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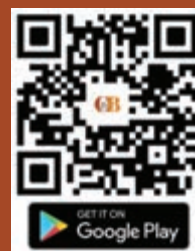
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The 36th annual Auto Club Car Show hosted by Northeast Wisconsin Technical College



A colorful Oneida County sunset.



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PUBLISHER
Patrick J. Wood

GENERAL MANAGER
Tim Schreiber

EDITORIAL
Green Bay Press Times Staff

SALES MANAGER
Mike Hollihan

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Kimberly Byrne

PRINTING
Schumann Printers, Inc.



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Copper Culture Museum: 5,000 years of history in 500 square feet

By Gracelyn Giese



The Copper Culture Museum is located in the former home of the Werrebroeck family. Charles and Emma Werrebroeck and their daughter, Anna, immigrated to the United States from Belgium in 1911. Their first house, made of wood, burned down, so Werrebroeck built a brick house at the site in 1924.

Governor Tony Evers and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources recently announced the 125th anniversary of the Wisconsin State Park System. The state park system is made up of over 120 properties that have been formally recognized by that state, including Copper Culture State Park. However, the history of these parks extends well beyond just 125 years.

Copper Culture State Park, located in Oconto County, has served as a site of historical significance for thousands of years.

A marker at the park's burial ground explains its importance, "At this site approximately 4,500 years ago, Wisconsin Indians gathered to bury their dead. Because of their use of copper tools, weapons and ornaments, this group became known as the Old Copper people."

The Old Copper people lived in present-day Oconto County during the Archaic Period 6,000 to 5,000 years ago and began burying their ancestors in the naturally-formed elevated mound.

13-year-old Donald Baldwin discovered the cemetery in 1952, and archeologists from the Milwaukee Public Museum, the Wisconsin Historical Society and Oconto County Historical Society's founder George E. "Jimmy" Hal excavated the site.

In recognition of their namesake, the Copper Culture State Park turned the Charles Werrebroeck Home, built in 1911 and rebuilt in 1924 by the Werrebroeck family due to fire damage, into the Copper Culture Museum.

Today, the Copper Culture Museum is managed by the Oconto County Historical Society and features ancient artifacts and exhibits detailing the importance of the area both to the Old Copper people and to the modern world.

Museum Manager Carol Mertens said that since she began working

at the museum in 2021 she has worked with anthropologists, archeologists, geologists, jewelers and graduate students with interests in the history of the area.

However, one of Mertens' favorite aspects of this summer job is meeting with families that often stumble upon the museum during roadtrips.

"We get a lot of lovely little families that don't even know that we're here. They pull off of the highway and they're sort of surprised. It's neat seeing parents wanting to show their children a new history lesson," Mertens said.

Families can get a hands-on approach to thousands of years of history by seeing original copper tools, taking a tour of the museum, walking the foot trail to the stone monument at the burial ground or stopping at the children's mock excavation pit.

Copper Culture Museum is able to offer this variety of historical experience at no cost to visitors through grants and funds from the Oconto County Historical Society.

Mertens said this is important because "In this economic situation we're all, in families are concerned about not having to lay out a lot of cash on a daily basis, but also educate and entertain their children. So, it's nice to be able to say that they can come in and that a donation is appreciated, but certainly not expected."

With funds that the museum has been receiving they are currently performing some much needed updates to the Charles Werrebroeck Home that houses the museum.

Mertens shared that in the fall the 500-square-foot museum was emptied out to have the floors refinished, walls painted and new display

» CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



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» CUPPER CULTURE MUSEUM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

cabinets installed. Throughout the winter Mertens has been researching the Old Copper people and Native American history to update all of the exhibit information.

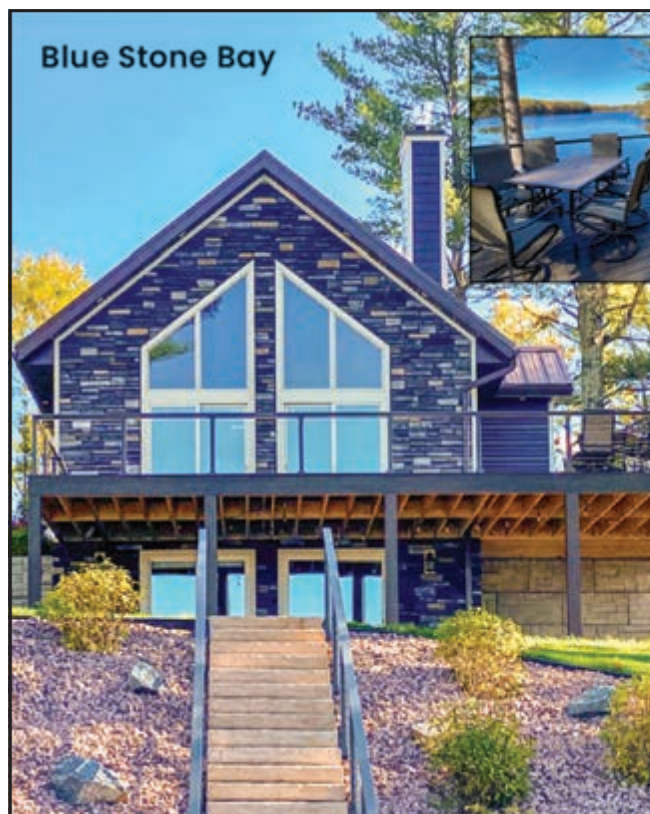
The museum will host a grand reopening in celebration of these updates on Friday, May 23.

The Copper Culture Museum is located within the Copper Culture State Park at 260 Copper Culture Way, Oconto, and is open daily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Admission and a park sticker are not required, but donations are appreciated.

To learn more, contact historian@ocontohistory.org or read about the museum in the Spring 2025 edition of "American Archaeology." 



The Copper Culture Museum contains copper tools and artifacts from thousands of years ago, some of which do not have an identifiable usage known today.



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A supper club in the woods

By Heather Schaefer

Fans of northern Wisconsin's traditional supper clubs know when they walk in the door whether they've found one of the "real" ones. Supper club aficionados who find themselves in the Rhinelander area will feel right at home at Wally's South 17 (3220 Boyce Drive), a cozy supper club in the woods.

Owner Walt Thiede purchased the former Shady Sue's in December 2023, made a few small changes to the interior and opened in early 2024.

"I've got a great chef, I've got a great team, so it's been working out very well," he said.

As he tells it, he was visiting the Rhinelander area to look at a different potential restaurant location that he just didn't fall in love with when a friend told him about another option.

He made an appointment to take a look at it and knew right away he'd found the right place.

The place is small but exudes traditional Northwoods charm.

"It was a house, that's what I was told on day one," Thiede explained before detailing the tweaks he made to the cozy interior.

The wood paneling and ceiling will be very familiar to guests who grew up in the Midwest between 1950 and the 1980s.

There's a television in one corner but don't expect to catch a ballgame. Thiede said the TV is programmed to show the restaurant's offerings.

"It's a supper club, come and relax," he said of the atmosphere.

Thiede said his affinity for supper clubs dates back to his own youth. His grandfather operated a restaurant near Spooner called Poodle Inn and he remembers having to stand on a milk crate to wash dishes there as a child.

"When I found this place it reminded me so much of my grandfather's place," he said, adding that he likes to provide old-school service as well.



Wally's South 17 offers a selection of wines to complement any entree.

"I like to go up to a table and have a conversation and make sure that everything's fine, (find out) what I can do to improve," he said.

Wally's is open Wednesday through Sunday 4-9 p.m. Wednesday is Italian (pasta) night and Thursday is Chef Patrick's choice (a recent selection was liver and onions served with choice of potato and vegetable of the day). Of course, Friday night is fish fry heaven. Offerings include white fish, deep-fried or in a white wine butter sauce, a choice of potato and coleslaw round out the plate. On Saturday evenings visitors can enjoy a classic prime rib and Thiede's two smokers get a workout on Sundays when the cowboy platter is often in high demand. Ribs and pulled pork are always available but Thiede also likes to mix it up. Half-chicken, sausages and brisket are also served at times.

"I do things that people don't have at the other restaurants," he said. "We're very creative."

Of course, there are a wide variety of libations, from wine to cocktails, available to compliment any entrée.

In deciding on a name, Thiede said he knew he wanted to reference South 17. The rest of the name is a tribute to his son who passed away in 2017.

"Every day I see the sign and think of him," he said. 🇺🇸



The wood paneling and fireplaces add to the cozy ambiance at Wally's South 17.



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The Humble: A new downtown treasure offering candy, apparel, and community connection

By Tina L. Scott

"We moved to Merrill in 2007 from a bigger city and absolutely fell in love with this community ... It brings us such joy to give back in this way. We love Merrill as if we have lived here all our lives, we are thankful for so many things in our community."

— Johanna Doyle, owner of The Humble

A mix of faith, family, and a sweet tooth has given new life to a downtown Merrill location: The Humble, a retail shop owned by Johanna Doyle, is located at 923 E. Main St. in Merrill adjacent to The Gathering Table, in the former Ye Olde Sweet Shoppe building.

