

Bringing community, first responders together



Pulaski Police Officer Brady Sinotte, center, talks with Pulaski residents Justin Leveille, left, and Christyna Leveille during National Night Out on Aug. 4 at Veterans Memorial Park in Pulaski. National Night Out gives community members a chance to interact with local law enforcement and other first responders in an atmosphere outside of tragedy and emergency.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

# Electric company aids Menasha after tornado

Line workers from more than two dozen public utilities help restore power

Oconto Falls Municipal Utilities workers have been assisting the crews of Menasha Utilities after a devastating EF-3 tornado swept through the city at the end of July, helping to restore electricity for more than 80% of area customers in the week that followed.

“This level of destruction is hard to see, especially when it happens so close to home,” said Beth Rank, utility manager of Oconto Falls Municipal Utilities. “I think any one of us would say we were more than ready to go and help the Menasha crews get those lights back on.”

After the tornado hit a central part of the community, Gov. Tony Evers declared the area in a state of emergency. Debris continued to hamper restoration efforts as crews arriving through mutual aid started to make progress repairing and restoring the electricity infrastructure. Roads were unpassable as more than 60 power line poles snapped in half, electric wires, tree limbs and materials from damaged homes and buildings needed to be cleared before crews could assess the extent of the damage and begin to restore power.

Mutual aid crews from neighboring utilities hopped in trucks and made their way to the area. It began with a few, then grew to more than a dozen as crews began to set down new poles. Power began

TORNADO, continued on page 3



A long line forms for children and adults alike to check out Eagle III, an air and ground medical transport for northeast Wisconsin, during National Night Out on Aug. 4 at Veterans Memorial Park in Pulaski. The helicopter landed shortly after 5 p.m. and was a big attraction at the event.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA



Oconto Falls Municipal Utilities employees Justin Beaman and Travis Zielinski were among the many who offered help to those without power after a tornado hit the Menasha area at the end of July.

CONTRIBUTED

INSIDE

Find out everything you want to know about football season.

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# It’s possible to manage GLP-1 side effects

More than 40 million Americans use GLP-1 medications to help manage obesity and chronic conditions like diabetes.

These medications have delivered positive results for many patients, although the side effects pose a challenge for some. ThedaCare has advice for people looking to better manage the potential side effects of these drugs.

“While GLP-1s are powerful and often effective tools to help manage weight, side effects can become problematic if not properly managed,” said Ashley Faulks, nurse practitioner with ThedaCare Weight Wellness Solutions. “That’s why it’s important to choose a multidisciplinary program.”

Faulks and registered dietitian Ashley Krautkramer highlighted common GLP-1 side effects and

offered tips for managing them.

Common GLP-1s include semaglutide (Ozempic and Wegovy) and tirzepatide (Mounjaro and Zepbound). They work partly by helping people feel full sooner and slowing how quickly food leaves the stomach. This slower digestion also explains why new GLP-1 users often experience uncomfortable stomach and bowel symptoms as their bodies acclimate to the medication.

“The good news is that most people adjust very well,” Krautkramer said. “And there are several possible solutions for those who need an extra bit of help adjusting to the side effects.”

“Side effects tend to be most pronounced soon after people start the medication,” Faulks said. “They may be uncomfortable or disruptive enough to make

people rethink their decision.”

Common side effects include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, constipation, stomach discomfort, reduced appetite, injection-site irritation and fatigue or lightheadedness.

“If a person does not feel well as they adjust to a GLP-1 and they tended to be chaotic eaters, they may not really know what their normal food intake was,” Krautkramer said. “We help educate them as to how best to make intentional food choices and eat more slowly so their health and confidence improve.”

The dietetics team also may prescribe a micronutrient supplement and a B-1 (thiamin) complex vitamin for people who struggle to eat enough nutritious food as their bodies adjust, Krautkramer said.

From a medication management standpoint, a doctor or nurse practitioner may opt to reduce a person’s prescribed dose or slow their scheduled dose increases if they experience difficult side effects, she said.

“There is also a misconception that we should measure up to the highest dose with each patient, and that is simply not true,” Faulks said. “We work together to discover the lowest, most effective dose to reach a person’s health goals.”

Both experts shared tips for managing the side effects of GLP-1 medications.

For nausea, vomiting or feeling too full, Faulks suggested eating several smaller meals instead of large meals, eating slowly and stopping when comfortably satisfied, not stuffed.

“Choose bland or cool foods when nauseated,” she added. “These can include crackers, toast, rice, applesauce, bananas, soup and yogurt. Also, avoid greasy, fried, rich, spicy or sweet foods, especially around the time of a dose increase.”

She also suggested sipping water throughout the day.

“Do not lie down right after eating,” Faulks said. “Try sitting upright or taking a gentle walk.”

For constipation related to GLP-1 use, Krautkramer again encouraged people to drink lots of fluids, especially water. She also advised people to add fiber to their diet with foods such as oats, beans, lentils, vegetables, fruit, chia or ground flaxseed.

“In addition, move your body daily if you can,” she said. “Walking may help the bowels move.”

## PUBLIC RECORD

### OCONTO COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT

Aug. 9

Report not received by press time.

Aug. 8

Report not received by

press time.

Aug. 7

Report not received by press time.

Aug. 6

Deputies responded to 61 incidents, including trespassing on County Road J in the Town of Little

Suamico; property damage on Nicolet Road in the Town of Townsend; a drug investigation at a redacted location; property damage on Cedar Lane in the Town of Abrams; threatening on Dudzik Road in the Town of Chase; theft on County Road M in the Town of How; suspicious activity on South Green Bay Avenue in Gillett; a wanted person at a redacted location; suspicious activity on County Road S in the Town of Pensaukee; suspicious activity on Logan Road in the Town of Breed; six traffic stops, two traffic hazards, three traffic offenses, one citizen assist, two miscellaneous traffic incidents, one welfare check; two 911 hangups and six

open lines; four ambulance calls; three crashes, two involving deer.

Aug. 5

Deputies responded to 41 incidents, including stalking on Early Lane in the Town of Abrams; a drug investigation at a redacted location; property damage on Youngman Lane in the Town of Lakeview; a wanted person at a redacted location; one traffic hazards, one miscellaneous traffic incident, one welfare check; three 911 hangups and six open lines; four ambulance calls; one crash.

Aug. 4

Deputies responded to 61 incidents, including animal neglect on North Zippel Avenue in Gillett; harassment

on Nelson Road in the Town of Gillett; theft on state Highway 32 in the Town of Lakeview; suspicious activity on Anne Jo Lane in the Town of Chase; drugs at a redacted location; suspicious activity near County Road W and Lafave Road in the Town of Riverview; a disturbance on County Road I in the Town of Stiles; suspicious activity on Morgan River Road in the Town of Morgan; two traffic stops, one traffic hazard, one traffic offense, four citizen assists, two welfare checks; one 911 hangup and five open lines; five ambulance calls; two crashes, one involving deer.

Aug. 3

Deputies responded to

61 incidents, including suspicious activity on Sleeter Road in the Town of Bagley; suspicious activity on County Road C in the Town of Chase; an animal bite on Allen Road in the Town of Little Suamico; a disturbance on Lake Street in the Town of Little Suamico; suspicious activity near Mack Attack, 3895 State Highway 22, Town of Oconto; an animal bite on Pine Ridge Road in the Town of Doty; suspicious activity near McGuire’s, 211 S. Rosera St., Lena; four traffic stops, one traffic hazard, one traffic offense, three citizen assists, one miscellaneous traffic incident, three welfare checks; four open-line 911 calls; five ambulance calls; two crashes.

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Highway V;  
Intersection of County Highway V  
southward to intersection of Mosling  
Road and County Highway V)  
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the Town of Underhill Community Center,  
5597 Cardinal Road, Gillett, WI 54124.  
Bids can be mailed to the Town Clerk -  
5597 Cardinal Road, Gillett, WI 54124. All  
bids shall be sealed and marked: "LRIP  
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"The bidder's attention is called to the fact  
that this project is subject to a prevailing  
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issued by the State of Wisconsin and that  
the prevailing wage rates and hours of  
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be applicable to this project."  
For further information please contact  
Mark Winkler, Town Chair, at 920-621-  
4085.  
Bids will be opened and awarded on  
Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at 7:30  
p.m. at the Town of Underhill Community  
Center, 5597 Cardinal Road, Gillett, WI  
54124.  
The Town of Underhill reserves the right  
to accept or reject any or all bids or any  
part(s) thereof, waive any informalities in  
the bidding process, and to accept the  
bid proposal or portion of a bid proposal  
deemed most advantageous to the Town.

WNAXLP  
OCO094

## COURT NEWS

- Gregory Keith Dugan, 34, formerly of Little Suamico, had his probation revoked April 15 from a conviction earlier this year on misdemeanor charges of theft, disorderly conduct and resisting or obstructing an officer. The theft charge was amended from an original felony count. Judge James Morrison sentenced him July 31 to 18 months in prison followed by six months of extended supervision. Dugan was given credit for 310 days already served.
- Tasha M. Carter, 36, Pulaski, was charged Aug. 3 with felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of criminal trespass. Judge Hannah Schuchart set a \$2,000 cash bond and adjourned her initial appearance until Aug. 13.
- Samantha Jo Etersky, 38, Menominee, Michigan, was charged Aug. 3 with possession with intent to distribute fentanyl, possession with intent to distribute cocaine,

maintaining a drug trafficking place, and misdemeanor counts of possession of an illegally obtained prescription and possession of drug paraphernalia. Schuchart set a \$50,000 cash bond and adjourned her initial appearance until Aug. 13.

- Steven Dale Edwards, 53, Marinette, was charged Aug. 3 with possession with intent to distribute fentanyl, possession with intent to distribute cocaine, and misdemeanor counts of possession of an illegally obtained prescription, possession of drug paraphernalia and bail jumping. Schuchart set a \$100,000 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until Aug. 13.
- Kevin Allen Newhouse, 53, Little Suamico, was charged Aug. 5 with battery and disorderly conduct as a domestic abuse repeater. Conley set a \$3,000 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until Aug. 13.

8/7, 14/2026  
CITY OF GILLETT  
PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE  
Council Chambers – Municipal Building  
150 N McKenzie Ave – Gillett, WI 54124  
PUBLIC NOTICE:

Notice is hereby given that the City of Gillett Utilities will meet for a Public Information Meeting on a Water rate increase in the City of Gillett. It will be held on Thursday, August 20, 2026 at 1:00 pm at Gillett City Hall, Council Chambers, 150 N McKenzie Ave, Gillett, WI. This meeting is open to the public.

WNAXLP

## OCONTO COUNTY TIMES HERALD

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County Times Herald

# Suring Historical Society to meet Aug. 18

The Suring Area Historical Society Aug. 18 meeting will be held at the Suring Museum on Main Street.

Speakers for the

meeting will be Jack and Darlene Valentine giving the history of Jerry Valentine's role in the Suring area, and Darlene Valentine will touch on teaching

as she and her mother-in-law, Violet Valentine, were teachers.

The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. with refreshments to follow.

## OBITUARIES

### JAMES PATENAUDE

James "Jim" Thomas Patenaude, 85, of Oconto Falls, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family Aug. 6, 2026.

Born in Little Suamico on Aug. 9, 1940, to the late Edmond and Norine (Hermans) Patenaude, Jim was raised on a farm in Lena and was a graduate of the Lena High School class of 1958. Throughout his life, Jim lived in Milwaukee and Marinette before settling in Oconto Falls in 1973, where he built a life defined by hard work, public service and deep roots in the community.

