

The Daily News

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West Nile in the neighborhood

A crow in northern Wisconsin has tested positive for West Nile virus, the first bird found to have the mosquito-borne disease in Vilas County for 2016.

"The positive bird means that residents of Vilas County need to continue to be careful in their efforts to prevent mosquito bites," said Gina Egan, health officer.

It also means West Nile isn't that far away from Dickinson County and Michigan's Upper Peninsula — as the crow flies — so residents should look to take steps to protect themselves.

West Nile virus first was detected in Michigan in 2001, and since has been found across the state.

Though West Nile can be reported from June to October, most cases turn up in August and September, health officials said. So this is the most risky time.

"The virus seems to be here to stay. The best way to avoid the disease is to limit exposure to and get rid of breeding grounds for mosquitoes," Egan said.

Health officials recommend:

- Limit time spent outside at dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes are most active.
- Use insect repellent on clothing as well as exposed skin, since mosquitoes may bite through clothing.
- Make sure window and door screens are in good repair to prevent mosquito entry.
- Properly discard items that hold water, such as tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or discarded tires.
- Make sure gutters and downspouts have proper drainage.
- Turn over wheelbarrows, wading pools, boats, and canoes when not in use.
- Change the water in birdbaths and pet dishes at least every three days.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor saunas, and hot tubs; drain water from pool covers.
- Trim tall grass, weeds, and vines since mosquitoes use these areas to rest during hot daylight hours.
- Landscape to prevent water from pooling in low-lying areas.

Michigan's first human case of West Nile virus in 2016 turned up July 22 in an older adult downstate in Livingston County.

About 80 percent of people who contract West Nile virus actually do not get sick. Those who do become ill usually experience mild symptoms such as fever, headache and muscle aches, rash and fatigue.

Less than 1 percent of people infected with the virus get seriously ill, suffering from high fever, muscle weakness, stiff neck, disorientation, mental confusion, tremors, confusion, paralysis, and coma. Older adults and those with weak immune systems have a greater chance to develop a central nervous system illness that can lead to death.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has monitored the spread of West Nile virus since 2001 among wild birds, horses, mosquitoes and people.

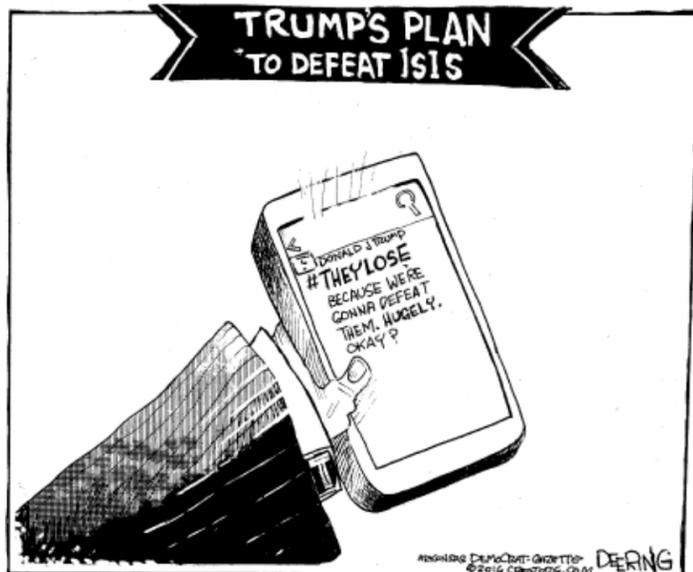
While corvid bird species — such as crows, ravens and jays — have been most susceptible, accounting for 50 to 90 percent of reported avian cases, more than 170 other avian species in North America have been identified as having the virus.

In Michigan, West Nile virus in birds or mammals can be reported to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources online at www.michigandnr.com/diseasedwildlifereporting/disease_obsreport.asp

The Wisconsin Division of Public Health will continue surveillance for West Nile virus as well until the end of the mosquito season. To report a sick or dead crow, blue jay or raven in Wisconsin, call the Dead Bird Reporting Hotline at 1-800-433-1610.

For more information on West Nile virus, go to Michigan's website at <http://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases/0,4579,7-186-25805--,00.html> or in Wisconsin to the www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/ArboviralDiseases/WestNileVirus/Index.htm.