Operated by Johanna and her husband, Jim, The Humble opened in early September 2024, and carries a combination of Christian apparel, home décor and hand-crafted candy. "I am the sole owner of The Humble," Johanna said, "but my husband does make the fudge and candy in-store. ... We partner to make it all flow."



From cards and mugs to home decor and seasonal gifts, The Humble has a lot to offer in a small shop.

One of the Christian jewelry items available at The Humble.

"The purpose behind our store is to bring something new and fresh to Merrill, to offer a family-friendly place to shop, one that brings a positive and uplifting experience to our community," Johanna said.

"This has been such a blessing for us," she said. "We've had incredible feedback from the Merrill community and even from surrounding areas like Lake Tomahawk, Antigo and Schofield. There's nothing quite like The Humble around here."

From craft shows to a storefront

The journey to The Humble began when Johanna felt called to start a ministry in 2019. "I had a sense that it might involve a business, but I didn't know exactly what that would look like," she said. In late 2023, Johanna launched an online Christian apparel store and participated in local craft shows. While it was a start, she longed for more direct interaction with customers.

"I realized I love connecting with people face-to-face," Johanna said. "That's when I knew I wanted a physical location. Merrill is our home, and we have such a heart for this community. It felt like the perfect place to grow."

» CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



Signs and jewelry, The Humble offers Christian gifts large and small, suitable for all occasions.

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A nice selection of children's clothing, books, and gifts on display at The Humble.

» THE HUMBLE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

In January 2024, Johanna reached out to Dennis Greffe, the owner of a closed candy shop downtown, about purchasing the building. Now, The Humble is located in the former Ye Olde Sweet Shoppe building, offering the same handmade candies that the shop was known for over the years and a whole lot more. When they purchased the building from Dennis and LuAnn Greffe, they also purchased the recipes for their candies.

"It just seemed like a good fit, especially with The Gathering Table next door," she said. "When Dennis offered us not only the building but also the recipes for his candy, Jim was thrilled."

A sweet partnership

Jim Doyle, who has long enjoyed making candy during the holidays, embraced the opportunity to take his hobby to the next level. "He makes the most amazing buttercreams, caramels, chocolate-covered Oreos, and bear paws," Johanna said. "We use many of Dennis's original recipes, but Jim has really made them his own."

The candy, displayed in gleaming cases, quickly became a hit. "The candy has been just as popular as the apparel," Johanna said with a smile. "It's a close race between long-sleeve sweatshirts and Jim's home-made fudge."

A store with heart

The Humble also offers Christian-themed décor, bagged coffee and loose tea, catering to customers seeking gifts or inspiration. Apparel ranges from newborn sizes to adult men's and women's clothing, ensuring something for everyone.

"We want The Humble to be more than just a store," Johanna said. "We want it to be a place that reflects our values and brings people together. Everything we carry is designed to inspire or bring joy."

The shop's name, too, carries deep significance. "One day, Jim and I were driving down County Road K, and we saw donkeys in a pasture," Johanna said. "It reminded me of Jesus riding a donkey instead of a horse—choosing humility over grandeur. That's the heart of what we want The Humble to represent: humility and faith."

It's about community

Since opening, The Humble has become a gathering spot and a draw for visitors from across the region. "We've had people come in just to chat and share stories," Johanna said. "It's been wonderful to see the connections we've built in just a few months."

"Funny how many times I hear in a day, 'It feels really good in here, it's so peaceful, I just don't want to leave,' and others say, 'Merrill really needed a store like this, I'm so glad you are here,'" she said.

“We moved to Merrill in 2007 from a bigger city and absolutely fell in love with this community,” Johanna said. “It brings us such joy to give back in this way. We love Merrill as if we have lived here all our lives; we are thankful for so many things in our community. Contributing to the growth of the city, to being a part of something bigger than us and to getting people out together just feels like the right thing to do.”

Looking ahead, Johanna and Jim are excited to continue serving the community. “We’re so grateful to everyone who has supported us,” Johanna said. “We love Merrill, and we’re thrilled to be part of its

downtown revival.” She said they are working in conjunction with other downtown businesses to plan some special events for this summer.

Whether it’s for a cozy sweatshirt, a box of homemade candy or a moment of connection, The Humble offers something special to anyone who walks through its doors. The Humble is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Sundays and Mondays. You can also find many of their products online at thehumblellc.com.



A nativity scene on display and available for purchase at The Humble.



A selection of handmade fudge and candy available at The Humble this past Christmas season.

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Eagle River Revitalization Program efforts win Eagle River Main Street of the Year Award

By Josephine Hinderman

After being named 2024 Main Street of the Year by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), thanks to the hard work of a local revitalization program, downtown Eagle River has become an ideal vacationer's paradise in the Wisconsin North Woods.

From supporting local small businesses to hosting farmers markets to helping young, aspiring business owners set themselves up for success, the Eagle River Revitalization Program (ERRP) and its Executive Director, Karen Margelofsky, seem capable of doing anything and everything to keep downtown Eagle River a burgeoning, bustling locale.

The WEDC's Main Street of the Year award only further recognizes Eagle River's efforts to become a thriving, historic and community-centered city where a brighter future is being crafted by the city's economic opportunity and local creativity locals can be proud to be a part of and tourists excited to visit.

The ERRP's endeavors to bolster the Eagle River community include various revitalization projects in the downtown area (such as opening the Rotary Square — a city-owned community square and pavilion that has become a hub for public gatherings, live music and parties — in June 2024), creating opportunities for new and young business owners, being a go-to resource for business owners, hosting farmers and youth entrepreneur markets during the summer and even earning Eagle River a listing on the National Historic Registry.

"Eagle River has created a downtown that addresses today's needs, acknowledges the past and looks to the future," said WEDC Secretary Missy Hughes during her visit to the area in March. "The result is a welcoming downtown where people want to spend time."

While touring the downtown area, ERRP Executive Director Karen Margelofsky emphasized to Hughes the collaborative efforts happening between businesses, namely with Andy's Pontoon Saloon on Wall Street, a pizzeria and beer garden that opened in the area last summer and also was the recipient of the WEDC's Best New Business Award, as one of the spearheads in helping foster a supportive community between local businesses.

"This is amazing. And it's all accredited to the incredible work that you all have done and the tremendous work that's happened in Eagle



The Rotary Square, opened last summer, has become a hub of public gatherings, thanks to the efforts of groups such as the Eagle River Revitalization Program.

River," Secretary Hughes stated. "We watch communities to see which communities are turning themselves into magnets and doing things to create momentum, and Eagle River is certainly doing that. Eagle River represents many of the qualities that make Wisconsin unique — a strong community identity, a sense of place, a spirit of creativity and a continuous drive to make each day a little better."

Eagle River has also been named one of 19 communities in Wisconsin to receive the WEDC's Small Business Development Grant, worth \$250,000, with the grant's purpose to help small businesses renovate and revitalize.

"It's a catalyst for transformation," Margelofsky said. "It reinforces the dedication of our small business owners, property developers and community leaders who are actively shaping a stronger, more resilient future for Eagle River. I also want to acknowledge the City of Eagle River, our Business Improvement District and our local partners who continue to work alongside us to create meaningful economic growth, whether it's preserving our historic character, revitalizing underutilized spaces or fostering business expansions."

"To our business owners, property developers and entrepreneurs, this is your time," she added. "Thank you to WEDC, Secretary Hughes, our partners and every person in this community who believes in the power of revitalization. The impact starts today, and the best is yet to come."

More information about the ERRP can be found by visiting their website at eagleriverrevitalization.org, and more information about upcoming events in Eagle River can be found by visiting the Eagle River Chamber of Commerce website at eagleriver.org.

Artscape Banner Program

While supporting small businesses, the ERRP also looks to support local creatives in the Eagle River area through their Artscape Banner Program. Every year, applications open for artists to submit their artwork for a chance to have their artwork featured on banners displayed throughout downtown Eagle River.

Since 2007, the Artscape Banner Program has been a local tradition, bringing color and creativity to the streets of Eagle River from Memorial Day to Veterans Day every year. The initiative offers artists a unique opportunity to showcase their talents to both the local community and

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During the summer season, visitors and locals alike can indulge at the Eagle River Farmers Market, which runs every Wednesday and Sunday from May through the first week in October.

>> EAGLE RIVER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

thousands of visitors, while enhancing the vibrant cultural atmosphere of the area.

Young Entrepreneurs

The ERRP supports small business owners, yes, but they also strive to support, encourage and educate youth looking to start their own businesses through their annual Youth Entrepreneur Markets (YEM!).

Set to return for the 2025 summer season, the ERRP uses this program to provide young, aspiring entrepreneurs with a chance to grow their skills as future small business owners.

YEM! is a hands-on program designed to empower youth ages 10-17 by helping them turn their ideas into successful businesses through mentorship, education and real-world market experiences.

