

A ride to remember

Lena and northeast Wisconsin rally around girls basketball team

BY WARREN BLUHM
News Editor

For the community of Lena, the three-day adventure began and ended with a stalwart group of teenage girls riding atop fire trucks to the high school gymnasium.

In between were exhilarating highs and heartbreaking disappointments as a community rode a roller coaster of emotions with the young ladies.

The Lena High School girls basketball team earned a trip to the WIAA Division 5 state tournament March 8-9, along with three other outstanding teams from around Wisconsin. The Wildcats defeated Clear Lake 53-48 on March 8, then came within seconds of a state title before falling in overtime to Albany/Monticello 57-54 on March 9.

Main Street was decked out in blue and white and signs of support all week, and the student body gathered in the parking lot March 7 as the team got a police and fire escort from the fire station to the gym for a community pep rally.

Superintendent Ben Pytleski told the crowd that the theme of the rally was “Past, Present and Future.” Guests of honor include the coach and members of Lena’s 1980, 1990 and 1991 girls basketball teams that earned a trip to the state



Members of the Lena girls basketball team ride a fire truck to a send-off pep rally at the high school March 7 before the state tournament. WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

tournament, winning the title in 1980 and finishing as state runner-up in 1991. The celebration included a short “Future Wildcats” basketball game featuring girls from Lena Elementary School.

Pytleski said as he watched TV interviews in advance of the game, he was struck by how often the team members used the word “together.”

“Together has been a common theme — ‘We achieved this together, we worked so hard together,’ he said. “We as a school, the school staff, community, we feel the

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Signs of support for the Lena girls basketball team are visible all over town March 7 as the Wildcats prepare for the WIAA Division 5 state basketball tournament. WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA



The Lena Wildcats girls basketball team hoists the silver ball trophy they earned in the WIAA Division 5 state championship tournament during a welcome home celebration at the high school March 9. WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

INSIDE

Recaps of Lena girls’ state semifinal and championship games.

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With her former players looking on, retired coach Kristine Young-Gabriel, who led the Lena Wildcats to three appearances at the state girls basketball tournament, including the 1980 state championship and 1991 state runner-up, tells members of the 2024 squad on March 7 they will always share memories of their journey together.

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Jaelyn Guerk looks to pass closely guarded by Maiya Cruz. A “future Wildcats” game featuring Lena Elementary School students was part of the pep rally for the statebound high school girls basketball team.

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same way, and we want to say thank you for bringing us together on your journey, it’s been an amazing ride.”

Retired coach Kristine Young-Gabriel, whose teams made three trips to state, told the girls about the camaraderie of those teams as she stood next to the school’s 1980 gold ball trophy and the silver ball from 1991.

“This brings back all those memories, and you’re going to have them too,” Young-Gabriel told the 2024 team. “There are over 400 schools in the state of Wisconsin, and some of them have never been to state, and we’ve gone four times.”

Pytleski announced that the school has asked that Young-Gabriel be honored for her pioneering contributions.

“She started our program in the early ’70s, nurtured our program, won a state title in 1980, got to state in 1990 and was runner-up in ’91 and brought us a ridiculous amount of victories, so about three weeks ago we nominated her for the Wisconsin Basketball Hall of Fame,” he said.

Coach Tim Goldschmidt received a standing ovation from the community and student body. He is a Lena High School grad who has taught and coached for three decades, including the 11 years as girls basketball coach.

Goldschmidt said he’ll never forget the journey this team has taken.

“This group wins by being so thoughtful and unselfish,” he said. “They’re a hard-working

group who dedicates a lot of time in the off-season — a lot — and that’s what makes them as successful as they are — their hard work, their determination and being unselfish.”

He credited the girls who graduated after the 2022-23 season for building the program back from an abyss.

“This was a group of four girls that came into our program with only one win with a goal to get us to a 20-win season, which they accomplished as seniors last year with 21,” Goldschmidt said. “I believe that’s a lot of the reason, and the push and the teaching that they used for us to move forward to get to where we are today. I believe the future is very bright and you’re going to see more Lena teams in this same spot in years to come.”

The joke around Lena last week was that the last person out of town should turn out the lights, Pytleski said. And judging from the number of tickets sold, the entire village was at the Resch Center in Ashwaubenon.

Despite an official population of 529, more than 700 tickets were sold for the WIAA state girls basketball semifinal game on March 8, and after the Lena Wildcats won that game, tickets were even hotter for the next morning, when the team played for the state championship.

During the short welcome-home celebration March 9, Pytleski said the school earned a \$2,000 bonus for having the most fan support.

“Our community sup-

port was absolutely outrageous,” he said. “We not only won the ticket contest for Division 5, but they told us that we absolutely destroyed all divisions, all five divisions, for ticket sales for the two days.”

Goldschmidt passed along a conversation he had with Albany/Monticello coach Derik Doucher after the game.

“He said, ‘I have the utmost respect for you and your program, your girls. I’ll be losing a few players this year, I see what you have coming back and watching your program on the rise,’” Goldschmidt said. “And he actually said to me, ‘There is no doubt that you will be back in this same game next year and you won’t be going home with the silver ball, you’ll be going with the gold.’”

Losing the last game of the year is always tough in any sport, but that won’t be how the 2023-24 team will be remembered, Pytleski said.

“Your legacy won’t be that that ball is silver and not gold. It won’t be that a girl hit a ridiculous NBA length 3-point step-back to tie the game at the end of regulation,” he said. “Your legacy is that you have brought not just the Lena community but the entire northeast Wisconsin region on a joyous ride this season, and you did it with class, you did it with dignity, and we will remember that all more than anything how much fun we had the last two days watching you girls play — and the season, but the last two days were just magical, so thank you.”



Fans decked out in blue brave icy cold wind chills to welcome home the Lena Wildcats girls basketball team March 9 after their appearance in the state Division 5 championship game.

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Lena girls basketball coach Tim Goldschmidt tells the assembled crowd March 9 that he’s proud of this year’s team and looking forward to a return trip to state next year.

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Dinner to benefit Lakes Country Public Library

The third annual Lakes Country Public Library Fundraiser Dinner is scheduled for April 27. The event will be held at the McCauslin Brook Golf Course Country Club off County Road F, 17067 Club House Lane, Lakewood. The theme for this year's dinner is Book It. Basket and 50/50 raffle tickets will be sold during the social hour, which begins at 5 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. Seating for the event, which has sold out the past two years, is limited to 70 guests. Tickets can be purchased at the Lakes Country Public Library,

15235 State Highway 32. Tickets are \$50 per person and may be purchased to reserve tables for two, four or eight. Call 715-276-9020 for information or to make a donation for the basket raffles. The new library addition is in the finishing stages and should be completed by mid-April when the contractor will break through the existing wall. Current library fixtures, equipment and collections will be transferred to the addition, which will serve library patrons until the project is finished. The current library area will then undergo a much-

needed makeover, which will double the size of the children's library and re-configure the floor plan to provide better services for patrons. The entire project should be completed by mid-summer. A dedication celebration is tentatively scheduled for July 27. The library is closing in on its \$1.5 million fundraising goal. Contributions for the project are still being solicited. Stop by the library with a donation, contribute online at www.lakescountylibrary.org or send a check to LCPL, P.O. Box 220, Lakewood, WI 54138. All donations are fully tax-deductible.



The children's library is expected to be renovated this year after the addition to Lakes Country Public Library is completed later in the spring. FILE | NEW MEDIA

Trial ready to proceed in police officer shooting

Jury will be asked to determine Kocken's mental status at the time

BY WARREN BLUHM
News Editor

Attorneys in the case of the woman who shot an Oconto Falls police officer finished some wrangling over motions March 7, setting the stage for the mental health portion of her trial to begin April 1. Alisha Kocken, 31, of Oconto Falls, is charged in Oconto County Circuit Court with attempted first-degree intentional homicide, resisting an officer with a result of great bodily harm, battery or threat to a law officer and disarming a peace officer, all felony counts, in the wounding of Officer Nicole Blaskowski on Aug. 6, 2021. Kocken has pleaded no contest to the charges but also not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect. The plea jumps the proceedings to what

would be the second part of a two-part trial. The jury no longer has to consider whether Kocken is guilty, because she is no longer contesting the facts. In the second part of the trial, her mental condition at the time of the incident is at question. During the motion hearing special prosecutors Mark Williams and Norman Gahn again sought to clarify and limit the planned testimony of defense witness Marshall John Bales, a psychologist who examined Kocken a week after the incident and concluded that she was suffering from a psychosis at the time. The prosecutors had challenged Bales' relevance as an expert witness but later withdrew that motion. Defense attorney John Miller Carroll said Bales filed another

report that concluded Kocken was indeed not guilty by reason of mental disease and defect, and that hurts the prosecution's case. "There's a reason they took Dr. Bales' ... motion off — he was going to come in here and tell you why it's directly relevant," Carroll said. "We conceded that he is qualified and did an examination," Williams said. "I don't know what else he's going to testify to." "I have the affirmative duty of proving this defense so I have to put a case on, and they're trying to limit me by hiding facts from the jury that clearly are problematic to their case," Carroll said. Judge Michael Judge said that under the law governing the so-called insanity plea, "Dr. Bales can testify as to the de-

fendant's mental condition, as to the nature of the examination, the diagnosis of the mental condition of the defendant at the time of the commission of the offense charged, which he has found, he said that she had a psychosis ... and the doctor can testify as to the ability of the defendant to appreciate the wrongfulness of her conduct and to conform to the requirements of

the law, and if sufficient information is available to Dr. Bales to reach an opinion as to whether the defendant needs any medication or treatment." If the testimony drifts from the allowable information, prosecutors are free to make an objection, Judge said. The judge and attorneys also did some house-keeping regarding jury selection. A pool of 60 jurors will be summoned,

with an initial panel of 27 county residents, Judge said. Each side will be allowed to strike seven prospective jurors as they settle on a group of 12 jurors and one alternate. Judge scheduled a final pre-trial conference for 3 p.m. March 28 to resolve any lingering issues, but he said that session may be canceled if the two sides are ready to proceed.

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We would like to extend the massive thank you to our volunteers, donors and participants that made the 17th annual Ribbon of Hope Ride on September 30, 2023 an enormous success.

