



WHITING IS FOUR-TIME CHAMPION

Oconto Falls' Clayton Whiting celebrates his fourth state title after winning the Division 2 182-pound weight class first-place match at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament on Feb. 26 at the Kohl Center in Madison. **FOR MORE STATE WRESTLING COVERAGE, SEE THE SPORTS SECTION.**

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

Broadband survey shows dissatisfaction

A study by New North Inc. recommends strategies for improving internet access throughout the region.

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OCEDC contract renewed for 2022

Oconto County Board members express support for the economic development partnership.

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Pulaski schools listen to residents

The Pulaski School District held a listening session Feb. 23 to discuss a possible November referendum.

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News

editorial@newmedia-wi.com

920-848-3427

Office

420 N. Chestnut Ave. Suite C, PO Box 184,

Oconto Falls, WI 54154

Hours by appointment only

Publisher

Greg Mellis gmellis@newmedia-wi.com

Editor-In-Chief

Warren Bluhm wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com

Sports Editor

Morgan Rode sports@newmedia-wi.com

Retail advertising

Tim Murphy tmurphy@newmedia-wi.com

Obituaries

obits@newmedia-wi.com

Classifieds/legal notices

classifieds@newmedia-wi.com

Subscriptions

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New North study confirms need for improved internet service

Vast majority want faster and more reliable internet speeds

By **WARREN BLUHM**

Editor-in-chief

Not surprisingly, the draft of a Regional Broadband Access Study commissioned by New North Inc. shows a strong desire for improved broadband service across the 18 counties the economic development coalition serves in Northeast Wisconsin.

“Poor speed, limited access,” said Jayme Sellen, executive director of the Oconto County Economic Development Corp., told the Oconto County Board during its Feb. 24 meeting.

“The study gives us a road map on a strategic way to provide better service throughout the county.”

Sellen told the county board that OCEDC is working on several initiatives to improve internet access and service in the county, including a \$50,000 grant to purchase equipment and a year of service for about 30 remote homes in the Mountain and Suring area to join Elon Musk’s Starlink satellite internet service, and working with Charter Communications on a

state broadband grant application to serve the towns of Oconto and Stiles.

One of the New North study’s recommendations is that county governments work on that kind of partnership with private providers rather than becoming internet providers themselves.

The broadband planning firm Design Nine spent the last four months of 2021 polling residents and business owners to come up with 10 strategic recommendations to address the goal of delivering high-performance internet in all areas of the New North region.

Among the findings were that 50% of respondents are “dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied” with their current internet speeds, 88% want faster and more reliable internet service, 98% of businesses indicated that the internet is important to the success of their business, and 71% of businesses reported that they need employees to be able to work from home.

“We know that broadband has become essential community infrastructure, much as building and maintaining roads were in the early 20th century,”

said Barb LaMue, president and CEO of New North Inc. “With its many quality assets — provided we have continued investment in broadband infrastructure — we know that the New North region can be attractive to business investment, along with an emerging population which is making choices about where they live primarily based on family needs and interests.”

Counties in the New North region will receive a detailed map of their county, along with an asset analysis of existing broadband and identification of where there are gaps in service.

The executive summary of the report and the full regional report are available on the New North website at <https://www.thenewnorth.com/broadband-access>. Each of the 18 county individualized reports will be made available in March following the conclusion of county-level meetings to finalize the detailed information.

wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com

8-year-old girl dies in one-vehicle crash

An 8-year-old girl died Feb. 24 after a one-vehicle accident on U.S. Highway 41-141 near Abrams.

At about 1:05 a.m., the Oconto County Sheriff’s Department Emergency Dispatch Center was notified of the crash near Sampson Road in the Town of Abrams. According to a press release, a 34-year-old Suring man was traveling in a pickup truck

northbound on Highway 41-141 when the pickup truck exited on the northbound exit ramp.

The vehicle failed to stop at the stop sign and continued into the northeast ditch. The driver and an 11-year-old girl who was a passenger were transported to a Green Bay area hospital with minor injuries. The 8-year-old girl died at

the scene, according to the press release.

An ongoing investigation is being conducted by the sheriff’s department and the Brown County Medical Examiner’s Office. Also assisting were the Abrams Fire Department, County Rescue Ambulance, Abrams First Responders and Little Suamico First Responders.

Three rescued after truck plunges through ice

By **NEW MEDIA STAFF**

Three people were rescued Feb. 25 after a pickup truck fell through the ice on Green Bay.

Oconto Fire and Rescue Deputy Chief Ryan Pecha said a crew was dispatched to assist Little River Fire

Department around 4:10 p.m. The caller said all occupants were out of the water but in need of a ride back to shore. GPS coordinates obtained from dispatch plotted the truck approximately 4.2 miles east of D.E. Hall County Park off County Y on the bayshore.

Two members of Oconto Fire Res-

cue responded onto the ice with their six-wheeler and were able to locate the fishermen and their truck using the GPS coordinates. Crews assisted the three individuals onto the six-wheeler and were then able to bring them safely back to shore.

No injuries were reported.

CORRECTIONS

Accuracy is important to the Oconto County Times Herald, and it wants to correct mistakes promptly. Call errors to our attention by phone at 920-848-3427.

Suring superintendent charged with false imprisonment

Girls say they were brought into a small restroom, told to remove their clothing

By **WARREN BLUHM**
Editor-in-chief

The Oconto County District Attorney on Feb. 28 filed a complaint charging Suring superintendent Kelly Casper with six felony counts of false imprisonment.

The charges follow in connection with an incident Jan. 18 in which six girls say they were confined to a small restroom and told to strip to their underwear to be searched for vaping materials.

Casper has been ordered to make her initial appearance in Oconto County Circuit Court at 10 a.m. March 23.

District Attorney Ed Burke originally concluded that criminal charges would not be filed because the searches were not “strip searches” under the Wisconsin legal definition of that term, but then his office conducted a review of state statutes and administrative codes relating to the ability of a school official to confine a student.

In a press release, Burke spelled out the rationale for the false imprisonment charges, one for each student.

“There is no dispute from any party that the children involved were directed to enter the small room at the direction of Casper. Casper also directed the school nurse to accom-



KELLY CASPER

pany them to the room,” Burke said. “Casper then directed the children to remove their clothing once in the room. Casper stood in the doorway while the children were in the room. Once the children removed their clothing, any opportunity they had to escape would have subjected them to further shame and embarrassment.”

The students were not given an opportunity to leave, and their only choice was whether to have the search conducted by a police officer or Casper, Burke said. They also had no opportunity to contact their parents prior to being confined in the bathroom.

“Whether Casper knew that the students did not consent and knew she did not have the lawful authority to detain the six children are ques-

tions of fact that are best left for a jury to determine based upon the evidence presented at trial,” Burke said, adding that he will have no further comment given that this is now a criminal matter.

The 12-page criminal complaint details interviews conducted by investigators and a sexual assault advocate with the six girls, who ranged in age from 14 to 17, and the school nurse who accompanied Casper. The searches were part of an investigation of vaping in the school and were purported to be an attempt to find vape cartridges hidden under their clothing.

The nurse said Casper did not behave toward the girls in a demeaning or bullying manner but rather “talked to each one of the girls telling them they were ‘better than this,’ they were ‘making bad choices’ telling each one of the girls she ‘really cared about them’ and their future,” the complaint said.

Casper acknowledged the searches during an interview with an investigator and said she had received

ONLINE

The Suring School Board was scheduled to hold a public meeting 5 p.m. March 2 at the school, after this edition of the Times Herald went to press. Find coverage of the meeting at newmedia-wi.com and next week’s paper.

training through the years about “locations where students hide items, how to properly question, having a second person to assist in the search and searching students and the laws pertaining to school searches.”

False imprisonment is a Class H felony under Wisconsin law, carrying penalties of up to six years in prison, a \$10,000 fine, or both.

A large number of parents came to the Suring School Board meeting Feb. 9 to voice their objections to the searches, and the board has met at least three times in closed session since Jan. 18 to discuss “confidential student and personnel matters.”

The board was planning a public meeting for 5 p.m. March 2 at the school to release a statement and hear public comment.

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OCONTO COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

Proceedings of Feb. 25

John Fusek, 50, Oconto, was placed on three years of probation beginning with 90 days in jail for possession of methamphetamine and misdemeanor criminal trespass to a dwelling, in connection with an incident that occurred May 24, 2021. Among other conditions, Judge Michael T. Judge ordered Fusek to maintain absolute sobriety and complete all assessments, counseling and treatment deemed necessary by his probation agent.

A Nov. 9-10 jury trial was set for Travis R. Bolssen, 43, Stanley, on a charge of repeated sexual assault of the same child, in connection with incidents that allegedly occurred on or before June 1, 2020. A final pre-trial conference was scheduled for Oct. 28.

Tobias Michael Ruggles, 38, Marinette, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to fleeing an officer, possession of narcotic drugs, and misdemeanor counts of operating without a valid license, obstructing or resisting an officer and possession of drug paraphernalia, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Nov. 20. A plea hearing was scheduled for March 18.

After a preliminary hearing, Andrew William Kizaur, 26, Amasa, Michigan, was bound over on charges of possession with intent to deliver amphetamine and a misdemeanor count of possession of THC, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Dec. 19. Arraignment was scheduled for March 17.

Bond was set at \$15,000 cash for Richard W. Sotka, 47, Marinette, after he was charged with transfer of another's personal property valued between \$10,000 and \$100,000, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Feb. 10. A preliminary hearing was scheduled for March 4.

Bond was set at \$10,000 cash for Mark D. Halverson, 38, Mountain, after he was charged with fleeing an officer in a vehicle, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Feb. 22. His initial appearance was adjourned until March 17.

Proceedings of Feb. 24

Joshua L. Dickinson, 43, Portage, was sentenced to six years in prison, followed by five years on extended supervision, for repeated sexual assault of the same child, in connection with incidents alleged

to have occurred in 2015. Judge gave Dickinson credit for 448 days already served. He ordered that he have no contact with the victim or her family, and no contact with anyone younger than 18 without the approval of his corrections agent.

Jacob Steven Moeller, 22, Oconto, pleaded no contest to misdemeanor charges of operating a motor vehicle without the owner's consent and criminal damage to property, in connection with an incident that occurred Aug. 24. The charges were reduced from felonies in a plea agreement. Judge Jay N. Conley placed Moeller on two years' probation and ordered him to pay restitution and charges of \$11,586.35, among other conditions of probation.

Troy Allen Whisman, 18, Abrams, pleaded not guilty to aggravated battery, criminal damage to property, and misdemeanor charges of battery and two counts disorderly conduct, in connection with incidents that allegedly occurred Oct. 26 and 27. A pre-trial conference was scheduled for March 17.

Proceedings of Feb. 23

Bond was set at \$50,000 cash for Rocky R. Sonkowsky, 31, Oconto, after he was charged with first-degree child sexual assault and child sexual exploitation, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Oct. 27, 2021. His initial appearance was adjourned until March 17.

A bench warrant was issued for Decarlo L. Denny, 34, Oconto, after he failed to appear for arraignment on charges of possession of methamphetamine and misdemeanor resisting or obstructing an officer, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Jan. 7.

After a preliminary hearing, Reuben C. Magiary, 48, Oconto, was bound over on charges of kidnapping, burglary, false imprisonment, strangulation and suffocation, and misdemeanor charges of battery, two counts of criminal damage to property and disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred March 1, 2021. Arraignment was scheduled for March 17.

Kristi L. Meverden, 31, Coleman, waived her right to a preliminary hearing and was bound over on three counts of second-degree recklessly endangering safety, felony bail jumping, and misdemeanor counts of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (second offense)

and disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Jan. 20. Judge granted a motion to reduce her bail from \$25,000 cash to \$12,500. Arraignment was scheduled for March 17.

Letisha M. Peters, 41, Neopit, waived her right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to first-degree recklessly endangering safety, second-degree recklessly endangering safety, fleeing an officer in a motor vehicle, felony bail jumping and criminal damage to property, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred July 9. A pre-trial conference was scheduled for March 17.

Chadrack B. Thompson, 45, Oconto, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and was bound over on charges of second-degree recklessly endangering safety, aggravated battery, injury by use of a dangerous weapon and misdemeanor disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Oct. 4. Arraignment was scheduled for March 17.

Morgan A. Butner, 41, Oconto Falls, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to possession of narcotic drugs and misdemeanor charges of possession of cocaine, ignition interlock violation, operating while revoked and possession of drug paraphernalia, in connection with incidents that allegedly occurred Dec. 20-21. A pre-trial conference was scheduled for March 17.

Maryana D. Barber, 36, Crivitz, waived her right to a preliminary hearing and was bound over on charges of possession with intent to distribute amphetamine, manufacture and delivery of THC, felony child neglect, maintaining a drug trafficking place, two counts of misdemeanor child neglect and six misdemeanor counts of contributing to the delinquency of a child, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Jan. 14. Arraignment was scheduled for March 17.

Zachary R. Clarke, 26, Green Bay, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and was bound over on charges of possession with intent to distribute amphetamine, possession of narcotic drugs, possession with intent to distribute THC, misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia, all repeat offenses, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Jan. 12. Arraignment was scheduled for March 17.

Proceedings of Feb. 22

Cheryl Lynn Beck, 46, Kenosha, was placed on two years' probation after a prison sentence was imposed and stayed for possession of narcotic drugs, in connection with an incident that occurred March 29, 2021. Among other probation conditions, Judge ruled that Beck must maintain absolute sobriety and complete all assessments, counseling and treatment deemed necessary by her probation agent.

Jessica N. Miller, 37, Green Bay, pleaded no contest to possession with intent to deliver amphetamine, in connection with an incident that occurred Nov. 23. Judge scheduled sentencing for May 3 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

Judge Michael T. Judge ruled that Brandon M. Kwiatkowski, 36, Marinette, is currently not competent to assist in his own defense but is likely to become competent. He ordered Kwiatkowski committed for treatment and suspended court proceedings on charges of hit-and-run involving injury and a misdemeanor count of resisting or obstructing an officer, in connection with a collision on U.S. Highway 41 in Abrams on Nov. 14.

Randall R. Kellogg, 32, Suring, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to first-degree reckless endangerment, aggravated battery and misdemeanor counts of battery and disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Dec. 18. A pre-trial conference was scheduled for May 19.

Barbara Ann Besiak, 43, Amasa, Michigan, waived her right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to possession with intent to deliver amphetamine and a misdemeanor count of possession of THC, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Dec. 19. A pre-trial conference was scheduled for March 17.

Curt T. Schmitt, 32, Suring, pleaded not guilty to charges of manufacture with intent to deliver THC, possession with intent to deliver THC, maintaining a drug trafficking place and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Oct. 27. A pre-trial conference was scheduled for March 21.

Proceedings of Feb. 21

After a preliminary hearing, Travis J. Ragen, 31, Lena, was bound over on two counts of first-degree recklessly endangering safety, four counts of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of causing injury by intoxicated boat operation and operating a firearm while intoxicated, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Sept. 4. Arraignment was sched-

uled for March 7. Ragen is awaiting a May 24-27 trial on charges of second-degree reckless homicide, homicide by the intoxicated use of a motor vehicle and homicide by the operation of a vehicle with a prohibited alcohol content, in connection with the Nov. 15, 2019, crash that killed Melissa J. Cota, 53, of Oconto, and four counts of bail jumping, in connection with incidents that allegedly occurred in 2020 and 2021.

Cody John Krueger, 24, Algoma, pleaded not guilty to attempted first-degree intentional homicide, armed robbery and first-degree reckless endangerment charges in connection with a shooting on an Oconto street Sept. 3, as well as two counts of second-degree recklessly endangering safety, fleeing an officer and misdemeanor driving while his license was revoked, in connection with an incident that allegedly

occurred Sept. 10. A pre-trial conference was scheduled for March 17.

Andrew J. Pecor, 36, Oconto, pleaded no contest to possession of narcotic drugs, in connection with an incident that occurred June 14, and felony child neglect, in connection with an incident that occurred June 17. Judge scheduled sentencing for April 25 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

OBITUARIES

Judith A. Peterson



Judith "Judy" Ann Peterson, 79, McAllen, Texas, formerly Oconto Falls, died suddenly of natural causes Tuesday morning, Feb. 22, 2022 at home in McAllen. She was born Aug. 5, 1942, in Oconto Falls to Victor and Claudine (Umentum) Peterson. Judy grew up in Gillett and graduated from high school with the Class of 1960. On Nov. 12, 1960, she married Jordan L. Siegel at St. John's Lutheran Church in Gillett, and they had three sons.

