan Robley, Dan Stoltenow, Lucas Torbeck, Josh Marohl and Ryan Engel into the team's Hall of Fame.

**Navarino 4, Hortonville 3**

Hunter Larson's double that scored Owen Weber in the bottom of the ninth inning gave the Rangers a walkoff win over the Stars.

Navarino took an early 2-0 lead in the first inning on RBI singles from Brett Krull and Ethan Bemowski.

Hortonville scored single runs in the third, fourth and fifth innings to take a 3-2 lead before Mason Dingledein's RBI single that scored Larson in the fifth inning tied the game.

Ryan Boettcher picked up the win on the mound in relief of Mike Nompleggi. Nompleggi scattered six hits over five innings and didn't allow an earned run. Larson and Bemowski each had three of the Rangers' 13 hits, while Krull and Mason Dingeldein added two each.

**Hofa Park at Shawano**

Results not reported.

**Marinette at Nichols**

Results not reported.

**Nichols at Waupaca**

Results not reported from a makeup game played July 24.

**Shawano Lobos Invitational Tournament**

**Cecil 7, Hofa Park 5**

After trailing 5-0 in the fourth inning, Cecil outscored the Panthers 7-0 to win the championship game of the Shawano Lobos Invitational Tournament on July 24.

Hofa Park scored all five of its runs in the top of the fourth inning on three hits, but the Mudhens answered with two runs in the bottom of the frame.

Braden Uelmen and Logan Thiex walked, Mason Meverden's double to center field scored Uelmen, and Meverden came home on Jake Polzin's sacrifice fly.

Cecil completed its comeback in the bottom of the sixth inning. Garrett Engel started the rally with a leadoff single, Uelmen walked and Engel stole third base and eventually scored on Thiex's single to left field. Hits from Meverden and Polzin gave the Mudhens a 6-5 lead and Miles Friedman wrapped up the scoring with an RBI single.

Hofa Park's runs came on Heinrich Walder's sacrifice fly, Caden Czyzewski's RBI single, a wild pitch and Aiden Linsmeyer's two-run double.

Thiex earned the win for Cecil Mudhens. The hurler gave up two hits and zero runs over three innings, striking out four and walking two. Walder took the loss for Hofa Park Panthers. The hurler went 5 1/3 innings, giving up seven runs on six hits, striking out four and walking three. Cole Anderson led things off on the hill for Cecil Mudhens. The starting pitcher gave up one hit and zero runs over one inning, striking out two and walking none.

Darek Diekman had two hits to lead Hofa Park at the plate.

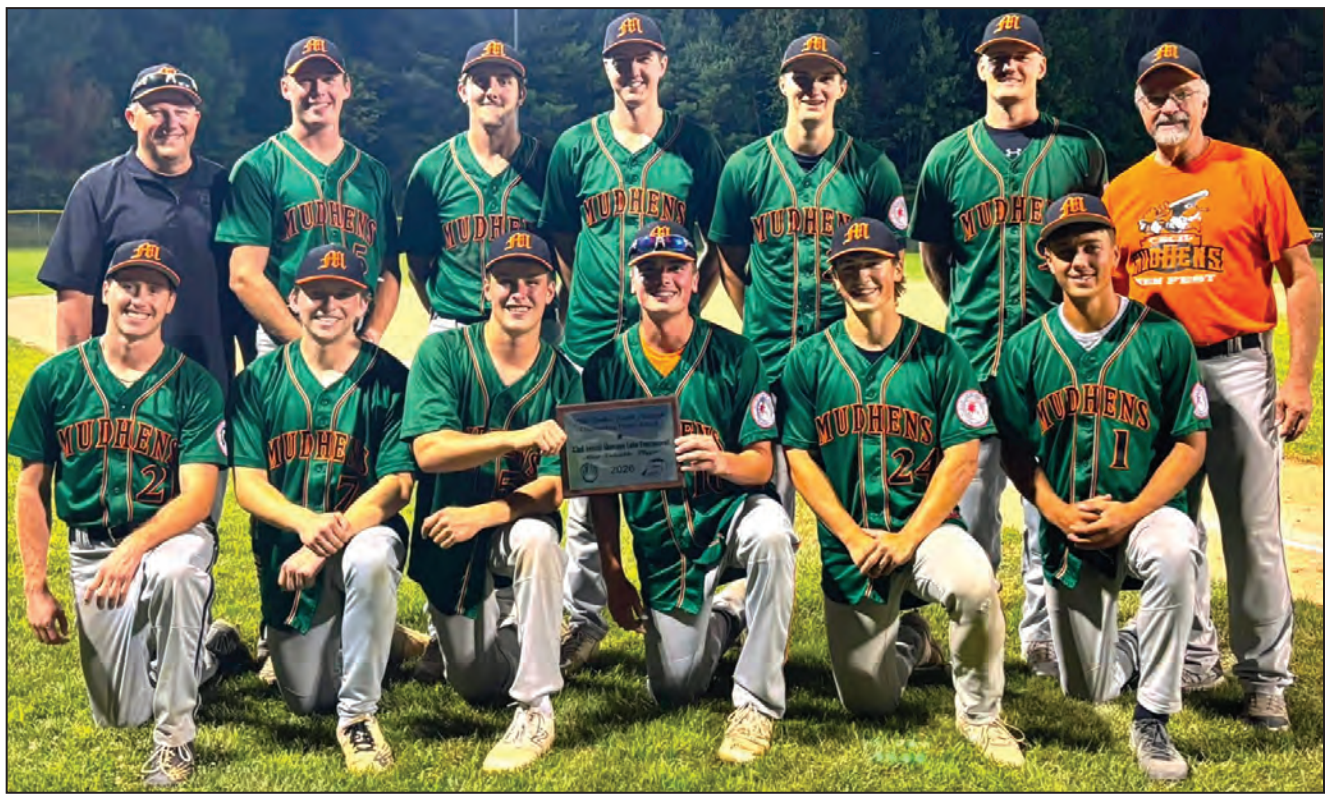
Thiex picked up the win on the mound after relieving Connor Kurki in the fourth inning. Kurki gave up four hits and five unearned runs while striking out six batters.

Cecil's Reese Stoltenow was named tournament MVP after batting .556 with two doubles and three runs scored.

**July 31 schedule:** Hofa Park at Shawano, 7:30 p.m.

**Aug. 1 schedule:** Navarino at Nichols, 1:30 p.m.

**Aug. 2 schedule (all games start at 1:30 p.m.):** Shawano at Bonduel; Navarino at Cecil; Nichols at Pulaski; Hofa Park at Marinette; Waupaca at Hortonville.



**The Cecil Mudhens won the Shawano Lobos' annual baseball tournament July 24 in Shawano with a 7-5 win over Hofa Park in the championship game. Bonduel, Shawano, Navarino and Wittenberg/Antigo also competed in the tournament.**

COURTESY OF CECIL MUDHENS FACEBOOK PAGE

# Eland, Hatley combine for 33 hits, 29 runs

By **GREG SEUBERT**
Correspondent

Eland and Hatley's BABA baseball teams put up some big numbers under the lights July 24 in their North Division matchup in Eland.

The Engineers scored 10 runs in the bottom of the fifth inning and went on to hand the Braves a 22-7 loss in a game that included 33 hits and 29 runs.

**North Division**

**Eland 22, Hatley 7**

Jacob Ligenza had five of Eland's 20 hits, while teammate Ryan Richter added four hits, including three home runs. Tyler Nelson and Peyton Flees had three hits; and Nic Barnes had two hits.

Kodie Kocher and Jeremy Schmidt each had three of Hatley's 13 hits, while Nick Cotter, Braxton Olsen and Tanner Kocher added two each.

Nelson picked up the win on the mound, and Ben Cunliffe took the loss.

**Aniwa 7, Crandon 1**

Jayden Karcz had three of Aniwa's 15 hits in a road win over the Kentucks on July 26.

Gavin Steppart, Kody Szews, Ryan Govek, Max Kasprak and Cory Mortenson added two hits each.

Cole Shepherd led Crandon with three of his team's eight hits, while Tyler Sprink added two.

Denton Mortenson picked up the win on the mound, and Trent Palubicki took the loss.