Our community stepped up in a big way this year to show their support for this cause. This year were able to add \$25,781 to our donation with the hard work and attendance of so many making our grand total of donation \$239,464! A breast cancer diagnosis touches so many families in our community we are so delighted to contribute to the Ribbon of Hope with their assistance given to our community. Thank you to our volunteers and donors: A Special Thank You To: American Foods Group, 4-Way, Ace Hardware, Adam & Rebecca Smrcina, Al Johnson's Swedish Restaurant, Alissa Boucher, Antique Bar, Archie's Heavenly Spirits, Auto Parts, Badger Sports Park, Barb's Center for Dance, Becky Pillath, Becky Zarling, Bill & Jessica Kellam, Blaine & Deb Konitzer, Blue Spruce, Boarding House, Bob & Chris Schwartz, Bob and Kim Andrews, Boehmers Ace Hardware, Brandon & Tressa Kruse, Brothers 3-Oconto, Brubakers, Cabela's Federation tournament, CDW, Cellcom, Chad & Becky Reiser, Chambers Hill, Chuck Tople & Brenda Ducaine, Clark and Becky Longsine, Clark and Julie Routhau, Club 32, Corner Pocket, Crivello's Bar & Grill, CWD, Dan & Michelle Jacobs, Dan & Tim's Hardware, Dan Leanna, Dawn Melland, Dean Rist., Deb Snyder, Demmuth Hunter's and Fisherman's Bar, Donna & Jim Bergman, Door Peninsula Winery, Edge, Em's Restaurant, Gateway Bar & Grill, George & Andrea Johnson, Girtz Masonry, GMSP, Green Bay Packers, Happy Joes Pizza, Heather H, Irish Greens Golf Course, Ivan Gandrud Chevrolet Inc, Iverson's Piggly Wiggly, Jason & Stacey Fletcher, Jerid & Christy Anderson, Jerry's Bar, Jim & Lisa (Florida), Jim & Sandy Stellmacher, Jojo's Diner, Josh & Emily Bostedt, Judy Kozloski, Julie Trepanier, Karen Pillsbury, Kevin & Renae Bliese, Krolls East, Kugel's Cheese, Ladies Choice, Lake of The Torches, Leja Coin, Lena Lanes, Lori Moder & Steve Poquette, Los Banditos, Lucas Declene, Margarita's, Mario and Teresa Feliz, McGuire's Sports Bar, Meatskis, Mercier's Faststop, Michelle & Terry Bostwick, Mike & Betsy Vincent, Mike & Linda Hock, Mike & Mary Skaggs, Milk & Honey, Mole Lake Casino, Nathan O'Connor, Natural Nutrine, NEW Credit Union, Norm Stiles, North Chase Bar & Grill, North Star Casino, North Woods Power Equipment, O'Reilly Auto Parts-Oconto, Oconto BP, Oconto County Economic Development, The Flower Shoppe Inc, Oconto Falls Insurance Center, Oconto Falls Pharmacy, On a Whim, Pam & Kerry Zirbel "Paws Inn", Pancake Place, Patriot Golf Course, PDQ, Perkins Meat, Pensaukee Fire Department, Performance Auto Body Inc, Pete Lane Family, Pine Acres, Potawatomi Carter Casion & Hotel, Power Sports of Abrams, Pro Car, Radisson Hotel, Randy Gazella, Ray's Boneyard, REA, Reese Busjahn, Rhodes Charapata Funeral Home, Rick & Kelly Bouche, River Island Golf Course, Riverview BP, Robert's Hardware, Rocky Ridge, Roger & Ann Ristow, Rosemary Rice, Roskum Meats, S&S Hometown, Sandy Corners, Sandy Stazak, Scott & Carla O'Connor, Shiloh Lounge, Skyline Comedy Club, Springside Cheese, Steel Moose, Sue Shew, Sue Trepanier, Sydney B, Ted Girtz, Terry Bostwick Cornerstone Mortgage, The Flower Shoppe, The Old Crow Bar, The Patriot Golf Course, The Rite Place, The Shop On Main, The Snyder Family, The Wooden Shoe, Thompson's County Market, Tom & Kerry Pecor, Townline, Trudell Tree Farm, United True Value-Oconto Falls, Untold Treasures, Von Stiehl Winery, Vorpahl's Business Services, Wannabe Quilters, Wendy & Mike Thompson, Whispering Pines, Wilke Orthodontics, LTD

Jury finds Abrams man guilty of child sex assault

BY NEW MEDIA STAFF

An Oconto County jury deliberated for just over 30 minutes March 7 before finding an Abrams man guilty of regularly sexually assaulting a young child. Michael James Kriescher, 44, Abrams, was convicted on charges of repeated sexual assault of the same child, first-

degree sexual assault of a child younger than 13 and one other related charge. During the trial that lasted a day and a half, the jury watched the video of a lengthy forensic interview with the victim, who also testified in person to identify Kriescher as the assailant. Judge Jay Conley scheduled sentencing for

May 20 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation. Kriescher had been in custody in lieu of \$50,000 cash bond; upon conviction, Conley revoked his bond. If the possible prison terms were ordered to be consecutive, Kriescher faces a maximum sentence of up to 160 years in prison and a \$100,000 fine.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC PUBLIC TEST VILLAGE OF SURING

PLEASE take notice that a PUBLIC TEST of the electronic voting system to be used at the SPRING ELECTION on TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024, will be conducted on, MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2024 at 1:30 PM at SURING VILLAGE HALL, 604 E. Main Street, Suring, WI 54174, in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 5.84(1). This public test is open to the general public. Dated & Posted: MARCH 15, 2024 Kim Gruetzmacher, Clerk-Treasurer WNAXLP

Homicide charges filed in June 2023 crash

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Criminal charges have been brought against an Oconto man in connection with a crash last summer that killed a woman who was riding with him on his motorcycle.

A criminal complaint

was filed Feb. 21 in Oconto County Circuit Court charging Austin Scott Laakonen, 21, Oconto, with homicide by use of a motor vehicle under the influence of a controlled substance, homicide by negligent operation of a motor vehicle and mis-

demeanor possession of THC, in connection with the fatal crash on U.S. Highway 41 on June 30. Laakonen was driving north on Highway 41 just south of County Road W in the Town of Little River with his passenger, Aubrey Williams, 19, also

of Oconto. He began to pull into the left lane just as an SUV came up from behind, and the larger vehicle clipped the motorcycle with its right front fender, according to the criminal complaint. Both riders were thrown onto the pavement.

Life-saving measures were performed on Williams at the scene, but she died at the hospital as a result of injuries sustained in the crash. As is standard in the case of a fatal accident, a blood draw was taken from Laakonen but showed no

evidence of alcohol use, according to the complaint. Test results that did not arrive until Jan. 18 indicated the presence of THC in his system. Laakonen was scheduled to make an initial appearance April 10 before Judge Michael Judge.

OBITUARIES

Delores E. LaBrosse

Delores E. (Scott) LaBrosse, 75, Oconto Falls, born June 19, 1948, in Oconto Falls to Richard and Ruth (Brooks) Scott, died on Thursday, March 7, 2024. Her dad had told her that he had expected a boy; however, the road from Stiles to Oconto Falls hospital was “so rough, it shook the nuts off of her.” Delores grew up in the Stiles/Oconto Falls area and lived for the past 40 years in the Town of Morgan. Delores was a 1966 graduate of Oconto Falls High School. At a 15-year class re-



union, she met and then married her high school friend and soul-mate, Bill LaBrosse. They were married 40-plus wonderful years. Delores worked most of her working years in the food service business. In 1989, she purchased the Penguin Family Restaurant and owned and operated it as Scottie's Family Restaurant. The business was

sold in 1993. Years later, she was employed as a dispatcher with ASI North American Van Lines and has since been retired for 13 years. Delores enjoyed flower gardening and appreciated the many compliments that came with the hard work and enjoyment she put into it. She loved cooking and baking for her family, which everyone can attest to by having a favorite Delores dish. She was an avid party hostess, notorious prankster and kid at heart. However, her greatest joy came with spending

time with her children, grandchildren and her dog Lucy. Delores was preceded in death by her parents, Richard and Ruth Scott, two brothers, Richard Scott, Lonnie Scott; one sister, Helen Scott; five brothers-in-law, Clay Davis, Col. Robert Thomson, Thomas Shepro, John Hylok and David Blom; sisters-in-law, Mary Shepro, LaVerne McHugh and Sandra Scott. She is survived by her husband, William A. LaBrosse; three children, Tammy (Tim) Birr, Oconto Falls, Jennifer

(Jeff) Zisser, Madison, and Jessica (Michael) Small, Madison; eight grandchildren, Victoria LaBrosse, Emily (Bryan) Maring, John Birr, Sarah Zisser, Joseph Zisser, Claire Zisser, Lauren Small, James Small; five brothers-in-law, Ron Lupien, Jerry Kern, Pete McHugh, Ralph LaBrosse, Tom LaBrosse; six sisters-in-law, Sally Scott, Genevieve Thomson, Sally Lupien, Pat Kern, Dee Blom, Kyong LaBrosse; a lifelong friend, Mary Lou (Tisch) Hardke; her faithful dog, Lucy. A special thank you to the doctors and nursing

staff at Aurora Hospital, Tender Hearts and Heartland Hospice. Visitation was held after 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at Jones Funeral Service in Oconto Falls until a closing prayer service at 7 p.m. Wednesday. Visitation continued after 9:30 a.m. Thursday, March 14, 2024, at St. Anthony Catholic Church until the Mass of Christian burial at 11 a.m. Thursday at the church with the Rev. Walter Stumpf officiating. Burial will take place in St. Anthony Catholic Cemetery.

Stacey L. Suring

Angels came to take Stacey Lynn Suring to her heavenly home on Feb. 29, 2024, from cancer with her family by her side. She was born Nov. 15,

1970. After a stroke at four months, she was diagnosed with a rare metabolic condition. Stacey liked that she lived next to her broth-

ers, Jeff and Lisa, Shawn and Travis, along with her nieces and nephews, Eric, Kendra, Alison, Isaiah, Marissa and Morgan, and parents, Jean and Curtis

Suring in Maple Valley, until April 2023. Then Stacey moved into group home in Oconto Falls on King Street, where she made new friends and had great providers. Stacey liked Coca-Cola and Mickey Mouse items, and rides with her dad to visit the animals and check out the farm field. She also enjoyed going to Walmart to get a gift for her nieces and nephews. She liked to stop at a fast food place and then on the way back look for and pick ditch flowers. Stacey was a pioneer in services for the special needs. She attended the School for Visually Handicapped in Janesville until the age of 21. Then she moved to the Suring community where she attended New View in Gillett, Cerebral Palsy in Green Bay where she did swimming and cooking classes. Stacey enjoyed Special Olympics, going to Stevens Point and



staying in dorms. She liked to sing at proms at New View, with the Wilber Brothers, and also with Gary and Cindy at birthdays. Bob and Barb Bubolz were some of her “fix up” friends for her house. Thank you to Carrie Lonzo, who was more than a provider for Stacey for over 32 years, Jill and Jerry, Jane and Doug, and all of Stacey's other providers over the years. Thank you also to friends that sent cards and prayed for Stacey. Thank you to REM in Oconto Falls and the providers for their compassionate care. Thank you to Bellin and Unity Hospice in Green Bay and the many doctors and nurses that helped Stacey.

Thank you to Mount Olive pastors over the years, for helping Stacey have Jesus as her savior. Knowing Stacey is the biggest joy. She greeted people with so much excitement and happiness, joking around and her funny little comments. She loved life, no matter what it threw at her. Stacey enjoyed meeting new people and spending time with friends and family, and giving big hugs. In her memory, please consider a memorial to your local church or other organization for their coffee hour. Stacey is now in heaven with her niece, Sophia, grandparents, uncles and cousins. Visitation was held after 9 a.m. Saturday, March 9, 2024, at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 206 Burk St., Suring. The service followed at 11 a.m. with the urn present and Pastor Michael Paholke officiating.

Susan 'Sue' Anderson



Nathan (Misty) Anderson; six grandchildren, Faith, Trenton, Kamryn, Allayna, Abigail and Erik; her parents, Bruce and Glendene Zdzieblowski; her siblings, Tim (Susan), Mark (Bridget), Marge (Jeff) Gilbertson, Marcy (Bernie) McCarthy, David and Pam; many nieces and nephews, as well as her very special friend, Renae. She was preceded in death by her brother, Mike;

uncle, Bill; and nephew, Adam. Visitation with the urn present will be held at Hillside Assembly of God Church in Gillett from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 23, 2024. A celebration of life will be held following the visitation at noon at the church with Pastor Jon Carlson officiating. Jones Funeral Service in Oconto Falls is serving the Anderson family. In lieu of other expressions of sympathy, memorials may be made to Unity Hospice, 2366 Oak Ridge Circle, De Pere, WI 54115.

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SCAN ME!

Bonnie Lou Lorraine (Null) Monfort, 91, Lena, died peacefully at home in the care of her family Monday morning, March 4, 2024. She was surrounded with love when she went to be with her heavenly father.

Bonnie was born to Thomas A. and Elizabeth “Pearl” Null, in Whiting, Iowa, and was the eighth of 10 children. Bonnie had four brothers and five sisters, Dorothy, Ethel, Aaron, Merlin, Vivian, Earl, Virgil, Nellie and Patricia. They grew up farming and living off the land. She graduated from Central High School class of 1950 in Sioux City, Iowa.

