

LOWER WISCONSIN RIVER VALLEY SENTINEL

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Spring Green, Wisconsin

WE CARE MORE.

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Hillside Theater Renovation
Nearly Complete

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\$867,000 Hillside Theater restoration at Taliesin nears completion, team is entering the final phases of the project

Elizabeth Maske, *Taliesin Preservation*

“Performances at Taliesin have always contributed significantly to its life. They interrupt the routine of mundane living with focused preparation, presentation, and participation. Hillside Theater did not displace the music, talks, and dramatic readings that took place in the magical living room at the Taliesin house, but it was the place where Wright invited the world beyond Taliesin to share in its creative life.”

—Sidney K. Robinson, Author, Architect and Former Emeritus Educator at Taliesin School of Architecture

With the start of the Fellowship in 1932, the Hillside Theater transitioned from a multipurpose room, complete with a small stage and suspended



Photo contributed by the Taliesin Preservation

Grammy-award winning musician Mike Block performing in the Hillside Theater.

running track, to a playhouse dedicated to entertainment. On Sundays, Wright played movies for the public, and 50 cents covered both admission and coffee by the fire. From its first

iterations to the 1955 structure that stands today, the theater has been a place of community convening and shared appreciation for the arts. The Hillside Theater Restoration Project

was announced in 2018 following funding from The National Park Service. The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, in collaboration with Taliesin Preservation, worked with local and national foundations, corporations, and private donors to provide funds to match the Save America's Treasures grant awarded for this \$867,000 project. Following extensive planning, preservation was divided into three phases: elimination of water infiltration, rehabilitation of the basement, and restoration of the Hillside Theater. In 2020, the Foundation's preservation team, Adam Charles, Construction and Maintenance Manager; Kyle Dockery, Collections Coordinator; and Ryan Hewson, the Director of Preservation at Taliesin, discussed ongoing efforts to redirect

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You're invited to celebrate spring's arrival with the vernal equinox amongst the ancient effigy mounds at Frank's Hill

Dave Martin, *Three Eagles Foundation*

Winter has not yet relinquished the icy grip on the landscape, but the calendar says spring will arrive soon. The tradition of observing solstice and equinox events at a site in southern Richland County will continue with marking the vernal equinox amongst the ancient effigy mounds at Frank's Hill near Muscoda. The Three Eagles Foundation will welcome people for the sunrise and sunset on Sunday, March 20th, in recognition of the changing of the seasons. Spring officially begins at 10:33 a.m. (CDT) on Sunday, March 20th, meaning the first sunset of spring will be that evening. Representatives of the Three Eagles Foundation will be on Hill East on Sunday evening for the sunset. Frank's Hill will be open to the public for self-guided tours on the days

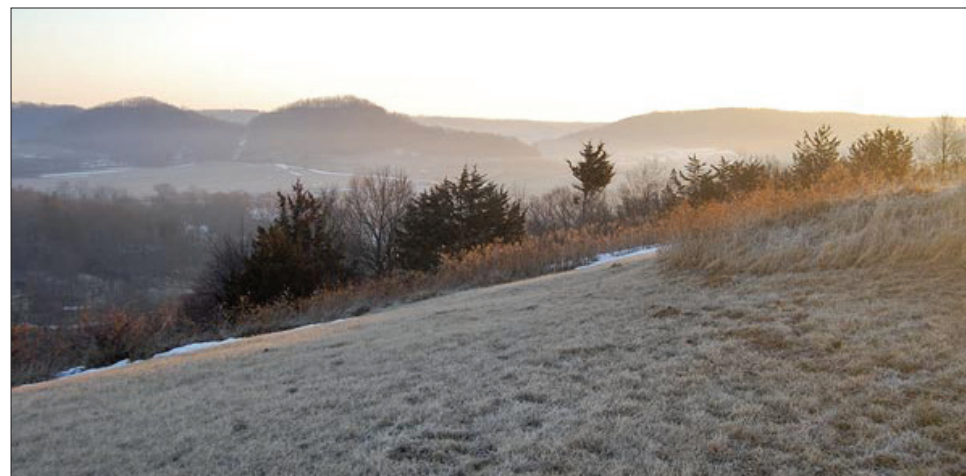


Photo from the Three Eagles Foundation

The view at Frank's Hill at a previous vernal equinox.

before and after the official equinox. The sunrise/sunset observations are subject to suitable weather conditions. A short hike will be required to the top

of the hill that offers a stunning view of the lower Wisconsin River valley. Guests should arrive by 6:15 a.m. for sunrise or 6:15 p.m. to observe the

sunset. The site is located 2 miles west of Muscoda near the intersection of Hwy. 60 and Hwy. 193. Park well off the road on the shoulder and enter by the gate.

Frank's Hill is on the National Register of Historic Places. A group of unique effigy mounds is situated on Hill East where the observances will occur. The mounds are thought to have been built a thousand or more years ago by the people of the Late Woodland Tradition, recognized by many as the ancestors of the modern Ho-Chunk Nation.

To learn more about the equinox event or for directions, contact Three Eagles Foundation President Dave Martin at (608) 739-4198 or Vice-President Mark Cupp at 739-2179 or visit the Foundation's website or Facebook.

THIS EDITION: WE'RE CELEBRATING WOMEN



VS.
 Today we celebrate International Women's Day!
 Valley Sentinel is proud to be a majority female-owned business and is proud to support women in journalism and business leadership positions. We like to believe we are proof of the good that can come from empowered women.
 Take an extra moment to support, thank and appreciate the women in your life today.

“
 I'd like to take time today to say thank you to the women who have helped make VS possible. We are strongest when we cheer each other on and Valley Sentinel wouldn't be what it is today without the on-going support and effort from the women that surround it. Thank you for all you do.
 —Nicole Aimone,
 Co-Owner/Editor-in-Chief of Valley Sentinel
 ”

March 8 was International Women's Day and March is Women's History Month. We posted the above on our social media because we are profoundly impacted by strong women everyday. Our masthead is a reflection of how important women are to VS, outnumbering men 2 to 1.

The Plain and Simple Correspondent: Treat 'Em Right –Women on the Platform

Katie Green, Columnist

It is my privilege to be female, giver of Life and Wisdom. If you don't believe these are my ancient Goddess-given attributes, just ask me...or my children, or my spouse. Like any female worth her salt, if given a microphone or platform or invitation to speak my mind, I can give any man alive a run for his money.

This is again Women's Month, one of those designated periods in the US where citizens are supposed to sit up and take notice of something. Sometimes these events are nationwide, sometimes simply State events. Many other causes dear to us are allowed to be held up for attention – medical conditions, libraries, holidays. It gets to be a bit of a free-for-all, so I am narrowing my focus down to



Katie Green

femaleness and indigenous visions for the future, since not long ago I glued myself to the radio and listened with deep interest to Shannon Holsey, President of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of the Mohican Nation, give the Indigenous Peoples' Day address at our State Capitol. Yes, she did go on a bit long, but finally grew hungry enough to wrap it up. That's a female trait, too. Everybody needs to be fed and we dish up lots that's savory and nutritious.



Contributed photo

The author says: Thank you to President Shannon Holsey of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of the Mohican Nation for your incredible address!

President Holsey listed the history of grievances that have plagued Native Americans since the first explorers came ashore to what is now the United States of North America. The natives in some cases saved the hides of the explorers and invaders and for their pains were given new diseases, treaties to be broken, complete disrespect and murderous hostility. They were pushed farther and farther away from traditional hunting and farming grounds, and being greatly outnumbered, it is a wonder any survived.

Next Ms. Holsey listed many suggestions to help native peoples up out of poverty, through increased access to voting rights, education, medical attention, housing. You know, what we all say we want, regardless of background and culture. Mainly, I had the feeling, Ms. Holsey simply wanted an acknowledgement that 500 years of maltreatment had happened and needs to stop. The abuse continues, especially towards native women. Many who heard her were pounding their palms to blisters in agreement and shouting amens. I, personally, found nothing to object to, most to

agree with, and little that I did not already know from my reading. I particularly agreed with the request that reservation lands be protected from exploitation and pollution from the fossil fuel extractive industry. The Enbridge Corporation has a scandalous record already of polluting ground water in the upper Midwest and Canada, so why should they be trusted now to safely bring an oil and natural gas line underneath the reservation watershed?

Native peoples are famous for making no judgmental classification of greater or lesser between humans and all other inhabitants of the natural world – animals, birds, all that creeps and crawls, rocks, trees, water, wind – that is above and below ground. The Great Creator made it all for all to share and care for in love, no one “owning” it, only stewards of it for our allotted time. This is what allows for a healthy planet generation after generation. I'm partial to the idea, myself. Clearly, our abuses of this concept have gotten us a peck of trouble. I know I've said this before, but it bears repeating, don't you think? At our house, we were almost

blown off the planet last night.

Our legislature listened but obviously the majority party did not hear what President Holsey said. Scarcely had the shouts died away than a raft of legislation was introduced to make it harder for all citizens to vote, regardless of race or culture but particularly onerous for the poor, and a law proposed to try to keep this “uncomfortable” history

from being discussed in schools for fear some (White?) student might squirm in facing the reality of the past. Budget proposals were made that ignored the crying needs of the poor of whatever stripe. Fortunately we have a Governor currently who will get out the veto pen if and when these ridiculous proposals hit his desk. There are those in office still pretending Joe Biden didn't win the election in Wisconsin and getting paid big public bucks to say it. I maintain it is long past time to face down unproductive and illusionary elected officials and vote in some truly interested in the public interest.

