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PAGE 2 - **THE BEACON** - October 7-20, 2025 - **sheboyganbeacon.com** - **877-467-6591**

Fallen golf tourist remembered

Downtown Falls shooting claims life of 32-year-old Robinson

Sarah Hall for The Beacon

Within a span of less than 24 hours, golfer and wellknown former hockey player Giovanni Michael Robinson went from experiencing what was surely one of his all-time biggest thrills - his first-ever hole-in-one – to losing his life in a drive-by shooting on a Sheboygan Falls sidewalk, after he had enjoyed a night out celebrating his triumph.

That sudden progression from elation to devastation on his final day made the loss of the 32-year-old Canadian, who by all accounts lived life to the fullest, especially poignant.

The fact that the new father left behind a young wife and 6-week-old daughter resonated perhaps even more deeply in the Sheboygan Falls community and beyond.

Many local residents who did not know Robinson but felt compelled to offer respects have contributed to a grow-ing, makeshift memorial that sprang up on the Monroe Street



MIKE ROBINSON cradles his newborn baby daughter, who was only about six weeks old when his life was taken. - Photo courtesy of the Robinson family

sidewalk where he fell.

A man who lives in the apartments overlooking the site, witnessed the immediate aftermath of the shooting and was one of those who called 911 to report it, said the desperation of Robinson's com-

panions in their attempts to save him made a lasting impression.

"Mike took the world by storm, taking every goal and smashing it with all he had," Robinson's cousins, Daniella Apostolakos and Santa Pina Robinson, wrote in a touching tribute on the GoFundMe site at https://gofund.me/361e6517b, which as of Tuesday, had raised nearly \$250,000 to help ease his family's financial burdens.

'Mike dedicated a lot of his life to hockey, and there was no denying his love for the game and everything that came with

intimate level.'

ACCORDING TO one of his

family's tributes, "hockey was everything" to Mike

Robinson, shown here

during the two seasons

he played with the Ontario

Hockey League's Niagara

IceDogs from 2012-14,

before he went on to com-

pete at the university and then the professional level.

Photo courtesy of Terry

In an email to The Bea-

con, Apostokalos decried the

"disturbing, senseless act of violence that has left a family shattered." Many reports

have indicated that Robinson's

sister's wedding was to be

celebrated one week after the

shooting, but has been post-

"Mike was a one-of-a-kind human being," his cousin con-tinued. "A soul unmatched. He

left a mark on so many people's

hearts, whether you met him

for one minute or were lucky

enough to know him on a more

Wilson/OHL Images

it."

poned.

In an online statement, the Ontario Hockey League mourned Robinson's loss and noted that he "was most recently living in Pennsylvania, working with an indoor golfing company, and often travelled around the U.S. to play."

Hockey Forever news and media reported that "just hours before his passing, Mike called his brother, Jacob Robinson, from the golf course to share a moment of pure joy.

That post quoted Jacob as saying that Mike "got his first hole in one, on hole 13 [of Whistling Straits Golf Course]. That phone call is just playing in my head. It's one of the last joyous phone calls that I'll ever get to share with my best friend. I just told him how proud I was of him. He Face-Timed his baby, who was then only five weeks old, and shared that moment with her.'

In Robinson's hometown of Stouffville, Ontario - where he helped lead the Stouffville Sprit hockey team to an Ontario Junior Hockey League championship in 2012 before playing two seasons with the OHL's Niagara IceDogs, five seasons of U SPORTS men's hockey at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology and one year professionally between Germany and Belgium – flags were lowered to half mast at Ninth Line Arena and the local fire station and online tributes proliferated.

His former team announced on Facebook that Robinson's visitation would be held on Oct. 1 and 2 at Thornton Cemetery and Funeral Centres in Oshawa, Ontario, with a funeral mass to follow.

According to his GoFund-Me biography, Robinson was also "a true family man, always making sure to spend every spare second that he could with them. Even when he couldn't be around physically, he would make sure he was there through FaceTime to be part of every event and gathering. Nothing filled a room like his smile and

quick wit." Robinson "met his beautiful wife in 2017," the biography noted. "They shared years of traveling together and making amazing memories. Always hand in hand, their love for each other was never left unsaid and was always felt by everyone who had the pleasure to be around them. They got mar**see ROBINSON,** page 10

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Sheboygan man arrested in Falls homicide

lan Johanson for The Beacon

A criminal complaint filed Sept. 26 provided the police and prosecutor's account to a shocked community trying to understand the shooting death of 32-year-old visitor Giovanni Michael Robinson of Ontario, Canada, in the heart of downtown Sheboygan Falls just past midnight on Sept. 24.

Door Dash driver Luis E. Cruz-Burgos of Sheboygan, 35, was charged with first-degree reckless homicide, which carries a penalty of up to 60 years imprisonment, if con-

Robinson was out celebrating a hole-in-one at a local father-son golf event with three out-of-state friends that night, according to the complaint. The three friends were identified as witnesses in the complaint. They were drinking and playing pool at a Sheboygan Falls tavern, one told

After leaving the tavern, they walked east on Pine Street, where one of them spoke with Cruz-Burgos, who was making a delivery, in an attempt to get a ride back to their Kohler hotel. At least two of the group were described as "highly intoxicated" by police.

The accounts differ in the complaint as to what prices were being suggested on either side for the ride, but in the end, the group decided the price was too high and decided to walk back to their hotel, the complaint says. Both the witnesses and the driver, who was located and interviewed later, say this discussion was not a hostile argument.

However, video obtained by police from a Pine Street business recorded "yelling" before the four individuals enter the screen, with one person walking in the roadway. The officer was able to hear one male say "fuck that tool," then talking about a "shake down" and how he was "not going to give him \$40 for five minutes

of work, Spanish or not."

The defendant also later told police that "the males were calling him stupid or stating 'stupid'" and one of



LUIS E. CRUZ BURGOS of Sheboygan has been charged with first degree reckless homicide in the shooting death of Canadian tourist Giovanni Michael Robinson in downtown Sheboygan Falls on Wednesday, Sept. 24. - Sheboygan County Sheriff's Office photo



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The witnesses say they continued east on Pine Street, turned north on Broadway, then east on Monroe. One of the witnesses told police in a follow-up written statement that at this point, at approximately 12:05 a.m., "on Monroe Street, a Hispanic male with dark skin drove up next to Witness 3's group, rolled down the passenger side window of his black SUV and shot Victim 1."

"He advised that he was able to identify the suspect from the interaction when he was making the DoorDash delivery on Pine Street. Witness 3 was reportedly more than certain that the DoorDash delivery driver was the same individual who was driving and shot Victim 1," the complaint says. The victim died on the scene after CPR was performed by his friends and life-saving measures by responders.

An autopsy of the victim found a bullet with a trajectory of "front to back, left to right and slightly downward. The entrance wound was in the central chest," the complaint says. No shell casing or firearm connected to the incident has yet been located.

The suspect's black Ford Escape, which was one vehicle type suggested by the witnesses as what the alleged shooter was driving, was located in Sheboygan by a "flock hit," which is a system that identifies vehicles police are looking for by an automatic street camera. The vehicle was found in the 1500 block of North 25th Street.

In an interview with police, facilitated by a translator from the Elkhart Lake Police Department, as the defendant did not speak English, Cruz-



EMAIL sports@plymouth-review.com PHONE 920-893-6411 (ext 19)

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Match Point Performance Center has been open since June 1 and is located in Sheboygan. - Submitted photos





Match Point Performance Center is up and running

■ It's been open in Sheboygan since June 1

Brett Damrow handed a piece of paper to each family member and told them to come up with an idea. It was last fall, and his Match Point Performance Center was still in the beginning stages.

"They weren't allowed to look at anybody's paper," the former Howards Grove volley-ball coach said. "I gave them a square-foot space that they tried to stay under. I'm like, anything from two stories to one story to whatever you can possibly think of. And then I took the papers, collaborated with them to find the best that I was looking for, and away we went."

Match Point Performance Center, located at W1953 Garton Road in Sheboygan, has been open since June 1.

"It's great," Damrow said. "We haven't done a ton of advertising, but we are getting busier and busier. We've gotten nine customers, new clients (last) week. And within two months, 1,250 members have created accounts online."

The facility, open to the public (all ages), was built with various training opportunities.

The Fitness Center has cardio and weight machines, squat racks, free weights, and a turf area with plyometric tools. Personal training with staff is available, as well as individual or group memberships.

Match Point also features courts for volleyball, basket-ball (with shooting cages), and pickleball, and half of a football field is currently being installed outside for that sport as well as

speed and agility.

The Recovery Room has state of the art Hyperice equipment featuring Normatec 3 leg sleeves, Hypervolt massage guns, Hypersphere massage balls, Vyper massaging foam rollers, and other recovery tools.

Golf simulators should be up and running within a few weeks.

"We want to be the premier destination for athlete training in all sports," Damrow said. "It's the mind, the body, and the actual skill. I mean, that's truly it, the mind, the body, and the skill. So if you want your daughter, son, or yourself to be in that environment, Match Point is the place to be. Your mind, your body, and your skill is what we're going to train at Match Point in almost every sport available."

Damrow has been thinking about doing something like Match Point for a long time and his idea came to fruition about a year ago

He and his wife Carrie, and Ted and Michele Burrows, are the owners.

There are 10 different trainers as well.

"It's the model that I've ran my whole life: loving and caring for kids, holding them accountable, and trying to do things the right way," Damrow said. "If you see this place, it's like a home. It's not a feel of a commercial building. It has a very home feeling to it, very soft, very warm. So it's a Home Away From Home, and Get Busy Living. Those are our two models."



There are courts for volleyball and basketball, and exercise equipment is also at the Performance Center.

Schedule is out for Road America

The 2026 Road America schedule has been announced and features over 50 days of action.

Season passes are also available now at the advance price of \$580 until Dec. 31.

The action begins with the Spring Vintage Weekend with SVRA from May 15–17, offering fans a chance to experience classic racecars.

Next, the MotoAmerica

Superbikes and Vintage MotoFest returns May 29–31, show-casing motorcycle competition.

The Chicago Region SCCA Sprints will be held June 5–7 and will highlight some of the best grassroots racing in the country.

IndyCar XPEL Grand Prix is next, set for June 18–21 with stars of North America's premier openwheel series back to the track.

From June 26–28, the Cheese

Capital Cup featuring Trans Am SpeedTour will showcase Mustangs, Camaros, Challengers, and Corvettes.

The Vintage Weekend with Brian Redman is July 16–19, and will feature the cars of the All-American Racers (including a reunion of Dan Gurney Racing Eagles, honoring one of the most iconic names in American racing history) and a tribute to the 60th

anniversary of Trans Am with a special invitational race.

The Motul SportsCar Endurance Grand Prix featuring IMSA will be July 30–Aug. 2, and will introduce a new chapter with the race evolving into a six-hour endurance event.

GT World Challenge America happens from Aug. 28–30, and brings international flair like exotic GT3, GT4, and Touring Car machinery from global luxury auto brands.

The Art on Wheels Weekend with VSCDA is set for Sept. 18–20, offering a unique blend of vintage racing.

And the SCCA National Championship Runoffs will take place Oct. 2–4.

Event tickets and camping reservations are now available at www.roadamerica.com





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Former A's make hall of fame

Two former Sheboygan A's standouts, Ben Stanczyk and Jason Bischoff, have been selected for induction into the Wisconsin State League Hall of Fame.

The pair will be honored alongside Jason Dennis (Kenosha), Paul Pulera (Kenosha), and Ryan Toutland (Lombard) at the league's annual Awards and Hall of Fame Dinner on Oct. 18 that is open to the public at the Blue Harbor Resort & Conference Center.

Stanczyk, a former UW-Milwaukee Panther and Milwaukee Brewers minor leaguer, pitched parts of six seasons for the A's (2002, 2008, 2011-12, 2014, and 2016).

He finished his career with a 1.74 ERA and a 23-4 record in 41 appearances. His standout season came in 2002, when he logged 70.2 innings with a 7-1 record, two saves, and a 1.53 ERA.

Stanczyk also proved valuable at the plate with a career batting average of .362.

Bischoff, inducted into the Sheboygan A's Hall of Fame in 2013, played eight seasons with the club (1995–2002).

He compiled a career batting

NOTEBOOK

average of .296 with 56 home runs, 374 hits, and 278 RBI for Sheboygan, and also played at Marian University.

Others honored, too

Sheboygan's Connor Lasch has been tabbed Rookie of the Year by the Wisconsin State League as a result of a vote of general managers, managers, and team personnel.

Lasch made an immediate impact, hitting .377 in 15 games. He collected 20 hits with four doubles and five home runs, driving in 16 runs and scoring nine times.

The catcher Lasch and third baseman Harry Steldt were also voted to the all-WSL first team.

Those earning second-team honors were outfielder Bradyn Horn and pitcher Brad Rindfleisch.

They will be recognized as well at the league's annual dinner Oct. 18 at Blue Harbor.

Grass is greener

For the first time since the



The infielder will be new for the Sheboygan A's next year. - Submitted photo

original field at Wildwood Park was installed in 1981, the A's will have an all new infielder with a redo of the pitcher's mound, as well as sod, for next season.

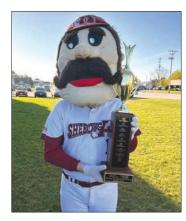
Maintenance works has been done on the field before, including a 30-foot replacement around the back of the infield.

"But nothing of this magnitude," manager Tim Moyer said. "Very needed."

An A1 performance

The United Way of Sheboygan County's Day of Caring Mascot Race was won by A1.

His name will be added to the trophy and it'll be housed at the ballpark next season.



