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Sheriff clarifies role in local immigration enforcement

by Sarah Hall
for The Beacon

Even as the nationwide Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) crackdown continues to make headlines, fear of ramped-up ICE activity, sweeps and deportations seems to be outweighing any actual evidence of that here.

"I am not aware of ICE being in our jurisdiction, conducting raids or seeking out individuals anywhere in Sheboygan County," Sheriff Matt Spence told the Beacon.

"The only change I've experienced here is a growing level of concern and worry about the increased efforts nationwide," he said.

Spence is in a position to know, as Sheboygan County is one of only seven out of 72 in the state participating in ICE's 287(g) program, which facilitates the deportation of undocumented immigrants who are inmates at the jail his department oversees.

"Our focus is 100% on individuals who have entered our correctional facility," Spence pointed out. "If ICE is in the area, we cannot prohibit federal action from being taken, but we're not supporting that mission by proactively going out on their behalf."

He said he has a close working relationship with local police chiefs and all the depart-



SHERIFF MATT SPENCE

ment's federal partners (the FBI, Secret Service, etc.) and has not heard from them of any recent operations or significant ICE presence here, either.

Over the past several years, the number of jail inmates transferred into ICE custody has remained steady and averaged about six to eight per year, with no noticeable uptick lately, according to Spence.

In one of the most recent studies available, the nonpartisan Migration Policy Institute estimated in 2019 that 70,000 undocumented immigrants live in Wisconsin, with 51,000 of them from Mexico and Central America, 12,000 from Asia and 4,000 from Europe, Canada and Oceania.

Discovering that someone who has been arrested is an

undocumented immigrant is "not a frequent occurrence," Spence said. "Our largest issues with crime are from known offenders - folks who we already have a relationship with. It's not with folks who are undocumented."

He explained that if someone is arrested and that person's citizenship status is in question, his staff checks a national database to determine whether the individual has any outstanding warrants.

The sheriff's office alerts ICE only if an undocumented immigrant actually serves time for a crime and/or if flight risk is serious enough to keep the person in custody while awaiting court proceedings.

"We're looking mainly at felony violations (such as aggravated battery, sexual assault and serious drug charges) that would put somebody in our correctional facility and hold them there," Spence noted.

For misdemeanors, the sheriff's department generally follows an MPR (mug, print and release) process: "Their photograph and fingerprints are taken and then they are released, if we can identify that they have ties to the community and believe they are going to come back for court."

If undocumented immigrants are facing misdemeanor charges only and are released, his department typically does not notify ICE about them, he said.

But if ICE wants undocumented immigrants convicted of more serious crimes here or elsewhere transferred into ICE custody once they have served their sentences, the federal agency issues a detainer.

"Basically, a detainer is a note to us saying, 'Hey listen, we want this person when you're done with them,'" Spence explained.

His predecessor, Sheriff Cory Roeseler, retired last June and had joined ICE's 287(g) program in 2020. Brown, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Marquette,

Waukesha and Waushara Counties signed onto the program that same year, although no law enforcement agencies in the nearby states of Michigan, Illinois and Minnesota have to date.

Before it joined the 287(g) program, the Sheboygan County Sheriff Department's practice was that an ICE officer would travel to the county jail to serve a warrant on inmates the agency wished to take into custody later.

Then when the inmates were released, either ICE personnel or a contracted service would make a separate pick-up trip. Now only the pick-up trip is

SEE SHERIFF page 4

'Wild Horse Annie' has deep roots in county

by Sarah Hall
for The Beacon

Travel north on State Highway 67 from Elkhart Lake into the Town of Rhine, and you may notice a weathered old barn on the left, with horses often out in front of it and once-red timbers now faded to a lovely pinkish gray.

Peer more closely, and you can see a wooden sign hanging from a post, identifying the property as the Becker Family

Farm and "Home of Wild Horse Annie."

"Hmmm, who is that?," you wonder, so you look it up and learn that she was Velma Bronn Johnston, a nationally known animal welfare activist from Nevada who fought to stop the removal of free-roaming mustangs and burros from public lands.

You figure there must be a story behind the sign, try to track down the property owner, learn that there are oodles of Beckers nearby who are all from the same family and eventually meet Ann Becker - the local version of her famous counterpart.

"The sign was a gift from my husband and two daughters a number of years ago," the retired special education teacher said. "My husband knew the story of Wild Horse Annie, but the sign was actually more about how many times I have been thrown from horses."

"We have had horses here for almost 25 years," she continued. "You don't have enough paper to record how many times I've been on the ground. Trust me. I have taken some dandy falls and broken a few body parts, but I'm still going."

"I can't even remember how many times I have spit out dirt because I was tossed by a horse... If you're going to ride and be silly and do goofy things, you're going to fall off," Becker contended.

The "messy collection of falls" in her past resulted in several fractures, but she brushed those off as the lot of anyone who loves to ride. One especially memorable mishap occurred when she was across the state, testing a horse for a neighbor interested in buying it. The horse reared up and flipped



"WILD HORSE ANNIE" BECKER of the Town of Rhine strokes her palomino, Jazz, whom she describes as "a big cupcake." Although the real Wild Horse Annie was a historical figure nationally renowned for her fearlessness in saving wild horses and burrows, Ann Becker's family teased her that she was a local version of the same by presenting her with this sign years ago. Ann Becker's claim to equine fame, however, was her undauntedness despite falling off horses too many times to count. - Beacon photos by Sarah Hall

SEE ANNIE page 4

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ANNIE from 2
 over on top of her.
 "I am no longer allowed to ride, only because of a surgery I had," Becker said. "My doctor put the kibosh on it. Otherwise, I would still be riding."
 But she continues to lavish attention on her four horses, including Dakota, a blind, black mustang rescued from a neighboring farm years ago and Jazz, a palomino she described as "a big cupcake."
 "They all have amazing personalities and are just big, big pets," she pointed out.
 Ann and her husband David are the 5th generation of Beckers - starting with Christian Becker, a farmer who in 1852 emigrated from Germany, eventually acquired 160 acres in the Town of Rhine and had 16 children with his wife Magdalena - to own the family homestead.
 When they were a young couple, Ann and David purchased the place from his grandparents, Anton and Erma Becker.
 "Both David and I were

raised in the country and have a love for the land," she explained. "If you're raised on a farm, you embrace the land." They thought so much of Anton that they named one of their two daughters Antoinette, after him.
 "Grandpa sold some of the old farmland to Hermitage Conservation Club," located around the corner and behind the homestead, she noted. Their nephew Michael Becker is now the president and her husband and other relatives are also members.
 "The cool thing about this neighborhood is that it is full of Beckers who are all family," Becker said. "It's kind of a little Beckerville here. They are all close and very interested in conservation. It's one of those threads that run through the family, across generations."
 "When Dave and I bought the farm, we knew we had to do something with it, so we raised birds and ran a hunt club, and that paid the mortgage initially," she continued. "We raised five to ten thou-

sand birds a year, including bobwhite quail, pheasant and chukar partridge, and also sold birds to other hunt clubs for about 10 years." Then for another 20 years or so, she was a special education teacher in Sheboygan schools.
 The Beckers' "hereditary" love of nature has influenced their descendants, too.
 "Our daughter Sarah (DeZwarte) is the Director of Education at Camp Y-Kota and teaches about conservation," Becker noted. "Our granddaughter Ellison is a student at Northland College, studying climatology, sustainability and so forth."
 Ellison is also an "eventer" who competes in the equestrian sport of eventing, which combines dressage, cross-country, and show jumping.
 "Like a lot of the families around here, to protect the farm, we put it into a family trust," she added. "Our daughters are next in line to have it."
 And so another generation of Wild Horse Annies may eventually take the reins.

SHERIFF from 2
 required, potentially resulting in less ICE presence here than there was before.
 When transported by ICE, the only possessions an inmate is allowed to bring are typically a wallet or whatever was on them at the time of arrest. Everything else is left behind.
 After the sheriff's department joined 287(g), some of the local corrections officers were trained and certified to issue warrants themselves. Spence said he plans to continue participating in the program and that costs are minimal, involving only small amounts of staff time.
 "I view it as an efficiency of government issue," he remarked. "Now, ICE does not need to come here merely to serve the document. It really expedites the process in terms of not having to waste another officer's time to come up from Milwaukee or Chicago."
 Whether the sheriff's department would abide by an ICE request for help "would depend on what their request is," he said. "If it's a public safety issue for our community, we would absolutely support them. We're not going to leave a law enforcement agency hanging out there by themselves if they need assistance in our jurisdiction. If it's just a random 'we're going to check a variety of locations within your jurisdiction,' we will not participate in that."
 Spence stressed that undocumented immigrants have rights to legal counsel, due process and a court hearing, just like anyone else.
 "We play by the same rules of law for every person we're investigating for a crime," he stated.
 Even if an individual is exonerated of a particular crime, though, ICE may have other reasons to detain them, Spence

noted.
 Asking individuals who are not under arrest for identification "is not part of our initiative or our intent," he said. "We have not, we don't and we don't anticipate proactively seeking out members of the community for this purpose or to effect an arrest through ICE."
 When asked about potential racial profiling of immigrants who may look different from the majority of the local population, he replied that his department is always aware of the risk, but there are safeguards in place to curb it.
 "Regarding race, creed, nationality, religion: No one is to be treated differently based on the characteristics of their person. It's the merit of their actions and behavior that we are targeting with our enforcement," Spence contended. "We train on this and have policies our officers have to sign off on."
 Furthermore, "the county board has supported us by allowing us to purchase body cameras which really help quickly dispel any allegations of impropriety with our officers," he said. "It's very helpful to go back to video and identify the contact we have had with individuals."
 "Our officers are the ones who wanted the body cameras and pushed us towards this," he added. "They know they are doing a great job out there and are doing their job honestly."
 "My biggest concern is that our immigrant population is going to be fearful about contacting law enforcement when they need them and that they're not going to report crimes, which is only going to allow criminal activity to grow in the community," Spence concluded. "Together, we need to increase their confidence to allow them that level of comfort that they can contact law enforcement to report whatever crime it is they may have been exposed to."

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A former newspaper and television reporter in West Palm Beach, Florida, Greg Schwem made the leap to full time stand-up comedian in 1989, causing his former employers to scratch their heads in bewilderment and his parents to weep uncontrollably. Traveling the country in a shiny red Nissan Sentra, Greg played comedy clubs everywhere from Hermosa Beach, California to Destin, Florida. Along the way he has appeared on Comedy Central, VH-1, the Arts & Entertainment Network and FOX News.

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McKnight to play football at Ripon

Ethan McKnight played one year of football in elementary school and says he didn't really like it.

When he was a freshman at Lutheran, one of his best friends told him to join the co-op with Kohler and Christian and he's been playing ever since - and will continue to play at Ripon next season.

What if that friend had never asked him years ago?

"Yeah, it is (crazy), McKnight said. "I tell him that very often. I'm thankful that he got me to come out there."

The left guard also visited UW-Stevens Point and Wisconsin Lutheran.

"At Ripon, what stuck out to me was the great facilities and

the campus," he said. "It's very old, very historic. I like the way that looked.

The coaches at Stevens Point really made (the decision) difficult. They were super down to earth and awesome to talk to. I felt like I really connected with them. And the field and facilities also at WLC, locker room and stuff like that were also really great."

But Ripon's coach reminded McKnight of his former high school coach, Ryan Eigenberger, and the scheme the football team runs is something he could see himself fitting into really well.

But that campus ...

"It's very small," McKnight said. "I'm used to smaller kind



ETHAN McKNIGHT (with pen) signs his letter of intent to play football at Ripon next season. - Submitted photo

of communities. My middle school is very small, and so is the high school I'm at right now. So it just seems like something that would be very easy to adjust to."

