



Community Mural Project Takes Shape at WAMfest

WABENO – A new yearlong public art project began Saturday, July 18, 2026, during the 11th annual Wabeno Art and Music Fest, adding a collaborative mural effort to a day already filled with music, art, food, vendors and community activities.

The CommUNITY mural project is being led by AVEC: Arts Vitally Enrich Communities, in partnership with the Friends of Wabeno. The groups worked together to apply for and receive grant support from the Wisconsin Arts Board, with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The project will include Lakewood, Townsend, Wabeno and the surrounding area. Project leaders Connie and Tim Friesen of AVEC plan to meet with residents of all ages in the coming months to gather ideas, stories and images that reflect the character of the three communities.

Those community conversations will help shape a series of 12 to 24 murals, each measuring 4 feet by 4 feet. Organizers hope the finished pieces will celebrate the people, places, traditions and shared identity of the area while giving residents a direct role in creating public art.

The first mural began during WAMfest, fittingly using the festival itself as its theme. Suggested images included musical instruments, artwork and people enjoying the event. The design was first outlined in chalk, then painted by festivalgoers who stopped by to take part.

Over several hours, participants made strong progress on the mural, turning a blank surface into a colorful record of the festival and the community spirit behind it. Many of the same community members are expected to continue painting the piece as work moves forward.

WAMfest, a free outdoor event held on the Wabeno Band Shell and Logging



Just outside of the Logging Museum in Wabeno, participants made steady progress on the mural, transforming a blank surface into a colorful reflection of the festival and the community spirit behind it. Many of those volunteers are expected to return as painting continues.

PHOTO CREDIT | TIM FRIESEN

Museum grounds, featured a street market, student art contest, food options and live performances throughout the day. This year’s festival provided an ideal setting for launching a project

designed to bring neighbors together through creative work. As the mural project continues, organizers expect each community gathering to add new ideas and new

hands to the effort. When completed, the murals will stand as a shared visual story of Lakewood, Townsend and Wabeno — created by the people who live, work and gather there.



McCaslin Lions Club Builds on Global Service Tradition to Strengthen Local Communities

LAKEWOOD – For more than 50 years, the McCaslin Lions Club has carried the Lions’ international tradition of service into the communities of Mountain, Lakewood, Doty, Riverview, and Townsend, supporting local causes through volunteer work, fundraising, scholarships, and charitable giving.

The Lions movement began in 1917, when Chicago businessman Melvin Jones founded the Association of Lions Clubs during a period shaped by World War I and rapid industrialization. By 1920, the organization had become international with the addition of the Border Cities Lions Club in Windsor,

Canada. A defining moment came in 1925, when Helen Keller challenged Lions to become “knights of the blind,” inspiring a long-standing commitment to vision-related service, sight restoration, and blindness prevention. Lions also helped establish the nongovernmental

organization section of the United Nations in 1945 and today include more than 1.4 million members worldwide. The McCaslin Lions Club was chartered in 1973 with sponsorship

McCASLIN LIONS
continued on page 4

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Dairy Distribution Draws Line of Vehicles in Mountain

MOUNTAIN – Dozens of community members lined Weller Road on Thursday July 16, 2026, as they waited for the 4:00 pm start of the Neighborhood Dairy Distribution at Spanky’s Landscaping, 13530 Silver Hill Road. Spanky’s Landscaping in Mountain was one of thirty locations that participated with the Neighborhood Dairy Distribution



As smoke from Canadian wildfires filled the sky, dozens of community members lined Weller Road for the 4:00 pm start of the Neighborhood Dairy Distribution at Spanky’s Landscaping, 13530 Silver Hill Road.



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program on July 16. Each community member received a cooler bag of products from local dairy producers. The drive-through event offered area residents locally supplied dairy products packed in Neighborhood Dairy Distribution cooler bags. The bags were distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, with each vehicle receiving one bag while supplies lasted. The distribution is part of a community-supported effort involving dairy farmers, dairy producers and distributors, area FFA chapters, and neighborhood volunteers. Together, the groups help make dairy products available to families and individuals in the Mountain area.



Each community member received a cooler bag of products from local dairy producers.

PHOTO CREDIT | BOB STRAZISHAR



**NICOLET
EXPRESS**

LAKESWOOD • LAONA • MOUNTAIN • TOWNSEND • WABENO

PO Box 145 • Townsend, WI 54175-0145

Volume 1 - Number 4

CIRCULATION

Nicolet Express is a locally owned and operated publication that publishes 12 issues each year. It is direct mailed to all U.S. Postal Service residential and business customers in zip codes 54138 (Lakewood), 54541 (Laona), 54149 (Mountain), 54175 (Townsend), and 54566 (Wabeno). Each monthly issue is also available online at www.nicolet.express/pdf, promoted on social media, and distributed as physical copies at select outlets.

NEWS

Nicolet Express welcomes local interest stories. Stories and accompanying photos may be submitted by the deadline for consideration in the next issue. Articles are published as space allows and are also shared online at www.nicolet.express. Submissions may be emailed to news@nicolet.express for consideration.

ADVERTISING

The next issue of Nicolet Express will be in the mail on August 28, 2026. The advertising deadline is August 21, 2026, and ad placements may be reserved up to six months in advance. You may upload your ad copy when reserving space or anytime before the August 21 deadline. If you need design assistance, we can help. For details, visit www.nicolet.express/ads or call 715-276-8001.

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Future Publications:

Publication Date	Deadline
September 25, 2026	September 18, 2026
October 23, 2026	October 16, 2026
November 18, 2026	November 11, 2026
December 23, 2026	December 16, 2026
January 27, 2027	January 20, 2027
February 24, 2027	February 17, 2027
March 24, 2027	March 17, 2027
April 28, 2027	April 21, 2027
May 26, 2027	May 19, 2027
June 23, 2027	June 16, 2027
July 28, 2027	July 21, 2027



Bob Strazishar, Publisher/Editor
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LEARN MORE

Church Day Camp

Bethel Baptist in Wabeno will be hosting a 4-day camp for kids 6-12 years old, July 26-29, from 5:30-8:00PM. Camp will feature dinner, group games, selected workshops and chapel time. Workshops to choose from include: Drama, Crafts or Wilderness/Camping Skills. To pre-register your child, contact Pastor at (715) 610-1420.



