

In Soldiers Grove Board hears plan for holiday meal on Xmas Eve Day

By GILLIAN POMPLUN
The upcoming Christmas Eve Dinner, planned for Saturday, Dec. 24, at the Soldiers Grove American Legion, was a big topic at the brief meeting of the Soldiers Grove Village Board on Thursday, Dec. 8. The dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or until the food is gone.

"We've received lots of donations in support of the dinner," acting meeting chairman Steve George observed. "We've received donations of cider from Sunrise Orchard, buns from The Marketplace, and a monetary donation from Country Gardens."

The menu for the dinner will include baked chicken, ham, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, coleslaw, buns, and desserts. Members of the community are welcome to bring a dessert to share.

Trustee Harrison Heilman briefly questioned whether the village board should be sponsoring an event with 'Christmas' in the name versus the non-denominational word 'Holiday.'

"Why wouldn't we call it a Christmas dinner?" trustee Jerry Miller asked rhetorically.

"Many people have thanked us for using the word 'Christmas,'" village clerk Kaitlynn Ott said.

Public input

In the public input portion of the agenda, village resident Diane Coleman asked if the village was "ever going to move the trailer with no tires across from her house?"

Coleman shared that the owner was "out of jail now," and that the trailer should be able to be moved.

Trustee Steve George told Coleman that the village would check into it.

Soldiers Grove Director of Public Works Brian Copus shared that the village police officer also needs to continue to work on the issue of unlicensed vehicles in the village.

Coleman also asked if the village planned to hang more Christmas decorations on light poles in the village.

"We tried, but we need a part that McCormick Electric has on backorder until next October," Copus explained.

Village budget

The village board adopted their 2023 budget at their November meeting. Total revenues for 2023, and total expenditures for 2023 were set at \$486,746. The village tax levy for 2023 is set at \$58,844. The mil rate is 0.0192449391.

Expenditures for 2023 are set at \$144,575 for general government, \$80,506 for public safety, \$128,295 for public works, \$128,934 for culture and recreation, and \$4,436 for debt service. No money is budgeted for flood clean-up, sanitation or capital outlay miscellaneous.

Water utility revenues and expenditures are projected at \$144,387. Sewer utility revenues and expenditures are projected at \$204,238.



Santa is everywhere!!

Santa took off from his busy schedule last Saturday to run this raffle for charity at the Christmas Vendor and Craft Fair in the Gays Mills Community Commerce Center. Proceeds from the raffle of items donated by vendors benefitted the Gays Mills Food Pantry and the Mill House Lights Event. Merry Christmas!

For Crawford County

Water quality results released

By GILLIAN POMPLUN
Crawford Stewardship Project (CSP) has released their 2022 'Potential Pathogens and Total Phosphorous Annual Report. The data in the report come from CSP's water quality monitoring (WQM) program, led by their WQM Program Coordinator Omaru Heras.

The three areas included in the report are for Scott and Haney Townships, Wauzeka Township, and Marietta Township.

In Scott and Haney townships, they monitor two sites on Richland Creek and Shaw Hollow Creek. In Wauzeka Township, they monitor Boyntown Creek, and an unnamed spring. In Marietta Township, they monitor at an unnamed location near Kickapoo Valley Road.

Scott/Haney Townships
At the location on Richland Creek, E.coli levels recorded, expressed as coliform forming units (cfu) per 100 milliliters (mL) were as follows:

- May: 7.70 cfu/100 mL
 - June: 58 cfu/100 mL
 - July: 290 cfu/100 mL
 - August: 100 cfu/100 mL
 - Sept.: 1,200 cfu/100 mL
 - October: 210 cfu/100 mL
- For surface waters, levels of E.coli above 126 cfu/100mL are unsafe, and levels above 1,000 cfu/100 mL mandate the closing of public beaches.
- Total phosphorous readings at this location, expressed as milligrams-per-liter (mg/L) came in at:
- May: 0.020 mg/L
 - June: 0.080 mg/L
 - July: 0.060 mg/L
 - August: 0.050 mg/L
 - September: 0.100 mg/L
 - October: 0.090 mg/L

The standard for levels of phosphorous in surface water is 0.075 mg/L, which is a level found naturally occurring in bodies of water. Higher levels cause excess algae and plant growth, and their death and decomposition cause oxygen levels to drop dramatically, which can cause fish and other aquatic organisms to die.

