

Appleton

October 2025

Monthly



**BEST
BURGERS**

It's
**FALL
FAVES**

+
Halloween
Bits

HAUNTINGLY *Delicious* DESSERTS!



ONLY AT DQ

BLIZZARD OF THE MONTH

New!

OREO Reese's

Blizzard of the Month

ON GAME DAYS

DQ NOVELTY
10 PACKS
BECOME
12 PACKS!

STOCK UP!

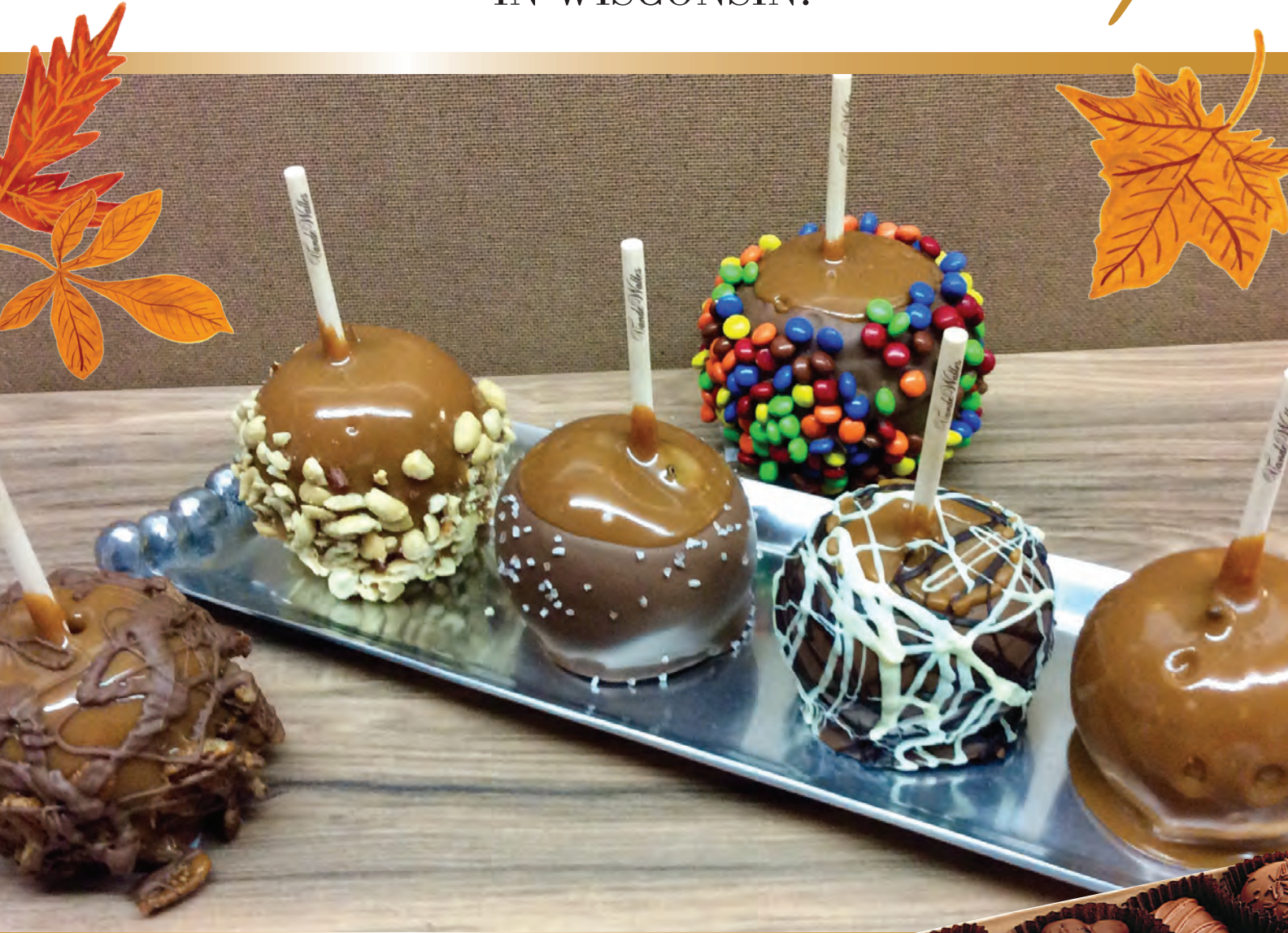
OFFER GOOD ON GAME DAYS:
October 12, 19, 26
November 2, 10, 16, 23
December 7, 14, 20



OPEN DAILY AT 11

2000 S. ONEIDA STREET 920-738-6109 / 1813 N. RICHMOND STREET 920-739-6109

AWARDED
Best Chocolate Shop
IN WISCONSIN!



VandeWalle's.

CANDIES

400 Mall Drive, Appleton | 920.738.7799
(Just South of the Fox River Mall)

www.vandewallescandies.com





ROBERT MARC NYC

Decidedly classic with modern energy, the new collection is instantly ICONIC.



4155 N. Galaxy Dr. Suite 101
Appleton, WI 54913
Phone (920)993-0790
Fax (920)993-0791
www.faceseyewear.com

FOUNDER/PUBLISHER

Jon Croce

SENIOR EDITOR

Tim Froberg

FOOD EDITOR

Jenni Eickelberg

COPY EDITOR

Jim Collar

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Holly Boettcher, Carly Cerniglia, Jim Collar, Abby Draper, Jenni Eickelberg, Tim Froberg, Angela Halderson, Jenny Jakl, Steve Johnson, Marissa Laird, Joel Laper, Casey Marion, Dr. Seth Oberschlake, Anneth Ortega, Jason Patzer, Sarah Peterson, Tyler Sjostrom, John Van Den Brandt

SENIOR DESIGNER

Rachelle Hansen

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Kelsey Welch

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Jon Croce

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Greg Doyle
Scott Mikulic
Patti Roberts

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Carly Cerniglia
Debbie Daanen Photography

BUSINESS MANAGER

Dean V. Pallex, CPA

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Mackenzie Valentine

DISTRIBUTION DIRECTOR

Jon Croce

INQUIRIES / QUESTIONS

Jon Croce
920.707.0013
jcroce@appletonmonthly.com



Member FDIC
www.anbfc.bank
920.739.1040

MORE THAN A BANK. WE'RE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

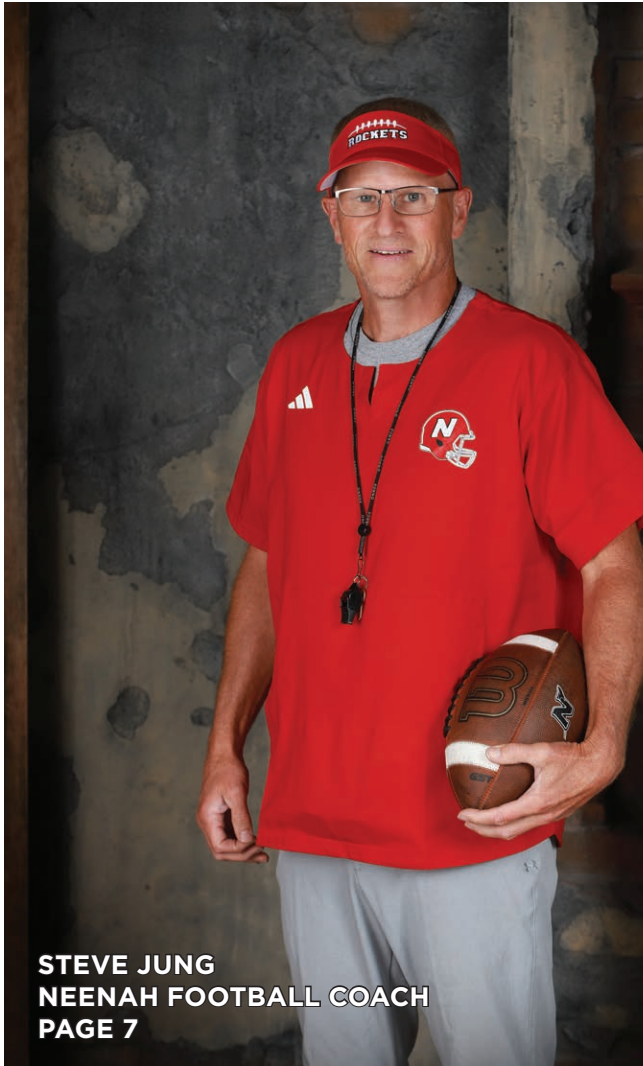
Every dollar you deposit is a seed planted in local soil. When you bank with us, your money doesn't travel to distant towers—it stays right here, supporting local businesses, funding community projects, and strengthening the place we all call home.

Local money. Local impact. Local pride.



Appleton Monthly is an independent publication and is locally owned. Published by Monthly Media, P.O. Box 2705 Appleton, Wisconsin 54912, 920.707.0013. All rights reserved. Reproduction or use without permission of editorial or pictorial content in any manner is prohibited. *Appleton Monthly* is printed in the State of Wisconsin, USA.

APLOCT



STEVE JUNG
NEENAH FOOTBALL COACH
PAGE 7



ARTS & CULTURE,
PAGE 30



COFFEE CULTURE,
PAGE 54

7
VOICE
Steve Jung
Neenah
Football Coach
Bits N' Pieces
Business & Finance
Check Fraud
Healthy Living
Upfront
Andy Wilson
Good Stuff

21
TODAY
Fall Faves
Arts & Culture
Ger De La Teja
Music Vibes
Great Reads
Movies
Bravo
Smile!
The Scene
Sports Page

43
TASTE
Best Burgers
Charlie's Drive-In
Chef's Table
Cowboy Burgers
Coffee Culture
Carly's Pastries
Caramel Nut
Roll Brains
Wine & Dine
Food & Drink

60
MORE
Southbound
Bye Bye Birdie
House & Home
Design &
Decorating
Fall Candles
Gear & Gadgets
Pet Care
In the Garden
One More Thing



HOUSE & HOME,
PAGE 68

A DESTINATION HOME & GARDEN CENTER!



VISIT THE ULTIMATE HOME DECOR SHOWROOM

Inspiring home gifts to celebrate the season in our 16,000 square foot showroom.

THE PERFECT FALL ROAD TRIP!




Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
Sat 9am-5pm
Sun 10am-4pm

N6625 HWY 57
Plymouth, WI
920.893.8700

(2 miles north of HWY 23)
WORTH THE DRIVE!

www.wreathfactoryonline.com

 @wreathfactoryplymouth

Order it today... Pick it up tomorrow!

Ask us how.



Insta Print Plus^{INC}

DIGITAL Printing • Copies • Color Copies

534 W. Wisconsin Ave.
Appleton, WI
920.739.5218
InstaPrintPlus.com



Fall is for Family... Photos.



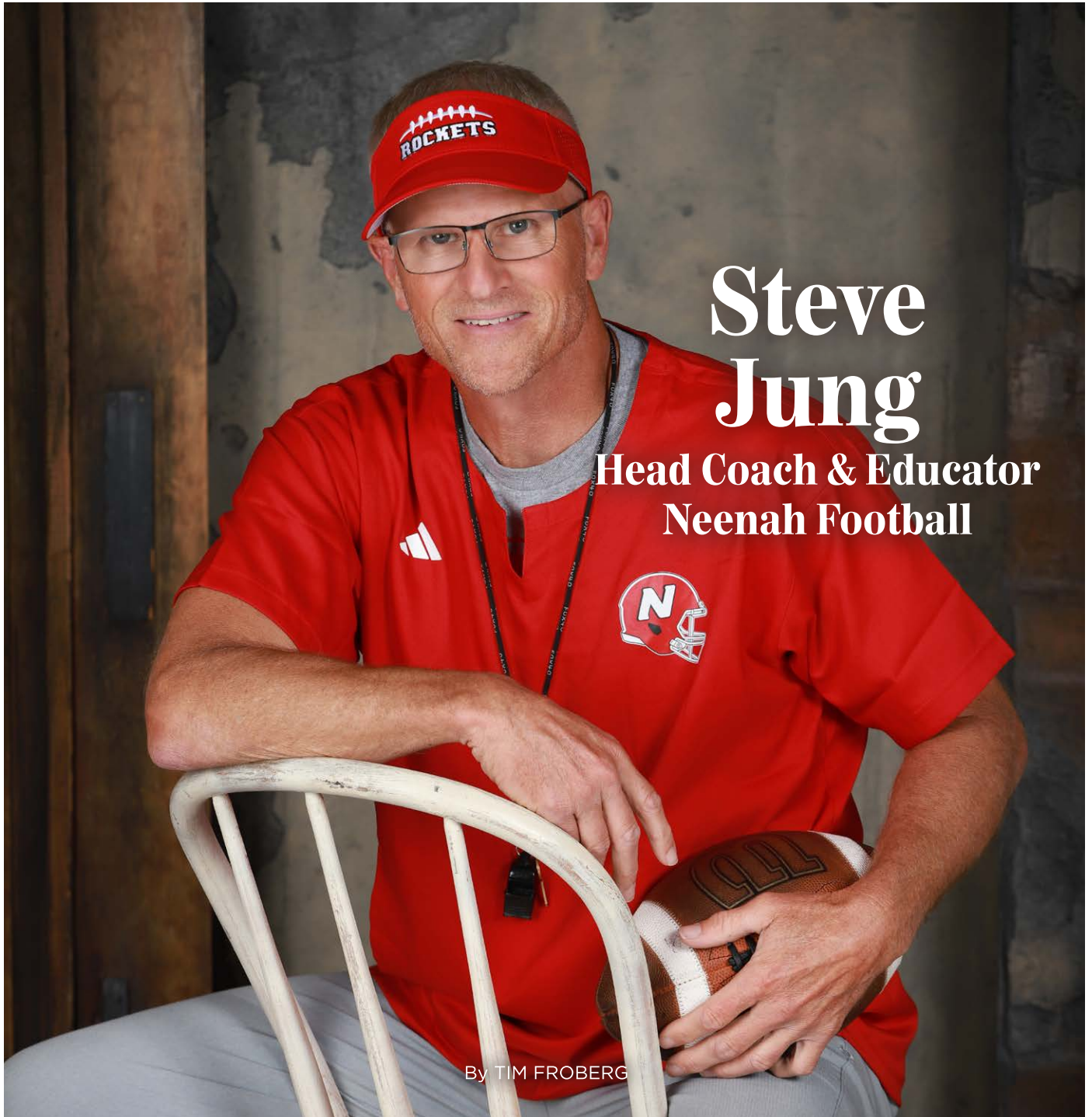
 **Debbie Daanen**
PHOTOGRAPHY

Image Makers: Debbie Daanen & Ashley Schmit

310 W. Northland Ave.
Appleton, WI 54911
920-739-3249
www.debbiedaanen.com

VOICE

BUSINESS & FINANCE 14 | HEALTHY LIVING 16 | UPFRONT 18 | GOOD STUFF 19



Steve Jung

Head Coach & Educator
Neenah Football

By TIM FROBERG

Forever Jung

FALL MEANS FOOTBALL FOR NEENAH COACH AND EDUCATOR

By TIM FROBERG

Merge atoms and molecules with X's and O's...

What you get is a day in the busy life of Steve Jung.

Football and chemistry might seem like an odd combination, but they have served Jung well.

Jung teaches the subject in high school and preaches another form of it – team chemistry – once he steps onto the football field.

Coach Jung is best known for the latter. He has coached prep football across Wisconsin for two-and-a-half decades and has a knack for turning long-struggling programs into winning ones.

Take his impressive work at Neenah High School. Prior to Jung's arrival as head coach in 2013, the Rockets were a sleeping giant: a big school that had been bullied on the gridiron with a 7-38 record and no playoff appearances in the previous five years.

It was then that Jung the chemist went to work and found a winning formula. Gradually, he transformed the lightweight program into an area power. The Rockets have posted a 29-9 record (entering October) for the past three years, with two Level 3 playoff appearances and a Level 2 playoff game.

It's a chemical explosion the Neenah sports community has welcomed. And it's not the first time Jung has resurrected a snoozing football program. He did similar work earlier throughout his prep coaching career at Waukesha North and Wausau East.

A standout player himself at Neenah, Coach Jung went on to Lawrence University where he landed Division 3 all-American honors as a defensive back in 1989, and now, his life is full-throttle football in the fall. When he's not coaching the game on Friday nights, Jung and his wife, Wendy, can usually be found in the bleachers at a distant college watching one of their four sons play.

"Football to me is the greatest team sport," praises Jung. "There are so many components that need to come together to have success."

THE WINNING TOUCH

Jung (pronounced 'Young') has made those components come together as a football coach for the past 25 years, including more than 15 as a varsity





coach and the last 12 at his alma mater. He almost didn't take the Neenah job after revitalizing an underachieving Wausau East program in his two seasons (2011-2012) as the Lumberjacks' head coach.

"Neenah wasn't very good at the time, and I had just taken over a program at Wausau East that was kind of similar, but had started to turn things around," says Jung, a 1986 Neenah graduate where he excelled in football and track and field. "I thought, 'Gosh, do I want to go backwards?' I really struggled with that decision."

With that, Steve sought advice from John Mielke: the highly successful boys' basketball coach and teacher at Appleton East. Jung had previously coached football and taught chemistry at East from 2000-2010 where he had become friends with Mielke.

"I called John, and he said, 'Steve don't do it, because I don't want to play basketball against your four boys for the next 10 years,'" shares Jung with a laugh.

Mielke, of course, was only joking.

"John then told me, 'Steve, you've got to do it. I moved from Antigo to Appleton, and it was the best decision I've ever made. I had a great thing going in Antigo, but coming home, there's nothing better. The job in Neenah may never open again where it coordinates with your schedule. You will regret it for the rest of your life if you don't take it.'"

So just how did Coach Jung breathe life into three wheezing football programs?

"First of all, the kids have to know that you care about them," he explains. "Another thing is you must put the time in – and it's a grind. Once the season starts, it's non-stop football – up at 4:30 every morning and going to bed at 10:30 every night."

"You also need a great staff. Bring in people that are good and that you trust. Then let them do their jobs and believe in the process."

RELATIONSHIPS MATTER THE MOST

Despite the long hours and low pay involved, Jung still finds coaching prep football to be a blast. Talk to him about coaching and it's hard for him to get through a

sentence without using the word 'fun' at least once.

"It's super fun," Jung says. "It's a big-time commitment – which is why fewer people are getting into coaching – and there is a lot of stress that comes with the role. But there are so many positives. If you do it right and hire the right coaches, it makes a big difference."

The Friday night Ws are of course rewarding and validate that he's doing a good job, but the relationships made with his players and coaching staff are what Jung treasures the most.

"The relationships you build with your kids, your coaches and your whole football family is special," Jung shares. "Getting a win is awesome because you get to share all that emotion with your kids and coaches."

"There are so many enjoyable things involved in being a coach. Simply hanging out with the kids and all the energy they have; watching them grow."

"I mean, you get to watch a kid change into a man. You get to share the highs and lows with them and all the funny moments in between."

Jung didn't become an accomplished coach overnight. He leaned on friends who were fellow coaches to help him through the tough spots.

"You need people like Dave Hinkins (long-time Xavier head coach) and Paul Nievinski (veteran Mosinee coach) who you can call for advice to help you through trials," he explains. "I've been blessed with a number of guys that helped me out a lot. Steve Jones at Kimberly was very helpful to me when I first got to Neenah."



As much as football consumes his life, Jung can't be defined as just a coach. He's been a full-time high school science teacher for years at Waukesha North, Appleton East, Wausau East and Neenah, and holds a degree in chemistry from Lawrence.

"Kids bring energy," claims Jung. "You find out that a lot of kids in the classroom are like our football players. They enjoy learning and are curious about a lot of stuff. It makes for a fun environment."

