

On the Road with Alice

The buzz on pollinators

BY ASHLEY HAGENOW
WISCONSIN'S 76TH ALICE IN DAIRYLAND

On a nice, warm spring day, head outside and take a moment to slow down. Feel the warmth from the sun, listen to the wind through the trees or the birds chirping, smell the fresh flowers, and look for the bees, butterflies, and other pollinators visiting your space. It is estimated that "about 75 percent of the world's flowering plants and about 35 percent of the world's food crops depend on animal pollinators," according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and spring is the perfect time to discover how you can support them.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) states "a pollinator is any animal that visits flowering plants and transfers pollen from flower to flower, thus aiding plant reproduction." Other pollinators in North America include hummingbirds, flies, beetles, wasps, and even bats in some places. Some of these animals, like the butterflies, pollinate other plants on accident when searching for nectar, while bees purposefully collect pollen as a protein source for their young, making them very effective pollinators. Wisconsin's pollinator-dependent crops account for over \$275 million in annual production. These crops include apples, cranberries, cherries, green beans, pickling cucumbers, and fresh market fruits and vegetables.

If you would like to help pollinators in your yard or community, here are a few tips from a variety of Wisconsin-based resources like the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and DATCP, who have more tips available on their websites.

- Give water and shelter. Pollinators need water to drink and safe places to rest, avoid bad weather, and spend the winter. You can provide brush and leaf piles, leave areas of longer grass or patches of bare earth, and provide water, such as a bird bath.

- Plant a variety of flowers that bloom at different times during the year, especially native varieties, in many different colors. Bees can't see red, so they are attracted to blue, white, and yellow flowers. Butterflies are drawn to orange, red, and yellow.

- If needing to use pesticides, be sure to thoroughly read and follow the label directions, avoid spraying onto flowering plants or other areas popular to pollinators, and rotate pesticide types, helping to avoid



The Wisconsin Honey Producers and the Wisconsin Honey Queen are great resources for honeybees and honey in Wisconsin. Submitted photo

pesticide resistance.

It is almost swarm season for our most familiar pollinator, the honeybee. When a colony outgrows its home, about half of the bees, along with a new queen, will leave in search of a new home, creating their own colony. The "swarm" and its queen will gather in a space outside of the hive like a tree, bush, or other structure, while scout bees go and look for a new home. Although a giant pile of honeybees may be frightening at first, these swarms are typically quite docile and pose no threat to you or your family. If a swarm comes to you, visit wihoney.org/find-local-honey to find a beekeeper who can come collect the swarm and give them a new home.

As I have traveled across Wisconsin visiting different classrooms in our state, I love sharing more about our valuable pollinators, such as honeybees, who help us to grow a diverse group of foods that Wisconsin agriculture is known for. Honeybees, and many other species of pollinators, help to keep agriculture in Wisconsin strong and vibrant.

Agriculture in Wisconsin, and across the world, would look a lot different without our pollinators' help. Visit your local University of Wisconsin Extension Agency office, talk to a local beekeeper, or reach out to DATCP's Apiary Program for more information on how you can help our pollinators thrive.

CHASE from page 1

The vehicle returned to the city of Nekoosa and crashed into a utility pole after hitting a deer on South Section Street near Peckham Road.

As the officer arrived at the scene of the crash, he observed the driver and male passenger, Chase R. Hintz of Nekoosa - who turns 19 on May 2 - flee the scene on foot. They were both taken into custody a short time later. Hintz and the driver were injured due to the crash and transported to Riverview Hospital in Wisconsin Rapids, where they were treated and released. Four juvenile passengers also in the vehicle were seriously injured and transported by ambulance to the Marshfield Medical Center. All involved have since been released from medical care.

The juvenile driver was booked into the Wood County Jail and charges requested from the Wood County Dis-

trict Attorney include: 1st Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety; Reckless Driving Causing Great Bodily Harm; Hit & Run Causing Injury; Vehicle Operator Fleeing or Eluding an Officer with Great Bodily Harm; Operating While Intoxicated with a Passenger under 16; Duty to Aid a Victim; Resisting or Obstructing an Officer.

Hintz was booked into the Wood County Jail and charges requested from the Wood County District Attorney are: Vehicle Operator Fleeing or Eluding an Officer with Great Bodily Harm - Party to a Crime; Duty to Aid a Victim; Resisting or Obstructing an Officer; Felony Bail Jumping.