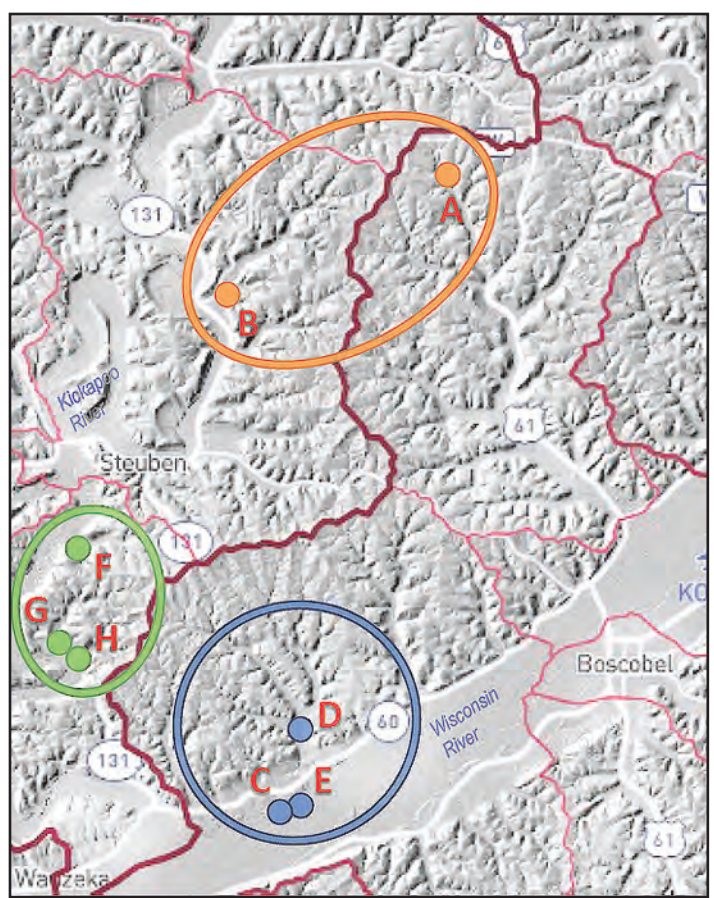
On Shaw Creek at the Taylor Ridge Road bridge, E.coli levels recorded were:

- May: 100 cfu/100 mL
- June: 700 cfu/100 mL
- July: 640 cfu/100 mL
- August: 500 cfu/100 mL
- Sept.: 990 cfu/100 mL
- October: 740 cfu/100 mL

Total phosphorous levels at

- May: 0.01 mg/L
- June: 0.03 mg/L
- July: 0.02 mg/L
- August: 0.03 mg/L
- September: 0.03 mg/L
- October: 0.03 mg/L

See WATER Page 12 Col 1



IN 2022, CSP continued their water quality monitoring efforts in Crawford County. In their recently released report, they detail results from three areas in the county. Those areas are located in Scott, Wauzeka, Marietta and Haney townships.

Three Eagles Foundation remembers Shadewald

Frank Shadewald, founder of the Three Eagles Foundation and former owner of the property known as 'Frank's Hill' in southern Richland County, was remembered by the organization that seeks to continue his vision for the site on the date of what would have been his 90th birthday, December 12th.

The group's President, David O. Martin noted the importance of the moment.

"We remember Frank Shadewald on this day for his foresight in establishing the Three Eagles Foundation and donating the land and a modest endowment to enable us to carry forward the work he started to preserve the sacred ground where the effigy mounds and calendar mounds built over one thousand years by Native American people now stand and persevere," Martin said.

Shadewald and Ho-Chunk
Shadewald died suddenly in November of 2013. He purchased the 120 acres near the intersection of Highway 60 and Highway 193 in the Town of Eagle, Richland County, from the Elder family, a few years after selling his home farm to the Ho-Chunk Nation in 1994.

One reason the Ho-Chunk Nation purchased the Shadewald farm was because the remnants of a large effigy mound group, known as McClary Mound Group #4, contained 16 mounds on the terrace overlooking the Wisconsin River. The original group included 64 mounds with numerous bird effigies represented.

Shadewald became close friends with many members of the Ho-Chunk Nation and traveled extensively throughout the Western Hemisphere, particularly Central and South America, learning about indigenous people and their cultures in the times before European contact.

Mark Cupp is the Vice-President of Three Eagle Foundation.