A1 shows off the trophy from winning the Day of Caring Mascot Race.

- Submitted photo

Calling all skiers

The Northern Kettle Moraine Nordic Youth Ski Program is currently accepting registrations, and a parent orientation meeting will be held Oct. 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the Plymouth Fire Department (111 Main St.).

The program, led by 12 veteran volunteer coaches, is sponsored by the NKMN Ski Club and brings participants from various communities together for the purpose of developing lifetime cross country skiers.

A large inventory of rental equipment is available for the program as well.

The Storm Kids is an introductory learn-to-ski program for those in Grades 1-6 that meets from 3-4 p.m. on Sundays in January and February at the Kettle Moraine State Forest - Greenbush Ski Trails.

The Nordic Storm Team is for Grades 4-12 that is a member of the 22-team Wisconsin Nordic Ski League.

It's mission is to learn good Nordic ski (skate and classic) technique, stay in shape, compete as a team, meet other skiers and to have fun.

The team first meets for a camp on from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Nov. 2 at the Greenbush Trails. A team/family cook-out will follow.

Weeknight practices take place from 4:45-6:15 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning Nov. 10 at Plymouth City Park, at the Kettle Moraine State Forest - Greenbush Ski Trails, and at the Ariens Nordic Center in Brillion (when Greenbush lacks sufficient snow).

The team conducts dry land training drills, including roller skiing until there is enough snow.

There are at least eight weekend ski trips, and competitive meets are scheduled from December through March.

For more information, send an email to Steve Scharrer: nkmnyouth@gmail.com.

Lakeland wrestling coach to be inducted

Mike DeRoehn will be part of the 49th George Martin Wisconsin Wrestling Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on Nov. 7 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

The Lakeland University coach will be inducted with five others at the event, which will be held in conjunction with the Annual Wisconsin Wrestling Association Fall Clinic/Convention.



DeROEHN

Since taking over in 2022 with a roster of

just three wrestlers, he has been steadily rebuilding the program.

The Muskie's performance has seen exponential growth, with

wins and pins more than doubling from the 2024 to 2025 season.

This resurgence also saw the Muskies roster earn 184 wins,

the most for Lakeland since 2013, with two wrestlers earning NCAA All-Region honors last season.

DeRoehn's commitment to community engagement is highlighted by the widely successful "Headlocking Hunger" food drive, which collected over 5,000 pounds of non-perishables in support of a local food bank.

His dedication was recognized by student-athletes across the entire Muskie athletic department, who voted him Athletic Coach of the Year in both 2024 and 2025.

DeRoehn also coached Lakeland from 2011-14, and ran programs at UW-Oshkosh (05-10) and UW-Platteville (15-21).

In 2010, he was honored by USA Wrestling as the Junior National Greco Coach of the Year.



Using their heads

North's Nathaniel Cortez (10) and Colby Smith (behind him) try to head the ball. - Photo by Isabella Webb







In case you missed it

■ Here's a look at highlights from past two weeks

For what is believed to be the first time since 1980, South's boys won the 48th annual Sheboygan County Cross Country Meet last Tuesday.

The Redwings, who came in sixth a year ago, finished eight points ahead of runner-up

South's Owen Schaever came in fifth, David Venegas was sixth, and Cooper Gould

"This is always a great meet for our running community," coach Kevin Herber said. "Our area has so much talent, so to get a team win means a lot to us. This is a special group of guys who love to train and push each other to improve each day.

"This group of boys made the commitment to train all winter, going into track season, and throughout the summer. They push each other in practice and trust the process that we have laid out. For a young group of runners, they are very receptive to race strategies."

Giebler takes first

Lutheran sophomore Eddy Giebler was medalist by finishing in 16:50.30 after getting 14th last season.

"I was able to earn first place by training hard with my coaches, and have done some workouts with the specific goal of getting my final mile faster," Giebler said. "My teammates and I have been working hard all season, and it was great to see it pay off on Tuesday.

North's Ethan Willemsen (16:52.30) and Kasey Levinsohn (16:53.60) placed

second and third, respectively.
The Crusaders' Titus Gott-schalk ended fourth.

Christian's top boy, Kellen Vrzal, finished 13th.

GIRLS: Lutheran's Isabelle Harder was sixth in 20:38.50 (17th in 2024) and teammate Ella Heronymus placed 12th for the second straight year.

GIRLS GOLF

Specht makes all-conference The lone North/South/ Oostburg golfer to make all-Fox River Classic Conference is Siri Specht, a senior who earned honorable mention.

Also, sophomore Taylor Quackenbush finished a team-



South's boys win the county cross country meet for the first time since 1980. - Submitted photo

best 12th with an 89 in the league championship meet at Wander Springs-Greenleaf on Sept. 25. The team took sixth.

On to sectionals

For the ninth year in a row, Sheboygan has advanced to sectionals.

The co-op squad finished fourth in the Fond du Lac Regionals at Rolling Meadows on Wednesday.

Junior Allison Klee had a team-best seventh-place showing with an 89.

Specht placed 11th (96), and was followed by sophomore Addison Gephart, sophomore Taylor Quackenbush and senior Kayla Dogs.

BOYS SOCCER

Rare loss

North's only lost came against Geneva (Illinois) on Sept. 23, and the Golden Raiders followed with four straight wins by a combined score of 17-0. They beat Green Bay Preble, 3-0, on Thursday thanks to six saves from Jacoby Knowles and goals from Colby Smith, Juan Escobar and Luke Krugel.

Streak ends

Christian/Lutheran had won seven straight games until a 1-0 loss to conference-leading Oostburg last Tuesday.

FOOTBALL

North 28, South 0 The Golden Raiders rushed for 368 yards - they attempted just four passes - and four touchdowns on Sept. 26.

Quarterback Sam Olsen had two of them, Noah Blaha had one (with 127 yards) and Dayton Petrauski had the other.

Blake Buhr totaled 7.5 tackles, including 3.5 for a loss, and 1.5 sacks.

Kingston Steward added five solo tackles.

The Redwings were led by Austen Dekker, who had 59 yards rushing and 58 yards passing.

GIRLS TENNIS

Sanchez shines

South's No. 2 singles play-Yarel Roman Sanchez, finished first in the inaugural Glacier Trails Conference Championship. No. 1 singles player, Jaqueline Fadeeyani (a foreign exchange student from Germany), finished runner-up. And third went to Anika Tiwari (No. 3) and Nozomi Nichols

North takes first

The team won its Raider Invite, as Thea Bates claimed a title at No. 2 singles and Ava Brashaw/Elise Johnson did the same at No. 3 doubles.

The Golden Raiders also got second-place finishes from Julia English (No. 1), Ella Spielman (No. 3) and Tori Beaumont/Fiona Bryant (No. 2).

South's Nozomi Nichols placed runner-up at No. 4 sin-



South's Nozomi Nichols (from left to right), Anika Tiwari, Yarel Roman Sanchez and Jaqueline Fadaeeyani do well at the conference championships. - Submitted photo



Lutheran's Eddy Giebler wins the county champion**ship.** - Submitted photo



Sam Olsen (16) helps North beat South in football. - Photo by Lisa Reed

... and so you don't

■ Here's a look at highlights for next two weeks

Volleyball season is winding down, and Lutheran and Christian will be seeing quite a bit of each other.

The Crusaders visit the Eagles at 7 p.m. Tuesday, and then take part in the Big East Conference Championship at 9 a.m. Saturday at the Community First Champion Center in Appleton.

FOOTBALL

North at Oshkosh North, 7 p.m. Friday: The Golden Raiders get to play at UW-Oshkosh's Titan Stadium.

GIRLS SWIM

North Invitational, 12 p.m. Saturday: North welcomes Kiel, Kohler, Oostburg and others.

BOYS SOCCER

Christian/Lutheran vs. Sheboygan Falls, 4:30 p.m. Oct. 14: This non-conference battle will be held at Falls Elementary School.

CROSS COUNTRY

Fox River Classic Championship, 3 p.m. Oct. 16: North travels to Shorewood Center at UW-Green Bay.

Glacier Trails Championship, 10 a.m. Oct. 18: South visits the course at Kettle Moraine Lutheran.

Big East Conference Championship, 10 a.m. Oct. 18: Two Rivers is the host school.





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Mayor Sorenson attends fresh coast action plan launch event



Sheboygan Mayor Ryan Sorenson was one of the many leaders in attendance of the Fresh Coast Economic Transformation Action Plan launch event in New York on Wednesday, Sept. 24.

The action plan is led by

the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, an organization made up of mayors from all over the region in the U.S. and Canada, who say it will "expand the region's economic base by attracting industries that will need access to the region's vast freshwater resources'

"This has been a project

that we've been working on for the last two years now that really positioned our region in the Midwest," said Sorenson.

The event served as a way to highlight the significance and the importance of the region, pave a way for the area to grow in business, and protect the waters.

"There were lots of great conversations. While many cities are different sizes, we all have similar challenges, as well as much room for opportunity. That's why it's so important to be proactive in how we can market our economy and grow along the way," said

In a press release, the organization says they hope to improve the region by attracting 500,000 new businesses committed to sustainability, create 18 million jobs for residents, and improve water quality.

Sorenson says growing businesses and protecting the Great Lakes is a big benefit for the city of Sheboygan.

"In our economy, we see growing tourism demand here from sailing, surfing, fishing, and beach recreation. That is becoming a strong part of our economy, so protecting our water is so vitally important,' said Sorenson.

The organization hopes to get their action plan executed within the next ten years.

"It's an aggressive plan that really demonstrates the need of urgency. Along the

way, we're going to continue to evaluate our timeline and our phasing for this," said Sorenson. "It's going to be constant with having several meetings with mayors and task force members that are going to be continuing to push this moving forward,

Sorenson says Sheboygan has been an active member of the Cities Initiative since before he stepped into office. As a mayor of a Great Lakes city, Sorenson believes that investing in water infrastructure and keeping the waterfront clean is a priority.

Our lakefront is part of our identity, and making sure that we're preserving it along the way is key. So that's why I'm passionate about the city's initiative and to be involved in this organization.



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New Hearing Aid Technology **Can Protect from Dementia**

By: Joelle Steffen

Hearing loss is more than just a sensory issue—it has deep and lasting impacts on brain health. Recent studies have linked untreated hearing loss to a significantly higher risk of cognitive decline, dementia, and other neurological disorders. Now, emerging artificial intelligence (AI) technology in hearing aids is offering not only better hearing but also promising protection

Traditional hearing aids amplify sound, but they often struggle in noisy environments and can't adapt well to different listening situations. AI-powered hearing aids, by contrast, use advanced machine learning algorithms to mimic the brain's natural hearing processes. These devices continuously analyze the user's environment, distinguishing between speech and background noise, and automatically adjusting settings in real time to optimize sound clarity. This reduces the strain on the brain, which otherwise must work harder to decode distorted or incomplete sound signals—a process known as "cognitive load."

Reducing cognitive load is critical. When the brain is constantly

compensating for poor hearing, it has fewer resources to devote to memory, problem-solving, and other cognitive functions. Over time, this extra effort can lead to brain shrinkage and increased vulnerability to conditions like Alzheimer's disease. AI hearing aids mitigate this risk by providing clearer auditory input, which helps preserve the brain's structural and functional integrity.

AI-enabled devices also promote social engagement, another vital factor in maintaining cognitive health. Individuals with untreated hearing loss often withdraw from conversations and social settings, leading to isolation—a known risk factor for dementia. With improved speech recognition and environmental awareness, AI hearing aids make it easier for users to participate in social interactions, keeping their minds active and connected.

The potential for AI hearing aids to protect against dementia is now being explored in clinical research. Preliminary results are promising, showing that consistent hearing aid use may slow cognitive decline in older adults with hearing loss. While more long-term studies are needed, the early evidence suggests that these intelligent devices may do more than improve hearingthey may help preserve the very essence of who we are.

As technology continues to evolve, AI hearing aids are poised to become not just tools for better hearing, but critical allies in the fight against cognitive decline. For millions of aging adults, this could mean a future of clearer conversations—and a healthier

If you're wondering if this technology would be beneficial for you, call Welsch Hearing Aid Company at 920-452-0213 for a free Test Drive. When you make your appointment, tell us you want to try out the Oticon Intent.



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Burgos acknowledged the contact with the four males in Sheboygan Falls, and that they were trying to get a ride by having their thumbs out in a "hitchhiking sign." He said he made contact with one in reference to giving them a ride to their hotel room, said there was "no argument" re-

garding the price, but he also reported crude remarks and gestures made towards him by the group. He also said when he drove past them, that there was no vehicle in front or behind him, and that "everything appeared to be fine once he passed them."

The defendant told police that he did not witness anyone shoot a firearm while he was passing them, and said he "no longer possessed any firearms in reference to a court order from Florida back in 2019, where he was advised that he could not obtain a firearm in reference to a domestic incident."

Cruz-Burgos is currently in custody, with bond set at \$2 million. A status conference is slated for Monday, Oct. 6, at 10 a.m., and a preliminary

hearing is currently scheduled for Oct. 8, at 1:30 p.m.

A copy of the full complaint is posted on the Sheboygan Falls Police Department Facebook page.

This article reports allegations made by authorities in court records. All defendants are presumed innocent unless a judgment of conviction is entered.





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Grand Stay Hotel • 708 Niagara Ave Wednesday, October 15 • 10am & 1pm Thursday, November 6 • 10am & 1pm

Holidays Pub & Grill • 5533 Superior Ave Monday, November 10 • 2:00pm PLYMOUTH
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Mike Robinson's
excitement is
obvious in this
photo taken of
him at
Whistling Straits
Golf Course
just after he
scored his firstever hole-in-one,
hours before he
died.