**Elderon 13, Antigo/Polar 5**

The WhiskeyJacks headed to Antigo on July 24 and returned home with a win over the Bears.

Justin Meronk and MacLaen Alwes each had three of Elderon's 16 hits, while Trevor Groshek, Brandon Groshek and Matt Meronk added two each.

Braxton Olson, Reed Kuenzli and Brady Renfro each had two of Antigo/Polar's nine hits.

Thomas Lemanczyk picked up the win on the mound, and Will Kubeny took the loss.

**West Division**

**New London 10, Wittenberg 0**

The Pilots didn't have an answer for Mike Helsten, who struck out 10 batters while holding Wittenberg scoreless to get the win on the mound.

Austin Warren drove in three runs on two hits for the Irish, while Tyler Gerrits, Ethan Hertzfeldt and Ethan Bergen added two hits each.

**Caroline 13, Weymont 0**

Mason Breitenfeldt hit his first BABA home run in the Cougars' win over the White Bass on July 24 in Weyauwega.

Jack Yaeger added a home run for Caroline, while Klay Barkow pitched five shutout innings to pick up the win on the mound.

Yaeger had three hits for the Cougars, while Cole Rosenow added three hits and scored three runs. Breitenfeldt finished with two hits.

**Tilleda at Leopolis**

Results not reported.

**Gresham at Tigerton**

Results not reported.

**South-Central Division**

**Plover 10, Menominee 4**

Plover, out of the South-Central Division, hosted Menominee, an East Division team, July 26.

Plover opened the scoring in the bottom of the first inning with a pair of runs on Kaden Thauer's double and Josh Marcione's groundout.

The Pterodactyls added to their lead in the next inning on Zach Houston's groundout before adding five runs on five hits in the fourth. Jason Jones and Brady Houston had RBI singles; Marcione added a two-run single, and an error brought in another run.

Jackson Fox, Thauer, Zach Houston and Brady Houston each had two of Plover's 12 hits.

Bryce Dixon and Mitchell VonDeWolle each drove in a run for the Indians, and Austin Peters led Menominee with two hits.

Jones picked up the win on the mound after holding the Indians to one hit and no runs over six innings. Pete O'Kimosh took the loss for Menominee after relieving starter Ray Lemieux.

**BABA,** continued on page 10

## BABA, continued from page 9

**Scandinavia 6, Plover 3**

Scandinavia picked up a win over Plover on July 22.

Ben Lee and Matt Glodowski led Scandinavia with two hits, while Tim Sackmann and Kaden Thauer led Plover with two hits.

Cyle Zblewski got the win on the mound, and Josh Opiola took the loss.

**Marion at Scandinavia**

Results not reported.

**East Division**

**Clintonville at Shawano**

Results not reported.

**Plover at Clintonville**

Results not reported.

**July 31 schedule**

West Division: Clintonville at Caroline (Fan Appreciation Night), 7 p.m. East Division: Clintonville at Caroline (Fan Appreciation Night), 7 p.m.

**Aug. 2 schedule (all games start at 1:30 p.m.)**

East Division: Menominee at Clintonville; Shawano at Marion; Gresham has bye. West Division: Tigerton at Leopolis; Tilleda at Caroline (Battle for Tom Malueg's Bat); Wittenberg at Little Falls. North Division: Birnamwood at Aniwa; Eland at Elderon; Antigo/Polar at Crandon; Hatley has bye. South-Central Division: Weymont at Scandinavia; New London at Plover.

# Swedberg wins dirt late models race

Shawano's AJ Springborn moved up from a 10th-place start to capture the checkered flag in the 20-lap IMCA sport modifieds feature race at the Shawano Speedway on July 25.

Oconto Falls' Cole Magnin started eighth and finished second, while Seymour Tim Jorgensen started 11th and placed third.

Gillett's Brad Miller started on the pole and finished in four place.

Miller and Magnin won the heat races.

In the IMCA sport compact 12-lap feature, it was Clintonville's Tanner Westphal winning after starting in seventh place. Shawano's Jasper Drengler finished second after starting ninth, and Clintonville's Brad Wedde took third after starting in eighth.

Pole sitter Dylan Arndt, of Shawano, ended up in seventh place.

Gleason's Dylan Henry and Drengler won the heat races.

The 20-lap IMCA modifieds feature race was won by Shawano's Trent Nolan, who started the race in sixth place.

Wausau's Marcus Yarie started in eighth and placed second, while Shawano's Jordan Bartz started ninth and placed third.

Bonduel's Sean Falk had the pole but did not start.

Yarie and Nolan won the heat races.

The 20-lap dirt late models feature race victory went to Shawano's Brett Swedberg. He also started on the pole.

Shawano's Troy Springborn started third and moved up to second, while Bonduel's Nick Anvelink started eight and placed third.

Heat races were won by Swedberg and Shawano's Lukas Postl.

Green Bay's Luke Lemmens started 10th and won the 20-lap IMCA stock cars feature race. Marion's Don Michonski started third and placed second, while Shiocton's Vern Stedjee started fourth and placed third.

Pole sitter Jeremy Christians, of Horicon, finished in 11th place.

Michonski, Oconto Falls' Kyle Frederick and Wisconsin Rapids' Mark Eswein won the heat races.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**Before the dirt started flying at the Dirt City Motorplex in Lena on July 25-26, drivers and their cars made their way to downtown Lena for the annual Thunder on Main event where residents and visitors were treated to a close-up look at the cars and a chance to meet the drivers. There are three more stops in the AMSOIL Championship Off-Road season.**

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

# Henderson, Greaves battle for AMSOIL points lead in Lena

Jimmy Henderson snatched the Pro 4 points lead away from CJ Greaves on July 25, but Greaves responded by taking it right back the next day at the Dirt City Motorplex in Lena for the latest round in the AMSOIL Championship Off-Road.

Mickey Thomas was on the move early with Henderson in tow, but the championship picture shifted dramatically on Lap 5 when Henderson sheared a tire and saw his day come to an early end.

Thomas was left alone out front, but the field tightened again at the mandatory mid-race caution. Greaves kept the pressure on as Thomas began showing noticeable steering issues, then made his move for the lead on Lap 12. One lap later, Thomas stalled and was unable to refire, ending a promising run.

With clean air ahead of him on a dry and dusty track, Greaves pulled away for his third victory of the season and reclaimed the championship lead. Adrian Cenni always seems to find his way onto the podium in Lena, and he did it again by slipping around Thomas to secure second and his first podium of the season. Andrew Pate stayed within reach of the leaders throughout the race and moved into third when Thomas dropped out, driving cleanly to his first career Pro 4 podium.

Five drivers are separated by just 59 points with five rounds of Pro 2 racing remaining in 2026. The driver sitting sixth happens to be defending champion Keegan Kincaid, who was forced to miss the Minnesota race while getting his truck back in order. Despite the setback, Kincaid remains one of the most dangerous drivers in the field.

Saturday winner Cory Winner controlled the opening four laps before Kincaid found an opening and powered past for the lead. Kincaid never gave up the top spot, but the victory was far from comfortable. Johnny Holtger worked around Winner on Lap 12 and remained glued to Kincaid's rear bumper through the finish.

Kincaid held firm at the line, edging Holtger by just 0.290 seconds for his second victory of the season. Holtger finished second for his third consecutive podium and left Dirt City third in the standings, 30 points behind leader Ryan Beat. Winner capped a breakout weekend with a third-place finish and back-to-back podiums.

For complete results, visit https://champoffroad.com.

# Bonduel golfers honored for success in the classroom

By **NEW MEDIA STAFF**

The Bonduel girls golf team was recognized for their work in the classroom while also participating in the 2025 WIAA girls golf season.

The Golf Coaches Association of Wisconsin awarded the girls the Team Academic All-State Award.

The Team Academic All-State Award was established to recognize high school golf teams with the highest team GPA ("team" is defined as the five golfers on the roster for the girls 2025 WIAA regional tournament or conference championship). This year's teams were recognized in one of three tiers based on the average GPA of the five athletes who were nominated:

- Gold Level Academic Teams: Teams with an average cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher.
- Silver Level Academic Teams: Teams with an average cumulative GPA of 3.50-3.74.
- Bronze Level Academic Teams: Teams with an average cumulative GPA of 3.25-3.49.