Jim dedicated much of his life to serving others. He began his career in law enforcement as a police officer in Marinette before serving as police chief in Oconto Falls. For two decades, Jim and his wife, Judy, welcomed neighbors and travelers alike as the owners of Patenaude's Colonial Inn, where his warm hospitality, easygoing conversation and quick sense of humor created countless fond memories and lifelong friendships. He spent over 20 years delivering mail for the USPS as a rural mail



carrier and later served as the Oconto Falls municipal judge for two decades until his retirement in 2024.

A quintessential people person who could strike up a conversation with anyone, Jim was also deeply committed to civic life. He was an active member of the Oconto Falls Lions Club, serving terms as both president and treasurer. In his free time, he loved playing cards, spending days golfing at River Island and sharing a good laugh with friends and family.

He is survived by his wife, Diane Patenaude, whom he spent the last 21 years together; his children,

Kevin (Kristen) Patenaude, Julie (Mike) Carroll and Butch (JoLinda) Patenaude; son-in-law, Louis Kasper; stepchildren, William "Billy" (Doreen) Swiekatowski, Mary (Scott) Schnobrich and James (Janice) Swiekatowski; 16 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; brothers, Edmund Patenaude, Robert "Bob" (Beverly) Patenaude and Richard "Dick" Patenaude; sister, Carol Goldschmidt; along with extended family and a community of dear friends.

Jim was preceded in death by his first wife, Judy Patenaude, with whom he shared 43 years until her passing; daughter, Jamie Kasper; sister, Betty Patenaude; brother, Donald Patenaude; brother-in-law, Kenneth Goldschmidt; and sisters-in-law, Joyce Patenaude and Angie Patenaude.

Funeral services took place Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2026, at St. Anthony Catholic Church. Burial took place afterward in St. Anthony Cemetery in Oconto Falls.

A special thank you to the nursing staff of the sixth floor ICU at St. Vincent Hospital in Green Bay.

### TORNADO, continued from page 1

to come back on for some customers.

A week after the tornado hit, there were roughly 80 line workers from more than two dozen public power communities who had been contributing their help with restoration. And the hard work could be seen, as power was restored to 90% of the area and to 80% of Menasha Utilities customers.

Cleanup is still expected to take weeks. Long-term damage will mean

months of work. The city's water filtration treatment plant was severely damaged and will take some time to either be fixed or replaced.

Menasha Utilities staff continue to be in good spirits, despite the devastation, and the whole community has been supportive by providing resources to those who may have lost their home or need water or food. The staff has also been coordinating support for visiting line crews

as they spend days in the field to help restore power for Menasha residents.

"We are beyond grateful to have our public power partners here to help make sense of the damage and what immediately needed to be done, in addition to what still needs to be done here," said Menasha Utilities general manager Melanie Krause. "We can't say thank you enough to all those who have responded and continue to support us."

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### LILY

Lily is a quiet and well-mannered cat looking for a calm home. She is very affectionate and playful once she gets to know you. We hope to find this sweet gal a home soon.

## NEWS CORRESPONDENTS

NEW Media is always on the lookout for talented freelance correspondents who can write stories AND take stunning photographs for the Oconto County Times Herald.

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

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

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

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## Music and fun fill up Mielke Park



**TOP:** Musicians have a wonderful time Aug. 8 at the Pond View Glen stage for the Shawano Folk Music Festival. The stage was hosted by the Green Apple Folk Music Society.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

**ABOVE:** Patrons of music sit back and enjoy the music Aug. 8 during the Shawano Folk Music Festival.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

**RIGHT:** John Guarrine's silent clown Pinolio has some fun Aug. 8 with visitors to Mielke County Park during the 48th Shawano Folk Music Festival, where over a dozen folk music acts provided three days of music and fun for hundreds of people.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA



## Reshaping speedway could cost \$250,000

Project most likely won't be done until 2027

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

Most of the plans to reduce the size of the Shawano Speedway have been drawn up, but the question of who will pay for it still lingers.

For more than a year, track organizers have pushed to shrink the raceway from the half-mile to a three-eighths mile oval. It's believed a shorter track will attract more drivers, which will lead to more fans and more money for all involved.

"I think before we decide on any shape or anything like that, we have to discuss funding, because any decision from this meeting forward is going to cost money," Nick Hesse, facilities management director for Shawano County, told members of the public property committee Aug. 6. "We need to figure out who's paying for what."

Grant Bystol, county highway commissioner, said if the county takes the lead on this, a plan with point data, cross-sections and draining plans needs to be finalized.

Based on contours provided in the current proposal, Bystol offered several estimates for bringing in Turns 3 and 4 to make the track shorter.

"There's 25,000-30,000 cubic yards of earthwork. There are between six and eight power poles in conflict, plus or minus four electrical pads and outlets in the pits, and the stop-and-go lights need to be relocated," he said. "There is 1,300 feet of old retaining

wall to remove, reinstall 822 feet of retaining wall. There's about 885 feet of new fence to wrap the exterior. There's approximately 400 feet of storm sewer plus additional yard drains. There's approximately 1,600 cubic yards of topsoil that will be needed to restore the abandoned area to the north."

The total, without final design, is about \$250,000, Bystol said.

Some of the work could be done with in-kind donations, such as the moving of electrical poles, or costs can be saved by reusing the old fencing.

Still be decided would be the locations of the pit entrance and exit lanes.

The current proposal has a 307-foot straightaway, which is short of the 340 feet needed for tractor pulls that are held on the track during the county fair.

Whether the project will require a retention pond will be determined by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources after they review the plans.

On Aug. 10, the highway department started a 2-mile reconstruction project for another municipality that will keep them busy the rest of the season.

"I don't know who wants who to do what, but we're pretty much tied up with equipment through the end of October," Bystol said.

Bystol said the construction time would most likely be in the fall of 2027 if the highway department is involved.

"Let's get some numbers and see where we sit," said Rick Giese, chairman of the public property committee.

The topic will be back on the committee's Sept. 3 agenda.

kpasson@newmedia-wi.com

## Study links alcohol to risk of cancer

Public health leaders continue to raise awareness about alcohol's link to cancer, following a 2025 U.S. Surgeon General advisory that identified alcohol as a leading preventable cause of cancer in the United States.

The advisory also calls for updated alcohol warning labels to better inform consumers about cancer risk. Yet despite extensive research, many Americans remain unaware of alcohol's link to cancer.

The advisory identifies alcohol as the third leading preventable cause of cancer in the United States, contributing to about 100,000 cancer cases and 20,000

cancer-related deaths each year. Aspirus Health is working to increase awareness of these risks and encourage informed choices about alcohol consumption.

"Any time the American public is consuming a product that can cause cancer, I think it is important for us to know," said Dr. Andrew Huang, radiation oncologist.

Alcohol is a known carcinogen, and research shows it increases the risk of several cancers, including those of the mouth, throat, liver and breast. Its impact goes beyond cancer. Long-term alcohol use can lead to organ damage and contribute

to chronic diseases of the liver and heart.

For years, some studies suggested that moderate drinking had health benefits, but newer research has challenged that idea. According to Huang, earlier studies failed to account for people who avoided alcohol due to preexisting health conditions.

"Once those individuals were removed from the data, the reality became clear — there is no protective effect of alcohol. Even small amounts increase the risk of death," he said.

Avoiding alcohol completely is the safest choice, but moderation is key for those who choose to

drink. Excessive or habitual alcohol use can harm physical and mental health.

"It is not just about the physical effects," Huang said. "Alcohol can impact relationships, mental health and overall well-being."

Aspirus Health encourages individuals to have open conversations with their primary care provider about alcohol use. Honest discussions help assess personal risk factors, explore healthier alternatives and provide resources for those looking to cut back. Regular checkups offer an opportunity to take control of long-term health.

## Police serve lunch



**Officer Tyler Thornborrow** flips burgers on the grill Aug. 4 at Eberlein Park for the Shawano Police Department's Lunch in the Park program. Thornborrow also serves as one of the school resource officers for the city, so he'll be focusing on Shawano's schools once they reopen in September.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

# 18% hike in police calls not all crime related

## Chief believes more officers on street would improve service

By **LEE PULASKI**  
City Editor

Police calls are up 18% compared with this time last year, but that doesn't translate to more crime in the city of Shawano.

From Jan. 1 through Aug. 5, the Shawano Police Department responded to 5,517 calls, compared with 4,675 for the same time period last year. Besides the criminal investigations, officers also respond to quality-of-life complaints, traffic-related incidents, assisting other first responders and other service calls, according to Police Chief Mike Musolff.

"Shawano continues to be a safe community," Musolff said. "Our officers remain committed to being visible, responding quickly, investigating crimes thoroughly and working with residents to solve problems. Public safety is a partnership, and we appreciate the support we receive from our community."

Several areas where the police department has seen an increase compared with last year include disturbances, harassment calls, thefts, noise complaints and property damage traffic crashes. Musolff noted that calls for vehicle break-ins for the summer have gone down, though.

Decreases in certain categories have been seen, too, specifically in drug-related incidents, welfare checks, suspicious activity complaints, family disturbance calls and picking up people with outstanding warrants. Despite the decrease in welfare checks, they still comprise hundreds of calls each year, according to Musolff.

"Some community-service type calls remain among our highest-volume activities. We continue to respond to hundreds of welfare checks, medical assists, agency assists, disturbances and traffic-related incidents," Musolff said. "Those calls consume a significant amount of our officers' time and reflect the wide range of services today's police departments provide."

Calls about juvenile mischief in city parks continue to be a problem in Shawano, according to Musolff, although the numbers remain relative flat from last year to this year. While he reported in June that there were no major problems near Memorial Park when Sun Drop Dayz was happening, there were several instances where juveniles were getting into fights at other parks in the city.

Musolff said that many of the juvenile incidents in Shawano could be curtailed if parents paid more attention to their children.

"They're either allowing them to go out and cause mischief in the city, which is alarming to me, or they don't know they're sneaking out," Musolff said. "What we need is to parents to step up and make sure they're monitoring their children and what their kids are doing at night, just like you would during the day."

Mental health issues continue to be an issue in police calls, although those seem to be trending downward in 2026; the police have responded to 24 calls so far. In 2025, 35 calls were related to mental health.

"We're acting many times as a counselor, even though we're not a counselor," Musolff said. "We wear many hats. That's one area I'd like to see the state work on. We have all this money, and they don't know what to do with it. Work on mental health."

Dealing with off-road vehicles has been a rare issue, with city police handling four calls this year and three for the same time period in 2025. However, this tends to be an underreported statistic, according to Musolff, as most complainers tend to post on social media in lieu of calling dispatchers to report.

"Despite what you see on Facebook, we don't get a lot of complaints," Musolff said. "People seem to think that reporting to social media is reporting to the police, and that's not the case. We may catch things on there, and we may make phone calls to follow up on things from social media, but that isn't our primary concern. Our primary concern is following up on calls that come in to the dispatch center."

Another notable statistic is the number of times officers have to assist at a scene where ambulances are responding to medical calls. So far in 2026, there have been 368 calls for ambulance assistance, more than one per day.

Musolff said there are currently at least two officers on duty at all times, but that still stretches the department thin at times. He believes two more officers for the department who could work a 12-hour shift during the afternoon and evening hours, when the call volume is highest, could help increase response times.

"I think it's time to start evaluating that more," Musolff said. "The last increase was through a grant, which was for a detective position (six years ago). That was a position increase, but now we have a detective and a detective lieutenant, so that takes people off the road."