Photo courtesy of the Robinson family



ROBINSON from 2

ried in 2022 and just recently embarked on their biggest adventure, becoming parents... Just six short weeks ago, Mike and his wife welcomed their first child, a precious baby girl. Mike was so excited to become a father, constantly asking family and friends ques-

tions and looking for advice so that he would be ready. He was the proudest when she arrived, showing her off with the biggest smile you could ever imagine. He dove right into his new role of 'Dad' and was a natural, just like we all knew he would be. It is heartbreaking to know he will never be able to hold his baby girl again."

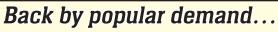
Apostokalos pointed out

through email that Robinson's relatives "are doing everything possible to rally behind his immediate family."

"Mike is and will forever be part of a family that is like no other," she said. "It's something we are all so proud of. His memory, legacy, and love will live on... through all of



FLOWERS, CANDLES, FLAGS and a golf ball are among the mementos community members have placed at a memorial to Mike Robinson near the spot where he fell the night he was shot, on the sidewalk near the railroad tracks on Monroe Street in Sheboygan Falls, just east of the intersection with Broadway Street. Beacon photo by Sarah Hall



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Kathryn Henry, soprano

Rare lightning strike fatality takes life of Plymouth man

Press release by Washington County Sheriff's Office

On Sept. 22, 2025 at around 7:00 p.m., the Washington County Sheriff's Office, along with the Kewaskum Fire Department, was requested to assist in a search that was already underway by DNR and Fond du Lac County authorities for a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Forestry employee who was working in the New Fane Trail area that day and had not returned home. The missing forester's vehicle had been found in Fond du Lac County, and the search track was moving towards the Washington County/Fond du Lac County line. The victim was located deceased in a wooded area at around 7:40 p.m. in the Town of Kewaskum.

The Washington Coun-Sheriff's Office Major Crimes Division investigated, along with the Wisconsin DNR, and the Washington County Medical Examiner's Office. The investigation revealed that a lightning strike caused the death. Investigators have verified that there was a documented lightning

strike in that area around 10:15 am that morning.

The United States averages around 20 deaths per year related to lightning strikes. Although extremely rare, this case illustrates the need to take the threat of lightning and the dangers it poses seri-

The victim has been identified as 48-year-old Adam Zirbel from Plymouth, who was employed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as a Forester. Sheriff Schulteis extended his condolences and prayers to the Zirbel family on behalf of the entire agency. "Adam dedicated his life to the service of others as a father, husband, community leader, and DNR forester. We are better off because of Adam's contributions to society and he will be missed by many. He died performing a civil service to the people of Wisconsin, and for that, we are all forever grateful for his service."





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As You See It

Black River Golf Course

I'm a plaintiff in Miller et al. v. City of Sheboygan Plan Commission et al, one of many cases challenging Kohler's controversial Black River golf course. The City succeeded in dismissing our case on standing, procedure, deadlines, and -- interestingly mootness.

We'd appealed the City's extension of Kohler's 2020 Conditional Use Permit because that site plan became impossible when Wisconsin courts nixed their DNR wetland permit: a new plan requires a new CUP.

Open records proved that Kohler had already shown officials a new plan. Mayor

Sorenson himself admitted to the Wisconsin Law Journal: "City officials met with Kohler and they showed us their whole new plan. They (Kohler) are trying to find some legal maneuvers to get this (golf course) approved." Sorenson voted to extend the old plan anyway.

We insisted the City require a new CUP before construction can begin. The City claimed that the new plan is only "alleged," and thus the CUP for the old plan remains in play. They argued that if a hypothetical new plan did exist, a new CUP would render our appeal of the extension to be moot. Simply put, our objection to the extension was dismissed as irrelevant

Kohler could claim that their new site plan does not require a new CUP or public hearing because the course is now smaller, non-PGA rated, has no driving range and requires less permit-

However, open records show

the new plan is worse: The old plan clear-cut 75% of the project area and needed a fill permit. The new plan skirts wetland permitting but now clear-cuts 85% of the trees, leaving wetlands to fail without canopy. The old plan bulldozed a half mile of Lake Michigan shoreline, while the new plan bulldozes a mile and extends onto the beach. Both plans boldly violate Sheboygan's Zoning Ordinance. But since the City extended the old CUP, Kohler can hope to break ground on the new plan without fuss.

In dismissing our claims, the court took care to note that its decision addressed only our procedural appeal of the CUP extension and not the alleged environmental or zoning violations of the project itself. These concerns remain unresolved as the City and Kohler consider what to do next.

> Erik Thelen Town of Wilson



Questions? Call 920-912-2724

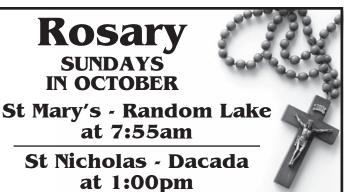






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Milestone walk hosts record numbers, community shows up big for hope

SHEBOYGAN - The 20th annual There Is HOPE Walk hosted a record number of walkers to honor, heal, and connect for suicide awareness and prevention with those that have been affected by suicide and fellow supporters. More than 550 walkers registered for this year's event hosted at Sheboygan's Deland Park on Saturday, September 13.

"Our community showed up to hold space for one another, offering support and connection on the path to healing. The keynote speakers shared powerful messages of suicide loss and survival, leaving a profound impact and reminding us that healing is possible."

This year's milestone event honored the Luecke Family of Sheboygan that inspired this walk 25 years ago. Doug and Kristi Luecke experienced an unimaginable tragedy in March 2000. The family lost their son Nic to suicide. In their heartbreak, they planted a seed of healing and remembrance with the There Is HOPE Walk. What began as a family's tribute has since grown into a powerful movement of compassion, connection, and resilience.

Since 2005, the Luecke family entrusted the walk to MHA Lakeshore which has become the organization's largest community event—advancing the organization's mission to promote mental health through education, support, advocacy, and public health reform.

"Grief is a journey that will always be with you.... healing is possible and connection and talking heals us. I brought this event to Sheboygan County so families had a place to go to heal," Kristi Luecke shared.

The event raises awareness and helps raise funds needed for MHA Lakeshore to continue suicide awareness/prevention efforts and continue providing and improving the information and resources for the community. Thus far the 2025 There Is HOPE campaign has raised \$42,000 and is still counting and collecting donations to help fund these programs and offerings. Donations can be made online at: https://mhalakeshore.networkforgood.com/projects/246561-supportmental-wellness-2025

"We are deeply grateful for these courageous voices that help others through their grief. In par-







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Sheboygan Public Education Foundation to host Texas Hold'em fundraiser

SHEBOYGAN - What if supporting education felt less like a fundraiser and more like a night out with friends? That's exactly what you'll find at the Sheboygan Public Education Foundation's 22nd Annual All

In For Education Texas Hold 'Em Fundraiser, happening on Friday, November 7, 2025, at Pine Hills Country Club.

This exciting community event is packed with opportunities to play, win, and give back. Guests can look forward

- Texas Hold 'Em Tournament with a \$1,000 Grand Prize
- Over \$2,000 in prizes for final table winners
 - Blackjack tables and card

games for all participants

- Silent auction baskets and
- Dinner and raffles, including a \$1,000 Kwik Trip Gas Card

"We've designed this event to be both entertaining and impactful," said Roxanne Pauls, SPEF Managing Director. "It's a chance to enjoy a great evening while making a real difference for students and educators in our community.'

Since its founding, SPEF has provided over \$1.55 million in funding and in-kind gifts to benefit SASD students, teachers, and the wider community. SPEF directly supports

innovative educational programs, scholarships, and classroom grants across the Sheboygan Area School District.

The Sheboygan Public Education Foundation is a 501(c) (3) charitable organization (Federal Tax ID #39-2027804).

Event Details

- What: SPEF's 22nd Annual All In For Education Texas Hold 'Em Fundraiser
- When: Friday, November 7, 2025
- Where: Pine Hills Country Club, Sheboygan, WI

For sponsorship opportunities, tickets, or more information, visit www.spefwi.



or you are an annual visitor, this year's show will be sure to delight.

This year's show features a variety of new performances while keeping the traditional favorites. Prior to the show, a sumptuous full brunch buffet will be served Pullman's at Trolley Square.

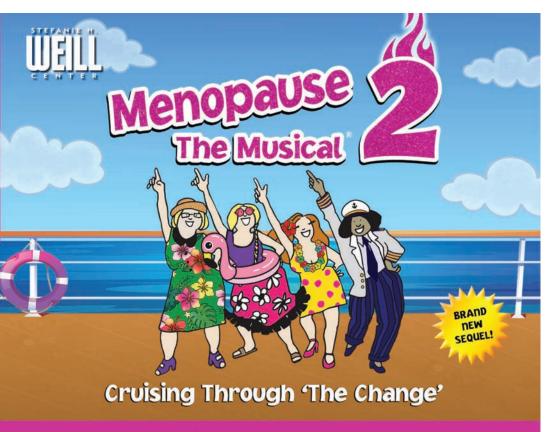
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7pm-11pm

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Saturday Oct. 25

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Sheboygan County Sheriff's Office earns award for dispatch excellence

The Sheboygan County Sheriff's Office has been recognized by The International Academies of Emergency Dispatch ® (IAED TM) as an Accredited Center of Excellence (ACE) for Emergency Medical Dispatching. Sheboygan County is the 361 st Medical ACE in the world.

IAED is the standard-setting organization for emerdispatch services gency worldwide. Accreditation (and subsequent re-accreditation)

from the IAED is the highest distinction given to emergency communication centers, certifying that the center is performing at or above the established standards for the industry. Centers who earn ACE status are the embodiment of dispatch done right, and have demonstrated strong local oversight, rigorous quality processes, and a commitment to data-driven continuous improvement.

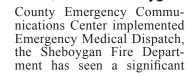
Sheboygan County takes

and uses the Emergency Medical Dispatching (EMD) Protocol for all medical calls. The Center is staffed with 23 dispatchers, three supervisors, and one manager. The Center dispatches for 22 Fire departments, four Ambulance services, and seven law enforcement agencies.



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increase in pre-arrival instructions being provided—such as CPR. Early intervention dur-

SEE DISPATCH, page 16



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DISPATCH from 15

ing life-threatening emergencies saves lives, and these instructions have already played a key role in improving patient said outcomes," Assistant Chief Michael Lubbert, Sheboygan Fire Department

'As the Medical Director overseeing the Emergency

Medical Dispatch program for Sheboygan County, I'm thrilled to see them receive accreditation from the International Academy of Emergency Dispatch! The Sheboy-

gan County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center is one of only three accredited agencies in the State of Wisconsin. To have an outside agency come in and verify the great work they do, and recognize it, is a huge accomplishment," said Dr. Steven Zils, Medical Director for Sheboygan County.

"The ACE award is a recognition that our agency's staff has not only mastered the protocols but also embodies the professionalism, commitment, and skills necessary to provide superior care during a crisis. It speaks to the fact that the human element--the telecommunicator's compassion, quick thinking, and unwavering resolve--is the true core of a successful emergency response system," said Matt Spence, Sheboygan County Sheriff.

"Accreditation is truly a pinnacle achievement", said Christof Chwojka, Accreditation Board Chair at IAED. "We applaud the dedicated calltakers, dispatchers, and leadership team at Sheboygan County for their commitment to quality, and for meeting that high standard that few achieve. We know their community can count on these first, responders to do an outstanding job."

IAED will present Sheboygan County with an Accreditation plaque that commemorates their achievement. IAED Accreditation is the culmination

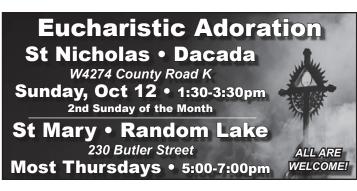
of a lengthy, arduous process that includes the completion of the 20 Points of Accreditation, a detailed evaluation of performance by industry experts, and a final review and ruling by IAED. Accreditation is valid for a three-year period, during which all standards must be upheld.

Over 3,500 emergency communication centers worldwide use the medical, fire, police, and emergency nurse triage protocols developed and maintained by the IAED. The protocol-based system known as the Priority Dispatch System TM —is recognized as the standard of care and practice for emergency dispatch, and is used in 46 countries.

About IAED

For more than 40 years, the IAED has been the standardsetting organization for emergency dispatch and response services worldwide, and is the leading body of emergency dispatch experts. We are a member-driven association working to serve the public through the professional development of dispatchers. Our various boards and councils work on behalf of the membership-and in coordination with other public safety or-ganizations—to ensure that the comprehensive system of emergency dispatching is as safe, fast, effective, and up-todate as possible.







"BIG" Thank You to all the supporters, volunteers, superintendents, vendors, employees, fans and guests who helped make the 2025 Fair and PDTR racing season a huge success.

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George Sippel Memorial EMS Scholarship continues

strate dedication to helping others, experience in community service or health care (through volunteerism or work), and financial need. Adult learners and non-traditional students are strongly encouraged to apply. Award Details:

The scholarship provides

SEE SCHOLARSHIP, page 22

The family of George Sippel, together with Orange Cross Ambulance, is proud to announce the continuation of the George Sippel Memorial EMS Scholarship for its second year. This \$1,000 scholarship is awarded annually to support students pursuing Emergency Medical Services (EMS) training.

George Sippel devoted his life to serving his community as a volunteer EMT and fire-fighter in Plymouth, Wisconsin. To honor his service and carry forward his legacy, his family established this scholarship to help the next generation of EMS providers begin their journey in emergency medical care.