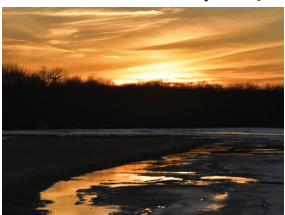
As State Senator Melissa Asgard said in greeting at the Capitol “I want to thank President Shannon Holsey... for taking the time to join us to share a joint vision for Wisconsin. We share the same goals: providing hope for future generations through investing in public educations, preserving our environment and natural resources, addressing racial disparities and expanding healthcare access of all people in our state.”

If you have a better idea, tell me about it.

Katie is an author living in Plain that has been writing for fun and profit, mostly the former, since childhood. Her writing is self described as opinionated, but meant to be in the interests of a more loving, better functioning world for all. She may be reached at: greengal2@charter.net.

ON THE COVER

Sunset on the river, Photo (2022) by Aaron Jacobus



From the artist: This is sunset on the Wisconsin River near Arena, taken February 2022. I took my daughter down to look for eagles, we saw several sitting on the ice. When we turned around we saw the sunset reflecting off the ice. I almost always have my camera with me to capture whatever scenes (such as this) that I might see. My favorite hashtag is #noticenature, as I am always on the lookout to see what most of us drive by every day.

Aaron Jacobus lives in Arena and teaches middle school in Madison.

Submit your artwork or photography for consideration: editor@vallesentinelnews.com

Cover image trace graphic illustration by Julianna Williams

NEXT EDITION: WE'RE CELEBRATING SUNSHINE LAWS AND FOCUSING ON WORKFORCE RESOURCES & EMPLOYMENT



Sunshine Week was launched in 2005 by the American Society of News Editors — now News Leaders Association — and has grown into an enduring initiative to promote open government.

Join us in our next edition for a round-up of the annual nationwide celebration of access to public information and what it means for you and our community. It's your right to know.

Follow our Sunshine Week content on Instagram: @VS_Wisconsin

We'll also be doing a special section dive into the current difficult workforce situation, talking to local business leaders about the current climate and what's driving any worker shortages as well as sharing resources for the workforce and those seeking employment, along with a job board. Businesses interested in partnering, advertising or sharing your experiences? Reach out: editor@vallesentinelnews.com

Our Social Dilemma — Part 1: Our Social Condition

Beverly Pestel, *Columnist*

“Our Social Dilemma” is a series of thought-provoking columns by retired local professor Beverly Pestel exploring a description and explanation of our current social, cultural and political tensions — looking at solutions and means of learning to accept one another.

...

I heard a report recently that Denmark has navigated the COVID pandemic more successfully than any other country. I wondered why that was so. As it turns out, Denmark is also unique in two other ways. First, polling in Denmark reveals that the citizens trust the government. Second, they also have a high degree of trust and respect for one another. It has been suggested that it is these two characteristics that have allowed Denmark to deal so successfully with COVID.

These two characteristics make Denmark very different from the United States. The question that immediately came to mind was, why is this so? What is the ultimate source of the distrust and disrespect so obvious in the United States? I doubt anyone can claim to have the absolute answer, but there are some interesting and compelling possibilities. The beginning of an explanation may be found in the book, “Sapiens: A Brief History of

Humankind” by Yuval Noah Harari. Harari describes a cognitive revolution that allowed *Homo sapiens* to eclipse the other species of humans. It involves a unique development in the ability to use language. He describes it this way:

“The truly unique feature of our language...[is] the ability to transmit information about things that do not exist at all... Many animals and human species could previously say, ‘Careful! A lion!’ Thanks to the Cognitive Revolution *Homo sapiens* acquired the ability to say, ‘The lion is the guardian spirit of our tribe.’ This ability to speak about fictions is the most unique feature of Sapiens language. It’s relatively easy to agree that only *Homo sapiens* can speak about things that don’t really exist, and believe six impossible things before breakfast... fiction has enabled us not to merely imagine things, but to do so collectively...Sapiens can cooperate in extremely flexible ways with countless numbers of strangers...Large numbers of strangers can cooperate successfully by

believing in common myths.” (Harari, pg. 24-27)
“Over the years, people have woven an incredibly complex network of



Beverly Pestel

stories...the kinds of things that people create through this network of stories are known [as] ‘imagined realities’... an imagined reality is something that everyone believes in, and as long as this communal belief persists, the imagined reality exerts a force in the world.” (Harari, pg. 31-32)
Sapiens ability to construct imagined realities and share them to create communal beliefs is also what allows Sapiens to create multiple networks called cultures. When we associate ourselves with a specific culture it gives us a social identity that defines who we are, how we behave, and who we accept as equals. It also may define how

groups see and respond to one another. When social conditions exist that create different cultures that are in conflict or find themselves treated differently, an extreme them/us dichotomy can form. According to Harari, the results can be catastrophic: “We are people like you and me...We are all responsible for one another, but not responsible for them. We are always distinct from them, and owe them nothing...They are barely even human.”

It is hard to deny that this does not describe some of our most destructive current social and political tensions. This begs the question: What may have caused the creation of these conflicting cultures and what could be done to deconflict them?

The series of columns to follow attempts to explore this issue from multiple perspectives.

Beverly had a 37 year career as a chemistry professor specializing in chemistry education and learning theory. In 2012 she was able to retire and move home to Wisconsin to focus on remodeling an old farmhouse and tending 40 acres of woodland in Richland County. When not in the woods she spends her time reading, writing and enjoying the beauty of the Driftless Area.

Drama-free legislation re-cap: State Senate passes dozens of bills you’ll never hear about

Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green)

The legislature has been in session frequently over the last several weeks to make progress before we adjourn our spring session in March. The vast majority of legislation we have passed has been unanimous or bi-partisan, which means you probably haven’t heard about it because there is no drama. The media loves to tell you about our disagreements. They rarely tell you about all of the work we do together.

Following are highlights of our work that you probably didn’t hear about yet. Please note that I did not author these bills, but I supported all of them:

Senate Bill (SB) 429 – Construction of motor vehicle license plates – If you happen to see me on the road, you may notice that half of my license plate is no longer

legible. This is due to the materials that were used to manufacture license plates in Wisconsin during the last several



Senator Howard Marklein

years, as well as the age of my plates. This bill requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to upgrade the plate sheeting to a high-definition,

prismatic sheeting to prevent peeling. It also requires the department to create a regular license plate replacement schedule that will replace every plate in the state over a 10-year period and then follow a 10-year cycle.

SB 573 – Electric vehicle charging stations – This bill creates a statutory structure for private industry to invest in electric vehicle charging stations. While most day-to-day charging occurs at a vehicle owner’s home, private sector businesses see an opportunity to offer electric vehicle charging opportunities for a fee in a safe, reliable atmosphere with added benefits for the consumer. This legislation creates the structure for this forward-thinking industry.

SB 339 – Increasing the net capital loss deduction – As a CPA, I love this bill. It aligns state law with federal law to eliminate confusion for

taxpayers and brings Wisconsin one step closer to conformity with the Internal Revenue Code. It increases the maximum annual net capital loss offset for Wisconsin income tax purposes from \$500 to \$3,000 or \$1,500 for married individuals filing separately. In practice, taxpayers subtract capital losses from capital gains when computing the amount of gain subject to state income tax. For example, when a Wisconsinite sells stock for less than the purchase price, taxable capital gains are reduced on a dollar-for-dollar basis. The low annual offset means that some people take years to use up the loss in this calculation. In my past professional life, I had clients who passed away with unused losses. This change would go a long way toward fixing this issue.

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Our team will be growing and changing as we settle into publishing regularly, please stay in touch. Thank you to all of our contributors for believing in our community.

Editorial Policy

On certain topics in areas of great community interest, the editors of the Valley Sentinel may take positions they believe best represent and serve the interests of the community. Any opinions or positions taken by the editorial board are separate and distinct in labeling and substance from the community journalism that appears in the rest of the publication and does not affect the integrity and impartiality of our reporting.

Letter to the Editor Policy

Letters submitted for consideration are subject to fact-checking and editing for space and clarity. Submissions must have a compelling local community interest. Letters to the editor must fit within a 500-word limit, and include name, city and phone number. Phone numbers are for office use only and will not be published. Letters of a political nature, without chance of rebuttal, will not be published the week before an election.

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Editors may feature opinion columns written by public figures, members of the public or other publication staff. Columns reflect the opinions of the individual contributors and do not represent positions of the publication. Guest columns of an anticipated length more than 500 words should seek prior editor authorization.

Community Discussion Policy

From time to time the editorial board may select letters to the editor of a particular compelling community interest where a public figure or accountable public action is the recipient of criticism and allow, in the same issue, the subject of the criticism chance for rebuttal, with expounded independent input. The format shall be point, counterpoint and expert analysis. This community discussion shall serve as a moderated dialogue that presents multiple views of important community topics.



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Chris Hardie's 'Back Home' column: Appreciating the science and beauty of icicles

Chris Hardie, *Columnist*

There are marvels all over the world, but sometimes one need only look out your back door to find new ones.

In my case, it is literally outside my back door where a section of rain gutter was dislodged sometime over the winter. The dripping spout from the freezing and thawing of snow melting from the roof creates icicles. Recently, I watched over a period of a few days as a large chunk of ice developed and grew.

Now, you're probably thinking, what's the big deal about icicles? After all, we live in a part of the world where they are pretty commonplace, dangling off eaves and gutters of sheds, garages, barns or poorly insulated homes and buildings.

It turns out that they are a pretty big deal, as icicles rarely occur in nature with the exception of areas in cooler climates around waterfalls or during severe ice storms. But the exact science behind what determines their shape is not fully understood.

Full confession: I do have a B.S. degree from UW-La Crosse. While some may believe those letters stand for something else that I have often shoveled, in this instance it is a bachelor of science.

The reality is the most advanced science class I took in college was biology. I did take chemistry and physics in high school, albeit at the strong encouragement of my late engineer-trained father. Dad was a big fan of physics because he said it helped explain the relationship between science and nature.

