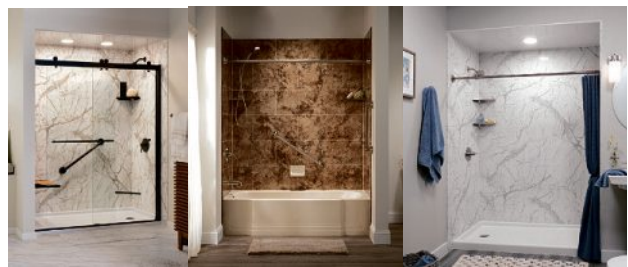


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DAILY TRIBUNE

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Grass and dandelions grow tall during Appleton's experimentation with No Mow May in 2020.
WM. GLASHEEN/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

No Mow May loses steam to Slow Mow Summer

Duke Behnke
Appleton Post-Crescent
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

No Mow May once was all the rage. The voluntary practice of letting lawns grow without mowing during May to promote the maturation of flowering plants that provide food for bees and other pollinators early in the growing season was introduced by Appleton in 2020. The movement spread to nine Wisconsin communities by 2021 and to more than 20 Wisconsin communities by 2022.

Many since have abandoned No Mow May or pivoted to Slow Mow Summer. Appleton made the move to Slow Mow Summer in 2024, when it reinstated the year-round height restriction of grass and weeds to 8 inches on developed lots and to 12 inches on undeveloped lots.

Slow Mow Summer encourages

See **POLLINATORS**, Page 3A



Appleton restricts the height of grass and weeds to 8 inches on developed lots, but that wasn't the case when the city experimented with No Mow May in 2020.
DAN POWERS/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

Man charged with stealing ambulance waives hearing

Karen Madden
Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

WISCONSIN RAPIDS - A 37-year-old Stevens Point man charged with stealing a city ambulance with a patient inside waived his right to a preliminary hearing May 4.

Benjamin L. Feltz was charged Feb. 19 with four felony counts including first-degree recklessly endangering safety, threatening to cause bodily harm to an individual involved with the court or legal system, operating a motor vehicle without the owner's consent and attempting to flee or elude an officer. He also was charged with six misdemeanor counts including lewd and lascivious behavior, obstruction of emergency or rescue persons, disorderly conduct, operating after revocation due to alcohol or controlled substance, violating a court order restricting operating privilege-ignition interlock device, and operating a motor vehicle while under the influence: third offense.

Feltz's attorney, James Bennett, waived Feltz's right to a preliminary hearing May 4. A preliminary hearing is when prosecutors must show a judge there is enough evidence to show a crime was probably committed and the defendant probably committed it. Wood County Circuit Judge Nicholas Brazeau Jr. set Feltz's arraignment for May 18.

According to the criminal complaint, at 5:27 p.m. Feb. 17, a caller reported a naked man doing pushups near the railroad tracks on 21st Avenue South in Wisconsin Rapids.

Two Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department employees were on a medical call in the 1400 block of 22nd Avenue South and were going to transport a patient in the back of the ambulance, according to the complaint.

Both employees were in the back of the ambulance when they heard the door close to the front of the ambulance. Both saw a nude man with long hair in the ambulance's driver's seat.

One of the employees got out of the back of the ambulance and attempted

See **WAIVES**, Page 3A

Local man in 'good condition' after crash with semi

Jamie Rokus
Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

SARATOGA - A 56-year-old Wisconsin Rapids man who was seriously injured May 3 in a two-vehicle crash in the Wood County town of Saratoga was listed in "good condition" the morning of May 4, according to a spokesperson for Marshfield Medical Center.

The crash happened about 11:49 a.m.

May 3 on State 13 near Tower Road in the town of Saratoga. According to a news release from the Wood County Sheriff's Department, the initial investigation found that a semi-tractor trailer was traveling north and a pickup truck was traveling south on State 13. The pickup truck crossed the center line, entered into the northbound lane of traffic and collided with the semi-tractor.

The 56-year-old driver of the pickup

truck was taken by LifeLink to Marshfield Medical Center after the crash, according to the release.

This crash remains under investigation by the Wood County Sheriff's Department.

A portion of State 13 was closed for about three hours in both directions after the crash, according to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

The Wood County Sheriff's Department was assisted by the Wood County

Communication Center, Rome Fire Department, Saratoga First Responders, Wisconsin Rapids Ambulance, Nekoosa Police Department, Port Edwards Police Department, Wisconsin Rapids Police Department, Niemanns Towing, Wood County Highway Department and LifeLink.

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