Scholarship Details:

- \$1,000 scholarship for tuition
- Open to students from Sheboygan or Manitowoc County
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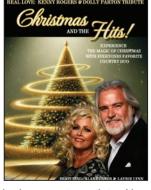
stand up comedy performance of Tim Walkoe going on to comment "Walkoe's rapid fire delivery and shoot from the hip style leaves audiences laughing so hard it's hard to catch up to the next joke.

A spiritualist medium holds a seance for a writer seeking inspiration for his latest work, but accidentally summons the spirit of his deceased first wife. This leads to an increasingly complex love triangle with his first wife and current wife of five years. After his second wife is accidentally killed, she "passes over" and joins the ex-wife allowing the two "blithe spirits" to haunt the hapless writer into perpetuity. Join us for a ghostly good time into the world where the living and the dead collide in this comedic masterpiece.

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Food/News

Recipes, tips & nutrition

Pizza is one of the most wide- 1 tablespoon olive oil ly enjoyed and consumed comfort foods around the world. Although it is believed to have originated in Italy, pizza can now be found in many countries across the globe. Canadians and Americans consume many pounds of pizza every year, and pizzerias are popular, successful businesses.

Sometimes it can be fun to make pizza at home where everyone gets busy kneading dough and customizing their toppings. Enjoy this "Simple Pizza Dough, courtesy of Janie's Mill artisanal stoneground flours.

Simple Pizza Dough Makes one large or 2 to 3 smaller pizzas

375 grams (3 cups) Italian Style Pizza Flour (plus extra) 250 ml (1 cup) warm water

6 grams instant dry yeast 10 grams sugar (optional) 6 grams salt

Preheat oven to 475 F.

Mix flour and salt in a medium mixing bowl. Combine water, yeast and sugar (if using) in a large mixing bowl and let sit for 5 minutes until it is foamy and bubbly.

Add the olive oil and the flour-salt mixture to the large bowl with the water-yeast mixture, and stir with a spatula until dough comes together. Turn the dough out onto a floured surface and knead until smooth, about 5 minutes. Add additional flour if needed, one tablespoon at a

Return the dough to the bowl, cover with a kitchen towel, and let dough rise for 30 minutes if you have time. If not, simply

Toss homemade pizza with ease

roll the dough out to 1/4-inch to 1/2-inch thick on a well-floured surface. Form it into one or more rough circles to make your pizza(s).

Pierce the dough with a fork multiple times, add your toppings and bake on the bottom rack of the oven for 15 to 20 minutes, until the bottom and edges of the crust are a rich golden brown. Check your

As with all bread recipes, this pizza recipe will turn out best if you weigh your ingredients. Invest in a quality kitchen scale to

get the best results. Topping ideas: Marinara sauce and mozzarella cheese creates a classic pizza, but everyone can get creative with their toppings. A pesto sauce

pizza often so it doesn't get too base and grilled chicken can be tasty. Try prosciutto and basil as another option. Meatlovers' pizzas often contain ground sausage, pepperoni and sometimes ham. Pizza dough also can be used for dessert. Top with a "sauce" of hazelnut spread and sliced strawberries for a delicious treat.





Read your news online? We're on the web at sheboyganbeacon.com

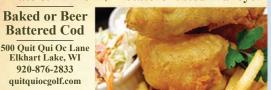
















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920-898-5532 or hsbelle1315@charter.net **Helen Schmidt**

Jewelry you can't take off is catching on



Aryn Leinen loves jewelry and the story behind it. The Kohler native had never really heard of permanent jewelry, however, but was intrigued when offered a chance to get some in early January."I was like, 'yeah, why not? I'll try it," Leinen said. So she went to Oshkosh with a couple of family members, and got a permanent gold-filled bracelet with her son's birthstone."I fell in love," Leinen said. "I was like, 'this is so much fun.' I loved the experience. I don't think we have anything really like that in Sheboygan (where she lives)."Leinen's motherin-law was with her at the time and said doing permanent jewelry would be perfect for her, and she should start her own business. "I kind of laughed it off," Leinen said. "Then I started thinking about it. And I was like, 'why not?' But then the preconceived notion of starting a business is you have to put a lot of money into it. And a lot of small businesses fail. But just looking past that, it's something that I personally enjoy. And I want to bring that to other people who haven't heard of it." About five months later, Leinen's Welded Whispers was up and running. The 30-year-old says she went deep diving into research about permanent jewelry and how to start an LLC.Leinen trained, practiced, and looked

for the best quality chains she



Aryn Leinen and her Welded Whispers has been offering permanent jewelry since opening in June. -submitted photos

could find. "Once I knew that I could give clients and customers the best work that I possibly could, that's when I started my Facebook page in June and started reaching out," she said. A few weeks later, Leinen even hosted her first pop-up

event at Plymouth's Allechant Boutique. "We had a good turnout," she said. "The ladies were amazing. It was overall just a great first intro to getting

SEE JEWELRY, page 20

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While you're here be sure to purchase pumpkins, squash, gourds, and fall decor. Inside the store you will find fresh pressed apple cider, pre-picked apples, homemade bakery, local jams, jellies, salsas, mixes, sauces, coffee, Wisconsin wine, Homestead meat and so much more. Be sure to stock up on all your favorites.



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out there." Leinen, who also works at a daycare in Howards Grove, has another pop-up at The Sheboygan Collective's Sweater Weather Market on Oct. 11. Otherwise, Leinen reaches out to people and viceversa for individual or group events - either at her house or wherever else."The goal is to have a location where I can set up a whole shop, but that'll be in the future," she said. Leinen offers various chains that the customer picks out to get sized. She then customizes it into a ring, bracelet, anklet or necklace by micro-welding it permanently together."It's about the experience," Leinen said. "I look at it as more than just an accessory. It's the memory you wear every day. You don't have a lot of places that you can just get custom

fit. You don't have to worry about it. It's on you. With a lot of my previous jewelry, that was an issue with me. I don't want to have to constantly take it on and off, and now I don't have to worry about that.And that's what I've heard from a lot of people and reviews, saying they just love the ease of it."To reach Leinen, email her at:

weldedwhispersllc@gmail. com



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5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer, Sunday-Thursday 5:00 p.m. Corporate Rosary, Monday 6:00 p.m. Mass, Wednesday All Saints Chapel Summer Worship Schedule: Sundays at 9:00 a.m.,

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ticular, we honor Kristi and Doug Luecke, whose vision and dedication in starting this event 20 years ago made healing around suicide loss possible for our entire region," said Julie Preder, MHA Lakeshore executive director.

Thank you to main event sponsor Acuity and all sponsors including Aurora Health Care, Vollrath, Sargento, Johnsonville, Sheboygan Paint Company, End, Hiersmann and Crain, LLC., Life Point Counseling, LLC., Vesta, United One Credit Union, Wenig Funeral Homes, Hexion Inc., Ebenezer United Church of Christ, Curt G. Joa Inc., UAW 833, Willow Creek Behavioral Health, Studio Gear, Richard J. Wirtz Law Office, LLC., Wisconsin Advisors, Festival Foods, Lakeside Pepsi, and MCW Advertising Sheboygan.

Keynote speakers offered powerful voices for those impacted by suicide by honoring loss, sharing the realities of suicide attempts, and inspiring hope and healing for those choosing to continue their journey of recovery and life. The 2025 There Is HOPE keynote speakers from the Sheboygan County community were Doug and Kristi Luecke, Megan Goetsch, Kristie Hass Splivalo, and MHA Lakeshore Board Member Mark Kesler and wife Liz Kesler.

Next year's There Is HOPE Walk is scheduled for Saturday, September 12 at Deland Park.

Seasonal needle drop normal on evergreens

by Bruce Spangenberg
UW Horticulture
Outreach Specialist



Even though we call them evergreens, needle conifers such as pines, spruce, and fir do not retain their needles forever. These trees will drop older needles located toward the center of the tree, typically in fall. Oftentimes older needles may turn yellow and brown all at once, giving the (incorrect) impression something is terribly wrong with the tree.

The most visible example occurring right now across Wisconsin are white pines. In a noticeably brief period, trees go from entirely green to showing lots of bright yellow needles, but with green needles still present. It can look alarming. Look closer, however, and you will notice an abrupt change from innermost yellow to green further out on branches. New Hearing Aid Technology
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Seeing the abrupt change from yellow to green as you progress outwards along the branch is good news. These are the older needles being shed prior to winter, and they are replaced next spring with a new set of green needles. Known as seasonal needle drop, this is perfectly normal and not cause for alarm. No disease or insect infestation to worry about.

Some years needle drop is more attention-getting than others and is not limited to white pine. Austrian, red, and Scots pines often show more brown needles rather than yellow initially, but the abrupt boundary between green and brown is still present. Likewise with arborvitae. Spruces and fir tend to retain needles longer; thus, the striking change is not usually seen.

As we advance into fall, an even more eye-catching color change will be on deciduous conifers, most notably tamarack or larch. Entire trees turn yellow, rust, and brown since these trees shed all their needles in fall and are needleless in winter. Tamaracks are most prevalent growing wild in lowland areas in northern and central Wisconsin. How vivid yellow will vary from year to year, as is the case with deciduous broadleaf trees like maples and oaks. Other deciduous conifers found in some Wisconsin landscapes turning quite colorful prior to total fall needle drop include bald cypress and dawn redwood.

Unfortunately, not all needle browning is normal, as insects, disease, and environmental issues with the site may also be involved. The abrupt change from green to brown or yellow is not usually present. Instead, it may be the opposite, with new growth turning off-color. Entire branches may be affected, or just lower branches may be showing issues. The problem may show anytime during the season, rather than just here in fall.

If you suspect tree problems, consider consulting the UW Plant Disease or Insect Diagnostic labs or submit plant health questions on the UW-Madison Extension Horticulture website at https://hort.extension.wisc.edu.

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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"This scholarship not only remembers George but also strengthens our community by helping new EMS providers enter the field," added Jeremy Langnese, Community Engagement & Recruitment Coordinator at Orange Cross Ambulance. "We are proud to partner with the Sippel family in carrying forward his legacy."

About Orange Cross Ambulance

Orange Cross Ambulance has proudly served Sheboygan County for more than 50 years, providing high-quality, compassionate, and employee-centered EMS care. As a non-profit organization, Orange Cross is committed to community engagement, education, and supporting the next generation of emergency medical professionals.

Gov. Evers signs bill to prohibit misuse of Al-generated images

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers signed a bipartisan bill to ensure the state's criminal code is updated to reflect the increasing use and potential misuse of artificial intelligence.

Senate Bill 33, now 2025 Wisconsin Act 34:

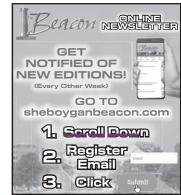
Expands the crime of representations depicting nudity; Defines "synthetic intimate

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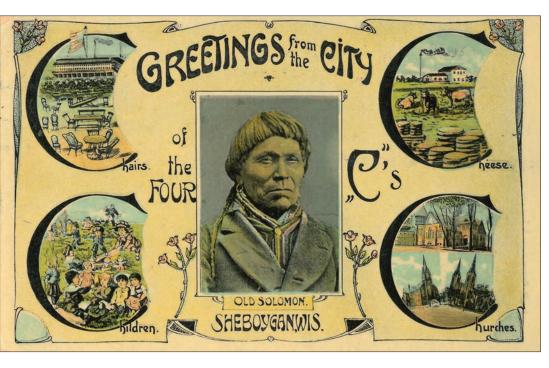
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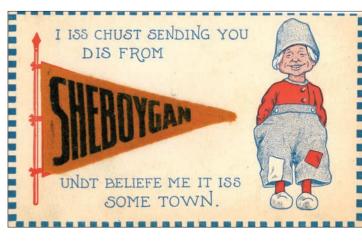
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A Look Back... on postcards of the past





I LIKE TO BE PETTED.



Then as now, Sheboygan's movers, shakers and merchants have employed a variety of marketing strategies to encourage tourism and economic development. In the 1910s, one such ploy evidently involved picture postcards, and here are three examples from the Scott Lewandoske postcard collection at the Sheboygan County

Museum. In one from 1912, Sheboygan is touted as the "City of the four C's" – chairs, cheese, children and churches - and the home of "old Solomon," a respected Potawatomi Indian who was one of the last Native Americans to be relocated from Sheboygan to Forest County, leaving in 1883 to go to the Menominee reservation. The museum has his dugout canoe in its collection. Another postcard shown here, from

1913, has an actual felt banner with Sheboygan imprinted on it and took what at the time was probably considered a playful approach – mocking the accent of the area's many Germanic immigrants - but might well be considered inappropriate today. The third postcard is from 1914 and taps an age-old advertising technique, titillation, to grab attention. Photos courtesy of the Sheboygan County Museum.





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Man waits over 19 years to find out what his own tattoo means

for The Beacon

Every tattoo has a story. Not every story has a tattoo. Ethan Magnant sure does,

And it's all because of Tyler Wilkens.

Back in 2006, Wilkens, who graduated from Sheboygan North '03), and Magnant (Plymouth, 03) were hanging out in Milwaukee with some friends.

Their plan was to see Bowser, a band from Elkhart Lake, at a nearby venue.

So beforehand, the group went to a liquor store and Magnant said he hoped he didn't get bored while waiting for them outside.

Wilkens' response changed Magnant's life - or at least his

He jokingly said he would pay if Magnant went across the street to get a tattoo of a black dot instead of waiting.

'So when they came back out, I said to Tyler, 'let me get this straight: If I got a black dot tattooed on my arm, you would pay for it?" Magnant said. "And he just kind of laughed and said, you're out of your mind.

"And I said, 'well, no, I'm actually into this. Like, you said it, let's do this.'

"So he said, 'let's just get back to the house and talk about it.'