Bonduel achieved Gold Level status for the 2025 season.

Team members were Hailey Spates, McKenna Onesti, Morgan Staszak, Paige Wolf and Quinn Hartlaben.

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# Bees buzzing at Hobby Honey Farm

## Honey, beeswax used to create a variety of products for people to use

By KAY REMINGER
Correspondent

A honeycomb is visible as it's being formed within the mobile observation hive for John and Lorraine Ballbach's Hobby Honey Farm. The hive is used for educating the public about the role bees play. KAY REMINGER

In rural Shawano County, the bees are busy making honey at John and Lorraine Ballbach's Hobby Honey Farm in Gresham.

However, their farm offers more than raw honey.

In addition to selling local raw and creamed honey, the Ballbachs also sell their own beeswax products which include tea lights, votive cups and candles as well as beeswax bars.

Beeswax bars can be used as a lubricant, a sealant, used for cutting boards and for cabinetry – even for ease of opening windows and drawers.

"My customers have taught me how many uses they come up with for beeswax bars," said Lorraine Ballbach. "They use it to season cast iron pans and bowstrings for their bows, and to lubricate guitar strings."

Bees make the wax, gorging themselves with honey, extracting the wax out of their abdomen. The wax is then scraped out of the frames, and Lorraine Ballbach melts it, pouring it into 5-cup mold trays.

"We keep bees throughout the state of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan for specialty honeys. We have 24 Michigan hives we tend," said John Ballbach.

Bees carry pollen back to the hive and produce honey. Each source reflects the flavor from where it came. Some come from the buckwheat plant, others from the basswood tree and still others from wild flowers.

All the honeys at the farm are labeled and named after the source.

For example, Starthistle is from the thistle plant. It's a light-brown, caramel-tasting honey, velvety and smooth. Summer Blend is a conventional honey and what the bees put in the box from spring to fall. Buckwheat honey is black and has a syrupy, molasses taste with 20 times the antioxidants of any light honey. Honey from basswood has a stronger flavor, with a light mint taste.

The honeys are stored separately in water-jacketed stainless steel tanks, with the water kept at 90 degrees.

"Otherwise, sitting long enough, raw honey will granulate," said John Ballbach.

The family has downsized to 100 hives this year from approximately 230 because of health issues and age.

"My dad used to run 650 hives here in addition to 40 head of beef cattle and work the land well into his 70s," said John Ballbach. "We grew up in southern Wisconsin near Port Washington and bought this property in 1989. He brought the bees with him. He was a migrant beekeeper, spending winters in Florida and summers in Wisconsin, packing the bees up in a semi and taking them with him."

Since there is a lot of misinformation on the internet, John Ballbach stresses getting correct information first-hand from a seasoned beekeeper if anyone has a notion to start keeping bees.

"Ninety percent of the stuff out there is false. I tell people what not to do, and they do it and they wonder why it didn't work out even though they saw it on YouTube," said John Ballbach.

After marrying, the Ballbachs only had one hive. In 2008, Lorraine Ballbach quit working because of health issues. After making a list of things she could do, she discovered one was making honey. For one year, they researched the ins and outs of selling raw honey.

"The next year we got 25 more hives, and it just kept going up from there," said Lorraine Ballbach.

The Ballbachs don't have any helpers on the honey farm.

"It takes dedication. You can't let the bee stings bother you; you gotta love the bees," said John Ballbach. "You can read all the books you want, but there's no learning like hands-on experience."

**BEES,** continued on page 16

Shawano author Greg Stezenski shows off the display for his children's book "My Pet Pig" at Heather's Books and Beans, 1235 W. Green Bay St., Shawano. The popular book is a story about a Shawano farm boy who raises a pig on his grandparents' farm. LYNN ZAFFRANN

# Children's book 'My Pet Pig' a true story – almost

## Stezenski's story recalls time spent on grandparents' farm

By LYNN ZAFFRANN
Correspondent

A new children's book written by a local man may be the perfect end-of-summer, and going forward, book for 5- to 9-year-olds.

"My Pet Pig," written by Shawano's Greg A. Stezenski, is a warm and endearing story of a child growing up on a Shawano farm with a pet pig named Max.

"I wanted to write a book showing how much pets can mean to children and adults and the responsibility that goes along with it.," he said. "I also wanted to pick a pet that's not a common pet."

He said that he envisions parents reading the book with preschoolers, or elementary-aged children reading on their own. The story is engaging for young children, and the illustrations fit the story perfectly.

A lot of what's in his debut children's book reflects farm life 70 years ago.

"I've had several (people) come up to me and tell me how amazing life was when we were children," he said. "The story is life on a farm, a love story between the child and his pig."

His enthusiasm for this book is catching.

He said that the pig in the story is fiction, but everything else is from Stezenski's childhood. After some people have read it, he said they've told him they couldn't believe some of it wasn't true.

"It's so real when you read it," Stezenski said.

**PIG,** continued on page 13

## PIG, continued from page 12

Talking about growing up on a Shawano farm, he reminisced about going to West Shawano Grade School.

"Our fifth grade class had only seven students," he said. The school was out in the country, in Richmond," Stezenski said. "It was really a pleasure growing up. There's a little bit in the book about my teacher, Miss Krumbach. She was a wonderful teacher, kind-hearted. I think about her a lot."

Stezenski said that "My Pet Pig" is a good book, and he's happy how it turned out.

"It is really popular, especially around Shawano now," he said. "It's a popular book with elementary teachers and is in several libraries already."

His sister, Debbie Stezenski, is a former elementary teacher and has spread the word in the education community about the book.

**AT A GLANCE**
**TITLE:** "My Pet Pig"
**AUTHOR:** Greg A. Stezenski
**PAGES:** 36
**PUBLISHER:** Rey's Endure Ink
**PRICE:** $12.95 for paperback, $4.95 for e-book
**WHERE IT'S SOLD:** Heather's Beans and Books, 1235 E. Green Bay St., Shawano. Online at www.amazon.com and www.bookbaby.com.

He said that he's seen some people buy a book and then buy another copy. Stezenski was surprised that 50 copies sold in just a few weeks.

The book includes references to the Shawano County Fair and the Bonduel livestock auction. The story's location is based on the farm owned by his grandparents, Emil and Ruth Glueths.

Their farm, adjoining Stezenski's parents' farm, was about 2 miles south of Shawano, behind where Arby's and the Shell gas station are now.

Illustrations in the book and on the back cover are based on Stezenski's memories of his grandparents' farm. He dedicated the book to them.

His parents were Joe and Gladys Stezenski. "Really wonderful parents," he said.

He is the oldest of four children, two boys and two girls. His siblings are Debbie Stezenski, Sue Fletcher and Jeff Stezenski.

His book is also dedicated to two of his siblings, Debbie and Jeff.

He also dedicated the book to his son, Rick, "For helping make 'My Pet Pig' a reality."

Stezenski was the first in his family to attend college. He went to Winona State University in Minnesota on a baseball scholarship and won 20 games there as a pitcher. While earning his bachelor's degree, he wrote an article on pitching.

He did some more writing, mostly articles on hunting and fishing, followed by two short books. "101 Ways to Get Your Deer Every Year" was written around 1980. In the 1990s, he wrote "How to Catch Big Northern Ice Fishing." Stezenski said he sold a lot of these booklets, mostly through word-of-mouth.

He said that Rosie Rey with the Shawano Area Writers, developer of www.mamarosiesdream.com and teacher with Shawano Community Education, was the catalyst for getting his book published.

He knew that he wouldn't be able to get "My Pet Pig" ready to publish on his own, so he sought Rey's professional help. She took his handwritten notes, edited them and met with him to ensure the book's illustrations she created on her technical platforms were what he envisioned.

Rey said that, after she showed him a work-up of the first picture she created, Stezenski said, "That's the farm I grew up on."

The book was published by Rey's Endure Ink, in collaboration with BookBaby, which helps authors with every step of self-publishing.

"My ultimate goal is to have a movie made about the book. I've already approached the director where they are making a movie in Wausau right now," Stezenski said. "We'll see how it goes."

