

Criminal cases are reported in Marquette County Circuit Court

Criminal cases that were heard in Marquette County Circuit Court last week included the following actions taken.

A jury returned one guilty verdict and two not guilty verdicts in a case involving **Raul P. Marquez, Jr.**, 37, of Oxford. He was charged with three felony counts of causing a child over the age of 13 to view sexually explicit conduct for an incident reported by Westfield girls softball team members who were riding a bus in April of 2006. The complaint said the girls on a bus in Westfield reported to a deputy that an individual was driving his car parallel to the freshman girls softball team's bus and was masturbating while driving next to it. It said the deputy located him in a nearby parking lot and was told by Marquez that there must be some mistake. He claimed to have been eating a hot dog at the time. Marquez was first tried by a jury in July of 2008, at which time the jury could not reach a unanimous verdict and the court declared a mistrial. A second trial took place this year on August 11 and 12. After 2 1/2 hours of deliberation, the jury found him guilty on one count. The district attorney requested a pre-sentence investigation. Sentencing is set for October 14th and bond was continued. Marquez could receive six years in prison, a \$10,000 fine or both, as a maximum sentence.

A preliminary hearing was waived by **Russel R. Sculley**, 17, of W1819 Deerborn Dr., Neshkoro. He is charged with one felony count of operating a motor vehicle without consent, three felony counts of burglary, misdemeanor theft and misdemeanor criminal damage to property. Sculley is one of two suspects that a witness says they saw attempting to break into a residence on County Road E on June 17th. Inside the home, which was for sale, authorities found several items, including some discarded keys. A vehicle was reported stolen at another property, as well. The complaint says the juvenile who was reportedly with Sculley allegedly admitted the pair broke into two other residences, taking cash and candy bars at one home. He allegedly also admitted they were trying to steal a vehicle at the County E home. Sculley allegedly told authorities he knew they were spotted at the County E home, trying to break a garage window. The court found probable cause to bind him over for trial and set an arraignment for September 30th.

The court found probable cause to bind over **Timothy J. Kraus**, 31, of N4967 Telemark Trail, Wautoma. He is charged with a felony count of transferring encumbered property on June 3rd. The complaint alleges that he transferred a tractor to another man that he had bought through a loan from 1st National Bank without paying off the security interest. The loan value was \$17,214.05, according to the complaint, and was dated to August of 2004. The maximum penalty for that felony is 10 years in prison or a fine of \$25,000, or both. The court set an arraignment date of September 16th.

Charges stemming from a reported domestic incident were filed against **Darrin L. Paul**, 41, of N5505 County Y, Montello. He is charged with a felony count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and misdemeanor counts of operating a firearm while intoxicated and intentionally pointing a firearm at another. The incident reportedly happened on January 18th at home. The complaint says a female witness reported seeing him point a handgun at a woman dur-

ing an argument. A male came and the two men fought over the gun. It was fired several times and the female witness was able to retrieve it, she told authorities. A second gun was recovered by a detective at the scene, according to the complaint. Paul waived his preliminary hearing and the court found probable cause to bind him over. An arraignment is set for September 16th.

A preliminary hearing was held for **Eugene R. Audiss**, 76, of N1370 County T, Endeavor. He was charged with two felony counts of possessing a firearm by a convicted felon and one felony count of bail jumping. The complaint said a handgun and rifle were found at his residence when authorities were called there in regard to a possible suicidal subject on February 8th. It says he was convicted in 1998 on a felony charge in Columbia County. The bail jumping charge is due to his being on bond in another Columbia County felony case. The court found probable cause to bind him over. He stood mute to the charges and the court entered pleas of not guilty and not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect (NGI). A status hearing is set for September 30th.

A felony charge of operating while intoxicated, fifth offense, was amended to a misdemeanor fourth offense for **Bernard L. Henningsen**, 48, of 1434 Hwy. H, Wisconsin Dells. He was charged May 25th in the town of Oxford. Henningsen pled no contest to the amended charge. The court withheld sentence and ordered two years probation with 210 days in jail. All but 60 days of jail were stayed. He is required to maintain absolute sobriety, pay a fine and costs of \$2348, have alcohol assessment, and his license is revoked for 33 months. Ignition interlock was also ordered during that time. The court dismissed a related charge of operating without a valid driver's license and a July 20th charge of felony bail jumping.