While living in Menomonie Falls, she was employed at Dutchland Dairy and later moved to Milwaukee where she worked in nightclubs for many years. Following her divorce from Jordan, she met an old friend

from Gillett, LaVerne Olson, and together they ran a tavern in Milwaukee from 1980 until Judy moved back to the Oconto Falls area in 1996. While living in Oconto Falls, she was employed at Sharpe Care nursing home in dietary and became a member of Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in the Town of Maple Valley.

Survivors are a longtime friend, Donald Kilburn, Dallas, Texas; three sons, Jeffrey (Holly) Siegel, Oak Creek, Jim (Sandy) Siegel, Gillett,

and Jon (Vicki) Siegel, Markesan; six grandchildren, Jason Siegel, Derek (Stephanie) and Dustin Siegel, Lisa (Matt) Boyarski, Natasha (Brad) Shucha and Karyn Siegel; nine great-grandchildren, Sina Siegel, Adonis and Olivia Siegel, Kaytlin and Jayden Boyarski, Brook Shucha, Dalton and Daxton Siegel, and Dawson Siegel; two brothers, Dan (Maria) Peterson, Martinez, California, and Ritchie (Sue) Peterson, Gillett; two sisters, Barbara (Kurt Spaeth) Jaekel, Rubicon, and Vickie Miller, Oconomowoc; one brother-in-law, John Severson, Gillett; many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; grandparents; three infant

siblings, Robert, Phyllis and Bernard Peterson; one sister, Gloria Severson; and longtime partner, LaVerne Olson, in 2011.

Visitation after 9 a.m. Saturday, March 5, 2022, at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in the Town of Maple Valley until the time of services. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at the church with Pastor Fred Mai officiating. Livestream available at <https://ourredeemerssuring.org>. Burial will take place alongside her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Anton Umentum in Woodlawn Cemetery in Oconto Falls.

Jones Funeral Service in Oconto Falls is serving the Peterson family.

Walter A. Rusch



Walter Alfred Rusch, aka "Wally" or "Butch," 85, Oconto Falls, died unexpectedly Monday afternoon, Feb. 21, 2022, at Bellin Memorial Hospital in Green Bay, with his wife and children present following a short illness. Wally was born in Gillett to Walter and Edna (Zastrow) Rusch and shared his growing up years with his older sister Janet and younger brother, Clyde. Youngest sister Rellen came along, and they shared a special friendship to the end.

Having met his wife in their teens, the couple would have celebrated 67 years of marriage this March 10, 2022.

With Jane by his side, Wally built a successful trucking business, starting with one truck that he built piece by piece. Wally made numerous business acquaintances, some who became friends he held dear over the years. After years of hard work, he spent less time trucking and more time buying and selling used trucks and equipment, which he enjoyed right up until the

end. Jane supported him not only with the business but by managing a household full of children.

Survivors are his wife Jane; daughters, Dawn (Steve), Karen (Chris), Janice (Mike), Luann (Ken) and Jennifer (Jon); sons, Kevin (Chris), Billy (Kelly) and Darren; sister, Rellen (Chuck); niece, Beth (Pat); and many grandchildren whom he loved dearly for their unique and special personalities.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Mark; daughter, Debra; brother, Clyde; sister, Janet; two grandsons, Christopher and Zachery;

and two brothers-in-law, William and Jack Johnston.

Visitation will be held 2-7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25, 2022, at Jones Funeral Service in Oconto Falls with a celebration of his life at 7 p.m., which Pastor Larry Bong will lead.

The Rusch family would like to thank the kind and generous staff at Bellin Memorial Hospital, specifically ICU and nurse Michong for their support, care and compassion.

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

Judith A. Lamine



Judith "Ba" Ann Lamine, 75, Oconto Falls, died Monday evening, Feb. 21, 2022, at home surrounded by her family. She was born Dec. 5, 1946, in Green Bay to Lawrence and Phyllis (Crossman) Morrow. Judy grew up in the Oneida area.

On July 27, 1968, she married Robert Lamine in Green Bay and had five

children together. The couple lived in the Green Bay area before moving to Oconto Falls 30 years ago. Judy "Ba" will be lovingly remembered as a devoted

wife, mother and grandmother who enjoyed cooking and caring for her family.

Survivors are her husband, Bob Lamine; five children, Michelle (Kevin) Magee, Holly (Rod) Jones, JoJo (Angela), Virginia and Christopher Lamine; 12 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; five brothers and

three sisters; and special friend, Ruth Urban.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother.

There will be no public services, but private at a later date.

Jones Funeral Service in Oconto Falls is serving the family.

OCEDC contract extended for 2022

County Board signals some willingness to pay more in the future

By **WARREN BLUHM**
Editor-in-chief

Oconto County has renewed its contract with the Oconto Economic Development Corp. for another year.

The Oconto County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Feb. 24 to approve the 2022 contract with the public-private partnership at a cost of \$286,481. The corporation works year-round to advance local economic development, support the expansion and retention of existing businesses, and promote tourism and recreation throughout the county.

OCEDC reports monthly to the County Board. Among initiatives Executive Director Jayme Sellen discussed this month were publication and distribution of the 2022 Discovery Guide, a grant application to the USDA that could allow expansion of OCEDC's Business Innovation Network, and recent tours of the county that corporation staff gave for potential commercial developers and a tourism travel writer.

Supervisor Gary Frank said the cost of the annual contract has remained the same for several years, unlike county departments that may

hold the line on spending but do grant pay increases for their employees.

"They (OCEDC) do have the same kinds of pressures that we do in the county in terms of getting and keeping employees," Frank said, signalling that the board may be receptive to future increases.

Supervisor Rose Stellmacher agreed, speculating that there hasn't been an increase in as many as eight years.

"Quite frankly, I don't see how they can keep going if this remains the same," she said.

County Board Chairman Paul Bednarik said the reason OCEDC hasn't seen an increase is simple: "They never ask."

The contract calls for OCEDC to provide \$120,081 worth of economic development services, \$151,400 in tourism promotion services and \$15,000 for a 2023 fishing tournament. If the tournament is canceled or otherwise doesn't take place, those funds would be refunded to the county.

wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com

Board holds moment of silence for Doeren

By **NEW MEDIA STAFF**

The Oconto County Board opened its Feb. 24 meeting with a moment of silence in memory of Supervisor Richard Doeren, who died Feb. 17 at age 77.

Doeren, also a former Oconto City Council member, created the Oconto's Eagle Nest Facebook page several years ago to chronicle

activity in the nest near Breakwater Park. The nest was built in a tall tree overlooking a watery, grassy area near where the Oconto River enters the bay of Green Bay.

He was an avid supporter of the county and its wildlife. One of his last comments on the county board floor was in support of adding \$15,000 to the 2022 county budget to promote fishing tournaments on

the bay.

Doeren said the county earns a long-term benefit when major TV networks and sport fishing channels cover the tournaments and talk about walleye fishing in Oconto.

"You might think, 'Well, this is only one year.' But what happens is that Grandpa Jones in Keokuk, Iowa, says two years from now,

'Let's go up to Oconto, Wisconsin. That's where they catch all those big walleyes,'" Doeren said. "And that rolls down the line; I've seen that happen."

For the past 25 years, he owned and operated the Lumber Mill Gallery on the river in Oconto. A U.S. Army veteran, he took an Old Glory Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., in 2019.

Vintage snowmobile weekend coming up in Mountain

Chute Pond Snowmobile Club will be hosting the Blast From the Past Vintage Snowmobile Weekend on March 4-5.

On March 4, the vintage ride (non-vintage also welcome) leaves at 11 a.m. from Waters Edge on

Anderson Lake, 12058 State Highway 32, Suring. It will return later for dinner off the menu. There will be bucket raffles and more. Non-club members and general public is welcome. To reserve your spot, call 920-373-8578.

On March 5, the Blast From the Past Vintage Show and Swap Meet will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Skinny Dave's, 12848 State Highway 32-64, Mountain. Registration will take place from 9 a.m. to noon. There is no cost to enter sleds or for

spectators.

This is a family friendly event. A vintage sled raffle drawing takes place at noon. Trophy presentations will follow the judging. Food and beverages will be available. For details, call 920-373-8579.

Food drive planned through March

NEW Credit Union's second annual Penny Nicholas Food Drive is underway through the month of March at the financial institution's four locations.

For every five items of nonperishable food dropped off during the month of March, the donor's name will be put in a drawing for one of four \$50 gift cards, compliments of the credit union. Food gathered will be distributed among several local food pantries.

Deadline to enter will be 4:30 p.m. March 31. Winners will be notified by phone April 4. The drawing is open to the public; no purchase necessary to enter. The credit union's employees and members of their households are not eligible to win.

NEW Credit Union office locations are 301 Jackson St., Oconto Falls, 405 Pecor St., Oconto, 717 E. Main St., Suring, and 570 Frontage Road, Peshtigo.

Lena church to host 'Healthy Aging' presentation

The Lena Seventh-Day Adventist Church plans to host "Healthy Aging," a presentation about health and well-being during the later years of life by Dr. Nathan Jackson from Bayshore Chiropractic, Oconto, on March 15.

Jackson takes the "whole person approach" and has been treating patients in his Oconto clinic for more than 20 years.

Healthy thinking, the use of vitamins and supplements, nutrition, exercise, fighting viruses, sugar in our diets and proper body alignment during the aging process are among the topics Jackson plans to cover.

"Healthy Aging" is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. March 15 at the church, 538 Harley St., Lena. This free presentation is open to the public.

Panel addresses racial issues in America

Professor, Stockbridge-Munsee leader discuss why it's difficult for people to get along

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

Shawano had a discussion on race Feb. 24 that had nothing to do with roaring engines and a dirt track.

Instead, the presentation held at the Shawano Public Library focused on how racism is still prevalent in American society today — from full-blown hatred and discrimination toward people of a different colored skin to making assumptions of foreigners, like their intelligence or their ability to speak a certain way.

The library hosted the event as part of a month-long dive into a discussion about race. The library held a winter reading challenge to encourage the community to read “Stamped From the Beginning” by Ibram X. Kendi, which examines the history of racist ideas in America, and followed that up with a Facebook discussion group discussing what is addressed in the book. The program concluded with the evening presentation featuring Shannon Holsey, president of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians, and professor Angel Saavedra Cisneros, who teaches political science at St. Norbert College.

Holsey noted that her tribe is not originally from Wisconsin but from upstate New York, but forced relocations from the government brought her people to Wisconsin to settle on land that originally belonged to the Menominee. Even when the U.S. Constitution was crafted, she said, it was geared toward white men and not considered for other races — especially not Native Americans, who were not granted U.S. citizenship until 1924.

“We didn’t even receive our freedom of religion until 1978,” Holsey said, noting that the early Europeans had deemed the various tribes living here centuries ago to be uncivilized. “We were always civilized, and some people think that, when people came to the Americas, they somehow evolved Native Americans through assimilation.”

For Holsey, having discussions on the different ways various cultures live their lives and conduct



Shannon Holsey, left, president of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians, listens as Angel Saavedra Cisneros, a political science professor, makes a point Feb. 24 about how racial issues are still a big problem today and have not gone away during a panel discussion at the Shawano Public Library.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

themselves today is important to realize there’s more than one way of doing things.

“Unity does not have to mean necessarily uniformity, but there has to be a level of diplomacy and decorum because it’s really significantly important to understand our history,” Holsey said. “We don’t want them to repeat themselves because there’s an underbelly and ugliness of it.”

Holsey noted that many K-12 history textbooks today don’t speak of Indigenous people beyond 1900.

“There’s an invisibility about who we are,” Holsey said.

Cisneros noted his job requires him to teach about things that are “impolite to talk about at the dinner table,” which includes race and politics. He immigrated to the United States from Mexico and became a citizen last fall, and he said that he’d been pretty naive about this country and imagined it was a multicultural melting pot.

“I thought race was something that we read about in textbooks and that racism had been eradicated,”

Cisneros said. “I want to remind us all that we’re human, and we have lots of flaws. We can fight these flaws if we remember that we’re human. If we listen to humans and sit next to humans, then we can change the way we view our identities and use them for good.”

Healing is a key factor in mending race relations, according to Cisneros, but that only works when the perpetrator apologizes. He noted that people should think before they speak.

“What do you lose from being able to do right by someone?” Cisneros said. “You don’t lose anything by saying, ‘You know what? That might hurt you, and I don’t have to do that anymore.’ Micro-aggressions are really interesting. If you wouldn’t use that compliment for somebody like you, then maybe you shouldn’t use it.”

The issue of white privilege also came up during the panel discussion, and Cisneros pointed out that the concept of privilege is not necessarily limited to races with white skin, and that it should be acknowl-

edged but not in a shameful way.

“Privilege is something you have, whether you want it or not,” Cisneros said. “You can’t give it up. You can elevate people. You can use it for good, but you can’t give it up.”

Holsey related her experience from two days earlier, when she addressed the Wisconsin Assembly. She noted that like-minded people or people who looked the same were congregated in different parts of the chamber.

“I am in the legislative hall, and — I’m not even kidding — the Republicans are on one side of the hall, the Democrats are on one side, and the Natives are just over in a corner somewhere,” Holsey said.

Holsey suggested that people should try to regularly put themselves in situations where they’re not with like-minded individuals, and that it might help people to understand that differences are OK.

“Every day I learn from somebody, and everybody has their own story to tell,” Holsey said.

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Sacred Heart kicks off reading week

ABOVE: Brycen Reiter, left, reads to Everette DuQuaine in the Sacred Heart Catholic School gymnasium Feb. 28 to kick off Read Across America Week. Setting up Camp Read-A-Lot, students were broken up into multi-age groups and teachers set up campsites throughout the gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED

LEFT: Sacred Heart Catholic School teachers Lori Mathwich and Michelle Powers look over some books Feb. 28 in the school gymnasium as part of the school's celebration of Read Across America Week. Campsites were themed and so their book collections and camp decorations were based on that theme. Themes were food, dinosaurs, mysteries, Dr. Seuss, animals, Mardi Gras, fantasy and sports.

CONTRIBUTED

BELOW: Sacred Heart Catholic School eighth-grade student Swede Corn reads to younger students Feb. 28 in the school gymnasium as part of Read Across America Week. The student groups spent 10 minutes at each campsite to enjoy the books there.

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Pulaski schools plan for future growth

Listening session reveals need to expand elementary schools, renovate all facilities

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

The Pulaski School District is growing to the point where at least one elementary school is going to exceed capacity by 2025, and other schools could be reaching capacity in the 10 years after that.

To that end, district officials are seeking community input on how to address school needs and whether they would support a referendum in November 2022 or beyond. The district held a listening session Feb. 23 to talk with families and community members about immediate and future needs to gauge what they'd support in a large improvement and renovation project.

"I'm really glad that we have a nice crowd tonight," said Superintendent Allison Space. "This evening couldn't happen without all of us working together."

Hillcrest Elementary School, located in Brown County south of Highway 29, is expected to exceed its capacity in three years. The district needs to build on to the existing building soon unless other steps are taken, like transferring students to other elementary schools. However, Sunnyside Elementary School, located east of Pulaski, is expected to exceed its capacity by 2030, and Lannoye Elementary School, the closest school to Hillcrest, is forecast to reach capacity by 2035.

Besides growth at the elementary school, the district predicts that enrollment of middle school students could increase by about 100 between now and 2035, meaning that an expansion of Pulaski Community Middle School could be on the horizon. However, that capacity could be reached sooner; an additional 50 middle school students attend from outside the district due to open enrollment, and that number could climb.

The district also estimates that the high school could grow its in-district student population by over 150 students but does not believe it will reach capacity there unless its open enrollment count grows there, as well.

If the district decides to go for a referendum, it could be in a good financial position to do so, according to Mark Logan, the district's business manager. The district had a tax rate of



Pulaski High School Principal Jeremy Pach, right, listens as a community member talks about the necessity of supporting the schools in a smaller breakout of the listening session that took place Feb. 23 at the high school. The Pulaski School District is anticipating that it could ask voters to approve a referendum in November, but the amount in the referendum will depend upon community input.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

\$8.84 per \$1,000 of valuation in 2016, but the current rate is \$6.32 — one of the lowest in the area and significantly below the state average of \$8.67.

Logan noted that the district recently became debt free after paying off its 2013 referendum six years early, resulting in a savings of \$100,000 for the district. He said that the property owners in the district could see their tax rate go up 72 cents if \$50 million in bonds were approved, \$1.27 for \$75 million in bonds and \$1.82 for \$100 million.

The district is estimating that the infrastructure needs of the existing schools, not including the expansion, could cost anywhere from \$39.4 million to \$43.4 million, according to Clint Selle, an architect with Bray Architects. About \$8 million of those infrastructure needs fall in the immediate category and another \$16 million are needs that could emerge as a priority in the next few years.

