



A concrete entryway has been added to the entrance to the Oconto Falls Community Garden to improve access for all.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

Community garden continues to grow

Plots still available, volunteers sought

BY WARREN BLUHM
News Editor

The Oconto Falls Community Garden has donated about 2.5 tons of produce to Kingdom Come Food Pantry in each of its first two years of existence, and members of the nonprofit board that oversees its operation say the best is yet to come.

The acre of property behind the Oconto Falls Ambulance Service garage offers up to 50 16-by-8-foot plots for families to tend, and the rest of the land is used to grow vegetables and fruit to share with the food pantry.

That project was daunting the first year, but then the group invited businesses and nonprofit organizations to “adopt a plot” to maintain plots. Students from Walter Taylor’s Oconto Falls High School agriculture classes planted the plants, and the sponsors weeded and performed other routine maintenance.

“We heard back that the experience was meaningful to them,” said Sarah Schindel, president of the board. “They were amazing.”

“It really empowered the community,” added Patrick Ahlgrim, board vice



Oconto Falls Superintendent Dean Hess and agriculture teacher Walter Taylor tour the Oconto Falls Community Garden during the grand opening and open house in 2023.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

president.

Volunteer groups included the Willing Workers 4-H Club, volunteers from Kingdom Come itself, the ambulance service, Nurse’s Nook, Grace Lutheran Church,

NEW Credit Union, New View Industries, the Oconto Falls Lioness Club, Newcap and Oconto Falls FFA Alumni.

GARDEN, CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

Former chief sentenced to jail, probation

Thomson ordered to pay Lakewood \$125K in restitution

BY WARREN BLUHM
News Editor

Oconto County Judge Michael Judge paused May 5 as he reached the moment when he would hand down a sentence for Christopher E. Thomson, the former fire chief who stole from the Lakewood Fire Department Association hundreds of times over four years.

“Let me say this,” Judge said after several moments. “This is a prison case. This is a prison case. This man should go to prison. If I send him to prison, there’s no acceptance of accountability or responsibility to at least begin some payments to the association.”

As a result Judge “reluctantly” accepted a joint recommendation and imposed, then stayed, a four-year prison sentence followed by six years of extended supervision. Instead he placed Thomson on six years probation with conditions including one year in the county jail and payment of \$128,339.49 in restitution.

Thomson, 42, Lakewood, pleaded no contest March 5 to three counts of identity theft to obtain money, two counts of uttering a forgery and single counts of theft in a business setting and committing fraud against a financial institution.

In his role as treasurer of the association and later as fire chief, Thomson wrote at least 187 fraudulent checks between 2020 and 2024 to pay personal bills and expenses, Oconto County District Attorney Hannah Schuchart said. The nonprofit organization holds donations and fundraising proceeds for the fire department.

The Lakewood Town Board placed Thomson on unpaid administrative leave last May 13, and he resigned as chief shortly thereafter. He was arrested Nov. 15 and has been in custody at the Oconto County Jail since then in lieu of a \$10,000 cash bond.

Judge gave him credit for 171 days already served and work-release privileges under the Huber law if he finds employment before the year is up, but the judge said he refused to grant “good time,” which rewards an inmate’s good behavior

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Historic shelter makes Green Lake Park in Mountain stand out..

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Historic shelter makes Mountain park stand out

Efforts to restore structure expected to take 2 years

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

A park shelter that stood vacant for a decade is getting a facelift this year thanks to the efforts of a local historical group.

A Civilian Conservation Corps crew built the shelter, a focal point of Green Lake Park near Mountain, in 1937.

The Mountain Historical Society maintains the park, which will open for its second season May 24.

The swimming beach and boat landing are the small park's biggest draws, but the society's efforts this year will center on restoring the shelter.

The U.S. Forest Service operated the property as a day-use park for several years before closing it and several other Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest recreation sites in 2015 to cut costs.

Brenda Carey-Mielke is chairman of the Mountain Town Board and also serves as president of the Mountain Historical Society.

"I started talking to people about the park in 2019, what it meant to them and why they wanted it open,"

she said. "The shelter is the only reason the park was reopened. That was the only thing the (U.S.) Forest Service was willing to discuss once they realized it was in there. They had forgotten and didn't take that into consideration when they wrote the federal policy on closing these community parks. That was an interesting conservation, and that's what catapulted the opening."

The shelter is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and Carey-Mielke approached local U.S. Forest Service officials about the possibility of reopening the park.

"I wanted to go in there and take a tree off of the shelter," she said. "(The society) is charged with preserving and protecting that park. This would have been the beginning of 2023. They said, 'We're going to have to rewrite federal policy. We did not factor anything of historic significance into the closing of these parks.' It took awhile, but they did it. That's why I was able to sign an agreement in November 2023."

Plans for the shelter include working with a local company, The Reese Group LLC, that specializes in historic preservation.

"We want to start by the end (April)," Carey-Mielke said. "We're going to do what we can before we open the park. We don't want to be restoring the building while it's open to the public. We're going to volunteer and do some of the work that we can do



A historic shelter in Mountain's Green Lake Park is scheduled for some major renovations this year. The Civilian Conservation Corps built the shelter in 1937. GREG SEUBERT

rather than pay somebody else."

The Mountain Historical Society has funding to help pay for the restoration, according to Carey-Mielke.

"We saved money from last year and put it in a high-yield savings account," she said. "We have money to go toward this restoration. We're not able to do everything we want, because we just don't have the funds."

Plans call for renting out the shelter for events such as graduation or birthday parties and family reunions.

"It was built in 1937, so it's over 80 years old," Carey-Mielke said. "There is some rot in the (exterior) corners and some of the walls. We have to open them up and replace everything with in-kind wood and in-kind nails exactly



New picnic tables are stacked on top of each other in the shelter at Green Lake Park. The park will reopen Memorial Day weekend. GREG SEUBERT

the way it would have been done in 1937 when it was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. We have to tuckpoint the fireplace where you can see where the water comes in. It's

normal wear and tear. We have to replace the roof."

The society would like to see the shelter restored in the next couple of years and also add electricity to the building.

"We're talking \$20,000, so that's on the long-term plan," Carey-Mielke said. "We're going to put some lighting in there just for security. We don't need it now."

Green Lake Park scheduled to open May 24

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

It won't be long and a popular park that was vacant for a decade will open for a second season.

The Mountain Historical Society maintains Green Lake Park, located just south of Mountain on state highways 32 and 64.

The society will reopen the park May 24, in time for the first busy holiday weekend of the tourist season.

Visitors who checked out the park last year will see some major improvements, according to society President Brenda Carey-Mielke.

Those improvements include new blacktop on the road leading to the boat landing, stairs heading from a trail to the boat landing and a trail leading from the picnic and beach

area to the landing.

The U.S. Forest Service operated the park as a day-use picnic area for several years before shutting it down in 2015 to cut costs. Several other recreation sites — including campgrounds — were also shut down throughout the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

Carey-Mielke spearheaded an effort to get the park reopened because it includes a pavilion built in 1937. The pavilion is the reason U.S. Forest Service officials decided to work with the society to reopen the park.

"We got the community engaged and involved through social media," Carey-Mielke said. "We had an overwhelming response from the community."

Carey-Mielke has no idea how many people

showed up at the park last year but knows it was heavily used.

"We'd have to have a manual counter," she said. "People come in through the main gate off the road, and they also walk in through the boat landing."

The U.S. Forest Service required a \$5 daily fee to use the park for years but didn't enforce the fee.

"When the park was open, they were lucky to get \$100 (a year)," Carey-Mielke said. "Last year, we raised over \$900."

The society doesn't charge an admission fee to enter the park but placed several signs asking for donations. A donation tube is located near the main kiosk in the parking lot.

"I still believe that people will donate rather than be forced to pay," Carey-Mielke said. "I don't believe in charging people



A new set of stairs and railing leading to the boat landing is one of the recent improvements to Green Lake Park. GREG SEUBERT

five bucks to come in and park your car. When we were negotiating the agreement, they wanted a fee. My point was there's a mom with two kids. This is an impoverished area, and she doesn't have a lot

of money. She's supposed to take part of her food money to pay a fee to allow her children to enjoy what nature offers. The (Forest Service) thought about it and said, "OK, we agree, we just hope you

can raise enough money.' We're going to be aggressive with fundraising."

Signs with QR codes are located throughout the park.

"I spoke last year with the district ranger, and he wanted to know how we opened it as quickly as we did and how we raised the money," Carey-Mielke said. "We had a pig raffle and roast last year and raised money. When you trust the community to come in and be a part of it, they will not disappoint."

Carey-Mielke said a family visiting the park last year made a lasting impression on her.

"I saw a car in there from Ontario, Canada, and it was a family picnicking at one of the tables," she said. "I went over and said, 'Hi, are you from Ontario, Canada? They said, 'We saw you on Facebook.'"

OCONTO COUNTY TIMES HERALD



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Periodicals postage paid at
Oconto Falls, WI 54154

News
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Classifieds/legal notices
classifieds@newmedia-wi.com

Published weekly
by **NEW Media Inc.**
d/b/a The Oconto
County Times Herald

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Eric Westphal and Will Knaapen push actor Matt Worzala as the three actors rehearse a scene from “The Play That Goes Wrong.” Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. will present the show May 8-11 and May 15-18 at the Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St., Abrams. CONTRIBUTED

Everything goes wrong in Abrams show

Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. will present “The Play That Goes Wrong” May 8-11 and May 15-18 at the Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St., Abrams.

Mike Eserkaln, the artistic director of Comedy City in De Pere, directs the show. He said audiences are going to love the physical comedy.

“There’s never a point where something or someone is not moving during the show, often with hilarious and catastrophic results,” Eserkaln said. “The actors are earnestly trying to perform a play while every conceivable thing that can go wrong, does. Every choice the actors make to fix things is the wrong choice.”

“The Play That Goes Wrong,” written by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer and Henry Shields, describes the inept and accident-prone Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society’s attempt to produce an ambitious 1920s murder mystery. Unfortunately, the set is not yet complete, the props start to disappear, actors go missing and the set begins to collapse. Mayhem ensues, the acting gets worse and the set becomes increasingly dangerous. The question is whether any of the cast and crew will remain standing, or conscious, by the final curtain.

“This show is really an experience, something only live theater can do,” Eserkaln said. “A number of gags are going to rely on gravity, so each show is going to be a little different.”



Actor Chris Mayse appeals to the audience during a scene of “The Play That Goes Wrong.” In May, Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. will present this comedy, which tells the outrageous story of an inept and accident-prone drama society’s attempt to produce a murder mystery. CONTRIBUTED

The set for the show is a character all by itself. Everything — paintings, furniture, walls, the fireplace — is a thought-out prop that has a hilarious moment of “going wrong.” Cyndy Sweetland designed the set, and David Jolly engineered it.

Eserkaln said his favorite character is Trevor the Lights and Sound guy.

“He participates in the chaos just as much as everyone but has the

cool-headed detachment that I love about theater tech people,” he said.

To order tickets for “The Play That Goes Wrong” visit abramstheater.com or call the box office at 920-826-5852. Evening performances will take place at 7 p.m. May 8-10 and May 15-17. Matinee shows are at 1 p.m. May 11 and 18. Tickets are \$19 for adults and \$17 for senior citizens, youth and veterans.

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Scope of Bullock trial under consideration

Prosecutors, defense attorneys argue whether to send three cases to trial together

By **WARREN BLUHM**
News Editor

An Oconto County judge planned to issue a written decision whether three separate files against a Suring man may go to the same jury.

Prosecutors filed a motion asking to combine the cases in a single trial or, alternatively, to permit the jury to hear about the other cases against Michael James Bullock, 41. He was arrested in Texas last summer after he allegedly fled the state to avoid a pending trial on child sexual assault charges.

Bullock is scheduled to stand trial Sept. 16-18, with a final pre-trial conference set for Sept. 2.

Judge Michael Judge heard arguments April 28 regarding the motion brought by District Attorney Hannah Schuchart and a response written by defense attorney Eric Maciolek.

Bullock was charged in July 2022 with two counts of the repeated sexual assault of the same child in connection with alleged incidents involving two females dating back to when they were between the ages of 12 and 16.



BULLOCK

Two months later, he was charged with three counts of invading privacy by using a surveillance device against a victim younger than 18, along with three counts of capturing an intimate representation in connection with an allegation Bullock positioned a hidden camera in a bathroom and recorded intimate video of a teenaged girl showering.

The third file charges Bullock with felony bail jumping. He was scheduled to stand trial starting July

31, 2024, and was free on bail with a condition that he wear an ankle bracelet. He is accused of slipping out of the bracelet on July 2 and leaving the state.

The criminal complaint in that case alleges Bullock was spotted at an RV park in Texas two weeks later by a concerned citizen who happened to see an Oconto County Sheriff's Office social media post asking for information about the suspect's whereabouts.

Both the prosecution and defense arguments cite state law that says combining cases, also known as joinder, is proper when the alleged offenses are part of the same act or transaction, when they share the same or similar characteristics or when they constitute a common scheme or plan.

The prosecution argues that the invasion of privacy case can be properly joined with the child

sexual assault case because they are acts of a similar character.

"All three cases are properly joined as offenses that are 'connected together' or 'part of a common scheme or plan,'" Schuchart said.

The bail jumping case shows that Bullock clearly intended to "obstruct justice (and) avoid punishment" by leaving the state, she said.

"Fleeing evidence is highly probative, and the highly probative value is not substantially outweighed by its unfair prejudice," Schuchart said.

Maciolek countered that prosecutors want to merge three distinct criminal prosecutions into a single trial.

"Joinder in this case would be more prejudicial than probative," he said.

Trying the cases together would conflate separate incidents into a generalized "bad character" narra-

tion, Maciolek argued.

Judge said he plans to issue a written decision in the near future. He scheduled a review of the case for May 9.

uled a review of the case for May 9.

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A sign of progress



The sign for Caldwell Square has been erected at the site of the former Caldwell House hotel in Oconto Falls. Main Street officials are working to convert the space into a community gathering place.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

OBITUARIES

Robert Walters Jr.

Robert Walters Jr., of Morgan, entered the gates of heaven with family at his side on Sunday, April 27, 2025, after suffering a stroke.

Bob was born in Green Bay on May 17, 1950, to Florabelle Steber and Robert Walters Sr. Growing up, he caddied at Oneida Golf and Riding and enjoyed telling stories of caddying for Vince Lombardi from time to time. He was a 1968 graduate of Premontre High School. Bob enlisted in the Wisconsin National Guard where he served for seven years.

Bob met his loving wife, Christine Allen of Little Suamico, and they were married May 23, 1970. He initially started working in the armored car industry for his grandfather and father until 1970, at which time the business was sold to Purolator Armored. Bob



took promotions, moving his family to Indianapolis, Allentown, Pennsylvania, and Denver.

Colorado was their favorite place to reside and, along with their three young children, the family all learned to ski. In 1983, after 18 months, Bob moved his family back to Wisconsin to start his own armored car company, Waltco Inc. With the help of his wife and father-in-

law, they built the business and built their first armored truck.

On one occasion, Bob even got to take his son to the emergency room in an armored truck.

Waltco Inc. grew into more than just an armored car service, but also into a package delivery system, servicing the upper Midwest. Bob made many sacrifices and worked many long hours to build his family business of over 40 years, which continues to service Green Bay and the surrounding areas. His wife and children will continue this legacy of which he was so proud.

Bob enjoyed playing golf with his friends and family and being part of the golf league at Sandalwood Golf Course. He loved grilling out on his deck for any family events and allowing us to special order our favorite

steaks to desired temperature. He enjoyed cutting wood, and making maple syrup with his father-in-law, Doug, and brother-in-law, Tim, at Doug's sugar shack. After Doug "retired" the sugar shack, Bob continued this maple syrup tradition with his wife, children and grandchildren on their own homestead.

He loved to drive fast cars with the top down and all his toys in the shed, which he generously shared with his children. He also enjoyed going to many Packers games with family and friends. Bob was always ready to watch a good movie in the shed with anyone who would stop by to join him for a beer or three.

He also recently started to raise beef steer with his son as a new hobby. Bob loved to go to basketball games, football games,

dance recitals, soccer games, band concerts and truck pulls ... anything that involved his grandchildren whom he adored.

Bob is survived by his wife of 54 years, Christine; two sons, Eric Walters, Ryan (Lisa) Walters, and daughter, Sara (Al) Rosina, all of Oconto Falls. He was most proud of his six grandchildren, Owen, Joey, Maddie, Ben, Taylor and Laney. He is further survived by three sisters, Cynthia Cook and Sharon (Rob) Hendricks, both of Florida, and Jeanne (Mike) Meyer of Colorado; and a brother, Keith (Becki) Larsen of Green Bay; many nieces, nephews and other family. A special thank you to his good friends who were always there to talk about the news.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Florabelle; his father, Robert, Sr.; and his father-in-law

and mother-in-law, Douglas and Bartley Allen.