Sentencing was held after probation revocation for **Kyle A. Ralph**, 23, of 506 E. Vrooman St., Oxford. He was sentenced in May to 12 months probation on a disorderly conduct charge. That was revoked in August after he allegedly sent abusive text messages to a woman's cell phone, along with a nude image of himself, according to the complaint. The court then sentenced him to 60 days in jail/time served.

A felony count of failure to report to jail was amended to a misdemeanor for **Curtis G. Van Wie**, 50, of W7699 Dakota Circle, Westfield. In March of 2007, Van Wie was sentenced to 20 days in jail on a traffic case and the complaint said he did not do so, as ordered in May of that year. He pled no contest to the amended charge and the court ordered 20 days in jail, for which he must report by October 20th.

Historical Society to meet

Marquette County Historical Society will meet on Monday, September 14th at 1:00 at the home of Doug and Pat Cook, W7956 Neenah Road (approximately 7 miles from Endeavor), phone #587-2229.

Pat will present the history of Douglas Center. Also included will be the history of her home, which was the location of an original stage coach house.

All are welcome.

Ethigas means more ethical fuel choices in Marquette County

Green Marquette County

There are a lot of people out there in Marquette County who are thinking green and sustainable. Kathleen McGwin would like to tell their stories in the Marquette County Tribune. No matter how small or big, contact her at 297-9746 if you have a story about going green, restoring the land, or leaving a smaller footprint on our planet. We can all learn from each other.

By Kathleen McGwin

If Scott Kempley and Joel Burbach, both Marquette County residents, have it their way, Kempley's 2,000-acre farm will be self sustainable in 10 years and operating on ethanol fuel made in mint distillers using plant material grown on 35 acres of land.

Sound impossible? Not according to Kempley and Burbach who have begun Ethigas Cooperative, which is exploring with vigor the possibility of producing ethanol using ideas based on ethanol expert and author David Blume's work of revitalizing rural America with small production ethanol plants.

Blume recently won the American Corn Growers Association's Truth in Agricultural Journalism award. The association said in presenting the award, "We presented our Truth in Agricultural Journalism award to Mr. Blume for his insight, integrity, and knowledge and for his courage to be unbiased, impartial, and honest in his commitment to families on the land. We encourage and support Mr. Blume's efforts. He is doing good and vital work on behalf of farmers and the American populace."

The expert who's been interviewed on Public Radio and who is invited to seminars around the country was recently in Madison presenting a 2 day workshop that Kempley and Burbach attended. They invited him to Endeavor where he gave a copy of his book, *Alcohol Can Be a Gas!* to Wisconsin Senator Russ Feingold after one of his listening sessions. The Marquette County men also donated a book to the Endeavor Library.

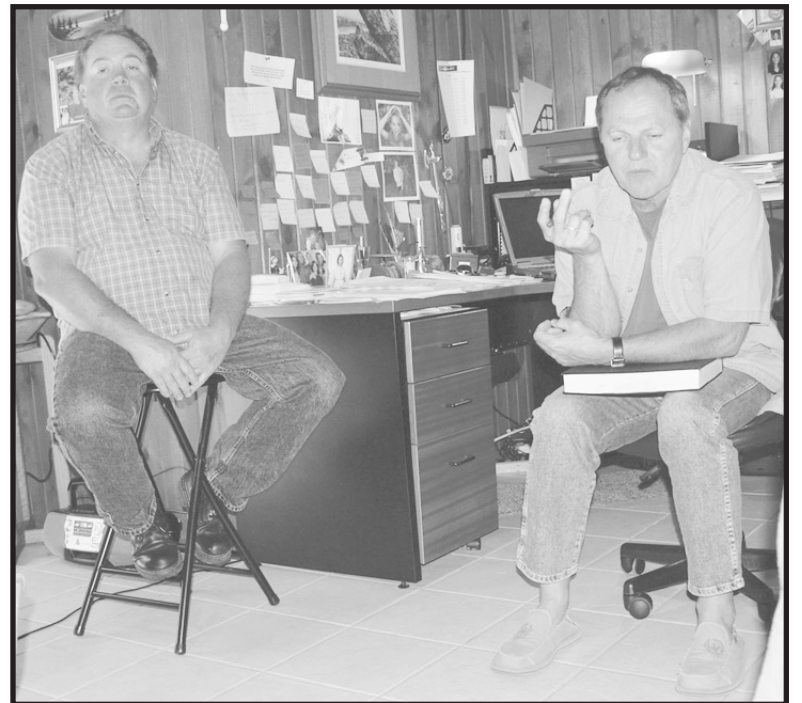
The Minnesota farmer and author extols rural revitalization in the United States as well as job creation and ending the dependence on foreign oil by building small ethanol production facilities in rural communities that would use not just corn, but other sustainable plant and waste material. Kempley and Burbach, long time friends, saw a natural connection to mint farmers who distill their crop on their farms. The distillers sit idle for much of the year and the men are studying how the mint distillers could be used to make ethanol during those down times.