CHANGING PATHS

Jung never planned to become a football coach.

"The plan initially was to go into paper chemistry," Steve reminisces. "My girlfriend at the time who is now

Cities for a teaching and coaching job at Appleton East. The Wausau East and Neenah jobs followed.

"Waukesha North was my first opportunity to be a high school coach and teacher, and I was so excited about getting that job. I can't even remember the details of the day," Jung tells us. "I can't even remember the time of the day they called to offer me it."

MY FOUR SONS

Once the thrill – or sting – of a Friday night game is over, Coach Jung shifts into dad mode and often hits the road with Wendy to watch his sons play college football. Matt – the third oldest of the four boys – is a ball-hawking junior safety for the Wisconsin Badgers after transferring

Joe and Sam's games – often enduring a 10-hour drive to Fargo that usually started at 3 a.m. – just hours after the finish of one of Steve's Neenah games.

All four of the Jung boys were also heavily involved in basketball. Steve was excited that his sons gravitated towards athletics, but never pushed them into sports.

"It was the other way around," teases Joe Jung, who works in medical software for Epic Systems in Madison. "We were always like, 'Dad, let's go play basketball. Dad, can you throw the football to us?' He would play basketball in the driveway with us and throw footballs to us for hours."

"The fact that we all played college football, I think it was just in the



my wife (Wendy Hill, a pediatrician for ThedaCare) was going to medical school at U-W (Wisconsin). I followed her down there and got a job doing research in entomology. I was a lab technician for three years, but I missed sports and realized I wanted to be a high school teacher and coach."

Jung returned to Lawrence where he received his teaching certificate and joined the Vikings coaching staff. He accepted a teaching and coaching job at Waukesha North in 1996 when Wendy began her residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin in the Milwaukee area. Four years later, Steve and Wendy moved back to the Fox

from Bethel College where he was a division 3 first-team all-American.

Meanwhile, Luke, the youngest of the Jungs, is a freshman defensive back at the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

Matt and Luke are following in the path of Steve along with their two older brothers, Joe and Sam, who both played four years of college football. Joe was a division 3 first-team all-American defensive back at St. Norbert College while Sam was a starting free safety at Division 1-AA North Dakota State.

Steve and Wendy traveled to many of

bloodlines to be honest," Joe goes on to say. "We were always playing ball, beating each other up in the front yard. We loved it. I have been told that my first word was actually 'ball.'"

Jung is 57 and isn't sure when he will step away from coaching. But until that day arrives, he's going to enjoy every single moment of coaching.

"Even when we start the day lifting before school, I enjoy that time in the weight room," Jung said. "It's a fun part of my day because the kids and coaches bring energy. Because of that, all that hard work turns into fun work."

Tim Froberg has worked as a reporter for the Appleton Post-Crescent, Green Bay News-Chronicle, and Marinette EagleHerald. He won eight Wisconsin Newspaper Association writing awards.

Jigsaw Puzzles for Puzzlers of All Ages



THE FRAME WORKSHOP OF APPLETON, INC.

430 E NORTHLAND AVE • APPLETON, WI 54911 • (920) 731-2913
Mon–Fri 10am–6pm; Sat 10am–4pm • www.theframeworkshop.com



MATTRESS MATTRESS MATTRESS!

*Quality products at an affordable price
and family-owned since 1960.*

The  **Sleep Shop, Inc.**

1176 Lynndale Dr., Appleton | (920) 734-6388 | www.thesleepshopwi.com

By KELSEY WELCH



3000 miles

Monarch butterflies will migrate from the United States to Mexico in the fall. They will travel up to 3,000 miles to central Mexico.



Dia de los Muertos, or the "Day of the Dead", is from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2. The purpose is to honor loved ones who have passed away.



Halloween is the **second largest commercial holiday in the U.S.**, following Christmas.

Reese's Peanut Butter Cups are the top Halloween candy in the US, followed by M&M's and Snickers.



People who travel to see the vibrant leaf colors of fall are called **"leaf peepers."**



John Carpenter's 1978 horror film, **"Halloween,"** was filmed in 21 days.



Carving jack-o'-lanterns started following an Irish tradition of **carving turnips, potatoes and beets.**

NM

Northland Mall

SHOP NORTHLAND MALL

Mon-Fri 10-9, Sat 10-5, Sun 11-5
Interior only closed on Sundays

Boardlandia

China Buffet
(closed Mondays)

Cousins Subs

Get It Now

Gracie Jiu-Jitsu

H & R Block

Kohl's

Krieger Jewelers

Lovely Nails
(closed Sundays)

Mountain Bay Scuba

Papa John's Pizza

Pet Supplies Plus

**St. Patrick's
Gifts & Books**
(closed Sundays)

**Unity Dance
& Acrobatics**

*Shop Local at Your
Convenient Community
Shopping Center*

ESSENTIAL MASSAGE

First-time customers enjoy a \$10 discount—just mention this ad

Gift Certificates Available Online
For the Perfect Present
appletonmassagetherapy.com

Call Janet @ 920-636-0509

W6905 Parkview Lane
Greenville, WI 54942



Just in time for the holidays...



Olive & Rose Boutique
121 E. College Ave. Appleton, WI.

  @shopoliveandrose

STAY VIGILANT AGAINST CHECK FRAUD

By ANNETH ORTEGA, Branch Manager, American National Bank Fox Cities



Check fraud continues to be a growing concern for small businesses. Whether it's with issuing checks for payroll, paying vendors, or managing operational expenses, understanding the risks and taking proactive steps can help protect your business from financial loss and reputational harm.

Here are key practices to help you stay ahead of evolving fraud threats:

Monitor for Altered or Washed Checks

Criminals may intercept checks and use chemical solutions to “wash” the ink, allowing them to alter the payee or amount. To reduce this risk, use pens with permanent ink and avoid placing outgoing checks in unsecured mailboxes. Review cleared checks regularly to ensure they match your records.

Be Cautious of Unexpected Checks

Receiving a check in the mail that you weren't expecting — especially from an unfamiliar sender — should prompt a closer look. These checks are often part of scams designed to trick recipients into depositing

fraudulent funds and returning a portion of the money.

Watch for Urgent Requests to Deposit and Transfer Funds

Scammers often create a false sense of urgency, pressuring businesses to deposit a check and quickly send money elsewhere. Legitimate transactions rarely require immediate action without proper verification. Take time to confirm the source and purpose of any unexpected payment.

Verify Suspicious Communications

Be cautious of unsolicited calls, emails, or texts asking you to “verify” a check or account information. These messages may appear legitimate but are often phishing attempts. Always verify the source independently before sharing any sensitive details.

Educate Your Team

Your employees are a critical line of defense. Make sure they understand how to handle checks securely, recognize red flags, and follow internal protocols for financial transactions. Ongoing training can help reinforce best practices and reduce risk.

Build a Relationship with Your Bank

Community banks understand the unique challenges small businesses face. Establishing a strong

relationship with your local banking team can provide valuable insight and support when navigating fraud prevention and financial security.

By staying informed and implementing these best practices, you can significantly reduce your exposure to check fraud. Vigilance, education, and trusted partnerships are key to protecting your business and the community it serves.



Aneth, Branch Manager at American National Bank, is passionate about helping people achieve their financial goals and dedicated to sharing her knowledge with her team to help them grow in their careers. Outside of work, she enjoys hosting family gatherings, taking day trips to Door County, and traveling with her husband.

Fun fact: Aneth is bilingual! Her English and Spanish background enables her to connect with and assist a wide range of people on both a personal and professional level.



2144 W. WISCONSIN AVENUE, APPLETON
 HOURS: MONDAY-SATURDAY 10-5, CLOSED SUNDAY
 (920) 734-9332 | LULLABYESHOP.COM

LARGEST SELECTION OF CHILDREN'S FURNITURE IN WISCONSIN

In-house jewelers and certified gemologist appraiser!



theGoldsmith

920-921-3113



Creating Unique Jewelry Since 1974

Custom Designs

Same-Day Service on Most Repairs

www.thegoldsmithfdl.com



Celebrating 51 years • Fond du Lac

COLDS, FLU, AND HERBAL HELPERS FOR SUPPORT

By ANGELA HALDERSON

As the seasons shift and temperatures drop, many people brace for the arrival of cold and flu season. While these respiratory infections are common, they can leave us feeling drained, achy, and sidelined from our daily routines. The good news? Nature offers several herbal allies that may help reduce the risk of catching a cold or flu, and in some cases, may even shorten the duration and severity of symptoms.

Understanding Colds and Flu

The common cold is usually caused by rhinoviruses, while influenza stems from influenza viruses. Both spread through respiratory droplets when someone coughs, sneezes, or even talks. Symptoms overlap—congestion, sore throat, cough, fatigue, and fever—but the flu tends to hit harder and last longer. While modern medicine offers vaccines for influenza and antiviral medications for severe cases, there are supportive measures we can take to strengthen the immune system and ease discomfort naturally.

Elderberry: A Traditional Immune Ally

Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) has a long history in European folk medicine as a remedy for fevers, colds, and flu. Rich in antioxidants, especially anthocyanins, elderberry is thought to support immune function by modulating cytokine activity and reducing viral replication.

Research highlights: Several clinical trials suggest elderberry extract may reduce the duration and severity of flu-like symptoms when taken early in the course of illness. A 2019 meta-analysis found that elderberry supplementation significantly reduced upper respiratory symptoms compared to a placebo.

How to use it: Elderberry is often prepared as a syrup, lozenge, or tea.

Many families keep elderberry syrup on hand as part of their winter wellness routine.

Other Herbal Helpers for Cold and Flu Season

Echinacea: Often called the “purple coneflower,” echinacea may stimulate immune cell activity. Studies are mixed, but some show echinacea can reduce the likelihood of catching a cold when taken preventively.

Garlic: Rich in sulfur compounds like allicin, garlic has demonstrated antiviral and immune-supporting effects. Regular consumption may lower the frequency of colds.

Honey: While not an herb, honey has natural antibacterial properties and can calm coughs. Adding honey to warm herbal tea provides soothing relief.

Lifestyle Matters, Too

Herbal remedies work best when combined with foundational wellness practices. Adequate sleep,

balanced nutrition, hydration, and stress management all play essential roles in immune resilience. Regular handwashing and mindful contact with others remain the simplest and most effective methods for reducing the spread of respiratory infections.

Bringing It All Together

Colds and flu are part of life, but we’re not powerless in facing them. Elderberry stands out as a time-honored and well-studied ally, while herbs like echinacea, ginger, garlic, and soothing spices offer additional layers of support. Incorporating these botanicals into teas, syrups, and meals can be a comforting, proactive way to care for ourselves and our families during the cold months.

By weaving together herbal wisdom with everyday healthy habits, we can enter all cold-weather months feeling more prepared, supported, and resilient. Create your own elderberry elixir recipe by visiting www.strongmeridian.com/blog



Angela Halderson is the owner of Strong Meridian, a natural healthcare practice focusing on the root cause of disease. She is a dietitian trained in functional medicine, energy medicine, homeopathy and herbalism.

Come shop our
Christmas Gallery
 Beginning week of October 13

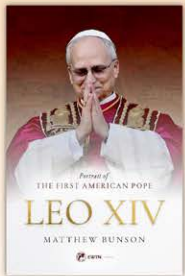
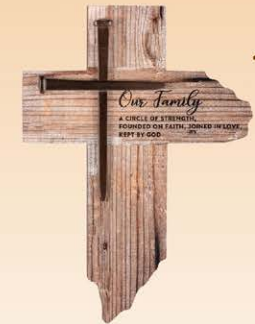
Fair Market Thrift Store
 2130 S. Memorial Drive
 Appleton

Hours:
 Tuesday thru Thursday 10-4
 Saturday 10-2

fairmarketthriftstore.com

ST. PATRICK'S
 GIFTS & BOOKS

Gifts for a Faith-filled Fall



Two-Wick Soy Candles



15% OFF
 One regular priced item with this ad
 Expires 10/31/25



Baptism • Confirmation • Home Decor • Jewelry • & more!

NOW HIRING • Sales Associate • Flexible Hours
 (920) 731-7635 • Non-Profit • Inside the Northland Mall • shop in-store or online at stpatricksgifts.com

UP FRONT

Andy Wilson

CIVIL SERVANT, HUMANITARIAN,
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR

Andy Wilson recalls getting a memorable gift from his sister several years ago.

It was a baseball cap that bore the message, "Love All, Serve All."

"I wore that hat for more than 10 years," said Wilson with a chuckle.

Wilson eventually retired the hat, but he never forgot those words.

The Waupaca native has spent most of his life working to help others.

Wilson spent two years in the Peace Corps and has made two separate trips to Guatemala to assist with humanitarian-aid projects.

He has also worked as an executive director at St. Vincent de Paul of Appleton and at two area homeless shelters: COTS of Appleton and Mission of Hope in New London.

Currently, Wilson serves as community development director at Fox Communities Credit Union where he works with area nonprofits to provide funding opportunities, support and volunteers for various community projects.

"My parents (Dan and Susan) were kind of old hippies, and they instilled in me a lot of their beliefs," shares Andy. "Like peace over violence, helping anybody that you can, giving a voice to those who don't have it and love over everything."

Wilson holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and religious studies from North Central College as well as a masters in nonprofit management from Regis University. He is bilingual and speaks fluent Spanish.

When he's away from the office, Wilson enjoys family time with his wife, Ana, and their daughter, Evelyn.

By Tim Froberg



WHAT TYPE OF WORK DID YOU DO IN GUATEMALA?

"The first time with the Peace Corps, I was there for two years to help on a lot of infrastructural projects in the communities. The second time with Pueblo a Pueblo (an organization that assists communities in Latin America) we were able to get this guy from Spain, who had invented a super-affordable inline water filtration system, to join our team and we installed the water system for the schools. We also taught the people organic farming for food security, worked on both health initiatives and a sanitation program."

WHAT WAS THAT EXPERIENCE LIKE?

"The first experience with the Peace Corps really changed the trajectory of my life. I was up in the mountains in an indigenous village where the community spoke a Mayan dialect in homes that sometimes had no running water. You would see people living on \$3 a day. It reminded me that we have the skills and knowledge to help pull people out of the cycle of poverty. Sometimes it's just in baby steps, but there is hope."

"On a personal note, that's also when I met my wife. We were on the same flight going to Guatemala. She was returning from a mission for her church."

HOW HAVE YOUR BILINGUAL SKILLS IMPACTED YOUR LIFE AND CAREER?

"I started learning Spanish my junior year in high school and it took about 10 years to really polish it. In college, I spent a semester of my junior year in Costa Rica which helped in gaining fluency. It really didn't kick in until I was living in Guatemala, but my wife, who is a Guatemalan national, would still tell her friends that I spoke Spanish like a gringo. I always felt that if I could speak two languages, I could help twice as many people. At Fox (Communities Credit Union), my language skills were one of the things that interested them because we have a lot of Spanish-speaking members and organizations."

WHAT WAS IT LIKE SERVING AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT A PAIR OF HOMELESS SHELTERS?

"The experience was incredible. We were very successful in helping people find stable housing. Like in Guatemala, you learn a lot about the human condition. You learn that people will do what they need to do to survive. They have incredible resiliency. No one wakes up one day and says, 'I want to be homeless.'"

Photo by Ashley Schmit
Debbie Daanen Photography

GOOD STUFF

By ABBY DRAPER



IL BAR COFFEEHOUSE AND BISTRO

Surrounded by the enchanting history, inspired art, warm community, and joyful sounds of diverse music in downtown Appleton, il Bar brings an eclectic coffee, wine, and food menu to every chic table at which it welcomes its guests. It's a perfect stop for a memorable coffee experience and delightful bite or flatbread as you're exploring all its surrounding, must-see sites.

<https://www.ilbarcoffee.com/appleton>



SALON ELAN

There is no better time for a "glow up" than now, as the leaves and weather turn crisp and cool to welcome fall in Wisconsin. Salon Elan's Appleton location is perfectly nestled alongside the water underneath the College Avenue bridge, in an up-and-coming area hosting residential properties, restaurants, wedding venues, yoga studios and more. Let the experienced stylists marry your inner beauty with your outer beauty with a fresh cut, wash, style, color, or those extensions you've been waiting to try!

<https://www.salonelangb.com/appleton>



RAVINES AT PEABODY PARK TRAIL

Peabody Park's array of trails in Northern Wisconsin offers breathtaking views, wild serenity, and endless perspectives of the terrain. If you wander a bit off the beaten path, you'll find trail extensions with byways that lead to stunning views of topography, shorelines, fishing holes, and panoramic looks at Telulah Park across the river.



STAR ORCHARD

Beginning in early September through the opulent season, Star Orchard offers quality, locally-grown apples and apple-picking fun. With 36 apple varieties spanned across 55 acres, guests can drive or walk through the orchard and pick until the baskets are full.

Star Orchard offers a "pay per pound" option, so there is no limit.

<https://www.starorchard.com/>



THE FIRE

The Fire in Downtown Appleton is the perfect place to find inspiration, creative outlets, and more. This quaint art studio offers people of all ages the opportunity to explore an imaginative space to bring to life everything from simple painting projects to creative mosaics or glass fusion art. No appointments are necessary when The Fire is open: Tuesday - Friday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 6 p.m.



PURE BARRE APPLETON

There's no better time for an effective, yet fun workout, and Pure Barre Appleton offers exactly that. And... your first class is free! With classes inspired by yoga, Pilates, and ballet, Pure Barre is an inspired full-body workout that excites and transforms you both physically and mentally. Each class has been thoughtfully designed to feature low-impact, high-intensity movements for any fitness level, promising to build full-body strength while having fun at the same time.

<https://www.purebarre.com/location/appleton-wi>

Welcome to one of the BEST BURGERS in town!



SERVING
Breakfast All Day!
Enjoy our homemade dishes for
breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

216 E COLLEGE AVE., APPLETON
(920) 739-8207

Mon-Sat 7am-10pm, Sun 7am-3pm

ORDER ONLINE:
gardenviewfamilyrestaurant.com



FREE DELIVERY on orders
over \$30



TURNING THE TABLES ON HUNGER



2023 MEALS SERVED: 13,356

Loaves & Fishes of the Fox Valley, Inc.
is committed to providing free nutritious
evening meals to anyone in need,
in a safe and welcoming environment.



www.LoavesandFishesFV.org



BE INSPIRED.

A hidden treasure with an
eclectic flavor. Some old,
some new, hand made,
and reclaimed pieces.

*A great place to find
that one of a kind gift.*

Tucked away off the
beaten path, Cedar Harbor
is a great place to get
inspired to create.



611 Morrison Street, Appleton
(920) 740-4669



TODAY

MUSIC VIBES 32 | GREAT READS 34 | THE SCENE 40 | SPORTS PAGE 42

Fall Faves!

SO MUCH FALL FUN



By TIM FROBERG



FALL FAVES

FALL IS A FABULOUS TIME OF YEAR IN WISCONSIN

By TIM FROBERG

October is a time of transition and change.

It's harvest season for farmers, Halloween fun for little kids (and big kids) and buckle - down-with-the-books time for students who are no longer on summer vacation and starting the second month of school.

There is also a major climate and clothing adjustment for all Midwesterners as a chill in the air has replaced summer's sticky humidity.

It's also the most beautiful time of the year. The stunning fall foliage has decorated the landscape across the Badger State, creating photo ops at practically every country corner. Wisconsin looks like something right out of Oz – minus the munchkins and flying monkeys - during the month of October when the colors pop and peak.

A fun fact about October: it was originally the eighth month of the year in the ancient Roman 10-month calendar and given its name from the Latin word 'Octo' which means eight. The calendar was eventually expanded to 12 months during the Julius Caesar reign by adding January and February, but names of the original months like October were kept.

