

County board kills ATV campground proposal

Concerns raised about safety, competition with private sector

BY WARREN BLUHM
News Editor

A plan to develop an ATV campground and trailhead off the Nicolet State Trail in the town of Riverview was short-circuited Nov. 21 when residents of the area raised objections.

The Oconto County Board of Supervisors was poised to approve a \$280,000 bid to build a parking lot at the site on Torsci Lane as the first phase in development, but the proposal was defeated after a lengthy discussion.

The land was originally slated as a landfill site, but in 2017 the county Planning, Zoning and Solid Waste Department looked to sell the 40-acre parcel. The Forestry, Parks and Recreation Committee opposed the sale, offered to manage the

land and was given the property in 2021.

The county board approved \$67,000 in its 2023 budget for a campground development feasibility study, and the Short Eliot Hendrickson consulting firm won the contract to study the Torsci Lane site.

The forestry and parks department was directed to apply for grants to develop the project in October 2023, and the Land and Water Resource Department received a final design and cost estimate in March of this year.

No grants were forthcoming for the full project, so the county began to pursue a phased approach beginning with the parking lot plan that reached the county board Nov. 21.

Opposition to the proposal surfaced after the bids were received Nov. 4. Four letters were read on the board floor, and several speakers appeared as well, most of them in opposition.

One of the letters was from Christopher Schultz, former administrator and current commissioner for the Mountain Ambulance Service.

“Oconto County has no provisions for police, fire or EMS in this park,” Schultz

wrote. “An ATV park will drastically increase call volumes for all three agencies, which are already strained from for emergencies in the area and have limited budget, staff and equipment.”

Ann Maletzke, co-owner of the Spur of the Moment Ranch getaway resort, said the Torsci Lane site is a mile off the main road, state Highway 32, and she raised safety concerns over the remote location.

“I understand that the first phase of the project is just the parking lot, but the way government works the project will just keep snowballing down the road,” Maletzke said. “I am strongly opposed to the government competing with any of the businesses in the north woods or anywhere else. That is not your job. Perhaps a better use of time and money would be to update and repair the Chute Pond Campground that already exists.”

She said local ambulance service is already strapped during the busy ATV season.

“I would like to point out that we are at least 45 minutes from the nearest hospital in the area, not to mention finding people

on the trails can be very challenging from time to time,” Maletzke said.

Deb Uhlenbrauck, president of the Chute Pond Snowmobile Club, spoke in favor of the proposed campground.

“We felt the increased economic impact to the area will enhance not only area businesses, gas stations, restaurants, tourism shops, food supply stores and community organizations, but also family-oriented camping,” Uhlenbrauck said.

County board comments reflected the mixed opinions of the final 16-13 vote.

“I think this is the wrong time to shut this down,” Supervisor Tim Cole said.

“People are giving the impression that there’s a ‘Mad Max’ situation going on with the ATVs,” said Supervisor Don Bartels, “that they’re running rampant down the highways, rolling in balls of flame.”

Bartels said he examined the sheriff’s reports for May through July, the peak ATV season, and found a total of 100 ATV complaints, nine ATV citations and 10 ATV accidents.

“By contrast there were more than 500

CAMPGROUND, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Suspect in fatal crash pleads not guilty

Wimber is charged with homicide by intoxicated driving, drug trafficking counts

BY WARREN BLUHM
News Editor

A former Lakewood man pleaded not guilty Nov. 21 to homicide by intoxicated use of a motor vehicle and other charges in the Sept. 8 head-on crash that killed a Lake Tomahawk woman.

The crash claimed the life of Lisa Marie Neitzel, 52, and seriously injured her daughter, Kaley Violet Neitzel, 15, who was driving the car, and her husband, Ronald Neitzel, 54.

Zackery Dale Wimber, 30, Fond du Lac, appeared at the hearing via video from a state prison. At the time of the fatal crash, he was under extended supervision after serving a prison sentence for possession with intent to deliver amphetamine and narcotic drugs and possession of a firearm by a person convicted of a felony. His parole was revoked after the Oconto County charges were filed.

The crash occurred at about 5:30 p.m. on state Highway 32-64 near Sparkys Road in the Town of Mountain. According to an Oconto County Sheriff’s Department traffic report, Wimber’s southbound vehicle “was swerving all over the southbound lane,” crossed the center line and crashed head-on into the Neitzel vehicle.

Online court records show that a week before the fatal crash in Oconto County, Wimber had been ticketed in Sheboygan County for driving without a valid license.



Zackery Wimber appears via video in Oconto County Judge Michael Judge's courtroom to plead not guilty Nov. 21 to homicide by intoxicated use of a motor vehicle and other charges.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

He is charged in Oconto County Circuit Court with homicide by intoxicated use of a motor vehicle, homicide by negligent use of a motor vehicle, two counts of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated and causing injury (second or subsequent offense), possession with intent to deliver cocaine, possession with

intent to deliver heroin, possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine, possession of a firearm by a person convicted of a felony, driving or operating a vehicle without consent, as well as a misdemeanor count of causing death by driving while his license was revoked.

Wimber waived his right to a prelimi-

nary hearing before entering not guilty pleas Nov. 21. After defense attorney Bradley Schraven said they were still awaiting the results of blood tests from the State Crime Lab, Judge Michael Judge scheduled a pre-trial conference for Feb. 13.

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INSIDE

Lena girls basketball team jumps out to a 2-0 start to season.

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County finance director announces retirement

By **WARREN BLUHM**
News Editor

Lisa Sherman, Oconto County's longtime finance director, has announced she plans to retire in February.

Sherman's retirement letter was read to supervisors at the county board's regular monthly meeting Nov. 21. Her last day of employment will be Feb. 3.

"It is with mixed feelings that I would like to announce my upcoming retirement," Sherman said. "Words cannot express how thankful I am to have served the citizens of Oconto County for the past 35-plus years."

She thanked her coworkers, as well as all of the county board supervisors she has worked with, for their support and kindness over the years, and she said she will assist the board and County Administrator Richard Heath in any way she can during the transition to a new finance director.

County Board Chairman Al Sleeter said Sherman has always been invaluable in her role, which includes preparing the annual budget. She was tabbed to serve as interim county administrator earlier this year after former administrator Erik Pritzl departed and before Heath arrived at the end of April.

"She truly is a beam of light and hope in this county," Sleeter said. "She's always been very good at her job and easy to talk to and deal with."

The county has posted the finance director opening, saying the position "directs and coordinates the overall planning, organizing, directing and controlling of the countywide financial and accounting functions," with "the direct responsibility of county financial reports, consolidation of information and investments." The annual salary range is listed as \$104,032.50 to \$107,211.

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Oconto County Finance Director Lisa Sherman addresses the private Commission on Aging's ongoing financial troubles during the Oct. 31 county board meeting. Sherman has announced she plans to retire Feb. 3. FILE | NEW MEDIA

City, school close to SRO agreement

Gillett City Council expected to review a draft contract this week

By **WARREN BLUHM**
News Editor

The city of Gillett and Gillett School District are close to an agreement for a pilot school resource officer program in the schools.

The resource officer would be stationed on school property to interact daily with students. The district had been working with Oconto County

Sheriff Todd Skarban to provide the officer under his office's auspices, but the discussions were not completed soon enough to make the 2025 county budget.

Skarban then approached Mayor Jon Blaskowski and Superintendent Nathan Hanson to work out a proposal for a six-month trial period using a Gillett police officer. Sheriff's deputies would

cover the city on nights and weekends to supplement the three-person police department's hours.

The city's health, protection and licensing (HPL) committee met jointly earlier this month with the board's ad hoc SRO committee, and the two panels authorized Hanson and Blaskowski to work out details of a contract.

"The mayor and I met

this morning; I'm really excited to be working with him," Hanson reported at the school board's Nov. 21 meeting. "I think we both have a vision of what can the city bring and what can the school bring to this community and boost what we do."

Blaskowski was to work with the city attorney to bring a draft contract to the HPL Committee, which is scheduled to

meet at 4:30 p.m. Dec. 4, and make a recommendation to the Gillett City Council, which meets at 6 p.m. Dec. 5. Both meetings are to be held at City Hall, 150 N. McKenzie St., Gillett.

If all goes as planned, the matter could be finalized when the school board holds its regular monthly meeting Dec. 19.

Blaskowski encouraged board members to attend

the city meetings.

"This is a big step for our community to bring the school and the city together," he said. "Whether you're in favor of it or not, I recommend everyone still try to be there to see how we're trying to build this relationship between the two entities to move forward as a community."

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Gillett School Board tentatively OKs Ireland trip

The educational, cultural tour would take place in July 2026

By **WARREN BLUHM**
News Editor

The Gillett School Board has given its tentative approval for a student trip to Ireland during the summer of 2026.

The proposal was brought to the board by agriculture teacher Jacob Timm during its Nov. 21 monthly meeting.

Timm is working with EF Travel, a company that partners with schools to

provide a variety of educational tours. The company sponsored a foreign exchange student who lived with Timm's family when he himself was a middle school student in Gillett.

"Agriculture is not just a United States thing. With this we'd be showing students what opportunities are out there through global agriculture," Timm told the board. "That's something I really want

to bring into the program and stress to the students that while Gillett is great, there's also opportunities outside of Gillett."

The trip would expose students to different cultures and give them a look at the operation of Ireland's horse, dairy and cattle farms, Timm said. Over 10 days, the group would visit Dublin, the Killkenny region and Galway, touring historic sites and immersing them-

selves in the country's agriculture.

As a bonus, "some of the scenes in 'Game of Thrones' were actually filmed at some of the locations in Galway, kind of cool for students to see them in a different light," Timm said.

The board was generally receptive to Timm's proposal, although board member Cliff Gerbers said he wants to see if parents sign off on the idea.

"Before I vote on this, I want to see what the parents think," Gerbers said. "They really have the last word."

Timm said he plans to hold an informational session for parents in December. EF Travel requires a minimum of six students to stage a tour, and about 20 eighth graders and a number of freshmen and sophomores have already expressed an interest.

With a price tag of \$4,089 per student, realistically Timm hopes to bring six to 12 students along. One of the reasons for the early notice was to give the youth time for fundraising efforts.

On Gerbers' motion, board members approved the trip subject to results of the parents meeting and a commitment from interested parents.

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CAMPGROUND, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

500 traffic stops," Bartels said. "Maybe the problem is there are too many cars and not enough ATVs."

Supervisor Mike Beyer cited residents' concerns about ATV use.

"I believe we need to take care of the facilities

we have and invest in those," Beyer said.

The input from the people who would be directly affected by the project should be considered, said Supervisor Jolene Barkhaus.

"If we have people who live there, we have

town boards saying that local people don't feel their citizens can handle the uptick of tourism it would bring, we have to think of the safety of our residents," Barkhaus said.

County Administrator Richard Heath expressed confusion about the ap-

parently sudden opposition to a project that has been on the county's timeline for years.

"There seems to be this idea that this is a pretty flippant project that just happened overnight. It is not that," Heath said.

The parking lot was funded through the county's American Rescue Plan Act allotment, which must be spent by the end of the year or the money will no longer be available, he said.

"This project has gone through the paces," Heath

told the board. "You and your predecessors have had a chance to look at this. If there were issues, I don't know where you've been. All of a sudden there's issues in the last three weeks."

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Most schools make grade with 2024 report cards

Officials dismiss results, citing other factors of education success

BY LEE PULASKI
City Editor

Most area schools made the grade in 2024, even with the target moving, on the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction report cards, released Nov. 19.

All of the school districts in Shawano and Oconto counties were at least three stars, which indicates that they're meeting the standards DPI has laid out. Pulaski Community School District stood out with four stars, which signifies that district is exceeding expectations. Meanwhile, Menominee Indian School District fell short of expectations with two stars.

Most individual schools made the grade, but 10 did not make the grade in the area. Lena High School, Lena Middle School, Keshena Primary School, Menominee Indian Middle School, Oconto High School, Shawano Community Middle School, Suring Elementary School and Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School only received two stars, while Gillett High School and Menominee Nation High School only received one star for a report card, which indicates they failed to meet DPI's expectations.

Report cards were based on four areas: achievement, growth, target group outcomes and being on-track to graduation, with achieve-



NATHAN HANSON

ment data for the past three years assessed to determine a school's overall score.

The report cards are supposed to provide transparency and accountability in Wisconsin's public schools, according to Shawano School District Superintendent Kurt Krizan, but with changes DPI made to the cut scores, it makes it difficult to see what growth schools have made this year compared to previous year.

"The adjusted cut scores significantly impact how performance is measured, meaning year-to-year comparisons or evaluations of progress may not reflect true changes in educational outcomes," Krizan said. "Comparing districts — or even individual schools within the same district — is problematic when the benchmarks have shifted, as these changes can distort how student achievement and growth are perceived."

Krizan noted that the report card does not provide the full picture on what schools achieve when it comes to education.

"While the report card provides a snapshot of cer-

BY THE NUMBERS

School report card results

Exceeds expectations: Bonduel Elementary School (82.4), Bonduel Middle School (72.7), Gillett Middle School (73.1), Lena Elementary School (74.2), Abrams Elementary School (77.1), Washington Middle School (70.6), Fairview Elementary School (71.5), Glenbrook Elementary School (72.3), Hillcrest Elementary School-Pulaski (80.4), Lannoye Elementary School (79.6), Pulaski Community Middle School (71.4), Pulaski High School (73.4), Suring High School (73)

Meets expectations: Bonduel High School (60), Bowler Elementary School (61.1), Bowler High School (66.4), Gillett Elementary School (67.2), Gresham Elementary School (59.1), Gresham High School (69.9), Marion Elementary School (62.9), Marion High School (69.4), Oconto Falls Elementary School (68.4), Oconto Falls High School (61.9), Oconto Elementary School (61.5), Oconto Middle School (63), Sunnyside Elementary School (60.9), Olga Brenner Intermediate School (65.6), Shawano Community High School (68.1), Tigerton Elementary School (59.2), Tigerton High School (66.4), Wittenberg Elementary School (66.6), Birnamwood Elementary School (66.5)

Meets few expectations: Lena High School (57.9), Lena Middle School (54.3), Keshena Primary School (50.4), Menominee Indian Middle School (50.3), Oconto High School (49.7), Shawano Community Middle School (57.7), Suring Elementary School (57.5), Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School (51.7)

Fails to meet expectations: Gillett High School (40), Menominee Nation High School (29.4)

tain metrics, it's essential to recognize its limitations," Krizan said. "A comprehensive understanding of a school's or district's performance requires examining multiple factors, including local context, resources and initiatives, rather than relying solely on the report card's data."

Bowler School District Superintendent Glenda Butterfield-Boldig felt the report cards don't accurately affect schools' performance, especially when DPI changes scoring thresholds and more. Doing so makes the report cards hard to decipher, she said.

"The updated report cards reflect new methodologies and cut scores from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, and as such, they should not be used to directly compare our district's performance with past years or with

other districts," Butterfield-Boldig said. "That said, we are still committed to providing a high-quality education to every student in the Bowler School District. Academic achievement scores are one data point that cannot truly capture the whole story of each of our students."

The data will be useful in charting the future path of Bowler's schools, Butterfield-Boldig said, but it will not be the only metric used to map out education.

"We believe that true success is reflected not only in numbers, but in the strength of the partnerships we have with our students, families, teachers and community," Butterfield-Boldig said. "We're grateful for the continued support and collaboration of families in helping our students achieve their best. Moving forward, we will

continue to work with all our stakeholders to ensure our students have the resources and opportunities they need to succeed, using the new data to guide our decisions."

Gillett School District Superintendent Nathan Hanson believes the school and district report cards are the opposite of transparent, believing the DPI setup has "muddied the waters."

"What do we believe are the best measures of a school? Success in college? Success in the workforce? Becoming a happy and productive citizen?" Hanson asked. "School and district report cards do not measure these things, and what they do measure, is presented in a score that is a combination of factors that change based on the district the score is meant to measure. A score of a 70 in one school is not the same as a score of 70 in another school, even schools within the same district."

