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Star-News
 KEWAUNEE COUNTY'S WEEKLY COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2023 | KEWANEECOUNTYSTARNEWS.COM | FREE

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

LOCAL EVENTS

To submit an event, email editorial@gokewauneeconomy.com. Dates without events have been omitted from this list.

Ongoing

Kewaunee County Food Pantry, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., every Monday and Wednesday, 1528 Sunset Ave., Algoma.

Public cards, Sheepshead, 1 p.m. Mondays, Community Congregational Church, 502 Center St., Kewaunee. Doors open at noon. Upstairs fellowship room.

Gentle + Exercise Class, 9 to 10 a.m., Mondays, through May 22, St. John Church, 700 Heritage St., Luxemburg. Suggested donation \$3. Exercises can be done sitting or standing. Contact: Diane, 920-609-2765

All Saints Bingo, Mondays, Gatherings 43, 623 De Pere Road, Denmark. Doors open at 5 p.m. with bingo at 6:30 p.m. Cash prizes. Food and refreshments.

TOPS Club 0326 Algoma, 8:45 to 10 a.m., Tuesdays, Knutson Hall, 620 Lake St., enter on Clark Street. Weight loss group for teenagers and older. Contact: 920-487-2752 or 920-304-2104

Golden Agers Card Club, 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Algoma Youth Club, 620 Lake St. New players age 50 and older are invited to play Sheepshead.

Public Bingo and Skip-Bo, 9 a.m. Wednesdays, Community Congregational Church, 502 Center St., Kewaunee, upstairs fellowship room.

Senior Soup, 11 to 1 p.m., Wednesdays, United Methodist Church, 804 Parker Ave., Algoma, fellowship hall. Free lunch for all seniors.

Lakeshore Community Pantry, 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesdays, Holy Rosary Church, 521 Juneau St., Kewaunee, lower parking lot. Must be a resident of Kewaunee County and bring a large box or laundry basket for your groceries.

Memory Café, 10 to 11:30 a.m., second Wednesday of the month, Algoma Public Library, 406 Fremont St., Algoma. Contact ADRC of the Lakeshore: 877-416-7083

Memory Café, 10 to 11 a.m., third Wednesday of the month, Kewaunee Public Library, 822 Juneau St., Kewaunee. Contact ADRC of the Lakeshore: 877-416-7083

Early Stage Alzheimer's Support Group, 10 to 11 a.m., fourth Wednesday of the month, ADRC of the Lakeshore office, 810 Lincoln St., Kewaunee. Sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association and the ADRC of the Lakeshore for persons with dementia and care partners. First-time registration is needed for the person with dementia by calling ADRC of the Lakeshore: 877-416-7083

Chess Club, 5 p.m., first and third Thursday of the month, Kewaunee Public Library. All are welcome. Contact: 920-388-5015

Methunky Trivia, 7 p.m., second Thursday of the month, Ruse, 322 Steele St., Algoma. Hosted by Sara Krouse. Prizes. Teams limited to eight, no cellphones or smartwatches allowed. More at Methunky Trivia on Facebook or Ruse.

Mug Club, 9:30 to 11 a.m., third Thursday of the month, St. John Lutheran Church, 700 Heritage Road, Luxemburg.

General caregiver support group sponsored by ADRC of the Lakeshore for those caring for someone 60 or older.

Methunky Trivia, 7 p.m., fourth Thursday of the month, Homestead Kitchen and Tap, N7551 County D, Algoma. Hosted by Scott Prokash. Prizes. Teams limited to eight, no cellphones or smartwatches allowed. More at Methunky Trivia on Facebook or Homestead Kitchen.

The Book Corner, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.,

See LOCAL EVENTS, Page 2A

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Kewaunee High School senior Matt Wery, shown working in the school's classroom kitchen, is competing against five other high school students from across the state in the SkillsUSA Wisconsin Culinary Arts Competition on March 10 in Pewaukee. The winner advances to the national culinary contest in June in Atlanta. CHRISTOPHER CLOUGH/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

Kewaunee student testing culinary skills in state competition

Christopher Clough
 Kewaunee County Star-News
 USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

KEWAUNEE - It's not like your usual cooking competition on TV, like, say, "Next Level Chef." For one thing, Matt Wery won't have Gordon Ramsay cursing in his face with millions of people watching across the country.

That's because the cooking contest in which Wery was competing this week is a test of much more than just his ability to create something in the kitchen that

tastes great.

The Kewaunee High School senior was one of six high school students from across the state taking part in the annual SkillsUSA Wisconsin Culinary Arts Competition taking place March 10 at Waukesha County Technical College in Pewaukee, with a trip to the national competition this June in Atlanta on the line. He'll learn if he's won during the 50th annual SkillsUSA state conference being held April 25 and 26 in Madison.

SkillsUSA is a national education partnership with state and territorial

chapters that serves students from middle school through college and postsecondary schools who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations.

So, yes, the taste and plating of Wery's dishes will matter in the SkillsUSA contest. He and the other five competitors were set to make two plates of a three-course meal consisting of a clear soup, a chicken entrée with mushroom sauce, and julienne-cut glazed carrots.

See SKILLS, Page 2A

Bank of Luxemburg receives state grant for worker training

Christopher Clough
 Kewaunee County Star-News
 USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

MADISON - Bank of Luxemburg is one of 24 businesses in Wisconsin receiving a state grant for a training program that could lead employees to higher wages.

The bank was awarded \$26,200 from the Wisconsin Fast Forward grant program offered annually by the Wisconsin

Department of Workforce Development. It will use the funds to provide 29 hours of leadership skills training by the Initiative One Leadership Institute to six current staff members, who will receive 16.8 continuing education units through the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay when they finish training and could receive a wage increase of \$1.50 per hour or more.

Overall, the Fast Forward program awarded more than \$3.8 million to its 24

recipients this year, with individual amounts ranging from \$5,000 to \$400,000. All projects require a 50% cash or in-kind employer match, and the training must provide skills that are transferable to the job.

The minimum requirements for a business to receive funding are that 85% of the participants must complete training, 65% must gain employment

See GRANT, Page 2A

UW System wants 5% tuition increase for Wisconsin undergrads in 2023

Kelly Meyerhofer

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

The University of Wisconsin System wants to increase tuition for in-state undergraduates by about 5% next school year, UW System President Jay Rothman said March 2.

Rothman said he will ask the UW Board of Regents to approve the rate increase at a board meeting later this month. If approved, it would be the first increase in a decade for resident students.

Even with a 5% tuition increase, Rothman said UW System would remain the most affordable higher education option in the upper Midwest.

"After more than a decade of frozen tuition rates and as costs have increased and more particularly in recent years, inflation has accelerated, it is essential that we seek this increase for the long-term financial viability of our universities and to sustain the quality of education and research and services that we provide," Rothman told lawmakers during an Assembly committee meeting.

Republican lawmakers froze tuition beginning in the 2013-14 school year, though UW's two-year branch campuses have had tuition frozen off and on for several years before that, too.

Republicans sent tuition-setting authority back to the board in 2021, but the Regents have declined to increase tuition in the past two school years, aided by an infusion of federal pandemic relief money last year.

The Regents have frequently talked about the unsustainability of the freeze.

It's proven popular among students and families but campus leaders say it wreaks havoc on their budgets. Without state money offsetting what campuses lose each year from the lack of tuition increases, it puts schools in a pinch because costs continue to increase even though revenue isn't.

In response, universities have tried a range of financial strategies, including cutting programs, laying off employees and enrolling more out-of-state students over the past decade.

A 5% tuition increase would generate an estimated



The University of Wisconsin System wants to increase tuition for in-state undergraduates by about 5% next school year. MIKE DE SISTI/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

\$38 million annually, Rothman said.

In-state tuition at UW-Madison is \$10,800 annually. A 5% increase would bump the cost \$540 to \$11,340. Other universities offer tuition rates lower than UW-Madison.

Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester, and Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu, R-Oostburg, did not respond to a request for comment on UW System's proposed tuition increase.

Rep. Dave Murphy, R-Greenville, and Sen. Andre

Jacque, R-De Pere, introduced a bill recently capping tuition increases to the rate of inflation. The intent is to protect Wisconsin students from the possibility of soaring tuition rates when the current freeze ends.

"Our view of this is it was not to try to get above inflation or anything like that," Rothman said, noting that his proposed increase is less than inflation. "We want to be reasonable in how we approach this. ... We have to ensure that we are financially sustainable for the long term, but we also have to be affordable."

Local events

Continued from Page 1A

Fridays and Saturdays, 401 Third St., Algoma. Masks required for those who are not vaccinated; curbside pickup available. Proceeds benefit Algoma Public Library. 920-304-9214 or algomabook-corner.com.

