



"Steep and Peep" by Jean Wells of Brown Deer.

RACINE ART MUSEUM PHOTOS

Peeps winners named

Exhibition will run through April 15

JOURNAL TIMES STAFF
 RACINE — The Racine Art Museum, 441 Main St., is showcasing the 14th edition of a non-traditional exhibition of art made from or inspired by colorful marshmallow Peeps.

Open through April 15, the RAM 14th Annual International Peeps Art Exhibition features 142 entries that demonstrate the talent of 200 artists from across the country.

Bruce W. Pepich, RAM executive director and curator of collections, and Kendra Voeltz, RAM curatorial assistant, hosted a virtual awards presentation via Facebook Live on March 28.

Awards are based on clever and skilled use or representation of Peeps in adult, children and group categories. The winners include:

- Adult Division**
- First Peep: Jean Wells, Brown Deer, "Steep and Peep."
 - Second Peep: Dabby Poek, Hartland, "OctoPeep."
 - Third Peep: Susan Buhler, Racine, "The Dawn of Peep."
 - Honorable mention: Betsy Kinkema, Milwaukee, "Peeponardo Da Vine!"; Veronica Gagliano Averkamp, Spring



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

"If Peeps Could Fly" by Holly Ottum of Racine was selected for the Racine Art Museum's RAM Postcard Award.

Prairie, "Peep Lily"; Korinthia Klein, Milwaukee, "The Picture of Dorian Peep"; Alison Wojahn, Kenosha, "Peep Kong."

Young Peoples Division (under 13)

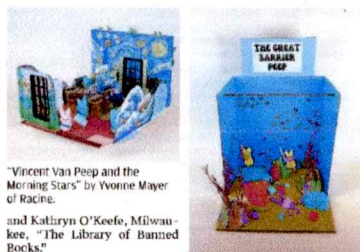
- First Peep: Jack Thompson, Racine, "The Great Barrier Peep."
- Second Peep: Isabella Aviles, Mount Pleasant, "Stappy and the Shark."
- Third Peep: Marie Roosa, Racine, "American Peeps."

Group Division

- First Peep: Andrew Konitzer



"The Library of Banned Books" by Andrew Konitzer and Kathryn O'Keefe of Milwaukee.



"The Great Barrier Peep" by Jack Thompson of Racine.

Menke named interim chancellor

Will assume new UW-Parkside role on June 9

JOURNAL TIMES STAFF
 MADISON — Scott Menke has been named interim chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Parkside.



Menke

role June 9.

He is replacing Debbie Ford, who is leaving to become chancellor of Indiana University Southeast in New Albany, Ind. Ford has been the chancellor at UW-Parkside since 2009.

"Chancellor Ford has been a champion for students at

UW-Parkside and across the UW System," said University of Wisconsin System President Jay Rothman. "We will miss her tremendously. I am pleased Scott has agreed to serve as interim chancellor. He will ensure a smooth transition while we find a new leader."

Menke has served as vice chancellor for finance and administration at UW-Parkside since June 2018, providing leadership and oversight for human

resources, budget development and management, capital planning, facilities management, university police, accounting services, cashier operations, procurement and risk management.

"I have been fortunate to be part of a strong leadership team at UW-Parkside," Menke said. "I am both humbled and honored to continue working with the

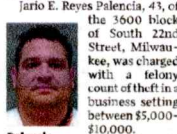
Please see MENKE, Page B2

Amazon worker accused of theft

Reportedly used fuel cards for personal purchases

JOURNAL TIMES STAFF

RACINE — An Amazon employee has been accused of fraudulently using Amazon fuel cards.



Palencia

Jario E. Reyes Palencia, 43, of the 3600 block of South 22nd Street, Milwaukee, was charged with a felony count of theft in a business setting between \$5,000-\$10,000.

According to a criminal complaint, in March investigators spoke with an Amazon employee about fraudulent use of Amazon fuel cards between December and February.

The employee reportedly said that workers had permission to use Amazon's fuel cards for company delivery trucks, but not for personal use.

The complaint said an investigator learned that Palencia allegedly had used the cards to get gas at three different locations totaling \$6,556.04.

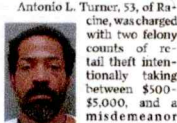
Palencia reportedly admitted

Please see AMAZON, Page B2

Two charged in thefts from local retailers

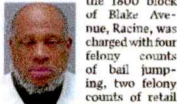
JOURNAL TIMES STAFF

MOUNT PLEASANT — Two men are accused of taking items from Walmart on several occasions and attempting to do the same at Pick 'n Save.