To prepare young entrepreneurs for success, YEM is offering a series of interactive training workshops leading up to the 2025 market season. These sessions provide guidance on business planning, marketing, pricing and sales, as well as hands-on practice with booth setup and customer engagement.

The 2025 Youth Entrepreneur Market season kicks off in June with monthly market dates set through October.

More information about these markets can be found by visiting eagleriverrevitalization.org/yem. 🇺🇸

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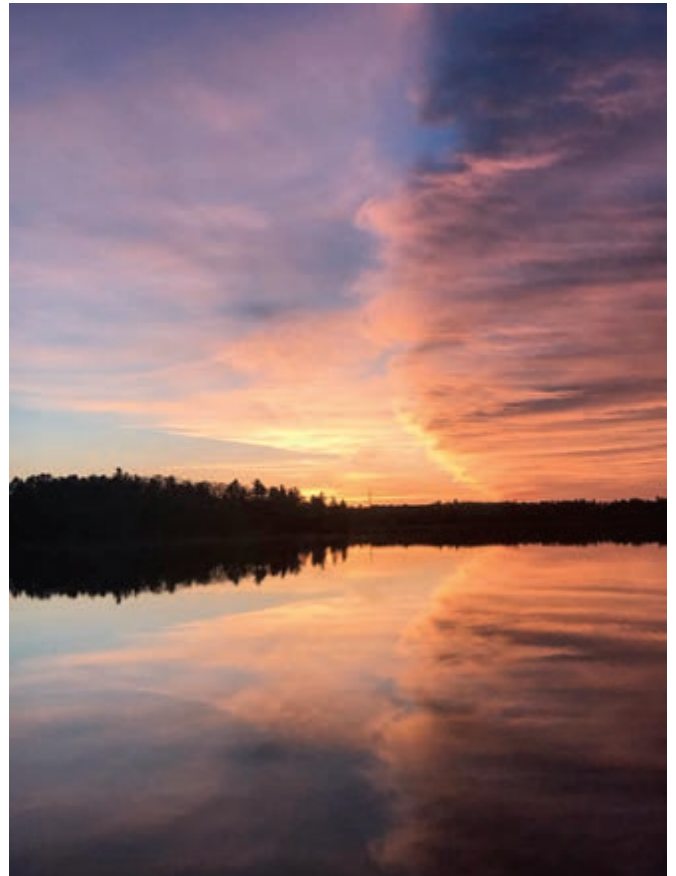


Lake Nokomis offers a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities

By Jalen Maki

The Northwoods is widely known for its outdoor recreation opportunities, and a lake north of Tomahawk is a top-notch destination for those seeking all the area has to offer.

Lake Nokomis is the largest lake in the Tomahawk area. Located in both Lincoln and Oneida counties, the 2,433-acre waterbody was formed by a dam built on the Tomahawk River in 1912. The lake has a maximum depth of about 34 feet and roughly 35 miles of shoreline. Lake Nokomis joins Bridge Lake and Deer Lake in forming a chain covering 4,000-plus acres.





Two lake groups operate in the Lake Nokomis area. The Lake Nokomis Concerned Citizens seek to support the continued growth and the physical, economic and social aspects of the Nokomis Chain of Lakes and surrounding communities, while the Lake Nokomis Lake District works to protect the water quality of the reservoir by fighting aquatic invasive species (AIS) and sources of pollution and rehabilitating degrading conditions around the waterbody.

The public can access Lake Nokomis via three boat landings: one on County Rd. N, northeast of Heafford Junction; one on Point O' Pines Rd., west of County Rd. L; and one on Nokomis Dr., accessible from County Rd. Y.

Lake Nokomis offers a variety of fish species for fishing enthusiasts to target, including smallmouth and largemouth bass, musky, northern pike, panfish and walleye. While out on the boat or casting from the shore, anglers might even spot a bald eagle, a loon or other wildlife.

The lake's miles of open water are ideal for boaters and water skiers, and paddlers will find small islands and floating bogs to check out.

There are more than just on-water recreation opportunities in the Lake Nokomis area. ATV and UTV enthusiasts can travel all around the lake via designated routes. The Nokomis ATV Club works to support

» CONTINUED ON PAGE 20



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>> LAKE NOKOMIS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

safe riding while providing volunteer opportunities for the community and educational resources for riders. The club also maintains and seeks to expand existing riding and trail systems in the area and promotes the sport so more people can enjoy it.

Lake Nokomis offers no shortage of hospitality options. Visitors can fuel up at area gas stations, stay at one of several hotels or Airbnbs, and grab a bite to eat and a drink or two at one of the many bars and restaurants found around the lake. Establishments located on the water often offer a place to tie up a boat.

Whether you're heading out on the water to chase the fish of 10,000 casts, itching to put some miles on your off-road vehicle, looking for a relaxing weekend away, or just passing through, Lake Nokomis is sure to provide what you're looking for, and more. 🌿



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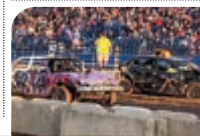
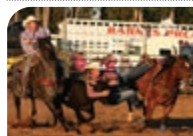
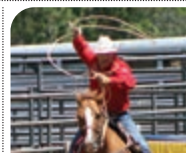


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| May 10 | MACA presents the BriTins |
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| May 18 | Bingo at VFW |
| May 23 | Merrill High School Graduation |
| May 30-31 | E-Cycle Event |
| May 30-June 1 | Merrill Youth Traveling Baseball Tournament |
| June-July | Merrill City Band Gazebo Nights |
| June 2 | Merrill Chamber Golf Classic |
| June 6-8 | Wisconsin River Pro Rodeo |
| June 8 | Bingo at VFW |
| June 21 | Mud 'N Jams ATV/UTV Rally |
| June 22 | Bingo at VFW |
| July 5 | Fireworks at the MARC |
| July 10 | Gazebo Nights |
| July 11 | Movie Night Under the Stars |
| July 17, 24 & 31 | Gazebo Nights |
| July 20 | Carry the Cross Music Fest & Bingo at VFW |
| July 25-27 | Merrill Fastpitch Tournament |
| July 26 | Black Squirrel Scurry |
| Aug 1 | Movie Night Under the Stars |
| Aug 1-3 | WI American Legion Softball State Championship |
| Aug 1-3 | Adult Summer Classic Hockey Tournament |
| August 3 | Bingo at VFW |
| Aug 6-10 | Lincoln County Fair |
| Aug 8-10 | Youth Summer Classic Hockey Tournament |
| August 14 | Gazebo Nights |
| August 15 | Movie Night Under the Stars |
| August 16 | Underdown Trail Races |
| August 17 | Bingo at VFW |
| August 19 | Community Night Out |
| August 21 | Gazebo Nights |
| August 24 | Trinity Merrill Block Party |
| August 28 | Gazebo Nights |
| September 1 | Labor Day Parade & Merrill Lion's Club Labor Day Car Show |



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454164

Oulu Glass Gallery: A beacon of artistic excellence

By Natasha Winkler



Nestled in the serene Northwoods of Wisconsin, Oulu Glass Gallery stands as a beacon of artistic excellence and family tradition. This family-owned gallery showcases the intricate art of glassblowing, offering visitors a unique glimpse into a craft that has been honed over generations.

The gallery is the brainchild of Anton (Jim) and Sue Vojacek, a couple of Finnish descent who, along with their family, have dedicated their lives to mastering and teaching the art of glassblowing. Their passion is evident not only in the exquisite pieces displayed but also in the immersive experiences they offer to the public. During the cooler months, particularly in January, the Vojacek family conducts daily glassblowing demonstrations, inviting visitors to witness firsthand the mesmerizing transformation of molten glass into delicate art forms. These sessions typically provide ample opportunity for guests to engage with the artists and gain insights into this ancient technique.

For those inspired to delve deeper, Oulu Glass Gallery offers workshops and classes tailored to various skill levels. Whether you're a novice eager to try your hand at this captivating craft or an experienced artist seeking to refine your techniques, the gallery provides a nurturing environment to explore and create. The hands-on sessions are designed to foster creativity and appreciation for the meticulous process involved in glass artistry.

Beyond the studio, the gallery itself is a treasure trove of unique and functional glass pieces. Open from late May through January, the gallery welcomes visitors every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with Sunday hours from 12 to 5 p.m. Each item on display is a testament to the family's dedication, with no consignment pieces — every artwork is crafted by the Vojacek family, ensuring authenticity and a personal touch in every creation. For those unable to visit the Brule location, selected works are available year-round at the Bayfield Artist's Gallery in Bayfield, Wisconsin, and at Art Dock in Canal Park, Duluth, Minnesota.



The gallery's surroundings further enhance the visitor experience. During the warmer months, guests are invited to stroll through the Memorial Teapot Perennial Flower Garden, a heartfelt tribute to Sue's mother, an avid teapot collector. This enchanting garden not only showcases a vibrant array of flora, but also embodies the family's commitment to preserving and honoring personal histories. Additionally, the Elephant Garden offers a whimsical escape for younger visitors, who can delight in counting the various elephant sculptures scattered throughout the landscape.



