

Wisconsin Republican lawmakers reject abortion ban repeal

BY **TODD RICHMOND**
Associated Press

MADISON — Wisconsin Democratic Gov. Tony Evers' bid to repeal the battleground state's dormant abortion ban failed Wednesday after Republican lawmakers convened and immediately adjourned a special session without taking any action.

Wisconsin adopted a ban on abortion except to save the mother's life in 1849, a year after the territory became a state. The U.S. Supreme Court's landmark 1973 ruling that legalized abortion nationwide nullified the ban.

The court is expected to rule this month in a case that could end Roe v. Wade, which would allow Wisconsin's ban to take effect. Lawmakers had to meet after Evers called the Legislature into special session this month, but they were not required to vote on the issue.

Republicans blasted Evers' move as a political stunt designed to please the Democratic base as he faces reelection.

Senate President Chris Kapenga gavelled in and out in 14 seconds just after noon. Democratic Sen. Tim Carpenter shouted "Objection!" to no avail. Kapenga walked off the floor without a word.

Kapenga later issued a statement calling the special session "a calculated campaign move" and noting the Supreme Court hasn't yet issued its decision.

About 90 minutes after Kapenga's action, Assembly Republicans called their session to order and adjourned within 25 seconds.



Abortion rights supporters gather for a "pink out" protest organized by Planned Parenthood in the rotunda of the state Capitol Wednesday in Madison, Wis. (AP Photo/Harm Venhuizen)

Evers has tried several times during his first term to force the Legislature into special sessions to take up popular Democratic bills, including gun control measures, Medicaid expansion and upgrading the state's unemployment benefits system. Every time Republicans gavelled in and out without any debate.

The governor criticized Republicans for refusing to repeal the abortion ban.

"(Republicans) are helping to ensure our kids and grandkids grow up in a world where they have fewer rights than we did growing up — and that's just wrong," Evers said.

Assembly Democratic

Minority Leader Greta Neubauer and Senate Democratic Minority Leader Janet Bewley pledged to fight for new legislation.

The two-year legislative session ended in March. The next regular session doesn't begin until January.

Dozens of people gathered in the Capitol rotunda before Republican leaders took the floor to protest the looming Supreme Court decision and the GOP's plans. Many in the crowd were women.

They wore pink T-shirts that read "I Stand With Planned Parenthood" and "Bans Off Our Bodies." They held signs that read "The GOP Wants

To Party Like It's 1849" and "Abortion Is Health Care," and they shouted chants of "Not the church, not the state, only we decide our fate!"

Officials with the state Department of Administration, which oversees the Capitol police, didn't immediately respond to a message seeking an estimate on the number of protesters.

A statewide Marquette University Law School poll released Wednesday showed that 58% of respondents believe abortions should be legal in most or all cases, while 35% said it should be illegal. Those numbers have remained consistent for years and did not

shift after the leak of the U.S. Supreme Court draft opinion that would undo Roe v. Wade.

The state ban will likely be challenged in court should Roe v. Wade be overturned.

One major question is how the ban would interact with a related state law passed in 1985 that prohibits abortions after the fetus has reached viability but has an exemption for women whose health could be endangered by continuing the pregnancy. Abortion-rights groups have argued for a broad interpretation of that exemption to include emotional and mental health.

Wisconsin Democratic Attorney General Josh Kaul has said he thinks the 1849 law is too old to enforce. He also has said he won't investigate or prosecute doctors who perform abortions if it takes effect.

Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, which operates three clinics that provide abortions in the state, has stopped scheduling procedures beyond June 25. Clinics in some other places also have halted scheduling.

The special session came six weeks after the Madison office of the anti-abortion group Wisconsin Family Action was vandalized. Police have yet to arrest anyone.

Tim Michels, a Republican candidate for governor, this week called on Evers to put the Wisconsin National Guard on notice for similar acts and prepare for "impending acts of mass civil disobedience" if Roe v. Wade is overturned.

Associated Press writers Scott Bauer and Harm Venhuizen contributed to this report.