With the state system broken, in Hanson's view, the solution to showing people that their children are learning is for school districts provide a window for them to see the progress.

"It is important that school districts be transparent with their citizens," Hanson said. "We do this by presenting what we are teaching, by bringing people into our schools, by showcasing the great programs we have. Unfortunately, none of these things are measured in the report card system. The system is broken, and we hope in the near future the legislature and the DPI will reach out

to schools to get our input on a better way."

The report cards are just a snapshot in time, according to Lena School District Superintendent Ben Pytleski and Marion School District Superintendent Troy Edwards, and that snapshot is not as crisp due to DPI's changes.

"Regardless, we are looking at this year's report card as a new jumping off point for future academic growth," Edwards said. "When evaluating the quality of the education we provide, we view the report cards as a snapshot in time, and place greater emphasis on the daily learning, student relationships, family partnerships and experiences with career and technical skills that occur in our classrooms, with our staff and throughout our community."

"It is also impossible to compare districts, as every district is weighted differently based on that school's poverty levels," Pytleski said. "Schools with high levels of poverty are scored and weighted on the growth of their students from one year to the next, where schools with low poverty levels are scored and weighted on overall test results and achievement. Every district is in a different position when it comes to how it is weighted."

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Oconto County fastest-growing in Northeast Wisconsin

Oconto County is the fastest-growing county in Northeast Wisconsin, according to an analysis in the 2024 Business News Book of Lists.

The northern Oconto County Town of Doty recorded the most building permits for new one- and two-family dwellings among the 12 Northeast Wisconsin counties, with a total of 135 permits.

The data is derived from the Wisconsin Department of Administration and the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services, respectively.

The other counties considered part of Northeast Wisconsin are Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Outagamie, Shawano, Sheboygan, and Winnebago.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Administration, Oconto County is projected to experience a significant population increase of

14.56%.

Jayne Sellen, executive director of the Tourism and Economic Development Corporation for the Oconto Region (TEDCOR), said the surge in population and construction further solidifies Oconto County's position as a thriving region with a promising future.

"We are thrilled to see Oconto County in the spotlight," Sellen said. "Being named the fastest-growing county and seeing the development in the Town of Doty is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our communities. We are committed to continuing this momentum and showcasing the wide array of experiences that Oconto County has to offer."

Sellen said the county is a great place to start a business and establish a home, or for visitors, to enjoy the outdoors or find a peaceful retreat.

For more information, visit ocontocounty.org.



Cathedral Pines Natural Area, 40 acres of forest spared from the heavy logging of the late 19th and early 20th century, is one of the wonders of the vast Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest that attracts visitors to Oconto County.

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Asst Variety
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Fireworks burst over Zippel Park as Gillett celebrates the opening of the annual Christmas in the Park light displays. FILE| NEW MEDIA

Fun Christmas activities coming to Gillett

Gillett will hold its annual Christmas in the Park on Dec. 7 at Zippel Park, 150 W. McKenzie St.

Activities will start at 10 a.m. with Santa’s workshop filled with crafts and vendor goods at St. John’s Lutheran Church, 101 W. Main St. Santa’s workshop will be open till 2:30 p.m. The church will also be having bucket raffles .

Santa Claus is coming to Zippel Park in the Expo Hall from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Santa will chat with all the

children and listen to their wish lists. Each kid will receive a free goody bag.

Some children who bring Santa a letter could be one of the lucky ones to get an early Christmas present from Santa. New this year, families can have a picture taken with Santa for a fee to take home in a frame.

Kids’ activities, which begin at 11 a.m., include make-and-take crafts, face paintings, balloon animals, Reindeer Games, plus a lot

more.

Visitors will be able to view the lighted Christmas displays set up by local families, businesses and organizations at 5 p.m., followed by a fireworks display. There will be caroling at 4:45 p.m. to set the scene.

Food and refreshments will be available for purchase at both locations.

For information, contact Betty Jane Baranczyk at 920-376-1706 or email lilyyoda9@yahoo.com.

OCONTO COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

Proceedings of Nov. 22

• Lisa E. Christoff, 66, Crivitz, pleaded guilty to felony bail jumping in connection with an incident that occurred Aug. 4. Judge Jay Conley scheduled sentencing for Jan. 22 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

• Bond was set at \$1,500 cash for Adam D. Johnson, 38, Townsend, after he was charged with strangulation and suffocation, felony bail jumping, and misdemeanor counts of battery and disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Nov. 21. Conley adjourned his initial appearance until Dec. 12.

• Bond was set at \$500 cash for Henry J. Mahers, 33, Pound, after he was charged with strangulation and suffocation and misdemeanor counts of battery and disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Nov. 21. Conley adjourned his initial appearance until Dec. 12.

Proceedings of Nov. 21

• Travis A. Verbruggen, 35, Oconto Falls, pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor charge of unlawful use of a phone by threatening with an obscenity, in connection with an incident that occurred May 5. The charge was amended from a felony count in a plea agreement. Judge Michael Judge withheld sentencing and placed him on one year of probation with conditions.

• Nicole M. Harris, 41, Oconto Falls, waived her right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to possession of THC (second or subsequent offense) and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Sept. 28. Judge scheduled a pre-trial conference for Dec. 12.

• Bond was set at \$10,000 cash for Christopher E. Thomson, 42, Lakewood, after he was charged with 10 counts of identity theft, 10 counts of forgery-uttering, and single counts of theft in a business setting and fraud against a financial institution, in connection with incidents alleged to have occurred between 2020 and 2024. Conley adjourned his initial appearance until Dec. 12.

Proceedings of Nov. 18

• Emilio G. Garcia, 34, Oconto, pleaded no contest to possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine and pleaded guilty to possession of narcotic drugs and a misdemeanor charge of possession of THC, in connection with an incident that occurred May 25. Judge scheduled sentencing for Jan. 14 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

• A bench warrant was issued for Gregory J. Clementi, 70, Corpus Christi, Texas, formerly Lakewood, after he failed to appear for a final pre-trial conference on charges of fleeing an officer

in a vehicle and felony bail jumping, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred July 14, 2023. Judge canceled a trial scheduled for Dec. 4.

• Cierra Nikole Bernarde, 29, Bowler, waived her right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded no contest to felony bail jumping, in connection with an incident that occurred Sept. 10. Judge sentenced her to 90 days in jail and credited her for 70 days already served.

• A Dec. 4-5 jury trial was postponed for Michael Lee Vandenheuvel, 28, Green Bay, on charges of attempted strangulation and suffocation, false imprisonment and misdemeanor charges of battery, criminal damage to property, making contact after a domestic abuse arrest, and disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Sept. 24. Judge scheduled a status conference for Jan. 16.

• Robby J. Lewis, 31, a Gillett man serving a sentence at Redgranite Correctional Institution, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to possession of methamphetamine, possession of THC (second or subsequent offense) and misdemeanor counts of disorderly conduct and possession of drug paraphernalia, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred June 30. Conley scheduled a pre-trial conference for Jan. 25.

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DEADLINE: 3p.m. Thursday Prior.

Mail to: NEW Media, 1464 E. Green Bay St., Shawano, WI 54166

Knights collect Coats for Kids



The Knights of Columbus Bishop Fox Council 2836 made its annual donation to Shawano Area Matthew 25 in Shawano with the annual Coats For Kids donation drive. Knights, from left, are Lee Bosdeck, Paul Mastalir, Gary Aschenbrenner, John Hoffman, Troy Sadler, Ronald Hoffman, David Wilson, Robert Sweeney, Charles Kation, John Whitehouse, Michael Richter and Charles Ketchum.

CONTRIBUTED

CoVantage, SAM25 team up for Giving Tuesday

The CoVantage Cares Foundation annual two-week fundraising campaign will run from Dec. 3-17 in all areas served by the credit union.

Every dollar donated will be matched up to \$175,000 by the CoVantage Cares Foundation, effectively doubling the impact

of each contribution. This matching gift will support local nonprofit organizations that provide essential services, such as food, shelter, education and health care.

The Shawano CoVantage branch is partnering with Shawano Area Matthew 25, whose mission is

focused on helping those struggling with poverty and homelessness.

“CoVantage Credit Union has a long history of giving back to the communities we serve,” said Charlie Zanayed, CoVantage chief executive officer. “This year’s fundraising campaign is a testament to our commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of those in need. We encourage everyone to join us in spreading kindness and hope during this season of giving.”

Individuals and businesses can donate to the campaign in a variety of ways:

- Donate in person. Visit any CoVantage branch and let the staff assist you.
- Give on the go. Download the CoVantage mobile app and contribute with a few taps.
- Donate from the comfort of your home. Visit covantagecu.org/givingtuesday and make a secure online donation.

For information, go to www.covantagecu.org/givingtuesday.

ThedaCare encourages literacy with Reach Out and Read

Reading to children at an early age enhances childhood brain and social development, and is a long-term contributor to a child’s success in school.

For that reason, since 2018, all ThedaCare pediatricians and primary care providers have been engaged with the national Reach Out and Read program, the only national pediatric literacy program endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The program begins with parents receiving a book at their baby’s first post-birth checkup and continues through age 5. At each well-child visit, the child receives a book that is age, language and culturally appropriate to take home, with the intention that the parents or guardians will regularly read that book with their child. The providers then talk with the parents or guardians about the importance of reading aloud to children as part of the developmental progress.

“According to research, we know that 90% of a toddler’s brain development occurs between birth and age 5, so it’s a critical stage of development,” said Tracey Ratzburg, ThedaCare community health coordinator. “The initial purpose of the Reach Out and Read program is to get parents reading to their children, and it’s far more than a reading program. It also helps build a social connection and trusting relationship between parents and the child, so it’s relational and literacy growth combined.”

The providers also talk about the connection between cuddling and reading that helps children feel safe and how reading

at home helps children learn that books provide positive experiences.

In 2023, 25 ThedaCare clinics handed out 23,088 books, with 184 ThedaCare providers participating in the program.

Reach Out and Read Wisconsin notes that families are two and a half times more likely to read to their children when provided books by a pediatrician or primary care provider. Studies show that reading to children from infancy on accelerates language development by three to six months, increases receptive and expressive language ability and contributes to academic success.

“The first three years of a child’s life are the most crucial in a child’s cognitive, emotional and social development,” said Kristin Lundine at ThedaCare Physicians Pediatrics-Appleton. “When parents read to their children, they can enhance their child’s overall development. It goes beyond the reading; the experience of the child feeling safe, connected and supported does a great deal for their social and emotional development as well.”

The program also gives providers and care teams an opportunity to connect during visits.

“I’ll often squat down to the child’s level and offer him or her their new book,” said Lundine. “Usually the child is still on the other side of the room, which allows me the opportunity to observe their interest level in the book and whether they are comfortable engaging with me. How they walk toward me or reach out and react to the book helps me assess

their gross and fine motor skills.”

Lundine also noted the interactions allow her to learn more about the family dynamics at home as well. She has seen great examples of the benefits from the program.

“I recently had the experience of working with a family whose baby didn’t especially like tummy time,” she said. “When I flipped her over onto her stomach on the exam table, I placed the book she was receiving in front of her and she began looking at it and offered less resistance to being on her tummy. It was amazing to see the parents make the connection that maybe she doesn’t really dislike tummy time; rather she just needs something to look at.”

Lundine noted that the earliest books provided are very high contrast in black and white to accommodate an infant’s limited vision.

“Parents may not realize that it is never too soon to read together,” she said. “This baby’s experience proved that. Beyond that, the physical connection between baby and parent while being read to is equally important. And, the importance of the baby hearing their parents’ voices shouldn’t be understated either. It’s all part of the communication learning process.”

Recently, Reach Out and Read Wisconsin held a statewide conference in Appleton to promote the program to more health systems, highlighting the success of ThedaCare’s program. Nearly 140,000 books have been shared with families since ThedaCare first joined the Reach Out and Read program in 2013.

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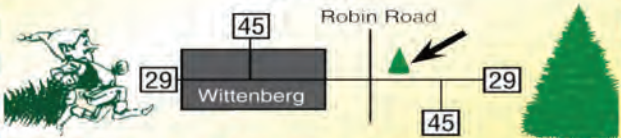
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WBHS'S DEER TRADITION



Wittenberg-Birnamwood FFA members Dalton Arrowood and Lillian Fischer tend to a batch of pancakes Nov. 22 in one of the agriculture classrooms at Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School. More than 30 pounds of pancake mix went into preparing the deer hunters breakfast to kick off the Thanksgiving break.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

FFA members prepare annual breakfast prior to hunting season

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

For deer hunters, there’s nothing better to battle against the cold weather than a hot breakfast.

Just ask the students who are part of the Wittenberg-Birnamwood FFA.

Seven years running, the chapter’s deer hunters breakfast has been an ideal way for high school students and families to kick off the gun deer hunting season, as well as the annual Thanksgiving break. Nov. 22 was no exception.

Inside the standalone agriculture building at Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School, some FFA members were standing watch over the pancakes on the griddle, but mostly they were jamming to music. Just outside the building, other members were battling the chill by cooking up the rest of the breakfast staples — eggs, bacon, sausage and hash browns.

It takes a lot of work to make the deer hunters breakfast a success, with many of the helpers working since 5 a.m. to get breakfast ready, according to Vivian Resch, FFA chapter president. It was served about 2½ hours later when students arrived at school, she said.

“It definitely brings all of us together,” Resch said. “It’s kind of like a Thanksgiving dinner. We’re off for Thanksgiving, obviously, but it’s like a Thanksgiving dinner for all of our students and brings us together to show our appreciation for what we’re doing here in Wisconsin.”

Even though Resch described it as a Thanksgiving dinner, there hasn’t been any turkey served, but she didn’t discount the possibility in future years, considering the wide range of animals raised by FFA chapters across the country.

“We don’t have any turkeys yet,” Resch said. “Maybe we can get some.”

Deer hunters breakfasts tend to be more popular in northern Wisconsin,



Members of the Wittenberg-Birnamwood FFA brave the cold Nov. 22 to cook up bacon and more for its seventh annual deer hunters breakfast.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

because there is so much agriculture in the area, according to Resch, and with that the knowledge of hunting animals to protect their overall viability.

“There’s a lot of people at our school that go hunting,” she said. “Of course, this isn’t open to just hunters; it’s open to anybody. Obviously, food is what we all need, so it’s something that brings many different varieties of people here.”

As for the food, the FFA went through 30 pounds of pancake batter, 10 pounds of bacon, 10 pounds of hash browns, 19 dozen eggs and 360 sausage links — plenty to satisfy the appetites of WBHS students and staff. There was also 24 pints of maple syrup donated by Sippl’s Sugar Bush in Aniwa, according to Matt Christian, WBHS agriculture teacher.

When Christian came to the school, he

was interested in doing something that combined his passion for deer hunting with his chosen career teaching agriculture to the next generation.

“I love deer hunting and the tradition that comes with the Wisconsin deer season, so I wanted to do something that brought that tradition that everyone experiences all week into the school — the camaraderie, the music, everybody just coming together enjoying food and sharing stories,” Christian said. “We’re bringing just a little taste of that to the school.”

Christian enjoys seeing how eagerly his students embrace not only the tradition, but the work that comes with preparing the breakfast each year.

“It’s the students’ favorite part,” Chris-

Abrams show delivers look into world of Dr. Seuss

Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. will be drawing audiences into the world of Dr. Seuss with “Seussical the Musical,” which will be presented Dec. 5-8 and Dec. 12-15 at the Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St., Abrams.

“Seussical” weaves a story of friendship, loyalty and love. The Cat in the Hat guides audiences into The Jungle of Nool to meet Horton, the kind-hearted elephant who discovers a speck of dust containing Whoville. He meets JoJo, a Who child sent to military school for thinking too many “thinks.”

