

Tail wagging tutor

pg. 4



Spielman is also an author

pg. 5



A Look Back at a trolley tragedy

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Money Matters
Special Section
pg. 34



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New free state-funded 4K program announced

submitted by
The Sheboygan County Childcare Coalition

Sheboygan County childcare providers are excited to announce a significant development in early childhood education. The State of Wisconsin has recognized the critical value of early childhood education by introducing a new initiative, the Get Kids Ready program. Starting in July 2026 and running the full calendar year, children who are four years old by the 1st of September 2026, will have the opportunity to participate in this free 4K program, allowing them to receive a solid foundation for

kindergarten in a nurturing environment. This program will eliminate the challenges of bus rides or tricky transportation schedules, ensuring a seamless transition for children from early care to their next step on their educational journey.

Key benefits include intentional education available before and after the 4K programming provided by early childhood educators with smaller class sizes and inclusive, developmentally appropriate spaces. "Our expertise in developmentally appropri-

ate education starts from the day children enter our care, as early as 6 weeks old. It's built into each day for children of all ages" said a member from the Sheboygan County Child Care Coalition. This continuous educational approach ensures children receive a consistent and high-quality learning experience throughout their most formative years. Through Get Kids Ready, qualified childcare educators will focus on academic, physical, social-emotional, self-help skills, and communication and cognition; providing parents with a comprehensive solution that meets the diverse needs of families in Sheboygan County and throughout Wisconsin.

The Get Kids Ready program is available year-round. The State of Wisconsin pays childcare educators for the time your child spends in Get Kids Ready, making that part of the day free for families. Don't wait to sign up for this invaluable opportunity to give children the best possible start in their educational journey. Learn more at: dcf.wisconsin.gov/getkidsready/parents

Spaces are limited, so don't delay. Contact your neighborhood childcare center today and ask about the Get Kids Ready program. For more local participation information, call the Sheboygan County Child Care Coalition at 920-547-9033.

Children invited to send Valentines cards to sister cities overseas

SHEBOYGAN - The Mayor's International Committee together with Mead Public Library are proud to collaborate on the Sister City Valentine-Making and Mailing Project.

From Feb. 1-14, children are invited to make simple valentines and deposit them in the special mailbox located in the third-floor Children's Library at Mead.

Valentines should be no larger than 8.5 x 11" paper. They can be drawn with crayons, markers, pencils and paints. Stickers

are welcome. No glitter or sealed envelopes. All valentines will be inspected prior to mailing.

The valentines will be mailed by the Mayor's International Committee to schools in Sheboygan's sister cities of Tsubame, Japan and Esslingen, Germany.

Area schools are also invited to participate. It is the hope of Mead Library and the Mayor's International Committee that area children will participate in this fun, friendship-building activity with children in our sister cities.



Jacqueline Savaglio, 3, mails a valentine at Mead Library for the Sister City Valentine-Making and Mailing Project. - submitted photo

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Sunday, February 22 at 1:30 pm

Knights of Columbus Hall, 833 Center Ave, Sheboygan

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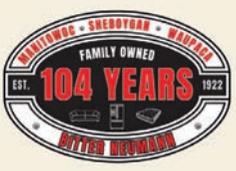
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Sheboygan North grad wins award for children's book

by Dave Boehler
for The Beacon

Sheboygan North graduate Jennifer Brandt can't believe it.

"I was initially shocked, because I wrote this book more for fun," she said. "Like, I'm not an author by trade. So it was kind of a side project. And it was an accomplishment in itself just to publish it."

"But then for it to also win an award was amazing. To be able to say that I'm an award-winning author is just mind-blowing, I guess. It's exciting. I'm shocked. I'm honored. I'm feeling all the things."

Brandt, who lives in Cleveland, recently was selected as a first-place winner of the Northern Lights Books Awards for "Camilla the Tail-Wagging Tutor."

The award recognizes outstanding books from independent and small-press authors around the world and is judged by publishing professionals who evaluate quality, originality, storytelling, and overall impact.

"I have a company that helped me in the self-publishing process, and they called me on Christmas Eve," Brandt said. "I was just hanging out with my family, and I see the phone ring, and I'm like, 'why is she calling me on Christmas Eve?'"

"She was like, 'your book won this award.' And I had to kind of backtrack because I didn't even



NORTH GRADUATE JENNIFER BRANDT recently won an award for her book titled Camilla the Tail Wagging Tutor. - Submitted photo

remember applying for it."

The 32-page book is available on Amazon, and features Camilla - a pit bull boxer mix - who passed away from cancer about a year ago.

The book follows the adventures of Brandt's therapy dog, who visits area schools to help children read.

Shortly after getting her rescue dog around 15 years ago, Brandt

and Camilla visited area schools as part of Therapy Dogs International's Tail-Waggin' Tutors program.

"A therapy dog's role is to bring smiles to people," she said. "And the program itself is designed for kids to read to dogs; more specifically for kids who struggle to read, to give them a free space to read and to feel comfortable without feeling judged."

Those years-long experiences are detailed in the book, highlighted by the impact Camilla had on the children's improved reading skills.

"You could see the impact," Brandt said. "Because they could be in a space where they're not getting made fun of by kids in class or they're not feeling self-conscious about reading, and they can just practice. Reading becomes fun and enjoyable, and they become good at it."

"(Camilla) was famous in their eyes."

Camilla the Tail-Wagging Tutor was published Dec. 6, 2024.

Two months later, the 15-year-old dog succumbed to a quick-spreading cancer.

Brandt continues to go to schools to promote her book and says it's a way to honor her dog's legacy.

"I would like to get a dog that I can again train," Brandt said. "It was probably some of the most

rewarding work I think I've ever done, because just the impact and the smiles and just how it brightened everyone's day. It was so heartwarming. So I would love to be able to do that again. I would love to have another dog to do that with."

Northern Lights Books Awards judges likely would want that, considering the reviews they left about Camilla the Tail-Wagging Tutor.

"Out of hundreds of outstanding entries, your book stood out," one said. "We are confident it will stand the test of time, and children will enjoy your story for generations to come. ... In so many ways, writing, illustrating, and publishing exceptional literature for children is one of the most important and magical callings. This award is our way of honoring you. ... We cannot wait to see what you create next and look forward to reviewing your future work."

Second city poet laureate appointed

SHEBOYGAN - Mayor Ryan Sorenson has officially announced the appointment of Anneliese Finke to serve as Sheboygan Poet Laureate for the 2026-2029 term. The formal induction took place at the Twentieth Regular Common Council Meeting on January 19 and featured an introduction by the outgoing Poet Laureate, Lisa Vihos, and a poetry recitation by Ms. Finke. Ms. Vihos had served an extended term from 2020-2026 and was the city's first Poet Laureate.

About the Recipient

Anneliese Finke received a BA in creative writing from Bard College at Simon's Rock and an MFA in poetry from the University of Maryland. She was a former Peace Corps volunteer in Petropavlovsk, Kazakhstan. She has also worked as a teacher, a librarian, a bookkeeper, and as the archivist for the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets. Her writing

has appeared in numerous literary journals, including Ruminare, The Georgetown Review, the anthology The Lake Is Mother To Us All, and Creative Wisconsin. As Sheboygan's second Poet Laureate, she hopes to create projects that bring poetry into the wider community.

About Sheboygan Poet Laureate Program

The Sheboygan Poet Laureate program was founded by Mayor Mike Vandersteen in 2020 following approval from the Mead Library Board and Common Council. The position is a voluntary role officially appointed by the mayor and supported by the Mead Library Foundation. The purpose of the role is to serve as an ambassador of the literary arts for Sheboygan and to promote poetry throughout the community. The Office of the Mayor held an open call for applications from November 6, 2025 to November 24, 2025.

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Three-sport athlete Spielman is also an author



Ella Spielman is a senior on the North basketball team. - Photo by Daniel Arrasmith



She has also written a book (above) titled City of Voices, featuring stories from a number of prominent locals. - Submitted photos



Not only is Ella Spielman a three-sport athlete at North, the senior is an author, too.

“Growing up, I have always had a strong interest in our community and a curiosity about the people who make Sheboygan thrive,” the third-year varsity basketball guard said. “Throughout my life, I have been inspired by the way the people in our city – whether in the government, education, the arts or public service – work tirelessly to improve the lives of others.”

“This inspired me to want to learn more about these people on a deeper level, not only as a tribute, but as a source of motivation for future generations. My decision to research and write this book came from a desire to recognize the leaders in our community who often go unnoticed, despite their immense contributions. I want the voices that often get overlooked to finally get their chance to shine.”

The book, titled City of Voices, came to fruition when Spielman was accepted into the Innovator Fellowship Program at North.

Spielman says she had free reign and could write whatever she wanted.

“I was trying to think of something I could do for a project that would be impactful, and that would actually be able to reach a lot of generations,” said Spielman, who also plays tennis and soccer. “So I felt a written aspect could reach from a child all the way to an adult.”

The 64-page City of Voices features 30 people in the community.

Spielman shares their stories and hopes to inspire people by their drive and perseverance.

Easier than it looks



Members of the North band put on quite a halftime show. - Photo by Daniel Arrasmith

“And show people that they can do that too,” she said. “I just feel like there's a lot of people that I come in contact with who they don't get enough recognition for what they do. There's a lot of amazing teachers and coaches and people in our community that I've met. And I feel like people don't know how amazing they are, so I just wanted to highlight them and let everyone know the incredible things they've done.”

Spielman, who will study marketing at the University of Wisconsin, has several sport-related stories.

One is on Tom Desotell, who was inducted into the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association's Hall of Fame in 2014 for his longtime career at North.

“It was a cool experience,” Spielman said. “He brought a lot of old newspaper articles about him and a lot of old pictures. He told me basically his life story.”

Spielman's current hoops coach, Keith Conway, is also featured.

“I asked them all multiple questions, but the specific one was, what does making a difference mean to you?” she said. “And his story is his love for connecting with kids and teaching us how to be hardworking and driven individuals.”

Spielman's plan is to donate copies of City of Voices to local libraries, schools and bookstores.

She does not plan on writing another book, however.

“I don't think so, but a lot of the skills that came from writing this will help me in the future,” Spielman said.

Those interested in a copy should send an email to: innovatorfellowshipimpact@gmail.com.

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Gilliam's injury contributes to future career

A foot injury is not stopping South's Sierra Gilliam from competing on the gymnastics team.

"One of my favorite quotes - I don't remember where I saw it - is I rather regret the risk that comes with trying, instead of not trying at all," the senior said.

Gilliam also wants to become a nurse, so ...

"It is honestly really cool," she said. "Because I'm in anatomy and physiology, and like medical terminology and medical interventions. So all these college medical classes that I'm taking in high school, when doctors use actual terms that most people wouldn't understand, I understand what they're talking about. It's much more of a perspective."

At the start of Gilliam's junior season, she was nearing the end of a meet and everything was fine.

But about 10 seconds into her floor routine, Gilliam landed wrong and tweaked her foot.

However, doctors, surgeons and orthopedic specialists all

"One of my favorite quotes ... is I rather regret the risk that comes with trying, instead of not trying at all."

- Sierra Gilliam

said there was nothing wrong, so she competed the rest of the season.

"So I was dealing with pretty much a broken foot for a year before any one could figure out what was wrong," she said. "It was really mentally and physically exhausting, constantly getting told there's nothing wrong, knowing how much pain I was in. It was very exhausting, and I was pushing through to a point where I would just take medicine and use ice to numb my foot so I couldn't feel anything."

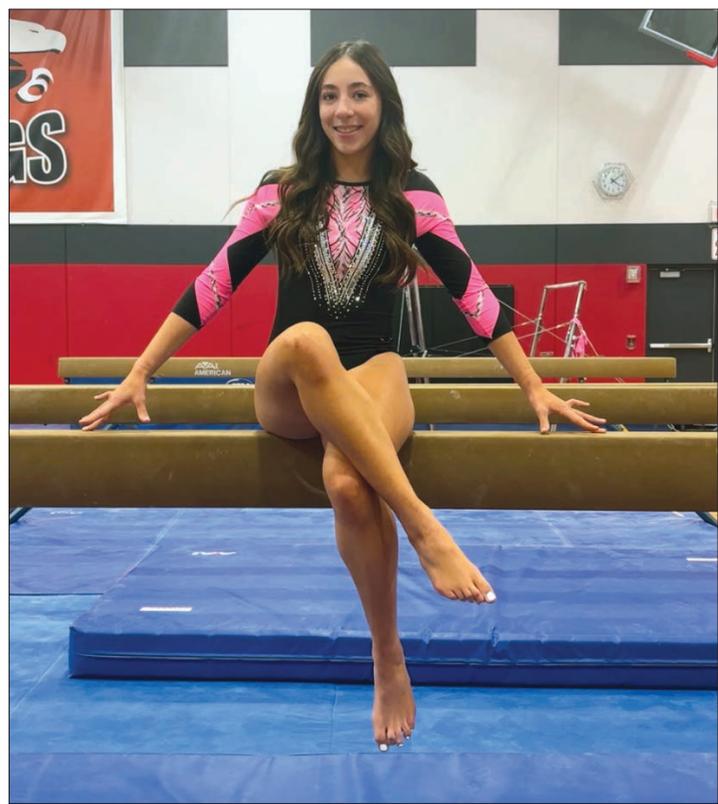
Gilliam got an MRI a year ago, and another one this past November, and it was discovered she had two bones on top of each other - her cuboid and navicular - and all the tendons and ligaments around them are completely stretched out. She also severely damaged one of

her muscles.