There has been a great deal of

scientific research done on icicles. They are formed during subfreezing weather when ice or snow melted by sunlight



Chris Hardie

or another heat source (such as heat escaping from a building) refreezes as it drips.

The physics department at the University of Toronto is one of the premier sources for icicle research with its online Icicle Atlas. The atlas is a collection of images, time-lapse movies, files and data on 237 lab-grown icicles made between 2008 and 2012.

You might say that it's a pretty cool website.

The long and pointy form of icicles is created because of the air around them. When the dripping water freezes, it releases warm air, which rises and forms a blanket around the icicle. The tip is colder than the base, keeping the top from growing and the wet tip freezes and grows.

It's the impurities in water — such as

salt — that create the ripples or ridges in the icicles.

So, here's where the math comes in. In 2005 — according to Livescience.com — researchers determined stalactites that hang from the ceilings of caves have a distinctive shape that is described by a mathematical equation.

And even though stalactites are formed by the diffusion of carbon dioxide gas and not by conduction, the same math applies. I would share the math if I understood it, but sadly my college trigonometry and calculus lessons are a distant memory. Not to mention that I barely passed the five-credit class with a D.

I may not understand it, but I can appreciate it. It's a blend of nature, physics and math that creates beauty. I'll appreciate it even more when the weather warms and our icicle days are behind us for another year.

Chris Hardie spent more than 30 years as a reporter, editor and publisher. He was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and won dozens of state and national journalism awards. He is a former president of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association. Contact him at chardie1963@gmail.com.



Photo contributed by Chris Hardie
This icicle was created by a dripping rain gutter outside Chris Hardie's back door.



Photo contributed by Chris Hardie
These icicles were created overnight underneath Chris Hardie's truck.

Prevent or delay type 2 diabetes

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Interested?
Email: editor@valleysentinelnews.com or call 608-588-6694

DONATION DRIVE

Recently we received word from our press that costs for materials have risen over 19% in the past few months and that our printing cost will go up accordingly.

If we charged \$1 for each copy of Valley Sentinel, just half of the copies that are picked up each week would entirely cover our printing costs — however, we are committed to remaining a free publication with an accessible, hybrid model that allows anyone that wants to read local news to have access to it. We do not believe financial ability should be a barrier to reading local news.

We may be a free paper, but unfortunately it's not free to print papers.

Valley Sentinel will stay a free and truly independent and accessible paper. Please frequent our local businesses and let them

know you read Valley Sentinel each week.

What does independent news mean to us? It means NOT influenced by corporations or government, NO big corporate backers, NO corporate umbrella organizations, NO big money investors. Just a handful of people with a dream to build community.

Valley Sentinel is all-volunteer, independently owned and operated by its editors and is a majority woman-owned business. Community fueled and community focused. We only succeed if the community succeeds.

For more about Valley Sentinel and our model, visit us at valleysentinelnews.com/about

If you are able and enjoyed this week's edition, please consider donating \$1 today.

Scan to support local journalism!

Nitrogen pilot program bill passes Senate

Isiah Holmes, *Wisconsin Examiner*

A bipartisan bill to create a nitrogen optimization pilot program to aid farmers in reducing nitrogen pollution passed the state Senate March 8 and will now head to Gov. Tony Evers' desk. The measure, SB-677 creates a commercial nitrogen optimization pilot program and provides crop insurance premium rebates for planting cover crops, which farmers may use to improve soil health. The bill also creates a new state hydrogeologist position at the University of Wisconsin-Madison extension, tasked with aiding local communities in tackling areas with high concentrations of contamination.

Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) said that she was "thrilled" to hear the bill passed the Senate. Shankland, who co-chaired the Speaker's Task Force on Water Quality, noted that provisions in the bill had previously passed the Assembly. "While they never made it through the Senate due to the onset of the pandemic," said Shankland, "I was glad to reintroduce this bill with

my colleagues across the aisle this session."

Nitrate pollution is one of Wisconsin's most common groundwater contaminants. In February, a report by the Environmental Working Group and Midwest Environmental Advocates found that in several counties, applied manure exceeded amounts recommended by researchers to minimize pollution. More than 90% of the state's nitrate contamination comes from agricultural sources. Direct medical costs for nitrate contamination in drinking water range from \$23-80 million per year in Wisconsin.

Shankland applauded the passage of the pilot program bill. "This legislation will provide much-needed support for farmers in taking preventative measures that protect our drinking water, as well as helping local governments find and address contamination where it occurs," said Shankland. "Everyone deserves clean drinking water — and I'll keep saying so and backing up my words with legislative action. Today is a great day for clean water."



Photo contributed by Wisconsin Farmers Union

Hogs raised by a farmer helping to organize a producer/worker meat processing co-op.

Black Earth Creek gets PFAS advisory

Isiah Holmes, *Wisconsin Examiner*

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Health Services (DHS) have announced a PFAS-related consumption advisory for the Black Earth Creek. Consuming fish from the creek, leading to the confluence with Blue Mound Creek in Dane County, is not recommended due to high levels of PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate).

PFOS are a type of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), which are sometimes called "forever chemicals." Used in slews of products for decades, the man-made compounds do not break down in the environment or within living bodies. High levels of PFAS exposure has been linked to various chronic diseases from cancers to thyroid disorders.

High levels of PFOS were detected

in brown trout, which were sampled from the Black Earth Creek, near Cross Plains. The DNR and DHS, as a result, are recommending limiting meals using the trout to once a week.

The Black Earth Creek is classified as a class 1 trout stream. It's a designation reserved for "high-quality trout waters that have sufficient natural reproduction to sustain populations of wild trout, at or near carry capacity." Class 1 streams are so high quality that they don't require stocking, and make up 5,365 or 40% of Wisconsin's trout streams.

Regulating PFAS, particularly for drinking water, has been an uphill battle. Recently, the Wisconsin DNR's Natural Resources Board rejected recommendations for PFAS levels in drinking water, which were crafted by ongoing scientific research.

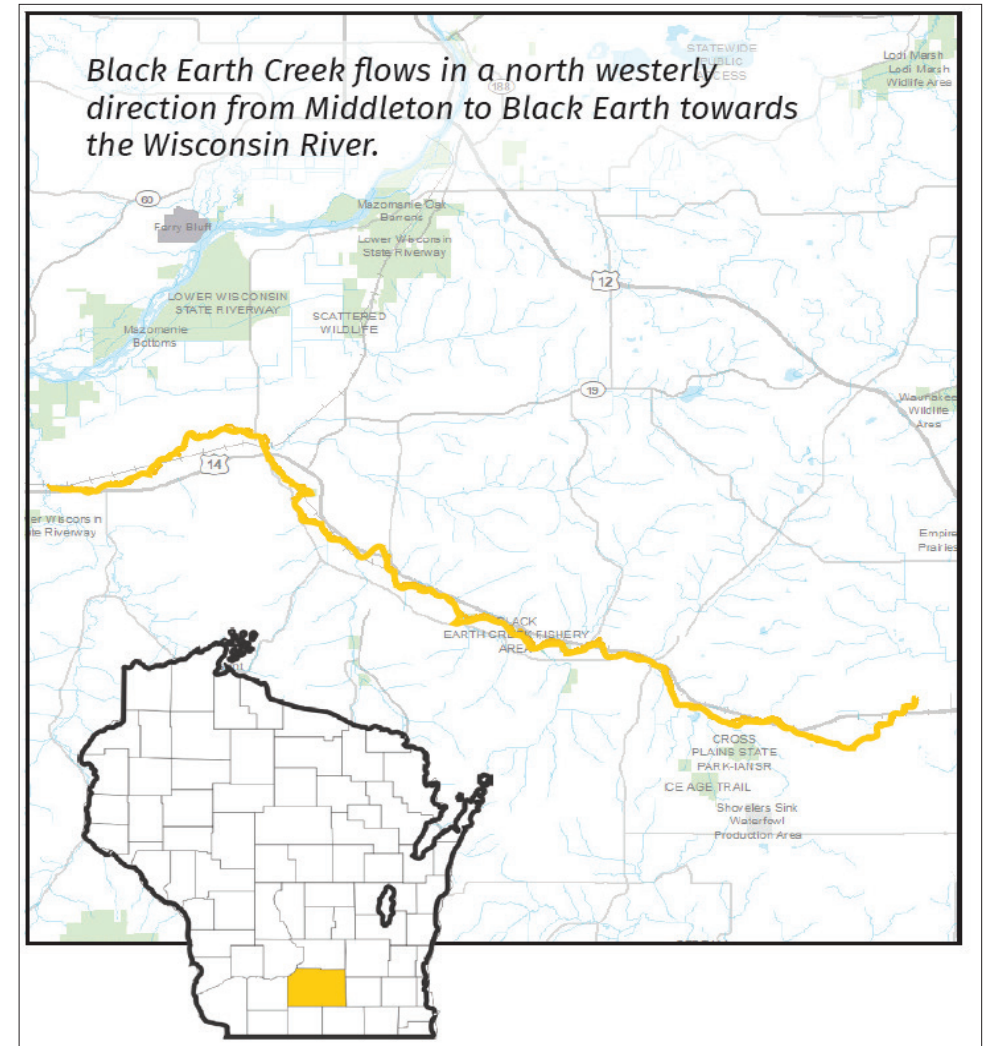


Photo contributed by Wisconsin DNR

A new PFAS-based consumption advisory has been issued for Black Earth Creek to the confluence with Blue Mound Creek in Dane County following results of fish sampling conducted in 2020. The Black Earth Creek joins with the Blue Mound Creek right outside Arena.