Many of us are ambivalent about this wonderful month and the whole fall season. Why? Because as gorgeous as October is, we know what's coming next and it's not great. The leaves will disappear by the end of the month, and we'll get less daylight and sun and more weather-related frustration as the cold weather kicks in for an extended stay.

To make sure that you enjoy this short but glorious season, I've put together my "Fall Faves Top 10" list. Many of these fall-related activities and opportunities – such as viewing the eye-popping leaves and taking soothing hikes through the woods – are freebies courtesy of Mother Nature. Others such as Green Bay Packers games can create a bit of a dent in the budget, but often produce life-long memories.

Make sure to take full advantage of them, because it's the last call for fun in the sun before we start muttering that dreaded four-letter word: s-n-o-w.

OH, WHAT A COLOR SHOW!

Mother Nature's fall color show is truly spectacular in Wisconsin. This amazing kaleidoscope of colors draws leaf peepers (yes, leaf peepers are a thing) from all parts to witness the vibrant reds, oranges and yellows that create the gorgeous fall foliage background especially in October.

Science-wise, it's pretty basic. Leaves turn color in the fall because chlorophyll – the green pigment necessary for photosynthesis – breaks down due to cooler temperatures and shorter days with less sunlight. Other pigments of the leaves that were there all along, but hidden, suddenly become visible. The leaves eventually die in a process known as abscission in which vessels that carry water and nutrients to the leaf are shut off.

Whether you're taking a scenic drive, hiking through the woods or kayaking on Wisconsin's waters, this visual feast never disappoints. But you need to approach fall color viewing with urgency because there is such a small window of two to four weeks to see the leaves when they're "wow" worthy.

Fall colors in northeast Wisconsin usually peak in early-to-mid October – based primarily on weather conditions – and a week or so later in southern Wisconsin. High Cliff State Park in Sherwood, Hartman Creek State Park in Waupaca, Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve in Appleton, 1000 Islands Conservatory in Kaukauna, Heckrodt Wetland Preserve of Menasha and Mosquito Hill Nature Center in New London offer terrific leaf viewing and require only a short drive.

For a birds-eye view of the colors, do yourself a favor and climb the observation tower at High Cliff State Park. You will get an incredible look at the foliage nestled up against Lake Winnebago. It's a photo op that no one passes up. You are welcome.



If you're up for a road trip, nothing beats the breathtaking beauty of Devils Lake State Park in Baraboo at peak color time. Elkhart Lake, Peninsula State Park in Door County, Dave's Falls in Marinette County, the Bearskin State Trail in Minocqua and the Geneva Lake Shore Path in Lake Geneva are among my favorite fall color road trips.

PUMPKINS - THEY'RE EVERYWHERE!

Linus never got to see the Great Pumpkin rising out of his sincere pumpkin patch, but let's face it: Linus was a bit of a blanket-wielding rube. Pumpkin patches are an awesome way to get back to nature and celebrate the Halloween season. Many of them allow you to pick out your own pumpkin from the field and the cost is always nominal.

When selecting your own, look for a pumpkin that is firm, has a consistent color (typically orange) and a solid feel when tapped. Avoid pumpkins with bruises, check for a hard stem and make sure the stem is at least 1 inch long.

Hofacker's Hillside Orchard (Appleton), Peter's Pumpkin Patch (Kaukauna), Star Orchard (Kaukauna), Sprangers Orchard (Kaukauna), Heritage Orchard (Chilton), Polly's Pumpkin Patch (Chilton), Sharky's Orchard (Appleton), Mulberry Lane Farm (Hilbert), Red Barn Family Farms (Appleton) and Oak Ridge Farms in Neenah are among area farms and orchards where Halloween pumpkins are just waiting for you.



Most of these wonderful businesses also offer some incredible fall beverages and snacks such as apple cider, caramel apples, apple cider doughnuts, apple and honey crisp, various fruit pies and a wide variety of fresh apples and squash.

FUN FRIGHTS AT HAUNTED HOUSES

Few things are more flat-out fun than slowly trekking through a (fake) haunted house and getting scared out of your wits by a costumed ghoul leaping out of a dark corner.

Many of these Halloween-themed venues are professionally done. They are planned, choreographed and orchestrated by knowledgeable people in the creative arts field and have a good chance of making even the most jaded (grumpiest) of individuals jump—at least a few times. Most support local charities, so by getting spooked, you're helping a worthy cause.

The Burial Chamber Haunted House Complex in Neenah has been scaring the socks off local folks for 20-plus years. The complex provides five different attractions in one location, including two massive, haunted houses (Insanity and Adrenaline) and a haunted woods (Phobia). I've been a paying customer at Burial Chamber on multiple occasions and can almost guarantee these cats will scare you.

Hearthstone Historic House Museum in Appleton hosts a different approach to spooking those brave enough. It offers an actual theatrical production with actors portraying Victorian serial killers like Jack the Ripper and their victims along with roving police officers searching for clues throughout the museum decorated to reflect the Victorian period. It's fun stuff and a major fundraiser for the museum.

The Realm of Darkness Haunted House in Kaukauna is another frightful destination. It's a newer Halloween venue to our area but a good one, featuring a haunted house and interactive area with actors just itching to make you jump.

If you don't mind a short drive to Green Bay, Terror on the Fox is one of the area's longest running (29th year) and best haunted house attractions. It's held next to the National Railroad Museum and starts with a haunted train ride – the Terror Train – to a dark trail that leads to a killer haunted house.

Enjoy the monster's ball – costumed ghouls rocking out with air guitars to some killer heavy metal tunes – as you prepare to enter the haunted house which features 14 rooms and three uniquely themed hallways. It's a high-budget operation and one of the best known (fake) haunted houses in this part of the state. I've done Terror on the Fox several times (there's a pattern here, I'm a big kid) and it's always been a blast.



HOW 'BOUT A GHOST STORY

The whole Halloween experience – costumes, parties, taking the kids trick-or-treating – is one of the best parts of late fall. But the Halloween season wouldn't be nearly as much fun if we didn't have ghost stories to tell, preferably over a campfire or even a fire pit in your backyard on a crisp October evening.

I will share a few tales of paranormal potential that happened to me. I'm not sure they involved ghosts, but they were just weird, and I've never been able to fully explain them.

The first is connected directly to this magazine and one of the stories I wrote for *Appleton Monthly*. It happened in 2019 when I interviewed Stone Arch Brew Pub co-owner Steve Lonsway and a few of his employees for a Halloween story about Charlie: the notorious ghost that is said to haunt the Appleton brew pub.

Nothing strange happened when I did the interviews at the brew pub, but that wasn't the case the next day. First, an alarm on my smart phone began ringing at 11:32 a.m. – even though I did not set an alarm for that time. What is interesting about 11:32 is that I was a few minutes late for the Charlie the ghost interview the day earlier, and remember checking my watch when I entered Stone Arch. The time was 11:32 a.m.

What followed was even more bizarre. Shortly after doing the Charlie research, I shifted gears with another series of interviews at Appleton's History Museum at the Castle for a different story on their awesome guitar exhibit. I use a digital tape player for all interviews, and it records chronologically. But when I played back the tape, something unexplainable happened. The guitar interviews had somehow jumped ahead of the Charlie interviews in my digital files even though the Charlie interviews had been recorded first.

I've had the same digital tape player for 10-plus years and recorded hundreds of interviews. This is the first and only time that recorded material has not followed a chronological order. Somehow the interviews mysteriously moved around the folders of the tape player – even though that's basically impossible.

Was it Charlie messing with me? I don't know. I do know



that I've never experienced either of those things before.

An even more startling incident happened to me a few years earlier in Oshkosh at the historic Grand theater where my wife and I attended a staged haunted house. It was a typical Halloween-themed haunted house with costumed actors prowling the premises to scare visitors. The twist was that The Grand has long been rumored to be actually haunted, making it a fake haunted house inside what might be a real haunted house. Creepy.

We waited patiently to enter The Grand at the very end of a long line. No one was behind us. Suddenly, I felt a firm, playful tug at the back collar of my jacket – like an old friend sneaking up behind you to say hello in a light-hearted, physical way.

I immediately turned my head to see who it was, yet no one was there. It wasn't my wife, who to this very day denies any involvement in the mysterious jacket tug.

Was it a friendly ghost of The Grand? Quite frankly, I don't know. But I've never forgotten that tug or been able to explain it. Maybe Charlie decided to take a road trip to Oshkosh.

TAKE A HIKE



Looking to connect with nature or ramp up your exercise program?

You can do both – and enjoy the exercise part – by simply taking walks or hikes through the woods or starting an autumn running program.

Seeing the beauty of the colorful leaves and marveling over Wisconsin's fall color show makes walking so much easier than in summer and winter, when barriers like heat and snow make outdoor strolls far more laborious.

The fall soundtrack is pretty good, too. I don't know about you, but I love walking through quiet leaf-covered trails and hearing the crunch of dry leaves beneath my feet. It's one of the best sounds of the season.

There are a wide variety of wonderful walking trails in our area where you can experience the crunch of the

fall season. High Cliff State Park, Hartman Creek State Park, 1000 Islands Environmental Center, Heckrodt Wetland Preserve, Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve, the Loop the Lake trail in Menasha, the Fox River Trail in Green Bay and the Wiouwash State Trail – a 21.8 trek through Outagamie County – are loaded with gorgeous walking opportunities.

The High Cliff trails are especially dazzling, taking you through gorgeous woody areas with Lake Winnebago as a backdrop. The Red Bird Trail Loop and Indian Mound trails are two of my favorites and Fido is allowed throughout the park, providing a leash is being used.

If you're a runner, the cool fall temperatures present an ideal time to add mileage to your running program. It's also the last call for outdoor cardio work before the snow flies and you resort to treadmills and indoor exercise equipment.

FALL CAMPING

Nothing allows you to connect with the great outdoors like camping. Fall is actually a great time to pitch a tent – providing you're OK with the much colder temperatures. Wisconsin campgrounds can get very crowded during the summer months, but with the kids back in school and many adults back in full work mode after burning vacation time, there are less people to deal with at campgrounds. Less people make for less noise.

The beauty of the leaves combined with the absence of mosquitoes and bothersome bugs provide more reasons to grab your camping gear and do one more excursion before Old Man Winter comes storming in.

Campground rates are also lower during the fall and the ability to have campfires on a cool, crisp evening provides the type of peaceful atmosphere that isn't always the case during the summer at jam-packed campgrounds.

Most campgrounds in the local area like High Cliff, Hartman Creek, Appleton Creek and Wolf River Campgrounds in New London are open until November.



READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL?

Nothing screams fall in Wisconsin more than football: the undisputed No. 1 sport in America.

The NFL season kicked off in September (well, actually July with training camp) but it shifts into high gear in October.

The Green Bay Packers are just about the biggest thing during fall in the Badger State. This season, there is even more excitement about this storied franchise with the Packers' blockbuster trade for pass-rushing terror Micah Parsons.

There is only one Packers home game in October, but it should be a good one. The Packers' highly touted defense will get a major test when Green Bay hosts Joe Burrow and the high-powered Cincinnati Bengals in an Oct. 12 potential shootout at Lambeau.



But don't forget the Packers' Oct. 26 game. It's a Sunday Night Football road contest against the Pittsburgh Steelers and a fella who used to work around these parts. Goes by the name of Aaron Rodgers.

If you are looking for one last Packer home game to squeeze in before the crummy weather hits, the Carolina Panthers invade Lambeau on Nov. 2.

Yes, Packers' tickets are expensive. Plan a watch party (of a Packers game) if you want a fun football-filled experience with your friends, but don't want to pay the high cost of a day at Lambeau.

The Wisconsin Badgers are also a huge part of the Wisconsin sports landscape, and the Camp Randall experience seldom disappoints. Luke Fickell's Badgers host the always formidable Iowa on Oct. 11 and then perennial Big Ten power The Ohio State on Oct. 18.

Keep an eye on Neenah High graduate Matt Jung: a junior safety who is making a solid contribution in the Badgers secondary. See THE VOICE story in this issue on his father, Steve, who has resurrected Neenah's once-struggling prep football program.

Lawrence University, St. Norbert College and UW-Oshkosh football games are a college football alternative to the Badgers and are far less expensive. All are Division 3 programs loaded with eager players driven by a love of the game.

Another excellent budget beater is high school football. Wisconsin's Friday night lights experience is excellent entertainment – even if you're not a sports nut. The small-town charm and atmosphere of high school football is endearing, whether it's the fired-up student section, the proud parents in the bleachers or the marching band belting out "Sweet Caroline" at halftime.

Oh, and the level of play on the field is high. Notice how Fox Cities schools usually handle Green Bay, Wausau and Milwaukee opponents. Quality veteran coaches who have been on the sidelines for years like Rob Salm, Chad Michalkiewicz, Matt Binsfeld, Dave Hinkens and Steve Jung are major reasons why Fox Cities schools rule on the gridiron.

Take in the Friday night lights at Papermaker Stadium, Paul Engen Field (Appleton North), Rocky Bleier Field (Xavier) or at the new venues in Kaukauna and Neenah. You'll have a blast.

But there is far more to the prep sports world during the fall. There are some terrific boys' and girls' volleyball, soccer, cross country, golf and tennis programs across the Fox Cities. Support high school athletics. They provide outstanding life lessons to the athletes involved and marvelous low-cost entertainment for the community.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME

A long Major League Baseball season reaches its greatest height in October when the MLB postseason starts.

What makes the annual MLB chase for the World Series more interesting this fall is the surprising play of the Milwaukee Brewers, who emerged as one of the best teams in baseball during the regular season.

The postseason is nothing new to the Brewers. Milwaukee has reached the playoffs in eight of its last nine seasons. The problem is the Brewers are usually a one-and-done playoff team that hasn't reached the World Series since 1982 – and it feels like 1892.

Is this the year the Brewers finally break through? We'll find that out in the coming weeks.

The MLB wild card round starts on Sept. 30 with the divisional series round to begin Oct. 4. The championship series for both leagues will start no earlier than Oct. 12. Finally, the Fall Classic, the World Series, is scheduled to open Oct. 24.

The big-spending Los Angeles Dodgers are the defending World Series champion. Anything can happen, though, during baseball's often unpredictable season and perhaps it's the year the Brew Crew finally plays late-October baseball.



HAVE A FALL BREW

Let's face it: Wisconsin really likes beer. That should be obvious when you consider that the state's professional baseball team is called the Brewers.

Yes, we drink beer year-round in this great state. But to me, fall brews are the very best. Whether it's a classic Oktoberfest or a pumpkin-spiced ale, fall beer is not for those counting calories. It's a heavier beer than most summer-themed offerings and usually packs more flavor.

In America, most Oktoberfest beer follows a Marzen recipe. The result is a German type of lager known for its rich maltiness, amber color and medium- to full-body hop profile.

Many brewpubs offer their own Oktoberfest brews. Stone Arch in Appleton has a good one in its Stontoberfest, which is usually a major hit at Appleton's Oktoberfest celebration on Sept. 27.

Spaten, Hacker-Pschorr, Paulaner, Weihenstephaner and Erdinger are among the world leaders in producing quality Oktoberfest beers. I'm also fine with a cold Sam Adams' Oktoberfest.



FALL FOOD ROCKS



The menu in houses across America often shifts dramatically during the fall months. Autumn is the season when the temperatures drop sharply, creating a need for warmth and comfort even in the culinary world. That means that soups, chilis, and stews take over during October and early November in Wisconsin.

Soups mixed with squash, kale, pumpkins and other fall veggies are especially popular during the fall and you don't need to be the Soup Nazi to create them. Not only do they taste great, but they are hearty and generally more nutritional than most meals. In sticking with the *Seinfeld* theme here, yes, soup can be an actual meal.

As for chili, well, everyone on the planet seems to have their own recipe for what they claim to be the "best chili ever." Chili is an American comfort food often eaten year-round, but it rises to the top of food charts in October.

As for a snack, there aren't many things on this Earth that I enjoy more than a good caramel apple. We used to call them taffy apples when I was a kid, and I've never lost my taste for them. As long as I have teeth, they're going to remain a prominent part of my fall.



Celebrate Our Family Dining Tradition!



ENJOY OUR FALL SPECIALS!

Pumpkin Waffles, Apple Streusel Pancakes, and Apple Cider Mimosas!

STEAKS • FISH • SANDWICHES
HOMEMADE SOUPS, SAUCES,
AND GRAVIES • DESSERTS
ALL DAY BREAKFAST
WINE • BEER • COCKTAILS
SHAKES, & ICE CREAM

Angels

RESTAURANT

Delivery through EatStreet!

A Family Tradition of Excellence

Open 6:00a-2:00p daily!

BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER

1401 E. John St, Appleton | 920-993-8847 | www.angelsappleton.com



**OUTDOOR PATIO
FOR FALL DINING!**



Homemade Family Style Food



BEST BREAKFAST IN TOWN

Served daily 7am-3pm

Fresh caramel apple topping on pancakes, crêpes, waffles, and pumpkin spice pancakes

BEST BROASTED CHICKEN AND FRIDAY FISH

Served Friday 11am-3pm



Maple Tree

RESTAURANT & PANCAKE HOUSE



2106 S. Oneida St, Appleton | (920) 358-7397 | www.mapletreerestaurant.com | Mon-Sun 7am-3pm



CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1908.

- In-Home Care and Companionship
- Independent Living and Assisted Living
- Monthly Memory Care Respite
- Foot Care Clinics
- Free Options and Solutions Consults
- Meals on Wheels Deliveries in Neenah and Menasha
- Free Community Educational Programs



CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1908.

In-Home Care, Independent Living, & Assisted Living Community.

www.valleyvna.org | 920-727-5555 | 1535 Lyon Dr., Neenah



Valley VNA
Senior Care

Autumn Colors OPEN HOUSE

Step inside Chilton's spectacular seasonal store

featuring all the **colors**, **fragrances**, and **flavors** of Fall!

25% OFF
FALL AND HALLOWEEN
Garden, Home Decor, Candles, & Gifts

Different collections featured weekly!



FREE GIFT*
with purchase!

*see store for details.



Seasons by Design & Jillayne's Boutique

102 Southside Shopping Center, Chilton | (920) 849-8499 | MON-THU 10-5, FRI 9-5, SAT 9-3



FROM FRAME TO CANVAS:

By JENNY JAKL

Filmmaker Turned Artist Captures the Pulse of Mexico City in Vivid Color

Ger De La Teja was born and raised in Mexico City, where he began his professional photography career. In the earliest stages, he apprenticed at a commercial studio learning portrait and commercial photography. A few years later, photo shoots brought him to Cancún, where he fell in love with the city and made it his new home. De La Teja continued to pursue photography, but soon realized it wasn't lucrative enough, so he took a job as a bartender. While bartending allowed him to live comfortably, it slowed his creative career significantly.

About a year later, Ger met Heidi, a portrait photographer from Wisconsin. Their friendship turned into love, and he quit bartending to reignite his photography career. The couple moved back to Mexico City where opportunities were more abundant, and they built a steady business together. After Heidi's father passed away, she returned to Wisconsin to be closer to her mother. She decided to stay permanently and waited for Ger to join her. It took nearly three years to secure a visa, but he and Heidi remained together despite the distance.

In 2005, Ger made the move to Wisconsin and to Heidi. Six months later, they married and quickly established a studio. Since then, they've photographed hundreds of weddings and thousands of portraits. In 2009, De La Teja wanted to expand into video and filmmaking, so he enrolled part-time at UW-Oshkosh where he studied film, creative writing, and studio art. He wrote and directed award-winning short films and a TV series, graduating cum laude with a bachelor's degree in 2015.

