

Beetle battle begins now



CHRIS BALDUS
La Crosse Tribune

I imagine if you treat this like a homeland security issue, you might be able to regain control of your country homes. You needn't go as far as putting your house into a duct tape and plastic sheeting bubble, though.

The biological threat you're facing apparently can be stopped by well-sealed doors and windows and mesh in all the right places. And since the prime time for lady Asian beetles to swarm is autumn, now is a good time to set up your defenses.

"The best way to prevent beetles from becoming uninvited houseguests is to seal cracks around windows, doors, siding, utility pipes or other openings with a good quality caulk."

SUSAN MAHR,
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Some have already called about the resurgence of these members of the "axis of annoyance." So I've turned to the University of Wisconsin for battle plans.

"The best way to prevent beetles from becoming uninvited houseguests is to seal cracks around windows, doors, siding, utility pipes or other openings with a good quality caulk," said Susan Mahr of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. "Replace or repair damaged screens, and install screens over roof vents."

The UW Extension Service also lists some insecticides. You can find them in a report on the beetles at www.uwex.edu/ces/wihowrt/gardenfacts/XHT1050.pdf.

But once they're in, try not to squash them. "When all else fails, a vacuum cleaner or broom is often the best response once beetles have come indoors," writes Phil Pellitteri of the UW Insect Diagnostic Lab. "Beetles can be collected by hand and released outside. Lady beetles defend themselves by bleeding from their joints. Therefore, if handled too roughly they can stain carpets walls or curtains."

OK, this whole thing has just gotten a little too grotesque. Good luck.

Names in the news

Scott and Teresa Brickl of Hillsboro, Wis., Lee and Joan Pulda of Prairie du Chien, Wis., and Roger and Nick Kaufman, whose farm is south of Disco, Wis., are inviting people to their farms for breakfast as part of June Dairy Month. The Brickl's are hosting the 26th annual Vernon County Breakfast on the Farm June 5. The Kaufman's Jackson County breakfast