Some participants in this weekend's celebration of water marched from Superior to Bayfield to call attention to perceived threats to the Bay Area's water resources. (Rick Olivo/Staff photo)

» WATER

FROM PAGE A1

"People understand the value of pristine water that draws people to the area," he said. "People are not looking for a polluted visit. So there is a clear understanding of the realities of water and the fact that people who live on the water cherish it because the economy and the food chain depends on it."

The late elder Joe "Moka'ang Giizis," Rose understood this. Like With and DeMain, Rose made it his mission to protect the water. He was an educator

who founded and directed Northland College's Native American Studies program, an environmental activist who stood firm against taconite mining in the Penoche Hills, a member of the Ashland County Board and a tribal representative to the Voight Task Force making policy recommendations about Native American natural resource harvests.

For his efforts, this year's event is being held in Rose's honor.

"He was the backbone of so many environmental issues," DeMain said.

» PARK

FROM PAGE A1

Additional funds raised will go towards fixing up the other tennis court so both can be paved, Bradle said. The group is discussing turning the second court into a pickleball court to take advantage of its popularity.

Once that's done, the next goal would be to purchase new playground equipment so kids have a safe place to play.

To help further fund these improvements, Szyndor has begun looking and applying for grants.

In the meantime, Bradle has challenged people to donate to the cause.

"Every dollar counts. It's time for us to pay it forward to the future generations and give them someplace to go outside and play and get away from the phones, computers and TV. This playground not only will help with their health, but also their social skills," Bradle said.



Nancy Szyndor of Ashland is spearheading a fundraiser to renovate Ashland's East End Community Park. Residents already have raised \$25,000 to repave a crumbling tennis court and turn it into a basketball court. (Tom Stankard/Staff photo)

To donate

Tax-deductible donations can be sent to the Ashland Parks and Recreation Department at 400 Fourth Ave. W. Funds will be deposited into a special account and used for the East End Community Park Rehabilitation Project. For more information, call 715-682-7059.

» HOUSING

FROM PAGE A1

Though the pandemic has eased and a local homeless shelter is up and running, Urgo still has plenty of people coming to him for housing help — so many that he has turned the motel into transitional housing, accepting rent vouchers and working with local aid organizations to provide housing to low-income folks who can't find apartments.

But that may soon end. Inflation and other factors have driven Urgo

to offer the hotel along Highway 2 for sale — though he intends to keep operating as transitional housing until the right buyer comes along.

Ashland Homeless Help Director Jeanna Olbekson said Urgo has helped scores of people over the years by taking in non-profit clients, offering them both shelter and something even more valuable — dignity.

"He doesn't judge and helps the ones that need it the most," Olbekson said.

To make guests feel at home, Urgo strives to

keep the rooms nice and clean, making them look even nicer than some hotel rooms in the area, Olbekson said.

Urgo was delighted when the Ashland Community Shelter opened, and he's looking forward to a new housing development planned for the east side, very near his motel, aimed at low- and moderate-income families.

"That's what the community needs to get people off the street and

give them a chance to work and have a place to live," he said.

The homeless shelter that opened in January at the former Ashland Motel has filled a void in the community, Urgo said. But the shelter has had so many calls that it can't house everybody who requests a room.

Those who are turned away are offered a welcoming hand by Urgo if he has space — and judging by the calls he takes every day, which

sometimes number 30 or more, plenty of people still need that hand.

With the affordable housing development in the works, Urgo believes there will be less demand for a place to stay when it opens. If he hasn't sold the property by that point, he plans to convert

the business back into a motel, while still helping the homeless by offering them shelter during the


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Fill 'er up:
Ashland drivers get full service again, **A3**

Skateaway:
Inline racers storm Mad Island, **B1**



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MAILING LABEL ONLY



The tennis courts at East End Community Park in Ashland are no longer playable, with weeds growing from the cracks and no nets. Next to the neglected tennis courts is a swing set with equipment that has seen better days. (Tom Stankard/staff photo)

Residents launch effort to fix local park

BY **TOM STANKARD,**
tstankard@ashlanddailypress.net

Nancy Szyndor is terrified every time she looks out her window and sees kids playing in the street on the east side of Ashland. "It is only a matter of time before someone gets hit and gets hurt," she said.