"It was definitely a relief to hear that I'm like not crazy, and that I am feeling pain, and there was something wrong, and that I was right about my body," Gilliam said. "But I was more so relieved of the fact that I knew it was wrong and what steps I needed to take for the healing process."

Gilliam continues to compete this season, and after it will take around nine weeks off to reevaluate the situation and see if surgery is needed.

"I have to get my bones re-adjusted every week in my foot, and before I compete or practice or anything, I have to have my foot taped and braced to hold the two bones in place as much as possible because the ligaments and tendons are so damaged around it," she said.



Sierra Gilliam has been competing in gymnastics that last two years with a foot injury. - Submitted photo

WIAA makes a number of changes

Biggest is electronic seeds for volleyball



The WIAA Board of Control approved the recommendations of the fall coaches' advisory committees and discussed a wide range of topics at its February meeting last week.

Volleyball will move to electronic seeding for the Tournament Series beginning next season.

The seeds will be determined by all match scores entered throughout the season into the WIAA Score Center.

An initial electronic seeding report will be released the Monday of Week 15 on the WIAA calendar followed by a coaches' appeal meeting. The official brackets will be released on Friday of Week 15.

The seeding criteria will include a team's own winning percentage, opponent's winning percentage, opponents' opponent winning percentage; and head-to-head results across all consecutive seeds.

One other volleyball recommendation was approved impact-

ing the Tournament Procedures. All sectional finals must be scheduled at 1 p.m., 4 p.m. or 7 p.m.; and Division 1 semifinals must be played at 5 p.m. or 7 p.m. at the discretion of the host school.

The WIAA will have final authority to determine locations, dates and start times.

Three cross country recommendations were approved by the Board.

Billed hats, caps and visors will be added as permitted headgear, as well as allowing a 2 1/4-inch manufacturer's logo on headwear beginning in the fall.

A second is a clarification that permits face and body paint, symbols and temporary tattoos to be displayed; however, full-face solid block color, or markings that are offensive or that distract from the integrity of the competition are prohibited.

A third rule change will allow competitors to receive biometric data from watches or smart

watches, including heart rate, GPS or pace. Athletes and coaches are not allowed to use GPS data to receive coaching while competing, contest the length of a course or review any decision made by a race official.

The Board approved the lone soccer coaches' recommendation, adding language stating that the accumulation of yellow cards (three within the Tournament Series or two in the State semifinal game) does not affect a participant's eligibility to attend or participate in the State championship awards ceremony.

A boys and girls tennis rule change will impact Tournament Procedures beginning in the 2026-27 season, with all players seeded at the subsectional level of the Tournament Series.

In addition, the Board approved moving the first day girls may begin practice one day earlier in the fall (from Tuesday to Monday of Week 6 on the WIAA calendar).

In 2026-27, the boys' and girls' golf regulations will include two changes to the adaptations of USGA rules.

The first allows a player,

within USGA limitations, to take a one-time free relief by placing the ball within one club-length of its original spot, not closer to the hole, in the "general area" that is cut to fairway height or less. The player may clean the ball when lifted and following normal procedures for placing it.

The second adaptation change requires season scores to be entered into the tournament management software, which will use each team's best six scores to determine divisional rankings for regional groupings. Lineup changes during the Tournament Series may be made until tee times are posted.

A third golf coaches' recommendation approved by the Board strikes language from the Season Regulations that required host managers to mark the starting time on a physical scorecard for each group.

Two of the three boys and girls swimming & diving changes impact the Tournament Procedures in the 2026-27 sports seasons.

The first splits schools sponsoring the sport evenly between two divisions. The winner of each event at each sectional qualifies for the State Meet.

In addition, the next 19 fastest individuals and relay teams across all sectionals combined, excluding sectional winners, also qualify.

The other alteration changes language to mandate swimming sectionals to start no later than 1 p.m.

The third modification affects the Season Regulations by allowing the use of backstroke ledges, and if used in competition, the host team must provide identical ledges for all lanes. It is also noted that swimmers are not required to use the ledges.

Four Officials Advisory Committee recommendations were approved by the Board. Three of them add language to the Sports Officials Guide.

One addresses conflict of interest guidelines, and another establishes social media best practices. The third requires all officials to watch the rules video and complete all exams in each respective sport by the start of Tournament Series to be eligible to officiate in the tournament.

Additionally, for L1 officials, a score of 70 percent or better on the exams is required in sports they are eligible to work the tourney.

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In case you missed it ...

It's been at least 15 years - likely the most ever - since the Sheboygan co-op hockey team had this many goals.

The Red Raiders crushed host Beaver Dam, 13-1, last Tuesday for their most goals since at least 2009-10 (when online records began keeping results).

Sheboygan outshot the Golden Beavers, 58-15, including 25-1 in the first period.

"The thing about that game was we had all four lines scoring and contributing," coach Avery Huibregtse said. "Fifty-eight shots in a game is a lot."

Christian's Karsen Burdick finished with two goals and an assist.

North's Connor Sondalle and Caden Dekker each added a goal and an assist.

South's Jacob Rapenshek had two assists.

And Falls' Jordan Hanke also recorded his first hat trick.

If that wasn't enough

Sheboygan got to face Whitefish Bay/Nicolet/Shorewood at the MSOE Kern Center in Milwaukee on Thursday and left with a 3-2 overtime victory thanks to a goal by North's Cohan Sondalle.

BOYS BASKETBALL

What a shot!

North sophomore Rylan Buhr's buzzer-beating shot lifted his team past Bay Port, 65-62, last Tuesday to avenge a six-point loss to the Pirates earlier this season.

The score was tied when Buhr caught a pass near halfcourt with time running out.

He dribbled to the right wing, pulled up beyond the three-point arc, and double-clutched a shot in off the backboard as the horn sounded.

Parion Palmer led North with 18 points as a result of going 6 for 7 from the floor.

What a shot! II

That same night, Lutheran junior Oliver Leibham led his team to a 60-58 victory over Kohler in similar fashion.

Leibham inbounded the ball in front of his team's bench to Brock Seefeldt at the top of the three-point line.

Leibham sprinted toward Seefeldt, who underhanded a short pass to his striding teammate.

Leibham took a dribble to the left baseline and hit a pull-up jumper just before time expired.

What a shot III

It wasn't a last-second thriller, but another game on Tuesday went down to the wire.

Christian ran a baseline inbound play that resulted in junior Samantha Veldkamp's go-ahead basket with about 10 seconds left for a 57-56 win at St. Mary's Springs.

The Ledgers then missed a three-pointer at the buzzer.



North's Caden Dekker is reward with the puck after getting his first hat trick recently. He also helped the team score 13 goals - believed to be the most in program history - Tuesday. - Photo by Kelley McAndrews



South's defense tries to slow down Plymouth on Jan. 30. - Photo by Lisa Reed

... and so you don't

The winter sports season is winding down, as the postseason begins Friday with wrestling regionals (girls) and sectionals for diving.

On Saturday, swimmers take their turn and individual wrestlers (boys) compete at sectionals as well.

Hockey regionals begin next Tuesday and continue Feb. 19 and 20.

Also on Feb. 20, the two-day state swim meet begins and girls wrestlers will grapple at sectionals.

And on Feb. 21, team wrestling sectionals (boys) will be held.

Girls basketball playoffs begin in two weeks, and the boys start the week after that.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Oostburg at Lutheran, 7:15 p.m. next Tuesday: The reigning Division 3 champion Flying Dutchmen entered the weekend with an undefeated record and the No. 1 spot in the state rankings.

Two days later, Oostburg hosts Christian in the Eagles' final regular-season game.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Howards Grove at Lutheran, 7 p.m. Monday: Originally scheduled on Jan. 23, these two teams split the season series a year ago. The Crusaders won by eight points and then the Tigers won by five.

SKATING

Blue Line Ice Center, 2-4 p.m., Feb. 22: The Sheboygan Police Department is holding its first "Skate with a Cop."

The event is free, and skate rentals are included.

It is open to children of all ages, but parents are encouraged to attend - and stay.

A liability waiver will need to be signed at the door.

To register, visit <https://sheboyganpolice.com/skate-with-a-cop-2026/>



North and the rest of girls basketball teams begin playoffs in two weeks. - Photo by Daniel Arrasmith



South and the rest of boys swim teams will try to qualify for state this weekend. - Photo by Lisa Reed

Sound Advice

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What is Hearing Aid Cleaning?

By: Joelle Steffen

Regular hearing aid cleaning is essential to protect your investment, extend the life of your devices, and avoid costly repairs. Today's hearing aids are highly advanced electronic instruments, but that makes them especially vulnerable to everyday exposure. Earwax, body oils, dead skin cells, moisture, and individual body chemistry can all interfere with performance and, over time, cause permanent damage.

In years past, hearing aid maintenance was fairly basic. Custom hearing aids were often cleaned with little more than a wax pick, and the care provided in an office wasn't much different from what users could do themselves at home. In 2026, professional hearing aid care has evolved significantly. A well-equipped hearing care office should now use medical-grade disinfectants, specialized picks and brushes for removing wax from receivers and microphones, contact cleaners for charging contacts in both the hearing aid, and if you bring it in, the charger itself, and—most importantly—professional vacuum systems with precision needle tips to safely remove debris from delicate internal components and a professional-grade dehumidifier to remove all moisture from the aids.

Modern hearing aid repairs can be expensive, especially as devices now include rechargeable batteries, wireless connectivity, and sophisticated digital processors. One of the most common causes of repair is wax blockage in the speaker. When wax is allowed to build up for too long, it can permanently reduce sound quality or cause the hearing aid to fail altogether. By the time many patients bring in a "dead" hearing aid, it may be too late to restore it to its original performance.

For most patients, quarterly professional cleanings are recommended. Individuals who naturally produce more earwax, have dry or flaky skin, or live in humid environments may benefit from more frequent cleanings to maintain optimal sound quality and reliability.

If you wear behind-the-ear (BTE) hearing aids, regular tubing replacement is also critical. Over time, tubing is affected by body chemistry and environmental exposure, causing it to discolor, stiffen, and harden. When tubing becomes hard, it can change the acoustics of the hearing system and negatively affect how you hear. Tubing should always feel soft and flexible—if it doesn't, it's time for a replacement.

Old tubing is also more likely to crack or break, which can cause the hearing aid to fall off the ear and potentially suffer damage or become lost altogether. In addition, hardened tubing is more difficult for providers to replace and may require extra labor or parts. As tubing ages, it can also become clogged with earwax, moisture, and debris, blocking sound before it ever reaches your ear. The openings of microphones, receivers, charging contacts, and battery compartments in behind-the-ear hearing aids should also be professionally vacuumed and inspected during routine maintenance.

Regular hearing aid cleaning and preventive care are the best ways to protect your hearing health and your financial investment. The better you care for your hearing aids, the longer they will last—and the better they will perform.

At **Welsch Hearing Aid Company**, we make preventive care easy. With every direct hearing aid sale, we offer **WelschCare**, which includes **FREE quarterly hearing aid cleanings for the life of your warranty, a \$600 value, at minimum**. We proudly service and clean all brands of hearing aids. Call Welsch Hearing Aid Company at **920-452-0213** to schedule a hearing aid cleaning today!



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LOUISE ROSTKOWSKI

Louise Rostkowski, 74, passed away Wednesday morning, January 28, 2026 at her home in Sheboygan Falls.

Louise was born August 11, 1951 in Tomahawk, WI to Francis and Irene (Leiviska) Gavin.

On August 18, 1973, she was united in marriage with Ted Rostkowski, Sr. in Sheboygan. They met at the Palladium when she was a waitress and he was a bouncer. The couple shared 42 years together before his death in 2015.

She loved gardening, going out to see live music, dancing and riding motorcycles with Ted.

Louise is survived by both parents; two daughters, Christine Rostkowski of Ohio, Samantha Griffiths of Minnesota; two sons, Ted Jr.(Heather) Rostkowski of Sheboygan, Francis (Angela Zawatz-

ke) Rostkowski of Sheboygan, and ; six grandchildren, Danielle (Fiancé Kevin Eldreth) Lindekugel, Cindy (David) Hansmann, Samantha (Ryan Hand) Rostkowski, Sierra Rostkowski, Darwin Rostkowski, and Harlan Rostkowski; eight great-grandchildren, Savannah, Emery, Leiland, Harmony, Ryland, Cash, Hunter and Hazel; sister Paula (Bob) Smith, Susan (Jerry) Howell, and Nettie (Riley) Knudson; other relatives and friends.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Ted Rostkowski, Sr., her sister, Elizabeth Gavin and brother William Gavin. A memorial service to celebrate Louise's life will be held at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at the Wenig Funeral Home in Sheboygan Falls. Relatives and friends may greet the family from 1:00 pm until the time of the service.

Wenig Funeral Home – Sheboygan Falls (920-467-3431) is assisting the family with arrangements. Please visit wenigfh.com for online condolences.

Death Notices

Anthony Conrad, Zimmer Westview Funeral Home.

Allan Dekker, Zimmer Westview Funeral Home.

Bonnie Fenn, Zimmer Westview Funeral Home.

