

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022

TWO SECTIONS

\$1.50

Close encounter with a huge hog

Marinette alderwoman, husband, meet a pig while on a walk

By DAN KITKOWSKI

EagleHerald Editor
dkitkowski@eagleherald.com



Mikutowski

and entertainment. Wilbur was “some pig” in the children’s book and movie “Charlotte’s Web,” Arnold Ziffel was the child-like pig in the late 1960s comedy “Green Acres” and who can forget Porky Pig of Warner Brothers

Looney Tunes fame, Peppa Pig and the porky diva Miss Piggy?

Marinette Ward 5 alderwoman Liz Mikutowski and her husband, Mike, had an encounter with a not-so-famous pig when they were on a walk on the west side of the city.

She explained that as she and her husband were walking in the late afternoon in early March on Jackson Street, near Minnesota Street, when a large animal was

observed in the distance.

“I used to help my friend slop pigs, so I know what a pig looks like,” she said last week following the city’s Public Safety Committee meeting. “I said to my husband, ‘that looks like a hog.’ He thought maybe it was a bear, but as we got closer it was obvious it was a pig.”

Mikutowski said the pig—which she described as mostly black with pink on its chest—was

walking, not charging, and it never got close to them. Regardless, she and her husband had a plan if the pig had bad intentions. “We had an evasive action (plan),” she said. “I know pigs can be mean.”

She said her husband estimates the pig weighed between 200 and 250 pounds. That’s some big pig ... and a lot of bacon.

See PIG, A3

A first for Peshtigo first-graders

Students go on a field trip

Special to the EagleHerald



Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary naturalist Jody Spurduto teaches Peshtigo students about red tailed hawks during a recent field trip.

PESHTIGO—Peshtigo first-grade students recently had a field trip to attend a musical at the Weidner called “Rosie Revere, Engineer and Friends” based on a book series of the same name. In addition students attended a wildlife program at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary called “Wild Friends.”

“This was the very first school field trip for these students due to previous COVID restrictions. They were super excited,” said teacher Angie Flett.

Teacher Yen Williams added, “Stepping away from the regular school environment provided a welcome break in routine, and helped them experience hands-on learning with various elements they could touch and interact with.”

Flett heard several students say things like, “This is the best day ever.”

First, kids attended a STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Artistic Mathematics) inspired musical called “Rosie Revere, Engineer and Friends”. This musical was based on the book series written by Andrea Beaty and David Roberts which students read in class. According to Williams, the Rosie Revere book series complements the reading curriculum, teaching both STEAM concepts as well as teaching story structure.

Students enjoyed seeing characters from familiar Rosie Revere books come to life. “I liked the play,” student Charlotte Randall said, “because Rosie Revere was an engineer and she made stuff for her teacher like the cheese-cop-ter hat.”

Katie McNulty liked how the actors “were doing funny things like squirting cheese out of her hat onto the teacher.”

Student Sarah Edwards also enjoyed the humor of the musical, noting how the character Iggy Peck, an architect, “made a tower and put the teacher on top of it.”

Besides the plot elements, students appreciated the singing and dancing. For many students this was their first musical.

“Attending a musical is culture beyond the classroom,” Williams said, adding that students were marveled at the concept of musicals saying things like “They sing a lot.”

See TRIP, A3

Suring man dies in crash

OCONTO—A 79-year-old Suring man died Thursday in an Oconto County accident.

Deputies, along with EMS personnel, responded to a one-vehicle accident at 8:38 p.m. Thursday on County Trunk G near Parkway Road in the Town of Brazeau, according to Oconto County Sheriff Todd Skarban.

The preliminary investigation indicates the victim was driving a pickup truck traveling west on County Trunk G, the driver lost control and drove into the south ditch and struck a tree, according to a press release. The driver and lone occupant was pronounced dead at the scene.

The accident is being investigated by the Oconto County Sheriff’s Office and Brown County Medical Examiner’s Office. The name of the driver is being withheld pending notification of family.

The Oconto County Sheriff’s Office was assisted by the Brazeau Fire Department, Brazeau Ambulance Service and the Brown County Medical Examiner’s Office.

PFAS means ‘Put Fish Back’

Local angler rarely eats fish caught in local waters

By ANN MEYER

EagleHerald Staff Writer
ameyer@eagleherald.com

PESHTIGO—For Jeff Budish of Peshtigo, the thrill of fishing is in the catching, not the eating. “I’m a catch-and-release fisherman,” he said.

Most days, Budish said he fishes in rivers and lakes in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula for walleye, small- and largemouth bass, perch, bluegill, Northern Pike and brook trout.

“I catch a lot of them, but I let them go,” he said. “I rarely keep them around here because of the contamination factor.”

Budish said Johnson

Controls Inc./Tyco is the only company he’s aware of that has owned up to its role in the PFAS contamination found in surface water and groundwater near his home in Peshtigo. The so-called forever chemicals also have been found in fish.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances build up in humans, fish and animals, and they’ve have been linked to health issues, such as cancer, decreased fertility, developmental delays in children, increased cholesterol levels and risk of obesity, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said.