Making the situation doubly frustrating is that just across the street from her house is the city's East End Community Park — with its crumbling tennis courts with no nets and weeds growing through the cracks, neglected swing set and other dilapidated gear. If only the park were maintained and modernized, she said, local kids wouldn't have to play in the street.

So Szyndor, former resident Jim Bradle — who as a kid played on the park's merry-go-round, seesaw, slide and other long-gone equipment that is long gone — are joining forces

with park neighbors to raise money for park renovations and improvements.

In a matter of a couple months, the neighborhood already has surpassed its original \$25,000 fundraising goal — mostly through a social media campaign, matched by an anonymous local donor, Bradle said.

"I was shocked. I thought it would take quite a while," he said. "I am super impressed for such a small town. There's just a lot of good people willing to help."

The park long has cried out for attention. The city last year partnered with students from Northland College who surveyed residents to determine what they wanted to become of the space.

Neighbors who participated in the East End Community Visioning Project

clearly said they wanted the park restored.

The problem: The city can't afford repairs or new equipment.

Ashland Parks and Recreation Director Sara Hudson said she's working with elected officials to determine if the city can set aside American Rescue Plan Act funds for the effort.

"East End is a cute community park that has been needing attention for a long time," Hudson said. "It is time to put some effort into that."

But neighbors aren't waiting around. With the money already raised, they've developed plans to pave one of the tennis courts, turn it into a basketball court and purchase a stationary hoop and an adjustable hoop so younger children can play.



Bradle



Hudson

SEE PARK PAGE A5

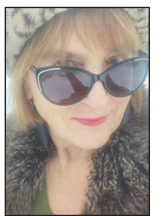
Bay Area invited to celebrate water

BY **TOM STANKARD,**
tstankard@ashlanddailypress.net

Living on Madeline Island, Barbara With feels a natural connection to the water surrounding her home.

And she and fellow advocate Paul DeMain believe much of the Bay Area feels the same way about the big lake, its tributaries and inland ponds.

The two helped form Communities United By Water which this weekend is hosting a two-day symposium and celebration focused on preserving the area's water resources.



With



DeMain

The event has grown in popularity over the past three years, particularly as perceived threats to local water supplies have grown.

Within the past two years, a start-up called Kristle Klr proposed bottling and selling hundreds of thousands of gallons of spring water a year, drawn from property in the Bayfield County town of Clover. That plan was rejected by the county.

At the same time, the Bad River Tribe has taken steps to throw the Enbridge Energy Co. Line 5 oil pipeline off tribal lands. The company is in the process of rerouting the line, but tribal officials say it still threatens to contaminate the entire Bad River watershed.

With those facts lingering in the air, Communities United has planned a weekend of events centered around the preservation of water, including several speakers, traditional sports games, live music and a community feast.

Over the past five decades, the Ojibwe people have rejected several extractive projects, acid mining, offshore drilling, army corps barrel dumps, water-bottling plants and other efforts that might have harmed the area's waterways, DeMain said.

"These kind of things impact our culture," he said. "We're in an area that has one of the largest bodies of pure, clean water in the world. People are dying around the world, wishing they had access to this water."

DeMain is particularly concerned with the threat Line 5 continues to pose. Preserving the area's waterways protects the future of Chequamegon Bay and all the people who depend upon it for livelihood, recreation and spiritual connections, DeMain said.

SEE WATER PAGE A5

Ashland motel becomes low-income housing

Owner filling need with apartments so scarce

BY **TOM STANKARD,**
tstankard@ashlanddailypress.net

Denice Parish lost her Ashland apartment when the pandemic hit because she and her roommate were having trouble keeping up with the bills.

She had nowhere to turn at the time — until Historic Bayview Motel Owner Tony Urgo took her in and gave her a place to stay — including a hot shower and Internet access — at a low rate until she could get back on her feet.

"Tony is an awesome person. He has a big heart and will do whatever he can to help anybody," Parish said.

Parish is one of many people Urgo has helped over the years by working with non-profit organizations to give those less fortunate a place to stay.

"We serve the poor person. People who can't afford to pay more than \$500 for rent are completely priced out of the market," Urgo said.