Director Debra Jolly said the show is entertaining for all ages. The show revisits beloved characters including The Cat in the Hat, Horton the Elephant, Gertrude McFuzz, Mayzie LaBird and JoJo.

“‘Seussical’ is a joyful, scary, sad, funny and exuberant show, much like the books of Dr. Seuss upon which it is based. It is a show that tells many stories with wonderful music, wild dancing, colorful costumes and amazing sets,” she said.

The musical consists almost entirely of songs, with only a few spoken lines.

“The music is varied but surprisingly difficult,” Jolly said. “The dancing requires many styles, from typical musical theater to lyrical to swing to tap.”

Dr. Seuss created so many memorable characters, and many are in this show. The Cat in the Hat, portrayed by Preston Pelegrin, is in almost every scene.

“He’s causing mischief and keeping the story moving,” Jolly said. “Preston is a wonderful actor, singer and dancer.”

Bobby Buffington portrays the gentle, daydreaming Horton the elephant. He brings a childlike sense of innocence, kindness and compassion to the stage. Another key character is JoJo, a Who child, portrayed by Bella Haglund.

“She has such energy, and her character is always thinking and marveling at the Seussical world,” Jolly said. “There is also a trio of Bird Girls (played by Julie Johannes-Frohliger, Hailey Marquardt and Xandriana Rhode) who dance beautifully and sing with tight harmonies.”

The Seussical world is full of color, evident in the sets, costumes and lighting. The show also is full of special effects.

SEUSS, CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Bobby Buffington, as Horton, and Bella Haglund, as JoJo, rehearse a scene from “Seussical the Musical.” The high-energy show for all ages will be presented Dec. 5-8 and Dec. 12-15 at the Nancy Byng Community Theater in Abrams.

CONTRIBUTED

DEER, CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Friday, December 6th 10 AM

End-of-the-Year Auction at the
Pound Auction Lot

Junction of US 141 & Hwy 64 in Pound, WI

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Forage & Harvesting New Holland FP240 Chopper with tandem axle & applicator, New Holland hay head, Case IH HDX3R 3row30" corn head, New Holland 790 Chopper w/ hay head, NH 824 2row adj corn head, H&S 18ft rear-unload Chopper box, Miller Pro-4100 20ft chopper box, Miller Pro-4100 18ft chopper box, Miller Pro-2175 16ft chopper box, Gehl 970 18ft chopper box, Gruett's 16ft chopper box, John Deere 35 Chopper w/ 2row corn & hay head, Badger BN2054 blower, Ag-Bagger 10ft silo bagger, Kelly-Ryan 9ft silo bagger, John Deere 467 Silage Special Round Baler w/ MegaWide pickup, John Deere 468 Round Baler w/ MegaWidePlus pickup, New Holland & New Idea rolabar rakes, New Holland 315 baler with thrower, (2) Steel bale catching racks on running gears, Parker 400 Gravity Box w/ 16.5-16.1 tires, (12) Gravity Boxes on gears

Tillage & Planting John Deere 2623 Soil Management System 26.5ft Disk w/ hyd depth control, cushion gangs, walking tandems, gauge wheels & rolling baskets w/ hyd control, John Deere 8500 Triple Set of Grain Drills with Hyd-slide hitch, 20" marker tires & double disc openers, Hiniker 3pt 6R30 Cultivator w/ 8R30 extensions & Side-dresser with Hyd pump, Brillion 12-shank Chisel Plow, Ford 151 6 bottom SAR Plow, John Deere 4 bottom Auto Reset semi-mount Plow, 2 bottom Plow, 8ft tandem disk

Feeder Wagons, Tools & Farm Items (2) KNT heavy duty Steel 30ft Feeder Wagons, Peterson-built 24ft steel Feeder Wagon, H&S Chuckwagon, Big Valley squeeze chute, 50 self-locking stalls, Automatic headgate, WIC 45 power Feed Cart w/ Honda motor, John Deere 620i Gator, N-tech 8ft pit pump, 250gal Stainless bulk tank, 3pt Grader blades, Land Pride RCP2560 ditch-bank 5ft brush cutter w/ 15ft reach & self-contained Hyd, Hawk 1500 Hyd Clam Loader on tandem trailer, 2 Farm running gears, Grapple bucket for skid steer, Material bucket & Rock bucket for skid steer, Like new Crown S12SH Mortar Mixer w/ 5HP motor, 2 Riding mowers

Trucks, Lifts & Trailers 2011 Chevy Silverado 3500 Crew Cab 4x4 w/ Duramax diesel, Allison tranny & 91k miles, 2010 Kenworth T800 semi with C-13 CAT, 10 speed, stand-up Sleeper & 650k miles, 2007 Sky Trak 10042 Telehandler w/ Cab, Cummins diesel, 10,000# lift & 42ft reach—only 4300 hours, 2006 Kenworth W900 Studio Sleeper, Cummins ISX @ 550HP, 10 speed AutoShift, New Turbo & road-ready, 2006 Kenworth with Cummins ISX & engine brake, 2006 Wilson ACF-300 All-Aluminum 48ft Flatbed Trailer w/ spread axle, tool boxes & new ABS computer, 2006 Big Tex gooseneck Hyd Dump Trailer w/ tandem duals, 2000 Witzco Challenger 50ton Tri-axle Lowboy trailer w/ new deck & brakes, 1998 Coachman 26ft Motor Home with Ford Triton V10 motor, 1996 IH 8200 Day Cab semi with N14 Cummins @ 475HP, 10 speed, 152" WB, Wet Kit, sliding table, GN hitch & pintle ring with rear air couplers (only 660k miles), 1996 IH 9200i PRO Sleeper Tractor w/ Detroit Series 60 diesel @ 430HP, 13 speed, 207" WB & Wet Kit, 1995 Peterbilt 357 Dump Truck w/ CAT 3306, 10 speed, Plows & only 105k miles, 1993 Ford F700 Boom Truck, Customized 1992 Ford LTL 9000 single axle with N14 Cummins @ 425HP, 9 speed & chrome deckplates, 1988 E-350 Service Van w/ 7.3 Diesel & 80k miles (was Ambulance), 1986 Ford 8000 Dump Truck w/ 3208 CAT, Delta tandem axle Skid Steer trailer, Hawk 1500 Hyd Clam Loader on tandem trailer, SuperSingle tires & mounted tires, Western hyd-turn Snowplow



Saturday, Dec. 7th 10 AM

Large Auction for
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served by Municipal water & sewer. Other features include a Deck with a Brick



Barbecue Grill, Landscaped yard, 2-stall Garage with an addition & 10x12ft Yard Shed. This home conveys Ownership with a Wisconsin DMV Title. The land is leased from Golden Sands Mobile Home Park and is subject to their terms. Terms on Real Estate: \$ 10,000 earnest money Downpayment with Offer. NO Contingencies. Closing within 30 Days. Call Len Yoap to schedule a Viewing at (920) 604-1704

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Antiques & Household: Oak pedestal dining table with claw feet & pressback chairs, Oak hutch, Loveseat, Lazy Boy, Full size bed, Patchwork quilt, Knitted afghans, Sewing supplies, Modern 5-drawer Chest, Boston rocker, Lamps & Tables, Ant. Live Oak Jewel ornate cast iron Potbelly stove, Free-standing portable electric Fireplace with stone surround, Mantle clock, Sanyo flat screen TV, DVD player, Admiral upright freezer, Like new S-curve Oak rolltop desk, C-curve rolltop desk, Eagle

Sunday, Dec. 8th 10 AM

Auction in Wittenberg
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Finches paying visit to Wisconsin feeders

With fall well underway, we are seeing both house finches and purple finches at our feeders. They seem like old friends, some coming from the far north to spend some time with us as the world again slips into winter's grip.

The two species of finches look much alike, and we have to remind ourselves each year of the markings that distinguish them from each other. The males have the brightest coloring, with the male purple finch sporting a raspberry red head and breast and the red mixing with brown on the back. The belly is off-white. The male house finch is also marked with red, but less so, having a patch of brown on top of the head and brown streaking along its sides and belly.

The females are much less showy. Both species are streaked with browns and whites and lack any red coloring. You can distinguish the female purple finch from the house finch by its white strip above the eye and another down the side of its throat. A pair of binoculars helps pick out these facial markings.

You are what you eat — or, more apropos for birds, coloring reflects what you eat. It's interesting to learn from David Allen Sibley in his book, "What's it Like to be a Bird," that the red



Male and female house finches take a drink of water from a birdbath. The male, seen on the right, can be identified by his red coloring and a brown spot on the top of his head.

CATHY CARNES



coloring in songbirds such as the finches, comes from eating carotenoid pigments found in red fruits and vegetables; these also contribute to a healthy immune system. Alan Haney, in his book, "Jewels of Nature," notes that females of both species prefer males that are brighter red, perhaps

because they are healthier or better at finding fruit, important attributes when raising young.

Heavy, short conical bills distinguish these birds as seed eaters. According to The Cornell Lab All About Birds (AAB) website, both species also eat soft buds, the nectar of flowers, and fruits including cherries, apricots and crab apples. While house finches do not eat insects, purple finches eat some; they are a small part of their diet and include aphids, caterpillars, grasshoppers and beetles.

The reproductive output of these finches varies significantly, according to Haney. While the purple finch raises one clutch of two to seven eggs per year, the house finch is busy raising three or more broods a year, each with three to five young. Haney notes that expanding house finch populations may have a positive outcome — their ability to outcompete house sparrows (a non-native species) for nesting cavities. House sparrows are aggressive when competing for nesting cavities and can limit nesting of other native songbirds, including bluebirds and chickadees.

The house finch has proved to be a survivor and wanderer. According to Haney, the house finch is only native to the western U.S. and Mexico. The story explaining its now-expanded range goes that it was marketed and sold as "a Hollywood finch" in the New York City area, but when this activity was made illegal by the Migra-

tory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, many vendors and owners released their birds.

From the release of this small population of house finches, this well-adapted bird has winged its way throughout the U.S. and southern Canada. Official recognition of the house finch occurred in Wisconsin in 1983, and it now occurs year-round throughout its expanded range.

In contrast, the purple finch only occurs year-round throughout the region extending from the Great Lakes to the northeastern U.S. and southern Canada and along the West Coast. They breed mostly in the boreal forests of Canada and migrate south in the winter where they can be seen in the Midwest and southern states.

A finch conservation group called the Finch Research Network annually predicts the migratory pattern of the purple finch. The prediction is based on the condition of food sources used by purple finches in

the boreal forests where they breed. These foods include the seeds of white spruce, tamarack, balsam fir and birch, as well as pit and deciduous fruit crops. These food sources can be affected by insect infestations (spruce budworm, tent caterpillar, etc.), drought and forest fires. When foods are more plentiful, fewer birds migrate south.

This year's forecasts from the Finch Research Network predicts that the majority of purple finches that breed in Canada will migrate south to the Great Plains and southern U.S., with small numbers remaining in southern Ontario east to the Maritime provinces of eastern Canada. This means we will likely see more migrating purple finches this year.

According to the AAB website, both the house and purple finch are considered species of low conservation concern. However, some populations of purple finches may be suffering declines in areas now populated with the more recent arrivals of house finches.

We are lucky here in northeastern Wisconsin, snug up to Lake Michigan, that we are able to see both the house and purple finch year-round. We are likely to see more purple finches in the fall and early winter as they migrate south from the boreal forests of Canada. Providing them with their favorite food at our feeders, black oil sunflower seeds, helps them on their journeys and brings delightful color and song to our world.

Cathy Carnes is a retired biologist in Oconto who worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Green Bay Field Office and, prior to that, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch in Buffalo, New York. As endangered species coordinator for the USFWS, she helped conserve and recover federally listed threatened and endangered species in Wisconsin.



Community Journalism?

NEW Media is always on the lookout for talented freelance correspondents who can write stories AND take stunning photographs for our three publications — the Shawano Leader, the Oconto County Times Herald, and the Wittenberg Enterprise and Birnamwood News.

Self-starters find a lot in the community worth writing about as we showcase the best of what Shawano, Oconto and Menominee counties have to offer. If you like to write about seniors, profile businesses, shine a light on agriculture enterprises, cover community events or anything else you can imagine, we want you to join us.

We also seek correspondents who have a nose for news or like to cover sporting events, and those with the talent and interest can go far. We pay \$60 per story and \$10 per photo that are published in print and/or online.

Anyone interested in joining our team of freelancers can send a cover letter to City Editor Lee Pulaski at lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com and include some samples of their previous work, if applicable.

DEER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

tian said. "Most of the kids, 20 of them, were here at 5 this morning. We have a lot of kids who just come in and enjoy, but the kids who come in and cook enjoy it the most."

For Resch, the breakfast also serves as a thank you to the school.

"It's a fun morning, even though it's early," Resch said. "We all are waking, but we get excited by jamming out to music while we're cooking. It's nice that us students get to make something and give back to our school to show our appreciation for them being here and supporting the agriculture community."

Having an event like this, in Resch's view, provides an opportunity to show students who are not in the agriculture program what the FFA is all about.

"There's a lot more to ag than just animals," Resch said. "Any trees, if you do maple syrup, anything in that realm of natural resources. If you do things with water, aquatics, fish, all that stuff. It brings people into the ag building that maybe haven't been, and it shows them what we actually are here."

Resch is a senior, so this will be her last year participating in the deer

hunters breakfast, but she's hoping it won't be her last year enjoying it.

Being an FFA member, she said, definitely brought her a lot of happiness and gave her a lot of memories. "I'm definitely going to miss it," Resch said. "Obviously, going on to college, I'm hoping to come back on this day and come and visit, but I may not have the opportunity. I hope that the kids that are coming in here realize how important it is and how much it brings our school together, and I hope they continue it."

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

SEUSS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

"Watch at the end for a couple of surprise special effects," Jolly said.

"Seussical" is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance

materials are also supplied by MTI. The music by Stephen Flaherty, lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, and book by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, all based on the works of Dr. Seuss. To order tickets, visit

abramstheater.com or call the box office at 920-826-5852. Tickets are \$19 for adults and \$17 for senior citizens, youths and veterans. Anyone interested in helping behind the scenes can contact ASPI to volunteer.

Warmer than usual fall provides some surprises

A long and warmer than normal fall, thus far, has led to many surprises for gardeners here in our area. With temperatures in the 70s, even 80s in just the past few weeks, the gardening season is hanging on and, for many of us, full of fun surprises.

This fall has been noteworthy for a lack of killing frost in many areas, at least up until now, as well as the continued bloom of many garden favorites. Chances are, if you have left your garden plants standing, some of them are still in bloom or, in some cases, producing fruits.

In some gardens, tomatoes are still flowering and producing fruit, even into November, and these plants show no sign of ending their long growing season. Of course, this could change at the drop of a hat should temperatures fall consistently into the 20s for several days.

Lilacs have also been



Rob Zimmer
Columnist

showing off this autumn, with many in our area producing a second flush of blooms in October. While it's normal every year for a few lilacs to produce a second flush in fall, the number of lilacs reblooming this year has been significant.

This is true of classic English and French lilacs, as well as many of the newer dwarf reblooming lilacs such as Bloomerang and those in the Miss Kim family.

Reblooming tall bearded iris have also been surprising gardeners with flowering scapes and luscious blooms continuing even into this past week. There are many varieties of tall bearded iris, such as Immortality, in pure white,



Warm temperatures have helped many garden annuals, such as this nasturtium, continue to bloom into November.
ROB ZIMMER

and others that traditionally rebloom in the fall season.

Even a few forsythia in our area have surprised local gardeners with sparse

golden blooms.

Classic perennials such as black-eyed Susans and purple coneflowers, along with yarrow, sedums,

reblooming daylilies such as Stella D'Oro and others are also still blooming in some area gardens.

Classic summer bloom-

ing shrubs, such as hydrangeas and roses, continue to show off beautiful blooms, even weeks into the autumn season.