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A Lifeline on Four Legs: Why Service Dogs Matter



Penny, André, Brad & Axel
PHOTO CREDIT | ANDRÉ COLEMAN

By ANDRÉ COLEMAN

MOUNTAIN – Most days, you’ll see me out in the community with my service dog, Penny. To many, she may look like a calm, well-behaved companion—but Penny is so much more than that. She is a diabetic alert service dog, trained to detect changes in my blood sugar levels—often before I even feel symptoms.

Through scent detection, Penny can alert me when my blood sugar is dropping or rising dangerously. Those early warnings help prevent serious medical emergencies and give me something incredibly important: peace of mind.

Because of Penny, I’m able to live more independently, safely, and confidently. She allows me to go about

my daily life knowing I have a constant layer of protection by my side.

You may also see Axel in the community. Axel, a 2-year-old yellow Labrador Retriever, is in training for an important role as a diabetic alert service dog and is preparing to take over Penny’s role when she retires.

I also want to share something important with our community. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), service dogs like Penny and Axel are legally allowed in public places— even where pets are not. Businesses are required to allow service dogs to accompany their handlers.

It’s Important to Know:

- Service dogs are not pets—they are trained working animals

- Businesses may only ask two questions:
Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?
What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?

They cannot ask for documentation or details about a person’s medical condition. If you see Penny or Axel working, the best way to support us is simple—please let them do their job:

- Don’t pet or distract
- Don’t call out
- Don’t offer food or treats

Penny and Axel are more than a dog—they are my partner, my safety net, and in many ways, a lifesaver.

Thank you for helping create a community that understands and respects the important role service dog’s play.

Be Your Healthiest Self and Prevent Falls!

By KATIE DAUL
UW Extension-Oconto County

RIVERVIEW - As people age, their bones can become more brittle and their muscle mass can decrease substantially, leading to dangerous falls. One in three Americans over 65 fall every year, making falls the leading cause of fatal and non-fatal injuries for this older population. Every year, an estimated 37.3 million falls are severe enough to require medical attention. Physical inactivity increases your risk for falls, stroke, high blood pressure, cancers, decreased bone density, decreased muscle mass, and much more.

You can make sure falls do not have

to be a part of aging by participating in evidence-based strength training programs, going for walks, creating a fall-prevention plan with your doctor, and wearing sensible shoes.

After talking with your doctor, consider gentle exercise as a part of your daily routine to improve strength, flexibility, balance, and coordination. Improving all of these will reduce your risk of falling and make you feel like a healthier person overall.

You do not have to go far to find an evidence-based strength training program that will reduce your risk for falls- there is one right here in Oconto County starting this fall! It is called StrongBodies and it is an evidence-

based strength training program that has helped many people become healthier and stronger all over the United States. The program will meet Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00 am to 10:15 am and starts September 9, 2026, and will be held at the Town of Riverview Community Center located at 15152 Island Lake Rd, Mountain. If you are interested in becoming healthier with many other people like you right here in Oconto County, sign up today by scanning the QR code. For more

information, visit the UW-Extension Oconto County website at oconto.extension.wisc.edu, the Facebook page Oconto County UWExtension, or call the Extension office at 920-834-6845.

September is National Fall Prevention Month, so there is no better time than now to start reducing your risk of falling and begin your journey to healthy aging. Meet other amazing people and become healthier by signing up for the StrongBodies program today.





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from the Wabeno Lions Club. That same year, the club launched what would become its signature fundraiser, the Lakes Country Arts & Crafts Show.

Pat and Dick Bentz led the arts and crafts show for 18 years through 1995. In 1996, the event moved to the Lakewood pavilion and grounds, where money raised continues to support the Lions' creed of "We Serve."

Funds from the annual Lakes Country Arts & Crafts Show go back into the area through donations to about 30 charities and scholarships for graduating seniors at four area high schools. The club's service priorities include children's events such as the Kids Fishing Day and the Kids Christmas Party, the Oconto County Handicap Halloween Party, Trunk or Treat, the Mardi Gras Pickleball Tourney and Fishpond, Red Cross blood drives, student hearing and vision screenings, spring highway cleanup, local food pantry support, and Wisconsin Lions causes.

With 44 members, the McCaslin Lions Club welcomes new volunteers, partners, and supporters interested in strengthening local service. To get involved, contact Joel Smits at 920-618-3578.



The McCaslin Lions Club's signature fundraiser, the Lakes Country Arts & Crafts Show, supports about 30 local charities and scholarships for seniors at four area high schools. The event depends on club volunteers who handle registration, parking, grilling hot dogs, and other tasks.

PHOTO CREDIT | McCASLIN LIONS CLUB

Big Easel Gallery and Bistro to Host 17th Annual Art Auction

WABENO – The Big Easel Gallery and Bistro will host the 17th Annual Art Auction promoting the arts on Sunday, July 26, 2026.

The event begins at noon, giving

visitors an opportunity to view auction items and meet participating artists before bidding starts at 1:00 pm. The annual auction will feature artwork by local Northeast Wisconsin artists as

well as nationally recognized artists. Items will include paintings, ceramics, woodwork and more.

The Big Easel Gallery and Bistro is located at 1784 Maple Ave. in Wabeno.

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Wabeno Lions Club Installs Officers for 2026–27 Term



District Governor Mike Milbach formally installed the club’s officers for the 2026–27 term including incoming President Carla Van Camp, who joined the Wabeno Lions on June 20, 2011.