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

## An event to remember



Pinwheels were among some of the fun things for people to enjoy Aug. 7 during the first Memories in the Park held Aug. 7 at Franklin Park. The event was sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association, the Forget Me Not Fund and the Aging and Disability Resource Center of the Wolf River Region.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA



Musician Skip Jones talks with someone from the Aging and Disability Resource Center during Memories in the Park on Aug. 7 at Franklin Park. Besides Jones' beloved musical entertainment, there was also food, vendors and resources that help those caring for people with Alzheimer's.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA



Katie Daul, human development and relationships educator with the University of Wisconsin-Extension chats with someone Aug. 7 in Franklin during Memories in the Park, an event that brought some attention to the issues involving Alzheimer's Disease.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

## Keynote speakers announced for summit

As the College of Menominee Nation prepares to host this year's Seven Generations Inter-Tribal Leadership Summit, in collaboration with the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University and the Universities of Wisconsin, CMN announces the summit's slate of keynote speakers.

The Seven Generations Inter-Tribal Leadership Summit will take place from Sept. 30 through Oct. 2 at CMN in Keshena.

"The Seven Generations Summit has grown since its inception at LCOOU, in partnership with CMN and the UW System, but it remains rooted in its core purpose: connecting Indigenous knowledge, higher education and partners focused on supporting strong, vibrant tribal nations and peoples," said CMN President Christopher Caldwell.

Speaking on economic and workforce development will be Crystal Chapman-Chevalier, CEO, Wolf River Development Company.

Chapman-Chevalier is an enrolled member of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin and was raised and currently lives on the Menominee Reservation. Chapman-Chevalier graduated from CMN with an associate of arts and science in liberal arts, with a minor in Native American studies emphasis with her coursework in Menominee language, and an associate of arts and science in sustainable development with her coursework in cultural geography.

She earned her bachelor of science from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay with a major in environmental policy and planning and a minor in project planning. She also earned her master of science from UW-Platteville with a major in organizational change leadership. Benjamin "Benny" Rieth will talk on the topic of education.

Rieth is the founder of Belongin-gU: Rieth Strategy Solutions, where he partners with colleges, universities and organizations to build cultures of belonging that transform student and employee experiences.

His work centers on helping institutions move beyond programs and toward sustainable, community-centered change rooted in care, connection, accountability and Indigenous ways of being. With more than a decade of experience in higher education,

Rieth has held roles across admissions, student affairs, enrollment and campus life, most recently serving as vice president of student affairs, enrollment and belonging at Bellin College. He also serves as an adjunct faculty member in general education studies, bringing his passion for belonging directly into the classroom.

Throughout his career, he has led initiatives that strengthen student success, enhance employee engagement and reimagine how campuses support the full humanity of their communities.

The topic of the environment

will be addressed by Gracie Waukechon, a CMN class of 2026 graduate.

She is a member of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, a Menominee descendant and a member of the Eagle Clan. She currently resides in Bonduel with her family.

Waukechon has professional experience as a hospitality aide at Evergreen Nursing Home, political organizer with the Democratic Party of Wisconsin and as an intern at the Sustainable Development Institute. Additionally, she volunteers with the Cross Border Organizing Working Group to decommission Lines 5 and 9, peacefully combatting the extractive fossil fuel industry that largely targets Indigenous communities and transboundary waters in the United States and Canada.

Addressing health and safety will be Gail Nahwahquaw, director of Tribal Affairs Office, Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

Nahwahquaw, who is a member of the Menominee Nation, works with her team to administer health services to tribes and educate employees within the Department of Health Services about different tribal communities to ensure the services are culturally appropriate.

Registration for the Seven Generations Inter-Tribal Leadership Summit is open now at <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/collegeofthemenomineenation/event/2026sevensgens/>. Elders and students have free registration.



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# Menominee Tribe recognized with Energy Sovereignty Champion Award

The Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin has been selected to receive the inaugural Energy Sovereignty Champion Award at the 2026 People of the Sun Gathering, recognizing the tribe's leadership, perseverance and long-term commitment to building an energy future rooted in sovereignty, resilience and service to the community.

The award will be presented Sept. 17 at Standing Rock in North Dakota as part of the People of the Sun Gathering, a national convening of tribal leaders, innovators, educators, artists and allies working to advance Indigenous-led

solutions in energy, economic development and community resilience.

For more than a decade, the Menominee Tribe has steadily pursued a vision of energy sovereignty. Beginning with an early commitment to invest Recovery Act funding in renewable energy, tribal leadership chose to plant the seeds of a long-term strategy rather than pursue short-term projects. Today, that vision includes a commitment to achieving energy sovereignty by 2035 through renewable energy development, workforce preparation, resilience planning and innovative financing.

The journey has not been without challenges. After helping lead a multi-state coalition that secured significant federal funding to expand tribal solar programs, the tribe saw that opportunity come to an abrupt halt when the program was terminated before implementation. Rather than abandon its vision, the Menominee Tribe continued moving forward, securing philanthropic support, developing new partnerships and exploring financing strategies that use the long-term value created by renewable energy projects to finance future investments.

The award also recognizes something less visible but equally important: the tribe's commitment to serving future generations. Energy planning at Menominee has been guided by a broader vision of stewardship – caring for elders, protecting the tribe's natural resources, strengthening the local economy and creating opportunities for tribal members through education and workforce development. Rather than

viewing renewable energy as a stand-alone project, the tribe has embraced it as part of a larger strategy for self-determination and community well-being.

"We knew renewable energy represented an important opportunity for our tribe, but we also knew we needed experienced partners to help us make informed decisions," said Ron Corn, former chairman of the Menominee Indian Tribe. "We brought together organizations and technical experts who respected our vision and helped us develop a long-term strategy that reflected our values and priorities. That collaborative approach has helped position us for continued success."

That long-term vision is now reaching tribal members through the Menominee Utility Rebate Program, which helps households improve energy efficiency, electrify their homes, reduce energy costs and prepare for a more resilient energy future.

"It's an incredible honor to do this work for

our tribe," said Jaime Oshekshquoam, who leads the Menominee Utility Rebate Program. "Opportunities like this don't come along very often – to help families lower their energy bills, make their homes more comfortable and build a stronger future for our community. This isn't just a job for me – it's work I truly love, because I get to see the difference it makes in people's lives every day."

For the Menominee Tribe, this recognition is both an honor and a responsibility.

"We are deeply honored to receive this recognition," said Darryl Pyawasay, director of the Menominee Tribal Utility. "This award belongs to the many tribal leaders, staff and community members who have stayed committed to this vision over the years. We hope our journey demonstrates that energy sovereignty is achievable. If our experience helps another tribal nation take the first step toward building its own energy future, then this recognition means even more to us."

According to Cody Two Bears, founder and CEO of Indigenized Energy, the Menominee Tribe exemplifies the type of leadership the People of the Sun Awards were created to recognize.

"It has been an honor to work alongside the Menominee Tribe over the past several years and witness the leadership and determination they've demonstrated," said Two Bears. "From the very beginning, they made a commitment to energy sovereignty and never lost sight of that vision. They persevered through changing circumstances – including the loss of major federal funding – and continued finding new ways to move forward."

The Energy Sovereignty Champion Award recognizes tribal nations that are boldly advancing energy sovereignty through leadership, vision and action. The award honors tribes laying the foundation for long-term energy independence through planning, innovation, infrastructure, and community leadership.

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## Community invited to health assessment meeting

The Shawano-Menominee Counties Health Department (SMCHD) invites residents, partners and community stakeholders

to participate in the 2026 Community Health Assessment meeting from 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 17 at the College of Menominee

Nation Cultural Learning Center.

The assessment is a foundational process that helps identify the most

pressing health needs of Shawano and Menominee counties. This year's meeting will bring together voices from across both counties to review local health data, discuss emerging issues and select priority areas that will guide future health improvement efforts.

The CHA process relies on broad community participation to ensure that the selected priorities reflect the lived experiences, concerns, and aspirations of local residents.

The session is free and open to the public, though space is limited. A virtual attendance option is also available via Microsoft Teams at [bit.ly/3RtsCWe](https://bit.ly/3RtsCWe). Meeting ID: 290 046 666 313 864. Passcode: N2g3PB6q

For questions or additional information, call 715-526-4808.

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# FOOD COLUMNIST

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

That's where we need your help.

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

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



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

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# FEMA aid continues for April storms

Additional FEMA help may be available from the April storms and flooding in 19 designated counties in Wisconsin and the Oneida Nation.

If you received initial rental assistance from FEMA because your home was not safe to live in, and you are still working toward your permanent housing plan, continued temporary housing assistance may be available.

To be considered, you must:

- Show you used the initial FEMA rental assistance to pay for temporary housing.
- Be unable to return to your pre-disaster residence because it is still not safe to live in or is no longer available because of the disaster.
- Not have the financial ability to obtain housing without assistance.
- Show that you are working toward a permanent housing plan.

If you were initially approved for rental assistance, an application for continued temporary housing assistance will be mailed to you 15

days after the grant is approved. If you do not receive one, call FEMA at 800-621-3362.

Take the time now to ensure your furnace and water heater are operating safely, and they weren't damaged by the April storms and flooding. FEMA grants may be available to help repair those items and replace them if they were destroyed by floodwater.

If you received a FEMA grant for repair of your furnace or water heater and later discovered those items need replacing, you can use the FEMA appeal process for additional grant funds. Applicants have 60 days to appeal and must submit a letter with a verified contractor's estimate for replacement of the furnace or water heater.

Send in your request for continued temporary housing or additional money to repair or replace your heating systems in one of the following ways:

- Online: This is the fastest option to submit documents. If you have a FEMA online account,

upload your documents electronically. To set up the account first, visit DisasterAssistance.gov, click on "Check Status" and follow the directions.

- By mail: FEMA, P.O. Box 10055, Hyattsville, MD 20782-7055.

- By fax: 800-827-8112, Attention: FEMA.

- In-person: Visit any Disaster Recovery Center to submit your appeal. Find a center here: [fema.gov/DRC](http://fema.gov/DRC).

Even if you were visited by a FEMA assessment team in May or called 2-1-1 to report your home damage, you must still apply to be considered for federal assistance. Start the application process by going online to DisasterAssistance.gov or calling the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362. If you use video relay service, captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA your number for that service.

Be sure to apply before the Aug. 31 deadline. For additional information about the disaster recovery operation in Wisconsin visit [www.fema.gov/disaster/4923](http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4923).

## Packers hold annual family night



**ABOVE:** It was fun for the whole family as over 57,000 fans came out for the annual family night held by the Green Bay Packers on Aug. 7 at Lambeau Field. This is the 25th year the Packers have invited families to a preview before pre-season games start. **GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA**  
**LEFT:** Green Bay Packers running back MarShawn Lloyd crosses over on the field during the annual family night held Aug. 7 at Lambeau Field. Lloyd and his teammates worked out on the field for over two hours, with one of the biggest highlights being quarterback Jordan Love chucking the ball over 50 yards to wide receiver Matthew Golden for a touchdown.

**GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA**



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Lucas Lamberies came from 10th in the IMCA mods to win first.  
WILD IMAGE PHOTOGRAPHY

## Clintonville racers on top

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

It was a big night for Clintonville racers Aug. 8 at the Shawano Speedway as two of the divisions saw winners from Shawano's southern neighbor.

Tanner Westphal took the checkered flag in the IMCA sport compact division after starting eighth. Fellow Clintonville racer Brad Wedde, who started seventh, finished in second place while Landon Braatz, of Shawano, started and finished in third place. Pole sitter Taylor Junk, of Shawano, finished in ninth place.

