

# KEWAUNEE COUNTY

# Star-News

KEWAUNEE COUNTY'S WEEKLY COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023 | KEWANEECOUNTYSTARNEWS.COM | FREE

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#### **LOCAL EVENTS**

To submit an event, email KewauneeNews@mmclocal.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

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

large box or laundry basket for your

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.

Family Caregiver Hybrid Support Group, 9:30 to 11 a.m., third Thursday of the month, St. John Lutheran Church, 700 Heritage Road, Luxemburg. 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 Face-

book or Homestead Kitchen. **The Book Corner,** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays, 401 Third St., Algoma. Proceeds benefit Algoma

See LOCAL EVENTS, Page 4A

#### 

# Community solar debate returns to Legislature



Alliant Energy opened a 1-megawatt community solar installation on land leased from Michels Corp. in Fond du Lac last year. The utility allows customers to subscribe to a share of the energy produced and receive credit on their bills. Backers of a bill to allow the private sector to build and own similar solar developments say it would foster competition and give consumers a choice in how they obtain electric power. PROVIDED BY ALLIANT ENERGY

# Bill has support from GOP, clean energy advocates

#### Karl Ebert

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

For the second time in as many years, a group of Republican state lawmakers will seek to reset the rules on how solar energy can be owned and distributed in Wisconsin.

State Sen. Duey Stroebel, R-Saukville, on Tuesday announced plans to introduce a bill that would make Wisconsin one of about 20 states that allow community ownership of solar power arrays. He was joined by solar companies, clean-energy advocates, landowners, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau and other lawmakers.

Community solar, in the states where it is allowed, is a fast-growing area of solar power in which developers sell subscriptions for the power that would be generated by a solar array to nearby businesses, homeowners, local government, churches and other organizations. It allows those subscribers to pool resources to get the benefits of solar power — lower costs and ownership of power generation — without the large upfront costs of self-financed solar arrays.

Stroebel described it as a win for customer choice at a time of rising utility rates and also for the open market — it would give solar developers a new line of business that they're currently excluded from.

"To me, this is about competition," Stroebel said. "This is about providing

energy without subsidies, without price support, and it needs to stand on its own. The investors who create these facilities will sell subscriptions and if they can deliver power more cost effectively than the monopoly power providers in our state, they'll sell power."

Allowing community solar projects in Wisconsin would fill a gap in access to lower-cost solar power, said Sam Dunaski, executive director of RENEW Wisconsin.

Currently, solar power is mostly the domain of individuals, businesses and organizations that can afford an installation, and utilities that are developing giant solar farms.

Community solar arrays, typically smaller than 5 megawatts and occupying no more than 20 or 30 acres, are far smaller than the large solar farms being developed by the utilities that are increasingly coming up against local opposition. That size, in addition to a community solar development's direct benefit to residents of the community, could ease some of the opposition, Dunaski said.

"We don't have a terrible lot of these kind of what we would consider medium-sized solar farms," he said. "And I hope at least that's a little bit more palatable for the public than thousands and thousands of acres."

#### What is community solar?

Community solar installations are often built by a solar-power developer

with a large anchor customer, such as a business, school or nonprofit. Homeowners and other small nearby customers buy the remaining capacity.

None of the customers are directly connected to the power-generating facility. Instead, the electricity is connected to the local power utility and the community solar customers receive credit on their electricity bills for their share of the power produced, offsetting

their electricity costs.

Community solar farms typically produce a couple megawatts of electricity, or enough electricity to power several hundred homes. The cost of building it is shared among the subscribers, substantially reducing each participant's investment compared to buying a dedicated solar array for their property.

"Community solar is often reflective of the community it's trying to serve," said JD Smith, head of business development for Plymouth-based Arch Solar. "Therefore, it's a lot more modular: It can be big, small, you can place it in trickier locations. It's really flexible, which means it's really valuable for us because that means we don't have to be a monolithic company to be really competitive — if it can be built by Wisconsin."

The bill requires approval of community solar projects by two-thirds of a municipality's governing body, a provision that's aimed to quell some of the divisiveness over solar developments.

See SOLAR, Page 5A

# Kewaunee County Star-News to get new owner

#### **Kevin Dittman**Kewaunee County Star-News

USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

The Kewaunee County Star-News will have new owner, beginning with the next edition.

Multi Media Channels is set to close on the sale with Gannett on March 27.

The biggest immediate change readers will notice is that the newspaper now will be delivered by mail.

The paper will be sent to addresses in Kewaunee, Luxemburg, Casco and Algoma. For those reading online, the website will stay the same, www .kewauneecountystarnews.com.

However, those who want to submit editorial content should now direct

emails to KewauneeNews@mmclocal. com while obituaries should go to KewauneeObits@mmclocal.com. Its phone number will be (920) 499-1200.

MMC CEO Patrick Wood said the company plans to invest heavily in local news there, covering school and municipal events.

The Star-News is a mashup of the old Kewaunee Star, Kewaunee County News and Kewaunee Snapshots newspapers, and before that the Algoma Record-Herald, Kewaunee Enterprise and Luxemburg News.

Gannett purchased the papers, along with other publications, in 2004 from Brown County Publishing, which was run by Patrick Wood's father, Frank Wood.



The Kewaunee County Star-News will have a new owner with its next edition.

KEVIN DITTMAN/ USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

#### **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

#### Area economic development groups to push agenda to state

The Door County and Kewaunee County economic development corporations have announced local issues to be addressed with legislators and state agency leaders April 19-20 in Madison during their Legislative Days events, and the organizations invite participants to register for the events.

Door County/Kewaunee County Legislative Days is a biennial trip to the state Capitol by a delegation of residents, elected officials, business leaders and other stakeholders of the two counties, to bring a locally agreed-upon agenda of Door County and Kewaunee County issues directly to state-elected officials and government agency lead-

This year's agenda will focus on water quality, affordable housing, child care, commercial fishing, and repair of the historic Potawatomi State Park Tow-

DCEDC and KCEDC are inviting in-

terested individuals and organizations to learn more and participate in the delegation. Information on how to participate in Legislative Days with the delegation is available at livedoorcounty. org/2023-legislative-days. Registration will be accepted through March 30.

See BRIEFS, Page 3A





#### **Hunter Turpin**

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

Voters statewide will see a nonbinding advisory referendum on the April 4 ballot asking if welfare recipients should be required to look for employment to receive benefits.

The Republicans backing the referendum say the question is necessary to address worker shortages across the state, but Democrats call it a political stunt to influence turnout in the critical Supreme Court race on the same ballot.

But what impact will the results of this referendum actually have? And what is Wisconsin's current policy on work requirements for welfare benefits?

The referendum asks, "Shall able-

bodied, childless adults be required to

look for work in order to receive taxpay-

er-funded benefits?" Voters can re-

This is one of three statewide refer-

endum questions on the ballot, as well

as Supreme Court candidates, other non-partisan races and a special elec-

tion for an important state Senate seat

in the Milwaukee suburbs. The other

two referendum questions ask voters to

approve a constitutional amendment

giving judge's more discretion when

What's on the ballot?

spond yes or no.

probably won't be great, but in Wisconsin, most people assume elections are going to be close, so even a change in the balance of things by a percentage point or two could tip the race and tip the balance of the Supreme Court itself."

"The effect on overall turnout

## Political science professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

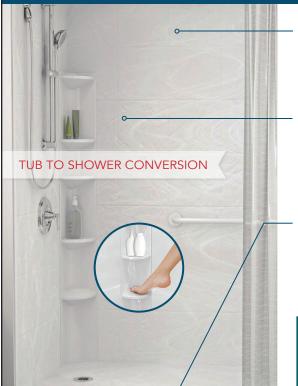
emptions such as being mentally or physically disabled.

Likewise, applicants need to search for work four times a week to receive unemployment benefits. Gov. Tony Evers waived these requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic, but Republicans reinstated them in 2021.

"(We get to) let our constituents remind us what we do that makes a difference, and that is help people find a job, hold them accountable, give them benefits for as long as necessary, but not longer than required," Assembly Speaker Robin Vos said during a January floor debate. Vos co-sponsored the referendum with Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu.

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# What's an advisory referendum?

making bail decisions.

This question is an advisory referendum, which allows citizens to vote on a non-binding question, meaning the results of the referendum will not have any immediate effect or change any existing law. Rather, lawmakers can use the results to gauge public opinion and inform policy decisions, according to state documents.