That led to calling some tattoo parlors, only to find out there was a \$50 minimum.

"We were like, well, if we're going to spend 50 bucks, we might as well do something more creative than a black dot," Mag-

nant said. After a couple of ideas didn't make the cut, Wilkens tossed out another tattoo option: a random date in the future

Deal, although Magnant suggested Wilkens pick the date since he was paying for the art work.

Wilkens told only the tattoo artist, and Magnant learned it as it

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Ethan Magnant got a random date tattooed on his arm back in 2006.

-submitted photo

was happening on his right fore-

The top line read 'August,' and below that was '23 2025,' all in cursive.

"We then went to the Bowser show and had a blast," Magnant said. "And I've had a really fun

Magnant says people have asked hundreds of times what the significance of the date is - there isn't any – and he would tell them he didn't know yet.

Their next questions were usually "what do you mean?"

"what are you talking

He'd then explain.

"Well, I got a random day in the future tattooed on my arm," he said. "And they'd get a kick out

"At the time I was 20 years old, and by the time the tattoo was going to come to fruition, I was going to be 40.

"It kind of felt like a lifetime

Now, it's already six weeks in the past.

Magnant, who moved to Montana in 2007 and was joined by Wilkens about a year later, didn't skydive - even though someone suggested it – or anything else over the top on Aug. 23.

"I didn't want to make like a crazy deal out of it," he said. "I just wanted to do something fun."

To commemorate the date, Magnant went with his wife and 5-year-old daughter, along with Wilkens' family and other friends, to the nearby Pine Creek Lodge Creekside Revival Music Festi-

Shortly after, Magnant en-



Tyler Wilkens (left) joins Ethan Magnant to celebrate his tattoo on Aug. 23. -submitted photo

hanced the tattoo.

His forearm is now wrapped with the mountain range, river, trees and grass that remind him of the scenery at the music fest.

And Magnant, who lives just outside of Missoula, finally has

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an answer when people ask about his tattoo.

"I get to tell the story of what I did that day," he said. "How I enjoyed time with my family and friends, and really just had a great, great weekend."

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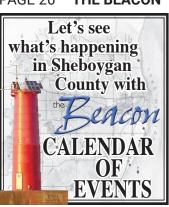
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NOW THROUGH

NOVEMBER 3

35th Annual Coats for Kids campaign: 8:30am to 4pm, Mon-Fri, Coat drop off location Reinbold-Novak Funeral Home, 1535 S. 12th St, Sheboygan. Drop off NEW coats only, for children and adults. Coats will be distributed through The Salvation Army to Sheb Cty residents in need. 920-452-7711.

NOW THOUGH NOVEMBER 3

40 Days for Life-Sheboygan Fall Campaign: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sidewalk on S. Taylor Dr and New Jersey Ave, Sheboygan outside Planned Parenthood. Contact www.40daysforlife. com/sheboygan or Germaine 920-918-2310.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 8

Lifestyle & Mental Health in Youth & Teens: 6-7 p.m. in the Plymouth High School Amphitheater. Learn about positive effects exercise and other lifestyle choices can have on ADHD, anxiety, & depression. Free, but preregister. https://plymouthwi.myrec.com

THURSDAY OCTOBER 9

Around Our Town tour of Parkview Elementary School: 6 p.m. at 500 Parkview Drive. This "field trip for adults" will explore one of Plymouth's public

schools. Free, but pre-register with Community Education & Recreation. https://plymouthwi.myrec.com, 920-892-5068

SATURDAY OCTOBER 11

Second Hand Rose Fashion Show and Luncheon: 11:30am.
Sponsored by the GFWD

Plymouth Woman's Club. First Congregational UCC, 1405 HWY 67S, Plymouth. Bring 3 chapsticks for a free raffle ticket. Tickets \$20 available at St Vincent de Paul, Plymouth Art Center, Maggie's Closet.

> WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 15



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Film Adventures of Huck Finn": 6 p.m. in the Plymouth High School Auditorium, 125 S. Highland Ave. 1993 film version of Mark Twain's novel of the same name. In conjunction with Community Book Read. https:// plymouthwi.myrec.com, 892-5068

TUESDAY OCTOBER 21

Book Discussions: 2 and 6 p.m. at Books and More, 214 E. Mill St. Join a discussion about this year's Community Book Read selection, "James" by Percival Everett. https:// plymouthbookread.weebly.com

EVENTS AT 3 SHEEPS BREWING

1837 North Ave, Sheboygan

3sheepsbrewing.com Check events on our Facebook Page 920-395-3583

EVERY **TUESDAY:** Sheeps Food Truck Rally: 4-8pm. Join us every Tuesday night as our parking lot turns into the best kind of dinner party one where you don't have to cook, and the menu changes week. We're talking everv rotating local food trucks, cold beer, and the kind of patio vibes that make you forget you ever owned a kitchen. Come hungry, grab a pint, and see which trucks roll in each week

EVERY WEDNESDAY: 3 Sheeps Bingo: 7-9pm. Dust off your daubers, Bingo is back at 3 Sheeps! Each Wednesday, we'll be playing ten rounds of one of Wisconsin's favorite past times. Prizes awarded throughout. Free to play.

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

THURSDAYS NIGHTS: Art Center Social STUDIO: 4:00-8:00 p.m. Did you know the Arts Center and Art Preserve are open until 8:00 p.m. on Thursday nights? Take a moment to relax, unwind, and connect with others as both places host drop-in social hours from 4:00–6:00 p.m.

EVENTS AT KOHLER-ANDRAE STATE PARK

1020 Beach Park Lane Sheboygan For more info call 920-451-4080 *VEHICLE ADMISSION **REQUIRED*** or check website:

dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/ kohlerandrae

SATURDAY, OCTOBER

11: Walking Stick Crafting: 5:00-8:00 p.m. Indoor Shelter. Select and personalize a walking stick, then head out on the selfguided candlelight hike. Vehicle admission required.

Fall Candlelight Hike: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Indoor Shelter. Enjoy a self-guided walk on torch-lit trails; then join the Water Street Hot Shots around the campfire. Vehicle admission required.

OCTOBER Saturday, 18: Ships, Shipwrecks and Sanctuary **Drop-In:** 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Sanderling Nature Center. Drop by for a fun, family-friendly dive into Great Lakes history and the perils of Lake Michigan. Vehicle admission required.

Shipwreck **Detectives:** 2:00 p.m. Sanderling Nature Center. Join Lio O'Shasky from the Wisconsin Maritime Museum to learn about maritime archaeology and Great Lakes shipwrecks. Vehicle admission required.

EVENTS AT MEAD PUBLIC LIBRARY

710 N 8th Street, Sheboygan www.meadpl.org 920-459-3400

Mead Public Library has announced its events and classes featuring educational, cultural and social activities for children, teens and adults. For a complete list, including storytimes, book clubs, movies and workshops, and to register visit our website or call.

All programs are free and open to the public, with funding provided by the Friends of Mead Public Library and the Mead Library Foundation.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7: Great Decisions Lecture: 6:30-8 p.m., Rocca Room. Join Beloit College Professor Beth K. Dougherty for a free lecture on American foreign policy in the Middle East.

TUESDAY, **OCTOBER** 14: Great Decisions Lecture: 6:30-8 p.m., Rocca Room. Join retired Ripon College Professor Marty Farrell for a free lecture on American foreign policy at a crossroads.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16-18: Friends of Mead Library Used Book Sale: 9 a.m.-7 p.m. on Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, Rocca Room, Mead Library, Sheboygan.

MONDAY, **OCTOBER** 20: Estate Planning Myths & Mistakes: 6-7:30 p.m., Rocca Room. Join attorney Tracy Gibson for a free presentation on the perils of probate, and the proper use of beneficiary designations, wills, trusts and power of attorney documents.

OCTOBER TUESDAY, 21: Great Decisions Lecture: 6:30-8 p.m., Rocca Room. Join Beloit College Professor Pablo Toral for a free lecture on the U.S. and leadership of the world economy.

Bitty Book Club: 9:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m., The Loft, Mead Library, Sheboygan. Join staff from the Family Resource Center and Progressive Beginnings as they bring stories to life. Free book copies are available while supplies last. Recommended for

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27: Monster Mash: 3-5 p.m., Story Garden. Kids are invited to this not-so-spooky Halloween party where they can dance to playful

tunes, enjoy hands-on sensory fun and make delightfully creepy crafts. Costumes welcome.

EVENTS AT ELKHART LAKE **PUBLIC LIBRARY**

All of these events take place at Elkhart Lake Public Library 40 Pine Street, Elkhart Lake 920-876-2554

elkhartlakepubliclibrary.org **EVERY** WEDNESDAY: Coffee Hour: 10 a.m. Enjoy a cup of coffee, conversation, and a preview of the week's new releases

EVERY THURSDAY: Story 9:30 a.m. Stories, Time: songs, and activities toddlers, preschoolers and their caregivers.

FIRST FRIDAY OF THE **MONTH:** First Friday Matinee: 1:00 pm at the Grashorn Civic Center. Movies & popcorn for grownups on the first Friday of the month at 1pm. See our website for movie selection.

SECOND THURSDAY OF MONTH: Ukulele THE Club: 1:00 pm at the Grashorn Civic Center. All levels welcome! Contact elcirc@ monarchlibraries.org for more info.

SECOND FRIDAY THE MONTH: Book Club: 1 p.m. To be placed on our book club list, email elcirc@

monarchlibraries.org.
THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH: Fiber Arts Circle: 1:00pm. All needlework and fiber arts welcome, bring a project and join us for conversation and crafting camaraderie.

> **EVENTS AT PLYMOUTH**

PUBLIC LIBRARY

All of these events take place in the Plymouth Public Library's Meeting Room: 130 Division Street, Plymouth, WI 53073 and are free and open to the public. 920-892-4416. See our website www.plymouthpubliclibrary.net for full details.

EVERY MONDAY: Baby

Me Storytime: 10:00 & am.Babies from newborns and 24 months are invited to bring their parent or caregiver for storytime! No registration required.

EVERY **TUESDAY:** Family Storytime: 10:00 am. Get ready for fun songs, dances, and exciting stories! Most appropriate for preschoolers, but all are welcome. No registration required.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7: **Tech Help:** 10:30 am Reserve a time to work with our librarian and get some basic tech help. Registration required.

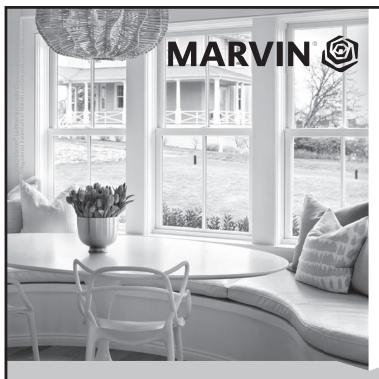
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8: Wednesday Wiggles: 10:00 am. Join us once a month in the library's meeting room to wiggle, giggle, and shake!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9: Game Night: 4:30 pm. For all ages. A fun place to play your favorite board games or a new one. No registration required.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10: Mini Homecoming Dance: 2:00 pm. For ages 0-5. Dress up in their best party outfits, dance to music, and capture memories with our photo booth.

Taylor Swift Party: 2:00 pm. Come celebrate your love for all things T Swift and her latest album release with trivia, crafts, and refreshments. Registration required.

TUESDAY, **OCTOBER**



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14: Doggy Tales: 4:30 pm. For grades 1- 8. Registration required. Get some read-aloud for practice with Gus, a trained therapy dog!

WEDNESDAY,

WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 15: Teen Gaming
Hour: 3:00 pm.For ages 11-18.
Play on our Nintendo Switch,
bring your own, or try on of our
games. No registration required.

Doggy Tales: 5:30 pm. For grades 1- 8. Registration required. Get some read-aloud for practice with Gus, a trained therapy dog!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16: Lego Club: 4:00 pm. For ages 6+. Show us your LEGO skills and creativity, as you create your LEGO masterpiece with friends. No registration

required.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20:
Sci-Fi & Fantasy Book Club:
6:00 pm. Join us to read a new fantasy or science fiction book each month. Copies available for pick up.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21: Tech Help: 10:30 am. Reserve a time to work with our librarian and get some basic tech help. Registration required.

Teen Movie Spooktacular: 3:00 pm. For ages 10+. Join us for a spooky good time after school as we watch the live action Scooby-Doo film!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22: Shivers &

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Stories: 6:00 pm. Come discuss "A House with Good Bones" by T. Kingfisher with other readers.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23: Reading Dragons Monthly Meet-Up: 4:00 pm. For 1st-5th graders. Join your fellow Dragon Trainers to play games, eat snacks and do crafts.

OCTOBER 27 - 31: The Great Pumpkin Pageant: 4:00 pm. Plymouth Public Library's 5th Annual Great Pumpkin Pageant! Go to our website for more information.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27: Yoga for Everyone: 6:00 pm. For all ages. Join us as our certified yoga instructor shows us how yoga can be for everyone. Registration requested.

Registration requested. TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28: Dice Quest: 4:00 pm. For ages 14 and up. Gather with other tabletop RPG enthusiasts and play fun adventures.

EVENTS AT GENERATIONS

Generations Center 1500 Douglas Dr., Plymouth For more info, call 920-892-4858

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7: GenT Open Hours – Free Tech Help: 11:30am – 1:30pm. Help with tech (cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc.) will be offered in the Generation Library. No appointment needed. Tech help is free and available to the community.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9: Nutrition Talk w. Dr. Dan: 11:30am. Dr. Dan Francis from Francis Chiropractic will be at Generations for a Nutrition Talk. This month, he'll discuss eating for longevity and how to age with strength and vitality. Please call 920-892-4858 to RSVP.