Pulaski is looking at an expansion of Hillcrest that could almost double the size of the building. The expanded areas would house classrooms for

kindergarten and second grade, a commons area, gymnasium, music and art classrooms, administrative offices and more. Hillcrest's expansion could cost the district up to \$27.7 million, which would be cheaper than building a new school, estimated to cost close to \$38 million.

"It would provide us a challenge if we were to build a new school in the Hillcrest area, taking and (demolishing) that building and putting something in the same place," Space said. "We have had those conversations."

A similar expansion is being eyed for Sunnyside, with classrooms for kindergarten and first grades on the upper floor, the main offices and a new cafeteria. The expansion is estimated to cost as much as \$24.3 million.

Other, smaller expansions are also being considered for the Lannoye, Fairview and Glenbrook elementary schools, ranging from \$1 million to \$7 million.

Pulaski High School could expand to include a new pool and athletic facilities on the northeast corner of the

building, including an indoor practice facility for the sports programs. The high school could expand on the south end, too, with more technology education facilities, and there are also plans to provide more than 200 additional parking spaces. All of these projects are expected to cost as much as \$45.7 million.

If a pool is built at the high school, the existing pool at Pulaski Community Middle School would be removed and turned into technology education classrooms for those students. That could cost the district as much as \$3.1 million.

At all of the schools, plans are in the works to redesign classrooms for the modern era, moving away from the rows of desks to a more interactive concept.

Space noted that the information and input received from the community will be posted on the district's website, www.pulaskischools.org, with a question-and-answer format to help inform residents.

It's too early to plant but not to plan

While it is getting tempting for many of us, it is still a bit too early to begin starting seeds indoors for the upcoming growing season, but that doesn't mean that we cannot dream.



ROB ZIMMER

Right now is the best time of the year to head to your local garden center to pick up seed of some of your favorite plants, as well as new varieties on your wish list. Seeds don't last long in the stores. If you wait until April or May to shop, they will be pretty well picked over. So, head out now and gather your seed, even if you have to wait several more weeks to plant them.

Vegetable seeds have been extremely popular over the last few years since the virus pandemic began. More and more gardeners are discovering the joys of growing food at home. They are snapping up the seeds fast. Gather your favorites now, especially heirloom tomatoes, peppers, beans, peas, carrots, beets and others.

Speaking of garden dreams, this may be the year that you want to completely overhaul your garden. Try a new design. Do some sketching of the areas in your yard and garden where you plan and see what new options you can come up with. It's always fun to try a new garden design or a new garden outline and what better time to indulge your dream garden design than right now while snow still blankets the yard.

Don't let the perfectionist inside you intimidate your garden passion. Your garden design doesn't have to be perfect. Search out examples online and piece together elements of different garden designs that interest you. Make it fun.

Winter is also the perfect time to take a closer look at your garden and see what's missing. Do you have plenty of berries and seed heads available for overwintering songbirds? Do you have enough sheltering space for these birds, such as evergreen shrubs? A brush pile or discarded Christmas tree, perhaps? Is there enough winter interest in your garden in the form of grass plumes, dried hydrangea blossoms, seed heads of various flowers, the



The houseplant craze is catching on, fueling the winter dreams of many gardeners.

ROB ZIMMER



Many garden centers and greenhouses have already begun spring planting of annuals, hanging baskets and other garden novelties.

ROB ZIMMER

bark of trees, colorful winter shrubs, even your own garden art?

Now is the time to make a list of what's missing and what you want to add to the garden next year to make the garden in winter an even more inviting place, for yourself, as well as our wild friends.

If you are really antsy, now is

a great time to pick up one of the tabletop or desktop hydroponic gardens where you can instantly begin growing lettuce, herbs, even seeds indoors. Most of these have their own lights built in, so you don't even need to worry about providing an adequate light source. Pick one up and enjoy the fun. You'll be eating

fresh greens in a matter of just a few weeks.

The winter dreams of many gardeners are brought to life in the form of house plants and indoor blooms. Houseplants are a huge and popular trend right now, boosted by online sites, such as Pinterest and TikTok. A whole new generation of plant lovers are beginning to enjoy the beauty and benefit of growing indoor plants. With more and more young adults living in apartments, the house plant boom is happening.

From succulents and orchids to foliage plants and lush, hanging gardens, the demand for house plants is driving up prices and many classics are becoming harder to find. Houseplant growers continue to hybridize more and more tantalizing choices to tempt indoor plant lovers.

Whatever your garden dreams, now is the time to act, and to begin to prepare for the new growing season just a few short weeks away.

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Evers quietly signs bill on police hiring

Legislation would make it tougher for bad apples to get jobs elsewhere

By **PETER CAMERON**
The Badger Project

With little fanfare and no opposition, a bill proponents hope will cut down on bad apples in law enforcement passed the legislature and was signed by the governor way back in November.

The law requires law enforcement agencies maintain a work history file for each employee and creates a procedure for law enforcement agencies, jails and juvenile detention facilities to receive and review an officer candidate's file from previous employers.

Gov. Tony Evers announced the bill signing with several others in a press release issued Nov. 5. Passage has garnered little to no media coverage or public comment from elected officials.

Union protections often make it difficult to fire officers, chiefs across the country complain, so law enforcement agencies will sometimes agree to seal a problem officer's personnel file in exchange for his or her willing resignation. This law aims to end that practice in Wisconsin.

It "provides a much-needed mechanism to keep bad actors in policing from moving to new agencies after being terminated for unlawful or unethical behavior," said Meghan Stroshine, an associate professor of criminology and law studies at Marquette Univer-

sity who studies law enforcement.

"Police are afforded many protections due to the unique role they play in society, but there should be no cases where a police department is in the dark about the reason(s) an individual was fired from another law enforcement agency," Stroshine wrote in an email, "nor should there be the possibility of sealing officers' personnel files in exchange for their resignation. There should be open access to information about what led to the end of employment at a job candidate's previous agency."

She noted that the law does not impose consequences for agencies that fail to comply.

"I see this law as a first step in preventing 'wandering officers' from finding employment after termination, not the final step," she said.

The largest police union in the state, the Wisconsin Professional Police Association, supported this measure because it mandates statewide uniformity and transparency in hiring law enforcement officers, said Jim Palmer, the group's executive director.

"No one wants a bad officer out of the profession more than a good one, and the law now requires all agencies to review the performance records anytime they consider hiring experienced officers," Palmer wrote in an

email. "Mandating this transparency on a statewide basis will make agencies more accountable, and that serves both the interests of the public and the law enforcement community."

An investigation in 2021 by The Badger Project found that nearly 200 current officers in Wisconsin had been fired or forced out from previous jobs in law enforcement. Many were simply young officers in their first jobs who failed to pass their new hire probationary period, when the bar to fire them is very low. Some rehired officers had lost jobs for more serious conduct, like public drunkenness and sexual harassment.

The new police transparency law came out of the Assembly Speaker's Task Force on Racial Disparities, formed after a Minneapolis police officer's murder of George Floyd and the resulting unrest. Assembly Majority Leader Jim Steineke (R-Kaukauna), who is white, and state Rep. Sheila Stubbs (D-Madison), who is Black, co-chaired the task force.

Steineke was "not available to comment," spokesman Mitch Goettl said in an email. A member of the Assembly since 2011, he recently announced he will not seek reelection this year.

Stubbs also did not respond to questions about the bill.

Steineke called leading the com-

mittee a "political loser" in an email captured last year in a records request by Up North News, a left-leaning news organization, noting in the email and a subsequent interview that some would be upset no matter what the committee did.

He also stressed in the email the importance of finding areas of bipartisan agreement, while writing that accomplishments would show how Evers "could get things done if his (administration) weren't so damn political."

"This isn't a role I relish, but think it's the right thing to do right now," he wrote in the email.

Last summer, the governor signed several bipartisan bills that came out of the racial disparities task force. The bills banned chokeholds by police, required law enforcement agencies make their use of force policies publicly available, created statewide standards for when an officer may use deadly force, mandated officers to intervene when other officers use illegal force and created whistleblower protections for officers who report misconduct.

State Democrats, a legislative minority since Republicans were able to draw political districts in 2011, cannot pass any legislation without GOP approval.

Flood awareness week prompts safety tips

The official start of spring in a couple of weeks also marks a return to flood season across the state.

To encourage everyone in the state to be prepared, Gov. Tony Evers has declared Feb. 28 to March 4 Flood Safety Awareness Week in Wisconsin. Shawano County is encouraging people to take the week to assess their flood risk and learn how to protect themselves before, during and after a flood.

Flooding is a topic that should be taken very seriously in the area, especially with Shawano Lake and the Wolf River running through the county, according to Lt. Chris Madle, the county's emergency management director.

Each year, flooding also causes millions of dollars in damage to homes, businesses and public in-

frastructure throughout Wisconsin, Madle said. Many of those losses are not covered by basic insurance policies either, often requiring special coverage through the National Flood Insurance Program or through a private company.

While it's not always possible to stop the waters from rising, it's important to know flood risk. Homeowners can assess the potential for flooding on their property if they live in a flood plain or near a body of water, or have a basement. They should plan with the family for what they will do if the floodwaters begin to rise.

Madle also recommends building a go-kit, which should include items such as food, water, cash, medications and copies of important documents (passports and birth cer-

tificates, medical records, insurance policies and financial documents).

People can keep water out of their house, according to Madle, by cleaning gutters regularly, directing downspouts away from foundations, repairing cracks in foundations, improving grading so water flows away from the house and covering window wells.

Madle also urges homeowners to investigate flood insurance. Standard insurance policies generally do not cover flooding. Most flood coverage requires 30 days to take effect. Find information at <https://www.floodsmart.gov>.

Residents should stay up to date on the forecast and identify multiple ways to receive alerts about dangerous weather conditions and potential flooding, such as a NOAA Weather

Radio, trusted local news outlets and mobile weather apps.

People should never drive or walk through flooded areas, according to Madle. Just six inches of fast-moving water can sweep adults off their feet, while 12 inches can carry away a small car. Be especially careful while driving at night. Driving through floodwaters puts lives at risk — more than half of flood fatalities are vehicle related. Flooding killed one person in Wisconsin in 2020.

People should stay out of floodwaters, which can contain bacteria from human and animal waste, sharp objects, hazardous chemicals, downed power lines and other dangerous items.

If a home floods, residents should follow cleaning and disinfection guidelines to avoid mold growth.

CLUB NOTES



Luana McNurlen, left, and Jon Shallow, right, welcome Donna Leigh into the Lena Lions Club.

CONTRIBUTED

Lena Lions

Donna Leigh was welcomed as a new member of the Lena Lions Club at their February meeting. Luana McNurlen, Donna's sister, sponsored her.

The award was presented by Vice President Jon Shallow.

Donna was born and raised in the Lena area and graduated from Lena High School. Donna works with behavioral health patients at Oconto County Health and Human Services. She has been with the health services for 22 years. Donna recently earned her certification through the state of Wisconsin as a medical assistant.

Donna is looking forward to working with her sisters, Luana Leigh and Mary Jo Heise, along with the other club members on the many activities and projects the Lena Lions are involved in.

Oconto Falls Lions Club

A dozen roses or a spring bouquet can be had for \$20 from any member of the Oconto Falls Lions Club during the 2022 Spring Flower Sale, through March 16.

The delivery date is 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 1. Flowers may be picked up at the Oconto Falls Area Community Center, 512 Caldwell Ave., or the club offers a delivery option in Oconto Falls and the surrounding area.

For more information, call Tom Clark at 920-846-3032.



Dance team has 3 state qualifiers

Oconto Falls High School Varsity Dance Team members, from left, Alexandra Brown, Gabby Konop and McKenzie Jackson were recognized as all-state qualifiers during the Oconto Falls School Board meeting on Feb. 14. This is the sixth consecutive year that Oconto Falls High School has been represented at state for the varsity dance team program.

CONTRIBUTED

MARRIAGES

Ryan Timothy Dooley, Pulaski, and Jenna Rose Beyer, Lena.

Shane Nicholas Hescher and Morgan Elaine Hervas, Oconto.

Linus supply of blankets swells from volunteers

New group of blanketeers looking for agencies who have need of more than 50 coverings

By LYNN ZAFFRANN
Correspondent

Thirteen volunteers, known as blanketeers, got together locally to create and collect 51 handmade blankets to give to children who are ill, traumatized or in need of the reassurance provided by the hug of a comfortable blanket.

They are now spreading the word that the blankets are available to donate through the Project Linus program.

Project Linus is an organization dedicated to donating new, handmade blankets to children in need. Make a Blanket Day, the first one sponsored by the Oconto and Marinette counties chapter of Project Linus, was held in Oconto Falls on Feb. 19.

Lynette Konitzer, of Oconto Falls, worked toward holding a Make a Blanket Day since forming the chapter in October 2021. She is the chapter's coordinator and would like to hold the event two or three times per year.

An enthusiastic quilter herself, Konitzer arranged sponsors for Make a Blanket Day. Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in Oconto Falls provided classroom space and the use of a long-arm quilting machine. The Marinette Walmart donated a community grant, which was used to purchase supplies for the blankets.

Konitzer was involved in the Brown County chapter before launching the Oconto and Marinette counties group.

"I've been a quilt instructor at NWTC in Green Bay for five years," she said, "and I was part of the Brown County Project Linus chapter for about two years."

When forming the Oconto and Marinette chapter, she reached out to her quilting friends. She said that "quilters love to get together and sew all day." Blanketeers at the first Make a Blanket Day included volunteers who crochet, knit and create fleece tie blankets, in addition to quilters. Of the 13 volunteers on Feb. 19, five were women who created fleece blankets.

Completed blankets went through quality control by Konitzer, who added a special Project Linus label to each one. She keeps them at her house and personally delivers them to agencies.

"The Marinette foster system took some," she said. "We need more places to accept the blankets we have on hand now."

Konitzer is looking for new places



Kathy Delvaux, Roxanne Mueller, Sharon Starks, Barb Hoeft, Carol Vincent and Karen Haag are busily making blankets at Make a Blanket Day for Project Linus. It was the chapter's first event. CONTRIBUTED

to donate the blankets made by her chapter. Medical facilities, shelters, foster care programs and agencies that help children are eligible for the donations. Konitzer may be reached at 920-671-4197 or lynettekonitzer@gmail.com.

"I really want to get the word out about the blankets that we have to donate," Konitzer said.

Project Linus was created in 1995 in Denver and is currently headquartered in Belton, Missouri. With chapters in all 50 states, Project Linus creates and collects blankets to donate locally to children in hospitals, shelters, social service agencies or anywhere a child may be in need of a blanket's hug.

The impetus to create Project Linus came after speaker-author Karen Loucks Rinedollar read an article about a seriously ill 3-year-old cancer patient who was comforted by her special "blankie." Loucks Rinedollar decided to provide new handmade blankets to Denver's Rocky Mountain Children's Cancer Center, creating

Project Linus. Linus, the blanket-carrying character in the Charles Schulz "Peanuts" comics, inspired the organization's name.

Following the national organization, the Oconto and Marinette counties chapter's mission is to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized or in need of new blankets created by volunteer blanketeers. Additionally, the mission is to provide a rewarding and fun service opportunity for individuals and groups for the benefit of children.

Nationwide, there is an estimated 80,000 blanketeers volunteering in local chapters, such as the Oconto and Marinette counties chapter, who are providing a positive impact on the lives of children in need. Information about the national Project Linus organization, including how to create a local chapter, can be found at www.projectlinus.org. Access to the application to form a chapter is on the website.



Laura Davister uses Northeast Wisconsin Technical College's longarm quilting machine at Make a Blanket Day on Feb. 19. At the event, Project Linus volunteers, called blanketeers, created and collected 51 blankets to give to children who are ill, traumatized or otherwise in need of some TLC. CONTRIBUTED

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COLLEGE NOTES

Northcentral Technical College

Northcentral Technical College is pleased to announce the president's list for outstanding academic achievement for the fall 2021 term. The following students enrolled in a post-secondary program earned a 3.75 grade-point average or above and successfully completed a minimum of six credits:

- Aniwa: Kevin Bessert, Esther Manteufel
- Birnamwood: Rory Clark, Kalvin

Fischer, Macey Fischer, Benjamin Gilkenson, Magen Malueg, Richard Olson, Cheyann Schairer, Wyatt Schoepke, Abigail Shetter, Morgan Treu, Faith Wachendorf

- Caroline: Anna Kersten
- Eland: Noah Buss, Jackson Graff, Austin Hitz, Rachele Wamboldt
- Marion: Blaine Prickette
- Mattoon: Brian Horrell, Matthew Pecha
- Shawano: Jeanette Flucke, Rachel Koeppen, Jocelyn Miller
- Suring: Courtney Balthazor

- Tigerton: Nick Schultz
- Wittenberg: Liliana Doak, Evelyn Kizewski, Julie Pranke, Mary Stoinski

University of Dubuque

Riley Engebretsen, of Gillett, has been named to the fall semester 2021 academic dean's list for the University of Dubuque.