However, referendums are increasingly being used by both political parties, particularly with nonpartisan spring elections, which don't usually generate great voter turnout, said Barry Burden, a political science professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

'These elections just don't generate the same level of media coverage or public discussion so these gimmicks are one way to get the attention of the voter," Burden said. "The effect on overall turnout probably won't be great, but in Wisconsin, most people assume elections are going to be close, so even a change in the balance of things by a percentage point or two could tip the race and tip the balance of the Supreme Court itself."

If a nonbinding marijuana referendum was on the ballot, it might bring out younger, more liberal voters whereas welfare or bail reform, which is also on the April ballot, could draw older voters, Burden said.

### What's Wisconsin's existing policy?

Under current state law, many unemployed people are already required to search for employment in order to receive welfare benefits.

For instance, in order to receive FoodShare — or food stamp — benefits, applicants who are between the ages of 18 and 49 and do not have any children at home need to meet a work requirement if they do not meet any other ex-

# What are lawmakers saying?

Republicans who support this referendum said these requirements aren't enforced the way they should be and that this vote could be a jumping-off point for more policies to address worker shortages.

"There is not a place you can go to visit, whether it's a school, a police station, a grocery story, you name the place, where people aren't crying employees," Rep. Barbara Dittrich, R-Oconomowoc, said.

This referendum question was passed over a Democrat-supported advisory referendum that would have asked voters if the state should replace the 1849 abortion ban.

"(Republicans') resolution, simply put, attacks low-income people in the state of Wisconsin, and it's borne out of a consideration to their base for the spring election. They're trying to gin up their voters," Senate Minority Leader Melissa Agard said in a January news conference. "The people are going to advise lawmakers on something that is already the law? That only makes sense if you're looking at the world through a cynical and political lens."

Gov. Tony Evers said that an abortion referendum would ask voters to weigh in on an issue that is relevant and that many are concerned about, adding that he thinks Republicans refusing to put an abortion referendum on the ballot will irritate voters and drive more liberals to the polls.

'For a year now, Republicans have willfully ignored the majority of Wisconsinites who support legal access to abortion," Evers said in a news conference, citing Marquette University Law School polls. "I think [the welfare referendum] is frankly ridiculous, to have an advisory referendum on something that already exists."

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## **Briefs**

Continued from Page 2A

## Scouts to collect items during its annual food drive next month

Scouts from the Bay-Lakes Council will distribute door hangers with details about its 2023 Scouting for Food Drive on April 15, and return to collect bags of food beginning at 8 a.m. on April 22.

The Scouts are working closely with more than 100 local food pantries in Eastern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan that will benefit from the food donations. These pantries depend on the drive to stock shelves and continue serving those in need. Suggested items include: Proteins – nuts, peanut butter, seafood and poultry; fruit – dried or packed in juice; soups – low sodium, if possible; whole grains – pasta, rice and cereal; and canned vegetables of all kinds.

The items should not be perishable, frozen or in glass containers.

For more information, contact Tammi Thurow at Bay-Lakes Council, BSA, at 920-266-9555.

## Sheboygan author Vihos to sign copies of her first novel

ALGOMA - Sheboygan author Lisa Vihos will read from her novel, "The Lone Snake" and answer reader questions from 1 to 2 p.m. April 1 at Yardstick, 317 Steele St. The event will conclude with a book signing.

In "The Lone Snake: The Story of Sofoniba Anguissola," Vihos brings Renaissance artist Sofonisba Anguissola to life as a woman yearning for recognition in a world not ready for her. Readers will journey with Anguissola through her early years in Cremona, to Rome where she studies with Michelangelo to her time at Spanish court, and eventually out to sea where she meets the love of her life.

Vihos has written poems that have appeared in numerous journals, both print and online, and she has published four chapbooks.

For more information, visit yard-

stickalgoma.com.

## Caregiver workshops to meet for six weeks at Algoma church

The Aging & Disability Resource Center of the Lakeshore will host the workshop "Powerful Tools for Caregivers" on Wednesdays, April 12 through May 17. Classes will meet 1 to 3:30 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church, E5221 Church Road, Algoma.

Attendance at all six sessions is encouraged, as each class builds upon previous skills acquired. A suggested donation of \$10 is collected at the first class, to help defray the cost of the textbook provided.

Focus is on the caregiver and selfcare. Learn techniques to reduce personal stress, communicate effectively with family, friends and medical professionals; reduce guilt, anger, fear, depression and tension; practice relaxation techniques, and build confidence in handling difficult caregiving situations, emotions and decisions.

Respite care may be available. Contact ADRC of the Lakeshore for potential resources. An assessment is required prior to the start of the first class with minimum of three weeks required to coordinate this service.

For more information or to register, call the Aging & Disability Resource Center of the Lakeshore at: 877-416-7083. Class size is limited.

### Local sculptor Sibilsky part of 'HerStory' 2023 exhibition

Bren Sibilsky, an international, full-time sculptor and painter who works in a variety of mediums, will be part of the "HerStory" 2023 exhibition. The online show, open now through May 6, is an annual event intended to promote art by extraordinary women artists from around the world.

The purpose for the exhibition is to recognize the contributions women have made to the art world. Exhibitions will continue until there is a fair and equal balance of women artists represented by art museums, galleries, art book publishers, major private and public collections, auction houses, and the

media.

Sibilsky's has been juried into many regional and international shows including ARC Salon Finalist in Sculpture 2006, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2019. Locally her work is shown at The Miller Art Museum, The Francis Hardy Gallery, Arc Gallery, Koehline Museum, Fairfield Center for Contemporary Art, Linden Gallery and Barnsite Gallery, among others.

Artists in this exhibition will receive world-wide recognition on the Manhattan Arts International website.

For more information, visit brensculpture.com.

## Algoma native author Kissinger to speak at Yardstick Books

ALGOMA - Algoma native author Bret Kissinger will discuss and sign copies of his third novel "The Final Edit" at Yardstick Books, 317 Steele St., from 5 to 7 p.m. April 7. At 7 p.m., he will give a presentation then answer questions. Refreshments will be served.

Kissinger has taken his love of history and writing and combined the two. His debut novel, "Forever Fleeting," was released in December of 2018. His second novel, "Gone the Way of the Dodo Bird" was released in 2020. His third novel is a thriller.

For more information, visit yardstickalgoma.com.

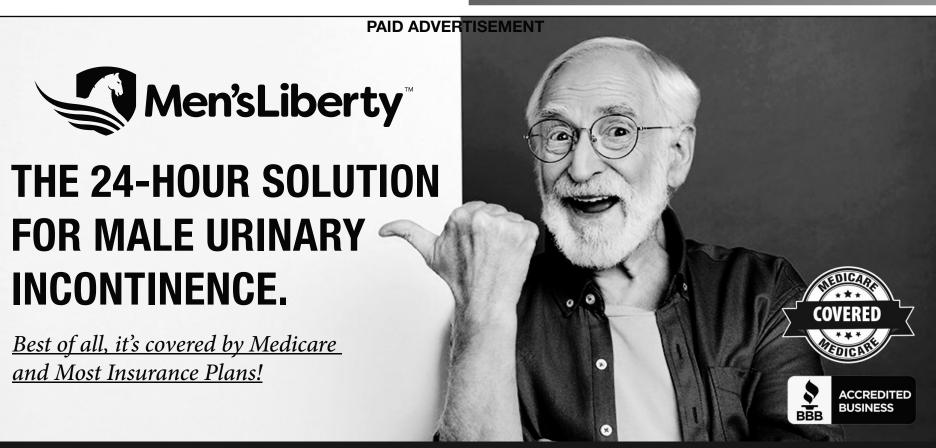
### Pagel elected among three new PDPW board members

JJ Pagel of Pagels Ponderosa Dairy in Kewaunee was elected to the Professional Dairy Producers board during its annual Business Conference on March 15-16 in Wisconsin Dells.

Pagel will join Patty Dolph of Dolph Dairy LLC, Lake Mills, and Laura Raatz, Wagner Farms, Oconto Falls, as newly elected members.

Professional Dairy Producers is the nation's largest dairy producer-led organization of its kind that offers education and information valuable to dairy operations.





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# Area groups receive grants from Green Bay foundation

**Christopher Clough** 

Kewaunee County Star-News USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

GREEN BAY - Seven nonprofit organizations that offer services in Kewaunee County and one based in Door County were among the recipients of grants announced March 9 from the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation.

The foundation awarded a total of \$312,220 to 29 programs and initiatives offered by nonprofits serving Brown, Kewaunee and Oconto counties through its Funds for Greater Green Bay grants program. Four organizations in Kewaunee County will receive more than \$30,000 between them, while three other organizations that are receiving grants serve Brown, Kewaunee and Oconto counties.