Friends of the Kewaunee Public Library Book

Shopee, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturdays, 513 Milwaukee St., Kewaunee. Proceeds benefit the Kewaunee Public Library.

Stepping On, 9:15 to 11:15 a.m., Mondays, March 13 to April 24, Kewaunee County Public Health and Human Services building, 810 Lincoln St., lower level. To register, call the Aging & Disability Resource Center of the Lakeshore at 877-416-7083 by March 6.

Saturday, March 11

Ruby's Pop-Up Food Pantry, 8:30 to 10 a.m. or until out of food, St. John Church, 700 Heritage Road, Luxemburg. \$25 donation per bundle. Order online at rubyspantry.org or first come first serve. Drive-thru service.

Marv's Bin Food Pantry,

9 to 11 a.m., Holy Trinity Church, 510 Church Ave., Casco. Open to anyone living in the Luxemburg-Casco School district. Drive-thru pickup available by calling Jackie at 920-536-0163.

Shamrock Cookie Decorating, 12:30-1:30 p.m., Algoma Public Library, 406 Fremont St. Sign up required 920-487-2295. Frosting and cookies provided.

Monday, March 13

Monthly meeting, 6:30 p.m., Village Hall, 211 First St. The Casco American Legion and Auxiliary will meet on the lower level.

Friday, March 16

Blood drive, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Kewaunee High School, 911 Third St. To donate, download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 800-733-2767.

Marv's Bin Food Pantry, 5 to 7 p.m., Holy Trinity Church, 510 Church Ave., Casco. Open to anyone living in the Luxemburg-Casco School district. Drive-thru pickup available by calling Ann at 920-660-9321.

Saturday, March 18

Troop 4160 Girl Scout Cookie Booth, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Piggly Wiggly, 931 Marquette Drive, Kewaunee.

Winter Concert Series: Koepke/LaForce Acoustic, noon to 3 p.m., von Stiehl Winery, 115 Navarino St., Algoma. Free.



Bank of Luxemburg, which operates nine branches in Northeast Wisconsin including the Dyckesville branch shown here, was awarded a \$26,200 grant from the Wisconsin Fast Forward program for worker training.

PROVIDED BY THE BANK OF LUXEMBURG

Grant

Continued from Page 1A

(hiring unemployed trainees or promoting underemployed ones), and 75% of trainees who are current employees receive pay raises.

The grants are expected to support worker training programs for up to 1,415 trainees, including unemployed and underemployed people as well as current employees. The businesses receiving grants are involved in education, financial services, health care,

information technology, manufacturing and production, and transportation.

For more on the Wisconsin Fast Forward program, visit wisconsinfastforward.com.

Established in 1903 and based in the village of Luxemburg, Bank of Luxemburg has Kewaunee County locations in Luxemburg, Casco, Algoma and Kewaunee; Brown County locations in Green Bay, Dyckesville and Howard; and Door County branches in Sturgeon Bay and Fish Creek. It also has an ITM (interactive teller machine) at Stodola's IGA grocery store in Luxemburg, along with ITMs in Fish Creek and Howard. For more information, visit bankofluxemburg.com.

Skills

Continued from Page 1A

The dishes are made from a recipe given to them that at the competition that they must follow, although Wery said there is a little wiggle room in how the food is seasoned.

"There's a set recipe you have to follow, but you can season it however you like," Wery said.

And although he won't know the exact recipe until he gets to the competition, Wery is confident he knows pretty much what he'll need to do.

"Yeah, I would say I've done all the things we're asked to make, or made some variations of them," Wery said.

But with the emphasis on career preparation in culinary arts, Wery's technical skills in the kitchen will matter as much or more as the taste. The student chefs also will be tested and judged on everything from kitchen organization to food safety and cooking techniques.

They're also making their dishes from scratch, which means they'll be tested on their ability to fabricate a chicken — that means breaking down a whole chicken to its breast, thighs, wings and other parts — and their knife skills, showing they can julienne the carrots as well as properly dice and cube vegetables.

Finally, a written test and a resume submission also are part of the judging, with the test quizzing the students on professional kitchen knowledge such as standard weights and measures; the ability to convert recipes, yields, and portion sizes accurately; nutrition basics; environmental health practices; food-borne illnesses; menus; and terminology.

That focuses on kitchen skills that Wey translate to making a living in the profession suits Wery, who said he's planning to enter the culinary arts program

at Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton after graduation. He said he's enjoyed working in the kitchen at home for almost as long as he can remember.

"Ever since I was younger, I would mess around in the kitchen doing stuff," Wery said. "Mom went to baking school, and a lot of people in my family enjoy cooking."

Wery has been honing his culinary skills in classes at Kewaunee with high school family and consumer education teacher Jackie Pionek. While those skills may seem at first glance like those taught in what were called "home economics" courses not that long ago, Kewaunee's SkillsUSA adviser Randy Charles said the emphasis, again, is on preparation for a possible career.

"There's a little bit of a different focus," Charles said. "Home ec is more focused on being able to cook for yourself, do stuff for yourself at home. Where, when you look at culinary arts competitions and some of the classes, they're more geared toward cooking as a profession, more career-based toward working in a professional kitchen versus cooking in a home kitchen."

More than 80 SkillsUSA Wisconsin state championship competitions are being held this year, with over 1,800 middle and high school students expected to test themselves in subjects ranging from commercial design to welding (construction and artistic) and machining, cosmetology to auto and diesel mechanics, first aid to woodworking, even building a carbon dioxide-powered dragster.

"Basically anything where there's a trade involved," said Wery, who's a SkillsUSA Wisconsin officer.

Almost all of the winners in those state competitions, which take place during the state conference in April, will advance to nationals, too. The association also holds regional and district competitions during the school year that students can use as practice for the state events.

For more, visit skillsusa-wi.org.

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Application for Aquatic Plant Management Permit.
Glacierland Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. intends to apply for a permit from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to treat over 800 acres of invasive species throughout Kewaunee County with aquatic pesticides. The treatments will take place between April 1 and December 31, 2023.
Public involvement meetings may be held if five or more individuals, organizations, special units of government or local units of government request one. Any request for a public meeting on this proposed treatment must be made within five days of this published notice. The request must specify the topics to be discussed, including problems and alternatives, and must be sent in writing to Glacierland Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc., PO Box 11203, Glacier Bay, WI 54307 and copied to Mary Gansberg, WDNR, 2984 Shawano Ave, Green Bay, WI 54313.
This notice is required by Chapter NR 107, Administrative Code.
WNAXLP
WI-GC1028208-01

Vos to again push for toll roads

Molly Beck

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

MADISON - The Legislature's top Republican signaled March 1 he would again pursue the idea of implementing a tolling system in Wisconsin in an effort to boost revenue for roads and bridges.

Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester, has unsuccessfully pushed for tolls in Wisconsin for a decade. He downplayed its chances of ending up in the final 2023-25 state budget but told reporters he would try.

"I'm going to look at it again," he said after speaking. "I am going to make an effort to say we need to figure out a long-term answer, but I have had challenges. I don't think Governor Evers is necessarily there. And I'm not sure my Senate Republican colleagues are necessarily there. So I certainly am going to keep trying to talk about it because we have to pay for our roads. It can't just be more money from the federal government when we know that that spigot eventually is going to end."

Vos and then-Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, who now represents Wisconsin's 5th Congressional District, pursued the idea by proposing funding in the state budget to study a tolling system in order to infuse Wisconsin's highway system with cash. Evers vetoed the funding.

Britt Cudaback, spokeswoman for Evers, said the revenue that would come from tolling wouldn't materialize for years. She said Evers has proposed new revenue for roads in the current budget that would be accessible immediately.

Evers has proposed taking portions of revenue from the state sales tax on electric vehicles and on the sale of auto parts, tires, and repair services toward infrastructure improvements. The proposal would transfer nearly \$190 million from the general fund to the transportation fund over the next two years, according to the governor's office.

Republican lawmakers who control the state Legislature and Evers have begun negotiations on the 2023-25 state budget. Evers proposed a two-year \$104 billion spending plan in February, which will be largely ignored by Republicans on the Legislature's budget-writing committee. The panel will begin taking up the budget piece by piece in the coming weeks.

Vos said March 1 if lawmakers had agreed to implement a tolling system a decade ago when the idea was last robustly considered, the transportation system would be "fully funded."

"Imagine it's 2013 when we first started talking about tolling — we have more money than local roads," Vos said. "We have a system that would actually work over the course of the next 100 years as we decide whether or not to transition away from gasoline. We couldn't get that done. Unfortunately, we now sit with a worse problem 10 years later."



Assembly Speaker Robin Vos. MARK HOFFMAN/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

Federal law tightly limits tolling on roads that receive federal funding. In 2019, Department of Transportation Secretary Craig Thompson said the state could try to get permission from the federal government for one of three pilot projects on tolling for federally funded roads, which would have provided limited revenue, but the plan did not ultimately materialize.