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Making Spirits Bright light show reaches beyond its food donation goal, volunteers recognized

SHEBOYGAN — The 2025 Making Spirits Bright event surpassed by almost 6,000 pounds the food collection goal for Sheboygan County Food Bank. A total of 132,979 pounds of food was donated through a combination of visitors who drove

through the holiday lights show, participated in the Holiday Lights Hunger Run/Walk or contributed at barrels distributed throughout Sheboygan County. This brings the 14 year total to 1.3 million pounds of food donated.

Visitors from ten states in

22,768 vehicles rode through Evergreen Park. The farthest distance someone traveled was Lake Tahoe, California. A survey revealed that 41% of visitors traveled ten or more miles to attend with 8% being first-time visitors. While the event continues to be free to attend, 74% of visitors donated food when they started the route.

Making Spirits Bright has been called "one of the best light shows" and garnered an experience rating of 3.9 out of 4.

With over 1,128 volunteers who logged 14,902 hours, Making Spirits Bright is a large-scale undertaking. During the annual celebration program, a number of volunteers were recognized for exemplary service.

The January 16th program began with Patrick Boyle, Ex-

ecutive Director of Sheboygan County Food Bank, recognizing Mally Henne for "her incredible support of Making Spirits Bright and her dedication to help families facing hunger in the community." Henne is the marketing committee chair for the event.

Dave Hoffman, chairman of the Making Spirits Bright steering committee, presented awards to three volunteers: Rick Hoffmann and Rich Neerhof with the Steering Committee Chairman's award, and Todd Gutshow with the North Star award.

Rick Hoffman and Rich Neerhof, both long-time members of the production committee, spent countless hours year round in the workshop building and refurbishing displays, in the park for set-up and takedown, and during the run of the event trouble shooting issues.

Todd Gutschow was a new park captain and in addition to serving as that point person

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reply@sheboyganbeacon.com
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DONATION from 9
for a number of nights during

the event, he volunteered for production work in the workshop and assisted with set-up and takedown of the displays.

Production committee chair, Greg Liebig recognized Tom Shircel as MVP of the team. Shircel stepped up as co-chair of the production committee for the first time in 2025 and functioned extremely well in the role, far ex-

ceeding expectations.

Three other Making Spirits Bright volunteers were recognized during the celebration party: Gerry Plehn, event fundraiser, who is retiring as a park captain after 14 years; Kim Redman, the

“on-call” volunteer who filled in as a cash counter and in the park many nights at last notice; and Mark Potich who works for the City of Sheboygan and acts as the liaison between the Making Spirits Bright contacts and the city to ensure park maintenance and usage.

Making Spirits Bright is open to the public from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. the night after Thanksgiving through December 31 (closed Christmas Eve). In 2025, the show ran 32 total nights. “It takes a dedicated team of volunteers to bring this highly anticipated event to life,” said Dave Hoffman. “It’s impossible to extend the heartfelt ‘thank you’ to all who help ensure Making Spirits Bright continues to be a beloved event attracting visitors from near and far.”

The impact the event has on the community is summed up by Patrick Boyle, “We’re very grateful for the Making Spirits Bright event and everyone involved. It comes at a critical time of the year and generates food donations that carry us through March of the following year. The 1.3 million pounds of food donated over the past 14 years, as well as generous grants from the event’s proceeds, have helped us to move the needle in the fight against hunger in Sheboygan County.”

Production for the 2026 Making Spirits Bright event is already underway and there is a great need for volunteers to build new displays and for programming of the show.



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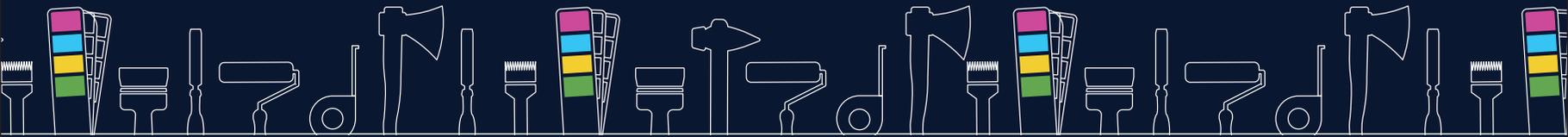
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Applications available for JMKAC 56th annual Midsummer Festival of the Arts

SHEBOYGAN — The John Michael Kohler Arts Center (JMKAC) is accepting applications for its 56th Annual Midsummer Festival of the Arts.

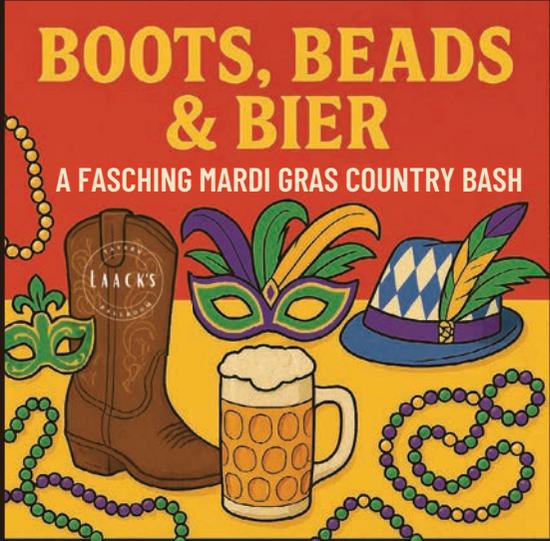
The Midsummer Festival of the Arts is a highly anticipated free community event that brings together thousands of attendees and artists each year. The festival will showcase over 100 juried artists, including returning award winners from the previous year, featuring original works across a wide range of media such as ceramics, painting, photography, metal, fiber, watercolor, wood, jewelry, and more.

In addition to the juried artists, the weekend-long festival includes live music and performances, exhibitions, hands-on artmaking, artist demonstrations, food, and family-friendly activities. The event also features an Emerging Artist Area, inviting up to five collegiate and rising artists to participate and gain valuable insight into the business of art.

Artists interested in participating in the 56th Annual Midsummer Festival of the Arts are invited to apply between December 15, 2025, and March 2, 2026. Acceptance notifications will be sent on April 7, 2026.

Artists may apply by visiting, jmkac.org/event/midsummer-festival-of-the-arts-call-for-artists/. For questions or additional information, please contact MFA@jmkac.org.

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As You See It
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 There is no way that Democrats should sign onto DHS funding until Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and ICE personnel are completely gone from Minneapolis, from any and every American city.
 Public executions, kidnapping children as bait, detention centers/concentration camps.
 Senate Democrats need to stop ICE from terrorizing communities and creating a climate of fear for not only illegal immigrants but legal ones too.
 Democrats should use this funding fight to outlaw Trump's use of CBP and ICE as a national police force, a standing army. Democrats need to demand that Customs and Border Protection agents, whose job is to defend the border, are never sent to nonborder areas like Chicago and Minneapolis.
 There is a moral case for forcing major changes to Trump's immigration policies democrats: let's see real legislating and fighting to dismantle Trump's ICE and CBP. It's a huge opportunity for you to act on one of the defining issues of this era. The time is now to end invasions of American cities.
 GERALYN LEANNAH SHEBOYGAN

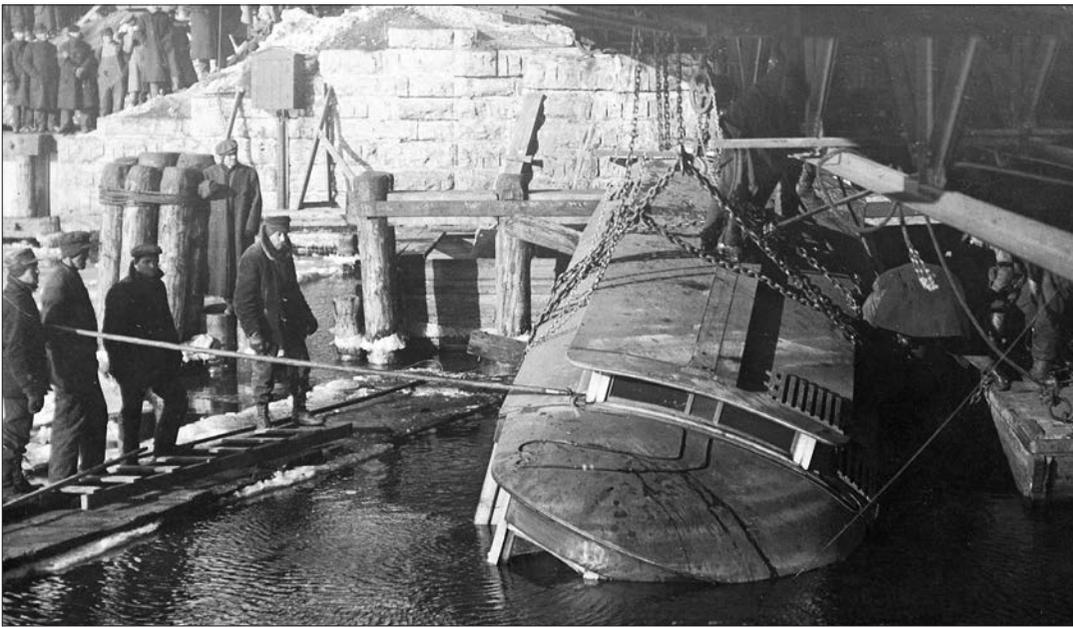
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A Look Back... on the trolley tragedy 115 years ago



by **Sarah Hall**
for The Beacon

On February 9, 1911 – a most ordinary Thursday morning 115 years ago this week – three local women boarded a Lake View streetcar on North 8th Street in Sheboygan. Minutes later, as one of the saddest tragedies in Sheboygan history unfolded, they lost their lives in the frigid, iced-over Sheboygan River.

The victims were 14-year old Olga Willimite of Sheboygan, who was on her way to visit her older sister, 20-year old Tannie Alice Van Ouwerkerk, a recent Sheboygan Falls High School graduate who had already become

a beloved kindergarten teacher in Sheboygan and 52-year-old Anna Mather, a well-known music teacher who was also from Sheboygan Falls.

After boarding, they rode the trolley south along 8th Street along with several other passengers, the conductor and the motorman.

One of the clearest and most succinct accounts of what happened next can be found on Wilimite's FindAGrave.com memorial:

“At a speed of about 20 miles per hour, the car headed down the long hill just before the (8th Street) bridge. The passengers

were unaware that the bridge tender was stretching the chain across the bridge prior to opening it for a tugboat. The conductor did see it and applied the car's brakes. But they did not hold and the car continued on, skidding along the icy rails at the same time the bridge draw was opening. Throwing the gears into reverse and the cutoff of electricity from a tripped circuit breaker did not stop the streetcar. The conductor shouted a warning to the passengers and two men riding at the back of the car, who jumped from the back platform. A third man threw himself from the car seconds before it plunged into the river. The conductor and motorman jumped

as the streetcar was falling into the river. Olga and the other two women were apparently frozen with fear and were trapped in the streetcar.

The streetcar hit the stone abutments of the bridge and

see **LOOK BACK**, page 16



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Lakeland faculty member to speak on MLK Jr. and Malcom X

Patrick Parr, an author, historian and Lakeland University-Japan faculty member, will deliver a talk about Malcom X and Martin Luther King entitled "The Individual and the Community" in the Campus Center Event Space on Thursday, Feb. 12, at 7 p.m. The talk is free and open to all.

Parr is the author of "Malcom Before X;" "One Week in America: The 1968 Notre Dame Literary Festival and a Changing Nation;" and "The Seminarian: Martin Luther King Jr. Comes of Age." He also writes for Japan Today about historical figures.

The first part of the talk will be centered on civil rights icons Malcolm X and Dr. King, and the obstacles they faced in prison and seminary, respectively. He will expand the talk by providing other examples of historical figures facing challenges in their early 20s and show how we can learn from their experiences and apply them to our own lives. Copies of his books will be available for purchase.

PATRICK PARR

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LOOK BACK from 13

rolled over. It then righted itself and sank in about nine feet of icy water. Workmen from the tugboat chopped holes in the roof to res-

cue Olga and the other two women, but they were too late.

Charges of manslaughter were brought against the motorman, but he was eventually acquitted.”

According to multiple news accounts, only a few people actu-

ally witnessed the accident, but hundreds of people swarmed the scene within minutes and were both awed and sobered by the spectacle of the partially submerged streetcar.

The accident made front-page news hours after it happened and for days to continue, and reverberated in the community for decades. Commemorative picture postcards and reprints of news stories were published and are in the collections of the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center and the Sheboygan County Museum today.

A full-page story in the February 10, 1911 Sheboygan Press noted that the tragedy continued to be the sole topic of conversation in the area and that “nothing has ever occurred in Sheboygan which has cast such a pall over the county.”

Photos and information courtesy of the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center. Visit their Facebook page, their website at www.schrc.org and their headquarters at 518 Water Street in Sheboygan Falls.

Step Afrika! to perform at Kohler Foundation in April

This April, Kohler will welcome Step Afrika!, the nation’s first professional dance company dedicated to the tradition of stepping. Founded in 1994, Step Afrika! is internationally recognized for its dynamic performances that blend rhythm, movement, and storytelling, drawing on African American traditions and influences from across the African diaspora. Their high-energy work has been performed around the world and is celebrated for its ability to connect audiences of all ages through culture, history, and movement.

Stepping is a percussive dance form that uses the body as an instrument—combining footwork, clapping, spoken word, and call-and-response. Step Afrika!’s performances showcase the athleticism, precision, and cultural signifi-

cance of this powerful dance tradition while offering meaningful educational context.