To be named to the dean's list, a student must earn a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher for that semester.

UW-Madison

Just over 1,800 students received degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison during a commencement ceremony at the Kohl Center on Dec. 19, 2021.

Local degree recipients include the following:

- Eland: Michael Nelson, Bachelor of Science, biomedical engineering, graduated with highest distinction
- Abrams: Michael VerVelde, Bachelor of Science, civil engineering
- Sobieski: Erica Peters, Bachelor of Science, chemical engineering

Applications for Buy Local grants being accepted

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is accepting applications for 2022 Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin (BLBW) grants through April 2.

DATCP will award a total of up to \$300,000 in BLBW grant funding in 2022.

BLBW is a competitive grant program designed to strengthen Wisconsin's agriculture and food industries by helping farms and businesses more efficiently process, market and distribute locally grown food products. BLBW grants provide consumers with access to more Wisconsin-grown food products — including organic vegetables, hops varieties, hazelnut products, locally grown grain and other value-added products.

Qualified applicants include individuals, groups or businesses involved in Wisconsin production agriculture, food processing, food distribution, food warehousing, retail food establishments or agricultural tourism

operations. Projects may include collaborations or partnerships.

Projects can receive grant funds for up to three years. Grant requests must be between \$5,000 and \$50,000. Eligible project expenses include compensation for personnel, consultant services, materials and supplies. Projects must show a one-to-one match of cash or in-kind support accounting for at least 50% of the total project budget.

DATCP will use a competitive review process to select the most qualified projects. Selected project contracts and work would begin in June.

Since its inception in 2008, 76 Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin projects have been funded, totaling more than \$2.1 million. Grant information and application materials are available at <https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/BuyLocalBuyWisconsinGrants.aspx>. For information, contact DATCP Grants Specialist Ryan Dunn at ryand.dunn@wisconsin.gov or 608-590-7239.

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OPINION

Referendum call may drown in mixed messages

A presentation to the Shawano School Board on Feb. 21 hinted at the possibility of having a referendum in November to pay for some potentially expensive renovations and expansions to the public schools in Shawano. A consultant for the district said discussions are underway with “stakeholders,” a survey is planned to go out to the community and the board could receive a presentation in late May suggesting which direction to go.

While a referendum is not set in stone yet, it’s been my experience in covering education that when a school district smells the possibility of getting the property owners to foot the bill, they’re more than willing to push the question to voters — many of whom do not own homes and would not be paying more in property taxes. Before this stakeholder task force brings forth anything with the word “referendum,” a lesson in recent history and current events might be in order.

Three years ago, the school district and the city of Shawano came together to plan a new recreation center that would replace the existing facility and serve the needs of both entities, with the school district noting it did not plan well when building SCHS in the 1990s and made its weight room and other athletic facilities too small to use. A survey was sent out, and meetings were held throughout the summer to get input on what the center should entail.

When the time came to suggest



LEE PULASKI

the referendum, property owners came out and said no, nuh uh, nyet. Why? The price tag of up to \$28 million was a factor, but they also said they didn’t feel the district communicates with its constituents about what’s happening in the schools and were not convinced the money would be spent properly.

So the question is whether the district’s become a trustworthy steward in the eyes of the taxpayers since then and could convince a district of well over 10,000 people to agree to pay for bonds worth eight figures to pursue expanded facilities and fix up the ones that are aging. The answer is rather murky.

Let’s start with the pandemic. When schools had to close in 2020, the first time was because of a state edict. However, when the new school year started, Shawano’s public schools went to full virtual learning later in September and stayed there until the second semester, even as neighboring districts only did so for a couple of weeks as necessary. It was only after angry parents read the school board the riot act that it decided to bring students back to schools in-person.

While other districts made a point of telling families when they were

lifting their mandates, Shawano was mum until parents started complaining about the issue, and officials were like, “Oh, the governor’s mandate was overturned, and our requirement was linked to that — gee, didn’t you know?” When parents spoke out during a board meeting, which was still meeting virtually at the time, and one tried to blame Superintendent Randi Anderson personally, the board president pulled the plug on the commenter, saying the board doesn’t listen to personal criticism.

Recent meetings have shown district enrollment is dropping, which means less money for the schools. At the same work session where the hint of a referendum came up, administrators presented a new program that could help middle schoolers. Board member Chuck Dallas expressed concern about the program focusing on college readiness, noting that college is just a dream for many students because “we’re a poor district.” Yet the poor property owners would be asked to pay more taxes through a referendum.

When talk of expanding fine arts and athletic facilities first came up in early 2020, officials talked about using the district’s fund balance — the latest euphemism for a rainy day fund — to pay for most of the work, as the district had saved far more than professional bean counters recommend. That talk is no longer there, replaced by suggestions that property owners fork over

their money once again.

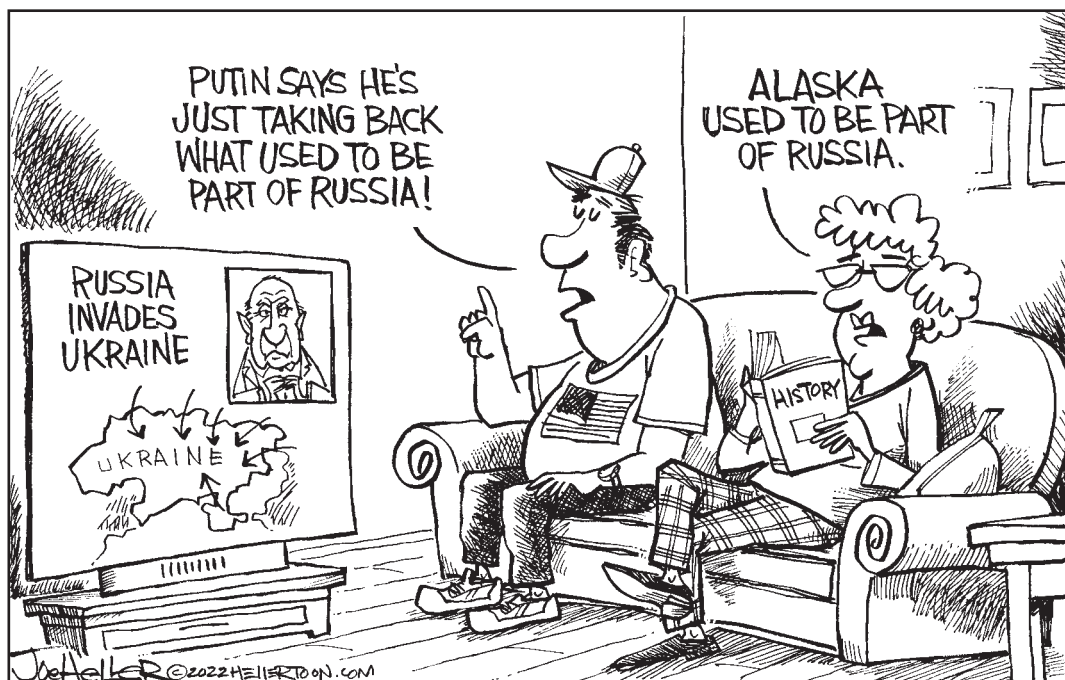
As for communicating with the public, I only need look at my email to see if the district has improved. Sacred Heart Catholic School, a competitor for Shawano students, sends photos of what the school is doing on an almost weekly basis and has regularly invited me to come to the school and cover stories that might interest the community. Bonduel School District Superintendent Joe Dawidziak recently sent me a link to a video on the district’s Facebook page of a kind act from a recent basketball game. Other districts also communicate regularly.

Shawano School District, though? My email shows notices of board and committee meetings but little else. The last time the superintendent extended an olive branch to the newspaper to cover a story was when the Stockbridge-Munsee helped teachers get vaccinated. That was a year ago.

Despite technological advances, many people in the area — especially older ones — still turn to their newspaper or radio station for the news and don’t look at Facebook or other social media. They’re the ones who vote.

If the district decides a referendum is the way to keep its facilities from crumbling and becoming outdated to teach the students of tomorrow, it’s going to have to get on voters’ good side and quit drowning them in a sea of mixed messages.

Lee Pulaski is the city editor for NEW Media. Readers can contact him at lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com.



OPINION PAGE POLICY

The Shawano Leader welcomes letters from its readers and wants to publish as many as possible. Letters should be no longer than 400 words and must be typed.

The editor reserves the right to edit letters for accuracy, brevity and clarity. Please avoid personal attacks. Only one letter per writer will be published in a 14-day period, and letters from new writers will be considered first over more frequent participants.

Longer pieces of up to 800 words will be considered for guest columns. All columns require a head shot of the author.

All opinion pieces must be signed by the author, and an address and telephone number must be included for verification. No anonymous opinion pieces will be published under any circumstances.

Thank you letters will be considered for publication on community pages in the paper. The 400-word limit applies to thank you letters, as well.

The best and most expedient way to send letters is by email to editor@newmedia-wi.com. Put “letter to the editor” in the subject line and send the text in the body of the email.

Letters can also be sent by mail or delivered in person to 1464 E. Green Bay St., Shawano.

Oconto Falls hospital makes Top 100 list

HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital in Oconto Falls has been recognized as a 2022 Top 100 Critical Access Hospital in the U.S. by The Chartis Center for Rural Health.

"This recognition as a Top 100 Critical Access Hospital in the country is a testament to the tremendous work and dedication shown by our colleagues, medical providers and leaders at HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital every day," said Chris Brabant, hospital CEO. "We take great pride in the care and service we provide to our patients, and the peace of mind we provide to our rural communities in making high-quality health care accessible and close to home."

To compile the list of the Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals by state, The Chartis Group used the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance Index, which assesses hospital performance in areas such as quality, outcomes, patient perspective, cost and financial efficiency.

"Despite unprecedented adversity, rural providers continue to display resiliency and a steadfast commitment to their communities," said Michael Topchik, national leader of the center. "Honoring the Top 100 is one of the high points of our year. We are delighted to recognize the exceptional performance and innovation of this year's recipients, particularly in light of the extraordinary challenges facing



The honor for HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital in Oconto Falls is a testament to the staff's hard work and dedication, its CEO says. CONTRIBUTED

America's rural health safety net."

Founded as Oconto Falls City Hospital in 1921, HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital is a federally designated critical access hospital offering 24-hour

emergency care, urgent care and a variety of other services to northern Wisconsin communities.

Oconto County public health revives car seat program

As a result of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, many health departments — including Oconto County Public Health — had to put nearly all of their programs on hold.

One of those was the car seat program, but OCPH is once again

accepting car seat appointments.

"We are pleased to announce that we are starting our car seat program back up," said Debra Konitzer, Oconto County health officer. "We recognize that this is a valuable program, and we look forward to meeting with families

to make sure that their children are riding safely."

Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians with OCPH will meet with families by appointment only to provide education, answer questions and assist with car seat installation. Car seats are available

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Freshman: Emerich Skarban, Addison Santee, Evan Rennie, Evan Yuma, Jessica Wolford, Ashlyn Vandermoss, Ava Hodkiewicz, Benjamin Adams, Brooke Hodkiewicz, Easton Engel, Erin Jahnke, Hailey Delzer, Isaac Bramer, Jack Adler, Orion Posusta, Amber Otto, Griffin Kopke, Kylee Peterson, Kolten Krueger, Aiden Adema, Aiden Reed, Cole Bozile, Miranda Metzler, Kara Philhower, Grayson Cahak, Hunter Ingram, Logan Heimerl, Olivia Wagner, Madeline Maloney, Addison Borst, Brielle Behling, Mason Cole, Luke Gilbertson, Danica Mommaerts, Emerson Rice, McKenzie Miller, Nicholas Trepanier, Zaira Martinez, Conner Wilquet, Hannah Cournoyer, Hunter Bozile, Chase Cariveau, Jadyen Weslow, Amya Holstrom, Diego Gonzalez, Isabelle Blazek, Jacob Sconzert, Jeremy Earley, Santana Stimac

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Juniors: Anne Gottheardt, Christopher Freeman, Madeline Devillers, Riley Stapleton, Aria Slade, Meadow Hahn, Carter Hill, Conner Pliss, Morgan Miller, Caden Birr, Kody Vorpahl, Ryan Kaminecki, Sage Buhrandt, Quinn Eisch, Anthony Leurquin, Grace Ferrecki, Antonio Impastato, Caleb Clark, Kali Harvat, Allissa Stanek, Ethan Rennie, Trevor Metzler, Alexander Roberts, Britney Anderson, Devon Dorn, Lily Kurek, Logan Kramer, Luke Trepanier, Ella Saari, Fernanda Gonzalez, Lexia Nelson, Justin Hooker, Brookelyn Zadow, Morgan Kluth, Brooke

Senn, Miranda Milquette, Mitchell Kallies, Savannah Long, Sydney Bell

Sophomores: Bailee Gorman, Emily Rohde, McKenna Duncan, Alex Egan, Amber Allen, Olivia Hutchinson, Connor Coffey, Josephine Mills, Allie Kelter, Evelyn Justice, Kennedy Angus, Grace Aprill, Antonia Kitzman, Kady Harvat, Jackson McDonald, Jesslyn Rose, Jayce Greetan, Jordan Angus, Mya Magnin, Owen O'Harrow, Bryce Schefdore

Freshman: Hailyn St. Louis, Wyatt Laughrin, Jacob Cole, Kady Riel, Maci Tucker, Neela Cherry, Abigail Budz, Arianna Impastato, Autumn Gable, Sawyer Steeno, Haley Huber, Jason Mendez, Jayden Dobizl, Parker Peterson, Thor Paneitz, Sullivan O'Harrow, Akiane Athey, Henry Devillers, Nora Strock, Alexander Milquette, Ava Salscheider, Arline Klimpke, Destiny Vandevoort, Jesse Kasal, Mary Schindler, Trent Blazek, Elijah Moody

SURING HIGH SCHOOL

Second quarter

HIGHEST HONORS

Seniors: Gage Fuchs, Aliyah Madison, Katherine Mahoney

Juniors: MacKenzie Bailey

Sophomores: Hailey VanRens

Freshmen: Contessa Losurdo

HIGH HONORS

Seniors: Emma Anderson, Gavin Fredenburgh, Macyn Garrigan, Taron Haak, Veronica Napier, Lindsey Peterson, Chantelle Van Den Elzen, Madison Vandevelde, Harlee Wolf,

Juniors: Moriah Baldwin, McKenzie Chesterfield, Caleb DeKeyser, Ashtyn Edwards, River Flynn, Jacob Granados, Olivia Noack, Macie Reed, Trinity Remic, Christine Sleeter, Emilee Tachick, Hailey Thomson

Sophomores: Hailey Allender-Pautz, Birdee Cramer, Braden Denowski, Autumn Dryja, Georgia Gerndt, Claire Pommerich, Samantha Seibert, Bailey Stuart, Lillie Taylor, Trent Thomson, Carter Whisman

Freshmen: Bunny Cramer, Autumn DeGrave, Morgan Dryja

HONORS

Seniors: Alexander Baldwin, Abbie Ermis, Kierstan Ermis, Elijah Harris, Jeremy Hensel, Caden McClure

Juniors: Mason Ferrell, Maxwell Fisher-Yancy, Lily Hakes, Ethan Lally, Keegan Rattin, Charles Winkler

Sophomores: Gracelyn Fuchs, Hailey Huguet, Alyssa Schowalter, Seth Scrivens, Quinn Thomson, Trent Van Den Elzen, Parker Zahn

Freshmen: Macy Burrack, Riley Denowski, Kaleb Kempka, Emma Kristof, Morgan Laabs, Allison Napier, Emily Peterson, Kendra Rattin, Chase Schindel, MaShya Seefeldt, Braxtyn Wirth

LENA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Second quarter

HIGHEST HONORS

Eighth grade: Cooper Demmith, Erik Kosch, Samuel Peterson, Sophia Pirlot

Seventh grade: Riley Kipp, Lucas Koslowsky, Adrena Rabas, Jordyn Thomson, Rachel Upton

Sixth grade: Sophia Lipp, Reid Sellen

HIGH HONORS

Eighth grade: Blake Behnke, Kyrianna Bergevain, Haileigh Boomsma, Dominic Pagels, Max Peterson

Seventh grade: Kaitlyn Borkovec, Laila Collar, Alexzandria Kanack, Abigail Kostreva, Gianna Mazon, Tyler Miske, Ruger Potter, Serena Sellen, Collin Van Ark

Sixth grade: Alia Comins, Brayden Graef, Ella Graef, Hayden McNurlen, Isaac Peterson, Macy Rakow

HONORS

Eighth grade: Kaelynn Cook, Ashley Hoffman, Colt Miller, Kyleigh Spice, Zander Thomson

Seventh grade: Tanner Behnke, Dash Comins, Bryce Schneider

Sixth grade: Halle Behnke, Parker Boomsma, Levi Croley, Madysin Gannigan, Chase Kanack, Olivia Leppala, Clay Peters, Jacob Sellen, Riley Windus



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Schwartz retires after 36 years in banking

Bob Schwartz, loan officer at The Stephenson National Bank & Trust (SNBT), has announced his retirement on Feb. 22 after more than 36 years of service.