Bonnie worked after graduation as a secretary/typist for United Wholesalers in Sioux City.



During this time she met Henry “Hank” J. Monfort while he was stationed there in the U.S. Air Force. They were married on March 7, 1953, at the Sioux City Air Base Chapel.

Following their marriage and Hank’s discharge from the Air Force, the couple moved to Kelly Brook where they owned and operated a family farm and raised seven children. Because Hank worked at the local paper mill, Bonnie and the kids kept the farm running, raising animals, crops and maintaining a large family garden.

Bonnie was a longtime and active member of the Hickory United Methodist Church where she served on many committees. She volunteered as a Kelly Brook 4-H Leader and was once an avid bowler with the Spruce Ballroom team and enjoyed the game of golf in her retirement years. Bonnie was a Green Bay Packers fan and enjoyed traveling with her daughters and friends.

Bonnie will be fondly remembered as a devoted and loving wife, mother, sister and grandmother who enjoyed family gatherings and watching her grandchildren’s sporting activities.

She is survived by her sister, Patricia Hoffman, South Dakota; five daughters, Peggy Woodke, Lena,

Cindy (Kevin) Zoromski, Suring, Joanne (Dan) Egan, Suring, Sandra Lamb, Lena, and Julie (Frank) Konitzer, Oconto Falls; one son, Henry “Joe” (Michelle) Monfort, Green Bay; grandchildren, Nick Woodke, Elizabeth (Ryan) Zahn, Danny (Diana) Woodke, Emily (Jon) Bahrke, Molly (Justin) VanderBloemen, Jordan (Melissa) Gehling, Jessica (Mike) Kaczmarek, Andrew Lamb, Carrie Zingler, Chloe (Josh) Milakovich, Jenny (Shailler) Zillmer, Quinn Monfort, Eden Monfort, Lydia Monfort and Caitlin (Cody) Dalton; great-grandchildren, Ava and Audrey Woodke, Brody and Parker Zahn, Reese and Landon Woodke, Ryker, Harvey and Hank Bahrke, Gavin, Wyatt

and Josie VanderBloemen, Meridian and Jaxon Gehling, David, Carleigh and Maggie Kaczmarek, Dakota Yancy, Gracie and Huckleberry Zingler, Jace and Cami Milakovich, Penelope Monfort, Cayden and Elliot Monfort, Vivian and Alaina Dalton; brother- and sister-in-law, Carl and Frances Monfort; sisters-in-law, Nancy Campbell and Joyce Monfort; brother-in-law, Mike Monfort; and many extended family members and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Hank, in 2002; daughter, Deanna Monfort, in 1978; four brothers, Aaron, Merlin, Earl and Virgil Null; and four sisters, Dorothy, Ethel, Vivian and Nellie; and two sons-in-law, George Konitzer

and David Lamb. Visitation was held after 3 p.m. Thursday, March 7, 2024, at Jones Funeral Service in Oconto Falls with a concluding prayer service at 7 p.m. Thursday. Visitation continued after 9 a.m. Friday, March 8, 2024, at Hickory United Methodist Church until funeral services 10:30 a.m. Friday at the church with Pastor Dominic Petit officiating. Burial followed in Pine Hill Cemetery.

In lieu of other expressions of sympathy, memorials may be made to Shriner’s Children’s Hospital.

The Monfort family would like to thank Heartland Hospice, especially Amanda, Eldy and Jill, for the care and concern shown Bonnie and her family.

Arbutus Mae (Wegner) Schneider, age 91, of Cecil, passed away peacefully at St. Vincent Hospital on Thursday, March 7, 2024. She was surrounded with love when she went to be with her heavenly father.

Arbutus was the youngest child of Robert and Ida (Klapper) Wegner, born on the home farm near Cecil on April 3, 1932. She grew up farming and living off the land. She graduated from Bonduel High School with the class of 1949.

On Aug. 8, 1953, Arbutus married Kenneth Schneider at St. John’s United Church



of Christ in Cecil. Following their marriage and Kenneth’s discharge from the Army, the couple spent their first years on the Wegner family homestead. The couple then lived in Appleton for a short time before moving to the Pulcifer area, when their daughter, Joyce, was 9 days old, where they owned and operated a family farm and raised three children.

They enjoyed 64 years of marriage before Kenneth’s death on March 22, 2018.

Arbutus was a lifelong member of St. John’s United Church of Christ in Cecil where she had been a Sunday School teacher and helped with many pancake dinners. She was a Shawano County Fair exhibitor from the time she was in 4-H as a child until 2022. Arbutus was a former member of Grandview Homemakers and the Pulcifer Riverside Riders Snowmobile Club. Her hobbies included gardening, photography, traveling, local history and

ancestry.

Arbutus is survived by her children, Jerry (Alice) Schneider, Cecil, Joyce (Roger) Olson, Shawano, and JoAnn “Josy” (Steve “Doc” Schmidt) Schneider, Gillett; grandchildren, Jesse (Tieha) Schneider, Lisa (Matt) Dazell and Nikki Schmidt; great-grandchildren, Harlan and Stanley Schneider, and Elijah Dazell; sisters-in-law, Shirley Wegner and Barb Schneider; and many extended family members and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Kenneth; sister and

brother-in-law, Myrtle and Marvin Neumann; brother, Melvin Wegner; brothers-in-law, Vernon (Bernice) Schneider and Clarence Schneider Jr.

Visitation will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024, at St. John’s United Church of Christ in Cecil from 9 a.m. until the funeral service at 11 a.m. with Rev. Moira Finley officiating. Burial will follow the service at St. John’s UCC Cemetery in Cecil.

Gruetzmacher Funeral Home in Suring is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences can be expressed at www.gruetzmacherfuneralhome.com.

The family would like to thank the 8th floor staff at St. Vincent Hospital for the care and compassion offered to Arbutus and her family during their time of need.



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Living off the land NATURALLY

Onesti leaves postal service to embrace farm life

By **KAY REMINGER**
Correspondent

Sitting down with Mandy Onesti in her cozy farmhouse kitchen, one feels immediately at home.

Her friendly black-and-white feline intertwined herself around her visitor's ankles in a welcome and then, sprawling out beneath the kitchen table, fell fast asleep swathed in a patch of sunlight.

For Onesti, farming occurred when she started from scratch with no special training — going forward, as she claims, by the seat of her pants gaining knowledge as she goes.

The owner of Cedar Creek Ranch, Onesti is a powerhouse, full of information, sweet as a Georgia peach and tough as shoe leather. Together with her husband, Dan, they're raising four girls, ranging in age from 5 to 14 who are a reflection of their mother — lithe and blonde-haired.

Active in 4-H, the girls show pigs and are hoping to show lambs as well this year if it pans out, Onesti said. Raising their own show pigs, their sow gave birth to just one live and one stillborn piglet this year. Because momma sow had milk to share, Onesti got her hands on a couple of runty piglets, and they're since thriving.

Onesti works at her chores on the ranch, requiring milking the cow, which provides all the family's milk and from the milk she makes their butter. Other chores entail feeding the sheep, goats, four Jersey calves, chickens, quail and pigs. Her husband is her builder, and Onesti drives skidder to feed, clean and bed all the animals. The girls pitch in with all the chores. It's a family affair.

Several years ago, pregnant with her fourth child, Onesti realized paying for child care just about zapped out her earnings with the United States Postal Service. Quitting work to care full time for her family at home, she got a retail license in 2020 to sell grass-fed meat.

In addition to meat sales at her Cedar Creek Ranch store, Onesti sells (home-grown from homemade) goat milk soap and hand-poured candles made from lard and tallow from her beef. Sourced locally, her candles are a soy blend, and she orders her fragrances almost exclusively from Wisconsin. Selling her homemade and homegrown food stuffs alongside her sister-in-law's pure Wisconsin maple syrup, she converted the family's milk house into a little store where her goods are pleasantly arranged.

After a while, realizing she needed to supplement the family's income, Onesti pursued and earned a license for massage therapy degree and works by appointment Mondays through Thursdays at Long Chiropractic in Wittenberg, which allows time



Mandy Onesti's sister-in-law makes maple syrup, which is offered in the farm store at Cedar Creek Ranch.

KAY REMINGER

for her to pursue her passion — taking care of her family and animals and keeping her store stocked.

Spotting an idea on social media, she's starting micro-greens (baby plants such as broccoli and radishes, which are highly nutritious). She admits it's a new trendy thing that's kind of a hard sell just because it's so new. She's attempting to move this project to her basement to be able to monitor it more easily.

The Onestis are also involved with Harvest Host, a nationwide membership where RV travelers pay an annual membership fee. Members then have access to all locations throughout the nation where they can park and camp for the night. Onesti offers their sprawling farm, and participants book on an app or website. Visitors have self-contained units, which require no electricity.

As a result of their involvement, the Onesti family has met people from all over the country, some as far away as California and Alaska. One time, a peacock perched on top of one of the RVs, which visitors thought was amazing, even taking pictures of it. Onesti allows same-day reservations.

"My kids love it. They've made many new friends from across the country," Onesti said. "People from Minnesota coming through from Michigan to Door County stopped twice so far, usually once a year. The kids take off and play all night."

With a no-charge fee, her benefit is overnight visitors purchase goods from her store. She doesn't advertise for this.

Onesti hopes that Cedar Creek will eventually reach the point where she and her husband won't be working as much off the farm to keep it thriving.

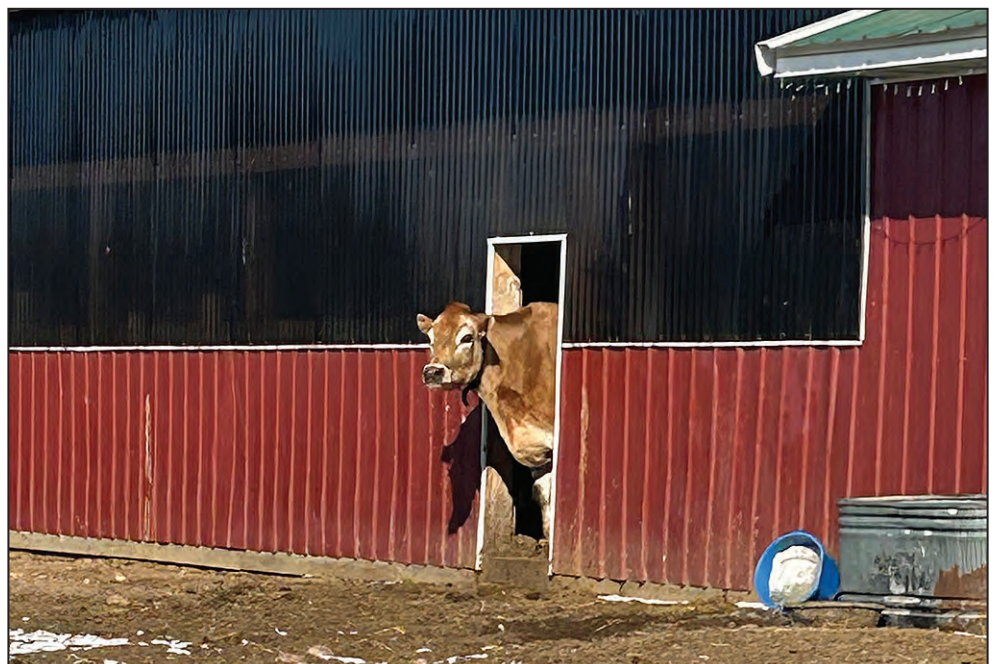
"Ideally, I want to see the farm stuff supporting itself, sooner than later, but that is incredibly difficult in a small farm/homestead-type business," Onesti said. "The end

ONESTI, CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Mandy Onesti, owner of Cedar Creek Ranch in Wittenberg, holds up one of the adopted piglets that one of her daughters hopes to show through 4-H. Onesti and her family started the ranch a few years ago and hope to eventually embrace full-time farming.