Former DOT Secretary Mark Gottlieb, who served under former Republican Gov. Scott Walker between 2011 and 2017, cautioned against the idea in 2018.

A 2016 state study on tolling estimated up to 23 cents of every dollar collected in tolls would be spent on building and operating the toll collection system itself instead of going toward fixing roadways, according to Gottlieb.

Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu said March 1 that Republican lawmakers writing the next state budget will likely discuss expanding the number of electric vehicle charging stations in the state and whether tax revenue can be utilized from those endeavors.

Democratic legislative leaders said March 1 they wanted the state to focus on transportation alternatives to cars, including an Amtrak expansion and bike trails.

"I think it's really quite important that we fund our local governments and make sure that you all have the ability to take care of the roads that are currently there, but that we also think about how

it is that we want to help people get around that meets them where they're at and thinks about where we want to be in a decade or in two or three decades,"

Senate Minority Leader Melissa Agard, D-Madison, said during a panel discussion at the counties association's conference.

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Inmates get mental, physical care, as needed



Sheriff Matthew Joski
Guest columnist

I would like to continue highlighting various aspects of the Kewaunee County Sheriff's Department as my "2022 Annual Report" to the community.

In this article I am going to introduce our community to our medical care services.

By state statute, I, as the sheriff, must care for those remanded to the jail by the courts. This is a very broad directive, which brings with it many responsibilities, including the responsibility to care for the physical and mental well-being of jail inmates. I am very privileged to have the dedicated staff here at the jail who actually executes that mission.

To effectively carry out this role, while mitigating risks to our facility and costs to the taxpayers, each individual must undergo a screening process prior to entering our facility. This is conducted regardless of time spent in our facility. Even if it is as a result of an arrest and that individual will be getting released in a short period of time, the screening must be conducted.

If during this screening process it is determined that medical or mental health services are necessary, the arresting officer must take the individual to a medical facility for what we call a "medical clearance" examination. Upon successful completion of that examination, the individual is then able to be fully processed into our jail facility.

Once in our facility, we take great efforts in monitoring the physical wellness of our inmates. We are able to do this through the vigilance of our staff and the professional services of our medical contract provider.

We are fortunate to have two amazing representatives of this agency assigned to our facility as part of our contract, and we maintain a constant flow of communication and consultation as issues arise.

For some our inmates, this level of care may be the best they have received in many years, and actually are released from jail with a better appreciation and understanding of what they need to do to maintain their health, thus making them more productive members of our community.

It is our hope that between the improved dietary experience and the medical services, that we provide at least somewhat of a new perspective that the individual will take with them after their stay with us.

To this point, I wanted to share some feedback I get

quite often regarding the use of inmates for community service. There was a time when we did release our inmates for the purpose of manual labor within the county. This is not a practice we have continued as this does in fact expose the county to increased liability and potential medical costs.

Remember what I stated earlier in this article that we are responsible for the well-being of our inmates. Well, if we have them out and they get injured, we are then on the hook for those medical costs. This is why before we allow inmates out on Huber (work release), they must provide proof of employment and insurance. I do not know how other states work, and how they are able to carry out these types of work details, but as a Kewaunee County taxpayer, I would rather pay the part-time help than run the risk of medical costs.

We are very fortunate to have the men and women who work within the jail setting who take these responsibilities as seriously as they do, and maintain constant vigilance so that we can keep those who are in our care as safe as possible while they contemplate their life choices and work to improve their lives after their release from our facility.

Next week I provide you with a financial summary of 2022.

Matt Joski is the Kewaunee County sheriff.

Rendezvous of Luxemburg

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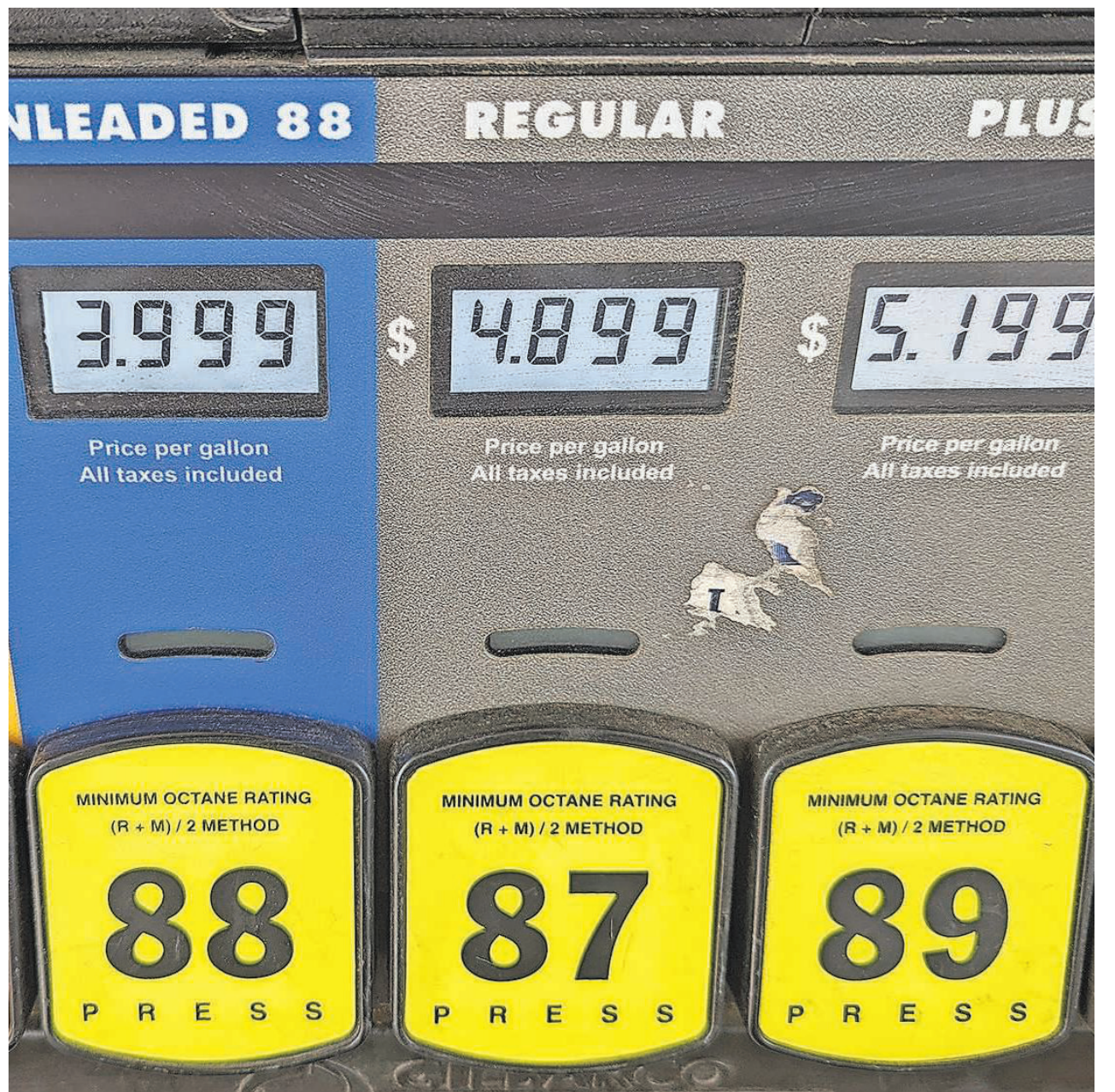
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you found at Goodwill. That floral porcelain is so chic, it kind of makes us want to pronounce it 'vahz.' But here at Goodwill, we call it 'good.' Because as a nonprofit, we use your purchases to fund job training and more in your community.

Sincerely,
Your fans at Goodwill

This is actually Hadrian Bansuan.

ad BRING GOOD HOME.



A row of prices for fuel at the Sheetz off the Strinestown exit of Interstate 83 including \$3.49 for E85 and \$3.99 for E15 fuel. SUBMITTED, YORK DAILY RECORD

Wisconsin, Midwest could add more ethanol to gasoline under EPA plan

Karl Ebert
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

Wisconsin drivers would be able to buy lower-cost gasoline with a higher blend of ethanol year-round under a rule proposed Wednesday by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

An EPA rule dating to 2011 prohibits summer sale of gas with 15% ethanol, known as E15 or Unlimited 88, in Wisconsin and seven other Midwestern states due to concerns that the more volatile fuel would contribute to smog in warmer weather. The fuel was available in Wisconsin last summer under a waiver from the Biden administration in response to soaring gas prices. The waiver expired in September.

The new rule would go into effect in 2024. The new rule would be a victory for the biofuels industry, which for years has pushed to allow sales of gasoline mixed with with 15% ethanol during the summer. The industry welcomed the EPA's proposal, which had been requested by Gov. Tony Evers and the governors of Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio and South Dakota.