Schwartz started his banking career in 1986 and joined SNBT in 2010. He received his Bachelor of Science from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and continued to further his financial education by attending the Wisconsin Bankers Association Mortgage & Consumer Lending School and has taken various banking and insurance courses at NWTC.

"Bob's dedication and hard work has been a blessing to all of us at SNBT for over a decade. Throughout his career, he has helped many people buy homes and vehicles, improve their credit, and understand their entire



BOB SCHWARTZ

banking picture," said Daniel J. Peterson, SNBT president and CEO. "We thank Bob for his outstanding service and wish him the best in retirement."

Schwartz is also an active member of his community. In 2020 he was presented with the 2020 Mary L. Staudenmaier WINGS (Worthy Individual Noted for Generous Service) Award, named in honor of SNBT's former chairman and longtime president. The award epitomizes Schwartz's steady participation in public service for the community.

He has been an Oconto Lions member for 27 years, serving three terms as president and several years as treasurer, an Oconto Elks member for 21 years, serving as Loyal Knight and presently as Leading Knight,

Oconto Knights of Columbus Third Degree member for over 20 years, Oconto Chamber of Commerce Board member for the last eight years, and Oconto Micro Loan Committee member for the last four years.

Orthopedics and Sports Medicine BayCare Clinic expands to Pulaski

Alyssa Thomas, a physician assistant with Orthopedics and Sports Medicine BayCare Clinic, has begun seeing patients at Aurora Health Center in Pulaski.

She treats a wide range of orthopedic conditions and specializes in sports medicine.

Thomas is certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. She earned her degree from Midwestern University in Downers Grove, Illinois.

The opportunity to practice sports medicine in Pulaski is a homecoming of sorts for Thomas. She was born and raised in Pulaski and was a mul-



ALYSSA THOMAS

ti-sport athlete while in high school. She's married to another Pulaski native, and they've made their home there.

Aurora Health Center in Pulaski is located at 980 S. St. August-

tine St., on the village's south side. Thomas also sees patients in Green Bay and Oconto. For information, call 920-288-5555 or 877-884-8796 or visit baycare.net/ortho.

NEW Credit Union schedules annual meeting

Members of NEW Credit Union will be holding their 60th annual membership meeting March 26 at Romy's Holiday Inn, 9600 County Road G, Kelly Lake. Social hour starts at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. with the membership meeting and entertainment to follow.

"Celebrating a Rock-Solid Foundation of People Helping People" is the theme for this year's meeting. The diamond jubilee celebration looks back at NEW Credit Union's history. Entertainment for the evening will be

comedian John DeBoer, and there will also be a bucket raffle benefiting Children's Hospitals of Wisconsin.

Election results for the volunteer board of directors will be revealed, and the 2022 recipient of the Harold P. Heckendorf Community Service Award will also be announced. Dinner tickets, \$20 each, can be purchased at any of NEW Credit Union's office locations: 301 Jackson St., Oconto Falls; 405 Pecor St., Oconto; 717 E. Main St., Suring; and 870 Frontage Road, Peshtigo. For information, call Laura at 920-846-4112.

NOTICE TO DOG OWNERS

Pursuant to Section 174.052, Wisconsin Statutes, rabies vaccinations and dog licenses are required for all dogs who are 5 months of age or older.

Vaccinations against rabies are required per Section 95.21(2), Wisconsin Statutes, within 30 days after the dog reaches 5 months of age and shall be repeated within one year after the initial vaccination. In addition, dogs shall be revaccinated when their rabies certificate expires. A certificate documenting that the dog's rabies vaccinations are current shall be presented to the treasurer when obtaining an annual dog license.

The owner of a dog more than 5 months of age on January 1 or within the licensing year shall obtain an annual dog license. Any person who keeps more than one dog shall contact their municipal treasurer regarding the availability of a multiple dog license.

2022 Dog Licensing tags shall be obtained by April 1, 2022 from your Municipal Treasurer.

Licensing fees may vary by municipality. Late fees are assessed after April 1, 2022.

T-Abrams 920-826-5511	T-How 920-842-4584	T-Mountain 715-276-6474	T-Townsend 715-850-1216
T-Bagley 920-842-4619	T-Lakewood 715-276-3579	T-Oconto 920-373-6270	T-Underhill 920-855-6556
T-Brazeau 920-897-3855	T-Lena 920-829-5467	T-Oconto Falls 920-848-3825	V-Lena 920-829-5226
T-Breed 920-842-2991	T-Little River 920-829-6316	T-Pensaukee 920-826-2010	V-Suring 920-842-2333
T-Chase 920-373-8308	T-Little Suamico 920-826-7655	T-Riverview 715-276-9478	C-Gillett 920-855-2255
T-Doty 715-276-7554	T-Maple Valley 920-373-2077	T-Spruce 920-246-0974	C-Oconto 920-834-7711
T-Gillett 715-850-1413	T-Morgan 920-373-5600	T-Stiles 920-373-3468	C-Oconto Falls 920-846-4505

BY: Kim Pytleski, County Clerk

Published pursuant to Sec. 174.052 Wis. Sta.

Publication Dates: Jan. 5, Mar. 2, 2022

Please return form and money to local Municipal Treasurer:

Neutered Male	Un-Neutered Male	Spayed Female	Un-spayed Female	Kennel	Municipality Fees 2022
\$3.00	\$8.00	\$3.00	\$8.00	\$35.00 + \$3.00 per dog in excess of 12 dogs	Fees for all municipalities in Oconto County
\$3.00	\$25.00	\$3.00	\$25.00		Town of Chase
\$5.00	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$10.00		Town of Townsend, City of Gillett, & City of Oconto Falls

DOG LICENSE APPLICATION-Complete all fields

Name of Owner _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone #: _____

Include a Business-size SASE for tag return by mail

Name of Dog _____ Female _____ Male _____

Breed _____ Spayed _____ Neutered _____

Color _____

Rabies vaccination-Date Given (MM/DD/YYYY) _____

Rabies vaccination-Date Expired (MM/DD/YYYY) _____

Rabies Tag # _____

WNAXLP

Summer LTE Openings

Oconto County is accepting applications for the following Summer Limited Term Employees (LTE) Positions.

• **Forestry and Parks** - Responsible for general maintenance, and day-to-day manual labor tasks to achieve park maintenance, forest cultural practices, and wildlife habitat improvement of the County's forest and parks. Normal hours are 4 (10) hour days between Monday and Friday.

• **Forestry and Parks** -North Bay Shore Park Caretaker- Responsible to perform day-to-day general maintenance and manual labor tasks within the campground. This position will work up to 40 hrs/wk and will include nights, weekends & holidays. A camper is available for use if necessary.

• **Highway Department** - Responsible to perform manual labor of a routine nature in a wide variety of highway maintenance such as mowing grass, acting as flag person, crack filling and patching roads and helping with repairs. Normal hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 hours days with occasional overtime.

• **Land and Water Conservation** - Invasive Species Positions- Responsible to assist in inventory, outreach and education and control of invasive species (mainly European Frogbit). This is a combination of office work doing data entry and field work being in and around water and marshes. Prefer an educational background in Natural Resources.

• **UW-Extension** - Responsible to assist with general office duties in the County Extension office. Experience with Microsoft products required. Additional duties may include assisting with educational programming including 4-H summer camp and the fair. Position will work up to 40 hrs/wk.

Wages range from \$14.00 - to \$16.00 hr. Applicants for any position must be 18 years old and have a valid driver's license. Finalists may be required to undergo a detailed background investigation. Application deadline is April 1st or until the positions are filled. For detailed job descriptions and to apply on-line go to:

https://www.co.oconto.wi.us/career_opportunities.

Questions may be directed to Shelly Schultz-Human Resources Director at 920-834-6810.

Oconto County is an EEO/AA Employer

Bids Requested

Newcap, Inc., 1201 Main St., Oconto, WI
is requesting bids for Energy Star Refrigerators and Freezers
for their contract year:
Contact Lori Noonan for bid specifications
All bids are due by 2:00 p.m. on March 22, 2022
(920) 834-4621 x.1126

WNAXLP

NOTICE OF REFERENDUM GILLET SCHOOL DISTRICT APRIL 5, 2022

Referendum Details

At an election in the School District of Gillett in Oconto & Shawano County, on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, the following question will be submitted to a vote of the people:

Shall the Gillett School District, Oconto and Shawano Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$450,000 per year, beginning with the 2022-2023 school year and ending with the 2024-2025 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of sustaining educational programming, student opportunities, and operations.

YES or NO

A copy of the entire text of the resolution directing the submission of the question can be obtained from the office of the school clerk.

Additional Information

Acceptable Photo ID will be required to vote at this election. If you do not have a photo ID you may obtain a free ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

Done in the City of Gillett, on December 16, 2021
Nanette Mohr, Gillett School District Clerk

WNAXLP

NOTICE OF REFERENDUM ELECTION

NOTICE TO ELECTORS OF Oconto Falls Public School District RELATING TO A REFERENDUM ELECTION

TAKE NOTICE that a referendum election shall be held on April 5, 2022 in the Oconto Falls Public School District for the purpose of approving or rejecting an Initial Resolution adopted by the School Board of said School District on January 10, 2022.

The Initial Resolution reads as follows:

INITIAL RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS
IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED
\$49,900,000

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the Oconto Falls Public School District, Oconto County, Wisconsin, that there shall be issued, pursuant to Chapter 67, Wisconsin Statutes, General Obligation Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$49,900,000 for the purpose of paying the cost of constructing a new middle school; creating a new cafeteria at Oconto Falls Elementary and repurpose space for a cafeteria at Abrams Elementary; improvements to the elementary and high school buildings and grounds including remodeling, renovating, and repurposing space; secure entrances; traffic flow parking lot improvements; addressing deferred maintenance on roofs, lighting, floors, doors, heating/ventilation and other building systems; and equipment acquisition related to said projects.

The question to be submitted to District electors with respect to the Initial Resolution will be "Shall the foregoing resolution of the School Board of the Oconto Falls Public School District be approved?"

Copies of the Resolution directing submission of the question set forth above to the electorate and information concerning district boundaries may be obtained at the District offices located at 200 North Farm Road, Oconto Falls, WI 54154.

Persons with questions regarding the referendum election should contact Dean Hess, Superintendent.

Oconto Falls Public School District

Clint Gardebrecht
District Clerk

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Bakers**

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 lb

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 lb

**Pink Lady
Apples**

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 lb

**Midwest Pride
Pit Ham**

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**Clyde's
Donut Holes**

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 Asst Variety
 7.5-12oz

**Banquet
Pot Pies**

\$1.09
 Asst Variety
 7oz

**Daisy
Cottage Cheese**

\$3.29
 2% or 4%
 24oz

**Nature Valley Crunchy
Granola Bars**

2/\$5
 Asst Variety
 6.7-8.94oz

**General Mills
Assorted Cereal**

2/\$6
 8.9-12oz

Body Armor

4/\$5
 Asst Variety
 28oz

**Pillsbury Milk Chocolate or
Chocolate Fudge Brownie Mix**

\$1.29
 18.4oz

**M&Ms
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 Asst Variety
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**Blue Bunny Mini
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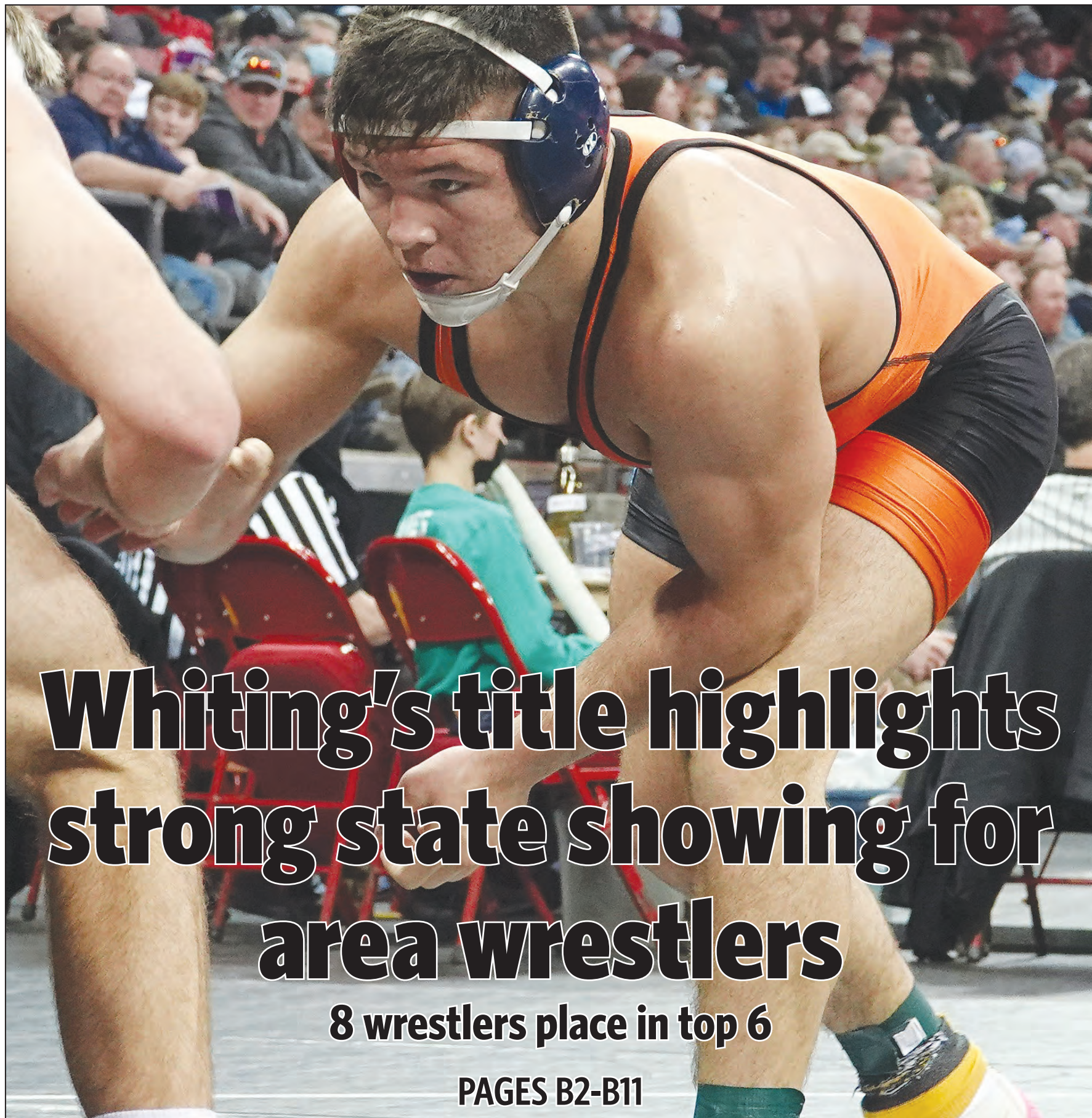


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Whiting's title highlights strong state showing for area wrestlers

8 wrestlers place in top 6

PAGES B2-B11

Oconto Falls' Clayton Whiting wrestles Amery's Grant Cook in a Division 2 182-pound weight class quarterfinal match at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament on Feb. 26 at the Kohl Center in Madison.

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BONDUEL WINS REGIONAL, B12 • 2 TEAMS LOSE REGIONAL TITLES, B13 • 3 ATHLETES SIGN LOI, B14-B15

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Oconto Falls' Whiting wins 4th state title

He finishes with 163-5 career record

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

Oconto Falls senior Clayton Whiting capped a historic high school career with his fourth state title after winning the Division 2 182-pound weight class at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament on Feb. 26 at the Kohl Center in Madison.