McKnight says he's thinking about studying pre-law but admits the recruiting process was stressful at times.

"But I'm very thankful that my parents were there to help me through it all, take me to the places and kind of give me some guidance on where to go and what decisions to make," he said. "I'm very thankful to all the relationships with the coaches I've made throughout this whole process, giving me insight into their program and just on how college football works."

Road America is making improvements

Road America is at it again.

As the track ushers in its 70th Anniversary, officials are sharing some significant updates underway to enhance safety, accessibility, and the overall atmosphere.

Here's what you can expect:

New Pedestrian and Golf Cart Bridge:

The track is saying goodbye to its staired access walkover bridge from 1961 and welcoming a modern, multi-use bridge designed to accommodate pedestrians and golf carts. This new bridge features ramped approaches, making it accessible and convenient for all guests. However, at select events, expect some limitations on golf cart traffic in the start/finish tunnel to alleviate congestion and keep everyone moving efficiently.

North Paddock Enhancements:

The North Paddock area is getting a significant upgrade, transitioning to an all-paved surface while maintaining roughly the same paddock potential as before. But it's not just about smooth pavement. This project includes a major



THERE ARE PLENTY of improvements being made at Road America. - Submitted photo

overhaul of our water management system, complete with storm sewers and a retention plan, to ensure the area remains functional in all weather conditions. Competitors will appreciate an alternate entry to the false grid, reducing race car traffic on the Midway at certain events. Plus, our carport will transform

into a more garage-like structure, offering better protection and functionality.

Suite Renovation: The suite experience is getting a major facelift. By combining two existing suites in the finish line tower into one large, state-of-the-art space, fans will enjoy a modern look and feel that ri-

vals upgrades seen in other top sports venues. Whether you're here for a corporate event or a weekend of thrilling racing, the enhanced suite area will elevate your experience with contemporary amenities and a fresh design.

Barrier Straightening for Safety: Safety remains a top

priority at Road America, so we're adjusting barriers at two key track locations. Driver's left between turns 4-5 and driver's left between turns 13-14 are undergoing a straightening process involving removing and reconstructing the barrier base. Rest assured, all fences and barriers will return to their original locations upon completion, maintaining the integrity of our beloved circuit while improving safety measures.

Paddock Press Rebuild:

With the rebuilding of the structure commonly known as the Paddock Press building, media members and photographers will soon enjoy a more welcoming and efficient space. The new layout, complete with a sleek, modern aesthetic, is designed with user-friendliness in mind. This upgrade aligns with our commitment to providing the best possible multi-function experience for media professionals covering our events and VIP experiences throughout the year. Stay tuned for a new name to accompany the structure in the near future.

- Road America staff

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Stricker is named softball coach at Lutheran

She's also head of volleyball at Random Lake

Recently, Jen Stricker was hired as Random Lake's new volleyball coach. Shortly after, the Sheboygan

resident was tabbed as Lutheran's next softball coach.

"And actually, I coach AAU basketball with my husband as well, so never a dull moment," said Stricker, a 1994 graduate of South.

She was Lutheran's junior varsity coach the previous four years until Random Lake's ath-

letic director reached out to her to run the Rams' program.

"Just the whole dynamic there is exactly what I was



STRICKER

looking for," Stricker said.

Her love, however, is softball.

"I'd never really thought too much about coaching softball until the athletic director at Lutheran approached me, knowing that that is my passion," Stricker said. "And my dad had coached my softball team since I was

little, and he just instilled that love of the sport in me. And my husband is a great coach. So it's kind of in my blood. And I'm one of those people that I always want to be challenged, so a constant student of the game. And so I haven't done softball in a while, but I'm assembling a team that's going to kick some butt."

Success in the pool

North's swim team finished as conference runner-up and South's Jesus Ramey Guadalupe set a pool record at the Fox River Classic Meet.

Ramey Guadalupe, a senior, set the new mark at Bay Port with an 11-dive score of 372.90 points.

The Golden Raiders were led by sophomore Aadin Terrazas, who finished first in the 200-yard freestyle in 1:44.24 and the 500 free in 4:42.75.

North junior Griffin Pond also claimed a title in the 100 butterfly in 53.45.

Terrazas and Pond were on both second-place relays as well.

They were joined by seniors Ryan Lang and Pascal Kirchner on the 400 free, and by senior Noah Bauer and junior Griffin Pond on the 200 medley.

State results

The Division 1 State Championship Meet was held over the weekend (after deadline), and North and South sent a number of individuals to Waukesha South.

The Golden Raiders had all three relay teams swim, Terrazas competed in two individual events and Pond was in the 100 fly.

The Redwings were represented by Ramey Guadalupe and their 200 free relay squad.



ELIJAH FEYEREISEN and the rest of Christian's swim team recently wrapped up its first season. - Submitted photo



SOUTH HAS A new 200 medley relay record thanks to (from left to right): Nic Weser, Carter Krueger, Hudson Toutenhoofd and Chase Paral. - Submitted photo



SOUTH SWIMMER Jesus Ramey Guadalupe points to his new diving record at Bay Port. - Submitted photo

BASKETBALL NOTES

Remember him?

As of last week, Lipscomb's Jacob Ognacevic (Lutheran) had scored the fifth-most points in all of Division I basketball. The senior also ranked 11th in field goals made and 12th in scoring average. No wonder he was named the Tennessee Sports Writers Association Player of the Week for the fifth time last week.



OGNACEVIC

Ognacevic averaged 27.0 points and 7.0 rebounds, shooting 67.9 percent from the field and 77.8 percent from the line. He scored 30 points on 12-for-16 shooting and 5-for-7 at the line against Stetson, then scored 24 points on 7-for-12 shooting and 9-for-11 shooting at the stripe against Florida Gulf Coast.

Honor for Shaw's brother

The older brother of South coach Jesse Shaw, Dave, will be inducted into the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame as part of the group's banquet Sept. 28 in Wisconsin Dells.

Shaw began his coaching career at Kewaskum and proceeded to lead the programs at Winneconne and Whitefish Bay, before accepting the position at Pulaski in 2009.

He stepped away from coaching in 2023, but has continued as a physical education teacher at PHS.

Shaw compiled a 203-134 record at Pulaski during his tenure, highlighted by winning the 2013 WIAA Division 2 state championship.

Shaw's father, Brian, coached Manitowoc from 1971 to 1990 and was a 1994 inductee into the WBCA Hall of Fame.

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WIAA makes changes to football playoffs

The WIAA Board of Control approved a plan that replaces the 11-player and 8-player football playoff qualifying and seeding system at its February meeting.

The Board voted to support the plan created by the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association at the recommendation of the Football Coaches Advisory Committee, reflecting a shared commitment to improving the football playoff selection and seeding process.

Prior to the 2025 season, teams will be divided equally in seven divisions based on enrollment and application of the performance factor for 11-player football programs.

Teams will qualify and be seeded for 11-player and 8-player football according to a ranking point system.

Programs earn points for each win based on the division of their opponents (Tier 1) of all games.

In addition, teams will be rewarded points for each Tier 1 victory of their defeated opponents for all games played (Tier 2).

The sum of each tier is divided by the total number of games played. The total points calculated for each tier is added to determine a team's total point value for ranking within its own division.

The four teams with the highest total points in each division are designated the top seed in the four

groupings. Subsequent seeded teams will be added to the groupings in each division based on the nearest expected travel to higher-seeded teams.

"We commend the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association leadership in conjunction with the WIAA Football Coaches Advisory Committee on their communications with our staff and the football coaches across the state on this redesigned qualification and seeding process," WIAA Executive Director Stephanie Hauser said. "They provided tutorials and welcomed feedback from coaches and member schools.

"This process is a reflection of WIAA's mission to be responsive to its membership and make key decisions about programs, rules, and eligibility with transparency among all stakeholders. The WIAA Board of Control and WIAA staff support this new qualification and seeding process and will continue working collaboratively to enhance its procedures, ensuring greater efficiency and the best service possible for its member schools."

Volleyball update

Two recommendations by the volleyball coaches were approved, effective in 2025.

The highest seeded team will be considered the home team during the Tournament Series. At

pre-determined sites when equally seeded teams are playing, the first school alphabetically will be considered the home team, unless a team is playing on their own court, which will constitute the host being declared the home team.

In addition, each team will be permitted a maximum of 18 players in uniform for each game of the Tournament Series, an increase from 15. The change does not impact the total of 22 team personnel permitted on the bench.

And tennis

The sport had seven coaches' recommendations approved. Four of those address seeding protocol at the subsectional level.

The actions add another criterion, establishes clarity and defines a prescribed criteria order for the seeding process. Following head-to-head criteria, results and scores against common opponents will be applied, followed by results versus indirect opponents.

In situations when two or more players are tied after applying the criteria, a random draw will now determine the respective seeds.

Another Tournament Procedure revises language to state a singles player or doubles team in Division 1 must play a minimum of six matches at any flight during the regular season to be entered in the subsectional tournament at Flights 1, 2 and 3 only.



Then there were five

FIVE NORTH WRESTLERS moved on to sectionals this past Saturday (left to right, top): junior Noah Gonzalez, freshman A'davian Alvarez (bottom) sophomore Kermit Pfister, senior Ethan Meissner, junior Aaron Kopetsky. - Submitted photo

Singles and doubles teams in Division 2 must play a minimum of five matches at any flight during the regular season to be entered in the subsectional tournament at Flights 1, 2 and 3 only.

Lakeshore Trout Unlimited is honored

Lakeshore Trout Unlimited was recently awarded the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited Silver Trout award as the 2024 Chapter of the Year.

The award was given at the annual State Conference and Banquet held in Oshkosh earlier this month.

Accomplishments that set Lakeshore TU apart were: its extensive volunteer work improving the Onion River Public Fishery south of Plymouth, the Chapter's commitment to youth outdoor education through "Trout in the Classroom" programs, STREAM camps at Camp Y-Koda and LSTU leadership/action within the Water Action Volunteers (WAV) in Sheboygan and Manitowoc Counties.

In 2024, Lakeshore TU had 60 volunteers work more than

900 hours on these and other similar programs.

Lakeshore TU is a local all-volunteer organization that takes a positive, hands-on approach to conserving our cold-water resources, improving the quality of our local public recreation lands, and teaching our kids the value of the outdoor experience.

Celebrating more than 40 years of service, Lakeshore TU is active in Calumet, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan Counties. Its conservation work is focused on habitat restoration and the conservation of local cold-water streams.

As the Adopt-a-Fishery partner of the DNR for the Onion River Public Fishery, it is committed to preserving a high-quality public trout fishing resource in Sheboygan County.

Members also lead the Water Action Volunteers (WAV) water testing programs in Sheboygan and Manitowoc Counties.

Youth outdoor education is focused on Trout-in-the-Classroom and annual STREAM Camps. It partners with youth organizations like the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, YMCA Camp Y-Koda, and local schools to educate kids about water ecology, conservation, fishing, and the outdoors.

Lakeshore TU has a significant local impact and has been recently recognized by the Wisconsin TU, Wisconsin DNR, Wisconsin Conservation Congress, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, and Sheboygan County Conservation Association.

Please visit www.lakeshoretu.org for more information.

- LTV staff



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Sunday, March 9

3:30 - 6:30PM

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Let's see what's happening in Sheboygan County with the Beacon CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CALENDAR ITEMS MAY BE SUBMITTED BY EMAIL TO: reviewclassifieds@gmail.com
PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS A MINIMUM OF 2 WEEKS IN ADVANCE.