In 2019, the pandemic halted post-production on a short film. With a recurring desire to create, he returned to painting, and two weeks later, finished his first piece – an expressionistic, Fauvist-inspired portrait of Janis Joplin. "I was hooked. I painted nearly 20 portraits in a row, mostly of musicians, and since then have expanded into several collections including portraits, figures, abstracts, fruits and vegetables. My newest series, 'Frozen Treats,' features playful ice cream and popsicle paintings."

Mexico City exposed De La Teja to a mosaic of global cultures through film, TV, and the public arts. From Japanese anime to Mexican muralism, inspiration was everywhere. The Muralist Movement left a deep impression, with works by Rivera, Siqueiros, and Orozco all around the city. "Much of my work today — from painting musicians that I listened to growing up, to painting the vibrant produce I saw daily — is directly influenced by that rich cultural environment. Even 'Frozen Treats' began with a simple, artisanal raspberry popsicle from a Mexico City street vendor."

Ger De La Teja says that painting found him during a surreal moment in history — the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I had found art many years earlier and rediscovered it during a strange, difficult time. As I explored different creative outlets, my priorities shifted. I plan to return to filmmaking someday, but for now, painting is both my journey and destination."

Looking to connect with Ger De La Teja? You can find him on social media at Instagram, Facebook, TikTok: @ger_de_la_teja_artist
Email: ger@gerdelateja.com



Jenny is a Vibrant Abstract Artist & Creative Community Leader. She works with creatives of all skill levels to help them achieve their creative goals. Clients can work with Jenny through classes, coaching, or by utilizing her online resources. To learn more go to jennyjinkl.com

FROM LAUGHTER TO HARMONY STORIES THAT BRING US TOGETHER



This fall, the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center invites audiences to experience two performances that share something in common – the power of human connection. One arrives through laughter and the other through music. Together, they remind us that stories – whether spoken or sung – bring us closer.

On Thursday, November 6, the **Soweto Gospel Choir** returns to Thrivent Hall with their moving program, *PEACE*. Known worldwide for their vibrant harmonies and dynamic stage presence, this Grammy Award-winning ensemble of 20 singers fills the stage with spiritual warmth and cultural pride. Part of the Boldt Arts Alive! Series, their performance blends South African spirituals with global favorites, weaving together messages of hope, unity, and resilience. Accompanied by rhythmic movement and colorful traditional attire, the choir will transform Thrivent Hall into a space of joy and reflection. *PEACE* is a celebration of community offering an embrace that uplifts both the heart and the soul.

Just over a week later, on Friday, November 14, the spotlight shifts

to the Kimberly-Clark Theater for **Lucas Bohn: Lesson Plans to Late Night**, part of the Menasha Corporation Spotlight Series. Bohn, a former public-school teacher turned comedian, has a knack for turning the quirks of the classroom into hilarious, heartfelt storytelling. He shares tales drawn from student artwork, offbeat comments, and everyday classroom chaos including stories that resonate with anyone who has ever been in or around a school. Bohn's journey from chalkboards to comedy stages is as inspiring as it is funny, enriched by his reflections on family, adoption, and the unpredictable nature of life. His comedy is more than punchlines, it's a reminder that laughter can connect us to one another, even in life's most unexpected moments.

Though one performance is comedic and the other musical, both are rooted in storytelling that unites people. Bohn draws audiences together with the humor of shared experiences. The Soweto Gospel Choir gathers people through the collective feeling of joy and resilience, inviting us to feel this spirit together. Both shows highlight the ways live performing arts experiences transform individual moments into communal ones by an audience laughing together or hundreds of voices moved by the same harmony.

Attending these performances is about more than entertainment, it's about stepping into a shared experience. The Soweto Gospel Choir brings harmony to the heart, while Bohn brings laughter to the soul. Together, they embody the heart of why live performing arts experiences at the Fox Cities P.A.C. are unique memories in a gathering place where people connect, stories resonate, and spirits are lifted.

This season, discover how much richer life feels when we share it, whether through the joy of a well-told joke or the beauty of a soaring song.



A vibrant poster for the Soweto Gospel Choir performance. The title "SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR PEACE" is written in large, bold, yellow letters against a colorful, geometric background. Below the title, three women are shown singing into microphones. A QR code is located in the bottom left corner, and the date and time "Nov. 6 7:30 p.m." are displayed in the bottom right corner.

A poster for Lucas Bohn's performance. The title "LUCAS BOHN Lesson Plans TO LATE NIGHT" is written in a mix of black and red fonts. Below the title, a black and white photograph of Lucas Bohn is shown, holding a microphone and looking surprised. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner, and the date and time "Nov. 14 7:30 p.m." are displayed in the bottom left corner.

The bottom section of the page features the "BOLDT Arts Alive! Series" logo, the "MENASHA CORPORATION SPOTLIGHT SERIES" logo, and the website "foxcitiespac.com" in a large, bold font.

Keep Live Music

AS THE COLD TAKES OVER

By JIM COLLAR

The food and tunes of Oktoberfest are in the rearview mirror and the kids are now fully settled into their school-year routines. It's time to face the music: Jack Frost is getting ready for his long, annual Wisconsin residency.

While it's easy to get caught up in our recliners, let's challenge ourselves to stay social and active even as the temperatures creep toward downward.

Sure, we enjoy the camaraderie of our favorite festivals or community concert series, though it's no reason to leave music in the summer fun category. Live music can be the perfect remedy among those long nights that begin in the mid-afternoon.

So, then, where are some great indoor places to see a show? The Fox Valley has an excellent music scene, so get out and explore. Leaving out the obvious, here are some great venues to get you started:

Poplar Hall: Opened in 2021, Poplar Hall is a beautiful, scenic event space along the Fox River in Appleton. A sought-after hall for weddings and meetings, it's also become a go-to venue for nationally acclaimed bluegrass and Americana performers a few times each year. Next up is Grammy-winning artist Molly Tuttle on Nov. 12.

Oshkosh Arena: While better known as home to NBA G-League Wisconsin Herd, Oshkosh Arena has played host to some notable concerts since opening in 2017. It's a place to get a close-up view of bands you know well. The fun continues on Nov. 8 with Kansas and Blue Oyster Cult.

Cranky Pat's: Did you know that one of the Fox Valley's old-school pizza places is also well regarded for hosting up-and-coming artists? Keep an eye on the Cranky Pat's concert calendar if you want to boast, "I saw them before they were famous." Neenah's Cranky Pat's is also home to the fabulous Big Band Reunion on Monday nights from October through May.

Cannova's Pizzeria: There's just something about Neenah pizzerias. Located downtown, Cannova's regularly delights its diners with jazz and smaller acoustic acts. Enjoy their standing engagements with pianist Molly Conrad on Wednesdays and acclaimed jazz pianist and composer John Harmon on Thursdays.



Cup O Joy: Fans of Christian music in just about any genre would be remiss to ignore the concert calendar at Green Bay's Cup O Joy. The intimate and modern Taylor Street venue is alcohol free, family friendly and hosts a wide variety of artists. The volunteer-run venue also holds a popular open mic night.

George's Steak House: A great encounter with live music doesn't always fall under the traditional concert format. In fact, a night at the George's Steak House piano bar is something that every Fox Valley music fan should experience. Grab a well-crafted cocktail and settle near their 125-year-old, 9-foot Steinway grand piano on Friday and Saturday nights for some fun, humor and an incredibly vast repertoire of music.

Gather some friends and enjoy, whether it's at any of these venues or your own favorite spots. It's important that we maintain our support for live music even if it feels more natural to grab a blanket and settle in. Any good show is bound to produce some warm feelings – and it's particularly true when we need it most.

Jim Collar is a journalist, lifelong resident of the Fox Cities and a supporter of our local music scene. He previously worked as a reporter for The Post-Crescent and The Oshkosh Northwestern.



From our conductor, Phillip Swan:
Sometimes we're unprepared for news, especially a life-changing diagnosis. When I learned that I had Parkinson's Disease, I realized I knew little about this disease, dug in to learn what this disease is about, and attempted to learn what this diagnosis would mean for my musical future. **This concert will be an inspirational presentation of thoughtful choral works in search of hope and healing. This is my story. My news.**

Joining us for this concert are 32 High School Master Singers, a select group of high school singers from area schools.

Tickets can be purchased at www.newvoiceschoir.org.

Unexpected News is made possible by our Concert Partners, The Mielke Family Foundation and Dennis Reimer & Jeanie Kurka Reimer.

Unexpected News: A Personal Journey with Parkinson's Disease

Saturday, October 25, 2025, 7:30PM



EnerG Elements

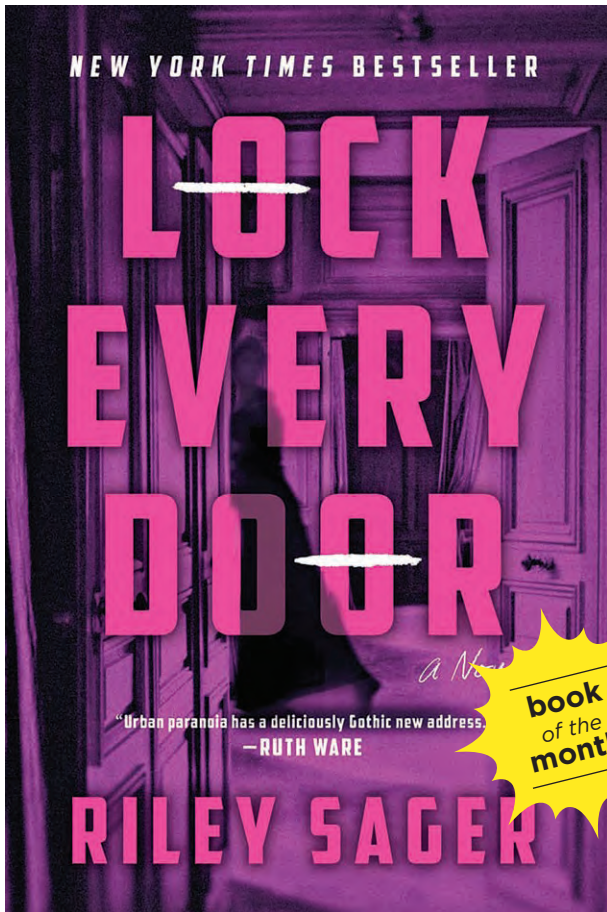
- ★ 200+ varieties of crystals and minerals
- ★ Sterling Silver jewelry
- ★ Natural wellness

695 S. Green Bay Rd.
Neenah | (920) 460-5639

 [energelements](https://www.facebook.com/energelements)

 [energ_elements](https://www.instagram.com/energ_elements)

ELEVATE THE ENERGY



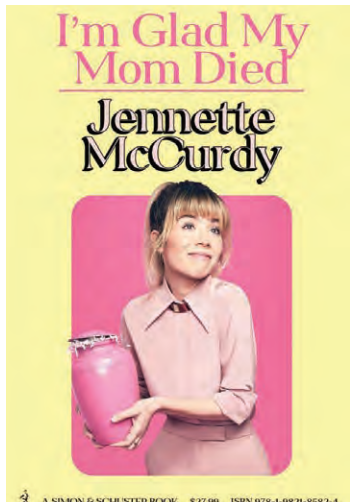
Riley Sager
Lock Every Door

I recently stumbled upon Riley Sager while searching for a new comfort author. *Lock Every Door* has everything a creepy thriller should: suspicious side characters, a reluctant heroine, and a building dripping with secrets. The story follows Jules Larsen, a solitary young woman desperate for cash. When she accepts a lucrative apartment-sitting job at Manhattan’s infamous Bartholomew, she quickly discovers her dream opportunity may be far too good to be true.



Danielle Jensen
A Fate Inked in Blood

A Fate Inked in Blood is a sweeping tale of love, loss, power, and greed, woven through Norse mythology. Freya is trapped in a bitter marriage. But when a betrayal forces her into a fight to the death, Freya reveals her hidden gift: the blood of a goddess runs through her veins, granting the ability to summon an impenetrable shield. Suddenly, she is no longer a simple village woman, but the missing piece in an ancient prophecy. With the aid of Bjorn, she must master her power and rise to the destiny that could bring prosperity—or destruction—to her homeland.



Jeanette McCurdy
I'm Glad My Mom Died

In *I'm Glad My Mom Died*, Jeanette McCurdy offers a raw and unflinching look at the cost of childhood fame. After enduring years of abuse at the hands of nearly every adult who should have protected her, McCurdy bravely tells her truth. She chronicles the physical, mental, and emotional toll of her time on the hit TV show, *iCarly*, through adolescence, and into adulthood. As harrowing as her story is, McCurdy’s memoir is also deeply compelling—equal parts heartbreaking and eye-opening.

Casey Marion is an aspiring author and struggling college student. She works at the Kaukauna Public Library and can always be found with a book in hand.

Tammy Borden
Waltraud

Waltraud is a moving work of historical fiction that transports readers to Nazi Germany through the perspective of the author’s mother. Borden vividly brings to life her mother’s coming-of-age during the war and the challenges of rebuilding in its aftermath.

Mia Sheridan
Archer's Voice

Archer's Voice follows Bree Prescott, and her journey from the big city to Maine. She meets Archer Hale—a man weighed by secrets he intends to keep buried. As intrigue deepens into adoration, Archer lets Bree in, and in doing so, finally finds his voice.

Megan Lally
That's Not My Name

A young woman who wakes up on the side of the road with no memory. At the police station, a man rushes in desperate to prove he’s her father. He has her passport, birth certificate, even a school ID. So why does she have the sinking feeling that she doesn’t know him?



NEW
for 2025!

CoolSnowGlobes®

Chillingly Beautiful



Haunted House, featuring Trick or Treaters visiting a dubious looking mansion.



Autumn Pals, featuring a Lab and Terrier playing in a pile of fallen leaves of Autumn.



Cat on Books

Premium Snow Globes available in 15 designs in stock in our shop.

Each retails for \$69 and comes in a beautiful gift box.

THE FRAME WORKSHOP OF APPLETON, INC.

430 E Northland Ave • Appleton
(920) 731-2913 • www.theframeworkshop.com
Mon-Fri 10am-6pm; Sat 10am-4pm

FIND US ON **FACEBOOK!**

Give us a 'like' and stay up to date!

- Know when each issue hits the newsstands
- Read our featured articles
- Interact with the magazine staff
- Enjoy the spirit of the Fox Cities every day!

Join the conversation!

Be a part of our editorial crowd-sourcing and help us tell your story.

Visit us at www.appletonmonthly.com or facebook.com/appletonmonthly

Appleton
Monthly



FREDDY VS JASON

(HORROR/ACTION 2003)

STARRING: ROBERT ENGLUND (FREDDY KRUEGER) & KEN KIRZINGER (JASON VOORHEES)



Everyone knows the classic killers Jason from *Friday the 13th* and Freddy from *Nightmare on Elm Street*. When these two serial killers join forces, you aren't safe awake or asleep. Working as a team to kill, they find themselves in a battle to determine which villain is better.

SCARY MOVIE

(HORROR/COMEDY 2000)

STARRING: ANNA FARIS (CINDY)

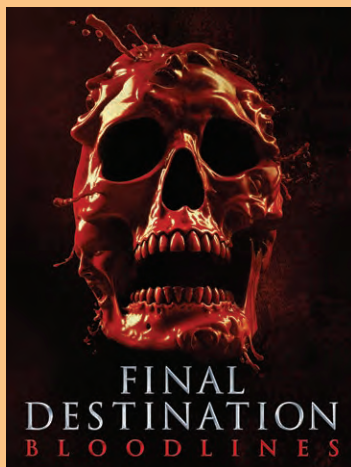


If you're not big into horror movies, but still want to watch something scary this Halloween, then this might be the one for you! This parody combines multiple classic horror movies and adds humor into them. A serial killer stalks a group of teenagers, but when you think things are about to get scary, you will find yourself laughing instead.

FINAL DESTINATION BLOODLINES

(HORROR/MYSTERY 2025)

STARRING: KAITLYN SANTA JUANA (STEFANI)



After Stefani has a recurring nightmare about her grandmother dying, she takes it as a sign to visit her family back home. Not knowing what she is getting herself into, her grandmother tells her the family is cursed and death is out to get each and everyone of them. How do you outrun death when it could be waiting around any corner?

SPOOKY BUDDIES

(COMEDY/ADVENTURE 2011)

STARRING: HARLAND WILLIAMS (WARWICK)



This film is perfect for the whole family this Halloween season. Join the Buddies, a group of five adventurous puppies, on a mission to save the world. The Buddies have one goal this Halloween, and that is to stop Warwick the Warlock from summoning the evil Halloween Hound before sunrise!

Marissa Laird is a movie lover who lives in Appleton. Her favorite genre is horror, which makes sense since she is obsessed with Halloween. She also enjoys spending time with her husband and their dog, Remi.

Smile!

We ♥ seeing our readers having fun and making the most of our beautiful communities!

BY: ABBY DRAPER

Send your photo submissions to: editor@appletonmonthly.com



Downtown Appleton hosted a golf scramble at **Reid Municipal Golf Course** where these “ducky” players and other locals gathered for a day of birdies, bogies, and brilliant creations provided by Downtown Appleton and Northside businesses at each hole on the course.

Appleton residents Chad and Carli Bonis celebrate the **return of Packers’ season** with their sports enthusiast kids at Lambeau Field.



Coffee and Frenchie lover, Lauren Konakowitz grabs her morning latte from the very cool, boho chic shop, **Tempest Coffee Collection**. Stop by and don’t forget to taste one of their new fall concoctions for October!



The crisp weather brings along the desire to spend more time outside. Friends Danielle and Abby took advantage of the temperatures and walked the **Friendship Trail** in Menasha.



Fall weather enthusiasts enjoy picking crisp apples while bundled up at **Hofackers Hillside**. Here Caiti Simon has a fun time showing off her fresh fruit in the orchard.

Local Conductor To Share Battle With Parkinson's

By TIM FROBERG

Phillip Swan is prepared to put his personal battle with Parkinson's disease into the musical spotlight.

Swan is the artistic director and conductor of the NEWVoices choral group. He was diagnosed with Parkinson's two years ago but continues to guide the mixed-voiced choir, composed of a large group of singers from Northeast Wisconsin.

NEWVoices is building its Oct. 25 concert around Swan's fight with the disease. The 7:30 p.m. performance at the Lawrence Memorial Chapel is entitled, "Unexpected News: A Personal Journey With Parkinson's Disease."

Although a dreadful disease like Parkinson's can be a sensitive matter to address, Swan feels that it's more important to educate the public about it.

"The first year I was diagnosed, I wasn't sure how it would affect me professionally and I really didn't want to talk much about it," said Swan. "But after I did a lot of research, I realized there is such little information available, and that generally, people don't know much about Parkinson's. It kind of became my mission to educate folks about it because this is my new reality."

The songs in the fall concert have been carefully selected and will reflect Swan's personal battle with Parkinson's. Each piece will deal with matters such as the struggle to accept the diagnosis with the hope and faith that is needed through the health journey.

"The concert kind of reflects my own personal journey with it," explains Swan.

Valerie Simonsen, executive director of NEWVoices, adds, "It's very personal music for Phillip, but it's also uplifting music that can help people going through a difficult journey. There are really no songs about Parkinson's, but rather some of his favorites and some of the things that really speak to him



about where he's going in his journey."

"He felt that people look at Parkinson's as almost a secret and that it was his calling to bring light to this disease. He wanted to put it out there that it's nothing to be ashamed of and that you can live a full life with this disease."

Swan has served in his present position for the past 15 years and has no plans to step down. He is also a professor of music and director of choral studies at Lawrence University. Swan is well known and active in the Appleton community.

"Phillip has brought some new life to our organization – just through different programming," Simonsen said. "One of his passions is to bring awareness to social issues and to have programs that challenge the audience and the singers.