This performance will close the 81st season of the Kohler Foundation’s Distinguished Guest Series, which provides access to the arts and provides educational opportunities.

As part of this commitment, more than 1,000 students from the Sheboygan area will have the opportunity to experience Step Afrika! during the afternoon student performance, providing young people with exposure to world-class artists and culturally rich programming. This engagement reflects a shared dedication to learning, creativity, and the transformative impact of the arts in our community.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.kohlerfoundation.org or call 920.458-1972.

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The story unfolds during a celebratory dinner at the home of the affluent Birling family in 1912. The joyous occasion is disrupted by the unexpected arrival of a mysterious figure identifying himself as Inspector Goole. Goole informs the family that a young working class woman named Eva Smith has died by suicide after consuming disinfectant. He proceeds to question each member of the Birling family – Arthur, Sybil, Sheila, and Eric – as well as Gerald Croft, Sheila's fiancé – revealing their individual connections to the young woman and their part in her tragic demise.

Chicken Comedy with Vince Maranto



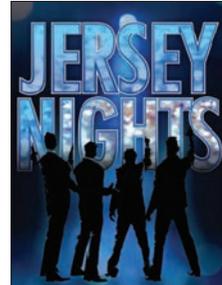
February 28, 2026

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VINCE started his comedy career at the now defunct Comedy Cottage in suburban Chicago in 1982. He quickly became a regular at the local clubs, and then, worked his way throughout the U.S. During the years that followed, Vince performed for Zanies, The Funny Bones, The Improv, Catch A Rising Star, and Funny Business, among many, many other clubs. All of which total over 40,000 shows @ over 600 different clubs, colleges and one nighters. (Plus corporate shows and private parties).



Music of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons



March 14, 2026
Matinee & Evening

\$77.50 plus tax

A true celebration of the music of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons, this show takes the audience on a nostalgic musical journey through the career of one of the biggest selling groups of all time. From the backstreet studio in New Jersey where it all began to the Rock 'N' Roll Hall of Fame, this vibrant production includes all of The Four Seasons' greatest hits including "Sherry," "Rag Doll," "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Walk Like A Man," and so much more. This is one you don't want to miss!

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Dormant tree pruning guidelines

by Bruce Spangenberg
UW Horticulture Outreach Specialist

Now that February has arrived and weather conditions moderate across Wisconsin, gardeners can consider venturing outside for the task of dormant pruning of trees. Bare trees this time of year makes it easy to see what issues can be corrected via pruning. While individual trees may vary in specific pruning needs, some general guidelines



ensure success. Start by removing damaged or broken branches. Always cut back to a side branch or lateral twig, rather than leaving a stub. Make clean cuts using the proper tool for the size of branch that needs to be removed, choosing from pruning shears, loppers, or pruning saws. Avoid flush cuts against the trunk. Instead, allow the collar region where branches meet trunks to remain, as wounds will be smaller and create callus,

or "heal" better. Use caution when removing any limb requiring a saw so excessive bark is not damaged. Make the first cut a few inches from the trunk on the underside of the limb, cutting about one-third of the way into the limb. Next, make a second cut further out on the branch, starting on the upper side and cutting all the way through, removing the limb. Any bark peeling will thus stop at the first cut, rather than continuing down trunks and making large wounds. Finally, make cut three by removing the remaining stub. With younger landscape trees, promote a strong branching framework with evenly spaced limbs. Remove competing branches that appear too congested

ed or crowded. When deciding what branches to remove, consider where the branch is growing and what potential problems it may run into as it grows larger. Choose the more favorable of competing limbs to remain on the tree. There are two basic categories of cuts: heading back and thinning out. Heading back involves cutting into the newer growth only. This stimulates more shoots developing into lateral branches within a foot or so of the cut. The net result is denser, more compact growth and appearance to the tree. Thinning-out cuts shorten or remove entire branches, thus reducing the number of laterals growing off large limbs or the trunk. The general effect is

more open, rangy type of growth. Finally, do not bother with wound dressings. Make a good clean cut and the tree will callus wounds on its own. Help the process by allowing the collar area to remain after removing a branch, rather than cutting it perfectly flush with the trunk. Do not leave stubs to invite decay, however. When pruning projects look to be too much to take on yourself, especially with large trees, consider hiring a professional licensed arborist. 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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Sheboygan South HS 2025-26 Scholar Athletes list released

Provided is a list of students that should be congratulated on earning the first semester Scholar Athlete Award. To receive this award,

you had to letter in a fall sport and also obtain a GPA of 4.5 or higher.

Cheer: Emma Ackley, Aaliyah Sanchez, Fatima Scott,

Addison Setzer, Harmony Xiong

Boys' Cross Country: Chase Bohman, Connor Brinkman, Cooper Gould, Aaron Moore, Jacob Netekoven, Owen Schaeve, Jovanny Soto, David Venegas, Robert Wiegand

Girls' Cross Country: Annabelle Gerrits, Olivia Herber, Madysen Sommerfeldt, Reasheall Zamora

Girls' Golf: Alina Thao, Carlee Videtic

Girls' Swim: Annabelle Gerrits, Olivia Knowles

Girls' Tennis: Citlali Aguirre, Lilliana Contreras, Cinara Cordeiro, Jaqueline Fadaeyani, Gwendelyn Harder, Mia Munoz-Garcia, Nozomi Nichols, Yarel Roman-Sanchez, Lailah Shircel, Anika Tiwari, Kelsie Vue, Evan Wilson - Manager

Boys' Volleyball: Nolan Brotz, Solomon Luangsaeng, Marco Trimberger

Girls' Volleyball: Brooklyn Bower, Mariah Delarosa, Taylor Gahagan, Kimberly Gallegos-Chavez, Ellery Grabowski, Liliana Herber, Aubrey Nienhuis, Abigail Schneider, Bianca Schneiderwent, Cheyenne Stirdivant, Amanda Xiong, Violet Yang, Zoualia Yang

Dance: Iyana Green, Sierra Gross, Natalie Kuehl, Alen Maric, Oriella Radschlag, Sophia Yang

Football: Timothy Ackley, Gavin Cline, Carter Culp, Austen Dekker, Gabriel DeWitt, Parker Ninneman, Zander Ottman, Jack Polzin, Gavin Vue, Charlie White

Boys' Soccer: Nart Djeladini, Giovanni Duran, Jory Hullin, Jovanny Soto, Matthew Wigg

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Food/News

Recipes, tips & nutrition

Homemade chicken soup is ideal for cold and flu season

Cold and flu season arrives each year. Though there might be little people can do to avoid catching a cold or coming down with the flu, certain approaches can make it easier to get through a bout with either illness. Flu vaccinations have been found to lessen the severity of infection with the influenza virus, while rest and plenty of fluids can help reduce the length of time a cold puts people out of commission.

Knowing what to eat when combatting a cold and the flu also can help people treat each virus. Chicken soup has long been a go-to when fighting a cold, and this recipe for "Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup" from Lines+Angles makes a worthy addition to anyone's cold- and flu-flight-

ing culinary repertoire.

Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup

Makes 8 servings

- 1 3 1/2-pound whole chicken
- 10 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- 8 carrots, peeled and sliced
- 6 stalks celery, trimmed and sliced
- 3 onions, peeled and sliced
- 2 cloves of garlic, peeled and minced
- 8 sprigs fresh parsley
- 2 sprigs fresh thyme
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 tablespoons butter
- Salt, to taste
- Freshly cracked black pepper, to taste
- 12 ounces wide egg noodles

For the chicken stock:

1. Rinse the chicken inside and out under cold running water. Place the chicken in

a large pot, set over medium heat and add the chicken broth. Add 1/4 of the carrots, 1/3 of the celery and 1/3 of the onions. Add the garlic, 2 sprigs parsley, thyme, bay leaf and enough water to just cover the chicken. Bring broth to a boil, reduce heat and simmer for about 1 1/4 hours, or until chicken is very tender, skimming any foam from the surface of the broth.

2. Remove chicken from broth and place in a colander to drain and cool. Strain the broth through a very fine mesh strainer into a large, clean soup pot. Discard the vegetables used to flavor the stock.

For the soup:

1. Skim any fat off the top of the strained broth.
2. Remove and discard the skin and bones from the chicken and cut the meat into bite-sized pieces; set aside.
3. Melt the butter in a large Dutch oven set over medium heat. Add the remaining carrots, celery and onions and cook for about 7 minutes or until the onions are translu-



cent. Add the chicken pieces and chicken stock, season with salt and pepper. Bring soup to a simmer and cook for about 30 minutes or until the vegetables are tender.

4. Chop the remaining parsley; add the parsley and egg noodles, stirring frequently. Cook for 8 to 10 additional minutes or until the noodles are tender.
5. Ladle into soup bowls and serve hot.

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Love Local: Celebrate Valentine's Day with Something Special from Wisconsin DAIRY DELIGHTS

Sarah Hagenow, 78th Alice in Dairyland

Valentine's Day is about more than chocolates and flowers. It's a special time for thoughtfulness, meaning, and celebrating the people and places that matter most. This year, express your love by choosing Something Special from Wisconsin™ products, which connect consumers to authentic, locally made goods from across the Badger State.

Since 1983, the Something Special from Wisconsin™ (SSfW) program has been administered by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection with one simple mission: to help Wisconsin businesses stand out while giving shoppers a trusted way to identify products that are truly made or processed in Wisconsin. Products featuring the recognizable red and yellow SSfW logo must have at least 50% of their ingredients, production, or processing tied to Wisconsin, ensuring every purchase supports local makers and the state's long-standing tradition of quality and craftsmanship.

Whether you're planning a romantic evening, building a heartfelt gift basket, or surprising someone special, SSfW members offer endless ways to celebrate. From comforting self-care items to indulgent treats, these Wisconsin-made products help you create a Valentine's Day that feels personal and meaningful. Especially for any farmers and ranchers working outside in colder weather

this time of year, the warmth, love, and admiration shown by a thoughtful gift is truly unrivaled.

Start the day with intention and warmth by brewing a cup of loose-leaf tea from Cultivate Taste LLC. Their award-winning teas are crafted without added sugars or flavorings, allowing organic and fair-trade ingredients to shine. Blended by certified tea specialists and packaged with sustainability in mind, these teas invite you

to slow down and savor the moment.

Add a soft, romantic touch with Dream In Lavender LLC, a small, female-owned lavender farm in northeastern Wisconsin. Featuring farm-grown lavender in everything from dried bouquets to handcrafted bath and body products, their offerings bring calm, comfort, and natural beauty to any Valentine's Day celebration.

For a cozy night in, Sunburst Soaps turns everyday routines

into moments of indulgence. Known for rich shea butter soaps and skin-loving bath and body products, this Wisconsin maker offers seasonal favorites, craft beer soaps, lotions, scrubs, and bath bombs—perfect for a little wintertime pampering.

No Valentine's Day is complete without chocolate, and Confections for Any Occasion delivers sweetness with heart. Founder Joel Bernhard creates gourmet chocolates using Swiss-style chocolate and pre-



When searching for Valentine's Day gifts, look for the recognizable red and yellow SSfW program logo. This certifies that at least 50% of the product's ingredients, production, or processing is tied to Wisconsin.

(Credit: Something Special from Wisconsin)



Dream In Lavender LLC features calming, comforting, and natural farm-grown lavender in dried bouquets, handcrafted bath and body products, and more!

(Credit: Dream In Lavender LLC)



Set the mood for Valentine's Day with Ambrosia Flame Candles. With a variety of scents to choose from, these candles create a cozy atmosphere that will keep feelings of warmth and love lingering well into the night.

(Credit: Ambrosia Flame Candles)

mium Wisconsin butter, cream, and nuts. From classic truffles and caramels to molded chocolates, there's something to delight every kind of Valentine.

Set the mood and end the day with the warm glow of Ambrosia Flame Candles. Hand-poured in small batches in Madison, these candles are made with USA-grown soy wax, cotton wicks, and clean fragrance oils, creating a cozy, inviting atmosphere that lingers long after the day is done.

This Valentine's Day, skip the ordinary and choose gifts with meaning. Look for the Something Special from Wisconsin™ logo and share a story of local pride, craftsmanship, and love for our state. From agricultural producers to hometown artisans, the SSfW program will help you show your appreciation and extend warmth to those in your life. To discover unique gifts and learn more, visit somethingspecialwi.com.

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Former farming leaders call for action to avoid 'widespread collapse'

The following letter is a combined effort from multiple former farming leaders to the current members of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees sent on Feb. 3, 2026. This text contains short excerpts from the letter. To read the full letter, visit <https://tinyurl.com/nudxea66>

"We are writing today to express our significant concerns about the state of America's farm economy and the harmful and compounding effect that Administration policies are having on our farmers and on the long-term competitiveness of U.S. agriculture. We are also writing to thank each of your efforts to advance a farm bill and farm labor legislation, your success in securing increases in agriculture conservation funding, and for your ongoing efforts to secure additional financial aid for farmers.

"We write as a group of bipartisan former leaders of American agricultural commodity and biofuels associations, farm leaders, and former USDA officials. We have spent our entire careers working to build U.S. agriculture and are dismayed at the damage that is being done to American farmers.