What looks like PFAS See PFAS, A3

Good morning, Dennis Keller! Thank you for subscribing to the EagleHerald



6 67288 18092 5

DEATHS

Anderson, Renee L.
Callies, Richard W.
Fifarek, Gene L.
Hansen, Nancy J.
Hilton, Kelly M.
Schreder, Jeraine R.

INSIDE

World: Ukraine president meets with top level US delegation. B5

Sports: Nerat next HOF inductee. B1



TODAY: Mostly cloudy and dry with moderate wind.
HIGH: 46 LOW: 32

TODAY'S INDEX

Advice	B9	Opinion	A4
Comics	B8	Records	A5
Classifieds	B6-7	Sudoku	B9
Crossword	B9	Sports	B1-3
Deaths/Obits	A5	TV listings	B8
Local stocks	B4	Weather	B4

Local

Monday, April 25, 2022

EagleHerald

www.ehextra.com

FROM A1

TRIP:

First-grade student Lakelynd Davis asked, "What if you can't sing?"

Flett had similar observations saying, "They were surprised that it was like a movie but with real people on stage." Student Mason Antonson loved how all of the actors danced. Student Levi Wallin also "found the play exciting and liked the singing and dancing."

Not only did students see their first musical, but they also learned more about wildlife at Bay Beach. Viewing and touching live animals at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary was the highlight of the trip.

Students attended a program taught by naturalist Jody Sperduto, where students got a close up look and ability to interact with a red tailed hawk, fox snake and a skunk.

Student Eli Larrabee said, "The coolest part of the field trip was that I got to touch a snake." Student Lennon Zeske observed, "The snake felt smooth, like plastic." Darren Michalski liked seeing the skunk named Dorie, saying, "Dorie was very fast. She kept trying to run away."

"It's really important to form a connection with nature and wildlife in order to care about the future of all wildlife, trees, plants, and natural areas," shared Sperduto. She adds, "Hands-on learning experiences make a lasting impact and seeing wildlife up close really helps foster that sense of caring."

Student Tyler Wesolowski said, "I liked



Special to the EagleHerald
Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary naturalist Jody Sperduto encourages Peshtigo first-grade student Robert Troche to touch a fox snake during a recent field trip.

seeing the squirrel because I actually brought a squirrel there once."

The rehabilitation program at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary helps about 6,000 animal patients yearly. "Wildlife should usually be left alone," stresses Sperduto. Many well meaning people bring in baby animals like rabbits and fawns. "Those babies did not need help, unless they were clearly injured. It's always best to call care staff first."

She also said that staff can assist with the safest way to transport wounded

animals. The education and rehab programs at Bay Beach rely heavily on volunteers and donations. If you'd like to help, go to baybeachwildlife.com.

Peshtigo first graders had a successful first field trip. "My students all enjoyed the play and had a blast at the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary," said teacher Anita Conn. Taking the bus ride to Green Bay, seeing a musical based on a book series they've read, and then learning more about animal care and wildlife conservation made for a successful day

of learning.

Peshtigo first-grade teachers love teaching children of this age. "My students have an excitement and energy about them that I thrive on. You can't not smile when you're working with students of this age," shares Williams.

Flett agrees, "Teaching first grade is incredibly rewarding, seeing so much growth in such a short time."

EDITOR'S NOTE, This article was submitted by the Peshtigo School District.



Special to the EagleHerald/British Pigs
This is a British Saddleback pig, which is similar to a pig that Marinette alderperson Liz Mikutowski encountered recently on a walk with her husband, Mike, on Jackson Street. The animal has been removed by its owner, who is moving to Menominee County.

PIG:

It turns out the pig belongs to a resident of Jackson Street. The owner's name has not been released and there has been no mention of a pig in any police reports. Police Chief Jon La Combe, at the meeting, said Animal Control Officer Mary Chery has made contact with the resident of the house. He said the pig belongs to the home owner's adult son who is moving to Menominee County with his pig.

Chery, in a voicemail to the EagleHerald, confirmed the owner has removed the pig. It is not known if the pig's owner was cited for keeping the animal in the city.

Mikutowski said she and her husband never felt in danger, but her major worry is for the safety of children in that area.

"My concern is this is near Park School, where there a lot of children, and I would like that pig moved out sooner than later," she said.

The alderperson said

she wanted something on record because some residents don't comply when they receive warnings. She added that she has nothing but praise for Chery and the job she does with animal control and code enforcement.

"When I talked to Mary (Chery) she said she thought they got rid of it (the pig)," Mikutowski said, adding that Chery said she would contact the owner immediately.

"I wanted it on record, saying we are dealing with a pig," she said.

Mikutowski said she researched the matter and during the pandemic people were purchasing mini pigs or pot-bellied pigs. She said unscrupulous breeders were selling regular pigs as mini pigs.

"At first I thought that's what happened here, but that's not the case," she said.

Mikutowski said no hooved animals, which includes pigs, are allowed to live in the city. It doesn't matter if they are famous or not.