KAY REMINGER



Taytay, a Jersey cow, comes out of a barn at Cedar Creek Ranch, to say hello. In 2020, Cedar Creek Ranch got a retail license to sell meat.

KAY REMINGER

Ghoulish 'Addams Family' coming to Oconto Falls

Students from Oconto Falls High School's music and theater departments are putting on the finishing touches of their upcoming production of "The Addams Family."

Based on the fictional family created by American cartoonist Charles Addams, this musical brings a plot twist to this ghoulish family with an affinity for all things macabre. The oldest child, Wednesday, has grown into an 18-year-old woman who is ready to live her own life. She has fallen in love with a respectable young

man from Ohio — much to the despair of her parents. Things take a rather interesting turn when both families sit down to dinner.

Leading the Addams clan are Timothy Cornette and Leah Vorpahl as Gomez and Morticia. Jessica Wolford is taking on the role of Wednesday opposite Matt Ogan as her boyfriend. Lucas Beineke, under the disgusted eye of her younger brother, Pugsley, played by J.J. Martinez-Mora. Rounding out the rest of the main characters are Mason Stevens (Uncle Fester),

Addison Borst (Grandma), Kiera Danielczak (Alice Beineke), Nick Blaser (Mal Beineke) and Karma Billodeau (Lurch the butler).

Providing backup support with storytelling and stage work are the Addams ancestors from eras past, who include Ramius Runge, Sammie Anderley, Grace Shamburek, Faith Shamburek, Abby Kuhn, Gunar Lade, Aiden Frievalt, Evelyn Savage, Olivia Strock, Katie Miller and Amanda Jahnke.

The production is led by faculty mem-

bers Abbygaile Jadin, Lauren Seidl, Gayle Gander, and Dave Heisel.

Performances for "The Addams Family" will be March 14-16 at 7 p.m. at the Falls Area Performing Arts Center, 210 N. Farm Road, Oconto Falls. There will also be a matinee March 17 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for children, and they will be sold at the door or can be purchased online at <https://ofps.revtrak.net/pac-ticket-boxoffice/#/list>.

For information, call the high school office at 920-848-4467.

FARM LIFE FROM A FARM WIFE

Quick maternal instincts help protect son's eye

I recall it like yesterday. Smelling the stuff before I could even see him coming, the acrid aroma completely out of place, permeated through any other odor in the almost-empty barn. His screams seared through my momma heart. Dropping the scraper, I bolted out of the pen.

Just before cleaning calf pens that morning so long ago, I had tucked my small son on top of a hay bale in the pen directly across from the one I was working in. Clean and dry, this pen was empty of calves for the time being. The cows were out for their morning recess, the barn aisle scraped clean and limed for the day. The tedious job of cleaning this pen would take me less than 10 minutes.

"Stay put for just a little while, honey. This won't take me long." He smiled up at me contentedly, a kitty already climbing up into his lap. Apparently happy to hang on for a little



Kay Reminger
Columnist

while, I got at my dismal job quickly.

Scraping the corners with my back to the pen gate, seemingly moments later I heard his tortured cry, "Momma! Mom-eee!" Knowing his "I am crying for attention" cry or "I am hungry" cry or "I am burned out and need a nap" cry, this one was the "I am really scared and hurt" cry.

We had a large tub of alkaline solution stored in the milk house for cleaning. It was a strong chemical not meant for human skin and especially the tender skin of a small child. We kept a measuring cup at the top for ease of use. Thoughts scrambled in my head. How did he get there so fast? How did he get into the so-

lution? Where is it on him?

In seconds, I had my last question answered. It was on his face; he was holding his hand over one precious eye. Later on, we put together the fact that he must have tiptoed up, reaching for the cup sitting on top of the tub. The contents on the bottom of the cup had tipped out when he'd stretched to take a look inside.

The only thing on my momma mind and heart was to get that stuff off him, and fast. Gathering him up on the run, I flew through the milk house door to the sink and, scooping water, drenched the area over and over and over. Meanwhile, my husband had heard the commotion and came running.

Hollering: "I'm taking him to the ER!" I made a mad dash for the car keys and grabbed yet another glass of water for the ride. Driving 90 miles an hour on the way, I dared a policeman to pull me over. Get-

ting to the ER, the medical staff whisked us away to a room and immediately resumed flushing his eye area. In the meantime, my husband had called, letting them know we were on our way and the type of chemical they'd be dealing with. He heard our son wailing through the phone and was astonished to realize we'd gotten to Shawano that fast.

Our son was so distraught he needed to be given a sedative so the medical staff could see more clearly what they were dealing with. The anesthesiologist, trying to soothe, was saying, "OK, Tiger, just gonna give you something to make you sleepy. Does that sound good, Tiger? Pretty quick here, there will be a little pin prick. OK, Tiger?"

"I'm not a tiger! I'm a little boy!" sobbed my son adamantly.

Despite myself, I had to smile. He was so grown up and so little all at the same time.

Looking straight into the anesthesiologist's face, I sternly warned, "Don't mess this up. He is dearer than life itself to me." Horrified at myself, I didn't know where that blatantly rude comment came from, other than my momma claws were sharpened to knife point. I was so afraid he'd be scarred for life and didn't want his mind affected, too.

At one point I'd realized I was standing in the middle of the ER with cow manure on my boots. I didn't care.

As he was finally lying calmly, the doctor could assess the situation, finding that my quick action saved my little boy's eye as well as the sensitive tissue underneath. Somehow, that assuaged some of my guilt. They applied a salve and covered the area with a clean dressing with instructions on how to move forward and a subsequent doctor visit to determine progress.

Our son basically slept

the rest of that day and, keeping him quietly busy for a subsequent few days, he continued to improve. Ten days later, going back to the doctor showed healing with no eye damage. Again, the doctor mentioned my quick action probably saved my boy's eye and tender skin underneath. It was instinctual, a common sense action. Farming is a dangerous occupation, and with little ones, especially so. A parent's back turned for one moment can be tragic. I was incredibly grateful my son turned out OK.

Thank you, heavenly father, for your back is never turned.

("My child, don't lose sight of common sense and discernment. Hang on to them." Proverbs 3:21)

Kay Reminger was born and raised on a dairy farm, and she married her high school sweetheart, who happened to farm for a living in Leopold. Writing for quite a few years, she remains focused on the blessings of living the ups and downs of rural life from a farm wife's perspective.

ONESTI, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

goal for me has always been to get where Dan could cut his hours at work. But I also want to share my knowledge and bridge the gap between the disconnect with our food and the consumer. That's a lot of my focus

with my Facebook page: to share the things that go on around here. There's lots of ways to obtain whole, nutritious food that doesn't have to come from a store and potentially supports their surrounding community.

"I want people to see that, yes, it's possible to do the things and be able to have a way to provide for themselves if need be or how to network out and find a farmer or grower for those things. Plus, I want to be open and as

transparent as possible to what goes on. It's not all sunshine and rainbows, but that's farming and so many don't see the nitty gritty. As far as my farm store, I do get a lot of the 'I didn't know you were here' comments no matter how

much I advertise or market myself. So I just keep talking about myself."

Cedar Creek Ranch is at N7914 County Road D in the Town of Wittenberg, is open by appointment and Onesti posts hours on her Facebook page.

Come summer, hours are usually open Fridays and Saturdays.

For information, call 920-621-2423 or go to www.cedarcreekranchwi.com, where her home page explains the true essence of their diverse farm.

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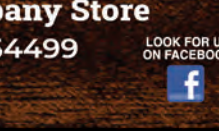
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Wisconsin prepared to help monarch butterflies

Earlier this month, monarch researchers in Mexico, conducting an annual census of overwintering populations of monarchs, revealed disappointing news about monarch numbers this winter in season. The second-lowest number of monarchs ever recorded overwintering in the mountains of central Mexico was tallied this winter. That is a drop of nearly 60% from last winter.

While this news was somewhat expected due to the severe drought in the Midwest and plains last summer, the scope of this year's losses is heart-breaking, indeed. Especially for those who work so hard here in Wisconsin to help monarch numbers rebound.

It's natural to have knee-jerk reactions to news like this. It is also important to remember that, here in Wisconsin, we did an amazing job getting monarchs ready for the migration. It is not necessary to make major changes.

Don't let all the hype trigger you. You are going to see a lot of gloom and doom news now that this information has been released.

If we continue to do what we've done the last several years, the monarchs will be in good



Monarch numbers overwintering in central Mexico dropped sharply this year, researchers say. ROB ZIMMER



shape, at least here.

The trouble arises after they leave Wisconsin in the fall. The severe drought in Oklahoma and Texas last year meant that there were very few nectar sources available during that leg of the journey, which is often the toughest and the longest stretch.

Between drought in the southern plains and hurricanes in the western Gulf at the time of peak migration, as well as highway mortality in the southern states, these are the challenges each year. Of course, habitat destruction all along the way and including their high mountain forest overwintering areas, which have been continuously logged.

We don't need to make drastic changes here, locally. Keep doing what you're doing.

We do need, however, to stop being hypocrites.

We cannot say that we want to help monarchs and, yet, at the same time, spray herbicides and insecticides all over our properties. You can't have it both ways. I am aware of so many people who do this. Either you are on board, or you're not.

So many of us claim to be monarch supporters, yet we don't blink at spraying our yards for mosquitoes or spraying our plants with insecticides for other species such as Japanese beetles and rose chafers and box-elder bugs. Insecticides



Planting nectar-rich annuals and perennials in landscapes is one of the best things gardeners can do to help monarch butterflies. ROB ZIMMER

do not discriminate. They don't know the difference between good bugs and bad bugs. You don't get to have it both ways. Not anymore.

Continue to plant native plants. Not just milkweed, but nectar sources as well — especially late-season nectar sources for after Labor Day.

This means New England Aster and goldenrod and Joe-Pye weed and purple coneflower, as well as late-season annuals such as zinnias and cosmos and tall verbena and purple heliotrope. It is easy to find plenty of nectar sources for midsummer. It is after Labor Day where we still struggle.

Planting the specific plants listed above will provide these late-season

nectar sources.

Also, learn to read between the lines and tread lightly when you see comments and suggestions and petitions and things to have the monarchs added to the endangered species list. There are many reasons why this is not a good thing. Unfortunately, all the hype stirs the passions of good-intentioned monarch lovers who don't understand the consequences of what that designation could mean.

In the meantime, let's hope for a season full of sunshine and moisture and milkweed and monarchs.

Rob Zimmer is a nature and garden author, public speaker and radio show host on WHBY. Readers can find him on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RobZimmerOutdoors.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

KESHENA: Spring Fling Native Craft Sale, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Menominee Cultural Museum, W3428 County Road VV. Items available include beadwork, paintings, earrings, woodcarvings, baskets, beaded dream catchers, moccasins, mittens, doll clothes, scarves, regalia and quilts. Information: 715-799-5258.

KESHENA: Zumba Gold, 12:10-12:50 p.m., Omaeqnomenewak Wetohkatikamek Center, 2700 Mianaceqtawak Road. Information: 715-524-3194 or edijafra@yahoo.com.

SHAWANO: Fish fry, 4-7 p.m. Wolf River Lutheran High School, W7467 River Bend Road. Fish dinner \$11, chicken strips dinner \$9, kids meal \$5. Dine-in/carry-out. 715-745-2400.

KRAKOW: Lenten fish fry, 4:30-6:30 p.m., St. Casimir Catholic Church, W146 Park St. Dine in, carry out or delivery (within a short distance). \$22 per meal, kids grilled cheese option \$5. RSVP by texting or calling Julie at 920-676-3320.

OCONTO FALLS: "The Addams Family Musical," 7 p.m., High School Performing Arts Center, 210 N. Farm Road. Adults \$12, students \$8. https://trst.in/wgkDsN

ABRAMS: Abrams Spotlight Productions presents "Oklahoma!" 7 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St. Adults \$17, senior citizens and children 5-17 \$15. abramsspotlightproductions.com or 920-826-5852.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

SHAWANO: Zurko Indoor Flea Market, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Shawano Community Hall, 115 E. Division St.