Historic Bayview Motel owner Tony Urgo with the son of a family staying at the motel, which Urgo has turned into transitional housing because apartments for low-income residents are so scarce in Ashland. (Tom Stankard/Staff photo)

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» BUTCHERS
FROM PAGE A1

While she said she and her husband are making the arrangement work, she would like nothing better than to eliminate the eight-hour round trip. "It would be 110% more convenient," she said. "This definitely adds challenges. It would be amazing to see a local butcher and processor. However, we also need to know that any new business is going to have the experience to give us a quality product."



Carly Stephenson of Will o' the Winds Farm stands before the hogs she and her husband Tyler Stephenson raise near Washburn. (Photo contributed by Carly Stephenson)

Part of the problem is that there are few young people who want to enter the trade, and opportunities to train as a meat-cutter are rare. Evers recently dedicated \$5 million of American Rescue Plan Act money to attract new students and provide financial assistance for meat-processing training programs to address the problem — which has plagued one of the area's few existing meat processors, Pearce's Sausage Kitchen.

"I've given up trying to find help," owner Bill Pearce said. Pearce's facility is state-certified, which means the meat he butchers and wraps can be sold to anyone in Wisconsin. He has operated it for 40 years and at the age of 65, he knows retirement looms. But in the meantime, he continues to serve his clients, some of whom have been bringing their animals to him

for decades.

But if you want him to butcher your steer, you better make an appointment two to three years in advance.

"It's not really an issue. My regulars know that they need to schedule. The problem is with people who haven't planned ahead," he said.

That kind of planning isn't possible for many small farmers.

Ashenbrenner, in addition to operating So Below Farm, serves as general manager for Bayfield Foods Cooperative, a community-supported agriculture operation involving food producers across the Chequamegon Bay region. So she talks to farmers everywhere who are frustrated by the problem.

"You have people who are forced to take their animals to processors

who are farther away. We have a few who are around, but if you can't get a date with one of them, you may have to go two or three hours one way to get to whatever butcher can get you in," she said.

Bayfield County Administrator Mark Abeles Allison said the county recently sent a resolution to the Wisconsin Counties Association calling on it to advocate for more state and federal inspectors and push for changes to state law to streamline regulations for the state's dwindling number of meat processors.

"The regulations we have to face are very burdensome," said Pearce. "I think they stop people who want to get into meat processing because of all the hoops they have to jump through."

The realities of meat processing, including costs that can exceed \$1 million for a new facility, the lack of new butchers while older operators are retiring and a difficult regulatory environment are at the root causes of the shortage, Pearce said.

Until that is addressed, local farmers can't really feed all the Northwoods consumers who want to eat locally grown meat, Ashenbrenner said.

"The demand could be better met by the supply if it were a little easier get beef processed at a reasonable cost and with the appropriate certifications," she said.

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg August 15, 2022

ACROSS

- 1 Legislative group
- 6 Movie advertisement
- 13 Movie advertisement
- 14 Blushed
- 16 More grayish
- 17 Indian cauliflower-and-potato dish
- 18 Give a hand, in a way
- 19 Canadian shoe brand
- 21 Big beer container
- 22 Makeup's Lauder
- 24 Alternative to heads
- 26 "Everything ___ changed"
- 29 ___ Vegas
- 30 "Didn't see you there!"
- 32 Dutch Caribbean island
- 34 Large lunar occurrence
- 39 Engaging in an adventurous lifestyle, as suggested by this puzzle's border answers
- 41 Wedding reception finale
- 42 Becomes frayed
- 43 Model Holiday
- 44 Period
- 46 To date
- 47 Textile thread
- 50 King with a labyrinth
- 52 Jazz composer Mary ___ Williams
- 53 Completed
- 54 Three-time A.L. MVP
- 58 Protagonist with questionable morals
- 62 Make reference (to)

- 64 Ringing in one's ears
- 65 Get closer to hear better
- 66 Kind of cheese also called curds and whey
- 67 Become embedded