Also, Midsummer's Music, a chamber music organization based in Sister Bay that sometimes gives performances itself or through its Griffon String Quartet in Brown County, was awarded funding that will support free and low-cost musical programming for seniors, especially those with Alzheimer's or dementia; youth music education; pop-up concerts; classical programs; and collaborations.

Kewaunee County-based groups that received grants are:



Visitors stroll down the boardwalk on Crescent Beach in Algoma. The Greater Green Bay Community Foundation awarded a grant to Friends of Crescent Beach, a community volunteer support organization, to help fund restoration and education efforts. BOB KUHN/COURTESY FRIENDS OF CRESCENT BEACH

- Centro de Actividades y Servicios Altruistas, for its afterschool program, English classes for adults and wraparound support for Latino families in the Luxemburg-Casco area.
- Friends of Crescent Beach, to help expand resto-

ration and water quality improvement efforts of the beach on the Lake Michigan shore in Algoma and support educational opportunities to increase awareness of how the community can protect the beach and its

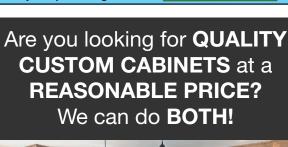
- Friends of the Ahnapee State Trail, to help create a more functional trailhead for the trail users.
- Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County, to support more planning, in-service training for tutors and a website overhaul to increase and organize online learning tools for both tutors and students.

Northeastern Wisconsin organizations that provide services in Kewaunee County and received grants are:

- Family & Childcare Resources of Northeastern Wisconsin, to increase the number of childcare slots in Brown, Kewaunee and Oconto counties while reducing the barriers for caregivers to become certified or li-
- Einstein Project, to help expand mobile makerspace programming to provide experiences for approximately 1,000 children in rural communities such
- Vivent Health, to fund mobile HIV and overdose prevention throughout the three counties, as well as help offer mental health and AODA programs in Green Bay and naloxone administration trainings for area organizations.











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# Sheriff's department and personnel set goals for 2023



**Sheriff Matthew Joski** 

One of the most rewarding parts of being in a leadership position is the ability to watch those around you grow into their respective roles within our agency.

Over the past 16 years, I have witnessed the transformation of young men and women from wide-eyed new candidates to well-seasoned, and experienced public servants.

A key part of the growth process is the annual evaluation. This is a two-part activity that starts with the deputy articulating both their strengths and growth opportunities as well as their respective goals. This is followed by the supervisors providing their feedback and evaluation of that deputy. Our goal is to make this more of a mutual conversation than a one-sided cri-

While a small agency such as the sheriff's department is limited in what we can offer for opportunities, we do our best to be responsive to our staff and their desire to take on new and challenging responsibilities.

Some examples of stated goals are duties such as field training officer, ERU team member, evidence technician, or department tactical training officer. Some even share their career goals of becoming a sergeant, lieutenant, chief deputy or even sheriff.

In many cases the goals are personal in nature such as becoming more efficient in their current duties, or en focusing more on their own physical health.

As in their professional goals, we in leadership must foster a department culture which allows each individual deputy the best possible environment to be successful in those personal goals.

Over the last year, we have engaged in a partnership with an amazing resource located right here in Northeast Wisconsin. The group is called the Wellness Coop and they are a team of dedicated professionals who focus on those who have dedicated their lives to the service of their country, state and community.

Recently a grant was made available by the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration to be used for both equipment as well as officer wellness, and we used that grant as an opportunity solidify our commitment to our staff's well-being providing one-on-one wellness screenings for each member of our depart-

On a broader scale, our department as an organization also has goals, which it is looking to achieve in

Of course, our most recognizable goal is the continued progress of our jail planning as we continue in our now seven-year journey toward a better solution to the housing and care of those remanded to our custody. We are very grateful for the support and engagement we have received from both our county board as well as so many community members throughout our community on this project.

Another goal for 2023 is the continuation of our countywide multi-disciplinary active shooter training, which we have been conducting over the past few years, in cooperation with our partners in both Fire and EMS. These trainings are very involved and start with preliminary tabletop discussions and then culminate in full-scale reality-based scenario at local facilities throughout Kewaunee County.

A goal that we had been working on for the past few years – and will be taking a big step forward in this year is our body-worn camera implementation. This project started with our use of in-squad cameras, and through a recent grant was able to be expanded to body-worn cameras as well.

Much like many of our other projects, we do our best to realize benefit to not only our agency, but also to our criminal justice partners, such as other local law enforcement as well as our district attorney's office. I will be sharing more on this initiative in future articles as we move along the process.

In general, our agency is only as strong as the men and women who serve within it, and we must focus to be successful in serving our community. We must also have the capacity to incorporate the best training, technology and equipment if we hope to remain a credible and legitimate resource to our community in their time of need.

It is through the setting and pursuit of realistic yet ambitious goals that we will be able to move our agency and the men and women who serve it, toward our true potential.

This is my last article in the series of annual report articles, and I hope you found them informative and helpful in understanding the operations of the Kewaunee County Sheriff's Department. As always, if you have any questions on anything I have covered, or just want to chat, feel free to give me a shout at (920) 255-1100. Thank you!

Matt Joski is the Kewaunee County sheriff.



**Luxemburg Lions** Bingo at BONGO

The Rendezvous of Luxemburg Sunday April 2nd

Doors open at 12:00 & Bingo starts at 1:00 Affordable fun for all ages!

E0896 Cty N – Luxemburg 920-845-2066

## **Local events**

Continued from Page 1A

schild at 920-255-2896.

Public Library. 920-304-9214 or algomabookcorner.

Friends of the Kewaunee Public Library Book Shoppe, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturdays, 513 Milwaukee

St., Kewaunee. Proceeds benefit the library. Casco village wide rummage, craft and product sale, May 5-6. To register your sale, contact Debbie Haum-

"A Wrinkle In Time," March 17 to April 2, Forst Inn Arts Collective, E2910 County BB, Tisch Mills. For show times and tickets, contact forstinn.org or 920-310-7228

Still Alice Book Club, February/March, Algoma Public Library, 406 Fremont St. In collaboration with ADRC of the Lakeshore, this club is reading "Still Alice" by Lisa Genova. The discussion will take place at 2:30 p.m. April 12. Register with the ADRC at 877-416-7083.

#### Saturday, March 25

Chicken Booyah fundraiser, noon until gone, Tisch Mills fire station, N110 County B. Bring your own containers. \$4 a bowl, \$16 for 1/2 gallon, \$32 a gallon and hamburgers at \$4. Drive thru serving only.

Cooyah Tournament, 1 p.m., Algoma Hunting & Fishing Club, N7809 Willow Drive, Bruemmerville. \$20 per team, 100% payout to four places, lunch served. Sign

up by calling Susie at 920-255-0813.

Roar off the Shore Brewfest, 2 to

6 p.m., Kewaunee County Fairgrounds, 625 Third St., Luxemburg. roarofftheshore.com

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.

#### Sunday, March 26

All You Can Eat Porkie-Pancake Breakfast, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., St. Therese Parish- St. Joseph/St. John Site-Pilsen, E860 State 29, Luxemburg. Hosted by Catholic Order of Foresters. \$9 adults, \$4 ages 6-10;

Youth Workshop: Healing Arts, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Roots Yoga and Healing, 417 Steele St., Algoma. \$35. Register at RootsYogaMindBody.com

#### Monday, March 27

Blood drive, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Luxemburg Casco High School, 512 Center Drive, Luxemburg. To make an appointment to benefit the American Red Cross, visit redcrossblood.org or call 800-733-2767.

#### **Tuesday, March 28**

Banking and Scams program, 1 p.m., Bank of Luxemburg, 603 Main St., Luxemburg. Sponsored by Kewaunee County Home and Community Education. To sign up, call or text Mari Fager at 920-388-2841.

# Stakes are sky-high in the Supreme Court race

#### Abortion among key issues court could hear

#### **Corrinne Hess**

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

All eyes are on Wisconsin's Supreme

The high-stakes election has liberal Milwaukee Circuit Court Judge Janet Protasiewicz facing off against conservative former Supreme Court Justice Daniel Kelly with the court's 4-3 conservative majority hanging in the balance.

The next court, which would be seated in August, is likely to take on the future of abortion rights, the rules for voting in the 2024 presidential election and political maps produce lopsided Republican majorities in the Legislature.

Conservatives warn that, with a 4-3 liberal majority, lawsuits challenging Republicans' top policy achievements in the past decade under former Gov. Scott Walker could face fresh challenges.

Those issues have interests on both sides of the political spectrum pouring millions of dollars into the race, making it the most expensive judicial race in U.S. history.