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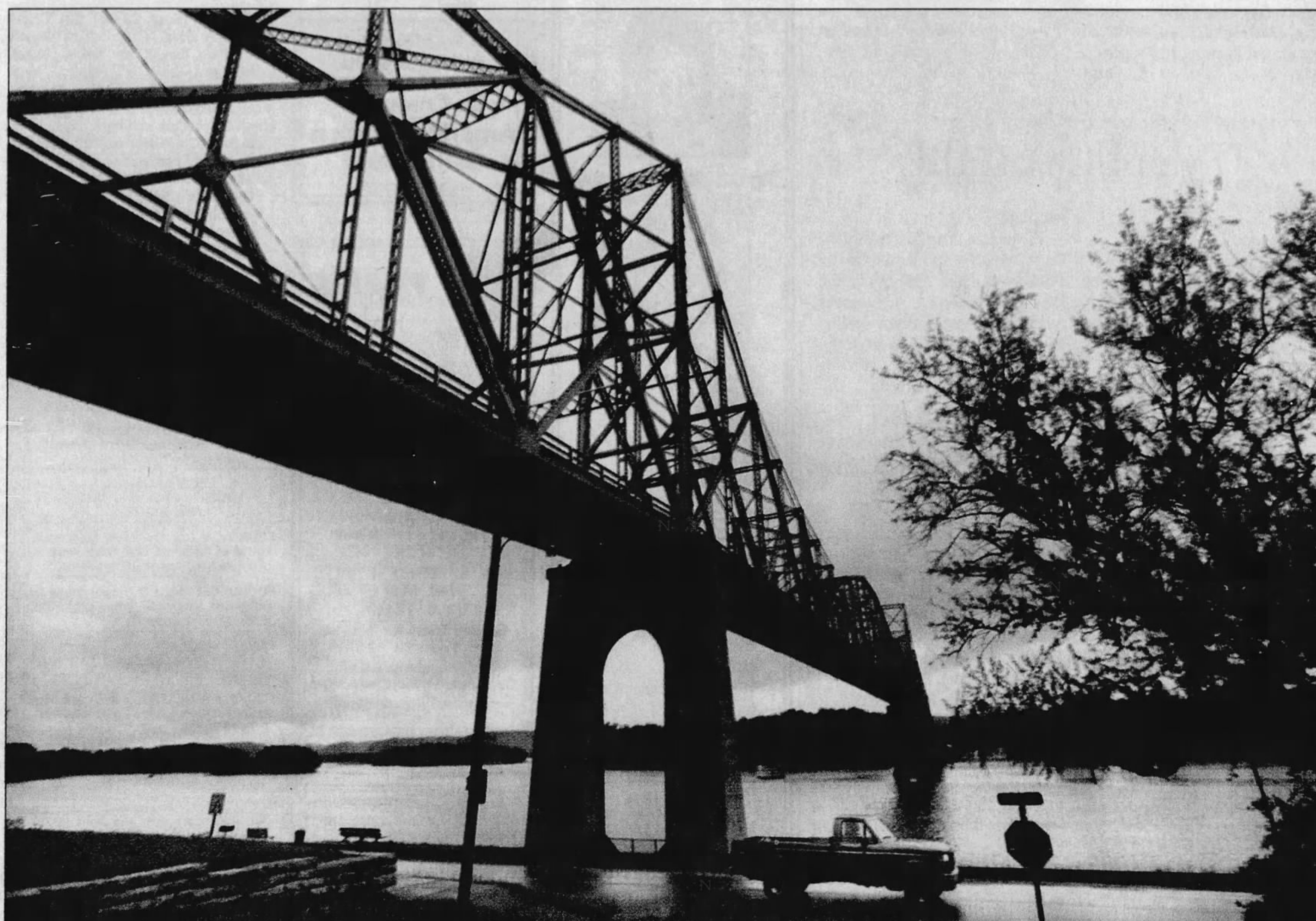
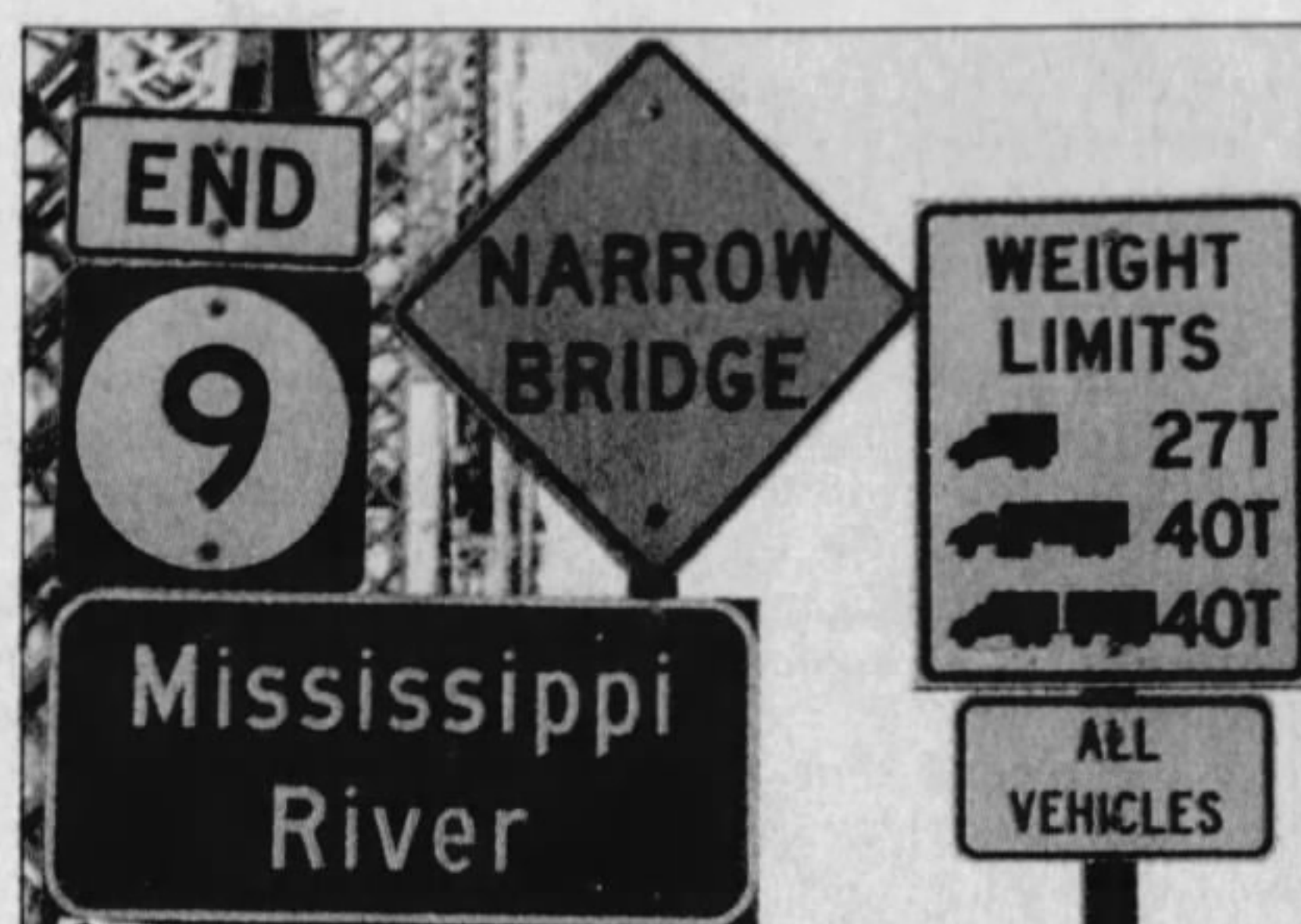
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Monday, May 17, 2004

