

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Marquette goes up against Butler Sports, B1

SUNDAY

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INVESTIGATIVE TEAM

Sober bartender laws draw praise, scorn

Few communities have ordinances on books; enforcement reportedly spotty

By Ben Jones

Gannett Wisconsin Media Investigative Team

Tavern owner Rick Eiting doesn't want his bartenders to drink on the job.

But he also doesn't want po-

lice to monitor their conduct.

"I don't think the city should be regulating me on what I do," said Eiting, owner of the Re-Union Station in Neenah. "If they do this, what's going to be my next regulation? Will it be the color of toilet paper I use in the bathroom?"

Neenah, a city of 25,615 in the Fox Valley, is considering an ordinance that would require bartenders to show up for work sober and ban them from drinking on the job. The ordinance is scheduled to be considered by the city's public services and safety committee on Tuesday. If approved, the ordinance would

go to the full city council.

Neenah's proposed ordinance would prohibit bartenders from serving if they have a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.04 percent or more. That's

See BARTENDERS, Page A9

Study: Excessive alcohol use costs county \$192.8M each year

Sheboygan Press Media

Excessive use of alcohol costs Sheboygan County more than \$192 million per year, according to a recently released study by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

The "Burden of Excessive Alcohol Use in Wisconsin" study calculates the financial burden of excessive alcohol use and how those costs are paid for in Wisconsin.

Statewide, the cost is \$6.8 billion per year, according to a press release about the study released

See ALCOHOL, Page A2

Must-do road, bridge and highway projects planned in, around city

By Janet Ortegon

jortegon@sheboyganpress.com

There was a time not too long ago when the City of Sheboygan opted to forgo major road repairs for awhile to stretch the budget.

Those days are over and this is the time of year when crews at the city, county and state level are preparing their lists of must-do projects for the roads, bridges and highways in and around Sheboy-

"It's like that old commercial where we can spend a little now on maintenance or spend a lot more later on reconstruction," said Sheboygan Public Works Director David Biebel.

"Our goal is to spend more on maintenance and extend the life of the pavement rather than waiting until something totally needs be reconstructed."

Exhibit A is Eisner Ave-

The well-traveled eastwest thoroughfare on the city's north side has become notorious over the years for its potholes and crumbling pavement.

After putting off serious repair in favor of patches for several years, the city is preparing to completely rebuild the road and assess 56 adjacent homeowners \$110 per foot of street access to cover part of the \$4.4 million price

Beibel said the city hopes to avoid that dire scenario in other areas by addressing

smaller problems now.

That includes a \$700,000 resurfacing project under consideration for Erie Avenue between North Eighth Street to North 13th Street,

Biebel said.

"We don't know if it's a go or not, we're just going out for bids," he said. "We may or may not proceed with that project. We just hope the bids are favorable."

That project would be funded with a combination of federal block grant and municipal funds, Biebel said.

Another is South Business Drive, which will be closed between Behrens Parkway and

400 feet north of Carmen Avenue in early May for a water line project.

Additional city repairs include street panel replacement on some intersections around town and an extensive resurfacing patch on Taylor Drive between North Avenue and Saemann Avenue, which is plagued with potholes.

"We need to get at those," Biebel said. "One way or the other we're going to have to do some type of repairs to address those severely deteriorated street sections. This winter has really brought them to the forefront. What we're working on right now is

... trying to address the most repair for the least amount of cost at this point."

The situation is slightly different in Sheboygan County, where the county Highway Department is working from a rotating list of repairs.

Sheboygan County has 450 miles of county trunk highway, said County Transportation Director Greg Schnell, and studies show it's best to repave every 15 years. That means repaving about 30 miles each year on a rotating

basis.

"I don't think there's a community around that is able to keep up with what those studies are indicating," Schnell said. "We're holding our own. We're a little light as far as getting to the 30 miles, but we're still doing 20-plus and have for the past few years."

See REPAIRS, Page A2

\$2 RetailFor home delivery pricing see Page A2.

INDEX

CLIP

AND SAVE:

ROAD

WORK

COUNTY

PROJECTS IN

SHEBOYGAN

STARTING IN APRIL

NUE AND WEEDEN

ON WEEDEN CREEK

TON AVENUE.

ROAD, SOUTH TAYLOR

DRIVE AND WASHING-

» BRIDGE PAINTING ON

INTERSTATE 43 BRIDGES

OVER HIGHWAY 32 AND

HIGHWAY KK FROM

MID-APRIL TO MID-OC-

TOBER. COUNTY HIGH-

CLOSED FOR 20 DAYS.

HIGHWAY 32 WILL RE-

MAIN OPEN WITH SIN-

GLE LANE CLOSURES.

See PROJECTS, Page A2

WAY KK WILL BE

CREEK ROAD, FROM

» WATER LINE WORK ON

BETWEEN CARMEN AVE-

NOW UNTIL EARLY MAY. DETOURS ARE MARKED

COUNTY HIGHWAY OK

INDLX	
AdviceC9	MilestonesC4
Business D1	Obituaries A8
Classified D3	Opinion A7
Community A6	Sports B1
CrosswordC9	Travel C10
Lotteries B2	Weather B3

4 sections, 32 pages

High

34

Mostly cloudy and breezy with a slight chance of snow during the day, then cloudy and blustery in the evening.

Low

INSIDE TODAY

- » County fourth-graders recently attended the annual Children's Concerts. See
- » The expansion project at Vollrath's Sheboygan headquarters continues. See **D1**
- » Candidates for state Supreme Court sparred in a debate Friday. See **A9**.

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