Oulu Glass Gallery's reputation extends beyond its immediate community. In January 2023, WDIO Channel 10 TV featured the gallery on their program "The Lift," highlighting the Vojacek family's contributions to the arts and their dedication to keeping the tradition of glassblowing alive. Such recognition underscores the gallery's significance as both a cultural landmark and a hub for artistic innovation.

Visitors have consistently praised the gallery for its welcoming atmosphere and the opportunity to observe skilled artisans at work. One reviewer noted, "Amazing and very talented people work their wonders here with glass. Many beautiful items for sale. Come and watch them. A family of artists."

For those planning a visit, accommodations are conveniently available nearby through Airbnb, allowing guests to immerse themselves fully in the tranquil beauty of Wisconsin's Northwoods. Whether you're an art enthusiast, a curious traveler or someone seeking a unique experience, Oulu Glass Gallery offers a captivating journey into the world of glass artistry, enriched by the warmth and dedication of a family devoted to their craft.

Oulu Glass Gallery 1695 W. Colby Rd Brule, WI 54820

Bayfield Artist's Gallery 201 Rittenhouse Ave, Bayfield, WI 54814.

(Winter: Saturdays 11 a.m.-4 p.m.)



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North Woods Events Calendar

MAY

- 9 **Wine Walk:** Downtown Tomahawk. tomahawkmainstreet.org
- 9-10 **Birding and Wildlife Festival:** North Lakeland Discovery Center, Manitowish Waters. discoverycenter.net
- 17 **Hodag Heritage Festival:** Pioneer Park, Rhinelander. rhinelanderchamber.com
- 25 **Arts & Craft Show and Sidewalk Sales:** Downtown Eagle River. eagleriver.org
- 25 **Main Street Memories Car Show:** Downtown Tomahawk. tomahawkmainstreet.org

JUNE

- 6-8 **Wisconsin River Pro Rodeo:** Merrill Festival Grounds. wrpr.org
- 7 **June Bloom Craft Show:** Torpy Park, Minocqua. minocqua.org
- 13-14 **Up North Beerfest:** Hi-Pines Campground, Eagle River. eagleriver.org
- 13-14 **Minocqua Antique & Classic Boat Show:** Torpy Park, Minocqua. minocquaboatshow.com
- 14 **Art Fair on the Courthouse Lawn:** Oneida County Courthouse Lawn, Rhinelander. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. rhinelanderchamber.com
- 14 **Walk in the Woods Art Fair:** St Germain Chamber Park. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. st-germain.com
- 20-22 **Solstice Festival:** Koller Park, Manitowish Waters. solsticefestival.us
- 20 **Young Entrepreneur Markets (YEM!):** The Square in Downtown Eagle River. 11 am-2 pm. YEMEagleRiver.com
- 26-28 **Northern Roundup Car Show:** MC Festival Grounds, Gleason. northernroundup.com
- 26 **Artscape Banner Auction:** Veterans Resource Center, Eagle River. 5:30-8 p.m. EagleRiverRevitalization.org

JULY

- 3 **Annual Arts, Crafts & Vendor Fair:** SARA Park, Tomahawk. gototomahawk.com
- 10-13 **47th Annual Hodag Country Festival:** Rhinelander. hodag.com
- 11 **Young Entrepreneur Markets (YEM!):** The Square in Downtown Eagle River. 11 am-2 pm. YEMEagleRiver.com
- 12 **Backyard BBQ Cook-Off:** Carow Park, Mercer. mercercc.com
- 17-20 **60th Annual Art Show:** Manitowish Waters Community Center. manitoartleague.org
- 24-27 **Langlade County Fair:** Antigo. langladecountyfair.net

FARMERS MARKETS

Antigo: Saturday 8 a.m.-noon.

Peaceful Valley Park

Crandon: Tuesday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

200 S. Lake Ave

Eagle River: Wed. 5/7-10/8 from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. & Sun. 5/25-10/5 from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Hwy 45 & Michigan St. North of the bridge. EagleRiverFarmersMarket.com

Hurley: Wednesday 3 p.m.-6 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. June-October. 13420 N 10th Ave.

Merrill: Wednesday & Saturday 7:30 a.m.-noon. June-October. 600 Block of North Center Ave.

Minocqua: Friday 8 a.m.-1 p.m. May-October. 408 E. Chicago St.

Rhinelander: Hodag Farmers Market. Saturday 8 a.m.-1 p.m. End of May-mid October. Pioneer Park

Tomahawk Main Street Farmer's Market: Tuesday 11 a.m.-3 p.m. June-October. Third Street off West Wisconsin Avenue

Tomahawk Farm & Flea Market: Saturday. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. May 4-October. 79 Hometown Drive



- 25-26 NorthwoodStock:** Bent's Camp Resort, Land O'Lakes. northwoodstockmusicfest.com
- 2 Ride with Leinie:** Conover-Phelps Trail, Conover. ghtrails.org
- 26-9 Iron County Heritage Days Festival:** Silver Street & Downtown, Hurley. hurleywi.com
- 31-3 Oneida County Fair:** Pioneer Park, Rhinelander. ocfairwi.com

AUGUST

- 1 Young Entrepreneur Markets (YEM!):** The Square in Downtown Eagle River. 11 am-2 pm. YEMEagleRiver.com
- 2 Mercer Bike Fest & Loon Ride:** Carow Park, Mercer. mercerbybike.com
- 6-9 MC Festival:** MC Festival Grounds, Gleason. mcfests.com
- 6-10 Lincoln County Fair:** Merrill Festival Grounds. lincolncofair.com
- 7 After Loon Delight Craft Show:** Torpy Park, Minocqua. minocqua.org
- 23 45th Eagle River Car & Truck Show:** Downtown Eagle River. eagleriver.org
- 29 Young Entrepreneur Markets (YEM!):** The Square in Downtown Eagle River. 11 am-2 pm. YEMEagleRiver.com



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Campbellsportchamber.org

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Forest County

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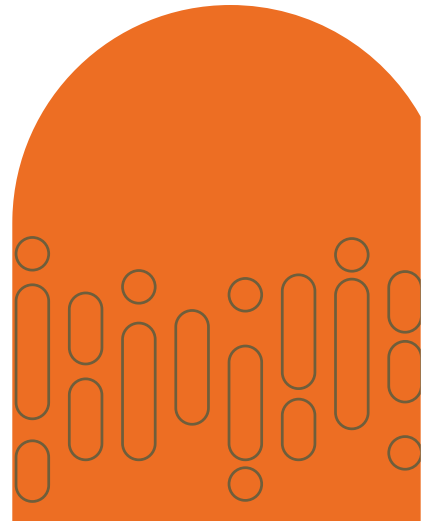
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Five adventures on the Wolf River

By James Card



A male lake sturgeon is measured and weighed after being netted last year on the Wolf River.

In Langlade County, the Wolf River is a broad and burly trout stream of the north woods but as the river flows south near Fremont, its character changes and so do the recreational and cultural opportunities for having some fun.

Sturgeon watching

One of the greatest conservation success stories in Wisconsin history can be viewed up close and personal along the banks of the Wolf River

every spring. At the turn of the century, the sturgeon was in great decline but people along the Wolf River and the Winnebago chain rallied in a decade's long effort to protect the giant fish. This is chronicled in the book, *People of the Sturgeon: Wisconsin's Love Affair with an Ancient Fish*, which makes for an excellent weekend read. Now the fish is populous enough that a limited spearing is held every winter where anglers stare a large hole in the ice and ready themselves for hours on end to lunge a spear into the depths.

For wanting to get a glimpse of this huge fish in another setting, the best place is the New London Sturgeon Trail, a paved path that runs along County Trunk X west of New London. The spawning season brings the sturgeon upriver in mid-April to early May and the sturgeon often come close to the shoreline and roil the waters with their massive bulk as some of them are six feet long.

Wine tasting

Gill's Landing in Weyauwega is a well-known boat landing and pit stop for boaters on the Wolf. Just a skip up the road on County Trunk F is the only vineyard and winery in the county and it is aptly named: Rio Lobo (as in Spanish, Rio is river and Lobo is wolf).

The winery is owned and operated by the Beyer family and the entire clan pitches in during grape-picking season. Since their first planting of grapes in 2014, they have produced numerous types of wines and have expanded to brewing beer. They also have become known for their homemade pizzas served on Fridays and Saturdays. Visit www.riolobolc.com for events and info.

Explore the Old Wolf

The Mukwa Wildlife Area west of New London is part of the greater Wolf River watershed and holds ancient oxbow lakes and old channels where the Wolf River once flowed. It's composed of 1,300 acres of state-owned land and it is a bottomland hardwood-type of ecosystem. There are many silver maples and white oaks mixed with sedge meadows.

It's a big place to ramble for all types of outdoor enthusiast: the mixed hardwoods and meadows is an excellent destination for birdwatchers. There are some bowhunters that trek deep into the woods for hunt



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» CONTINUED ON PAGE 30



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In 1950 the Sky Club became the home of the FIRST ever salad bar...