Westphal and Braatz won the heat races.

Lucas Lamberies, also from Clintonville, came from 10th in the IMCA mods to win first. Following him were Kevin Feck from Wausau in second place and Jordan Bartz from Shawano in third. Brad Moeller, of New London, was in the pole position but ended up in the rear of the pack, finishing 13th.

Lamberies also won one of the heat races, along with Marcus Yarie, of Wausau.

Jason McFadden, of Jim Falls, started second but didn't let anyone pass him as he took the checkered

flag in the USRA late models. Right behind McFadden was Lucas Peterson, of Stockholm, who finished second after starting sixth, while Josh Wahlstrom, of Rice Lake, started eighth but finished in third. Hoyt Cournoyer started in the pole position but finished seventh out of 17 racers.

Peterson and Corbyn Wassenberg, of Shawano, won the heat races.

In the IMCA sports mods, Tim Jorgenson, of Seymour, won after starting third. Cole Magnin, of Oconto Falls, started and finished in second place, while Logan Fleischman,

of Mattoon, started in the pole position and finished third.

Jorgenson and Magnin won the heat races.

Brett Wenzel, of Manitowoc, made up some ground after starting eighth in the IMCA stock cars division, which had 23 racers for the night. Trent Nolan also made some gains to take second place after starting ninth. Dan Michonski, who started second, finished in third. Chad Guyette was in the pole position but finished in 14th place.

Wenzel, Nolan and Asa Doxtator, of Bowler, won the heat races.

## BABA playoffs kick off Aug. 16

By GREG SEUBERT  
Correspondent

The postseason is around the corner for 16 Badger Amateur Baseball Association teams in all four divisions.

First-round games are set for 1:30 p.m. Aug. 16, and division semifinal match-ups were not available at press time.

First-place teams in the East, West, North and South-Central divisions will host the fourth-place finisher, while the third-place team will travel to face the second-place team.

The regular season wrapped up Aug. 9.

### East Division

#### Gresham 14, Clintonville 12

The Gophers hosted Clintonville for their annual Fan Appreciation Day game and picked up a win over the A's to wrap up first place in the division standings.

The Gophers will host Marion or Menominee Aug. 16.

#### Marion at Menominee

Results not reported.

### West Division

#### Caroline 25, Tigerton 7

The Cougars gave up seven runs, but had 15 hits and took advantage of 15 walks and six hit batters to pick up a home win over the Tigers.

Mason Breitenfeldt led Caroline with four hits and five runs scored, while Klay Finger added a home run and drove in a team-high six runs. Jared Cartwright added two

hits and Kade Rosenow and Trayton Norder scored five and three runs, respectively.

Cartwright picked up the win on the mound in relief of Jack Yaeger and the two pitchers combined to strike out 12 batters.

The Cougars finished the regular season with an 8-6 record, good enough for third place. They will head to Wittenberg Aug. 19 to face the Pilots.

#### Wittenberg at Leopold

Results not reported. Wittenberg is the No. 2 seed for the playoffs and will host No. 3 Caroline.

#### Tilleda at Little Falls

Results not reported. Little Falls is the division's No. 1 seed for the playoffs.

#### Wittenberg 6, Scandinavia 4

The Pilots hosted Scandinavia out of the South-Central Division Aug. 7 and handed the Vikings a 6-4 loss.

### North Division

#### Birnamwood 9, Crandon 0

The Kentucks forfeited to the Kings in a game scheduled to be played in Crandon.

#### Elderon 11, Hatley 4

Mike Lehman, Isaac Williams and Bryce Zoromski each had three hits for Elderon as the WhiskeyJacks out-hit the Braves 15-10 in Hatley.

Casey Kerstner and Justin Meronk added two hits for Elderon, while Thomas Lemanczyk picked up the win on the mound.

Braxton Olsen and Hayden Davidowski each had three hits to lead Hatley at the plate and Nick Cotter

added two.

Ben Cunliffe took the loss for the Braves.

#### Aniwa at Eland

Results not reported.

### South-Central Division

#### New London

#### at Scandinavia

Scandinavia was scheduled to host the Irish, but the game was rained out and has been rescheduled for 7 p.m. Aug. 12.

#### Plover over Weymont

Weymont forfeited the game to Plover.

### West Division

#### Caroline 12, Clintonville 9

The Cougars trailed 9-4 in the seventh inning Aug. 7, but came back to defeat the A's with eight unanswered runs.

Mason Breitenfeldt hit a three-run home run for Caroline and drove in five of the Cougars' runs. Klay Barkow added three hits and scored three runs, while Mike Weatherwax and Jeremy Schoenke had two hits and Colton Barkow drove in two runs.

Jake Madson picked up the win in relief of Klay Barkow, allowing two hits in 2 2/3 innings. Kade Rosenow closed out the game with a scoreless ninth inning.

### East Division

#### Tigerton at Marion

Results not reported.

seubert4@gmail.com

## Broncos wrap up top seed

By GREG SEUBERT  
Correspondent

The Bonduel Broncos will head into the Dairyland League baseball playoffs as the top seed after wrapping up the regular season Aug. 9 with a 16-9 win over Navarino on the Rangers' home field.

Bonduel will now host a team to be determined in the first round of the league playoffs, which get underway with games at 1:30 p.m. Aug. 16. First-round pairings were not available at press time.

#### Bonduel 16, Navarino 9

Noah Weier's three home runs and seven RBIs helped the Broncos top the Rangers.

His three-run homer in the top of the first inning gave Bonduel an early 3-0 lead.

Adam Frost added to Bonduel's lead with an RBI single in the second inning. Barret Bohm added an RBI double, and Chase Reinke drove in two more runs with a single in the third inning.

Weier's second homer, a two-run shot, came in the fifth inning before Bonduel added three more runs in the eighth on three hits. Easton Reinke had an RBI double, and Weier added two more runs with his third homer.

Winning pitcher Riley Susa gave up 11 hits and five runs before Weier and Chase Reinke relieved him on the mound.

Weier, Eric Yogi Gruenewald, J.C. Reinke and Chase Reinke each had three of Bonduel's 20 hits, while Frost, Bohm and Easton Reinke added two each.

#### Nichols 10, Cecil 5

Cecil ended an inning with a triple play, but Nichols handed the Mudhens a loss on the Nitros' home field.

Cecil's Braden Uelmen opened the scoring with a solo home run in the top of the second inning.

Nichols tied the game in the bottom of the inning on Collin Leisgang's RBI single.

Uelmen's RBI single gave Cecil a 2-1 lead in the third inning, but the Nitros came up with three runs on a two-run single from Marcus Jens and an error.

Cecil tied the game on a two-run single from Noah Beilfuss in the fourth inning, but Nichols took the lead for good in the bottom of the fifth.

Max Belling and Ethan Volz drove in a run with a double and single, respectively, before Justin Krull drew a bases-loaded walk.

Nichols outhit Cecil 13-11.

Nick Volz had four hits to lead Nichols, while Leisgang, Jens and Volz had two each.

Mason Meverden and Trace Brehmer led Cecil with three hits each, while Zuleger added two hits and Uelmen and Beilfuss drove in two runs apiece.

Cade Johnson picked up the win for Nichols, and Mason Zuleger took the loss in relief of Beilfuss.

#### Hortonville 7, Hofa Park 3

Hofa Park outhit Hortonville 12-9 but ended up falling to the Stars in Hofa Park.

A fly out by Maikol Gonzales put Hortonville on the board in the top of the first inning, and the Stars added to their lead in the second on Andrew Wedwick's two-run homer.

Hofa Park tied the game at 3-3 in the third inning, but Gonzales gave the Stars the lead for good in the fourth with an RBI single.

Robbie Schuettelpelz led Hofa Park with four hits, while Trevor Cornell had three and Alex Omernik drove in two of the Panthers' three runs.

Gonzales, Wedwick and Logan Locy led Hortonville with two hits each, while Gonzales and Wedwick drove in two runs.

Chris Atwood picked up the win, and Ayden Tomlinson took the loss.

#### Hofa Park 10, Shawano 6

Hofa Park headed to Shawano on Aug. 7 in a makeup game and handed the Lobos a four-run loss.

The Panthers opened the scoring in the bottom of the first inning on Trevor Cornell's RBI single.

Alex Omernik and Jake Olson drove in runs for Hofa Park in the second inning before Robbie Schuettelpelz gave the home team a 4-0 lead in the third with a sacrifice fly.

The Panthers added five more runs on three hits in the seventh inning. Omernik had an RBI single, and Olson hit a grand slam. Shawano outhit Hofa Park 13-9.

Caden Czyzewski and Omernik each had two hits to lead the Panthers.

Carson Popp drove in three of Shawano's runs and had two hits, along with Will Bieber, Kasey Kristof, Ashton Henning and Chase Henning. Shawano's hits included Kristof's solo home run to left field in the bottom of the ninth inning.

Olson picked up the win despite giving up 13 hits and six runs over nine innings. Ashton Henning took the loss for Shawano.

# Football '26

## Oconto Falls Panthers move to Packerland for football

By GREG SEUBERT  
Correspondent

Fans of Oconto Falls High School's football team probably noticed a big change in the Panthers' schedule for the upcoming season.

Instead of past Northwoods Conference matchups with teams like Clintonville, Coleman and Crivitz, the Panthers will now compete in the Packerland Conference, which also includes Bonduel, Oconto, Peshtigo, Southern Door, Sturgeon Bay, Kewaunee and Marinette.

The conference change is for football only, as the Panthers will remain in the North Eastern Conference for all other sports.

Oconto Falls will open the season with nonconference games against Waupaca and Seymour before hosting Oconto on Sept. 4 in the Packerland opener for both teams.

Here's a rundown on the area's five 11-player teams:

### Oconto Falls Panthers

The Panthers capped their final season in the Northwoods Conference last year with a 7-0 mark and a league championship. Oconto Falls' season came to an end in the first round of the WIAA playoffs with a 27-12 loss to Wrightstown in Division 4.

Like all other teams, coach Mark Jonas has to replace seniors from last year's 8-2 squad, including Alec Krejcarek, Ethan Hill, Elijah White, Isaiah Radart, Austin Anderson, Magnus Flynn and Cole Judkins.

Krejcarek led the Panthers in receiving yards and tackles last season, while Hill was the team's leading rusher.

Nathaniel White accounted for 1,549 passing

yards and 17 touchdowns through the air as the Panthers' quarterback last season, while other seniors expected to return include Croix Gardebrecht, Logan Berg, Connor Ingram, Landon Thompson, Dawson Duncan, Levi Mommaerts, Landon Delfosse, Onni Hytinen, AJ Hendricks, Chris Mucha, Evan Dobbratz, Jagger Reed, Jack Ermis, Dominic Treichel, Aiden Cahak and JJ Pytleski.

### Bonduel Bears

The Bears are coming off of a deep run into the WIAA playoffs last season that saw them fall to eventual Division 6 state runner-up Edgar 8-7 in Level 3.

Bonduel had a 2-2 mark at one point after losses to Wittenberg-Birnamwood in Week 1 and Kewaunee in Week 4, but the Bears regrouped to close out their Packerland schedule with five straight wins and a pair of playoff victories.

The Bears finished with a 9-3 overall record that included a 6-1 mark in Packerland games.

Coach James Westrich has to replace several players from last season, including his son, Ryan, now a freshman at Central Michigan, as well as leading rusher, receiver and tackler Beckett Hartlaben, Gavin Hundt, Cory Wussow, Mason Ballwehn and Tucker Hischke.