The 17-year-old male driver appeared in Wood County court and received a \$75,000 cash bond. Hintz also appeared in court and received a \$10,000 cash bond.

The Nekoosa Police Department was assisted by the Wood County Sheriff's Department, Grand Rapids Police Department, Wisconsin Rapids Police Department, Wisconsin Rapids Fire/EMS, and Nekoosa Fire/EMS.

New structure, events at 2024 MREA Energy Fair

FOR CITY TIMES

CUSTER - The Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) is hosting The 33rd Annual Energy Fair at its headquarters in Custer Saturday, June 22. The Energy Fair brings people together each June to share clean energy and sustainable living knowledge with one another in effort to build a sustainable future.

New this year, the Energy Fair has evolved to a single-day event. It will feature a selection of workshops, demonstrations, exhibit booths and the music and fun that have been at the heart of the Fair, all focused within one convenient day.

A new event, geared toward professionals in the clean energy industry, will be introduced this year. As an extension of the online Energy Pro Webinar Series, MREA is hosting an in-person Industry Demo Day. Learn directly from Energy Pro presenters and experience hands-on product demonstrations of top-of-the-line renewable energy equipment. Participate in interactive networking and educational sessions, seize opportunities to earn CEUs, and acquire new skills for system design, installation, O&M, and more. Industry Demo Day will take place the day before The Energy Fair on Friday, June 21 at the MREA.

For more information on how to become involved, learn about entertainment, volunteering, the Energy Fair 5K and more, visit TheEnergyFair.org.

The Midwest Renewable Energy Association is a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization. Founded in 1990, the MREA promotes renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable living through education and demonstration. Together with partners around the Midwest, it works to expand renewable energy adoption through innovative programs, renewable energy training, and educational events.

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National Nurses Week

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RECOGNIZING AREA NURSES

Visit the Nursing Display at the Heritage Museum, 211 E. 2nd Street

Reminder - Alumni Banquet is June 15th!

Nursing Alumni, for more information please contact stjosalumni@gmail.com

Congratulations from St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association

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Chicken Thighs Bone-In, Skin On - Frozen 5 lbs. ONLY 99¢ a lb	Muenster Cheese 6 lbs. ONLY \$2.29 a lb	Peanut Butter Creamy 64 oz. ONLY \$4.99
Bacon Hickory Smoked - Frozen 40 oz. \$8.99	Cheddar Cheese Shredded 5 lbs. ONLY \$8.99	Beef Jerky Peppered 10 lbs. ONLY \$6.90 a lb
Hot Pockets Crispy Crust Pepperoni Pizza - 12 ct - Frozen 54 oz. ONLY \$8.99	Cheddar Cheese Medium 8 oz. ONLY \$1.69	Pineapple Juice 46 oz. ONLY 99¢
Hash Browns Mini Rounds - Frozen 6 lbs. ONLY \$5.99	Cheddar Cheese Shredded 5 lbs. ONLY \$8.99	Beef Broth Low Sodium 32 oz. ONLY 89¢
Chicken Breast Tenderloin Skinless - Boneless, Frozen 2.5 lb. ONLY \$2.99	Cream Cheese Original 8 oz. ONLY \$2.59	Rice Krispies Treats Original - Sheets 32 oz. ONLY \$4.99
Turkey Breast Sliced - Golden Browned Frozen 12-5 oz. ONLY \$4.99	American Cheese Loaf EZ-Melt 5 lbs. ONLY \$4.99	Turkey Breast Smokehouse - Fully Cooked Frozen 8 lbs. ONLY 99¢ a lb
French Fries Crinkle Cut - Frozen 32 oz. ONLY \$2.49	Cheddar Cheese Sliced - Sharp 1.5 lbs. ONLY \$2.99	French Bread Pizza Pepperoni - Frozen 10.8 oz. ONLY \$1.89
Sausage Patties Fully Cooked, Original - Frozen 30 oz. ONLY \$3.49	Beef Burgers Seasoned - Uncooked Frozen 32 oz. ONLY \$3.99	Bacon Bits Fully Cooked - Frozen 5 lbs. ONLY \$1.99 a lb

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