Our most sincere thanks go to the team of doctors and nurses at HSHS St. Vincent Hospital ICU in Green Bay for the care they provided for Bob, and the support they gave to family during this extremely sad time.

Friends are invited to gather with family at St. Casimir Church, 146 Park St., Krakow, on Saturday, May 10, from 9 a.m. until noon. The funeral Mass will be celebrated at noon with the Rev. Carmen Scuderi, OFM, presiding. Burial with military honors rendered by the Pulaski Area Veterans will follow in the church cemetery.

Online condolences may be offered to the Walters family at www.marnochafunrealhome.com or on the Marnocha Funeral Home Facebook page.

Neil Bigelow

Neil Bigelow passed away at home Wednesday, April 30, 2025.

He was born to Edward and Ella (Hertwig) Bigelow July 2, 1935, in Oconto Falls. Neil attended area schools and graduated from Oconto Falls High School with the class of 1953.

He worked for Scott Paper and Kimberly Clark for 44 years. From Neil's first marriage, he has one son, Randy. He later married Sandra Lambrecht, and together they had two more sons, Michael and Matthew.

Neil will be sorely missed by his children,



Randy (Jane), Mike (Hannah) and Matt (Shromona); two grandchildren, Debbie (Nate) and Robert (Shelly); five great-grandchildren, Kyle (Brandi), Breanna

(Matt), Leah, Fisher and Ayden; and three great-great-grandchildren, Emerson, Nora and Kabian. He is further survived by sisters-in-law, Carole (Bill) and Kathy; nephew, Justin Lambrecht; and niece, Linda.

Neil is preceded in death by his parents, wife Sandra in 2023, and 12 brothers and sisters.

Family and friends gathered after 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at Jones Funeral Service. A memorial service took place at noon with Pastor Gary Olson officiating, with burial following at Woodlawn Cemetery, Oconto Falls.



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Conservation officials push state for additional funding

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

Shawano County Land and Water Conservation Department professionals claim they are among the best and most cost-effective solutions to improving water quality, achieving clean and safe drinking water, and supporting multiple industries at the same time.

Because of that, Shawano County supervisors are urging the Wisconsin Legislature and the Joint Committee on Finance to provide \$20.2 million in stable, base funding for county conservation staffing.

This year, state officials established the current need for county conservation department staffing at \$20.2 million to fund staff positions at 100% of the first, 70% of the second and 50% of each additional person.

The local resolution was adopted April 15.

Based on 2024 data, this measure would provide Shawano County about \$50,000 of additional annual soil and water resource management grant funding through the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

"In 2024 Shawano County received \$154,819 for land conservation department staffing and support costs," said Scott Frank, county conserva-

tionist. "This covered 1.8 staff positions of the 3.6 eligible staff positions in the LCD. If we were to receive full funding per Chapter 92, we could expect about \$50,000 more.

"If this were to happen, it would give us some flexibility to buffer budget cuts, possibly offer seasonal/internship opportunities or even add a part-time position to the office."

Frank said his office provides many services he and others do not want to see reduced.

County conservation departments are the local delivery mechanism for a range of Wisconsin's natural soil and water and other resource management programs including non-point pollution control, farmland preservation, reclamation of non-metallic mines, invasive species control, woodland management, lakes protection and more.

According to DATCP, for every \$1 of county staffing provided in the state biennial budget, conservation departments leverage \$2 in additional local, state and federal funding.

Wisconsin Land and Water is a nonprofit membership organization that supports the efforts of around 450 land conservation committee supervisors and 370 conservation staff in Wisconsin's 72 county land and water conservation departments.

The group reports that

in 2006, the state's base funding allocation of \$9.3 million met 70% of the counties' staffing needs of \$13.3 million. In 2025, the \$8.9 million provided met only 46% of the counties' needs.

In the 19-year period from 2006-25, base funding relative to county staffing needs decreased by 26%.

Conservation staff professionals serve as technical advisers to support producer-led watershed groups, assist waterfront property owners, help farmers develop and implement nutrient management plans, respond to natural disasters like floods, project planning and engineering, securing cost share funding and spend years building the trust to be able to successfully do so.

The conservation practices these professionals help landowners apply to farm fields, forests and shorelines have numerous water quality benefits, including preventing soil erosion and promoting soil health, increasing infiltration into groundwater aquifers, protecting drinking water supply, reducing surface runoff and flood severity and more.

This minimum funding is expected to result in more conservation on the landscape and better protection of the state's natural resources.

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U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson talks about how Republicans need to continue fighting during the Shawano County Republican Party's dinner May 3 at Golden Sands Golf Course. He said he was happy with the conservative turn in government from last November's election, but he warned that April's Wisconsin Supreme Court race indicates Democrats want their power back.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

Johnson plans to vote against federal budget bill

Senator claims staff blocking ideas to reduce spending

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson is not in support of the budget reconciliation bill currently going through Congress because it doesn't make enough cuts to the federal budget.

The Wisconsin senator announced that in a speech May 3 during the Shawano County Republican Party's annual dinner, which boasted more than 100 people, at Golden Sands Golf Course in Cecil. Normally an ardent supporter of the Trump Administration's agenda, Johnson made it clear that if the GOP is intent on shrinking government spending, it needs to be bolder.

"If you look at the stuff and put it under a microscope, you can't justify it," Johnson said. "I have a belief that we literally will find hundreds of billions of dollars that's completely unjustified. You couldn't spend it, and no one would even notice. I'm on notice. I put the administration on notice and said that, unless we return to a pre-pandemic level — and engage in a process that can achieve it and maintain it — I'm going to vote no."

Johnson's statement garnered applause from those in attendance. Cur-

rently, the Republicans maintain razor-thin majorities in both chambers of Congress, and Johnson said that several of his GOP colleagues could join him in opposition, which would cause the bill to fail.

"I know it won't be pleasant. I remember how unpleasant it was back in 2017 when we were talking about the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act," Johnson said. "That came over from the House, and the one thing Trump campaigned on was a 20% tax rate for sea corps (overseas business operations), but it became 20% for businesses. It was written for sea corps, but it left 95% of American businesses uncompetitive with no tax relief whatsoever."

Johnson said he was against that, which got him some heat from the Oval Office, but he dug his heels in on the matter and got things changed. He plans to do the same with the budget reconciliation bill.

"When it was all said and done, everybody was singing my praises and thanking me for doing it," Johnson said. "I don't think the next couple of weeks are going to be pleasant, because I put them on notice."

Johnson noted that the House's speaker and majority leader encouraged him to talk to the staff crafting the budget bill and get his issues addressed. The reply he got, in different terminology, was to "pound sand."

"I'm not kidding," Johnson said, adding that the staff told him the "big, beautiful bill" needed to be ready to go forward by Memorial Day. "Washing-

ton is run by staff."

Discretionary spending at the federal level has doubled over the last year, according to Johnson, which made him suggest that Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security don't need to be touched to make the reductions needed.

During his speech, Johnson also expressed disappointment on the April general elections and blamed Republicans not showing up for Susan Crawford's victory over Brad Schimel for a seat on the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

"Never forget that the left is relentless," Johnson said. "As much elation as I felt in November, I was more deflated in April."

Rep. Tony Wied also spoke at the county Republicans' dinner and praised them for being a driving force to electing him to the House seat vacated by Mike Gallagher. He said his past few months have involved enacting as much of President Donald Trump's agenda as possible and curtailing liberal efforts, adding that grocery prices and the cost of gas are going down.

"This state went to President Trump, and it was because of your tireless work and what you've done here in Shawano County," Wied said. "In November of last year, you sent a clear message that we will not stand by and let that far-left radical ideology run this country anymore. We will not do that."

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Breaking ground for the VFW



VFW Post 2723 Commander Tom Hoffman and member Jesse Rankin were among those breaking ground May 5 for the new building for VFW Post 2723. Construction is underway on the \$900,000 project at 820 Olson St., Shawano. It is expected the post will be open in the fall.

GREG MELLIS

Konitzer pleads not guilty in sexual assault

Criminal complaint alleges he repeatedly assaulted his pre-teen daughter

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

A Town of Belle Plaine man faces several charges in a case where he's accused of repeatedly sexually assaulting his daughter.

Dylan Konitzer, 34, has been charged with first-degree sexual assault with a child under 13, causing a child under 13 to view or listen to sexual activity, incest and exposing genitals. He is currently being held in the Shawano County Jail on a \$50,000 cash bond.

Konitzer appeared in Shawano-Menominee County Circuit Court on April 30 for a preliminary hearing, but he waived the preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to all charges. A pre-trial hearing has been scheduled for 9 a.m. June 18 in Branch I of the Shawano County



Dylan Konitzer is walked back into the courtroom for a preliminary hearing April 30 by Shawano County Deputy Bill Beaumeier following a meeting with his attorney.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

Courthouse.

According to the criminal complaint, Konitzer allegedly repeatedly assaulted his daughter from October 2024 until the end of March. He allegedly showed her pornography with women and would

expose himself to her while the porn played. He allegedly told her she had to sleep naked in her bed at night.

This all started around the time the daughter turned 12, according to the complaint. Konitzer alleg-

edly started things after giving her the sex talk, and when the victim said she did not know what a penis looked like, he allegedly showed her his. The daughter claimed Konitzer had commented on her breasts and that she "had a

big butt," according to the complaint, and there were instances when he allegedly photographed her naked, although the complaint did not indicate if those photos were found.

The victim claimed she tried to lock her bedroom door so she could sleep, according to the complaint, but Konitzer allegedly used a blue Domino's card to unlock the door and sneak in. The victim claimed that the "weird sex things" happened in the early morning hours or before 10 p.m., when Konitzer's wife would come home from work. In some instances, the victim allegedly kicked Konitzer when he tried to initiate sexual contact, and he left the room.

The victim claimed she did not say anything at first for fear that it would break up her family, according to the complaint, but she eventually told her mother, who had divorced Konitzer almost 10 years ago, and other relatives. She said Konitzer claimed he did "stuff" with her that he didn't do

with his new wife. In an interview with the new wife, she told a detective that Konitzer had been a victim of sexual assault himself as a child by a grandfather. The ex-wife backed up the claim, saying he admitted it after she caught him watching porn with their daughter 10 years ago. The ex-wife said Konitzer claimed she would not understand after asking him what was going on, and she told him to leave the house.

In the course of executing a search warrant, detectives found massagers and Harry Potter wands that were used during the sexual assaults. They also collected a pillow, blanket and clothing that showed bodily fluids when checked with a fluorescent light.

If convicted, Konitzer faces up to 60 years in prison for the sexual assault charge, up to 12 1/2 years on the child viewing sexual activity and incest charges, and up to 3 1/2 years for the exposure charge.

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

Deer council approves holiday hunt, extended archery season

By ROSS BIELEMA
Correspondent

The overall theme of the Shawano County Deer Advisory Council meeting was more opportunities for deer hunters in an effort to get an ever-swelling deer herd under control.

With a countywide herd of more than 53,000 animals and fewer does being shot, the council admitted efforts to rein in the growing herd are largely symbolic.

During the April 29 meeting at Shawano Community Middle School, the six-member board approved an antlerless holiday hunt and extended the archery season through Jan. 31.

Both decisions came on a 3-2 vote, with Steve Breaker, Paul Armitage and Mark Heidemann voting in favor, and John Hoeffs and Mark Conratt voting no.

The council also agreed to increase the total antlerless deer quota from 9,000 in 2024 to 10,000 this year, although the number is largely symbolic because the actual antlerless harvest was just 4,590 animals. Conratt initially suggested leaving the quota at 9,000, with Hoeffs seconding, but

the other three voted no.

"We haven't moved the needle at all in how many years," Breaker said, noting that although the county's hunters shot about half the quota, the council should at least increase the quota to voice their concern at the swelling herd problem. Breaker then suggested a 10,000-animal quota, which was seconded by Armitage and unanimously approved.

Jacquelyn Christopher, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologist, said the council should expand hunter opportunities when possible. She noted that the county's herd of 53,400 animals (plus or minus 7,000) represents 84 deer per square mile of habitat. Last year, the population was 72 per square mile.

The upward-trending deer density in Shawano County and surrounding Central Farmland Zone counties contributes to more car-deer accidents, overbrowsing, lack of forest regeneration and the need for nuisance deer permits from crop damage, she noted.

Another option for some landowners living near locations where deer have tested positive for

chronic wasting disease is the CWD surveillance permit. A process for awarding these permits is still being worked out, but most of these harvests typically take place at the end of hunting season, she noted.

The council also decided to award Shawano County hunters two antlerless deer permits per gun and archery buck permit, the same as last year. The council set the bonus antlerless permits at 4,900 for private land and 1,600 for public land.

Council members also considered the 113 online survey results for Shawano County in their decisions.

The county's hunters shot a total of 9,402 deer last season, including 4,812 bucks and 4,590 antlerless deer. It was the first time in many years that the buck harvest exceeded the doe harvest, which adds to the problem of herd health, Christopher noted.

A total of 94% of the harvest was shot on private land.

Wolves and other predators continue to draw attention from deer hunters. Christopher said there are about 220 packs of four to five wolves each in the state. An adult wolf

will eat up to 15 deer a year, but typically will kill a younger, older or weak deer. Bears tend to prey on

only fawns.

All CDAC actions are reviewed by the DNR Deer Advisory Committee and

staff, then forwarded to the state's Natural Resources Board for final approval in June.



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Lieg Avenue closed through May 16

Most of Lieg Avenue will be under a full road closure through May 16.

Starting at and including the bridge over the Wolf River, Lieg Avenue will be closed to traffic

eastward to Lincoln Street for pavement removal and repaving.

Lincoln Street and Main Street will remain fully accessible cross streets. Franklin Street will have

ramped access during the project.

The posted detour will be from Main Street to Green Bay Street to County Road MMM and back to County Road M.



Shawano Baker Manor, a high-end Airbnb, is furnished with Baker furniture. The Airbnb features four bedrooms, three bathrooms, a full kitchen and dining room, and a living room with a fireplace, 65-inch TV and sound system.

CONTRIBUTED

High-end Airbnb on Castle Road sees growing business

Shawano Baker Manor making itself a destination of its own

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

An Airbnb on Castle Road east of Shawano is truly made for a king — or queen. The former site of the Limestone Castle supper club is now, among other ventures, a high-end Airbnb.

“In 2022-23, the daughter of our friends lived in Thailand, and we remodeled the space for her and her family to move back home,” said Suzi Fiedler, who owns the property with her husband, Dan. “When they moved out, we decided to make it an Airbnb, stocked with Vintage Baker furniture from the 1970s.”

Shawano Baker Manor (www.shawanobakermanor.com) was launched in July 2024.

“It’s rented a couple of times a month,” said manager Sara Wagner. “Word of mouth is getting out, so the past few months were busier than the first couple months, and we expect the next six months to be even busier.”

Baker furniture was created in 1890. For most of its history, the business specialized in quality reproductions, particularly of European and English styles. Known for its craftsmanship and design, the small family cabinet shop evolved into a global brand.

Shawano Baker Manor is furnished almost exclusively with pieces from this company.



The former Limestone Castle supper club stood for 60-plus years east of Shawano. It was destroyed by fire in 1994.

CONTRIBUTED

The rental unit is about 3,500 square feet and features four bedrooms, three full bathrooms, a full kitchen and dining room, living room with a fireplace and sound system, exercise area and laundry facilities. It also includes a deck stocked with furniture and a grill.

The Airbnb can house up to 12 people and is a also popular draw for those using or watching the events at USAIR Motorsports Raceway, which is just a mile west on County Road BE.

It’s a family venue, and the Fiedlers aren’t renting out to anyone who wants to use the place as a party headquarters.

“One of first guests was visiting from another country,” Suzi Fiedler said. “He said that it’s not just a place to stay when you go to a destination. ‘This is a destination,’ he said.”

Rates are \$500 a night, with a one-time cleaning fee of \$200 upon checkout.

Shawano Baker Manor’s original location, W5566 Castle Road, was the historic Limestone Castle Restaurant from the 1930s. It burned down in 1994. The Fiedlers purchased the remnant cement slab in 1995 and built a church on the site, which was in operation for many years.

In 2016, they purchased the building back from the church corporation.

“We bought it after it had been a church for 20 years,” Dan Fiedler said. “We let it sit for a bit. We then made it a place for the community to gather and use the zone. Everyone is so fast-paced, and this is a place to slow down.”

When the opportunity presented itself to renovate the children’s classrooms of the church building into an Airbnb, the Fiedlers were no strangers to the task.