Whiting won the first-place match with a 17-5 major decision win over Northwestern's Ian Smith.

The four state titles puts Whiting in elite company, as only 19 other wrestlers had accomplished the feat coming into this year's tournament.

"It means a lot that my work is paying off," said Whiting. "All those years of blood, sweat and tears finally came to reality, and I ended up getting my fourth one tonight."

Whiting was one of three wrestlers to win a fourth state title on championship night. While most of the four-time champions are in the lighter weight classes, Whiting won his titles at 152, 170 and 182 (twice).

Whiting's first title was at 152 pounds, making it the heaviest weight for the first title of the 22 four-time champs. Only four of those four-time champs have a title over 152, and Whiting is the only one to have a title over 160 pounds.

"Just hours and hours of work, day and night, nonstop," said Whiting of what it took to win four titles, adding that mental toughness and positivity were also a big part of his success.

Whiting finished 3-0 at state and 50-1 on the season.

After a bye, he earned a 19-4 technical fall win over Amery's Grant Cook in the quarterfinals. Whiting then pinned Turner's Cal Ries in 3:44 in a semifinal matchup to advance to the title match.

"My aggression was way more toned down," said Whiting of this year's state run. "I didn't want to rush anything, didn't want to make any simple mistakes throughout all my matches."

All 15 points Whiting allowed in the tournament came on escapes,



Oconto Falls' Clayton Whiting, top, wrestles Amery's Grant Cook in a Division 2 182-pound weight class quarterfinal match at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament on Feb. 26 at the Kohl Center in Madison.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

with the Panther wrestler letting his opponents up.

Against Amery's Cook, Whiting had three first-period takedowns to take a 6-2 lead into the second period. Whiting then got a three-point nearfall from the top position before another takedown. In the final period, Whiting escaped from the bottom position before two more takedowns and a three-point nearfall to reach the 15-point threshold for a technical fall win.

In his win over Turner's Ries, Whiting had four takedowns in the first period for an 8-3 lead. He escaped the bottom position to start the second period and got a takedown six seconds later. After three more takedowns, Whiting finished the match off by pin.

Northwestern's Smith made Whiting work hard in the first-place match, but Whiting still made things look easy.

The Oconto Falls standout again led 8-3 after a period after four takedowns. He got two points on a reversal at the start of the second period and then got another two points on a takedown. In the final period of his high school career, Whiting escaped the bottom posi-

tion before tacking on four more points on two takedowns.

After the final whistle sounded, Whiting tossed his headgear to the mat and flexed each bicep before posing amid a loud ovation from the crowd. He then was congratulated by Northwestern coaches before going over to his coaching staff for high-fives and a hug from his dad Shane, who was part of the Panthers' three-person staff on the mat.

Whiting then ran up into the crowd to hug his mom Sarah and interact with his sister Taylor before returning to the court to be interviewed.

Whiting capped his phenomenal career with a 163-5 record. He only lost two matches after his freshman season.

The day before leaving for state, Whiting got word that he was the new No. 1 wrestler in the country in his weight class, according to FloWrestling.

"I'm like, 'Now I really gotta show Wisconsin who the No. 1 kid is really like,'" said Whiting of his reaction to that news.

The University of Missouri commit went 48-3 as a freshman

before a state title at 152 pounds. He finished 48-1 as a sophomore before securing the 170 weight class title. He posted a 17-0 mark during his COVID-19-altered junior season when he claimed his first 182 title.

Whiting will leave high school with four of the school's 18 individual state titles. He joined Jacob Morrissey (3), Riley Delzer (2) and Dewey Krueger (2) as the lone multiple-time champions in Panthers' history.

"I think my legacy is going to stay in there forever, and I think it means a lot to all the wrestlers that are incoming to my high school," Whiting said. "It's going to motivate them that anything is possible, and they can become just like me someday."

While Whiting's career at Oconto Falls has come to a close, his wrestling career as a whole is far from over.

Whiting, who also hopes to compete in the Olympics one day and win gold, will be a part of the Pittsburgh Wrestling Classic on March 25. He is part of Team USA and will wrestle in the team's dual against Team Pennsylvania at 182 pounds.



Oconto Falls' Clayton Whiting, front, hugs his dad Shane after winning his fourth state title during the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament on Feb. 26 at the Kohl Center in Madison.

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Oconto Falls' Clayton Whiting celebrates his fourth state title after winning the Division 2 182-pound weight class first-place match at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament on Feb. 26 at the Kohl Center in Madison.

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HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Pulaski's Gibbons 2nd, Wells 3rd at state

Eggert takes 5th, while Woosencraft, Gille end seasons at state

By **MORGAN RODE**

Sports Editor

Pulaski High School sent five individual wrestlers to the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament, held Feb. 24-26 at the Kohl Center in Madison. Of those, three athletes placed in the top six.

Trenton Gibbons placed second in the Division 1 182-pound weight class, while Mason Wells was third at 220 pounds and Ethan Eggert grabbed fifth at 113 pounds. Brady Gille (138) and Chase Woosencraft (170) dropped both of their state matches.

Gibbons opened the state tournament with two wins by pin on Thursday. He pinned Union Grove's Gianna Scacco in 2:42 and then took down De Pere's Michael Alexander in 5:03.

Gibbons trailed 2-0 against Scacco before pulling off a reversal to tie the match. Gibbons had another reversal in the second period before getting the pin.

The Pulaski junior was down 5-0 to Alexander before an escape in the second period. He trailed 7-1 before taking down Alexander in the third period and pinning him.

Gibbons picked up another thrilling win in the semifinals Friday night, winning 5-4 by ultimate tiebreaker over Waterford's Evan Danowski.

Danowski led 3-1 heading to the third period before Gibbons escaped and earned a point on a penalty to tie things up. After each wrestler escaped during overtime, Gibbons didn't let Danowski escape the bottom position in double overtime to earn the final point and win.

Gibbons then took on West Bend West's Connor Mirasola in the title match Saturday night, but he lost by pin in 28 seconds.

Wells lost just once on his way to third place.

Wells won by injury default over Port Washington's Jacob Peacy in his first match. Wells led 7-2 after the first period after a takedown, two two-point nearfalls and a penalty point.

The Pulaski junior then won a 14-6 major decision over Pewaukee's John Mohr in the quarterfinals.

Wells had two takedowns and a



Pulaski's Trenton Gibbons, top, wrestles Union Grove's Gianna Scacco during a Division 1 182-pound weight class match Feb. 24 at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

three-point nearfall in the first period to lead 7-1. He had two escapes and a takedown to win the second period 4-3. Mohr had a reversal to start the third period, but Wells escaped and took him down to seal his win.

"I stuck with my training and what got me here," said Wells on what he did well at state. "I finished my shots good. I wrestled tough and wrestled through the whistles."

In the semifinals Friday, Wells lost a 12-6 decision to Madison La Follette's Jackson Mankowski. It was a tight match going into the final period, but Mankowski got a takedown and three-point nearfall to pull away.

Wells won two tight decisions Saturday to grab third place. He first defeated Holmen's Carson Westcott 10-7 and then edged Brookfield East's Aaron Botsch 7-6 in the third-place match.

Against Westcott, Wells was down 7-6 entering the third period, but he pulled off a reversal and two-point nearfall to win it.

Wells trailed 6-4 in the third-place match but escaped from the bottom position before getting a takedown. Then he held on for the one-point



Pulaski's Mason Wells, bottom, wrestles Brookfield East's Aaron Botsch during the Division 1 220-pound weight class third-place match Feb. 26 at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

decision win.

"It's great; it feels amazing," Wells said of his third-place finish. "But I lost in the semis, and it's my goal next year to get past that."

To win a title next year, "I just got to keep training in the offseason and putting in the work and listen to my coaches and trust what they tell me," Wells said.

Eggert had a busy three days at state, posting a 4-2 record to take fifth.

His state run began with a 7-2 win over Holmen's Turner Campbell.

Eggert led 4-0 going to the third period after takedowns in the first and second. He upped the lead to 7-0 after getting a penalty point and reversal and eased to the win from there.

The junior then dropped an 8-0 major decision to West Bend West's Ben Bast, which sent him to the consolation bracket Friday.

Eggert opened consolation action with a pin in 3:59 over Mount Horeb/Barneveld's J.J. Poarch. The Red Raider wrestler got the only points in the first period on a takedown and then had an escape and takedown in the second period to take a 5-0 advantage. Poarch took him down in the third, but Eggert pulled a reversal and then got a penalty point to pull away before pinning Poarch.

Eggert then earned an 8-2 decision win over New Richmond's Luke Kamish to guarantee himself a spot on the podium.

Eggert outscored Kamish 5-1 in the second period after escaping and then taking him down twice. Kamish escaped in the third, but Eggert took him down again and added another point on a penalty to come away victorious.



Pulaski's Ethan Eggert, right, tries to pin Milton's Aiden Slama during the Division 1 113-pound weight class fifth-place match, held Feb. 26 at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

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The Pulaski wrestler split his two matches Saturday. He lost a 10-5 decision to Slinger's Noah Tonsor before earning a 5-0 decision win over Milton's Aiden Slama in the fifth-place match.

Against Tonsor, Eggert earned his points on three escapes and a takedown. Eggert had a three-point nearfall and reversal against Slama.

"It means a lot, as I've had the goal

of placing at high school state since I was in grade school," said Eggert, who said he did well on his shots but struggled at times to stay in a good position, which let opponents get to his legs.

"Taking fifth gave me confidence and proved to myself that I am capable of doing big things if I keep working hard."

Gille opened state against

Kaukauna's Greyson Clark, losing a 16-0 technical fall. Clark went on to win the state title.

After Clark advanced, that moved Gille, a senior, to the consolation bracket Friday morning. He dropped a 7-1 decision to Arrowhead's Nate Druckrey, escaping in the third period for his point.

Woosencraft lost a 23-8 technical fall to Milton's Aeoden Sinclair in his first state match. Woosencraft earned all eight points on escapes. Sinclair went on to win the title at 170 pounds.

Woosencraft, a sophomore, then dropped a 6-0 decision to Kasey Gish of West Bend East in a consolation matchup.

"First off, state was an incredible experience," said Woosencraft. "I enjoyed every second of it and love each and every one of our fans; they never gave up on me and always believed in me."

He added that this year's state experience will help him in the final two years of his high school career.

Woosencraft finished the year with a 27-15 record, while Gille was 30-12. Eggert posted a 39-9 mark. Wells earned a strong 36-3 record, while Gibbons went 37-6.

sports@newmedia-wi.com

HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

GIRLS HOCKEY

Xavier co-op 7

Green Bay East co-op 6

The top-seeded Green Bay East co-op, also known as the Bay Area Ice Bears, lost a wild Division 1 sectional title game to the second-seeded Xavier co-op on Feb. 25 at the Mullett Ice Arena in Hartland.

The Green Bay East co-op, which rosters Pulaski players, wraps up the season with a 21-2-1 record.

Green Bay East co-op 3

Univ. School of Milwaukee co-op 1

The top-seeded Green Bay East co-op defeated the fifth-seeded University School of Milwaukee co-op on Feb. 23 in Green Bay.

It was the Green Bay East co-op's first playoff game after it received a bye.

BOYS HOCKEY

Lakeland Union 3

Antigo/Witt-Birn 1

The fourth-seeded Antigo/Wittenberg-Birnamwood co-op was defeated by top-seeded Lakeland Union on Feb. 23 in Minocqua.

Witt-Birn's Owen Dickman scored the first goal of the game for the co-op, but Lakeland Union scored twice in the third period to come away with the win.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Bonduel 68

Menominee Indian 62

Bonduel topped Menominee Indian in a Central Wisconsin Conference-East Division clash on Feb. 24 in Keshena.

Noah Weier hit four 3-pointers and led Bonduel with 20 points. Jon Sell made six shots and six free throws to score 18 points.

Reece Stoltenow chipped in 13 points for the Bears, while Charlie Tauchen had 11 points.

Bryce Dixon scored 16 points to pace Menominee Indian. Isaiah Moss provided 15 points, while Lloyd Reeves had 12 points. Joshua Besaw and Wendell Waukau contributed 10 and nine points, respectively.

Lena 65

Niagara 34

Max Beyer powered Lena to a Marinette & Oconto Conference win over Niagara on Feb. 24 in Lena.

Beyer made 10 3-pointers and scored 39 points to outscore Niagara by himself.

Logan Shallow added 11 points for Lena, while Lane Whiting had eight points.

Tigerton 73

White Lake 65

Tigerton defeated White Lake in a CWC-North clash on Feb. 24 in White Lake.

Ryder Graham led Tigerton with 24 points and 12 rebounds.

Colby Wanta scored 22 points for the Tigers, while Zeke Gripen-trog had 17 points.

Gresham 78

Northland Lutheran 66

Gresham earned a CWC-North road win over Northland Lutheran on Feb. 24 in Kronenwetter.

Lukas Pecore knocked down four 3-pointers and scored 25 points for Gresham. Will Jensen added 15 points, while Belasaire Vele had 13 and Jack Haffner eight.

Vele also dished out 13 assists and grabbed eight rebounds. Haffner had five assists and five boards, while Jensen grabbed six rebounds.

Blade Hoffman was credited with seven rebounds for Gresham.

Witt-Birn 78

Shiocton 64

Wittenberg-Birnamwood took down Shiocton in a CWC-East battle on Feb. 24 in Wittenberg.

Simon Schairer powered Witt-Birn with 26 points, making 12 field goals and two free throws.

Ben Wesolowski and Jack Fraaza each tallied 13 points, while Ben Flak had 10 points.

Ashwaubenon 66

Pulaski 53

Pulaski dropped a Fox River Classic Conference matchup to Ashwaubenon on Feb. 24 in Pulaski.

Derek Shaw made three 3-pointers and scored 16 points for Pulaski.

Brady Wotruba added 14 points for the Red Raiders, while Gatlin Robaidek had seven points.

Shawano 60

Pulaski 55

Shawano outscored Pulaski by six in the second half to claim a nonconference win on Feb. 21 in Shawano.

Michael Metcalf-Grassman scored 29 points to power Shawano to victory. He hit four 3-pointers among his nine field goals, and added seven free throws.

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Witt-Birn's Gauderman places 3rd at state



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's David Gauderman, right, takes down Reedsville's Cole Ebert during a Division 3 220-pound weight class semifinal match on Feb. 25 at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Pierson Potrykus, top, wrestles Stanley-Boyd's Breckin Burzynski during a Division 3 126-pound weight class on Feb. 24 at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

Potrykus ends wrestling career at Madison

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School junior David Gauderman lost just once at state on his way to a third-place finish in the Division 3 220-pound weight class at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament, which ran Feb. 24-26 at the Kohl Center in Madison.

Senior teammate Pierson Potrykus also competed at state, losing his lone match at 126 pounds.

Gauderman had a bye and didn't wrestle his first state match until Friday morning.

He pinned Stratford's Cole Marten in 1:43 to advance. Gauderman took Marten down about 90 seconds into the match before pinning him.

The win moved Gauderman into the semifinals Friday night, where he lost 7-6 to Reedsville's Cole Ebert by ultimate tiebreaker.

Neither wrestler scored in the first period. In the second, Ebert escaped from the bottom position before Gauderman took him down to grab the lead.

Before the period ended, Ebert escaped and took him down before Gauderman escaped.

In the third period, Gauderman pulled off a reversal from the bottom position before Ebert escaped.

Tied at five, each wrestler escaped from the bottom position to send the match to double overtime. Ebert escaped with 11 seconds remaining to claim the match.

"The semifinal match didn't go my way. I just made one mistake early in the match, and it cost me at the end of the match," said Gauderman.

The loss sent Gauderman into the consolation bracket Saturday, where he won twice to grab third place. Gauderman defeated Fennimore's Cameron Winkers 10-3 and then pinned Marten in 1:37 in the third-place match.

Against Winkers, Gauderman took the lead with an escape and takedown in the second period.

Winkers took Gauderman down at the start of the third period before Gauderman escaped and took him down. After Winkers escaped, Gauderman got a late takedown and two-point nearfall to seal up the win.

In the third-place match against Marten, neither wrestler scored in the first period. Marten chose the bottom position for the second period, but Gauderman made him regret that decision by pinning him.

"I can't really say I'm mad at myself for not wrestling good, because this weekend is probably the best I've wrestled all year," said Gauderman.

"It (third place) means a lot. It's nice knowing that basically everybody else is a senior, so I don't have to worry about anybody next year. Obviously, I wish I would have came in first, but I'm glad I came back after the loss in the semifinals and cleaned up a little bit."