"Marquette County is the number 1 producer of peppermint," said Kempley. "We grow 2 varieties of mint."

Kempley also grows sod and potatoes. The small distilleries for ethanol that Blume proposes use materials besides corn. Some of the most efficient plant material in ethanol production are sugar cane, beets, sweet sorghum, potatoes, and cat tail tubers.

"Cat tails are also a water filter," said Burbach. "In Brazil they're producing 10,000 gallons of ethanol from cat tails grown around a waste treatment plant. The plants are filtering the water and are a source of ethanol."

The men have hired a grant writer to research various funding sources that could be used to develop the cooperative and help mint farmers retrofit their mint distillers to accommodate ethanol production. They believe that it is possible that in 10



Scott Kempley and Joel Burbach talked about their joint venture Ethigas Cooperative recently at Burbach's Marquette County home. Kempley is a mint, sod, and vegetable farmer. The men started the cooperative to help mint farmers use their mint distillers to produce alcohol for fuel using crops like beets and cat tail tubers. They hope to have Kempley's farm self sustainable in 10 years. (Photo by Kathleen McGwin)

years Kempley can produce enough ethanol made from sugar beets and cat tails to replace 35,000 gallons of diesel fuel used on the farm. But that's just the first step for Ethigas. They want other farmers and individuals to do the same and may someday even produce enough to have a pump that sells to others.

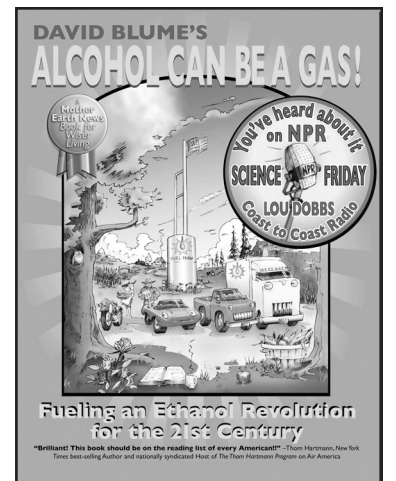
The use of alcohol or ethanol is a growing and still at times contentious business. Alcohol burns 98% clean, making it a more efficient and less polluting fuel. Kempley and Burbach both run their vehicles on 50% E 85 ethanol mix and 50% gas, more than the auto manufacturers recommend.

"My car runs just fine on that mix," said Burbach. "I lose 10% mileage, but the lower cost more than makes up for it and my car runs cleaner and more money stays in America." Blume's philosophy and work are a part of the International Institute for Ecological Agriculture (IIEA). The IIEA, with an international Board of Directors, promotes permaculture. The IIEA website at www.permaculture.com says, "Permaculture is the art and science of designing human beings' place in the environment. Permaculture design teaches you to understand and mirror the patterns found in healthy natural environments. You can then build profitable, productive, sustainable, cultivated ecosystems, which include people, and have the diversity, stability, and resilience of natural ecosystems. Permaculture designs range from households to major agricultural enterprises and even entire bioregions."

Kempley and Burbach are sold on using these ideas to become less dependent on foreign oil, more self sustainable, and to invigorate Marquette County's rural community.

"Ethigas means ethical gas and that means alcohol," said Burbach. "Alcohol produced locally with sustainable plant or waste material."

If you want to learn more about Ethigas, contact Scott Kempley at 297-2653 or Joel Burbach at 297-9593. To learn more about *Alcohol Can Be a Gas!* or David Blume go to www.permaculture.com.



Ethigas Cooperative is using plans and ideas from ethanol expert David Blume's book *Alcohol Can Be a Gas!* Blume recently was awarded the American Corn Growers Association's Truth in Agricultural Journalism award.



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