Here's a breakdown of the major issues at stake in the election:

#### The Supreme Court will likely decide access to legal abortion in Wisconsin

After the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade last year, Wisconsin reverted to a law from the 19th century banning abortion in nearly all cases — a policy at odds with the majority of Wisconsin voters, according to state polling.

Following the ruling, Gov. Tony Evers and Attorney General Josh Kaul filed a lawsuit to overturn Wisconsin's 1849 criminal abortion ban - a case that's widely expected to end up before the state Supreme Court.

Protasiewicz is campaigning on restoring abortion access in Wisconsin.

"Everything we care about is on the line," Protasiewicz said during a March 1 interview with WTMJ 620 host Steve Scaffidi. Protasiewicz said if Kelly is elected, Wisconsin's criminal ban on abortions will stand.

Kelly has the backing of Wisconsin Right to Life, Wisconsin Family Action and Pro-Life Wisconsin. He called his opponent a "politician in a black robe."

Kelly says the only conversations he has had with anti-abortion groups are about his plans to apply existing law to resolve cases in a way that's consistent with the Constitution.

"My understanding is that their endorsement is, is their endorsement of my political, my judicial philosophy, not politics, right, not issues, but judicial



People hold signs Jan. 22 as they listen to speakers during the National Women's March at the Capitol rotunda in Madison, marking the 50th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision. MIKE DE SISTI/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

philosophy, the role of the court and simply applying the law that already exists," Kelly said March 1.

#### **Election maps that favor** Republicans could come back to the Supreme Court for review

A challenge to the state's legislative maps is likely to come before the court.

In April 2022, the Supreme Court court ruled 4-3 in favor of a legislative redistricting plan drawn by Republican lawmakers, giving the party's candidates in the Legislature a bigger advantage, with 63 of the 99 Assembly seats and 23 of the 33 Senate seats leaning toward the GOP, according to a Milwaukee Journal Sentinel analysis.

New maps are redrawn every 10 years. But the court would hear a challenge to the current maps if a lawsuit is filed, as is seen as likely, and it makes its way through the system to the Supreme

Protasiewicz called the current maps "rigged" against voters in Milwaukee and Dane counties during a candidate forum in January, signaling she would support taking on a case that would redraw the maps before 2032.

"They do not reflect people in this state. I don't think you could sell any reasonable person that the maps are fair." Protasiewicz said in January.

Kelly said the court's responsibility is

limited to considering legal challenges, not political challenges.

#### The rules for voting in the 2024 presidential election could go to the Supreme Court

The Supreme Court could set the rules for the 2024 presidential election if challenges to either existing voting laws or newly enacted ones make it to the court.

Already, the court's current conservative majority has ruled that the absentee drop boxes that became common during the pandemic are illegal. A lower court prohibited election officials from filling in missing information on absentee ballot return envelopes.

The issue could find its way to the Supreme Court.

The court has also ruled in favor of a law banning voters from having someone else mail their absentee ballot or hand it to an elections clerk.

Republicans would like to see more changes to voting rules.

#### Evers, Walker weigh in on Supreme Court race

Democratic Gov. Tony Evers stressed the importance of the election during a WisPolitics luncheon March 7. Evers said he wouldn't publicly endorse a candidate but didn't hide his hopes for a liberal-leaning court.

"If it works out well, we can take on maps — we don't have to wait 10 years," Evers said. "Issues of reproductive health are very big in the state. Obviously, if you do any polling, the 1849 law is very unpopular and we need to get it straightened out. The only way is through the courts."

Evers added that voting rights have been taken away from Wisconsinites, and those rights need to be re-estab-

"If it works out, that's going to be a damn good thing," Evers said.

Former Gov. Scott Walker told the conservative magazine the National Review on Feb. 24 "everything was on the line" with the Supreme Court election. Walker said if Protasiewicz is elected, there's a chance that everything done over the last decade could be undone.

That could include Act 10, Walker's 2011 law ending collective-bargaining rights for most public employees.

Walker, who appointed Kelly to the Supreme Court, told the National Review everything from the state's school choice program to welfare reform and tax reform could be invalidated if the state Supreme Court decides to "be activist and just basically impose liberal

Walker didn't respond to requests for comment from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

# Solar

Continued from Page 1A

"It ensures that you really have pretty strong community buy-in before these things get done," Stroebel said. "And right now, on a utility scale, those things just get slammed in, wherever, without any input by the local community."

#### Why is there opposition to community solar?

Though it has the support of clean energy advocates, the state's solar development businesses and some GOP lawmakers, the bill is likely to face stiff opposition. The previous version of the bill, introduced in 2021 by Stroebel and others, was opposed by the state's public and investor-owned utilities and died in committee with the expiration of that legislative session.

Among the companies and organizations that lined up to oppose it were WEC Energy Group, Alliant Energy, and Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce.

The utilities argued that, under state law, third-party ownership of any facility that produces and distributes energy to anyone other than the owner makes them a utility and subject to all of the regulations under which Wisconsin utilities operate. Changing that law to allow community solar projects, the utilities argued, would fracture the state's 100-year-old regulatory system by allowing competitors to enter the market and cherry pick customers while operating under a different set of rules.

"Third-party owned systems providing energy to multiple customers is not self-generation, but instead is selling electric services within a utility's franchise service territory to the public without any of the protections utilities must provide within the regulatory

structure," Bill Skewes, executive director Wisconsin Utilities Association, wrote in a note to lawmakers opposing the 2021 bill.

Labor unions that often work on major utility construction projects also opposed the bill because it did not require community solar projects to be built with union labor. Those objections limited Democratic Party support for the bill.

#### Will this time be different?

The bill's backers hope revisions to the 2021 bill and a changing renewable energy landscape created by the federal Inflation Reduction Act will allay some of those concerns.

On the utility side, the new bill would require that all development and connection costs be borne by the developer, and it would direct the state Public Service Commission to develop rules for establishing community solar facilities and set rates that are fair to the developer and the utilities to which they deliver elec-

Dunaski said provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act may allay some of the concerns of organized labor. The 2022 law ties a significant portion of the available tax credits for renewable energy developments to using union labor or paying the state's prevailing wage. It's a measure unions have lauded since the bill's introduction.

"The power companies have a lot of clout in this building and, you know, that's a hurdle to overcome," Stroebel said. "I mean, this is change. Change is always difficult. But there seems to be a broad coalition of supporters that we have this session. And I think now that a lot of people have been able to digest it to see the benefits of it."

## **Obituaries**

#### Patti L. Seidl

CASCO - Patti L Seidl, 66, of Kewaunee passed away on March 11, 2023, with her family by her side. She was born November 14, 1956, to Julie and the late Joseph Kotyza. Patti married Peter Seidl at Holy Rosary Church on July 31, 1976. Patti enjoyed working most of her career at the Kewaunee Power Plant until it closed. She then worked at Shopko Corporate offices until getting her dream part-time job as a Paraprofessional at Kewaunee school district.

She cherished time with her kids and grandkids. She was always their biggest cheerleader at all of

their sporting events. She'll always be known for her green thumb and love of the outdoors. Hunting was a favorite family past time including her own successful bear and turkey hunts. She was an avid walker that made great strides in her life to help with her cancer recoveries.

Patti is survived by husband Peter; children, Tim (Carolyn) Seidl, Springbrook WI, Dawn (Stan) Adamski, Seymour WI; grandchildren, Owen Adamski, Hayden and Devyn Seidl; Mom, Julie Kotyza; siblings, Jo (Henry) Waechter, Sheboygan WI, Ken (Wendy) Kotyza, Kewaunee WI, Kay (Jay) Stoeger, Tish Mills WI; in- laws, Connie (Kurt) Kadletz, Pilsen WI, Colleen (Kurt) Burmeister, Kewaunee WI, Bernie Scheler, North Branch MN; along with many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by, father, Joseph Kotyza; sister, Jeanie Scheler; brother, Tom Kotyza; in-laws, Pete and Lucy Seidl, Marlene (George) Orr; nephew Kurt Orr.

Visitation will take place at Kinnard Funeral & Cremation Services – Kewaunee, on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, from 4-7 pm with a prayer service at 7:00 pm. Visitation will continue 9-11 Thursday at St. Joseph's Catholic Church – Pilsen. Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 11:00 am with Fr. Dennis Drury officiating. Burial to follow in the Krok cemetery. Online condolence messages may be shared at KinnardFCS.com.

Be Strong, Live life, Make Memories - Patti

The family would like to thank the Kewaunee Rescue for her needs in the last few weeks. Also thanks to Aurora and Froedtert Hospitals for the many years of support and cancer treatment.