Marklein showcases mostly bipartisan bills: 'No flash or bang, but they are important nonetheless'

continued from page 3

Assembly Bill (AB) 717 – Restaurant Revitalization Grant tax treatment – There is no doubt that restaurants were one of the industries that was hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. This legislation aligns state law with the federal treatment of taxes on Restaurant Revitalization grants. There are more than 2,000 restaurants in Wisconsin, including many in my Senate district that received these funds from the federal government. This bill makes these funds non-taxable for Wisconsin tax purposes starting in tax year 2021. This is similar to our actions related to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) last year.

Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 101 – Constitutional Amendment to ban "Zuckerbucks" in elections – In an effort to protect the integrity of our elections, we passed a constitutional amendment to ban private entities and wealthy individuals from circumventing campaign finance laws and buying direct access to our election officials and election process.

No matter which side of the aisle, we should never allow a private entity or a rich person to buy access to our election process. Unfortunately, this happened in Milwaukee, Madison and Green Bay in 2020 and it cannot happen again. Individuals paid by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg actually worked, in person, and had direct access to voter information in these communities. They were not municipal or county employees. They were sent to "help" in order to get access.

This is a constitutional amendment which means it needs to pass two sessions of the legislature and then it will be on a ballot for all voters statewide. Our recent vote is the first step. We will pass it again in 2023. Then, you will get to vote on it.

SB 520 – Bonding authorized for a new juvenile justice facility – The Senate passed legislation to authorize bonding so that Wisconsin can take meaningful steps toward closing the Lincoln Hills School in Irma, WI and relocate it to the Milwaukee area. This is the right thing to do for the youth and their families

who are involved in the juvenile justice program. We must move this facility closer to the majority of young people it serves, and their families, to better facilitate visits and rehabilitation programs.

Workforce Development and Recovery – we passed several bills that encourage able-bodied Wisconsinites to work. One proposal requires individuals to take work that is offered to them in order to remain eligible for public benefits. Another proposal provides an opportunity for employers to report declined job offers and non-takers to the Department of Workforce Development (DWD), which operates the Unemployment Insurance program. This is meant to give employers a way to tell DWD when they make an offer to a worker who declines it in order to stay on unemployment for an extended period of time. Finally, AB 937 indexes how long a person is eligible for unemployment compensation in relation to the state's unemployment rate. When the rate is lower, the number of weeks is reduced because there are jobs available.

AB 827 – Organized retail

theft – Many of us have read about thefts at stores that are organized and orchestrated. Groups of criminals steal items and then re-sell them online to make a profit. This is causing serious problems for retailers, driving up the prices of consumer goods and exacerbating workforce challenges. This bill makes multiple thefts by three or more individuals at the same time and in the same place, in concert, one crime and the value of the property is aggregated. This makes the crime much more serious, with much larger consequences than current law and we hope it deters future thefts.

This is just a sample of the many bills we have passed over the last several weeks. Again, most of these bills passed unanimously or with bi-partisan support. You won't likely hear about them in the mainstream media because there is no flash or bang, but they are important nonetheless. I am proud of our work on your behalf.

As always, please do not hesitate to connect with me to provide input, ideas or to seek assistance. Send an email to sen.marklein@legis.wisconsin.gov or call 608-266-0703.

VS. COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Events for March 10 - March 24

Thursday, March 10

Stitch and Bitch 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM . Spring Green General Store, 137 S. Albany St., Spring Green . springgreengeneralstore.com . The Spring Green General Store's Stitch and Bitch handwork group meets Thursday afternoons weekly. All are welcome.

Knit Night at Nina's 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM . Nina's Department Store, 143 E. Jefferson St. Spring Green . ninasdepartmentstore.com . Every Thursday from 6 to 8 pm. All knitters and crocheters are welcome. Store closed after 5:30 pm.

Friday, March 11

Ridgeway Pine Relict Workday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM . County Highway H, Ridgeway . Our winter workdays will focus on cutting, treating and burning of invasive brush. Seeds are collected in the fall to spread in the cleared areas. For questions or to RSVP to attend this workday, contact Mary Kay Baum at marykbaum@gmail.com or 608-935-5834.

COMEDY SHOW: Arthur's Supper Club - Dinner & A Show 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM . Arthur's Supper Club, E4885 Hwy 14 Spring Green . Ticket includes dinner and show - \$30 preorder, \$35 at the door . Join us at Arthur's Supper Club for night of mingling and laughter! Heavy appetizers will be served buffet style prior to the show. For reservations, call (608)588-5790. Comedians Mark Poolos headlining and Randy Ankarlo as the opening act.

Saturday, March 12

Pop-Up Spring Green Farmers Market 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM . S230 E. Monroe St., Spring Green . The Spring Green Farmers Market is continuing in the Spring Green Community Public Library Lot through the winter every Saturday morning. Pre-orders are recommended. Visit our Facebook or Instagram page or email SGFarmersMarket@gmail.com for a list of participating vendors and their contact information.

Arena VFW Steak and Chicken Fry 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM . Arena VFW Post 9336, 514 Willow Street, Arena . We have dine in and carryout. Please call 608.753.2225. \$13.00 for Steak or \$8.00 chicken breast with baked potato, baked beans, salad, roll and dessert.

Sunday, March 13

Tarot Readings with Gwyn Padden-Lechten 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM . North Earth Crystals & Gifts, 124 W. Jefferson St, Spring Green . Padden-Lechten is a Nature-centered clairvoyant, intuitive, and empath. She uses tarot and oracle cards as a tool for inner guidance and self-exploration for her client readings. Since childhood, she has recognized her dreams, intuition, and connection to Nature as a normal way of life. Magic is all around us. Her readings are filled with healing energy and powerful insights to provide clarity to those seeking guidance about particular situations, events and emotions. \$50 per half hour session. Walk-in appointments will be taken as availability allows. Time slots fill up quickly, so please call 608.588.3313 to set up an appointment.

FUNDRAISER: Baron Brook's Meat Raffle for Parker 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM . 122 E Jefferson St, Spring Green . Meat Paddle Raffle. Enjoy some Spring Fun & Support the Effort to Find Parker. Proceeds raised will go to help bring Parker home!

Monday, March 14

Did you know? RV History 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM . Spring Green Community Center, 117 S Washington St, Spring Green . Learn about the history of the River Valley Area! We have speakers from Arena, Plain, Spring Green, Lone Rock and Sauk County Historical Society! Join us for this presentation! Coffee and snacks will be available. Speakers: Steve Harrington, Arena . Mary Jane Liegel, Plain . Jim Thering, Spring Green . Millie Rott, LoneRock . Paul Wolter, Sauk County Historical Society . For more information please call 608-588-2054.

Wednesday, March 16

Indoor Storytime 10:30 AM . Spring Green Community Library, 230 E. Monroe St. Spring Green . (608) 588-2276 . Join Ms. Grace this morning for INDOOR STORYTIME. We'll have stories, songs, and fun! There is no sign up required for now, but attendance is limited to 19 people, so get there early to reserve your spot! We do require masks for everyone age 2 and up and will be socially distanced around the room for safety.

Broadband Reads: The Rural Broadband Industry 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM . Virtual . River Valley Commons . rivervalleycommons.org . 608-588-7428 . stef@rivervalleycommons.org . Broadband Reads is our monthly series to learn more about broadband through reports and other publications. This month, we're tackling The Rural Broadband Industry (September 2021, Pew Charitable Trust).

Arcadia Book Club discusses "Lost & Found" by Kathryn Schulz! 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM . Virtual/Zoom . www.readinutopia.com . Lost & Found brings many gifts. Perhaps the most important is her example of "amazement" at all of life's wonders, despite knowing how it ends. Another is the talismanic power of things that once belonged to those we've lost. Early in "Lost" Schulz told us her father lost his wallet all the time. At the end of that part she lets us know she takes comfort "in the familiar sight of his wallet--safe now, as it never was with him--in my top dresser drawer." I smiled, knowing that each day I see my father's wallet sitting on my dresser.

Thursday, March 17

Stitch and Bitch 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM . Spring Green General Store, 137 S. Albany St., Spring Green . springgreengeneralstore.com . The Spring Green General Store's Stitch and Bitch handwork group meets Thursday afternoons weekly. All are welcome.

Knit Night at Nina's 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM . Nina's Department Store, 143 E. Jefferson St. Spring Green . ninasdepartmentstore.com . Every Thursday from 6 to 8 pm. All knitters and crocheters are welcome. Store closed after 5:30 pm.

Thursday, March 17 cont.

FUNDRAISER: River Valley Area Community Garden - Irish Potato Famine Presentation 6:30 PM . Spring Green Community Center, 117 South Washington . Come learn about the Irish potato famine at a special presentation Dr. Doug Rouse, a plant biologist from UW-Madison, will speak about the circumstances leading up to the famine. As a fundraiser for the River Valley Community Gardens, we will be offering a meal of loaded baked potatoes and special dessert for a suggested \$5 donation. To reserve a spot or for questions, please email:

LIVE MUSIC: Ron Jackson 7:30 PM - 10:00 PM . Slowpoke Lounge, 137 W Jefferson St., Spring Green . slowpokelounge.com . \$10 in advance/\$15 at the door . Celebrated seven-string jazz guitarist Ron Jackson and will perform songs from his new album with special guests Henry Ptacek on drums and Ari Smith on bass. Ron will present an exciting evening of jazz for all music lovers to enjoy. Proof of vaccination against COVID-19 required for all Slowpoke events.