The colorful blooms of many annual bedding plants, along with hanging baskets and containers continue to flush new blossoms. Calendula, marigold, salvias, Mexican sunflower, fan flower, begonias, petunias, superbells and others are still blooming in many local gardens even as of the time of this writing.

Temperatures are sure to fall over the next few weeks, and with a few killing frosts, the final blossoms will fade as colder weather moves in. Until then, gardens throughout our area continue to shine and to surprise gardeners seeking that rare November color.

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, NOV. 29

OCONTO: Winter Wonderland Kickoff, 5 p.m., Holtwood Campground, 400 Holtwood Way.

SURING: Recovery Talking Circle, 6-8 p.m. South Branch Community Center, W1281 County Road M.

SATURDAY, NOV. 30

CAROLINE: Breakfast and Photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Blue 52, W12850 County Road M. Benefit for Down with Milestones. \$20 adults, \$5 children, price includes breakfast, professional photo and kids' craft.

BIRNAMWOOD: Holiday Fair and Berry Merry Holiday Kick-off, 9 a.m. to 11 p.m., Chet and Emil's Hall and Matsche Center, 388 Main St. Vendors and raffles 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Santa and crew, kids' crafts, gingerbread house judging, hot cocoa bar 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.; chili and soup supper 4:30 p.m.; parade 6 p.m. followed by tree lighting; live music with Lovin Country 7-11 p.m.

SHAWANO: Holiday Stroll and Tree Lighting, 3-5 p.m., Franklin Park, 235 S. Washington St. Features 100 decorated

Christmas trees, Santa and his reindeer, horse and wagon rides, Christmas caroling, kids activities. Community Tree lighting at 5 p.m.

OCONTO FALLS: Avenue of Lights Kickoff, 6 p.m., East Side Beach. Oconto Falls High School choir caroling 6 p.m., Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive with tree lighting 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 1

PULASKI: Holiday Craft and Gift Market, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Pulaski Community Middle School, 911 S. St. Augustine St. Over 90 vendor booths. \$2 suggested donation. Lunch available for purchase.

MONDAY, DEC. 2

SHAWANO: Pictures with Santa, 4-7 p.m., Newcap, 504 Lakeland Road. Photo op with Santa, hot chocolate bar, sweet treats, games and crafts. One hour 3-4 p.m. reserved for those who need a quieter environment for sensory purposes.

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

dallasgast8@gmail.com.

TUESDAY, DEC. 3

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

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 4

SHAWANO: Chamber Coffee Connection, 8-9 a.m., The Daily Drip, 15 N. Main St., Unit B.

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

THURSDAY, DEC. 5

KESHENA: Tribal Elder Food Box Distribution, 1 p.m., N737 Headstart Road. All elderly age 55 and enrolled in a federally organized tribe are eligible.

OCONTO FALLS: Main Street Event, 3-7 p.m. downtown. "Whoville" at Caldwell Square, Main Street and Caldwell Avenue, with tree lighting 6 p.m., wagon rides to Avenue of Lights from Antique Bar, 126 N. Main St., activities

at participating businesses.

NAVARINO: Wreath Workshop, 5:30-8 p.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. \$35, limited space, register at 715-758-6999.

ABRAMS: "Suessical The Musical," 7 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St. Presented by Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. Tickets \$19 for adults and \$17 for senior citizens, youth and veterans at abramstheater.com or 920-826-5852.

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

FRIDAY, DEC. 6

KESHENA: Menominee Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting, 5:30 p.m., from Menominee Nation Middle/High School parking lot, N522 State Highway 47-55, to Veterans Park pavilion, followed by tree lighting at park.

SHAWANO: Downtown Santa Parade, 6 p.m., Main Street from Elizabeth Street to Franklin Park, 235 S. Washington St. Theme: An Old-Fashioned Christmas. After the parade,

visit Santa in The Naberhood at the Santa House until 8 p.m.

SURING: Recovery Talking Circle, 6-8 p.m. South Branch Community Center, W1281 County Road M.

ABRAMS: "Suessical The Musical," 7 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St. Presented by Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. Tickets \$19 for adults and \$17 for senior citizens, youth and veterans at abramstheater.com or 920-826-5852.

SATURDAY, DEC. 7

SHAWANO: Cookie Walk, 9-11 a.m., Peace United Church of Christ, 208 E. Maurer St. Cookies and candies \$7.50 per pound.

BONDUEL: Craft and Vendor Sale, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Doc's Harley Davidson, W2907 State Highway 29. Pictures with Santa, bake sale.

GREEN VALLEY: Christmas Cookie and Candy Walk, Bethel Lutheran Church, N6955 County Road BB. \$8 a pound for cookies, \$10 for candy.

GILLET: Santa's Workshop, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., St. John's Lutheran Church, 101 W. Main St. Crafts and vendors' goods,

bucket raffles.

GILLET: Christmas in the Park, 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Zippel Park, 150 McKenzie St. Santa visits with children in Expo Hall 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., kids activities, face painting, balloon animals, reindeer games. Caroling 4:45 p.m., lighting of displays and fireworks 5 p.m.

SHAWANO: Merry Mielke Trivia Challenge, 1-4 p.m., Mielke Arts Center, N5649 N. Airport Road. Hosted by Box in the Wood Theatre Guild.

ABRAMS: "Suessical The Musical," 7 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St. Presented by Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. Tickets \$19 for adults and \$17 for senior citizens, youth and veterans at abramstheater.com or 920-826-5852.

SUNDAY, DEC. 8

ABRAMS: "Suessical The Musical," 1 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St. Presented by Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. Tickets \$19 for adults and \$17 for senior citizens, youth and veterans at abramstheater.com or 920-826-5852.

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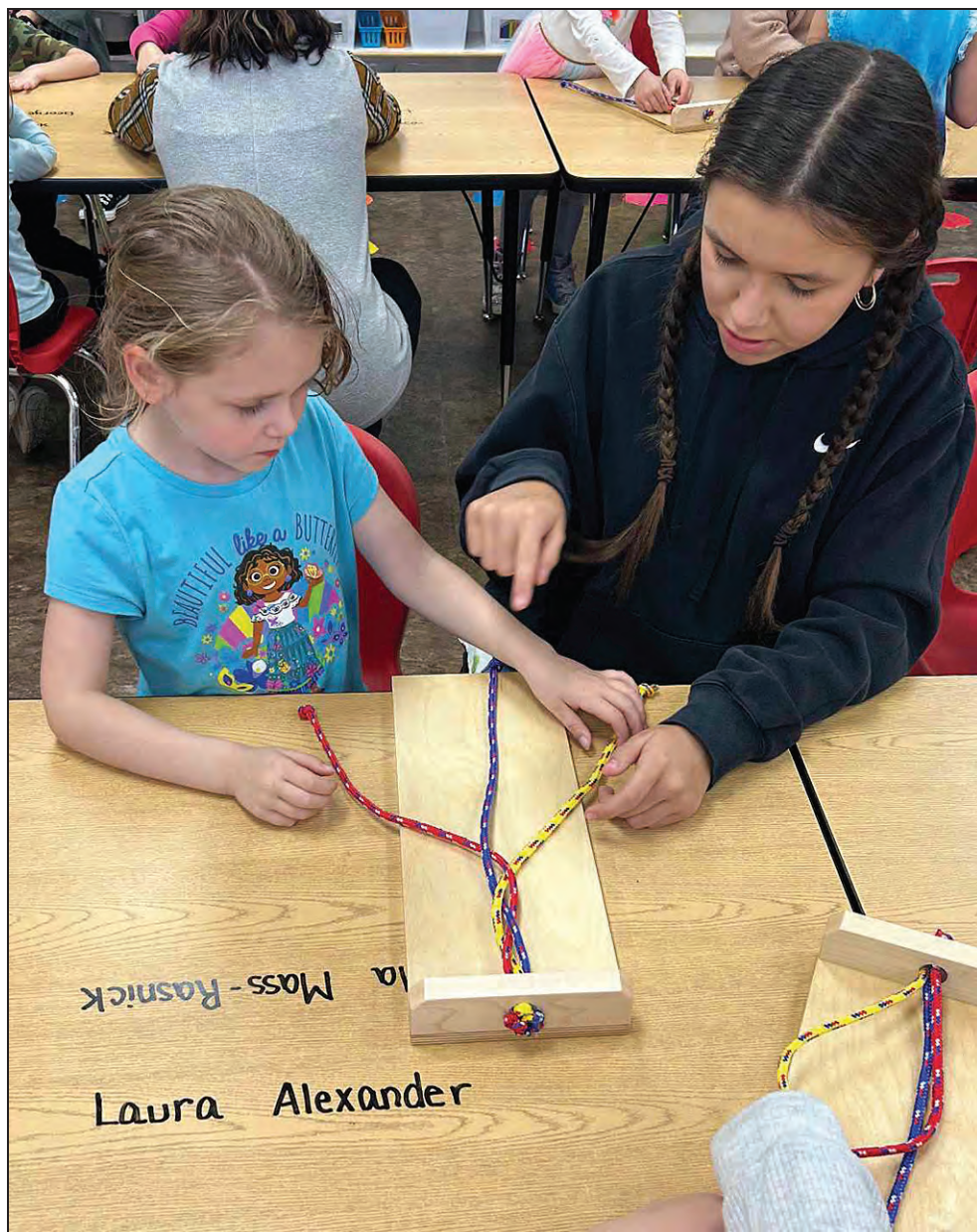
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Working on braid boards



Isla Maas-Rasnick, left, and Addyson Fowler-Doxtator work together on a braid board Nov. 19. The eighth grade class at Sacred Heart Catholic School taught the 4-year-old kindergarten students how to braid using the new braid boards in celebration of Native American Heritage Month and the school's Braids are Beautiful Day. The boards were made and donated by Crossroads Custom Cabinetry. The older students worked with and taught the younger children, and this was also a great opportunity for the 4K students to work on their fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination and sense of order. CONTRIBUTED

Options available for Medicare Advantage plans

With Medicare's Annual Election Period (AEP) now open, Aspirus Health Plan wants to help Medicare beneficiaries navigate the decision-making process of selecting a Medicare Advantage (MA) plan by sharing key considerations that everyone should review when choosing their plan.

“Medicare’s Annual Election Period for 2025 ends on Dec. 7, 2024, so it is important that you evaluate your options and select coverage that will best meet your needs before the deadline,” said David Bittner, interim president of Aspirus Health Plan. “We encourage everyone to compare plans carefully and reach out to trusted resources if they need further assistance.”

Medicare Advantage plans, like those offered by Aspirus Health Plan, offer an alternative to original Medicare and can provide additional benefits. Here are five of the most important factors to consider when evaluating a Medicare Advantage plan.

Provider network

Medicare Advantage plans typically have a

defined network, such as an HMO or PPO. It's essential to confirm that your preferred doctors, hospitals and specialists are in-network and accessible under the plan you're considering. Staying within the network usually results in the lowest out-of-pocket costs.

Cost structure

Medicare Advantage plans can vary in terms of monthly premiums, copays, deductibles and annual out-of-pocket maximums. Keep in mind that while some MA plans have low or even no premiums, the cost structure for services may differ between plans.

Prescription drug coverage

Many Medicare Advantage plans include Part D prescription drug coverage. It's important to review the list of covered drugs to ensure your medications are included and to compare associated copays or coinsurance costs.

Plan type and flexibility

Consider the type of plan, such as Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) or Preferred Provider Organization

(PPO), and if it fits your lifestyle. HMOs typically require referrals for specialist visits and may only cover services from in-network providers. PPOs offer more flexibility to see providers outside the network, although at a higher cost.

Additional benefits

Unlike original Medicare, MA plans often offer additional benefits like dental, vision, hearing and wellness programs. These extra services may add significant value, especially for those who need specific services not covered under original Medicare.

"We know that choosing a Medicare Advantage plan is a highly personal decision," said David Bittner. "By considering your network preferences, cost structure and any additional benefits that might be valuable to you, you can find a plan that aligns with your personal healthcare goals."

Find more information about Medicare Advantage options and how to find the right plan by visiting www.healthcare.gov or the Aspirus Health Plan website.



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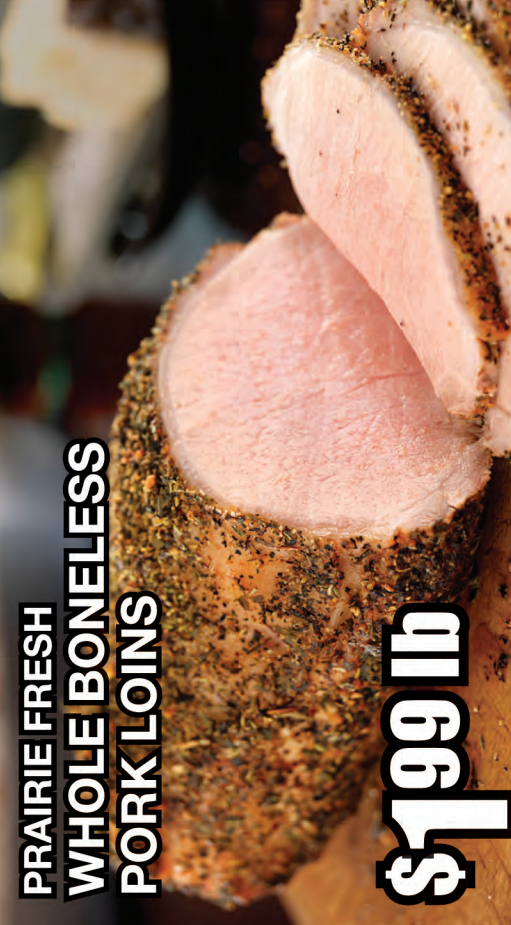
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Wildcats down larger foes to open season

Nov. 22
Lena 75, Merrill 31
The Lena Wildcats, runners-up in the WIAA Division 5 girls basketball tournament last March, started the 2024-25 season with impressive victories over a pair of Division 2 opponents on their home court last week.

In a battle of last year's conference champions, Lena of the M&O Conference outlasted Marinette of the North Eastern Conference 60-54 on Nov. 19.

The Wildcats went on to rout Merrill of the Wisconsin Valley Conference 75-31 on Nov. 22.

Lena scored the first seven points of the game and never looked back. The Bluejays managed to pull within five points at 14-9 early in the first half, but the Wildcats slowly pulled away and led 34-19 at the half.

Extending the lead to 42-24 with 14:17 to play, the Wildcats ended the game on a 33-7 run.

M&O Player of the Year Eva Brooks nearly matched Merrill's entire team with 30 points. Brooks connected on 13 2-point baskets, one 3-point play and a free throw.

Junior Madilyn Thomson (22) and senior Kali Fischer (12) also finished in double figures.

Brooks pulled down 11 rebounds, with Hannah Thomson grabbing eight and Madilyn Thomson getting seven.

Hannah Thomson led with eight assists, and Brooks had five. Brooks tallied five steals, while Madilyn Thomson and Fischer each had four.

Marion/Tigerton 50, Port Edwards 30

Marion/Tigerton had little trouble dispensing of Port Edwards 50-30.

The visitors led 22-9 at the break and outscored their hosts 28-21 in the second half.

Oneida Nation 85, Bowler 39

Oneida Nation scored almost as many points in the first half as Bowler did all game in an 85-39 win.

The home team led 38-16 at the break and out-



Eva Brooks (10) extends for the layup during Lena's 75-31 nonconference victory over Merrill on Nov. 22. Brooks finished with 30 points.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

scored Bowler 47-23 in the second half.

Shawano 53, Pulaski 45

Gillett 52, Green Bay NEW Lutheran/Providence Academy 33

Nov. 21
Oconto Falls 62, Menominee Nation 54

The Oconto Falls girls basketball team trailed by seven points at halftime but poured in the baskets

in the second half to claim victory at home.

The Panthers were down 34-27 at the break but outscored their guests 35-20 in the second half as they won 62-54.