After a fourth-place finish at state as a sophomore and now a third-place finish, Gauderman is hoping his final wrestling season ends atop the podium with a state title.

"Just lifting heavy, conditioning, doing everything that's necessary. Just working out every day, not giving myself excuses on the weekends not to go and workout because if you want to be at the top, that's what you got to do," said Gauderman of the work it'll take to win state next winter.

Potrykus' match came Thursday evening against Stanley-Boyd's Breckin Burzynski. Potrykus dropped a 3-1 decision.

Neither wrestler scored in the first period, with the first points coming on a Burzynski escape in the second. Potrykus escaped in the third period.

It looked as if the match would head into overtime, but Burzynski got a takedown with under five seconds to go to steal the match.

"It was definitely great to wrestle there again," said Potrykus. "Wish I could've lasted longer into the tournament, but I'm still glad I got to have my family come for the weekend and have a good time."

Potrykus finished the season with a 44-8 record, while Gauderman was 47-4.

WITT-BIRN BOYS HOOPS



The Wittenberg-Birnamwood boys basketball team held an 8-8 record through Jan. 31. CONTRIBUTED

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood boys basketball teams began its postseason journey this week after a strong regular season. The Chargers earned a 15-9 overall record and were 9-3 in the Central Wisconsin Conference-East Division to

claim second place.

Simon Schairer and Ben Wesolowski were the team's top scorers, with Schairer and Max Fraaza leading the team in rebounding. Wesolowski and Kaden Schmidt led the team in assists.

WITT-BIRN GIRLS HOOPS



The Wittenberg-Birnamwood girls basketball team held a 12-6 record through Jan. 31. CONTRIBUTED

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood girls basketball team recently wrapped up its season after a loss in a Division 4 regional title game. The Chargers earned playoff wins over Montello and Marathon.

Witt-Birn capped the season with a

17-10 record, including a 6-6 mark in the CWC-East to tie for third place.

Reese Rogowski and Kaylee Schram led the team in scoring and rebounding. Rogowski and Jadalynn were tops in assists.

WITT-BIRN WRESTLING



The Wittenberg-Birnamwood wrestling team had 16 dual wins through Jan. 31. CONTRIBUTED

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood wrestling team wrapped up its season with David Gauderman and Pierson Potrykus competing at state. Gauderman took third. The team took second at the CWC

Tournament. Gauderman took first, while Potrykus, Easton Davis, Andres Sanchez, Max Kersten, Nico Pelusi, Owen Schultz, Nathan Waupekenay and Coye Brillowski took second.

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HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING



Bonduel's Tyson Bogacz, right, wrestles Boyceville's Ira Bialzik during a Division 3 160-pound weight class consolation match Feb. 25 during the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

Bogacz claims 6th at D3 160 weight class

Bonduel junior caps year with 43 wins

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

Bonduel High School junior Tyson Bogacz earned a sixth-place finish in the Division 3 160-pound weight class at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament, which ran Feb. 24-26 at the Kohl Center in Madison.

Bogacz finished with a 1-3 record at state and capped the season with a 43-11 record.

"I wish I could've been higher on the podium," said Bogacz. "My sixth-place finish this year just means I have a lot of work to do this offseason. I learned more than enough from this experience.

"This finish tells and shows me there's still work to be done if I want to get to where I want to be by next year."

Bogacz had a bye and didn't have to wrestle the first night of state. He opened his state run against Aquinas' Calvin Hargrove, dropping an 11-7 decision.

Bogacz had the first takedown, but Hargrove got three points on an escape and takedown to lead 3-2 after one period. The Aquinas wrestler then scored five points off a reversal and three-point nearfall to take a commanding 8-2 lead, but Bogacz pulled off a reversal of his own for the final points of the period.

In the final period, Bogacz escaped the bottom position and then got a takedown with about 45 seconds left to cut the deficit to one. After Hargrove escaped, he took down Bogacz with just over 25 seconds

left and hung on for the win.

The loss sent Bogacz into the consolation bracket, where he picked up a 9-2 decision win over Boyceville's Ira Bialzik.

Bogacz had the lone points in the first period on a takedown and then scored five points in the next period on an escape, takedown and two-point nearfall. The junior upped his lead to nine after a takedown in the third period. Bialzik pulled off a reversal with 25 seconds left, but Bogacz didn't surrender any more points the rest of the way to claim the win.

On the final day of the tournament, Bogacz dropped a 9-3 decision to Wabeno/Laona/Three Lakes' Piersson Czaplinski before losing a 6-5 decision to Hargrove in the fifth-place match.

Against Czaplinski, Bogacz trailed 2-0 after a period before

escaping late in the second period. Czaplinski got a takedown with just over 10 seconds left to take a 4-1 lead. In the final period, Czaplinski and Bogacz each had reversals before Czaplinski got three more points on an escape and takedown in the final 15 seconds.

In his second showdown with Hargrove, Bogacz scored the first takedown before the Aquinas wrestler escaped and then took him down with five seconds left in the opening period. Bogacz got the only point in the next period on an escape and then took the lead after a three-point nearfall about 30 seconds into the final period. Seconds later, Hargrove pulled off a reversal and then eventually got two more points on a nearfall with 40 seconds left to emerge victorious.

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Panthers' freshman Bozile makes podium at D2 126 weight class

Pankratz finishes with 1-2 mark

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

Along with Clayton Whiting's state title, Oconto Falls had Graeson Pankratz and Cole Bozile competing at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament, which ran Feb. 24-26 at the Kohl Center in Madison.

Bozile came away with a sixth-place finish in the Division 2 126-pound weight class, while Pankratz fell a win short of making the podium at 120 pounds.

"It's pretty awesome to wrestle my last matches at state," said Pankratz, a senior. "Not many people get to do that."

Bozile's state run began with a 6-2 decision win over Adams-Friendship's Jordan Dolata on Thursday night.

All the scoring came in the final period, with Bozile and then Dolata pulling off reversals. Bozile got another reversal before a two-point nearfall to pull off the win and advance to the quarterfinals.

Bozile faced Neillsville/Greenwood/Loyal's Derek Zschernitz in the quarterfinals and won another 6-2 decision.

Bozile fell behind early on but pulled a reversal to tie the match. In the second period, Bozile started in the top position and never gave it up, adding two points on a nearfall near the end of the period. In the final period, Bozile earned another two points on a reversal to seal up his win.

Bozile squared off with Portage's Chase Beckett in the semifinals Friday night. Beckett won a 10-0 major decision and then went on to win the state title.

The loss sent Bozile to the consolation bracket, where he wrestled two matches Saturday.

Bozile dropped a 7-0 decision to Campbellsport's Ostin Blanchard and then lost a 4-3 decision to Ashland's Austin Defoe in the fifth-place match.

Against Defoe, Bozile trailed the entire match before getting a take-



Oconto Falls' Cole Bozile, top, wrestles Portage's Chase Beckett in a Division 2 126-pound weight class semifinal match Feb. 25 at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

down with just under 10 seconds to wrestle to tie things up. Defoe escaped to claim the win.

"I think I did great — not the outcome I would've liked, but I fought hard," said Bozile of his state tournament. "I think that I could've wrestled better on my feet and getting out on bottom."

The freshman was thrilled to end his year on the state podium and thanked his wrestling partners for helping him get there. He's excited for what's to come in the next three years.

"This finish makes me want to be standing higher on that podium next year," said Bozile. "The state experience was also nothing but the best, and now I know what I have to come in the next three years."

Pankratz began his state tournament Thursday evening against Win-

neconne's Mason Sternard. Pankratz won a 7-0 decision, controlling the match from start to finish.

Pankratz got a takedown about 30 seconds into the match and held that position the rest of the period. In the next period, Pankratz got another takedown. He started in the bottom position in the third and escaped before getting a late takedown to seal his win.

In the quarterfinals Friday, Pankratz was pinned in 4:31 by Neillsville/Greenwood/Loyal's Luke Dux.

Pankratz trailed 6-2 after a period after escaping twice and then escaped twice in the second period, but trailed 10-4. Dux escaped, took down Pankratz and then pinned him in the final period.

It was a similar outcome for Pankratz in a consolation match Friday afternoon against East Troy's Jonah

Edwards, who pinned Pankratz in 4:21.

Pankratz grabbed the lead with an escape and takedown in the second period, but Edwards responded with an escape, takedown and three-point nearfall to surge ahead. He then pulled a reversal before pinning Pankratz in the final period.

Pankratz was pleased with how he wrestled Thursday but said he got caught in some positions and put on his back during his Friday matches. Despite falling short of his expectations, he was happy to end his career on the biggest stage.

"It was cool to experience the tournament one more time, and there's no better place to wrestle my last match," said Pankratz.

Pankratz finished the season with a 37-12 record, while Bozile was 24-9.

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Comins takes 6th at D3 106 weight class



Lena's Dylan Comins, top, wrestles Fennimore's Amryn Nutter during a Division 3 106-pound weight class consolation match Feb. 26 at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

Junior breaks school record for wins in a season

By MORGAN RODE
Sports Editor

Lena High School junior Dylan Comins posted a 2-3 record on his way to a sixth-place finish in the Division 3 106-pound weight class at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament, which ran Feb. 24-26 at the Kohl Center in Madison.

"I accomplished what I wanted to, just to make the podium," said Comins, who finished the season with a 50-10 record, helping him set a new school record for wins in a season.

He expressed disappointment at ending his state experience with

a loss. "I didn't wrestle up to my potential in my last match, but I'm happy with my state run."

Comins opened his state run Thursday night against Cadott's Kaleb Lodahl, winning an 18-1 technical fall.

Comins controlled the match from start to finish. He got the first takedown before a three-point nearfall about a minute into the match. Lodahl escaped shortly after, but Comins got another takedown and three-point takedown before the first period expired.

In the second period, Comins pulled off a reversal from the bottom position before two three-point nearfalls helped him reach the 15-point-plus advantage to call the match by technical fall.

"It was awesome to wrestle in the Kohl Center," said Comins. "The atmosphere of everything is just unexplainable."

In the quarterfinals the following

day, Comins dropped a 13-7 decision to Glenwood City's Wyatt Unser.

Unser had all five first-period points on a takedown and three-point nearfall, before Comins won the second period 4-1. He had two takedowns to one Unser escape.

In the final period, Unser escaped the bottom position before Comins got a takedown to trim his deficit to one. Unser took over the match with the next six points on an escape, takedown and three-point nearfall before Comins got a late escape.

The loss sent Comins into the consolation bracket, where he pinned Auburndale's Derek Godard in 2:01 to guarantee himself a place on the podium.

It was Godard that led 5-0 after a period, but Comins got a takedown halfway through the second period that led to the pin.

Comins wrestled twice on the final day of state. He dropped an 18-2 technical fall to Fennimore's Amryn Nutter

and then lost a 9-3 decision to Unser.

Against Nutter, Comins trailed 2-0 about three minutes into the match before Nutter got a takedown and trio of nearfalls to go up 12-0. Comins had the first takedown of the final period, but Nutter escaped, took down Comins and got a three-point nearfall to end the match.

In Comins' second match against Unser, the Lena junior trailed 7-0 going to the third period. Unser scored the first point of the last period before Comins picked up a point on a penalty before getting a late takedown. He then let Unser escape but couldn't bring him down again.

Comins' state experience the past two years has him planning big things for his final high school season.

"Next year I will be hungrier to get higher on the podium after I got a taste of what it is like to win in Madison," said Comins.

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Shawano's Young and Smits fall short of Division 1 state podium

Young wins pair of matches

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

Shawano Community High School wrestlers Caden Young and Jackson Smits fell short of top-six finishes during the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament, which ran Feb. 24-26 at the Kohl Center in Madison.

Young went 2-2 in the Division 1 170-pound weight class while Smits, a senior, dropped his lone state match at 220 pounds.

"Being my last wrestling season, just like everybody else, I did not want it to end," said Smits. "Making it to the state tournament gave me more time to do what I love with the people that I love. In the end, I am just grateful to have gotten more time."

Young opened his state run Thursday afternoon against New Berlin West/Eisenhower's Jack Gillis, winning a tight 8-6 decision.

Young dominated the first period, taking down Gillis three times before allowing three escapes. Gillis tied the match with an escape and takedown in the next period.

The Shawano junior started the third period in the bottom position, and after drawing a stalling call, picked up the go-ahead point on a penalty. He got his final point on an escape.

The win moved Young into the quarterfinals against Arrowhead's Noah Mulvaney, who topped Young in a 12-6 decision.

Mulvaney got two takedowns to one Young escape in the first period. Mulvaney scored all five points in the next period on an escape, takedown and two-point nearfall to take control. Young continued to battle in the final period, cutting into the deficit with a takedown and two-point nearfall, but a Mulvaney escape and takedown sealed the match.

The loss meant Young moved to the consolation bracket Friday. He began consolation action with a 10-3



Shawano's Caden Young, top, wrestles Union Grove's Travis Moore during a Division 1 170-pound consolation match Feb. 25 at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

decision win over Muskego's Matt Kinzel.

Young controlled the match, going up 5-0 after a takedown and three-point nearfall in the first period and escape in the second. Kinzel escaped in the final period, but Young secured the win with a takedown and two-point nearfall.

Young's season came to a close after a 9-2 decision loss to Union Grove's Travis Moore.

Moore got a takedown in the first period and escape in the second to go up 3-0 before a three-point nearfall in the third period. Young pulled off a reversal, but eventually ran out of time.

"For me, my state tournament as a whole was underwhelming," said

Young. "I feel like I didn't wrestle to the best of my abilities."

Despite falling short of his expectations, Young believes he can build on the experience.

"This is definitely going to help motivate me to reach the top of that podium," said Young, who added he enjoyed the state experience.

Smits' state match came against Holmen's Carson Westcott on Thursday afternoon. Westcott won a 9-4 decision, then lost in the next round, meaning Smits was eliminated from the consolation competition.

Smits fell behind 2-0 before escaping early in the second period. Westcott then got a takedown and three-point nearfall to make it 7-1.

In the final period, Smits got a

takedown and then kept the pressure on, eventually getting a point on a stalling call. The senior eventually ran out of time, with Westcott picking up late points on a penalty and escape.

"My match did not go the way I hoped it would, but I rest easy knowing that I left everything out there on the floor of the Kohl Center," said Smits. "All in all, the state experience is one that I will never forget. I am truly blessed to have had this opportunity to make more memories with my coaches, teammates and family."

Smits finished the season with a 32-9 record, while Young was 28-4.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Bonduel girls win D4 regional title

Gresham, Menominee Indian also earned playoff wins

By **MORGAN RODE** and **LUKE REIMER**
NEW Media

The high school girls basketball postseason got underway last week with regional play.

Bonduel won two games to claim a Division 4 regional title, while Gresham and Menominee Indian also picked up playoff wins before being eliminated.

Bonduel

Third-seeded Bonduel opened the playoffs with a 46-44 overtime win over sixth-seeded Crandon in a regional semifinal battle on Feb. 25 in Bonduel. The Bears then routed seventh-seeded Shiocton 83-46 in the regional title game Feb. 26 in Bonduel.

In the title game, Allaina Robaidek scored 25 points to power Bonduel. Hailey Zernicke had a double-double with 14 points and 11 rebounds.

Brenna Hertzfeldt finished with nine rebounds and eight points for the Bears. Kylie Hoffman dished out six assists, and Ella Hischke had five assists.

In the team's win over Crandon, Robaidek led the way again.

Robaidek scored four of the Bears' five points in overtime on four free throws. In total, Robaidek recorded 14 points, while Zernicke added another 10 points.

Crandon is a team that had been a thorn in the side for Bonduel. The Bears had been eliminated by Crandon in three out of the last four playoffs. Earlier in the season, Robaidek hit a game winning 3-pointer to beat Crandon.

"In my freshman and sophomore seasons, they (Crandon) actually knocked us out of the playoffs," said Robaidek. "I was going to die before I let that happen again."

Not much scoring came in overtime as Bonduel outscored Crandon 5-3 in the extra period. One of the biggest plays in the game came when Audrey Weier rebounded a missed Hischke free throw with under 10 seconds left in overtime. After another made free throw from the Bears, Crandon's desperation 3-point attempt missed, giving



Bonduel's Hailee Thompson runs the fast break, looking for an open teammate during the team's Division 4 playoff win over Crandon on Feb. 25 in Bonduel.
LUKE REIMER | NEW MEDIA

Bonduel a two-point win.

"My emotions were everywhere tonight," said Robaidek. "I had to keep a cool composure though, as my teammates were looking to me for that."