Turner

Antonio L. Turner, 53, of Racine, was charged with two felony counts of retail theft intentionally taking between \$500-\$5,000, and a misdemeanor count of retail theft altering price less than or equal to \$500.



Williams

Christopher A. Williams, of the 1800 block of Blake Avenue, Racine, was charged with four felony counts of retail theft intentionally taking between \$500-\$5,000, and misdemeanor counts of retail theft intentionally taking less than or equal to \$500 and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Please see THEFTS, Page B2

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EXTENSION RACINE COUNTY

New aquatic invasive species spreading in southeastern Wisconsin

SCOTT MCCOMB
Extension Racine County

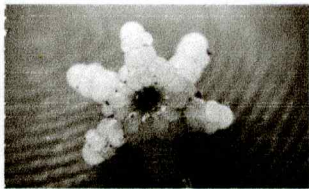
Starry stonewort (*Intepolopis obtusa*), an invasive alga that can significantly harm aquatic ecosystems, is starting to make its way across lakes and rivers in southeastern Wisconsin.

Originally from Europe and Asia, starry stonewort was first identified in North America in 1978 in the St. Lawrence River.

The species was unintentionally introduced through the discharge of contaminated cargo ship ballast water. Since then, it has spread west across the Great Lakes region infesting waters as far as Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Starry stonewort was first confirmed in Wisconsin in 2014 at Little Muskego Lake, in neighboring Waukesha County.

Since then, it has been documented on 27 other lakes, including four in southeastern Wisconsin — Long Lake (2015), Wind Lake (2017), Camp Lake (2021) and



SUBMITTED

Starry stonewort is similar in appearance to other native grass-like algae such as stoneworts and musk-grass. It can be distinguished from other plants by its star-shaped bulbils found in lake and riverbeds.

Lake Dennon (2022). It is likely that starry stonewort has spread to additional waters where it has yet to be discovered.

How to identify

Starry stonewort's similar appearance to other native grass-like algae such as stoneworts and musk-grass, both of which can be found in Wisconsin. It can be distinguished from other plants by

its star-shaped bulbils found in lake and riverbeds. The species can grow up to 7 feet tall with five to eight branches growing from each stem. It favors shallow to deep lakes and slow-moving streams, such as calm waters near boat launches.

Why is it invasive?

Like most invasive aquatic plants, starry stonewort forms dense mats at and

below the water's surface. This can inhibit water re-oxygenation and impede the movement of breeding fish and waterfowl.

The dense stands can overtake waterbeds and outcompete native aquatic plants, potentially lowering diversity and reducing the overall health of aquatic ecosystems.

Because starry stonewort has the potential to cause such significant environmental or economic harm or harm to human health, it is listed as prohibited in Wisconsin.

This means it is illegal to transport, possess, transfer or introduce the species.

How does it spread?

Starry stonewort can easily spread from one body of water to another by transferring the star-shaped bulbils or fragments of the plant.

These fragments can attach to watercrafts (boats, canoes and kayaks), trailers, docks, boat lifts, anchors or any other water-related

equipment.

Preventing the spread

The most important action people can take to prevent the spread of starry stonewort and other aquatic invasive species is to inspect their boat, trailers and equipment and remove all attached aquatic plants or animals before launching, after loading and before leaving a launch site.

They should drain all water from boats, motors and other equipment; never move live fish from a waterbody, dispose of unwanted bait in the trash, not the water; rinse watercrafts and all fishing equipment with hot (104 degrees or higher) tap water, or thoroughly dry boats and fishing equipment (leave them outside in the sun for five days before going to new waters).

People should report suspected occurrences of starry stonewort to the DNR or their county aquatic invasive species coordinator immediately.

Treatment

Current control methods have not been shown to have a measurable impact on starry stonewort.

Herbicide treatments may help to reduce biomass in small areas but have also been shown to stimulate bulbil growth. Mechanical aquatic plants or animals before launching, after loading and before leaving a launch site.

Any treatment should be undertaken with the approval of a DNR biologist.

For more information about preventing starry stonewort and other aquatic invasive species in southeast Wisconsin, contact Scott McComb at mcombc@acqua.wis.edu.

Scott McComb is the aquatic invasive species outreach specialist for the Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute.