"He's had a huge impact on music in the Appleton area. And he's not getting ready to retire. He's taking everything year by year, month by month. But he's working through it. He plans to stay with us as long as he can."

One of the more significant adjustments Swan has made has been

switching hands as a conductor.

"I'm conducting left-handed now," he said. "That was a real challenge at first. There are a lot of things that I've had to do differently since the diagnosis, but the singers are adapting and I'm adapting. It seems to work."

Tickets can be purchased in advance at \$25 for adults and \$10 for students, or \$30 for adults and \$15 for students at the door.

NEWVoices was founded in 1985. The name reflects the audience and singers from Northeast Wisconsin. It performs three to five concerts annually.





Holiday

LOOK & SHOP

'Tis the season... as Appleton Monthly Magazine presents its annual **Holiday Look & Shop Issue**. Timely and far-reaching, this special holiday issue will showcase your products and goods being offered during this season of gift-giving for family and friends.

Reach out to the exclusive **"Power Marketplace"** of Appleton and the Fox Cities, from New London to Chilton including Neenah, Menasha, and the Heart of the Valley.

PLUS!

Featuring our annual 50 Gifts for Everyone in our "Gift Gallery".

AD DEADLINE IS MONDAY, OCT. 13TH

Reserve your ad in **Appleton Monthly's November Issue** by contacting Jon Croce at 920.707.0013 or via email at jcroce@appletonmonthly.com.



Your one stop for all your bowhunting & archery needs.

We carry Mathews, Elite, & Mission Bows, along with Mission, Raven, Darton, and Centerpoint Crossbows.

We service all brands of bows.

**Mon-Fri 10am-8pm
Sat 10am-4pm**



320 West Main St., Hilbert | 920-853-3131 | advancedarcheryhilbert.com

REPAIR • BOW TUNING • LESSONS

HAUNTED CART RIDES

Hickory Hills Country Club

W3095 Hickory Hills Road - Chilton WI

Friday, October 10
Saturday, October 11

Friday, October 17
Saturday, October 18

Friday, October 24
Saturday, October 25

Friday, October 31
Saturday, November 1

*Ticket window opens at 5:30
Rides run 6:30pm - 9:30pm*

Kid-friendly by request.

Age 14 & up \$20
Age 13 & under \$12

-Outside Event-

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED!
Reserve Time Slots
Call (920) 849-2912 to reserve your spot!

Please call Hickory Hills at (920) 849-2912 or check Facebook if inclement weather.

THE SCENE

Top 10 reasons to fill up your calendar this month

By ABBY DRAPER

1. GATHER FOR GIVING

WOW: We Care Charity, Inc. is hosting its Gather for Giving fundraiser on Oct. 2, at The Fox Club within Fox Cities Stadium. Enjoy casino-style games, raffles, and more while raising money for non-profits that serve those in need.

<https://wow-wecarecharity.org/gatherforgiving/>



5. BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Be a guest of the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center as they bring the timeless Broadway tale of Beauty and the Beast to life. This 30th anniversary production runs from Oct. 21 - 26 with spectacular new sets and breathtaking costumes.

<https://foxcitiespac.com/event/disneys-beauty-and-the-beast/>

7. HALLOWEEN BAR CRAWL

Celebrate Halloween 2025 with a two-day bar crawl through Green Bay's top bars with crawl-exclusive drink specials and Halloween-themed entertainment.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/562824400038032>

8. SPOOKTACULAR AT LAMBEAU FIELD

Packers fans of all ages are invited to Lambeau Field for a free 'Spooktacular' Halloween-themed event on Oct. 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will feature interactive entertainment and virtual reality with Edge VR. The kiddos can also have their faces painted, play games, decorate cookies, and more.

<https://www.packers.com/community/spooktacular>

9. MASTERS OF ILLUSION

Ready to find out if the things you don't believe can be done, actually can? Watch closely at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center during the Masters of Illusion 21st century magic show on Oct. 30! Enjoy jaw-dropping grand illusions and comedic magic from performers from around the world.

<https://foxcitiespac.com/event/masters-of-illusion-believe-the-impossible/>

<https://foxcitiespac.com/event/masters-of-illusion-believe-the-impossible/>



2. OLD FASHIONED SATURDAY

From noon to 4 p.m. on Oct. 4, explore downtown Neenah with a Wisconsin twist! During "Old Fashioned Saturday," guests can enjoy a spirited, self-guided tour while stopping at the best bars and restaurants downtown, each featuring a one-of-a-kind old fashioned. Experience live music, photo booth fun, food trucks and more!

<https://futureneenah.org/event/old-fashioned-saturday/>

3. DREAM BIG GALA

Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Wisconsin is hosting its Dream Big Gala with proceeds going to support youth mentorship programming. A \$100 ticket includes dinner, an auction, and an inspiring program. It will be held at Bridgewood Resort in Neenah on Oct. 9.

<https://futureneenah.org/event/dream-big-gala-big-brothers-big-sisters/2025-10-09/1/>



4. 7TH ANNUAL SOUP WALK

Kick off fall by savoring samples of favorite soups from participating local businesses. Vote for your favorite bowl on Oct. 17 from 1 p.m. to 4:30 pm in downtown Appleton. While you're there, donate a food item for St. Joseph Food Program to be eligible to win Downtown Appleton gift certificates.

<https://appletondowntown.org/events/soup-walk/>

6. WINDOWS FOR A CAUSE

Windows for a Cause is a fundraiser that utilizes community artistic talents to benefit Make-A-Wish Wisconsin. Renewal by Anderson provides recycled windows that are transformed into art pieces themed around the recipient child's wish. Swing by the new Trout Museum of Art on Oct. 28, from 5 to 9 p.m. to enjoy the art, auctions, and 50/50 raffle prizes.

<https://wish.org/wisconsin/windows-cause-presented-renewal-andersen>



10. ST. JOSEPH FOOD PROGRAM 5K/10K RUN/WALK

Grab your favorite pair of sneakers and some non-perishable food items, and scoot on over to St. Joseph Food Program in Menasha on Oct. 5 for a fun 5 and 10K run/walk. The race theme is, "Outpacing Hunger" and will help to feed those in the Fox Valley facing food insecurity.

<https://runsignup.com/Race/WI/Menasha/StJosephFoodProgram>



This October... Make it Marks!

A Family Owned Tradition Since 1967

MARKS EAST SIDE

DINING & COCKTAILS

**This October, try one of our
AUTHENTIC GERMAN SPECIALTIES!**

Serving continuously 11am-close Tuesday - Friday
Saturday open at 4pm • Closed Sunday - Monday
Lunch Specials Tuesday - Friday • Dinner 5 Nights
Hand-Cut Steaks • House Specialties • Fresh Seafood
Friday Fish Fry • Saturday Night Prime Rib

Your Host, Alex Shea

920-733-3600

1405 W. Wisconsin Ave., Appleton

Check out our website www.markseastside.com



**Spaten
Octoberfest**
on tap!



**HAPPY
HALLOWEEN
EVERYONE!
Cheers!**



Join us for Happy Hour

Monday through Friday 2-6pm

Olea's

Try our world-famous
Old Fashioneds or a
delicious Dirty Snowball!

203 W. College Ave. Downtown Appleton 920.739.2288

SPORTS WORLD

IS FILLED WITH SCARY STUFF

By TIM FROBERG

October is a wonderful month, but a scary one.

That's because Halloween plays such a prominent part of our autumn season.

Even though All Hallows Eve – the original name for Halloween – seems to be built around dead folks like ghosts, ghouls and zombies, it's an incredibly fun time of the year. There is trick-or-treating for the kids, costume parties for the adults and a license for all to act silly for a day by dressing in stage apparel not recommended for any formal event.

Still, frights, spooks and scares are at the core of this much-anticipated holiday.

Here are several frightful things, thoughts and haunting dream scenarios in the sports world that scare the daylight out of me.

- A DVD or any recording of the 2014 NFC Championship Game. That might have been the most painful Green Bay Packers' defeat of all-time: a 28-22 overtime loss to the Seattle Seahawks in which Green Bay blew a trip to the Super Bowl by squandering a 16-0 half-time lead. To me, *The Exorcist*, *The Shining*, *Carrie*, and *The Texas Chain Massacre* were all pretty tame stuff compared to this epic Packers meltdown. Any DVD or VCR tape of this game needs to be burned, blown up, dropped to the bottom of the ocean or launched into outer space. I still wake up in a cold sweat when I experience this nightmare.
- My drive back to Appleton following any Packers' home game. It's northeast Wisconsin's version of New York City during rush hour.
- The Milwaukee Brewers are playing in the National League Championship series and on the verge of a trip to their first World Series since 1982. But then Trevor Megill walks in a game-losing, season-ending run with the bases loaded on a pitch that is.....just a bit outside.
- The price of a brat (\$14) and beer (up to \$16) at a Green Bay Packers game or any NFL contest.
- The Packers are on the brink of beating the Buffalo Bills in the closing seconds of the 2026 Super Bowl when Brayden "Nervous" Narveson – a last-minute replacement for an

injured Brandon McManus – trots onto the field for a potential game-winning 35-yard field goal.

- It's payday for the Green Bay Packers and Micah Parsons' paycheck is coming straight out of my bank account.
- Any future report linking Parsons to a back injury.
- Derrick Henry has broken loose into the open field and I'm the only one separating him and the end zone.
- Jerry Jones has just sold the Dallas Cowboys and replaced Ed Policy as the president of the Green Bay Packers. In his first official act as Packers president, Jones immediately trades Micah Parsons to the Chicago Bears.
 - Jacob Misorowski and the words "Tommy John." The kid has electric stuff times four, but cats who throw triple-digit fastballs seem to be at the highest risk for shoulder injuries. I'm hoping "The Miz" will be an exception and not follow in the path of flamethrowers like Steven Strasburg, Jacob deGrom, Shohei Ohtani, Corbin Burnes and Detroit's Jackson Jobe: all of whom succumbed to Tommy John surgery.
 - The potential sight of Giannis Antetokounmpo in any uniform other than that of the Milwaukee Bucks. The Greek Freak is the definition of the term "franchise player."
- The strange reality that the Bucks must pay Damian Lillard an annual salary of \$22.5 million through 2029 and a jaw-dropping total of \$113 million – even though he'll never play another game in a Milwaukee uniform.



Tim Froberg is a professional writer who covered the Packers Super Bowl appearances in New Orleans (1997) and San Diego (1998), and has written several feature stories for various Packers Yearbooks.

TASTE

CHEF'S TABLE 52 | COFFEE CULTURE 54 | WINE & DINE 58 | FOOD & DRINK 59



BEST BURGERS

By JENNI EICKELBERG
Photo by CARLY CERNIGLIA



The Art of the Burger

By JENNI EICKELBERG

Few foods inspire as much loyalty—and appetite—as the burger. Whether it's a classic cheeseburger with crisp lettuce and tomato or a bold creation piled high with unexpected toppings, the burger remains a beloved staple that continues to evolve. In this issue, we're spotlighting a selection of standout burger destinations that showcase the full spectrum of what a burger can be.

The beauty of the burger lies in its versatility. At its core, it's a simple concept: a patty and a few toppings. But from there, the possibilities are endless. Some chefs lean into tradition, serving up thick, juicy patties cooked to perfection and layered with sharp cheddar, smoky bacon, and tangy pickles. Others take a more adventurous route, crafting burgers with unexpected combinations—like peanut butter and jalapeños, fried eggs and hash browns, or even mac and cheese as a topping.

Texture and flavor play a starring role in what makes a burger memorable. A well-seared crust, a tender center, and

the right balance of savory, salty, and sweet elements can elevate a burger from good to unforgettable. Some burgers are built for indulgence, stacked high with crispy onion rings, creamy sauces, and double patties. Others are more restrained, letting the quality of the ingredients shine through with minimal fuss. Whether grilled, griddled, or flame-broiled, the cooking method adds its own signature to the final flavor.

And let's not forget the supporting cast. Toppings have become a playground for creativity. From the familiar crunch of iceberg lettuce and tomato to the richness of caramelized onions, smoked gouda, or blue cheese crumbles, each layer adds depth. Pickled jalapeños, coleslaw, avocado slices, and even potato chips have found their way into the mix, offering texture and surprise in every bite. Sauces range from classic ketchup and mustard to house-made aiolis, spicy ranch, and tangy barbecue glazes.

Vegetarian burgers have also stepped into the spotlight, no longer relegated to the

sidelines. These plant-based creations are anything but bland. From hearty black bean patties and roasted mushroom stacks to meatless marvels made with lentils, chickpeas, or soy protein, they offer bold flavors. Toppings like grilled pineapple, spicy slaw, avocado crema, and vegan cheese add layers of complexity that rival any beef-based counterpart.

Each burger featured in this article tells a story—of the chef who created it, the neighborhood it's served in, and the community that keeps coming back for more. These burgers reflect not just culinary skill, but personality and passion. Whether you're a purist who swears by ketchup and mustard or a flavor explorer chasing the next big twist, this guide is your passport to the best burgers our city has to offer.

So, loosen your belt, grab a stack of napkins, and prepare to embark on a delicious journey. These burgers aren't just meals—they're experiences.

Best Burgers

Mill Town Still & Grill

101 Darboy Road, Combined Locks
(920) 788-1112

Nestled along the river in Combined Locks, Mill Town Still & Grill concocts burgers that are bold, flavorful, and unforgettable. The Honey Bourbon Burger is a sweet-and-savory delight—Swiss cheese, crispy bacon, golden onion rings, and a rich honey bourbon glaze. The Milltown Cheesy Brat Burger doubles down with melty cheese and a juicy Johnsonville brat atop an Angus patty. The food is always amazing—fast food prices, but way better. Be sure to try it out!



Electric City Lanes

136 W. Wisconsin Ave., Kaukauna
(920) 462-4822

Come for the food, stay for the bowling at Electric City Lanes in Kaukauna! Their juicy selection of burgers features a flavorful local ground chuck and brisket blend, served in a clean, family-friendly setting. The Stinging Honey Garlic Burger is a standout—topped with cheese, homemade stinging garlic sauce, and deep-fried jalapeño relish for a pleasantly spicy kick. Electric City Lanes delivers excellent service and unforgettable meals. Don't overlook this hidden gem.



Hank & Karen's Pub & Grill

1937 E. John St., Appleton
(920) 731-1265

Hank & Karen's Pub & Grill is loved for its laid-back sports bar vibe and burger perfection. Its fresh, never frozen third-pound hamburger is grilled to your liking— from rare to well done—and served on a toasted bun. Customize it your way with American, Swiss, or pepper jack cheese, lettuce, tomato, and crispy bacon. Juicy, flavorful, and made with care, this homey spot turns a simple burger into a crave-worthy comfort food experience.



Countryside Bar & Grill

W5302 State 114, Menasha
(920) 989-1155

Just outside of High Cliff State Park, Countryside Bar & Grill brings its unbeatable burgers to the table at wallet-friendly prices. Its standout Dandy Burger features a juicy hamburger topped with fried onions, crispy bacon, Swiss and American cheeses, and Thousand Island dressing—all nestled between slices of golden Texas toast. With the tagline, "Food, Friends, Neighbors," it's the perfect spot to enjoy live music or catch a game while savoring a delicious, affordable meal.



Home Burger Bar

205 W. College Ave., Appleton
(920) 364-9484

Home Burger Bar is a playground for burger lovers, where thick, juicy patties meet bold, unexpected flavor combos. Its rotating “Burger of the Month” keeps things fresh, but standouts like the PB & J Burger—layered with crispy bacon and jalapeños—prove that sweet and spicy can be magic. The Luther Burger, served on a glazed doughnut bun, is pure indulgence. Add friendly bartenders and a lively energy, and you’re in burger heaven.



Lake Park Pub and Grill

N8904 Lake Park Road, Menasha
920-739-1901

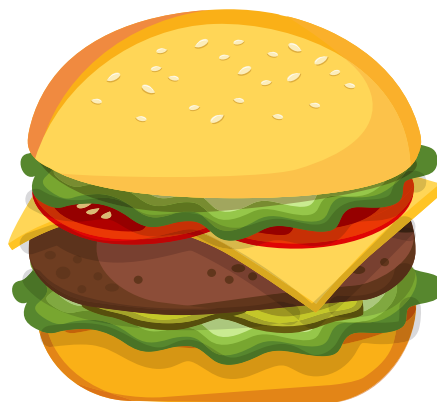
Lake Park Pub and Grill in Menasha crafts burgers that are pure indulgence. The Rajun Cajun is a fiery flavor bomb—pepper jack cheese melting over a Cajun-seasoned patty, crowned with crispy Texas toothpicks and drenched in bold hellfire sauce. The King Burger lives up to its name, stacking a juicy beef patty with a bratwurst, then layering on creamy Swiss and American cheese. The patty melt? A golden rye hug around gooey cheese and sweet grilled onions. With its relaxed ambiance and welcoming service, this spot is a burger lover’s paradise.



JD’s Drive-In

1939 E. John St., Appleton
(920) 739-6935

Come hungry and leave full without breaking the bank. JD’s Drive-In, Appleton’s old-school favorite since 1968, broils its burgers to juicy perfection using 100% pure beef, bringing a brand-new, bold flavor with every bite. Whether you crave a classic single, a hearty double, or a towering triple, each patty is a sizzling masterpiece. Add melty cheese and crispy bacon or go wild with custom combos. Served hot and generous, these burgers are a retro-inspired feast that keeps families coming back for crave-worthy comfort and unbeatable value.



YUM!

Mad Apple Burger & Billiard Company

3025 W. College Ave., Appleton
(920) 955-3990

Mad Apple Burger & Billiard Co. in Appleton has a menu filled with wildly inventive burgers that are just as fun as their names. Try The Nut Job, a peanut butter and bacon masterpiece, or the Looney Shrooms 'N Swiss, loaded with sautéed mushrooms and creamy Swiss. For mac-and-cheese lovers, the Wacky Mac is a gooey, crispy indulgence. With bold flavors and playful twists, Mad Apple turns burger night into a devouring adventure.



Maple Tree Restaurant & Pancake House

2106 S. Oneida St., Appleton
(920) 358-7397

Lunch at Maple Leaf Restaurant & Pancake House is a burger lover's delight. Its hefty third-pound patties are grilled to perfection and served with delicious sides that round out the meal. The Cowboy Burger brings smoky bacon and tangy barbecue sauce, while the Mushroom Swiss Burger delivers rich, savory flavor. With a casual, family-style atmosphere and a menu built for hearty appetites, this spot satisfies every burger craving.



Mary's Family Restaurant

2312 N. Richmond St., Appleton
(920) 733-0948

Since 1958, Mary's Family Restaurant has been serving up homemade comfort—and its burgers are bursting with flavor. Each lean third-pound patty is grilled just the way it's ordered and tucked into a toasted semmel bun with just the right amount of crunch. The Fox Cities Original Bacon Cheeseburger oozes smoky, melty goodness, while the California Burger layers crisp lettuce, ripe tomato, and Mary's tangy special sauce for a fresh, crave-worthy bite.



JUICY!





Looking for more places to grab a great burger? While hamburgers are a staple on menus across countless restaurants in Fox Valley, we couldn't feature them all. Here are a few other local favorites worth checking out:

- Cinder's Charcoal Grill
- Greene's Pour House
- Sweetberry's Family Restaurant
- The Northland Sports Pub & Grill
- Basil's Pub & Provisions
- Scuba's Pourhouse
- The 10th Frame
- Mark's East Side
- Mihm's Charcoal Grill

Each offers its own delicious take on this classic comfort food!