PHOTO CREDIT | WABENO LIONS

WABENO – The Wabeno Lions Club held its first summer cookout on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at the Trump Lake Pavilion, where District Governor Mike Milbach formally installed the club’s officers for the 2026–27 term.

The officers will serve from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. The

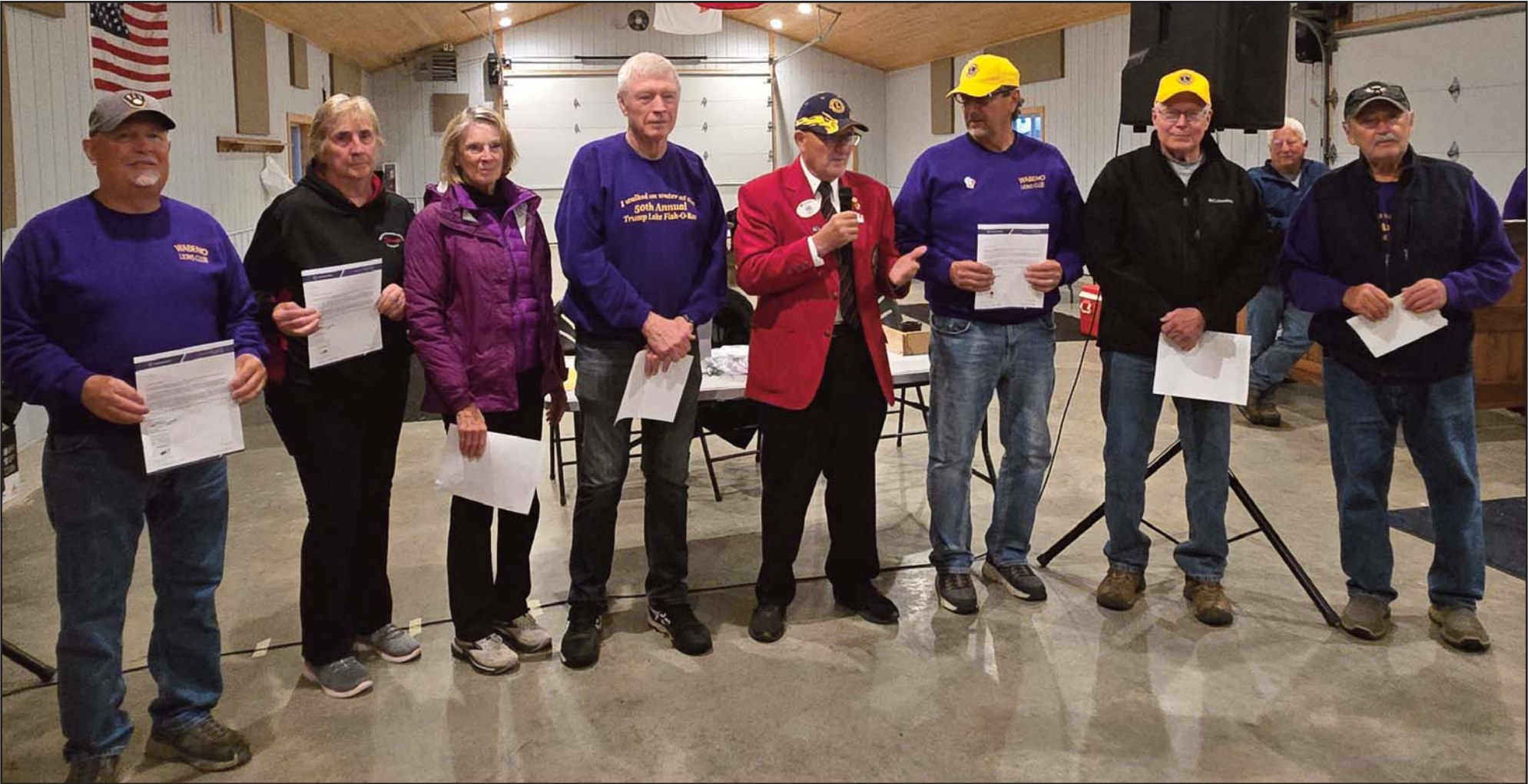
incoming leadership team includes President Carla Van Camp, who joined the Wabeno Lions on June 20, 2011; 1st Vice President Kate Gressler, July 22, 2019; 2nd Vice President Dan Moravec, Aug. 15, 2022; 3rd Vice President Alan Harrison, July 1, 2000; 4th Vice President Bill Taylor, Aug. 21, 2023; Secretary Cathrine Rankin, July 17,

2023; and Treasurer Jan Volk, Oct. 1, 1985. During the event, Milbach also presented service awards recognizing members for 10 to 40 years of service. The club expressed its appreciation to outgoing President Greg Tallier for his leadership during the past year. Tallier, a 35-year member of the Wabeno Lions, was recognized for exemplifying the

Lions motto, “We Serve.”

The Wabeno Lions Club stated that it looks forward to another year of service, fellowship and community engagement.

Individuals interested in joining the Wabeno Lions may contact Carla Van Camp at carla_vancamp@hotmail.com or 715-850-2496.



District Governor Mike Milbach presented service awards for 10 to 40 years of service, and the Wabeno Lions Club thanked outgoing President Greg Tallier for his leadership over the past year.

PHOTO CREDIT | WABENO LIONS

Northwoods Community Assistance Coalition Seeks Volunteers

LAKEWOOD – Many organizations function as a result of the service of dedicated volunteers. Unfortunately, many area organizations report that finding volunteers is increasingly difficult.

This is true for the Northwoods

Community Assistance Coalition (NCAC) as well.

The NCAC is seeking volunteers to help carry out the core functions of the organization such as offering a lending closet of durable medical equipment, driving constituents to medical and

other essential appointments, visiting with the elderly, assisting people with basic tasks that allow them to live independently, helping with home modifications such as building wheelchair ramps, helping with packaging and delivery of care baskets,

and helping our board of directions with organizing educational and social programming.