Kenosha approves Uline distribution center

DANIEL GATTAN
Lee Newspapers

The Kenosha City Council approved a conditional use permit for a 1.4 million-square-foot Uline distribution facility Monday evening.

Alders voted overwhelmingly for the Pleasant Prairie-based company's latest expansion on a nearly 40-acre parcel at 128th Avenue and 38th Street that was rezoned from agriculture use

to heavy manufacturing.

The site sits west of the Uline campus and is set to become a part of the large network of buildings along the bustling I-94 corridor. The new distribution center will be larger by several thousand square feet than Amazon's fulfillment center on the other side of I-94.

According to documents submitted to the city its appearance would "closely

match" the company's existing buildings. A developer's agreement will still be required for construction of acceleration/deceleration lanes and a turn lane at the entrance of 128th Avenue.

The company, now one of the area's largest employers, has continually expanded its presence throughout Kenosha County since it relocated its headquarters from nearby Waukegan, Ill., in 2010.

The company also purchased several hundred acres of land adjacent to its existing campus last year.

Approved by alders

The City Council voted 12 to 5 in favor of the conditional use permit with Aids. Holly Kangas, Brandi Ferree and Rolin Pizzala voting against it. Aids, Kelly MacKay and Keith Rosenberg were absent. Ald. Dominic Ruffalo said

Uline has been "a good company" and "good to Kenosha" and was happy to support it.

"It's a good place to work for. Their buildings are neat, clean, orderly. The landscape is impeccable," Ruffalo said. "They do a lot for the community and they do a lot for nonprofits around Kenosha that most people don't know about."

Ruffalo, who represents the area where the new distribution center would be located, said the center would be the company's largest in the state.

"I'm in favor of it," Ruffalo said, adding that Uline's presence in Kenosha would support "my more Uline buildings if it's not better for the environment" and questioned why portions of proposed distribution center couldn't be run on solar energy.

Men accused of defiling woman's license appear at Intake Court

DANIEL GATTAN
Lee Newspapers

The two men accused of defiling a woman's driver's license at a Kenosha car dealership and making a video of the act made their initial appearances at Intake Court Tuesday afternoon.

Bryan Slaven, of Milwaukee, and Zachary Brugiotti, of Lake Forest, Ill., were charged March 21 in Kenosha County Circuit court with misdemeanor means of being party to a crime (theft), criminal damage to property and disorderly conduct for their alleged involvement in the Feb. 25 incident at NH Auto Sales, 9000

Sheridan Road.

The theft and property damage charges carry fines of up to \$10,000 each or up to nine months in prison, or both. The disorderly conduct charge carries a fine of up to \$1,000 or up to nine months in jail, or both. Both 26-year-olds pleaded not guilty.

On Tuesday, Assistant District Attorney Timothy Martin asked for each break and for Slaven and Brugiotti to have no contact with each other. Martin also asked that they have no contact with the woman.

Court Commissioner Loren Keating imposed \$1,000 signature bonds on both men

and said they are to have no contact with the woman. The men, who are business partners, may have contact with each other but not discuss the case without their attorneys present.

Preliminary conferences for both men are set for June 14 before Judge Anthony Mills-Askins.

Criminal complaint

Lash Jefferson, the woman whose driver's license was defiled, reported to police that she had gone to test drive a car at the dealership on Feb. 25 and had to provide her driver's license, but forgot to retrieve it when she left. She did not purchase a vehicle, according to the criminal

complaint.

Jefferson said she later contacted the dealership and spoke with Slaven, who she said "pretended as if he didn't know" what she was talking about, according to the complaint.

Jefferson said she offered to pay \$5 to have the driver's license mailed to her because she lived out of town and that Slaven said she would speak to her further about it, according to the complaint.

Jefferson said that later she was contacted on Instagram by someone she didn't know who told her about a video posted to Snapchat that showed someone handing her Wisconsin driver's license in hand and someone else urinating

on it.

Jefferson provided the video to a Kenosha police detective who reviewed the 46-second video, noting that the license was bent "multiple times" before being placed on the bumper of a truck "to be urinated on," according to the criminal complaint.

The video was labeled with the name and city of the car dealership.

According to the complaint, Jefferson denied having "any type of confrontation" with Slaven.

A day after the incident, Brugiotti reportedly contacted the detective who had been trying to contact Slaven.


According to the complaint, Brugiotti, who said he

was a co-owner of NH Auto Sales, confirmed that Jefferson had been at the dealership and said she had indicated to Slaven that she planned to buy the vehicle.