However, several players who played key roles in the Bears' success last season as juniors are expected to return, including quarterback Quinn Wesenberg, Malachi Gray, Gage Scholl, Aiden Hillsberg, Carter Moesch, Jack Zernicki, Thomas Vanderzanden, Jayden Popp, Max Huntington, Kash Giese and Ajay Heller.

The Bears will open the

season with nonconference games at home against Wittenberg-Birnamwood and at Coleman before opening Packerland play Sept. 4 at home against Kewaunee.

### Pulaski Red Raiders

The Red Raiders are coming off of a 7-4 record that included a 5-2 mark in the Fox River Classic Conference.

Pulaski opened the WIAA playoffs with a 23-20 win over Milton in Division 2 but ended its season the next week with a 42-21 loss to eventual Division 2 state champion West De Pere.

Although the Red Raiders lost more than 20 seniors from the 2025 team, they do have one of the conference's leading rushers in senior Bohdan Schmidt. He led Pulaski with 1,471 rushing yards, averaged 8 1/2 yards a carry and scored 18 touchdowns on the ground. He also completed 55 passes for 515 yards and four touchdowns.

Other players expected to be back for coach Jerad Marsh include seniors Anthony Ficarri, Braun Wotrub, Garrett Lom, Trentyn Linz, Eli Brancefield, Bruno Gajeski, Keegan Buchea, Bryce Bohm, Lucas Vanhout, Keaton Dauk, Colton Brey, Seth Telford, Christian Reese, Mason Schwartz, Tanner Allen, Cole Nowak, Everett Just, Kanute Lexow, Raphael Fischer, Spencer Berna, Matthew Heck and Carter Tetzlaff.

The Red Raiders will host Appleton East in their season opener Aug. 21 before opening conference play Sept. 4 in Howard against Bay Port.

### Wittenberg-Birnamwood Chargers

An up-and-down season for the Chargers ended

in the second round of the WIAA playoffs with a 35-14 loss to Lake Country Lutheran in Division 5.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood finished in the middle of the pack in the CWC-Large standings tied for fourth place with Weyauwega-Fremont and Marathon with a 3-4 record.

That sub-500 record and 4-5 regular-season mark was still good enough to qualify for the postseason, and the Chargers handed Brookfield Academy a 42-12 loss in the opening round.

Coach Jason Rieck and his staff lost several seniors from last year, including Kaden Yaeger, Connor Meverden, Tre Mesich, Alberto Sanchez, Colby Vincentsen, Nick Flak, Bryson Schmid, Zandy Barke, Oliver Fraaza, Eddie Nowinsky, Carson Meverden, Chewy Horacek, Henry Egging, Mason Wierzba, George Seegmiller and Cordell Carlson.

Yaeger rushed for 1,093 of the Chargers' 2,431 rushing yards in his senior season while averaging 13 yards a carry. He also scored 16 rushing touchdowns, caught four passes for touchdowns and returned a kickoff 95 yards for another score.

On the other hand, players expected to be on this season's roster include seniors Bo Davis, Tommy Gagnon, Braxton Olson, Logan Gibson, Dane Vincentsen, Donald Schwalbach, Andrew Wierzba, Max Kasprak, Kevin Ocampo, Jovani Torres, Slade Wierzba, Mason Fischer and Nick Westover.

The Chargers will open their season Aug. 21 at Bonduel and head to Weyauwega Sept. 4 for the CWC-Large opener against Weyauwega-Fremont.



Elijah White picks up a first down for Oconto Falls in the first quarter of the Panthers' Northwoods Conference Oct. 3, 2025, game with Shiocton. Oconto Falls won 28-27.  
FILE | NEW MEDIA

### Shawano Hawks

Shawano football fans haven't had much to cheer about lately, as the Hawks haven't made it to the WIAA playoffs since 2022 and are coming off of a 2-8 season.

On the other hand, the Hawks enter the 2026 season on a positive note after a 39-12 win over Wautoma in an extra game scheduled after the nine-game regular season.

Coach Alan Tomow has several seniors to replace from last year's team that tied with New London and Xavier for fifth place in the Bay Conference with a 1-6 record.

Those players include Aiden Rasmussen, Robbie Caldwell, Eddie Rubio, Ayden Bystol, Joe

Kleinschmidt, Duane Gristeau-Blanche, Brody Madison, Joey Doperalski, Charlie Gajewski, Qwyntin Oliver, Chase Katchenago, Justin Allison and McKinnleigh Ross-Pecore.

Seniors expected on this year's roster include Austin Heling, Elijah Senft, Braxton Beyersdorf, Tristan Lawe, Brayden Lidbury, Mayson DeMoss, Xavier Tourtillot, Micah Welander, Noah Vasquez, Zack Van Westerberg and Branlee Moede.

The Hawks will open the season with nonconference games against Wausau East and Lakeland before opening their Bay Conference schedule Sept. 4 at home against defending Division 4 state champion Winneconne.

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# Six area teams to suit up for 8-player football

By **GREG SEUBERT**  
Correspondent

Eight-player football gives high schools with low participation numbers and inexperienced players an opportunity to compete against similar programs in the same boat.

Area schools that offer 8-player football are Bowler/Gresham, Marion/Tigerton, Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas, Gillett and Suring.

Here's a rundown on those five teams:

### Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas Titans

Co-coaches Eddie Huberty and Dale Lange have helped build the Titans – consisting of students from Lena High School and St. Thomas Aquinas Academy in Marinette – into one of the state's top 8-player programs.

The Titans' accomplishments in 2025 included an Across the Bay Conference championship, an undefeated regular season that included five shutouts in eight games and a No. 1 seed for the playoffs. Their season ended in the state semifinal round with a 64-29 loss to McDonell Catholic from Chippewa Falls.

Lena/STAA has several graduated players to replace from last year's 11-1 team, including Max Peterson, Sam Peterson, Cooper Demmith, Lucas Heimke, Zander Thompson, Blake Behnke and Colt Miller.

Max Peterson led the Titans with 1,538 rushing yards and 26 touchdowns on the ground, and Miller was the team's leading receiver, averaging 19.1 yards a catch with four touchdowns.

Players expected to suit up this season include seniors Jake Farley, who added 667 rushing yards

and 10 touchdowns as the team's quarterback, as well as Carson Joyce, Luke Koslowsky and Collin Van Ark.

The Titans will open the season with a non-conference game Aug. 21 in Wabeno against Wabeno/Laona and the home opener against Pembine/Goodman is set for Aug. 27 in Lena.

### Gillett Tigers

An 0-8 regular season that included an 0-6 mark in the Across the Bay Conference made the 2025 season one for the Tigers to put in the past.

Gillett only has to replace four players from last year: Jed Herzog, Clayton Borremans, Carson Koeller and Elias Hebert.

Last year's roster also included current seniors Trevor Schaal, Chad Samz and Gabe Soriano; juniors Brandon Slatky, Mason Herzog and Nolan Van Donzel; and sophomores Adrian Braun, Kaiden Bailey, Lawson Klein, Brock Murphy, Mason Slatky and Cooper Habeck.

The Tigers will head to Marion on Aug. 20 for the season opener against Marion/Tigerton, and the home opener against Niagara is set for Sept. 11.

Although the Tigers' first three games are on the road, the last three against Wausaukee, Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas and Suring will be played in Gillett.

### Suring Eagles

A promising 4-1 start to the 2025 season gave Suring football fans a chance to hope for big things for the Eagles.

Although the team lost two of its last three games, the Eagles still qualified for the playoffs and the season ended with a 40-14 loss to Sevastopol, another Across the



Marion/Tigerton's Anthony Pagan heads to the end zone, returning an interception 65 yards for a touchdown against Wild Rose on Oct. 10, 2025.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

Bay Conference team, in the opening round.

Coach Mitch Taylor only has to replace three seniors from that 5-4 team: Garret Peters, Parker Haak and Cassius Matelski.

Players expected to suit up this season include seniors Gavin Staszak, Grant Thomson, Dyllan Flynn, Steven VanDenElzen, Taylor Booth-Stoffregen, Kroix Kempka, Dayne Ermis and Karl Hischke.

The Eagles will head to Almond on Aug. 21 for the season opener against Almond-Bancroft, while the home opener is set for Aug. 27 against Niagara.

### Marion/Tigerton Thundercatz

After a successful regular season that included a Central Wisconsin Conference championship, the Thundercatz' season came crashing to

the ground in the second round of the playoffs with a 50-16 loss to Sevastopol.

Marion/Tigerton's season opened with a 34-28 loss to Rosholt, playing its first 8-player game, but the Thundercatz didn't lose again until coming up short in the playoffs.

Besides replacing several seniors from last year's team, the Thundercatz will also have a new coach for the first time in six seasons, as Marion High School athletic director Mark Fredy replaces Micah Schwantes.

Gone from last year's team are Shane Blum, Kole Johnson, Logan Zietlow, Elijah Scheef, Sam Anheuser, Logan Drews, Nolan Wisnefske, Tanner Dent, Emmitt Ehlert and Nick Haring.

Seniors expected to join this year's team include Braylon Mielke, who rushed for 2,068

yards and 26 touchdowns as a junior, as well as Izayah Ledarhaus, James Nolan, Collin Grogan, James Brady and Christian Laatsch.

The Thundercatz will open their season in Marion with a nonconference matchup against Gillett on Aug. 20.

### Bowler/Gresham Panthers

The Panthers ended up cancelling their 2025 season after forfeiting games to Menominee Nation, Marion/Tigerton and Newman Catholic and have not fielded a team since 2022.

However, the WIAA website lists seven games scheduled for the Panthers this season, including the season opener Aug. 28 in Keshena against Menominee Nation and the home opener Sept. 11 against Rosholt.

Ted Kietlinski is listed

as the team's coach.

### Menominee Nation Eagles

Menominee Nation High School was due to start in the Central Wisconsin Conference this year, but an announcement came recently via press release that the school was ending its football program due to declining participation.

Last year, the Eagles only played two games and was outscored 168-0. After opening the season with a 74-0 loss to Wabeno/Laona in Keshena, the Eagles faced Tri-County two weeks later and fell to the Penguins 94-0.

It was enough for school administrators and coaches to pull the plug on the season after three weeks. The season also included a forfeit win over Bowler/Gresham, which did not field a team last season.

The decision now appears to be permanent, according to the press release.

"Over the past several years, participation has steadily declined, making it increasingly difficult to sustain a safe, competitive, and successful football program," according to the release. "After carefully evaluating student participation, program sustainability, and available resources, we have determined that discontinuing the program is the most responsible decision for the safety of our players."

"We recognize the history and tradition of Eagle football and understand the disappointment this news will bring to our students, families, alumni, and community. However, our responsibility is to make decisions that best serve our students today and into the future."

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# Football '26

## New stadium ready to welcome teams, fans

Hawks' first home game will be against Thunderbirds

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

When the Shawano Hawks take to the field for the 2026 season, they will play home games on a new synthetic turf football and soccer field.

The new stadium, part of a \$51.23 million referendum approved by voters in November 2024, will also feature an upgraded eight-lane running track circling the field, new grandstands with built-in storage spaces underneath, a dedicated and updated tracking and throwing areas for field events, expanded gathering spaces, updated restrooms, redesigned traffic flow, a new ticket booth and a new concession stand.

Synthetic turf offers a consistently green appearance year-round with no water usage, no need for mowing or fertilizing, and high resistance to heavy foot traffic. It eliminates muddy patches, reduces

chemical pesticide use and provides long-term financial and maintenance savings.