"Farmer bankruptcies have doubled, barely half of all farms would be profitable this year, and the U.S. is running a historic ag-

riculture trade deficit. These metrics reflect a sharp reversal from record farm export surpluses and farm incomes experienced just a few years ago.

"There are few tragedies greater than the loss of a family farm, representing not just a loss of livelihood but a loss of a way of life for rural families. And when American farmers suffer, the entire rural economy is impacted - from schools, to churches, to main street businesses. We need to honestly acknowledge these impacts to rural America and engage in serious deliberations with the farm community to develop

real, long-term solutions.

"The reasons for the dramatic turnaround are complex, but it is clear that the current Administration's actions, along with Congressional inaction, have increased costs for farm inputs, disrupted overseas and domestic markets, denied agriculture its reliable labor pool, and defunded critical ag research and staffing. And these impacts are not happening in a vacuum. At the same time that farm country is reeling from these blows to agriculture, rural health care cuts are threatening a vital safety net for America's farm families. Congress needs to

assert itself on behalf of farmers if we are to avoid a widespread collapse of American agriculture and our rural communities."

The letter also includes impacts related to increased cost of farm inputs, loss of market access, weakening of international

trade partnerships, cuts to foreign and domestic food aid, failure to adequately support biofuels, disruptions to farm labor, and cuts to USDA staffing and ag research.

"As advocates for farmers and

see FARMING, page 20

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Binx's journey hasn't been easy, but his heart is pure gold. After surviving life outdoors and losing his sight, this 5 year-old boy never lost his loving spirit. Binx is one of the snuggliest cats you'll ever meet. He adores warm laps, gentle kisses, belly rubs, and listens closely, following his people wherever they go. He's sweet, attentive, and looking for a patient, loving home ready to help him navigate life with confidence—and return his endless affection.

Recycle for Rescues
Super Bowl Aluminum Can Drive!
Turn your game-day cans into care for animals.
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(more details on Facebook & our website)

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Courtesy of The Plymouth Review and The Sheboygan Beacon

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agribusiness with decades of experience, we know that farmers don't want government handouts - they want markets. They want world-class research so that they can compete. They want their families and communities to have affordable health care services.

"The policies of this Administration have caused tremendous harm to U.S. agriculture. But it is not too late to turn this around. We ask that Congress take the following actions to begin restoring America's farm economy to a stable, dependable footing:

- Immediately exempt *all* farm inputs from tariffs;
- Repeal tariffs that are disrupting agriculture export markets;
- Pass Trade Promotion Authority to enable the Administration to pursue and secure meaningful, enforceable, free trade agreements that can be passed by Congress and have the full force and effect of law;
- Direct the Administration to prioritize the negotiation of binding trade agreements with countries that need our agricultural products and that can help offset other market disruptions;
- Encourage the Administration to expeditiously complete the

review of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, favorably resolve the pending dairy dispute settlement case with Canada, and ensure that the USMCA is extended for the next sixteen years;

- Pass legislation to enable nationwide E15, year-round ethanol, and sustainable aviation fuel to boost domestic markets for U.S. corn and soybeans;
- Pass a new farm bill;
- Pass farm labor reform including reform to the H-2A program; and
- Restore funding for land-grant agriculture research, critical USDA staffing, and domestic and international food aid programs."



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- for ages 3-18 (Sep thru April)
www.bbcshsheboygan.org

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
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www.ourbethlehem.com
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Sunday Schedule
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Sunday school for all ages 10:15am
Youth Ministry for ages 5 and under every 3rd Sunday at 9:00am
Free Community Meal for those in need every first Sunday from 4:30-5:30pm

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1011 N. 7th Street in Sheboygan • 920-452-9659
www.gracesheboygan.com
Sunday Worship Schedule: 8:00 a.m. Mass
9:00 a.m. Adult and Children's Formation
10:15 a.m. Mass with Organ Music and online live streaming

Weekday Worship Schedule:
7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, Sunday-Thursdays
5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer, Sunday-Thursdays
5:00 p.m. Corporate Rosary, Monday
6:00 p.m. Mass, Wednesdays
All Saints Chapel Summer Worship Schedule:
Sundays at 9:00 a.m.,
Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day,
Weddings by appointment
N7902 County Rd. P in Elkhart Lake
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sheboyganmosque@gmail.com
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Wednesday Bible Studies 6:30pm
Questions call
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Bible Study: Tuesday 10:00 AM
Baby and Me program: Wednesday 9:00 AM
Women's Ministry Thursday: 10:30 AM
Please contact our office for volunteer opportunities

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Church Service 11:00am
Zoom church service at 11:00 Saturday morning.
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Pastor Carlos Ancheta
Office: 920-416-5120 • Cell: 262-412-7788
Free Bible studies offered

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1019 N 7th Street • 920-458-4343
Pastor Tyler Werner
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Sunday Worship 9:00am with Holy Communion
Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 10:00am
Watch Sunday services LIVE on facebook.com and connect with us on our website at stmarksheboygan.com

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1125 N 6th Street, Sheboygan
920-457-7800
ZionSheboygan.org
www.facebook.com/ZionCovenantSheboygan
Sunday Christian Formation for all ages - 8:30 AM
Sunday Worship - 9:45 AM
Communion for all believers - 1st Sunday of each month
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or view our recorded gatherings on YouTube or Facebook
Ash Wednesday Worship at 7:00 PM

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America 250 events coming to Mead Public Library

SHEBOYGAN — Mead Public Library will host a traveling exhibit, lecture, genealogy workshop and other events in February in celebration of America's 250th birthday.

The monthlong celebration is highlighted by a traveling exhibit that will be at Mead from Feb. 7-28 titled "The Patriots of the American Revolution: Legacies in Wisconsin." It includes display panels and an interactive digital kiosk that will connect audiences with the people and places that shaped the story of settlement in Sheboygan County by American patriots and their descendants.

The exhibit and related events are being held in partnership with the Wisconsin Society Daughters of the American Revolution and the organization's Plymouth Chapter, along with the Wisconsin Sons of the American Revolution.

Other events include a Finding Your Revolutionary Patriot genealogy workshop at 6 p.m., on Tuesday, Feb. 17, in the Rocca Room, led by staff from Mead Library and the Plymouth chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

There will also be a Happy Birthday, America! event for families at 10 a.m., on Monday, Feb. 16, in the Story Garden, featuring stories, songs and crafts.

The month-long program will wrap up with the Celebrate America's Birthday event from 10-11:30 a.m., on Saturday, Feb. 28, on the third floor at Mead Library and featuring stories of historic American flags, early American music and one-room schoolroom recess games.

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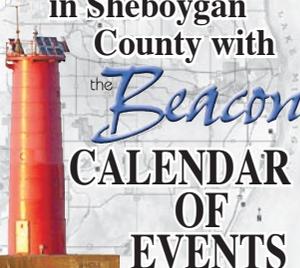
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Events charging fees or selling items may be included when a display ad is scheduled.

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SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7
Snow Sports Tri-it Day: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Greenbush Recreation Area Shelter (N5854 Kettle Moraine Drive, Glenbeulah - between Hwy 67 and County Road T near Greenbush). Make your way to the Greenbush Recreation Area to learn more about cross-country skiing, fat-tire biking, and snowshoeing. There will be hands-on demonstrations, equipment displays, and trail ventures. Remember your sleds for the sledding hill. Bring cash to purchase a steaming bowl of soup, a tasty sandwich, a sweet treat and/or a hot beverage in the heated shelter. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Kettle Moraine, Northern Kettle Moraine Nordic Ski Club, Sheboygan County Cycling, and Attitude Sports of Fond du Lac. For a schedule of the day's events, go to kmmnorthfriends.org. A Wisconsin State Park System vehicle admission sticker is required for parking.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8
Pine Haven Men's Chorus Concert: 9:30am. Celebrate 75 years of faith-filled music with the Pine Haven Men's Chorus. St Lukes Lutheran Church, N6193 WI 32, Sheboygan Falls.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 15
Pine Haven Men's Chorus Concert: 6:00pm. Celebrate 75 years of faith-filled music with the Pine Haven Men's Chorus. Calvary OPC, 136 Union Ave..

Cedar Grove.

www.40daysforlife.com/sheboygan.

527 Giddings Ave., Sheboygan Falls.

Kick Off Rally/40 Days for Life: 1:30 p.m. Knights of Co-

FEBRUARY 18 THROUGH MARCH 29

40 Days for Life Lent Campaign: 7 a.m. - 7 p.m daily. Peaceful, prayer to end abortion; Outside Planned Parenthood, 909 S. Taylor, Sheboygan.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22

Pine Haven Men's Chorus Concert: 9:30am. Celebrate 75 years of faith-filled music with the Pine Haven Men's Chorus. Sheboygan Falls 1st Reformed,



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lumbus Hall, 833 Center Ave, Sheboygan. Guest speaker: Lindee Brill www.40daysforlife.com/sheboygan.

EVENTS AT 3 SHEEPS BREWING
1837 North Ave, Sheboygan
3sheepsbrewing.com
Check events on our Facebook Page
920-395-3583

FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH: Cribbage: 6-8 PM. We're proud to partner with Sheb Deck. Join us for a free-to-play tournament with prizes including drinks, merch, and custom Sheb Deck gear. Teams of two will play five games each. Registration: 5-5:45pm. Games begin promptly at 6:00pm.

SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH: Puzzle Night: 5-8 PM. Round up your most competitive, puzzle-loving friends (up to 4 per team) and put those brain cells to work over a few beers. The fastest team takes home bragging rights and prizes—and every group gets to take home their puzzle. \$20 team registration fee. Sign up online and let the puzzling begin!

EVERY WEDNESDAY: Bingo: 7-9 PM Dust off your daubers, Bingo is back at 3 Sheeps!

Ten rounds of one of Wisconsin's favorite past times. Prizes awarded throughout. Free to play.
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13: LIVE MUSIC: Broken Strings: 7 PM. Broken Strings digs into electric blues from all across the timeline—Muddy Waters grit, Stevie Ray swagger, Kenny Wayne Shepherd punch, even a little John Mayer smoothness—with some classic rock worked in for good measure.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15: Kidney Cancer Foundation Benefit: Noon-5 PM. Join Sheboygan Visual Arts at 3 Sheeps for an art auction and sale! All auction proceeds will be donated to the Kidney Cancer Foundation. Featuring original SVA art for sale, and of course, beer! Join the fun until it's going, going, gone!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17: Pixel Party: 5:30-8:30 PM. Join us every third Tuesday, as we team up with FreakToyz to turn our upstairs lounge into a cozy little gaming zone. Registration: 5:30 PM Tournament: 6 PM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22: YMCA Dine to Donate—Fundraiser for Camp Y-Koda: 11 AM-5 PM. Come support Camp Y-Koda at 3 Sheeps to give back to camp and enjoy time with your friends and family. \$1.00 from

every pint sold will go towards Camp Y-Koda to help purchase NEW safety equipment to ensure a safe environment for campers, staff, and families.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27: LIVE MUSIC: Kyle Megna & Dave LeBlanc: 7 PM. Kyle and Dave of The Monsoons bring a high-energy, feel-good live show that blends rock, jazz, blues, folk, and pop into one magnetic sound.

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, FEBRUARY 21:

Cabin Fever: From Billions to None: 11:00 a.m. Sanderling Nature Center. Play bird trivia and view the film "From Billions to None: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction." Vehicle admission required. 920-451-4080.
Cabin Fever: World Sound Explorations Performance & Drumming Circle: 1:30 p.m. Sanderling Nature Center. Blending music from contemporary and indigenous sources, Ryan Meisel will take us on an exploration of world sounds. Vehicle admission required. 920-451-4080.

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.

EVERY SATURDAY THROUGH FEBRUARY 14: Tai Chi: 9:30-10:30 a.m., Quiet Study Room. Help maintain strength, flexibility and balance in this free Tai Chi workshop for all ability levels.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10: Bring Your Own Baby (BYOB): 9:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m., The Loft, Mead Library, Sheboygan. Join caregivers and young children for socialization and learning with staff from the Family Resource Center and Progress-

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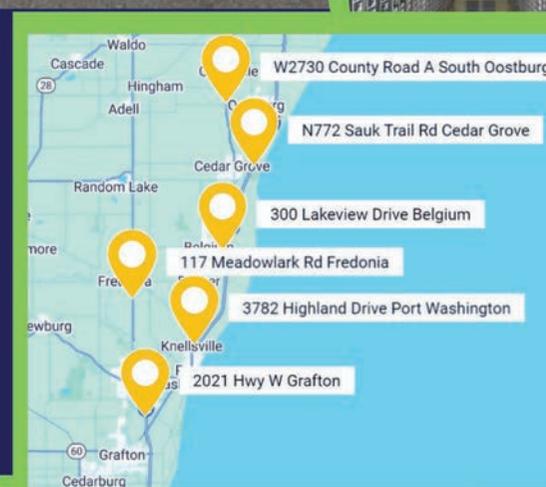
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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16: Fiction Book Discussion: 6-7 p.m., The Loft. Join our discussion of the book "The Power Couple," by Alex Berenson. Extra book copies are available in advance for attendees at the library's first-floor desk.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17: Sheboygan County Writers Club Small Group Critique: 6-7 p.m., Public Conference Room #2. Writers can bring copies of their writing and receive and offer constructive feedback.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25: Visit with Pawsitism Service Dogs: 4-5 p.m., Story Garden. Visit with service dogs and read them a story. Recommended grades K-6.

of the month at 1pm. See our website for movie selection.