In 1935, a new business ventured its way in to the small town of Plover, WI. Boasting its lunch specials consisting of homemade sandwiches and oven - baked chicken, it attracted many hungry tourists who also had the opportunity to spend the evening at the business camping facilities offered at no expense. A gas and oil service station were included for those who may have been on their way to a more distant location. Marion Nall started this unique combination of services set among stately oaks offering a quiet country setting. The original building not only housed a bar and a restaurant, but also served as a home to the operators. It didn't take long for this wayside to become an identifiable

spot for travelers heading through Plover and Stevens Point. Near the end of the war, the tourist season seemed to grow along with the restaurant, whose service was becoming more extensive, hence the term "supper club".



Post war booming the 40's and 50's came rather quickly. It was in those years changes were made to the wayside restaurant which helped identify the present Sky Club. In 1950 an innovative self-service, all - you - can - eat salad bar, believed to be the first ever was introduced. It became an identifying benchmark of the Sky Club. Around this time, the slogan, "Heavenly Food Served by Angels" was introduced, and is said to have been started by Tom Leach, a part - time owner/customer in the early 1940's. The restaurant's history of owners, in order is: George Armstrong '35 Marion Nall '40 Louie Jacobs, John Rocco, Louie and Evelyn Schnittger '50 and finally, in 1961, John Freund. Freund, from Neenah purchased the restaurant and operated it until 1965, but died suddenly. It was then his sons, Doug and Terrol who purchased the restaurant and took over where their father left off. In May of 1966, another son Dennis, fresh out of the Air Force,

joined his brothers in the business. Age was their only asset, but in no time, the business was on its way to success. In 1969, Doug decided to pursue other interests, and left the Sky Club. In late November, the restaurant dealt with a severe setback from a fire forcing the business to close until June, 1970. Dennis and Terry responded to the challenge and rebuilt the restaurant again. With the help of loyal customers, dedicated employees, and a few years' time, an additional dining room was added in 1979. In order to do this, the owner's home located next to the business was moved. Additions were added in 1981 and in 1994. With tremendous pride, the Freund's are able to look back at the history of their business. Dennis Freund retired in the summer of 1999 and Terry Freund retired to his other restaurant "Headwaters" in Boulder Junction Wisconsin in the summer of 2007, passing the tradition down to his two son's Patrick and Eric. The Freund's continue the tradition of the Sky Club and want to thank our past and present patrons and employees, for helping us make the first years successful...

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>> WOLF RIVER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

for legendary swamp bucks. For anglers, the old oxbows hold solid populations of bowfins (also called dogfish, grinnel and lawyers). It is a prehistoric fish that has not evolved much since the Jurassic period. Bowfins are known to be one of the hardest fighters in the freshwater world pound for pound.



The pink-haired female skiers are part of a Candyland storyline. Each year the Webfooters Water Ski Club Show has a different and playful theme.

Fremont jams

The village of Fremont along the Wolf River has a population of 636. At the Buss Stop, a popular watering hole on Wolf River Drive, a sign hangs on the wall that reads, “Our town is so small we don’t have a town drunk so we all take turns.”

What is interesting is that a town of Fremont’s size has a lively music scene that rivals much bigger cities. If one were to take a listing of all of the live music in Fremont on a given weekend, then research the live music offerings in Green Bay, La Crosse, Stevens Point or Appleton, Fremont would either beat or tie them with live music.

The Fremont Chamber of Commerce does a good job keeping track all these events on their Facebook page. Just about every bar, grill, pub, tavern and campground in the Fremont area have live music on a regular basis.

Besides the music, there is the Webfooters Water Ski Show that’s been held on the river every summer since 1976. Some of their skiers have performed in Guinness Book of World Record events by being part of massive human pyramid water-ski formations. See www.webfooters.org for their schedule.

White bass frenzy


Fremont is nicknamed the “White Bass Capitol of the World.” It’s for a good reason. Every spring when the white bass run up the river, anglers stand shoulder to shoulder on the shoreline and the boat traffic is dynamic to say the least. Many anglers find it worth it. There is no limit on white bass in the state of Wisconsin. It is a good-eating fish and it is not uncommon to see anglers fill buckets and coolers. It is possible for an aggressive angler to catch enough white bass to supply a year’s worth of Friday night fish fry dinners. Local anglers even developed the Wolf River rig for white bass. It’s a set-up with a heavy sinker to get the line down fast in the Wolf’s rushing water column and there is a dropper line with tied to the main line up above the sinker. The dropper line stretches out with a fly that resembles a minnow. 🐟



- The Museum started 9 years ago
- 93+ vehicles, 78 on display (own/loan)
- Groups of all ages welcome
- Theater coming soon

The Four Wheel Drive Foundation began an expansion project 9 years ago with the acquisition of the former Topp-Stewart/Atlas Conveyor factory buildings. Through generosity of Mark Thomas, current Chairperson of the FWD Seagrave Museum, he purchased the former Atlas Conveyor property and took charge of organizing volunteers to expand the museum. In it’s 9 years, FWD Seagrave Museum became a 5.01(c)(3) non-profit. Although it is not owned by the Seagrave Fire Apparatus, it does receive support through services and materials. The FWD Seagrave Museum continues to acquire more vehicles.

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 FWD Seagrave Museum
www.fwdseagravemuseum.org





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Marshfield: The city in the center

By Katie Schimke

Marshfield, a city in Wood county, geographically lands smack-dab in the middle of Wisconsin.

Marshfield is home to Wildwood Park & Zoo—free to the public, a technical college that feeds into the University of Wisconsin system, and Upham Mansion (previous home of governor William H. Upham; now museum). It's clear that Marshfield has a vast variety of opportunities ranging from environmental aesthetics to a sound educational system. But there is an avenue that stops right off of US Highway 10, tucked on the outskirts of Marshfield that is filled with untapped marvels that you would only expect to find in big cities such as Chicago or New York—antique books, rare ones.

Owner, Kent Genteman, of KG's Unique, Rare, and Antique Books LLC, was not planning on what started out as a hobby to turn into a full-blown specialized antiquated career. Like most bibliophiles, being surrounded by books is a similar warmth to a midwesterner supper club aficionado searching for the best old fashioned to pair with a top-notch Friday night fish fry. For example, one of Kent's many books is Lewis Carroll's, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. This particular version of Alice is a first edition, published in 1872.



"Well, I grew up in Granton, Wisconsin. Which is about 30 minutes away from Marshfield. I wanted to be a vet at first. So, I'd go to these auctions to purchase vet stuff. But, I'd also buy boxes and boxes of old books," Kent says.

However, it is much more work than simply attending auctions. Garage sales were and are some of the most unbeatable venues to find editions others would overlook. Even your well versed reader might miss a copyright page that can make a price jump from tens to thousands. Or rather, it is a unique hobby. "I switched to a business degree and kept buying old books. I would sift through them, looking for the ones worth money," Kent continues, "The majority of my income is not from the store; it comes from selling on eBay. I started out just selling on eBay out of Neillsville for nine years, a total of twelve."

When asked what his favorite genre is to collect, Kent laughs a little bit—like we both

already know the answer, "Classics, of course, and American History. Anything old."

"Out of all the classics you've collected, which one sold for the highest price and what is the range of prices you have in the store?"

Kent didn't need to pause, "Jane Austen's *Pride & Prejudice*. It was an 1895 Peacock edition and sold for \$3500. At the store and on eBay I still hold a first edition of *Little Women*. Classics like these can sell for thousands or used paperback children's books for a buck or two."

If you find yourself in Marshfield, either passing through or to visit family, take time out of your day to stop at KG's Unique, Rare, and Antique Books LLC for a warm and welcoming environment. Or take a scroll through Kent's eBay page, even just to fawn over not just the decades of publications—some centuries—but to see that big city aspirations can be accomplished in the city of Marshfield, Wisconsin. 🍷



The inaugural ArtFest included the ArtFest Color Run/Walk. Participants completed a 2.5-mile course through downtown Green Bay while being doused in colorful powder.



Veterans honored during the parade at Peshtigo Historical Day, an annual event that commemorates and celebrates the great Peshtigo fire of October 8, 1871.