Prospective volunteers can contact the NCAC at 833-482-6222, ncac4u@gmail.com, or find them on Facebook.

Waffle Fry Fundraiser to Support Avail House Set for August 21 in Townsend

TOWNSEND – A Waffle Fry Fundraiser benefiting Avail House in Antigo will be held Friday, August 21, 2026, from 7:30 to 9:30 am at 16836 Archibald Parkway in Townsend.

All proceeds from the event will go to Avail House, a domestic abuse shelter serving abuse survivors. The fundraiser will also feature bucket raffles, with raffle proceeds supporting the shelter. Organizers say the event is intended to give community members a simple way to enjoy breakfast while helping support local services for people affected by domestic and sexual abuse. AVAIL, which stands for

Advocates for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Abuse, began providing services to abuse survivors in 1980. The Antigo-based organization provides support and assistance to survivors of all ages and life situations, including emergency shelter, a 24-hour crisis hotline, counseling, support groups and educational programs. The organization says it is committed to offering quality services to survivors of abuse and educating the public to help prevent violence.

For more information about the fundraiser, contact Carla Van Camp at 715-850-2496.

Friends of Townsend Fire awards scholarships to support local graduates

TOWNSEND – The Friends of Townsend Fire has begun awarding scholarships to support local students pursuing careers in emergency response, public safety and health care.

The scholarship program grew out of an idea first discussed in January 2026. A committee made up of Dave Seeber, Gary Birr, Linda Vanderheiden and Diane Williams was formed to develop the program and establish eligibility criteria.

The group created the scholarships as a way to build community goodwill while encouraging young people to consider careers in fire fighting, first response and related service fields.

To qualify, applicants must be high school seniors with at least a 2.5 grade point average. They must also plan to attend a technical college or four-year university while pursuing a degree in a first responder-related field, including fire, rescue, paramedic, emergency medical technician, law enforcement, nursing or another medical field.

Students who meet the criteria are eligible to receive at least \$1,000.

The 2026 scholarship recipients are Destiny Ann Dudek of Townsend and Autumn Warden of Lakewood. Dudek plans to study nursing at Nicolet Area Technical College. Warden plans to study nursing at the University of

Wisconsin–Green Bay, with a goal of earning a master’s degree in nursing education.

Money raised through the organization’s Spring Raffle and Fourth of July event helped make the scholarships possible. The Friends of Townsend Fire said the awards reflect its mission to support the volunteer fire department while also serving the broader community.

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Laona/Wabeno Sets Mandatory All-Sports Parent and Athlete Meeting

LAONA - Laona/Wabeno student-athletes and their parents are required to attend an all-sports, all-seasons meeting at 5:15 pm Wednesday, July 29, 2026, at Laona High School.

The meeting is intended for Laona/Wabeno families participating in any sport during the school year. Parents and students will receive schedules, participation forms, handbooks and other important information needed before the start of the season.

School officials said attendance is

required so paperwork can be completed and turned in before practices begin. Families with a scheduling conflict should contact their coach in advance. Winter and spring coaches will schedule separate parent-athlete meetings before their seasons begin.

A link to the Code of Conduct and required forms will be posted on the Laona and Wabeno school Facebook pages. Families are asked to review the information and submit paperwork online.

Attendees will first gather in the big gym for a general meeting before breaking into individual sport meetings.

Sport Meeting Locations

Following the opening session, sport-specific meetings will be held in the following locations:

- Volleyball 9-12 will meet in the cafeteria—MSVB grades 7-8 meet in the small gym
- Cross Country grades 6-12 will meet in the Library.
- Football grades 6-12 will meet in the

big gym.

Practice Start Dates

- Football practice and equipment handout for all levels will be held August 4.
- Cross country practices for grades 6-12 will begin August 17.
- Volleyball practices for grades 9-12 will begin in Laona on August 17, while middle school volleyball will begin in Wabeno on August 17.

Questions may be directed to Michelle Boor at mboor@wabeno.k12.wi.us.



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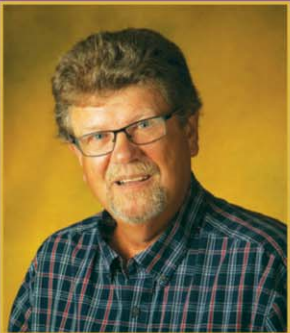
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Wabeno Lions Donate \$500 to Support Local Soup Kitchen for Seniors

By CLARE HUISMAN and NORMA JOHNSON

WABENO – Wabeno Lions Mike and Judy Richmond presented a \$500 check to Linda McEwen for the Wabeno Soup Kitchen on behalf of the Wabeno Lions. Donations to the Soup Kitchen will be a regular part of the Wabeno Lions’ budget in the future.

The Wabeno Soup Kitchen was started by Linda to fill a need to reach out to area seniors (55+) when Forest County cut the Meal Site from three days to one. The Wabeno Meal Site is now open every Friday and the last Wednesday of the month. Three other Forest County Meal Sites (Laona, Crandon, and Armstrong Creek) cover the other Wednesdays and different days of the week. If seniors want meals throughout the week, they have to travel to different locations.

Linda came up with the Soup Kitchen idea to replace the lost Wabeno Meal Site days of Monday and Tuesday. You can get a delicious meal on Monday, Tuesday, last Wednesday of the month, and Friday beginning with Bingo at 11:45 am, and the meal is at noon. No reservation is needed and all seniors (55+) are welcome. A \$5.00 donation is appreciated but not essential. The location of both Soup Kitchen and Meal Site is the Wabeno Town Hall. All seniors are welcome and should be aware that the programs have nothing to do with income.

The Soup Kitchen is sponsored by NCAC to insure a non-profit status.