For information or reservations, call Wagner at 715-853-4322 or Suzi Fiedler at 920-883-7450.

GARDENING WITH MELINDA MYERS

Tomatoes taste better straight from garden

Nothing beats the flavor of fresh-from-the-garden tomatoes. Keep them close at hand by growing one or more in containers on your patio, balcony, or front steps.

Any tomato can be grown in a pot, but determinate varieties are shorter and more

compact, making them a bit easier to manage in a container. They produce fruit

in a relatively short period of time, making them great choices for preserving as well as using fresh. Look for a D or determinate on the plant tag, seed packet or in the catalog description.

Indeterminate tomatoes, often designated with an I, are usually much taller and continue to grow, flower, and produce fruit until frost kills the plant or you pinch out the growing tip. These are usually staked or grown in wire cages to save space, reduce pest problems and make harvesting easier. Many new containers have built-in trellises or creative gardeners craft their own, making it easier and more attractive to grow these bigger plants in pots.

Semi-determinate varieties are in between these two. They are compact like determinates, often trailing but produce fruit throughout the growing season like indeterminate varieties.

You can now find compact varieties often sold as miniature and dwarf plants that grow well in small 4- to 8-inch pots. They are a great option for those with limited space, gardening on balconies, indoors in a sunny window or just about anywhere. Kitchen Mini tomatoes, Heartbreakers, Red Velvet and Micro Tom Thumb are just a few.

Grow one tomato per container for maximum productivity. Use a 5-gallon or bigger container for large varieties and at least a 2- to 3-gallon or similar size pot for smaller varieties. Some research suggests growing tomatoes in a pot that is at least 14 inches but preferably 20 inches wide will yield greater results. Adding flowers and herbs to the container boosts the beauty and diversity of your container garden but will reduce the number of tomatoes produced.



Melinda Myers
Columnist

MYERS, CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



If gardening space is limited, grow tomatoes in hanging baskets or containers.

MELINDAMYERS.COM

Let the experts determine forest health

As I gaze out our patio door this late-April morning, I can see clearly that Otter Run is awakening from its winter slumber. The ice went out two weeks ago; the lake is placid and peaceful today. The reflection of the trees on the water shows they are leafing out. Unfortunately, that means Jon is sneezing and wheezing as his allergies are kicking in big time. I'm blessed that I'm not prone to this affliction. It's a beautiful day, so I'll grab a rake and do the front lawn while promising the flower beds to tend them soon.

Along with crunchy leaves and dead grass, I rake up a lot of twigs that fell during the ice storm and were spread out across our property by recent high winds. There are also larger sticks from yesterday when Jon took an antihistamine and got his chainsaw. Together we removed a large popple that had broken off and one of my apple trees, which was collateral damage. Jon just turned 85, and I'm not exactly a spring chicken. Some might say the scene was straight out of "America's Funniest Home Videos," but we got the job done.



When we finished, I walked our half-mile road to fetch the mail, picking up more sticks and looking for damaged trees that might need removal. I hate cutting down trees, but I am mindful of the message in a book by Ethan Tapper I read over winter: "How to Love a Forest: The Bittersweet Work of Tending a Changing World."

Like Dr. Suess in "The Lorax," Tapper speaks for the trees, but his warning is that climate change and current forestry practices are seriously endangering the Northwoods. He maintains that healthy forests have biological diversity, species diversity, trees of different ages and remnants of "old growth." This provides trees with a natural resistance to pests, disturbances and, to some degree, climate change.

Musing about that led me to reread an essay by Phil Anderson when I got home. Phil, a friend who lives in Maple, is a tree-lover like me. In his piece, he cites Forests at



Prescribed cuttings are necessary to benefit the health and vitality of the forests, even around the Townsend Flowage. KATHLEEN MARSH

Risk, a recent report by Wisconsin Green Fire. A nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, WGF's goal is to "educate the public and to attempt to affect policy decisions with sound scientific analysis."

Forests at Risk issues a Code Red Alert about the declining health of our woodlands: "Wisconsin's forests have long enriched our state's economy and quality of life. Yet, just

when we need healthy, diverse and productive forests more than ever, our forests are facing serious threats."

Phil wrote that it should be self-evident that public policy be based on the best available information: science, facts, historical experience. "Anything less can only lead to bad decisions and bad results. During the Walker administration, the legislature

arbitrarily mandated 75% of state forests be managed for logging. This decision was not based on any scientific analysis or considerations for the health of our public forests. Unfortunately, this bad policy is still guiding state (and national) forest management today."

Really? Case in point. When Jon and I bought Otter Run in 1993, the woods had not been cut since the Big Pine Era. It needed serious attention, but I was skeptical. Like a lot of people, I thought cutting a tree was sinful. Jon disagreed. He said that just like my garden, forests need cultivating. By 1996, it was obvious we had to do something. We consulted Dave Christianson, a local logger who told us a cut was long overdue and would be good for the woods. When Dave assured us that they would do a select cutting and not high grade (only take the best trees), I decided to trust his judgment.

We were still living in Appleton then, and I vividly recall the day we came up north to see the results. When I saw the bleeding stumps of birch and popple trees, the

piles of branches and the logging trails cut into the woods, I made Jon stop the truck. I got out, went down on my knees and tearfully begged the forest to forgive me. Jon didn't laugh at me, just insisted I would come in time to realize it was the appropriate thing to do. He and Dave were right.

As a result, we enrolled 40 acres of our property in the Managed Forest Law program. We get a property tax break as long as we adhere to a licensed forester's plan, which stipulates we cannot make improvements or cut without DNR approval. Dutifully following that plan, we've had prescribed cuttings in 2013 and 2020.

The outcome is a healthy forest that withstood the devastating July 19, 2019, derecho and several ice storms that did substantial damage to unmanaged properties. Proof positive. Along the way, I learned an important lesson: Defer to the experts because I know how to do my thing; they know how to do theirs.

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

Saturday May 17th 10AM Public Auction for Ken Wallace Estate N15215 US Hwy 141, Amberg, WI



Located 1/2 mile North of Amberg on Hwy 141. Doors Open at 8 Lunch by Freedom

Country Home, Sheds & 10.48 Acres of Land: This parcel has frontage on Hwy 141 and Old 141 Road. Includes a stick-built 3 bedroom Ranch Home with 2 baths and over 1,500 sq ft of Living Space. This home has a Steel Roof & full basement with a brand new gas Boiler furnace. There is a Sunroom addition to the South. Sale includes the kitchen appliances, Washer, Dryer, Laundry Sink, Central Vac & Water Softener. This home has 200amp circuit breakers & an attached 2-stall garage with its own furnace. This property has its own Drilled Well & Conventional Septic System. This property also includes a 30x50ft insulated Shop/Shed with 16ft Sidewalls, 16ft Overhead Door, concrete floors, electric service, a Wood Stove & attached Firewood Storage Shed. Also has a 24x60ft Storage Shed with 3 Overhead Doors & some Beautiful Woods. The 2024 real estate taxes were only \$ 1,300.

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Antiques & Household: Corn sheller, Milk cans, Oak Victrola, 1940's kitchen cupboard w/ sink, Horse collar mirror, Doll buggy, Coleman coolers, Dinette w/ swivel chairs, Pink Depression glass, German steins, Bakers rack, Cook books, Pots & Pans, Correlle dishes, Knotty Pine bedroom set, Sleds, CD stereo & More



Sunday May 18th 10AM Moving Auction for Mike & Char Staudenmaier

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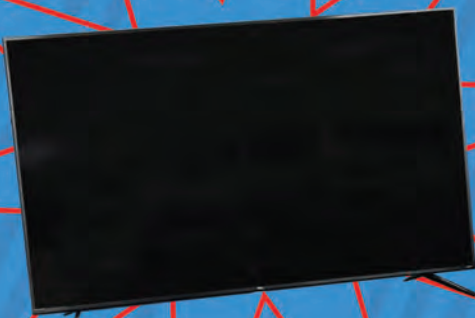
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Code talkers gone, but stories kept alive

Every May, modern Americans plant flags on veterans' graves. Its antecedent dates back to 1866, with the onset of spring being the time we honor and mourn our country's deceased service men and women.

We recognize the gravity of those flags by expressing their gratitude for those who served to uphold the freedoms and lifeways Americans all enjoy. While most can define what was defended in terms of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, how many of us know the stories of the heroes whom we celebrate?

When I asked Becky Alegria which veterans especially needed to be remembered this Memorial Day, the Menominee tribal researcher and cultural planner didn't skip a beat. "Write about the World War II Menominee Code Talkers," Alegria said.

Despite the fact that it had taken steps to mitigate the proliferation of the Menominee language for the lion's share of the country's existence, the United States has often called upon Menominee soldiers and language speakers in times of combat. Since the Menominee Nation pledged allegiance to the U.S. in 1816, tribal members have answered the call to serve.

Approximately 125



World War II veterans march in the woods on the Menominee reservation led by Menominee Code Talkers. MENOMINEE HISTORIC PRESERVATION CULTURAL AND LOGGING MUSEUM



Menominee men volunteered to fight in the American Civil War. According to Alegria, "Most of them only spoke Menominee, so they needed someone to translate their orders."

About 260 Menominee men and women served in World War II and the Menominee language again played a role in their service. The Menominee

Nation was one of 30 who supplied code talkers who used their Native language in service of their country.

Alegria shared a folder that's on display in the Menominee Historic Preservation Cultural and Logging Museum. Anyone who visits the museum can flip through it and see the names, photos, and places where some of the Menominee Code Talkers served.

The Menominee Code Talkers whose service we should remember include U.S. Navy veteran Mose Wausakokamick and Dan Wauppose, Marine Corps serviceman Richard "Snuff"

Dodge," and U.S. Army soldiers George Puckiew, William Matchopatow, Gus L. Kinney, David Matchopatow, and John C. O'Katchicum.

It is not uncommon for veterans to refrain from discussing their service, but knowing about what they did helps us all better understand our collective history. Alegria told me that O'Katchicum's son, Darrell O'Katchicum, was surprised to hear about his father's war efforts.

"Later, he came into the museum with a photo of his dad with his bodyguards," Alegria said. "The daughter

of one of the bodyguards found the picture in a box under a bed after her dad passed. She sent it to Darrell."

Alegria also explained how the code talkers were honored by the Menominee community, including by the leading of a parade through the woods. The United States would officially honor them with a commendation in 2008.

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer David Grignon stated that he was asked to sit in on a conference call with the U.S. Mint that was held at the Menominee Tribal Cultural Museum. Grignon said, "The call was about the gold medal coin the Code Talkers received. It included the five major clans of the Menominee — the ancestral bear, eagle, wolf, moose, and crane with a sturgeon over them. We had to confirm them as cultural identities."

Museum files also captured that in 2013 Menominee Tribal members Craig Corn, William Williams, Gilbert Boivine, Antionette Wilber, and Warren Wilber Sr. went to Washington, D.C. to attend the recognition ceremony. The specially designed U.S. Mint silver coin was presented to the families of the Code Talkers and Tribal Chairperson Laurie Boivine accepted a gold coin on behalf of the



The U.S. Mint came out with a Menominee Code Talker Coin in 2013.

MENOMINEE HISTORIC PRESERVATION CULTURAL AND LOGGING MUSEUM

Menominee Nation.

At that time, the families of the code talkers were additionally presented a Pendleton blanket by the tribe and an eagle feather from the Veterans of the Menominee Nation.

This month, let's take the time to remember the specific service of those whose graves we honor with flags, the playing of Taps, and prayerful contemplation. While the cemetery is where their remains are laid to rest, sharing their stories is what keeps their memory alive. As Alegria intimated when she suggested I write this column, recalling the names of the Menominee Code Talkers is a great place to start.

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

2025 Event Schedule

Near Memorial Park, Shawano

Friday June 6TH

EVENT TIME ◦ 4:00 PM-10:00 PM
KID ZONE ◦ 4:00 PM-8:00 PM
INFLATABLES AND YARD GAMES

Free Admission

Music

Whiskey & Lace 4:00
Wet Possum 7:00

Saturday June 7TH

FLEA MARKET & ANTIQUES ◦ 6AM
FARMERS BREWERY
5K RUN / WALK ◦ 9AM
CRAFT FAIR ◦ 10AM - 4PM
KID ZONE ◦ 10AM - 8PM

Music

Trigger Trippers Noon
Nashville Pipeline 3:00
The Glam Band 6:45



TWIG'S MUSEUM
OPEN
FRIDAY 7-11AM AND
2-8PM
SATURDAY 10AM - 6PM

Retirement new gateway to problem drinking

I think most people, even from a young age, are aware of the risks of drinking alcohol in excess or on a regular basis, including impaired judgement, liver failure, drunk driving, addiction, etc. For these reasons, most people keep their alcohol intake in check, because they know they have kids to take care of or jobs they need to be at or just don't have time for a hangover the next morning.

However, in a culture like Wisconsin where social drinking is commonplace, when people retire, and those next day responsibilities are no longer there, social drinking becomes problem drinking all too easily.

After being in practice for almost 20 years, I am starting to see longtime patients of mine who I have never had concern with, coming in within a



couple years of retirement with a host of new concerns and findings. Often, I will see abnormalities on routine liver tests or blood counts that were never there before or sugars creeping toward diabetes despite insistence they are not eating any differently and may even be exercising more.

This has started queuing me to re-ask about their alcohol consumption, and often the answer is, "I probably have 3-4 drinks every night, but I'm retired."

They truly don't see it as a problem, which is actually understandable. It was not that long ago that

patients were told that one drink per day for women and two per day for men was healthy.

That is no longer the case. Those are still seen as the maximum safe limits of alcohol intake if people choose to drink, but in many people, any alcohol on a daily basis poses a significant health risk. We now know that there are no significant health benefits from regular alcohol intake.

So, ultimately, no alcohol is always a healthier choice. If people do choose to drink on a daily basis even within the guidelines noted above, there are health risks they need to be aware of.

Of these health risks, many are known by people, but many are not:

- Obesity. Alcohol is a common contributor to weight gain when consumed regularly.

- Liver damage or failure, high blood pressure, atrial fibrillation, heart failure, stroke.

- Pancreatitis, stomach ulcers, impaired immune system, electrolyte abnormalities.

- Increased risk of cancer of the mouth, throat, larynx, esophagus, colon, pancreas and breast.

- Increases in depression and anxiety, which is often hard for people to accept because many people increased their alcohol intake to self-medicate these exact conditions.

- Impairment in healthy sleep cycles leading to chronic insomnia.

- Increased risk of memory loss and dementia.

- Regular daily use will frequently lead to neuropathy (damage to the nerves), which impairs balance and increases fall risk, at a time in life when

falling is already a big concern even without alcohol as a risk factor.

- Long-term daily use increases the risk of dangerous alcohol withdrawals when someone needs to be hospitalized for other conditions and suddenly cannot drink, especially if they have not told their doctor how much they drink. This is also a risk for younger people, but they generally are not hospitalized as often for other reasons.

As people age, the need for medical treatment of various chronic health conditions usually increases, but often people do not realize how certain lifestyle choices can either cause these conditions or make it much harder to control.

Regular consumption of alcohol will make it much more likely that someone will need prescription

medications for high blood pressure, acid reflux, insomnia, depression, anxiety and neuropathy just to name a few, which is another issue, because alcohol can also impact how people react to their medications in dangerous ways.

The intent of this column is not to say you cannot drink any alcohol or that you should not be able to enjoy your retirement the way you want to. I just want to make sure you remain mindful of these risks as you enter retirement, and don't let your newfound daily freedom lead to lifestyle choices that in the end will shorten or decrease the quality of this time in your life, that you have worked so hard to get to.

Dr. Mindy Frimodig is a family physician at ThedaCare Medical Center-Shawano and a member of the Shawano Community Health Action Team.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, MAY 9

SHAWANO: Vinyasa Against Violence, 6 p.m., Stubborn Brothers Brewery Crescent Ballroom, 220 S. Main St. Proceeds benefit Safe Haven. One-hour general vinyasa yoga session. Basket raffles and 50/50 drawing. \$50 admission includes yoga, two drink tickets and healthy appetizers.

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

ABRAMS: "The Play that Goes Wrong," directed by Mike Eserkahn, 7 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St., presented by Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. Tickets \$19, \$17 for senior citizens, youths and veterans at abramstheater.com or 920-826-5852.

SATURDAY, MAY 10

SHAWANO: Shawano Bassmasters 2025 Spring Open, 6:30 a.m. Huckleberry Harbor, 222 N. Sawyer St. \$150 entry fee.

BONDUEL: Amish Consignment and Quilt Auction, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., N4310 Hill Road. Quilts, furniture, crafts, horse related tack, tools, maple syrup, lawn art, poly furniture, fall mums and more. Quilt preview 7:30-10 a.m., crafts start 8:30 a.m., Field auction 9 a.m., quilt auction 10 a.m., furniture noon. Bake sale 8 a.m. and lunch stand available.