News from area communities

Contact: 1-800-262-0420, ext. 217

Lighting up Lansing



PHOTOS BY PETER THOMSON/LA CROSSE TRIBUNE

TOP RIGHT: Road signs on the west end of the Black Hawk Bridge. ABOVE: The Black Hawk Bridge in Lansing, Iowa.

Decorative lights to illuminate Black Hawk Bridge

By ED HOSKIN
La Crosse Tribune

LANSING, Iowa — The figurative "light bulb" that appeared over Bruce ReVoor's head more than four years ago will soon see the Black Hawk Bridge in Lansing illuminated with decorative lights.

With the help of donations, a total of 23 lights will be placed on the south side of the 1,623-foot steel structure in coming weeks.

A special ceremony on the evening of June 29 will see the lights turned on for the first time. The timing will coincide with Grand Excursion 2004, when a Mississippi River flotilla will recreate the 1854 expedition that brought worldwide attention to what was then America's wild, western frontier.

Co-leaders of the Bridge Lighting Committee, Bruce and Mary ReVoor, came up with the bright idea while watching the

global celebration for New Years Eve on television as 2000 arrived.

"All the cities they went to around the world all had bridges, and they were all lit up," Bruce ReVoor said. "That sparked the idea. Why not Lansing?"

The signature bridge, named after the Sac Indian chief Black Hawk, was completed in 1931.

It is often photographed by tourists, and the ReVoors hope it will gain more attention with the addition of the lights.

"I hope it will stimulate tourism," Bruce ReVoor said. "We want to bring to people's attention that this is a viable river crossing, and let's preserve it."

The Lansing Grand Excursion 2004 Committee has selected the bridge lighting as its heritage project for the big event.

The 70-watt lights — which will shine after sunset during summer months, and at the

LANSING LIGHTING SCHEDULE

■ The 70-watt lights — which will shine after sunset during summer months, and at the same time on Fridays and Saturdays during winter — will cost about \$46,000 to install.

same time on Fridays and Saturdays during winter — will cost about \$46,000 to install.

About 118 private donations have raised about \$39,000, and it is hoped fund-raising activities and more donations will make up the difference.

The original plan was for 74 lights at a cost of about \$50,000, but the project stalled in 2001 when the contractor who quoted the price went out of business.