Michiels Bar & Grill

1100 Appleton Road, Menasha
(920) 722-7885

At Michiels Bar & Grill in Menasha, burger lovers are in for a flavorful ride. Its Rodeo Burger is a smoky-sweet masterpiece—stacked with crispy haystack onions, sizzling bacon, melted cheddar, and a bold bourbon barbecue sauce atop a juicy patty. But that's just one flavor in a lineup of crave-worthy creations, each delivering its own mouthwatering twist. Best enjoyed with a classic old fashioned and the warm glow of supper club nostalgia.



Apple Valley Pancake House

1216 W. Wisconsin Ave., Appleton
(920) 574-2222
1022 Main St., Neenah
(920) 215-3966

Known for breakfast, Apple Valley Pancake House—located in both Appleton and Neenah—also serves up delicious burgers that are perfect for lunch. Made with juicy USDA Choice beef, every burger is a flavor-packed experience. The Big Papa Burger lives up to its name—a full pound of beef layered with cheddar, pepper jack, lettuce, tomato, and onion on a fresh bun. Other hearty half-pound favorites include the mushroom Swiss and bacon cheeseburger. Big flavor, big satisfaction.



Angel's Restaurant

1401 E. John St., Appleton
(920) 993-8847

Angel's Restaurant is a cozy local favorite serving up unforgettable burgers, including its signature Angel Burger. This mouthwatering masterpiece features ground sirloin topped with sautéed mushrooms, green peppers, fried onions, savory ham, and a melty blend of American and Swiss cheese. It's a bold, satisfying bite that's perfect for lunch or brunch.



Rookie's Sports Bar & Grill

325 N. Appleton St., Appleton
(920) 830-1804

Rookie's Sports Bar & Grill redefines burger indulgence with its legendary half-pound patties. The Jalapeño Popper Burger is a fiery delight—crispy smashed poppers, smoky bacon, and cool avocado ranch create a crave-worthy flavor explosion. For beer lovers, the namesake burger is a knockout: stacked with bacon, a crunchy onion ring, and drenched in velvety Fat Tire beer cheese sauce. These burgers are bold, messy, and unforgettable. Rookie's gives its guests a mouthwatering experience that's as gigantic as its portions. Come hungry, leave happy.



Verbeten's Bar & Grill

154 E. Third St., Kaukauna
(920) 766-7383

Verbeten's Bar & Grill has been serving the Fox Valley since 1932! This third-generation, family-friendly spot offers casual dining with surprisingly affordable prices. Its burgers are a local favorite. Most specifically the cheesy, saucy Pizza Burger -- which tastes like a slice of heaven on a bun -- and the flavorful Turkey Burger, a juicy, satisfying alternative. With friendly, welcoming service, Verbeten's is all about great food and good times.



Wooden Nickel Sports Bar & Grill

217 E. College Ave., Appleton
(920) 735-0661

At downtown Appleton's Wooden Nickel Sports Bar & Grill, the all-wood interior oozes rustic charm and the Double Play Burger is a flavor-packed kiss on the lips. Double the patties, double the glory: A sizzling third-pound beef patty meets a juicy brat, stacked with molten cheddar and creamy Swiss. Pair it with crispy, golden chippers for the ultimate bite. It's bold, satisfying, and built for burger lovers who play to win.



Garden View Family Restaurant

216 E. College Ave., Appleton
(920) 739-8207

Located in Downtown Appleton, Garden View Family Restaurant celebrates burgers that are bursting with flavor. The Route 66 Burger is a smoky, crunchy dream—crispy onion rings, sharp cheddar, and tangy barbecue sauce atop a juicy patty. The Guacamole Burger is refreshingly rich, layered with creamy guac, crisp lettuce, ripe tomato, bacon, Swiss cheese, onions, and a touch of creamy mayo. It's a bold, satisfying bite that hits all the right spots.



Charlie's Drive-In

A NOSTALGIC GEM WITH THE BEST BURGERS IN TOWN

By JENNI EICKELBERG

Nestled in the heart of Hortonville, Charlie's Drive-In is more than just a place to grab a bite; it's a classic drive-in with a rich history and a deep connection to its patrons. Co-owned by siblings Rachel Mann-Rosenfeldt and Carl Mann, Charlie's Drive-In has been a beloved fixture since 1965, when their father, Charlie, first opened its doors. Today, Rachel and Carl continue to uphold the legacy, infusing the drive-in with a blend of nostalgia and modern flair.

Charlie's Drive-In is a testament to the enduring appeal of classic American drive-in restaurants. The Mann siblings were born into the business, with Rachel and Carl taking the reins over from their father in 2006. "Root Beer is in our blood," Rachel fondly recalls. The drive-in's commitment to preserving its nostalgic charm is evident in every detail, from the trays on the windows to the paper order pads and chilled mugs. The ambiance is a delightful throwback to the 50s and 60s.

One of the joys of owning Charlie's Drive-In is the connection Rachel and Carl have built with their customers. Along with their staff, they enjoy creating a welcoming atmosphere. Carl's face-painting has become a fun tradition at local events, adding a personal touch that many have come to appreciate.

Running a business like Charlie's Drive-In comes with its unique challenges. One notable aspect is their decision not to accept credit cards, a calculated choice made to keep costs down and pass the savings on to customers. While this can be a minor inconvenience, regulars know to bring cash.

The real stars of the show at Charlie's Drive-In are the hamburgers. The classic cheeseburger and hamburger are perennial favorites, known for their unique seasoning that sets them apart from the competition. The mushroom burger, Carl style, is a personal favorite, featuring fried onions, Swiss cheese, and Horsey sauce. These burgers are crafted with high-quality ingredients, including meat from the Meat Block and Kaiser buns from Quaker Bakery, ensuring every bite is a delightful experience.

Charlie's Drive-In is not just about great food; it's about creating memorable experiences. Their "Elvis Days" and classic car drive-in nights are a testament to this. Every August, Charlie's features Elvis Days where carhops dress as Marilyn Monroe, and Carl takes on the role of Elvis, adding a touch of fun and nostalgia to the dining experience. The event has grown to include family-friendly activities like bounce houses and free face-painting, making it a hit with both kids and adults.

In a world where fast food chains dominate, Charlie's Drive-In never goes out of style. With its rich history, commitment to quality, and unwavering dedication to its customers, it's no wonder that Charlie's Drive-In feels like a delightful journey back in time.



ENJOY OUR INDOOR/OUTDOOR BAR AND DINING FOR FALL!



The Cheese Curd Burger



CALL AHEAD FOR TAKE OUT ORDERS!

WELCOME TO REAL HOME COOKING

From burgers to steaks and fish, to salads, soups, and desserts made from scratch!



NO ONE DOES BURGERS LIKE MAD APPLE!

3025 W. College Ave. Appleton | 920.955.3990

Open 7 days a week | Call ahead for take out!

FALL FOOTBALL PLUS BEST BURGERS!



21 BIG SCREEN TVS!

Celebrating 36 Years



THE PERFECT MIX OF GOOD PEOPLE & GOOD FOOD.

Choose From 20 Sandwiches
Chicken and Fish Favorites
Homemade Pizza • Quesadillas
Pulled Pork Nachos • Appetizers



HAPPY HOUR
Tues-Fri 11am-5pm

FREE HOT DOGS EVERY SATURDAY

\$2 bill drink specials
Saturday 1pm-6pm
(good w/ \$2 bill only!)



(920) 731-1265

1937 E John St., Appleton
Open Tues-Sat 11am-close



COWBOY BURGERS

By CARLY CERNIGLIA

Yee-haw! These burgers are darn tootin' delicious. Be careful getting your mouth around these, as they're the perfect silencer to a rowdy crew. Finger lickin' good, these burgers are stuffed full of cheese and jalapeños, and covered in smoky barbecue sauce. Stacked a mile high you won't believe your eyes, or your taste buds!

INGREDIENTS

For the patties:

- 1-2 pounds ground beef
- Two jalapeños, seeded and diced
- 2 tablespoons barbecue sauce
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon onion powder
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- ¼ cup shredded cheese

For Assembly:

- Candied jalapeños
- Smoked cheddar cheese
- Bacon, cooked
- Barbecue sauce
- Mayo
- Lettuce
- Tomato
- Onion rings, baked
- Brioche buns

DIRECTIONS

Combine the patty mixture in a bowl until well incorporated, wrap and chill for one hour.

Meanwhile, start up the grill.

When the grill is ready, shape the patty mixture into four patties. Grill on one side until the juices start to pool on the top of the patties. Flip, and cook for another 3-5 minutes to desired doneness. Before you remove from the grill, baste with extra barbecue sauce. Top with smoked cheddar cheese and let melt. Remove burgers from the grill when they're done cooking and the cheese has started to melt.

To assemble:

Mix together a bit of barbecue sauce and mayo and spread it on the buns. Layer lettuce, tomato, burgers, bacon, candied jalapeños, and onion rings. Serve with a napkin, and enjoy!



Photo by Carly Cerniglia

FILL YOUR SHELVES!

Visit the 88th AAUW Used Book Sale at the Fox River Mall.

(Use outside entrance to the right of main entrance to food court.)



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Oct. 16 9am-7pm (Most books \$1-\$2)
- Oct. 17 9am-7pm (Most books \$1-\$2)
- Oct. 18 9am-5pm (Most books \$1-\$2)
- Oct. 19 12pm-5pm (Most books \$1-\$2)
- Oct. 23 9am-7pm (Most books \$1-\$2)
- Oct. 24 9am-7pm (Most books \$1-\$2)
- Oct. 25 9am-5pm (Half price day)
- Oct. 26 12pm-5pm (Half price day)
- Oct. 30 9am-7pm (\$5/bag)
- Oct. 31 9am-7pm (\$5/bag)
- Nov. 1 9am-12pm (All items free)

We are accepting donations of books (hardcover, paperback, children's large print, books on CD), sheet music, CDs, DVDs, puzzles, and games. No magazines, textbooks, or VHS tapes.

For book pick-up, please call: (920) 284-7098, (920) 540-7751, (920) 636-8153, or (920) 734-6750.

Contributions accepted through Oct. 6th. Profits provide scholarships for women.



Tue-Sun 7am-3pm | www.applevalleypancakehouse.com
 1022 Main Street, Neenah | 920.215.3966
 1216 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Appleton | 920.574.2222

HERITAGE ORCHARD
 N2963 Lakeshore Dr, Chilton WI
 920-849-2158

Certified Organic Apple Varieties Now Available!

Award Winning Apple Cider

Open Daily 9-5pm

19 miles north of Fond du Lac, 25 miles south of Appleton

Pick-your-own & pre-packaged Apples

Shop Mums, Pumpkins, Gourds, Fresh Garlic and more!

Delicious Apple Cider Donuts, Pies & Treats for the Family

Craft Loft featuring over 50 Local Artists from Wisconsin

Facebook @Heritageorchardwi

Visit us at the Downtown Appleton Farm Market



Open Road, Full Cup

By JASON PATZER

I typically like to try to stay on issue theme for my coffee columns but given that the main theme this month is burgers, that is proving to be a bit tough. Although, I bet we could find a nice burger at a couple of local shops. That said, I am going to focus on the secondary theme of the issue, fall favorites. Full disclosure, fall has always been my favorite season based on the weather alone. However, after thinking about and researching this month's column, I am officially declaring fall as the best time of year for coffee drinkers as well.

As I said, the weather is one of the things that make fall my favorite season. The combination of cooler temps and sunny days make it easy to mix and match your wardrobe. During the summer, you're just kind of stuck rotating through shorts and short sleeves. Winter is the opposite, requiring full coverage on both the legs and arms. Fall, however, is the best of both worlds. Shorts and a hoodie can work just as well as pants and a t-shirt. Light jackets, cozy fleeces, long sleeve tees, nice denim, corduroy, you name it – your whole closet is in play. Let's not forget the "shacket" (shirt jacket) either, I purchased one last year, and boy, is it worth it.

I think I'm getting sidetracked here.

Bringing it back to coffee, new variations aren't only found in your closet, they're also at your local coffee shop. Coffee in the fall typically means pumpkin is involved, and for good reason. It's such a beautiful combination of flavors when it's done correctly. Local shops usually offer up their own take on the famed pumpkin spice latte. The key word being "spice". You don't need to have actual



pumpkin in it for it to be considered a pumpkin spice beverage – the spices are what really make it. Typically, pumpkin pie spices are cinnamon, nutmeg, clove, allspice, and sometimes ginger.

Pumpkin usually rules the headlines this time of year, but local shops, and even some chains, have been branching out and highlighting the other flavors of fall. Think apple, butterscotch, maple, hazelnut, chai, and pecan just to name a few. This is where the variety of options come in, as there are just as many iced drink options to celebrate fall as there are traditional hot ones.

I stopped by Dauntless Soul in Omro the other day and had its Autumn Indulgence Shaken Espresso (pictured).

It was a combination of pumpkin, caramel, and hazelnut shaken with espresso over ice and topped with a splash of milk. It was a nice summer style drink, but with the familiar flavors of fall. And it was delicious.

I also stopped in at Whisk & Arrow to check out the fall menu. I enjoyed their fall take on the classic cortado. A cortado is a simple drink made with equal parts espresso and steamed milk, it should only be 4 to 5 ounces. This version includes Whisk & Arrow's own homemade butter rum syrup. As I've mentioned before, homemade syrups always beat out the mass-produced stuff, and at Whisk, you'll only find the best.

While sipping on my cortado, I couldn't help but notice and discuss a wild concoction featured right now, The Ghoul (pictured). I've had thousands of espresso mixes in my life, and I've also had many matcha options, but I can't recall a time that I've had both in the same drink! The Ghoul is an ambitious creation that has both, along with salted caramel, mocha drizzle, and cocoa powder to create a visual masterpiece.

Not to be outdone in the creativity department, I have it in good authority that the masterminds over at Coffee Wizardz are working on a spicy sweet corn latte. I've only ever seen or heard of one other sweet corn coffee offering, and it was a few years ago in Hudson. That one was served with a small sprinkle of salt and pepper. It was surprisingly tasty and not overly "corny." The corn basically provides a subtle and familiar sweetness to its coffee counterparts. Given its trusted track record of imaginative and unique flavors, I cannot wait to see what Coffee Wizardz does with it.

Jason Patzer has worked in coffee for over 11 years. He started Patzer Coffee as a way to continue his passion for coffee after leaving the industry. You can follow him on Facebook & Instagram @patzercoffee. Or on his website, patzercoffee.com, where he highlights the local coffee community.



WARM UP WITH OUR NEW FALL VENUE!

NOW SERVING BUSINESS BOXED LUNCHES!

Minimum of 10 boxes per order. Call ahead, pick up, or we deliver!

NEW FALL MENU SURPRISES!

Book our event/holiday party room for up to 40 people now!



OUR CHEF'S SPECIAL
WINE DINNER MENU
with our exclusive wines!

FULL-SCALE DESIGNER BAR SERVING ALL YOUR FAVORITE DRINKS PLUS FINE WINES
192 Main Street, Menasha | RustedRoostRB.com | 920.570.5703 | Tue-Thu 11-8, Fri-Sat 11-10

Join Us For Green Bay Games

Plus Prizes!



TASTE THE BEST BURGERS

Plus warm up with
our soups and chili!

Featuring our FALL APPLE
CIDER DRINK SPECIAL

Great pizza & big menu selection!



COME AND ENJOY OUR DELICIOUS BURGERS!



(920) 989-1155 | State Road 114, Menasha | Open 11am-Close 7 Days a Week | Kitchen Open 11am-9pm

CARAMEL NUT ROLL BRAINS

By CARLY CERNIGLIA

They're creepy, they're spooky, they're oh-so-caramely!

These Caramel Nut Roll "Brains" are a stunning way to put a little Halloween fun into breakfast. You'll be shocked at how easy they actually are to make from scratch. No zombies required, but they will be gobbled up in no time..

INGREDIENTS:

For the dough:

4 ½ cups flour, divided
One (.25 ounce) packet active dry yeast
2 cups whole milk
½ cup vegetable oil
Splash of vanilla extract
½ cup sugar
½ teaspoon. baking soda
½ heaping tsp. baking powder
1 teaspoon. salt

Frosting:

⅓ cup brown sugar, packed
⅓ cup white sugar
⅓ cup sliced almonds
⅔ cup chopped pecans
3 tablespoons cinnamon
12 tablespoons butter, melted
Pinch of salt

For the "Bloody" glaze:

One jar caramel sauce
Red food coloring

DIRECTIONS:

For the dough:

Mix milk, vegetable oil, vanilla, and sugar in a small pan. Heat to 95 -100 degrees F. Remove from heat and transfer to a large bowl. Sprinkle yeast over the mixture and let sit for 10 minutes.

Stir in 4 cups of flour with a wooden spoon until just combined. Cover and let sit for one hour in a warm spot.

Mix together ½ cup flour, baking soda, baking



Photo by Carly Cerniglia

powder, and salt. Mix into dough with a wooden spoon until just incorporated. Cover and refrigerate overnight. (Dough can be refrigerated for up to three days, punching down as needed.)

Assembling:

Butter one 10-inch cake pan and line the bottom with a parchment circle. Set aside. Repeat with an 8-inch cake pan.

Punch down the dough and turn out onto a floured surface. Roll and stretch into a 30-by-20 inch deep rectangle. Carefully spread the melted butter onto the dough, leaving a one inch gap at the top of the dough. Mix together sugars, cinnamon, salt, and nuts, and sprinkle evenly over butter.

Begin rolling tightly upward, toward the unbuttered section. Shape roll to be uniform in thickness. Cut into one inch slices with a sharp serrated knife. Place two rolls – cut side up – into pans, unrolling to create the brain crease down the middle of the 10-inch pan. Add more rolls to the pan, unroll and arrange in a zigzag/squiggle pattern to create the look of brain folds. I fit about eight to 10 rolls in the 10-inch pan. Place any remaining rolls in the 8-inch pan (I had seven).

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F while placing the rolls on top of the oven to rise for 30 minutes. Bake for 25-30 minutes or until golden brown. Let cool a bit.

Mix caramel and food color in a small saucepot and warm. Spread over rolls and enjoy!

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE OUTSIDE SALES

Appleton Monthly Magazine

We're looking for ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES to call on businesses in the Fox Cities. Full or part time positions. Experience is a plus.

Send your resume to Jon Croce, publisher, at jcroce@appletonmonthly.com or call 920.707.0013.

Appleton

Monthly

we're looking for freelance writers

Please send resume and clips to: Jon Croce at jcroce@appletonmonthly.com or call 920.707.0013

Appleton

Monthly



A sign of good business!
Providing Security, Fire Systems, and Cameras All Over Wisconsin Since 1975

FREE ESTIMATES
Affordable Monitoring Rates, Superior Service

Fire Alarm System Inspections & Service Too !

Michiels Bar & Grill

JOIN US FOR ALL THE **BIG GAMES!**



BRAND NEW BAR!
Watch the game on our GIANT projector screen!

HAPPY HOUR DRINK PRICES!
DOMESTIC BOTTLES AND PINTS \$3.50



FREE FOOD AT HALF TIME!

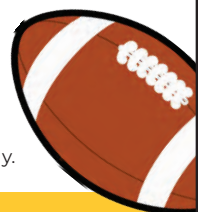
FREE HOUSE SHOTS EVERY TIME THE PACKERS SCORE!

SATURDAYS 11:00AM-3:00PM
\$7 BURGER BASKET!



\$9.00
Sunday Broasted Chicken with all the fixin's!

Specials are for dine-in only.



DAILY SPECIALS AVAILABLE!

Michiels Bar & Grill 1100 Appleton Rd, Menasha
920-722-7885 | michielsbarandgrill.com

Why Drink Wine?

By STEVE JOHNSON

I ask this question by first disclosing that I am, by profession, a winegrower and winemaker. Additionally, I have read countless studies on the connection between wine and health. As with any debate, everyone is entitled to their opinion. As with almost any debate about health, there are those who see the issue from only one perspective. I am writing about this topic now as there has recently been much discussion and varying opinions on the conversation regarding alcohol consumption and health.