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Central Wisconsin Events Calendar

MAY

- 3-4 Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Show:** Central Wisconsin Convention & Expo Center, Rothschild. heartofwisconsinrocks.com
- 10 Portage County Cultural Festival:** Stevens Point Area Senior High School. portagecountyculturalfestival.org
- 17 Armed Forces Day Event:** Wausau. eaa640.com
- 24 Rib Mountain Adventure Challenge:** Wausau. ironbull.org
- 30-31 Dairyfest:** Marshfield. web.marshfieldchamber.com
- 30-1 Abby Fest:** Abbotsford
- 30-1 Thorp Dairy Days:** Thorp

FARMERS MARKETS

- Abbotsford:** Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m., May-October. 1011 E Spruce St, Abbotsford
- Marshfield:** Every other Tuesday 8 a.m.-1 p.m., June-October. Pick 'n Save Parking Lot, Marshfield
- Mosinee:** Mondays 11 a.m.-4 p.m. June-October. River Park, Mosinee
- Neillsville:** Saturdays, 8 a.m.-noon. May-October. Sniteman's Town Square, Neillsville
- Owen:** Saturdays 9 a.m.-noon. June-September. County Rd. X
- Stevens Point:** Daily (Saturdays most popular), 6:30 a.m.-5 p.m. May-October. Mathias Mitchell Public Square
- Stratford:** Wednesdays 4 p.m.-7 p.m. June-September. 402 S Weber Ave
- Wausau:** Wednesdays & Saturdays. 7 a.m. until items sold out. May-October. 200 River Drive
- Wausau:** Thursdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m. June-September. 2727 Plaza Drive
- Wisconsin Rapids:** Thursdays & Saturdays 8 a.m.-2 p.m. June-October. Downtown Wisconsin Rapids

JUNE

- 3-8 Parade of Homes:** Wausau Area Builders Association. [\\$10. wausaureabuilders.com](http://$10.wausaureabuilders.com)
- 6-7 SunDrop Dayz:** East Elizabeth Street, Shawano. sundropdayz.com
- 7-8 Pioneer Festival:** Historic Point Basse, Nekoosa. historicpointbasse.com
- 7 Old Fashioned Fest:** Wild Rose, WI. wroldfashionedfest.com
- 12-14 Brittney Saylor Bluegrass at the Lake Memorial Music Festival:** South Wood County Park, Wisconsin Rapids. bluegrassatthelake.com
- 14 Solstice Summit:** Granite Peak Ski Area, Wausau. ironbull.org
- 19-22 Cranberry Blossom Festival:** Wisconsin Rapids. blossomfest.com
- 20-22 Wittenberg Community Days:** Washington Park, Wittenberg

JULY

- 3-5 Riverfront Rendezvous:** Pfiffner Pioneer Park, Stevens Point. stevenspoint.com/RR
- 3-5 Midwestern Rodeo:** Manawa. manawarodeo.org
- 10-12 Iola Car Show:** Iola. iolaoldcarshow.com
- 11-12 Taste N Glow Balloon Festival:** Wausau
- 11-13 Neillsville Heritage Days:** Schuster Park, Neillsville. neillsville-wi.com/heritage-days/
- 12 ShawanoFest:** Downtown Shawano. shawanodowntown.com
- 17-20 Portage County Fair:** Amherst Fairgrounds. amherstfair.com
- 17-20 Wisconsin State Water Ski Show Championships:** Lake Wazeecha, Wisconsin Rapids. aquaskiers.org
- 18-20 Colby Cheese Days:** Colby. abbycolbychamber.com
- 24-26 Hub City Days:** Downtown Marshfield. mainstreetmarshfield.com

AUGUST

- 1-3 Scandinavia Corn Roast Weekend:** Scandinavia
- 6-10 Clark County Fair:** Neillsville. clarkcountymi.gov
- 8-10 Abbotsford First City Days:** Red Arrow Park, Abbotsford
- 8-10 Rib Lake Ice Age Days:** McComb Ave, Rib Lake. riblakewisconsin.com
- 15-16 Big Bull Falls Blues Fest:** Isle of Fern Parks, Wausau. wausauevents.org
- 16 25th Annual Ride to Remember:** The Highground, Neillsville
- 19-24 Central Wisconsin State Fair:** Marshfield. centralwisconsinstatefair.com
- 21-24 Loyal Corn Fest:** Various locations in Loyal
- 22-24 Edgar Steam Show:** Edgar. edgarsteamshow.com
- 23 Rockabilly Car Show & Pinup Contest:** Rivers Edge Campground, Stevens Point. bullheadsbargrill.com



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Brown County offers History Days in May

By MMC staff

The Brown County Federation of History Organizations will host their History Days event May 12-17, 2025.

Explore Brown County's history during the annual event with a week of free programs.

The public is invited to check out a slate of exciting and diverse events presented by expert staff in unique historical environments.

Participating organizations include Ashwaubenon Historical Society, Bay Area Genealogical Society, Brown County Historical Society, Brown County Library, Green Bay & De Pere Antiquarian Society, Green Bay Diocese Museum, Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame, Heritage Hill State Historical Park, Historic Allouez Society, Howard Suamico Historical Society, National Railroad Museum and Neville Public Museum.



Monday, May 12 National Railroad Museum

The Paris-Lyon-Mediterranee 40 & 8 Box Car:
A Little Car with a Big Story, 1-2 p.m.

Learn about how the Museum's 40 & 8 Box Car was part of a greater human story during two World Wars and its eventual gift to the American people as the French expressed their gratitude after World War II.

National Railroad Museum - 2285 S. Broadway, Green Bay

Brown County Library - Local History and Genealogy/ Green Bay De Pere Antiquarians
De Pere of Yesteryear - Book Talk by Mary Kay Milquet, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Author Mary Kay Milquet recently published the third volume of *De Pere of Yesteryear*. She will share interesting stories about the early days of De Pere and the people that called it home.

Brown County Library: Kress Family Branch - 333 N. Broadway, De Pere

Tuesday, May 13 Neville Public Museum

Dino Discovery Tour, 5-6 p.m.

Take a tour with our Education Specialist through our traveling exhibit Darwin and Dinosaurs. Learn about teeth, claws and the Bone Wars. Space is limited and pre-registration is REQUIRED. Register at browncountywihistory.com/historydays
Neville Public Museum - 210 Museum Pl., Green Bay

Historic Allouez Society

Early History of Transportation in Wisconsin, 6:30-8 p.m.

Jim Willaert, curator at the Wade House Historic Site in Greenbush, Wis. will explain how technological advancements brought significant changes to the way we lived, worked and traveled in Northeastern Wisconsin during the late 19th century.

Allouez Village Hall - 1900 Libal St., Green Bay

Wednesday, May 14

Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame

Green Bay Packers Collection Art Tours, 4-6 p.m.

Enjoy a 30-minute Art Tour exploring a portion of the "Green Bay Packers Collection" art installation. Featured throughout the halls of historic Lambeau Field, tour guides will provide insight about the artists, their pieces, and their relationship to Packers history.

Lambeau Field - 1265 Lombardi Ave., Green Bay

Green Bay Diocese Museum

The Building of the Green Bay Cathedral (1876-1881) & Subsequent Changes Inside and Out, 6-8 p.m.

This exhibit covers the building of the St. Francis Xavier Cathedral (dedicated in 1881). It includes artifacts used in the early years of the Cathedral, as well as exhibits on topics such as: the religious orders that served in the Diocese during those years, the various lay societies, the social programs developed and supported by the Diocese, and the outreach to our military during WWI and WWII.

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral - 140 S. Monroe Ave., Green Bay



Thursday, May 15

Ashwaubenon Historical Society/ Bay Area Genealogical Society

Genealogy Resources in Brown County & Northeastern Wisconsin, 1-3 p.m.

The Bay Area Genealogical Society, who is celebrating their 50th Anniversary in 2025, will do a presentation on genealogy resources that are available in Brown County and Northeastern Wisconsin. Discover what is available locally and what is available online that can help you in your family history research, including what you can find at the Ashwaubenon Historical Society.

*Ashwaubenon Historical Society -
936 Anderson Dr., Green Bay*

Brown County Historical Society

Postcard Views of Green Bay, 6:30-8 p.m.

Join us for a night of photographs from our digital archives. In 1910, Harry and John Bethe began capturing Green Bay's sites to promote their new photography business. These images were made into postcards and then sold to the public. Come learn about the images captured



by the Bethe Brothers' camera lens. This event will take place at the National Railroad Museum.

*National Railroad Museum - 2285 S. Broadway,
Green Bay*

Friday, May 16

National Railroad Museum

The Paris-Lyon-Mediterranee 40 & 8 Box Car: A Little Car with a Big Story, 1-2 p.m.

Learn about how the Museum's 40 & 8 Box Car was part of a greater human story during two World Wars and its eventual gift to the American people as the French expressed their gratitude after World War II.

*National Railroad Museum - 2285 S. Broadway,
Green Bay*

Saturday, May 17

Heritage Hill State Historical Park

The History and Development of Heritage Hill State Historical Park, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Join longtime Heritage Hill employees and supporters for a presentation on the site's history, from Green Bay State Reformatory orchards to a historical park in 1977. Afterward, take a brief walking tour to compare the original park plans with the Heritage Hill you enjoy today!

*Heritage Hill State Historical Park - 2640 S.
Webster Ave., Green Bay*

Howard Suamico Historical Society

The One Room School House, 2-4 p.m.

Take a seat in the restored Tremble School House and enjoy a program by Carol Bartlien, a member of the Wabeno Area Players. Carol's programs focus on one room schools and the importance of the community involvement in them. Carol attended the Tremble school as a child.