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Alforex 405 Brand, 50 lbs	\$189.95
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Japanese Millet, 50 lbs	\$63.95
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Sunflower Black Oil, 1 lb	\$3.95
Sunflower, Grey Stripe, 1 lb	\$11.99
Austrian Winter Peas, 50 lbs	\$49.95
Diakon Radishes-Tillage, 50 lbs	\$92.95
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Orchard Grass (late), 50 lbs	\$154.9
Orchard Grass, 50 lbs	\$139.9
Smooth Bromegrass, 50 lbs	\$179.9
Italian Ryegrass (Annual), 50 lbs	\$59.9
Tetraploid Annual Ryegrass, 50 lbs	\$46.9
Tetraploid Perennial Ryegrass, 50 lbs	\$119.9
Festulolium Perennial Ryegrass, 50 lbs	\$129.9
Meadow Fescue 50 lbs	\$169.9
Tall Fescue, 50 lbs	\$109.9
Switchgrass Cave-In-Rock, 1 lb. pls	
Reeds Canarygrass (low alkaloid) 50 lbs.	A\$K !

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Clover Base Mix, 50 lbs	\$139.95
lorse Pasture Mix, 25 lbs	\$79.95
Max Forage Extender Mix, 25 lbs	\$64.95
Nild Life Clover Mix, 50 lbs	\$219.95
All of the above mixes are made with Dura-Leaf Plu	
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C	ert. Esker 2020, bu mid	\$13.50
F	orage Plus bu Late	\$13.75
U	ncert. Ogle, bu mid	\$12.50
	ncert .lerry hu - mid	

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50% Pea - 50% Barley Mix, 50 lbs	\$25.50
50% Pea - 50% Tritcale, 50 lbs	\$25.50

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Trefoil, Treats 50 lbs	Little Marvel, 63 Day, 50 lbs	\$99.95
Soybean Terra Max Dry, Treats 500 lbs 10 unit\$18.95	Sugar Snap, 64 day, 50 lbs	-
Soybean Terra Max Dry, Treats 2000 lbs 40 unit\$48.95	Green Arrow, 68 Day, 50 lbs	\$99.95
Cell-Tech Liq. Soybean, Treats 50 units\$89.95	Oregon Giant, 69 Day, 50 lbs	\$99.95
<b>Seed Days Specials Good</b>	March 27 thru April 1,	2023

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X-tra Tender XTH2171, bi-color, 71 day	3,000	Kernel/	\$34.99
Signature, bi-color, 73 day	.3,000	kernel/	\$37.99
Anthem XR, bi-color, 73 day	.3,000	Kernel/	\$37.99
X-tra Tender XTH2475, bi-color, 75 day	3,000	Kernel/	\$34.99
Honey'N Pearl, bi-color, 76 day	3,000	Kernel/	\$29.99
Golden Bantem, 80 day	3,000	Kernel/	\$15.99
Illini X-tra Sweet, 85 day	3,000	Kernel/	\$28.99

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Winfred Brassica, 3 lb	\$14.99
Graza Radish, 3 lb	\$19.99
Small Burnett, 3 lb	\$13.99
Chicory, 1 lb	\$7.95
Sugar Beets, 1 lb	\$5.95
Tonic Plantain, 1 lb	\$5.99
Rutabaga, 3 lb	
Bar Kant Turnips, 3 lb	
Kale, 1 lb	\$4.99
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Turnips, Seven Top, 50 lbs	\$129.95
Widow Maker, 25 lbs	\$114.95
Brassica Brunch, 25 lbs	\$114.95
Wild Game Food Sorghum, 50 lbs	\$50.95
Buck Buffet, 25 lbs	\$17.95
Buck Forage Oats, 50 lbs	\$37.95
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Switchgrass RC Tecumseh 1 lb	\$16.99
Switchgrass Cave-In - Rock 1 lb. pls	\$15.99

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# **SPORTS**

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# UWGB women take WNIT berth seriously

**Scott Venci** 

Green Bay Press-Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

GREEN BAY – Nobody can be sure how a college basketball team will perform in the Women's National Invitation Tournament, at least not when its heart was set on something bigger.

Some teams might outright decline an invite to participate. Others play but already are halfway mentally checked out and eliminated in the opening game.

That could have been the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay this season.

It had hoped to be playing in the NCAA Tournament after winning the Horizon League regular-season championship and getting to within one game of the Big Dance for the first time since 2018.

But those dreams were shattered when it lost to Cleveland State in the conference tournament title game, eliminated by the Vikings for the third straight season.

"After losing the Cleveland State game, I was mentally down a little bit," said UWGB sophomore guard Cassie Schiltz, a Luxemburg-Casco graduate who is averaging a career-high 9.3 points, 5.2 rebounds and 2.3 assists. "But I mean, you have another opportunity to play another game in March, at home, with our awesome fans.

"I think we took a few days, but then we knew we had to get ready to play another game."

The Phoenix did not want to end its season with what happened against CSU in Indianapolis.

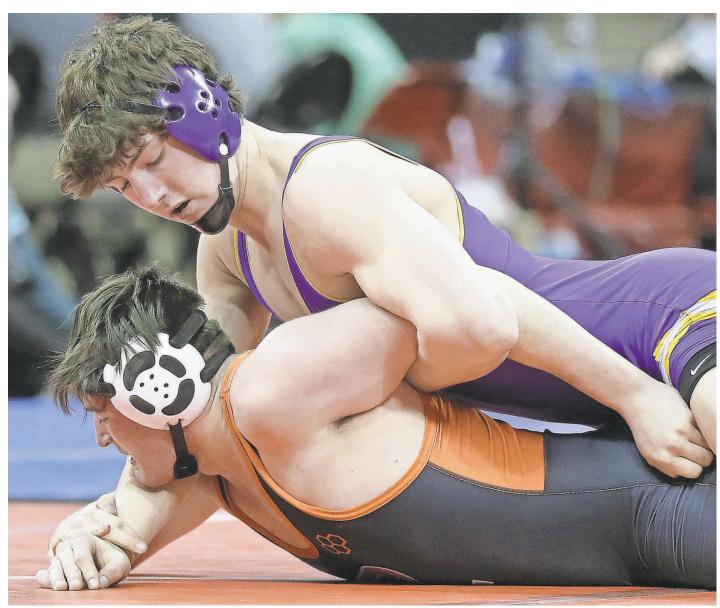
See BERTH, Page 4B



UWGB senior guard Sydney Levy had 18 points in a WNIT win over Niagara

on Thursday. GARY C. KLEIN/ USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

#### **ALL-PACKERLAND CONFERENCE WRESTLING**



Kewaunee's Mitchell Thompson, top, was voted wrestler of the year in the Packerland Conference for the second straight season. WM. GLASHEEN/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

# Storm's Thompson voted league's best

USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

Mitchell Thompson had an historic wrestling season that was rewarded with a second straight Packerland Conference wrestler of the year award.

The Kewaunee senior was a unanimous selection as the top wrestler in a vote of the league's coaches.

Wrestling at 195 pounds, Thompson closed out his high school career with a 40-1 record and a WIAA Division 3 individual state championship. Thompson became the fourth Kewaunee wrestler in program history to win a state title, joining Mark Steinhorst (1980), James Malechek (2008) and his cousin Jack Severin (2020, 2021).

"It feels great," Thompson said after winning the title in Madison. "I hope it's a little sample of what the Kewaunee wrestling club is. We might not have the state championships like the other schools, but if you put in the work, it is going to come.

"I hope it creates a little pathway for young ones down the road."

His stellar senior season was the pinnacle of a remarkable high school wrestling career. Thompson, who was the Packerland Conference wrestler of the year as a junior, was second in state as a junior at 182 pounds after compiling a 34-6 record and was fourth at state as a sophomore wrestling at 170 pounds.

This year, Thompson entered state as the No. 1 seed at 195 pounds and he fulfilled the ranking. His only loss this season was in the championship match of the Oshkosh Lourdes OTW Wrestling Classic in December. Fittingly, the wrestler who beat him ended up winning the state Division 1 championship at 285 pounds this season: West Bend West's Cole Mirasola.

"After last year, losing in the final, he

of what the Kewaunee wrestling club is. We might not have the state championships like the other schools, but if you put in the work, it is going to come. I hope it creates a little pathway for young ones down the road."

"I hope it's a little sample

Mitchell Thompson

# Uecker back behind the mic for 53rd season

See BEST, Page 4B

Todd Rosiak

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

PHOENIX – Perched in his usual spot in the home radio booth at American Family Fields of Phoenix before a recent spring training game, Bob Uecker was asked how his offseason

had gone.

"Well, my Guard unit got called up,"
he answered with a straight face. "Saw a
little action."

Oh, really? And where was he stationed?

nea*:* "Indonesia."

