



Woman dies from gunshot wound

Shooting took place in Marinette, man in custody

MARINETTE—A female died because of injuries sustained by a gunshot Thursday in Marinette.

Marinette Police Chief Jon LaCombe, in a press release, said dispatch received a call at 4:05 p.m. Thursday to the

Trolley Station Apartments, 1529 Main St., for a report of a female with a gunshot wound. Upon arrival, officers located a

32-year-old female victim and began to render first aid until

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Go Pack!

Packers battle back, beat Bears again.

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Sports

Cavs outlast White Lake in thriller.

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Good morning,
Emil Schroeder!
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DEATHS

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Grom, Ronald D.
Jenkins, Richard S.
Kells, Laura J.
Sievert, Brian C.

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TODAY'S WEATHER

High 35 | Low 18
Mostly cloudy with snow flurries possible
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Historic Menominee Opera House

Committee looks to the future with renovations

By **ERIN NOHA**
EagleHerald Staff Writer

MENOMINEE—Slap a dime on the counter and run up five flights of stairs to take in the next show at the Menominee Opera House.

The year is 1902. They aren't the best seats in the house, but for a poor boy living in Menominee, just getting into the newly-opened venue is enough, even if you have wait until everyone else is seated to be let in.

The "No Smoking Allowed" sign passes by while entering the third-floor lobby, which leads into the segregated balcony, lined with four rows of steep, wooden pews. Passing the ushers, you sit on the backrest for a better view. The debutante are seated in the first balcony and the orchestra section below.

The third floor sits in dust 120 years later, with the original seating and beadboard wainscotting

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EAGLEHERALD CONTRIBUTOR/PAUL WILLIAMS
Mike Kaufman adjusts a sheet cover the dressing room entrance next to original to the Menominee Opera House.



Opera house

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intact. Mike Kaufman, board member of the Menominee Opera House Committee Inc. and executive director of the Menominee Area Historical Society, explained how only men and boys were allowed in the second balcony, with attendants posted up to maintain order.

“They were a rowdy bunch,” he said, echoing in the natural acoustics. “Rather than clap, they would’ve stamped their feet.”

The nonprofit has spent \$300,000 on building restoration so far, said Jim Anderson, president of the Menominee Opera House Committee Inc.

“It’s sort of a drop of a bucket compared to the things we need to fix up the place,” Anderson said.

Despite their progress with roofing, plumbing and other structural updates, it might not look like they’ve done a lot of work.

“You could ride by and go ‘Oh, you’re not getting much done,’” Kaufman said. “It’s hundreds of thousands of dollars,

but you don’t see it.”

The group has focused on keeping the building upright, with little work being done on the interior, Anderson said.

“For the most part, we’ve been trying to improve the structural aspect of the building such that we can use the building,” he said.

The committee is looking for additional members on its board who will take a renewed interest in the venue, which will open again next year for public and private events, Anderson said. They’re also looking for someone with expertise in fundraising and grant writing. The group’s overall mission is to continue to renovate the building as a theater and event space.

Since COVID-19, they haven’t had a public gathering. Still, they’re looking forward to the next year with anticipation, including hosting a wedding in the venue, which

stands dormant in the winter months since it doesn’t have heating.

UPDATES

The most recent project was removing a projection booth that operated when the

opera house converted over to a movie house in the 1940s called the Menominee Theater, Kaufman said.

COVID-19 had a benefit, as contractors had extra time to do work in the building, Anderson said. They redid half

the roof during the pandemic, a project that cost more than \$100,000.

Before those projects, the group was able to build two ADA-accessible bathrooms on-site.

“It doesn’t seem like a big a

EAGLEHERALD CONTRIBUTOR/PAUL WILLIAMS

The original stairway with rubble and exposed brick at the Menominee Opera House.



EAGLEHERALD CONTRIBUTOR/PAUL WILLIAMS

Mike Kaufman stands in the balcony of the Menominee Opera House near bench seating, which is original to the structure.



EAGLEHERALD/DAN KITKOWSKI

A woman was shot Thursday at the Trolley Station Apartments on Main Street in Marinette. A man is in custody.

Shooting

Continued from Page A1

EMS personnel arrived. The female victim was transported to Aurora Medical Center—Bay Area by paramedics, where she later died to her injuries and was pronounced deceased.

Officers were advised that a 31-year-old male suspect fled the scene prior to officer’s arrival, LaCombe said. At approximately 4:25 p.m., officers were able to locate the suspect at a residence in Marinette, and he was taken into custody without incident. The male was transported to Aurora Medical Center—Bay Area, where he was treated for minor injuries and lodged at the

Marinette County Jail. The Marinette County District Attorney’s Office is reviewing the matter for potential charges.

The Marinette Police Department has requested the assistance of the State of Wisconsin Crime Lab to process the crime scene, according to LaCombe. Officers are still in the early stages of gathering all the facts

and will release more details as they become available. The names of the people involved are being withheld at this point, pending notification of family members.

If anyone has any information regarding this incident, they are asked to contact the Marinette Police Department.