NAVARINO: Raised Garden Bed Workshop, 9-11 a.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. All parts come as a kit to put together or take with you. Single half-barrel garden \$75, double half-barrel garden \$125. 715-758-6999 or www.navarino.org.

SHAWANO: St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festivities at the Mooseyard, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Coachlight Bar, W5814 Lake Drive. Parade lineup at Shawano Lake Golf Course 10 a.m., parade 11 a.m. Party bus 1-10 p.m. Enter floats at Coachlight or the golf course.

KESHENA: Running and walking program, noon to 6 p.m., Omaeqnomenewak Wetohkatikamek Center, 2700 Mianaceqtawak Road, Keshena. Infused water provided during

the week, and a family snack-making station is provided on Saturdays. Information: Chelsey Latender, 715-799-5431 or chelseyl@mtclinic.net.

OCONTO FALLS: "The Addams Family Musical," 7 p.m., High School Performing Arts Center, 210 N. Farm Road. Adults \$12, students \$8, https://trst.in/wgkDsN

ABRAMS: Abrams Spotlight Productions presents "Oklahoma!" 7 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St. Adults \$17, senior citizens and children 5-17 \$15. abramsspotlightproductions.com or 920-826-5852.

BOWLER: Blackberry Smoke in concert, 8 p.m., North Star Mohican Casino Resort, W12180 County Road A. Doors open 7 p.m. Ticket information at northstarcasinoresort.com.

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

OCONTO: Cornhole tournament, noon to 4 p.m., Holy Trinity Parish, 300 Arbutus Ave. Sign up by March 11. Potluck, prizes for best St. Patrick's Day attire.

OCONTO: Social with Cards, 1 p.m., Holy Trinity Parish Hall, 300 Arbutus Ave. Sheepshead and smear, \$5 lunch donation, raffles. St. Anne de Beaupre Society fundraiser.

ABRAMS: Abrams Spotlight Productions presents "Oklahoma!" 1 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St. Adults \$17, senior citizens and children 5-17 \$15. abramsspotlightproductions.com or 920-826-5852.

OCONTO FALLS: "The Addams Family Musical," 2 p.m., High School Performing Arts Center, 210 N. Farm

Road. Adults \$12, students \$8, https://trst.in/wgkDsN
WITTENBERG: T.G. Sheppard in concert, 4 p.m., Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School, 400 W. Grand Ave. Special guest Dion Pride. Doors open 3 p.m. Ticket information at rubbersoulproductions.com

MONDAY, MARCH 18

LENA: American Red Cross blood drive, 1-6 p.m., Lena High School, 304 E. Main St. Appointments can be made by downloading the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 800-733-2767.

KESHENA: Running and walking program, 4:40-6:30 p.m., Omaeqnomenewak Wetohkatikamek Center, 2700 Mianaceqtawak Road. Infused water provided during the week, and a family snack-making station is provided on Saturdays. Information: Chelsey Latender, 715-799-5431 or chelseyl@mtclinic.net.

SHAWANO: Recovery talking circle, 6-8 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, Room 4, 100 W. Presbyterian St. Information: Dallas Gast, 715-701-5388 or dallasgast8@gmail.com.

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

KESHENA: Recovery talking circle, 6-8 p.m. Omaeqnomenewak Wetohkatimek Center, 2700 Mianaceqtawak Road. Information: Mindy Thunder at 715-799-3835 or mthunder@mitw.org.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

SHAWANO: Medicare Basics: Putting the Pieces Together, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Shawano County Human

Services, Room 115, W7327 Anderson Ave. RSVP the Aging & Disability Resource Center at 855-492-2372 or adrc@adrc-wolfriver.org

KESHENA: Social Emotional Learning Family Night, 5:30 p.m. Keshena Primary School, W522 State Highway 47-55. Dinner starts at 5:30 p.m. Stations start at 6 p.m. This month's stations will focus on calming bottles, search and find bags, calm down sandwich, boost-up room.

NEOPIT: Recovery talking circle, 6-8 p.m. The Circle House, W6715 Shawpokasic St. Information: Mindy Thunder at 715-799-3835 or mthunder@mitw.org.

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

KESHENA: Beading class,

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., College of Menominee Nation, Campus Commons, N172 State Highway 47-55. Instructed by Jasmine Williams. Information: Beth Waukechon, 715-799-5600, ext. 3409 or bwaukechon@menominee.edu.

KESHENA: Zumba Gold, 12:10-12:50 p.m., Omaeqnomenewak Wetohkatikamek Center, 2700 Mianaceqtawak Road. Information: 715-524-3194 or edijafra@yahoo.com.

BREED: American Red Cross blood drive, 1-6 p.m., Breed Community Center, 11155 State Highway 32. Appointments can be made by downloading the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 800-733-2767.

KESHENA: Running and

walking program, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Omaeqnomenewak Wetohkatikamek Center, 2700 Mianaceqtawak Road, Keshena. Infused water provided during the week, and a family snack-making station is provided on Saturdays. Information: Chelsey Latender, 715-799-5431 or chelseyl@mtclinic.net.

ABRAMS: Abrams Spotlight Productions presents "Oklahoma!" 7 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St. Adults \$17, senior citizens and children 5-17 \$15. abramsspotlightproductions.com or 920-826-5852.

BOWLER: Native American Talking Circle, 7-9 p.m., Mohican Family Center, N8605 Oak St. Information: Yvonne Burr, 715-326-0891.

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NEW Media is looking for a sports editor to immediately manage its three publications in northeast Wisconsin — the Shawano Leader, the Oconto County Times Herald and the Wittenberg Enterprise and Birnamwood News. We need someone with a love of sports who knows where to take our coverage in the future.

The sports editor will determine which games out of over a dozen school districts in three counties will be covered. During the school year, the editor will find local athletes to profile. The editor will also cover the local water ski team, the Shawano Ski Sharks, as well as coordinate coverage for the Shawano Speedway. Another duty for the editor will be to oversee and edit the layout of sports pages each week and make sure stories get on our website in a timely manner in accordance with our mantra of digital first. The sports editor will also oversee our Green & Gold Express, a seasonal publication covering the Green Bay Packers, along with hunting sections in the fall.

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Send a resume, cover letter explaining why you want the job and samples of your work to editor Kevin Passon at kpasson@newmedia-wi.com.



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The Lena Wildcats girls basketball team pose for their official photo as state runners-up after their 57-54 overtime loss to Albany/Monticello on March 9.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

Dramatic OT loss completes

Lena's 28-3 journey

Wildcats finish as WIAA Division 5 runners-up

BY WARREN BLUHM
News Editor

So close, and yet so far.

Kali Fischer — a 55% free-throw shooter for the season — swished a pair from the charity stripe to give the Lena Wildcats a 50-45 lead with 35 seconds left in regulation at the WIAA Division 5 girls basketball championship game on March 9 at the Resch Center in Ashwaubenon.

In what Albany/Monticello head coach Derik Doescher described as “the two biggest shots in Albany history,” Dalana Trumpy made a second-chance layup with 17 seconds left, and Abby Hollis nailed a three-pointer with five seconds left to make it 50-50 and send the game into overtime.

Lena moved ahead 54-52 in the extra period, but Hollis struck again with 1:03 to go, dropping a three-point shot to put the Comets up by one, and free throws in the final seconds brought the final score to 57-54.

“That was an amazing game. I think anyone who paid the price of a ticket got their money’s worth,” Lena head coach Tim Goldschmidt said after the team accepted the silver ball trophy as state runners-up. “I think our team left everything on the court, I’m very very proud of them.”

Lena finished the season 28-3, while Albany/Monti-



Kali Fischer puts in a layup during the first half of Lena's 53-48 state championship semifinal victory over Clear Lake on March 8.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

cello went 27-3.

The two teams fought tooth and nail the entire game. After the Comets roared to a 15-6 lead in the opening eight minutes, the Wildcats clawed back led by their power forwards, Marinette & Oconto Conference Player of the Year Eva Brooks and Madi Thomson, and tied it up 19-19 on a three-point shot by Maddy Kushner with 4:40 left in the first half.

A Thomson layup at

3:41 gave Lena its first lead of the day at 21-19, and the two teams went into the locker room at halftime knotted up at 21-21.

The Wildcats extended their lead with a 12-5 run through the opening minutes of the second half, reaching their biggest lead at 33-26 with 13:40 to go, before the Comets began to work their way back, matching Lena’s height with quickness and ball handling to set up the dramatic finish.

Brooks scored 19 pounds and set a Division 5 tournament record with 19 rebounds for the game, while Thomson poured in 16 points and grabbed seven rebounds. As a team, the Wildcats dominated the Comets on the boards with 48 rebounds to 25.

The Wildcats are a young team — Brooks is a junior this year, Thomson a sophomore, and Whitney Potter and Alabama Lambert are the only two seniors — so Goldschmidt felt confident in saying they are capable of returning to the Resch Center next year.

“We have to work harder this summer, we can get back here again,” Goldschmidt said. “I think we’re going to be up to the challenge and hopefully we’ll be back here talking to you about the same time next year.”

Potter and Lambert are great players who will be hard to replace, he said,

adding that he felt for Lambert, a speedy defensive player who injured her ankle in the state semifinal against Clear Lake.

“She’s a scrapper, she would have matched up well and would have helped us in this game with her athleticism matching up with their athleticism,” Goldschmidt said. “She tried to tough it out today, and I give that girl credit, if you’d seen that ankle you wouldn’t think she’d even be in uniform today but being this is her senior year, she wanted to give it a try and she did the best she could to her abilities.”

For Doucher, it was a triumphant return after Albany lost in last year’s state semifinals to eventual champion McDonnell Central Catholic 59-20.

Under the theme “Together we are stronger,” the southern Wisconsin school formed a co-op team with neighboring Monticello, dressing 10 girls from Albany High School and four girls from Monticello.

“I think we gave the whole state a heck of a show, Lena and Albany/Monticello, so much to be proud of,” Doucher said.

Ironically, the last time Lena sent a girls basketball team to state, the girls played Monticello in the 1991 title game, falling in overtime by a score of 66-56.

Lena downs

Clear Lake to

compete for

state title

BY WARREN BLUHM
News Editor

The Lena Wildcats, in the school’s fourth trip to the state girls basketball tournament, are one win away from their second state title.

After a workman-like 53-48 victory over Clear Lake on March 8, the Wildcats (28-2) are scheduled to play Albany/Monticello in the WIAA Division 5 state championship game at 11:05 a.m. March 9 at the Resch Center in Ashwaubenon.

“Every coach in America should get an opportunity to have a chance to coach a team like this,” said Lena head coach Tim Goldschmidt, who was a junior at Lena High School the first time the school won a state girls basketball championship in 1980. “They’re so thoughtful, so unselfish. There’s no one player that says they’re going to win the game by themselves. They believe in their teammates and get the ball to their teammates and encourage their teammates to make the play they need when it’s needed to win games. They’re a super group.”

Goldschmidt was flanked at the postgame news conference by the

team’s season scoring leaders — Eva Brooks, who scored 23 points and ripped down 14 rebounds, and Madi Thomson, who contributed 12 points and 11 rebounds to the cause.

“I didn’t envision it at all or expect it, but I’m happy we got here,” Brooks said when asked if she saw a trip to the state title game at the beginning of the season. “It takes a lot of hard work. I’m just happy to think that our dreams could come true, coming here.”

Thomson said she had a feeling they could make it to state.

“We just had to put in the time and have the teamwork in the first place,” she said. “But I had a good feeling that if we played together, this could happen.”

Lena scored the first five points of the game on Thomson’s driving layup and a Brooks three-pointer, but the Warriors (26-4) scored the next seven to take a 7-5 lead. The two teams battled back and forth with five ties and five lead changes in the first half.