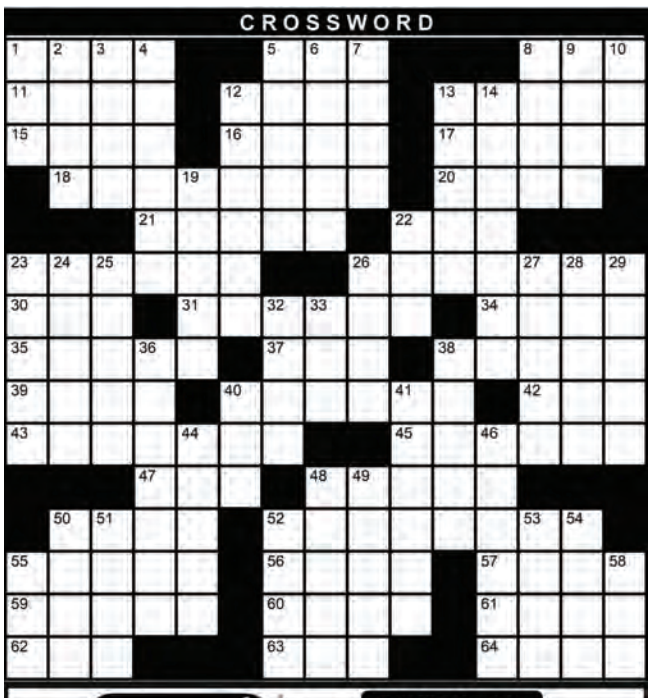
**"My ultimate goal is to have a movie made about the book. I've already approached the director where they are making a movie in Wausau right now."**
GREG A. STEZENSKI, author of "My Pet Pig"

## THEME: HISTORY 101

**ACROSS**
1. Charlie "Bird" Parker's sax
5. Mary ____, businesswoman extraordinaire
8. Downloadable smartphone purchase
11. In ____ of
12. Greek salad staple
13. Appraisal
15. Law school prerequisite, acr.
16. "Once ____ a Time in America"
17. Dictum, pl.
18. *____ press, Johannes Gutenberg's invention
20. "Sittin' On the Dock of the Bay" singer
21. In need of a muffler
22. Make a choice
23. *Genghis Khan's ____ Empire
26. Intima, pl.
30. Fertility clinic stock
31. Tranquil
34. Famous Steeler coach, Chuck ____
35. Twisted cotton thread
37. Key next to spacebar
38. Like a gymnast
39. Naysayer's favorite prefix
40. Develop, as in story
42. ____-AFTRA
43. Famous fox of fable
45. Like a smell of soil
47. *World's first 24-hour TV news network, acr.
48. Molten rock
50. Smoke plus fog
52. *First Roman emperor
55. Part of foot, pl.
56. Chowder protein
57. Pelvic parts
59. Are not
60. *Homesteader's purchase, sing.
61. "____ the good die young"
62. *Pres. during the Cuban Missile Crisis
63. It is
64. Fermented rice brew

**DOWN**
1. Pledge of Allegiance ending
2. Talk like Daffy
3. Eye drop
4. Day trip
5. Flat-topped military caps
6. Lack of muscle tension
7. Opposite of yin
8. Mushroom spore sacs
9. Benatar and Morita, e.g.
10. Money in Myanmar
12. Pointless
13. Take as one's own
14. *____ Bull, Lakota's famous leader
19. Gallows' rope
22. *World War ____, 1914-18
23. Wisdom tooth, e.g.
24. Sheep-like
25. Highly unpleasant
26. "He's Just Not That ____ You"
27. Damp
28. Islam's Supreme Being
29. Lament for the dead
32. Writer Ayn
33. Rudolph's friend Hermey, e.g.
36. *One of Mount Rushmore presidents
38. *First President in the White House
40. Cremation ashes container
41. Peanut or pea, e.g.
44. Emotional turmoil
46. 2:1 and 3:1, e.g.
48. Defraud
49. Petri dish jellies
50. Feudal lord's servant
51. Humble and docile
52. Frozen bowl berry
53. Arm bone
54. *The ____ Road, ancient East-West trade route
55. Pilgrimage to Mecca
58. Pirate's "yes"

CROSSWORD



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## FRIDAY, JULY 31

**OCONTO:** National Walleye Tour, take-off at 7 a.m. or first safe light, weigh-in 3:15 p.m., Oconto Waterfront Park and Harbor, 1301 Harbor Road. Details at https://nationalwalleyetour.com.

**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.

**BOWLER:** Bowler Bash, Bowler Pond and Park, 104 E. Main St. Food, refreshments, raffles, music 8:15-11:45 p.m. All-you-can-eat corn $8 wristband; AYCE corn and tap beer $15 wristband.

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

## SATURDAY, AUG. 1

**LAKEWOOD:** Lakes Country Arts and Craft Show, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Festival Grounds, 17258 North Road, featuring only items made by the exhibitors. Buy and sell items and imported items are not permitted.

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

**DOTY:** Doty Firefighters Picnic, noon to 5 p.m., County Road T and Star Lake Road. Food, ice cream social, games, raffles, beer and brats.

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

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

**TOWN OF UNDERHILL:** Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee Annual Field Day, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Grover Tree Farm, 5519 Downtown Lane. Guest speakers, tours, catered lunch buffet, silent auction. $27.50 per person, register by July 24 at www.witreefarm.org/tree-farm-field-day.

**BOWLER:** Bowler Bash, Bowler Pond and Park, 104 E. Main St. Food, refreshments, raffles, parade at 2 p.m., FFA Alumni cow and horse drop contests, bike raffle 4 p.m., music with Model Citizens 7:30-11:30 p.m., fireworks at dusk.

**LENA:** WUMPA Truck Pulls, 6 p.m., Dirt City Motorplex, 414 E. Main St.

**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.

## SUNDAY, AUG. 2

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

**SHAWANO:** Music in the Park at Arlington, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Arlington Park, 300 N. Humphrey Circle. Music with It's Just Us Band. Bring your lawn chairs.

## TUESDAY, AUG. 4

**KESHENA:** Community Design Workshop, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Menominee Courthouse Building, W3269 Courthouse Lane.

**OCONTO FALLS:** National Night Out and Oconto County Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m., Memorial Field. Music with The Cougars.

**OCONTO:** National Night Out, 4:30-7:30 p.m., Oconto Police Department, 1210 Main St. Food, games, bounce house and other children's activities, K-9 demo, DJ.

**LENA:** National Night Out, 5-8 p.m., St. Anne Parish grounds, 221 E. Main St. Drone and K-9 demos, family activities, emergency vehicles, information booths.

**PULASKI:** National Night Out, 5-8 p.m., Memorial Park, 651 S. St. Augustine St. Pizza party, music, cornhole, yard games and more.

**GILLETT:** National Night Out, 5-7:30 p.m., Gillett Elementary School, 208 W. Main St. Corn roast, bounce house, demonstrations.

**SHAWANO:** Naberhood Block Party, 6 p.m., The Naberhood, 214 S. Main St. Disney Night: Food, meet and greet with Disney Karacters and more.

**OCONTO:** Tunes on Tuesday, 6-8 p.m., Beyer Home, 917 Park Ave. Music with Gabriel Sanchez Trio.

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

## WEDNESDAY, AUG. 5

**SHAWANO:** Chamber Coffee Connection, 8-9 a.m., U.S. Air Motorsports, W5901 County Road BE. Business networking.

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

**SHAWANO:** Show and Tell in the Parks, 4-5 p.m., Water Tower Park, 605 S. Smalley St.

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

**SHAWANO:** 100+ Women Who Care Shawano County Giving Circle, 5-6 p.m. social hour, 6-7 p.m. meeting, Stubborn Brothers Brewery Crescent Ballroom, 220 S. Main St.

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

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

## THURSDAY, AUG. 6

**NEOPIT:** Community Design Workshop, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Fire Station, N3580 State Highway 47, Neopit.

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

**NAVARINO:** Senior Safari Lunch and Learn, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Topic: Wisconsin Sturgeon with Margaret Stadig, DNR fisheries biologist. Suggested lunch fee $5; RSVP 715-758-6999 or navarino.org.

