Partnership against invasives

Group works to fight invasive species in Monroe County

MEGAN FLYNN
meghan.fynn@lee.net

The first step to eradicate invasive species is to identify what they are and the harm they create.

The Cooperative Invasive Species Working Group in Monroe County seeks to educate landowners, land managers, land users and recreationists on which invasives are present in the county and how to eradicate them before they become a bigger issue. CISWG held an educational session at Tomah Area School District’s WOLF Den Outdoor Learning Center.

Megan Mickelson, Department of Natural Resources Monroe County forest liaison and private lands forest and CISWG chair, chose the location because of its visibility to the public and abundance of invasive species.

“There needs to be some management done here, some harvesting, probably some tree planting,” she said. “I chose this site for that reason, so we can discuss ... hopefully educate you guys and talk about different ways that we’ve managed before.”

Invasive species found at the site include Eurasian honeysuckle, blackthorn, garlic mustard, reed canary grass and Japanese barberry. Besides invasive plants, the emerald ash borer is also found in the forest.

Mickelson said the goal for the session was to get the general public involved.

“With the weather patterns somewhat changing, species are generally moving north, and we’re seeing a lot of push from southern invasives coming up both into Wisconsin and from southern counties to Monroe County,” she said. “We’re hoping to reach out to landowners, make an educational day, give them some suggestions, help them with the tools they can use which includes identifying the species, so we can all work together to tackle the bigger problem.”

Invasive species are a problem, Mickelson said. For example, they have a negative impact on the wildlife.

“A lot of these invasives are really competitive to native species; they out-compete our native plants, shrubs, trees, etc.” she said. “They’re also not a very nutritious food source.”

The session focused on Eurasian honeysuckles, which are a major problem, Mickelson said. Originally brought over from Asia and Russia, they were planted widely in Europe as an ornamental species. In North America it was heavily planted for erosion control, Mickelson said.

“Folks thought it was good wildlife habitat as well — it kind of does the opposite actually,” she said. “This plant gets huge ... it’s tall, it spreads out and nothing grows underneath, it shades out the native plants. It was kind of a poor choice for erosion control in a lot of folks’ opinion because water runs right under it — there is not a lot of low vegetation to slow that water down.”

Please see INVASIVES, Page A8

‘Cancer care closer to their home’

Gundersen Health announces new facility in Tomah

She declined the treatment. Oettel hopes a new facility in Tomah will change that. Gundersen announced plans Thursday, July 18, 2019, to build a new facility closer to their home,” said Sarah Rossman, Gundersen Cancer Services administrative director. Oettel said the woman he described was not his relative. He said she was not known by the hospice service he worked for.

Oettel, who was a hospice nurse, said he went to the woman’s home and stayed with her for a few days. The woman was about 50 years old and had cancer, he said. He added that the woman had a dog and a cat.

He said he stayed at the woman’s house for about three days, but he did not provide any details about what happened during that time.

Oettel said he was told by the hospice service he worked for that the woman was not receiving any medical treatment. He added that the woman was not in contact with the hospice service.

"When we first started seeing her, she was very weak and frail," Oettel said. "She was unable to walk or even stand up. She was just lying in bed all day, crying and complaining about her pain.

"We thought she was going to die at any moment," he said. "But she lingered on for weeks, and finally passed away in her sleep.

"It was a difficult time for everyone involved," he said. "We were all very sad and grief-stricken."
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Oettel hopes a new facility in Tomah will change that. Gundersen announced plans Thursday held a 200-person event closer to their home,” said Sarah Rossman, Gundersen Cancer Services administrative director. Oettel said the woman he decided not to pursue. The new facility will be located next to the Tomah Medical Center.

Gundersen Health announced plans Thursday to build a new cancer care facility in Tomah. The announcement was made at a reception Thursday evening at the Tomah Medical Center. The new facility is scheduled to open in late 2018.

The new facility will provide access to radiation therapy, medical oncology, surgical oncology, and supportive care services. The facility will be located next to the Tomah Medical Center and will include a 10,000-square-foot space dedicated to cancer care. The facility will include a 4,000-square-foot radiotherapy suite, a 2,000-square-foot medical oncology suite, and a 5,000-square-foot supportive care suite.

The new facility will be built on the site of a former hospital building that was razed in 2015. The site is located at 2501 W. 1st St. in Tomah.

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He defeated the incumbent mayor, C.E. (Pete) Bean in 1966.

The Tomah Sweetheart Singers square dance club has donated new toys for distribution to needy children in the area through the Tomah Lions Club “Toys for the Needy” project.

The dancers brought the gifts to their annual Christmas party held last week in the Frontier Room of the Holiday Lodge near Wyeville. The gifts will be delivered by Don Mennecke to Casey Koscal, chairman of the Lions project.

Jaycees Vic Burnstard, general chairman of the first annual Tomah Winter Carnival, announced Friday that the event will be held in the lagoon area of Lake Tomah on Sunday, Jan. 21. The Jaycee-sponsored event is expected to provide spectator fun for the entire family. The event also provides opportunities for horse and racing skaters.

Tomah wrestler gained a pair of individual championships and the team finished third in the standings with 3.5 points in the La Crosse State High School Invitational Tournament at Mitchell Hall on the La Crosse University campus Saturday. Harry Bally at 165 pounds and Tom Kitzke at heavyweight turned in sparkling performances to win their weight classes.

Feb 26: Tomah High School dance team showcase, 6:30 p.m., high school gymnasium.