The Wildcats took the lead late in the half when senior Alabama Lambert sank a three-point shot

LENA, CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



Eva Brooks' driving layup after a steal and fast break gives Lena a 49-40 lead with 2:42 left in the Wildcats' championship semifinal game against Clear Lake at the Resch Center in Ashwaubenon. Lena hung on for a 53-48 victory.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

Bonduel defeated by Marathon in sectional final

Bonduel's boys basketball team ended their season at 26-2 after a 68-61 loss to Marathon in the sectional finals March 9. Marathon held a slim 29-24 lead at the intermission and added to their final margin of victory with a 39-37 second half. Noah Weier led the Bears with 20 points, followed by Race Anvelink's 13 points and Quinn Wesenberg's 10 points. Carter Moesch and Colin Margelofsky each contributed four points, while Cade Johnson added two. During the year, the Bears were led by Ryan Westrich with an average of 15.6 points per game, followed by Anvelink with 14.9 and Weier with 12.8. Westrich also led with an average 8.9 rebounds per game, and Weier hauled in 5.7. Margelofsky averaged 6.1 assists per game, and Weier averaged 4.5.

Bonduel 76, Oconto 59
Ryan Westrich scored 29 points and Race Anvelink had 22 to lead Bonduel to a 76-59 win over Oconto in the WIAA sectional semifinals in Green Bay on March 7. Anvelink's points included six 3-pointers, and Cade Johnson had a pair as part of his eight points.

LENA, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15
to go up 23-20, and they caught a break when Brooks put in a second-chance layup at the buzzer for a 25-20 halftime lead. Much to the chagrin of the Warriors faithful, the TV replay showed that the ball left Brooks' hand after the buzzer sounded, but under tournament rules, replay is only used to determine if a field-goal attempt beat the clock at the end of regulation or an overtime period. Lena netted five three-point goals in all during the first half, including two in a row by senior Whitney Potter that helped turn a 16-14 deficit into a 20-18 advantage.

St. Paul's in Bonduel finishes No. 2 at state tournament

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

The girls A basketball team from St. Paul's School in Bonduel finished in the runner-up spot at the Lutheran Schools Association of Wisconsin Tournament of Champions in early March.

The Comets won three games before losing in the championship game. A send-off pep rally for the team was held March 1 at St. Paul's before the girls headed to Concordia Wisconsin — Mequon for the 16-team tournament. For St. Paul's, tournament play opened with a game against another St. Paul school — St. Paul's in Grafton. The Bonduel team won 22-19.

The battle of St. Paul schools continued in the next round as the Bonduel team defeated St. Paul of Oconomowoc 32-26. In the semifinal game, St. Paul's defeated Good Shepherd of West Bend 37-32. Star of Bethlehem in New Berlin won the state title game, defeating St. Paul's 33-24. John Jacobs is the head coach, and JC Reinke is the assistant coach for St. Paul's. Players are Ava Hughes, Madelyn Schroeder, Emery Thompson, Lexie Rank, Casey Wesenberg, Chloe Zernicke, Jorja Reinke and Audrey Jacobs.

Clear Lake tied the game one last time at 29 with 13:30 left in the game on a three-point shot from leading scorer Nora Egger, who ended with 12 points including three of six from beyond the arc. Thomson countered with a three-pointer of her own less than a minute later, and the Wildcats began to take control in the closing minutes, eventually opening up their biggest lead of the game at 47-38 with 3:17 to go. Saturday's opponent, the Albany/Monticello Comets (26-3), were the second-place team in the Six Rivers East Conference and reached the title game by defeating conference champion Argyle/Pecatonica (26-2), avenging two regular-season losses at the hands of the Cardinals. The Comets are competing in the state Final Four for the second year in a row after bowing out in the semifinals to eventual champion McDonnell Central Catholic in 2023.



Bonduel's St. Paul's girls A team finished in second place at the Lutheran Schools Association of Wisconsin Tournament of Champions earlier this month. Team members are, front row, from left, Ava Hughes, Madelyn Schroeder, Emery Thompson and Lexie Rank. Back row, from left, are assistant coach JC Reinke, Casey Wesenberg, Chloe Zernicke, Jorja Reinke, Audrey Jacobs and head coach John Jacobs.

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Gillett grad earns college basketball honors

The Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference (NACC) announced its all-conference teams and major award winners for the 2023-24 women's basketball season.

The Concordia University Wisconsin women's basketball team landed two All-NACC selections with Aubrey DeBauch on the All-NACC first team and Erin Viergutz claiming honorable mention honors.

A junior from Gillett, DeBauch is claiming her first All-NACC honor. DeBauch scored 366 points on the season and 184 rebounds to go with 57 assists, 32 steals and 10 blocks. She finished with three double-double performances against Colorado College and twice

against Concordia Chicago. The Wisconsin native finished with a season-high 25 points at Aurora and a season-high 15 rebounds against Willamette.

DeBauch ranked sixth in the NACC in scoring at 14.08 points per game and field goal percentage at .439. She was second in minutes played at 33.51, fourth in free throw percentage at .792, eighth in rebounding at 7.08 rebounds and offensive rebounds at 2.62 and 10th in defensive rebounds at 4.46.

A senior from Clintonville, Viergutz is also claiming her first NACC honor. Viergutz wrapped up her senior campaign with 280 points, 185 rebounds, 27 blocks and 17

assists. She had a career-best performance at Wheaton with 20 points and 17 rebounds. She also had a career-high four blocks at Aurora. Viergutz finished with two double-double performances against Wheaton and Marian.

Viergutz was third in the NACC at 1.08 blocks per game, sixth in offensive rebounds per game at 3 and in rebounds at 7.4.

The Wisconsin native was also named the NACC Student-Athlete of the Week on Dec. 17 for her performance at Wheaton.

Rachel Reed, a junior and forward from Shawano, is also a member of the CUW team, although she did not pick up All-NACC honors. She appeared in 13 games.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vote 'no' on election amendments that contain disinformation

To the editor:

Voting is a fundamental right. However, the Republican-controlled Wisconsin Legislature has proposed two constitutional amendments that show a lack of concern for voters and our hard-working local election administrators. The changes would affect the safety and security of our elections and will prevent voters from making their voices heard.

These amendments are rooted in disinformation to sway voter opinion and foster voter apathy and confusion. Amendments are supposed to better the constitution, but these attempts at change restrict voting rights and undermine the foundations of our democracy. Gov. Tony Evers has already vetoed these same changes in a bill sent to him by the legislature.

The first question would limit critical funding for our elections without a plan to ensure election administrators have the tools they need. How long we wait in lines, how many voting locations are open and the speed of the results are all determined by the amount of money that is set aside by the state to fund our election. Our elections should be fully funded by the state government so municipalities don't have to rely on grants or donations to process elections.

The second question would deprive election officials of outside help. Clerks rely on experts in the field of election administration, volunteers and community members to make sure our elections run smoothly and the results are accurate. A handful of Republican politicians would choose to make their jobs more difficult. It has already become an issue

to maintain our clerks in these stressful positions with the hostilities directed at them.

These amendments will be voted upon soon! In the April 2 spring election, we have the chance to come together and show that our votes matter. Join me in voting "no" on both constitutional amendments. By doing so, you register your commitment to keep false information and conspiracies from undermining and degrading our elections and our form of government. Visit myvote.wi.gov to view your ballot and find your polling place.

Patty Luff, Marion

Vote for Democrats as now is not the time for third party candidates

To the editor:

According to Wikipedia, "Yellow Dog Democrats" was a political term that was applied to voters in the southern United States who voted solely for candidates who represented the Democratic Party. The term originated in the late 19th century. These voters would allegedly "vote for a yellow dog before they would vote for any Republican."

Normally, I would encourage voters to consider the candidates and the issues and vote according to their conscience. These are not normal times, my friends. I would ask you to consider that over the next eight months as we move toward Nov. 5. No matter what happens, the choice at the top of the Democratic ticket will be better than the choice at the top of the Republican ticket. The time of the third party candidate has simply not arrived yet. So let's use our time, our energy and our money to promote democratic and progressive values, and ignore the craziness on the other side.

I welcome your comments.

Mary Ascher, Suring

NWTF chapter holds annual banquet March 16

Winnebago Strutters Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation will hold its annual banquet March 16 at Pullman's Restaurant in Appleton. The doors open at 3 p.m. with a buffet-style dinner at 5 p.m.

More than a dozen firearms, sporting goods and decorative items will be raffled and auctioned. Those attending

are eligible for dozens of door prizes. Proceeds help support conservation and habitat efforts for the wild turkey, a modern success story funded by sportsmen.

Cost of the event is \$70 per person, which includes the meal and annual NWTF membership. Couples pay \$120, and a table of eight is available for \$480, which includes

eight memberships, eight meals and \$200 in raffle tickets. A Boss Toms table of eight is \$880, which includes everything above plus a Canik pistol.

For details, contact NWTF regional director Daron Bohn at 920-470-7424 or chapter President Ross Bielema at 920-982-1719, or go to <https://your.nwtf.org/members/events/> to register.

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6 Tractors & Machinery: JD 8630 4WD w/ 20.8-38 Axle Duals, 3pt, PTO & 3800 hours, Case 2294 MFD w/ 42" radials & 9600 hours, IH 1466 open station w/ New 38" radials, Ford 4610 Series II MFD w/ Ford Loader & 3900 hours, Case 770 w/ new Baril motor, IH W-6 Standard, Case 1840 diesel skid steer w/ 5300 hours, Skid steer buck- ets & forks, IH 1460 Axial-flow Combine, 1020 20ft header, IH 1063 6R30 corn head, Brent 320 Grain Cart w/ extension, 86 F800 Grain Truck w/ Detroit diesel, Gravity box, JD 7000 6R30 Planter w/ liquid fert, Yetter downpressure & row cleaners, Gehl 2365 9ft Discbine w/ rubber rolls, JD 660 rolabar rake, NH 890 Chopper w/ heads, 2 H&S 16ft Chopper boxes, NH 27 blower, JD 24T Baler, Flat racks, Elevator, Brillion 7-shank Soil Builder, White 4-18" Plow, JD Dura-Cushion 16ft Disk, Case IH 4800 28ft Field Cultivator, JD 10ft grain drill, 10ft Cultipacker, H&S 175 spreader, Woodsplitter, Brush Cutter, Steel feeder wagons, Steer Stuffers, Farm Gates, Fuel barrels
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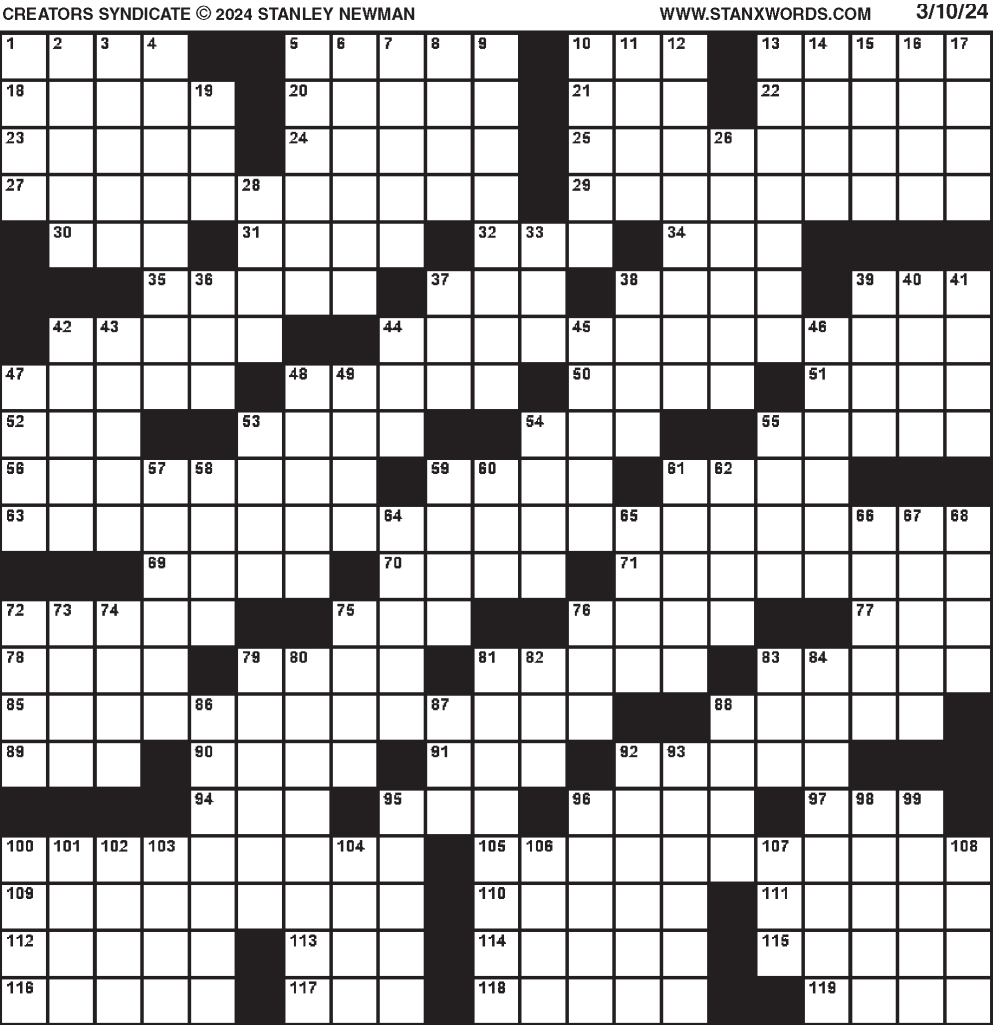
THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