A ribbon cutting for the new stadium will be held at noon Aug. 17.

The Hawks football team will make its debut on the field at 7 p.m. Aug. 28 against Lakeland Union High School in a nonconference game.

The first Bay Conference game will be at 7 p.m. Sept. 4 against Winneconne.

As for boys soccer, the first home game will be at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 25 against Ashwaubenon, also a non-conference game.

The first Bay Conference tilt will be at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 8 against Green Bay West.

There will also be a ribbon cutting for the high school building addition and remodeling project at 3:30 p.m. Sept. 1 with an open house following from 4-7 p.m.

kpasson@newmedia-wi.com



Shawano Community High School's new stadium, part of a \$51.23 referendum approved by voters in November 2024, will feature an upgraded eight-lane running track circling the football and soccer field, new grandstands with built-in storage spaces underneath, a dedicated and updated tracking and throwing areas for field events, expanded gathering spaces, updated restrooms, redesigned traffic flow, a new ticket booth and a new concession stand.

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# Football '26

**BONDUEL BEARS**

Friday, Aug. 21 - vs. Wittenberg-Birnhamwood, 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Aug. 27 - at Coleman, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 4 - vs. Kewaunee, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 11 - at Marinette, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 18 - at Oconto Falls, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 25 - vs. Peshtigo, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 2 - vs. Oconto, 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Oct. 8 - vs. Sturgeon Bay, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 16 - at Southern Door, 7 p.m.

**BOWLER/GRESHAM PANTHERS**

Week 1 - No game scheduled  
Friday, Aug. 28 - at Menominee Nation, 4 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 4 - at Marion/Tigerton, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 11 - vs. Rosholt, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 18 - at Port Edwards, 4 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 25 - vs. Tri-County, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 2 - at Wild Rose, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 9 - vs. Almond-Bancroft, 7 p.m.

**GILLETT TIGERS**

Thursday, Aug. 20 - at Marion/Tigerton, 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Aug. 27 - at Florence, 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Sept. 3 - at Elkhart Lake/Glenbeulah, 6 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 11 - vs. Niagara, 7 p.m.  
Saturday, Sept. 19 - at Pembine/Goodman, 1 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 25 - vs. Wausaukee, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 2 - vs. Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas, 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Oct. 8 - vs. Suring, 7 p.m.

**LENA/ST. THOMAS AQUINAS TITANS**

Friday, Aug. 21 - at Wabeno/Laona, 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Aug. 27 - vs. Pembine/Goodman, 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Sept. 3 - at Wausaukee, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 11 - vs. Gibraltar, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 18 - vs. Suring, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 25 - at Florence, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 2 - at Gillett, 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Oct. 8 - at Niagara, 7 p.m.

All opponents, locations, dates and times are subject to change.



Marion/Tigerton's Braylon Mielke runs over Wild Rose's Ben Olson on Oct. 10, 2025, in the first half of a Central Wisconsin Conference-8 8-player game in Wild Rose.  
FILE | NEW MEDIA

**MARION/TIGERTON THUNDERCATZ**

Thursday, Aug. 20 - vs. Gillett, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Aug. 28 - at Almond-Bancroft, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 4 - vs. Bowler/Gresham, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 11 - at Menominee Nation, 4 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 18 - at Rosholt, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 25 - vs. Port Edwards, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 2 - at Tri-County, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 9 - vs. Wild Rose, 7 p.m.

**OCONTO FALLS PANTHERS**

Friday, Aug. 21 - at Waupaca, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Aug. 28 - vs. Seymour, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 4 - vs. Oconto, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 11 - at Kewaunee, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 18 - vs. Bonduel, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 25 - at Sturgeon Bay, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 2 - vs. Marinette, 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Oct. 8 - at Southern Door, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 16 - at Peshtigo, 7 p.m.



Shawano's Zack Van Vesternberg and Marcus Brezgel team up to tackle Waupaca's Austin Adamczak during a 2025 contest.  
FILE | NEW MEDIA

**PULASKI RED RAIDERS**

Friday, Aug. 21 - vs. Appleton East, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Aug. 28 - at Hortonville, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 4 - at Bay Port, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 11 - vs. Green Bay Preble, 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Sept. 17 - at Ashwaubenon, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 25 - at West De Pere, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 2 - vs. Green Bay Southwest, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 9 - at De Pere, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 16 - vs. Appleton West, 7 p.m.

**SHAWANO HAWKS**

Friday, Aug. 21 - at Wausau East, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Aug. 28 - vs. Lakeland, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 4 - vs. Winneconne, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 11 - at New London, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 18 - vs. Denmark, 7 p.m.  
Saturday, Sept. 26 - vs. Fox Valley Lutheran, 1 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 2 - at Waupaca, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 9 - vs. Xavier, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 16 - at Seymour, 7 p.m.

**SURING EAGLES**

Friday, Aug. 21 - at Almond-Bancroft, 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Aug. 27 - vs. Niagara, 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Sept. 3 - at Pembine/Goodman, 4 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 11 - vs. Wausaukee, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 18 - at Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 25 - vs. Valley Christian, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 2 - vs. Florence, 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Oct. 8 - at Gillett, 7 p.m.

**WITTENBERG-BIRNAMWOOD CHARGERS**

Friday, Aug. 21 - at Bonduel, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Aug. 28 - vs. Tomahawk, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 4 - at Weyauwega-Fremont, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 11 - at Stratford, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 18 - vs. Spencer/Columbus Catholic, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 25 - at Shiocton, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 2 - vs. Colby, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 9 - vs. Marathon, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 16 - at Amherst, 7 p.m.



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# Church secretary covers multitude of bases

Fuhrman keeps track of all details at St. John's in Marion

By KAY REMINGER  
Correspondent

The secretary at St. John's Lutheran Church in Marion covers multiple roles, including meeting the care concerns of anyone who walks in the door.

"The main point of my job is to serve the Lord – and His people – in any capacity needed," said office manager Sheri Fuhrman.

Always wanting to work at a church, Fuhrman applied for and landed the secretarial position at St. John's in December 2019.

"I feel it's the closest thing that I can do to serve the Lord," said Fuhrman. "For me, that was my focus. Just giving birth to my son, my previous job had me traveling and at any given day, I might be an hour and a half away from home. I wanted to be able to spend time with my son. By the grace of God, this role came up. I interviewed for it, and I was lucky enough to get it."

Duties Fuhrman covers within her office managerial title include keeping minutes from the church council, as well as communicating with all the action teams – community, property, worship, music and education/youth.

"I also check mail, answer phone, answer emails and keep office supplies stocked. I manage all social media accounts, making sure there's information out there on our behalf," she said.

Extra responsibilities Fuhrman handles include maintaining yearly annual reports and typing up weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters. In addition, Fuhrman is in charge of all of the church records.

"I have a comprehensive list of all member baptisms, confirmations, weddings, funerals – the whole scope of life," said Fuhrman.

As of December 2025, the church's records show 316 official active members.

At Fuhrman's disposal are a team of people who also cover a multitude of roles.

"Here at St. John's, we have a maintenance person, a janitor, a groundskeeper – all those people are very helpful. Plus we have a membership that is made up of great volunteers," said Fuhrman. "If we need something, someone just steps up. I'm really blessed here."

There isn't a serving pastor at St. John's



Sheri Fuhrman, office manager at St. John's Lutheran Church in Marion, pauses during her busy work day. The artwork under glass at her desk was designed by her young son.

KAY REMINGER

Lutheran Church in Marion. After completing extensive training, the parish appointed Carol Polzin and Denise Pamperin, designating them synod-authorized ministers. Together, they coordinate and handle the needs of the congregation.

The ability they have to relate to the members of the church is humbling to Fuhrman.

"There was a funeral service that Carol did, and she was able to truly project and intuitively understand that from the

beginning of their life to the end, how they were a servant of the Lord," said Fuhrman. "This is something Carol and Denise can both do because they've known area families their whole life. A pastor sometimes is fleeting – serving a church for five years or two or six months. The relationship they have with the members is a beautiful thing."

From time to time, Fuhrman gets phone calls about people trying to find their family.

"Getting to look back at the old records, some of them are in German. Luckily, I took German in high school, so I've been able to apply that knowledge and put it to good use," said Fuhrman.

At one point in her life, Fuhrman needed assistance in an end-of-life event in her own immediate family. A compassionate church secretary had answered her phone after hours, and through her efforts the

SECRETARY, continued on page 17



Kathy Searl, center, sits amid the destruction of a neighborhood near Manderfield's Home Bakery in Menasha.

ALAN FREY

## Climate change warnings have existed a long time

In the early 1970s, scientists were sounding warnings about climate change which seemed far-fetched. Out of curiosity, I attended an event featuring a man who'd become known as Earth Day senator; Wisconsin's Gaylord Nelson.

I was starstruck. Sen. Nelson was congenial and charismatic, respectfully listening to comments and answering tough questions. I stayed for the meet-and-greet, a life-altering decision.

The next day I was tutoring a student after school when the librarian knocked on my classroom door. She said I had an important phone call. I panicked. Was there some kind of emergency?

Thankfully, no. It was Sen. Nelson's aide. She asked if I would serve on a committee to find ways to introduce environmental studies at the high school level. Me? An English teacher? How could I say no?

The experience proved overwhelming and exciting. Clearly a blue gill swimming with walleyes, I gained confidence as we created a comprehensive curriculum. Early on, we decided to use trial lessons to see if ecology could be successfully incorporated into upper-level science classes.

In those days, Kaukauna High School



KATHLEEN MARSH  
COLUMNIST

WARNINGS, continued on page 17

WARNINGS, continued from page 16

was situated on the banks of a filthy and smelly Fox River. Consequently, KHS was chosen to preview a unit on freshwater pollution. I vividly recall the day almost 100 juniors and seniors filed into the multi-purpose room to view a film envisioned as a kick-off attention grabber.

Most of these kids were in my English classes. Many were from rural areas and loved the outdoors. I'd graded hundreds of compositions about fishing and swimming adventures. I especially enjoyed those that described idyllic visits "up north" at Grandma and Grandpa's cottage. (Smile. Jon and I are now in this much-loved group.)

The focus of the film was Lake Erie, a "do not eat the fish" lake. Students reacted with shock and horror at the grainy moving pictures shown on a reel-to-reel movie projector. There was a collective gasp as images of Lake Erie on fire flashed across the screen. It was so polluted that the water was burning.

Outside of school, I brought up the topic in social settings.

The response was usually some version of, "Why should I care? Even if global warming is dangerous, I'll be dead before anything really bad happens."

Well, I cared, and so did my students. When you live close to the land, you become attuned to the rhythms of nature. Growing up on a dairy farm and then living on rural property, you cherish pastoral views of lush green alfalfa and golden cornfields. You marvel at the beauty of a winter terrain peacefully asleep under a waist-deep blanket of pure white snow.

In 1992, I read "Earth in the Balance" by Al Gore. By then, I was living on the mostly undeveloped southeast side of Appleton. Not exactly country, but close enough. The next year we bought property in Townsend, another life-changing decision that has taken us even closer to nature.

When you live full-time in the woods, you learn that human beings are not at the top of the food chain. I always carry bear spray and a whistle if I'm going

out for a walk. I blow it often so the big critters know I'm around. The piercing sound attracts my pet deer, but it must repel bears because I haven't seen one up close and personal yet. Thank goodness.