Events charging fees or selling items may be included when a display ad is scheduled.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28

3rd Comedy for the Community Fundraiser: 5:30 Happy Hour, 7:00 Derek Hughes Stand Up Magician. Sheboygan Lutheran High School Performing Arts Center. Join us for a night of fun, games, comedy, magic and community. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at partners4cd.com. Proceeds benefit Partners for the Community, Inc.

Food/News Recipes, tips & nutrition

Outstanding berry grilled cheese

Grilled cheese is a beloved comfort food that can be enjoyed any time of the day. Although there isn't much that needs to be added to cheese to make it delicious, the inclusion of tart strawberries and blackberries in this recipe titled "The Sweet Sheep Grilled Cheese" from "The Reading Terminal Market® Cookbook" (Camino Books) by Ann Hazan and Irina Smith pushes this sandwich over the edge of deliciousness. An additional cookie butter spread and chocolate chips makes this grilled cheese much more dessert than lunch, and can be an indulgent treat anyone can enjoy.



Spread equal parts blackberry jam on each slice. Place a large spoonful of the mascarpone ricotta mix on top of jam (it may be helpful to use a piping bag) until all the mixture is used.

Evenly divide strawberries, peaches, blackberries and chocolate chips among each slice. Spread the speculoos cookie butter on the remaining five slices of brioche and place on top of the first slices.

Spread the softened butter in a thin layer on the outer parts of the brioche. Grill in either a panini press or in a hot pan. Slice and serve hot.

Note: If speculoos is too hard to find, here's how to make it. Place 2 cups of ginger snaps in the bowl of a food processor and blend to very fine crumbs. Add 4 tablespoons of softened unsalted butter, and process until a smooth paste forms (similar to consistency of peanut butter). Refrigerate leftover portion and bring to room temperature when using.

The Sweet Sheep Grilled Cheese
Makes 5 servings
2 cups Valley Shepherd whipped sheep milk ricotta
1 cup mascarpone cheese
10 slices soft brioche sandwich bread
3/4 cup blackberry jam
1 cup hulled and diced strawberries
1 cup diced peaches
1/2 cup cleaned blackberries, cut into quarters
3/4 cup miniature semisweet chocolate chips
1 cup speculoos cookie butter (see note)
1/2 cup softened unsalted butter
In a bowl, mix together ricotta and mascarpone.
On a clean, dry surface, lay out five slices of the brioche.

SUNDAY MARCH 2

40 Days for Life Kickoff Event: Free showing of the movie "Unplanned": Doors open at 1pm. Movie begins at 2pm. Sheboygan Lutheran High PAC. 3323 University Drive, Sheboygan.

TUESDAY MARCH 4

Annual Midwest Crane Count organizational meeting for Sheboygan County: 6:30 - 7:30pm. Maywood (3615 Mueller Road in Sheboygan). Select your site, review crane calls, learn how to submit your data. Contact Janet at jradatz@wi.rr.com.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 5

40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. through April 13. 909 S. Taylor Drive Sheboygan. www.40daysforlife.com/sheboygan

TUESDAY MARCH 18

Public Education and Privatization: The League of Women Voters of Sheboygan County. 6 pm. Sponsoring a free presentation by Professor Julie Mead titled: Public Education and

Privatization - What's at Stake? This presentation is from the Badger Talks series and will be held at Mead Public Library Rocca Room. Presentation will be in-person with virtual access too. <https://www.facebook.com/events/2128076277594828/>

SATURDAY APRIL 12

49th Annual Midwest Crane Count: 5:30 - 7:30am. Sponsored by the International Crane Foundation. If interested in participating, contact Janet at jradatz@wi.rr.com.

EVENTS AT JOHN MICHAEL

KOHLER ARTS CENTER

608 New York Ave. Sheboygan 920-458-6144
Tue, Wed, Fri: 10AM-5PM
Thu: 10AM-8PM
Sat and Sun: 10AM-4PM
generalinfo@jmkac.org
www.jmkac.org

NOW THROUGH MARCH 2, 2025: Clocking In: 2024 Arts/Industry Residents: FREE, all ages. As part of the Arts Center's celebration of Arts/Industry's fiftieth anniversary, the twelve artists in residence at the Kohler Co. factory during 2024 will exhibit their work in a year-long group exhibition, presenting four residents' work at a time

in rotations of approximately four months each.

EVENTS AT KOHLER-ANDRAE STATE PARK

1020 Beach Park Lane Sheboygan

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15: Cabin Fever Series: Wildlife of Dunes and Shore: 11 a.m. Sanderling Nature Center. Learn how animals adapt to winter; then venture out to search for animal signs. Vehicle admission required.

Cabin Fever Series: Winter Wildlife: 2:00 p.m. Sanderling Nature Center. Join Master Naturalist Sam Olsen to explore the park and learn about animals! Vehicle admission required.

Harbor Center part of Clean Marina group

(Submitted) - The City of Sheboygan announced that the Harbor Centre Marina has successfully recertified as a Wisconsin Clean Marina, reinforcing its dedication to environmental stewardship and the sustainability of Lake Michigan.

Since its inception in 1993, the Harbor Centre Marina has served as a beloved destination for families and fishers, offering some of the finest fishing opportunities on the lake.

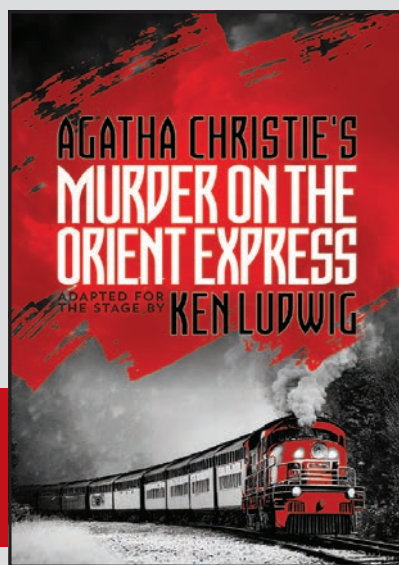
Nicholas Warminsky, the Marina Manager, emphasizes the importance of sustainability in the marina's ongoing improvements: "Harbor Centre Marina has long been a certified clean marina. It is crucial that we continue this tradition and maintain an environmentally friendly facility."

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Jon Doll concert scheduled for Arts Center

Jon Doll, a singer/songwriter from Sheboygan, will perform March 7 at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, in an event hosted by the friends of Jon Doll.

The program, entitled Jon Doll & Friends, will feature music from Doll's recently released album "Let That River Run" as well songs Doll has written over the past 50 years.

The Arts Center performance will begin at 7 p.m. with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are available on the Arts Center website.

Over the years, Doll has performed in corporate boardrooms and in intimate settings

for small groups. He has also traveled extensively in Europe, performing in nightclubs and coffee houses.

Accompanying Doll in the JMKAC performances will be several musicians and singers who collaborated with him on "Let That River Run," including fellow Sheboygan resident, guitarist Jim Ohlschmidt and vocalists Deirdre Fellner and Zepher Ciesar. Drummer Bill Knipfer and Grammy-nominated producer and cellist Hans Christian are also joining the performance.

Doll's music, which is best described as folk-rock-blues, paints a picture of the struggles in life, in contrast to the joy that can be found in the world today.

As Doll notes, "Life to me is a long and powerful river. We can struggle mightily against

its current, but in the end, the wisest thing to do is simply ride its powerful current and let it take us where it will and enjoy each other's company along the way."

"Let That River Run" is available through Jon Doll's

website: www.jondoll.com. The CD includes a booklet with lyrics for all songs and bios of the other artists. Doll's music is also available through the link: jondoll.hearnow or on his website to connect to all major streaming services.

The Beacon - mailed to every home in Sheboygan

Migraines and Headaches?

Living with headaches is tough.

Day after day of being miserable, irritable, and looking a lot older than you really are. The frustration of knowing that your friends and family don't understand what you're going through. Add this to doctors' visits, MRI's and CT scans, which only come back with "normal" results. And that's not all... trying one medication after another, feeling like you're on a merry-go-round of drugs. All this is enough to make anyone want to scream!

My name is Dr. Jeff Wild, and I've been helping patients with headaches, neck tension, and migraines live pain free for 39 years now. Every week I hear how women suffer from severe headaches... statements like:

- "I feel like my head is in a vice."
- "My eyes hurt and I feel so drowsy."
- "I've had migraines since childhood."
- "Muscle tension in the neck and pain into the shoulders."

I hear this so often, I decided to do something about it and run this ad. I'm running a special offer for those suffering with headaches. Until March 11, 2025, \$49 will get you all the services that I normally charge new patients \$280 for. Just call before March 11, 2025, and here's what you will get:

- An in-depth consultation about your headaches where I will listen...really listen ...to the details of your unique situation.
- A complete neuromuscular and skeletal examination of the head and neck so we can find the problem.
- A full set of specialized x-rays to determine if posture or joint problem is contributing to your pain



- A thorough analysis of your exam and x-rays where we'll map out how you can get rid of your headaches once and for all.
- A special report complementing your recommendations that reveals the foods you should never, ever eat when suffering from chronic headaches.

Imagine being able to live life like a normal person again, pain free and without headaches... being able to play with your kids, enjoy time with friends, and not have to worry that your headache will hit you at just the wrong time.

Call 920-458-8886 today. I may be able to help you live a normal, pain-free life again.

For information on the services at Wild Chiropractic, check us out at chiropractorsheboyganwi.com

**Sorry, but only the consultation (not the examination or x-rays) is allowed for those insured by Medicaid, Medicare or Medicare replacement plans.*

Advertisement

FURever Home



Billy



Meet Billy, the charming and energetic 1-year, 5-month-old pup looking for his forever home! Weighing in at 62 lbs., this handsome guy was brought to the shelter through no fault of his own. After an unsuccessful search for his original owners, he is now ready to find a new family to love.

Billy is a true people dog—he craves attention and affection but could use some training to refine his excitement, as he tends to get jumpy and mouthy when overwhelmed. He's happiest when he has a job to do! Whether it's being a farm dog, a hiking companion, or an adventure buddy, he thrives when he can engage his mind and senses. Without enough mental and physical stimulation, he can get bored and find less desirable ways to entertain himself (like chewing and jumping). A home with space to run and play is a must—apartment living just won't cut it for this active pup!

Though he can get overwhelmed around other dogs, Billy has shown potential in playgroups and could do well with the right canine companion. However, he is not suited for a home with cats. At his core, he's a loving and loyal dog who just needs a patient, committed family to help him learn and grow.

Could Billy be your next best friend? Visit the shelter and meet him today!

For more information on adopting Billy or how to submit an application, please visit www.adoptsheboygancounty.org or call 920-458-2012

Kitten Foster Information Session - Join us for an informational session to discover if fostering kittens is right for your family. March 4, 2025, at 10 AM or March 13, 2025, at 5 PM at the Humane Society of Sheboygan County. To register visit adoptsheboygancounty.org

Kid's and Critters Two Day Spring Break Camp from 8:30 AM - 4 PM each day. March 25-26 for Grades 2 & 3 or March 27-28 for Grades 4 & 5. Visit adoptsheboygancounty.org events page to sign up.

Kitten Shower, Saturday, April 19, 2025. Mark your calendars for a family friendly day at the shelter to get ready for kitten season. Games, raffles, kittens, scavenger hunt and more.

Courtesy of The Plymouth Review and The Sheboygan Beacon



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The Beacon, 113 E. Mill St.,
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e-mail:
reply@sheboyganbeacon.com
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News Staff: Emmitt B. Feldner,
Rodney Schroeter, Jeff Pederson,
Dave Boehler, Sarah Hall

Administrative Coordinator: Roberta Olson

Accounting/Circulation: Debbie Mueller

Advertising Consultants:
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Ann Dueno-Spindler

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Matt Seger

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James Madison Elementary earns national recognition

by Dave Boehler
for The Beacon

James Madison Elementary School received a report card worthy of sticking on the fridge.