THE GOLD STANDARD: Explained at 105 Across

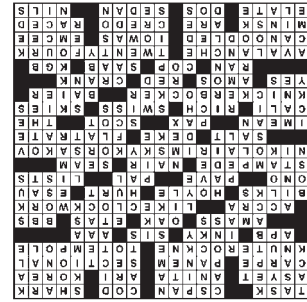
by Winston Emmons

- ACROSS
- 1 Chore at hand
- 5 *Washington Journal* broadcaster
- 10 Fish with chips
- 13 Jaws villain
- 18 So far
- 20 Soul singer Baker
- 21 Shapiro of NPR
- 22 Land on the Sea of Japan
- 23 Seize, to Caesar
- 24 *The Hunger Games* country
- 25 Modular sofa
- 27 "American football's most-renowned coach"
- 29 Tribal pillar
- 30 PD alert
- 31 Very dark
- 32 Family nickname
- 34 Thin battery
- 35 Build, as a nest egg
- 37 Wine barrel wood
- 38 SFO postings
- 39 Air rifle pellets
- 42 Capital of Ghana
- 44 With reliable regularity
- 47 Rips off
- 48 "According to" game rules guy
- 50 Offend
- 51 Jacob's twin
- 52 John __ Lennon
- 53 Install, as a walkway
- 54 Crony
- 55 Santa's incoming mail
- 56 Western-themed festival
- 59 Director from India
- 61 See 96 Down
- 63 *Scheherazade* composer
- 69 Pepper partner
- 70 Hockey ploy
- 71 Unchanging charge
- 72 "Let me explain . . ."
- 75 Peace, to the Pope
- 76 Edinburgher, for instance
- 77 Not just any
- 78 Golden State, for short
- 79 Calorie-laden
- 81 Bern-born
- 83 Expanse above
- 85 Pro home at Madison Square Garden
- 88 Surname from the German for "Bavarian"
- 89 "Sure thing!"
- 90 Pop singer Tori
- 91 Merlot, for example
- 92 Antique auto starter
- 94 Didn't go slow
- 95 Badge wearer
- 96 Former Swedish carmaker
- 97 USSR's CIA
- 100 Colorado's NHL team
- 105 Descriptor for the fully filled grid
- 109 Cuddled up
- 110 Great Plains natives
- 111 Intro pro
- 112 Capital of Belarus
- 113 "Be" with "you"
- 114 Belief in brief
- 115 94 Across competitively
- 116 Gladden greatly
- 117 They're permitted
- 118 Roomy ride
- 119 Norwegian "Nicholas"
- DOWN
- 1 Carpet fastener
- 2 Yoga pose
- 3 Sundae stuff
- 4 Didn't approach
- 5 Plump chickens
- 6 Airline lounge fare
- 7 Small digit
- 8 Get two fives for __
- 9 Junior, to Senior
- 10 Starts to fly-fish
- 11 Creme-filled cookie
- 12 Autocrat
- 13 Wearable wind shield
- 14 Skirt shape
- 15 River through Pisa
- 16 Authentic
- 17 Kin of collar greens
- 19 Summer shirt
- 26 Motive for a 1773 Boston protest
- 28 Gold record grp.
- 33 Nickname in '50s headlines
- 36 Clue suspect __
- 37 Peacock
- 38 Vermeer medium
- 39 Hebrew month
- 40 Big kahuna
- 41 Troublesome tyke
- 42 Inventory IDs
- 43 Informal confirmation request
- 44 Part of a Dracula costume
- 45 Caustic cleaner
- 46 Very cautious
- 47 German state that a dog is named for
- 48 Deck officer
- 49 No more patience
- 53 Loud ring
- 54 Toll road
- 55 Have stamina
- 57 Tile art
- 58 Blueprint
- 59 Ariz. neighbor
- 60 Invite
- 61 Choral assignments
- 62 Part of QED
- 64 It has a 45-mile border with 92 Down
- 65 Big sellers of buckets



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03/15/24, 03/22/24
NOTICE OF PUBLIC TEST
TOWN OF MAPLE VALLEY
A PUBLIC TEST OF THE ELECTRONIC VOTING EQUIPMENT FOR THE April 2nd, 2024 ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON March 26th, 2024 AT 5:30 pm AT THE MAPLE VALLEY TOWN HALL 9089 CNTY HWY Z SURING, WI 54174

8babc91e
03/15/24, 03/22/24, 03/29/24
ORDER TO APPEAR
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT OF OCONTO COUNTY
Petitioner: JASON WAYNE WILZ
Respondent: COURTNEY RENEE WILZ
Case No. 23 FA 84
IT IS ORDERED COURTNEY RENEE WILZ appears as follows before Circuit Court Judge Jay N Conley
Location: Oconto County Courthouse - Courtroom 8 301 Washin!ton Street Oconto, WI 54153
DATE: April 30, 2024 9:00 AM

08b850ed
03/15/24, 03/22/24
TOWN OF MORGAN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC TEST
In accordance to Wis Stats 5.84(1), Notice is hereby given that a Public Test for the voting machine to be used at the 2024 Spring Election and Presidential Preference on April 2, 2024 will be conducted for the Town of Morgan on Tuesday March 26, 2024 at 06:00 PM at the Morgan Town Hall, 3276 County Rd C, Oconto Falls, WI 54154. This public test is open to the general public.
Town Clerk
Erin Mooers
920-846-0699

0f7d4320
03/15/24
City of Gillett Notice:
Dog and Chicken License Reminder:
Dog-City of Gillett residents are reminded that all dogs over the age of five months must be licensed by March 31st. A state law requires a rabies vaccination for all dogs over the age of five months in order to get a dog license. Please bring in your dog's proof of rabies vaccination papers so that a dog license can be issued. Since the law requires your dog be licensed by April 1st of each year, a penalty is added after that date. A citation can also be issued for failure to license your dog. Please call City Hall at 920-855-2255 with any questions. Chicken-April 1 through March 31 -the fee shall be \$10 annually plus \$3 per chicken annually

Town of Gillett man charged in assault

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Bond was set at \$100,000 cash after a Town of Gillett man was charged with the Feb. 27 assault of a woman outside his home.

Joey Vandewettering, 61, appeared in Oconto County Circuit Court on March 7 and was formally charged with first-degree sexual assault, false impris-

onment, strangulation and suffocation, first-degree reckless endangerment and possession of methamphetamine, along with misdemeanor charges of battery, disorderly conduct, possession of THC and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Judge Michael Judge set bail and adjourned Vandewettering's initial appearance until April 11.

According to the complaint, Vandewettering called the woman and told her to come to his house to collect money that he owed her. When she arrived, he asked her to come into the house and "freaked out" when she refused, the complaint said.

He allegedly got into her car on the passenger side, and when she tried to

exit the car he dragged her back in and assaulted her, at one point sitting on her with his knee on her neck, and said several times that he would kill her, according to the complaint.

Officers later executed a search warrant at Vandewettering's home and recovered quantities of methamphetamine and THC.

Drug suspects arrested outside casino

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

At least two people are in custody after Menominee Tribal Police officers responded to the Menominee Casino Resort on March 1 for a report of suspicious activity potentially involving illegal drugs.

According to a statement from tribal police, upon arrival, tribal officers and a Menominee County deputy located the involved parties in the casino parking lot and took them into custody.

The Menominee Tribal K-9 Unit was called in, and K-9 officer Rosco displayed a positive alert on the vehicles. The officers confiscated more than 60 pills identified as controlled substances, including gabapentin and amphetamine, as well as more than 40 different individual packages of illegal drugs, including heroin and fentanyl.

The involved parties were arrested pursuant to local and felony warrants and the additional new charges discovered during the investigation. The information is being forwarded to the Menominee Tribal Prosecutor's Office.

Meeting allows visitors to climb aboard train history

The Suring Area Historical Society will meet at 6:30 p.m. March 19 in the meeting room at the Suring Area Public Library, 604 Main St.

The speaker for the evening will be a representative from the National Railroad Museum in Green Bay, who will be talking about rail-

roading history. After the presentation, the group will head to the Suring Museum, 639 Main St., Suring, for a tour and presentation of the

engine room by Rick Zill. Refreshments and snacks will be served following the presentations with socializing.

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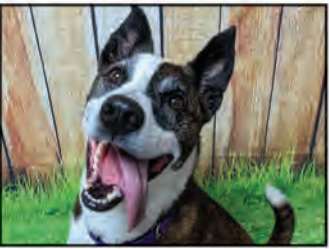
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Asst Variety
7.5-12oz

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Prairie Farms Cottage Cheese



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Asst Variety
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Asst Variety
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Asst Variety
18.4oz

General Mills Assorted Cereal



2/\$7

12-16.8oz

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PREVEA DOCTOR

EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF COLON CANCER SCREENINGS



A new report from the American Cancer Society reveals colon cancer is now the leading cause of cancer death in men and the second leading cause of cancer death for women under the age of 50. These new statistics are of concern, considering just two decades ago colon cancer was the fourth leading cause of death for both men and women in the U.S.

With March being Colon Cancer Awareness Month, Prevea Health gastroenterologist, Dr. Mohamed Azab, encourages those aged 45 to 75 to stay up to date on their colon cancer screenings. Dr. Azab performs colonoscopies at HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital in Oconto Falls. These screenings can help detect potential cancers in their early stages, providing doctors a better chance of both preventing and treating the disease before it spreads or grows.

“When cancerous polyps are discovered early during a screening our team can utilize minimally invasive procedures and other approaches to remove the cancer,” said Dr. Azab. “It’s important for folks to know that this disease is preventable, especially if the polyps are removed early, prior to them fully developing into cancer.” Many people will not have to schedule their first

colonoscopy until the age of 45. But for those with a family history of colon cancer, or for those at high risk of developing the disease, a colonoscopy can be scheduled at a younger age.

“It’s estimated that up to one-third of the people diagnosed with colon cancer, before the age of 50, have a family history of the disease,” said Dr. Azab. “For this reason, I encourage those with family history of colon cancer to talk to their primary care provider about scheduling a colonoscopy even earlier.”

