



## Dodgers knew what was coming vs. Gasser

SPORTS, 1B

# Stevens Point Journal

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## Landowners sue over high-voltage power line



The MariBell project was set in motion in 2024, when Midcontinent Independent System Operator – the power grid operator for the central United States – approved a suite of projects to build a transmission superhighway across the upper Midwest. GETTY IMAGES

**Madeline Heim**

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

A group of western Wisconsin residents are suing the companies planning to construct the state's highest voltage transmission line across the Driftless region.

The lawsuit, filed May 11 in Vernon County Circuit Court, alleges that the transmission line would be a nuisance that would cause "significant harm" to private property owners and asks a judge to stop the project.

La Crosse-based Dairyland Power Cooperative and the transmission utility company GridLiance are behind the

proposed 765-kilovolt line, dubbed the MariBell Transmission Project, which would be part of a longer line running from Minnesota to Wisconsin across the Mississippi River.

The companies argue the project is needed to improve the reliability of

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### INSPECTIONS

## Restaurants hit with double-digit violations

**Karen Madden**

Stevens Point Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

The following are the latest results of Portage County Health Department inspections on licensed food establishments and other types of businesses, which the Stevens Point Journal reports monthly.

### Amherst

- Maria's Tomorrow River Supper Club, 141 Portage County KK: April 28: Pre-inspection: Two violations: Nozzle spray handle below the floor level rim of food prep sink in kitchen; lights near waitstaff in kitchen not shatter resistant.

- Spun N Fun-Popper, 5576 Morgan Road: April 21: No violations.

- Spun N Fun-Snow Cone, 5576 Morgan Road: April 21: No violations.

### Bancroft

- Taste of Hawaii, 6138 Portage County BB: April 15: No violations.

### Custer

- Eme's Bar, 6804 State 66: April 23: Pre-inspection: Four violations: No Wisconsin certified food manager for establishment; shelf above dish machine area constructed of bare wood; several wall and ceiling coverings in kitchen around kitchen door frames and kitchen window that are not finished or not smooth and easily cleanable; inoperable sink in men's restroom and missing floor tiles in men's restroom.

### Plover

- O'so Brewing Company Taphouse, 1800 Plover Road: April 8: No violations.

### Stevens Point

- Arbuckles Eatery & Pub, 1320

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## Portage County offers new vape disposal to prevent fires and help protect workers

**Nida Tazeen**

Stevens Point Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

PLOVER – Portage County residents have a new option for disposing of used vaping devices safely and responsibly.

The county's Solid Waste Department is now accepting nicotine vapes for drop-off, according to a community announcement. The program aims to reduce fire risks, protect workers and prevent environmental contamination from devices that contain lithium batteries and nicotine residue.

"By providing a proper collection option, we're reducing fire risks, protecting our staff, and supporting a healthier

environment for everyone," said Amanda Haffele, solid waste director.

Residents can bring disposable or rechargeable nicotine vapes to the Solid Waste Department at 600 Moore Road in Plover. Devices will be weighed and charged at \$3.75 per pound. The program does not accept THC devices.

### Why proper disposal matters

Vapes thrown in household trash or curbside recycling can cause fires in collection trucks and waste facilities. They also pose chemical hazards to workers and can contaminate recycling streams.

All collected devices will be managed through a certified hazardous waste

vendor to ensure batteries and nicotine components are properly disposed of, according to the announcement.

The Solid Waste Department is urging residents not to place vapes in regular garbage or recycling bins.

"Even one improperly discarded vape can cause serious damage. Proper disposal makes a real difference," Haffele said.

*This story was created by reporter Nida Tazeen, NTazeen@usatodayco.com, with the assistance of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Journalists were involved in every step of the information gathering, review, editing and publishing process. Learn more at cm.usatoday.com/ethical-conduct.*



Portage County now accepts used nicotine vapes for safe disposal, reducing fire risks and environmental hazards from lithium batteries and nicotine waste.

PROVIDED BY PORTAGE COUNTY SOLID WASTE

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