MONDAY, OCTOBER

13: Medicare Presentation:
10:00am & 1:00pm. Tyler
Hau from Benefits Specialists
LLC. will be at Generations
to discuss Medicare changes
and highlights. Questions are
encouraged. Please call 920892-4858 to RSVP.

Veterans' Chat: 11:00am. All Veterans are welcome to join us for lunch and conversation. The special will be Swiss Steak for \$8. For anyone 60 and older, you can register through the Meal Site to get your lunch for a suggested donation. Visit Susan Wenzel for more information.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14: GenT Open Hours – Free Tech Help: 11:30am – 1:30pm. Help with tech (cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc.) will be offered in the Generation Library. No appointment needed. Tech help is free and available to the community.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER
15: LIVASU Info Session:

11:00am & 5:15pm. Learn about LIVASU, a community built specifically for those living with dementia and their families. As the first community of its kind in the United States, learn about this non-traditional approach to memory care.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER
16: GenT Open Hours – Free
Tech Help: 1:30pm – 3:00pm.
Help with tech (cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc.) will be offered in the Generation
Library. No appointment needed. Tech help is free and available to the community.

Supper Club: 4:30pm. The Generations Supper Club is going to Millhome Supper Club in Kiel. We will meet at 4:00pm to socialize and be seated for dinner at 4:30pm. Please call 920-892-4858 to RSVP by October 14.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17: Movie Matinee: 1:30pm. We will show A Complete Unknown – The Bob Dylan Story (rated R). Movies are sponsored by Palo Popcorn.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21: GenT Open Hours – Free Tech Help: 11:30am – 1:30pm. Help with tech (cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc.) will be offered in the Generation Library. No appointment needed. Tech help is free and available to the community.

History on the Move – Plymouth Edition: 12:00pm. Join us as we welcome the Plymouth Historical Society to discuss the Mighty Mullet River.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27: Veterans' Chat: 11:00am. All Veterans are welcome to join us for lunch and conversation. The special will be Pork Schnitzel for \$8. For anyone 60 and older, you can register through the Meal Site to get your lunch for a suggested donation. Visit Susan Wenzel for more information.

W E D N E S D A Y, OCTOBER 29: Stroke Awareness & Prevention: 11:30am. Representatives from Aurora Health Care will be on site to provide life-saving information. Learn the signs and symptoms of a stroke and preventative steps you can take every day.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31: Trick or Treating: 9:30am. Generations will be open for Trick or Treating! Walk through our building, meet our volunteers, and enjoy some great treats. All are welcome.

RSVP Deadline –
Veterans' Luncheon: 4:00pm.
Generations will host a special
Veterans' Chat on Monday,
November 10. All Veterans
are welcome to join and will





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receive a free lunch and a free care package put together by Generations volunteers to thank Veterans for their service. RSVPs are required to take part in the free meal and gifts. Please call 920-892-4858 to RSVP.

GENERATIONS CENTER MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Generations Center 1500 Douglas Dr., Plymouth For more info, call 920-892-4858

Parkinson's Support Group: 3rd Friday of the month at 1:00pm. Call 920-892-4858 for more information.

Parkinson's Focused Exercise: Wednesday at 12:30pm. Friday at 12:00pm. Ping Pong Parkinson's:

Wednesday at 1:30pm. **Dance Fusion:** Tuesday & Thursday, 9:30am.

Chair Dance: Monday & Wednesday, 12:00pm

Activator Pole Class: Tuesday, 12:00pm Silver Sneakers Circuit:

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday, 8:00am & 10:00am. **Movement for Brain, Body,**

& Balance: Monday, 11:00am.
Chair Pilates: Wednesday &
Friday, 11:00am.

Chair Yoga: Monday & Vednesday 1:30nm

Wednesday, 1:30pm.

Cardio Fit: Tuesday &
Thursday, 8:00am.

Walk Fit 2-mile: Tuesday & Thursday, 8:30am.

Super Striders Walk Fit 3-mile: Tuesday & Thursday, 7:15am

Arthritis Exercise Class: Tuesday & Thursday, 9:30am & 11:00am.

Tai Chi Chih: Tuesday & Thursday, 1:15pm.

& Wednesday 7:20am.
Yoga Flow: Monday &

Wednesday, 9:00am.

Yoga for Balance and

Yoga for Balance and Stability: Friday 9:00am.

Foot Clinic: Various Thursdays & Fridays. Call 920-892-4821 for appointment.

Widow or Widower Support Group: Friday, 10:00am.

Veterans' Chat: 2nd & 4th Mondays, 11:00am.

Book Club: 4th Monday of the month, 3:00pm.

Ceramics: Wednesday, 9:00am.

Wii Bowling: Tuesday & Thursday, by appointment.
Ping Pong: Monday &

Wednesday, 10:00am.

Writing Club: 2nd

Writing Club: 2nd Thursday, 1:00pm Cribbage: Monday, 1:00pm.

Hand and Foot Canasta: Monday, 1:00pm. Duplicate Bridge: 1st &

3rd Monday, 1:00pm. Must preregister.

5 10 15 Sheepshead:
Monday, Wednesday, Friday at
8:00am. Tuesday, Thursday at

Farkle: 1st & 3rd Thursday,

1:00pm. **Bonco:** 2nd Monday,

4:30pm.

Party Bridge: 1st & 3rd

Tuesday, 1:15pm. **Dominoes:** 1st & 3rd

Wednesday, 1:00pm. **Bingo:** Wednesday, 1:30pm.

Scrabble: Thursday, 9:30am. Mah Jongg: Thursday, 1:00pm.

TOPS Club: Thursday. Weigh-in at 3:30pm. Meeting at 4:00pm.

EVERY SUNDAY Stronger Together CoDA Meeting: 1907 Club, 2908 N 21st St, Sheboygan, 4 PM. Learning together to develop healthy and loving relationships with others and ourselves. All are welcome. No cost or need to register. Any questions, call or text Jill at 920-609-5151.

Al-Anon Meeting: Winter hours 4pm starting Dec 1st-March 30th, Summer hours 6pm April- November 30. Rightway Club,4627 S. 12th Street, Sheboygan. Contact Jennie 920-901-4550.

EVERY MONDAY

T.O.P.S. Weight Loss Support: 9:45am-11:00am (please arrive before 10am). St Paul's U.C.C., Sheboygan. Call Noreen for info 920-467-1248.

T.O.P.S. Weight Loss Support- -Chapter WI 1363: 10:00am11:15am. Fountain Park UMC, Sheboygan. Call Doreen for more info: 920-893-8118.

Al-Anon Meeting: 4-5pm. Do you worry about someone else's drinking? Help and hope are available. Al-Anon meeting for those affected by another's alcoholism. Rightway Club, 4627 S 12th St, Sheboygan. Call 1-888-425-2666 or visit al-anon. org for more information.

SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH

Compassionate Parents: For Parents who've lost a child: 6:00-8:00PM. Location: MHA Lakeshore, 410 S. Milwaukee St., Plymouth.

THRIVE: Women's Chronic Pain Support: 6:30PM. Virtual. Contact info@mhalakeshore. org for more information.

THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH Christian Women Connect After 5: Fountain Park Global Methodist Church, 828 Erie Ave, Sheboygan, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., light meal, features a business or organization in our county, and an inspirational speaker affiliated with Stonecroft Ministries. Call or text Lynn at 920-918-2604 for a reservation, cancellation, or more information.

EVERY TUESDAY

Camo Quilt Project: 439 Factory St., Plymouth. 9am-3pm. Quilts are donated to soldiers. Linda, 627-3460, linda.

GriefShare Support Group: Evangelical Free Church, 1710 N. 15th St., Sheboygan, 9:30am-11am. Support for those who've lost a loved one. 920-452-6520. Plymouth Food Pantry: 2225 Eastern Ave., 2-5pm. Elkhart Lake & Plymouth school

camoquilt@gmail.com.

information. **Knight Chess**: Sheboygan Falls Library, Lower Level. 4-7pm. Information 920-234-2010.

districts. Call 893-2989 for

T.O.P.S. Weight Loss Support: 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. lst Presbyterian Church, 1429 N. 5th Street, Sheboygan. Call



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Jane for info: 1-414-698-6346. LGBTQ+ 12 Step Recovery Program: 6:00pm. The Right Way Club, 4627 South 12th Street, Sheboygan. Ask for Dan L. 920-226-8145.

Al-Anon: 6:30pm. Alliance Church, 1203 Fairview Dr, Plymouth, 6:30pm. Use the south door. 920-254-2097

The Sheboygan Railroad **Museum:** 6:30 to 9:00 PM. 1001 North 10th St., Sheboygan. Home to 8 train layouts in various scales and many railroad antiques. Open for your viewing pleasure.

Concordia Singing Society: Rehearsals 7:00-8:30pm, 1130 N. 9th St, Sheboygan. Knowledge of German not required. Info: 815-883-0035. concordiasingerswi.org

FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

Alliant Energy Wives and Widows of Retirees Breakfast: 9:00 a.m. Sheboygan Family Restaurant. 2704 S. Business

Lemonade: Widow's Support *Group:* 6:00-7:30pm. Rogers Behavioral Health, (Main Entrance), 1108 S. Wildwood Ave., Sheboygan, WI 53081.

SECOND & FOURTH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

Going Further: Mental Health **Recovery Support:** 5:00pm. Rogers Behavioral Health, (Main Entrance), 1108 S. Wildwood Ave., Sheboygan, WI

THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

Christian Women Connection: Sheboygan Yacht Club, 214 Pennsylvania Ave, Sheboygan, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m., brunch, features a business, organization, or interest in our county, and an inspirational speaker affiliated with Stonecroft Ministries. Call or text Ann for a reservation or more info at 920-946-3898.

LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

There is Hope Suicide Loss:

Support for those who have lost a loved one to suicide. 6:30pm. Hosted by MHA Lakeshore at Mental Health America 410 S. Milwaukee St., Plymouth.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly): Weight Loss Support Meeting: 9:00-10:30 a.m. Sheboygan Falls Library. 9-10:30 a.m. First meeting is FREE! For more info, please call Riki at 920-946-2425 or check out www.tops.org.

Camo Quilt Project: 439 Factory St., Plymouth. 9am-3pm. Quilts are donated to soldiers. Linda, 627-3460, linda. camoquilt@gmail.com

Wednesday Al-Anon Winners: 1907 Club, N 21st St., Sheboygan, 9:30am. Call 920-838-5249 for more information.

Al-Anon Serenity Seekers: Meets at Right Way Club, 4627 S. 12th St, Sheboygan, 9:30am. Call 920-918-6324 for information.

Al-Anon Meeting: 10:30am. Do you worry about someone else's drinking? Help and hope are available. Al-Anon

meeting for those affected by another's alcoholism. Rightway Club, 4627 S 12th St, Sheboygan. Call 1-888-425-2666 or visit alanon.org for more information.

Family Nights: * NOT IN JUNE, JULY OR AUGUST * Plymouth Alliance Church, 1203 Fairview Drive, 6:00-7:30pm. Family night offers something for everyone! Kids PreK-5th meet for Rooted, youth 6th-12th grade meet for Anchored, and adults meet for small groups. Nursery is also available for infants and toddlers. 920-893-5525.

Christian Science Reading Room: 5:30-6:00pm. A quiet place to pray & read the Bible. Christian Science publications and to study other books, pamphlets and materials. All are welcome! First Church of Christ, Scientist, 2512 N 9th St., Sheboygan. 920-458-2673.

Christian Science Testimony Meeting: 6:00 pm. We invite you to share testimonies of healings, experiences, and/or remarks on Christian Science. All are welcome! First Church of Christ, Scientist, 2512 N 9th St., Sheboygan. 920-458-2673.

Divorce Care: A faithbased program offering help, hope & healing for those in all stages of divorce. Will meet on Wednesday nights as interest/need demand. Please contact Dana at 920-980-7637 for meeting details and see divorcecare.org for program information.

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

Vollrath Company Retirees Breakfast Club: Log Cabin Restaurant, 633 Madison Ave, Howards Grove, WI. 8:15 am. Call 920-287-7419 for more details.

Over 60+ in our county? (AACC) Adell Area Community Center, 510 Seifert St, Adell (920) 994-9934, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Mary Kempf your Elder Benefit Specialist from the Aging Disability Resource Center. Please give Mary a call at 920-467-4076 before stopping to make sure she has an open appointment or send an email to mary.kempf@ sheboygancounty.com.

Support Overdose Loss: for those that lost someone

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overdose. Hosted by MHA Lakeshore at Mental Health America 410 S. Milwaukee St., Plymouth.

SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

Fostering Support: Support for parents and guardians in the Fostering, and Kinship Care world: 6:00-7:00PM. Virtual through ZOOM.Fill out the form at https://bit.ly/4eV5TsS to receive ZOOM link.

THIRD WEDNESDAY **OF THE MONTH**

Over 60+ in our county? (AACC) Adell Area Community Center, 510 Seifert St, Adell (920) 994-9934, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Mary Kempf your Elder Benefit Specialist from the Aging Disability Resource Center. Please give Mary a call at 920-467-4076 before stopping to make sure she has an open appointment or send an email to mary.kempf@ sheboygancounty.com.

Suicide Loss Support: Grief support for family and friends who've lost someone to suicide: 6:30-7:30PM. Virtual. Contact info@mhalakeshore.org more information

EVERY THURSDAY

Shebovgan Falls Food Pantry: 529 Giddings Ave, Sheboygan Falls. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM. Please remember to bring the following each time you visit: Photo ID, Current Utility Bill, Paper Grocery Bags.