**BOWLER:** American Red Cross blood drive, 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Bowler High School, 500 S. Almon St. Appointments at RedCrossBlood.org or 800-733-2767.

**OCONTO:** American Red Cross blood drive, noon to 5 p.m., Bond Community Center, 1201 Park Ave. Appointments at RedCrossBlood.org or 800-733-2767.

**SHAWANO:** American Red Cross blood drive, noon to 5 p.m., St. James Lutheran School, 324 S. Andrews St. Appointments at RedCrossBlood.org or 800-733-2767.

**SHAWANO:** 100+ Men Who Care Shawano County Giving Circle, 5-6 p.m. social hour, 6-7 p.m. meeting, Stubborn Brothers Brewery Crescent Ballroom, 220 S. Main St.

**SHAWANO:** Thursdayz at Franklin, 6-8:30 p.m., Franklin Park, 235 S. Washington St. 2/5ths Party Band. 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 From Within.

## FRIDAY, AUG. 7

**SHAWANO:** Downtown Sidewalk Sales, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**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.

**SHAWANO:** Memories in the Park – Alzheimer's Awareness Event, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Franklin Park, 235 S. Washington St. Free community event focused on Alzheimer's awareness, education, support, and family-friendly activities featuring live music, community resources, games, and more.

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

**SHAWANO:** Shawano Folk Music Festival, 6 p.m. to close, Mielke Arts Center and Park, 5649 Airport Road. Music begins 7 p.m.

**BOWLER:** 50th annual Mohican Pow Wow, grand entry 7 p.m., Many Trails Campground, N9125 Moh He Con Nuck Road. Royalty contest to follow. Free admission and parking. Walk-in drum registration.

## SATURDAY, AUG. 8

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

**SHAWANO:** Shawano Folk Music Festival, 10 a.m. to close, Mielke Arts Center and Park, 5649 Airport Road. Programs on multiple stages 10 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Crafters, food booths and open mic during the day. Box office open 6 p.m. Evening concert 7 p.m.

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

# 48th Shawano Folk Music Festival

Aug. 7-9, 2026

Mielke Park & Arts Center

Evening Concerts, Daytime Programs
Dance, Crafters and Friends

• Anne Hills • Allen Power • Steve March-Torme •
• Wiley & Wilson • Art Stevenson & High Water •
• Tom Pease • Patty & Craig • Cigar Box Scott •
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Owners John and Lorraine Ballbach pose before their specialized honey at their Honey Hobby Farm located outside of Gresham. KAY REMINGER

## BEES, continued from page 12

wash the nectar out of the flowers. Those trees start blooming around the Fourth of July, and if the conditions are favorable, the bees can fill a 10-pound box in a day.

"It started out slow, but it's shaping up well this year. The rains have been excellent for maintaining sweet and Dutch clover. A huge crop all came at once. The sweet clover is exploding everywhere. This year, everything is ready at the same time," said John Ballbach.

The Ballbachs take a small observation hive along to their farmers markets – encased in clear plastic – so customers can see inside the hive and observe the bees at work. They also use it for teaching 4-H groups or schools that ask the couple to come and speak.

If the bees need to make heat, they'll consume honey and shiver to contain heat, keeping the brood warm – between 92 and 95 degrees. If it gets too hot, they'll haul water into the open cells and fan it so it evaporates to cool.

"We work hard to provide a good product. Quality is a big thing," said Lorraine Ballbach. "For example, I test all my candles before I sell them. I expect quality from others, so I want to offer a quality product. Every year, I think of something new to sell."

Sales are conducted directly on farm located at W9790 Thurner Lane, Gresham, and also at area farmers markets. For more information, like them on Facebook at John and Lorraine's Hobby Honey Farm.

# Enjoy flavor of homegrown herbs throughout the year

GARDENING WITH MELINDA MYERS

MELINDA MYERS
COLUMNIST

Add homegrown flavor to any meal with garden fresh herbs that will elevate any dish. Continue enjoying them well past the end of the season by preserving favorites to use in winter meals.

Snip a few leaves or leaf-covered stems as needed for cooking or garnishing a favorite dish throughout the growing season. Adjust the quantity of herbs used to allow for variations in flavor intensity and preference. In general, two to three times more fresh herbs are needed than dried, except for rosemary, which has an equally strong flavor, fresh or dried. For example, if the recipe calls for one teaspoon of dried thyme, use one tablespoon (three teaspoons) of fresh thyme leaves.

Harvest before plants begin flowering to encourage more tender growth. The concentration of flavor will be greatest when the plant has formed buds, but before they open. Don't discard the flowers if you wait too long. Enjoy the beauty and added flavor of basil, lavender, lovage, monarda, oregano, rosemary, sage, sweet marjoram and thyme blossoms.

Use a pair of garden scissors, snips or bypass pruners for harvesting. Make the cuts above a set of healthy leaves. The wound will close faster, and the remaining plant will look better. Rinse off the clippings and remove tough stems and bad leaves.

Store extra unwashed leafy herbs in a vase of water and loosely cover with a plastic bag. Keep basil on the kitchen counter and cold-tolerant herbs, like parsley and cilantro, in the refrigerator. Wrap thicker-leafed herbs, like sage and thyme, in a paper towel set inside a plastic bag and place in a warmer section of the fridge.

Sage is a versatile herb, enhancing flavors in both savory and sweet recipes. WWW.MELINDAMYERS.COM

Keep harvesting throughout the growing season to encourage new growth for future harvests. Just leave enough foliage to maintain plant growth. Harvest as much as 50-75% from established annual herbs and one-third of perennial herbs at a time.

Freeze sprigs, whole leaves or chopped clean herbs on a cookie sheet. Pack clean diced herbs in ice cube trays and fill the empty spaces with water. These are great for use in soups and stews. Store the frozen herbs and ice cubes in an airtight container or baggie in the freezer.

Dry herbs by bundling several stems together, secure them with a rubber band, and use a spring-type clothespin to hang them in a warm, dry place to dry out. A drying rack can be made from an old embroidery hoop, string, and S hooks.

Get creative and use some herbs to make a fragrant edible wreath. Use fresh herbs that are flexible and easier to shape into a wreath. They will dry in place and can be harvested as needed.

Speed up the drying process in the microwave. Place herbs on a paper plate and cover it with a paper towel. Start with one to two minutes on high. Repeat for 30 seconds as needed until the herbs are brittle. Store dried herbs in an airtight plastic or glass jar.

Share extra fresh and dried herbs with family and friends. They make great hostess and holiday gifts.

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


# CLASSIFIEDS

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Monday thru Friday 9:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Online: classifieds@newmedia-wi.com

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## MISCELLANEOUS

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just $20/month. For more information, call 1-833-518-2155

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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

## MISCELLANEOUS

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!

## RUMMAGE SALE

**Grace Lutheran Church, 501 S. Main Street, Oconto Falls. Friday Only-Church Bake Sale 8am-3pm.** Many delicious treats. Also, church cookout 10am-2pm-hamburgers, brats, sweet corn. Dining inside and outside and take-out available.

## Large Multi-Family Rummage Sale!

New and used hunting and fishing items, green and pink Depression glass, camper and camping equipment, tools, furniture (including 12 chairs), jewelry, purses, housewares, seasonal decorations, men's, women's, and children's clothing in all sizes, Silver and Miss Me jeans, and lots of Harley Davidson clothing.

**August 5-9**
**8:00 am-5:00 pm**
**8814 Highway 22 W, Oconto Falls, WI**
Located in the large pole building.

Find what you're looking for in the
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Starting at $950 + Deposit Tom
715-280-0525

# Traffic to be rerouted for Menominee Nation contest powwow

To alleviate traffic congestion on a major state highway and ensure residents along Fairgrounds Road maintain access to their driveways, a new traffic route will be established for the Menominee Nation Contest Powwow.

The new traffic route will be in effect July 31, Aug. 1 and Aug. 2.

The intersection of state Highway 47/55 and Fairgrounds Road will be closed to vehicular traffic. Powwow traffic will be directed west on County Road VV, then to Kittecon Road and onto Fairgrounds Road.

Traffic will be maintained in a single-lane to help ensure the continued flow of traffic.

Traffic control signs will be posted along the designated route to assist motorists.