Saturday, March 19

Pop-Up Spring Green Farmers Market 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM . S230 E. Monroe St., Spring Green . The Spring Green Farmers Market is continuing in the Spring Green Community Public Library Lot through the winter every Saturday morning. Pre-orders recommended. Visit our Facebook or Instagram or email

Avoca's 13th Annual St Patrick's Day Parade 1:00 PM . Village Hall, 401 Wisconsin St., Avoca . Dust off your green and join us. Parade lineup at village hall. No Registration required ~Just Show Up! Parade Route: S 4th Street to N 4th St. **Lukes Gala: A Night Under the Stars** 5:30 PM . Wisconsin Riverside Resort, S13220 Shifflet Road, Spring Green . \$65/person or \$520/table of 8 . Join us for a fun casual night with dinner, music and live and silent auctions. Dinner and select wine, beer and soda is included with ticket. Proceeds go directly toward Saint Luke School. Limited Seats Available Prime Rib or Chicken Parmesan. ENTERTAINMENT BY Midnight Divas DJ TICKETS SALES 1/29 - 3/12 ONLINE SILENT AUCTION STARTS 3/1 To purchase tickets and view auction items, go to biddingforgood.com/stlukecc. For more information, email

FUNDRAISER: 4PeteSake - Don Helix and the Champagne 7:30 PM - 10:00 PM . Slowpoke Lounge, 137 W Jefferson St., Spring Green . \$10 in advance/\$15 at the door . It's Purim! Time to put on a costume and party for charity! Join us for this special fundraiser for 4PeteSake, with a world premier performance from local Rockabilly band: Don Helix and the Champagne. All ticket sales (and 50% of drink sales) go to 4PS: 4PS provides relief to distressed River Valley residents who face extraordinary financial needs and who are unable, through no fault of their own, to provide for themselves. We'll have a Costume Contest and plenty of dancing. Come out and show your support! Irreverent and often NSFW, Don Helix and the Champagne serve up a bubbly cocktail of rockabilly, punkabilly,

Sunday, March 20

Celebrate Spring's Arrival at Frank's Hill 6:15 AM or 6:15 PM . STH 193 just off STH 60 a few miles west of Muscoda . 3-eagles.org . Representatives of the Three Eagles Foundation will be on Hill East on Sunday evening for the sunset. Frank's Hill will be open to the public for self-guided tours on the days before and after the official equinox. To learn more about the equinox event or for directions, contact Three Eagles Foundation President Dave Martin at (608) 739-4198 or Vice-President Mark Cupp at 739-2179 or visit the Foundation's website or Facebook page.

Monday, March 21

Pop-ups 101 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM . Virtual . River Valley Commons . rivervalleycommons.org . stef@rivervalleycommons.org . Pop-up projects are temporary happenings in unique places. They are often surprising and fun, but they're also one of the smartest planning and community development strategies around. This fast-paced session will give participants an introduction to the power of pop-up projects, from street design to economic development, recreation to community building. Rebecca Sanborn Stone, Principal at the Vermont consulting firm Community Workshop, will be our presenter.

POETRY: A Night of Words 7:30PM - 10:30PM . Slowpoke Lounge, 137 W Jefferson St., Spring Green . slowpokelounge.com . It's our monthly spoken word open mic. So far we've heard people read their favorite poems, tell stories, wax poetic about nature and world around them, and even read some original poetry. We're pretty casual about it. It's just a great night for people who love words to share some with each other. Proof of vaccination against COVID-19

Wednesday, March 23

Indoor Storytime 10:30 AM . Spring Green Community Library, 230 E. Monroe St. Spring Green . (608) 588-2276 . We'll have stories, songs, and fun! There is no sign up required for now, but attendance is limited. Masks required for everyone age 2 and up.

Thursday, March 24

Stitch and Bitch 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM . Spring Green General Store, 137 S. Albany St., Spring Green . springgreengeneralstore.com . The Spring Green General Store's Stitch and Bitch handwork group meets Thursday afternoons weekly. All are welcome.

Knit Night at Nina's 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM . Nina's Department Store, 143 E. Jefferson St. Spring Green . ninasdepartmentstore.com . Every Thursday from 6 to 8 pm. All knitters and crocheters are welcome. Store closed after 5:30 pm.

LIVE MUSIC: Slowpoke Songwriters Round 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM . Slowpoke Lounge, 137 W Jefferson St., Spring Green . slowpokelounge.com . With special guests Caley Conway and Mike Munson. Tim Eddy curates this series, throughout this fall and winter, of singer and songwriters from the Driftless Area. Support local artists by joining us for a night of original music with several songwriters, all on the stage together, sharing their music round robin style. No cover, but tips for artists are always welcome.

HOW TO SUBMIT EVENTS

Events in print cover the next two weeks after publication date. Online community calendar coming soon!
The community calendar covers Arena, Lone Rock, Plain, Spring Green, + 15 miles. Events of great artistic or community value in Sauk, Iowa or Richland Counties may be considered.
Full event submission details online.

To submit your event, **scan the QR code** or **visit valleysentinelnews.com/community-calendar**.



COVID-19 DASHBOARD

WISCONSIN SUMMARY

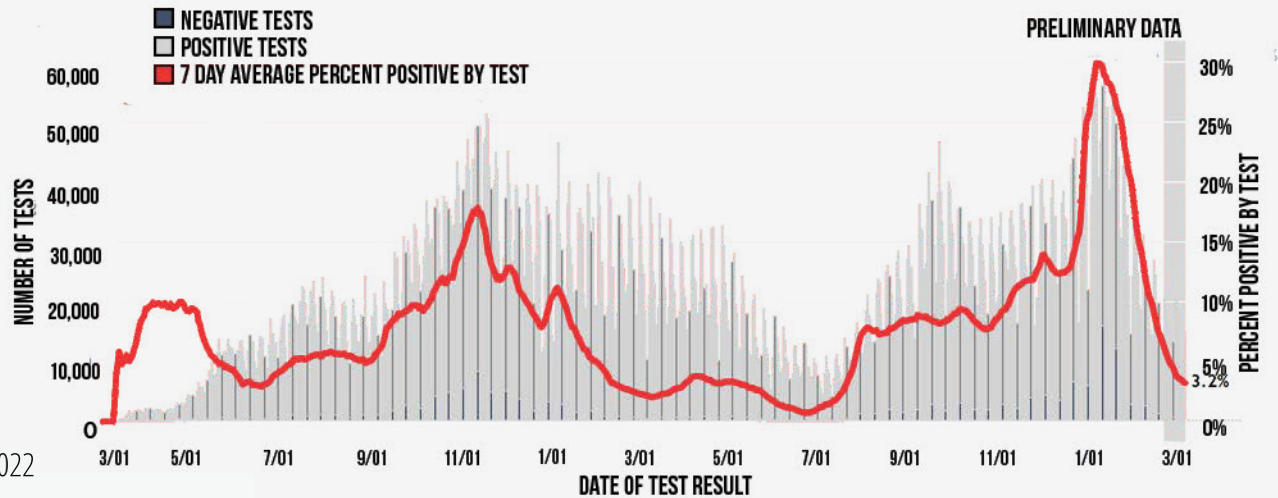
Cases as of 3/9/2022

1,385,624 POSITIVE CASES

+7,060 from 2/23

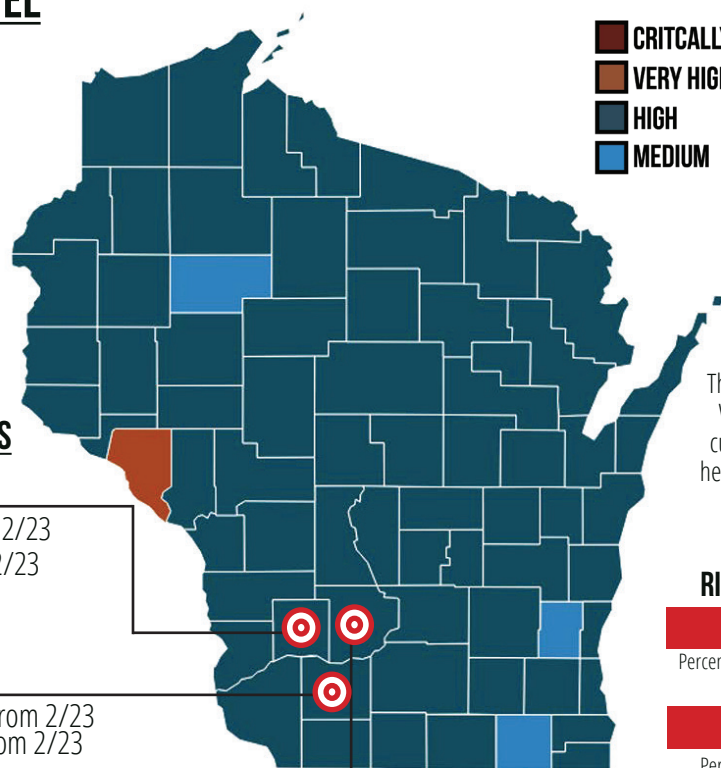
12,210 DEATHS

+410 from 2/23



COVID CASE ACTIVITY LEVEL

This graph shows information on case burden and trajectory. Burden (case rate) is the total number of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 Wisconsin residents in the last two weeks. Trajectory is the percent case change from the previous to the current week. These are different from Community Transmission Level, which is the total confirmed cases per 100,000 persons reported in the past 7 days. Case activity is a combination of burden and trajectory over the prior two weeks.



