



## Columbus Catholic baseball captures Division 4 state crown

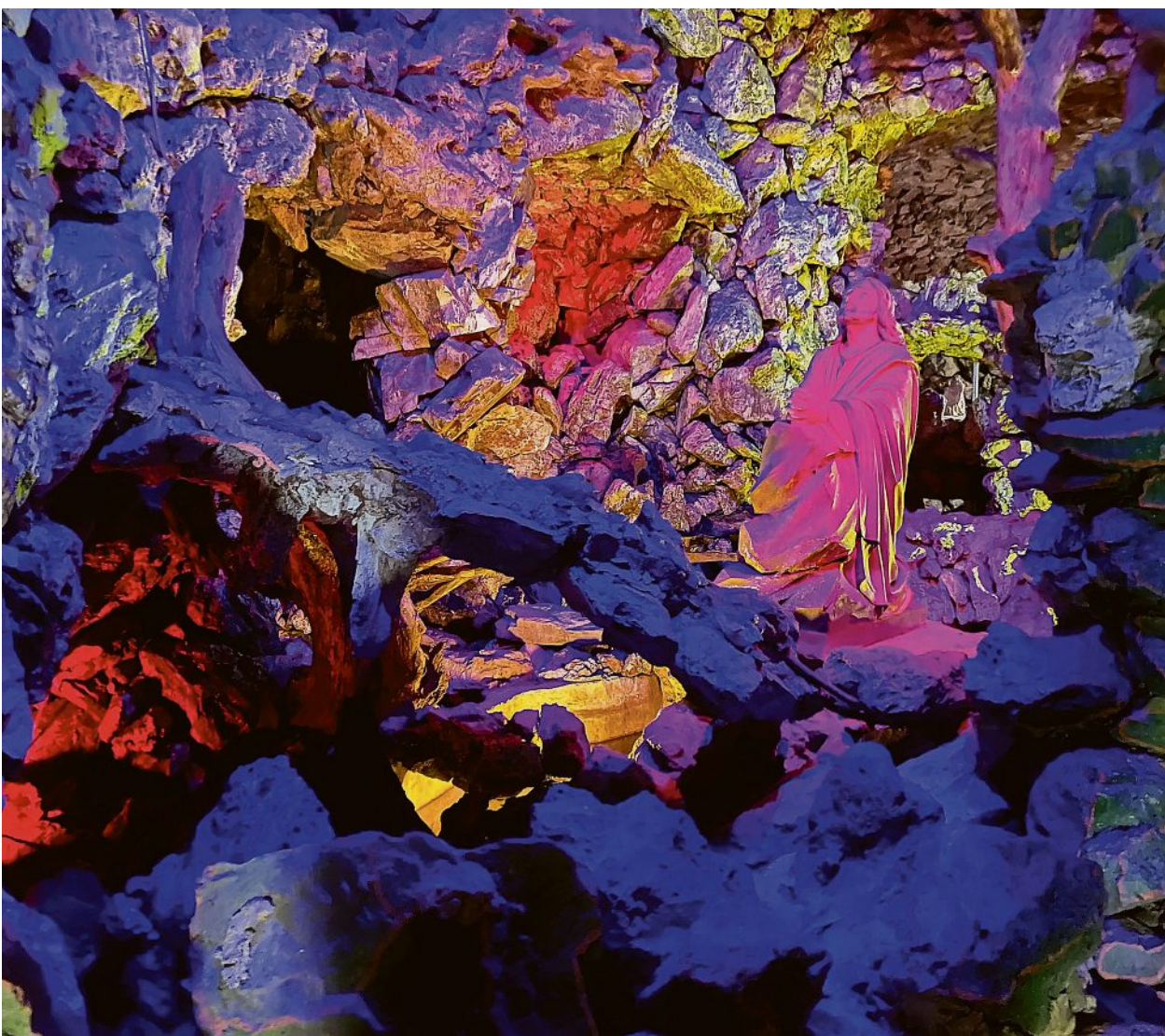
SPORTS, 1B

# DAILY TRIBUNE WEEKEND

SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2026 | WISCONSINRAPIDSTRIBUNE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## HIDDEN GEMS



Jesus praying in the garden is the centerpiece of the Wonder Cave at the Rudolph Grotto Gardens, 6975 Grotto Ave., Rudolph. PHOTOS BY KAREN MADDEN/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

### Discover beauty and history of Rudolph Grotto Gardens & Wonder Cave

**Karen Madden**

Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune | USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