The menu is posted on NCAC Facebook page and by the county. Linda also has this information at the Soup Kitchen/Meal Site location. A variety of items on the menu include foods like soup, brats, chicken, casseroles, and sloppy Joes. Since opening on January 5th, the Soup Kitchen has served over 870 area seniors. This certainly establishes the need for such a program.

Four delivery volunteers take food to homebound seniors every Monday. The delivery covers both Monday and Tuesday meals and a wellness check opportunity. The Soup Kitchen site in Wabeno also keeps track of regulars for wellness checks. These dedicated volunteers deliver in frigid weather and snowstorms, not just in good weather.

Some groups in the area who support the Soup Kitchen are the Wabeno Lions, the Christian Thrift Store, United Financial, St. Ambrose Christian Ladies, and individual donations. If you would like to make a personal donation to the Soup Kitchen, you can send it to: Linda McEwen, 2570 Trump Lake Rd., Wabeno, WI 54566.

If you have any questions about the program, please contact Linda at: 715-889-0123.

The Wabeno Lions would like to thank Linda and her volunteers for giving back to our seniors who have given so much to all of us. The Lion motto is “We Serve”, and Linda McEwen and her volunteers put this motto into practice. Please support the Wabeno Soup Kitchen.



Linda McEwen received a \$500 Wabeno Lions donation for the Wabeno Soup Kitchen from Lion Judy Richmond. The soup kitchen will receive regular Lions funding in the future.

PHOTO CREDIT | WABENO LIONS

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Dan Flannery to perform at Laona’s “Rock the Block” concert series

LAONA - Dan Flannery will be back to play the hits in Laona’s annual concert series, “Rock the Block” on July 31, 2026 at Centennial Park starting at 4:30 pm. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the music. Laona’s Centennial Park is located at 5221 Linden Street, Laona.



Dan Flannery
PHOTO CREDIT | DAN FLANNERY



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Roberts Lake Association to Host 50th Annual Fisheree and Corn Roast

WABENO – The Roberts Lake Association will hold its 50th Annual Fisheree and Corn Roast on Saturday, August 8, 2026, at the Roberts Lake Association Clubhouse, 6968 Krahn Court. Organizers said attendees may use a golf cart ride service to and from their vehicles for added convenience. The fishing contest is scheduled for 7:00 am to 4:00 pm, followed by an awards presentation at 4:30 pm. A Garcia 6500 reel will be awarded for the longest muskie, and trophies will be presented in both youth and adult divisions for the longest walleye, perch, crappie, northern, bass and bluegill. A cash raffle drawing will take place at 5:30 pm and feature 58 prizes, including top awards of \$1,000, \$500,

\$400, \$300 and \$200, along with additional prizes ranging from \$25 to \$100. Organizers also said participants will have chances to win Milwaukee tool products, a large-screen television and other items. Family-friendly activities are also planned throughout the day, including children’s games, a fishing pond, prizes, dice games and ring toss. Food and drinks will be available, along with a beer tent, spinning board raffles, meat raffles and a 50/50 raffle. Proceeds from the event will support lake environment and improvement efforts. As a thank-you to supporters and friends of the association, canned beer will be available for \$1 and hot dogs for \$2 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.



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Townsend History Lecture Draws Full House at Lakes Country Public Library

By STAFF CORRESPONDENT

LAKEWOOD – Lakes Country Public Library hosted Townsend historian Kathleen Marsh on July 15, 2026 in the Zeller Community Room. The presentation attracted a full house of attendees who listened intently. The evening was enhanced when people shared personal stories that recounted precious memories.

The program, sixth in the Library's popular Speaker Series, included rare photos and fascinating facts that might have been lost to history. Fortunately, Marsh spent years researching and recording her beloved adopted hometown's iconic history.

A retiree who felt "bewitched" by Townsend the minute she first saw it, Marsh said she originally intended to write a newspaper article, but the project mushroomed. She relied on written documents, vintage photographs, and in-person interviews for her three volumes of *The Truth About Townsend* and a 2016 Centennial tribute *Townsend Time*. Volume I is no longer available, but happy attendees left with a free copy of both Volume II and III.

"It was a special event," Marsh said. "The audience was so receptive and asked so many great questions. Some even added new information for me to use in future presentations. I love it when that happens."

Not having lived in Townsend prior to 2002, Marsh said she did her best to record the town's history accurately but occasionally missed the mark. For example, a life-long resident pointed out that at one time Townsend and Lakewood were joined as the Town of Wheeler, not the Town of Armstrong. "I do not mind being corrected," she said. "Actually, I appreciate it."

The Town of Townsend, originally known as Johnson Siding, was born in



Townsend historian and author Kathleen Marsh presented the history of Townsend to a full audience at Lakes Country Public Library in Lakewood.

PHOTO CREDIT | FAYE THIELKE

the late Nineteen Century. A tiny, tenacious logging settlement, it was a rough and tumble remote outpost with a bad reputation for decades. No one could ever have imagined that one day

Townsend would be home to million-dollar mansions and find itself in the top two assessed value municipalities in Oconto County.

"The time went by so fast I didn't get

to cover all the information I intended to share," Marsh said. "People are already asking me to come back, and I intend to do that." Stay tuned, Townsend history lovers.

Christian Thrift Store Launches Volunteer of the Quarter Program

LAKEWOOD – The Christian Thrift Store announced a new Volunteer of the Quarter Program during its annual Volunteer Appreciation Party on July 18 at Waubee Lake Lodge in Lakewood, introducing a new way to honor volunteers while supporting local and charitable causes.

The program is designed to recognize the volunteers who help make the store successful and to give them a voice in where proceeds from their efforts are donated. Each quarter, one active volunteer's name will be drawn, and that volunteer will select a qualified charity to receive a \$1,000 donation.

For the program's first recipient, the store made an exception to the drawing process in order to recognize longtime volunteer Norma Behling, who has served since the store's inception. Behling has shared her background and talents in several areas over the years, with a primary focus on fabric,

one of her passions. Store representatives described her as reliable, thorough and dedicated to her work.