Question: Have we created a world for a climate that no longer exists? The past decade, and especially this summer, indicate that if we've been waiting for climate change to smack us in the face, it already has.

Consider what happened at the end of July when an EF-3 tornado hit Menasha. The storm badly damaged Jon's former place of employment, the Menasha water plant. It did extensive damage to Gegan School, where my mother once taught. It ravaged the block where my bonus kids grew up.

Yes, there have always been bad weather events. But just in the past six months, we have seen storms, tornadoes, drought, heat waves, flash floods, raging wildfires, earthquakes, and toxic smoke plumes all piled on top of one another. We can debate

the cause, but this is what global warming looks like.

Jon and I are trying. Determined to leave a small carbon footprint, everything we own is energy efficient. We use the gas-guzzling pickup sparingly, opting instead for my hybrid Escape. We reuse, repurpose, recycle.

Last summer, we installed solar panels. Scoffers said we were stupid. We'd never live to recoup our investment. Really? Our WPS electric bill this past year was \$228, the mandatory monthly facilities charge. We anticipate an eight-year payback, and that's at today's prices. Really.

Best of all, the system has a 25-year warranty so future owners will also enjoy clean, inexpensive energy. Now that thought gives me a sunny disposition.

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.

SECRETARY, continued from page 16

pastor came and was able to administer communion.

"She went over and beyond to help me, and I was so grateful. I want to do everything I can to pay it forward," said Fuhrman.

More recently, Fuhrman received a phone call from a hospital in Wausau saying they needed someone to come give communion to one of their members.

"I looked up the name, and it wasn't one of our members. So I inquired of churches named St. John's in the surrounding Wausau area to find out which one had this person in their membership," said Fuhrman. "Because of my own personal experience, I was bound and determined to find the right church."

Getting to the bottom of it, Fuhrman was able to connect the right church to the right people; it brought the family much peace.

"It's very important to me," Fuhrman said. "There are wonderful aspects to this job. At the end of the day, we are all here to serve God and everything goes back to glorify Him."

THEME: BACK TO SCHOOL ACROSS

- 1. Eye affliction
- 5. Mowgli to Raksha in "The Jungle Book"
- 8. Cured pork product, pl.
- 12. \*Every lap you run in gym class completes one
- 13. Ripped
- 14. Throw up
- 15. Mythological ship
- 16. Agitate
- 17. Like worthless promise
- 18. \*"Go to the \_\_\_\_'s office"
- 20. Hatchling's home
- 21. Wasted on the young?
- 22. "Amazing!"
- 23. \* \_\_\_\_ Core, academic standards
- 26. \*"Rock N'Roll High School" band
- 30. Be obliged
- 31. Orange \_\_\_\_ tea, pl.
- 34. Of low density
- 35. Earthenware pots
- 37. Farm layer
- 38. Bagpipes sound, in Scotland
- 39. Vessel's "spine"
- 40. "Mary, Mary quite contrary" place
- 42. Radio knob, abbr.
- 43. Blended family family member
- 45. Trotters
- 47. Owned
- 48. San Diego baseballer
- 50. Castle defense
- 52. \*a.k.a. lunch room
- 56. " \_\_\_\_ little cubby all

- stuffed with fluff"
- 57. Knight's breastplate
  - 58. Bit of smoke
  - 59. Willow twig
  - 60. Pub arrow
  - 61. Popular street-lining trees
  - 62. Post-deductions amount
  - 63. Opposite of WSW
  - 64. Somebody \_\_\_\_
- DOWN
- 1. Dueler's blow
  - 2. Unit of pressure
  - 3. Jellystone Park denizen
  - 4. Amerigo to America
  - 5. \*Plagiarize, technically speaking
  - 6. Heap of "David Copperfield"
  - 7. \*School signaling device
  - 8. \*Unwelcome load
  - 9. Current unit, pl.
  - 10. Catcher's catcher
  - 11. Chester White's home
  - 13. Three in one
  - 14. Animal toxin
  - 19. Poultry houses
  - 22. "It \_\_\_\_ a dark and stormy night..."
  - 23. Too many in the kitchen?
  - 24. Baby owl
  - 25. Free-for-all
  - 26. Tear
  - 27. Lacking guile
  - 28. Baseball fielding mistake
  - 29. "She \_\_\_\_ sea shells..."
  - 32. \* \_\_\_\_ Academy, online study aid
  - 33. " \_\_\_\_ the land of the free..."
  - 36. \*Reading building

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- blocks
- 38. Stall call
  - 40. \*Character in Greek Mythology reading assignment
  - 41. Firstborn
  - 44. Nymph chaser
  - 46. Diminutive
  - 48. Like nature worshipping, e.g.
  - 49. Flamb
  - 50. Dante's Beatrice, e.g.
  - 51. Passing mention
  - 52. Relinquish
  - 53. Small brook
  - 54. Doctrines
  - 55. Part of church
  - 56. \*Unit in measurement and weight math lessons

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# Remembering Coolidge's Wisconsin fishing guide

The United States of America's 250th anniversary prompts historical conversations.

For many, they're about examining the country's Founding Fathers and trailblazers, many of whom are already household names. As a tribal college faculty member who teaches American history, I'm committed to ensuring that Native people are remembered for their contributions to our shared national story.

Being a Wisconsin academic interested in public memory, I believe the 150th anniversary is also worth revisiting for those who call the Badger State their home. In fact, there are interesting parallels between the current occupant of the Oval Office and his 1926 predecessor.

Like President Donald Trump, Calvin Coolidge liked to escape the confines of Washington, D.C., to enjoy recreation during the summer months. Whereas Trump often retreats to the golf course at his Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach, Florida, Coolidge sought five separate "Summer White Houses" while he held the nation's highest office.



RYAN WINN  
COLUMNIST



Bad River Ojibway tribal member John LaRock guides President Calvin Coolidge's canoe down the Brule River in 1928. The president's dog, Rob Roy, sits between them.  
WISCONSIN CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

They include Plymouth Notch, Vermont, in 1924, Swampscott, Massachusetts, in 1925, and Paul Smiths, New York, in 1926.

Prior to his departure in 1926, Coolidge stated in a mid-June press conference, "I don't go away from Washington for the purpose of avoiding the Washington climate so much as I do for the purpose of getting a change."

I suspect the president's affinity for fishing also contributed to his annual exodus.

In 1927, Coolidge's

love for angling brought him to the Black Hills of South Dakota. That summer not only led to the naming of Grace Coolidge Creek in honor of the first lady, but it also garnered the president's support for the creation of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial.

Yet, it's the summer of 1928 that is likely the most interesting for Wisconsinites and Native historians alike, as Coolidge spent it in Henry Clay Pierce's Cedar Island Lodge along the riverfront of Brule, Wisconsin. In his downtime, the president fished those fruitful waters with Bad River Ojibway tribal member John LaRock as

his guide.

Public records note that LaRock was born in 1873 and that he had received allotments of tribal lands in both 1919 and 1927. LaRock was married with two adopted sons at the time he captained Coolidge's canoe, making the 55-year-old a seasoned, relatable companion to the married president with two sons, who was one year his senior.

Assigned to Coolidge by the state conservation committee, LaRock also "spoke quietly," which likely appealed to the president whose frugality with words led to him being referred to as "Silent Cal."

LaRock emphasized the virtues of his charge's even-keeled demeanor, telling the Associated Press, "Doesn't get excited, not a bit. Good fisherman, President Coolidge."

Wearing "a big cowboy hat and high-heeled boots," Coolidge rode in the front of LaRock's canoe with a second "canoe with three secret service men" joining them on the river.

Using "both worm and fly in his angling," the president "spent many days whipping the waters" to "snare the wily German brown, rainbow and speckled trout." Whether through good fortune or consummate skill, the duo "invariably returned to the lodge with overflowing creels."

LaRock offered to make Coolidge his own canoe for their future expeditions together.

"Soon," LaRock said. "I will have a birch bark canoe ready for the president. He likes the canoe very much and we will use it for the trips when I get it finished."

Perhaps in preparation for the United States' bicentennial, the Wisconsin Historical Society erected a marker titled "Summer White House - 1928" in Brule in 1975. It notes that Coolidge welcomed his successor, Herbert Hoover, to the site on July 16, 1928, making it

the latter's first public appearance after securing the Republican nomination for the presidency. Regrettably, the marker makes no mention of John LaRock.

Just as stories of George Washington's Continental Army's survival at Valley Forge cannot be told without naming the Oneida cook, Polly Cooper, who fed the starving soldiers the white corn she prepared for them, Coolidge's escapades to Wisconsin waters should not be shared without emphasizing the role John LaRock played.

As the Smithsonian undersecretary for museums and culture, Pawnee tribal member Kevin Gover stated, "We get to decide, generation by generation ... what to remember and what to forget."

My fellow Wisconsinites, let's add John LaRock, President Calvin Coolidge and Wisconsin's Summer White House to the stories we share this year. The United States has 250 years' worth of history, and the country is all the richer when it remembers the contributions of Native Americans at every milestone.

Ryan Winn, Ph.D., teaches communications, English, history and theater at the College of Menominee Nation. Visit [www.menominee.edu](http://www.menominee.edu) for more information about the school.

# Managing powdery mildew on garden, indoor plants

Whether gardening indoors or outdoors, gardeners are likely to encounter powdery mildew on one or more of their plants.

First, a white powdery substance will appear on the surface of leaves, stems and flower petals. As the powdery mildew expands and covers the leaves, it blocks sunlight from reaching the leaves inhibiting photosynthesis. As the disease progresses, it develops structures that enter plant cells to obtain nutrients. It usually is not fatal, but severe infestations can cause plant leaves to yellow, twist and discolor, and the plant may decline.

Several closely related fungi are responsible for the group of diseases called powdery mildew. Different species of powdery mildew fungi attack different plants. If the weather conditions are right and the various fungi are present, gardeners

may find powdery mildew on a variety of plants in their landscape or indoor garden.

Watch for powdery mildew on azaleas, crabapples, dogwoods, lilacs, photinia, roses, coral honeysuckle vines and other trees, shrubs and vines. Check beebalm, dahlias, peonies, phlox, zinnias,

cucumbers, squash and other susceptible plants in gardens. Indoors, especially during the winter, monitor African violets, begonias, ivies, jade and kalanchoes that may develop this disease.

Unlike many fungal diseases, powdery mildew fungi need high humidity, not wet leaves, to develop. Their spores also form in high humidity and are distributed when the humidity is low.

Powdery mildew is more likely to occur on indoor plants growing in low light with poor air circulation and cooler temperatures near 70



Powdery mildew can be seen on Cinderella's carriage squash. [WWW.MELINDAMYERS.COM](http://WWW.MELINDAMYERS.COM)

degrees. Although the disease is more common in winter, the disease can occur anytime these conditions exist.

Reduce the risk of powdery mildew by keeping plants healthy and avoiding overfertilization. Provide plants with the needed light and other preferred growing conditions. Properly space landscape plants and avoid overcrowding plants, indoors and

out, to provide sufficient light penetration and air circulation.

Water new plantings thoroughly and often enough to keep the roots moist. Gradually reduce the frequency to encourage the plants to develop a robust root system. Continue to water established plants thoroughly as needed during dry weather.

Further decrease the risk of this disease with

a bit of spring thinning on phlox and beebalm. Remove about one-fourth of the phlox and beebalm stems in early spring to allow more air and light to penetrate the plant. This strategy will encourage sturdier stems and discourage disease problems.

Select mildew resistant varieties of these and other plants prone to this disease. Resistant plants are not immune but are

less likely to develop the disease than those that are not.