COUNTY LEVEL WEEKLY STATISTICS

RICHLAND COUNTY

3,801 Positive Cases
44 Deaths

+18 from 2/23
+2 from 2/23

IOWA COUNTY

5,183 Positive Cases
26 Deaths

+40 from 2/23
+1 from 2/23

SAUK COUNTY

15,810 Positive Cases
116 Deaths

+62 from 2/23
+5 from 2/23

Updated: 3/9/2022

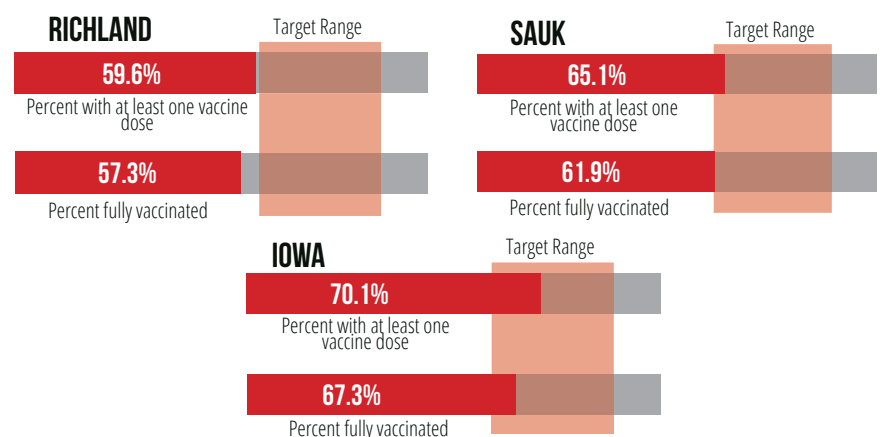
VACCINE SUMMARY STATISTICS

Updated: 3/9/2022

9,323,640 Total doses administered	5,453,817 Pfizer doses administered	3,526,465 Moderna doses administered	343,358 Johnson & Johnson doses administered
1,937,659 Total boosters administered	1,110,094 Pfizer doses administered	802,571 Moderna doses administered	24,994 Johnson & Johnson doses administered

VACCINE DATA

These two core measures are measures of herd immunity in Richland, Sauk and Iowa County. We do not yet know what level of vaccination leads to herd immunity for COVID-19, or how current or future variants might affect herd immunity. We know based on other diseases that herd immunity is likely at least 60%, and if more transmissible variants become more common, that threshold may become higher, so the current target range is 60-90%. -Adapted from Madison Public Health and Dane County



PERCENT OF WISCONSIN RESIDENTS AGES 5-11 WHO HAVE RECEIVED AT LEAST ONE DOSE BY COUNTY

Updated: 3/9/2022

Lower % Higher %

RICHLAND COUNTY

Ages 5-11

18.2%

IOWA COUNTY

Ages 5-11

31.6%

SAUK COUNTY

Ages 5-11

24.9%

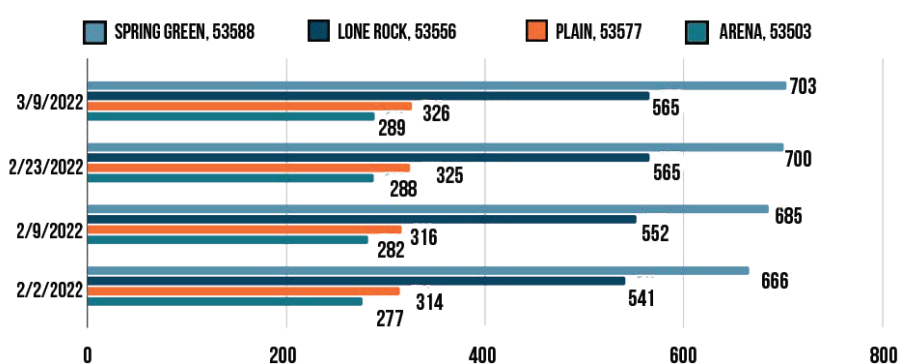
DANE COUNTY

Ages 5-11

56.7%

CASES PER ZIP CODE

Cases as of 3/9/2022



PERCENT OF WISCONSIN RESIDENTS WHO HAVE RECEIVED AT LEAST ONE DOSE

Updated: 3/9/2022

AGES	Percent
5-11	26.7%
12-17	60.9%
18-24	59.7%
25-34	63.8%
35-44	69.0%
45-54	71.4%
55-64	78.0%
65+	85.6%

IN OTHER NEWS/BRIEFS

Sauk County now in the 'Low' COVID-19 Community Level, School District at 2022 lows

On March 7, Public Health Sauk County released COVID-19 data from the CDC that indicates Sauk County is in the "low" level of the CDC's new indicators.

Levels can be low, medium, or high, and are determined by looking at the number of new COVID-19 cases in an area, hospital beds being used and new hospital admissions in the past 7 days.

Lower levels of severe illness, paired with the decreasing number of new cases, has placed Sauk County in the "low" COVID-19 Community Level, according to the CDC's COVID Data Tracker:

cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html

Richland and Iowa counties are also at "low" COVID-19 Community Level as of press time.

The River Valley School District is also reporting district-wide average active COVID-19 case counts of 1 or below for the first time since November.

The daily numbers for the district can be found at: rvschools.org/district/rvcovidupdates.cfm

SGACC Art in the Valley event canceled due to lack of participation

On March 1, Spring Green Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Julie Jensen announced that the Chamber's new Art in the Valley event would be canceled due to lack of participation.

Originally scheduled for May 14-15, the event had been given permission to close a portion of Jefferson and Monroe streets in Spring Green by the village board in February.

Jensen had stated that she needed 25 vendors to move forward with the event. Currently, the Chamber is still scheduled to hold a Wine Walk event that weekend.

RVACG announces garden plots available for 2022 season

Gardening boring? Never! The River Valley Area Community Garden is urging you to come join the adventure.

RVACG has garden plots to rent for the 2022 season. First year gardeners discount: \$30 for 20 x 20 ft plot; \$20 for 10 x 20 ft plot and \$10 for 10 x 10 ft plot. Water, mulch, tiller available.

Registration forms available at rvacg.org or via email info@rvacg.org or phone 608-588-6040. Printed forms are in the INFO box at the Gardens on Westmor St.

Gov. Evers announces launch of Wisconsin Help for Homeowners program

On March 7, Gov. Evers announced a Wisconsin Help for Homeowners program that will provide financial assistance to Wisconsin homeowners who have

experienced financial hardship as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Eligible homeowners can receive assistance with mortgage payments, local property taxes, and utilities, including internet, as well as housing counseling and legal services. Applications are open on a first-come, first-served basis at homeownerhelp.wi.gov. A dedicated call center will provide additional information about application options at 1-855-2-HOME-WI.

Slowpoke addresses Slo Poke candy shortage

On March 8, Slowpoke Lounge and Cabaret in Spring Green addressed the growing mystery surrounding the signature candy usually abundantly available at the lounge.

"Slo Pokes. I know, I know. They used to be awesome. Then they sucked. Now they're gone," said Slowpoke (not Slo Poke) Owner Michael Broh in an email update. "What's up? We're still trying to get some answers."

Slo Pokes are a chewy caramel candy wrapped similarly to a Tootsie Roll. Broh reached out to the Atkinson Candy Company, which confirmed they had a brief problem with cooking temperatures.

"Which is why they went from super chewy the minute they went in your mouth to something closer to a Now and Later, that needed a little love to warm them up," said Broh, noting the company reassured him they had solved the problem and we should expect the candy back in stock soon.

Editor's note: After attending trivia on March 7, we can confirm there were no Slo Pokes available at Slowpoke at the time.

School District reschedules Spring Green referendum presentation for March 14

Due to inclement weather, the River Valley School District has rescheduled the Spring Green community information presentation on the April 5, 2022 referendum for March 14 at the Middle School Library (660 Daley Street, Spring Green) from 6:30-7:30 pm.

The previously held Facebook Live presentation can be found at: fb.watch/bFtcaTOnC6

Arcadia Books announces percentage of sales to be donated to Ukrainians in need

Arcadia Books in Spring Green has announced that 10% of their sales March 13-19 will be donated to Ukrainians in need.

"We've all been struggling with the atrocities in Ukraine and feeling helpless in our response," said Nancy Baenen, co-manager at Arcadia Books.

The donations will go to the International Rescue Committee. Our goal is to raise \$500," said Baenen. "Enough to equip a mobile medical team."

Their book selection can be found online at readinutopia.com or by stopping at their Jefferson Street shop.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY



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Sat 8am-noon

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'We're interested in filling these spaces with life, as opposed to imagining them. To really experience them is to be in them'

continued from page 1

water away from the building and the initial stabilization plans for the theater's lower level. Now the team is entering the final phases of the project.

Since installing exterior drainage systems to redirect stormwater away from the building, the team has fitted interior drainage systems. A sump pump and dimple board along exterior masonry walls further ensure the rehabilitated basement stays dry.⁶ In recent weeks, they worked with a contractor to pour a pair of new concrete floors in Hillside's basement, one below the theater stage and one backstage. By replacing partial slabs and exposed segments with full concrete flooring, the intervention has reclaimed considerable square footage. With help from Southwest Wisconsin Technical College volunteers, the team has also removed the original stage flooring, de-nailed all of the salvageable oak boards, and prepared them for re-installation.⁷ The next phase of this project involves reinstalling the original stage flooring according to its original angled orientation, in alignment with the tracks of the beloved curtain overhead. A new HVAC system will run through a built-out wall that will act as a chase-way, providing ease of access for future repairs while increasing the amount of usable space in the lower level. While it does not create the climate-controlled environment that you might see in a museum, the new HVAC system will create a relative humidity band, providing fewer peaks and increased comfort levels for guests and objects, while extending seasonal use.

Extreme care has gone into each decision with respect for former processes. However, as techniques develop and methods improve, structural requirements change. Previous repairs in the basement, for example, utilized localized solutions, like sistering or shims, support mechanisms to stabilize the existing structure. The preservation team has now constructed a framework for the basement that also supports the floor of the dining room above. This will ensure the structural stability of both spaces without visibly altering the historic space overhead.

"It's humbling to see old techniques and people learning, and the efforts to keep things up."