SHAWANO: Optimist Club Bike Rodeo, 8:30-10:30 a.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1254 S. Union St. Bring your own bike. Drawings for free bikes, other prizes. Free bike helmets. Bike skills course and more.

BONDUEL: Fellowship Ride, noon, Doc's Harley-Davidson, W2709 State Highway 29. Hosted by Wolf River HOG to benefit the Franki Moscato Foundation. \$20 per person. Registration 10-11:45 a.m., ride blessing 11:45 a.m., group ride leave at noon, returning at 2 p.m. for live music, food for purchase, silent auction and raffles.

WITTENBERG: Artists' Free Play XII, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal St. A collection of artwork by a variety of area artists.

GRESHAM: American Legion Meat Raffle, 5 p.m., Legion Hall, 951 Main St. 50/50 drawing

SHAWANO: Bingo at Sacred Heart, 5:30-8 p.m., Sacred Heart Catholic School cafeteria, 124 E. Center St. Cards are 50 cents per game and winners collect 50% of the pot; conces-

sions also available for purchase. Proceeds benefit Sacred Heart Booster Club.

SHAWANO: Shawano Speedway, 6 p.m., 990 E. Green Bay St. Gates open 4 p.m. \$12, ages 12-16 \$6, and under 11 free.

ABRAMS: "The Play that Goes Wrong," directed by Mike Eserkahn, 7 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St., presented by Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. Tickets \$19, \$17 for senior citizens, youths and veterans at abramstheater.com or 920-826-5852.

OCONTO: UTL Comedy Night, 7 p.m., Holy Trinity Parish, 716 Madison St. Hosted by Oconto Copperfest Committee, featuring comedians Asher Brooks, Dean Berg and Headliner Rob Brackenridge. Cost \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Tickets available at Oconto City Hall, Boo's Bar, and the Oconto branches of Stephenson National Bank and NEW Credit Union.

SUNDAY, MAY 11

SHAWANO: Zurko's Midwest Promotions Flea Market, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Shawano County Fairgrounds, 990 E. Green Bay St. \$2 admission, 12 and under free with adult.

ABRAMS: "The Play that Goes Wrong," directed by Mike Eserkahn, 1 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St., presented by Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. Tickets \$19, \$17 for senior citizens, youths and veterans at abramstheater.com or 920-826-5852.

GRESHAM: American Legion Meat Raffle, 5 p.m., Legion Hall, 951 Main St. 50/50 drawing

WITTENBERG: Artists' Free Play XII, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal St. A collection of artwork by a variety of area artists.

MONDAY, MAY 12

OCONTO: Masonic Pine Lodge 188 dinner, 6 p.m., 513 Superior Ave. Open to family, friends and interested guests, followed by Master Mason private meeting at 7 p.m. For more info contact the Lodge Secretary at 920-373-0950.

SHAWANO: Recovery talking circle, 6-8 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, Room 4, 100 W. Presbyterian St. Information: Dallas Gast, 715-701-5388 or dallasgast8@gmail.com.

TUESDAY, MAY 13

SHAWANO: Shawano Paddlers meet-

ing, 5 p.m., The Lighthouse, W6440 Gumaer Road. Organizational meeting to discuss recreational water opportunities around the area.

SHAWANO: Shawano Pathways monthly meeting, 6-8 p.m., Shawano Civic Center, 225 S. Main St. Use the entrance off Washington Street.

WABENO: Free Veterans Breakfast, 9:30 a.m., American Legion Hall, 4494 N. Branch St. Coffee ready 9 a.m. Chef's choice, hosted by Donna and Vicki, 715-889-3731.

WITTENBERG: Second Tuesday Free Concert Series presents Tom Burt, 6-8 p.m., WOW'S Art Park, 114 Vinal St. Rain or shine. Details at www.wallsof-wittenberg.com.

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, MAY 14

SHAWANO: Drive Thru Cookout, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Coldwell Banker, 105 S. Washington St. Hot dogs and hamburgers \$5, first responders and EMS eat free.

SHAWANO: Touch a Truck, 4-7 p.m., Crawford Center, 251 S. Waukechon St. Featuring tractors, police cars, fire trucks, food trucks, a museum bus and more.

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, MAY 15

SHAWANO: God's Little Wonders: Parent/Tot Hour, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1254 S. Union St. Hands-on activities and crafts, songs and stories, faith nurturing.

ABRAMS: "The Play that Goes Wrong," directed by Mike Eserkahn, 7 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St., presented by Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. Tickets \$19, \$17 for senior citizens, youths and veterans at abramstheater.com or 920-826-5852.

BOWLER: Native American Talking Circle, 7-9 p.m., Mohican Family Center, N8605 Oak St. Information: Yvonne Burr, 715-326-0891.

FRIDAY, MAY 16

SHAWANO: 26th annual Car Show, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Shawano Community High School, 220 County

Road B. \$5 entry (First 100 get dash plaques), food and drink, raffle prizes and trophies.

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

ABRAMS: "The Play that Goes Wrong," directed by Mike Eserkahn, 7 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St., presented by Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. Tickets \$19, \$17 for senior citizens, youths and veterans at abramstheater.com or 920-826-5852.

SATURDAY, MAY 17

NAVARINO: Living Wreath Craft, 9 a.m. to noon, Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Create a 14-inch wreath using succulents and flowers. Expect to get dirty. \$30 members, \$40 non-members. Register at 715-758-6999 or navarino.org.

WESCOTT: Bike Ride, 9:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., meet at Mielke Art Center, N5649 N. Airport Road. Casual country roads bike ride on the scenic Town of Wescott bike routes, hosted by Shawano Pathways. Three options, 8-19 miles.

PELLA: Pella Daze 2025, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Old Mill Park, N4167 County Road D. Food, raffles, live music. Crafts and vendors 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., parade 11 a.m., face painting 1-4 p.m., bike raffle 3 p.m. Music schedule: Sugarbush Boys 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Mike and Bill Experience 3-6 p.m., The Decade 6-10 p.m.

KESHENA: Gathering of Warriors Powwow, flag raising 11 a.m., grand entries noon and 7 p.m., Woodland Bowl, W3024 Fairgrounds Road. Honoring Desert Storm/Shield vets — Princess contest, Vet Snake Dance, exhibitions, specials and more.

SHAWANO: Shawano Speedway, 6 p.m., 990 E. Green Bay St. Gates open 4 p.m. \$12, ages 12-16 \$6, and under 11 free.

ABRAMS: "The Play that Goes Wrong," directed by Mike Eserkahn, 7 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St., presented by Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. Tickets \$19, \$17 for senior citizens, youths and veterans at abramstheater.com or 920-826-5852.

SUNDAY, MAY 18

SHAWANO: Zurko's Midwest Promotions Flea Market, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Shawano County Fairgrounds, 990 E. Green Bay St. \$2 admission, 12 and under free with adult.

MYERS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Growing tomatoes in containers also allows you to start the season earlier. Just move the planter inside when the weather is harsh and back outside when the weather is warm and sunny. As the weather turns cold at the end of the growing season, cover the planter or move it into a frost-free location as needed. Some gardeners even move a pot or two inside to finish off the tomato season.

Plant tomatoes in a container with drainage holes and fill it with a quality potting mix. Reduce the time spent watering with a self-watering pot that has a reservoir to hold water and extend the time between watering. Further reduce the need to water by adding an organic, sustainable soil amendment like certified organic Wild Valley Farms' wool pellets (wildvalley-farms.com) to the potting mix. Made from wool waste, this product reduces watering by up to 25%.

Water thoroughly when the top few inches begin to dry. Mulch the soil with evergreen needles, shredded leaves, or other organic mulch to keep the soil consistently moist and suppress weeds. Consistent soil moisture encourages more flowering and fruiting, while reducing the risk of blossom end rot, cracking, and misshapen fruit.

Harvest tomatoes when fully colored or leave them on the plant a few more days for an even sweeter flavor. You'll enjoy the convenience of harvesting fresh tomatoes right outside your door for use in salads, sauces, and other favorite recipes.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including "Midwest Gardener's Handbook," "Revised Edition" and "Small Space Gardening." Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds and Blooms magazine. Myers' website is www.melindamyers.com.



Bonduel girls track team wins in Mishicot

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

May 3
Brookfield Central Lancer Invite
Pulaski's girls placed second out of 17 teams in Brookfield. Brookfield Central won the meet with 120 points, and Pulaski tallied 101.

For the boys, De Pere won with 115 points, and Pulaski was tied with Wisconsin Lutheran for sixth place at 54 points.

Emerson Fabry won the girls 1,600-meter run. The 4x200-meter relay team and the 4x400 team also captured first place.

The best finish for the boys was Keaton Dauk's second place in the 300-meter hurdles.

May 2
D3 Elite Meet
Bonduel's girls ran up 150 points to win in Mishicot, with Suring in fourth with 73.5 points and Marion in 10th with 21 points.

The Bonduel boys placed fifth with 73.5 points, with Suring in seventh with 60.5 points and Marion in 10th with 29.

Mariah Wondra led the Bears with a first-place finish in the 3,200-meter run. Wondra was also part of the winning 4x800 relay, along with Teagan Engel, Amelia Wilcox and Peyton Westrich.

Rachel Hunter was best in the shot put, and Audrey Weier won the high jump.

Winning for Suring was Aliya Cox in the triple jump and long jump.

Presley Stewart-Rolfs won the discus for Marion.

For the boys, Bonduel's Sam Roberts won the 200-meter dash and the long jump.

Suring's Bradley Bayer was best in the discus.

Marion's best finish was Tristan Herro, who placed second in the high jump.

May 1
Luxemburg-Casco Spartan Invitational
Shawano's boys placed second and the girls were third at Luxemburg-Casco. Menominee Nations' boys were fifth, and the girls were sixth.

Winners for the Hawks on the boys side were Aiden Rasmussen in the 200-meter dash, Trevor Schwartz in the 800-meter run and the 4x100 relay team of Bryce Lammers, Rasmussen, Ryan Schwitzer and Maverick Theis.

Lammers, Joseph Kleinschmidt, Cambren Zeuske and Sosaeh Tepiew teamed up to win the 4x200, while Schwitzer, Zeuske, Theis and Kian Morstad won the 4x400. Kleinschmidt, Joshua Lesperance, Schwartz and Aloysius Frechette won the 4x800.

Drew Chelberg was best in the discus.

The best finish for the Eagles was 4x100 team of Francis Delabrau, Kenew Awonohopay, Michael Salgado and Barron Waupoose, which placed second.

Capturing first in the girls events was Shawano's 4x400 team of Maci Beyer, Tela Hopfensperger, Mikelah Powers and Bailey Hendricks, and the 4x800 team of Hendricks, Powers, Jillian Guenther and Emma Neilson.

Madisyn Weinig won the shot put and discus.

Beyer also was best in the high jump, and Neilson was tops in the pole vault.

For the Eagles, the best placement was from Urijah Reeves, who was third in the 400-meter dash.

TC Invite
Wittenberg-Birnamwood's girls won at Triple-County while the boys team placed second. Marion's boys and girls teams each placed eighth among the 11 schools.

For the Chargers, Faith Resch was the fastest in the 100-meter hurdles and the 300-meter hurdles. She also won the high jump and triple jump.

Kylee Beversdorf won the 100-meter dash. Nora Bushman took first place in the 1,600-meter run and the 3,200-meter run.

Marion's Presley Stewart-Rolfs had the farthest discus throw.

Kaden Yaeger fed the Wittenberg-Birnamwood boys tally with a first-place finish in the 200-meter dash, and Jett Rogowski placed first in the 400-meter dash.

Alex Sanderson finished first in the 300-meter hurdles.

Winning the 4x400-meter relay were Rogowski, Sanderson, Bryson Schmid and Yaeger.

Landen Schmidt won the discus.

Marion's best result was a pair of third-place finishes.

Tristan Herro was third in the high jump. The foursome of Anthony Pagon, Jolanzo LeRoy, Alex Abrahamson and Caleb Stern placed third in the 4x100.

April 29
Father Mac Relays
Wittenberg-Birnamwood runners won a handful of first-place finishes in Chippewa Falls.

The girls 4x400 team and the 4x800 team each finished in first place. Faith Resch won the triple jump.

For the boys, Landen Schmidt captured first in the discus and the shot put.

New London Quad
Shawano's boys and girls each won their share of the New London Quad, with the boys edging their hosts by a single point.

The boys tallied 110 points, followed by New London with 109, Green Bay East with 25 and Xavier with 19.

For the girls, Shawano racked up 86.5 points, followed by New London's 71.5, Xavier's 61 and Green Bay East's 41.

Bailey Hendricks captured the first gold for the girls, winning the 1,600-meter run.

The team of Maci Beyer, Tela Hopfensperger, Macey Nelson and Zoe Sipple won the 4x200-meter relay.

Winning the 4x400 were Adalyn Barkley, Beyer, Hopfensperger and Hendricks.

Hopfensperger placed first in the 300-meter hurdles, and Mikelah Powers won the 800-meter run.

Anabelle Schroeder won the 3,200-meter run.

Beyer placed first in the high jump, and Barkley won the triple jump.

TRACK, CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



Zoey Thorson reaches for the ball as another Warhawks player is called out in the Wittenberg-Birnamwood 7-2 conference win April 28. TINA BACON

Bonduel softball team wins DH over Iola

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

May 3
Oconto 6, Bonduel 3
Juliana Jacobs hit 3-for-3 with one run scored and one RBI, but Bonduel came up short in a 6-3 loss to Oconto.

Jacobs connected on a double, and Allison Zernicke also had an RBI. Zernicke also had a sacrifice fly.

Maddie Hert was the losing pitcher.

Peshtigo 3, Oconto Falls 2
Peshtigo 8, Oconto Falls 4
Oconto Falls' losing steak extended to six games following a doubleheader loss to Peshtigo.

The Panthers dropped to 3-10 overall following a 3-2 loss and an 8-4 loss.

Stevens Point 6, Pulaski 3
D.C. Everest 5, Pulaski 4
Pulaski lost both games at the D.C. Everest Quad, first bowing 6-3 to Stevens Point, then 5-4 to their hosts.

The Red Raiders dropped to 5-9 overall.

May 2
Bonduel 9, Iola-Scandinavia 0
Bonduel 5, Iola-Scandinavia 2
Bonduel softball swept a doubleheader over Iola-Scandinavia.

In the first game, Bonduel won 9-0 as Kallie Wilcox tossed a one-hit shutout, striking out four and walking none.

Tatum Sporisky and Juliana Jacobs had three hits and two RBIs apiece to lead the Bears' 14-hit attack. Taylor Rank and

Marlie Hartmann added two hits each.

In game two, the bats cooled a bit, but Emery Thompson scatted six hits and two walks and only surrendered a pair of unearned runs.

Sporisky and Jacobs again led the Bears with two hits apiece.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood 15, Menominee Nation 0
Wittenberg-Birnamwood's bats could do no wrong in a 15-0 shutout win over Menominee Nation.

The Chargers improved to 5-2 in the CWC East while the Eagles continue to look for their first conference win and are 0-4.

Wausaukee 6, Gillett/Suring 4
Wausaukee and Gillett/Suring saved their bats for the seventh inning in Wausaukee's 6-4 win.

Leading 2-1 going into the top of the last inning, Wausaukee scored four runs to take a 6-1 lead. But, Gillett/Suring fought back, scoring three runs before the final out, as they lost the Marinette & Oconto Conference matchup.

Rosholt 12, Marion 1
Marion's overall record dipped below .500 with a 12-1 loss to Rosholt in nonconference action.

The Mustangs are 4-5 overall.

Fox Valley Lutheran 12, Oconto Falls 0
Fox Valley Lutheran 15, Oconto Falls 10
Niagara 10, Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas Academy 5
April 29

Shawano 18, Green Bay West/East 0
Shawano's bats sprang to life as the Hawks crushed Green Bay East/West 18-0 in a Bay Conference matchup.

The Hawks improved to 5-2 in league play and 8-5 overall.

Bonduel 10, Reedsville 0
Maddy Sokolski slugged a two-run home run and scored three runs to lead a balanced Bears offense in a 10-0 shutout over Reedsville.

Five other players tallied one hit and one RBI apiece.

Kallie Wilcox and Emery Thompson combined to hold Reedsville scoreless on three hits, striking out five.

Tigerton 17, Port Edwards 2
The Tigers went another game over .500 with a 17-2 nonconference win over Port Edwards. Tigerton is 4-2 overall.