Practice sanitation by removing infected leaves and plant debris where the fungal spores overwinter. As temperatures rise above 60 degrees, the spores may begin to germinate.

With proper care and sanitation healthy perennials, shrubs and trees, especially those infected late in the growing season, will return the following year. Masking the diseased foliage with a somewhat shorter plant is one way to enjoy the flowers while dealing with the disease. If opting to treat the disease, select the most eco-friendly product, apply it at the first sign of the disease and repeat as directed. As always, read and follow label directions.

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

# WHAT’S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, AUG. 14

**ANIWA:** Central Wisconsin 4x4 and Military Vehicle Show, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Motorama Auto Museum and event grounds, 181705 Stradale Lane. Food, swap meet, auction. Admission \$10, kids free. Registration 8-9 a.m., Awards 5 p.m.

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

**SHAWANO:** Smalley Beach Bash, 2-7 p.m., Smalley Park, 211 Riverside Drive. Obstacle course and games, crafts with the Shawano Library, food trucks, music with a DJ and karaoke.

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

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

SATURDAY, AUG. 15

**OCONTO:** Sheboygan Walleye Club Battle on the Bay, 7 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., Breakwater Park, 1301 Harbor Road. Details at Facebook Battle On the Bay page.

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

**SHIOCTION:** Sporting Clay Fundraiser for Navarino Nature Center, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., J&H Game Farm, W5810 J&H Road. Try out your skills shooting clays. Prizes, raffles and drawings. Admission \$35.

**SHAWANO:** Fly-In and Car Show, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Shawano Municipal Airport, 248 Airport Road. Vintage aircraft, veterans tent, food vendors, police and fire demonstrations, classic vehicles, EAA Young Eagles rally. Rain date Aug. 16.

**ANIWA:** Central Wisconsin 4x4 and Military Vehicle Show, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Motorama Auto Museum and event grounds, 181705 Stradale Lane. Food, swap meet, auction. Admission \$10, kids free. Registration 8-9 a.m. Awards 5 p.m.

**SHAWANO:** Native Plant Talk, 9 a.m., Eberlein Park, 107 Eberlein Park Drive. Wolf River Wild Ones host a program about the importance of native plants and pollinator habitat while highlighting a collaborative planting project established along the Mountain-Bay State Trail.

**CECIL:** Cecil-Washington Fireman’s Fest, 1-11 p.m., Cecil-Washington

Fire Department, 111 E. Hofman St. Food, drinks, raffles, cornhole tournament 1 p.m., meat raffle 4 p.m., DJ by Beantown Entertainment, live music 7 p.m. featuring the Glam Band.

**TOWN OF DOTY:** Hidden Bear Trail ATV Club Annual Fundraiser, 1-5 p.m., Animal’s Bear Trail, 14788 County Road T. Food, meat raffles, refreshments.

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

SUNDAY, AUG. 16

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

**SHAWANO:** Backyard Cookout, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., The Cottages Senior Living and Memory Care, 103-113 Madison Way. Cookout along with a raffle, bake sale, petting zoo and face painting. All proceeds donated to ROADS (Reaching Out Against Depression and Suicide).

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

chairs. Last concert of the season.

MONDAY, AUG. 17

**KESHENA:** 2026 Community Health Assessment meeting, 9 a.m. to noon, College of Menominee Nation Cultural Learning Center, N172 State Highway 47-55.

TUESDAY, AUG. 18

**SHAWANO:** Give Kids the World Fall Fling Golf Outing, 10 a.m., Shawano Lake Golf Course, W5714 Lake Drive. 18-hole four-lady scramble To help support numerous Wisconsin families, who have experienced having a child with a life-threatening illness. \$80. Registration 10 a.m., shotgun start 11 a.m., dinner 5 p.m.

**OCONTO FALLS:** Oconto County Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m., Memorial Field. Conservation Night. Music with Patrick Rades.

**SHAWANO:** Naberhood Block Party, 6 p.m., The Naberhood, 214 S. Main St. Cloud Nine Fire Show: Free workshop 6 p.m., free show 7 p.m.

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

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

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 19

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

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

**SHAWANO:** Shawano Ski Sharks Water-ski Show, 6 p.m., Wolf River Beach at Smalley Park, 211 Riverside Drive. Pre-show 5:30 p.m. Free admission; donations welcome. Last show of the season.

THURSDAY, AUG. 20

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

**NAVARINO:** Navarino at Noon, noon, Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Opportunity for seniors to learn more about local history, wildlife, management and more around the nature center. Topic: Hummingbirds. Suggested donation \$5.

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

**SHAWANO:** The After Party, 8-10 p.m., The Naberhood, 214 S. Main St. Music with David Freeborg.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Economy performs better under Dems

To the editor:

The most common political message delivered by the American people during election years is the rather rude phrase, “It’s the economy, stupid!” In the present day, this issue resonates with particular vigor.

Democrats have prioritized investing in the middle class, supporting small businesses and improving economic resilience. This

is known as Keynesian economic theory. It is clear that Democratic administrations consistently help the U.S. economy perform better than Republican administrations. Of the 11 recessions in the modern era, 10 have begun under Republican presidents. Let us not forget the economic downturn that cost Donald Trump the presidency in 2020.

Republicans make tax cuts their signature goal, benefiting the wealthy. This is known as “trickle

down” economics, which is both a misnomer and a failure. They mask their failure by launching incessant culture war attacks, sowing fear and doubt in American institutions. Check the Congressional Joint Economic Committee report from 2024.

Job growth has been greater under Democratic administrations since the 1980s. Under the last seven presidents, job growth was 50 million under Democrats as opposed only 17 million under

Republicans. There were 2.7 million net job losses during Trump’s first term.

Again, under seven presidents, the unemployment rate was low at the end of all three Democratic terms and lower only under the Ronald Reagan administration. Under Trump, the rate jumped from 4.7% at his inauguration to 6.4% at his term’s end. Joe Biden got it down to 4.1% by September 2024. In manufacturing, the total number of jobs decreased by 178,000 under Trump

and grew by 729,000 under Biden. A record of 19 million new business applications were filed under Biden, 70% of which were for small businesses.

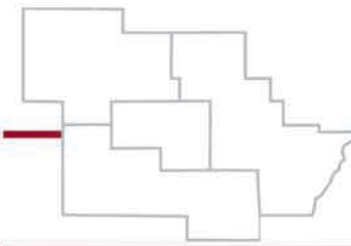
Currently our economy is not serving the American people, but rather the president’s cronies. Inflation is raging as is the tragic war of choice started by Trump. The deficit and inflation soar on the heels of the massive tax breaks for the ultrarich and his tariffs. Trump’s love for the Arab states’ oil

wealth is devastating middle class budgets. Inflation is climbing again. Trump won’t curb his greed and stop his vanity projects.

Since World War II, the economy has performed better under Democratic presidents with stronger job growth, lower unemployment, higher GDP growth and higher stock market gains.

Don’t let hateful governance blind you to the truth.

Stephen Menard,  
Shawano



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MISCELLANEOUS

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

RUMMAGE SALES

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



MARINE

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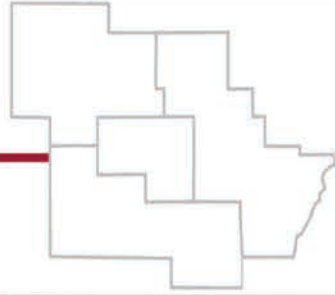
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OCONTO COUNTY  
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Please use this handy form. Classified Ads \$16.50 for first 10 words.  
One word in each space. 20¢ per each additional word. (Ad runs in 3 papers!)  
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| 19.70 | 19.90 | 20.10 | 20.30 | 20.50 |
| 20.70 | 20.90 | 21.10 | 21.30 | 21.50 |
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City \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail to: NEW Media, 1464 E. Green Bay St., Shawano, WI 54166



# WE'RE NOT “THE MEDIA.”

There's a lot of talk about “the media,” the talking heads on cable TV who pander to political views for profit.

That's not the news, and it's certainly not this newspaper. Our goal every day is to fully and fairly report the news about this vibrant community and the people who live here.

That's at the heart of American newspapering—preparing timely and insightful reports about what matters most, prepared by hometown journalists who love this town and care about its future.

That's our pledge and our purpose.

**SHAWANO LEADER**

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**FREE SPEECH  
CENTER** at Middle Tennessee  
State University

# Pat's Market

**GILLETT** (920) 855-6040



**STORE HOURS:** Mon-Fri 7:00 am-7:00 pm  
Deli Hours: 8am - 6pm  
Sat 8:00 am-5:30pm Sun 8:00am-1:00pm

**SHS PHARMACY HOURS:**  
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These Prices Good August 17th thru August 23th, 2026  
While Supplies Last!

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**Niagara  
Drinking  
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**\$2.99**  
16.9 oz.  
24 pk



**Bellatoria  
Ultra Thin  
Pizza**

**2/\$10.00**  
15.51-18.72 oz.  
Asst. Variety



**Hormel Black  
Label Bacon**

Original or Thick-Cut

**\$5.99**  
16 oz.

**Food Club  
Meatball**  
Original or Italian

**\$4.99**  
26 oz.



**USDA CHOICE  
Boneless New  
York Strip Steaks**

**\$12.99**  
lb.

**Cher-Make  
Pillow Pack  
Beef Natural  
Casing Wieners**

**\$8.99**  
18 oz.



**Boneless  
Country-Style  
Pork Ribs**

**\$17.99**  
lb.

**Campbells  
Chunky Soup**  
Asst. Variety  
18.6-19 oz.

**2/\$5.00**

**Del Monte  
Squeeze Ketchup**  
20 oz.

**2/\$3.00**



**New Crop  
Local Baby  
Red Potatoes**

**\$2.99**  
3 lb. bag



**Super Select  
Cucumbers**

**2/\$1.00**



**Green  
Cabbage**

**69¢**  
lb.



**Green Haas  
Avocados**

**99¢**  
ea.



**Nectarines  
& Peaches**

**\$2.99**  
lb.

**Kretschmar  
Cherrywood  
Smoked Ham**

Shaved or Sliced



**\$4.99**  
lb.

**Sweet P's  
Donut  
Holes**

Asst. Variety 12-14 oz



**2/\$4.00**



**Crav'n  
Peanuts**

**2/\$4.00**  
16 oz.

Asst Variety



**Cheetos  
& Fritos**

**2/\$8.00**  
8-10 oz.

Asst Variety

**Van de Kamp  
Battered or Breaded  
Fish Fillets**



**\$5.99**  
18-24.6 oz.

Asst Variety

**Daisy Sour  
Cream**



**\$2.99**  
24 oz.



**Puffs  
3-pack  
Tissue**

**\$5.49**

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**Hungry Jack  
Pancake Mix**

**\$2.99**  
Asst. Variety 28-32 oz.

**Hungry Jack Syrup**

**\$3.99**  
Asst. Variety 24 oz.



**Old Orchard  
Healthy Balance  
or Juice Cocktail**

**2/\$4.00**  
64 oz.

Asst Variety

**Crav'n Ice Cream  
Bars, Pops, or Ice  
Cream Sandwiches**



**2/\$6.00**  
12-20 Ct.  
Asst. Variety

# DOG DAYS OF SUMMER, FREE HEAT FOR WINTER



The best time to prepare for winter is while the dogs are still lounging in the sun.

**FETCH  
FREE HEAT**  
WITH THE  
PURCHASE OF  
QUALIFYING  
STOVES

**FREE  
TRIPLE PANE  
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