The school, located at 2302 David Avenue, is one of just 69 nationwide - there's only one other from the state - to be named a 2024 National ESEA Distinguished School in recognition of its extraordinary success in improving student achievement.

James Madison was recognized for excellence in serving special populations of students: nearly 30% of children have disabilities, over 70% come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, and just over 20% are English learners.

For the second year in a row, James Madison was rated as "Significantly Exceeds Expectations" on the Wisconsin State Report Card.

In 2023-24, only 13% of the state's 2,635 K-5 elementary schools earned this report card rating. These report cards include data on multiple indicators for multiple years across four Priority Areas, including Achievement, Growth, Target Group Outcomes, and On-track to Graduation.

"This is well-deserved recognition for our James Madison teachers and staff, who pour their hearts into their work," Dr. Jacob Konrath, Superintendent of the Sheboygan Area School District, said. "They truly make a dif-

ference through their hard work, dedication, and unwavering belief in their students. To be recognized at a national level is a remarkable accomplishment."

James Madison's success can be attributed to the strategic use of Professional Learning Communities that are deeply focused on being data-informed.

By analyzing student data and consistently implementing effective instructional practices, strategies, and tools such as Lexia with fidelity, teachers can provide targeted and personalized instruction.

This focused approach has directly contributed to significant student growth.

"We are incredibly grateful for our families and community; the students and staff at James Madison couldn't have accomplished this without their support," said Principal Charity Cartland, who just attended the National ESEA Conference to share the practices of her school and learn from others. "James Madison has a strong culture of a

student-centered approach focused on continuous improvement for each individual student. Through high expectations, inclusive practices, and dedicated staff, James Madison students continue to grow academically year over year."

As a Title I-funded school, James Madison was able to hire additional interventionists to support student learning and provide professional development opportunities for staff in math and reading differentiated instruction.

The daily school schedule includes both math and reading intervention blocks that really allow staff to provide individualized instruction.

The National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators—formerly the National Title I Association—has been selecting examples of superior, federally-funded schools through the National

ESEA Distinguished Schools program since 1996.

This program celebrates schools nationwide that have

made significant progress by effectively utilizing ESEA federal funds to enhance student education outcomes.



KINDERGARTEN TEACHER BOBBIE JO PENA guides students in her James Madison Elementary School classroom. - submitted photo



Myra Stokdyk Eischen
Certified Advanced Baker

so thin, I thought they looked dry and the recipe would be a total failure. My husband loved it, and I am pleasantly happy with the end result.

I am still planning to do some work on a program on substitutions, I find lots of information in my culinary books and also on-line- but not everything works for every product. It may work for cookies, but not cake, or cake but not bread. I think this information could be of use to other people. If you have

any good suggestions, or things you would like me to try, please feel free to email me at myra@myrascakes.com. I value your suggestions and feedback

Note#1: I created my own frosting idea for this cake, the one listed would have been a sloppy mess.

Note #2: If you love pistachio flavor, and don't like the fact that they usually substitute almonds for pistachios, this is a great recipe for you.

Note #3: I coarsely chopped the pistachios and found the crunch nice in the layers.

Note #4: I used parchment paper in the bottom- but it slid around and was hard to get the cake even due to the fact there is so little of it. Next time I will grease and flour the pans instead- it also will help release the sides where the chocolate melts.

Note #5: This recipe will feed 12 people.

Note #6: This cake will freeze well.

Sweet Dreams!

We are planning to have guests and found this recipe for Pistachio Cream Cake on Facebook. Our friends really like pistachio torte, so thought this might be a welcome change of pace. Once again, the photo isn't even close to what the finished product looks like.

I was disheartened when I baked the layers and they were

Pistachio Cream Cake

Credits: Simple Recipes-Facebook, frosting: Myra Eischen original

Preheat oven to 350°.

In medium bowl beat:
½ c. softened butter
¼ c. sugar

Add:
2 large eggs
1 t. vanilla

Mix together:
½ c. sour cream
½ c. whole milk

Mix into butter alternately with:
1 ½ c. flour
1 ½ t. baking powder
½ t. baking soda
¼ t. salt

When mixed add by hand:
1 c. pistachios finely chopped
½ c. white chocolate chips

Pour into 3 greased and floured 8"

pans.

Smooth tops.
Bake 350° for 20-25 min.
They will look bubbly and dry.

Cool. Mix frosting, layer cakes with frosting in-between and frost sides. Garnish with approx.
½ c. pistachios (rest of bag) leave whole or chop.

Frosting:
Beat:
½ c. softened butter
2 c. powdered sugar

Melt:
1 c. white chocolate chips
3 T. whipping cream
Gradually add melted chips into frosting and keep beating till smooth.



SHEBOYGAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS

TWO MUST-SEE PERFORMANCES THIS MARCH

Saturday, March 8, 2025 | 7:30 pm

RETROSPECTION

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Sunday, March 16, 2025 | 3:00 pm

FROM SHEBOYGAN TO CARNEGIE HALL

Enjoy an unforgettable afternoon of music while supporting our chorus members fundraise on their journey to Carnegie Hall this May!

Order now for the best seats!



SCAN TO ORDER



sheboygansymphony.org

New musical stresses need for empathy

In the 80th year of the Kohler Foundation's Distinguished Guest Series, the foundation continues to unveil untold stories and celebrate humanity.

After their critically acclaimed previews in New York City, the Foundation brings *label•less*, a new musical by 98° star Drew Lachey and his wife Lea on Thursday, March 6th at 7:00 p.m. to the Kohler Memorial Theatre.

It has never been easier to connect with others, yet our world has never been more divided. The struggle to understand and accept people who do not look the same, sound the same, or think the same has never been more real.

This new musical is the perfect way to start the difficult conversations that need to be had. Whether discussing race, sexuality, or mental health, *label•less* brings attention to topics in a way that everyone can understand and relate to.

Using popular music, dance, and personal stories, this talented cast of 18 draws attention

to the struggles facing us while offering hope for a better, more accepting tomorrow.

Both Lacheys say the musical is part of their larger movement, an effort to spread "heart, humanity, and hope...Of all the things that have happened in my career, none have been as impactful on my life as being a part of *label•less*," says Drew in a statement. "Being able to tell these stories of love, loss, heartbreak, and triumph has changed me and I feel has the power to change the world."

"I had the pleasure of seeing the extended showcase of *label•less* when I was in NYC

last year", shares Kohler Foundation Executive Director, Angela Ramey, "and it gave me instant goosebumps. The talent is breathtaking. I truly believe that everyone will walk away from this performance with a deeper understanding of their community. The show tackles heavy subjects but the overall experience is light, joyful, and uplifting."

Tickets are on sale now and are available online at kohlerfoundation.org or by calling 920-458-1972. All events will be held at the Kohler Memorial Theatre, 260 School St. Kohler, WI.

Railroad club sponsors swap meet Mar. 15

The Sheboygan Railroad Museum: operated by the SSSMRE (Sheboygan Society of Scale Model Railroad Engineers, Ltd., a 501c3 non-profit organization), is sponsoring a Model Railroad Swap Meet in Sheboygan in March.

This event will be held at Lakeshore Lanes in Sheboygan (2519 South Business Drive) on Saturday, March 15th, 2025 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

There will be 30+ vendor tables of model railroad equipment in various sizes and scales available for purchase, plus a small operating layout for people to see.

The event will be located in the Banquet Room on the main floor of the facility, which is in the northwest corner of the building.

Strike's Bar and Grill is located in the bowling alley.

There is a charge for adult admission, children under 12 are free. Vendor table reservations and inquiries may be directed to Leo Schneider at 920-917-4598, or via email at lmschneider8@gmail.com.

Concert to honor late conductor

The Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra will host a concert on March 16 to raise funds for



its Chorus to perform at Carnegie Hall as well as honor the memory of the late Peter Tiboris, Sheboygan native and visionary in the orchestra world.

The orchestra and chorus will perform Sunday, March 16, at 3 p.m. at the historic Stefanie H. Weill Center. The fundraising event will support the Chorus' performance at Carnegie Hall in May.

Tiboris had initially volunteered to conduct the concert last summer and supply a guest vocalist, at no cost to the SSO, with all ticket revenue supporting the Chorus' trip to perform at Carnegie Hall under the baton of the re-

nowned Sir John Rutter.

Tiboris envisioned the concert as a tribute to the Sheboygan community for helping him get his musical start as an organist at St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church. Tiboris was fond of his Sheboygan roots and had conducted the SSO and SSC in October 2001 for the grand opening of the Weill Center.

When Tiboris died unexpectedly on Sept. 17, his production company agreed to continue with the concert to support the Carnegie Hall trip, offering MidAmerica Productions Conductor-in-Residence Matthew Harden to conduct the chorus and orchestra.

"Peter's vision was to bring the Sheboygan Symphony Chorus to Carnegie Hall and to celebrate their incredible talent," Harden said.

"It is an honor to lead this concert in his memory and support the chorus in achieving this extraordinary milestone."

To purchase tickets to "From Sheboygan to Carnegie Hall and Back," call The Weill Center at 920-208-3243, or go to sheboygansymphony.org.

For more information about Peter Tiboris' legacy in the performing arts world, visit www.midamerica-music.com/in-memoriam



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^No interest will be charged on the promo balance if you pay it off, in full, within the promo period. If you do not, interest will be charged on the promo balance from the purchase date. The required minimum monthly payments may or may not pay off the promo balance before the end of the promo period, depending on purchase amount, promo length and payment allocation. Regular account terms apply to non-promo purchases and, after promo period ends, to the promo balance. New Accounts as of 7/16/24: Purchase APR 34.99%. Penalty APR 39.99%. Min Interest Charge \$2. A promo fee will be charged equal to 2% of the amount financed on an equal payment no interest promotion of 18 months or more. Existing cardholders: See your credit card agreement terms. Subject to credit approval. A Promo Fee does not apply to this offer.

Valentine's Day has always been a fun holiday for me. I would meticulously plan which card each friend received in elementary school, making sure the saying was special to them. As I grew older, my list of cards to choose grew smaller without the big class parties, but I always enjoyed sharing a little something with those close to me, even the years I didn't have a "traditional" valentine. As I started to come up with ideas for the special people in my life this year, I realized how special of a holiday I can make it with things grown and made right here in Wisconsin!

When most people think of Valentine's Day gifts, they often think of flowers first, and for good reason! It is estimated that nearly 250 million flowers are sold globally for the holiday each year. While Valentine's Day is a little too early for many of Wisconsin's outdoor blooms, a little seasonal greenery or a house plant will let the green thumbs in your life know just how important they are to you.

Sweets are another popular gift for the holiday, and Wis-



Think of Wisconsin this Valentine's Day

DAIRY DELIGHTS

Halei Heinzl, 77th Alice in Dairyland

consin's confectioners have just about anything you could want: hand-poured chocolates in endless shapes, chocolate-covered fruits or pretzels, handmade fudge, turtles, truffles, and so much more! Many confectioners here have combined creamy chocolate with iconic Wisconsin flavors like cherries, hazelnuts,



A dinner featuring Wisconsin grown, raised, and produced foods is a surefire way to impress your Valentine!

cranberries, walnuts, and even cheese to add to the tastiness!