# PUBLIC RECORD

## SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

**July 26**

Deputies responded to 52 incidents, including operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated at Shawano Lake; suspicious activity on South Sawyer Street in Shawano; six 911 calls; 17 traffic stops; three reckless driving incidents; three traffic hazards; one deer-related crash.

**July 25**

Deputies responded to 34 incidents, including suspicious activity on Main Laney Drive in the Town of Maple Grove; disorderly conduct on Morajega Road in Ho-Chunk jurisdiction; suspicious activity on Park Hill Drive in Gresham; two 911 calls; nine traffic stops; three reckless driving incidents; one traffic hazard; one crash.

**July 24**

Deputies responded to 79 incidents, including suspicious activity on Two Creek Road in the Town of Lessor; an animal bite at OHV Park and Campground, 1100 Quad Park Lane, Tigerton; suspicious activity on Largo Lane in the Town of Angelica; property damage on Rustic Drive in the Town of Belle Plaine; suspicious activity outside Kwik Trip, 102 W. Express Way, Bonduel; two 911 calls; 26 traffic stops; five reckless driving incidents; three traffic hazards; one welfare check; six crashes, one involving deer.

**July 23**

Deputies responded to 47 incidents, including drugs on Moh He Con Nuck Road in Stockbridge Munsee jurisdiction; trespassing on Poplar Street in Stockbridge Munsee jurisdiction; bail jumping on Hiawatha Court in the Town of Wescott; lewd and lascivious behavior at Hayman Falls County Park, N4347 Hayman Falls Lane, Town of Pella; fraud on West Chic-A-Watha Circle in the Town of Wescott; harassment at Kwik Trip, 102 W. Express Way, Bonduel; trespassing on Porter Road in the Town of Waukechon; two 911 calls; 16 traffic stops; eight traffic hazards; one welfare check.

**July 22**

Deputies responded to 68 incidents, including theft on Range Line Road in the Town of Pella; trespassing on Hillside Drive in the Town of Angelica; disorderly conduct at Cloverleaf Mobile Home Park, N2688 County Road Y, Town of Belle Plaine; a vehicle fire on state Highway 29 near County Road F in the Town of Angelica; property damage on Curt Black Road in the Town of Wescott; four 911 calls; 37 traffic stops; one reckless driving incident; four traffic hazards; two welfare checks; two crashes, one fatal.

**July 21**

Deputies responded to 62 incidents, including theft on County Road A in the Town of Herman; fireworks near state Highway 22 and Cedar Avenue in the Town of Washington; 33 traffic stops; one reckless driving incident; three traffic hazards; two welfare checks; three crashes, one involving deer.

**July 20**

Deputies responded to 40 incidents, including suspicious activity near Cedar Road and Mile Drive in the Town of Angelica; theft on East Park Street in Bonduel; assault at the county jail, 405 N. Main St., Shawano; two 911 calls; four traffic stops; one reckless driving incident; two traffic hazards; two welfare checks; one crash.

## SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

**July 26**

Officers responded to 25 incidents, including suspicious activity at Safe Haven, 380 Lakeland Road; trespassing on South Franklin Street; an intoxicated person at ThedaCare Medical Center, 100 County Road B; suspicious activity on South Union Street; suspicious activity on South Sawyer Street; two 911 calls; three traffic stops; one reckless driving incident; two welfare checks.

**July 25**

Officers responded to 25 incidents, including theft at Walmart, 1244 E. Green Bay St.; disorderly conduct at Franklin Park, 235 S. Washington St.; one 911 call; three traffic stops; three reckless driving incidents; one welfare check; two crashes.

**July 24**

Officers responded to 54 incidents, including harassment on East Randall Street; suspicious activity on North Humphrey Circle; one 911 call; 22 traffic stops; one reckless driving incident; one welfare check; three crashes.

**July 23**

Officers responded to 24 incidents, including a disturbance on West Picnic Street; a disturbance on Madison Way; vandalism on South Smalley Street; three 911 calls; one traffic stop; one welfare check; two crashes.

**July 22**

Officers responded to 44 incidents, including an animal bite on South Park Street; a disturbance on South Lincoln Street; three 911 calls; 30 traffic stops; three welfare checks; one crash.

**July 21**

Officers responded to 36 incidents, including a disturbance on West Eagle Street; a disturbance on South Smalley Street; a disturbance on South Main Street; an intoxicated person on East Randall Street; a disturbance on South Washington Street; three 911 calls; 16 traffic stops; one traffic hazard.

**July 20**

Officers responded to 27 incidents, including a disturbance on East Richmond Street; suspicious activity on Prospect Circle; disorderly conduct at Huckleberry Harbor, 222 N. Sawyer St.; a fight in progress at Kwik Trip, 1241 E. Green Bay St.; harassment on South Hamlin Street; theft at Walgreens, 401 E. Green Bay St.; fireworks on South Union Street; one 911 call; two traffic stops; one reckless driving incident; two traffic hazards; one welfare check; one crash.

# COURT NEWS

• Louis J. Sanapaw, 29, Bowler, waived extradition to another jurisdiction during a hearing before Judge Katherine Sloma.

• Joseph A. Andrus, 29, Oconto Falls, pleaded no contest July 23 to three counts of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor charges of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (second offense), operating while revoked, disorderly conduct and resisting or obstructing an officer. Sloma levied fines and court costs and sentenced him to 180 days in county jail, time deemed served.

• Patrick A. Mays, 28, Milwaukee, pleaded no contest July 23 to felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor charge of disorderly conduct. Sloma levied fines and court costs and sentenced him to 60 days in county jail.

• Christine E. Pelky, 36, Bear Creek, pleaded no contest July 23 to taking and driving a vehicle without consent. Sloma imposed and stayed a prison sentence, then placed her on three years of probation with conditions.

• John J. Aguilar, 50, Keshena, was charged July 20 with possession of methamphetamine, felony bail jumping and misdemeanor bail jumping. Sloma set a $250 cash bond. In a separate file, Aguilar was charged with felony bail jumping, a misdemeanor count of violating a restraining order and misdemeanor bail jumping. Sloma set a $250 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing in both cases for July 24.

• Philip E. Boyd, 50, Shawano, was charged July 20 with three counts of felony bail jumping. Sloma set a $500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for July 24.

• Marc J. Bernarde, 57, Gresham, was charged July 20 with operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fifth or sixth offense). Sloma set a $1,500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for July 29.

• Garrett L. Banuelos, 39, Wittenberg, was charged June 10 with first-degree sexual assault of a child under the age of 13. Sloma set a $50,000 signature bond on July 21 and scheduled a status conference for Sept. 21.

• Stephanie L. McGeshick, 39, Antigo, was charged May 7 with three counts of forgery-uttering and three counts of felony bail jumping. She failed to appear for her initial court appearance July 21, so Sloma authorized a $500 bench warrant for her arrest.

• Hayden F. Kakwitch, 20, Shawano, was charged May 7 with false imprisonment, strangulation and suffocation, and disorderly conduct as a domestic abuse repeater. Sloma set a $2,500 signature bond on July 21 and scheduled a status conference for Sept. 14.

• Stewart L. Herrera, 41, Laona, was charged May 7 with felony bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of bail jumping, disorderly conduct and criminal damage to property. Sloma set a $500 signature bond on July 21 and scheduled a status conference for Sept. 23.

• Andres Garcia, 42, Gillett, was charged June 10 with possession of methamphetamine, two counts of felony bail jumping, and misdemeanor counts of bail jumping and possession of drug paraphernalia. Sloma set a $1,500 signature bond on July 21 and scheduled a status conference for Aug. 25.

• Michael J. Anthony, 39, Shawano, was charged June 10 with possession of methamphetamine and a misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. Sloma set a $1,500 signature bond on July 21 and scheduled a status conference for Sept. 29.

• Henry M. Johnson, 40, Bowler, was charged June 16 with conspiracy to manufacture with intent to distribute cocaine. Sloma set a $5,000 cash bond on July 21 and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Oct. 6.

• Anna Marie Lucier, 37, Bowler, was charged July 16 with misappropriating ID information to obtain money, felony theft and felony bail jumping. Sloma set a $7,000 signature bond on July 21 and scheduled a status conference for Aug. 19.