Ancestry Acres - 12787 Velp Ave., Green Bay

For more information, visit
browncountywihistory.com 

Forst Inn sets the stage for a busy 2025 season

By Janelle Fisher



At any given time, there may be two or even three shows in production at the Forst Inn.

The Forst Inn is preparing to launch its 2025 performance season packed with 12 shows — a number which far exceeds most typical community theater lineups.

“We have this space and we like to keep it busy,” said Forst Inn Executive Director Michael Sheeks. “Over the course of our season, which runs from March through December, we do about 12 fully staged pieces... That’s a little bit different — traditional amateur community theaters will typically have three, four, maybe five shows in a season.”

This year, the Forst Inn has plans to put on *Alice By Heart*, opening March 29; *A Doll’s House*, opening April 26; *Guys on Ice*, opening May 13; *The Revolutionists*, opening May 24; *Blithe Spirit*, opening Aug. 9; *Swing!*, opening Sept. 6; *And Then There Were None*, opening Oct. 4; *Sweeney Todd*, opening Nov. 1; and *A Musings Sherlock Holmes*, opening Dec. 6.

“Our goal is to do a balance of shows that people might not see someplace else,” Sheeks said. “We’re looking to kind of push the envelope around and see what we can do that will still have some audience. We like to do some kind of classic play every year... Then we usually do a couple of musicals and lately we’ve been doing a kind of horror show in the fall.”

In addition to producing shows audiences may not have seen before, the Forst Inn will also be producing a handful of never-before-seen shows this summer.

“We want to sort of expand the experiences of our audience,” he said. “This summer, we’re doing a new play festival, so we’ve got three new works — a new musical and two plays — that we’ll be producing as a part of that. That’s a growing part of what we like to do.”

These new works — *Broken Hill* by Jim Lundy, *Hellbent* by Kim Ruyle and *Throwing Stones at the Sun* by Jace Seavers — will be presented throughout June and July.

“There’s a lot of things that I’m pretty excited about at the moment,” Sheeks said. “I’m particularly excited that in our new play series that happens in June and July, there’s a piece that is a new musical and it’s called *Throwing*

Stones at the Sun. It’s a musical comedy about the Spanish Inquisition. It’s funny and has really good music with a kind of jazz flavor. The overall vibe of the show is a little bit Monty Python. It’s a new work and it’s in pretty good shape so I’m excited about casting that and seeing if we can make that a polished new work.”

With a robust lineup of shows set for 2025, Sheeks said it isn’t uncommon for two or more shows to be in various stages of production at the same time.

“It’s a busy place out here,” he said. “For instance, right at this moment our first show, *Alice by Heart*, is into their initial music



The Forst Inn is located in Tisch Mills in Kewaunee County.




When picking shows, the Forst Inn tries to find a balance between shows people will be interested in seeing and shows they may not have the opportunity to see elsewhere.

and movement rehearsals. *A Doll's House* had an early dramaturgical rehearsal, but really won't start rehearsing until later. And then *The Revolutionists*, which is our third show, is in the process of auditioning. At any given moment, there's usually at least two, possibly three shows that are in some form of preparation for performance. Our long-term goal is to build an additional facility on our grounds but in the meantime, because we have the pub and we have a pretty big building, we're able to have multiple rehearsals happening at the same time... Of course we have a production calendar where we try to organize all that. And over the course of the year, we have 70 different actors and production artists involved in producing these shows."

And it's those people, Sheeks said, that make the Forst Inn and its upcoming season possible.

"In any given community, you have a certain number of people who could have been professionals, had they decided they wanted to live that lifestyle," he said. "But it's a tough lifestyle. A lot of people do their training — they go and study theater and study music — and they get done with that and they realize, 'I don't want that life,' and so they end up working in a more traditional business environment and a more

traditional career. But they still have that passion. Those are the people that make amateur theaters work."

Learn more about the Forst Inn and its 2025 season, including dates and ticket information for upcoming shows, at forstinn.org. 



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The Redgranite Quarry is a sight to see

By Hayley Sroka

Those near and far always look forward to visiting the Redgranite Quarry. The popular summertime attraction for residents as well as the visitors

of Waushara County is open for hiking, fishing and swimming.

Discovery of red granite at the quarry site in the 1880's sparked a mining boom that

brought skilled stonecutters from Europe to settle in the area. Granite paving blocks from the quarry were used in streets as far as Chicago. This is how the Village of Redgranite got its namesake.

The Redgranite Quarry was closed in the 1920s after concrete and asphalt became popular for paving. Now the Redgranite Quarry is a 6-acre lake with depths reaching over 100 feet!

Quarry visitors are allowed to swim at their own risk as there are no lifeguards on duty. Diving clubs can often be found at the quarry as it is one of the best clear water diving spots in the Upper Midwest. Fishing remains a popular pastime since various species of fish have been stocked in the quarry throughout the years. Whether fishing or ice-fishing, enjoy a peaceful time catching Panfish or Largemouth Bass. The quarry also attracts kayakers and hikers. Families can enjoy a picnic with a view and a walking trail suitable for all ages.

In 1995, the quarry was designated a Village of Redgranite Park, located on the north side of State Highway 21 behind the local post office.



East Central Wisconsin Events Calendar



In the summer of 2008, the land around the quarry underwent an extensive cleanup to make the location even more attractive for visitors.

The newly formed Quarry Committee has been meeting monthly and has been adding improvements to the park. In 2024 the quarry committee also hosted their second annual Fall Harvest Festival and looks forward to bringing it back in 2025. All proceeds from their events will go to quarry trail improvements.

Redgranite's local businesses welcome quarry visitors with open arms. Stop by for a cup of coffee at Dauntless Coffee, which just had its grand opening in March. Their menu features the perfect refreshments to cool off after a day of swimming. Coffee House Realty is another great spot to find delicious sandwiches, baked goods and hot or cold coffee. Elmer's Pizza is a great spot to share a pizza with your friends. Each of these businesses is conveniently located next to or just across the street from the Quarry.

The Redgranite Quarry will continue to attract visitors near and far as the centerpiece of the little village.

The Redgranite Quarry Park is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week. 🇺🇸

MAY

- 2 **Spring Shopping Days:** Clintonville
- 2 **First Friday Art:** Algoma
- 3 **Run for Roses Wine Walk:** Green Bay
- 3 **Downtown Oshkosh Spring Wine Walk:** Oshkosh
- 9-11 **May Festival:** New London
- 16 **Spring Cruise Car Show:** Clintonville
- 26 **Memorial Day Parade and Pork Roast:** American-Legion Park, downtown Iola.

JUNE

- 1 **Wolf River Car and Craft Show,** 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Hatten Park, New London
- 6-7 **SunDrop Dayz:** Shawano
- 7 **Mobfest:** Bear Creek
- 14 **Brillion Fest,** 130 Calumet Street, Brillion
- 14 **Rhubarb Fest:** Therm Farm, New London
- 14 **Roofing of the Goats Parade and Festival:** Sister Bay. sisterbay.com
- 15 **Wautoma Father's Day Car Show:** 8:30 a.m.- 3 p.m. Waushara County Fairgrounds
- 21 **Strawberry Fest:** Downtown Waupaca
- 27-29 **Fremont River Days:** Downtown Fremont. fremontriverdeck.com
- 27-29 **Oneida Pow Wow:** Norbert Hill Center, Oneida
- 29 **2nd annual Ponytail Classic Car Show:** Waupaca

FARMERS MARKETS

Algoma: Sundays, Fremont and Lake intersection, June-October

Shawano: Saturdays, 8 a.m.-noon. Franklin Park, 235 S. Washington St., from June-October.

Clintonville: Thursdays, 2-6 p.m. Community Center parking lot from June-October.

Waupaca: Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 102 E. Fulton St. Mid-May to end of October.

JULY

- 10-12 **Iola Car Show:** Iola, iolaoldcarshow.com
- 12 **Belgian Days:** Brussels Town Park, Brussels.
- 12 **Shawano Fest:** 10 a.m.- 3 p.m., Downtown Shawano, shawanodowntown.com
- 17-20 **Pulaski Polka Days:** Community Park, Pulaski. pulaskipolkadays.com
- 17-20 **Portage County Fair:** Amherst Fairgrounds. amherstfair.com
- 21 **Strawberry Fest:** Waupaca
- 26-27 **Tastes and Tunes:** Iola-Scandinavia, ischamber.com
- 27 **Shawano Art Fair:** Mielke Arts Center, Shawano

AUGUST

- 1 **Bonduel Corn Roast,** 5-10 p.m., Village Park
- 1-3 **Scandinavia Corn Roast Weekend,** www.scandinaviacornroast.com
- 8-10 **Shanty Days Celebration of the Lake,** Algoma
- 8-10 **Shawano Folk Music Festival:** Mielke Arts Center, Shawano. shawanofestival.org
- 9 **Rock N Corn Festival,** New London, rockncornfestival.com
- 13-17 **Brown County Fair:** De Pere. browncountyfair.com
- 16 **Shawano Airport Fly-In & Car Show,** Shawano Airport 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.
- 16 **Cecil-Washington Fireman's Fest,** 1-11 p.m. Cecil-Washington Fire Station
- 16 **Soar on the Shore Kite and Beach Festival,** 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. Crescent Beach, Algoma visitalgomawi.com/soar
- 17-20 **Portage County Fair,** Amherst, amherstfair.com
- 21-23 **Bluegrass in the Pines Festival,** Rosholt Fair Park
- 20-24 **Waupaca County Fair,** Waupaca County Fairgrounds
- 27-31 **Shawano County Fair,** Shawano County Fairgrounds

Love is Main Ingredient at Sweet Chatchaya Bakery in Horicon

By Clarice Case

Had Chatchaya Pagelsdorf never moved to America, she may never have realized her true passion for baking.