Quite a few jewelers call Wisconsin home, providing lots of options for Valentine's Day gifts! The citrine or amethyst, different varieties of quartz found in the Alice in Dairyland tiara, would each make a beautiful stone in any piece, and can



Jewelry is a common Valentine's Day gift, lift it up a notch with a gem like amethyst, found right here in Wisconsin!

be found right here in Wisconsin! Citrine is a yellow or orange quartz while amethyst comes in different shades of purple. Both serve as wonderful reminders of Wisconsin's strong mining history, and would certainly make a statement on Valentine's Day!

A nice, home-cooked meal is a great way to spend some time



Gift the taste of Wisconsin with chocolates filled with iconic flavors like cherries, cranberries, old fashioned, pumpkin, hazelnuts, and more.

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MORE INFO

Light show nets 59 tons of food for pantries

Compiling the results from the over month long run of the 13th annual Making Spirits Bright drive through holiday lights show is time-consuming but important. The 2024 event resulted in 117,324 pounds of food that were donated to the event's partner, Sheboygan County Food Bank.

The vehicle counter logged 23,615 vehicles with at least 89,166 total visitors that rode through Evergreen Park. In addition to traffic from throughout Sheboygan County, a first-ever survey revealed that visitors came from throughout Wisconsin and 12 different states including California, New Mexi-

co and Oklahoma.

Making Spirits Bright has been called "one of the best light shows" and continues to be free. Over 1,132 volunteers log approximately 14,665 hours throughout the year to ensure the success of the event.

Four volunteers were recognized for exemplary service: Joan King is retiring from her volunteer efforts at Santa's Station, formerly Quarryview Center; Kayla Burhop received the Chairman's Award; Chris Planton the Unsung Hero award; and Fred Engelhardt was named Volunteer of the Year.

Joan King has been a key volunteer from helping to set up the decorations, to being a hostess during the annual VIP night, to volunteering during the nights Santa's Station is open.

Kayla Burhop received the Chairman's Award for her efforts on social media, parades, and construction of displays during the past eight years. She shoots photos and creates social media posts for the event.

Early on, Burhop also had a vision to design the Narwhal, Jack Skellington, Zero and Olaf displays and was instrumental in construction of them. She is a member of an extended family that fully embraces the event by displaying the Making Spirits Bright float at numerous parades to extend awareness and are volunteers in the park an entire night of the lights show.

Chris Planton earned the Unsung Hero award for showing up to help however he's needed and always with a smile and willingness to get done whatever needs doing. As a key member of the Production team for the event, Planton has invested countless hours in the workshop repairing existing and constructing new displays.

Fred Engelhardt, who has been a member of the production committee since the event began in 2012, was named the Volunteer of the Year. In addition to helping with the building of displays

throughout the year, he is the only volunteer who is a working member of two committees (production and operations). Engelhardt can be found at the start and finish of the show almost every night of the event

which entails positioning the traffic signage, opening the front gate to start the traffic flow and closing it at the end of the night. On weekends, he starts and stops the generator that controls Santa's Station.

Making Spirits Bright is open to the public from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. the night after Thanksgiving through December 31 (closed Christmas Eve). In 2024, the show ran 32 total nights. "It takes a dedicated team of volunteers to bring this highly anticipated event to life," said Steering Committee Chair, Dave Hoffman.

"It's impossible to extend the heartfelt 'thank you' to all who help ensure Making Spirits Bright continues to be a beloved event attracting visitors from near and far."

The impact the event has on the community is summed up by Patrick Boyle, Executive Director of Sheboygan County Food Bank, "over the past 13 years, a grand total of 1.2 million pounds of food, as well as generous grants from the event's proceeds, have helped us to move the needle in the fight against hunger in Sheboygan County."

To volunteer for the 2025 event, and for more details in general, visit MakingSpiritsBright.com

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The ABCs for birth of soil dating back to glacier days

by **Bruce Spangenberg**
UW-Madison Horticulture Outreach Specialist

Soils are the foundation of gardens and landscapes, featuring characteristics that vary among locations in Wisconsin. Success when growing plants is very closely related to soil conditions, which are a result of numerous factors that started as far back as the ice age.

Soil formation processes begin with parent material, which eventually transforms into what we recognize as soil.

With just a couple of exceptions, parent material consists of some form of rocks, varying in size from boulders to smaller than sand, left in place after activity of glaciers, water, wind, or gravity.

Glacial deposits are the prevalent parent material throughout Wisconsin, as are flood deposits, ancient lakes that dried up, and windblown silt deposits known as loess.

Once parent material is in place, the lengthy process of soil formation begins. Rock needs to be broken down to soil particles known as

sand (largest size), silt, and clay (smallest size). This is achieved through both physical and chemical weathering processes.

Physical weathering includes action of water, wind, and freezing/thawing cycles breaking larger rock into smaller and smaller pieces.

Chemical weathering involves countless reactions including water and acids reacting with the chemistry of rock materials.

Once plant and animal life become involved with weathering parent materials, soil development processes are accelerated. As time moves on, layers called horizons develop, the result of compounds accumulating or disappearing as water moves through soils. Topography, vegetation, and precipitation all influence horizon development.

Starting at the surface is the A horizon, typically biologically active, fertile, and best for plant growth. Often called topsoil, this layer features organic matter along with a good mix of particle sizes, known as texture, found in a favorable arrangement, called soil structure.



Examples of terminology associated with soils ideal for plants include loam or silt loam texture with granular structure. Surface horizon depth is greater in soils developed under prairies compared to forests.

Immediately below A horizons are B horizons, cre-

ated as water leaches various compounds out of the surface horizon. Often called subsoil, B horizons have the most clay accumulation.

Under B horizons lies the C horizon, which still has the characteristics of the original parent material, such as gravel or sand associated with glacier deposits.

Landscape and garden plants growing in soils with undisturbed well-developed

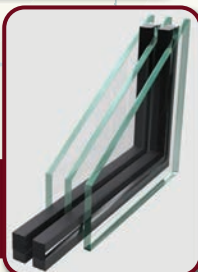
A horizons usually flourish. Unfortunately, original A horizons often are removed or destroyed during home con-

struction, leaving subsoil of variable quality soil fill in its place. Those soils need to be amended to try to recreate the ideal A horizon.

This is why amendment such as organic matter are widely recommended for improving or managing yard and garden soils.

Bruce Spangenberg is a Horticulture Outreach Specialist with UW-Madison Division of Extension. Get answers to your lawn, landscape, and garden questions anytime at www.go.wisc.edu/GardenQuestions

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Symphony extravaganza opens March

The Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra will perform Mozart's "Jupiter" Symphony, Tchaikovsky's "Variations on a Rococo Theme," GRAMMY Award winner Jessie Montgomery's "Overture" and Carlos

Simon's "Fate Now Conquers" on March 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Stefanie H. Weill Center for the Performing Arts.

"Jessie Montgomery, known for her innovative compositions that blend classical music with elements of vernacular music and social consciousness, has written a colorful, turbulent overture that explodes with life," said Ernesto Estigarribia Mussi, SSO Music Director.

"Virtuosic cellist Hannah Holman will electrify the stage with Tchaikovsky's 'Variations on a Rococo Theme.' The performance will be a showcase of technical brilliance and profound musical emotion that promises to leave the audience spellbound."

"Mozart's last symphony, No. 41, is simply put, one of the greatest works in classical music, a beautiful and remarkable

synthesis of mind and heart," said Jonathan Winkle, SSO Executive Director.

Remaining concerts this season include:

Sunday, March 16 at 3 p.m.: A fundraising concert to support the chorus trip to Carnegie Hall in May.

Saturday, May 17 at 7:30 p.m.: The season finale pairs

contemporary composer Ingrid Stolz's *City Beautiful* with classical masterworks Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3, with returning pianist Fanya Lin, and Sibelius' Symphony No. 2.

All concerts will be held at the Stefanie H. Weill Center for the Performing Arts in Sheboygan.

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Waelderhaus art series starts again

Arts at the Waelderhaus is back! This free series of cultural events take place in the Waelderhaus, an Austrian house museum overlooking the Sheboygan River in Kohler.

The first performance is on Sunday, March 2nd at 2:00 p.m. and presents the Valencia Baryton Project. The Valencia Baryton Project has dedicated itself to performing music written for a historic and rare instrument: the baryton. The baryton gives the traditional string trio an entirely new dimension. The instrument has two sets of strings

– in the front and played with a bow like the viol de gamba, there is a set of 6 strings. Behind that, there is another set of 9 metal strings, which are plucked and vibrate sympathetically, which means that when you play a big chord with the bow – those metal strings will also vibrate and continue to resonate – creating a fuller and richer sound.

The Valencia Baryton Project is a collective founded by Valencia, Spain-based barytonist Matthew Baker with the vision of performing the nearly 170 works written by Franz Joseph Haydn and compositions by other modern and classical composers for the baryton. At the heart of the ensemble is the traditional trio formation

—baryton, viola, and violoncello—for which Haydn wrote hundreds of compositions during his time as the court composer for Prince Esterhazy of Austria. Matthew Baker will be performing on baryton alongside his colleagues Brett Wal-fish on viola and Ismar Gomes on violoncello.

The next event will take place on Sunday, April 6 at 2:00 p.m. Justin Miller, Architectural Historian from the Archaeological Research Laboratory Center at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee will share a presentation about Midcentury religious architecture. Religious membership surged in the 1950s and 1960s, prompting a construction boom of new houses of worship. This fast-paced and entertaining pre-

sentation will explore the unique architectural styles and aesthetics of midcentury modern religious buildings around the state—including Sheboygan County! There will also be information shared about the dalle de verre or “slab glass” style of stained-glass windows, which has a historical connection to Sheboygan native Bernard Gruenke.

Arts at the Waelderhaus 2025 Schedule

March 2, 2025 · Valencia Baryton Project, classical music

April 6, 2025 · Justin Carlos Miller: A-Frames & Flying Saucers: Midcentury Religious Architecture April 27, 2025 · Annika Nelson: classical guitar

June 22, 2025 · áthas: Irish Band – outdoor concert

September 14, 2025 · Natural

Satellite: Indie jazz trio – outdoor concert

Each performance begins at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoons and is open to the public, free of charge. Reservations are not required and seating is first come, first served. It’s recommended to bring a chair or blanket to sit on for outdoor events. More information can be found at www.kohlerfoundation.org.

The Waelderhaus, an Austrian house museum filled with beautifully carved wood, iron work, and stained glass, is managed by Kohler Foundation.

It is located at 1100 Riverside Dr., Kohler, and is open daily (except holidays) to the public for guided tours, free of charge, at 2:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., and 4:00 p.m.