AA Step & Tradition Study:

Grace Episcopal Church, 1011 N 7th St., Sheboygan, 10am. Use the Ontario Street entrance. North Side Christian Food Pantry: 2133 N. 22nd St., Sheboygan, 12:30-2pm. Call 920-458-7070 for information. Overeaters Anonymous Meeting: 4:00-5:00pm. Our Redeemer Church, 1808 Eastern Avenue, Plymouth. OA is a fellowship of individuals who through shared experiences, strength and hope, are recovering from compulsive overeating. Please use back door with key

GriefShare Support Group:

coder. 920-889-3719.

N. 15th St., Sheboygan. 6:30-8pm. Support for those who have lost a loved one. 920-452-

SECOND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

Plymouth Area Garden Club: 6 pm September thru May in the Craft Room at Generations in Plymouth to discuss garden related topics. Contact Sandy for more information. 920-912-

THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

Free Parent-Tot Skate: 9:30-10:30am. Sheboygan Lakers Ice Center, 1202 S Wildwood Ave, Sheboygan. FREE for Kids ages 5 and under. Skate rental included. Helmets are strongly encouraged. 920-458-3111.

Hope is Alive: Grief support for mother's who've lost a child to suicide: 6:00-7:00pm. MHA Lakeshore, 410 S. Milwaukee St., Plymouth.

FOURTH THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

Shoreline Striders Social Run: 6pm at 3 Sheeps Brewing, 1837 North Ave, Sheboygan. All runners welcome. Distance = 3-6 miles, variety of paces. No one runs alone! Émail Amber at president@sheboyganruns.com for more info.

EVERY SATURDAY

Let it Begin with Me Alanon Meeting: 1907 Club, 2908 N. 21st St., Sheboygan, 9:30am. Call Debbie, 207-2774 or Mark at 920-374-9302 for information.

Plymouth Food Pantry: 2225 Eastern Ave., 10-noon. Elkhart Lake & Plymouth school districts. Call 893-2989 for information

The Way Youth Group: The Upper Room, 1125 N 8th Street, Sheboygan. 6:00-8:00pm. Looking for something fun for your kid to do this weekend? The Upper Room in downtown Sheboygan is hosting a Youth Group for ages 12-18 years old

bible-based lesson, food, games and fun! See you there!

FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

The Sheboygan Railroad Museum: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. 1001 North 10th St., Sheboygan. Home to 8 train layouts in various scales and many railroad antiques. Open for your viewing pleasure.

Christian Science Reading Room: 10am-1pm. A quiet place to pray & read the Bible. Christian Science publications and to study other books, pamphlets and materials. All are welcome! First Church of Christ, Scientist, 2512 N 9th St., Sheboygan. 920-458-2673.

SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

Sheboygan Falls Food Pantry: 529 Giddings Ave, Sheboygan Falls. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM. Please remember to bring the following each time you visit: Photo ID, Current Utility Bill,

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Hello friends,

This week's column is a bit different but very much about life through an outdoorsman's eyes.

As many of you know, I lost Michelle Chiaro on June 15th, 2022. If there is a definition of a soulmate, Michelle and I hit the grand slam and found each

Simply put, we rocked no matter what we did; our interests were the same, and we were very attracted to each other.

Michelle's favorite outdoor sport was bear hunting and anything to do with it.

In early March of 2022, Michelle and I went exploring the frozen marshes of The Meadow Valley Wildlife Area as I had an idea for an area where I had seen a lot of bear sign the fall before on a duck hunt.

We struck gold and found a peaceful spot near a large marsh, and when April came along, we started baiting it and had bear almost on day 1.

In late May, Michelle and I even camped in the area for a night just to sleep in the woods and run the baits. Obviously neither of us had a clue that Michelle would pass away in less than three weeks.

Michelle was Native American and closer to the earth than anyone I have ever met. She





Mark Walters • OUTDOOR COLUMNIST

was also a big believer in dragon flies, and that they are from deceased messengers loved ones.

I have to tell you: this is extremely hard for me to write this week's column.

Doug Cibulka has been a good friend of mine since we were young boys and has been a part of our deer camp since the

Doug and I have fished out of a canoe together on Lake Michigan, trapped with his son Derek for many years and have been bear hunting partners for about 10 years.

Doug recently retired from his job at the UW Hospital in Madison. Though he had a tag this year, he has made it clear that this would be his last year as a bear hunter. The drive from Portage for five months is just too time-consuming, and that is understandable.

This summer was our most

active bear baiting season since I started the baits in 2010. Simply put, lots of large, daytime bear. So many big bear, so often that we just quit talking about them and took turns running the baits.

About seven days before bear season opened, at least for Doug and I, someone flipped the light switch and we had no more bear except for one very hot bait that had two large bear - but always after dark.

Doug stayed at my house (Bear Camp) for eight days when the season started, and neither of us came close to any action. After

that, Doug went home while I hunted for three more days, went on a fishing trip and to my good friend Chuck Rieb's celebration of life.

Doug and Michelle were very close, and all baiting season Doug said he was going to kill a bear at "Michelle's Bait" as we call it

About the time that I was giving the final toast to Chuck Rieb at a very well attended event, Doug had a dragon fly land on a branch next to him and sit there with him for a long period of time. Moments later,

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Doug heard something coming his way and there was a black

Doug's aim was true, and even though I was not there, we had a bear.

When Doug called me and told his story, it hit me so hard I had to get off the phone.

I am sure that there are people that think I have gone loco, but knowing the love that woman had for Doug, bear and bear hunting, I guarantee you that she was a part of that hunt.

She was the best!

Sunset



Doug Cibulka

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SECOND & LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

Women Within: 11AM Rogers Behavioral Health, 1108 S Community Room, Wildwood Ave., Sheboygan. Making our wellbeing and need for connection a priority in our lives. All women are welcome. No cost or need to register. Any questions, call or text Jill at 920-609-5151.

THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

The Sheboygan Railroad **Museum:** 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. 1001 North 10th St... Sheboygan. Home to 8 train layouts in various scales and many railroad antiques. Open for your viewing pleasure.

Christian Science Reading Room: 10am-1pm. A quiet place to pray & read the Bible. Christian Science publications and to study other books, pamphlets and materials. All are welcome! First Church of Christ, Scientist, 2512 N 9th St., Sheboygan. 920-458-2673.

COURT REPORT

September 15 to September 19, 2025 Forfeitures

Holzwart, John A., 11/15/1974, Sheboygan, Trespass to Dwelling,

Thorson, Erika E., 11/1980, Sheboygan, Battery, \$389.50.

Tinajero Aguilar, Michelle A., 12/31/1986, Sheboygan, Disorderly

12/31/1996, Shell Conduct, \$393.50.

Trevino, Joseph A.M., 5/13/2005, Sheboygan, Battery, \$456.50. Traffic

Abdul Hakim, Samiulah Bin, 1/1991, Sheboygan, Fail/Change Lanes-Passing Stopped Emergency Vehicle,

Biglin, Bree-Ann L., 8/1997, Shebigini, Bree-Ann L., 8/1997, Sheboygan, Non-Registration of Vehicle-Auto, \$175.30.
Feudner, Stephen R., 12/1948, Sheboygan, Fail/Yield for Yield Sign, \$175.30.

Galstad, Brennan M., 8/22/1997,

Sheboygan, Operate w/o Carrying License, \$217.10. Manthei, Jonathan D., 3/1997, Sheboygan, Truck Following too Close-

Namok, Jayniel, 3/2001, Sheboygan, Operate w/Restricted Controlled Substance (1st), License Revoked 7 months, \$993.00.

Riveramarin, Meyling, 8/1991, Sheboygan, Operate w/o Valid License, \$200.50.

Werner, Kevin J., 12/1957, Sheboygan, OWI (1st), License Revoked 7 months, \$1,087.00.

Operating while Suspended
Arteaga, Rafael T., 8/1988, Sheboygan, \$200.50.

Duron, Monica, 7/1985, Sheboygan, \$200.50.

Operating while Revoked Chang, Ricky X.Y., 11/1989, She-

boygan, \$200.50. **Lee, Mike**, 9/12/1992, Sheboygan, (due to alcohol/controlled substance/ refusal), \$1,059.50.

Speeding in 55 mph Zone

Brickner, Richard L., 9/1963, Sheboygan, (11-15 mph), \$175.30. *Speeding on Freeway*

Li, Hang, 3/1983, Sheboygan, (11-15 mph), \$200.50.

Parra, Edgar, 12/1995, Sheboygan, (16-19 mph), \$250.90. Exceeding Speed Zones

Feld, Carolyn W., 6/1958, Sheboygan, (11-15 mph), \$175.30.
Sullivan, Ashley E., 10/1996, Sheboygan, (1-10 mph), \$175.30.
Wilson, Dimitri S., 6/2005, She-

boygan, (16-19 mph), \$200.50. Misdemeanors

Castro, Daniel E., 7/20/1976, Sheboygan, Disorderly Conduct (Domestic Abuse)-2 counts, Jail 120 days (imposed/stayed), \$1,098.00.

Chang, Jack, 10/14/1967, Sheboygan, Disorderly Conduct (Domestic Abuse), Battery (Domestic Abuse), Jail 30 days (imposed/stayed), \$1,098.00.

Dodds, Monya S., 8/14/1999, She-

boygan, Battery, Criminal Trespass to Dwelling, Jail 9 months, (imposed/ stayed), Firearms/Weapons Restrictions, \$908.00.

Lagoo Mckinnie, Ashley L., 3/6/1992, Sheboygan, Neglecting a Child (Specific Harm did not occur),

Rodriguez, Javier, 11/23/1994, Sheboygan, Disorderly Conduct (Domestic Abuse), Bail Jumping, Jail 48 days, \$1,010.00. Misdemeanors and other charges

Enamorado Sales, Herlin A., 4/18/1987, Sheboygan, Operating while Revoked (due to alcohol/controlled substance/refusal), OWI (3rd)-Traffic, Bail Jumping, Battery (Domestic Abuse), Disorderly Conduct (Domestic Abuse)-Misdemeanors, Jail 90 days, License Revoked 27 months, Ignition Interlock 27 months, \$4,630.00.

Felonies

Brown III, Matthew, 8/23/1985, Sheboygan, Possession w/Intent-Amphetamine/Methamphetamine, Possession w/Intent Cocaine (>15-40 g), Possession w/Intent-Fentanyl, Possession of Firearm-Convicted of Felony, Bail Jumping, Prison 9 years, Extended Supervision, 4 years, \$2,618.40.

Erwin, Jerry E., 8/12/1965, She-

boygan, Manufacture/Deliver Amphetamine (<3-10 g), Possession w/Intent-Amphetamine/Methamphetamine

Ampretamine/Methamphetamine (>10-50 g), Prison 5 years, Extended Supervision 4 years, \$1,092.80.

Gagnon, Sanya M., 7/8/1983, Sheboygan, Possession of Methamphetamine (Repeater), Jail 6 months (stayed), \$546.40.

Meteon Charles B. 1/6/1986 Sheparate (Sheparate Sheparate Shepa

Melton, Charles R., 1/6/1986, Sheboygan, Bail Jumping (Repeater), Jail 90 days (stayed), \$546.40.

Struve, Bradley A., 11/3/1987, Sheboygan, Possession of THC (2nd+ Offmen), Ponceter Lail 00 days (stayed).

Offense)-Repeater, Jail 90 days (stayed), \$530.00.

September 22 to September 26, 2025 Disorderly Conduct
Olm, Timothy W., 6/15/1971, She-

boygan, \$330.50. **Royster III, Charles H.,** 2/5/1984, Sheboygan, \$425.00.

Dietschweiler, Gregory J., 11/2002, Sheboygan, Operating while Suspend-

ed, Speeding on Freeway (20-24 mph), \$476.60.

Giroux, Joshua B., 6/1985, Sheboy gan, Vehicle Operator Fail/Wear Seat Belt, Operate Motor Vehicle w/o Proof of Insurance, \$20.00.

Herzog, John A., 1/1957, Sheboygan, Unsafe Lane Deviation, \$175.30.

Krenz, Asher J., 6/2004, Sheboyan, Automobile Following too Closely,

Montalvo, Oscar, 11/1969, Sheboygan, Unreasonable and Imprudent Speed, Operate Motor Vehicle w/o Insurance,

Operating while Suspended
Blockmon, Darryl T., 8/1983, Sheboygan, \$200.50

Bowie Jr., Darin D., 8/1997, Sheboygan, \$200.50.

Oliva-Sosa, Orlando I., 10/2002, Sheboygan, \$200.50. Speeding in 55 mph Zone

Poleski, David A., 6/1989, Sheboygan, (16-19 mph), \$225.70.
Schoenenberger, Palmer R., 1/2006, Sheboygan, (20-24 mph), \$250.90.

Speeding on Freeway

Greupink, Jon T., 6/2002, Sheboygan, (20-24 mph), \$276.10.

Wagner, Allyson A., 11/2003, Sheboygan, (20-24 mph), \$276.10. Misdemeanors

Dertz, Kelvin B., 7/4/1994, Sheboygan, Intimidate Witness, Disorderly Conduct (Domestic Abuse), \$1,398.00.

Garcia, Stephanie M., 4/12/1984, Sheboygan, Disorderly Conduct (2 counts), Jail 30 days, \$898.00.

Laurich, Demetri E., 9/8/2005, Sheboygan, Possession of Amphetamine/LSD/Psilocin, \$1,567.00.

Michels, Wendy L., 9/23/1965, She-

boygan, Disorderly Conduct, \$969.00.

Misdemeanors and other charges
Braatz, Ricky Jay, 11/9/1994, Sheboygan, Bail Jumping (Misdemeanor),
Operating while Revoked (due to alcohol/controlled substance/refusal), (Traffic), \$1,751.00.