The issue is especially important to Midwest farmers, who grow the bulk of the nation's corn. Nearly 40% of that crop is used to produce ethanol. In Wisconsin, 37% of the annual corn crop is used for ethanol, according to the Wisconsin Corn Growers Association.

Most gasoline sold in the U.S. is now blended with 10% ethanol, which is allowed throughout the year. Most cars and light trucks built since 2001 can run on a 15% ethanol blend according to the EPA.

E15 is higher octane than the standard blend, and is generally less expensive. A spot check of Wisconsin prices on gasbuddy.com, found retailer prices 10 to 20

cents per gallon lower than the standard blend. The American Coalition for Ethanol said in a statement that the group appreciated the EPA's proposal but argued there was no reason to wait until 2024. The group accused the agency of delaying the action because of pressure from the petroleum industry.

"This delay means consumers in conventional gasoline areas of the country will be forced to pay more at the pump this year and retailers who want to offer lower cost E15 to their customers will be penalized," the coalition said.

The group urged the EPA to allow the change to take effect in 2023 and to allow expanded ethanol sales in other regions of the country.

The American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers industry group said the EPA was right to delay new rules until 2024 because summer gasoline production is already underway. Even with more lead time, the organization predicted that creating a special blend for the Midwestern states would increase costs and could lead to tighter fuel supplies in the region because not all refiners, pipelines and terminals are ready to handle the different blend.

"Fuel manufacturers and regional pipeline and terminal operators have made clear to the Biden administration and the eight petitioning states that the push to outlaw the current blend of summertime gasoline and replace it with a boutique blend is going to impose major costs on the Midwest's fuel supply chain and consumers – ranging from \$500-\$800 million per year, and potentially higher if unforeseen interruptions occur," the organization said in a statement.

The EPA said it would hold a hearing on the proposed rule in late March or early April. The agency didn't immediately respond to a request to comment about questions regarding its proposed rule.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Growing your own lemons, limes in Wisconsin is as fun as it is frustrating

Kendra Meinert

Green Bay Press-Gazette

USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

As a gardener, I find few things are more fun than to feel like you're beating Mother Nature at her own game by growing lemons. In winter. In Wisconsin.

No snow cover to protect plants during bitter cold in December? No sunshine for seemingly all of January? More than a foot of snow just as the first snowdrops poked out of the ground in late February?

All admirable attempts at crushing a gardener's spirit during the indoor season ... unless, that is, you're too busy picking fresh indoor citrus to notice. When life gives you lemons from a tree right in your house, you don't just make lemonade, you get a little giddy about it.

My 4-year-old Meyer lemon tree rewarded me with a whopping 18 lemons this winter. That's a dramatic bump from my previous "crops," which you could count annually on one hand by making the peace sign. So to suddenly have enough to display in a bowl on the kitchen counter, well, now we're getting into Martha Stewart territory — minus Martha's quartz countertops and touch-latch cabinets.

If only I knew how I did it. I haven't a clue.

My tree's summer home is the patio, where it loves the sunshine, rain and, unlike me, the humidity. The bees take care of pollinating the blooms, which rival gardenias on the lovely flower fragrance-o-meter, and next thing you know teeny-weensy green lemons have formed. Cutest things you've ever seen.

When nighttime temperatures start dipping into the 40s in fall, I break the news that it's time to come back in the house. I can practically hear it groan.

At more than 3 feet tall and almost as wide and in a heavy pot, it's a bit of a circus act just to get it inside with its precious, and now much plumper, lemons intact. It gets the sunniest spot in the place, southern exposure in front of the patio doors where it can look out longingly at its happy place from its unhappy place.

Leaf drop, pests can be part of overwintering Meyer lemon trees

Even with the VIP seating, it hates the house, or at least my house. It makes its displeasure known roughly around the holidays when it begins dropping leaves and occasionally premature fruit. Once February hits, you can count on some level of aphid infestation that leaves a sticky honeydew on the leaves that in turn results in a black sooty mold.

As horrifying as it sounds, it's really more of a nuisance than anything. It can often be treated by wiping the leaves down, spraying them with neem oil or giving the whole tree a robust blast of water in the shower. I've done all of the above, and then wondered exactly why it is I do such things when I could just be watching "Dead to Me" on Netflix.

By March, I'm usually looking at a tree looking back at me in varying states of nakedness, as if to say, "Look what you've done to me, you monster!"

It then becomes a suspenseful game of will it or won't it hang on until it can once more be released into the wild in spring when overnight temperatures are above 50 degrees. Maybe that's in April or, because this is Wisconsin, likely May or possibly June. That home stretch of house arrest isn't for the faint of heart. It can get downright ugly and stressful. If there's not a support group for citrus tree growers in Wisconsin, there should be.

A friend who was battling spider mites on a lemon tree that lost every last one of its leaves emailed this last winter: "I am so DONE with this stupid tree. I've gotten three lemons off of it ... just enough for me to keep trying."

And then this the next day: "I came so close to tossing it this past weekend but reminded myself that patio season is almost here. I can do this."

That's basically it in a lemon peel. Growing lemons is equal parts maddening frustration, stubborn challenge and sweet reward.

Which is why I bought a key lime tree two years ago. If one citrus tree is all kinds of drama, hey, why not two?

WPR host Larry Meiller has had his lime tree, Limey, for 12 years

It has been a similar although less fruitful experience thus far. The first thing I learned is limes don't appreciate being located anywhere near a heating vent. Apparently not "tropical" enough for them. Go figure. Mine rained leaves that first winter.

It rebounded once back outside and hopes were high this year, as it was loaded with dozens of little limes the size of big olives when it came indoors in October. By December, it had prematurely dropped every one of them, either as a self-thinning mechanism, a clear sign of revolt or the ever-popular "gardener error." If it wasn't stressed enough by the change in light, humidity and not-so-attentive watering, it also likely got an assist from the kitten in the house, who was undeterred by the tree's rather large thorns.

No key lime pie for me. Sigh.

My struggles made me think of Limey, the most famous lime tree in all of Wisconsin.

Larry Meiller, host of Wisconsin Public Radio's "The



Growing lemons in the house can make even a cold, snowy winter day feel like lemonade weather.

PHOTOS BY KENDRA MEINERT/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN



A lime tree heavy with fruit while still out on the patio in fall dropped most of it when it had to come indoors for winter.

Larry Meiller Show," has had his tree for about 12 years, and her name sometimes comes up on the air, including his "Garden Talk" from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Fridays. She's quite the reliable fruit producer, known to sport 25 or more limes at times.

What does Meiller know the rest of us novices do not?

"I don't have a lot in the way of tips, but one that has served me very well is to fertilize with every watering," he said. "I use a fish emulsion fertilizer and it really seems to help with fruiting. It's a mild fertilizer and won't lead to any leaf burning or other potential issues."

Limey overwinters in a south-facing window in a second-story bedroom, where he uses a pole lamp with grow lights to supplement the sunlight and crunches up aluminum foil around the pot to keep his cat, KoKo, from jumping in the pot and chewing on the leaves.

"Sun is No. 1. Any kind of fruiting tree or vegetable likes a lot of sun," said Jamie Hemenway-Peotter, who usually has lemon and lime trees of varying sizes in stock at her Roots on 9th floral shop and greenhouse in Green Bay. The shipment that came off the truck from Florida about a month ago was in bloom.

"The smell is just intoxicating, and with Wisconsin summers being so short, it's nice to have a good start on the fruit already, so by the end of the summer you'll have fruit actually to use."

(Tip: If your citrus tree blossoms indoors in the winter, as mine sometime does, you'll need to be the bee and do the pollinating yourself by going from flower to flower with a cotton swab.)

Eighteen homegrown Meyer lemons, which are smaller and sweeter than the lemons you buy at the store, aren't going to put a dent in the pain of grocery prices, but they will make my favorite lemon bars from my grandma's recipe. I'd argue that's right up there with a BLT with a homegrown tomato.

A healthy and happy citrus tree can live for up to 50 years, which makes me think maybe Meiller is on to something by being on a first-name basis with his Limey. It couldn't hurt.

So I introduce you to Lou the lime tree and Louella the lemon tree. When Lou serves up his first lime worthy of a glass rim, I'll toast him and patient indoor citrus growers everywhere with a margarita. Until then, excuse me while I vacuum up more of Louella's leaves.

Kendra Meinert is an entertainment and feature writer at the Green Bay Press-Gazette. Contact her at

920-431-8347 or kmeinert@greenbay.gannett.com. Follow her on Twitter @KendraMeinert.

Obituaries

Keith Harnois, Sr.

GREEN BAY - Keith Harnois, 65, passed away February 24, 2023. He was born July 9, 1957, in Meriden, CT, son of the late Robert

and Doris Rose Harnois. After attending Platt High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1977.

