



Record-setting heat wave coming

FEMA: High temps, humidity mean extreme heat this week

MONROE — Dangerous heat and high humidity are in the forecast throughout the region this week. The FEMA Region 5 office in Chicago is encouraging residents to avoid the dangers of extreme heat by taking some simple steps to stay safe.

Temperatures in Monroe are expected to be in the upper 90s on Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 23-24, with the heat index reaching triple digits. Monroe's record high temperature for the

month of August is 96 degrees, according to the National Weather Service.

"Nearly our entire region will experience at or near historic high temperatures this week, but high heat index values will make for an extremely dangerous situation for many residents," said Tom Sivak, FEMA Region 5 regional administrator. "We all need to take precautions. Regularly check yourself and those you care about — especially children, older adults and pets — for the signs and symptoms of heat-related illnesses and be

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STORIES BEHIND THE STARS

Machinist's Mate 1c Harold Francis Carney



Harold Francis Carney
 Machinist's Mate 1c
 Dubuque
 Pearl Harbor

The Des Moines Register

By Krista Finstad Hanson
 For the Times



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On December 7, 1941, the USS Oklahoma was

stationed at Pearl Harbor in Battleship Row in Hawaii. She was hit by several torpedoes and capsized in the attack by the Japanese military. In all, 429 crew members died and 32 were wounded. The ship was salvaged in 1943 and a portion was recovered in 2006. In 2007, a memorial was dedicated on Ford Island near the USS Missouri museum.

The Dec. 7, 2016 The Portage Daily Register article titled "A sacred harbor," gave the story of the 75th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

The list of names "honoring those who were lost" included 2,004 Navy, 239 Army, 111 Marines, and 48 civilians killed in the attack.

Remains of the unknown were interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. In 2015, the Department of Defense began a DNA analysis program. From 2017-2021, they began identifying surviving family members and returning the remains to be reburied at the wishes of the next of kin. They were able to identify 396 of the 429 crew members.

This includes Machinist's Mate 1c Harold Francis Carney who served with the U.S. Navy on the USS Oklahoma.

Harold Francis Carney was born on Oct. 26, 1918 in Benton in Lafayette County to John Arthur and Mary Ellen (McCann) Carney. His parents were married on Jan. 23, 1912 in Dubuque, Iowa. The first three children were born in Iowa in 1913, 1914, and 1916. Harold was born in

Lafayette County, Wisconsin

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Stories Behind The Stars

A series that honors more than 421,000 Americans that lost their lives in World War II.

Fallen soldiers from Lafayette County are currently being highlighted in the Monroe Times. For Green County, see the archives at www.themonroetimes.com

To learn more about the project, visit storiesbehindthestars.org.

Police make arrest in cold-case rape from 1998

Jan. 2022 incident lands Monroe man in further trouble

By Gary Mays
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MONROE — Police are charging a Monroe man with the 1998 rape of a woman, getting a break on the cold-case when the suspect was arrested in 2022 and his DNA sample matched an offender database.

As a result, Ryan A. Berg, 50, of Monroe is now charged with second-degree sexual assault and burglary in connection with an incident that occurred on a storm-swept night in 1998. "On the date of the sexual

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Berg

Fire destroys home

Investigation into cause continues



Times photos: Adam Krebs

Fire and emergency personnel work to put out a fire in the 1100 block of 15th Avenue in Monroe during the early morning hours on Monday, Aug. 21, 2023. The home was deemed a total loss. There were no occupants in the home, authorities said.

By Gary Mays
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MONROE — The investigation of a house fire early on Monday morning continued hours after departments from as far away as Freeport and Davis, Ill. responded to a call for assistance through the mutual aid system, officials said.

The fire was called in just before 1:10 a.m. and was knocked down completely more than an hour later. However, it was already rolling when the first crews arrived, according to Monroe's (acting) Fire Chief Al Rufer.

"I was on scene in roughly four and a half minutes after the page went out, and the fire was already through the roof when I got on

scene," Rufer said.

The home is located in the 1100 block of 15th Avenue, just north of Minhas Brewery and south of Summit Credit Union.

Within six minutes of the first call from Monroe Police Department officers on scene, the fire had spread from the kitchen to fully engulf the home. Electrical wires from the alley behind the house were on the ground, and Alliant Energy was called to respond and shut off electricity to the area.

Browntown, Belleville, Monticello, Monroe Rural and Orangeville fire departments were initially called in the first Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) call, with further departments responding.

Crews used a ladder truck to douse flames com-



ing out of the top of the two-story, wood-frame house, while others fought it from the ground and the home's sides.

Both Rufer and Monroe Police Chief Fred Kelley declined to cite a cause for the fire, saying it remains under investigation. Rufer also declined to speculate

on a dollar amount of the damage, but the structure could be a total loss. No one was inside the residence.

There were no injuries from among the nearly dozen area fire crews from throughout the region that

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Cheese Days 2024 new royalty, button announced

MONROE — Cheese Days will return to Green County in just over a year, and some of the festival's royalty were announced Aug. 19 during intermission of Main Street Monroe's final Concert on the Square series, which featured FBI and the Untouchable Horns.

Tony and Esther Zraggen of New Glarus were picked to be the new King and Queen, replacing Gordy and Ruth Bergemann. The Zraggen's are both Switzerland natives and run Alp and Dell Cheese Store in Monroe.

Breanna Brooks of Juda was chosen to replace Tess Zettle as Cheese Days Ambassador. Brooks works for the USDA-Green County Farm Service Agency while continuing to farm herself on the family farm.

Brooks and Zettle also unveiled the new Cheese Days 2024 button logo,



Times photo: Adam Krebs

The Cheese Days 2024 button and some new royalty were announced Aug. 19 during intermission of Main Street Monroe's final Concert on the Square for the summer. For more photos from the event, see Page A12.

which features an accordion player in lederhosen.

Zettle and the Bergemann's held their royalty titles for both the 2018 and 2022 events. The

festival was canceled in 2020, as well as the original postponement weekend in 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The bi-annual event is

held over the third weekend in September every even year. The dates for 2024 will be Sept. 20-22.

— Adam Krebs