Sheboygan, 2nd degree Recklessly Endangering Safety, Jail 90 days (stayed), \$2,530.00. Garay Aguilar, Sergio A., 6/23/2003,

Donzell R., 3/24/1972, Theft-Moveable Property Watts, Sheboygan. =\$2500 (Repeater), Bail Jumping (Repeater-2 counts), Disorderly Conduct (Repeater), (Misdemeanors), Operate w/o Carrying License (Traffic), \$2,035.10.

Skattum, David A., 9/25/1972, Sheboygan, Possession of Methamphetamine (Repeater), \$480.00.



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ESTATE / GOING OUT OF BUSI-NESS SALE: Friday - Sunday, Oct 10-12th, 8AM-4PM. Closing up shop after being a vendor @ Elkhart Lake Farmers Market. After 48 years I have a lot of inventory to sell: Vintage , new home decorating items, camera & game collections, books, artwork and art supplies. NO children's items or clothes. Items will be added through the weekend when there is space on the table. 410 Bittersweet Ln., Plymouth



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GARAGE SALE: Fri., Sat. Oct. 10-11th, 8AM-3PM. STROLLERS, Crib/ Toddler bed, changing table, swing, highchair, toys, baby items, XMAS, train, instant pot, clothes, new fishing tent & rod case, MORE! 636 Union Ave. Sheboygan

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STORAGE UNIT SALE: Friday, Oct 17th & Saturday, Oct 18th, 9AM-5PM. Kayak, 1940's beautiful handmade wood sofa & matching chair, 1960's round wood table, new folding chairs, ceiling fans, large slabs of 1" marble (great for bar top), Playboy 70's & 80's mags, short parlor stools, mini stackable washer & dryer, 60's barrel chairs, antique marble corner sinks, new Kohler drop-in sink, H.D. garage door opener, small marble samples, folding shades, fax machine & other office equip, box sled, stained glass and a lot more stuff. At the Storage units in Glenbeulah behind (south)



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Simple ways to extend the life of your vehicle

A to B Automotive jump starts in Falls

by Jeff Pederson for the Xtra

After 30 years, there's a new name on the door at one of the city of Sheboygan Falls' most recognized auto repair businesses.

On Wednesday, Sept. 3, Bill Flunker officially opened A to B Automotive at 295 North Main St., which has served as the home of Dave Specht Motor Company since the mid-1990s.

A native of Cascade. Flunker is certainly no stranger to the local automotive repair profession.

"When I was out of high school, I took on factory work at Kohler, but decided to follow my passion of automotive and went to LTC to take classes for auto repair,' Flunker said. "I worked at a couple different shops and dealerships over the years and got my ASE certifications as a master tech.'

Flunker is also a familiar face to Dave Specht Motor Company clientele.

"In 2020, right as the CO-VID lockdown started, I had a very good friend who let me know Dave was looking for a technician at the shop and had me meet with him, Flunker said. "I was looking for a change and it worked out perfectly that he was looking.

"Dave was a great man to work for," he said. "At one point a couple years ago, he came up to me and said he wanted to sell the business and wanted me to purchase

After Specht passed away in August 2024, Flunker continued down a path toward business ownership.

"We signed all the paperwork on August 29th and opened the doors as A to B Automotive on September 3rd," Flunker said. "The name has a double meaning, the A is for my wife, Ashley, and B for Bill. Plus, people always want to get from A to B,

According to Flunker, the Dave Specht Motor Company tradition of top-notch service will carry on under the A to B Automotive banner.

"Besides no longer selling cars, we haven't changed anything we do," Flunker said. "We still have the same care and quality of work that the customers have come to expect since Dave had started the business. We strive to keep that going.

Going forward, A to B Automotive offers the full gamut of vehicle repair services.

"We do automotive and light truck repairs," Flunker said. "Our services include diagnostics, tune ups, engine repairs, transmission repairs, tires, brakes, steering, suspension and alignments.

As he embarks on his new journey as the owner of A to B Automotive, Flunker is focused firmly on the satisfaction of his customers.

"We try to build a trust with every customer that comes through our doors through honest communica-Flunker said. We want our customers to know what we are doing to fix their vehicle and why it needs to be

A to B Automotive is open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4

For appointments, call 920-467-9009.



BILL FLUNKER recently opened A to B Automotive at the former location of Dave Specht Motor Company at 295 North Main St. in Sheboygan Falls. - Submitted photo



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Tips to improve your commute

Remote work was the standard during the global pandemic, and that greatly reduced the time employees spent traveling to their places of employment. But now that many workers have been called back to business offices, professionals are once again facing the prospect of much longer commutes.

According to the United States Census Bureau, the average one-way commute is 25.4 minutes. The National Association of Home Builders reports a time of 26.8 minutes. Statistics Canada reports the average commute time for Canadian workers is 26.4 minutes. However, ask many employees and they'll suggest that their commute times feel longer, particularly when increased traffic on the nation's

roadways continues to be a con-

Commuting is seldom something to relish, but there are ways to make daily trips to the office more manageable

- Try public transportation. Leaving the driving to someone else can make commuting a bit less taxing. If buses, trains or trollies are available where you live, consider taking them to work rather than driving alone in your car. This will free you up for other activities during the trip, such as reading or organizing tasks for the week.
- Listen to audiobooks. Many people lament they don't have as much time to read as they want. Audiobooks provide

See TIPS/37

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TIPS from 36

a great way to enjoy a best-seller while on the way to work and solve the problem of having too little time to read.

• Use a commute to relax. While it may seem counterintuitive, commutes can be transformed into relaxing moments when you practice mindfulness or meditation. Try deep breathing exercises to calm your mind.

• Vary your route. Take a different way to work a few times each week instead of the same roads over and over. A new route varies the view along the way and you'll learn alternatives

if there is a traffic jam or detour.

• Embrace outdoor time. If possible, incorporate some outdoor time into your commute. For example, biking or walking a portion of the commute can make it more enjoyable. Getting fresh air and exercise can tame stress and improve mood.

 Maximize physical comfort. Making a vehicle as comfortable as possible can improve a commute. When selecting a vehicle, opt for one with supportive seats with comfort features like lumbar support and heated seats. Set up the interior so that your coffee or tea is within reach, and stock sunglasses or

other necessities in storage areas so the car does not feel cluttered.

Compile a commuting playlist. Figure out the mood you want to set during your commute and then curate a playlist that reflects that desired vibe. Do you want mellow, relaxing songs, or do you prefer upbeat, uplifting tunes? This way you're not beholden to the offerings on the radio or satellite services.

Commuting may not be on par with a relaxing evening out with friends, but there are ways to make trips to and from the office more tolerable and even enjoyable.



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BUSINESS IN MOTION



Van Horn Automotive Group Opening New TrucksFor25K.com Dealership

Van Horn Automotive Group is opening TrucksFor25K. com, a new in-person dealership located alongside their current Fleet Management dealership, at 3003 Eastern Avenue in Plymouth. As the name implies, the new dealership will provide customers with a straightforward, no-hassle shopping experience for quality pre-owned trucks \$25,000 or less. The truck selection can also be found online at the new site TrucksFor25K.com

Building on the success of CarsFor15K.com, TrucksFor25K.com offers over 50 reliable trucks and SUVs sourced from local trades and supporting auto group dealerships. Each vehicle undergoes a rigorous 150-point safety and quality inspection to ensure customer confidence and peace of mind for

At TrucksFor25K.com, shoppers will find transparent, upfront pricing on trucks from major brands including Ford, Chevrolet, Ram, GMC, Toyota, Honda, and more. The opportunity to shop and finance vehicles all in one place, with express financing options and support from a variety of lending institutions, makes for a seamless experience.

All trade-ins are welcome at TrucksFor25K.com; whether a customer purchases a vehicle or not. With the Van Horn network of locations statewide, service is convenient. And, those for needing to ship a truck nationwide purchased at TrucksFor25K.com, reasonable rates are offered.

As with all Van Horn Automotive Group locations, TrucksFor25K.com is family born, employeeowned, meaning every team member is committed to customer satisfaction. This unique ownership model ensures buyers save on price, not on experience.

'We know trucks are an essential part of life here in Wisconsin. With TrucksFor25K.com, we're making it easier than ever for people to find a reliable truck at a fair price, all while enjoying the same friendly, no-pressure buying experience Van Horn has been known for since 1966," said Rob Boss, General Manager of TrucksFor25K.com.

For nearly 60 years, Van Horn Automotive Group has proudly served Plymouth, Manitowoc, Sheboygan, and surrounding areas. The addition of TrucksFor25K.com provides customers with an

affordable new outlet for truck shopping while giving Van Horn dealerships a solution to keep more latemodel, higher-mileage trucks available locally.

Van Horn Automotive Group, Inc. is a family born, employee owned automotive group with headquarters in Plymouth, Wisconsin. Founded in 1966 by Joe Van Horn as a single Chevrolet dealership, Van Horn Automotive Group has grown to include 16 automotive dealerships, a finance company, a fleet management division, and a wholesale financial products company. The group employs over 750 people throughout Wisconsin. For employment opportunities visit the Careers page at https://www.vhcars.com/





Tips to winterize your vehicle

The elements pose a unique challenge to motor vehicles, and that's particularly notable when seasons change. Though the shift from spring to summer or even summer to fall may not be too significant, drivers who want to safeguard their vehicles would be wise to take certain measures to prepare their cars or trucks for winter weather.

Winterizing a car can be an important part of vehicle maintenance. That's particularly true for vehicle owners who live in regions where winter is marked by especially cold temperatures and/or significant snowfall. As fall gives way to winter, drivers can take these steps to winterize their vehicles.

- Address tires and tire pressure. The experts at Kelley Blue Book note the danger of aging and/or poorly inflated tires, particularly in winter. Icy, wet and/or snow-covered roads can be dangerous to traverse, so it benefits drivers to examine their tires prior to winter. Worn down treads reduce traction and make it more difficult for vehicles to stop, which is already challenging on roads where ice is present. It's equally important to keep tires properly inflated, as KBB reports each 10-degree dip in temperature can lead to a one-pound loss in air pressure. Poorly inflated tires can decrease performance and safety on the road.
- Check the battery and replace it, if necessary. Another step to winterize a car involves the battery that helps to keep the vehicle running. The automotive experts at Firestone note that sinking temperatures force the chemical reaction within vehicle

batteries to slow, which reduces the amount of power the battery can generate. In fact, Firestone estimates a battery can lose as much as 60 percent of its strength in freezing temperatures. Firestone urges drivers to get a battery assessment test prior to winter to ensure the battery is healthy enough to endure the coming months. If the assessment indicates the battery is weak, replace it prior to winter.

- · Check fluid levels. Routine vehicle maintenance at an auto body shop or car dealership typically involves checking and topping off fluid levels. Book such an appointment in advance of winter to ensure the vehicle has coolant, which KBB notes is formulated to resist freezing. Without sufficient coolant, a vehicle engine can suffer significant damage. Windshield washer fluid also should be filled to ensure the windshield can be sufficiently cleaned of salt during and after snowstorms. A pre-winter oil change also can help the vehicle run smoothly throughout the colder months.
- · Inspect belts and hoses. KBB notes cold weather weakens belts and hoses, which can become brittle and fail in low temperatures. Belts and hoses should be checked prior to winter. Engines can overheat, electrical system problems can emerge and power steering may be compromised if belts and hoses are allowed to fall into disrepair.

Winter can be a challenging time of year for cars and trucks. Various strategies to winterize a car before the mercury drops can make it safer to be on the road when the weather turns cold.



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4 car-buying tips to consider

Drivers spend a lot of time in their vehicles, and that's perhaps one reason why new car buyers are willing to spend so much on a new automobile. According to a recent report from Kelley Blue Book, the average transaction price of a new vehicle in June 2025 was just under \$49,000.

Drivers who have not purchased a new car in a while may be overcome by sticker shock when they start shopping for a new car, but plenty of reliable vehicles can still be had for less than \$49,000. Motorists in the market for new vehicles can consider these four tips as they begin their search for a new ride.

1. Consider buying in fall. Fall can be a buyer-friendly time to purchase a new vehicle because many dealerships may be seeking to unload outgoing model years to make room for the coming year's models. In such instances, dealerships may sell outgoing model year vehicles for thousands of dollars less than the incoming year's models. Inventory of outgoing model years may be limited, which can reduce the options drivers have in regard to various amenities, such as vehicle color and accessories. But if such details aren't high on buyers' priority lists, then buying in fall can be advantageous.

2. Make a sizable down payment, if possible. Interest rates remain high, so the less drivers will need to borrow when buying a new car, the more money they'll save in interest charges over the life of the loan. The consumer advocates at Consumer Reports recommend new car buyers put at least 15 percent down and ideally between 20 and 25 percent at the time of purchase. The higher the initial down payment, the more manageable the ensuing monthly payments become.

3. Get your credit ducks in a row. Of course, the size of the down payment won't be the only number that determines the amount of a monthly payment. Drivers' credit ratings affect their

interest rates, so it's best to maintain a good reputation or rebuild a poor one in the months leading up to a new car purchase. Pay off existing consumer debt entirely, if possible. If that's beyond reason, then make sure to make all monthly payments on time and pay more than just the minimum required each month.

4. Shop for incentives. Consumer Reports notes that dealerships and manufacturers offer a wide range of incentives that can help to reduce the cost of a new vehicle. Cash-back offers and zero percent financing are two notable incentives buyers can shop for. After researching which vehicles to buy, shop around for incentives packages to help narrow down your options.

Drivers in the market for a new vehicle can employ various strategies to land a reliable and affordable car or truck.