DOWN

- 1 Watering tool
- 2 Workers' protection grp.
- 3 Scrabble piece that goes well with a Q
- 4 View
- 5 Reasons to print a correction
- 6 Swap pins at Disney World, say
- 7 Move for a job, briefly
- 8 Kerfuffle
- 9 Words exchanged by brides
- 10 Relay race part
- 11 Long mushroom
- 12 One in a revolt
- 13 Skater's knee protector
- 15 Verbal jabs
- 20 Music classes
- 23 Speak badly of
- 24 Targeted with a pass
- 25 Rocker Mann
- 26 "The Hate U Give" actress Regina
- 27 Oratorio solo
- 28 Rogues and Explorers, e.g.
- 30 Voluntarily joined
- 31 Snarky laugh
- 33 German "You're welcome"
- 35 Sch. in Chapel Hill

- 36 Danity Kane member Aubrey
- 37 Monster of folklore
- 38 Google smart thermostat
- 40 Pedal on the right
- 45 Low tie
- 47 Ballet shoe
- 48 Type of bond or column
- 49 "...au contraire!"
- 50 Mariners' antlered mascot
- 51 Dish with mixed greens
- 53 Marijuana, e.g.
- 55 Monkey bars piece
- 56 Drooly dog in "Garfield"
- 57 Scout mother's group
- 59 Bad stat for a QB
- 60 Success in Battleship
- 61 When an Uber should show up: Abbr.
- 63 Sign before Virgo

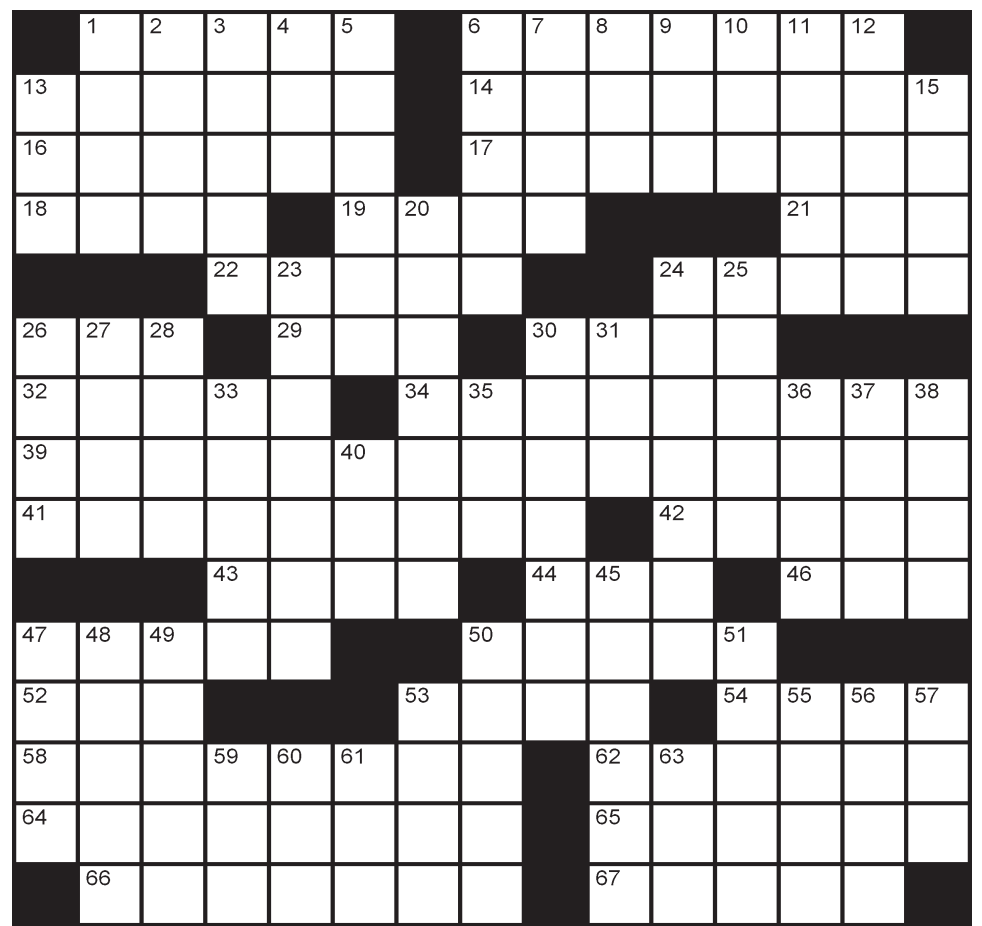
PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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8/15

Pushing Boundaries by Sophia Maymudes



» HORSEHOES
FROM PAGE A1

For the uninitiated, horseshoes involves two players or two teams of players throwing oversized shoes at stakes 40 feet apart. A ringer, when the shoe completely encircles the stake, is worth three points. A leaner, when a shoe comes to rest against the stake, is worth a point or two, depending on scoring systems. If one player throws two ringers and the other throws one, the first player gets just 3 total points — which is where the phrase "dead ringer" comes from. Matches generally go to 40 points.

