



MEGHAN FLYNN PHOTOS, TOMAH NEWSPAPERS

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# Partnership against invasives

Group works to fight invasive species in Monroe County

MEGHAN FLYNN  
meghan.flynn@lee.net

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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 differ-



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Invasive species found at the site include Eurasian honeysuckles, 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 nutritional 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 folk's 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

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

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pie, bluegill and bass. Entry fee \$20.

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## move men through Juneau County

JAKE EKDAHL  
Capital Newspapers

A Necedah man and Birnamwood man face drug charges after allegedly transporting methamphetamine with intent to sell.

James Newton, 35, and Nou Ong Yang, 24, are charged with possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine.

According to the criminal complaint, a Wisconsin State Patrol officer was making a traffic stop on I-90/94 in Juneau County when he observed "a dark color Dodge Neon... with a very loud exhaust."

The trooper activated the emergency lights of his vehicle. The Neon did not initially pull over but eventually came to a stop on the right shoulder of the highway.

The trooper reported both Yang and Newton appeared "very nervous." Neither of them maintained eye contact with him and were "visibly shaking while seated." The trooper requested dispatch run criminal background checks on both individuals. Nou was determined to have revoked driving status on his Minnesota ID card. Both Yang and Newton were determined to have prior drug convictions.

An additional state trooper, Juneau County Sheriff's deputies and a New Lisbon police officer arrived on scene. The New Lisbon police officer performed a check on the vehicle with his K9 partner. While searching the individuals, officers found a "glass smoking pipe" in Newton's shoe. No items of evidentiary significance were found on Yang.

Upon searching the vehicle, officers found the following: "A clear plastic baggy containing a large amount of small orange plastic baggies; two small orange plastic baggies," one "containing a crushed crystalline substance"; the other "containing a crushed and chunk crystalline substance" and "a black scale that was covered in white crystalline powder." The evidence tested positive for Methamphetamine.

Newton was transported to the Juneau County Jail and later released on three cash bonds of \$300. Both Yang and Newton are scheduled to have their initial appearance in court Dec. 20.

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## Invasives

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"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 if you cut it that it would just go away, you could cut the big stems and be done," she said. "It actually helps it resprout. So what you're doing if you're cutting off top that in spring, it's going to have all that root mass below, and it's going to shoot it up into one sprout. So it 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 retains its leaves," she said. "This is usually a species 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."

If caught 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 removing invasive species is important, Mickelson said.

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After the session attendees were invited to attend CISWG's general meeting at the Tomah Department of Natural Resources ranger station.



**Happy Holidays!**

*Best Wishes for a Prosperous New Year!*

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(District 5), Mary Von Ruden (District 7), Mark Halverson (District 8), Douglas Path (District 9), Dean Peterson (District 13), Sharon Folcey (District 14), James Schroeder (District 15) and Mary Cook (District 16).

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Happy New Year





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