Behling selected Orphan Grain Train as the charity to receive the first \$1,000 donation through the program.

The Christian Thrift Store is located at 4541 N. Branch St. in Wabeno.



Longtime volunteer Norma Behling was the first honoree in the Christian Thrift Store's new Volunteer of the Quarter Program and selected Orphan Grain Train to receive the program's first \$1,000 donation.

PHOTO CREDIT | CHRISTIAN THRIFT STORE

Next Publication: August 28, 2026
News and Advertising Deadline: August 21, 2026

Nicolet Pharmacy Marks 30 Years of Serving Local Communities



Guests at Nicolet Pharmacy’s Customer Appreciation Celebration enjoyed gourmet food samples, cold beverages, wine and liquor tastings at Amy’s Pantry & Cellar, food from Los Magueyes and Blue Cord BBQ, and live music by Honeysmoke.

PHOTO CREDIT | BOB STRAZISHAR

LAKEWOOD – Nicolet Pharmacy celebrated 30 years of service to local communities with a Customer Appreciation Celebration on Saturday, July 11, 2026.

Founded in 1996 by Amy and Gary Donaldson, the pharmacy has built its reputation on personalized care.

Gary Donaldson has since moved on from the business, while Amy Donaldson continues to lead Nicolet Pharmacy as sole owner, serving customers and families throughout the area.

The anniversary event featured wine and liquor tasting at Amy’s Pantry & Cellar, food from Los Magueyes and Blue Cord BBQ, and live music by Honeysmoke, an alternative band from Madison formed in 2021. The band features lead vocalist Ellie, Donaldson’s daughter.

Organizers said the celebration drew strong community support, with long lines at the Los Magueyes food truck, Blue Cord BBQ serving 40 pounds of barbecue in less than two hours, and dozens of gourmet cupcakes handed out to guests.

The full-service pharmacy offers first aid and wound care supplies, durable medical equipment, custom-fit shoes, and other health and lifestyle products. It also features a curated selection of hand-selected wines, spirits, and gourmet foods sourced from around the world.

Nicolet Pharmacy is located at 15481 Commercial Road in Lakewood.



Honeysmoke, an alternative band from Madison formed in 2021 and featuring Donaldson’s daughter Ellie as lead vocalist, provided entertainment.

PHOTO CREDIT | BOB STRAZISHAR

Area Paddlers Mark 14 Summers on Local Lakes and Streams

MOUNTAIN – A group of local paddling enthusiasts is celebrating 14 summer seasons of exploring area lakes and streams, gathering each Thursday evening for time on the water, fellowship and a shared love of the outdoors.

Led by Dick Kendall, informally known as the group’s “Paddle-Commander,” the paddlers begin their season in early May and continue through mid-September. A schedule is shared electronically before the first outing. Most summers include about 18 planned paddles, though some members continue into October and even early November.



“PADDLE COMMANDER”, DICK KENDALL

Participants include men and women of a range of ages and experience levels. Some paddle kayaks, others use canoes, two members ride stand-up paddle boards, and another brings a craft equipped for fishing. Launch time is 5:00 pm each Thursday. The group typically spends about 1¼ hours on the water before heading to a local establishment for food, beverages and conversation.

Three times each summer, the paddlers also hold a picnic at a lake with tables, shelter and restroom facilities. Many members have participated for the full 14 years, and the group is known for its courteous spirit, with paddlers helping one another load, unload and launch their craft. Weekly participation usually ranges from 20 to 30 people, depending on the weather. Anyone interested in joining may email dick.kendall920@gmail.com to request a schedule.



Each Thursday, local paddlers spend about 1¼ hours on the water before gathering at a nearby prearranged spot for food, drinks, and conversation.

PHOTO CREDIT | DICK KENDALL

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EVENT MAP & PARKING

Map not to Scale



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Paul Bunyan Riders to Host Lakewood Fundraisers Supporting Trails and Local EMS

LAKEWOOD – The Paul Bunyan Riders Snowmobile Club will hold two upcoming community fundraisers in Lakewood, giving residents and visitors a chance to enjoy local events while supporting trail maintenance, club operations and Northern Oconto County EMS.

The first event will be a meat raffle beginning at noon Saturday, July 25, 2026, as part of the annual Weinerfest North activities at Lakewood Memorial Park. The event will support both Northern Oconto County EMS and the Paul Bunyan Riders Snowmobile Club.

The club also will host the second of its two annual brat fries at Lakewood SuperValu on Saturday, August 1, 2026.

Food will be ready by 10:00 am, and the brat shack is expected to wrap up between 2:00 to 3:00 pm.

Proceeds from the brat shack will help support the club’s ongoing trail maintenance, grooming operations, equipment needs and safety initiatives. The funds also help maintain and improve the local trail system so residents and visitors can continue to enjoy safe, well-maintained snowmobile trails throughout the winter season. Organizers are encouraging community members to stop out, take part in the activities and support the volunteers who work year-round to keep the area’s trail system in top condition.

Crooked Trails ATV Club to Host Annual July Hamburger & Brat Fry Picnic

CROOKED LAKE – The Crooked Trails ATV Club is inviting the public to join them for their annual July Hamburger & Brat Fry Picnic on Saturday, July 25, 2026 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Crooked Lake Sportsman’s Club. The family-friendly event will feature great food, raffles, and activities for all ages while supporting the club and its continued efforts to maintain and improve the local ATV trail system.

Visitors can enjoy hamburgers, brats, food, and refreshments throughout the day. The Bay Port Youth Dance Team will be serving food, with proceeds helping support their organization.

Entertainment includes a Pelkin’s Meat Raffle, booze raffles, and basket raffles, giving attendees multiple chances to win great prizes. Children will also have the opportunity to participate in a free kids’ bike giveaway, with a bicycle awarded every hour during the event.