Pulaski 3, Notre Dame 0
Denmark 12, Oconto Falls 3
Tri-County 15, Marion 13
April 28
Crivitz 11, Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas Academy 7
Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas Academy dropped an 11-7 Marinette & Oconto Conference game to league-leading Crivitz.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood 7, Weyauwega-Fremont 2
Coleman 10, Gillett/Suring 0
Luxemburg-Casco 6, Oconto Falls 1
Xavier 10, Shawano 0
Marion 17, Bowler/Gresham 5

Chargers shut out Eagles on diamond

May 3
Fox Valley Lutheran 1, Oconto Falls 0
Oconto Falls 5, Fox Valley Lutheran 2

The Panthers lost the opening game of a double-header against Fox Valley Lutheran 1-0 but came back in the second game to win 5-2.

In the first game, Trace Brehmer hit 1-for-3 for Oconto Falls.

Carter Heroux was the losing pitcher. In five innings, he allowed one hit and one run, walked four and struck out four.

In the second game, Wyatt Laughrin hit 3-for-3 with one run scored and one RBI. Luke Gilbertston was 2-for-3 with a pair of RBIs, and Jack Adler hit 2-for-3 with one RBI.

Adler was also the winning pitcher. In seven innings, he gave up three hits and two runs (one earned), walked three and struck out four.

Oconto 5, Bonduel 0
Bonduel traveled to Oconto for a nonconference showdown and returned home after a 5-0 loss.

Riley Susa shut down the Bears on two hits in the shutout. Joe Felhoer and Cade Johnson had the only hits for Bonduel. Ethan Wusterbarth homered and drove in two runs for the Blue Devils.

Mason Zuleger took the loss.

Green Bay Southwest 9, Lena 2

The Wildcats suffered their second loss of the season, a 9-2 defeat at the hands of Green Bay Southwest in a nonconference game.

May 2
Lena 9, Niagara 1

Lena remained unbeaten in the Marinette and Oconto Conference with a 9-1 over Niagara. The Wildcats are 6-0 in league play.

Wittenberg-Birnhamwood 10, Menominee Nation 0

The Chargers remain at the top of the CWC East with a 6-1 record after shutting out Menominee Nation 10-0.

The Eagles are 1-4 in

conference play.
Iola-Scandinavia 3, Bonduel 0

Bonduel traveled to Iola for a conference game against Iola-Scandinavia. The Bears came out on the short end, losing 3-0.

Beckett Hartlaben took the loss, and Wyatt Wolcott got the win for the T-Birds.

Aiden Hillsberg, Kody Schroeder and Jack Zernicke had the hits for Bonduel.

Wausaukee 9, Gillett/Suring 2

Wausaukee earned its first Marinette & Oconto Conference victory with a 9-2 win over Gillett/Suring at Gillett. Wausaukee is 1-6, and Gillett/Suring is 2-6.

Appleton East 4, Pulaski 1

The Red Raiders are 10-4 overall following a 4-1 nonconference loss to Appleton East.

Rosholt 7, Marion 2
Marion fell to 2-9 overall after a 7-2 nonconference loss to Rosholt.

Notre Dame 11, Shawano 10

After beating New London twice earlier in the week, Shawano came up one run short in an 11-10 loss to Notre Dame.

April 29
Bonduel 5, Reedsville 0

Cade Johnson threw another stellar game for the Bears, allowing only two hits while striking out eight in six solid innings, as Bonduel shut out Reedsville 5-0.

Race Anvelink relieved in the seventh inning to finish off the shutout.

Bonduel broke out the bats in the game, pounding out 11 hits. Kody Schroeder led thew Bears with three hits, and Beckett Hartlaben, Carter Moesch and Joe Felhofer added two hits apiece. Aiden Hillsberg chipped in a double.

Oconto Falls 8, Freedom 4

For the second consecutive day, Oconto Falls defeated Freedom, this time 8-4.

Chase Cariveau went 3-for-3, with two hit by

pitches, four stolen bases, one run scored and one RBI. Alec Krejcarek was 1-for-4 with a walk, two runs scored and two RBIs.

Jack Adler was the winning pitcher, working six innings, giving up four hits and no runs, while walking two and striking out 11.

Shawano 6, New London 2

The Hawks earned another Bay Conference win with a 6-2 decision over New London. Shawano improved to 6-3 in league play.

Tri-County 19, Marion 1

Port Edwards 15, Tigerton 4
April 28

Marion 12, Bowler 1
A 12-1 loss to Marion marked Bowler's first CWC North loss of the season. Bowler dropped to 3-1, while Marion improved to 2-2.

Lena 5, Crivitz 4

After battling back to tie the game at 4-4, Lena scored the winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning to take a 5-4 win over Crivitz in a battle of unbeaten Marinette & Oconto Conference teams.

Crivitz jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the top half of the first inning and added three more in the fifth inning for a 4-0 lead.

Lena battled back with four runs of their own in the bottom of the fifth inning to tie game and

set up the final inning's heroics.

The Wildcats benefited from two hits of their own and four errors from Crivitz.

Oconto Falls 9, Freedom 3

Easton Engel hit 2-for-3, including a double and a home run, as he scored twice and collected one RBI in Oconto Falls' 9-3 win over Wrightstown.

Chase Cariveau also hit 2-for-3 with one walk and two runs scored. Cole Bozile hit 2-for-4 with one run scored and one RBI.

Carter Heroux was the winning pitcher for the Panthers. He went six innings, gave up two hits and two runs, walked three and struck out six.

Pulaski 4, Green Bay Southwest 0

Pulaski stayed near the top of the Fox River Classic Conference with a 4-0 shutout over Green Bay Southwest. The Red Raiders are 5-3 in league play.

Shawano 10, New London 8

A hitters' duel ended with Shawano defeating New London 10-8 and improving to 5-3 in the Bay Conference. New London fell to 3-3.

Wittenberg-Birnhamwood 10, Weyauwega-Fremont 0

Shiocton 13, Menominee Nation 2

Coleman 7, Gillett/Suring 2

Opening day success



Bowler's Todd Schmid started the 2025 fishing season out on a good note, pulling in this 22 1/2-inch, 5-pound fish on opening day May 3. He caught the keeper in the afternoon on the North Branch of the Embarrass River in Bowler.

CONTRIBUTED

DeBauch recognized among state's top scholar athletes

Sixteen senior girls and 16 senior boys from Superior to Williams Bay were selected as finalists to receive the 2025 WIAA Statewide Scholar Athlete Award.

Included in that list of 32 students is Gillett's Jesse DeBauch.

More than 1,245 scholar athlete finalists have been

recognized since the program began in 1984. This year, more than 806 seniors from 415 high schools across the state were nominated for the award.

To determine the top 32 finalists, four boys and four girls were selected (based on both athletic and aca-

ATHLETE, CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

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Shawano Speedway season finally underway

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Three weeks of rain-outs delayed opening night at the Shawano Speedway until May 3, when Jerry Muenster dropped the green flag to get the season underway.

Muenster, 84, is the driver of the No. 79 modi-

fied car and was the first honorary starter of the season.

Joel Seegert won the modified feature race, with Luca Lamberies of Clintonville in second and Jordan Bartz of Shawano in third.

Lamberies and Bartz won the heat races.

Jeffrey Teske of Shawano started his season with the win in the sport modifieds feature race. Cole Magrin of Oconto Falls was second, and Freedom's JJ Vanderloop was third.

Teske started in the fourth spot, while Magrin moved up from 10th.

Vanderloop started in sixth.

Pulaski's Cole Sleze-wski and Magrin won the heat races.

Shawano's Troy Springborn started first and finished first in the late models. Mosinee's Andy Karl was second, and Shawano's Brett Swedberg

was third.

Winning the heat races were Joel Bennett of Hortonville and Springborn.

Trent Nolan of Shawano took the checkered flag in the stock cars feature race. Devin Snellenberger of Pulaski placed second, followed by Dan Michon-ski of Marion.

Snellenberger, Wausau's Mitch Stankowski and Gillett's Travis Welch won the heat races.

In the Mighty 4's, Shawano's Dalton Nelson was the feature race winner.

Scott Blanke of Shawano and Taylor Junk of Shawano were the heat race winners.

Pulaski tennis team goes 3-1 in Wausau meeet

May 2-3

Pulaski's tennis team captured several victories at Wausau. West, going 3-1 in match play.

Pulaski 5, Wausau East 2

The Red Raiders won all four singles matches and the No. 1 doubles contest in a 5-2 win over Wausau East.

Justin Fraedrich won 6-0, 6-1 at No. 1 singles, and Nathan Maroszek shut out his opponent 6-0, 6-0 at the No. 2 spot. Mikel Iglesias-Mino won 6-0, 6-1 at No. 3, and Lucas Ford won 6-0, 6-3 in the No. 4 flight.

Oscar Delmarcelle and Jonah Drevs were victorious in the No. 1 doubles match, winning 6-3, 6-2.

Pulaski's losses were from Zachary Schmidt and Simon Banaszynski at No. 2 doubles (6-0, 6-1), and

Ben Bruecker and Mace Breitenfeldt at No. 3 (6-0, 6-0).

Menomonie 6, Pulaski 1

The Red Raiders ran into stiff competition against Menomonie, escaping with only one win.

Iglesias-Mino won 6-1, 6-2 at No. 3 singles.

Maroszek lost a tough battle at No. 2 singles, 6-1,

7-6 (5).

Fraedrich and Ford lost their singles matches, too.

Losing in doubles action were Delmarcelle and Drevs, Schmidt and Liam Ford, and Bruecker and Breitenfeldt.

Pulaski 5, Wausau West 2

Fraedrich, Maroszek, Iglesias-Mino and Drevs had little trouble winning their singles matches in a 5-2 win over Wausau West.

Fraedrich only gave up two games, Maroszek and Iglesias-Mino each lost one, and Drevs shut out his opponent.

At No. 3 doubles, Conrad Kreutzberg and Jakob Malchow won in a tiebreaker 6-4, 7-6 (2).

At No. 1, Ryan Symons and Henry Piczkowski lost a close contest, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 10-5.

Delmarcelle and Jeffrey Sanders lost at No. 2.

Pulaski 5, Rhinelander 2

The two-day event opened with a 5-2 win over Rhinelander.

Fraedrich, Maroszek and Iglesias-Mino won in singles action, with Kreutzberg taking the only loss.

Winning at No. 2 doubles were Delmarcelle

and Drevs 6-2, 6-4. The No. 3 match was won by Sanders and Riley Crocker, 7-5, 6-4.

Symons and Piczkowski lost 6-3, 3-6, 13-11 at No. 1 doubles.

May 1 Pulaski 4, Bay Port 3

Even before the week-end began, Pulaski was on a winning streak, defeating Bay Port 4-3.

The Red Raiders won a pair of singles matches and a pair of doubles.

Fraedrich lost 6-1, 7-5 in the top singles match, but No. 2 Maroszek won in a two-set shutout. Iglesias-Mino was victorious at No. 3, while Kreutzberg lost at No. 4.

In doubles play, Symons and Piczkowski lost 6-4, 6-2 in the No. 1 slot.

Delmarcelle and Drevs won 6-0, 6-3 at No. 2, and Sanders and Crocker won 7-5, 2-6, 11-9 at No. 3.

April 29 Notre Dame 6, Pulaski 1

Mikel Iglesias-Mino, playing at No. 3 singles, tallied the only win for the Pulaski boys tennis team as they lost 6-1 to Notre Dame Academy. He defeated Emanuel Poehlmann 6-1, 6-1.

Xavier 4, Shawano 3

ATHLETE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

demic achievement) from each of the four WIAA divisions. DeBauch is a Division 4 representative.

DeBauch is a two-time Marinette & Oconto Conference basketball MVP, earning the award both his junior and senior seasons.

A 4.0 student, he is the

Tigers' boys basketball all-time leading scorer and a three-time team MVP award recipient. He was voted his football team's MVP twice and was also a sectional track and field champion as a freshman.

In his essay that is part of the nomination process,

DeBauch wrote, "Being part of a team taught me how to collaborate, communicate effectively and support others. Additionally, athletics instilled in me a sense of perseverance, teaching me to remain focused and determined in the face of challenges."



Nick Anvelink won the 2025 season opener for the WABAM Dirt Kings Late Model Tour, for the second time in WABAM Dirt Kings Late Model Tour history.

C-MARQ PHOTOGRAPHY AND J&S DESIGN

Anvelink crowned king at WABAM season opener

Bonduel's Nick Anvelink was crowned King of the Supply Zone Shootout at the Glen Hefner Memorial at Beaver Dam Raceway to kick off the start of the 2025 WABAM Dirt Kings Late Model Tour.

The win was Anvelink's 28th WABAM Dirt Kings Late Model Tour victory and his second in a row at Beaver Dam Raceway. Anvelink was also the Champ Pans Fast Qualifier with a 13.657 lap.

Mitch McGrath led the first three laps, with Anvelink in second, as he challenged McGrath for the lead, from the top side of the track. On the fourth lap, Anvelink took the lead as they raced back to the line. Behind them, Jake Redetzke had moved to third and passed McGrath for second on lap six.

Anvelink had pulled

away from the pack and was approaching the tail end of the field by lap nine. Anvelink had a 2.134-second lead on Redetzke who battled with Mike Mullen for second, as Mullen took second spot as they all worked through traffic.

Anvelink maintained his lead at the halfway point and had a 3.422-second advantage over Redetzke, who took the second spot away from Mullen. Caution slowed the field with just eight laps remaining for a spin in turn four.

On the restart, Anvelink retained the lead and caution slowed the field one lap later. McGrath spun in turn two, bringing out the caution and then the red flag as Paul Niznik slowed to avoid the stopped car of McGrath and then flipped as Kurt Moeller got together with Niznik. The

momentum flipped Niznik in turn two, bringing out the red flag. Niznik got out of his car, but it took some time to safely move the car.

Anvelink jumped out to a 1.952-second lead over Redetzke, Taylor Scheffler, Jordan Yaggy and Mullen when green flag racing resumed. Anvelink went on to finish 3.213 seconds ahead of Redetzke. Scheffler finished third followed by Yaggy and Mullen.

J.T. Wasmund finished sixth, followed by Justin Ritchie, Shawano's Brett Swedberg, Brad Mueller and Shawano's Troy Springborn.

Next up for the WABAM Dirt Kings Late Model Tour is a double-header weekend at Outagamie Speedway on May 23 and May 24 at Shawano Speedway.



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TRACK, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Madisyn Weinig won first place in the discus.

Aiden Rasmussen won the boys 100-meter dash and the 200-meter dash. He also won the long jump.

Ryan Schwitzer placed first in the 400-meter dash, as well as the pole vault.

Like the girls team, the foursome of Marcus Brezgel, Samuel Davel, Kian Morstad and Sosaeh Tepiew won the 4x200.

Francesco Curto, Rasmussen, Bryce Lammers and Maverick Theis won first place in the 4x100.

Placing first in the 3,200-meter run was Quinten Harkey, while Micah Welander won the high jump.

Suring/Gillett Invite

Bonduel's girls placed first among eight teams in Suring, with the hosts in second, Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas Academy in third, and Gillett in fifth.

For the boys, Bonduel was second, Suring was third, Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas was fourth, and Gillett placed seventh.

Taking first place for the Bonduel girls were Peyton Westrich in the 100-meter dash and Mariah Wondra

in the 3,200-meter run.

Paige Niquette, Josie Pawlak, Amelia Wilcox and Westrich won the 4x200, while Wilcox, Niquette, Westrich and Audrey Jacobos won the 4x400.

Wondra, Teagan Engel, Hailey Berg and Kember Frome captured first place in the 4x800.

Pawlak also won the long jump.

Suring's Aliya Cox placed first in the 100-meter hurdles and the 300-meter hurdles. She also won the triple jump.

Gillett's Audrey Pate won the shot put and discus.

Eva Brooks, of Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas, placed first in the high jump.

For the boys, Bonduel's Mason Ballwahn finished first in the 100-meter dash, and Gage Anderson won the 800-meter run.

Malachi Gray, Gage Scholl, Ballwahn and Griffin Uelmen were the fastest in the 4x100, while Ballwahn, Scholl, Anderson and Uelmen teamed up to win the 4x400.

Sam Roberts tallied the best distance in the triple jump.

Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas' Zander Thomson finished first in the 110-meter hurdles, the high jump and the long jump.

Suring's Kroix Kempka, Garret Peters, Dayne Ermis and CJ Richard were fastest in the 4x200.

Teammate Michael Bailey won the shot put, and Bradly Beyer won the discus.

Gillett's best were second-place finishes by Nash Stage in the 800-meter run and Bradyn Wendorff in the 1,600-meter run.

Little Chute Quad

Oconto Falls boys and girls each placed second among five teams.

Capturing wins for the boys were Ben Adams in the 800-meter run and Griffin Kopke in the 1,600-meter run.