He was a Gulf War Veteran, stationed at bases across the United States and participated in several tours that took him overseas before settling in Wisconsin in 1992. Keith retired from the Navy in 1997 and pursued various jobs until full retirement. Keith enjoyed golfing, doing puzzles, watching sports and spending time with his family.

He will be remembered by his 8 children: Keith Harnois Jr. (April), Christina Hogan (fiancé Joe), Daniel Harnois (girlfriend Claire), David Harnois (Rachael), Erik Jones (girlfriend Anna), Jacob Jones (Jacquie), Christopher Harnois (girlfriend Alyssa), Rodney Harnois; 16 grandchildren plus one on the way; 5 great-grandchildren, 6 siblings: Nancy Davidson, Robert Harnois Jr. (Cheryl), Deborah Shalkey (John), Kenneth Harnois (Josephine), Denise Tift (Leroy), and Michele Dugan; and many nieces and nephews.

Proko-Wall Funeral Home is assisting the family and online condolences may be sent to www.prokowell.com. There will be a family burial service in Meriden, CT at a later date.



GOP may block meningitis vaccine requirement

Molly Beck

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

MADISON - Republicans who control the state Legislature are signaling they would block new policies put forward by Democratic Gov. Tony Evers that require seventh graders to get vaccinated against meningitis and create new rules for chickenpox vaccinations in school-age children.

It's the latest action by the state Legislature to block state health officials' efforts to mandate statewide rules aimed at lowering rates of life-threatening diseases.

In a public hearing Tuesday at the state Capitol, the leader of the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules questioned the decision-making of Wisconsin's chief medical officer Ryan Westergaard, who has been the face of the state's COVID-19 pandemic response that has been heavily criticized by Republican lawmakers.

"How can I trust you?" committee co-chairman Sen. Steve Nass, a Republican from Whitewater, said to Westergaard during the day-long hearing that often focused on the coronavirus pandemic. "Honest to God, when I see you I refer to you as Wisconsin's Dr. Fauci."

"We are fully capable of making our own decisions and running our own lives, no college degree required. The state has messed with my kids, all our kids, enough."

Tara Czachor co-founder of Wisconsin United for Freedom

Westergaard said he and others within the state Department of Health Services in the early weeks of the pandemic recommended rules based on the limited knowledge they had about COVID-19, which was new in 2019.

"2020 was a scary time. I don't recall saying I anticipated the state would be shut down for more than a year but I more than likely said we could be dealing with a deadly pandemic for more than a year," he said.

Westergaard, in the first face-to-face meeting with lawmakers who have pushed back against state orders he helped inform, said his proposals — including the rule to mandate meningitis vaccines — are based on keeping as many children alive and healthy as possible. He also recounted his personal experiences, including a college classmate who died of meningitis just hours after feeling ill and another who was hospitalized for a month and had a limb amputated because of the disease.

"I imagine the depth of their grief being unfathomable ... but now as a parent of teenagers I can imagine it and there's no single thing that I dread more," Westergaard said. "We prepare so in those tragic moments when we lose someone we say, yes, we could do everything we could do."

Tuesday's hearing received public testimony regarding rules put forward by Evers' health officials to mandate students entering seventh and 12th grades get vaccine and booster shots against the brain and spinal cord disease meningitis.

The move came after weeks of lobbying by members of a group called Wisconsin United for Freedom, which argues against vaccine requirements including during the most threatening months of the coronavirus pandemic, often citing debunked theories about their safety.

"We are fully capable of making our own decisions and running our own lives, no college degree required," said Tara Czachor, co-founder of Wisconsin United for Freedom. "The state has messed with my kids, all our kids, enough."

Meningitis is a disease that causes swelling of the membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord. It can be caused by viral or bacterial infection and, rarely, a fungal infection. Viral meningitis is more common and rarely life-threatening, according to Johns Hopkins Medicine. But bacterial meningitis, though less common, can cause life-threatening complications. Vaccination can prevent several types of bacterial meningitis.

The Meningococcal vaccine is not new: It's been

recommended by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices since 2005, and its booster has been recommended since 2010, state health officials said.

The state's new requirement says kids should get the first dose of the meningitis vaccine at the beginning of 7th grade and the booster shot at the beginning of the 12th grade.

Republicans also target chickenpox verification rule

Committee Republicans also signaled they would seek to block new rules requiring parents to show proof their children were infected with chickenpox before obtaining a waiver from the state's chickenpox vaccination requirement.

If a child has had chickenpox, they can be exempted from the requirement to get the chickenpox vaccine because they already have immunity to this highly-contagious disease.

Under the new rules, state health officials will be looking for more than just a parent's word. Families must present proof that the case was diagnosed by a qualified healthcare provider.

This proof, or proof that they are up-to-date on their varicella (chickenpox) vaccines, is required before a child can attend school or a childcare center. The first dose is usually given to kids between 12 and 15 months of age. The second is recommended between 4 to 6 years old.

Stephanie Schauer, manager of the state's immunization program and medical doctor, told reporters in a news conference that requiring students to be vaccinated against meningitis makes sense because many already are.

According to state DHS data, vaccination rates in Wisconsin's childcare centers and schools have seen a decline since the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

School immunization data from the 2021-22 school year shows 88.7% of kids met the minimum requirements for their vaccinations, down 3.2% from the year before.

More than 3% of kids were behind schedule on their vaccinations, up 0.4% from the year before.

When it comes to preventing these very contagious diseases, these seemingly small slips in vaccination rates can make a big difference. That's because it takes a high level of group immunity to keep the diseases from taking hold and spreading through populations. Measles is one such disease, Schauer said.

Vaccine waivers for medical, religious and "personal conviction" reasons remain in place in Wisconsin.

In addition to a decline in kids who are up-to-date on their shots, the state has also seen a rise in the number of kids who have personal conviction waivers for one or more vaccines during the pandemic, Schauer said.

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Luxemburg-Casco wrestlers hoist the Div. 2 championship trophy following their victory over Prairie du Chien at the WIAA team state tournament March 4 at the UW Field House in Madison. PHOTOS BY GARY C. KLEIN/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Storm's season ends in regional final

USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

CRIVITZ – The Kewaunee boys basketball team fell just short of sectionals last Saturday, losing 69-62 to Crivitz in a WIAA Division 4 regional final.

With the loss, the Storm finishes the season with a 17-7 overall record after placing second in the Packerland Conference with a 13-3 mark.

Thomas Stangel led No. 3 seeded Kewaunee with 24 points and Cal Ihlenfeldt added 10 for the Storm.

Tegan Werner scored a game-high 26 points to lead the No. 2 seeded Wolverines.

Kewaunee 29 33 - 62
Crivitz 35 34 - 69
Kewaunee: Kohnle 7, Stangel 24, Cullen 6, Pribek 4, Lamack 7, Ihlenfeldt 10, Riha 4. 3-pt: Kohnle, Stangel 2, Cullen 2, Lamack, Ihlenfeldt. FT: 7-11. Fouls: 22.
Crivitz: Christiansen 11, Werner 26, Klaver 5, Flowers 10, Thoma 2, Tadisch 13, Sellen 2. 3-pt: Werner, Klaver. FT: 15-20. Fouls: 14.

WIAA REGIONALS SEMIFINALS DIVISION 4

KEWAUNEE 62, BONDUDEL 43

KEWAUNEE – Thomas Stangel scored 18 points and Jordan Lamack added 14 points as the Storm pulled away in the second half for the regional semifinal win.

Cal Ihlenfeldt added 11 points for Kewaunee.

No. 6 seeded Bonduel was led by Ryan Westrich with 12 points and Noah Weier with 11.

The Storm led by three at intermission before ending the game on a 39-23 run.

Bonduel 20 23 - 43
Kewaunee 23 39 - 62
Bonduel: Johnson 9, Margelofsky 1, Westrich 12, Tauchen 7, Weier 11, Anvelink 3. 3-pt: Johnson, Tauchen, Weier, Anvelink. FT: 9-12. Fouls: 21.
Kewaunee: Kohnle 7, Stangel 18, Brann 2, Pribek 7, Lamack 14, Ihlenfeldt 11, Riha 3. 3-pt: Ihlenfeldt 2. FT: 18-27. Fouls: 12.

WIAA REGIONALS FIRST ROUND DIVISION 2

PULASKI 79, LUXEMBURG-CASCO 62
 PULASKI – Five players, led by

See FINAL, Page 4B

L-C wins state wrestling championship for 13th time

‘It’s special. I’m choked up. It’s that special.’