Non Sequitur



Packers fans stay on even keel, except when they lose

There are a lot of Green Bay Packers fans out there, including me. In fact, we constitute one of the biggest subgroups on Reddit (more than 33,000 followers), and about 360,000 Packers fans can even consider themselves part-owners of the team. (Sadly, not including me.)

When I think about Packers fans, mostly positive terms come to mind — friendly, cheerful, intensely loyal, and yes, sometimes entertainingly nuts. No matter how cold at Lambeau, there always seems to be at least one guy wearing nothing but paint on his chest. Implicit in my thoughts is that these are ways Packers fans stand out, ways that we are somehow a little different from everybody else.

But, of course, I'm biased. Every semester, I teach my undergraduates at St. Norbert College about people's tendencies to think positively about their in-groups and to seek out and give more credit to information that confirms what they already believe. Given that I am a person, I have these tendencies as well. So I know it is possible that Packers fans are not as wonderful or as unique as I think we are.

As a psychological researcher, there was really only one thing for me to do. I started tackling questions about Packers fandom scientifically, recruiting 156 Packers fans representing 23 states last year to tell me about themselves and about how they respond to Packers games in real time, among other things. And here's a little of what I have learned so far.

We're not totally different, but we may not be just like everyone else, either. I started by comparing Packers fans' personalities with pre-existing data collected by other researchers from a nationally representative sample, allowing me to look for differences with regard to what psychologists call the "Big Five" personality traits. You can remember them as OCEAN: Openness to experience, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Agreeableness, and Neuroticism.

When it comes to two of these traits — Conscientiousness and Extraversion — Packers fans in my study were just like everyone else.

Almanac

Today is Friday, Aug. 19, the 232nd day of 2016. There are 134 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

In 1991, Soviet hard-liners stunned the world by announcing that President Mikhail S. Gorbachev had been removed from power. (The coup attempt collapsed two days later.)

On this date:
In A.D. 14, Caesar Augustus, Rome's first emperor, died at age 76 after a reign lasting four decades; he was succeeded by his stepson Tiberius.

In 1812, the USS Constitution defeated the British

Guest column



MICHELLE SCHOENLEBER

But there were also differences. Younger Packers fans (under age 30) were more Agreeable but less Open than people of similar ages in the general population. In other words, these fans were especially kind, trusting and modest, but they were also fairly conventional and had narrower interests overall than young adults in the U.S. more generally.

Packers fans age 40 to 49 shared this tendency toward conventionality and narrow interests, but they did not report the final difference that I found — Packers fans of most ages were less Neurotic than the general population. In other words, Packers fans reported being more emotionally stable and better able to cope with stressors than did the people in the nationally representative sample.

Okay, so fans were telling me they cope effectively with unpleasant events. I decided to take a closer look at how they reacted to a particular unpleasant event — Packers losses. During 10 games in the 2015 regular season, Packers fans told me how they were feeling before and after the games. Packers fans felt largely positive leading up to kick-offs, reporting moderate-to-high levels of happiness and calmness, as well as a small amount of pride. They endorsed little negative emotion; they felt somewhat anxious, but reported essentially no anger, shame, guilt or sadness. Turned out that we lost five of those games, which

was convenient for me as a researcher (and painful for me as a fan).

Because they were feeling pretty good to begin with, winning did not affect Packers fans' emotions much. They did get happier and felt less anxious. But let's talk about those losses: They did hurt. Fan happiness, calmness and pride all dropped; they did not bottom out, but the decreases were statistically notable. Plus, fans stayed anxious and also started feeling somewhat angry and sad.

Does this mean fans are wrong, that they really are Neurotic and do not cope effectively? No, not necessarily.

My study was not perfect. (Researchers know no study ever is.) For one thing, coping is about how people manage negative emotions. I do not know how long fans' negative emotions lasted or what they did about them, so I cannot really know how well they coped last year. Additionally, fans might be effective at coping in their lives overall, which is what the "Big Five" would measure, even if they do struggle to cope with Packers losses specifically.