The foursome of Elijah White, Isaac Bramer, Brady Bursa and Evan Yuma won the 4x200.

For the girls, first place was earned by Rylie Shallow in the 100-meter dash, and the foursome of Emery Pagel, Abby Budz, Gracie Miller and Shallow in the 4x100.

April 28

Marion Invite

Marion had several of its athletes earn first-place finishes at its home meet.

Madiline Wudstruck won the 100-meter hurdles and the triple jump.

Klara Peters earned the top spot in the 100-meter dash and the long jump.

Kennedy Zuniga won the 800-meter run and the high jump.

Presley Stewart-Rolfs won the discus.

The top spot in the 4x100-meter relay went to Marion's Stewart-Rolfs, Kailey Rosenow, Sophia Wudstruck and Madiline Wudstruck.

Marion's 4x200 team of Hailey Burmeister, Sophia Wudstruck, Jorja Karst and Rosenow also finished first.

Winning the 4x800 was Marion's foursome of Bridget Much, Zuniga, Britany Beechy and Peters.

Menominee Nation's Urijah Reevis captured gold in the 200-meter dash and the 400-meter dash.

The 4x400 was won by Gresham/Bowler's Cami Gourley, Hannah Long, Kinleigh Pigott and Alivia Perez.

For the boys, Marion's

Tristan Herro earned first place in the discus, high jump and long jump.

Teammate Luke Aiello won the 800-meter run.

Marion's Anthony Pagon, Tanner Dent, Adam Leithan and Jolonzo LeRoy placed first in the 4x400.

Menominee Nation's Barron Waupoose won the 200-meter dash.

The 1,600-meter run was captured by Bryant Waupoose of Menominee Nation.

Miklo Guzman of Menominee Nation won first place in the shot put.

Teammate Kenew Awonohopay placed first in the triple jump.

Claiming the title for the 4x100 was Menominee Nation's foursome of Francis Delabrau, Michael Salgado, Kenew Awonohopay and Barron Waupoose.

The boys 110-meter hurdles was won by Caleb Bohmbach of Wolf River Lutheran High School in Shawano. He also won the 300-meter hurdles.

The 4x200 was won by Gresham/Bowler's group of Ethan May, Cody Mehler, Riley Hohensee and Kobe Miller.

Pulaski Quad

Pulaski's boys and girls team each placed second at their home quad.

Scores for the boys were De Pere 100, Pulaski 83.5, Notre Dame 50.5, Green Bay Southwest 37. The order was the same for the girls with scores of 84, 74, 59 and 44, respectively.

Arden Gillen won the 3,200-meter run.

Keaton Dauk placed first in the 110-meter hurdles and in the 300-meter hurdles.

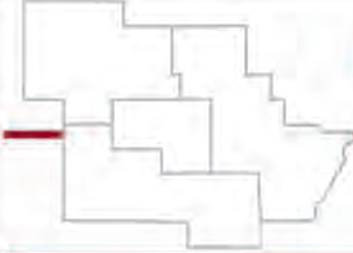
Aiden McGlinn, Sawyer Goodness, Kam McKeefry and Spencer Hakes teamed up to win the 4x200.

Winning the high jump was Bennett Vanschynel, and winning the pole vault was Rylan Opperman.

In girls events, Olivia Sprangers placed first in the 200-meter dash, and Emerson Fabry won the 400-meter dash.

Katelyn Jossie placed first in the 100-meter hurdles, and teammate Lily Urben won the 300-meter hurdles.

The 4x100 was won by Addison Krueger, Urben, Faye Brunke and Sprangers. They also won the 4x200.



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The Newsday Crossword

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

SINGALONG: Many favorites included

by Fred Piscop

- ACROSS

1 Urge (on)

5 Wave's peak

10 Church balcony

14 Begin to awaken

18 Much more than interested

20 " __ la vista!"

21 Indiana neighbor

22 Pisa's river

23 Cool treat on a stick

25 Attractive eyes, informally

27 Arboreal apex

28 Penny pincher

30 Unpleasant, as weather

31 Ill-mannered men

32 Springs in deserts

34 Gets a hiking break

35 Black tea of India

38 Fuzzy fruit

41 Sets, as a trap

43 Mimic cruelly

44 Complete commitment

48 Soda can attachment

51 Immaculate

52 Heap praise upon

53 Web surfer's tablet

54 Music of India

55 Restorative resort

56 Walks the floor

57 Grilled sandwich

59 Luau strings, for short

60 Arroz con __

62 Nautical nonsense

63 What certain scouts search for

65 Orchestral speed

67 Common people

71 Sporty Chevy, for short

72 Tips off

74 Big name in foil

75 Mid-March merry-makers

77 Informal farewell

78 Most docile

80 Held back, like breath

82 Mother in a meadow

85 Nevada neighbor

86 Exec's "Fast!"

87 Gourmet mushroom

88 Cereal "for kids"

89 Male or female nickname

90 Pennsylvania Dutch region

93 Scratchy voice

94 Cocoon dweller

95 Keeps a low profile

96 Semiaquatic beast

97 Added triangular material to

100 From birth

103 Shore dinner morsel

105 Infant's bodysuit

107 Southwestern equine

109 Fairly divided

112 Makeshift backyard plaything

114 Lava, after cooling

117 Speak highly of

118 Black-and-white cookie

119 Pungent salad green

120 Twain collaborator Bret

121 Author Quindlen

122 *Show Boat* composer

123 Brings to a boil

124 Fond of snooping

6 Ratchet (up)

7 Psychic's claim

8 Go no further

9 Dessert pudding

10 Tips of ears

11 Midwestern hub

12 Minor misstatement

13 Tinkers (with)

14 Skin soothers

15 Brings into alignment

16 Immobile

17 Blooms in bouquets

19 Cherished hope

24 Likely leaving hr.

26 Emerald, for instance

29 Actress Madeline

33 Alfred P. __ Foundation (PBS benefactor)

35 Concert stage array

36 Tureen contents

37 Recyclable material

38 Crown of the head

39 Mythical archer

40 GA's largest airport

42 Check of books

44 Recuperate

45 Security guard, often

46 Aussie wild canine

47 Sales talk

48 Accept blame

49 Tour seller

50 Sew loosely

54 Game box insert

56 Be a schemer

57 __ noir (wine grape)

58 __ Romeo (Italian auto)

61 "The Queen of All Media"

62 Some ballpoints

64 Much more than interested
- 65 Actress O'Neal

66 Make joyful

68 Tibetan clerics

69 First Hebrew letter

70 Check falsifier

73 Passport mark

76 Hinge (upon)

79 Cuisine category

80 Fossil fragment

81 Masters diploma word

83 Thin strand

84 Trade fair

87 Dirt + water

88 Three-hulled boat

90 Autobahn autos

91 Burn somewhat

92 What OPEC members are

94 A euro preceder

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97 Must, so to speak

98 Root veggie

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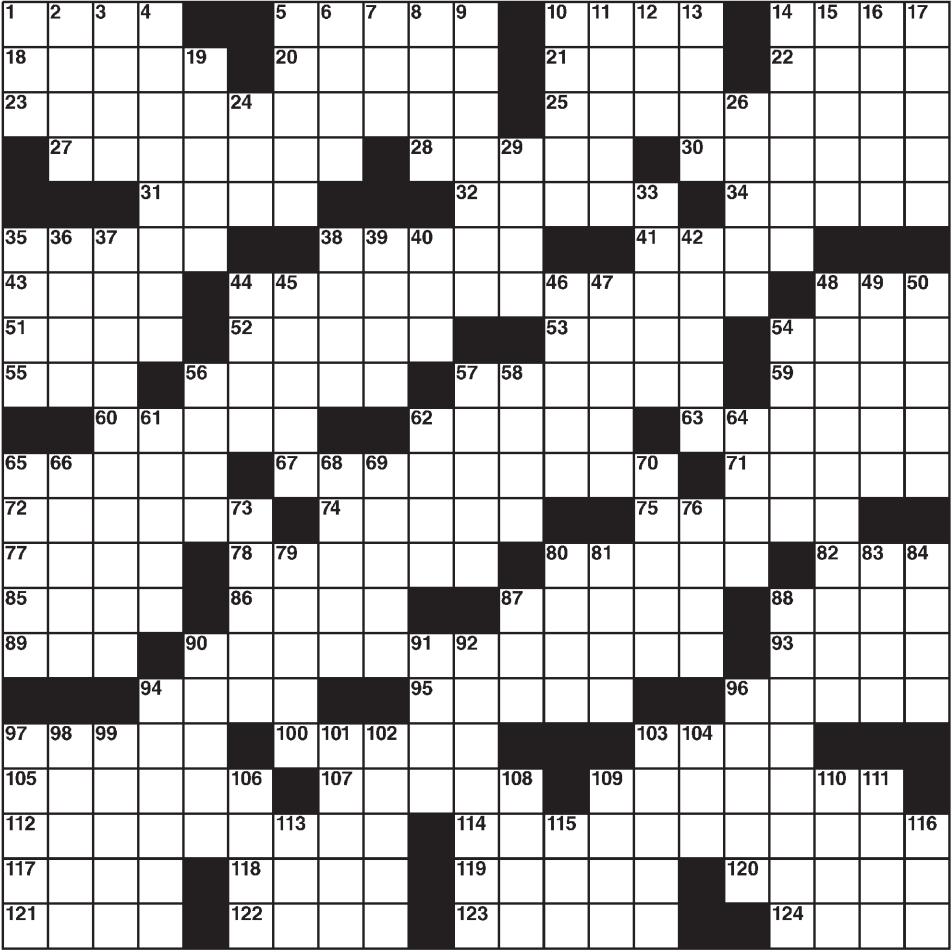
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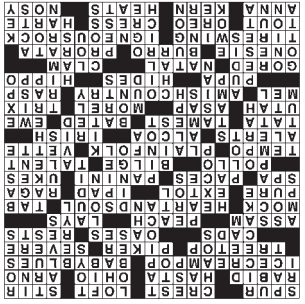
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GARDEN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The gardens contributed 5,000 pounds of produce to the pantry in their first year, and 4,800 pounds last year.

“To have that much of an impact in our first and second years, I’m just blown away,” Schindel said. “We’ve had people from other community gardens come to visit, and they want to know how we did it. It’s a testament to this community.”

This year, the garden sports a new concrete approach to its main entrance on Meadow Road. During the rainy afternoon of May 1, volunteer Don Hille was hard at work building the new 16-by-18-foot pavilion that will serve as a site for classes, FFA demonstrations and other events.

The pavilion was made possible with a \$10,000 matching grant from the American Lumberjack Association, Schindel said.

“Without that grant, we couldn’t build that,” she said.

Hille, who is also a volunteer manager at the food pantry, also helped build two collection stations that take rain water from the

ambulance station roof to help irrigate the community garden.

The garden has also benefited from youth volunteerism. The OFHS football team spent an afternoon digging a trench and building the fence, and an Eagle Scout project resulted in an owl house and hawk perch “to keep critters at bay,” Taylor said. Another Eagle Scout took power poles that had been knocked down in a storm and repurposed them to create a trellis structure for grapes.

“I can’t wait to see that in five years, when we’re making grape jams and jelly,” Ahlgrim said.

The new entrance will make the garden easier for those with mobility issues, Schindel said.

“We have worked hard to create access for everyone and anyone,” she said.

Renting a plot for the summer costs \$10, but a grant from Grace Lutheran Church provides funds for families who are unable to make that commitment.

The garden also can provide seeds and “any tool you could ever want,” Schindel said.



The bones of the new pavilion at the Oconto Falls Community Garden can be seen May 3. The structure is expected to be used for educational programs and other events at the garden.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

“It’s truly remarkable how all the facets came together,” Taylor said, and said educators from Gillett, Suring, Lena, Mishicot and other districts have visited

him, complimenting him on the depth of the experience and community involvement.

“I tell them, ‘Don’t you dare think that I do this

alone,’” he said.

For information about how to rent a garden plot or how an individual or organization can get involved, visit the Oconto

Falls Community Garden page on Facebook or email ocontofallscommunitygarden@gmail.com.

wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com

THOMSON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

by reducing a sentence by one-fourth.

The sentencing hearing began with current Lakewood Fire Chief Eric Johnson giving a victim impact statement that Thomson’s theft damaged the whole community of Lakewood as well as the department and its fundraising association.

“It’s all about trust,” Johnson said. “He damaged the name of the Lakewood Firefighters Association and the Lakewood Fire Department in that community and beyond.”

Fire departments are mostly volunteer organizations and rely on fundraisers for support, he said. He added that Thomson also had access to thousands of dollars in cash, and the revenue amounts the former chief reported from several fundraisers seemed much lower than the amount Johnson witnessed personally while working side by side with Thomson at those events.

“It’s very evident that what was stolen from the community was far more than what was reported,” Johnson said. “It’s going to take a very long time to recover from that. The trust in the community to the Lakewood Firefighters Association has been damaged severely by this individual.”

Schuchart said the prosecution agreed to the probation recommendation, rather than prison, to allow for the possibility that Thomson could pay down the amount he owes in restitution.

“I don’t think any of the facts are really in dispute,” she said. “To Mr. Thomson’s credit ... he was



Christopher Thomson, right, listens with defense attorney Nicole Morley while Oconto County District Attorney Hannah Schuchart recounts the former fire chief’s crimes during his sentencing hearing May 5.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

before the court as quickly as he could be to accept responsibility and be sentenced on this case. None of that, of course, is to downplay the impact that it had on the community.”

Fire departments rely on community goodwill and residents contributing funds to support their efforts, and Thomson’s actions took advantage of that goodwill, Schuchart said.

“This wasn’t a single transaction, it spanned years, and obviously ... it is a violation of trust, and it’s a violation of the faith that members of the community placed in the department to make good use of their contributions,” she said.

Defense attorney Nicole Morley noted that Thomson had no criminal record and this is his first encoun-

ter with the criminal justice system. She added that he used the stolen money toward his house payments and prior debts.

“This is not an individual who’s using the funds to buy a fancy sports car and drive around the community,” Morley said. “This is an individual who clearly had some financial instability and used this to help support his family.”

Given an opportunity to make a statement, Thomson said he apologized to the department and the Lakewood community and took full responsibility for his actions.

“I did lose my wife and kids to this whole situation, and I’m never going to be able to get that back,” he said. “I let my family down ... I was too embarrassed to ask for help.”

Judge noted that the

state Department of Corrections pre-sentence investigation recommended a prison sentence of at least 18 months in prison and two years of extended supervision.

“Of course, if one is in prison, there’s no payment whatsoever as far as restitution is concerned,” Judge said. “The court is faced here with a conundrum of how do I attempt in even some small way achieve some amount of repayment to the people of the Town of Lakewood?”

Thomson harmed not only the firefighters association but many different individuals, Judge said, and he chided Thomson for initially referring to his theft as “a mistake.”

“No mistakes were made here. What we have here is a defendant who forged checks, depos-



Lakewood Fire Chief Eric Johnson, left, listens with victim witness coordinator Rachael Race during the May 5 sentencing hearing for former chief Christopher Thomson, who stole more than \$100,000 from the department over a period of four years.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

ited them and then paid himself, hundreds of times over four years,” Judge said.

There’s no way to ensure that the firefighters association will ever be made whole for its losses, he said.

“Does this defendant need rehabilitation? Absolutely,” Judge said. “Get your head on straight, Mr. Thomson, because you’re going to be working for the rest of your life to pay the fire department association. I’m sorry that you, as a result of this entire episode, went through a divorce and lost your wife and family. That’s all on you.”

Judge suggested that if Thomson is truly remorseful, that he consider taking out a term life insurance policy when he is released and make the premium payments so that the

Lakewood community gets some funds when he passes.

“Give that some thought, because regardless of whatever I order on a monthly basis, it will never cover or pay the amount due and owing to the association,” he said.

Conditions of Thomson’s probation include that he begin paying \$100 a month within 60 days of his release, increasing to \$250 monthly after six months and \$500 a month after a year.

Judge also ruled that Thomson must not hold any checking or other financial accounts without his agent’s approval, and he may not be placed in a position of financial responsibility for any business or organization.

wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com

Gillett council approves tourism, development efforts

By WARREN BLUHM
News Editor

The Gillett City Council approved three financial contributions to boost local tourism and economic development during its regular monthly meeting May 1.

Council members OK'd a \$2,000 joint marketing agreement with the Tourism and Economic Development Corporation for the Oconto Region (TEDCOR), \$1,000 toward the fireworks display at the Gillett Independence Day celebration and \$250 to support the annual Roy Hubbard Memorial Truck Show at Zippel Park.

TEDCOR, formerly known as the Oconto County Economic Development Corporation, is a nonprofit organization that works to promote a flourishing local economic



Fireworks erupt over Zippel Park on July 4, 2023. The Gillett City Council on May 1 approved a \$1,000 donation towards this year's display.

climate, including attracting and retaining business and industry.