Chatchaya grew up on a family farm in Udon Thani, near the border of Laos in Thailand, with her mother, father, and older sister.

Her family grew various fruits and vegetables, jasmine rice and cared for some animals, but shared they don't do as much since her dad passed away.

She left the farm to attend college and begin working until she traveled to Bangkok to attend the university there. Chatchaya graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration.

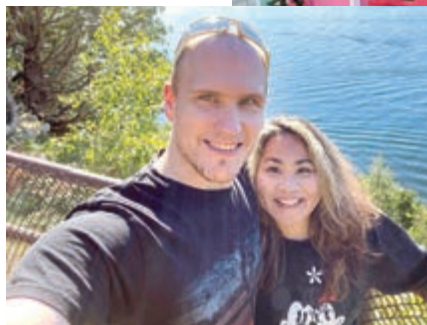
From Bangkok, she went to Japan where she worked for three years before returning to Thailand where she worked for several more years.

It was during her time back in Thailand in 2016 that a friend convinced Chatchaya to create an online dating profile on OKCupid. It was through the dating website that Chatchaya met Ash, her husband.

After four months of getting to know each other, Ash asked Chatchaya on a date that would require him to get a passport and travel to Thailand to meet her for the first time. The couple spent the month of February together in 2017 traveling the country and meeting Chatchaya's family, friends and co-workers.

"It was an amazing wake-up for me coming from the U.S. to a complete Asian tourist country," recalled Ash. "It had so many people there from all over the world. In a mall, you could hear maybe 15-20 languages being spoken at once."

Ash and Chatchaya got engaged when Ash returned to Thailand in November 2017 with a ring. Most of the couple's engagement would



Owners Ash and Chatchaya Pagelsdorf opened Sweet Chatchaya in Horicon around the beginning of February 2025.

be spent apart as Chatchaya did not receive a K1-Visa to travel to the U.S. until March 2019.

"We had to get married in 90 days and were looking for something simple yet a bit fancy," said Ash, once Chatchaya arrived. "The Open Door Coffeehouse in Mayville is a wonderful non-profit that has women's groups and other events and meetings. I saw that people could rent the place and asked them if we could have our wedding here — they said sure!" This was fitting for the couple as Chatchaya loves espresso and they enjoy checking out different coffee shops.

Ash added, "This is where we also met Amanda from Bo's Heavenly Clubhouse, another loving non-profit group helping the community."

"I met Ash and Chatchaya on the day of their wedding when they got married at the Open Door Coffeehouse in Mayville. I just happened to be walking in for a coffee that day. Little did I know that I would be attending the wedding of who I would consider very dear friends of mine later in life," said Amanda Hartwig, President of Bo's Heavenly Clubhouse. "Years down the road, It has been such a blessing to be able to call on them and have this beautiful friendship between all of us! We are so grateful to be able to have



While Chatchaya's baked goods and coffee are the main attraction, a phone booth inside the bakery is a fun surprise for visitors.

such awesome friends. Chatchaya is so very gifted and dedicated to making a difference in her community. Ash is a phenomenal support to his beautiful wife, making all of her dreams come true, even down to the little details within the shop! I'm so proud of both of them and I'm so grateful to have them in our lives!"

Following the wedding, Chatchaya had to wait nine months to receive a social security number, meaning she could not work. She took the time to adjust to her new life, a new city and new people.

Chatchaya had few worries regarding her move to a new country, noting being unable to work as one of her biggest concerns.

"I am never homesick because I talk all the time to my family on Facebook," said Chatchaya. She also says there are many Thai people here, and Thai food is easy to find. She also has Ash to go to whenever she needs him.

Chatchaya surprisingly prefers the cold weather, too, as Thailand is hot.

It was during this adjustment period that Chatchaya became interested in baking. She had never baked or used an oven before coming to the U.S., as it wasn't common in her country, and was eager to try after watching Ash cook and bake at home.

"The first time I made a cake in the rice cooker," said Chatchaya.

From there she began watching YouTube videos and following along to learn more about baking. She also got assistance and tools from Ash and his mother.

Chatchaya started out sharing her creations with Ash and family and then co-workers and friends to see what they thought.

"She started to make her style desserts and experimenting with American style. She started making cookies and cupcakes," explained Ash. "Her style is from scratch, no box mixes, and Thailand and Japan flavors — flavors from fruit, not too artificial."

"Normally, I like to make cupcakes or cakes, but macarons I didn't like before because I thought it was too much work," shared Chatchaya. "Now, it is my favorite thing. It's easy for me."

Light, fruity, not too sweet, and creamy are some of the elements that Chatchaya says she incorporates into her desserts from Asia.

After building her confidence baking for those close to her, Chatchaya earned the opportunity to share her treats with more people at the Horicon Farmers Market.

"Two years ago, Ash approached me about having Chatchaya sell her baked goods at the market. I met Ash about five years prior, so I knew who they were and said yes without hesitation because of the unique offering she had with her macarons," said Liz Darner, an organizer of the market. "They attend



Sweet Chatchaya offers cookies, muffins and macarons, as pictured, along with so much more!

the market every Wednesday, May through October. This kind of consistency is one of the keys to a vendor's success. They deserve all the credit — they work so hard, they are personable and they have such wonderful offerings with new items often."

"The love the community showed her and continues to show her is amazing. I am so proud of what she has accomplished," said Ash. "Her reach continues to shock me when she finds out how far people travel for her."

Capitalizing on the success at the farmers market, Chatchaya eventually took up baking full-time and opened her brick-and-mortar

bakery, Sweet Chatchaya, in downtown Horicon at the end of January 2025.

She continues to offer a variety of macarons, cakes and cupcakes, in addition to muffins, cinnamon rolls and more made from scratch. She is also making specialty drinks to be enjoyed with her baked goods, which fulfills the desire she had in Bangkok to open her own coffee shop.

"People are really loving her style and now she has begun to include authentic Thai food for lunch and soon some Japan-style food in our to-go case," Ash shared. "Her authentic Thai flavors and heat put a bit of shock out there where people say it has a kick to it, but it is so good."

"I want to say thank you to all the citizens of Dodge County and the surrounding area for supporting me on this bakery journey," said Chatchaya. "I look forward to my bakery shop becoming a staple location for many people's events."

To satisfy that sweet tooth, visit Sweet Chatchaya, located at 311 E Lake Street, Horicon, or you can order online at sweetchatchaya.com. Chatchaya and Ash can also be contacted by phone at 920-318-2771 or by email at letsbake@sweetchatchaya.com.

You're Invited!










visitportwashington.com

Kewaskum/Southern Wisconsin Events Calendar

MAY

- 3-4 Wiscopex Postage Stamp Show:** Radisson Inn and Conference Center, Fond du Lac. wiscstamps.org/WISCOPEX/
- 9-11 28th Horicon Marsh Bird Festival:** Horicon Marsh. horiconmarshbirdclub.com/bird-festival/
- 16-17 Ice Show 2025:** Beaver Dam. swancityskaters.com
- 31-1 SunDrop Dayz:** East Elizabeth Street, Shawano

JUNE

- 1 Art on the Island:** Lakeside Park, Fond du Lac. dl.com/event/art-on-the-island/
- 13-15 Wisconsin Arts & Peony Festival:** Beaver Dam. visitbeaverdam.com
- 14 Taste of Wisconsin:** Beaver Dam. beaverdamchamber.com/taste-of-wisconsin/
- 23-25 Celebrate Waupun:** Waupun. waupunfestivals.com/1698/custom/66281

JULY

- 16-20 Fond du Lac County Fair:** Fond du Lac. fonddulacountyfair.com

AUGUST

- 13-17 Dodge County Fair:** Beaver Dam. dodgecountyfairgrounds.com

FARMERS MARKETS

- Beaver Dam:** Saturdays 8 a.m.-noon. May-October. 225 S. Spring Street.
- Campbellsport:** Sunday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. June-October. Dundee Farmers & Crafters Market, N3019 Hwy 67.
- Horicon:** Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m. May-October. Kiwanis Park.
- Kewaskum:** Thursdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. May-September. American Legion, Kewaskum.

The Waterboard Warriors perform on the Fox River at Fire Over the Fox.



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Chad Marquardt
chad@everestcustomhomes.com

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