"The Board of Directors is committed to careful stewardship of the mounds at Frank's Hill and providing education so that people recognize the significance of the effigy mound building culture and especially the mounds of the Muscoda area," Cupp explained. "The tours we provide at solstice and equinox events are one example of our outreach to the public in this regard."

Recently, the Three Eagles Foundation installed new signage at the property and established a looped walking trail on Hill East, the site of the effigy mound group. Future plans include additional trail development across the road on the west side of Highway 193, where the calendar mounds are located. The new signage includes directional trail markers and arrows pointing the way to the mound group. The trail will not be maintained during the winter months but will be open for public use.

Brian McGraw, the group's Secretary-Treasurer, leads efforts to restore the native plant community at the site.

See FRANK Page 8 Col 1



UW-RICHLAND students are energized around saving their campus, and delivered a petition on Thursday, December 8, at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents in Madison. They delivered approximately 1,400 signatures to UW-System President Jay Rothman.

'Save the campus' Students from UW-Richland take a petition to Madison

UW-Richland students delivered a petition to save their campus on Thursday, Dec. 8 at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents in Madison. They will travel from Richland Center to deliver approximately 1,400 signatures to UW System President Jay Rothman.

The petition asks Governor Evers, State Senator Marklein, Assemblyman Kurtz, and President Rothman to meet with the community to share ideas about how the UW-Richland campus can be saved.

On November 22, President Rothman issued a letter directing UW-Platteville staff to develop a plan to cease in-person instruction at UW-Richland. Since that announcement was

made, a petition has been circulating to save the campus.

"We have a small but mighty student body at UW-Richland. We're eager to meet with President Rothman, let him know how upset the community is, and collaborate to invest in a solution that better serves faculty and students, both present and future," said Jake Steele, a sophomore on campus.

Student enrollment has plummeted since the UW-Richland campus underwent deep budget cuts by the State of Wisconsin. There were 373 full-time equivalent students attending in 2012; that number is now estimated to be 60.

See RICHLAND Page 8 Col 1

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At the Gays Mills Mercantile Center

Holiday cheer and community spirit in evidence at Holiday Bazaar



It was a bustling and enthusiastic crowd that attended the Kickapoo Exchange Holiday Bazaar last weekend at the Gays Mills Mercantile Center. Lovely music, happy people, good food set the scene for a holiday shopping experience that was truly memorable. Above, left, Margaret and Anna Davidson talk with Linda and Jim Dworschack, center, local weaver Harriet Behar discusses winter hats, and at right, Marjie Jurgensen sits in front of Little Boxes Vintage with her unique, handmade crafts. It was truly a day for Holiday Cheer!

Water Quality Monitoring shows exceedences and seasonal fluctuations

WATER from Page 1

CSP notes heavy manure spreading was observed near these two monitoring locations in June and September. They also note that high levels of Methicillin-

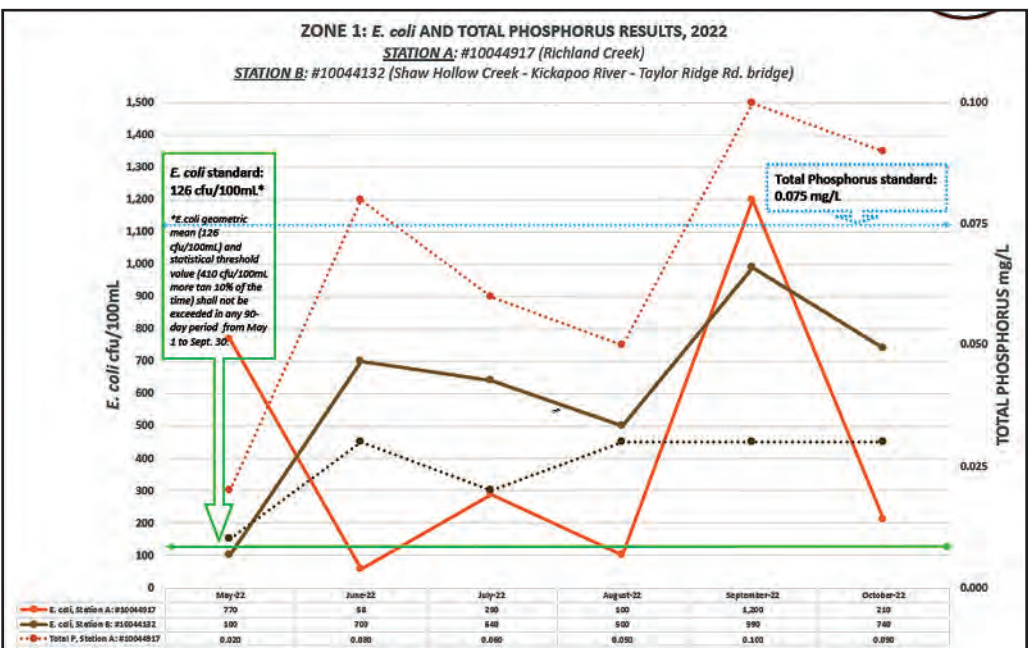
resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) at the Richland Creek site in October, with low levels of running water in general. MRSA is a group of Gram-positive bacteria that are ge-