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COURT REPORT

February 3 to February 7, 2025
Extradition-Arrest w/o Warrant
Karber, Jordan S., 12/11/1985, Sheboygan, Extradited.
DCA
Vang, Richard, 7/6/1999, Sheboygan, Criminal Damage to Property (Misdemeanor-DCA-2 years), Battery (Misdemeanor-DCA-2 years), Disorderly Conduct (Misdemeanor), Owes \$654.00.
Revoke Probation
Martinez, Vicente M., 5/6/1992, Sheboygan, Prison 2 years, Extended Supervision 2 years, Still owes \$2,312.00.
Schmidt, Skyla R., 2/9/2003, Sheboygan, Jail 18 months, Still owes \$598.00.
Shembada-Sawaya, Kwade M., 6/12/1995, Sheboygan, Prison 3 years, Extended Supervision 3 years, Jail 2 months, Still owes \$1,249.00.
Forfeitures
Ellis, Jason C., 2/1985, Plymouth, Take/Attempt to Take Game w/o Valid Authorization or Tag, \$343.50.
Lee, Yee, 12/1985, Sheboygan, Trespass to Land, \$263.50.
Lor, Ger, 3/4/1990, Sheboygan, Disorderly Conduct, \$204.50.
Martinez-Medina, Cristian Y., 5/30/1996, Sheboygan, Retail Theft, \$393.50.
Operate Vehicle without Park Admission Pass
Fetterolsen, Austin J., 7/2001, Sheboygan, \$162.70.
Traffic
Bruss, Brandon N., 7/2003, Sheboygan, Possess Open Intoxicants in Motor Vehicle-Passenger, \$200.50.
Clayton III, Floyd T., 8/1986, Sheboygan, Fail/Stop at Stop Sign, \$175.30.
Footo, Anthony S., 8/1988, Sheboygan, Operate Motor Vehicle w/o Insurance, Non-Registration of Vehicle-Auto, Operating while Suspended, \$576.30.
Garcia Mendoza, Cristhel L., 11/2003, Sheboygan, Operate Motor Vehicle w/o Insurance, Operate w/o Carrying License, \$417.60.
Holtz, Emma C., 10/2000, Sheboygan, Speeding in 55 mph Zone (11-15 mph), Operate Motor Vehicle w/o Proof of Insurance, \$185.30.
Housey, Lisa M., 2/1981, Sheboygan, Speeding on Expressway (20-24 mph), Vehicle Operator Fail/Wear Seat Belt, \$276.10.
Kling, Samantha L., 5/1998, Sheboygan, Permit Unauthorized Person to Drive, \$200.50.
Lee, Kayden Kong Cheng, 1/2007, Sheboygan, Automobile Following too Closely, \$200.50.
Medel, Josue D., 3/2005, Sheboygan, Unreasonable and Imprudent Speed, \$213.10.
Moore, James M., 9/1967, Sheboygan, Exceeding Speed Zone (16-19 mph), Vehicle Operator Fail/Wear Seat Belt, \$210.50.
Pfister, Mara Jo, 10/1981, Sheboygan, Failure to Yield Right of Way, \$187.90.
Schmidt, Rocky Ray, 2/1990, Sheboygan, Operate Motor Vehicle w/o Insurance, Vehicle Operator Fail/Wear Seat Belt, \$210.50.
Fail/Stop for Unloading School Bus
Clark, Trevor D., 10/2008, Sheboygan, \$326.50.
Fiallos, Mayra I., 6/1970, Sheboygan, \$326.50.
Kue, Mai Chang, 2/1953, Sheboygan, \$326.50.
Operating while Suspended
Falk, Jamie L., 9/1986, Sheboygan, \$200.50.
Willis, Ivory D., 8/1990, Sheboygan, \$200.50.
Operating while Revoked
Green, Tiffany M., 1/24/1972, Sheboygan, (due to alcohol/controlled substance/refusal), \$455.00.
Harris, Patrick H., 12/20/1975, Sheboygan, (due to alcohol/controlled substance/refusal), \$654.00.
Te Stroete, Hannah J., 2/8/2002, Sheboygan, (due to alcohol/controlled substance/refusal), \$704.00.

Operate w/o Carrying License
Alexander, Khadafi Armon, 4/17/2006, Sheboygan, \$217.10.
Querido, Hunter A., 4/6/2000, Sheboygan, \$217.10.
Rollins, William T., 5/19/1967, Sheboygan, \$217.10.
Rugama Centeno, Jasser J., 9/15/1998, Sheboygan, \$217.10.
Operate w/o Valid License
Fennessy, Stephanie C.A., 9/1990, Sheboygan, \$200.50.
Hoppe, Melissa M., 10/1982, Sheboygan, \$200.50.
Mendez, Joe A., 1/1980, Sheboygan, \$200.50.
Nixon, Toledo S., 2/14/1996, Sheboygan, (2nd within 3 years), \$455.00.
Rios, Juan A., 3/16/1990, Sheboygan, (3rd within 3 years), \$654.00.
Operate a Motor Vehicle w/o Insurance
Duron, Monica, 7/1985, Sheboygan, \$200.50.
Ziegler, James T., 7/1974, Sheboygan, \$200.50.
Non-Registration of Vehicle-Auto
Danny's Drywall LLC., Sheboygan, \$175.30.
Pierce, Jamil T., 3/2002, Sheboygan, \$175.30.
Speeding on Freeway
Mcduffie, Anthony D., 2/1986, Sheboygan, (16-19 mph), \$250.90.
Vickers, Lauren E., 10/1985, Sheboygan, (16-19 mph), \$250.90.
Exceeding Speed Zones
Avina, Nicholas J., 7/2006, Sheboygan, (16-19 mph), \$200.50.
Forsterling, Randy Lee, 5/1980, Sheboygan, (25-29 mph), \$250.90.
Gruenke, Cody D., 6/1994, Sheboygan, (16-19 mph), \$200.50.
Sanchez Escudero, Guillermo, 5/1968, Sheboygan, (40-44 mph), \$452.50.
OWI
Todd, Daniel R., 8/18/1959, Sheboygan, (3rd), Jail 43 days, License Revoke 36 months, Ignition Interlock 36 months, \$4,063.45.
Yang, Kyle Kyoshi, 3/22/1993, Sheboygan, (2nd), Jail 40 days, License Revoke 16 months, Ignition Interlock 16 months, \$2,234.00.
Misdemeanors
Ruiz, Marcario L., 6/9/2006, Sheboygan, Possession/Illegally Obtained Prescription, \$591.00.
Seehaver, Haylee L., 6/25/2002, Sheboygan, Credit Card-Fraudulent Use (<=\$2500), \$727.00.
Misdemeanors and Felonies

Hartman, Samuel A., 1/2/1987, Sheboygan, Bail Jumping (Felony), Disorderly Conduct (Domestic Abuse)-2 counts (Misdemeanors), Firearms/Weapons Restrictions, \$1,728.00.
Taylor, Alonzo A., 2/15/1986, Sheboygan, Threats to Injure/Accuse of Crime (Felony) Disorderly Conduct (Misdemeanor), Jail 14 days, \$999.40.
Felonies
Conkrite, Casey Z., 6/23/1989, Sheboygan, Possession w/Intent-THC (>200g-1000 g), Prison 2 years (imposed/stayed), Extended Supervision 2 years (imposed/stayed), Community Service 20 hours, Firearms/Weapons Restrictions, \$530.00.
Singel, Rebecca J., 2/8/1981, Sheboygan, Forgery-Writings or Objects (4 counts) Forgery-Uttering, Possession of Methamphetamine, Theft of Mail (30 or more pieces), Bail Jumping (3 counts), Prison 2 years, Extended Supervision 2 years, \$13,656.81.
Thompson, Ronald M., 12/18/1997, Sheboygan, Manufacture/Deliver Cocaine (<=1g), (2 counts), Manufacture/Deliver Cocaine (>1-5 g), Prison 30

months, Extended Supervision 3 years, \$1,566.00.
 February 10 to February 14, 2025
Revoke Probation
Sheldon, Heather S., 4/12/1976, Sheboygan, Jail 18 months, Still owes \$1377.00.
Theune, Will A., 7/28/2004, Sheboygan, Prison 3 years, Extended Supervision 3 years, Firearms/Weapons Restrictions, owes \$204.40.
Forfeitures

months, Extended Supervision 3 years, \$1,566.00.
 February 10 to February 14, 2025
Revoke Probation
Sheldon, Heather S., 4/12/1976, Sheboygan, Jail 18 months, Still owes \$1377.00.
Theune, Will A., 7/28/2004, Sheboygan, Prison 3 years, Extended Supervision 3 years, Firearms/Weapons Restrictions, owes \$204.40.
Forfeitures

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Home for a weekend



WILDERNESS JOURNAL

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Hello friends,

The Polencheck family out of Glidden are good buds of mine and have been for about 25 years. We try to do something at least once a year, and this time it was two days of ice fishing, eating good food and giving each other a hard time.

Saturday, January 25th
High 21, low 12

Today would be a fun day full of adventure on the ice. Myself, Scott Polencheck, and his children Gunner 23, Preston 21, and Jersey 19. Along with Bruce Polencheck, (brother to Scott) and Mike Dunlevey who owns Bear Necessities which is a convenience store in Glidden that has excellent gas prices and some really cool taxidermy would be our crew.

Once we hit the ice we would travel by atv and utv and this was a big homecoming for Scott as Preston was home from working in Alabama and Jersey was home for the weekend from school in Eau Claire where she is studying to be a respiratory therapist.

I want to say that actually Scott, Bruce and I started our day crappie fishing on another lake and both Polencheck

brothers insisted that I write, that I caught the first, most, biggest and only crappie”s” of the outing.

So anyways, our plan was to fish for walleye and northern pike with tip ups, have a campfire, a fish fry and give each other crap. Let me tell you about the four Polencheck men. If a flag goes up, you would think a nuclear missile is on its way as they get super excited and were a bit perturbed throughout the weekend about my rather “casual manner” in walking to the action.

Folks, today would be a day full of laughs on a beautiful body of water with snow falling and flags flying. Jersey “Cow” as I call her, and I teamed up together as I had 6 tip ups in

my pack and it was really fun and she caught the days only walleye. Preston who I would learn today is actually called “Chicken” so if anyone see’s Preston, please address him as Chicken, I am sure he will appreciate that.

In the early 90’s I lived in Glidden and then bought a home and 5 acres for \$10,500 near Mellen, little side note there.

Anyhow, the day was busy because the gators were hungry and Jersey Cow was quite naturally teaching her siblings how to catch fish and did I tell you the males in the Polencheck clan about soil their pants if a flag goes up and you aren’t running to it. I am sure Gunner, Chicken, Scott and Bruce wanted me to write that.

Towards dark a stove was pulled out, five gators were filleted and Y boned, and Bruce Polencheck created what might have been the best fish fry I have ever enjoyed. Shore Lunch “beer batter” with a bit of chili powder was/is the best.

The next day we headed towards Butternut and fished gators with tip ups, it was cold and windy, but the gators were very hungry. Out of 7 of us, as Gunner’s sweetie, Taylor Wineberger was also along. The Jersey Cow and Taylor were on fire. They both literally seemed to constantly have a flag up and Taylor caught the big fish of the day. In all honesty I bet we caught 50 fish and most of the time, the flags came up in doubles and triples.

I am sure the Polencheck boys want me to write that I taught them how to fish this weekend especially “Chicken” and Gunner but I want you to know that they already had a pretty “fairly” good idea of what they were doing.

Dear Chicken and Gunner, please send a check for your fishing lessons!

Sunset





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Brachmann, Jeffrey D., 2/13/1961, Sheboygan, Disorderly Conduct, \$393.50.

Brown III, Matthew, 8/1985, Sheboygan, Battery, \$389.50.

Singh, Arshdeep, 9/2001, Sheboygan, Licensee Sell Alcohol to Underage (1st), \$452.50.

Traffic
Boston, Brian T., 8/1983, Sheboygan, Operating while Suspended, \$200.50.

Christian, Andrew F., 12/13/1984, Sheboygan, Operating while Revoked (due to alcohol/controlled substance/refusal), \$591.00.

Escobar, Felipe, 5/1978, Sheboygan, Deviate from Designated Lane, Operating while Suspended, \$375.80.

Kellner, James A., 10/1987, Sheboygan, Fail/Yield Right/Way from Stop Sign, \$175.30.

Lee, Gerry, 11/4/1996, Sheboygan, Hit and Run, \$843.00.

Ludwig, Patricia D., 4/1959, Sheboygan, Fail/Stop for Unloading School Bus, \$676.50.

Luma, Avdilmexhit, 12/1989, Sheboygan, Operator Violate Red Traffic Light, \$175.30.

Mohammad Solim, Abdul Halim, 1/1995, Sheboygan, Operate Motor Vehicle by Permittee w/o Instructor, \$200.50.