The nonprofit's successes have included helping Encompass to establish a child care center in Oconto Falls and jump-starting downtown revitalization efforts in Lena and Suring.

Gillett is the center of Oconto County's Independence Day celebration every year. The city bustles with activity on July 3-4, including live music, a car show and parade, capped by the fireworks display in Zippel Park at dusk July 4. Hubbard, who died in

1987 at age 74, founded Roy Hubbard Rental Trucking Inc. in the 1930s and spent 45 years in the trucking industry. The show was created in 2018 to honor his lifetime of work in the Gillett area.

wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com

Chief cautions against burning when conditions are dry

By WARREN BLUHM
News Editor

Last week's rain brought some relief from fire danger, but April was extremely dry, Gillett Fire Chief Kurt Hicks told the city council during its monthly meeting May 1.

"My assistant chief and myself did a bit of cruising around town on our own, just kind of keeping tabs on things, and we did go to a number of homes where they had fires going," Hicks said. "We tried to respectfully let them know they had no business burning anything with the restrictions that were on, and everybody was good about it."

Once people understood the severity of the fire danger, they all doused their fires and there was no

need to take the incidents any further, he said.

Hicks cautioned people to check conditions before they burn.

"If you're going to burn in the city when conditions are like that, you always need to check the DNR website," he said. "That'll give you the ratings and what you can do and can't do, and when you can burn or can't burn."

The state Department of Natural Resources has a "WisBurn" map at <https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/wisburn/#/> that rates the fire danger in all 72 counties as low, moderate, high, very high or extreme.

"Right now, conditions are good with the rain that we don't have that issue, but it was very bad for a while," Hicks said.

wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com

05/02/2025, 05/09/2025

TOWN OF STILES REQUEST FOR BIDS
FOR PULVERIZING AND GRADING – LEMERE RD

Lemere Road Resurface from 50 feet west of railroad tracks extending 2060 Ft. west to Tappa Rd. Pulverize existing surface, Supply, Place, Water and Compact 900 ton of 3/4" Crushed Asphalt.

Bids can be submitted to Terrah Patton, Town Clerk 5718 Watercrest Rd Lena, WI 54139 or bring them to the town meeting on Wednesday May 1 4th at 6pm. All sealed bids will be opened and reviewed by the Town Board at the April meeting. Proof of Insurance must accompany all bids. Town of Stiles reserves the right to reject any or all bids and accept a bid deemed most advantageous to the Town of Stiles.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT CHAIRMAN JASON FLYNN 920-609-3541
WNAXLP

05/02/2025, 05/09/2025, 05/15/2025

Town of Maple Grove
Notice of Liquor License Application

NOTICE is HEREBY GIVEN that the following applicants have filed with the Town Clerk application for a Class "B" Combination License to deal in intoxicating liquor and/or beer.

Amy Swiecichowski for the Hofa Park Tavern
W1889 Hofa Park, Seymour, WI 54165

Jennifer Olson for Jen's Knaughty Pine
W1539 Cty S, Pulaski, WI 54162

Amy Swiecichowski & Abigail Haven for Hofa Park Hall LLC
W1828 Hofa Park, Seymour, WI 54165

St. Stanislaus Hofa Park Parish
W1888 Hofa Park, Seymour, WI 54165

Kathy Luebke, Clerk
Town of Maple Grove
WNAXLP

APOLLO



Meet Apollo. He is a young petite pitbull with playful energy. He has done well in his kennel and is potty trained. He is treat motivated and smart.

HAMLET



Meet Hamlet. He is a 10 year old senior boy looking for a home. Overall, he is a friendly and calm cat who has done well with other cats in his previous home. He would do great adopted with another buddy.

DAYTONA



Daytona is a very sweet dog, who has been well behaved for staff. She is good with other dogs and likes the outdoors. She has done well in her kennel and is potty trained

SQUIRREL



Squirrel is an adventurous and curious cat. He adjusts well to new environments and is great with meeting new people. He will make a great addition to his new home.

05/02/2025, 05/09/2025

TOWN OF STILES REQUEST FOR BIDS FOR
CULVERT REPLACEMENT – BIRCHWOOD SHORES LN

Birchwood Shores Ln. Culvert Pipe Replacement 820 Ft. south of Oconto River Shores Ln. Install traffic control. Saw, cut and remove asphalt. Remove and dispose of existing culvert. Supply and install 70 Ft. of 30 in. HDPE culvert pipe with endwalls. Backfill and compact. Taper road slopes at 3:1. Replace road base in kind. Supply and install 40 Ft. of guardrail on the outside of curve. Exact location to be determined in the field by a town representative.

NOTE: Road must be open to traffic at the end of the day. This will require an 8 hour road closure and coordination with local emergency services. Must stage two dump trucks with gravel in case an emergency fill is needed to access residences south of the culvert being replaced. The Town of Stiles is requesting this construction be completed, start to finish, the last week of July 2025 actual date TBD.

Bids can be submitted to Terrah Patton, Town Clerk 5718 Watercrest Rd Lena, WI 54139 or bring them to the town meeting on Wednesday May 14th at 6pm. All sealed bids will be opened and reviewed by the Town Board at the April meeting. Proof of Insurance must accompany all bids. Town of Stiles reserves the right to reject any or all bids and accept a bid deemed most advantageous to the Town of Stiles.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT CHAIRMAN JASON FLYNN 920-609-3541
WNAXLP



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Larry's Towing & Recovery

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Monday - Friday

Bob & Chris Walters Jr.

Larry & Janice McGray



Antique Automotive
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Stiles Junction

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920-830-1738
150 S. Katch Drive, Oconto
To make an appointment, call the shelter or email ocontoareahumane@gmail.com

HOURS:
Mon Wed. Fri. 11am-4pm,
Sat. & Sun. 8am-11am.

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Please see all adoptable pets at www.ocontoareahumane.org. Supporting homeless pets is one of the best acts of kindness.

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Asst Variety

Jack's Original Pizza



4/\$10

Asst Variety
13.8-15.8oz

Gerber Amish Frying Chicken Leg Quarters



\$1.89
lb

Klement's Smoked Sausages Smoked, Kielbasa, or Andouille

\$4.49 14oz

USDA Choice Bone-In Ribeye Steaks



\$15.59
lb

Food Club Bacon Regular or Thick-Cut

\$3.99 16oz

Family Pack Pork Steak



\$2.29
lb

Food Club Ketchup

\$1.29 20oz

Food Club Mustard

99¢ 20oz

Cantaloupe



\$2.99
each

Limes



69¢
each

XL Roma Tomatoes



\$1.39
lb

Green Cabbage



69¢
lb

Bulk Russet Baker Potatoes



59¢
lb

Kretschmar Hickory Smoked Turkey Breast



\$6.49
lb
Shaved or Sliced

Sweet P's Mini Assorted Danishes



\$3.49
1 dozen

Fisher's Peanuts



\$2.99
Asst Variety
14oz

Crav'n Snack Crackers



\$1.99
Asst Variety
12.9-13.7oz

Food Club Americian Cheese Singles



\$1.99
12oz

Doritos



2/\$7
Asst Variety
7.25-10.75oz

Quaker Rice Cakes



\$3.29
Asst Variety
4.47-7.23oz

Indian Summer Apple Cider or Juice



\$1.99
64oz

Snack Packs

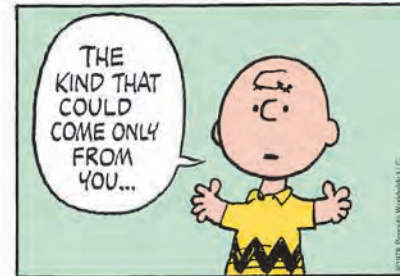
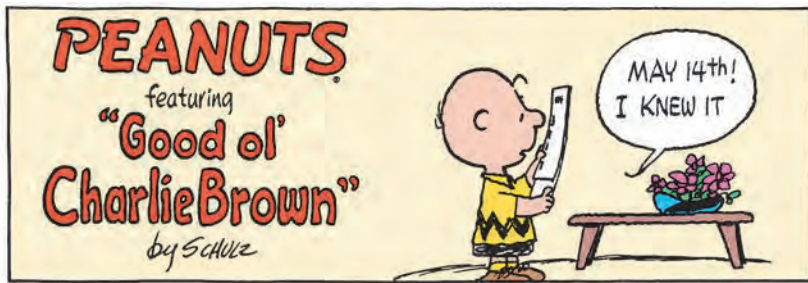


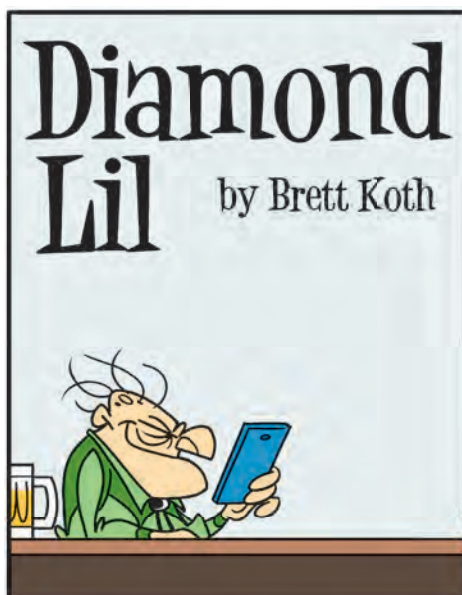
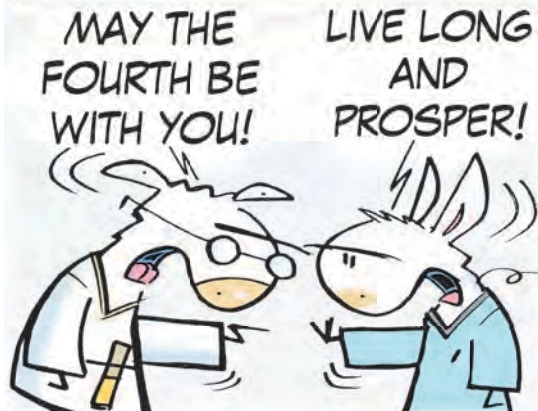
\$1.29
Asst Variety
4pk

Blue Ribbon Classics Chocolate Eclair, Strawberry Shortcake, Orange Dream, Star, or Fudge Bars



\$4.99
12-20pk





ANDY CAPP

by Smythe

5/4

MUM WAS TELLING ME THE JOB CENTRE IS OPEN ON SUNDAYS. SHE SAID NOW YOU'VE **NO** EXCUSE NOT TO CALL IN AND SEE IF THEY'VE GOT ANYTHING GOING

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I THINK SHE'S AN INTERFERING OLD BAT

GOLDSMITH & GARNETT

DON'T WORRY, ANDY, WITH THIS NEW AI TAKING OVER, THERE AREN'T **ANY** JOBS LEFT FOR THEM TO OFFER YOU

CHAMPION. I'M GOING IN

JOB CENTRE

AH, MR. CAPP, JUST THE MAN. THERE'S A NEW AI COMPANY IN TOWN LOOKING FOR AN OFFICE CLEANER. I'VE GOT YOU AN INTERVIEW AT 2 P.M.

THAT'S THE **LAST** TIME I TAKE ADVICE FROM YOU!

BY MASTROIANNI AND HART

I HAD A THOUGHT.

GOOD LORD.

PROTECTIVE AI WOULD LIMIT THE FREEDOMS OF ITS OWN CREATORS IN ORDER TO PREVENT THEM FROM HARMING THEMSELVES.

OKAY.

THIS WOULD LEAD TO AN ALL-OUT WAR, WHICH AI WOULD NATURALLY WIN.

SO YOU SAY.

FOLLOW ME HERE FOR A SEC.

DO I HAVE A CHOICE?

LET'S SAY THAT ONCE A CIVILIZATION REACHES THE TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITY TO SEND MESSAGES TO OTHER PLANETS BY RADIO...

THE SPEED OF ITS NATURAL EVOLUTION TO THE AGE OF AI IS ROUGHLY SET TO OCCUR WITHIN THE TIME IT TAKES FOR THAT INITIAL RADIO MESSAGE...

TO REACH A DISTANCE SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH FOR ANOTHER ADVANCED CIVILIZATION TO RECEIVE IT.

IN OTHER WORDS...

BY THE TIME ANYONE ELSE IS AWARE THEY EXIST, THEY'RE ALREADY DEAD.

LUCKY THEM.

DOGS OF C-KENNEL BY MICK MASTROIANNI AND MASON MASTROIANNI

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, MY HEARING HAS NEVER BEEN BETTER.

5-4 ©2025 Creators.com DogsOfCKennel.com

I know of something amazing that should be in the newspaper! I should drop them a line at news@newmedia-wi.com



TWO MORE FOR LOVE

Wide receivers room gets shot in the arm (and legs) with the first picks

BY JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

The wide receiver room has received some reinforcements. After years of clamoring for a first-round pick at receiver, the fanbase got its wish with Matthew Golden arriving in Green Bay. Not content to just add one receiver to the pass catching group, general manager Brian Gutekunst selected another receiver in the third round, TCU's Savion Williams. Golden and Williams will likely see time on the field this coming season. Whether or not they become starters remains to be seen. The most likely role for Golden will be as the team's speed threat. Does that put him on the field as a starter? Maybe not, but he'll see plenty of snaps with Romeo Doubs, Jayden Reed and Dontayvion Wicks all rotating.

Golden's advantage comes in that he has positional versatility. He played both outside and in the slot while at Texas, which is something Steve Sarkisian lauded him for. The Packers have had a lot of success with receivers that have that versatility as well. Greg Jennings, Donald Driver, Jordy Nelson and Davante Adams are a few players who come to mind.

TWO, CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



In 2025, Jordan Love will enter his third season as QB1. While the Packers have made the playoffs each of his first two years as a starter, this season is considered a pivotal year in his and the Packers progress.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS



After years of clamoring for a first-round pick at receiver, the fanbase got its wish with Matthew Golden arriving in Green Bay.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS



TCU wide receiver Savion Williams runs the 40-yard dash at the NFL football scouting combine March 1 in Indianapolis.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



Green Bay Packers fans filled the Draft Experience area as they waited for President/CEO Mark Murphy to announce the team's first-round pick. The NFL reported 600,000 non-unique visitors to the draft over the course of its three-day run in late April.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

FROM THE 2025 DRAFT

THE MOMENT

NO. 1 PICK, MATTHEW GOLDEN



The highlight of Thursday evening for Packers fans was Matthew Golden (wide receiver, Texas.) on stage with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell following Packers President/CEO Mark Murphy announcing for the first time since 2002, the Packers choose a wide receiver in the first round.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

A GOLDEN SELECTION

WIDE RECEIVER PICKED IN FIRST ROUND



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The Green Bay Packers 2025 selections



Matthew Golden, WR, Texas
picked 23 in the 1st round



Anthony Belton, T, NC State
picked 54 in the 2nd round



Savion Williams, WR, TCU
picked 87 in the 3rd round



Barryn Sorrell, Edge, Texas
picked 124 in the 4th round



Collin Oliver, LB, Okalahoma State
picked 159 in the 5th round



Warren Brinson, DL, Georgia
picked 198 in the 6th round



Micah Robinson, DB, Tulane
picked 237 in the 7th round



John Williams, OL, Cincinnati
picked 250 in the 7th round

WILL DRAFT PICKS HELP PACKERS RUN TO DAYLIGHT?

Each rookie brings unique story to Green Bay

BY JACOB
WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

The 2025 NFL draft is in the books, and the Green Bay Packers have filled some of the needs that plagued them at the end of the 2024 season.

The draft started with a bang with President and CEO Mark Murphy delivering a perfect explanation of Green Bay's first round pick.

It ended with Brad Paisley taking the stage and rocking the Lambeau faithful who stayed for all seven rounds.

Here is a look at the guys Green Bay picked, and how we can expect them to fit in as the Packers chase a championship this fall.

Matthew Golden

Golden was a historic pick, because he was the first pick by the home team in Green Bay. He was also the first receiver drafted in the first round since 2002 as Murphy noted when he announced the selection.

Golden is not just a cute anecdote. He'll be expected to contribute and likely early in his career.

Christian Watson is going to miss some time this season, and the Packers need some speed injected into their lineup.

"You can't teach 4.29," coach Matt LaFleur said giddily in his post draft press conference.

They'll likely start him off slow, as they typically do with their rookies, but Golden is going to play, and they expect enough of him to make him a first round pick.

Expect Golden to get



Packers first-round draft pick Matthew Golden morphs his iconic and flashy introduction to choosing No. 22 in honor of his grandmother.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

some reps as the team's "Z" receiver and also move inside to the slot. He can stretch the field vertically and horizontally.