netically distinct from other strains of Staphylococcus aureus. MRSA is responsible for several difficult-to-treat infections in humans. It caused more than 100,000 deaths attributable to antimicrobial resistance in 2019.

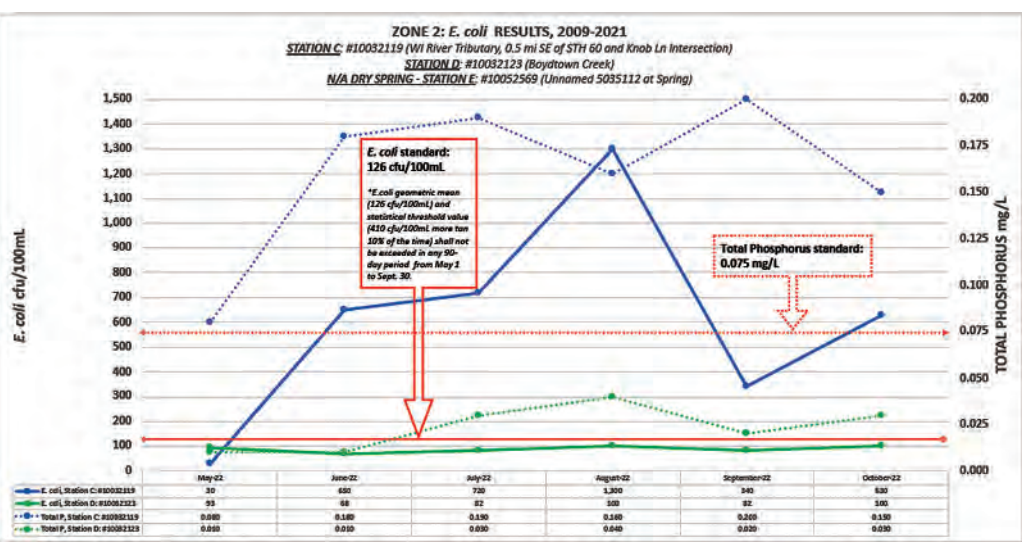
Wauzeka Township
At the Boydtown Creek location, E.coli levels measured were:
• May: 30 cfu/100 mL
• June: 650 cfu/100 mL
• July: 720 cfu/100 mL

• August: 1,300 cfu/100 mL
• Sept: 340 cfu/100 mL
• Oct.: 630 cfu/100 mL
At this location, levels of total phosphorous measured were:
• May: 0.080 mg/L
• June: 0.180 mg/L
• July: 0.190 mg/L
• August: 0.160 mg/L
• Sept.: 0.200 mg/L
• Oct.: 0.150 mg/L