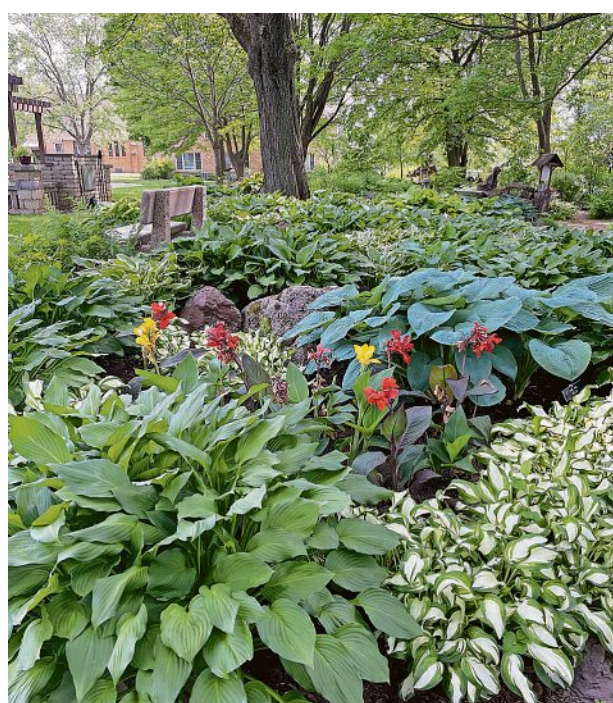
RUDOLPH – When I moved to Wisconsin Rapids in 2000, it wasn't long before I started hearing about the Rudolph Grotto.

I didn't know what a grotto was, but I was curious and wanted to explore the area around my new home. One Saturday, I took the short drive from Wisconsin Rapids to Rudolph to explore the Grotto.

I'm not sure what I was expecting, but it was nothing like what I found. A church picnic was happening at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church in Rudolph, so there was plenty of laughter, children playing and food. But, there also was quiet, beautiful spots to sit and think or pray and, to my surprise, a man-made cave.

When my fellow USA TODAY NETWORK reporters in central Wisconsin and I were tasked with finding local "Hidden Gems" for a summer day trips series focused on places families can visit this summer and enjoy without spending a lot of money, the Rudolph Grotto Gardens was the first thing that popped into my mind.

See GROTTO, Page 4A



The Rudolph Grotto Garden is ready for visitors this summer.

## Where to find Fourth of July events in the area

**Caitlin Shuda**

Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune | USA TODAY NETWORK

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – This year marks the country's 250th anniversary, and local communities are planning their Fourth of July celebrations.

Some municipalities and organizations are hosting their usual fireworks celebration, while others are organizing new or bigger events this year to honor the milestone, including live music, fireworks, parades and more festivities.

Check out these options to celebrate Independence Day in the Wisconsin Rapids area.

### Friendship

The McGowan House will host a Fourth of July Parade Watch Party at 10 a.m. July 4 at 507 Main St. in Friendship. Guests can gather with John Adams, George Washington and "other patriots of 1776" under the tent at this event to watch the United States' biggest celebration. The event will kick off with Alexis Walton singing the national anthem.

The Adams-Friendship VFW Post 6279 & Auxiliary

See EVENTS, Page 3A

### ANALYSIS

## CDC cuts leave its employees pessimistic, burnt out

**Candice Johnson**

Michigan State University | THE CONVERSATION

Since the Trump administration took office in January 2025, the workforce at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has weathered uncertainty and change.

Mass firings, communication freezes, political interference in the CDC's scientific mission and a revolving door of leaders have created a challenging work environment for the CDC's employees.

I'm a public health researcher who studies how working conditions affect employee health and well-being. I also worked at the CDC from 2012 to 2020. Given the turmoil imposed on the CDC workforce since Inauguration Day, I worked with a team of researchers at Michigan State University to conduct an anonymous survey of more than 600 CDC workers.

See CDC, Page 4A



**Jeremy Johnson**  
FIC, FSCP  
540 Baker Street  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494  
715-424-1873  
jeremy.j.johnson@mwarep.org

Control your financial future  
by planning for life today.

**Modern Woodmen**  
FRATERNAL FINANCIAL



**Scott Paterick**  
FICF, LUTCF, ChFC, CLU  
PO Box 422  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495  
715-424-1873  
scott.s.paterick@mwarep.org

Life insurance | Retirement planning | Financial services | Member program

### Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to wisconsinrapidstribune.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 113 | No. 35,550  
Subscribe 877-424-5647  
©2026 \$1.50