Mike Sherry

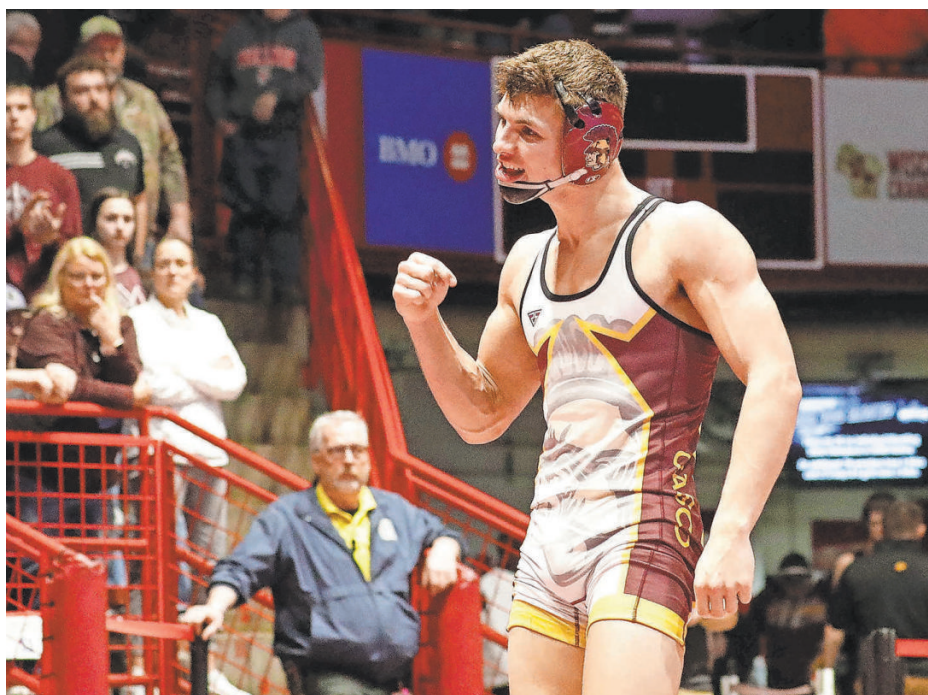
Green Bay Press-Gazette
 USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

MADISON – The moment finally got to Chas Treml, and the Luxemburg-Casco wrestling coach had trouble putting it into words.

After the Spartans beat Prairie du Chien 37-20 on Saturday to win the WIAA Division 2 state team championship at the UW Field House, it was clear just how much it meant to Treml and the Spartans.

“It’s special. I’m choked up. It’s that special,” Treml said. “You don’t know when you’re going to get back. You don’t know how those matches are going to go. You think you got the right team and stuff can happen. We had guys out early in the year. You don’t know if they’re going to come back. Are they going to be the same? Are they going to be able to compete at that level that you know they can? That’s the story of the season all the time. You see it unfold and you just never know how it finishes off.”

It is the 13th state championship for Luxemburg-Casco, moving the Spartans into second place in all-time team titles behind only Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln (21). It is their first title since 2018.



Luxemburg-Casco's Max Ronsman reacts after defeating Prairie du Chien's Luke Kramer during the WIAA Division 2 team state tournament March 4 at the UW Field House in Madison.

Luxemburg-Casco, which lost to Amery 36-30 in last year’s championship match, was making its 19th overall trip to state.

“Last year it sucked taking second and this year we worked hard all year,” said Easton Worachek, a team captain and one of four seniors on the roster.

“We knew we were going to get back here. We knew we would face them, and we got it done.”

The Spartans won in convincing fashion, taking control of the match with five consecutive victories after

See WRESTLING, Page 4B

UWGB falls in tournament championship game

USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

INDIANAPOLIS – The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay women’s basketball team lost in the championship game of the Horizon League tournament Tuesday, falling to Cleveland State 73-61.

The loss dropped the Phoenix to 27-5 overall and kept them from advancing to the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2018.

Luxemburg-Casco graduate Cassie Schiltz scored eight points, grabbed four rebounds and had three assists for the Phoenix in the championship game.

On Monday, Schiltz, a 5-foot-11 red-shirt sophomore guard, scored a team-high 17 points to lead the Phoenix in a 69-65 tournament semifinal victory over Purdue Fort Wayne.

The Mastodons immediately jumped out to a lead and built their advantage to as much as 11 points with 4 minutes, 11 seconds left in the second quarter.

UWGB went 2-for-16 and didn’t make any of its seven 3-point attempts in the first quarter, watching PFW end it on an 11-2 run to take a 17-7 advantage.

The Phoenix missed 18 of its first 21 shots overall, but instead of staying in the slump, it broke out of it in the middle of the second quarter and shaved its deficit all the way down to zero.

UWGB made eight of its final nine shots in the final 4:57 before halftime, the exclamation point coming at the buzzer when junior guard Natalie McNeal caught an inbounds pass in midair and somehow got a shot off to tie the game at 32 to complete a 15-4 spurt and firmly put all the momentum on her team’s side.

“I thought they had a lot of defensive energy right from the start,” said Schiltz, a sophomore guard. “That was a little bit of a jump for them, but we just stayed confident and finally our shots fell.”

See UWGB, Page 4B



Luxemburg-Casco grad Cassie Schiltz scored a team-high 17 points for UW-Green Bay in its Horizon League tournament semifinal victory Monday.

UWGB ATHLETICS COURTESY PHOTO

Sturgeon spearfishers overcome poor conditions



Outdoors
Paul A. Smith
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Two factors largely determine success of spearers during the annual Winnebago System sturgeon season: ice conditions and water clarity.

Thick, strong ice helps spearers access spots throughout lakes Winnebago, Butte des Morts, Poygan and Winnebago.

Clear water helps greatly in spotting fish.

The opposite conditions – poor ice and cloudy water – obviously make things tougher on spearers.

So as January and February were the warmest on record in southeastern Wisconsin, according to chief meteorologist Mark Baden at WISN-TV in Milwaukee, you know it created a challenge for spearers during the Feb. 11-26 season.

“A little bit of everything,” said avid spearer Paul Muche, 52, of Van Dyne, listing rain, sleet, snow and high winds as weather over the 16-day season. “But you roll with the punches, call an audible and find a way.”

Muche’s attitude typified the season as even in less than ideal conditions spearers registered 1,405 lake sturgeon across the Winnebago System, including 285 on the Upriver Lakes.

The Upriver Lakes season closed after eight days, also a testament to poor ice. In recent years the Upriver season, in which only 500 tags are issued, has lasted about half as long.

The systemwide total was just 8% less than the 2022 season, which featured very good ice conditions and also lasted 16 days on Lake Winnebago.

“Overall it was a success,” said Margaret Stadig, DNR sturgeon biologist, of the 2023 season. “It definitely was not the easiest for spearers to navigate. But for those that found safe ice, the fish were there and seemed to be plentiful.”

Of the sturgeon registered this season, 651 were males, 599 adult females and 155 juvenile females, according to DNR data.

Stadig’s assessment of the season is due in large part to the harvest makeup. Plenty of big fish were registered, including 46 sturgeon weighing more



Eli Muche, 14, and his father Paul Muche, both of Van Dyne, pose with the 111-pound, 74-inch-long lake sturgeon Eli speared Feb. 23 on Lake Winnebago. The fish was one of 1,405 sturgeon taken by spearers on the Winnebago System during the 2023 season. DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

than 100 pounds (37 from Lake Winnebago and nine from the Upriver Lakes). The largest fish was a 177.3-pound, 79.9-inch female speared Feb. 14 by James Gishkowsky speared on Lake Winnebago.

But among fish registered, there were also what Stadig referred to as a “healthy” number of smaller, untagged female sturgeon.

“These are naturally-reproduced fish that we like to see in the system,” Stadig said. “There’s many more of them out there and they will help form the future of the fishery.”

Winnebago System is a model for successful sturgeon management

The Winnebago System sturgeon



Eli (left) and his father Paul Muche, both of Van Dyne, pose with lake sturgeon they speared hours apart Feb. 23 in the same shack on Lake Winnebago. Eli’s fish weighed 111 pounds and Paul’s weighed 91. COURTESY OF PAUL MUCHE

fishery has become a model for the world in providing a harvest season and protecting the resource. Each year the DNR sets a harvest cap for males, adult females and juvenile females. Regulations allow no more than 5% of any segment of the population to be harvested in a given year.

Stadig said she and her DNR colleagues would be out this spring tagging many hundreds of sturgeon as part of the agency’s long-term sturgeon population work. Sometime this summer she will have the numbers crunched to produce the 5% protective harvest cap numbers for 2024.

This year poor ice in many spots prevented travel by pickup trucks and other full-size vehicles. Only ATVs, UTVs, snowmobiles and other tracked vehicles were used for most of the season.

Local clubs even refrained for much of the season from putting out bridges, Muche said, so as to discourage heavier

See SPEARFISHERS, Page 5B

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Smelters get more hours, but future access blocked

Paul A. Smith

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

For the second consecutive year Port Milwaukee officials have extended public access hours to allow smelt fishers to tend their nets well after dark at a prime smelting spot under the Hoan Bridge.