PFAS:

foam often is noticeable on the surface of waters where Budish fishes, spurring him to call for signage by the Peshtigo River, not just in Marinette and the Town of Peshtigo where new warning signs are scheduled to be erected. "I want signage so people know what they're sticking their hands in," he said. "Why is there no signage in those areas? Because they'll lose tourism dollars," he said.

DITCH B

While Johnson Controls Inc./Tyco said foam collected in Ditch B in Marinette is still being tested, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources said foam in the same ditch collected between July and August 2021 contained 750,000 parts per trillion of PFOS and 220,000 parts per trillion of PFOA, said Sarah Hoye, communications director at Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

"Foam that accumulated in Ditch B in 2021 is no longer present, but the foams recently observed in the ditch will accumulate the PFAS that is known to still be in the surface water," Hoye said. "PFAS in the surface water "is known to be from the FTC site," she said.

"We don't have any science on what's stirring it up," Town of Peshtigo Water Committee member Chuck Boyle said last week. Boyle and Budish are among those frustrated by the lack of progress in

addressing the clean up needed in area groundwater and surface waters. "We've been on this for five years," Boyle said. "We have to address it head on."

Just the other week, Budish saw a couple of boys playing in foam in the Peshtigo River and told them to go home and change their clothes, he said. "I have called the Department of Health. It's sad we have to keep pushing to get something done to protect people so this doesn't affect people later in life."

Budish said his neighbors have lost loved ones to cancer, and he attributes their illnesses to PFAS in the water and the environment near his home at N3415 Rehms Road. "My well in my home is contaminated and I'm out of the so-called plume" where Johnson Controls Inc./Tyco is providing bottled water or water filtration systems to residents, he said. So Budish has spent his own money to install water filtration in his home, he said.

In the plume, where Johnson Controls Inc./Tyco has accepted responsibility for PFAS contamination, residents are considering several permanent water options, including deep wells, new water lines to bring in municipal water from the City of Marinette or the City of Peshtigo, or a hybrid option that allows property owners to choose deep wells or annexation with Marinette.

MARINETTE DRINKING WATER

The level of forever chemicals found in Marinette drinking water is well within standards government agencies set for safe drinking water, at 1.62 parts per trillion for PFOA and 1.14 parts per trillion for PFOS as of an April 6 sample date, but some fish in nearby waters are considered too contaminated to eat more than once a week. Budish avoids consuming them.

Others don't think the fish is a problem. Sturgeon Bay charter fisherman Fritz Peterson said he catches over 500 fish a year, including walleye, northern pike, bass and brown trout in the Bay of Green Bay and Lake Michigan.

Peterson is aware of PFAS foam used to put out fires, but he hasn't see foam in the water where he fishes. "I've never seen any kind of foam on Lake Michigan. I see green algae sometimes on the bay," he said.

PFAS IN FISH

White bass in the Bay of Green Bay and tributaries have been found with PFOS levels of over 20 parts per billion, the highest level of any of 18 fish tested, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources said.

White perch, smallmouth bass, redbreast, northern pike, and Chinook salmon also contained PFOS at levels over 15 np/g, the value the DNR uses for recommended reduced consumption of

one meal per week.

Among the 18 fish the DNR listed, those with the lowest levels of PFOS—or under 10 parts per billion—are yellow perch, freshwater drum, common carp, brown trout, lake whitefish and bluegill.

In the next tier containing between 10 parts per billion and 15 parts per billion are walleye, white sucker, pumpkinseed, rainbow trout, muskie and rock bass.

But Environmental Toxicologist Sean Strom surprised some listening session participants April 20 when he said the DNR doesn't identify the amount of PFAS in PCB-contaminated fish if the concentration of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) is greater than the PFAS density. The Department of Natural Resources uses the highest contamination level to determine the type of advisory and isn't required to list all of the contaminants found in the fish, Strom said.

PCBS IN FISH

Peterson said the amount of PCBs found in fish in the Bay of Green Bay and Lake Michigan were a concern in the past, but after the Fox River was dredged and fresh sand was laid in the river bed, the issue improved.

"As a whole, those fish are fine now," Peterson said. "I'm 71 and I eat a lot of salmon and trout, and I'm just fine."

PCBS are chemicals used as flame retardants,

lubricating oil and coolants and found to be hazardous to humans when consumed in large quantities.

MICHIGAN'S ADVISORY LEVELS

The state of Michigan has set "do not eat" advisory levels for fish containing over 300 parts per billion of PFOS, according to Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

Forever chemicals also collect in people through the consumption of PFAS contaminated water, and Michigan has commissioned research to study this. The North Kent County Exposure Assessment examined the level of chemicals in

the bloodstream of people consuming drinking water from wells with PFAS levels above 70 parts per trillion.

They study showed the amount of PFOS and PFOA in blood serum varied widely from one person to the next.

The average amount of PFOS detected among study participants was 6 parts per trillion, while the highest level detected was 3,173 parts per trillion. For PFOA, the average amount detected was 2 parts per trillion, while the maximum level detected was 433 parts per trillion. The study participants consumed well water.

How these levels might be linked to health effects is still being studied.