Clearly, the research on Packers fans is not complete. There are many more questions to ask, and so my lab at St. Norbert College launched the 2016 season study right as the Green Bay Packers were arriving on campus for training camp. This season, among other things, we're looking for fans to tell us about their Packers-related traditions. Which traditions are most common? How important are traditions to fans? Would it make fans uncomfortable if they were prevented from engaging in their traditions?

Additional findings from the 2015 season are — and will continue to be — posted for fans to enjoy as we continue working with our data. Take a look and consider joining us for this season's study at <http://peprlab.weebly.com/2015-packers-fan-study>.

Michelle Schoenleber is assistant professor of psychology at St. Norbert College. She is exploring the qualities, experiences and behaviors of football fans — especially, but not limited to, Green Bay Packers fans.

Letters

Tale of the empty fish stringer

EDITOR:

My father and I enjoyed fishing together on the Menominee River. We were going fishing for some larger northerns to give to a friend of my father's in '58 or '59. My father, being a skilled fisherman and having won a walleye and northern tournament in Minnesota at a young age, was a good teacher to me.

About 8 a.m. on a beautiful summer day, we set out to go down river in the big, flat-bottom 16-foot wooden boat. We were using casting (or crank) baits only, no live baits.

Having caught several small ones (under 36 inches) we tossed those back in.

Finally we had five between 36- and 40-inches on the stringer hanging over the side of the boat. We thought we would head back up river to the house and then clean the fish.

After lunch, we went back to the boat to get the five bigger northerns on the stringer, but there were no fish. The snapping turtles had lunch also and five fish heads were on my stringer. My father's friend was really disappointed, but the two of us had a great time together fishing.

Well, that was the good old days.

William Schmitt
Retired Faithorn logger

Olympic athlete goes the distance

EDITOR:

It was the great abolitionist and clergyman Henry Ward Beecher who said "We should not judge people by their peak of excellence, but by the distance they have traveled from the point where they started."

At this summer's Olympics, the javelin thrower from Kenya, Julius Yego, taught himself how to throw the javelin in his remote village from which he was born. No cars, roads, or electricity — to get to school, he would run 5 miles. No coaches or trainers. He started throwing dried sharpened sticks as a substitute for the javelin. He perfected his craft later by watching champion javelin throwers on YouTube — proof that if the internet is used in a productive, positive manner, it is a remarkable tool.

Quite frankly, he rose to great heights by overcoming dire circumstances and believing in himself, against the odds set before him.

Julius Yego does not need to win the gold.

Jerry Rahoi
Iron Mountain

Naked Trump statues pop up in cities across United States

NEW YORK (AP) — It's Donald Trump like he's never been seen before.

Life-size naked statues of the Republican presidential nominee have been put up in New York City, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle and Cleveland. They're the brainchild of an activist collective called INDECLINE, which says it's vehemently against a Trump presidency.

The statues were created by an artist in Cleveland. They are of a stern-faced Trump with his hands folded over a bulging belly. Some parts of male genitalia are visible while others seemingly are missing.

A statue in New York City's Union Square quickly drew the attention of people before it was removed by the parks department.

INDECLINE says statues on the West Coast were still in place Thursday.

Trump's campaign has declined to comment on the statues.

aboard a Saudi Arabian L-1011 died as the jetliner made a fiery emergency return to the Riyadh airport.

Today's Birthdays:
Actress Debra Paget is 83. Actress Diana Muldaur is 78. Actress Jill St. John is 76. Former President Bill Clinton is 70. Actor Gerald McRaney is 69. Actor-director Jonathan Frakes is 64. Political consultant Mary Matalin is 63. Actor Peter Gallagher is 61. Actor Adam Arkin is 60. Actor John Stamos is 53. Actress Kyra Sedgwick is 51. Actor Kevin Dillon is 51. Actor Matthew Perry is 47. Rapper Romeo is 27.

frigate HMS Guerriere off Nova Scotia during the War of 1812, earning the nickname "Old Ironsides."

In 1934, a plebiscite in Germany approved the vesting of sole executive power in Adolf Hitler.

In 1936, the first of a series of show trials orchestrated by Soviet leader Josef Stalin began in Moscow as 16 defendants faced charges of conspiring against the government (all were convicted and executed).

In 1955, torrential rains caused by Hurricane Diane resulted in severe flooding in the northeastern U.S., claiming some 200 lives.

In 1980, 301 people