Many lengthy articles and books have been written

on this topic, but my goal today is to give you a unique perspective, often overlooked by science, on the issue of wine consumption. We all know that anything in excess is bad for you like food, social media, and alcohol. Moderation is the key to most things in life, and so it is with wine. While I could cite scientific study after scientific study on how one to two glasses of wine a day can offer numerous health benefits; I will instead cite only one study. A study that discusses the often-overlooked benefit of social connection when it comes to drinking wine.

“Our data demonstrates that wine drinking is a general indicator of optimal social, cognitive, and personality development in Denmark. Similar social, cognitive, and personality factors have also been associated with better health in many populations. Consequently, the association between drinking habits and social psychological characteristics, in large part, may explain the apparent health benefits of wine”

JAMA Internal Medicine, Vol.161, No.15.

This study demonstrates the importance of slowing down, connecting, having deeper and more intentional conversations, which wine can do like few other things can in life. It has been said that lack of social connections increases the odds of death by at least 50%, like the risk of smoking, obesity, and physical inactivity. My point to those focused on the dangers of alcohol is to separate wine consumption from that of other alcoholic beverages, and to focus as much attention on alcohol as you do the dangers of overeating, lack of exercise, and lack of social connection – all of which are causing poorer health outcomes.

The “Blue Zones” of the world are the five areas where there is the highest concentration of those living to over 100. These special areas are in parts of Italy, Japan, California, Costa Rica, and Greece. What do they have in common? The similarity is physical activity and healthy meals that include one or two glasses of wine in the setting of other people.

I have always said that wine is best enjoyed in the presence of others. It helps us to bring out the best in each other when we gather and share our lives, our stories, and ourselves. Wine has been part of our human experience now for over 7,000 years. That is not by accident. Keep in mind, though, that one to two glasses of wine a day does not mean zero glasses Monday through Friday and then ten glasses on Saturday.

Wine is about pleasure, presence, and connecting with others.

Steve Johnson is co-owner and winemaker at Parallel 44 and Door 44 in Kewaunee and Door Counties. His passion is growing and crafting wines from Northeast Wisconsin, an unexpected, but increasingly recognized corner of the wine world.

Pumpkin Spice White Russian

A fall twist on the classic White Russian, it adds the flavors of pumpkin spice to create a delicious fall cocktail. To create this drink, combine vodka and Kahlúa with a pumpkin spice creamer. Garnish with whipped cream, pumpkin pie spice and/or cinnamon sticks.

If you don't have pumpkin spice creamer on hand, you can substitute with regular creamer or milk, and a pumpkin spice mix of cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, cloves, and allspice.



INGREDIENTS

- 2 ounces vodka
- 1 ounce coffee liqueur (such as Kahlúa)
- 2 ounces pumpkin spice creamer
- 1 ounce cream or milk
- Garnish: Whipped cream, pumpkin pie spice, cinnamon sticks

DIRECTIONS

- Fill cocktail shaker with ice
- Add vodka, coffee liqueur, and pumpkin spice creamer
- Shake for 10-15 seconds until well chilled
- Pour the mixture into a glass filled with ice
- Top with the cream or milk, and stir
- Garnish with whipped cream, pumpkin pie spice and/or cinnamon sticks
- Serve immediately and enjoy!

DRINK

BREWS



SIP

PUMPKIN LAGER SPICED LAGER

This seasonal Pumpkin Lager combines real pumpkin and pumpkin pie spice (cinnamon, allspice, ginger, nutmeg, cloves, mace) with Munich and caramel malts. Available through October.

PUMPKIN LAGER
LAKEFRONT BREWERY
MILWAUKEE, WIS.



SPECIAL

CHRISTIANO'S WOOD FIRED PIZZA

2400 South Kensington Drive, Appleton

At this family restaurant, you'll experience more than just amazing wood-fired pizza. Visit their huge, full-service bar with wines, tap or bottled beer, and cocktails. You'll love the Caesar salad and house salad. Try the meatball dish with their original sauce, or enjoy focaccia bread, calzones, sandwiches, desserts, and soft serve ice cream. They have something for every family member, and you can gather on the beautiful tree-covered outdoor patio. Inside you'll find a comfy dining room and bar ideal for large teams, office groups, and families. Watch football and baseball on the big screens and allow their experienced staff to serve Christiano's quality with every meal. You can also order online at christianospizza.com.

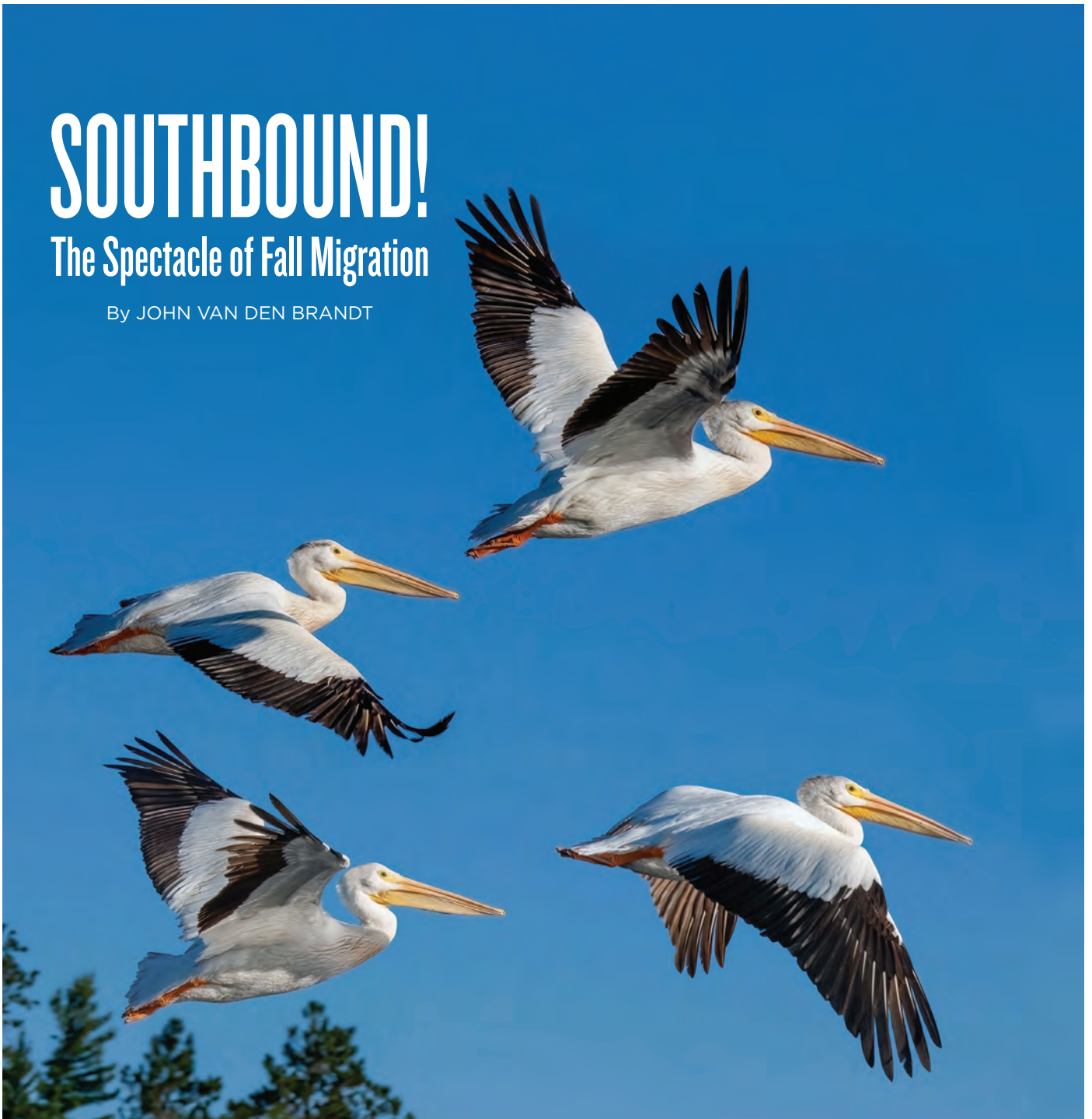
EAT

MORE

DESIGN & DECORATING 69 | PET CARE 72 | IN THE GARDEN 73 | ONE MORE THING 74

SOUTHBOUND! The Spectacle of Fall Migration

By JOHN VAN DEN BRANDT



A vast flock of birds, likely starlings, is captured in flight against a clear, bright blue sky. The birds are densely packed, creating a textured, almost cloud-like appearance. They are seen from various angles, showing their wings and bodies in motion. The overall scene conveys a sense of dynamic energy and natural beauty.

Bye Bye Birdie

Fall Migration Peaks

PHOTOS AND STORY BY JOHN VAN DEN BRANDT

In fall, red-winged blackbirds, grackles and starlings are known for gathering in massive cloud-like flocks before heading south. These swirling, pulsing “living clouds” may contain thousands or even millions of birds. Their ability to dart and swirl in coordinated fashion like a school of fish is called murmurations – a term probably stemming from the loud humming sound of so many wings beating. The hum is punctuated by dramatic whooshes as the flock changes directions in perfect unison. Individual birds benefit from joining these massive flocks that confuse and intimidate predators, find food sources easier, and have many eyes looking out for threats.

If you have been hiking recently, you may have noticed that your favorite woods is much quieter than just a few weeks ago. As the days grow shorter and nights cooler, birds embark on their annual southward migration in almost unimaginable numbers. During peak migration, approximately 15 million birds fly over Wisconsin in a single night. If we consider the entire continental United States, the number of birds in motion escalates to more than 400 million a night. These colossal flocks of birds are detectable on radar, although they're not commonly observed, since migration typically occurs at night, providing birds with enhanced safety from predators. Flights typically begin shortly after sunset and peak during the first half of the night. Birds ascend to a height of a few thousand feet, searching for favorable air currents that may carry them 500 miles before dawn.

Wisconsin is fortunate to have two prominent migratory "superhighways" for birds to follow: the Mississippi River and the Lake Michigan shoreline. Approximately

75% of the Wisconsin bird population migrates. While some birds journey thousands of miles to their wintering grounds in Central and South America, others may only venture as far as Illinois. However, as our winters steadily warm, a growing number of birds are finding sufficient food and open water within Wisconsin, leading them to abandon their migration and remain in their current location.

The fall migration offers the exciting opportunity to see massive flocks of birds such as sandhill cranes at Navarino Wildlife Refuge near Shawano, hundreds of thousands of geese at Horicon Marsh or countless ducks and other waterfowl along the Mississippi River. It also affords the prospect of seeing birds that live and breed in Canada and are only passing through Wisconsin on their way south, such as snow geese. A quick Google search will reveal online resources that track the migration in real-time and provide forecasts for peak viewing. Choose a day and get out and enjoy the spectacle of bird-filled skies – it will be months before we see them again!



This may look like the start of some kind of bird marathon, and in many ways it is. Wisconsin's red-winged blackbirds migrate to central and southern states as far as 800 miles away. On the way, they'll rely on safety in numbers, flying in large flocks that provide a measure of security from predators. Other bird species may join the flock to benefit from their numbers. This image contains just one yellow-headed blackbird. Can you spot it?



People are surprised to learn that their “first robin of spring” may have spent the winter just a few blocks away. Though many robins fly south for the winter, if they have access to moving water and ample fruit, like crabapples, they often spend the winter in sizable flocks within the many parks that border the Fox River. As food becomes more widely available in spring, robins disperse into neighborhoods to claim breeding territory and residents welcome them back from what actually may have been a very short journey.



About 25% of Wisconsin’s bird species don’t migrate, remaining in the state year round. The list contains many familiar birds such as cardinals, blue jays, chickadees, sparrows, finches woodpeckers and owls. These hardy birds are well adapted to finding food and shelter during Wisconsin’s harsh winter. One such species, the cedar waxwing, becomes nomadic, wandering the state in large flocks in search of fruit and berry trees. Once found, the flock will strip the trees of their fruit in mere days before moving on.



The Navarino Wildlife Area near Shawano acts as an important staging area for migrating sandhill cranes. Each evening, hundreds of cranes pour into the wetlands to roost for the night, drawn to the safety of its shallow water and the security the immense flock provides. Shortly after dawn, the flock will take-off as one, flying to nearby agricultural fields to feed for the day. Staging peaks in October, making this an ideal time to view cranes. By mid-November to early December, the marsh slowly empties of cranes as they journey to their primary wintering grounds in Florida, Alabama, and Tennessee.



The American white pelican is a true migrant, primarily spending its winters along the Gulf Coast and Mexico. They can often be seen gathering in large flocks on Lake Winnebago before departing the area in late September and October. The birds utilize thermal currents, southerly winds, and their eight-foot wingspans to average 100 miles a day with little effort. Storms or headwinds may briefly ground the birds, providing an opportunity to rest and refuel before continuing their long journey.



The fall migration provides an opportunity to see unique birds that are just passing through Wisconsin from their homes farther north. Snow geese are a good example. When departing from their breeding territory on the Canadian Arctic tundra, they fly swiftly and at high altitude, mostly passing over Wisconsin without stopping. However, some snow geese take a break from headwinds or bad weather by resting and feeding at the Horicon Marsh and along the Mississippi River corridor in late fall. Because so many northern birds funnel through Wisconsin en route south, spotting rarities is always a possibility and makes fall an exciting time for bird watchers.

About 35% of all the birds in North America use the Mississippi River flyway when migrating south. This avian super-highway is used by more than 300 species, making it an ideal location to witness the spectacle of migration in fall. Beginning in mid-October, resources like migrationstationusa.com provide up to the minute migration maps showing where waterfowl activity is peaking.



John Van Den Brandt is a professional wildlife photographer and owner of Wild Wind Images LLC (wildwindimages.com). His wildlife images have appeared in numerous articles, websites, textbooks, and ads. John's fine art prints grace the walls of homes and businesses across the country. His calendars have sold more than 100,000 copies. Van Den Brandt makes his home in Appleton with his wife, Jean, who he says "takes me from having a dream job to having a dream life."

SAVE NOW on high heating bills with a furnace tune up!



**FURNACE
TUNE-UP
\$15 OFF**
(Other offers do not apply.
Offer expires 11-5-25.)



Serving your family's heating and air conditioning needs since 1921.

Four generations of Christensens have run our family business, maintaining the quality workmanship you've come to expect from us.

VOTED "BEST OF THE VALLEY" 5 YEARS!

The Service Experts

Visit our showroom at
1609 W. Wisconsin Ave., Appleton

(920) 731-3002

www.christensenheating.com

24-HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE



Art Galleries

TROUT MUSEUM OF ART

(officially opening Oct. 11)
325 E College Ave
Appleton, WI

RICHESON SCHOOL OF ART & GALLERY

557 Marcella St
Kimberly, WI

BERGSTROM-MAHLER MUSEUM OF GLASS

165 N Park Ave
Neenah, WI

THE HANG UP GALLERY OF FINE ART

204 W Wisconsin Ave
Neenah, WI

JAMBALAYA ARTS, INC.

413 N Main St
Oshkosh, WI

MULVA CULTURAL CENTER

221 S Broadway
De Pere, WI

THE ART GARAGE

1400 Cedar St
Green Bay, WI

LAWTON GALLERY

2420 Nicolet Drive
Green Bay, WI

SHARE FINE ART GALLERIES, LLC

228 S Military Road
Fond du Lac, WI

Getting Your Home Cozy

By SARAH PETERSON

Fall is a time for snuggling into sweaters, scarves, and steaming soups. It is a time to watch the leaves change, and to sip our coffee a bit more slowly. It is also an ideal time to do some gentle cleaning and organizing. Holiday decorations, gifts, food, snow gear, and guests will soon fill our homes. And while this can bring us great joy, it can also be overwhelming. Checking off some simple tasks to help tidy our space *now* can allow us to enjoy all that the *cozy season* has to offer.

Sort and Store Summer Gear

- Empty and wash beach/pool bags and coolers.
- Wash and store your swim gear and beach towels in a labeled bin.
- Donate gently used or outgrown swimsuits, summer clothing, bikes, and sports gear.
- Toss expired or empty bottles of sunscreen and bug spray.

Prepare Outdoor Spaces for Winter

- Drain and unhook outdoor faucets, store hoses, and shut off the water inside.
- Clean and cover outdoor furniture and grills.
- Wash and store outdoor rugs and décor.
- Clean debris out of gutters and downspouts.
- Rake leaves and dead plants out of garden beds.

Clean Out Pantry

- Discard expired goods.
- Make sure every storage container has a lid that fits and recycle or throw away the extras.
- Check that crock pots, mixers, and other kitchen tools work, and keep them within reach.
- Stock up on baking essentials, teas and coffees, and other pantry staples.



Declutter Dressers and Closets

- Sort fall and winter clothing into three categories: keep, donate, or toss. Keep basic pieces that can be mixed and matched.
- Sort and organize remaining clothes using drawer and closet dividers if needed.
- Donate gently used coats, winter gear, and blankets to local organizations.
- Clean and donate gently used toys, games, and books to make room for those incoming gifts.

Clear Off Tables, Counters, and Shelves

- Recycle old papers, bills, and magazines.
- Use a basket, bin, or divided file sorter to organize important papers.
- Dust shelves and wipe down surfaces.
- Donate or store summer decor to make room for fall and winter decor.

Decorating is much easier when our homes are less cluttered, so reward your tidy space with some seasonal warmth. Start by adding a few festive items. Resist the urge to purchase all new decor. Use what you have first, then add new or natural elements – pumpkins, mums, dried florals, candles, blankets, baskets, or whatever delights you during the cozy season. Happy organizing!

Sarah Peterson is a lifelong resident of Appleton, where she is a mother of four, a wife, a writer, an artist, and an active community member. She finds inspiration in her family and faith, exploring themes of nostalgia and the beauty of simplicity in her work.

Spooky & Festive Halloween

By JOEL LAPER

The shorter and cooler days of October are here once again. Once it's done, the holiday season will soon be here. But let's not rush the month of ghouls and goblins. Halloween has become the second most popular holiday with 70% of Americans participating in some sort of celebration or decorating for the holiday.

The tradition of Halloween originates from the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. People would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. During the 1800s, Pope Gregory III designated Nov. 1 as a time to honor all saints. Soon thereafter, All Saints Day incorporated some of the traditions of Samhain. The evening before was called All Saints Eve, which later became Halloween. As customs and beliefs of different European ethnic groups and Native Americans merged, a distinctly American version of Halloween evolved that also included events to celebrate the harvest. Neighbors would share stories of the dead, tell fortunes, dance, and sing. In the late 1800s, Americans began incorporating European traditions and that's when dressing in costumes and trick-or-treating began, thus cementing Halloween into a uniquely American holiday.

At our house, we celebrate Halloween with a full-sized, decorated tree.

For this display in our front entry hall, I used a 6-foot, black artificial tree to anchor the space.

First, I combined Halloween-themed glass ornaments with some hand-crafted ones

that look like spiders, skeletons, and ghosts. Next, I added some fall décor including leaves and faux-painted pumpkins in various neutral and metallic tones. Then I layered the entire scene with some skulls, witches,

and colorful halloween lights to add some whimsy and depth. Finally, on Halloween night, I light a vintage candelabra with black candles for a spooky and haunting vibe.



Photo by Joel Laper

Autumn

THE SCENT OF FALL

By TIM FROBERG

The sights of October are dazzling, highlighted by the gorgeous fall foliage.

But the scents of the season are spectacular, too.

That's why Shelley Nystrom is making sure that autumn's exquisite smells will still be available when the snow piles up in a few months.