The Sukanen brothers ran the fair tourney for nearly 30 years before handing over the reins to cousins Mark and Steve Stevens because Clyde moved away and Carl didn't want to run it all on his own.

But this year, Steve Stevens is unable to run the tournament during this weekend's fair. After hearing the bad news, Clyde, Carl and brother Roger stepped up to manage the tournament for old times' sake.

Now in its 50th installment after a couple years off due to COVID, the tournament has become an annual tradition of sorts. The Sukanen brothers have enjoyed watching people of all different skill levels compete to win the top prizes in several divisions.

Everyone from beginners to championship-level players have competed over the years.

Mark Stevens was the No. 1 player in Wisconsin at one point before he passed away from cancer a few years ago.

Having the likes of him in the tournament made other expert players want to take a crack at beating him, drawing

If You Go

- What: 50th anniversary of horseshoe pitching at Ashland County Fair
- When: Saturday-Sunday
- Saturday — Doubles
 - Noon-12:30 p.m., registration
 - 1 p.m., tournament begins
- Sunday — Singles
 - Noon-12:30 p.m., registration
 - 1 p.m., Tournament begins
- There are different divisions for all age groups and skill levels. Winners will receive a T-shirt and a gift certificate for junior divisions and a cash prize for all others.

more attention from across the Midwest and beyond, Clyde said.

"He was a magnet. It was fun to watch," he said. "You learn from them every time they come."

As times change, however, the two are worried that horseshoes might become a game of the past.

But with players like Sarah Chaffee, there is still hope the younger generations might keep the sport alive, Clyde said with a smile.

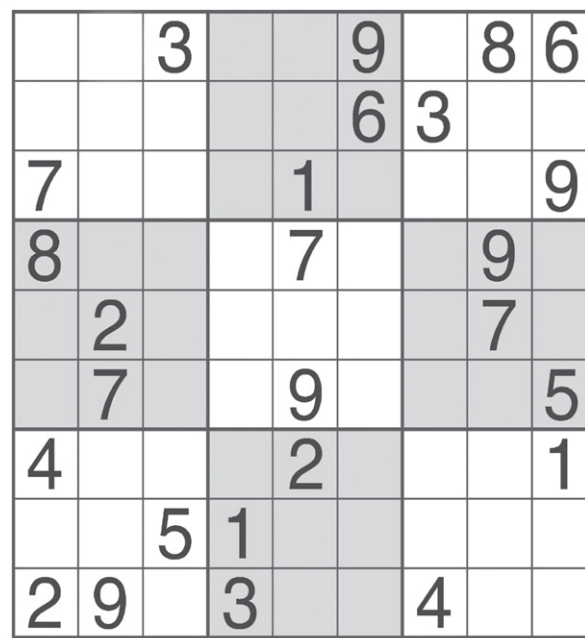
The 15-year-old from Chippewa Falls won the Women's World Horseshoe Pitching Championship earlier this year when she scored ringers with 86% of her throws, which Clyde said, "is incredible."

Knowing someone as young as she can be that good is the reason Clyde and Carl divide competitors into different divisions for the tournament.

There is no age limit to horseshoes, so everyone is invited to play on Saturday and Sunday, Carl said.

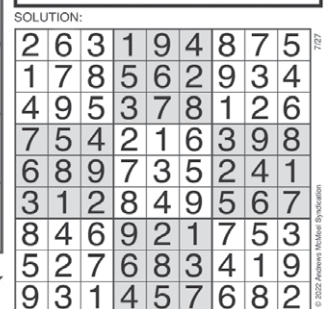
"I will try to play and see if I'm still any good," he added.