—Ryan Hewson, Director of Preservation at Taliesin, Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation



Photo contributed by the Taliesin Preservation, photo taken by Mark Hertzberg
Detail of an artifact in front of the curtain at the Theater.

Preserving this work, not only means maintaining significant architectural features, but keeping the stories of Taliesin's craftsmen alive. Throughout the site are several moments that encapsulate the culture

work around the existing masonry in the foyer and preserve the stone pillars in the basement. In the foyer, guests can see examples of pillow-faced stone executed by the stonemasons who first built Hillside adjacent to later attempts



Photo contributed by the Taliesin Preservation
Exterior photo of Hillside During the restoration.

of experimentation at the heart of Taliesin. Wright encouraged Fellows to embrace learning by doing and considerable attention has gone into maintaining Hillside's historic core. During the course of the project, the preservation team has been careful to

by apprentices to emulate it, visible moments of the apprentices learning by doing.

Throughout the restoration process, decisions have been guided by a desire to maintain the Theatre's historic role as a center for creativity. The preservation team is restoring this valuable piece of the community's history, so it can continue to create a lasting impact for generations to come.

"We're interested in filling these spaces with life, as opposed to imagining them. To really experience them is to be in them."

—Ryan Hewson, Director of Preservation at Taliesin, Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation

Audience members will notice repaired plasterwork and wood surfaces, improved climate control, and an ADA-accessible restroom. New lighting and camera systems allow guests to enjoy a variety of performances virtually. Visitors will still find notable marks of historical importance, such as Wright's boot and cane marks in the grout outside the entrance. Many of the changes in the

Theater, however, will not be easily noticeable, the desired effect of the completed restoration.

Performers will enjoy new green room spaces, an accessible backstage bathroom, and increased stage functionality with continuous flooring that creates a seamless transition to backstage areas. The improvements create an inviting and inclusive space to attract international, regional, and local talent from multiple disciplines to this historical venue. Future programming will continue Wright's vision of the Theater through lectures, symposia, and multicultural performances in a variety of art forms.

"As a musician I get to travel the world and play really exciting venues and often, really exciting places, but actually playing...in an intimate acoustic setting for an audience that is very closed and engaged is actually one of the most meaningful performance experiences that I have as a musician"

—Grammy-award winning musician Mike Block, on performing at Taliesin

The Hillside Theater Curtain, gifted to Wright by Fellows on his 89th birthday, was also restored through this project. The curtain features a landscape

abstraction of Wright's own design constructed of felt, yarn, and gold lamé on canvas. On careful inspection, you can identify Wright's home, the Highway 23 bridge, the Wisconsin River, and the surrounding valley.

"In this renewed space, audience and performers will experience an 'escape from everyday life, a captivating energy between performer, audience and architectural setting and a sense of bonding and togetherness."

—Caroline Hamblen, Director of Programs at Taliesin

The Hillside Theater Restoration marks a shift in restoration efforts at Taliesin towards larger projects. Following this, certain restoration efforts on the estate will be large and long-term. This emphasizes the importance of day-to-day preservation and custodial care to catch potential problems before they arise. While the preservation and rehabilitation processes at Hillside have come with their fair share of challenges, by working together to solve problems, the team has ensured a lasting structure that maintains its historical integrity.



Photo contributed by the Taliesin Preservation
Concrete pouring in the Hillside Theater.

THE SAUK COUNTY GARDENER

Garden tasks to do during March's unpredictable weather, plus four gardening trends you'll want to try out

Jeannie Manis, Wisconsin Certified Master Gardener

"March was an unpredictable month, when it was never clear what might happen."
—Tracy Chevalier

Although there is still plenty of snow on the ground, the weather is predicted to be warmer than usual the first couple weeks of March. Of course, March has always had a mind of its own so take that weather prediction with a grain of salt. However, if March has a warmer than usual start, there's a good chance we're going to start seeing the soil in our gardens soon. As tempting as it is to get out there and start working in our gardens, avoid it when the soil is wet to prevent compaction.

Even if you shouldn't start working your garden soil, that doesn't mean you can't do anything yet. Get a soil test done if you haven't done one in the past few years. I didn't get one completed last fall in my raised vegetable garden beds, so I plan to send in a sample as soon as I can dig in my garden. Visit <https://uwlax.soils.wisc.edu/soil-samples/lawn-garden/> for information on how and where to send soil samples. A standard analysis is \$15 per sample. Once the lab receives your sample, it typically takes 3-7 days for results, and it'll also include lime and fertilizer recommendations.

In the meantime, finish pruning of your dormant trees and check for wildlife damage on trees and woody shrubs. March can be a very lean month for wildlife so they will consider alternative food sources – like that special tree or shrub in your yard. In my yard I deal with voles. Voles look similar to mice, are prolific breeders and have an average of 2-7 young per litter, so their population increases quickly in a relatively short period of time. If their numbers are high or food is scarce, they will eat the bark of ornamental, fruit,

and other small trees and woody vegetation. They can girdle a tree or shrub, eventually killing it. If you see some damage (that isn't too far gone), you can put a temporary wire or metal barrier about a foot high with a mesh size of 1/4 or less around your trees. Remove the snow around the trees to get down to ground level, so they can't tunnel under the snow to get to the tree.

Indoors resume your regular regiment of fertilizing your houseplants. Also take cuttings to propagate new houseplants. Get your seed-starting stations ready (if you haven't already) and plan to start your slow-germinating annual and perennial seeds the second week of March. Pay attention to any special planting instructions to determine if they need stratifying (exposing to cold temperatures), soaking, exposure to light, etc. March is also the time to start your cabbage, celery, cauliflower, head lettuce, and parsley seedlings. Pot up begonias, cannas, elephant ears, calla lilies, and other stored summer bulbs so they are ready to transplant outdoors when the weather is warm enough.

Finally, keep an eye on the Forsythia in your yard or neighborhood. When the Forsythia buds appear but before they are in full bloom, it's time to apply pre-emergence weed killer in perennial beds. Be careful to not spread it around your summer bulbs or areas that you plan to plant seeds as it will prevent them from germinating. A thick layer of mulch can also help prevent weed seeds from germinating as well.

a seed-planting schedule at the Garden Expo yesterday. I'll use it as a guide and validate by reading the back of the seed packets I wish to plant.

Bring spring indoors and force a few branches of pushy willows or Forsythia. Cut a few branches about a foot long at an angle with plenty of fat flower buds on them. Select branches you would

normally plan to prune out anyway. Place the branches in a bucket of warm water. Some recommend covering them with a clear plastic bag and putting them in a cool spot for a couple weeks until the buds develop. It's important the branches do not dry out or the buds won't bloom. After the buds start to elongate and show color, trim them up, place them in a vase, and move them to a warmer spot. Once they start to bloom, they last about a week. Keep them out of direct sun and away from heat vents. You can also force other spring-flowering trees or shrubs such as crabapples, start magnolia, or dogwood.

As a sidenote, I worked in the Extension's booth at the Garden Expo this past weekend. It was staffed by Master Gardeners and by Extension staff and we were excited to answer folks' gardening questions. Some questions were "easy" to answer, others we had to look up the answers, or ask the true experts, the Extension staff members, to answer. The most important thing we did was reference research-based gardening information. When you have a gardening question or problem, reach out to your local master gardeners, your Extension office staff, or visit <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/ask-a-gardening-question/> and submit your gardening question. You'll receive unbiased answers that you know has been thoroughly researched and proven effective.

I've been reading numerous articles about the 2022 gardening trends as I impatiently wait for spring's true arrival. Here are four gardening trends that I want to focus on this year and hope you'll consider for the upcoming season as well.

One trend that makes lots of sense is utilizing native and pollinator-friendly plants. If you aren't already doing so, consider adding them to your landscape.

Bees, birds, and other pollinators are essential to creating and maintaining healthy ecosystems and providing native plants helps ensure they will visit your gardens. Native plants can also be used to help filter out pollutants and minimize flooding. Visit <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/endangeredresources/nativeplants.html> to learn more about native plants and how to incorporate them into your gardens.

As we continue to experience precipitation deficits, xeriscaping or water-wise gardening is also a good trend to incorporate into your gardens for the summer season. Essentially, xeriscaping is gardening that reduces or eliminates the need for irrigation or lots of watering and the accompanying water bill. This technique also tends to incorporate native plants so that's an added bonus.

The pandemic reintroduced the home vegetable garden to many first-time gardeners. Once again, vegetable gardening is trendy; people everywhere are embracing the idea of edible gardening and starting to grow food from seed. What's great is that you don't need a lot of space to grow your own fruit and vegetables. From dwarf fruit trees to planting vegetables in our flower beds to containers on our balconies – people are finding all kinds of ways to reap the benefits of growing their own fruits and vegetables.

Transforming lawns into garden spaces is another idea I have been fully embracing for years. Huge, luscious green lawns are not really very good for the environment, especially if you have to do a lot to maintain them. I also don't care for lawnmowing, but I do enjoy digging in my garden beds. There's no need to give up your entire lawn but consider reducing the amount of grass you maintain. Instead, look at ways to convert some of that lawn into pollinator, perennial, or vegetable gardens.

Birding Report: Red-winged Blackbirds, Cranes and more spring into migration

Ryan Brady, DNR Natural Heritage Conservation Program Biologist

Right on schedule, spring migration is underway! Sandhill cranes, Canada geese, red-winged blackbirds, American robins, killdeer, and other familiar feathered friends have begun their return to Wisconsin.

As usual, new birds are most evident across the southeast corner of the state, extending in decreasing numbers to Sauk, Columbia, Winnebago, and Brown counties, with some activity farther west north to La Crosse and Monroe. Other arrivals include common grackles, song sparrows, turkey vultures, horned larks, and eastern bluebirds, the latter investigating nest boxes already in some cases.