Then came the patented laugh.

Typical "Mr. Baseball."

In all seriousness, Uecker's winter was mostly uneventful and – most im-

portant – healthy.

It was a welcome bounce back from a brutal end of 2021 and start to 2022 when within about a five-month period he had a knee replaced, had surgery for skin cancer, endured a bout with CO-VID-19 and finally, in the cruelest of blows, lost daughter Leeann Uecker Ziemer to ALS.

If ever anyone was due a low-key stretch heading into the baseball season it was the beloved Milwaukee Brewers broadcaster, who turned 89 on Jan. 26 and is now in his – how is this even possible? – 53rd season behind the mic.

"Winter was good. Everything was good," Uecker said. "Spent most of the time out here, but it was cold. It's always good to get back with (Lane) Grindle and (Jeff) Levering and Kent (Sommerfeld, Uecker's radio partners and engineer). Get out here and start playing again.

"But I'm looking forward to getting back to Milwaukee. Getting home."

That will come in time, with the Brewers opening their season March 30 against the Chicago Cubs at Wrigley Field and Uecker back in the booth at American Family Field for the home opener against the New York Mets on April 3.

Until then Uecker will continue to call Milwaukee's home Cactus League games in Phoenix as he has for so many springs.

orings. And no, he doesn't need any practice.

See UECKER, Page 4B



Bob Uecker turned 89 years old on Jan. 26, and he's entering his 53rd season behind the mic as the radio voice of the Brewers.

MIKE DE SISTI/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

# Project sheds light on Wisconsin's black bears



**Outdoors**Paul A. Smith
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

CLAM LAKE – Our group shuffles on snowshoes through a winter wonderland in the Wisconsin North Woods.

Bare, dark limbs of maple and oak trees reach to a cobalt sky; 30 inches of snow cover the forest floor.

After 20 minutes of moving over the undulating landscape, our Nordic conga line comes to a halt 100 yards from a knob

In hushed tones, a message is relayed from the front: "We have arrived."

The snow on this private parcel in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest conceals more than the ground. It also helps hide the winter dwelling of a family of Wisconsin's largest carnivore, the black bear.

The sow in the nearby den carries a distinction shared by only a handful of the other approximately 25,000 bears in Wisconsin. It is part of the Wisconsin Black Bear Project run by researchers at UW-Stevens Point.

The university's project dates to the 1970s and is one of the longest-running studies of bear cub birth rates and survival in the nation.

It has also been extremely productive: About 60% of the scientific citations in the current Wisconsin bear management plan are from UWSP researchers.

The adult female in the nearby den, first fitted with a tracking collar in 2014 and followed each year since by UWSP, is part of a very valuable cohort. Findings from the project have helped shape bear management in Wisconsin and beyond.

The sow has given birth to cubs every two years, with litters ranging from two to four. In 2022, she denned at the same site and birthed two cubs.

Did the young bears survive? If so, how healthy are they? And how is the sow, estimated to be 13 years old, faring?

On a stunningly beautiful weekend in early March, I joined a group of researchers, students, veterinarians, project supporters and fellow journalists in a quest to answer those questions and more.



UW-Stevens Point students Luke Trittelwitz (left) and Tess Bigalke hold black bear cubs March 4 during field work near Clam Lake as part of the UWSP Wisconsin Black Bear Project. The cubs, held temporarily in jackets to keep them warm while the sow was evaluated by researchers, were returned to the den along with the sow. PAUL A. SMITH

We visited three dens over two days. The outings were led by Cady Sartini, UWSP associate professor of wildlife and head of the university's bear project.

Each den contained a sow fitted with a tracking collar which allowed the researchers to find the locations.

As we gathered 100 yards from the first den Saturday morning, Sartini reinforced the principal ground rule.

"The bear is the boss," Sartini said. "Everything revolves around her health and safety."

An advanced team of five people, including Sartini, Bruce Prentice of Ashland, a retired biology teacher and long-time volunteer with the study, and veterinarian John Tracey of Medford quietly moved to the den entrance.

The bears were in an "excavation den," the most common type in Wisconsin, according to UWSP work. Its entrance was betrayed by a narrow slit in the snow, kept open by the bear's respiration and body heat.

The crew removed some snow from the opening and then, guided by a flash-

light, used a pole to inject an anesthetic into the sow.

Reports filtered back to the rest of the group: yes, the sow had two yearlings with her. Now, let's give it 15 minutes and see how the sow responds to the drug.

The experience was awash with nostalgia for me. Since 1994 I've been privileged to visit 15 bear dens in Wisconsin. All but one was in the company of UWSP researchers.

In fact, this month's outings represented the third generation of UWSP bear project leaders who I've joined on den work. In the first years, I was invited by Ray Anderson, who was one of the first professors to study bears at the university.

After Anderson died in 2000, for several years I joined outings led by Tim Ginnett. This month's work was my first with Sartini, who took over the bear project in 2019.

As part of a lecture series, Sartini on Thursday presented "The Wisconsin Black Bear Research Project: Celebrating 45 Years of Bears in the Northwoods.

"This project is older than I am," said Sartini, 39, while offering a respectful view of its history. "Who gets to do that?"

Sartini earned a doctorate at Clemson University with work focused on coyotes and raccoons. The opportunity to work with bears was too good to pass up, she said

It's also extremely popular with stulents

Sartini teaches a class on bears that includes a field visit to a bear den. Many of the students are on this weekend's trip to the North Woods. It's the type of hands-on experience that can help students get jobs after graduation.

"I know I'll be in a better position to get a job because of this," said senior Amber Smith. "I now also know this is what I want to be doing."

Undergraduate Tess Bigalke said she chose to come to UWSP specifically because of the bear project. When she got into the bear class, she was moved to tears of joy.

The project has many partners, including financial supporters and landowners. This den, for example, is on private property owned by Kevin and Kathy Aronson of Trevor. The Aronsons gave UWSP permission to access the site.

Kevin, his son Brian and daughter Danielle have joined the den visit this morning.

"This is incredible, just incredible," Kevin says, balancing on snowshoes near a bear den about 1,000 yards from his cabin. "We are happy to help (UWSP researchers) any way we can."

Once the sow is deemed safe to remove from the den, the entrance is widened and she is pulled out and laid on a tarp. The two yearlings are then also anesthetized and pulled out.

The team then buzzes around taking care of their responsibilities. Some students monitor vital signs to make sure the bears are doing well. Others measure the animals' paws and girth. Blood is taken for disease testing and a tooth is pulled from the sow for aging. A new GPS collar was placed on the sow.

The bears are then weighed (sow 185 pounds, yearlings 70 each).

See BEARS, Page 3B

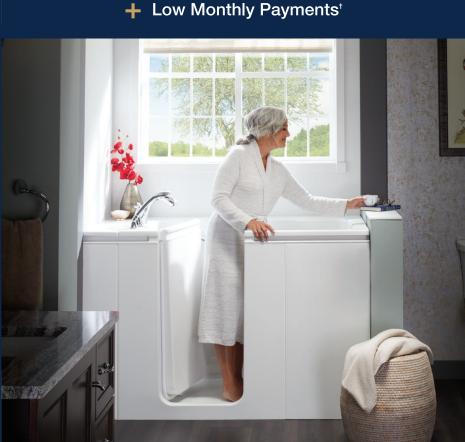


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# Sturgeon Guard 2.0 on tap on Fox, Wolf rivers

Paul A. Smith

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

A citizen initiative has emerged to resurrect a Sturgeon Guard program this spring on the Fox and Wolf rivers in central Wisconsin.

"It will happen," said Don Mielke of Menasha, who is leading the effort. "You can count on it."

The Sturgeon Guard had been run by the Department of Natural Resources from the late 1980s through 2019 to help protect spawning sturgeon in spring when the fish gather in shallows and are especially vulnerable to poaching.

The program, which proved to be very popular, enlisted dozens of volunteers annually to help educate the public on lake sturgeon at spawning sites on the Fox and Wolf as well as report illegal activity to DNR conservation wardens.

It was effective, too. Citizens serving with the guard embraced the program so much that sturgeon poaching cases became rare, according to the DNR. The congregation of people in spawning areas provided plenty of potential witnesses and deterred illegal activity.

But Sturgeon Guard was cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Then in 2022 the DNR announced it would no longer organize guard activities.

The DNR cited a decline in volunteers and difficulty in administering the program in a 2022 statement announcing the change.