The area, which normally closes to the public at 8 p.m., will be open until midnight or later from March 15 through April 15, according to a statement Thursday from Port Milwaukee officials.

However unless a more significant accommodation is made it will be the last time in the foreseeable future smelters, birders and the public at large will have access to the Milwaukee harbor site.

Beginning in May, public access will be prohibited to the area under the Hoan Bridge due to the construction of a dredged material management facility (DMMF) and relocation of a combined sewer overflow, according to Port Milwaukee.

The work is part of a multi-year plan to remove contaminated sediments from the Milwaukee, Menomonee and Kinnickinnic rivers. The Milwaukee estuary was designated an Area of Concern in 1987 by the Environmental Protection Agency due to its history of pollution. Partners in the project include the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, the City of Milwaukee, We Energies, Port Milwaukee and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

The DMMF is slated to cover 42 acres on the southeast corner of Jones Island and hold 1.9 million cubic yards of dredged material.

The perimeter would be constructed of two parallel rows of sheet pile, similar to sea walls, with the middle filled with granular material.

The facility will block access to a site popular especially with smelters, shore anglers and bird watchers. A tufted duck, a species rarely seen in Wisconsin, often drew dozens of viewers daily in January 2022 to the area under the Hoan Bridge.

The new containment structure is seen as a cost-effective way to handle the dredgings, according to project planners, and is required because the existing confined disposal facility adja-



Patrick Callow, 9, of West Allis, lifts a net while smelt fishing with family and friends April 10 along the Milwaukee lakefront. PAUL A. SMITH

cent to the Lake Express ferry dock is nearly at capacity.

However it comes with the cost of a loss of public access to a prized, traditional lakefront spot, said Thor Stolen of Milwaukee, an avid smelt fisher.

"I'm pleased to hear the hours were extended again this spring, but in the bigger picture I'm very concerned the DMMF plans don't seem to make any room for anglers and the public," Stolen said. "I'd like to think rather than just taking away access they could make it more of an 'in addition to' project."

Such discussions don't seem to be part of any plans for at least the near future, however.

In its Thursday statement, Port Milwaukee said this spring "will be the last smelting season for the foreseeable future where the area under the Hoan Bridge will be accessible to the public. Members of the public should be prepared for this future change and identify other locations to take advantage of the smelt run."

Port Milwaukee officials listed other publicly-accessible fishing sites in the area, including near the Lake Express Ferry Terminal and the Russell Avenue Fishing Pier near the U.S. Coast Guard Station, as well its public access guide and map to the port.

But the site under the Hoan Bridge

has proven most popular with smelters. Dozens of netters gather there each spring in efforts to gather the tasty, slim and silvery fish.

Action for smelt, which spend most of the year in deep water but migrate near shore to spawn in March and April, typically peaks after dark. Smelters dangle lanterns off the ends of booms and periodically raise and lower square nets to check for success. It's not uncommon for the best catches to occur between 8 p.m. and midnight.

Awareness of the DMMF project and the pending loss of public access is generally low among the local angling community, said Chuck Hebbing, a smelter from Milwaukee.

"I have to say this is the first I've heard of it," Hebbing said. "It's not good news."

Port Milwaukee director Jackie Carter said the port was committed to maintaining a high degree of safety, vigilance and compliance with security requirements for its commercial operations, while also providing residents with as much public access to the waterfront as possible under local, state, and federal law.

"Please know that the safety of residents, visitors and waterfront enthusiasts is the most important factor in this decision," Carter said. "As this work

moves forward, Port staff will monitor the construction progress and reevaluate public access on a rolling basis."

The DMMF project timeline calls for bidding this summer with construction taking place in late 2023 to early 2024 and completion targeted for 2026 or 2027.

Signage will be posted in the affected area to inform and remind members of the public about this restricted access, according to port officials.

Port Milwaukee security will monitor the area under the Hoan Bridge to ensure all safety and security measures are followed by the public. Members of the public are also reminded that all tents, equipment and waste must be removed from under the Hoan Bridge on a nightly basis.

Stolen said he not only plans to smelt in the coming weeks, but hopes a process can be launched to consider ways to allow public access around the perimeter of the DMMF or the adjacent confined disposal facility.

"There's going to be a lot of construction activity at the site," Stolen said. "Let's think about ways to build in public access."

Bird conference: A conference titled "Bringing Birds Back" will be held March 24-25 in Oshkosh to share conservation ideas, inspiration and action to help reverse steep population declines across hundreds of bird species, according to organizers.

The event will present the latest research on birds' perilous situation and what's being done internationally and here in Wisconsin by conservation groups, communities and tribal nations to save them, including what individuals can do, and many are already doing, at home and in their communities to help birds. Mike Parr, president of American Bird Conservancy, will deliver the keynote.

The conference is being hosted by Bird City Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Partnership and the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. It will be held at the Culver Family Welcome Center on the UW-Oshkosh campus.

The fee for the two-day event is \$50 and includes lunch. Registration is open through Monday. To register, visit wso.wildapricot.org/event-5145740/ Registration.

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Wrestling

Continued from Page 1B

Prairie du Chien won the first two matches. Then, after four-time individual state champ Rhett Koenig won for the Blackhawks at 138 pounds, the Spartans rattled off three more wins to lead 31-17.

Trace Schoenebeck clinched the title for the Spartans with a 7-0 win at 182 pounds, and Ezra Waage won the final match 6-4 at 195 for the final margin.

The Spartans got pins from Jake Jandrin in 54 seconds at 106 and Michael Bostwick in 33 seconds at 113 after they lost the first two matches.

Isaac Jerabek (120), Blakelee Bastien (126) and Worachek (132) followed with wins by decision to give the Spartans the momentum.

Caleb Delebreaux (145), Max Ronsman

(152) and Ryan Routhieaux (160) picked up consecutive wins by decision to give the Spartans their 31-17 advantage.

Treml said the Spartans had a confidence from the beginning of the week in practice that he hadn't seen all season, and that carried over to the tournament. The Spartans beat Evansville 63-9 in a semifinal match Saturday morning.

"Something switched on Monday and Tuesday this week. They just had this confidence about them and you can't teach that," Treml said. "It's something we preach, but they were talking 'this is what we're doing, we're going to win this.' And I think that was the big difference. They felt like they could win every match and they were going to be in every match. They were going to get bonus points if they needed to get those bonus points. It came down to their confidence.

"It was different from last year. They thought they had a chance (last year),

but this year it was 'We're going to do this. This is ours to take.'"

Worachek said the state title affirms the Spartans' place among the elite wrestling programs in the state.

"It's crazy that we have 13. It feels good to get back where we belong," he said.

Championship

LUXEMBURG-CASCO 37, PRAIRIE DU CHIEN 20
220: Blake Thiry PDC tech. fall Caleb Salentine 15-0. **285:** Jack Simmons PDC pinned Javier Contreras 3:38. **106:** Jake Jandrin L-C pinned Porter Kossman :54. **113:** Michael Bostwick L-C pinned Irelynd Cejka :33. **120:** Isaac Jerabek L-C dec. Mason Hird 5-4. **126:** Blakelee Bastien L-C dec. Drake Ingham 7-2. **132:** Easton Worachek L-C major dec. Ryder Koenig 11-0. **138:** Rhett Koenig PDC pinned Lawdon Tanck 3:13. **145:** Caleb Delebreaux L-C dec. Drew Hird 3-0. **152:** Max Ronsman L-C dec. Luke Kramer 5-2. **160:** Ryan Routhieaux L-C dec. Jeremiah Avery

3-2. **170:** Maddox Cejka PDC dec. Sam Schutz 13-9. **182:** Trace Schoenebeck L-C dec. Bryce Lenzenndorf 7-0. **195:** Ezra Waage L-C dec. Brogan Brewer 6-4.

Semifinal

LUXEMBURG-CASCO 63, EVANSVILLE 9

195: Brad Bartz E dec. Ezra Waage 5-4. **220:** Caleb Salentine L-C dec. Tucker Peterson 10-4. **285:** Tim Lund E pinned Aden Weber 4:00. **106:** Jake Jandrin L-C major dec. Blake Frey 13-5. **113:** Michael Bostwick L-C pinned Race Howlett 2:15. **120:** Isaac Jerabek L-C tech. fall Logan Olson 15-0. **126:** Blakelee Bastien L-C pinned Lincoln Keller 3:19. **132:** Easton Worachek L-C dec. Danny Heiser 7-4. **138:** Caleb Delebreaux L-C pinned Wyatt Nelson 3:37. **145:** Max Ronsman L-C pinned Max Kaether :44. **152:** George Herlache L-C pinned Lee Jorgensen 3:47. **160:** Ryan Routhieaux L-C pinned Adryan Wessels 1:04. **170:** Sam Schutz L-C pinned Charlie Braunschweig 2:29. **182:** Trace Schoenebeck L-C pinned Brayden Engelkens :53.