The "downsized street lights, if you like," will be in weather-proof casing, and protrude about a foot off the south side of

the bridge, Bruce ReVoor said.

"It's been going on for four years, and it's going to be rewarding to see the project completed," Bruce ReVoor said.

He added he has been touched by the generosity of people, many of whom told him stories about their personal connection to the bridge such as one man whose relative helped build it.

People have donated money in memory or recognition of someone. Most donations were for about \$200, but they have been as high as several thousand dollars.

A memorial plaque with the names of donors will be mounted on a large boulder near the bridge.

It is expected to cost about \$700 a year in electricity to light the bridge, and a maintenance and electrical bill fund has been established.

The June 29 ceremony will feature local and state digni-

taries, and it will be part of an evening-long music festival on the riverfront along Main Street just south of the bridge.

The flotilla is due to pass through Lansing the same day, and some boats are expected after the lights are turned on, Bruce ReVoor said.

The work will begin in the next two weeks, said Jim Etchison of Lowell Electric of Luana, Iowa. He said he is simply waiting for materials to be delivered, and the project will probably take a month to complete.

The lights will highlight the shape of the bridge, but they will not be intrusive, Etchison said.

Because the lights will protrude out and above the bridge, "they should be viewable from all directions," Etchison said.

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Catching one lucky carp will net a Neshonoc angler \$10,000

By JOHN PAUL SCHALLER
Lee Newspapers

WEST SALEM, Wis. — Most people who have fished Lake Neshonoc — and many who have only heard about it — know La Crosse County's only inland lake was once famous for its vast carp population.

A recent dredging project, coupled with intensive carp-removal efforts, have helped curtail the number of nuisance fish in Lake Neshonoc — but it's about to become famous for carp once again.

This time however, the amount of carp will not be the issue, instead the amount one of those bottom feeders might bring one lucky angler.

When Neshonoc Dayz returns Memorial Day weekend, anglers will have a chance to hook into a carp worth \$10,000.

Lake Neshonoc will be the site of a fishing derby that includes a \$10,000 prize for catching the tagged fish.

The Neshonoc Dayz fishing contest will be held from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday, May 30.

In addition to the \$10,000

FISHING CONTEST

■ The Neshonoc Dayz fishing contest will be held from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday, May 30.

tagged fish, nine other tagged fish will be released into Lake Neshonoc and anglers who catch them will receive cash and other prizes.

There also will be prizes awarded for the longest carp caught, the heaviest carp and the most carp.

Anglers can receive 10 cents

per pound for the carp they catch and turn in after the derby.

The cost for the Neshonoc Dayz fishing derby is \$15 per person and includes entry into the contest and a half-chicken dinner in West Salem Village Park after the derby.

Anglers interested in entering the contest must register prior to the start of the fishing derby.

Registration will start at 6 a.m. on the day of the contest, but anglers wishing to register will be able to do so at several West Salem locations the week before the event.

The \$10,000 carp must be caught on a hook and line — spearing, netting and bow fishing will not be allowed.

Other events at Neshonoc Dayz include a chickenque from 11 a.m. until it's gone and a street dance on Leonard Street from 5 to 11 p.m. featuring The Twilighters and Mark IV.

The Miss Carp Contest, a not-very-pretty mock beauty contest will be held at 9 p.m., and auction of hand-crafted items and homemade baked goods will be

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MONROE COUNTY
Public meeting
on new pool
might be in June

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DNR to offer boating safety course

SPARTA, Wis. — The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is offering a boating education course for all people interested in recreational boating. It will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday and at 8 a.m. Saturday at the Sparta Rural Fire Department, 202 E. Oak St., Sparta.

The course will cover boating safety features such as rules of the road, equipment requirements, rules and regulations, ethics, responsibilities and basic navigation knowledge.

The course fee is \$10 per person and participants must be at least 10 years old.

JACKSON COUNTY
County board seeking
applicants for District 7
supervisor

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JACKSON COUNTY
County officials' salaries to
rise in 2005-06

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