St. Mary Catholic 50, Bonduel 37

Suring 45, Gresham 27

Nov. 19
Wittenberg-Birnamwood 63, Peshtigo 23

The Wittenberg-

Birnamwood girls basketball team started the season with plenty of adrenaline as they took on Peshtigo, defeating the Bulldogs 63-23.

"Defensively we played very well, especially the second half," coach Nick Mechelke said. "We just didn't shoot very well from the floor. We got a lot of open looks but couldn't get anything to fall in the first



Kali Fischer, left, and Haley Van Ark of Lena apply pressure to Merrill's Gracelee Gentile-Hull during the Wildcats' 75-31 nonconference victory over the Bluejays on Nov. 22 at Lena.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

half."

The Chargers led 27-13 after the first half and made some adjustments in the second half to help blow open the scoring difference.

"We played a much better half, outscoring the Bulldogs 36-10," Mechelke said. "I was really happy that all 12 contributed in some way tonight."

Rory Salvesen led Wittenberg-Birnamwood with 25 points. Melaina Granquist added 14, and Harper Rogowski contributed 11. Salvesen and Granquist each had four free throws.

Brie Ladika had the Chargers' only two assists. Rogowski had eight assists, and Granquist had seven.

Ladika, Rogowski, Salvesen and Granquist each recorded five steals.

Lena 60, Marinette 54

Eva Brooks posted 27 points, and Madilyn Thomson added 20 as Lena opened the season with a 60-54 win over

Marinette.

Marinette led 26-22 at the break, but then Lena turned up the tempo and outscored their guests 38-28 to earn the six-point win.

Brooks collected 22 of her points in the second half. During the stretch of the entire game, she connected on a trio of 3-point plays and made 8-of-15 free throws.

Thomson made 8-of-11 free throws.

Also scoring were Kali Fischer with nine points, and Haley Van Ark and Maddy Kushner with two each.

Bonduel 53, Algoma 32

Gresham 54, Rosholt 45

Marion 62, Stockbridge 35

Oconto 79, Menominee Nation 48

West De Pere 71, Pulaski 45

Shawano 65, Medford 48

CWC all-conference football teams announced

Officials with the Central Wisconsin Conference have announced the names of athletes named to the all-conference football teams.

Six Wittenberg-Birnamwood players were honored on offense, and eight were honored on defense.

Named to the first team offense was junior Eddie Nowinsky as offensive lineman.

Second team offense included junior Henry Egging as offensive lineman, junior Bryson Schmid as quarterback, senior Boone Schairer as running back and se-

nior Jett Rogowski as wide receiver.

Junior George Seegmiller was named to the honorable mention list as offensive lineman.

Schairer was named co-defensive player of the year.

First team defense included Rogowski as defensive back, Nowinsky as defensive lineman and Schairer as linebacker.

On the second team were Schmid as defensive back, sophomore Slade Wierzbza as defensive lineman and junior Kaden Yaeger as linebacker.

Honorable mention status was earned

by junior Carson Meverden as defensive lineman and senior Michael Gunter as linebacker.

The CWC 8-man all-conference teams also included several local athletes.

Named to the second team offense were Marion/Tigerton junior Nolan Wisniewski as offensive lineman, senior Joey Zimdars as quarterback and sophomore Braylon Mielke as running back.

Marion/Tigerton senior Gavin Laatsch was named to the honorable mention team as offensive lineman. Menominee Nation senior Rayshawan Madoah

was honored as offensive lineman, and senior Mike Selgado was recognized as quarterback.

All-conference players on the defensive side were Marion/Tigerton senior Logan Zietlow as defensive back, Marion/Tigerton junior Sam Anheuser as linebacker and Menominee Nation senior as defensive lineman.

With honorable mention honors were Marion/Tigerton junior Nick Hannig as defensive lineman, Zimdars as linebacker and Menominee Nation senior Mitchell Waukau as defensive lineman.



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Shawano athletes named all-conference

BY NEW MEDIA STAFF

Several Shawano Community High School athletes have been named to various Bay Conference all-conference teams for their efforts fall sports.

Boys cross country
Sophomore Josiah Kuehl, who competed in the state tournament, was named to the second team. Senior Trevor Schwartz was honorable mention.

Girls cross country
The entire girls team advanced to the state tournament. First team honors were awarded to junior

Bailey Hendricks, senior Adalyn Barkley and junior Maci Beyer.

Named to the second team were freshman Mikelah Powers and junior Anabelle Schroeder.

Tennis
Rachael Carroll earned second team honors for her singles play.

Football
On the offensive side of the ball, sophomore wide receiver Austin Heling and senior running back Jerzy Bocker were named to the second team.

Senior tight end Alex Zierden earned honorable

mention status.
On defense, Bocker was a unanimous selection for first team as a defensive back and as punter.

Junior Chase Katchenago was named as a second team defensive lineman, and senior Parker Beyer was honorable mention as a defensive back.

Soccer
Four Hawks were named to the first team. They were senior keeper Ryan Buerman, senior forward Warner Beyer, senior midfielder Ruben De Gaspari and junior defender Cooper Boucher.

Sophomore forward Grayson Swedberg and junior midfielder Anderson Schmidt earned second team honors.

Volleyball
The volleyball team advanced to the state tournament for the first time since 1988. Juniors Natalie Bystol and Leah Nordin earned first team honors.

Honorable mention status was earned by senior libero Teagen Thompson, senior setter Amelia Klement and senior Gracie Buss.

Golf
Sophia Eggert was

named Bay Conference Golfer of the Year. She was named to the first team along with Lily Glysch. Maddie Moesch and Del Kunze were named to the second team.

Bonduel's Morgan Staszak earned honorable mention status.

Swimming
Wittenberg-Birnamwood swimmers collected several honors.

Sophomore Kelsie Davis was named Bay Conference Swimmer of the Year.

Freshman Brooklyn Beran, junior Reese Dickman,

Davis and senior Faith Resch earned first team honors for the 200-yard medley relay and for the 400-yard freestyle relay.

Resch was named to the first team in the 50-yard freestyle and the 100-yard freestyle, as was Davis is the 100-yard butterfly and the 100-yard backstroke.

Dickman was name to the second team for the 100-yard breaststroke.

Beran earned honorable mention status in the 200-yard freestyle and the 100-yard backstroke, while Dickman was recognized for the 50-yard freestyle.

Higgins to lead Pulaski girls softball program

Emily Higgins is the new girls softball coach at Pulaski High School. She replaces Billie Vertz, who retired last summer after 20 seasons at the helm and 24 years with the program.

Higgins, a Pulaski Community Middle School eighth grade teacher, is no stranger to the softball program. She is a 2018 PHS graduate who competed in softball, basketball and cross country during high school. She later played basketball for two years at UW-Oshkosh, where she earned a bachelor's degree in secondary education.

She was Fox River Clas-

sic Conference first team all-conference member all four years of high school in softball. She was honorable mention on the Wisconsin Fastpitch Softball Coaches Association all-state team in her freshman year and first team her sophomore, junior and senior years.

Growing up, she played travel softball for a team called PowerHouse Fastpitch, which traveled all over the country to play in tournaments.

"It was an amazing experience playing against girls from all over," she said.

Her younger years, she



EMILY HIGGINS

played short-stop. She played first base her freshman year and

second base the remainder of her high school career. In 2016, the Red Raiders advanced to the state tournament.

Pulaski is a well-rounded community with people in it who are very supportive of the sports programs,

Higgins said.

"It's a school that has competitive sports teams, softball being one of them," she said. "I am super honored to come back and be a part of the softball organization again."

Higgins' goal is to keep building the program to be the best it can be and for her players to compete at a high level.

"It is awesome to see Emily Higgins back on the softball field, this time at the helm of the Red Raider program," said Janel Batten, PHS athletic and activities director. "I am beyond excited for her future and the

future of this softball program. She will do a great job, with the assistants around her, of carrying out the tradition of excellence that Coach Vertz had built."

At present, Batten is working on finalizing the rest of the coaching staff.

Higgins said some of her biggest memories from high school were going to softball practices, being with her teammates, the bus rides and the games. "Those are some times that I will never forget. So to come back and coach the next generation is an honor," she said.

Higgins recognized she

has huge softball cleats to fill.

"As a former player for Coach Vertz, I just want to give her a huge shout out, and also a huge thank you for all the hard work she put into the Pulaski softball program from youth all the way up to varsity," Higgins said. "She's worked really hard to build this program and has done a phenomenal job doing it, so I am honored to take it over and to continue the strong and competitive program that she left it as."

Higgins is the daughter of Bill and Mary Higgins, Hobart.



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Bear season results show successful rebound

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) preliminary results for the 2024 bear season indicate hunters harvested 4,285 bears during the five-week season, a rebound from the below-average harvest of 2,922 bears taken last fall.

“Several factors likely led to this season’s increase in harvest,” said Randy Johnson, DNR large carnivore specialist. “In 2023, we saw an incredible amount of acorns and other natural food production. This reduced the effectiveness of baits and translated to a historically low harvest. This year, anecdotes from bear hunters and harvest data suggest less natural food availability than last year.

“Additionally, last year’s low harvest, coupled with bears entering dens in excellent body condition last fall, likely contributed to an increase in the number of bears on the landscape this fall.”

The 2024 bear season ran from Sept. 4 to Oct. 8. A total of 11,501 bear hunting licenses were awarded to hunters through the license lottery system.

Although the number of licenses was reduced



Wisconsin bear hunters experienced above-average success in 2024, harvesting 4,285 bears during the black bear season. WISCONSIN DNR

slightly this year, hunter success rates were generally higher than expected, leading to meeting or exceeding harvest targets in most management zones. Statewide, hunter success was about 37%, up from the five-year average of 31%. Hunter success rates in individual zones varied from a high of 71% in Zone A to less than 10% in Zones E and F.

“On average, we expect to see about half of the total bear harvest within the first five days of the season,” Johnson said. “This year, nearly 57% of the total harvest occurred in those first five days, with over 1,000 bears taken on opening day alone. Although the harvest rate

returned closer to average during the rest of the season, this strong first week set the stage to meet or exceed harvest targets by season’s end.”

Wisconsin has a thriving bear population, estimated at around 23,000 bears, with a range covering more than half the state.

While bears have cultural and ecological value, they can also conflict with human interests, such as damaging agricultural crops or raiding residential trash and bird feeders.

Visit <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/hunt/bear> to learn more about black bear hunting, ecology and management in Wisconsin.

Peters named top defensive player of 2024

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas Academy senior Calvin Peters was named defensive player of the year, Across the Bay Conference officials announced. He was one of several team members to earn all-conference honors.

Named to the first team offense were Peters and senior Tyler Shallow as running backs, junior Colt Miller as offensive end and senior Tug Paidl as offensive lineman.

For the defense, first team honors were earned by Shallow as defensive back, Peters as linebacker, Miller as defensive lineman.

Gillett senior La-Vonnzell was named to the first team defense as a linebacker, and Suring senior Michael Bailey was honored as a defensive lineman on the first team.

Bailey was also named the punter on the first team.

Second team offense honors were won by Suring sophomore Kroix Kempka as running back, Lena/STAA junior Max Peterson as running back, Bailey as offensive end, Gillett senior Andrew Urch as offensive end, Lena/STAA junior Blake Behnke as offensive lineman, Suring senior Donny Otradovec as offensive lineman and Bailey as placekicker.

Named to the second team on defense were Suring sophomore Taylor Booth-Stoffregen as defensive back, Gillett junior Jedric Herzog as defensive back, Suring senior Kaleb Kempka as linebacker, Kroix Kempka as linebacker, Peterson as linebacker, Gillett senior Ryan Pensis as defensive lineman, Lena/STAA junior Zander Thompson as defensive lineman.

Earning honorable mention status were Gillett senior Jesse DeBauch as quarterback, Smith as running back, Suring sophomore Grant Thompson as running back, Pensis as offensive end and Gillett senior Cole School as offensive lineman.

Menominee Indian Boxing Club members to compete Dec. 7

Members of the Menominee Indian Boxing Club will be among those stepping into the ring when International Boxing presents Indian Country on Dec. 7 at Menominee Casino Resort, W277 Highway 47-55, Keshena. Doors will open at 6

p.m., with the show beginning at 7 p.m.

The boxing matches will take place in the Five Clans Ballroom at the casino. Attendees must be 21 or older.

Among the participating boxers will be Jerome Lambert, Jason Komanekin

Jr., Ben Zelfer and Jeff “Jay” Wright.

Local boxers train at the Menominee Indian Boxing Club at the Menominee Recreation Center on Go Around Road in Keshena.

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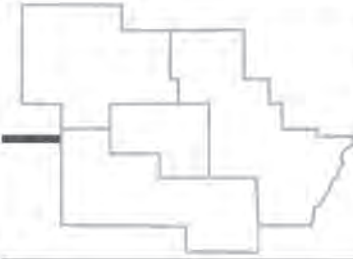


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Vacation/ Lake Property

WESLEY FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt & fees cancelled in 2019. Get FREE informational package & learn how to get rid of your timeshare! FREE consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. CALL 844-374-2565 (WCAN)

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49 lb GOLDEN EAGLE compound BOW \$75.00 or BEST OFFER 6>34 inch easton gamegetter 2117 arrows>3 blades razor heads many accessories 920-883-1405

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445 Humphrey Cr. Beautiful Fully Remodeled 1 or 2 Bedroom Convenient location Garage Available Starting at \$715 + Deposit Tom 715-280-0525

Mountain Bay Trail Apartments 1/2/3 Bedrooms Onsite Management Heat Included Single Car Garage W/D in apartment Rent begins at \$835 715-526-8790

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WANTED TO BUY 2016 or Newer VW Jetta Call #920-834-9237



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Call Today 715-526-6188

NEW MEDIA INC.

EARLY CHRISTMAS DEADLINES

Our Shawano and Oconto Falls offices

WILL BE CLOSED

Wednesday, December 25

Regular business hours will resume Thursday.

Special Holiday Advertising Deadlines for:

Product	Publication Date	Advertising Deadline
Times Herald	Fri, Jan. 3	Noon Thurs, Dec 26
Shawano Leader	Fri, Jan. 3	Noon Thurs, Dec 26
Wittenberg Enterprise	Fri, Jan. 3	Noon Thurs, Dec 26

Classified Ads Deadlines:

Product	Publication Date	Advertising Deadline
Times Herald	Fri, Jan. 3	Noon Thurs, Dec 26
Shawano Leader	Fri, Jan. 3	Noon Thurs, Dec 26
Wittenberg Enterprise	Fri, Jan. 3	Noon Thurs, Dec 26

NEW MEDIA INC.

Pulaski Museum hosting Christmas storytime

The Pulaski Area Historical Society will host Christmas Storytime at the Pulaski Museum from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 14 at the museum, 129 W. Pulaski St., Pulaski.

At noon, Assumption Blessed Virgin Mary librarian Audrey Naliborski will enchant children with a reading of a popular Christmas story. In addition, families can enjoy

photos with Mrs. Claus from 11 a.m. to noon and again from 12:30-1 p.m. As a special treat, photos taken with Mrs. Claus will be emailed to attendees, allowing families to cherish their memories from this joyful event.

The festive gathering will feature complimentary cookies, coffee, juice, and milk. Guests are also invited to explore the

new exhibit, “Around the Christmas Tree,” which showcases a nostalgic living room scene from the 1950s and 1960s, complete with toys from that era. Additionally, visitors can discover other local historical exhibits throughout the museum.

For information about future historical society events, go to www.pulaski-history.org.

CMN to buy tribal office building

The College of Menominee Nation (CMN) intends to purchase the Menominee Tribal Office Building at N3522 Cottage Ave., Neopit.

The building, a 10,500-square-foot wood log construction, has been historically owned and occupied by Menominee Tribal Enterprises for

administrative purposes. CMN will provide opportunities for community members in Neopit, as well as the surrounding communities, including Zoar and Middle Village.