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle



Complete the grid so every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

Previous puzzle solution



7/30

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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» CAMPING
FROM PAGE A1

A person who loses all their property is forced to find a new tent and supplies to live, and could end up losing their job because they lost their clothes and other possessions.

MacKenzie said he understands that point, but also believes the city has to protect itself, residents and visitors.

"We just can't allow

camping anywhere in town. Otherwise we will have liability issues. So we limit where we allow camping," he said.

Olbekson said that often leaves homeless people with nowhere to turn. The lack of housing in the area has made it difficult for many to find a new place to live and the Ashland Community Shelter that opened at the beginning of the year often has no vacancies, Olbekson said.

"So many people can't get in because it's always full and stays full because there is such a high turnover rate. Seems like Paige Crenshaw (the director) is doing a great job there," she said.

A good number of the local homeless were renting an apartment that was put up for sale by the owner or was transformed

into a short-term rental, Olbekson said.

"Just because someone is homeless, doesn't make them bad people. They are on hard times," she said.

MacKenzie agreed, and said, "It's a tough situation."

Olbekson hopes that the city will reconsider its decision.

"I'm not asking for mir-

acles or to let them set up a tent anywhere," she said. "We have to keep them in the city because they need access to food, water and work."

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Washburn looks to add sites, **A3**

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Northland looks to build on soccer success, **B1**



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> Ashland angler's body recovered in Bay: **A3**

> Enbridge shuts down Line 5 again: **A2**

> Big Top calls all singers to join audience choir: **A3**

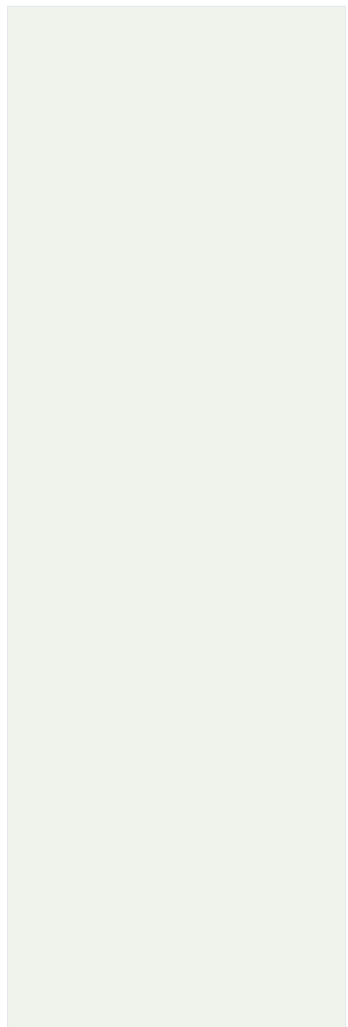
> Bayfield County Fair, in photos: **A8**

> Sharptails headed to U13 state tourney: **B1**

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> Derald E. King: Stillwater, MN

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Local farmers ask: Where's the Beef?

Shortage of butchers cramps local food movement

BY RICK OLIVO
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Laura Ashenbrener can only hope that the livestock she's raising at So Below Farm near Ashland are ready to be marketed when her appointment to bring them to a meat-packing facility rolls around.

The butcher who processes her pigs, chickens and sheep is so overlooked that she has to schedule far in advance, making every animal she raises a gamble.

"The biggest issue is that the processors get so filled up that even if you have somebody in the area who is your preferred processor, you have to book those dates out. Sometimes for beef it can be a year in advance," she said.

That's a problem when her free-range chickens grow to maturity in as little as eight or 10 weeks.

"At the beginning of the year, to have to predict which week they will be ready for butchering is kind of hard. At eight weeks they may be too small, and at 10 weeks they may be too big. If you are having to make all your butcher dates in the spring for the whole summer, you are just not getting your animals into the processor at exactly the time you would like."

Farmers trying to cater to the burgeoning local food movement in the Northwoods are struggling with the same problem. There's just not enough butchers to turn all the grass-fed beef, heritage hogs and free-range chickens into ribeyes, chops and drumsticks.



Bill Pearce of Pearce's Sausage Kitchen south of Ashland said it has become virtually impossible to hire new help, and that the waiting list at his facility can be up to three years, forcing him not to accept new clients. (Rick Olivo/Staff photo)

Gov. Tony Evers proposed in his last budget an annual grant program to encourage meat processors to expand. But the GOP-led Legislature gutted the program, providing just 1/10th the budget Evers proposed — \$200,000 rather than \$2 million.