While more people are being diagnosed with colon cancer at a younger age than in previous decades, Dr. Azab emphasizes that colonoscopies remain the gold standard in detecting the disease in its early stages. He also stresses the importance of lowering the risk of developing the disease by making lifestyle changes to improve one’s overall health.

“Establishing a healthy diet consisting of plenty of vegetables, fruits and high-fiber foods can be a good way to lower a person’s risk of colon cancer,” said Dr. Azab. “Quitting smoking, drinking alcohol only in moderation and establishing an exercise routine can all also help reduce the risk of the disease.”

Colon cancer is a preventable and curable disease, especially if it is discovered early, and the experts at HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital and Prevea Health are prepared to provide highly effective screenings, prevention methods and treatment options for colon cancer.

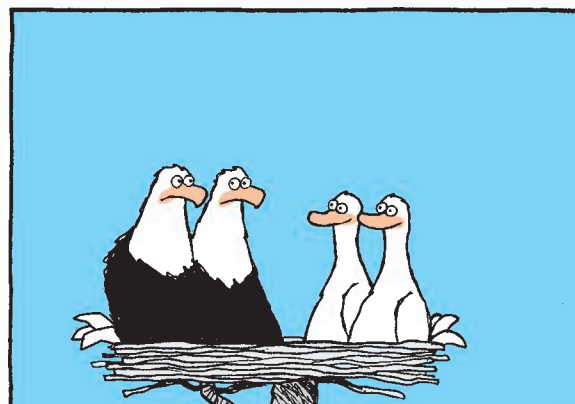
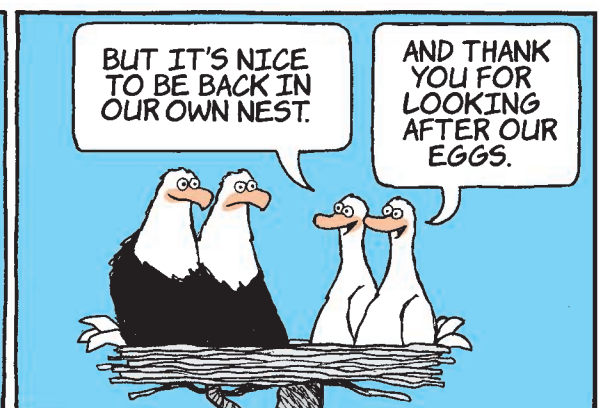
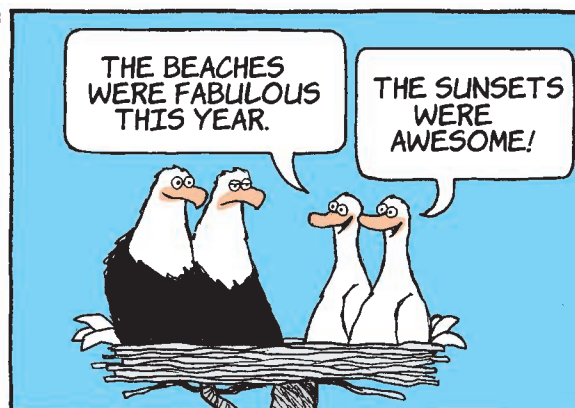
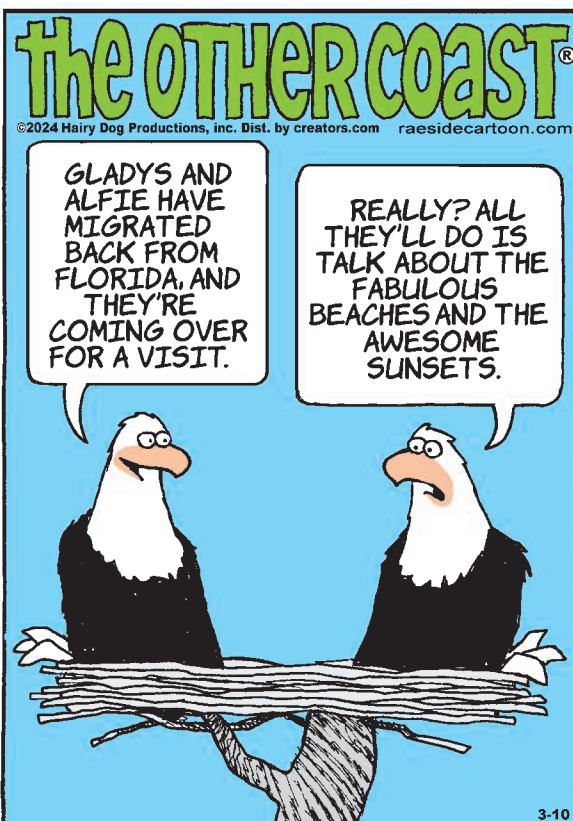
To schedule a colon cancer screening with **Dr. Mohamed Azab** or **Dr. Benjamin Andrew** at HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital in Oconto Falls, a referral from a primary care physician is required. You can schedule an appointment with a primary provider in **Gillett, Lena, Mountain, Oconto, Oconto Falls** or **Suring** by calling (920) 846-8187 or by visiting prevea.com



Dr. Mohamed Azab
Gastroenterologist

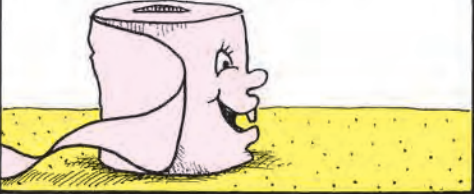


Dr. Benjamin Andrew
General Surgeon



Agnes

by TONY COCHRAN





UH... TROUT? UM... DO YOU EVER HEAR OH, LET'S SAY... "INANIMATE OBJECTS" SPEAK TO YOU? YOU KNOW... LIKE SALT SHAKERS? OR OLD TOWELS? MAYBE A FLOOR TILE OR SOMETHING?



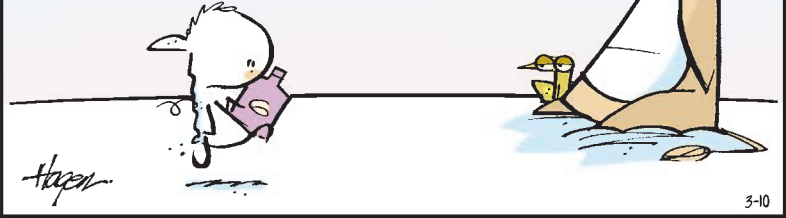
NO. AN UNEQUIVOCABLE NO, OR AN "I'LL KEEP MUM HERE UNTIL I SEE I'VE FOUND A KINDRED SOUL" NO?



A "YOU MUST BE INSANE" NO. COULD HAVE BEEN THE WIND.

The BARN

by Ralph Hagen





GLUG GLUG GLUG



COUGH COUGH



COUGH COUGH COUGH



COUGH COUGH COUGH



HACK HACK HACK



THIS COUGH SYRUP REALLY WORKS. HOW DID I KNOW HE WAS GOING TO SAY THAT?

Diamond Lil

by Brett Koth

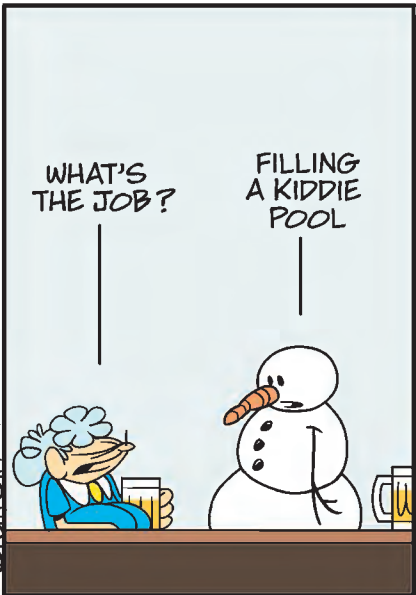
ROMAN THE SNOWMAN DROPS BY FOR A COLD ONE



SO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS SUMMER?



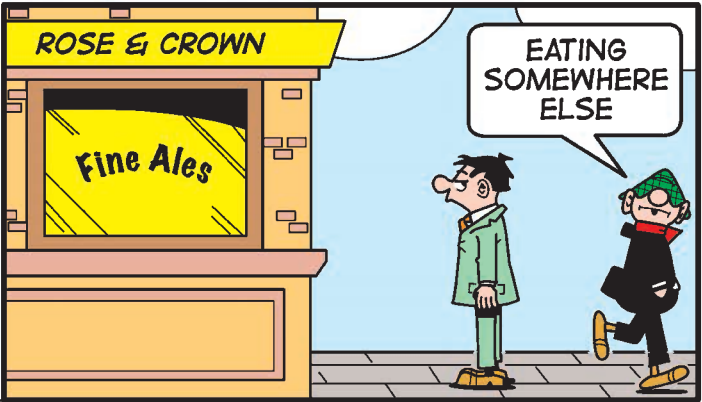
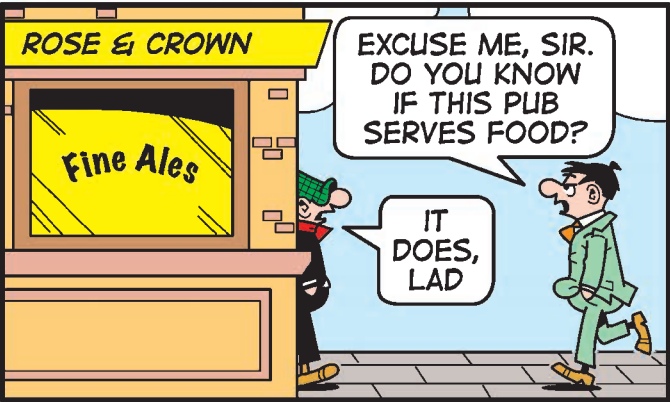
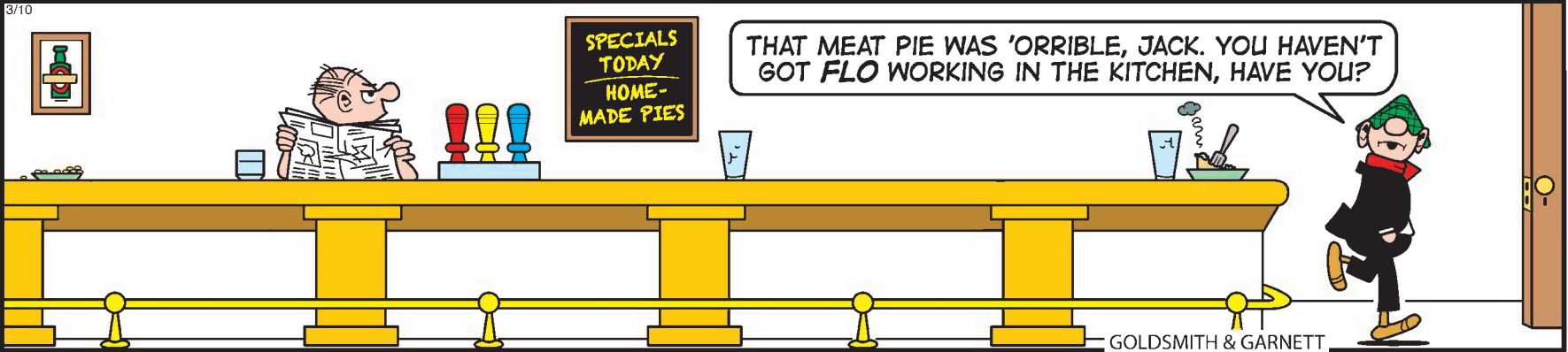
OH, I HAVE A JOB OFFER PENDING



WHAT'S THE JOB? FILLING A KIDDIE POOL

ANDY CAPP

by Smythe



DOGS OF C-KENNEL BY MICK MASTROIANNI AND MASON MASTROIANNI