Final

Continued from Page 1B

Derek Shaw, scored in double figures for the No. 8 seeded Red Raiders, who built a 10-point halftime lead in their win over the No. 9 seeded Spartans.

Shaw finished with 23 points. Colin Schultz scored 17 points. Brady Wotruba added 12 points while Gatlin Robaidek and Ethan Schmidt both scored 11.

Luxemburg-Casco, which ended its season with an 8-17 record, was led by Caleb Blohowiak, who scored 21 points.

Luxemburg-Casco 27 35 - 62
Pulaski 37 42 - 79
Luxemburg-Casco: Schley 7, Parins 2, Bukouricz 8, Rollin 15, Cherovsky 9, Blohowiak 21. 3-pt: Bukouricz 2, Rollin, Cherovsky. FT: 12-26. Fouls: 14.
Pulaski: Shaw 23, Schultz 17, Bra. Wotruba 12, Rodaidek 11, Schmidt 11, Steinbrecher 2, Dorn 3. 3-pt: Shaw 3, Schultz, Bra. Wotruba, Schmidt 2. FT: 12-15. Fouls: 19.

DIVISION 4

COLEMAN 44, ALGOMA 42

COLEMAN - Joe Olsen scored 17 points and Evan Hockers added 16 as the No. 7 seeded Cougars rallied for the regional win.

The No. 10 seeded Wolves led 16-15 at intermission before Olsen and Hockers got hot. Olsen scored 14 second-half points, while Hockers added 12 in the fi-

nal 18 minutes.

Kaden Vardon led Algoma, which closed its season with a 7-16 record, with 18 points.

Algoma 16 26 - 42
Coleman 15 29 - 44
Algoma: Romdenne 4, Robertson 4, Vardon 18, Vandervest 5, Lischka 6, Kirchman 5. 3-pt: Vardon, Vandervest, Lischka 2. FT: 8-9. Fouls: 13.
Coleman: Olsen 17, Rennie 2, Kurth 9, Hockers 16. 3-pt: Olsen 4. FT: 6-10. Fouls: 11.

UWGB

Continued from Page 1B

"I just remember (sophomore point guard) Bailey (Butler) getting a steal, and that was a huge momentum change for us.

"We just kept shooting. We got the ball inside a little more. We had a lot of energy going into the second half."

The Mastodons didn't go away, but they also never fully recovered after leading for the entire first half until the final second.

UWGB scored nine of the first 11 points out of the break to take a 41-34

lead, a run that started with a layup from Schiltz, continued with a 3-pointer from senior guard Sydney Levy and ended with two layups from sophomore guard Callie Genke.

PFW cut the lead to two points in the final minute of the third quarter, only to watch Schiltz hit a 3 from just across midcourt at the buzzer with her teammates counting down the seconds.

The Phoenix was just getting warmed up.

Levy hit three 3s in the opening minutes of the final quarter to help give UWGB its largest advantage at 11 with 5:42 left.

"We just needed to let the nerves shake off a little bit," Levy said. "We

were fine. We have a lot of confidence in ourselves. I think we just needed to let it come to us and we made some adjustments. Overall, it was kind of just getting settled in."

The Mastodons got to within four points three times the rest of the way, including with no time remaining on what was a meaningless 3 from stand-out junior guard Amellia Bromenschenkel, but they could get no closer.

"This time of year, it's win and move on, it really is," UWGB coach Kevin Borseth said. "I thought our players showed a lot of grit, especially in that second quarter getting it tied by halftime. It was a great win for us."

UWGB overcame that tremendously

cold start to shoot 41.4% overall (24-for-58), 40% from 3 (8-for-20) and 86.7% from the line (13-for-15).

Schiltz led the way with a team-high 17 points while adding 7 rebounds.

Levy had 14 points, Butler 10 points, McNeal 10 points and 9 rebounds and sophomore forward Jasmine Kondrakiewicz 5 points, 6 rebounds and a career-high 5 blocks.

"It's been a few years since we have been back here, especially in the championship," Schiltz said. "We have got one more game to go.

"I think that's our mindset right now. One more. Bring all the energy we have and give it everything we have got together as a team."

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Paul Muche of Van Dyne prepares to land a lake sturgeon speared on Lake Winnebago during the 2023 season. COURTESY OF PAUL MUCHE

Spearfishers

Continued from Page 2B

vehicles from traveling on the ice. And though the DNR sold 13,219 sturgeon spearing licenses for the 2023 season, up from 12,694 in 2022, only 3,100 shacks were counted on the Feb. 11 opener, down from about 6,000 the previous year. The weak ice in places resulted in a few vehicles breaking through. However,

the vehicles were recovered and no injuries were reported, according to law enforcement reports. Those who had the option used shacks on runners rather than heavier wheeled shacks, Muche said. The lighter option can be towed by four-wheelers.

Paul Muche family has a successful sturgeon season

Muche, who grew up spearing and has a wide assortment of gear including homemade ice bridges, utilized runner

shacks to access spots on Lake Winnebago and had great success along with his four sons.

His son Alex was first to spear a sturgeon, an 89-pounder Feb. 11. Then Evan got a 97-pounder Feb. 20, followed three days later by Paul with a 91-pounder and Eli with a 111-pounder. Finally Mayson rounded out the season with an 83-pounder Feb. 26.

Paul and Eli shared a shack Feb. 23 when each got his fish. "Incredible day," Paul said of the outing with his 14-year-old son, who had

the day off school because of a snow day. "And an incredible season." Muche said he and other diehard spearers prefer longer seasons. "I would consider any season successful when I can spend 16 days out there," Muche said. "It's great to see a clear year and strong ice when people can travel anywhere they want. But those seasons usually close in a week. A 16-day season is the best for our businesses in the area and for camaraderie. And you learn so much more by spending time on the ice."

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 Custodian \$15.49/hour part-time (20 hours/week)
 Kewaunee County is hiring a part-time Custodian to provide general building and facility cleaning duties weekdays, from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. The custodian is responsible for performing routine custodial duties including dusting, mopping, vacuuming carpets, washing windows, cleaning and restocking restrooms, empty trash receptacles and disposing trash into dumpsters.
 The successful candidate will:
 • perform duties with a high attention to detail and have the ability to work in harmony with others
 • have knowledge of cleaning practices, supplies and equipment and the ability to use them economically and efficiently
 ✓ This part-time position is eligible for holiday pay, sick leave and vacation including other employee benefit programs such as dental, vision, life insurance and more (this position is not eligible for medical insurance).
 A high school diploma or equivalency is required and three to six months of previous experience is desired. Visit www.kewaunee.org to obtain an employment application and to review the job description. This position is considered open until filled. Equal Opportunity Employer

KEWAUNEE COUNTY SEASONAL SUMMER HELP WORKERS \$15.00/HOUR
 Kewaunee County is hiring temporary help to work in the Highway Department and Parks Department. You will work part-time hours during the weekdays this summer. Required: Must possess a high school diploma or equivalency and a valid Wisconsin driver's license. Ability to lift up to 50 pounds as needed. Basic knowledge of occupational hazards and safety precautions.
 Visit www.kewaunee.org to obtain an employment application and to review the job description. These positions are considered open until filled.
 Kewaunee County Is An Equal Opportunity Employer

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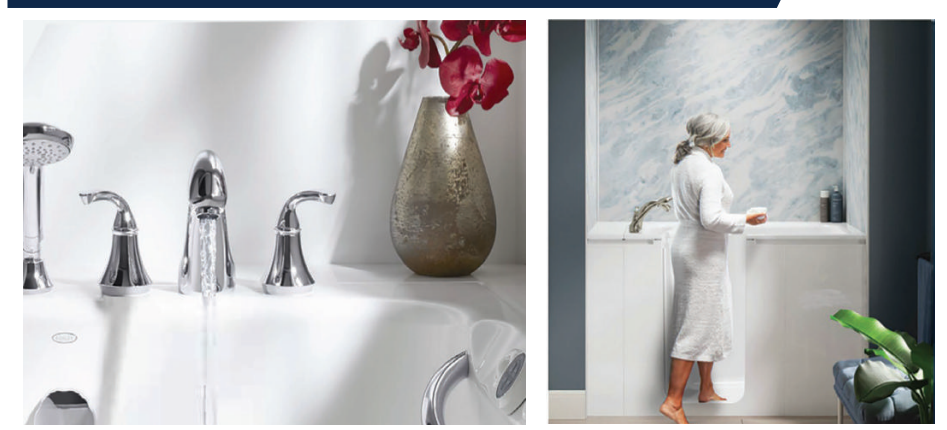
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