

Lomira beats Bonduel, moves on to Division 6 state final

SPORTS, 1B

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THE REPORTER

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$8B fuel relief may ease harvest pain



Corn is harvested for Lake Breeze Dairy on Sept. 16 in Malone, located in northeastern Fond du Lac County. With crops coming off the field, producers are balancing harvest demands against rising fuel costs.
MARK HOFFMAN/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

But questions about future efforts remain for WI farmers

Colleen Kottke Wisconsin State Farmer | USA TODAY NETWORK

With harvest in full swing and fuel bills cutting into already thin margins, the Trump administration is rolling out a new program aimed at helping farmers manage higher diesel costs this fall. ● President Donald Trump on Oct. 19 announced the $8 billion Harvest Fuel Relief program, which will provide one-time payments to producers to help offset increased fuel and input expenses during the 2026 harvest season.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, payments will be administered through the Farm Service Agency using reported planted acres, cost-of-production estimates and commodity yield and price data to calculate payments.

Commodity-specific rates for major Title I crops such as corn and soybeans are expected to be released in November, with applications anticipated in early 2027.

"This $8 billion investment will help bring certainty to our farmers during this harvest so they can continue to feed our nation," Agriculture Secretary Brooke L. Rollins said in announcing the program.

Rising costs squeeze farm profitability

The announcement comes as farmers across the country grapple with sharply higher diesel prices. Federal economists now expect farmers' fuel and oil expenses in 2026 to be nearly 29% higher than USDA projected earlier this year, according to a recent report released by the Economic Research Service.

University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension soybean specialist Shawn Conley told Wisconsin Public Radio that one Wisconsin farmer recently paid about $1,000 to fill a semitruck used for hauling soybeans to market. He said producers are evaluating ways to reduce fuel use, including cutting back on field operations such as tillage and fertilizer applications.

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REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

$980K sale at top of property deals

Daphne Lemke
Fond du Lac Reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

FOND DU LAC – Here's a list of real estate transfers in Fond du Lac County, according to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue.

To determine the purchase price of the real estate, divide the transfer fee by 0.003. This means real estate sold at a price of $100,000 would have a transfer fee of $300.

The top transfer fee listed is for $2,940, recorded Nov. 5. Dividing that fee by 0.003 gives you the purchase price of $980,000.

Nov. 2

Randy Vande Slunt to Dylan Peterson, $9

Farmers Elevator Company Ltd to Dog Tags LLC, $435

Norse H. Vang to Naochai Yang, $450

Brian Engelhardt to Dylan Jacob, $825

Abel Lands LLC to John O'Brien, $510

Marion Docta to Michael Docta, transfer fee not listed

Andrew Gewiss to On Point Properties & Plats LLC, transfer fee not listed

Lucas B. Fouch to Kit Amidzich, $585

Kathleen E. Arpke to Joshua Dreifuerst, $1,545

Commonwealth Real Estate Investments LLC to Blacksmoke Investments LLC, $1,050

Empire Estates LLC to Anthony Lee Cupertino, $600

Patricia E. Braun A/K/A Patricia Braun to Finni Anne Simko, $714

Mary Friess to Peter Bellendir, transfer fee not listed

Next Generation Construction LLC to Kirk D. Zeaman, $1,499.70

Elizabeth M. White to Elizabeth M. White Revocable Trust, transfer fee not listed

Paul D. Levorson to David Alvarado, $180

Moore Family Trust to Dawn White, $1,920

Stone Ridge Partnership to ACS RBHS LLC, $95.70

Wleh S. Bessman to Bethany Michele Fredrick, $645

Katherine A. Zwick, F/K/A Katherine A. Krantz to Florencio Awah, $720

Peter Wagner to Lawrence A. Fannin, transfer fee not listed

Laura Jane Callen-Will to Noah K.

See REAL ESTATE, Page 2A

Police widen twenty year murder probe

Duke Behnke
Appleton Post-Crescent
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

A generation has passed since Connie Boelter was beaten to death in her Appleton home.

Her killer or killers have never been brought to justice, and her death remains Appleton's only active unsolved homicide case.

On the eve of the 20th anniversary of Boelter's Nov. 15, 2006, death, investigators are expanding their search for possible suspects. That's a shift from a decade ago, when they focused on a single suspect before forensic testing largely turned their attention elsewhere.

"We're looking at a much broader potential pool of who could have been responsible," Capt. Meghan Cash told the Appleton Post-Crescent.

Appleton police sat down with The Post-Crescent to discuss the case in the hope that additional publicity will jog someone's memory or weigh on someone's conscience, prompting a tip that could advance the investigation.

Lt. Blaine Vander Wielen, supervisor of the investigative services unit, said the case remains a priority for the police department. Two investigators – Sgt. Joe Whitney and Sgt. Chad Riddle – have been assigned to the case.

"We're all eager to solve this," Vander Wielen said.

No arrests have been made in connection with Boelter's death. Vander Wielen said it's difficult to gauge how close investigators are to a

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A large billboard for Boelter stands along State 15 in Hortonville. Boelter's killer has still not been identified.
FILE/APPLETON POST-CRESCENT

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