Jason Kohls, a fisheries technician with the Wisconsin Department of **Natural** Resources, carries a sturgeon in a net to get measured and tagged during sturgeon spawning Tuesday in Shiocton. DANNY DAMIANI

nebago, Butte des Morts, Poygan and Winneconne and the Fox and Wolf rivers - is home to one of the world's largest populations of lake sturgeon. A 2022 DNR stock assessment estimated the population at 12,304 adult females and 24.061 adult males, as well as an unde-

The Winnebago System sturgeon fishery has become a model for the world in providing a spear fishing harvest season and protecting the resource. Each year the DNR sets a harvest cap that allows no more than 5% of any segment of the population to be harvested in a given year. Spearers registered 1,405 sturgeon in the 2023 season which

termined number of juvenile fish.

spanned Feb. 11 to 26.

"The decision to stop (Sturgeon Guard) didn't sit well with me or most people around here," Mielke said. "So I've been thinking about it and said to myself, what is keeping me from doing it? I know all these people."

Mielke is assembling a group of likeminded area residents to help with the administration of the 2023 Sturgeon Guard. He plans to keep much the same, such as focusing volunteer efforts on areas where sturgeon are actively spawning and sending volunteers out in

Guard members will be issued hats and vests to make them identifiable in the field, just like before. And they will be provided educational materials on sturgeon which they will be encouraged to share with members of the public at the spawning sites.

Mielke has started reaching out to state high school ice fishing clubs and Sturgeon For Tomorrow chapters to recruit volunteers.

Anyone interested in serving on the 2023 Sturgeon Guard on the Fox or Wolf should email Mielke at amerimilk@aol.com and ask to be put on a list of prospective volunteers.

A proposed Sturgeon Guard on the Milwaukee River is on hold until the fish begin to show spawning behavior. The population of sturgeon on the Milwaukee is being restored through a stocking effort; some adult fish returned in 2021 and 2022 but no spawning was observ-

# **Bears**

Continued from Page 2B

The trio is then placed back in the den and Sartini leads the group out for the next site.

Many findings of the university's bear work are published in a 2019 report titled "Black bear reproduction and cub survival." The paper utilized data from 116 female black bears in the UWSP bear project spanning 1989 to 2015; Ginnett is the principal author.

Among the findings: a relatively low

mean age of first reproduction of 4.4 years, a high mean litter size of 2.5 cubs per litter and low average interbirth interval of 2 years. The data are likely indicative of high resource availability in the study area.

However the DNR left open the possi-

bility the program could be restarted if

an outside entity stepped forward to run

it, said Ben Treml, DNR regional war-

Mielke agreed to lead the effort.

That happened this month when

Mielke, 67, is a fifth-generation Wis-

consin farmer and sturgeon spearer

who has lived within sight of Lake Win-

nebago his entire life. He also is a long-

time member of Sturgeon For Tomor-

row, a leading conservation organiza-

tion in the Winnebago System, and has

served on the DNR's Sturgeon Advisory

The Winnebago System - lakes Win-

Mean litter size increased with the age of the mother and appears to be slightly increasing over time, according to the work, and cub survival rate has decreased in recent years and was 39% greater on private versus public lands.

The authors said the fact that cub survival was a function of land ownership is a novel finding and needs further research. That's exactly what the staff and students at UWSP intend to do keep studying Wisconsin's bears.

The next two dens featured sows with cubs. The process was similar but the cubs, just about six weeks old and 4 pounds in weight, are not anesthetized.

They are pulled from the den and held inside jackets to keep them warm while the sow is assessed. The cub tending duty is something you never forget.

The cubs are less than two months old but already perfect little bears, complete with black fur coats and sharp

"This isn't something I ever thought I'd get to do," said UWSP student Luke Trittelwitz, with a bear cub clawing up his shoulder.

One den had four cubs, the other three. After the work on the sows was complete and they were returned to the den, the cubs were placed at her side.

The den entrances were then covered with pine and spruce boughs.

Finally Sartini, following a UWSP bear project tradition dating back to Anderson, performs an asemaa, an Ojibwe ceremony to give thanks to the spirits.

'These bears have allowed us into their den, allowed us to work on them," Sartini said. "We owe them to be respectful and to give thanks."



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#### **Best**

Continued from Page 1B

just wanted it this year," Kewaunee coach Daniel Steinhorst said. "He worked hard, practiced hard. Every match counted. He never let up.

"He just dominated the mat as much as he could and kept working hard."

Two other Storm wrestlers were named to the all-Packerland team as unanimous selections: Ezra Ducat and Mitchell Boeder.

Ducat, a senior wrestling at 220 pounds, finished his season with a 31-11

record after placing fourth at the state tournament.

Ducat, who took third at this year's sectional, was also named all-league last year as a junior after going 29-10 with a fifth-place finish at 195 pounds at

Boeder is a freshman who finished with a 32-13 record wrestling at 285 pounds. He placed fourth at sectionals this season.

#### **ALL-PACKERLAND CONFERENCE** WRESTLING TEAM

WRESTLER OF THE YEAR Mitchell Thompson, Kewaunee, 195 pounds, senior (unanimous)

**FIRST TEAM** 106 pounds: Nora Lefevre, Southern Door,

freshman (unanimous) 113 pounds: Addisen Olson, Peshtigo, fresh-

man (unanimous) 120 pounds: Mason Motquin, Southern Door,

iunior (unanimous) 126 pounds: Spencer Madsen, Sturgeon Bay/

Sevastopol, freshman (unanimous) 132 pounds: Wyatt Wilke, Southern Door, sophomore (unanimous)

138 pounds: Reese Yunke, Peshtigo, junior

(unanimous) 145 pounds: Ethan Brissette, Peshtigo, junior

152 pounds: Cole Berth, Peshtigo, freshman (unanimous)

(unanimous) Kewaunee

160 pounds: Hayden Jeanquart, Southern Door, junior (unanimous)

170 pounds: Zak Wrobel, Sturgeon Bay/Sevastopol, sophomore (unanimous)

182 pounds: Jonas Jandrin, Southern Door,

195 pounds: Mitchell Thompson, Kewaunee,

senior (unanimous)

220 pounds: Ezra Ducat, Kewaunee, senior (unanimous)

285 pounds: Mitchell Boeder, Kewaunee, freshman (unanimous)

#### **FINAL STANDINGS**

Peshtigo	4-0
Southern Door	3-1
Oconto	2-2
Sturgeon Bay-Sevastopol	1-3

#### **Berth**

Continued from Page 1B

UWGB won its first WNIT game in seven appearances with a dominating 32-point victory over Niagara in the opening round last week at the Kress Center.

'Cassie is right, it's hard to pick up the pieces and go play," UWGB coach Kevin Borseth said. "It's a different feeling. But I really felt (Thursday) we were ready. I sensed it in shootaround that we were ready.

"The energy was back. Now we are beyond that. Now we have a chance to play another game."

The Phoenix, however, were knocked out in the second round by Bowling Green 69-51 on Monday. UWGB fell to 28-6 to close out the season.

UWGB needed one more win to move

into a third-place tie for most victories in a season in program history, joining the 2007, 2009, 2013 and 2018 teams.

The 2011 squad that made the program's only trip to the Sweet 16 of the NCAAs holds the program record with 34 wins, before winning 31 games the following season.

## **Uecker**

Continued from Page 1B

"Roll out of bed and do it," he said. "I could probably do it in bed."

That led to a conversation about how different spring training is from Uecker's playing days in the 1950s and 1960s and even decades later, when camp was used as a time for players to actually get themselves in shape and ready for the

Now, pitchers are training at home and in gyms with camera setups costing thousands of dollars, and position players are doing workouts under the tutelage of personal coaches, trying to gain any advantage they can.

Uecker was reminded of Ryan Braun, who used to state at the start of every spring that he needed only a few games to get himself ready for the season, such was the amount of preparation he'd already put in before arriving.

"It's funny with guys that can do that," Uecker said. "The difference today is these guys work out so much and are together a lot of times during the offsea-

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son. They're in each others' backyards, when back in my time we had to have

jobs. Most guys had jobs. "You went to spring training and all you did was run for the most part. There was no weightlifting. Dumbbells were all you could have. Then you ran.

'That's all you did."

Not surprisingly, Brewers players love having Uecker around from the moment he first sets foot in the clubhouse. Usually that comes early in camp, and then he begins making the rounds.

"I remember when he came for the first time like, two to three weeks ago," right-hander Freddy Peralta said. "I was so happy to see him, see his face, and he was happy to see me, too."

They don't come much more cheerful than Peralta, who normally has a permanent smile on his face and a kind word for anyone he encounters.

But just the mere mention of Uecker widens that grin even more.

"He has high energy every day. He's bringing a happy face every day. He makes you feel the same way," Peralta said. "So, it's awesome to see him all the time - in Milwaukee, too. He always goes around to our lockers and visits us, trying to see what we're doing and how we're feeling.