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

SECOND FRIDAY OF 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.

CONTINUES UNTIL FEBRUARY 28: Adult Winter Reading Program: All Month. Read to earn raffle tickets towards amazing prizes. Register at the library.

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.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11: The Sweet Escape Book Club: 6:00 pm. Join us to discuss a romance book for February and for some sweet treats. Copies available for pick up.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12: Game Night: 4:30 pm. For all ages. A fun place to play your favorite board games or a new one. No registration required.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16: 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, FEBRUARY 17: Tech Help: 10:30 am. Reserve a time to work with our librarian and get some basic tech help. Registration required.

Sourdough Bread Making: 1:30 pm & 5:30 pm. Discover the art and science of sourdough in this demonstration-style bread making class. Registration required.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18: 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.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19: 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, FEBRUARY 23: 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.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24: Dice Quest: 4:00 pm. For ages 14 and up. Gather with other ta-

bletop RPG enthusiasts and play fun adventures.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25: Mystery & Horror Book Club: 6:00 pm. Come and discuss books from the mystery and horror genre with other members of the community.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26: Reading Dragons Monthly Meet-Up: 4:00 pm. Join us in the library's meeting room to play games with fellow Dragon Trainers, eat snacks, and socialize.

EVENTS AT GENERATIONS

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10: 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.

Intro to Plant-Based Foods: 1:00pm. Learn about plant-based food options and related health benefits from Food for Life instructor Elaine Jumes.

Plymouth Bird & Nature Club: 6:30pm. February's Topic: Laura Griffin: Birds and Art Therapy. Please call Gina at 920-528-7430 for more information.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11: Heart for All Ages: 1:00pm - 3:00pm. Plymouth High School's FBLA group will be at Generations for a fun afternoon of Bingo, other games, prizes, and treats. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Please call 920-892-4858 to RSVP.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12: GenT Open Hours - Free Tech Help: 3:00pm - 5:00pm. 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.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17: 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: 12:00pm Sheboygan County Connections III: discover ways that people in Sheboygan County influenced major world events. This presentation is presented by the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19: GenT Open Hours - Free Tech Help: 3:00pm - 5:00pm. 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.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20: Movie Matinee: 1:30pm. We will show The Lost Bus (rated R). Movies are sponsored by Palo Popcorn.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23: Veterans' Chat: 11:00am. All Veterans are welcome to join us for lunch and conversation. The special is Taco Salad for \$9. 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, FEBRUARY 24: Nutrition for Heart Health: 12:00pm. Dieticians from Aurora will be at Generations to discuss nutrition for heart health and more.

GenT Group Talk: 1:30pm. This month we are covering Streaming Services. Learn about

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

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 Time: 9:30 a.m. Stories, songs, and activities for 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

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26: GenT Open Hours - Free Tech Help: 3:00pm - 5:00pm. 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.

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 & Friday, 12:30pm
PingPongParkinson's: Wednesday, 1:30pm.

Advanced Parkinson's Mat Fitness: Thursday, 10:30am
Energizing Flex & Flow: Monday, 9:50am & Wednesday, 9:30am
Dance Fusion: Tuesday & Thursday, 9:30am.
Cardio, Core, & More: Wednesday, 4:30pm
Chair Dance: Monday & Wednesday, 12:00pm
Activator Pole Open Hour: 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 & 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.
Strength Training: Monday & Wednesday, 7:30am.
Yoga Flow: Monday & Wednesday, 9:00am.
Yoga with Weights: Monday, 5:30pm
Yoga for Balance and Stability: Friday, 9:00am.
GenT Tech Help: Most Tuesdays, 11:30am - 1:30pm; Most Thursdays, 3:00pm - 5:00pm.
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.
Ceramics: Wednesday, 9:00am.
Knitting & Crocheting Club: 2nd Friday, 11:00am

Wii Bowling: Tuesday & Thursday, by appointment.
Ping Pong: Monday & Wednesday, 10:00am.
Pool Tables: Monday through Friday, 8:00am - 5:00pm
Writing Club: 2nd Thursday, 1:00pm
Hiking Club: Thursday, 1:00pm. Location emailed each week.
Book Club: 4th Monday, 3:00pm
Garden Club: 2nd Thursday, 6:00pm
Plymouth Bird & Nature Club: 2nd Tuesday, 6:30pm
Kettle Karvers: 1st Wednesday, 6:30pm
Plymouth Rotary: 2nd & last Wednesday, 12:00pm
Cribbage: Monday, 1:00pm.
Hand and Foot Canasta: Monday, 1:00pm.
Duplicate Bridge: 1st & 3rd Monday, 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 1:00pm. Must pre-register.
5 10 15 Sheepshead: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 8:00am. Tuesday, 1:00pm.
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: Monday. Weigh-in, 8:30am. Meeting, 9:00am.
Winter Cornhole League: Thursday, 2:15pm
Watercolor Painting: Wednesday, 9:00am.

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: 10:00am-11:15am. 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.

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

UAW Local 1472 Retirees Breakfast: 8:30 AM. Log Cabin Restaurant in Howards Grove.

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

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,



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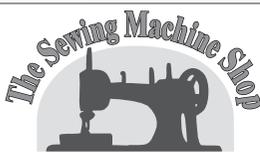
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GriefShare Support Group: Evangelical Free Church, 1710 N. 15th St., Sheboygan, 9:30am-11am. Support for those who've lost a loved one. 920-452-6520.

Plymouth Food Pantry: 2225 Eastern Ave., 2-5pm. Elkhart Lake & Plymouth school districts. Call 893-2989 for information.

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

T.O.P.S. Weight Loss Support: 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. 1st Presbyterian Church, 1429 N. 5th Street, Sheboygan. Call 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.

AI-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 Drive.

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 53081.

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



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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

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

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

AI-Anon Meeting: 9:30-10:30am. Do you worry about someone else's drinking? Help and hope are available. AI-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 faith-based 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.

Overdose Loss: Support for those that lost someone to overdose. 6:00-7:00pm. 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 for more information.

EVERY THURSDAY 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, 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 coder. 920-889-3719.

GriefShare Support Group: Evangelical Free Church, 1710 N. 15th St., Sheboygan. 6:30-8pm. Support for those who have lost a loved one. 920-452-6520.

SECOND THURSDAY

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. 920-912-3817.

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! Email Amber at president@sheboyganruns.com for more info.

EVERY SATURDAY

Let it Begin with Me AI-anon 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

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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 on Saturday nights. Come join us from 6-8pm for worship, a 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.

art. Questions? Email btncpywi@gmail.com.

SECOND & LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
Women Within: 11AM. Rogers Behavioral Health, Community Room, 1108 S 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.

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, Paper Grocery Bags.
Plymouth Button Box Club: 10am-Noon. Plymouth Library, 130 Division Street, Plymouth. Learn about and marvel at the history and beauty of buttons. All are welcome who are also intrigued by these little pieces of

COURT REPORT

January 19 to January 23, 2026
DCA
Kreig, Aaron D., 5/30/1990, Sheboygan, Resisting or Obstructing an Officer, Misdemeanor-1 year.
Wilkins, Nicole T., 11/21/1990, Sheboygan, Retail Theft-Alter Price (\$500-5000), Felony-2 years.
Revoke Probation
Freeman Jr., Averron K., 9/8/2001, Sheboygan, Jail 6 months.
McKinney, Teriana S., 9/22/1999, Sheboygan, Prison 18 months, Extended Supervision 3 years, Firearms/Weapons Restrictions.
Forfeitures
Smith, Kezlow D., 9/1994, Sheboygan, Dog Running at Large, \$169.00.
Disorderly Conduct
Strauch, Christopher J., 5/23/1980, Sheboygan, \$330.50.
Traffic
Abazi, Edrina, 2/2008, Sheboygan, Failure to Keep Vehicle under Control, \$213.10.
Anderson, Jordan M., 1/27/1996, Sheboygan, OWI (3rd w/Passenger <16), Prison 12 months, Extended Supervision 6 months, License Revoked 2 years, Ignition Interlock 2 years, \$2760.50.
Bartz, David A., 1/1961, Sheboygan, Passing in No-Passing Zone, \$213.10.
Berg, Steven P., 12/1960, Sheboygan, Illegal Passing of School Bus Reported, \$326.50.
Diaz Olivias, Luis E., 1/1996, Sheboygan, Illegal Passing of School Bus Reported, \$676.50.
Duenasmedrano, Magdelano, 7/26/1995, Sheboygan, Hit and Run, Jail 6 months (imposed/stayed), \$2125.00.
Gunn, Joshua K., 11/1992, Sheboygan, Operate w/o Valid License, Unreasonable and imprudent Speed, Operate after Revocation/Suspension of Registration, \$588.90.
Hayes, Robert S., 9/1998, Sheboygan, Non-Registration of Vehicle-Auto, \$175.30.
Morales Riveiro, Julio C., 12/1988, Sheboygan, Fail/Change Lane-Passing Stopped Emergency Vehicle, \$268.50.
Moran, Rachel E., 9/1980, Sheboygan, Operating while Revoked (1st), \$200.50.
Price, Pereon D., 11/1995, Sheboygan, Operating while Suspended, Vehicle Operator Fail/Wear Seat Belt, \$210.50.
Schultz, Shawn L., 2/1998, Sheboygan, Operating while Suspended, \$200.50.
Fail/Stop for Unloading School Bus
Beams, Nancy M., 3/1943, Sheboygan, \$676.50.
Siebold, Alicia M., 1/1993, Sheboygan, \$676.50.
Brandon, Maddison M., 6/2006, Sheboygan, \$767.50
Operate w/o Carrying License
Ramos, Corinna A., 7/25/1985, Sheboygan, \$217.10.
Norlander, Levi A., 3/1995, Sheboygan Falls, \$150.10.
Operate w/o Valid License
Anaya-Santillan, Mario A., 6/28/1988, Sheboygan, (2nd within 3 years), \$654.00.
Lopez Ibarra, Joel F., 6/7/2002, Sheboygan, (2nd within 3 years), \$654.00.
Macias Gomez, Fabian, 7/1993, Sheboygan, \$200.50.
Torres Rivera, Ariel, 3/1995, Sheboygan, \$200.50.
Operate a Motor Vehicle w/o Insurance
Allen, Teirra D., 4/2004, Sheboygan, \$200.50.

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Mark Walters • OUTDOOR COLUMNIST

Hello friends,
This week's column will be a bit different than normal. A true leader of Kids and Mentors Outdoors, a husband, father and friend to hundreds, maybe thousands, James Rydmark, had a heart emergency that on Jan. 17th would result in Jim passing away. Jim was a dear friend of mine and a person that checked on me a hundred times since Michelle's passing in June of 2022.

Wednesday, January 21st
High 23, low 2

Jim's Celebration of Life was going to be two days after this trip began, so I stayed close to home and did a winter camping trip on the backwaters of the Wisconsin River where I would hike in with my golden retriever Red, set up a camp and try my luck at walleye and northern pike.

My destination would require 2 trips pulling an Otter Sled with about 100 pounds of gear for each journey which at times was over some pretty rough terrain and to be perfectly honest would test my mind, body and heart.

Three days after Jim went down but was put into a coma, I headed to Mississippi to hunt and camp with my brother Tom Walters. I was never right on that trip. At the time everyone was hoping that Jim was going to come out of it but there were signs that he may not. I

had very sketchy phone service in Mississippi and would send positive messages to Jim's wife Sherry, daughter Hailee and son Holden. I never asked a question but I just hoped, prayed and relayed positive thoughts.

On today's trip it was cold and the next day's low was forecast to be minus 21. I had the gear and the knowledge to do just fine as I have for the last 36 years with this way of life that pays my bills but as had been the case for the 18 days my mind was not in a good place.

Jim Rydmark was KAMO's, State Treasurer and the President of The Meadow Valley Chapter of KAMO which is based out of New Lisbon. In a time when volunteers are few and far between Jim was fun, smart, extremely positive and had a work ethic that never stopped.

We talked, texted and emailed frequently and though KAMO has its problems, Jim always had a "we can fix this" attitude

as President of KAMO I cannot tell you how important that is to have people like Jim.

Today, and I was surprised about this, I did not have any action with walleye or northern pike but I kept up my positive attitude and had high hopes for the evening and next day's action. The following day another long term friend, Jeff Neitzel of Hustler joined me and Jeff was able to take part in the journey into the backwaters that Red and I were calling home. Jeff is also in KAMO and does a lot of volunteering himself. Jeff and I met when I was in the Air National Guard from '81 to '87 and we had a lot of fun to say the least. Today, Jeff bought in his Live Scope as he is an avid panfish, ice fishermen. I had never looked at one of these devices as I am a caveman. Jeff set up near a downfall and was very driven on catching a fish and landed a beautiful brook trout that was maybe 14 inches. On January 16th I received

the call that Jim was in hospice and I could visit him. I was in Mauston at the time and despite the fact that I was wearing work clothes and knee boots I drove to Madison to say goodbye to my dear friend. Jim's lifelong best friend, Tom StClair was with Jim and had been since the beginning when he flew from Arizona to be with the neighbor kid who would end up being a part of his deer camp and millions of shared experiences. Tom who is also in KAMO and one hell of a great man told me endless stories

about their youth and the entire time, though Jim was asleep, we spoke like the 3 of us were having a beer together.