March 13: Lemonweir Elementary School grades 3-5 music program, 6:30 p.m., Tomah High School auditorium.

March 23: Tomah Douglas/Oakdale elementary school music program, 6:30 p.m., high school auditorium.

May 30-31: Auditions for Area Community Theatre production of “Wonderwall,” 8 p.m., both evenings, at theater, 907 Kilbourne Ave.

July 19-22: Area Community Theatre presents “Musical Wonderland” at Tomah High School auditorium. Evening shows 7 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 1 p.m. Tickets go on sale Jan. 29.

Invasives
From A1
Several invasive honeysuckle are found in the county, Mickelson said, including tatarian honeysuckle, which blooms in late winter, and bell’s honeysuckle, along with the county’s native species. The plant’s bright, colorful flowers, which range from red-orange to yellow-orange, are favored by birds, Mickelson said, but aren’t nutritious.

“The berry itself is not very nutritional for the bird — it’s low in fat content, low in nutrients,” she said. “So it’s just kind of filler.”

It’s also a hard plant to kill, Mickelson said.

“People used to think that it would just go away, you could cut the big stems and be done,” she said. “It actually helps it re-sprout. So what you’re doing is helping it to spread. In spring, it’s going to have all that root mass below, and it’s going to shoot up and spread it in kind of reinvigorates it.”

Mickelson suggests killing it by spraying around the stem with a herbicide during the growing season.

Both honeysuckle and buckthorn can easily be identified during winter, Mickelson said.

“The honeysuckle re-tains its leaves,” she said. “This is usually a spe-cies that if you look out into the forest and there are still green shrubs out there, it’s probably honeysuckle.”

She said the plant “holds its leaves for a long time. Buckthorn does the same thing.”

By early, the plants can be pulled out. However when the diameter gets between 1/2 inch to one inch, it is difficult to pull out, Mickelson said.

Controlling and remov- ing invasive species is impor-tant, Mickelson said.

“IT’s general habitat management for our wildlife, but also as foresters we’re trying to grow trees and we’re trying to make them productive,” she said.

“So in keeping these invasives out of our forests, we’re aiding in tree regeneration. ... We’re always trying to manage into the future.”

The educational session was successful, Mickelson said. She said there was a lot of good conversation with the attendees.

“We’ve got folks in all stages of management, so it was great to see people come out and want to get involved in managing their properties,” she said.

It takes everybody, it takes all landowners to work with us, primarily with the county, forest in Monroe County, but we border private land owners, we border Fort McCoy and Stewartville. So if one has an invasive, it’s likely the other does, too. So if we can manage together, we have a better chance of knocking it out.”

After the session attend- ees were invited to attend CWSO’s general meeting at the Tomah Department of Natural Resources ranger station.

EXPO
“Home of the Hand Picked”
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HOURS: MON.-FRI. 9-5:30
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Happy Christmas & Happy New Year
Invasives
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After the session attend-ees were invited to attend CIWSO’S general meeting at the Tomah Department of Natural Resources ranger station.

pie, blueberrl and bass. Entry fee $20.


Jan. 30: Road Runners ATV Club 2018 membership drive and pizza party, 1-4 p.m., Smokes Elbow Room Bar, Tomah. Members and non-members encouraged to attend to promote club and sport of ATV/UTV riding. See Facebook page for details.

Jan. 27: Craft beer fest and chili cook-off, 5-10 p.m. Cost is $10 per person, includes sampling of 10 chili recipes and 10 local craft beers. First 300 receive tasting glass. Raffles and live music. Funds support Chasing Daylight Animal Shelter.

Jan. 29: Tomah High School Dance Team to perform at the school’s annual spaghetti dinner at high school. Dinner is 5:30-7 p.m., show 7:30 p.m.

March 20: Tomah High School elementary school music program, 6:30 p.m., high school auditorium.

March 23: Tomah High School language depart-ment presents Spassabend, 7 p.m., high school auditorium.

March 30-31: Auditions for Area Community Theatre production of Wonderland, 6-9 p.m., both evenings, at theater, 907 Kill-bourne Ave.

July 19-22: Area Community Theatre presents Musical Wonderland at Tomah High School auditorium. Evening shows 7 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.

Contemporary PHOTOGRAPH

of Tomah Sand donated two $500 to Camp Douglas and Oakdale also to the students at Camp Douglas and Oakdale. Scholastic Book Fair is upon opportunities for author visits. Also pictured are Camp Douglass/Oakdale Title 1 and Camp Douglas/Oakdale principal Nickie Pope.

He defended the incumbent mayor, C.E. (Pete) Bean in 1966.

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Tomah wrestlers gained a pair of individual championships and the team finished third in the standings with 51 points in the La Crosse State High School Invitational Tournament at Mitchell Hall on the La Crosse State Uni-versity campus. Saturday, Feb. 16 at 105 points and Tom Kiltzke at heavy weight turned in sparkling performances to win their weight classes.

Feb. 26: Tomah High School dance team showcase, 6:30 p.m., high school gymnasium.

March 6: Tomah High School Band-O-Rama, 6:30 p.m., high school gymnasium.

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Newton was transported to the Juneau County Jail and later released on three collateral bonds of $300. Both Vang and Newton are scheduled to have their initial appearance in court Dec. 20, 2017, at St. Clare-Meadows Nursing Home in Baraboo, Wis., Sonnenberg Family Funeral Home, Tomah is assisting the family with arrangements.