Waterbirds are on the move too. March is the best month of the year to see greater white-fronted geese in the state, and flocks of hundreds are starting to show up, often in the same places as Canada geese across southern counties. Waterfowl are also moving into areas of open water, including diving ducks such as redheads, scaup, bufflehead, and all three merganser species, as well as a variety of dabbling ducks, including mallards, pintails, wigeons, gadwalls, and more. Look for swans, great blue herons, and returning ring-billed gulls in these same areas.

Farther north, migration lags as expected. Trumpeter swans have been most apparent to date in the north woods, along with a few ducks, especially common goldeneye. Bald

and golden eagles have just started to move overhead, their numbers to increase significantly over the next 2-3 weeks. A few herring gulls are also trickling back. Even though it looks much like winter, it certainly sounds more like spring. Black-capped chickadees are singing, woodpeckers are drumming, and feeder birds like redpolls, siskins, and goldfinches are very chatty this time of year as longer daylight kicks hormones into gear.

Statewide, redpolls remain very common, while siskins are more scattered and less abundant. Goldfinches are prevalent, some getting patches of brighter yellow now as the molt to summer breeding plumage begins. Maintaining a clean feeding area is very important this time of year as salmonellosis can be problematic and spreads quickly among flocks of small finches. Learn how to identify and manage the disease on the Wildlife Diseases webpage.

Pine grosbeaks continue across northern Wisconsin but will be departing soon, while white-winged crossbills remain widespread in small to moderate numbers throughout Wisconsin. Some may even stay to nest any time now, which would be unusual but not unprecedented.

In addition to eagles, look for pairs of red-tailed hawks and American kestrels, returning red-shouldered hawks and peregrine falcons, more turkey vultures, northern harriers, and merlins over the month ahead. Snowy and short-eared owls will begin

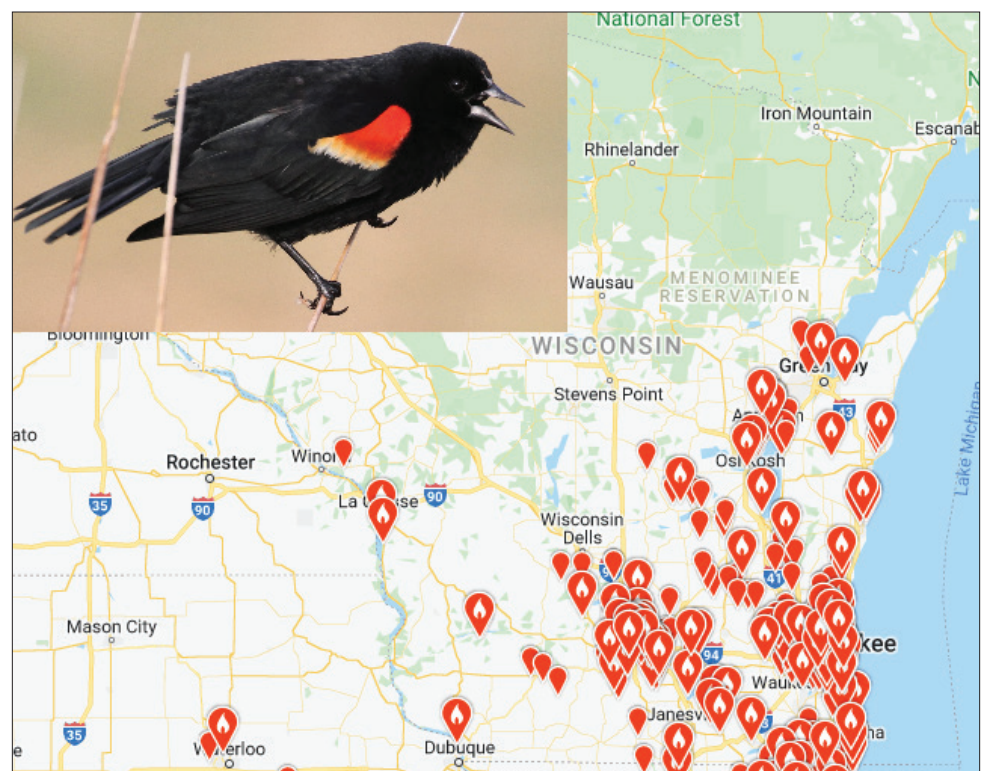


Photo Credit WI DNR

Red-winged Blackbirds have arrived in some parts of the state, this map showing sightings reported to eBird since March 1. Add your sightings to the map and explore data for any species at www.ebird.org/wi.

to depart mid-March to mid-April. Farther south, great horned owls are well into nesting season now, females doing the bulk of incubation over a five-week period.

Where snow cover persists across the north and the threat of rain or mixed precipitation looms, barred and northern saw-whet owls may become more active in daylight as food becomes more difficult to access under a crusty surface layer.

Migration activity will ramp up with every passing week into late May,

making this an exciting time for birders. Expect new birds in the south for the first half of the weekend, and then another shot of migrants into the middle of next week ahead of our next cold front, which stymies migration this time of year. Listen for increasing bird song, departure of some wintering species, and the arrival of American woodcock, meadowlarks, and other spring migrants.

Help us track the migration by reporting your observations to www.ebird.org/wi. Good birding!



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River Valley ARTS (formerly Spring Green Area Arts Coalition) has a long history of supporting the arts in the River Valley area. In fact, over the years, River Valley ARTS has provided nearly \$200,000 of economic support to River Valley area artists, organizations, and students. We are thrilled with the turnout and level of support for River Valley Royals, a drag show with two sold-out performances on Saturday, February 27th. Held at the Slowpoke Lounge and Cabaret, nearly \$5,000 was raised, which will be used to fund multiple grant programs and scholarships. More information can be found here: www.rivervalleyarts.org. Sponsors gave money to support the performances, fabulous prizes to be raffled off, food to feed the performers, housing and a myriad of nifty things for swag bags for the performers. The material support means a lot, but the community's backing of this new venture means even more. River Valley ARTS extends its profound thanks to the following donors:



WITH DEEP GRATITUDE,
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An Outdoorsman's Journal

Mark Walters, *Columnist*

Plan B works out just fine

Hello friends,

Sometimes plans change and that is what happened for this week's outdoor excursion. I was supposed to be heading to Little Bay de Noc with Doug Cibulka and my stepson Travis Dushek for a four-day trip with the hopes of icing some big, pre-spawn walleye. The day before we were to leave my informants told me that deep snow on the ice and a very slow bite might want to make me alter my plan. At first, I was super bummed, then I had a brain storm and decided to head back to the backwaters off the Mississippi River near Buffalo City for some quality northern pike fishing.

Friday, February 25th
High 35°, Low 25°

Doug would join us early Saturday morning. Today Trav and I had the big job of making four, three Otter Sled trips with my Polaris 550 snow machine. This would once again be a learning trip for me and today it would be in the way of watching Travis, and eventually Doug use what is called the Finicky Fooler, which is a rig that allows you to use a

spinning rod with your bail open. When you have a fish take your minnow a flag is tripped, and the fish is able to take your bait without feeling resistance. I ended up buying one from Travis at the end of the trip and let me tell you, these guys were fish catching machines with the Finicky Fooler, catching both perch and gators.

After we got camp-built Travis put on a fish catching marathon and I kind of sucked as I just was not on top of my game.

Saturday, February 26th
High 37°, Low 29°

Doug joined our campaign today and the three of us would spend every day from dawn to dark outside fishing and did we catch the gators and perch. I finally put my fish catching hat on and did very well today with my big fish of the day being a 33-inch northern pike that would have weighed a good 11 pounds. Doug and Travis were working the perch and gators and these guys put on quite the show with both tip ups and Finicky Foolers. A couple of interesting subjects, by the time this four-day trip was over all of



Photo by Mark Walters, *Columnist*

The Three Amigos at the end of a great trip!



Photo by Mark Walters, *Columnist*

Travis Dushek could catch fish in a bathtub!

us had intense sunburns on our faces like I have never seen before. All of us swelled up like a pumpkin and in all of my years on the ice I have never witnessed sunburns so extreme.

Another interesting story is that neither Doug or I had purchased our shiners or rosey reds in Buffalo City and we should have. Doug ordered two dozen shiners and was given 20. I ordered two dozen at a different place near Necedah and had the same luck. Generally, bait shops give you two to five extras and this really set us back as we were having a ton of action.

My cure for this dilemma was to put a rosey red on a #10 treble hook with a dead shiner and it saved shiners and kicked but on the gators. Long story short, if you are selling shiners, charge more and give extra. The word gets out that you are a tight wad and people will buy bait somewhere else.

We had a major camp with three insulated Eskimo shacks and at night we stayed up until 1:30 a.m., cooked a great meal and laughed a lot. Doug and I grew up together and Travis is also quite skilled at pegging out the fun meter.

Sunday, February 27th
High 43°, Low 26°

Doug and I got to watch Travis catch a

33-inch gator on his jig pole today and I was able to watch both of these guys do very well on both of our targeted species, we were definitely running low on shiners. I honestly believe that the dead shiner/rosey red combo was the hot ticket and once again tonight it was a fine meal in the shack and 1:30 a.m. was the bewitching hour.

The following morning the big job of breaking camp took place, and the last fish of the trip was a dandy. I had a flag and when I got to it most of the line was off the spool and I soon realized that I had a big, fat, pigasaurus on the other end. I love fighting big gators and this was what I was after. When all was said and done, I iced and then released a 35-inch northern pike that seemed to be as big around as it was long.

On this adventure, we were either laughing, catching fish or both!

—Sunset

Want to read more?

Check out previous weeks' columns at www.outdoorsmansjournal.com



Photo by Mark Walters, *Columnist*

This gator caught by Mark Walters was a true PIGASAURUS!

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