



Election roundup:

Totals on local races, marijuana referendum, **A3**

Digging in:

Washburn baseball team back with almost all starters, **B1**



Ashland Daily Press

ASHLANDDAILYPRESS.NET

FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2022

WHAT'S INSIDE



> **Two Oredockers honored as athlete-scholars, B1**

> **Cleansweeps returns for Bay-Area hazardous materials, A3**

> **Long-time Ashland schools administrator steps down, A3**

> **Local Native students perform in Capitol rotunda, A2**

> **FeU, Copper Falls offer outdoors classes, A2**

> **Local Presbyterian church recognized for earth-friendly efforts, A3**

> **Feds seek help in renaming 28 WI geographic features with offensive Native names, A8**

OBITUARIES: A6

> **Philip Ernest Tetzner - Washburn**

> **Jon William Ray - White Bear Lake**

> **Jermaine (Jeri) Julia McCarthy - Lewis County, Washington**

> **Eris Elizabeth Yepma - Washburn**

> **Paul Nicholas Yokanovich - Lake Namakagon**

MAILING LABEL ONLY

VFW to honor Ashland's 'Doolittle Raider'



Walter Gurske of the Sons of the American Legion (from left), Jackie Moore, Northland College director of alumni relations and annual giving, and Jason Janeczek, commander of Chequamegon Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars, with a photo of George Barr in the Northland College yearbook. Barr participated in the Doolittle Raid on Tokyo, and he will be remembered during an 80th anniversary memorial on April 18. (Rick Olivo/Staff photo)

George Barr survived three years as Japanese POW

BY RICK OLIVO
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George "Red" Barr lived with adversity through much of his life, but still had the courage to persevere and overcome the challenges he faced.

He was an orphan, star athlete, Army Air Force volunteer, Japanese prisoner of war, advanced-degree graduate from Columbia University, coach, teacher and civilian military specialist.

But most of all, he was known as a Doolittle Raider — one of a group of airmen who faced almost certain death or capture when they participated in the first U.S. attack on Japanese soil after the Pearl Harbor bombing.

On April 18, the 80th anniversary of the Doolittle raid, Barr will be honored as one of Ashland's own.

The daring raid

Barr was raised in a Brooklyn, New York boys



Lt. George Barr, navigator (from left) Lt. William G. Farrow, pilot, Sgt. Harold A. Spatz, engineer-gunner, Lt. Robert L. Hite, co-pilot and Cpl. Jacob DeShazer, bombardier on the deck of the USS Hornet before their bomber took off to raid Japan. (U.S. Air Force photo)

home as an orphan, an upbringing that could have been the ruin of him, but instead, he wound up attending Northland College where he developed into a star athlete. He still is considered the finest basketball player the college has ever turned out.

With a bright future still ahead of him, instead of

remaining in college, he left Northland while a senior and enlisted in the aviation cadet program of the U.S. Army Air Corps in February of 1941. He transferred to navigator training and received his wings on Dec. 6, 1941, one day before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

SEE BARR PAGE A9

Ashland to buy downtown pawnshop

BY TOM STANKARD
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The city of Ashland intends to use a portion of its \$820,000 American Rescue Plan Act money to purchase the Bay Area Pawn property along Lakeshore Drive.

City Administrator Brant Kucera declined to offer many specifics about the purchase because officials are still negotiating with the owner and no formal offer has been made.

The city would use \$150,000 of the ARPA money to assist with covering the \$575,000

asking price listed for the property at 415 Lakeshore Drive W. The rest of the \$425,000 would come from the general fund or from tax increment district funds intended to spark development, Kucera said.

The city has given Kucera permission to buy the property but not to exceed the asking price, he said. A final cost is contingent upon an appraisal.

No appraisal had been completed as of Tuesday, Kucera said, and the person who answered the pawnshop's phone this week declined to comment about the sale until an offer from the city has been made.

After negotiations are complete, City Council members will vote on the purchase in open session, said council member Eric Lindell, who represents the district that contains the property.

Once the city owns the property, it would try to interest developers in taking over what would be a prime piece of lakefront land — were it not now inhabited by a former gasoline station atop confirmed soil contamination.

The property is appealing because it allows the city to continue with lakeshore rehab that began with the cleanup of the former Superfund site once occupied by a coal gas plant, Kucera said.

"It could be an important site in the future. Any redevelopment opportunities we have on the lakeshore, we should try to make that happen," he said.

Costs to clean up similar sites have been between \$60,000 and \$80,000, Kucera said. Eighty percent of the cost could be covered by grants from the Environmental Protection Agency, intended to help communities safely and sustainably reuse contaminated properties.

SEE SHOP PAGE A5

\$1.95

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Quilters for Kyiv

Local sewers stitch 200 baby blankets for refugees

BY RICK OLIVO
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Ashland's Kay Price-Lee guesses she has sewn upwards of 500 baby blankets over the past 10 or 12 years, giving most away to friends and family members with infants.

She also has made them for women's shelters in both Ashland and Bayfield.

So it was natural when news broke about the horrors of war in Ukraine to want to help out with her singular specialty.



Quilter Peggy Hegstrom sews edging onto a baby blanket that will be sent to St. Mary's Ukrainian Church in Milwaukee for final shipment to Ukrainian refugees in Poland. (Rick Olivo/Staff photo)

SEE BLANKETS PAGE A5

INDEX

Talk Around Town.....	A4
State/regional news.....	A6, 7, 8, 9
Paap column.....	A7
Law.....	A8
Recipe.....	A9
Sports.....	B1-2
Classifieds.....	B3-7
Puzzles.....	B8
Comics.....	B9
Outdoors.....	B10