The game was close early, with the Bears leading 12-10. That's when Bonduel head coach Jerry Reinke made the decision to play a 2-3 zone defense. The Bears excelled in the zone, as the Cardinals only scored five points in the last nine minutes of the first half. Bonduel led 18-15 going into the break.

"Late in the season, we have been getting better at our zone defense," said Robaidek. "We just had our hands up and were active. We knew that we could not sit back and let it come to us; we had to go."

The defense from the Bears was dominant again to open the second half, as they opened the half on a 10-0 run. The Cardinals then started to get hot from the field. Crandon went on a 18-10 run, to bring the game to 38-33 with 3:18 left in the game. A couple of made 3-point shots, combined with a couple of Bonduel turnovers, gave the Cardinals a 41-40 lead with under a

minute to play.

Much like the overtime period, Bonduel added a free throw from Robaidek and Crandon's 3-point attempt at the buzzer was off the mark.

Bonduel will continue its postseason push against top-seeded St. Mary Catholic in a sectional semifinal matchup March 3 in Crivitz.

Gresham

In Division 5, sixth-seeded Gresham defeated 11th-seeded Northland Lutheran 67-45 on Feb. 23 in Gresham before falling just short in a 66-60 loss to third-seeded Edgar on Feb. 25 in Edgar.

Against Edgar, Hannah Cerveney led Gresham with 23 points, while Maddie Haffner added 15 points. Cerveney hit four 3-pointers, while Haffner made three.

Valarie Cerveney chipped in eight points for the Wildcats.

Valarie Cerveney and Hannah Cerveney powered Gresham against Northland Lutheran, scoring 22 and 18 points, respectively.

Jessa Jensen and Haffner added seven points each for Gresham, while

Chloe Bohl had six.

Menominee Indian

In Division 3, seventh-seeded Menominee Indian earned a home playoff win before being eliminated.

The Eagles rolled to a 67-28 win over 10th-seeded Tomahawk on Feb. 23 in Keshena before falling 65-55 to second-seeded Amherst on Feb. 25 in Amherst.

Shawano

Up in Division 2, Shawano was topped in its first playoff game.

The fifth-seeded Hawks lost 51-34 to fourth-seeded New London on Feb. 25 in New London. Shawano had a bye to open the postseason.

Marion

Marion was the only local team that moved its playoff game up a day because of the impending inclement weather.

The 16th-seeded Mustangs lost 67-6 to top-seeded Assumption in a Division 5 regional quarterfinal matchup Feb. 22 in Wisconsin Rapids.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Gillett girls eliminated after regional title loss

Oconto Falls, Lena, Suring also earned playoff wins

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The Oconto Falls, Gillett, Lena, Suring and Pulaski girls basketball teams all took part in regional playoff games last week.

Gillett advanced to the regional title game before being eliminated, while Oconto Falls, Lena and Suring all earned a playoff win.

Gillett

Playing in Division 5, fourth-seeded Gillett earned home playoff wins over 13th-seeded White Lake (64-10 on Feb. 23) and fifth-seeded Florence (47-44 on Feb. 25) before coming up short in a 35-29 loss to top-seeded Wabeno/Laona on Feb. 26 in Laona.

It was a balanced attack that led Gillett past White Lake. Carleigh Kaczmarek and Halle Fisher each scored 11 points for the Tigers, while Laney DeBauch and Alaina Herzog had eight each. A total of nine Gillett players scored.

In the win over Florence, only four

Gillett players scored. Kaczmarek led the team with 19 points, while Macy Franti had 13 and Herzog 10. Naomi Anker had the other five points.

Kaczmarek scored 14 of Gillett's points in the regional title loss to Wabeno/Laona. Herzog chipped in eight points.

Oconto Falls

Up in Division 3, Oconto Falls cruised to a 52-24 win over 11th-seeded Little Chute on Feb. 23 in Oconto Falls before being eliminated in a 72-52 loss to third-seeded Xavier on Feb. 25 in Appleton.

Hailey Peitersen had a huge game to lead the Panthers past Little Chute. Peitersen nearly outscored Little Chute all on her own after tallying 19 points, which included three 3-pointers.

"We had a really good warm-up before the game. I was feeling it in pregame, and we kind of just talked it over. It's hard to beat a team three times, but we all just got in the right mindset, and we got the job done," said Peitersen.

The teams split the first 14 points in the contest before Oconto Falls scored 15 straight points. Peitersen had 10 of the points on that run.

Oconto Falls overwhelmed Little Chute with a trapping press before dropping back into a 1-3-1 zone.

The Panthers had a chance to blow the game wide open, but they managed just two points over the final six minutes of the opening half.

Peitersen added a couple more buckets in the second half to help the team to a 44-19 lead with less than seven minutes to play. At that point, coach Tim Solarek pulled the starters and key reserves to rest them.

It was a bittersweet moment for Peitersen and the rest of the Panthers' senior class, as the win over Little Chute marked that group's final game on their home court.

"It's great. It was nice to see the fans here one last time," said Peitersen. "It's so cool to see what's coming up in the years and celebrating our successes, too."

Amber Otto starred down the stretch, scoring six straight points to help the Panthers seal the win. Alexis Euclide also scored six points for Oconto Falls, which had 10 players score in the contest.

Against Xavier, Peitersen poured in 27 points for the Panthers. Euclide added 15 points. Oconto Falls trailed by just six, 33-27, at halftime.

Lena

Back in Division 5, sixth-seeded Lena eased to a 66-23 win over No. 11 Goodman/Pembine on Feb. 23 in Lena before dropping a 46-37 regional semi-

final game to third-seeded Niagara on Feb. 25 in Niagara.

In the win over Goodman/Pembine, four Lena players scored in double figures, led by Claire Brooks' 13 points.

Natalie McNurlen and Eva Brooks each contributed 11 points for the Wildcats, while Chaela Rabas had 10. Whitney Potter added in seven points.

Against Niagara, Eva Brooks scored a team-high 12 points. Rabas tallied nine points, and Potter had eight.

Suring

Also in Division 5, seventh-seeded Suring topped No. 10 Bowler 59-18 on Feb. 23 in Suring before the Eagles were eliminated. They lost 57-33 to second-seeded Three Lakes on Feb. 25 in Three Lakes.

In the win over Bowler, 10 Suring players scored. MacKenzie Bailey and Christine Sleeter led the Eagles with 15 and 12 points, respectively.

Pulaski

Up in Division 2, ninth-seeded Pulaski was topped 46-41 by eighth-seeded Luxemburg-Casco in its lone playoff game Feb. 23 in Luxemburg.

Ella Wiese scored 17 points for Pulaski. Olivia Kubek and Madeline Christenson added eight points each.

sports@newmedia-wi.com

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Witt-Birn girls' season ends after regional title loss

Bowler, Tigerton eliminated in regional quarterfinals

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood, Bowler and Tigerton girls basketball teams all competed in regional playoff games last week.

Witt-Birn advanced to the regional title game before being eliminated, while Bowler and Tigerton were topped in the regional quarterfinals.

Witt-Birn

Witt-Birn was a No. 5 seed in

Division 4. The Chargers routed 12th-seeded Montello 68-26 on Feb. 23 in Wittenberg before picking up a 34-31 regional semifinal win over fifth-seeded Marathon on Feb. 25 in Marathon. Witt-Birn was defeated 50-36 by top-seeded Westfield in a regional title game Feb. 26 in Westfield.

Against Montello, Kaylee Schram tallied 25 points, eight rebounds and three steals for Witt-Birn, while Reese Rogowski had 21 points and three assists.

Faith Resch chipped in nine points for the Chargers. Jami Wendler and Jadalynn Davids had four assists each. Resch grabbed eight rebounds, while Allison Linke had six.

Rogowski led the way against Marathon, tallying 14 points, five

assists, four blocks and three steals.

Schram added 11 points and 12 rebounds for the Chargers. Davids dished out three assists.

In the loss to Westfield, Rogowski again led the way with 18 points and three steals. Schram added seven points.

"Westfield is an outstanding team and a great 3-point shooting team," said Witt-Birn coach Nick Mechelke. "They knocked down seven of them to our two, and that was the big difference tonight."

"I really enjoyed how aggressive we played tonight, and I'm very proud of how we finished this season. We were down 20 and chipped the lead to 13 at the half. We continued to stay aggressive and got the lead down to 8-9 points, but we just didn't have enough tonight."

Mechelke also thanked seniors Schram and Davids for their time and dedication to the basketball program.

Bowler

Bowler was a No. 10 seed in Division 5. The Panthers were defeated 59-18 by seventh-seeded Suring on Feb. 23 in Suring.

Bowler was limited to just four points in the first half, at which point the team trailed by 31 points.

Tigerton

Tigerton also was a part of the Division 5 brackets and was a No. 14 seed.

The Tigers lost 64-4 to third-seeded Edgar on Feb. 23 in Edgar.

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Shawano's Beyer, Roloff sign letters of intent

Both athletes staying in state

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

Shawano Community High School seniors Grace Beyer and Isabel Roloff each signed letters of intent on Feb. 23 inside the high school.

Beyer will join the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay cross-country team, while Roloff heads to UW-Milwaukee to compete on the track and field team.

"It's so special. Just knowing that my four years of hard work have made me able to run in college. All the support from my teammates and coaches have helped me get to this place," said Beyer. "It's so special to be able to celebrate this with friends and family and have the support there from all of those people — to cheer me on in college and just know that they will always be there for me through that too."

"I guess it's kind of just a day to have a ceremony that recognizes all the hard work I've put in," said Roloff. "Going on to track in the next four years is going to help me push even harder and be an even better athlete than I am."

Each athlete has etched their name in the Shawano record book over their high school careers.

Beyer owns the best time ever for any Shawano girls runner in the team's home invite. She led the team her entire senior season, which culminated with the team competing at state.

Roloff has the girls school record in the 100-meter dash and pole vault. She also ranks third in the 200 dash. Roloff made it to state in the 100 and pole vault as a junior.

While both have been consistent performers for their teams over their careers, the thought of competing in college wasn't a sure thing for either athlete.

"My senior year I was going to do cross-country as normal and just see — if I did good, I'd run in college then. If I had fun, I was like 'oh, I'll continue this,' said Beyer.

Beyer had plenty of fun during her final season, eventually guiding the team to state.

She was named the NEW Media Inc. All-Region Girls Cross-Country



Shawano's Isabel Roloff, center, signs a letter of intent as her parents, Jenny, left, and Jeff look on during a signing day ceremony on Feb. 23 at Shawano Community High School.

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Shawano's Grace Beyer, center, signs her letter of intent as her parents, Troy, left, and Jamie look on during a signing day ceremony on Feb. 23 at Shawano Community High School.

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Runner of the Year for her big final season.

She said several colleges wrote letters and reached out with interest, with UW-Green Bay being one of the last to do so.

"I really liked the school. The coaches were extremely supportive and nice," said Beyer. "I loved the atmosphere that was there and decided that GB was where I would like to continue my running career."

Beyer added that Green Bay also appealed to her as a Division I school, which opened up more opportunities for her. The school being close to home also was a positive.

Beyer has enjoyed her conversations with coach Mike Kline and

some of the current runners, and also has gotten to know a couple of the incoming recruits.

"It's just a team that I want to be involved in, a team that will be supportive and that I'll have fun running with," said Beyer.

Roloff's recruitment process took off during the team's regional meet last spring. Milwaukee's sprint coach was in attendance and handed his business card to the Shawano coaching staff and told them to have Roloff fill out a recruitment survey.

Roloff did just that before having several conversations with that Milwaukee coach, talking about the school and track and field program. This past fall, she took an official visit to the school and decided

that's where she wanted to be.

"I really liked Milwaukee's campus, because not only am I going to college to run track, I'm also very invested in my academics," said Roloff. "It's in a big city area, but with a smaller campus, more compact — I really liked that. I also liked that they have a good business school that I can get my degree in and be proficient in the future."

While it was the sprint coach who noticed Roloff, she anticipates doing both sprints and pole vault in college, just like she has in high school. UWM believes Roloff will excel most in the 100 dash at the start of her career there, and she also hopes to keep improving as a vaulter.

Roloff has the unique opportunity in getting one final season in the sport she will compete in at the college level.

"I'm definitely hoping to go back to the state track meet this year," said Roloff, adding that the school is back in Division I instead of 2 like last year, which make things a bit more challenging.

"For the 100-meter, I hope to get a new PR (personal record), just like I have been in past years and continue to improve that time. The pole vault as well, keep getting new PRs and improving myself, not only to go to the state track meet, but to improve myself as well."

Menominee Indian's Corn signs letter of intent

Senior will join University of Minnesota Morris football team

By **LUKE REIMER**

Reporter

Menominee Indian High School senior Andre Corn signed his letter of intent at the high school on Feb. 25.

Corn will join the University of Minnesota Morris football team for the upcoming season.

"It's hard to put this into words," said Corn. "Right now I am really excited. I worked so hard every day for this moment here."

The senior has excelled at two football positions, wide receiver and defensive back. In 2021 alone, Corn recorded 44 receptions for 891 yards and three touchdowns. On the defensive side of the ball, Corn tallied 141 combined tackles and four interceptions.

In his high school career, Corn has recorded 101 catches for 1,739 yards and five touchdowns. He has also recorded 315 tackles, eight interceptions and nine forced fumbles.

With this versatility, he said that he was not completely sure which position he was going to land on in college.

"Honestly, I have been thinking about it a lot," said Corn. "I have been leaning more towards receiver. Honestly, I will play wherever they want me to play. I will make plays wherever they put me — I just want to do what's best and help the team."

Following his signing, Corn thanked the students and staff that were in attendance. As he was giving a speech and thanking everyone, Corn was getting choked up with emotions.

"Growing up was pretty traumatic for me," said Corn. "My brother was always there for me. He taught me this game that I love. Ever since I was five years old, he was teaching me how to play football."

The emotions from Corn, talking about his brother, comes from his brother's recent passing.

"I truly believe that I would not have had this moment or day, if he wasn't there teaching me," said Corn. "It is emotional, but it is a good emotional, I am happy."

During the process of choosing where he wanted to continue his football career, Corn said that the head coach from the University



Menominee Indian's Andre Corn carries the ball during the team's nonconference matchup against Auburndale on Aug. 19 in Keshena. Corn signed a letter of intent to continue his football career on Feb. 25.

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of Minnesota Morris initiated a conversation with him during the Indigenous Bowl at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

"When I was talking to him, he told me that I was the first one on his list and that he was looking for me," said Corn. "I have been talking to him ever since then. He blessed my life in so many different ways."

Corn estimated that 20-30 schools reached out to him.

"Minnesota Morris offers free tuition for Native Americans," said Corn, on why he chose to continue his football and education career at

the University of Minnesota Morris. "I loved being in Minnesota. I feel like it is the right decision."

Corn will join a former Menominee Indian teammate in Bryce Dixon in Morris.

"I think it is pretty cool to experience college with someone that I was teammates with already," said Corn. "We know each other, so we can push each other out of our comfort zones and help each other grow."

He said that through high school and football, he has learned many lessons, including resiliency.

"My life was hard," said Corn. "I learned just to show up every day and get in a habit. No matter how I felt, or whatever was going on in my life, I always managed to show up."

Corn added that this is something that will follow him to college.

"Football made me come to school," said Corn. "I want to get better, not as an athlete but as a person too."

Corn plans to major in social work in college.

BONDUEL GIRLS BASKETBALL



The Bonduel girls basketball team won a Division 4 regional title on Feb. 26

HARMANN STUDIOS

The Bonduel girls basketball team is in the middle of its postseason journey. The Bears won a Division 4 regional title after an overtime win over Crandon on Feb. 25 before a rout of Shiocton on Feb. 26.

During the regular season, Bonduel went 22-4 overall. The Bears finished 11-1 in the Central Wisconsin Conference-East Division to share the conference title with Amherst.

BONDUEL BOYS BASKETBALL



The Bonduel boys basketball team had a 9-7 overall record through Jan. 31.

HARMANN STUDIOS

The Bonduel boys basketball team begins its postseason March 4 with a home game. The Bears will face either Manawa or Mishicot.

Bonduel posted a 15-9 record during the regular season and finished 7-5 in the CWC-East to take third place. The team won seven of its last nine games.

BONDUEL WRESTLING



The Bonduel wrestling team has 14 dual wins on the year through Jan. 31.

HARMANN STUDIOS

The Bonduel wrestling team recently wrapped up its season with Tyson Bogacz placing sixth at the state tournament. At the girls state tournament, Hailey Berg and Maddy Sokolski each took second place.

Bonduel finished fourth as a team at the CWC Tournament, with Tyson Bogacz and Jaxon Bogacz each winning individual titles. Six other Bears took either third or fourth place.



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