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# WAUPACA County Post

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## Felony charges filed against Waupaca man

Burglar targets local stores

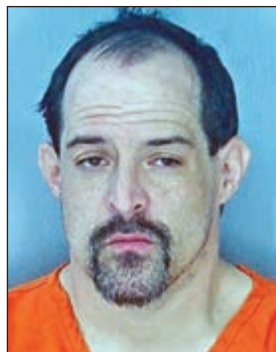
BY ROBERT CLOUD  
 SENIOR EDITOR

WAUPACA – Prosecutors in Waupaca County filed four felony cases within four days against Ryan S. Lubinski, 39, Waupaca.

Lubinski was charged with attempted burglary, attempted theft and criminal damage to property on Oct. 14.

That same day, he was charged with burglary and criminal damage in another incident, as well as with burglary and two counts of criminal damage to property in a third incident.

On Oct. 17, Lubinski was charged with two counts of burglary, and two counts each of felony theft, possession of burglarious tools and criminal damage.



Lubinski

Police began investigating the first in a series of crimes targeting local businesses on April 24 when Niemuth's Steak and Chop Shop on Redfield Street reported the theft of \$83 in rolled coins.

The owner told Waupaca Police Officer Kyle Holden that she believed the burglar entered the store by prying open the back door. The coins were

Lubinski  
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Madeline Anteau of Cloud Nine Fire Show twirled a flaming staff (along with a flaming hoola hoop and other items) during a performance Friday, Oct. 25, at Halloween on Main in Waupaca. James Card Photo

## Board upholds sand mine permit

Hearing lasts 10 1/2 hours

BY EMILY DOUD  
 STAFF REPORTER

IOLA – The Waupaca County Board of Adjustments voted Oct. 25 to uphold the decision made by the Waupaca County Planning and Zoning Committee to permit a sand mine on the Iola Car Show grounds.

The decision was to allow a conditional use permit (CUP) for the sand mine, which will be operated by Faulks Bros. Construction.

The town of Scandinavia Plan Commission recommended denying the permit on May 3, 2023. Then the Scandinavia Town Board also recommended denying the CUP.

The Waupaca County Planning and Zoning Committee held a public hearing in July 2023 with a vote taken in August to deny the CUP request.

Eventually, the Waupaca County Planning and Zoning Committee voted to allow the CUP for the proposed mine in January 2024 after agreeing to conditions. Board member and county Supervisor Joe McClone cast the single dissenting vote.



Greg Ambrosius takes the podium at the public hearing about the Iola sand mine in front of the Waupaca County Board of Adjustments Oct. 21.

Emily Doud Photo

After this decision was made, neighbors to the proposed mine hired an attorney from Pines Bach Law firm out of Madison, Christa Westerberg, to represent them in the appeal.

The public hearing took place Oct. 21 where the Board of Adjustments heard 10 1/2 hours of testimony from both sides.

The Board of Adjustments were given all the transcripts of every meeting held, as well as documents, letters and evidence from each side, and a tour of the parcel prior to the hearing.

The sand mine will only have 10 acres open and processed at any given time, Faulks Bros. will have eight

years to extract the sand, with an option to extend a further three years should it be needed.

The main concerns that were addressed repeatedly throughout the meeting were the affects to groundwater and wells, land value and whether or not the application was properly filled out.

### Groundwater and wells

Groundwater and well contamination came up during testimony, with the appellants stating that their wells are too close to the proposed site.

The Iola Car Show and Faulks Bros. hired Mark

Krumenacher, a geologist and geophysicist, who has been studying groundwater for about 40 years.

Krumenacher said that groundwater flow generally mimics surface topography, so the water is always flowing to discharge into a surface water source.

“If on average we get 42 inches of rain in this area, about 7 inches of that ultimately soaks into the ground, becoming groundwater,” Krumenacher said.

CUP, Faulks Bros. has agreed that the mining does not go below the water table, Krumenacher said, nor will there be a well located on site.

Faulks said the mine will on average be about 26 feet deep.

Westerberg said the water table in the area can be anywhere from 20 to 50 feet below ground level, which leads her to believe that there is some overlap in numbers.

During deliberations the Board of Adjustments agreed that the mine will not have an effect on groundwater, as well as not have an effect on erosion, wetlands, floodplains or water bodies.

Sand Mine  
 CONTINUES ON PAGE 7



Neuschafer Community Library Director Melissa Krause upon hearing the news that the library was awarded a \$4.25 million grant. Amanda D'Arcy Photo

## Huge win for Fremont

\$4.25 million for community facility

BY JAMES CARD  
 STAFF REPORTER

FREMONT – The phone rang during Mrs. Highlander's 4K story time at the Neuschafer Community Library.

Library Director Melissa Krause answered the call and was informed that the library would receive a \$4.25 million grant.

The funds are from the Wisconsin's Department of Administration Flexible Facilities Program (FFP) and will be used to build a new library and commu-

nity center.

Krause crafted the grant proposal with help from library board members, staff, Friends of the Library, economic development experts and community members to craft the grant proposal.

There was one catch: the FFP funding is to be used to create a facility for high-speed internet, to help rural communities access work, education and healthcare remotely. The library's current site was inadequate for expansion, so Krause went on the hunt for suitable property.

She spoke with local

Grant  
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## Bringing the cows home

The Doughty family of New London heads down West North Water Street during a special trick-or-treat event held by downtown businesses Saturday, Oct. 26. From left, two-year old Bently, Mom Skylar, one-year old Braxton, and Dad Hunter.

John Faucher Photo

## Cemetery tour walks through history

BY ELISE FULMER  
 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

STEVENS POINT – The Twilight Cemetery Tour at Forest Cemetery, Friday and Saturday, Oct. 25-26, offered visitors an opportunity to learn about the people and places of the community's past.

The Portage County Historical Society hosted the event.

Jen Brilowski is a volunteer at the historical society and has been giving cemetery tours for the past three years. She specializes in cemetery research as well as grave cleaning and restoration.

Brilowski calls it a “hobby that became a calling.”

Brilowski started restoring grave during the pandemic when she had a bad case of Covid. The cemetery acted as a safe space for her.



Jen Brilowski, a volunteer with the Portage County Historical Society, stands beside the grave of Frank S. Hyer, who became president at Whitewater State Teachers College in 1930 and was on the faculty at Stevens Point from 1904 to 1919. Brilowski led the Twilight Cemetery Tour at Forest Cemetery Oct. 25-26.

Elise Fulmer Photo

She began by cleaning her family's stones.

“I found purpose and started to expand,” she said. “I then started to clean the

graves of neglected veterans and children, as well as people whose families moved away.”

Brilowski has cleaned roughly 700 stones in four

years.

Brilowski later shared these stories to her Facebook page, Point of the Past, before giving tours.

“It was a shame to learn all these stories and only have a few people on Facebook see it,” she said. “So pairing with the Historical Society was a naturally good fit.”

This year, the Twilight Cemetery Tour raised about \$1,500 dollars.

Brilowski enjoys giving these tours.

“It shows that everyone has a story, everyone is important,” she said.

Brilowski also noted that grave cleaning takes special care and techniques that require plenty of research and care.

Those interested in grave restoration, can refer to her Facebook page.