Sanchez, Cheyenne L., 9/2006, Sheboygan, Operate Motor Vehicle by Permittee w/o Instructor, \$200.50.

Warner, James Lee, 8/1960, She-

boygan, Cracked/Damaged Vehicle Windshield, \$175.30.

Operate w/o Carrying License

Bogert, Trent W., 5/23/1989, Sheboygan, \$217.10.

Castilblanco Gonzalez, Einer R., 7/15/2000, Sheboygan, \$217.10.

Operate w/o Valid License

Barojas Ignacio, Martha, 10/1984, Sheboygan, \$200.50.

Beltran Campechano, Cesar, 7/26/1992, Sheboygan, (3rd + within 3 years), \$654.00.

Cervantesflores, Miguel, 11/1998, Sheboygan, \$200.50.

Davis, Michal L., 2/3/1977, Sheboygan, (3rd + within 3 years), \$654.00.

Operate a Motor Vehicle w/o Insurance

Braithwaite, Roslynn L., 8/2000, Sheboygan, \$200.50.

Non-Registration of Vehicle-Auto

Rodriguez, Ivelisse A., 7/2007, Sheboygan, \$175.30.

Speeding in 55 mph Zone

Zelaya Sarmiento, Julio C., 8/1998, Sheboygan, (16-19 mph), \$200.50.

Misdemeanors

Avina Jr., Marvin, 7/6/1989, Sheboygan, Disorderly Conduct, \$455.00.

Gerk, Adam W., 7/24/1997, Sheboygan, Retail Theft-Intentionally Take (<=\$500), (3 counts), Jail 30 days (stayed), \$1351.00.

Morrison, Andrew H., 6/13/2001, Sheboygan, Possession of Amphetamine/LSD/Psilocin, \$795.75.

Misdemeanors and Felonies

Blakqori, Rrahman, 9/19/1974, Sheboygan, Strangulation and Suffocation (Felony-Domestic Abuse), Disorderly Conduct (Misdemeanor-Domestic Abuse), Jail 90 days, Firearms/Weapons Restrictions, \$1,498.00.

Felonies

Lipp, Shyan M., 6/19/1997, Sheboygan, Possession of Cocaine/Cocaine (2nd+ Offense), (Repeater), Firearms/Weapons Restrictions, \$480.00.

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Johnsonville supports home repair project

The Board of Directors of Rebuilding Together - Sheboygan County (RTSC) has received \$10,000 from Johnsonville.

The donation was part of Johnsonville's annual Member

Giving Drive, where its members can nominate a local non-profit for a donation made on the Member's behalf.

RTSC regularly receives applications from County homeowners who live in conditions many could not imagine, and who often face challenges that prevent them from being able to tackle them alone.

The all-volunteer non-profit

has been providing free home repairs to those who qualify since 1998.

Prior to the COVID pandemic, and with admirable financial support from leading area partners, RTSC organized "National Rebuilding Day" each April.

In that format, over a hundred volunteers worked on several homes in the county in a single day. Currently, repairs

are completed year round on a project basis, dependent on available funding, volunteers and weather conditions.

Learn more about RTSC's work and volunteering by visiting rtsheboygan.org, where

you may also make a tax-deductible donation. The 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization continuously seeks sponsors to support its vital work in Sheboygan County.

A Look Back - City Taxi Co., 1925



When entrepreneur Al Fuerst (second from left) took over Sheboygan's City Taxi Company from Ted Meinhardt one hundred years ago in 1925, he posed with his drivers and a bemused onlooker. They oozed 1920s style and swagger.

"The new manager is a congenial young man who will no doubt continue the business on the same successful basis as his predecessor," an early 1926 Sheboygan Press article introducing the new owner stated.

One of Fuerst's first ads noted that "three Dodge sedans are available day or night for passenger service and a Graham truck for local or long distance moving or hauling." Other City Taxi Company ads of that era sought wedding and funeral business, hawked inner tubes for sale and promised customers a chance to win \$5 in gold.

Photo courtesy of the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center

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UW-Madison fears significant disruption from federal funding cut

The following statement by UW-Madison is in response to the federal directive issued on February 7, 2025 to change the Facilities and Administration (F&A) rate for all existing and ongoing new National Institutes of Health (NIH) research awards to 15 percent, set to go into effect on February 10, 2025.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is one of the world's leading engines of biomedical research.

This proposed change to NIH funding - UW-Madison's largest source of federal support - will significantly disrupt vital research activity and delay lifesaving discoveries and cures related to cancer, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, and much more.

In addition, these reductions will have an inevitable impact on student opportunities to engage in research activities, from undergraduates to Ph.D. and medical students.

Medical innovation will be slowed, delaying the creation of

new treatments, new technologies, and new health workers.

The so-called 'indirect costs' go to support many aspects of the educational and research work of the university.

Indirect costs contribute to everything from utilities charges to building out the laboratories where science is done, to infrastructure for clinical trials of new medicines and treatments.

Drastic reduction to this funding will not only disrupt the day-to-day important work of the university but will ultimately harm the livelihoods of real people across Wisconsin and the country, harm the innovation economy and will make our nation less competitive.

Editor's note: Wisconsin, along with 21 other states, sued Feb. 10 to stop the rate change plan. The same day, U.S. District Judge Angel Kelley issued a temporary restraining order against implementing the rate change.

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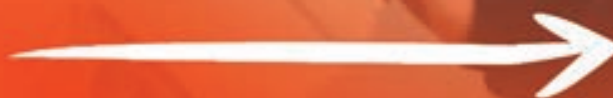
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Woodworking service expands on Sheboygan Falls west side

by Jeff Pederson
of The Review staff

Heading into their 10th year in business, Frontier Craftsmen owners Sam and Natalie Kohlhagen have set up shop at a new, expanded facility on the far west side of Sheboygan Falls.

The custom woodworking and general construction services business has experienced remarkable growth over the first decade of operation.

"The business started first in my garage," Sam Kohlhagen said. "Then in 2016, we started renting building space at 638 Monroe Street in downtown Sheboygan Falls. That's where we remained until we moved recently. The business specializes in custom cabinetry, woodworking and cabinet design services."

As demand for services increased, additional space became a necessity.

"We opened our new facility to accommodate growing space needs and to expand our product line," Kohlhagen said. "We wanted to add larger equipment like a CNC and expand our assembly space. We also wanted a more defined area for our finishing and paint spraying area."

Following a brief search for a larger location, the Kohlhagens found Frontier Craftsmen's new home at W3374 County C in Sheboygan Falls.

After three years of construction upgrades, the new Frontier Craftsmen headquarters opened in summer 2024.

According to Kohlhagen, the new facility features top-notch machinery and additional showroom display space.

"Mechanically, the new building is really well put together," Kohlhagen said. "We have a state-of-the-art CNC machine and spray room, central dust collection system and expanded power options."

"The two biggest changes are the addition of a larger interactive showroom to really show a glimpse of everything we can do," he said. "Besides that, we have displays all around the shop showing off different storage solutions, woodworking ideas, and building materials for sale. The old building we were previously in was not ADA-compliant and not very accessible to customers. It was very important for us to show off all the different aspects of what we do and let people see all their options. We now have room to expand our services and grow as a business."

Another layer of Frontier Craftsmen's growth has come through a new line of custom cabinets.

"Besides offering the custom cabinetry, countertops and products we were offering before, we are introducing a line of cabinetry designed in as Euro cabinets, which are also known as frameless," Kohlhagen said. "It's a lower-cost storage option for customers, which adds an option for builders and homes outside the traditional custom cabinetry which has been our primary focus."



THE KOHLHAGEN FAMILY of Sam, Natalie, Hugh and Graham recently debuted an expanded location for Frontier Craftsmen at W3374 County C on the far west side of Sheboygan Falls. - Submitted photo

"We also added CNC Services for businesses and individuals that are looking to make their operations more efficient," he said. "Lastly, we have been slowly introducing the sale of lumber and supplies for homeowners and do-it-yourselfers with a little shop area for local favorites. We will continue to offer more as time allows."

Kohlhagen is pleased to have a skilled, dedicated staff to help push the Frontier Craftsmen brand forward.

"We have a staff of 10 people, which includes four cabinet builders and installers, two full-time designers/ project managers, a high school intern and a support staff of accounting and maintenance plus Natalie and

myself as owners/operators," Kohlhagen said.

The new Frontier Craftsmen facility will be showcased to the public with a public open house event on Saturday, March 1 from 12 to 2 p.m.

Frontier Craftsmen is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon.



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Make a home more friendly for seniors

Home is where the heart is. That sentiment may be especially true for seniors who have spent decades living in their homes. A lot of hard work goes into home ownership, and seniors who have lived in the same space for a while undoubtedly have countless memories within the walls of their homes. A lifetime of experiences in a home can make it hard to leave, but many seniors experience diminished mobility as they age. Mobility issues can make it hard for seniors to traverse their homes, but aging homeowners can make various renovations to make a home more accessible.

• **Revamp entryways and staircases.** A 2020 study of 1,000 adults in the United Kingdom found that 28 percent of individuals age 65 and older who don't exercise regularly struggle with activities like walking up stairs. The study, commissioned by Total Fitness, also found that 14 percent of men and women over 65 who regularly engage in moderate exercise still find it challenging to climb up and down a flight of stairs. Seniors facing similar challenges can install a ramp at their home's entryway so they can comfortably go in and out. Inside, a chair lift can ensure se-



niors are not struggling to move from one floor to another.

• **Raise the outlets throughout the home.** They're easily overlooked, but outlets, particularly those outside the kitchen, tend to be close to the floor. AARP notes that's no accident, as outlets are generally placed at a height equal to the length of a hammer to save time with measuring when buildings are being constructed. Outlets close to the floor can be difficult for seniors with mobility issues to reach. Relocating the outlets a little higher off the floor is not an expensive renovation, but it can make a home more accessible for seniors who have difficulty bending down or getting down on one knee.

• **Install door knob extensions.** Verywell Health notes

that nearly half of all people age 65 and older have arthritis or another rheumatic condition. Arthritis can make it difficult for seniors to grip and turn door knobs. Door knob extensions can make it easier for seniors with arthritis to open the doors in their homes. Such extensions are roughly five-inch levers that can be installed over an existing door knob, making it easier to grab and pull down. Extensions save seniors the hassle of turning the knob, which some may find painful and almost impossible.

• **Renovate the bathroom.** Bathroom renovation projects can be costly, but seniors with mobility issues should know that bathrooms can pose a particularly dangerous threat. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that

roughly three million older adults are treated for fall injuries in emergency departments each year. A 2019 analysis published in The Journals of Gerontology noted that 22 percent of in-home falls resulted in a change in the person's walking ability. Replacing a step-over shower with a zero-step alternative can make it easier for seniors with mobility issues to get in and out of the shower, thus reducing their risk for falls. Grab bars along shower walls and a chair inside the shower can make it easier to bathe and towel off safely.

Seniors with mobility issues can make their homes more accommodating through an assortment of simple, yet effective renovations



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Warning signs that a bathroom needs attention

Homeowners know that the work involved to maintain a home is never done. The end of one project has a tendency to roll into the planning of another, and so it goes for years on end.

Fortunate are the homeowners who get to choose when to begin a renovation project, but it's far more common that homeowners spot an issue and then realize it's time to renovate. When it comes to bathrooms, which can be among the more expensive spaces to renovate in a home, homeowners can keep an eye out for various signs suggesting the room needs a remodel.