Police reportedly said that he and Slaven became frustrated that the woman did not buy the vehicle and that she was loud when talking about things that were wrong with the vehicle she test drove, causing another customer to back out of a sale.

Brugiotti admitted to the detective that he had urinated on the license and that Slaven had bent it, according to the complaint.

Police recovered the damage driver's license four days later.



ASK THE LAWYER

by **James W. Pruitt**
Attorney at Law

CLEAN IT UP

It is important that a spouse or a personal representative follow through with closing out a decedent's estate so that matters can be cleared up properly. If the decedent's interest is not removed from real estate, it causes unnecessary delays and sometimes future probates. There's a document called a Termination of Decedent's Interest which will remove a person's life estate or interest from a property owned with a spouse or other individuals. It is important to have this interest removed so that upon the future sale or transfer of the property everything will go smoothly. Other personal property is removed from the decedent's name with a Transfer by Affidavit for \$50,000 and under. The State of Wisconsin recognizes this as a non-probate transfer, and should be utilized to clear out any personal property ownership of vehicles or bank accounts that are still in the name of the deceased person. For further help with this information, please contact Pruitt Zablockiewicz S.C. at 262-633-8301 or through our website at pruitlawoffices.com. Our office is located at 731 Main Street in Racine. We are your partners for professional service.

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Thefts

From B1

According to a criminal complaint, on March 19, an officer was sent to Walmart at 3049 S. Oakes Road after a report of a retail theft.

It was alleged that Williams had taken a vacuum and a microwave worth \$478. On March 24, Turner and Williams are accused of entering the same Walmart and taking a carpet cleaner, a vacuum and an air fryer, worth \$676. The two got in a Suburban and left.

The complaint said that on March 26, Turner and Williams were dropped off at the Walmart and they are accused of taking two vac-

uums and a air fryer worth \$706.

On Thursday, the two men were arrested near the Pick 'n Save at 2820 S. Green Bay Road.

During a search of the vehicle, two bottles of Jose Cuervo and Hennessy that were reportedly taken from the store were found.

The complaint also said Williams had a glass pipe in his pocket.

Turner was given a \$1,000 signature bond and Williams was given a \$400 cash bond in Racine County Circuit Court on Friday. Both have a preliminary hearing scheduled for April 12 at the Racine County Law Enforcement Center, online court records show.

Amazon

From B1

that he began to use the fuel card for his personal use about seven months earlier, and that he obtained other employee's PINs to conduct the scheme.

Palencia was given a \$1,000 signature bond in Racine County Circuit Court on Friday.

A preliminary hearing is scheduled for April 19 at the Racine County Law Enforcement Center, online court records show.

Peeps

From B1

Lazzeroni and Henry Schonover, Racine, "Captain Peepmo and Ned Fight the Giant Squid."

Third Peep: Bobbie and Courtney Peep, Kenosha. "Spider Peep Stops the Train."

RAM Postcard Award

By Holly Ottum, Racine, "If Peeps Could Fly."

City of Racine Mayor's Choice Award

Yvonne Mayer, Racine, "Vincent Van Peep and the Morning Stars."

In addition to the awards selected by RAM, visitors are invited to vote for their favorite creation, naming one popular artwork worthy of the coveted PEEPS Choice Award.

Guests are allowed a single vote per visit and the award will be announced after the exhibition closes.

Over the years, many

Peeps art exhibition entrants have become experts in marshmallow candy as a material, using methods like carving, painting, hole punching, gluing and melting to manipulate Peeps into shapes.

While the seasonal candy is still the most common material, the 14th anniversary show also includes pieces made in various other media.

Out-of-state enthusiasts and other would-be museum visitors are invited to view the exhibition during a Live Virtual Tour of exhibition on the RAM Facebook page at 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 11.

The virtual awards ceremony is available to watch on demand on Facebook, YouTube and the RAM website.

The Racine Art Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Admission is \$10 for adults, and \$8 for senior citizens 62 and older and students.

Go to ramart.org for more information.

Menke

From B1

team as interim chancellor. Under the leadership of Dr.

Debbie Ford, the university developed a strong track record of providing students with a transformative educational experience and serving the community.

Menke has served in various roles at UW-Parkside since 2004.

Prior to that he provided financial management and consulting services to small

business owners and entrepreneurs, served as chief financial officer for two companies and worked for a national public accounting company.