Tom left at about 6:00 that night and I stayed with Jim and thanked him several times for being such a great friend and truly understanding, or should I say checking up on me as late as two weeks before he went down with his own life ending experience.

One way to describe Jim and his incredible family, they requested that in lieu of flowers donations be made to KAMO. Another way would be his celebration of life where I am confident that there was at least 400 people, maybe more.

My trip on the Wisconsin river was traditional for a guy that pays his bills the way that I do.

The loss of Jim Rydmark has simply kicked me down and will for quite some time. The world lost a great man on Jan. 17th.

Sunset



COURT REPORT

Cervantes, David, 9/1989, Sheboygan, \$200.50.

Speeding on Freeway

Arciniega, Karine, 11/1999, Sheboygan, (20-24 mph), \$276.10.

Baker, Joseph L., 6/2006, Sheboygan, (25-29 mph), License Suspension 15 days, \$301.30.

Schueffner, Mary Kay, 11/1971, Sheboygan, (1-10 mph), \$200.50.

Exceeding Speed Zones

Mauer, Patrick T., 11/1994, Sheboygan, (11-15 mph), \$175.30.

Misdemeanors

Holst, Shawn R., 12/6/1976, Sheboygan, Violate/Harassment Restraining Order, \$898.50.

Kensler, Samantha M., 7/1/1991, Sheboygan, Theft-Business Setting <\$2500, \$601.00.

Olivas, Blanca E., 9/18/2006, Sheboygan, Battery (Domestic Abuse), Disorderly Conduct (Domestic Abuse), Community Service 10 hours, \$1,098.00.

Disorderly Conduct

Arpke, Michael J., 8/17/1951, Sheboygan, \$717.00.

Beltran, Josue A., 5/6/2008, Sheboygan, \$487.50.

McCall, Jeffrey S., 11/16/1974, Sheboygan, (Domestic Abuse), \$555.00.

Misdemeanors and other charges

Harris Sr., Frank L., 7/1/1973, Sheboygan, 4th Degree Sexual Assault, (Misdemeanor), Intimidate Victim/Domestic Abuse Crime (Felony), Jail 210 days, Firearms/Weapons Restrictions, \$1,189.40.

Martinez-Ortiz, Daniel I., 11/18/1998, Sheboygan, Strangulation and Suffocation (Felony-Domestic Abuse), Battery, Disorderly Conduct (Misdemeanors-Domestic Abuse), Jail 240 days with 6 months (stayed), \$1,732.40.

Reinking, Alexis M., 5/2000, Sheboygan, Unsafe Backing of Vehicle (Traffic), Bail Jumping (Misdemeanor),

\$1,106.50.

Felonies and other charges

Lutzke, Amber M., 10/17/1994, Sheboygan, Bail Jumping (Felony), Trespass to Land (2 counts-Forfeitures), \$1,073.40.

Felonies

Clinton, Ladarren D., 6/30/1994, Sheboygan, Substantial Battery-Intend Bodily Harm, Child Enticement-Sexual Contact, Bail Jumping, Prison 5 years, Extended Supervision 6 years, \$10,512.04.

Harris, George A., 10/22/1979, Sheboygan, Substantial Battery-Intend Bodily Harm, Jail 178 days, \$530.00.

January 26 to January 30, 2026

DCA

Brashaw, Emma M., 10/2/2001, Sheboygan, Battery (Misdemeanor-DCA- 2 years), Disorderly Conduct (Misdemeanor-DCA-2 years).

Revoke Probation

Smith, Savannah L., 5/22/1996, Sheboygan, Prison 3 years, Extended Supervision 3 years.

Forfeitures

Lutzke, Amber M., 10/94, Sheboygan, Trespass to Land, \$263.50.

Traffic

Jimenz Mata, Eduannys Y., 1/1995, Sheboygan, Operate Motor Vehicle w/o Insurance, Operate Motor Vehicle by Permittee w/o Instructor, \$401.00.

Orellana, Cristian N., 6/1998, Sheboygan, Non-Registration of Vehicle, Vent/Side Window Excessive Tinting, \$350.60.

Saiti, Gajur, 3/1981, Sheboygan, Unsafe Backing of Vehicle, \$175.30.

Welsh, Philip, 3/1986, Sheboygan, Operate after Revocation/Suspension of Registration, \$175.30.

Wentz, Collin J., 7/1991, Sheboygan, Operator Violate Red Traffic Light, \$175.30.

Fail/Stop for Unloading School Bus

Pelletier, Samuel J., 1/1998, Sheboygan, \$676.50.

Yang, Whitney, 5/1982, Sheboygan, \$767.50.

Operating while Suspended

Ahlborg, Adrienne J., 12/1996, Sheboygan, \$200.50.

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

Operating while Revoked

Betts, Kenny J., 8/31/1968, Sheboygan, (due to alcohol/controlled substance/refusal), \$654.00.

Hanks, Aaron J., 10/10/1989, Sheboygan, (due to alcohol/controlled substance/refusal), \$654.00.

Operate w/o Carrying License

Thul, Darren P., 9/1/1983, Sheboygan, \$217.10.

Operate w/o Valid License

Garcia Garcia, Manuel, 7/1960, Sheboygan, \$200.50.

Garcia Hernandez, Joel, 9/24/2004, Sheboygan, (3rd within 3 years), \$654.00.

Luisacruz, Isabel, 11/1985, Sheboygan, \$200.50.

Ochoa Linarte, Erling, 11/2001, Sheboygan, \$200.50.

Operate a Motor Vehicle w/o Insurance

Arciniega, Mirta J., 8/1996, Sheboygan, \$200.50.

Leon, Garrett T., 8/1990, Sheboygan, \$200.50.

Exceeding Speed Zones

Beyer, Hayven A., 4/2007, Sheboygan, (25-29 mph), \$250.90.

Misdemeanors

Nkeshimana, Baylon, 11/22/1990, Sheboygan, Disorderly Conduct, (Domestic Abuse), \$571.40.

Tate, Terina E., 7/3/2003, Sheboygan, Resisting or Obstructing an Officer, Intent. Use Oleoresin Device-Bodily Harm, \$920.60.

Misdemeanors and other charges

Cortez, Ramon, 10/19/1988, Sheboygan, Disorderly Conduct (Repeater), Criminal Damage to Property, Bail

Jumping, (Misdemeanors), Possession of Methamphetamine (Repeater), (Felony), Prison 2 years, Extended Supervision 2 years, \$2,083.00.

Felonies

Lomibao, Derek C., 7/3/1997, Sheboygan, Battery (Domestic Abuse Repeater), (2 counts), \$1,098.00.

Lor, Nor, 5/29/1982, Sheboygan, Retail Theft-Intentionally Take >\$500-\$5000, \$1816.49.

Stolpa, Leroy H., 8/8/1958, Sheboygan, 1st Degree Child Sexual Assault-Sexual Contact or intercourse w/Person under Age 13, Prison 12 years, Extended Supervision 12 years, Firearms/Weapons Restrictions, Sex Offender Registration-Lifetime, \$546.40.

Yang, Chai, 5/8/1973, Sheboygan, Fail to Support Child (120+ Days), \$562.80.

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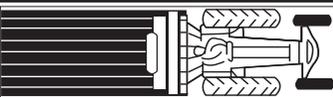
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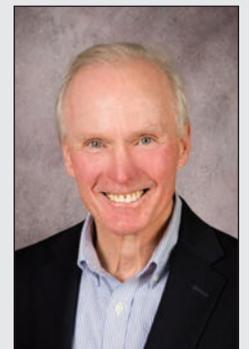
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MONEY MATTERS

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7 Financial Resolutions for High-Net-Worth Individuals in 2026

by **Robyn Jameson, CFP®, CLTC, Managing Director, Partner, Wealth Manager.**

Submitted by Merit Financial

Every January, I hear some version of the same question from clients: “What should we be doing differently with our finances this year?” Each year, my answer is the same. It’s not about chas-

ing the next strategy or reacting to that day’s headline. It’s about taking a step back to confirm whether your cash flow, income, and investment portfolio align with the life you’re living today and your goals for tomorrow.

What’s interesting is 92% of high-net-worth investors say tax guidance is one of the most valuable parts of working with an advisor, but far fewer investment plans are built around what families keep after taxes, rather than

what they earn before them. That gap shows up in real life more often than most people realize.

Here are seven financial resolutions I encourage high-net-worth families to think about as they move through 2026.

Think About Taxes Way in Advance of the Deadline

I often hear: “We do well, so we know we’re going to pay a lot in taxes.” It’s usually said with a shrug, like it’s just part of the deal. But taxes don’t only show up in April. They appear when someone changes jobs, sells a business, helps a child buy a home, or makes a meaningful charitable gift. Tax alpha isn’t about what you earn, it’s about what you keep. If something feels like a major financial decision, it’s worth slowing down and asking how taxes fit into it before moving forward.

Pay Attention to How Much of Your Life Is Tied to

One Company

This comes up often with executives and founders. Stock grants and incentive plans tend to accumulate quietly over time. Then one day, we put everything on a single page, and it becomes clear just how much net worth and income are tied to the same company. There’s nothing wrong with believing in the business you work for (or own). But concentration risk is real. Rather than treating diversification as a single, high-pressure decision, I encourage people to reduce exposure gradually and systematically, so it becomes a disciplined process, not a stressful event.

Don’t Assume Your Old Plan Still Fits Today’s Rules

Last year, in anticipation of the TCJA sunset, many estate plans were being restructured around lower exemption thresholds. With the passage of the OBBBA, the federal estate tax exemption for a mar-

ried couple is now \$30 million. Crisis averted, for now. One act of Congress reshaped years of planning. It’s a reminder that estate planning is never static. Thresholds, rules, and strategies can shift with each administration. Compliance is rarely rewarded.

Think Beyond the Estate Planning Documents

Most people think of estate planning as something you “finish.” You sign the documents, put them in a folder, and check the box. In reality, an estate plan is far more than the paperwork. I’ve seen situations where everything looked perfect on paper yet a beneficiary designation hadn’t been updated, or an account wasn’t titled correctly. As a result, assets never flowed into the trust as intended. Every asset needs to be reviewed and aligned to ensure the plan actually works.

See **FINANCIAL/36**



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Why Social Security matters more for women

Submitted by
Annie Leal
Financial Advisor
Edward Jones

When planning for retirement, Social Security isn't just another item on your financial checklist. For women especially, it's often the cornerstone of a secure retirement. The Social Security Administration reports that nearly 55% of Social Security benefit recipients are women, and for many, it's their primary source of retirement income.

Unlike investments that can lose value when the market drops, Social Security provides guaranteed income that adjusts for inflation and generally lasts as long as you live. That reliability makes it valuable for helping to address two major retirement risks: rising costs and the possibility of outliving your savings.

Life expectancy. On average, women live about five years longer than men (CDC 2023 Life Expectancy measure).

That means they rely on Social Security for a longer period,

making the decision of when to start benefits especially important. Taking Social Security early reduces your monthly benefit. You can claim benefits as early as age 62, but every year you wait increases your monthly payments by two-thirds of 1%, or 8% per year, maxing out at age 70. Given women's longer life expectancy, that patience can pay off.

Building your benefit. Your Social Security benefit depends on your 35 highest-earning years. If you have years with zero or very low earnings in that calculation, it can reduce what you receive in retirement. Many women step away from work or reduce their hours to care for family members, and that trend is increasing. A 2025 University of Kansas analysis found that the share of mothers with children under age 5 leaving the workforce fell more in early 2025 than

at any point in the past 40 years. The study also noted that rising return-to-office policies may continue to impact working mothers. While staying in the workforce builds a stronger earnings history and better benefits, that isn't realistic for everyone. Those who can't may need to plan and fund alternative sources for retirement income. Protection for married women. Marriage can provide additional Social Security options. A lower earning spouse may receive up to 50% of their partner's full retirement-age benefit. If your spouse dies, you can receive the higher of your own benefit or up to 100% of your deceased spouse's benefit.

However, if you remarry before age 60 (age 50 for disabled widows), you lose eligibility for survivor benefits from your late spouse while the new marriage lasts. Women divorced after at

least 10 years of marriage may qualify for benefits based on an ex-spouse's record. If you remarry, you forfeit spousal benefits while the new marriage continues. A word of wisdom: Report any name changes following marriage or divorce to the Social Security Administration to ensure your earnings and benefits are correctly credited.

Navigate carefully. Given the complexity of Social Security rules, the unique retirement challenges women face and the lasting impact of claiming decisions, working with a qualified financial advisor can be invaluable. An advisor can help you navigate questions about timing, spousal benefits and how Social Security fits into your overall retirement plan.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC.

Tips to protect your personal financial information

Identity theft is a very real threat in the digital age. While it once was complicated for criminals to collect personal data, such as identification numbers, emails, phone numbers, and more, the connectivity the internet offers can sometimes make stealing information as easy as clicking a button.

In 2024, the Federal Trade Commission fielded more than 1.1 million reports of identity theft. Credit card fraud was the most common crime. Also, 2024 saw the largest data breaches in history, impacting billions of users and subjecting customers to the potential of having personal data exposed and ultimately exploited.

Although there is no foolproof way to keep personal and financial data safe, people can take several steps to safeguard their

information.