Nystrom, the owner of Eco Candle Company, sells handmade, eco-friendly soy candles along with handmade soaps, bath and body care, linen sprays, reed diffusers, natural cleaning supplies and home goods at her downtown Appleton business. The vast majority of the products are made on-site by Nystrom and her employees.

Candles are her top seller and Nystrom has a full line of fall-scented candles available at the retail store – located at 123 E. College Ave. - and at her online business (go to ecocandleco.com).

"People call it fall, but we call it candle season," said Nystrom. "And we're going into our busiest season of the year. It's a time when our sales really pick up. We have different lines that come out for every season."

"We have spring, summer, fall and winter favorites and our summer favorites just finished up. They're on sale now and our fall and winter line have taken over."

The fall candles and fragrances provide the amazing olfactory experience that Midwest residents experience during the autumn months.

"People in the Midwest love the fall weather and everyone wants to have that warm, homey feeling inside their houses," Nystrom said. "The fall-scented candles and fragrances help achieve that."

The fall candle line includes caramel apple, orange clove, crushed cranberry and pumpkin pecan.

The caramel apple candle smells like tart Granny Smith apples covered in creamy caramel, while the orange clove features the scent of homemade pomanders with sweet winter oranges pieces with spicy cloves.

The crushed cranberry has the scent of fresh cranberries, apples, citrus zest, cloves and cinnamon, while the pumpkin pecan offers the smell of pumpkin, pears and maple syrup.

"The caramel apple is basically just like it sounds – like a caramel-covered apple," Nystrom said. "The orange clove is a real popular one for this time of year and the pumpkin pecan is very popular, too. They are good sellers and we bring those ones back every year. We have a brand new one we'll be getting in shortly called autumn equinox. It's a little bit of apples and mint and all the scents you might come across as the season changes into autumn."

Along with the fall products, Eco's winter line of candles and fragrances is also available at the store and website. Some of the best-selling candles include Sleigh Ride, Winter Wonderland, Eggnog and Snowflake.

Sleigh Ride is a wintry scent of pine with spices and orange peel. Winter Wonderland is a mix of pine, spruce and fir. Snow Flake is a combination of floral and mint, while Eggnog is a fragrance of classic spiked eggnog with nutmeg.

"Winter Wonderland is probably our most popular winter candle," Nystrom said. "It smells like a Christmas tree. Snowflake is a minty floral which smells like falling snowflakes. Sleigh Ride, well, it's like you're on Santa's sleigh."

Nystrom founded and opened her business in 2004, focusing on environmentally friendly products and maintaining sustainable production practices. It started as a small shop and has grown into a thriving business with its retail storefront and wholesale division. Eco Candles ships its online products to over 700 wholesale accounts across the country.

Nystrom was inspired to start her business years ago when she received a candle-making kit from a friend.





PowerPlus Limited Is Another Top Indian Bike

By TIM FROBERG

The Indian Chieftain PowerPlus Limited is not a bike for motorcycle lightweights. It's a big, powerful cruiser-style bike that tips the scale at a whopping 842 pounds—nearly twice the weight of the average motorcycle.

Beginners looking for a starter's bike should look elsewhere for a lighter two-wheeler because the weight alone of this burly vehicle requires a more experienced rider.

But what a ride it is!

Like all cruiser bikes, the Chieftain is all about comfort and ergonomics. It offers a relaxed riding position with low seat height, easy-to-reach handlebars and a soft, spacious saddle. The bike is designed for longer trips and offers an extremely smooth, comfortable ride.

Aesthetically, the Chieftain PowerPlus gives off retro vibes with its gorgeous classic American look. However, there is nothing old-school about its technology. With an impressive level of tech and safety features the PowerPlus has an adjustable windshield controlled with the touch of a button, hill hold control, an electronically-linked braking system, a blind-spot warning system, rear tailgate and collision warning and a seven-inch infotainment display touchscreen

integrated into the dashboard, powered by Polaris RIDE COMMAND technology.

The Chieftain PowerPlus Limited provides plenty of punch. It accelerates well—clocking at 4.9 seconds in the 0-to-60 test—and can easily hit triple digits and reach a top speed of 108 mph. The bike is powered by a 1.8-liter, 112-cubic-inch water-cooled twin Thunderstroke engine, producing 122 horsepower, replacing the old air-cooled 108 engine.

Motor Cycle News gave the Chieftain PowerPlus Limited four out of five stars in its review, stating: "Indian's 2025 Chieftain PowerPlus Limited is a seriously impressive cruiser. It serves an injection of performance and character compared to the previous generation Indian Chieftain. That's due mainly to the 112-inch, liquid-cooled motor, alongside the chassis tweaks and additional tech which comes as standard.

"It's also comfortable and roomy, handles relatively well considering the weight and thanks to the long wheelbase, it offers happy cruising along at motorway speeds, especially with the electronically adjustable screen in its highest setting. It's a good-looking machine with a quality finish."

A reviewer at *Autoweek.com* added: "The ride was comfortable, the seat was wide and the road rolled on forever in front of me. It's not a light tossable sport bike. It's a cruiser meant for powering down the highway with kinetic energy as your best friend."

The Indian brand is one of the oldest and most reliable in the world, dating back to the origin of the company in 1901. Indian Motorcycle was purchased by Polaris Industries in 2011, but has maintained the Indian brand. The Chieftain PowerPlus Limited is yet another quality product, combining Indian's traditional American style with next-generation performance.

Price: \$27,499

Max power: 122-126 hp

Engine type: Liquid-cooled, 112 cubic inches Thunderstroke

Weight: 842 pds

Length-wheel base: 98.5 inches

Torque: 133 lb.-ft

Seat height: 26.5 inches

Fuel capacity: 5.5 gallons, gets up to 44 mpg

Gastric Dilatation-Volvulus (GDV) in Dogs

By DR. SETH OBERSCHLAKE

Gastric dilatation-volvulus, often called GDV, or simply “bloat,” is one of the most serious and life-threatening emergencies we see in dogs. It occurs when the stomach rapidly fills with gas and then twists on itself. This twisting not only traps food and air, but also prevents blood from returning to the heart and abdomen. As time passes, the condition worsens, leading to decreased blood flow to the stomach lining and spleen as well as pressure on the diaphragm and lungs. Without emergency treatment, GDV can be fatal within a matter of hours, which is why every dog owner—especially those with high-risk breeds—should be familiar with the signs and the importance of immediate veterinary care.

Any dog can develop GDV, but it is most common in large, deep-chested breeds such as Great Danes, German Shepherds, standard poodles, Weimaraners, boxers, and others. Genetics play a role, so dogs with close relatives that have had GDV are at greater risk. Other factors that may contribute include age, stress, eating too quickly, or exercising right after a meal. Even so, GDV does not discriminate completely; younger and otherwise healthy dogs can also be affected.

Recognizing the warning signs is essential. Early symptoms may include a swollen or tight abdomen, repeated attempts



to vomit without producing anything, restlessness, pacing, and excessive drooling. Dogs may act uncomfortable, appear anxious, or be unable to settle. As the condition worsens, pets may collapse, show pale gums, or become weak and unresponsive. Because progression can be so rapid, the best course of action is to seek emergency veterinary care immediately if GDV is suspected—waiting to see if symptoms improve can cost valuable time.

Diagnosis is made with a physical exam and abdominal X-rays, and treatment requires hospitalization and surgery. Veterinarians will first stabilize the patient with IV fluids, oxygen, and pain relief. Surgery is then performed to untwist the

stomach, remove any damaged tissue, and secure the stomach to the body wall in a procedure called gastropexy. This greatly reduces the chance of the stomach twisting again in the future. Even with prompt care, GDV is a serious condition, but with early intervention, many dogs can recover fully.

For dogs at high risk, prevention is an important option. A prophylactic gastropexy (stomach tacking) can be performed, often at the same time as a spay or neuter, or as a separate procedure. This surgery does not prevent the stomach from filling with gas, but it does prevent the deadly twist. Preventive surgery is also far more cost-effective than emergency surgery. In addition, feeding smaller, more frequent meals, using slow-feeding bowls, and avoiding heavy exercise right after eating may help reduce risk.

GDV is a frightening condition, but being aware of the signs and acting quickly can save your dog’s life. If you own a large or deep-chested breed, talk to your veterinarian about your pet’s individual risk and whether preventative surgery may be a wise choice.

Dr. Seth Oberschlake is a 2014 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine. He has worked at Heritage Animal Hospital since 2015 and recently became the sole owner.

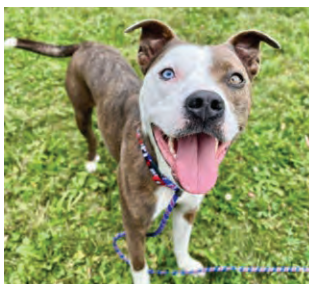
WE ARE LOOKING FOR A Forever Home



To adopt, please email adopt@foxvalleypets.org

920.733.1717

N115 Two Mile Road, Appleton, WI 54914



Pancho

Pancho is a 2-year-old neutered male bully breed mix. He is sure to bring some uniqueness to your life with his striking face markings and bicolored eyes. Pancho has successfully lived with cats in the past and does well with respectful children.



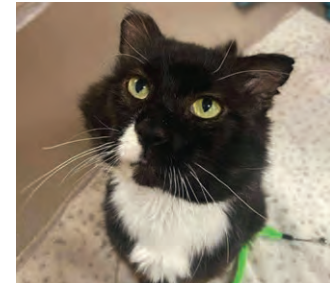
Pippin

Pippin is a 3-year-old neutered male Labrador retriever mix. He has plenty of spunk while also having the basics of how to live in a home down. Pippin enjoys playing with other dogs and does well with children.



Lionie

Lionie is a 4.5-year-old spayed female purebred Dogue de Bordeaux. She is everything you could want from a big dog; cuddly, supportive, and low maintenance. Lionie is good with children. She is looking for a pet-free home.



Coca Cola

Coca Cola is a 3-year-old neutered male cat. He has an adorably outgoing personality, and the cutest face around! Coca Cola is FIV+ - but he doesn't let that bother him.

Dividing Your Perennials

By HOLLY BOETTCHER

For passionate gardeners, the debate over whether to divide hostas, coneflowers, and daylilies in the late fall or early spring is a perennial question. In my garden, which hosts plenty of sprawling plants, this decision is a seasonal ritual. As I wander the serene garden nooks, I often find myself mentally mapping out which plants need dividing, and where the gardens will expand next.

A rule of thumb is that perennials should be divided in the spring or fall when the weather is cool. Spring blooming perennials such as astilbe should be divided in the fall, and late blooming perennials such as coneflowers and autumn joy sedum should wait until spring. From experience, I've found that dividing hostas in early spring has its perks. The tender buds pushing through the warming earth make the process feel less invasive, and the plants are easier to handle. However, spring division comes with a challenge: remembering the plants' mature appearance. For gardeners like me, who obsess over creating harmonious contrasts in color, variegation, and shape, this can be tricky.

That's why I lean toward the fall division camp for my hostas. While it may feel like you're giving the plant a rough time by damaging leaves and causing setbacks, the payoff is worth it. By the next growing season, the hostas will bounce back, rewarding you with lush, vibrant growth.

Do you have some dividing to do? Here are the tools you will need:

- Wheelbarrow
- Shovel
- Cutting tool (such as a sharp knife or spade)
- Organic matter or compost

Step by Step

1. Assess and plan: Identify which plants need dividing.
2. Digging up the plant: Use a shovel to dig around and beneath, and be careful to preserve as much of the root system as possible.
3. Dividing the roots: Use a sharp cutting tool or shovel. I prefer to slice through the root ball with my shovel. Each section should have a healthy portion of roots.
4. Replanting:
Original spot: Add organic matter or compost to the hole where the plant was, then replant one of the sections.
New locations: For the other divisions, dig holes twice the size of the root system. Enrich soil with organic matter, place the plant, and fill in around it.
5. Water generously: After planting, water thoroughly and continue to water regularly to help them establish.

Design Tips

For a polished look, plant as a specimen, or in groups of three or five. Consider adding companion plants. For instance, I pair hostas with astilbe, baptisia, bleeding heart, fianthus, or pulmonaria (lungwort) to enhance the garden's texture and color.



Patience Pays Off

Dividing perennials may leave them looking a bit bedraggled, but don't worry. After a restful winter, they'll emerge in spring more beautiful than ever, ready to steal the show once again in your gardens.

Whether you're a fall or spring divider, the key is to enjoy the process and look forward to the rewards of a thriving, well-designed garden. Happy gardening!

Holly Boettcher is a Master Gardener and an aspiring Naturalist. Her love for the outdoors and nature shines through in everything she does. Holly and her husband own Whistler's Knoll Vineyard on Highway JJ near Hortonville.

TAKE OFF YOUR CHEESEHEAD, STAY AWHILE

Fifteen years ago this past August, my now-wife and I moved into a humble duplex on Appleton's east side. As a North Dakota native, I was eager to acclimate myself to a new town that bore a pretty strong resemblance to the ones I'd left; squint a bit, and Appleton could easily be confused for any midsize river-city like the Bismarcks and Fargos I knew so well. It was geographically situated so that I could still drive to see my parents in a day, and was always reliably 15 degrees warmer than North Dakota in the winter. Appleton was ideal, or close to it.

But even as I came to love my new home, I found myself clinging to certain vestiges of my North Dakota roots for as long as I was allowed. My North Dakota ID, my "Peace Garden State" license plate, my 701 area code – why give them up, I figured. North Dakota was part of my personal brand, after all. And who knows, I might want to move back there someday.

But one by one, these items were shoved aside for Wisconsin replacements. With each tax bill and jury summons, I was becoming one of you. And a few weeks ago, the final domino fell – I've now lived in Appleton for longer than I've ever lived anywhere else. I'm a North Dakotan for nostalgia reasons and little otherwise.

If it sounds like I'm sad about this development, believe me, that isn't the case. If anything, I feel like I'm granted a perspective on some of Appleton's strengths (and non-strengths) that I might not have if I'd always lived here, which then confirms my appreciation for this place in the process. As an example, were you aware that Appleton has a higher number of delicious egg roll

sellers than anywhere I've ever been? Or that to a first-timer, Appleton's Christmas Parade seems a little too idyllic to be real life? Appleton lifers might be immune to some of its more subtle charms, but I'm trying not to be.?



ONE MORE THING

By TYLER SJOSTROM

This isn't to say that Appleton is without its faults, of course. We have entirely too many roundabouts, as you may have noticed. But consider:

- I can throw the kids in the car and have my choice of about 20 different orchards/campgrounds/pumpkin patches I can reach in the time it takes me to drink a coffee I buy at a place where they know me by name.

- I live two blocks from a public swimming pool in one direction and two blocks from Dairy Queen in the other, meaning that I can (and do) ride my bike from the pool to Dairy Queen just as I did when I was 9.

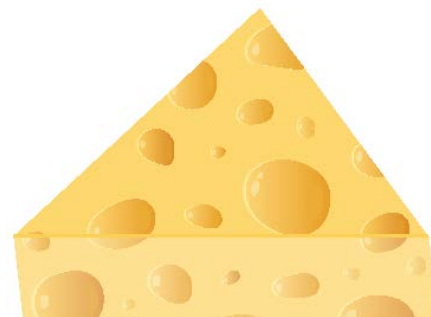
- I can eat a world-class meal at a literal hole-in-the-wall (Marvol, try it) and then see a Broadway production at a world-class theater less than a mile away.

- I can take my kids to witness the best franchise in sports and still be back in time to get Dairy Queen on the way. (We really like Dairy Queen in our house.)

And lastly, this: a few years ago, I was debating getting back into music after several years away. The novelty of an almost-40-year-old guy jumping back in from scratch wasn't and isn't lost on me. But Appleton is a special place for music and the arts in general, and I knew that if there was any town where I might be able to make it work and find some footing, it would be this one.

So after all that, Appleton is now my hometown. I like it here, and I don't know that we'll ever leave.

In time, I may even make peace with the roundabouts.



Tyler Sjostrom is an Appleton-based writer who will show you pictures of his kids whether you ask for them or not. Heckle him at tysjostrom@gmail.com or read more at tyler-sj.com.

Introducing the *New Enchanting Shop* in Downtown Neenah – Evermore & Co.



*Whimsical tea party
anyone?*

Love unique finds?

*Is storybook charm,
theatrical drama, and
sipping tea your vibe?*

**Welcome to
Evermore & Co.!**

A sweet new shop located
in Downtown Neenah.

Step back in time to find distinctive
style and grace in the beautiful
collection of vintage clothing
by Fashion Curator.

*This ever-evolving collective is
full of heart, creativity, and the
sweetest treasures.*

We offer tea adventures of the most
delightful kind! Our website shares
all workshops and tea adventures.

**Vintage, Workshops,
Handmade, Pop-Up
Bakers, Tea Adventures,
Always-changing Evermore!**



107 Church Street
Downtown Neenah

Open Thursday,
Friday, & Saturday
10am-5pm

920-718-3604

www.evermoreandco.com

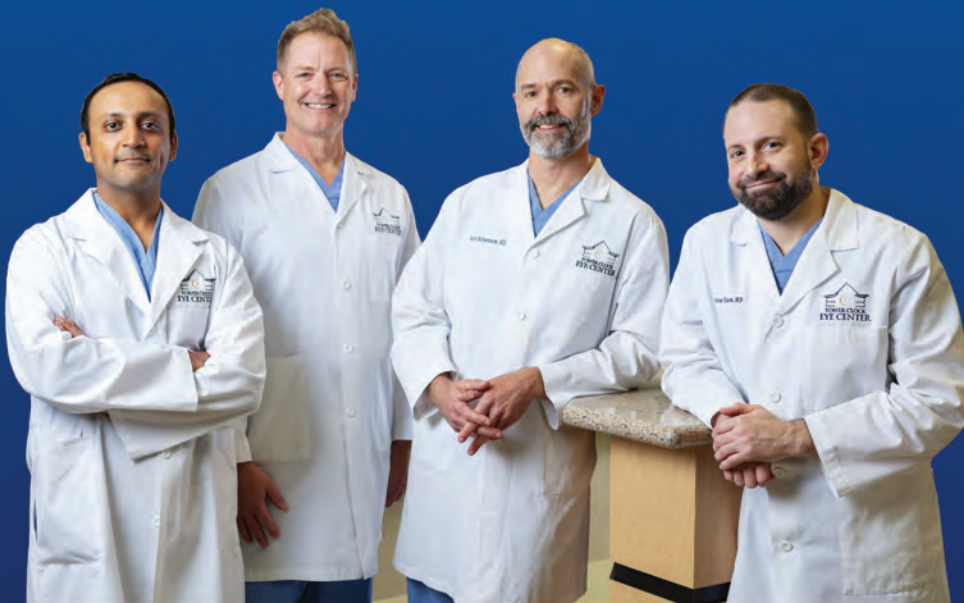
See Clearly Without the Wait

EXPERT EYE CARE IN APPLETON & THE FOX CITIES

*Now accepting new patients
— no referral needed!*

- ✓ Timely surgery scheduling
(Often 2-3 weeks after consult)
- ✓ Nearly all insurances accepted
- ✓ State-of-the-art surgery center
- ✓ Cataract, glaucoma & cornea specialists
- ✓ We coordinate care with all area optometrists

TRUSTED CATARACT CARE



Tower Clock Eye Center has served Northeast Wisconsin for over 40 years, and we're proud to bring that same trusted eye care to the Appleton/Fox Cities area. Whether you need cataract surgery, glaucoma treatment, or specialized cornea care, we offer **timely scheduling** and **advanced surgical care** — **without the wait.**

Call (920) 499-3102 or visit TowerClockEyeCenter.com

Tower Clock Eye Center – 3142 N. Richmond St. Appleton



TOWER CLOCK
EYE CENTER

Eyes are all we do