“The purchase of the administrative office building in Neopit serves as a grounding point for our collaborative workforce

development efforts with Menominee Tribal Enterprises,” CMN President Christopher Caldwell said in a press release. “This grounding also allows CMN to extend training and other opportunities to pursue our mission directly in the Neopit community.”

OCONTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Nov. 21
Deputies responded to 69 incidents, including suspicious activity on Aigner Road in the Town of Bagley, child abuse in the Town of Underhill, harassment on Wilderness Trail in the Town of Abrams, lewd and lascivious behavior on Columbia Street in the Town of Oconto Falls, threatening on County Road I in the Town of Stiles, six traffic stops, three traffic offenses, four citizen assists, four miscellaneous traffic incidents, two welfare checks; two 911 hangups and three open lines; one ambulance call; 15 crashes, four involving deer.

Nov. 20
Deputies responded to 58 incidents, including suspicious activity on County Road W in the Town of Riverview, theft on County Road G in the Town of Maple Valley, harassment on Wilderness Trail in the Town of Abrams, fraud on

Sundew Road in the Town of Little Suamico, a disturbance on state Highway 22-32 in the Town of Gillett, fraud on County Road C in the Town of Chase, a disturbance on state Highway 22 in the Town of Oconto Falls, seven traffic stops, one traffic offense, four citizen assists, four miscellaneous traffic incidents, three welfare checks; four 911 hangups and four open lines; two ambulance calls; six crashes, four involving deer.

Nov. 19
Deputies responded to 49 incidents, including trespassing on Harrys Road in the Town of Underhill, a jail incident on Arbutus Avenue in Oconto, wanted persons on North Franklin Street and South Flatley Avenue in Oconto Falls, trespassing on County Road C in the Town of Chase, six traffic stops, one traffic hazard, three traffic offenses, one miscellaneous

traffic incident, two welfare checks; two 911 hangups and five open lines; one ambulance call; seven crashes, five involving deer.

Nov. 18
Deputies responded to 35 incidents, including suspicious activity on Melissa Boulevard in the Town of Little Suamico, harassment on Midway Road in the Town of Lena, attempted fraud on state Highway 32 in the Town of Maple Valley, harassment on East Anderson Lake Drive in the Town of Breed, fire near County Road I and Beaver Lake Road in the Town of Stiles, harassment on state Highway 22 in the Town of Oconto Falls, drugs in the Town of Morgan, fire on Henry Lane in the Town of Underhill, animal neglect on Remus Woods Lane in the Town of Lakewood, a disturbance on Vermeiren Road in the Town of Pensaukee, one traffic stop, one traffic hazard, two citizen

assists, one miscellaneous traffic incident; two open-line 911 calls; one ambulance call; four crashes, two involving deer.

Nov. 17
Deputies responded to 43 incidents, including an animal bite on County Road T in the Town of Townsend, attempted burglary on West Wheeler Lake Lane in the Town of Lakewood, illegal burning on West Frontier Road in the Town of Little Suamico, trespassing on Lafollett Road in the Town of Little Suamico, a disturbance on Hill Road in the Town of Breed, six traffic stops, one traffic hazard, one traffic offense, two citizen assists, two welfare checks; two 911 hangups and three open lines; five crashes involving deer.

Nov. 16
Deputies responded to 30 incidents, including an unwanted party on County Road V in the Town of Underhill, fraud on East Frontage Road in the Town of Little Suamico, a disturbance on County Road A in the Town of Little River, property damage on Munger

Lake Lane in the Town of Lakewood, a disturbance on County Road J in the Town of Little Suamico, fraud on County Road EE in the Town of Abrams, one traffic hazard, one traffic offense, three miscellaneous traffic incidents, one welfare check; two open-line 911 calls; six crashes, four involving deer.

Nov. 15
Deputies responded to 44 incidents, including automobile theft on Oakland Lane in the Town of Pensaukee, an animal bite on Downtown Lane in the Town of Underhill, threatening on South Oakland Avenue in Oconto Falls, a disturbance on East First Street in Gillett, underage alcohol in the Town of Chase, five traffic stops, one citizen assist, one miscellaneous traffic incident, three welfare checks; one 911 hangup and one open line; 12 crashes, eight involving deer.

Nov. 14
Deputies responded to 40 incidents, including suspicious activity on Whiffen Lane in the Town of Mountain, suspicious activity near County A and U.S. Highway 141 in the Town of Lena, trespassing near state Highway 64 and Butler Spring Road in the Town of Brazeau, one traffic stop, two traffic offenses, two citizen assists, two miscellaneous traffic incidents, two welfare checks; four open-line 911 calls; eight crashes, seven involving deer.

Nov. 13
Deputies responded to 44 incidents, including squad damage near County Road M and Charolais Road in the Town of Spruce, suspicious activity on Old 41 Road in the

Town of Pensaukee, an adult at risk in the Town of Brazeau, two disturbances on Cook Road in the Town of Oconto, animal neglect on Goldhorn Road in the Town of Brazeau, suspicious activity on Fourth Street in Lena, three traffic stops, three traffic hazards, two traffic offenses, two miscellaneous traffic incidents, three welfare checks; one 911 hangup and three open lines; one ambulance call; seven crashes, five involving deer.

Nov. 12
Deputies responded to 42 incidents, including suspicious activity on Little River Road in the Town of Little River, suspicious activity on Liegeois Road in the Town of Abrams, an animal bite on state Highway 22-32 in the Town of Gillett, internet fraud on Heimke Road in the Town of Abrams and on Joan Lane in the Town of Little Suamico, property damage on Maple Leaf Trail in the Town of Little Suamico, a utility problem in Oconto Falls, four traffic stops, three traffic offenses, two miscellaneous traffic incidents, two welfare checks; one 911 hangup; one ambulance call; six crashes, four involving deer.

Nov. 11
Deputies responded to 44 incidents including suspicious activity near County Roads VV and R in the Town of Underhill, a death investigation in the Town of Townsend, theft on Chestnut Road in the Town of Oconto Falls, five traffic stops, one traffic hazard, one miscellaneous traffic incident, two welfare checks; two ambulance calls; six crashes, four involving deer.

11/29/2024

Correction to
Notice of Spring Election

*Electors for the Town of Little Suamico voted at their annual meeting of electors to increase the Town Board membership under WI State Statute §60.21(2) and an ordinance to stagger town board terms of office was passed on October 14, 2024. Therefore four (4) Town of Little Suamico supervisor positions will be elected on the April 1, 2025 ballot. The two (2) seats held by incumbents Liz Paape and Tracey Krumrei and the two (2) new seats.

WNAXLP

11/29/2024

CITY OF GILLETT
FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
BUDGET AMENDMENT PUBLIC HEARING

Council Chambers – Municipal Building
150 N McKenzie Ave – Gillett, WI 54124
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2024 AT 5:30 PM
AGENDA

Committee may deviate from agenda as needed

Meeting Called to Order

Roll Call is taken
Verification of Open Meeting Law Compliance
PUBLIC INPUT
AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Discussion and possible minutes from December 4, 2024

2. Open Budget Amendment Public Hearing

3. Close Budget Amendment Public Hearing

4. Discussion and possible action on 2025 Budget Amendment.

5. Set Next Meeting Date

6. Adjournment

Chelsea Anderson
Clerk-Treasurer
Clerk of Court
Utility Clerk
WNAXLP

11/29/2024

NOTICE OF BUDGET CHANGE

The following budget adjustments/transfers have been approved by the Oconto County Board of Supervisors on October 31, 2024:

FROM	TO	AMOUNT	PURPOSE
Contingency Fund	Health and Human Services	\$50,000 + cost of 2023 audit	Transition costs for Oconto County Commission on Aging programs

Published pursuant to Wis. Stats. 65.90(3)(a).

WNAXLP

Legals WNAXLP

b28f9e55

11/22/24, 11/29/24

CITY OF OCONTO FALLS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given, that The City of Oconto Falls Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on December 03, 2024 at 5:00 PM in the Municipal Building, 500 N Chestnut Ave, Oconto Falls, Wisconsin. The purpose of this hearing is for the consideration of: Oconto Falls Municipal Utility Annexation Petition Doc# 768590 0.406 Acres Part of Parcel# 40-30300010322 Driveway for Utility Substation

All residents of the City of Oconto Falls are encouraged to attend. The meeting room is handicapped accessible. Persons needing additional accommodations should contact City Hall at (920) 846-4505.

70c3dd0e

11/29/24, 12/06/24

Notice
Town of How

The incumbent Town Chairperson, William Bartz, JR is not seeking re-election.

If you are a resident in the Town of How, Oconto County, and are interested in running for the office of Town Chairperson, please contact Becky Dickson for information on filing candidacy and campaign papers.

Becky Dickson 920 842 9851
or townofhow@yahoo.com

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OBITUARIES

Martha L. Kruse, 96, of Oconto Falls, passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by family on Nov. 20, 2024. The daughter of Joseph and Sophie (Przybylski) Kaczorowski was born March 17, 1928, in the Town of Maple Grove.

On Jan. 13, 1947, Martha married Gail Kruse Sr. The couple farmed together in the Town of Morgan until their retirement. She was a devoted mother and homemaker and was always there for her children. She was a longtime member of St. John's Catholic Parish in Gillett and later St. Casimir Parish in Krakow.

Martha loved being outdoors. She enjoyed cutting the lawn on her zero turn and riding her Kubota; her yard was



mir Parish in Krakow. Martha loved being outdoors. She enjoyed cutting the lawn on her zero turn and riding her Kubota; her yard was

always meticulous. She also enjoyed crocheting, baking and cooking.

Survivors include her nine children, Gail (Donna) Kruse Jr., New London, James Kruse, Oconto Falls, Richard (Geri) Kruse, Curran, Michigan, Gordon (Carolyn) Kruse, Evans, Georgia, Linda (Melvin) Much, Marion, Ronnie (June) Kruse, Lena, Sue Kruse, New London, Lee Roy (Diane) Kruse, Oconto Falls, and David (Kelly) Kruse, Chesterfield, Michigan; 26 grandchildren; 39 great-grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; a

brother, Joe (Donna) Kaczorowski; and many nieces, nephews and other family members.

In addition to her husband, Gail Sr., and parents, she was preceded in death by an infant daughter, Faith; two brothers: Archie Kaczorowski and Richard (Arlene) Kaczorowski; a sister, Helen (Lawrence) Zablocki; and a daughter-in-law, Linda Kruse.

The funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Casimir Church, Krakow, on Saturday, Nov. 23, at noon with the Rev. James Esser, O.F.M. presiding and the Rev. Finian Zaucha,

O.F.M. concelebrating. Interment followed in the parish cemetery.

The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to granddaughters Jackie and Nicole for all their help with Grandma.

They would also like to thank the Compassus Hospice Team and the staff at St. Vincent Hospital for their compassionate care.

Online condolences may be offered to the Kruse family at www.marnochafuneralhome.com or on the Marnocha Funeral Home Facebook page.

Deadline approaching for Oconto County FSA election

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has mailed ballots for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committee elections to eligible farmers and ranchers.

To be counted, ballots must be returned to the Oconto-Marinette County FSA office or postmarked by Dec. 2.

"FSA county committee members provide valuable knowledge and judgment as decisions are made about the services we provide, including disaster assistance and other critical financial and technical support programs," said Nancy Swenty, county executive director. "Please take a few minutes to review your ballot and make your selection prior to the Dec. 2 deadline."

Each committee has from three to 11 elected members who serve three-year terms of office, and at least one seat is up for election each year for a certain Local Administrative Area (LAA). Newly elected committee members will take office Jan. 1, 2025. Oconto-Marinette County committee members help FSA make decisions on its commodity support programs, conservation programs, indemnity and disaster programs, emergency programs and eligibility.

Alan Shallow has been nominated and is running in the 2024 election in LAA 4, which includes Grover, Lena, Little River, Peshtigo, Porterfield and Oconto.

Shallow is nominated to serve as a committee member for a three-year term. He lives in Lena and has produced cash crops for 25 years.

Ashley Dudkiewicz has been nominated and is running in the 2024 election in LAA 2, which includes Athelstane, Doty, Lakewood, Middle Inlet, Mountain, Riverview, Silver Cliff, Stephenson, Townsend and Wagner.

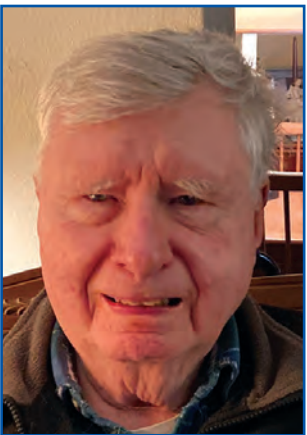
Dudkiewicz is nominated to serve as a committee member for a three-year term. She lives in Crivitz and produces cash crops and Simmental cattle. She has been farming for 15 years.

Producers can identify LAAs up for election through a geographic information system locator tool available at fsa.usda.gov/elections and may confirm their LAA by contacting their local FSA office. Eligible voters who do not receive a ballot in the mail can request one from the Oconto-Marinette County FSA office at 410½ E. Main St., Lena, WI 54139-9196 or by calling 920-829-5406, ext. 2.

John R. Larson, 95, of Beloit, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024, at Oak Park Place in Janesville.

He was born on Jan. 24, 1929, in Duluth, Minnesota, the son of John and Mabel (Truckey) Larson.

John was a 1947 Oconto Falls High School graduate. He was a veteran of the Wisconsin National Guard. John married Janice McKay on July 19, 1969, in St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Stiles. She predeceased him on



May 25, 2020. John enjoyed photogra-

phy and became a professional photographer. He was an airplane enthusiast and owned his own and many model airplanes. John also enjoyed building electronics from kits.

Survivors include his son, John Larson, of Kenosha; brother-in-law, Lawrence (Janet) McKay, of Green Bay; sisters-in-law, Carla (Darwin) Grover, of Beloit, and Sandy McKay, of Monroe; first cousins, Gary Truckey, of Stiles, Warren Murphy, Tom Truckey and Tom Ben-

edum, all of Green Bay; and numerous other first cousins; goddaughter and cousin, Donna Truckey, of Green Bay.

John was predeceased by his parents and wife, Janice.

A visitation of remembrance for John will be held from 4-7 p.m. with a rosary and eulogy to follow on Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2024, in the Daley Murphy Wisch and Associates Funeral Home and Crematorium, 2355 Cranston Road, Beloit.

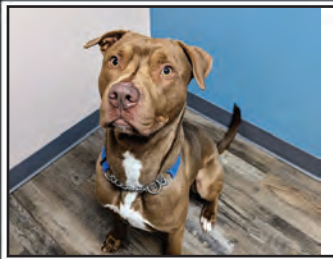
A funeral Mass of Christian burial will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 30, 2024, in St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 5246 St. Patrick's Road, Lena, with Pastor John L. Larson officiating. A visitation will also be from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Saturday at Jones Funeral Service, 107 S. Franklin St., Oconto Falls. Burial will be in St. Patrick Cemetery, Lena.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.daleymurphy-wisch.com.



ZIGGER

Meet Zigger. He is a 2 year old Hound looking for a home. He would be perfect for a hound lover and someone who enjoys the outdoors. If you are interested in meeting Zigger, contact the shelter to set up a meet and greet.



TURBO

Say hello to Turbo! He is a friendly, playful boy who has been well behaved for staff. He is smart, knows sit, and is treat motivated. He has done well in his kennel and is potty trained. Contact the shelter to meet him!



BUCKY

Meet Bucky. Buck is a 2 year old pit/beagle mix (35lbs) looking for his forever home. He has done well meeting new people and playing with some other dogs. He loves the outdoors and has been a well behaved boy.

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THE GRINCH

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Search for the Grinch in
Main Street Businesses Dec. 5th-7th
Return entry forms to The Flower Shoppe
by 2pm on Dec. 7th
Winners announced Dec. 9th!
WIN CASH AND PRIZES!!!!!!