• Edward A. LaRock, 41, Peshtigo, was charged July 15 with possession of narcotic drugs, two counts of felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. He failed to appear July 22 for his initial appearance in this case and a plea/sentencing hearing on two other cases, and Sloma issued a bench warrant for his arrest.

• Anthony C. Hendrix, 32, Shawano, was charged July 23 with four counts of a prisoner throwing or expelling bodily substances. Sloma set a $5,000 signature bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Aug. 11.

• Andre Michael Lampinen, 20, Shawano, was charged July 23 with false imprisonment and misdemeanor charges of victim intimidation and disorderly conduct. Sloma set a $1,000 signature bond and scheduled a status conference for Sept. 14.

07/24, 31/2026

## SHAWANO COUNTY TREASURER - PUBLIC LAND SALE NOTICE

Auction Opens: Tuesday, July 21, 2026
Auction Closes: Monday, August 19, 2026 Website: www.wisconsinsurplus.com
The Shawano County Treasurer's Office will sell properties acquired by in rem foreclosure under WI Stat. §75.521.
Properties are sold "AS IS", with no written or implied warranties.
Photos, legal descriptions, and maps are available at www.wisconsinsurplus.com (search "Shawano County")
Or auction link is https://wisurplus.ws/26-992.
To place a bid, follow instructions on the Wisconsin Surplus website.
Final bids are approved by the Shawano County Executive Committee.

| Municipality | Parcel Number | Property Address | Description | Approximate Acreage | Appraised Value |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Village of Mattoon | 151-152200060 | 328 4th Street, Mattoon, WI | VIL OF MATTOON S 50' OF N 219.2' OF W 223' NW 1/4 NW 1/4 SEC 15 T29N R12E | .560 | $8,100 |
| Village of Wittenberg | 191-401000040 | 502 S. Mission St., Wittenberg, WI | VIL OF WITTENBERG BETHANY ADD LOTS 1 & 2 BLK 3 | .353 | $50,000 |

WNAXLP

7/24/26, 7/31/26, 8/7/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
SHAWANO COUNTY

SHAWANO COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Donald S. Paiser
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No.
24 PR 46
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 12/24/48 and date of death 01/04/26, was domiciled in Shawano County, State of WI, with a mailing address of W6719 Curt Black Rd.
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 St,
Room 202, Probate Office
Shawano, Wisconsin,

WNAXLP
SHA-267

7/24/26, 7/31/26, 8/7/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Charles C. Miller
Notice Setting Time to Hear Application
and Deadline for Filing Claims
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 26 PR 48
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 7/27/1947 and date of death 7/3/2022. domiciled in Shawano County with a mailing address of 318 Church St. Tigerton, WI
3. The application will be heard at the Shawano County Courthouse 311 N. Main Street, Shawano, Wisconsin Room 202 before Gwen Hoffman Probate Registrar, on August 28, 2026, at 10:00am.
You do not need to appear unless you object. The application may be granted if there is no objection.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate October 30,2026.
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano County Courthouse 311 N. Main St. Shawano, Wisconsin, Room 202. Probate Office
6. This publication is notice to any persons whose names or address are unknown.
Cathryn Zeinert
13239 44th Ave.
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
715-797-4702

WNAXLP
SHA-264

7/24/26, 7/31/26, 8/7/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
MENOMINEE COUNTY
Notice and Order for
Name Change Hearing
Case No. 26NC02
IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF
Raivyn Wheeler Ramon Crowe
By Leah Pamonicutt
NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: Raivyn Wheeler Ramon Crowe
To: Raivyn Ramon Wheeler Pamonicutt
Birth Certificate: Raivyn Wheeler Ramon Crowe
IT IS ORDERED:
This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Menominee County, State of Wisconsin
Judge Name: Honorable Jean Grignon
Place: Menominee Tribal Court
W3293 Wolf River Dr, Keshena, WI 54135
Date: August 17, 2026
Time: 10:00a.m.

WNAXLP
SHA-266

7/24/26, 7/31/26, 8/7/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT

SHAWANO COUNTY
Notice Setting Time to Hear Application and Deadline for Filing Claims
(Informal Administration)
Case No.
26 PR50
Michael J. Curtis
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 1.29.56 and date of death 3.13.26 domiciled in Shawano County, State of WI with a mailing address of W6525 Mork Rd Shawano, Wisconsin 54166
3. The application will be heard at the Shawano County Courthouse 311 N. Main St. Shawano, Wisconsin, Room 202 before Gwen Hoffman Probate Registrar on September 3, 2026 at 10:00 am
**You do not need to appear unless you object. The application may be granted if there is no objection.**
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is October 30, 2026
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano County Courthouse 311 N.Main ST Room 202- Probate office.
6. This publication is notice to any persons whose names or address are unknown.

WNAXLP
SHA-269

7/31/26, 8/7/26, 8/14/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
SHAWANO COUNTY

Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 26 PR 51

DATE SIGNED: July 17, 2026

Electronically signed by Gwen Hoffman
Probate Registrar

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, SHAWANO COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
FRANK J. LAURENT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 03/11/1956 and date of death of 06/27/2026 in Shawano County, State of WI
with a mailing address of 923 S. Bartlett St. Shawano, WI 54166
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is November 6, 2026
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano County Courthouse,
311 N. Main Street, Room 202 Probate Office

Form completed by:
James Vomastic
1488 E Green Bay St.
Shawano, WI 54166
715-851-3669
Bar Number 1045783

WNAXLP
SHA-271

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

7/24/26, 7/31/26, 8/7/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Georgia Ann Carley
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 26 PR 44
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 02/22/1951 and date of death 06/16//2026 was domiciled Shawano County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of W5065 Rainbow Circle, 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 Courthouse,
311 N. Main Street,
Room 202, Probate Office
Shawano, Wisconsin 54166
Kerri Piller
2411 Jeffery Lane
Schofield WI 54476
715-297.2190

WNAXLP
SHA-263

## Legals

7/24/26, 7/31/26, 8/7/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

Jean Grignon, Tribal Court

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, MENOMINEE TRIBAL
IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF
Alejandro Jose Crowe
By Alejandro Jose Crowe
Notice and Order
for Name Change Hearing
Case No. 26 NC 03
NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: Alejandro Jose Crowe
To: Alejandro Memphis Pamonicutt
Enter the name as it currently appears on the birth certificate. Alejandro Jose Crowe
IT IS ORDERED
This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Menom. Tribal County, State of Wisconsin:
Honorable Jean Grignon
Menominee Tribal Court
W3293 Wolf River Dr
Keshena, WI 54135
August 17, 2026
9:30AM

WNAXLP
SHA-268

# Fields' request for new judge approved

**By LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

A request to change judges in the case of Lawrence Fields, a Seymour man who faces child sex assault charges in Shawano County, was granted July 16.

Fields had previously appeared before Shawano-Menominee County Circuit Court Judge Katherine Sloma in Branch I, but he was assigned to Judge William Kussel Jr. in Branch II. As a result, his arraignment, which was originally to take place July 20, has been rescheduled for 1:30 p.m. Aug. 3.

Fields, 55, faces one count of first-degree child sex assault with a victim younger than 13 and one count of exposing genitals or intimate parts to a child.

The criminal complaint alleges that Fields touched the 6-year-old victim around Labor Day at a home on County Road Y in the Town of Belle Plaine. The victim's mother said she asked Fields, her uncle, to watch the victim while she went to Clintonville to clean a house. The mother, who said she was gone about 90 minutes that day, said Fields is one of the few relatives still speaking to her, and he'd watched the victim on previous occasions.

While away, Fields allegedly touched the victim around her breasts, buttocks and private parts, according to the complaint. When Fields allegedly exposed his genitals, the victim became scared and ran outside, coming back inside later, at which point Fields allegedly told the child that she could not tell anyone about what happened.

The home had two cameras, but one was off because the mother did not turn it on via her cellphone, and the other was disconnected, but the mother told a deputy neither she nor her daughter had disconnected the camera.

Two days later, a Shawano County Sheriff's Department detective interviewed the victim and found her to be credible. A monitored phone call was made to Fields after that, according to the complaint, where he denied any sexual contact or exposure but offered to help pay for any counseling for the victim.