"Despite having \$200,000 for this year's round of meat processor grants, we received 100 applications requesting over \$4.4 million in funding. So it's clear that processors want to increase their throughput capacity," Evers said during a call with reporters in May.

Without more butchers, farmers like Carly and Tyler Stephenson at Will o' the Winds farm near Washburn are playing the same guess-

ing game with their hogs as Ashenbrener is.

Carly Stephenson said her meat-cutter now is working nine months in advance, leaving her in the bizarre situation of having to schedule slaughter dates for pigs that haven't even been born yet. Complicating the matter, Lake Haven Meats is 210 miles away in Sturgeon Lake, Minn. She's willing to make that trip because Lake Haven is USDA certified, which allows her pork to be sold across state lines, rather than person to person if it was done in a custom butchering shop or only within Wisconsin if it was processed in a state-certified operation.

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Ashland rejects homeless camping plan

BY TOM STANKARD,
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Ashland Wisconsin Homeless Help Director Jeanna Olbekson has been pushing city officials to allow the homeless to use campgrounds without paying a fee.

With housing so hard to come by in the Bay Area and the recently opened homeless shelter full, Olbekson thinks allowing those without homes to pitch tents at specified parks without the risk of being run off or losing their belongings can help the crunch.

"You have a homeless population that needs help," she said at a recent City Council meeting. "I've worked so hard for free to help the homeless, but really need to resolve this immediately."

That's not going to happen.

The city recently informed Olbekson that it won't change the ordinance and would continue enforcing it.

Parks Director Sara Hudson said the city tried experimenting with homeless camping four years ago, but it didn't go well.

"Travelers said they would never stop in the community again. Some didn't feel comfortable using the parks and playgrounds when we allowed it," Mayor Matt MacKenzie said.

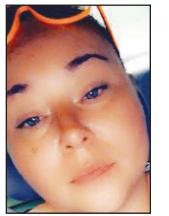
As a result, the Parks and Recreation Department will no longer accept homeless vouchers. Campers need to pay by cash or credit card to stay at designated parks.

When a tent is found at a city park, a staff member tries to notify the occupant and tell them to leave. If the person doesn't move or the tent is considered abandoned, it is confiscated and held for a period of time so the owner can reclaim the property. If no one reclaims it, the property is disposed of, MacKenzie said.

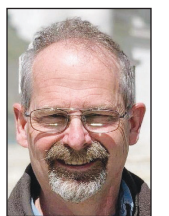
That leaves displaced people with no place left to go and has serious ramifications on their lives, Olbekson said.

"The ordinance has really put a damper on people being able to work or leave their tent. They leave and it's removed. So is everything they worked hard for. Their whole life is in one tent," she said.

Olbekson said seizures only serve to compound the area's homeless problem.



Olbekson



MacKenzie

Brothers keep horseshoe tradition alive at fair

BY TOM STANKARD
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Clyde Sukanen stared down at the stake implanted in the ground across his yard, stepped into his throw and let the iron fly.

The horseshoe flew through the air and clanged into the stake, wrapping its arms around it in a steely embrace.

"Ringer!" Sukanen called out.

That's every horseshoe-thrower's goal. And Sukanen has been chasing it since, as a child, his neighbors and family members gathered in the yard for their own spirited games of horseshoes.

"I started when I was 3 years old. It was fun. I started with real horseshoes they took off of horses — some were worn out and had nails on them," he said.

Those good times inspired Sukanen and his brother Carl Sukanen in 1970 to launch a horseshoe-pitching tournament at the Ashland County Fair, as a way to get their family to go to the fair and so that others can make memories as well.

"(My family) wouldn't go to the fair. There was nothing for them to do there. I said, 'Let's have a horseshoe tournament so they have something to watch.' It served as a gathering place," Clyde said.



Clyde Sukanen pitches a horseshoe while practicing in his yard. He will help host the 50th anniversary of a horseshoe-pitching tournament during the Ashland County Fair this weekend. (Tom Stankard/Staff photo)

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