Oconto Falls Main Street Event

December 5th 3-7pm

ACTIVITIES:

VISIT WHO-VILLE
Tree Lighting & Sing-Along at 6:00pm
Wagon Rides by Antique Bar
Grinch Games by Hot Rod Detailing
Make Christmas Cards for Meadowbrook by Flagstar Bank

Cookie Decorating by Stay at Homecare
Methodist Mac N Cheese by Impressions Salon
Selfie Station & Vote for Dog Dress Up Contest at O.F. Library
Make Ornaments The Wishing Tree by St. Anthony's School
Coloring Contest by Beards and Sheers
Food Truck, Hot Cocoa Booth



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The Flower Shoppe Christmas Openhouse

December 5th • 8-7 pm
December 6th • 8-5 pm
December 7th • 8-2 pm

Spin the Wheel for Savings and prizes! Refreshments provided.



PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES:

Flagstar Bank, Stay At Homecare, 141 Clips And Styles, Oconto Falls Insurance, Una's Uniques Resale Mall, Antique Bar, Rocky Ridge Shooter's Supply, The Main Course, Falls Family Restaurant, Mk Photography, Impressions Salon, Couil Custom Creations, Hot Rod Detailing, The Flower Shoppe, Beards And Sheers Barbershop, Coachlight Motel, Senn Insurance/Ann Senn Realtor, Oconto Falls Library, S & L Ford, Oconto Falls Fire Dept./ Police Dept., St. Anthony's School.

SALSCHIEDER'S ANTIQUE BAR

December 5th • 3-7pm
"Whoville" is Coming
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and city tree lighting at 6pm

Wagon ride to
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All proceeds to benefit
Oconto County Humane Society

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SURE.. QUITE OFTEN



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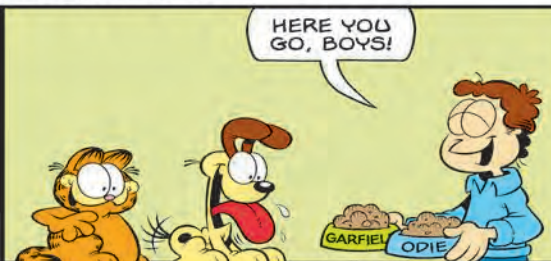


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BY JIM DAVIS



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EAT NOM GOBBLE CHOMP
EAT NOM MUNCH SNORT
EAT NOM MUNCH SNORT



GARFIELD ODIE



GARFIELD ODIE

JIM DAVIS 11-24



SQUEAK SQUEAK

GARFIELD ODIE



GARFIELD ODIE



THANKS!

ODIE

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the OTHER COAST®
11-24



IT WON'T BE LONG, SON, BEFORE YOU'LL LEAVE THE NEST AND BE HUNTING PREY ALL BY YOURSELF.

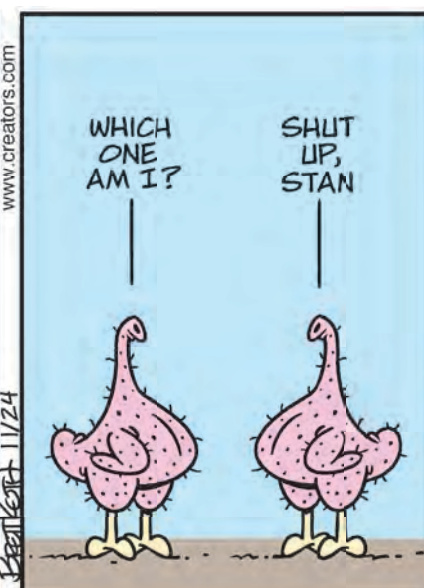
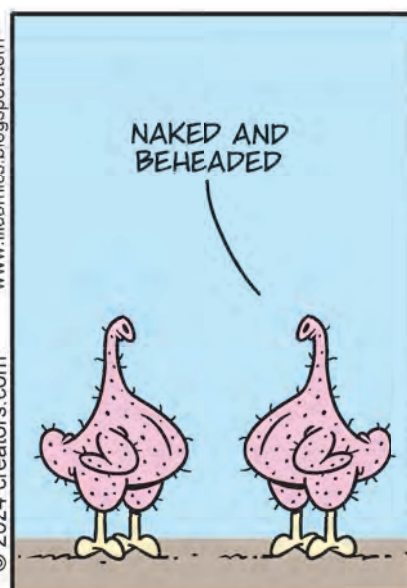
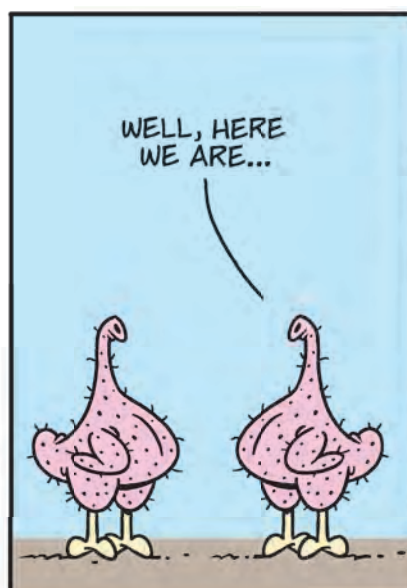
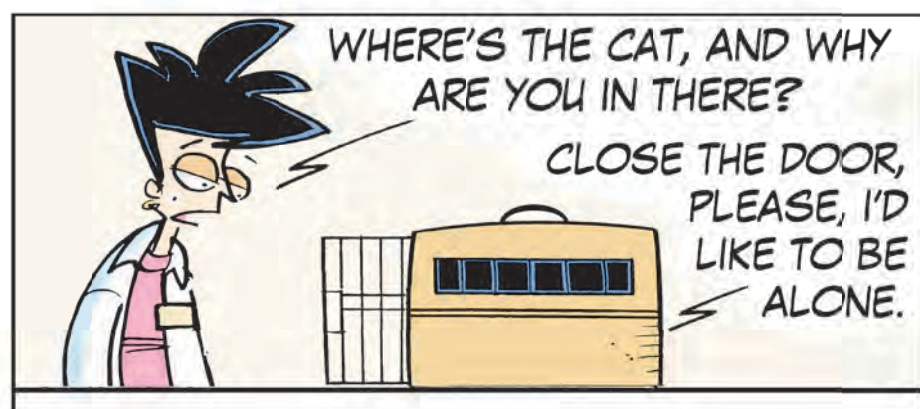
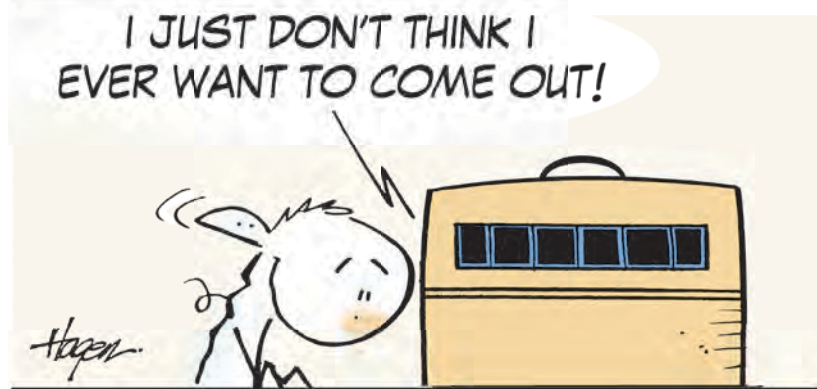
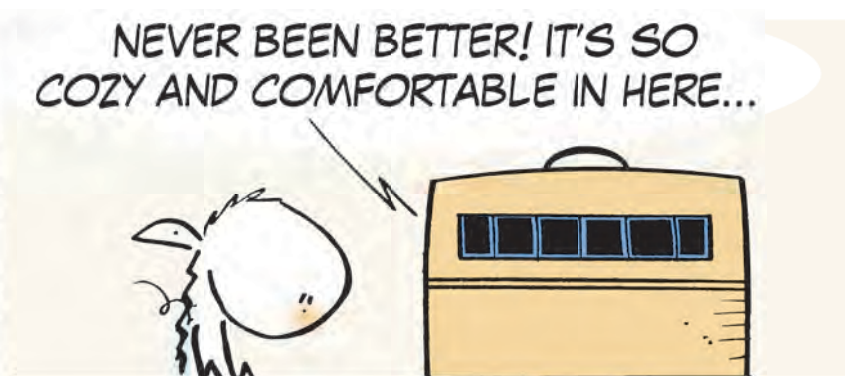
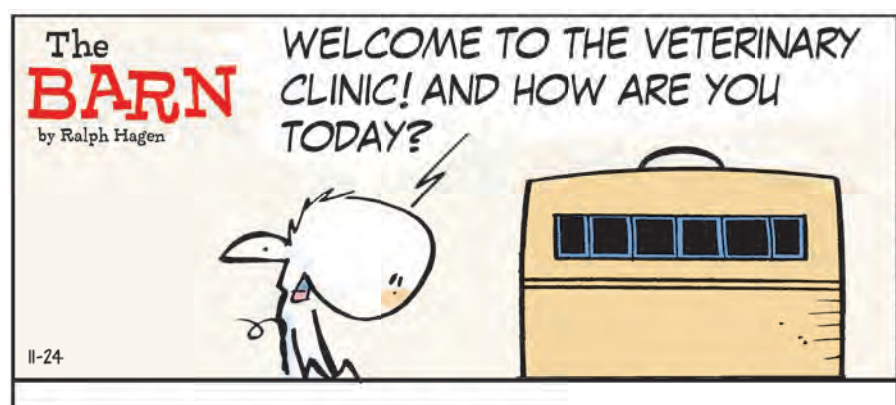
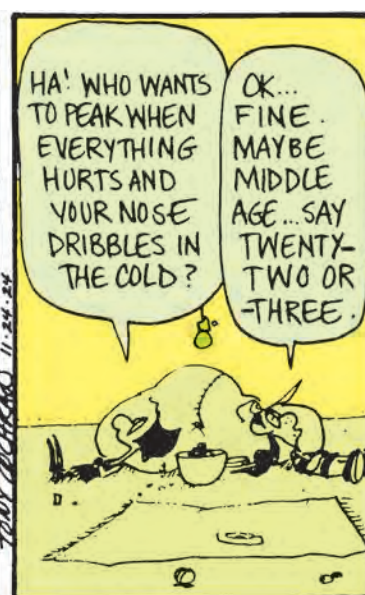


YOU'LL SWOOP DOWN ON UNSUSPECTING RABBITS, GRIPPING THEM IN YOUR RAZOR-SHARP TALONS. THEY WILL BE HELPLESS IN YOUR STEELY GRASP. DIVING ON FISH, SCOOPING THEM OUT OF THE WATER AND THEN FLYING TO A TREE BRANCH TO DEVOUR THEM. YESSIR, YOU WILL BE AN AWESOME HUNTER!

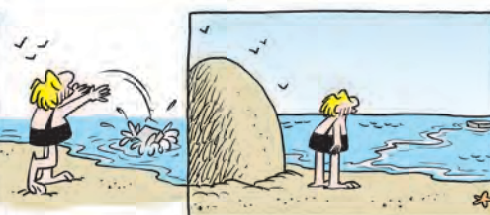
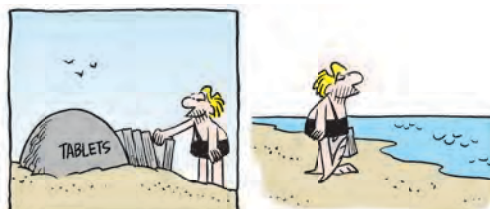
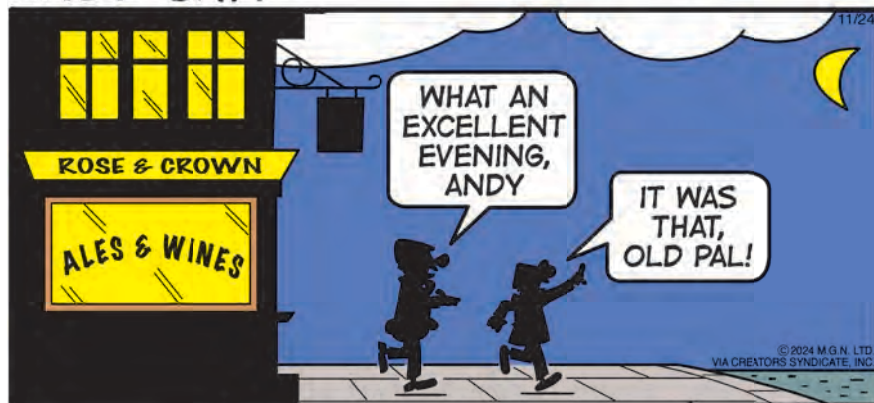


I'M ACTUALLY THINKING OF BECOMING A VEGETARIAN.

I GUESS YOU CAN ALWAYS SWOOP ON A CABBAGE.

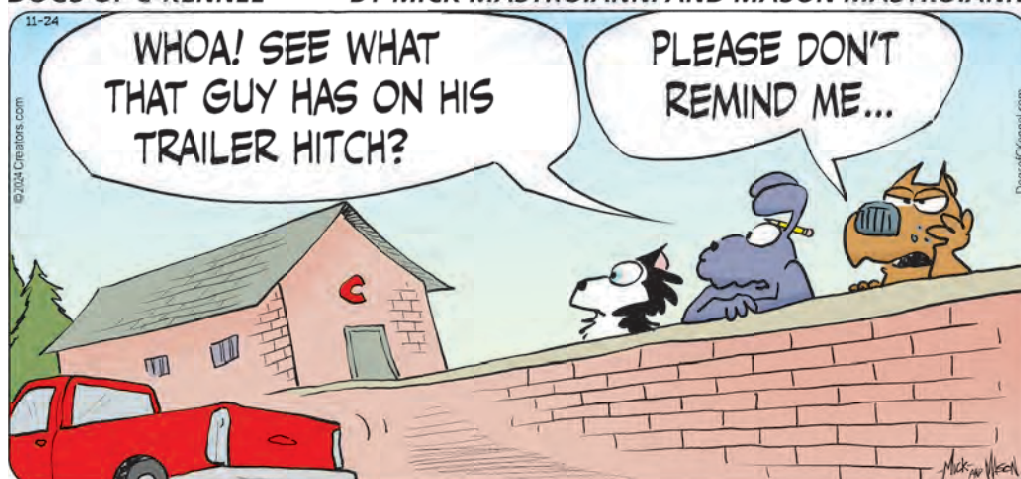


ANDY CAPP



DOGS OF C-KENNEL

BY MICK MASTROIANNI AND MASON MASTROIANNI



Let's all give thanks for family, friends, community



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**Shawano Leader
Oconto County Times Herald
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Published Nov. 29, 2024

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Thank you for making our communities a great place to live, work and play

It is so easy to overlook gratitude. We are busy. We are distracted, overwhelmed, we have lives to lead, and what should be a routine — taking a moment to appreciate — is easily forgotten.

We set aside a day for thanksgiving, and although it is deeply rooted in our common historical tradition, it has come to mean so

much more. We are grateful to our ancestors, and we are grateful to those whose lives have shaped ours, but Thanksgiving Day has become a day to reflect on many aspects of our lives.

For several years, NEW Media has asked community leaders to write a short essay on “Why I Give Thanks.” These essays are about the Thanksgiving holiday, what the writer is grateful for or just the concept of gratitude.

These are personal reflections, but they also speak to issues and beliefs

that many of us share. They are as interesting for how they are the same as for how they are different. Some of the authors find them easy to write, others struggle with the pressure of a blank screen, a blank piece of paper and a looming deadline.

Knowing this, it is especially important for the editorial and advertising team at NEW Media to say “Thank you” to these writers.

Thank you for sharing what is important to you. Thank you for being will-

ing to make your feelings public. Thank you for making time to have a portrait taken. Thank you for facing that blank screen or blank piece of paper and writing the first word.