That positional versatility will give LaFleur plenty of opportunities to stress the opposing defense and make plays down the field.

Anthony Belton

The first surprise of the draft was a big one. Literally.

"Big don't get small," Vice President of Player Personnel Jon-Eric Sullivan said.

There will be no worries about "Big Escalade" getting small. Belton is

6 feet 6 inches and 335 pounds.

The Packers insisted they think he can play tackle after the selection, but the likely scenario is Belton kicking inside to guard as a potential replacement for Sean Ryan, whose contract expires at the end of 2025.

Savion Williams

After a surprise with Belton, general manager Brian Gutekunst pulled another rabbit out of his hat with the selection of Williams.

"I did not expect to be up here talking about two receivers," Gutekunst said

at the conclusion of the third round.

He's right. The Packers likely saw Williams as a luxury. They see him as a traditional receiver first and foremost, but Williams has returned kicks, played in the backfield and taken reps as a wildcat quarterback.

An easy comparison would be to think of the role the Packers once used Tyler Ervin in during his short stint in Green Bay.

Williams should be able to impact the team as a kick returner and someone who gets manufactured touches as he learns the

nuances of the receiver position.

Barryn Sorrell

If there's a better story in the draft, I'm not sure what it is. Sorrell was picked in the fourth round and still in the green room after traveling to Green Bay.

He walked over to the stadium and quickly met his new team and the media. He broke down in tears introducing his family to those at the podium.

On the field? He's not just some cute story. Sorrell is a punishing defensive lineman who should compete for snaps imme-

diately on a group that was inconsistent a season ago.

Collin Oliver

Milt Hendrickson called Oliver a DPR, or designated pass rusher. He does have some positional versatility that could kick him back to linebacker if the Packers need him to do something like that.

Early in his career, however, Oliver is going to be on the field in obvious passing situations to rush the passer. He wins with speed, something the Packers' edge room needs more of.

Warren Brinson

Brinson was the first defensive lineman taken in this class when Green Bay called his name in the sixth round. He'll rotate in on run downs, but the team does believe he has some juice to affect the passing game.

Those are opportunities he'll need to earn.

Micah Robinson

Robinson was the only cornerback taken in this class, leading to some questions about the future of Jaire Alexander.

On the field, Robinson will be in competition to become one of the team's core special teamers.

He has experience doing that in college.

John Williams

Williams probably stuck out like a sore thumb in his college classes as he majored in aerospace engineering.

On the field, he stands out as well. He is another big man at 6-foot-4, 322 pounds. He'll likely compete at the back end of the offensive line room on the interior, where the Packers struggled mightily to finish off the 2024 season.

Shawano County: Wisconsin's Barn Quilt Capital

Draft organizers
commission barn
quilt displayed
at the draft



Shawano County's famed barn quilt project was part of the NFL Experience. The NFL-commissioned barn quilt was on display in the Beer Hall for those attending the three-day event at Lambeau Field. A duplicate of the NFL barn quilt is also on display at the Shawano Country Visitors Center in Shawano.

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Thank you to all who attended. All proceeds benefit Safe Haven.



Packers legend Mason Crosby held a meet-and-greet Friday evening at Twig's Tasting Room in Shawano. The event, sponsored by Twig's Beverage, was a fundraiser for Safe Haven.

Twig's Beverage proudly sponsors Mason Crosby meet-and-greet



Green Bay did the NFL, Wisconsin proud

Draft experience went off without a hitch

BY JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

Take a bow, Green Bay. When it was announced the 2025 NFL draft was going to be held in Green Bay, Wisconsin, I truly did not know what to expect. Sure, I've been to Green Bay a bunch. I lived there for two years while completing my degree at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

I've been to countless Packers games. Bigger events related to the team, but nothing like this.

The detractors were obvious, and they were loud.

Where is everyone going to stay? Where are they going to park? How are we going to get that many people into the NFL's smallest city?

The answer was by doing what they've always done.

The city, led by the stewardship of Mark Murphy and Discover Green Bay's Nick Meisner, did what many thought was impossible.

There was plenty to eat.



Dan Patrick, center, currently hosts "The Dan Patrick Show" on Premiere Radio Networks and Peacock. He and his crew mingled with the fans at the NFL draft in Green Bay.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

There was plenty to do. There was plenty to see. Reviews have been glowing regarding the NFL's smallest city from people who had a positive experience.

My experience was no different. It was my first time covering the draft on site, and it was a special occasion considering the location of one of my favorite events on the NFL calendar.

There were two instances that will stand out to me the most regarding the event.

The first of which, was the aforementioned Murphy.

From an outside appearance, Murphy does not seem like a showman, but he certainly has some type of training.

His announcement of the selection of Matthew Golden was perfectly delivered. He knew how special this pick would be to the fanbase, and the pop of the crowd that followed would not disappoint.

Golden is a driven human after talking to him. I have few doubts he's going

to be a productive player, and that pick will be one we all remember for a long time.

The biggest story, however, was the team's fourth round pick of Barryn Sorrell.

Sorrell was still in the green room on Saturday morning and was picked by Green Bay. He made his way over to the stadium after the selection.

He broke down in tears when he was asked to introduce his family in a way that really struck me.

After the draft was over, coach Matt LaFleur talked about guys who love football as opposed to guys who need it.

It was evident that Sorrell needs football, and his passion is something that should make him an instant fan favorite.

I talked about football, because I had nothing to complain about in terms of the infrastructure of the event.

Everything went off without a hitch.

You should be proud of yourselves, Wisconsin. We certainly all are.



Exceeding attendance expectations, crowds filled the 2025 NFL Draft Experience, including center stage festivities, for three days. The event kicked off Thursday evening with Round 1 of the 2025 NFL draft. The closing act featured a free Brad Paisley concert on Saturday night. All in all, it was deemed the largest event to be held in Green Bay.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

Pass rush beefed up in Green Bay

Packers add two edge rushers in 2025 NFL draft

BY LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

Addressing a major need in the 2025 NFL draft, the Green Bay Packers doubled up on edge rushers, selecting Barryn Sorrell from the University of Texas and Collin Oliver from Oklahoma State.

After another year of disappointing play from the edge, specifically in the run game, Packers general manager Brian Gutekunst said he felt it necessary to pick up both Sorrell and Oliver to secure the edges.

"I think both of those guys can contribute," said Gutekunst. "But again, we will see. You know, those guys come into the National Football League and it is a whole different ball game, but I think those guys can compete."

Over the past six years in the NFL draft, Green Bay has spent a tremendous amount of capital, as well as free agent signings, on pass rushers. Today, that boils down to a room with names like Rashan Gary, Lukas Van Ness, Kingsley Enagbare, Brenton Cox Jr., Aaron Mosby, Sorrell, Oliver and Deslin Alexandre.

Given the premium capital that was spent on



While the offense was highlighted in the first three Packer picks, defensive additions Barryn Sorrell (edge, Texas) and Collin Oliver (edge, Oklahoma State) are considered key additions to the Packers roster

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

Gary and Van Ness, it is foolish to think that those two will not get a majority of the starting snaps when the season comes around.

That does not mean that Sorrell and Oliver will totally be excluded from the game plan, though. With Gutekunst drafting two edge rushers, it is obvious that it is a need that will require immediate production from the two drafted rookies, realistically in a rotational role.

Sorrell seems likely to be the front-runner to receive those minutes, given that he was drafted first between the two.

During his four seasons at Texas, Sorrell was fairly productive, totaling 15.5 sacks and 132 combined tackles. Standing at 6-3 and weighing 260 pounds, Sorrell, while on the smaller side relative to other edge rushers in the NFL, possesses great speed and the ability to slip and slide around defenders. Given Gary's injury history, it seems likely that Sorrell will be at the top of the list to spell Gary in rushing situations.

"I am just excited to fit wherever I need to be here," said Sorrell.

Following Sorrell in the draft selection process was Oliver. During his time at Oklahoma State, he totaled 23.5 sacks and 134 combined tackles. His college career was highlighted by his freshman season, in which he led the entire Big 12 in sacks at 11.5. His num-

bers did take a dip, especially in his senior season as a foot injury limited him to just two games.

When looking at Oliver, the first thing that stands out about him is his athleticism. That athleticism has allowed him to use his speed in an unpredictable manner to get after the quarterback.

Standing at 6-2 and weighing 240 pounds, Oliver provides an ability to to stand up in the defensive back field as a

linebacker off of the ball, as well as putting his hand in the ground and getting after the passer.

"I am here to play ball and do whatever the coaches ask of me," said Oliver, on where he will line up. "That is the only reason that I am here, and that is what I am going to do while I am here. Whenever they see me play, I am going to play that position. I don't really care what it is. I don't know what it is, but it is going to be a position and I am going to play it to the best of my ability."

With the improved play of Enagbare since he was drafted, it seems likely that unless Oliver sees a dramatic performance through training camp and the preseason, his minutes as an edge rusher may be limited. With his ability to stand up though, using Oliver as a linebacker should not be out of the question.

With question marks surrounding players like Gary, Van Ness and Quay Walker heading into this season, stocking up on edge certainly gives the Packers a contingency plan, should something dramatic take place between now and the draft in 2026.

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TWO, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Williams will be the chess piece of this group. The Packers say they view him as a traditional receiver, but that would be a waste of the skillset that Williams provides, especially as a rookie who likely will have an adjustment period at the pro level.

Williams lined up all over the place at TCU. He played receiver but also as a running back and wildcat quarterback.

The Packers will likely have a special package of plays in their offense for him, while he will likely be one of the team's primary kick returners.

Deebo Samuel and Cordarrelle Patterson are going to be popular comparisons thrown around, but Williams runs more violently than either of the aforementioned players, which makes his potential as exciting as it is.

From a usage standpoint, the Packers likely would use him in the same manner they once used Tyler Ervin.

Ervin was the team's jet-sweep guy, kickoff returner and occasionally lined up in the backfield.

Ervin was a useful player, especially during the 2020 season, when the Packers were one of the best offenses in football. Aaron Rodgers won the league's MVP that season.

Adding two receivers also likely means there will be some subtractions from the room.

That's true both now and at the conclusion of the 2025 season.

For now, it's hard to envision two of Bo Melton, Malik Heath and Mecole Hardmon making the roster.

After the season is over,



Matthew Golden makes his way to the stage after it was announced he was the first-round pick of the Green Bay Packers. Golden will wear No. 22 for the team.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

Watson and Doubs are set to have their contracts expire.

It's possible that one or both of those players will be playing their final season in Green Bay.

Both have had issues with injuries. Watson will likely miss most of the 2025 season, making his future even cloudier than it would have already been.

Doubs had two concussions last season, including a scary instance where he had to be physically flipped over by the training staff in Philadelphia.

He also was suspended last season for conduct detrimental to the team.

Both players could be on their way out, with Reed and Wicks next on the list of players who have contract decisions coming up.

Regardless of what the Packers decide, they knew they had to bring in some reinforcements.

The draft appears to have done just that, starting with their first round pick.

Javon Walker Golden was a historic selection because of the drought that preceded him. Every year during the draft cycle, we hear the stories how the Packers had not drafted a receiver in the first round since 2002.

That year, then general

manager Mike Sherman traded up to select Javon Walker out of Florida State to give Brett Favre another weapon as they chased a second Super Bowl win with Favre under center.

Walker took a little time but did find his way into a starring role.

Walker caught 63 passes in his first two seasons for just over 1,000 yards.

The leap, however, was foreseeable as he caught nine scoring passes from Favre in 2003.

Without question, Walker's most memorable game came in 2003 when Favre was playing with a heavy heart in Oakland. Favre's father, Irvin, had just died.

Walker and the rest of the receivers made a pact to catch anything Favre put in the air.

They did, with Walker's game being the biggest.

He caught four passes for 124 yards and two touchdowns. One of the scoring strikes from Favre came among three Raider defenders.

Walker coupled that performance with a big wild card game against the Seattle Seahawks, where he had 111 yards receiving.

Walker's breakout year came in 2004.

He caught 89 passes for 1,382 yards and eight touchdowns.

He had begun to blossom into the team's best

receiver.

Unfortunately, Walker tore his ACL in the season opener in 2005.

That was the last time Walker would wear a Packers uniform. After he would threaten to retire rather than play for the Packers again prior to his injury, the Packers decided to move on.

He was traded to Denver during the summer of 2006 for a second round pick.

That pick eventually turned into three more picks, which landed them Darryn Colledge.

The Packers would also draft Walker's replacement, Greg Jennings, in the same draft class.

Ready to make your plans?

The wait is almost over

Complete 2025 NFL schedule will be announced May 14

BY GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS STAFF

The 2025 NFL draft is complete, and the full 2025 schedule will be announced at 7 p.m. May 14.

The dates will be set, primetime matchups will be known, and every game will be revealed on the NFL Network airwaves.

The 2025 NFL season is scheduled to begin Sept. 4 with the Philadelphia Eagles hosting the NFL Kickoff Game.

The regular season concludes Jan. 4, 2026, and the playoffs are scheduled to start Jan. 10, 2026, culminating in Super Bowl LX on Feb. 8, 2026, at Levi's Stadium, home of the San Francisco 49ers.

For next season, the NFC North is matched with the NFC East and

AFC North, so all teams in the NFC North will play all teams in those two divisions.

In addition, the Packers finished third in the NFC North, so they will face the third-place teams in the NFC South, NFC West and AFC West.

Green Bay will host Minnesota, Detroit, Chicago, Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore, Cincinnati and Carolina.

They will travel to Minnesota, Detroit, Chicago, Dallas, New York Giants, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Denver and Arizona.

The NFL plans to play eight international games in 2025, with contests slated for Madrid (Spain), Berlin (Germany) and Dublin (Ireland), as well as Mexico City, Brazil and the United Kingdom.

With AFC teams having nine home games in 2025, most international games will have AFC teams moving their home games.

The 2025 season will be 105th year the Packers have been part of the NFL and the team's 107th year overall.

It's the eighth year under the leadership of general manager Brian Gutekunst and seventh with coach Matt LaFleur.

Ed Policy will be the team's president and CEO as he will take over for Mark Murphy, who will retire in July.

The 2025 team will attempt to improve on their 11-6 record from last season, make the playoffs for the third straight year and win the division title for the first time since 2021.





Both a success in attendance and television audience, attracting the event's biggest crowd was Thursday's Round 1 of the 2025 NFL draft. GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

Reported attendance levels at the 2025 NFL draft in Green Bay surpass expectations

BY STEVE MEGARGEE
Associated Press

Bringing the NFL draft to the league's smallest market was supposed to mean a smaller crowd. Green Bay Packers fans had other ideas. Packers President/CEO Mark Murphy said several days before the draft that the forecast was for a total attendance of 250,000 for all three days. NFL officials announced April 26 that the total attendance ended up at 600,000, more than doubling that forecast.

"Green Bay is kind of that destination where everybody wants to come and see Lambeau Field," Steven Chowanec of Osseo said April 26 as he waited for the final four



rounds to begin. The total attendance is measured by adding the crowd sizes for each of the draft's three days, so a person who attended all three days would be counted three separate

times. Green Bay couldn't match the record announced attendance of more than 775,000 for the 2024 draft in Detroit, but it matched the second-highest total since the NFL moved the draft out of New York and started sending it to various locations in 2015. The 2019 draft in Nashville, Tennessee, also had a reported total attendance of 600,000. The first round of the draft on April 24 drew a reported 205,000. League officials said another 175,000 fans came the night of April 25 for the second and third rounds, even though it had rained for much of the afternoon. The estimated crowd was 220,000 for the final

four rounds on a picture-perfect April 26, many of them staying all the way until the end and then sticking around for a Brad Paisley concert. That three-day total is particularly notable considering Green Bay's size. The city's population is less than 110,000, though the entire metro area includes about 320,000 people. "I'm happy Green Bay turned out," said Paul Cegelski, who lives in Green Bay and is a Packers season-ticket holder and shareholder for the NFL's only publicly owned franchise. "I'm so glad we weren't a black eye." Far from it. Although Packers fans made up a large contingent of the crowd, the fans of other teams who made the trip to Green Bay offered rave reviews. Pati Cream of Houston, who won a league-sponsored contest to determine the Texans' 2024 fan of the year, said she already had attended a handful of previous NFL drafts before making the trip to Green Bay. She marveled at how this relatively small community handled all the logistical challenges that come from hosting such a major event. "We were a little fearful because it's a smaller venue, but it's been amazing," Cream said. "The Packers fans are always so welcoming and great. Getting around has been really easy. Everybody's been very hospitable. It's been an absolute blast."



Packer fans dominated the crowd and anxiously awaited the team's first-round selection in what became the signature and pinnacle moment for the Packers fans in attendance. GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

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