07/31/2026

## Notice of Primary Election
## Tuesday, August 11th, 2026
## Public Test Dates and Polling Place Locations

**Notice is hereby given that the Spring Election will be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2026 in all Towns, Villages and City in Shawano County. All polling places will be open at 7:00 a.m. and will close at 8:00 p.m. All polling places are accessible to elderly and voters with disabilities.**

| Town, Village or City | Polling Place-Town, Village or City Hall Address | Municipal Clerk | Phone | Public Test Date and Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Town of Almon | Almon Town Hall, N8096 Regina Rd, Bowler | Heather Matsche | 715-571-2561 | Mon., August 3 @ 10:00 a.m. at W16550 Cty Rd N, Birn. |
| Town of Angelica | Angelica Town Hall, N3285 Co. Rd C, Pulaski | Connie Przybylski | 920-822-3112 | Mon., August 3 @ 4:00 p.m. |
| Town of Aniwa | Aniwa Town Hall, W17712 Co Rd. Z, Birnamwood | Tammy Resch | 715-449-2351 | Mon., August 3 @ 5:00 p.m. |
| Town of Bartelme | Bartelme Town Hall, N7685 Elm Road, Bowler | Beth Grosskopf | 715-853-2161 | Sat., August 1 @ 8:00 a.m.. |
| Town of Belle Plaine | Belle Plaine Community Center, N3002 St. Rd. 22, Clintonville | Kris Vomastic | 715-460-3053 | Tues., August 4 @ 5:00 p.m. |
| Town of Birnamwood | Birnamwood Town Hall, N9291 Riverview Rd, Birnamwood | Pamela Fischer | 715-370-8884 | Tues., August 4 @ 8:30 a.m. |
| Town of Fairbanks | Fairbanks Town Hall, N3272 Co. Rd SS Tigerton | Jennifer Dzioba | 715-881-1751 | *Contact Jennifer Dzioba* |
| Town of Germania | Germania Town Hall, W18101 Co. Rd. M, Tigerton | Kim Meisner | 715-253-2431 | Tues., August 4 @ 1:00 p.m. |
| Town of Grant | Grant Town Hall, W12610 Co. Rd. M, Caroline | Sarah Knaup | 715-851-1414 | Wed., August 5 @ 9:00 a.m. |
| Town of Green Valley | Green Valley Community Center, W1734 Co. Rd E, Cecil | Rose Nygaard | 715-851-5264 | Mon., August 3 @ 11:00 a.m. |
| Town of Hartland | Hartland Town Hall, W3454 Co. Rd. BE, Bonduel | Carrie Bohm | 715-851-3107 | Sat., August 1 @ 9:00 a.m. |
| Town of Herman | Herman Town Hall, N5628 Co. Road U, Shawano | Alyce Welk | 715-584-0819 | Sat., August 1 @ 10:00 a.m. |
| Town of Hutchins | Hutchins Town Hall W15698 E. Red River Rd, Birnamwood | Jan Fischer | 715-489-3403 | Wed., August 5 @ 9:00 a.m. |
| Town of Lessor | Lessor Town Hall, W4055 Landstad Rd., Bonduel | Alexis Olson | 715-280-1005 | Mon., August 3 @ 9:00 a.m. |
| Town of Maple Grove | St. Stanislaus Social Hall, W1888 Hofa Park Dr., Seymour | Kathy Luebke | 920-822-5414 | Sat., August 1 @ 9:00 a. |
| Town of Morris | Morris Town Hall, N15320 Berg Rd Tigerton | Jennifer Dzioba | 715-881-1751 | *Contact Jennifer Dzioba* |
| Town of Navarino | Navarino Town Hall, W5041 St. Hwy 156, Bonduel | Kim LaViolette | 920-525-2008 | Mon., August 3 @ 5:30 p.m. |
| Town of Pella | Pella Town Hall, W11021 Co. Rd. D, Marion | Karen Habeck | 715-823-6259 | Thur., August 6 @ 10:00 a.m. |
| Town of Red Springs | Red Springs Town Hall, W10208 E Townhall Rd, Gresham | Gwen Olsen | 715-787-3356 | Mon., August 3 @ 11:00 a.m. |
| Town of Richmond | Richmond Town Hall, N5170 Co. Rd. MM, Shawano | Erica Davel | 715-526-6527 | Mon., August 3 @ 1:30 p.m. |
| Town of Seneca | Seneca Town Hall, W13104 Co. Rd. D, Tilleda | Raymond Rigsby | 715-851-2251 | Thur., August 6 @ 5:00 p.m. |
| Town of Washington | Washington Town Hall, 111 E. Hoffman St, Cecil, WI 54111 | Kara Skarlupka | 715-851-6592 | Tue., August 6 @ 2:00 p.m. |
| Town of Waukechon | Waukechon Town Hall, N3999 Co. Rd. K, Shawano | Chris Prey | 715-853-7001 | *Contact Chris Prey* |
| Town of Wescott | Wescott Town Office, N5794 Old Keshena Rd., Shawano | Angela Vreeke | 715-526-9755 | Tue., August 4 @ 4:00 p.m. |
| Town of Wittenberg | Wittenberg Town Hall, W17395 Co Rd. Q, Wittenberg | Maria Donat | 715-370-5805 | Wed., August 5 @ 10:00 a.m. |
| Village of Aniwa | Aniwa Community Center, W18996 1st Street, Aniwa | Mary O'Neil | 715-218-2364 | Mon., August 3 @ 1:30 p.m. |
| Village of Birnamwood | Matsche Community Center, 362 Railroad St. Birnamwood | Jody Dombrowski | 715-449-0059 | Mon., August 3 @ 5:30 p.m. |
| Village of Bonduel | Bonduel Village Hall, 117 W. Green Bay St. Bonduel | Michelle Maroszek | 715-758-2402 | Tues., August 4 @ 1:00 p.m. |
| Village of Bowler | Bowler Village Hall, 107 W Main St. Bowler | Kerry Breitrick | 715-793-4713 | Tues., August 4 @ 7:00 p.m. |
| Village of Cecil | Cecil Community Hall/Fire Station, 111 E. Hofman St., Cecil | Teri Westerfeld | 715-745-4428 | Thur., August 6 @ 2:00 p.m. |
| Village of Eland | Eland Village Hall, W19141 Maple St, Eland | Denise Larson | 715-881-0028 | Wed., August 5 @ 7:00 p.m. |
| Village of Gresham | Abby Bank, 801 Main St., Gresham | Judy Kristof | 715-787-3991 | Mon., August 3 @ 1:30 p.m. |
| Village of Mattoon | Mattoon Village Hall, 310 Slate Ave. Mattoon | Angie Copas | 715-489-3107 | Mon., August 3 @ 11:00 a.m. |
| Village of Pulaski | Pulaski Village Hall, 585 E. Glenbrook Dr., Pulaski | Karen Ostrowski | 920-822-5182 | *Contact Karen Ostrowski.* |
| Village of Tigerton | Tigerton Community Center, 221 Birch St., Tigerton | Helen Selle | 715-535-2262 | Tues., August 4 @ 10:00 a.m. |
| Village of Wittenberg | Wittenberg Community Center, 208 W. Vinal St, Wittenberg | Traci Matsche | 715-253-6063 | Wed., August 5 @ 10:00 a.m. |
| City of Marion | Marion Fire Hall 128 W. Garfield Ave., Marion (Polling Place) Marion City Hall, 217 N Main St. Marion (Public Test) | Mary Rogers | 715-754-2124 | *Contact Mary Rogers* |
| City of Shawano | Shawano City Hall, 127 S. Sawyer St. Shawano | Lesley Nemetz | 715-526-6138 | Tue., August 4 @ 9:00 a.m. |

### Notice of Meeting of the Local and Municipal Board of Canvassers

At the close of voting on Election Day, pursuant to the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 19.84, the Election Inspectors will convene as a joint meeting of the Local Board of Canvassers and the Municipal Board of Canvassers for the purpose of conducting the local and municipal canvasses pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§7.51 and 7.53(1). This meeting will be open to the public pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 19.81-89.
**WNAXLP**

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