- **Use strong, unique passwords.** Have several different and complex passwords for each online account to prevent a compromised password from providing access to all of the accounts. People can use a password manager to help create and store these unique passwords. The U.S. Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency says that strong passwords should be at least 16 characters; feature a random string of mixed-case letters, numbers and symbols; or comprised of a memorable phrase of four to seven unrelated words, known as a passphrase.

- **Use two-factor authentication.** Enable two-factor authentication (2FA) on all accounts to add an extra layer

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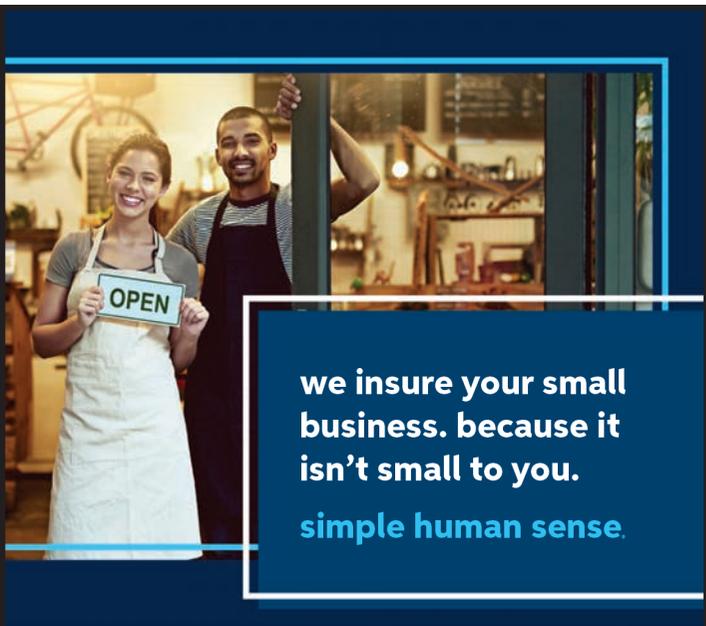
Learn about investment strategies that could potentially lower next year's tax bill. Talk to a financial advisor today to learn how.

Paul Leal
Financial Advisor

Annie Leal
Financial Advisor

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Give Yourself Some Breathing Room for the Inevitable Down Markets

Most people understand, at least intellectually, that markets go up and down. But it feels very different when you're living through a downturn while also relying on your portfolio for living expenses. In those moments, having a portion of assets outside of equities can make a bigger emotional difference than people realize. It creates a structure where long-term investments can do what they're meant to do: outpace inflation while a more conservative "bucket" provides stability and liquidity in down markets.

Make Financial Planning a Standing Appointment, not a Fire Drill

The families who seem most at ease about their finances aren't always the ones with the most money. They're often the ones who talk about it regularly. When money conversations only happen in response to a problem, they

tend to feel rushed and tense. When they're part of a routine, they're usually calmer and more productive. Even a short check-in with your advisor once or twice a year just to review what's changed in your life can make long-term goals feel far more attainable.

Bring the Same Thoughtfulness to Your Money That You Bring to Your Work

Most of my clients are very intentional about their careers. They plan, review what's working, and adjust when something isn't. That same mindset translates surprisingly well to personal finances. The most successful families tend to manage their wealth the way they run a business. Taxes, investments, estate planning, charitable giving, and expenses are viewed as part of one integrated strategy, not separate silos. When everything is aligned, clarity follows.

One Last Thought

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together" – African Proverb
 Advisor Alpha, the added

value of walking alongside a trusted advisor rather than going it alone, is very real. After serving clients closely for more than two decades, I am more convinced than ever of the meaningful impact thoughtful advice can have. That value shows up through:

- Tax-efficient strategies (income and estate tax)**
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Premier Financial Credit Union Breaks Ground on New Plymouth Branch

New Location Marks Major Milestone in Credit Union's Growth and Community Commitment New Holstein, WI – Premier Financial Credit Union (PFCU) is proud to announce the official groundbreaking of its newest full-service branch in Plymouth, Wisconsin. Construction is now underway on the highly anticipated location, which is set to open in summer 2026.

Located on Walton Drive, the new branch will bring PFCU's trusted financial services and community-first approach to the residents of Plymouth and surrounding areas. The facility will feature modern design, private offices, and a welcoming environment tailored to meet the evolving needs of members.

"Breaking ground in Plymouth is more than just building a new branch—it's about building relationships," said Brad

Grant, President & CEO of Premier Financial Credit Union. "We're excited to expand our footprint and bring our personalized, member-focused service to this vibrant community."

The Plymouth branch will offer a full suite of financial solutions, including:

- Checking and savings accounts
- Auto, home, and personal loans
- Small business banking services
- Financial education

Construction is being led by La Macchia Group, a nationally recognized firm specializing in financial in-

stitution design and build. The project reflects PFCU's ongoing investment in local communities and its mission to make banking more accessible, convenient, and community driven.

Founded in 1962, Premier Financial Credit Union has grown to serve over 9,000 members and is a member-owned \$128 million credit union. As a not-for-profit financial cooperative, Premier is committed to delivering affordable, innovative financial services while giving back to the communities it serves.

With existing branches in New Holstein, Kiel, and Chilton, PFCU welcomes new members who live or work in Calumet, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Outagamie, and Fond du Lac counties.

To learn more about Premier Financial Credit Union or follow the progress

of the new Plymouth branch, visit www.yourpfcu.com.



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New tax laws for 2026 that you should know

Submitted by
Paul Leal
Financial Advisor
Edward Jones

The new year brings more than resolutions and fresh starts; it also ushers in several tax changes that could affect your wallet. Whether you're saving for retirement, funding your child's education or supporting your favorite charity, here's a few things you need to know about the tax landscape in 2026.

More room to save for retirement and healthcare.
There's good news for savers: Contribution limits for retirement accounts are going up. If you're under 50, you can now contribute up to \$7,500 to an IRA, which is up from \$7,000 in 2025. Those 50 and older can contribute an additional \$1,000, for a total of \$8,600.

The limits for 401(k), 403(b) and governmental 457(b) plans are also increasing, with workers younger than 50 able to defer up to \$24,500. Visit IRS.gov and search "401k limit increases" for an article outlining the details.

Health savings account limits are rising too. In 2026,

individual coverage increased to \$4,400 and family coverage to \$8,750. If you are age 55 or older and are not enrolled in Medicare, you can contribute an additional \$1,000 as a catch-up contribution.

The start of the year is an ideal time to review your contributions and consider increasing them, even by small amounts which can add up over time. A catch-up rule for high earners. If you're 50 or older and earned more than \$150,000 last year, there's a new wrinkle in your retirement planning. You can still make catch-up contributions to your workplace retirement plan, but they must now be Roth contributions rather than traditional pre-tax contributions. This includes 401(k), 403(b) and 457(b) plans. While you won't get an immediate tax break, Roth contributions offer tax-free income in retirement and can provide a tax-free legacy for your heirs.

Expanded benefits for 529 education plans. Families using 529 plans to cover K-12 expenses will see the annual federal distribution limit double from \$10,000 to \$20,000 per student. The definition of quali-

fying expenses has also expanded to include curriculum, books, certain tutoring expenses and testing fees. This change provides more flexibility for families with overfunded plans and increases options for managing education costs across multiple children or beneficiaries.

New charitable giving provisions. The rules around charitable deductions are shifting in two directions.

Taxpayers who take the standard deduction can now deduct

up to \$1,000 in cash donations (\$2,000 for joint filers) to qualified organizations. However, those who itemize deductions face a new threshold: only charitable contributions exceeding 0.5% of adjusted gross income are now deductible. Donors may want to consider bunching strategies or using donor-advised funds to maximize their tax benefits.

Getting help.

Navigating these tax changes can be challenging, but you

don't have to go it them alone. A qualified financial advisor and tax professional can help you understand how these and other changes affect your specific situation.

Together, you can develop strategies to make the most of new opportunities while minimizing your tax burden.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor: Edward Jones, Member SIPC.

Take the first step towards financial stability with Meadowland Credit Union

When we think about our finances, we often focus on numbers—income, savings, and what we believe those figures say about our success. For many, achievement is measured in dollars earned. We're taught that working harder, working smarter, or working longer increases our chances of financial growth. And at the core of it all is a simple desire: security. Money, after all, can provide peace of mind.

But what if you—or some-

one you care about—is struggling to truly understand or manage their finances? Taking that first step toward financial stability can feel overwhelming. The real question is: are you willing to take it?

If you're even considering saying "yes," Meadowland Credit Union is here to help. Reach out to us at 920-467-8105 and ask for Fritzy. At Meadowland, we proudly live by the credit union philosophy of people helping people. We

offer free credit counseling, budgeting assistance, and debt restructuring—all designed to help you move forward with confidence.

Take advantage of this opportunity. It could be the turning point you or someone you know needs to move ahead financially.

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Sally specializes in personal and commercial property & casualty lines and also provides health and life insurance solutions. In her new role, Sally will continue delivering exceptional service to her clients while taking on expanded responsibilities in leading the agency and supporting the staff.

A longtime Oostburg resident, Sally raised her three daughters in the community and proudly calls Oostburg home. She is passionate about giving back and is actively involved in numerous local organizations through volunteerism and support.

About Flipse Insurance Agency
Flipse Insurance Agency is a local independent agency proudly serving Sheboygan County and beyond with personalized insurance solutions. Offering coverage for auto, home, business, life, and health, the Flipse team works with multiple trusted carriers to find coverage that fits each client's unique needs.

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of security. This second form of verification often comes by the way of a texted or emailed code that must be entered to log into an account.

- **Consider extra security for your credit report.** Individuals can contact the three major credit bureaus and bolster their credit-related security. A fraud alert tells businesses to check with the person before opening a new account to verify if it is really him or her. An initial fraud alert or active duty fraud alert expires in a year, while an extended fraud alert lasts seven years, but requires an FTC identity theft report. A credit freeze is a greater measure of security that keeps others from getting into the credit report at all (with a fraud alert the credit report can still be accessed). That means no one can open a new credit account while the freeze is in place. It must be lifted each time a person wants to open a new account.

- **Protect your identification numbers.** Individuals should not

carry a Social Security card in a wallet or give out their Social Security Number (Social Insurance Number in Canada) unnecessarily.

- **Exercise caution on the phone and when answering emails.** Scammers can mislead others by using seemingly legitimate phone numbers or email addresses to solicit information. Always verify the validity of requests before sharing personal information.

- **Regularly check accounts.** People should double-check all financial accounts periodically for suspicious transactions. Each year individuals are able to request and check a free credit report from Experian, TransUnion and Equifax.

- **Use a secured internet connection.** To reduce the risk of data being stolen, only review financial information when utilizing a secured (password locked) internet network.

Taking strides to protect personal data is important to safeguard one's financial security.

Tips to catch up on retirement savings

Financial firms and other organizations routinely conduct surveys in the hopes of gaining insight into adults' habits regarding retirement savings. Such surveys rarely paint a rosy picture and typically indicate many working adults are concerned that they aren't saving nearly enough to retire comfortably, if at all.

A recent survey from AARP is among the latest examples to indicate the fear some have regarding a potential savings shortfall during retirement. That survey, released in April 2024, found that 20 percent of adults age 50 and over have no retirement savings, while roughly three in five fear they will not have enough money to keep them afloat once they call it a career.

Saving for retirement is vital to long-term financial health and can ensure retired adults have enough money to meet both their needs and wants. Insufficient retirement savings can compromise retirees' ability to pay medical expenses and make it hard for them to realize dreams often associated with retirement, such as travel and additional leisure activities. The good news about saving for retirement is there are many ways for those who have fallen behind to catch up.

- **Find ways to cut back on spending.** One of the more di-

rect yet still challenging ways to begin catching up on retirement savings is to cut back on spending in other areas so funds can be redirected to retirement accounts and additional investments. Start by documenting daily, weekly and monthly expenses in a spending journal. After enough data on spending has been documented, examine your spending habits to identify areas where cutbacks can be made so funds can be redirected to retirement contributions. Dining out, entertainment, streaming subscriptions, and travel expenditures may stand out as superfluous luxuries that can be trimmed in the hopes of saving more for retirement.

- **Take advantage of alternative income streams.** Another direct way to begin saving more for retirement is to begin earning more. That's easier said than done, but it's not necessarily impossible to find a side hustle to generate sufficient funds for retirement. Earnings from a second job like a freelancing gig can be set aside exclusively for retirement contributions.

- **Contribute the maximum to retirement investment vehicles.** Retirement investment vehicles like an individual retirement account (IRA) have annual contribution limits, and those trying to catch up on retirement savings are urged to contribute

the maximum allowable amount under the law. Certified financial planners can help adults navigate these waters, as some people may be eligible to contribute an extra \$1,000 per year. Adults also can increase their contributions to employer-sponsored retirement plans like a 401(k). One of the notable benefits to increasing 401(k) contributions is the funds are withdrawn prior to taxes, meaning a 2 to 3 percent contribution increase won't have a dramatic effect on workers' take-home pay.

- **Downsize and redirect funds into retirement investment vehicles.** Downsizing a home can be a great way for empty nesters to save money, but there are additional ways to downsize. Adults paying for more streaming subscriptions than they can name can trim the fat by canceling little-used services and redirecting monthly fees into retirement investment vehicles. Adults can downsize their social lives, resolving to dine in more often and even host less frequently or shift toward styles of hosting like potluck affairs that encourage hosts and guests to share the costs of throwing a get-together.

These are just some of the unique ways working adults can catch up with their retirement savings.



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