“This picnic is a great opportunity for the community to come together, enjoy good food, and support local organizations,” said members of the Crooked Trails ATV Club.

“Whether you’re an ATV enthusiast or simply looking for a fun afternoon with family and friends, everyone is welcome.”

The Crooked Trails ATV Club encourages residents and visitors alike to stop by, enjoy the festivities, and learn more about the club’s work maintaining and promoting safe, enjoyable ATV recreation throughout the Crooked Lake area.

The event is open to the public, and organizers look forward to welcoming everyone for an afternoon of food, fun, and community spirit.

The Crooked Lake Sportsman’s Club is located at 15526 Hwy W, Crivitz.

Roberts Lake Association's 50th Annual

FISHEREE *and* CORN ROAST

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8th, 2026

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7AM-4PM

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A Huge Thank You From The Roberts Lake Association!

As a special thanks to all our friends and supporters, 11AM-1PM, there will be \$1.00 canned beer & \$2.00 hot dogs.

Roberts Lake Association continues to support various community projects.



Next Publication:
August 28, 2026

See page 2 for details on submitting news and ads

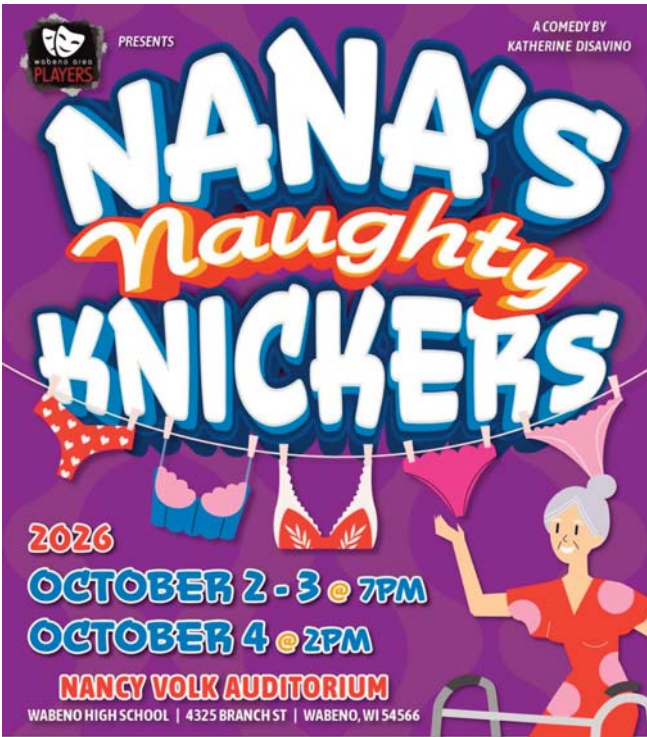
Wabeno Area Players Announce Auditions for Nana's Naughty Knickers

WABENO – The Wabeno Area Players invite interested actors and actresses to the auditions for Nana's Naughty Knickers, a raucous comedy by Katherine Di Savino. Auditions will be at the Nancy Volk Auditorium on Tuesday, July 28, 2026 at 6:00 pm and Wednesday, July 29 at 6:00 pm. Scripts and audition materials can be checked out from the Wabeno Public Library, which is open Tuesday-Friday, 12:00-5:00 pm.

The cast consists of 5 women and 4 men. Sylvia and Vera are lively women in their 80s. Bridget is Sylvia's granddaughter between ages 20-40, Tom is the neighborhood cop between ages 20-40. Gil and Clair are 40-60ish Heather is between the age of 20-50. There is a need for two UPS delivery men or women. The play is under the direction of Carol Bartlein.

Rehearsals begin August 3 and will be three nights a week for 2-3 hours per rehearsal. Performances are October 2, 3 and 4, 2026.

Bridget and her grandmother are about to become roommates. What Bridget thinks will be a fun summer in New York with her Nana turns into an unforgettable experience. It seems grandma is running an illegal boutique from her apartment selling naughty knickers she made herself, to senior citizens. Bridget and the audience



are headed to loads of unexpected excitement. For more information, or if you cannot attend the scheduled audition times, call 715-473-5466.



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Pastor Michael Willitz
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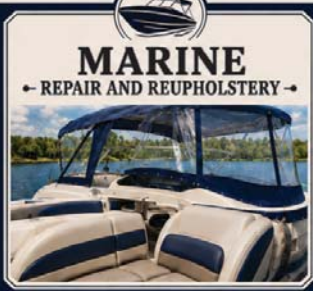
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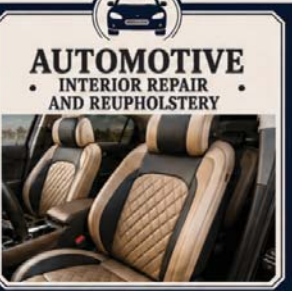
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EVENT CALENDAR



SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW UPCOMING EVENTS ONLINE

Friday, July 24

ATHELSTANE – Tony’s Dockside Bar & Grill will host the music of End Game for Rock The Dock Weekend starting at 7:00 pm. Tony’s Dockside Bar & Grill is located at W12327 Eagle Rd, Crivitz.

Saturday, July 25

CRIVITZ – The band Ask Your Mother will be performing at Trail Side Bar and Grill. The show is scheduled to begin at 6:00 pm. The band boasts a history of playing thousands of shows, ranging from small, intimate clubs to large stages. Trail Side Bar and Grill is located at 15506 County Hwy W, Crivitz.

WHITE LAKE – Join 9 Mile All Sport Resort to support Wounded Warriors United Wisconsin. Registration is \$25 per driver and \$15 for each additional rider, with an optional \$5 pancake breakfast before the ride. Check-in starts at 8:00 am; the ride begins at 10:00 am from the resort’s parking lot. Enjoy live music, raffles, games, and more upon return. 9 Mile All Sport Resort is located at N5751 WI-55, White Lake

MOUNTAIN – Check out the music by Dani Maus starting

at 3:00 pm at Donna & Tony’s Bar & Grill. Dani performs a wide range of genres and originals. Donna & Tony’s Bar & Grill is located at 16695 WI-32, Mountain.