"It's great."

Peralta mentioned he knew Uecker is in his 80s but appeared stunned when informed he'll be 90 in less than a year.

"Oh, my God!" he said. Asked if he'd be as happy and energetic as Uecker when he reaches 89, Peralta said he would.

Then he put his hands together in prayer.

Turning to the product the Brewers are going to be putting on the field this season, Uecker noted the strength of the starting rotation as the major reason to believe.

Milwaukee, of course, is seeking a bounce back from last year's disappointing finish that left it on the outside of the playoff picture for the first time since 2017.

"If indeed that holds true to what they're talking about, I think it's going to be a decent year," he said. "I don't see them having any problems without any major injuries.

"I think it's a good group of guys." Uecker also brought up all the onfield changes Major League Baseball is enacting in an attempt to speed up the

Pitching timers, no defensive shifting, bigger bases – Uecker has thoughts on all of it but can't help but think back to his playing days, when starting pitchers would throw complete games in right around the 2-hour mark.

The early returns this spring have been markedly faster games - especially considering the number of player moves that take place in each one - but there remain questions in a number of

"I'm interested in seeing how all these new rules work," Uecker said.

Fans of Mr. Baseball should be happy to learn that there is also a documentary in the works about his life.

A film crew will be shadowing him at times and all sorts of his previous memorable moments, presumably from "The Tonight Show," "Mr. Belvedere," "Major League" and who knows what else, will also be interspersed throughout.

'They were working on me all winter," Uecker said. "I didn't really want to do it, but they talked me into it."

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# How inheritance will shape future of state's forests

#### **Becky Jacobs**

**Appleton Post-Crescent** USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

Once their two children were in school, and with two incomes supporting the household, Dick and Charlotte Thompson finally felt they could turn Dick's lifelong dream of owning a tree farm into reality.

"Gee ... I'd love to have a new car," Charlotte said she thought at the time. But Dick assured his wife: "The farm is going to last longer than the car."

That was in 1966, when the couple bought their first 40-acre tree farm in Humbird, about an hour southeast of Chippewa Falls.

Flash forward to today, the Thompsons own more than 900 acres of forest in four counties along U.S. 10, stretching from Stevens Point west to Eleva.

"We've been blessed," Charlotte said, to have shared a love for their six tree farms with their children and grandchildren over the decades.

At 88 years old, Dick and Charlotte now split their time between Wisconsin and Florida. They've put plans in place to ensure their forests are protected and managed in the future. And they've begun preparing their 61-year-old son, Steve Thompson, and 31-year-old granddaughter, Elizabeth Thompson, to carry out those plans through the next generations.

"I look at the legacy as being able to look back, maybe my kids or my grandkids ... and say, 'This was something that great grandpa started,' or, 'This is something that we've all worked on," Steve Thompson said.

Most of Wisconsin's 17 million acres of forests are owned by private families, like the Thompsons. In the coming decades, millions of acres of privatelyowned forest land across the country will change hands, as these family owners get older.

In Wisconsin, specifically, the average age of family forest owners is 61, and 41% of family forest land is owned by people who are at least 65, according to a 2020 state report.

'As landowners age," the report states, "the manner in which they transfer their land to the next generation will, at least in part, determine the future of Wisconsin's forests and how they are managed."

#### Some forest owners want to keep their trees in the family

Ever since Ron Gropp started his forestry career, 30-plus years ago, there's been talk, he said, about how to deal with this impending intergenerational transfer of ownership.

"I would maintain that it's here, it's happening right now," Gropp, a private forestry specialist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, told USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin last month.

Forest owners have decisions to make, he said. Are they going to sell their land? Hold on to it? Will they transfer it to their children? If so, what do those children plan to use it for?

The Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association helps its members navigate those questions, said Nancy Bozek, the nonprofit's executive director.

"They put so much time and energy into" their forests, Bozek said, and "they don't want to lose that."

The Thompson decided to place their tree farms in a Limited Liability Company, or LLC, to pass the properties onto their three children and 11 grandchildren. With subdivisions encroaching on a couple of the farms, the couple wanted to ensure the properties stayed in the family and that their forests remained

Merlin and Georgie Becker also decided to keep their forest land in Waupaca County among relatives. Merlin, 84, grew up visiting the property with his grandparents when they owned it, and he fondly remembers tapping maple trees together.

Now, he and Georgie are in charge, and it's Merlin's "pride and joy." He keeps meticulous records of the thousands of trees they've planted and all the happenings on their 159 acres, including hunting outings and tours. Next, the land will go to the couple's son, who has a home on a corner of their property.

Other members of Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association have explored different options. During a panel on succession planning at the organization's annual meeting last fall, one person said he created a trust to pass his property on to a friend, while another couple said they plan to donate their land to a grouse advocacy organization which will protect the forest.

#### **Owners grow connection between** forests and their children

Generally, most private forest owners don't own their land to practice forestry and logging, but rather for wildlife and recreational purposes. So what Gropp and others in his field try to do, he said, is show how sustainable forest management can help owners achieve what they want to get from their land.

For instance, more than half of the raw materials that Wisconsin's forest products industry uses comes from private forest land, making the management of these properties "hugely important," he said. Plus, healthy forests mean better wildlife habitat and clean air and water, according to Gropp.

For the Thompsons, it was important to get their children and grandchildren connected and involved in the tree farms from a young age. Each Columbus Day weekend, the family took a trip to one of the properties. Charlotte always want to make it a fun memory, she said, mixing pool parties at the motel with meals eaten outdoors in the forest. Dick arranged different activities, such as showing family members how to measure the trees.

Even after so many trips to the tree farms over the years, Steve said he still gets an "overwhelming feeling" each time he arrives, taking in the smells and the sights of the trees.

'Growing up, I didn't see it as an inheritance," Elizabeth said of her grandparents' farms. "I just thought it was a cool spot to go."

Steve and Elizabeth are now self-described "tree nerds," and Elizabeth laughs that the tree farms come up "all the time" during conversations — even

None of them have formal forestry training, Elizabeth said, but her family has learned from experience, networking and talking with professionals. Over the years, she and her dad have got more involved in the management of the family's tree farms, helping to plan what needs to be done and learning what to plant and cut. Once, when a storm hit one of the properties, they brought some of the lumber home to use with their sawmill.

There's "a lot of blood, sweat and tears" that goes into running the properties. Elizabeth said, but like her dad, she still always wants to go back.

#### Find help from free handbook and local foresters

As private forest owners get older, there is also an increasing number of women who are becoming more of the primary decision makers for forest land, according to Bozek and Gropp.

In the U.S., women generally live longer than men. So, when a husband dies, the responsibility for land that the couple owned together then falls to the

"Many of them may not be as equipped as they can be to take on those challenges," Gropp said, "thinking, 'Well, my husband always did that. I wasn't very actively involved in the management of property."

In 2014, Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association created the Women of WWOA group to help female owners network and learn more about managing their land, Bozek said.

That group created the My Land Handbook to guide people through a series of questions about their property. The handbook can help pass on information, like what programs the land is enrolled in or who the property's forester is, to future owners, or serve as a reference in emergencies. It is free to download at wisconsinwoodlands.org/ resources/publications/.

Bozek's organization also started the Growing Your Legacy project, to help owners think about how they will pass on their land and to whom it will go. More details are available at wisconsinwoodlands.org/growing-your-legacy.

If owners want help managing their land, Gropp suggests going to dnr.wi. gov/fal to find their local foresters.

Reach Becky Jacobs at bjacobs@ gannett.com or 920-993-7117. Follow her on Twitter at @ruthyjacobs.







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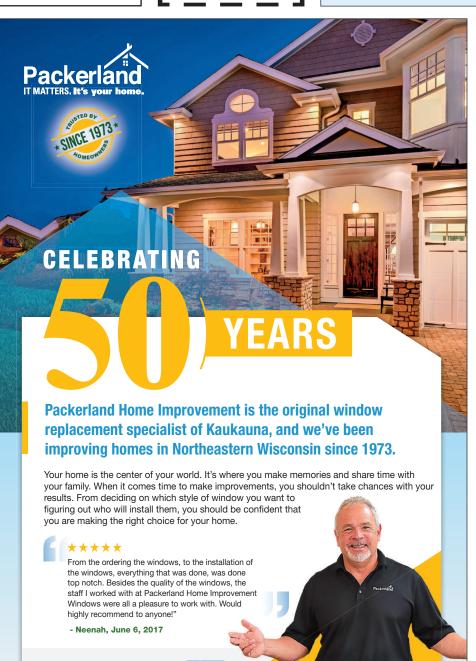
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