

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2026 | SHEBOYGANPRESS.COM PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

**Alex Garner**  
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## Democratic, Republican primaries will finalize candidates in Wisconsin gubernatorial race

Over the summer, the field of Democratic candidates has narrowed to state Rep. Francesca Hong, Milwaukee

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**A woman exits Mead Public Library with a child near an election poll on April 7 in Sheboygan.** GARY C. KLEIN/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN



**Throwback**  
 Gary C. Klein  
 Columnist  
 Sheboygan Press  
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**SHEBOYGAN** – The quiet of the pre-dawn hours was shattered when an explosion rocked Center Avenue in the city's downtown, destroying several buildings in 1974.

## 1974 explosion rocked downtown Sheboygan

The building that housed Sheboygan Glass Co. was blown to bits when an ex-

plosion ripped through it around 4 a.m., June 19, 1974, according to a Sheboygan Press clipping.

An early morning witness, Mrs. Bruce Teetzen, told the Press she saw fire flame out of catch basins at Sixth Street and Center Avenue following the blast.

According to the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center, Sheboygan Glass Co. and the adjacent offices of the Sheboygan County and City Employees Credit Union were destroyed. Both were part of a building built in 1931.

A 100-year-old two-story home, owned by Vincent O'Grady and located east of the blast, was heavily damaged and required demolition later that year.

Across the street, the Press Publishing complex was struck by shrapnel from the blast, with windows broken by doorknobs on display in a window at the glass company. A half-ton steel beam landed on the sidewalk in front of the Press company's commercial printing offices. Pressroom windows were damaged.

The blast broke windows in the downtown area. Firefighters manned their trucks even before the fire call came in, as they were only blocks away and heard the blast.

Fortunately, no one died in the blast. However, a dog owned by the

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**Brandon Reid**  
Sheboygan Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

**SHEBOYGAN** – Sheboygan's powerboat races are off, but the lakefront party is very much on.

After the Midwest Challenge Power-

boat Races were canceled because organizers could not provide the staffing and operational support needed to safely run the Aug. 8-9 event, Sheboygan and 3 Sheeps Brewing are making a summer pivot: swapping roaring boats for food trucks, live music, cold drinks and beach vibes.

## Why Sheboygan changed course after powerboat races were canceled

The International Hot Rod Association, the racing event's organizing body, told the city July 13 it could not provide the race operations staffing needed for

the Midwest Challenge Powerboat Races. The races had been scheduled for Aug. 8 and 9 on Lake Michigan.

Rather than let a prime summer weekend along the lakefront fade away, city officials and local partners chose to

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Volume 122 | No. 57  
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