MOUNTAIN – Model Citizens will perform at Skinny Dave’s, located at 12848 State Hwy. 32/64. The show is scheduled to begin at 9:00 pm and will feature the band’s high-energy mix of oldies, 1980s and 1990s favorites, pop, rock and country music.

TOWNSEND – The Town of Townsend will host a Farmers Market on Saturdays, from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Townsend Town Hall, located at 16564 Elm Street. The event will give residents and visitors a chance to browse locally grown produce, homemade goods, and items from area vendors while supporting small businesses and community members.

CROOKED LAKE – The Crooked Trails ATV Club is inviting the public to join them for their annual July Hamburger & Brat Fry Picnic from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Crooked Lake Sportsman’s Club located at 15526 Hwy W, Crivitz.

LAKEWOOD – The Paul Bunyan Riders Snowmobile

Club will host a meat raffle starting at noon, as part of the annual Weinerfest North activities at Lakewood Memorial Park located at 17258 N Rd, Lakewood. The event will give community members a chance to take part in the festivities while supporting Northern Oconto County EMS and the Paul Bunyan Riders Snowmobile Club.

ATHELSTANE – Tony’s Dockside Bar & Grill will welcome the band Nashville Pipeline for Rock The Dock Weekend starting at 3:00 pm. Since 1997, Nashville Pipeline has been delighting audiences with their performances of popular country cover songs. Tony’s Dockside Bar & Grill is located at W12327 Eagle Rd, Crivitz.

Sunday, July 26

WABENO – The 17th Annual Art Auction featuring art work by local Northeast Wisconsin and Nationally recognized artists will include paintings, ceramics, woodwork and more. View auction items and meet the artists at noon. Auction begins at 1:00 pm. The auction will be held at The Big Easel Gallery & Bistro located at 1784 Maple Ave, Wabeno.

Friday, July 31

TOWNSEND – Ramona and The Flower will be performing at The Olive Pit on Friday, July 31, 2026, starting at 7:30 pm. Ramona and The Flower is Green Bay’s popular acoustic duo, known for giving fresh takes on classic songs from the 1960s through the 2000s. The Olive Pit is located at 18904 State Hwy 32.

LAONA – Dan Flannery will be back to play the hits in Laona’s annual concert series, “Rock the Block” on July 31, 2026 at Centennial Park starting at 4:30 pm. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the music. Laona’s Centennial Park is located at 5221 Linden Street.

Saturday, August 1

ATHELSTANE – Tony’s Dockside Bar and Grill, located at W12327 Eagle Rd, Crivitz, will host a live performance by the Bullets And Booze Band on starting at 2:00 pm. Enjoy classic country music with a touch of rock. Let the band entertain you with their energetic and engaging performance.

LAKEWOOD – The Lakes Country Arts & Crafts Show, hosted by the McCaslin Lions Club, is a premier event showcasing exclusively

handmade arts and crafts. This annual show takes place from from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Lakewood Festival Grounds and Town Hall/Fire Station, located at 17258 North Rd. With 270 vendor spaces available, the show offers a wide range of unique items.

MOUNTAIN – The 8th Annual Craft & Vendor Sale is scheduled from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm and will be held at 13395 State Hwy 32 in Mountain. Over 40 crafters and vendors will be present, offering a diverse range of products and crafts.

DOTY – The Doty Fire Association will host its annual Fireman’s Picnic from noon to 5:00 pm at the Doty Fire Department, 14899 County Road T in Mountain. The community event will feature a variety of activities and prize opportunities, including meat raffles supplied by Edelman Meats, bucket raffles, door prizes and a money raffle with a top prize of \$1,000.

LAKEWOOD – The Paul Bunyan Riders Snowmobile Club will hold a fundraiser at the Brat Barn at Lakewood SuperValu located at 17186 Twin Pines Rd to support its ongoing work on area snowmobile trails. Food will

be ready by 10:00 am, and the brat shack is expected to wrap up between 2:00 to 3:00 pm.

TOWNSEND – The Paul Hanna Trio is scheduled to perform at Wendt’s Sandbar Resort from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, offering attendees an evening of music and entertainment. Paul Hanna is a singer and songwriter based in Green Bay. He leads the trio, bringing his talent and experience to the stage for this special event.

WABENO – The Big Easel Gallery & Bistro located at 1784 Maple Ave in Wabeno welcomes you to a memorable evening featuring a dinner concert with acclaimed musician Randal Harrison. The evening will commence with a delicious dinner served at 5:00 pm, followed by an intimate concert performance that promises to delight guests. To secure your spot for this exclusive dinner and concert event, please call 715-889-1179.

All listed events are subject to change without notice. If you have an event that you would like to share, please send your information to info@nicolet.express or call 715-276-8001.

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Joan White Nicolet Studio
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Doty Fire Association Fireman’s Picnic

DOTY – The Doty Fire Association will host its annual Fireman’s Picnic from noon to 5:00 pm Saturday, August 1, 2026 at the Doty Fire Department, 14899 County Road T in Mountain, organizers announced.

The community event will feature a variety of activities and prize opportunities, including meat raffles supplied by Edelman Meats, bucket raffles, door prizes and a money raffle with a top prize of \$1,000. A second-place prize in the money raffle will be a GP6500 Generac generator.

Featured raffle items include a TriStar Model Cobra III Camo 12-gauge shotgun and a Homa Model 1500 30-06 bolt-action rifle. The picnic will also include chalk art with Boots, along with food, drinks and an ice cream social. Proceeds and donations from the event will go toward supporting the Doty Fire Association and its work to serve the community.

Next Publication:
August 28, 2026

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details on submitting
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