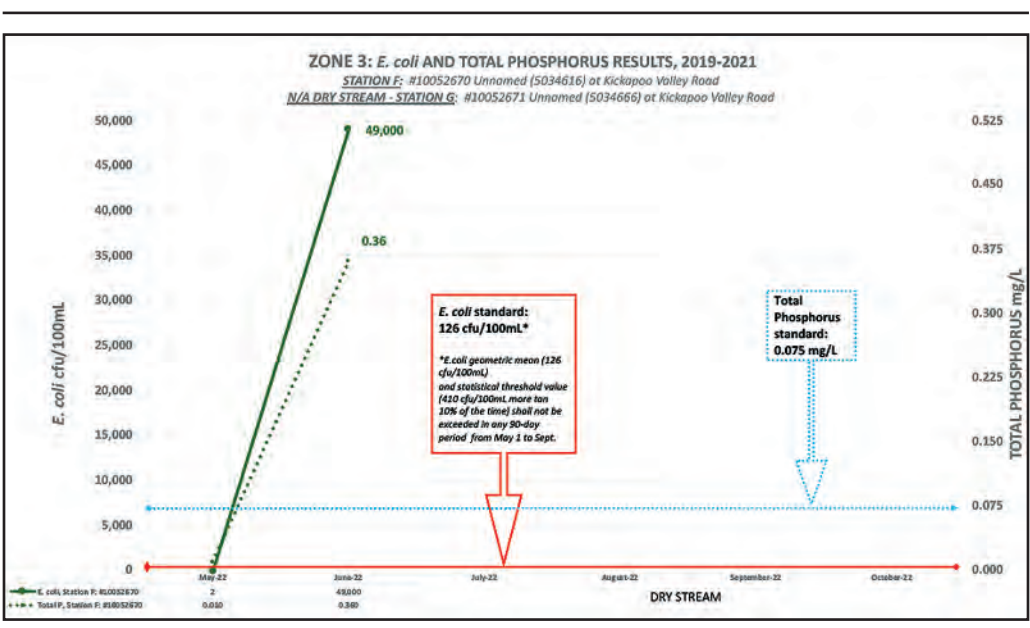
• Oct: 100 cfu/100 mL
At this location, total phosphorous levels measured were:
• May: 0.010 mg/L
• June: 0.010 mg/L
• July: 0.030 mg/L
• August: 0.040 mg/L
• Sept: 0.020 mg/L
• Oct.: 0.030 mg/L



Scott and Haney townships



Wauzeka Township



Marietta Township

In Wisconsin The next round of broadband grants will be open soon

Governor Tony Evers and Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Chairperson of the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC), announced last week the next round of funding opportunities through the Broadband Expansion Grant Program. The application period runs from December 7, 2022 and will end on February 22, 2023.

The broadband expansion grant program connects people and businesses to broadband and the economic, health, and educational opportunities that high-speed internet access unlocks. State and federal investments directed by Gov. Evers toward this program since 2019 have connected or are in the process of connecting over 387,000 homes and businesses to high-speed broadband internet service.

“High-speed internet access is critical for Wisconsin families, businesses, and communities to thrive,” said Gov. Evers. “The historic investments we’ve made since 2019 in the state broadband expansion grant program have helped connect underserved and underserved areas of our state with high-speed internet. This new round will build upon our past success and deliver improved access for more Wisconsinites.”

“Governor Evers and the PSC are committed to the continued equitable expansion of broadband services in Wisconsin,” said Chairperson Valcq. “This new grant round will equip our partners with the necessary support and resources to improve internet access in underserved areas of the state.”

\$14.1 million available
In this grant round, \$14.1 million is available to applicants to help expand high-speed broadband Internet in the state through funding from the Universal Service Fund. These are the remaining state funds available for broadband expansion during the 2021-23 biennial budget period.

In October, Gov. Evers announced that the U.S. Department of the Treasury approved the governor’s plans to allocate \$40 million in federal ARPA funds through the Capital Projects Fund to expedite Wisconsin’s efforts to expand access to high-speed internet across the state. Application information related to the Capital Projects Fund will be announced at a later date.

More information about the Broadband Expansion Grant Program can be found on the PSC website at psc.wi.gov.

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DHS reminds Wisconsinites to stay safe during holidays

In both 2020 and 2021, COVID-19 cases surged during the colder months. As colder weather returns, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) reminds Wisconsinites of the available programs for accessing COVID-19 self-tests and treatment. All Wisconsinites are encouraged to utilize these services to keep themselves and those around them safe this holiday season.

Wisconsinites can order free at-home rapid COVID-19 tests and have them delivered directly to their residence through the state-supported Say Yes! COVID Test program, which is partially funded through the American Rescue Plan Act. All Wisconsin households are eligible to place an order every month on the Say Yes! COVID Test website for one free test kit that contains five rapid antigen COVID-19 tests. Households can place an order for test kits starting the 1st of every month, including households that have already received an initial round of test kits since the launch of this program in September.

“The Say Yes! COVID Test program gives Wisconsinites the ability to test for COVID-19 and know their results within minutes at home”, said DHS Secretary-designee Karen Timberlake. “Knowing whether you have COVID-19 is essential to preventing the spread of the virus. Once you know your test results, you can make decisions that will keep your loved ones safe.”