The Marinette Police

Department is being assisted by the Marinette County Sheriff’s Office, Marinette County Medical Examiner’s Office, AMC-BA Paramedics, Emergency Rescue Squad, Marinette Fire Department, Marinette County Dispatch Center, Oconto County Sheriff’s Office and the Marinette County District Attorney’s Office.

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The front of the Menominee Opera House, which has been stabilized as part of the renovation process.

Opera house

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step, but it makes having an event there more possible," Anderson said.

The next task is restoring exits on the sides of the auditorium and replacing structural floors in the lobbies.

The floor lobby that faces the road on 5th Avenue is in a state of collapse, having sustained considerable water damage throughout the years. After the roof collapsed in the stage area opposite the lobbies, the snow and water would accumulate—even birds took roost and small trees rooted in the area.

HISTORY

In 1902, the Menominee Opera House opened, accommodating traveling Broadway shows, vaudeville acts, local productions and benefits. It may have hosted operettas, but don't let the name fool you.

"They called them all opera houses, but there really never was an opera here," Kaufman said. "The opera house thing is just a term that was used when this was built."

The opera house was an overnight stop on the traveling circuit, with casts as many as 70 people, before it became more of a municipal auditorium in the 1930s.

"The old traveling theatre acts that came out of California and New York and elsewhere kind of disappeared after the movies became popular," Anderson said. "That's what happened to this one."

A fire in 1950 ended any hopes of using the building as a theater. The building was bankrupt two years later when it was purchased as a warehouse.

After the building was saved from demolition, the Vennema family made a majority of initial repairs to the building, including renovating the roof and collapsed walls. Around 2006, the Menominee Opera House Committee

Inc. received the deed to the building.

RENOVATION

The theater hosted a few events before the pandemic, including Theatre in the Ruin and a two-person musical called "The Last Five Years." Anderson hopes to bring more small acts to the three-story brick theater building, with its eclectic-style front facade adorned in hard-fired yellow brick and garnished with a cornice ledge on top.

As Kaufman walks back down the stairs from the third-floor lobby, he passes the same "No Smoking Allowed" sign that thousands of people abided by (or didn't) in the theater's heyday. The Menominee Opera House will never again look like it did in 1902, Kaufman said, as it would require too much money. The year the opera house opened, Menominee's population reached 30,000—a result of the economic boom from the lumber mills, pig iron production, and fishing and paper industries.

"We'll never be able to restore it," he said. "What we're trying to do is renovate it."

Anderson said it would be hard to justify opening it as a museum, as it may not generate enough money to stay open. They would like to keep it as a working theater like the Meyer Theatre or the Weidner Center in Green Bay.

"Our idea was not to restore the opera house as it was 100%, but restore the feel of the opera house and give it modern bones," he said.

Through fires, collapses and COVID, Anderson said the show must go on.

"We're open for business, and we're open for continuing our restoration," he said.

People can sign up for the newsletter or donate to the nonprofit at <https://www.menomineeoperahouse.org/>.

Erin Noha can be reached by email at enoha@eagleherald.com

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Q:

Take Care of Your Heart this Winter

A: As winter inches closer, temperatures drop ever so gradually. Before we know it, there will be snowflakes coating evergreen trees, and Winter Wonderland playing on repeat. To stay safe this winter, it's important to be mindful of heart risks intensified by the changing weather.

Keeping our heart happy and healthy is important to preventing long-term illnesses. However, this becomes more of a challenge during winter. Studies have shown that low temperatures increase the risk of heart attacks by putting extra stress on the heart. In response to the cold, blood vessels constrict to conserve body heat. In doing so, blood pressure increases, forcing the heart to work harder. Blood platelets may also start to clump, raising the risk of a blood clot.

People who do not exercise regularly, have high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes, a history of smoking, high cholesterol or are at an advanced age have a higher risk of a heart attack. On the flip side, people who exercise regularly, eat healthy or are at a younger age have a lower risk. Other factors may also play a role, so make sure to talk to your doctor to learn more.

Although this might sound scary, easing stress on the heart is easier than it sounds.

Before heading out the door, make sure to dress warmly. This includes wearing a thick, winter jacket, mittens, a hat, or scarf. Remember, you can always take layers off!

Exercising safely is also really important. Because your heart is already working hard to get you through that tough workout, the added cold will intensify the stress being put on your heart. If you already have an exercise routine, keep it up! If you are someone who sits a lot, try to avoid strenuous activities, but be sure to talk to your doctor about ways to incorporate moderate exercise into your routine.

Although it is easier said than done, eating a healthy diet can considerably boost your heart health, especially if the diet is low in saturated fats and high in fruits and vegetables. A healthy diet can reduce your risk of developing heart disease, high blood pressure, and diabetes. Preventing these health risks will lead to an overall longer lifespan and better quality of life. Plus, eating strawberries is always a welcomed activity!

In the midst of the holiday season, getting caught up in family festivities and traveling plans happens to all of us. However, making sure we are taking care of the heart is important to keeping those plans festive. Enjoy the snow this winter and don't forget: you can always take layers off!

IF JACK FROST IS NIPPING AT YOUR NOSE, IT'S WARM IN THE HARBORS.

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