• Mold and mildew: Mold and mildew is perhaps the most glaring sign a bathroom needs to be renovated or remodeled. Mold and mildew pose a notable threat to human health, as the United States Environmental Protection Agency reports that molds can cause allergic reactions. Individuals sensitive to mold may develop symptoms that mimic reactions to outdoor allergens like pollen, including sneezing, runny nose, red eyes, and dermatitis (skin rash). Mold also can trigger asthma attacks in people allergic to mold who have the condition. Mold can grow in poorly ventilated bathrooms, such as those without a fan or ones in which fans are not working properly. Mold and mildew will return if it's merely scrubbed away, so the underlying cause of mold must be addressed to prevent its return.

• Small signs of fading: Stains, peeling paint, cracked paint, and gaps in grout are small signs of fading that in-

dicating a bathroom is in need of renovation if not a complete remodel. These issues also can serve as warning signs of larger issues, such as water issues and structural problems, so they should not be merely written off as minor problems or eyesores.

• Rising water bills: Some signs a bathroom could use a little TLC are not necessarily confined to the room itself. If water bills are rising significantly and do not align with price increases or an uptick in water consumption, homeowners may have leaking pipes. Such pipes might be beneath a bathroom sink or behind tiled walls. Discoloration on the walls, peeling paint or wallpaper and/or a musty odor may indicate leaks inside a bathroom wall. If coupled with rising water bills, these signs could be indicative of a significant issue that requires immediate attention.

• Issues with tiles: Cracked or damaged tiles in the shower and bathtub or even on the floor are unsightly and also pose a safety hazard. Cracked floor tiles can lead to slips and falls, which can be especially

harmful to older residents. And cracked tiles within the shower and tub area can indicate water problems behind the walls or general disrepair. Such issues should be addressed before they escalate

into something larger.

• A dated vibe: Of course, some issues affecting a bathroom are not necessarily health or safety hazards but more an affront to homeowners' grasp of current styles

and trends.

If walking into a bathroom unintentionally feels like stepping backward into a by-gone era, then it's probably time to consider a renovation or remodeling job.

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Distinctive Design Studio named NARI Regional Remodeler of the Year award winner

The National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) has named Distinctive Design Studio in Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin 2025 North Central Regional Remodeler of the Year (RotY) winner in the Residential Architectural Design Under 500 sq ft category as part of its annual awards competition.

“This Regional Remodeler of the Year award is a testament to our team’s dedication, craftsmanship, and passion for excellence. We’re honored to be recognized among the best in the industry,” says Steven Peskie, Owner and Principal of Distinctive Design Studio.

Each year, NARI presents awards to members who have demonstrated outstanding work through their remodeling projects. The Remodeler of the Year Awards, formerly Contractor of the Year (CotY) Awards, are the highest form of recognition by industry leaders and peers. With hundreds of entries submitted nationwide, each project is judged

with meticulous standards and criteria. This year, more than 160 Regional Winners earned this prestigious honor, collectively representing over \$190 million in remodeling projects.

“NARI RotY winners represent the best of the best in the remodeling industry,” says Tracy Wright, CAE, CNAP, NARI Co-CEO. “This year’s competition was fierce, and we’re thrilled to celebrate the outstanding work NARI members deliver every day.”

About Distinctive Design Studio

Established in 2013, Distinctive Design Studio has been curating elevated and authentic spaces for homes and businesses throughout eastern Wisconsin and beyond. As a full-service design firm, their expertise spans Architecture, Interior Design, and Carpentry, along with the design and installation of custom cabinetry, countertops, and window treatments—offering a seamless experience for both residential

and commercial clients. Whether curating custom homes and remodels tailored to each client’s lifestyle or commercial spaces that enhance productivity, their approach is rooted in innovation, functionality and craftsmanship.

Their award-winning project, The Speakeasy Lodge, exemplifies this philosophy. Once an unused garage loft, this 482 square-foot attic space has been reimaged into a warm and inviting retreat. With a custom wet bar, refined dining area, and a cozy entertainment and gathering space, it’s designed for everything from game day celebrations to quiet evenings by the fire. As a fully integrated design/build project, The Speakeasy Lodge showcases Distinctive Design Studio’s expertise in blending thoughtful design with impeccable execution.

For more information about Distinctive Design Studio and their award-winning designs, visit www.distinctivedesignstudio.com or call (920) 395-1090.



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Transform a playroom into a space that grows with the family

Parents typically make certain changes around a home to ensure it's accommodating to children. Childproofing is a necessity, but entire rooms also may be transformed with children's enjoyment and well-being in mind.

It's common for homeowners to set aside rooms for children to play and explore. These playrooms may initially feature infant swings and bouncers, and eventually start to accumulate the toys that kids receive on holidays and birthdays. Easels, building block sets, puzzles, video games, books, and so much more fill these playrooms where young children spend the majority of their time engrossed in imaginative play. But as children grow, playrooms may no longer be necessary. Homeowners can ensure these rooms evolve with the family, and here are a few ways to do just that.

Make it a home theater/gaming room

The National Institutes of Health says children between the ages of eight and 17 spend an average of 1.5 to 2 hours play-

ing video games each day. It's important for parents to monitor their children's gaming, particularly when kids participate in social platform games that involve people with an internet connection chatting and working together. One way to do so is to locate the gaming setup in a central location, like a home theater room.

Establish a hobby space

Trade in kids' toys for "toys" that everyone in the family will enjoy. Turn the room into one where family members can explore their passions. This may include scrapbooking, painting, yarn crafts, collecting, photography, and more.

Create a quiet learning spot

As children grow up, they may need to spend more time studying. Transforming a playroom into a library or a study space can provide that out-of-the-way spot to get homework and studying done. Adults in the home also can use it for reading, paying the bills or any other task that requires concentration and quiet.

Build a home gym

If the space is large enough, bring in some workout equipment and make the play space one that encourages exercise and fitness. You may not even need large equipment and can utilize interlocking foam tiles that already may be in the playroom. With some free weights, resistance bands and even your own body weight, you can perform a number of beneficial exercises.

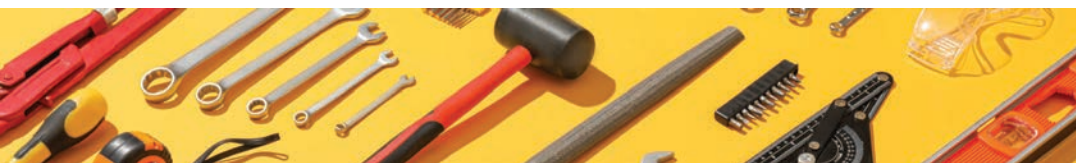
Expand your living space

If the playroom currently abuts another room that can use some more real estate but is separated by a wall, take down the wall to increase the square footage.

Set it aside for guests

Clean out the toys and bring in a bed and nightstand. Now you'll have a dedicated spot for overnight guests to stay, or a room that visiting older children (and eventually grandchildren) can call their own.

Playrooms are much-used areas when children are young. These rooms can evolve as kids get older and families' needs change.



How to make renovation projects go smoothly

Homeowners are spending big bucks on home renovations. According to the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University, home improvement project spending continues to increase. It's predicted to go from \$472 billion spent in 2022 to \$485 billion in 2024.

Those targeting a specific home renovation likely know there is much that goes into the process from start to finish. Patience is a requisite virtue with any remodel, as even a thoroughly conceptualized plan can encounter a few bumps along the way. Although there is no way to completely remove renovation-related obstacles, there are ways to make projects go more smoothly.

Establish a clear plan from the beginning. Now is not the time to be on the fence about details. A vision for the renovation is essential, and should include details about layout, materials, colors, and design.

Manage your expectations. Again, this speaks to a need for patience with

a project but also involves flexibility. Being too rigid when choosing materials can require waiting for back-ordered supplies to come in. Wanting contractors to bend to your schedule can delay the project even further. Creativity and flexibility are key.

Establish a budget. It can be easy to spend beyond one's means, especially when issues crop up. Black House Real Estate stresses the importance of creating a budget before starting a renovation, which may involve working with a local professional to help. Houzz advises preparing for worst-case scenarios by adding anywhere from 1 percent to 20 percent to the budget. Commit to sticking to the budget no matter what comes down the pike.

Assemble a good team. Thoroughly research all contractors who will be involved with the renovation. These include designers, architects, builders, and more. Be sure they come highly recommended and research online reviews. A good team removes some stress from the project

because you'll know the work is in experienced hands.

Prepare the space for the remodel. Any work you can do will help save on labor costs and make it easier for the team to get started on the project. Clear out clutter and personal items. Ask if it would be helpful for you to handle some demolition, whether that's pulling up old tile, removing drywall or another task.

Have an escape hatch at the ready. Home renovations can cause upheaval to daily life, and that can mean stress on top of already chaotic schedules. If money and situation allow, plan a getaway during a particularly tough stretch of the project so the noise, mess, and disruptions will not induce headaches. Consider spending a few nights at a hotel or a friend or relative's house to escape the constant grind of the project.

Home renovation projects add value and functionality to homes. Such undertakings can go more smoothly with some sound planning.



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Dining room conversion ideas

Many homeowners can undoubtedly take a stroll through their homes and find at least one space that could be repurposed to provide more functionality. Real estate professionals know that such sentiments are not uncommon, and many point to formal dining rooms as spaces that

have fallen out of favor in recent years.

Formal dining rooms were once common in newly built homes, but the pivot toward open concept floor plans left it up to homeowners to decide if such spaces were for them. In a 2017 book published by the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Press, authors used cameras to monitor life in many people's homes, including how they used each room. The authors concluded that formal dining rooms were rarely used for eating. If that sounds a lot like home to many current homeowners, then it might be time to consider some ideas to convert formal dining rooms to make these spaces more functional.

• Home office: Though the percentage of professionals working remotely has dipped considerably since the end of the pandemic, hybrid working is perhaps among the more lasting work-related byproducts of COVID-19. In its Global State of Remote and Hybrid study published in early 2024, the career networking resource LinkedIn noted that 13 percent of jobs posted to the platform were for hybrid positions. That means millions of workers can still utilize an accommodating home office space. A formal dining room can be converted to provide such a space, and the good news is that such a conversion need not require extensive renovations. A fresh coat of paint, an additional outlet or two and perhaps a new overhead lighting fixture can instantly transform the space at minimal cost.

• Reading room/library: Homeowners who dream of having a designated space for quiet reading can convert a little-used formal dining room into a space to curl up with a good book.

Some comfortable armchairs, built-in bookshelves and perhaps an expanded floor-to-ceiling window overlooking a side or backyard can help homeowners create a home library that will be the envy of any avid reader.

• Studio space: If there's a resident yogi and/or artist living under the roof, then converting a dining room into a yoga or art studio, or perhaps even a hybrid space for those who enjoy both activities, is a no-brainer. A yoga studio conversion may not require as much investment as a kitchen overhaul or bathroom renovation, but an ideal home yoga space requires more than a mat and room to stretch. The Yogapreneur Collective notes that flooring in a yoga studio should be non-slip, easily cleaned, durable, sound-absorbing, and low maintenance. The Yogapreneur Collective asserts that different flooring materials may be ideal for certain types of yoga, noting that cork flooring is a go-to choice for professional studios that offer hot yoga. Similarly, the right flooring for an art studio may depend on the artist's preferred medium, whether it's oil painting, arts and crafts or another artistic pursuit. But any artist knows that a floor that's easy to clean is perhaps best for a home art studio.

• Additional ideas: Some additional ways to repurpose a dining room include a gaming room for avid gamers, a memorabilia showcase for collectors or a pantry for foodies who love to cook but need some extra space to store ingredients and tools of the trade.

If a formal dining room is only utilized on occasion, homeowners may want to consider the many ways to convert such spaces into areas that are more usable every day.

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