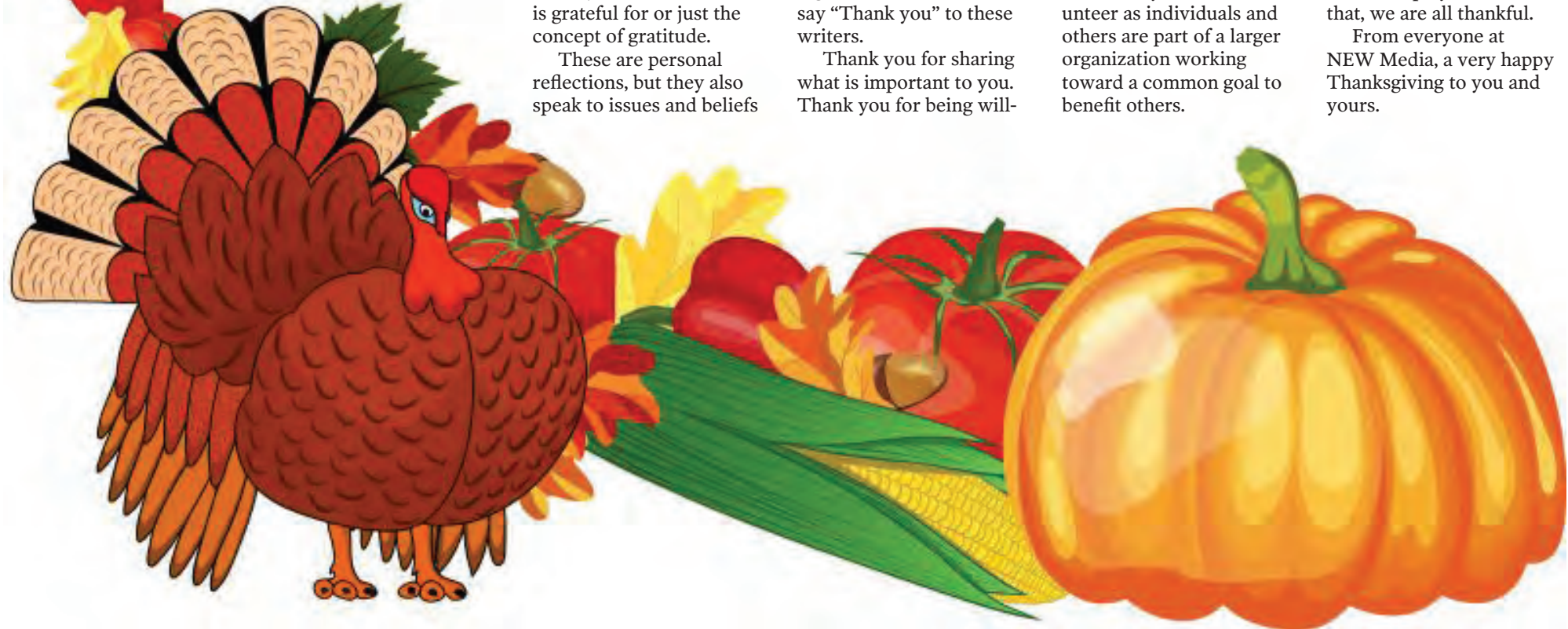
Thank you for showing us, again, how gratitude connects us all.

That gratitude is often expressed in volunteering in our community for our community. Some volunteer as individuals and others are part of a larger organization working toward a common goal to benefit others.

In addition to the essays of thanks, we have also chosen to highlight a selection of activities that focus on community. These activities are put together by volunteers for the wider community. The reward is simply knowing they made it an enjoyable experience for others.

This is what makes the area a great place to live, work and play. And for that, we are all thankful.

From everyone at NEW Media, a very happy Thanksgiving to you and yours.



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Thanksgiving complicated for Native Americans

By SHANNON HOLSEY
Special to NEW Media

We are in the season of gratitude. Thanksgiving is more complicated for the people at the center of the Thanksgiving story, Native Americans. There are 576 Native American tribal nations in the U.S. today, each with its own distinct traditions and culture.

As an Indigenous woman at this time of year, I am especially mindful of where our journey began, the lessons learned from what we have endured and what we have kept sacred despite all we have lost. For nearly 400 years, they have tried to erase us from the land without realizing how impossible that is. We are the land, the land is us, and we are still here.

Giving thanks is a long-standing, central tradition among Indigenous peoples that is still practiced today. Native traditions are distinct, complex and specific to each nation.

Thomas King said, "Most of us think history is the past. It's not. History is the stories we tell about the past. That's all it is. Stories. Such a definition might make the enterprise of history seem neutral. Benign. Which of course it isn't."

We can begin to write a new narrative. Today is a day to honor the first inhabitants and an opportunity to be grateful for Indigenous nations and their rich contributions to this country. By learning the real history of the land we occupy; becoming a friend, ally and advocate for tribal nations and their causes; and restoring our relationship with the natural world.

We can give thanks to the creator, for the bounty that we've been given. We can give thanks to our families, for their health and their good well-being. We should also look for ways to continually show gratitude for one another and the land that sustains us. Look among our friends slightly to the



As president of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians, Shannon Holsey said Thanksgiving is more complicated for the people at the center of the Thanksgiving story, Native Americans. As an Indigenous woman at this time of year, she is especially mindful of where their journey began, the lessons learned from what Native Americans have endured and what they have kept sacred despite all that was lost.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

west, the Haudenosaunee, the Iroquois nations. They say that the Thanksgiving address is a very formal enumeration of all the gifts of life from the earth to the plants, the animals, the winds, the waters, the sun, the moon, the stars and the creator.

One original purpose and agreement was to be in sync with Mother Earth. We are meant to appreciate and respect all life, knowing our part is within the circle, not above creation. This practice can be implemented every day, especially during the season of gratitude. The dominant culture of the United States encourages

people to practice gratitude only at special times, neglecting it as a daily ritual.

I cannot emphasize how grateful I am for our youth. I watch as each new generation breaks paradigms and overturns old ways of doing things as a matter of course. This isn't gratuitous — it's how we move forward as a society. Each generation of young people will remake the world, and we'll gain all kinds of new discoveries today and every day.

Also central to what I am grateful for are the sacrifices made by our patriots or veterans who helped forge a path of our

survival but fought for our U.S. citizenship and rights. Native Americans have historically served at the highest rates of military service per capita among all ethnic groups in the United States. Tribal veterans hold a wealth of knowledge, experiences and memories that deserve to be honored, remembered and safeguarded for future generations. The sacrifices of tribal veterans and all who have served are never forgotten. Every day, we benefit from your contributions to our nation.

What has always made America great, and what will always make

us exceptional, are the patriots who, generation after generation, dedicate themselves to building a stronger nation — a little freer, a little more perfect every day. I am grateful for you.

I am grateful for the work and dedication of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians, our tribal citizens and staff for their important contributions. I hope their communal spirit will spread.

I am grateful to my parents and grandparents for the beautiful teachings and examples they provided me growing up. As I walk the path of self-discovery, weaving

the threads of my identity with the wisdom of my ancestors. I honor the strength and resilience of those who came before me and the love and guidance by fully embracing and celebrating the person I am becoming.

May all of you have continued good health and blessings, Na'kaawthe xaangaap onamanitheyaaak (I hope that you all be well/healthy). My heart is full of gratitude for the many reasons I have to be hopeful and grateful for. Anushiik (Thank you).

Shannon Holsey is president of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians.



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Community, family and the past — all are important things to be thankful for, according to Jesse Borlen, president if the Shawano County Historical Society.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

Being thankful isn't limited to single thing

BY JESSE BORLEN
Special to NEW Media

When I was first asked to write about what I am thankful for, I will admit that it was difficult to choose one specific thing. Many people who know me will acknowledge the fact that I tend to be a sentimentalist. I, however, believe that it is my love and passion for history and the arts that has affected this. With that said, this season I am most thankful for the people and community in my life that have and continue to make a difference in my life.

Firstly, I am thankful for my loving and supportive family of the present, as well as my family members of the past for their acts of bravery and tenacity. I have always been interested in my heritage and feel that we can learn a lot from our ancestors, which

in a way shapes our lives.

Doing genealogy research is one of my favorite things to do and my fellow volunteers at the Shawano County Historical Society can attest to that fact. There is something about someone's life story that I find fascinating. One thing many of us share is the fact that many of our ancestors were immigrants. I often wonder if I would have the courage and perseverance it required to leave my home and travel to a new country. Would I be able to abandon the place where my family had perhaps lived for hundreds of years, with nothing more than a trunk or suitcase filled with my possessions?

My great-great-grandmother, Amelia Simatic, usually comes to mind when I think of this situation. Imagine being 36 years old with eight kids

in tow, unable to speak or read English, navigating your journey via train and boat before reaching the shores of the United States.

All I can say is that the sight of the Statue of Liberty must have been an awe-inspiring experience for them and all immigrants who traveled through Ellis Island. Although they had left their homelands behind, many were quick to embrace the ideals and freedoms of their new homeland. Many of these freedoms, which were absent or had been taken away in their native country. One of the biggest reasons many immigrated.

Secondly, I am thankful for my friends, including my second "family" at the Shawano County Historical Society. Whether it is a night out at the wine bar or a quick walk across the street to the Daily Drip, we

are always there for each other. We know that we can always count on each other to boost our mood after a rough day at work or stop each from making a poor fashion choice, or in some cases enable bad shopping/spending habits. Just kidding. Although I'm not a big conversationalist, one thing my friends will tell you is that I am a great listener.

My fellow volunteers at the historical society without doubt deserve so much thanks. I believe that preserving and learning about our history is so important to our society. Although we are a small group, my fellow volunteers and I are constantly maintaining and sharing the history of Shawano County with the community. We all share a passion for history and the past. It is truly wonderful to have such a great group of people to connect with.

Lastly, I am thankful for the community around me. Although I don't live in Shawano, I consider it my home, as I spend the majority of my time here. Shawano has always been a burgeoning community, steadily growing within the last few years. There are many wonderful and generous people in the community that I have met over the years volunteering at the historical society and working at the Register of Deeds.

As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, I have always felt a part of the Shawano community. It's always amazing how a welcoming connection with a stranger can influence your day. I love listening to people, especially people from the older generations, tell stories about growing up here or about Shawano of the past.

As hectic as life can

sometimes get, the Thanksgiving holiday is a great time to take a pause from our busy lives and contemplate on what we are thankful for and who/what may have shaped our lives. I also strongly encourage you to sit down with your family this holiday season and have conversations about your heritage. You may learn something you never knew before and perhaps it may make you think how it has impacted who you are today.

I would like to wish everyone a wonderful, happy, and loving holiday and hope that you get to spend it with your family and friends, whoever they may be.

Jesse Borlen is the president of the Shawano County Historical Society and works at the Shawano County Register of Deeds. He also sits on the board for the Clintonville Historical Society.

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Grandmother, teachers motivated minister's appreciation

By **REV. BETH MACHA**
Special to NEW Media

About a year and a half ago I went to take care of my best friend from college, Cathy, for the first few days after she had a knee replacement. I had a knee replacement the year before, so I knew what those first few days were like, and I knew how to nudge her along in her recovery.

I kept cheering her on and telling her how much better it would get as long as she kept doing her exercises and pushing herself. At one point after she was struggling and I gave her my best pep talk, she looked at me, rolled her eyes, and said, "You always have to be positive, don't you? You were like that even when we were in college."

Those comments caught me off guard. I know that I choose to be positive these days, but I hadn't realized that I had been like that so many years ago. I believe that the reason I give thanks is because I examine the world with a positive outlook.

I think my positive outlook started during childhood because I spent so much time with Grandma Braun and because of so many of my teachers in school. I remember my grandmother telling me stories and showing me everything in which she was interested. She often told me to appreciate nature, books, gardening, sewing, and animals.

My teachers in school helped me to see and to appreciate all of those things and more, and they gave me the opportunity to go deeper. I learned how things worked, how to examine things under a microscope, how to do research, and how to put pieces together. Throughout my school years, my



A positive outlook and an appreciation for the seasons of life are among the things that drive Pastor Beth Macha, who serves Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

teachers shared their appreciation for and their excitement about whatever they taught.

I still have a great appreciation for learning and for nature. My husband and I love to travel, which allows us to visit places that we've read about and to learn more about history. We have been to Europe and have only one more state to visit. Our current travel plans are to visit as many of our national parks as we can so that we can see for our-

selves the glorious beauty of this great nation.

I have a great appreciation for the seasons of life. The lessons we learn in our youth are built upon as we mature. Each season of life has its joys and its challenges. Each season teaches us new lessons about life. I have tried to be intentionally aware during each season of my life so that I don't miss what they have to teach me.

Sometimes those lessons can be difficult lessons to learn. When I

have been through difficult times, I have been especially appreciative of soft landings. When there are people around to shore me up, when new opportunities come available after doors have closed, and when healing has replaced illness, I have been deeply grateful for those soft landings.

Why do I give thanks? I give thanks because I live a good life. It's not perfect. It's not always easy, but I still notice the blessings all around me. I

respect when life gives me challenges and difficulties. I try to learn lessons from all of it. Above all, I know that through everything, through all of life's ups and downs, God has been and continues to be with me.

In Psalm 31:8 (NIV), we read, "I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With God at my right hand, I will not be shaken." I really do try to keep my eyes on God at all times. I believe that my positive attitude helps me to see what God is up to, even

when I'm not exactly sure where I am going.

During this month of Thanksgiving, we all have the opportunity to take stock in our lives, to realize our blessings, and to give thanks to God. May we all take that opportunity to reflect and to truly give thanks.

The Rev. Beth Macha has been pastor of Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church outside Suring for about two years. She served for 17 years previously as an interim pastor for several congregations throughout the state and region.

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Couple uses blessings to help others

BY LEE AND LINDA
KREKLOW
Special to NEW Media

As we approach Thanksgiving, it is a great time to reflect on all that we are thankful for. We are thankful every day for a multitude of reasons; however, the month of November finds us reflecting on all the blessings bestowed on us throughout life.

We are so thankful for our health. As a family, we have overcome several health-related challenges with the help and support of family, friends and medical professionals.

One of these challenges was Lee's kidney transplant. We are forever thankful for all who supported us before, during and after this; especially John for giving Lee the gift of a second chance at life through the donation of one of his kidneys. We are also thankful to John's family for their love and support, and we are thankful for all the medical professionals who used their knowledge, skills and talents for a successful outcome.

We received so much support from family, friends and even people we didn't know during this process, as well as during the other challenges we have faced. We are extremely thankful for all of these people.

We thank God every day for providing for our needs during these times and also every day.

We are thankful for our family. We have been blessed with two daughters that we were able to raise and who now are beginning their adult lives. We are also thankful that Lee was able to be a stay-at-home dad while our daughters were young. We are very proud of our daughters and all they have accomplished so far and are excited to see what the future holds for them. There are so many blessings that come with being parents, and we are thankful for them.

Living and working in a



small community (Tigerton) is another thing we are thankful for. Being in a small community is like having an extra family. Everyone looks out for everyone else, and there is an overall sense of safety and security. People seem to truly care about others and are willing to help others whenever they are in need.

We are also thankful for the opportunity to learn. We have had many teachers, professors and role models that have had positive impacts on our lives, and we are thankful for them and the knowledge and experiences that they have shared with us.

All throughout our lives, we have been supported and encouraged by our extended families and

friends. Whether it was giving us advice, sharing knowledge and skills, cheering us on or just being there for us, we are the people we are today due to the tremendous support of our families and friends, and we are so thankful for them.

Having time to appreciate all that we have been blessed with is another thing we are thankful for. We are fortunate to have time to spend with family and friends. We also have time to volunteer and help others as well as time to just enjoy what we enjoy!

We are also thankful for the opportunity to do things we enjoy, such as going for walks or bike rides, working in the garden or just sitting outside

and enjoying the weather.

There are countless things we are thankful for including the many blessings bestowed on us. We hope that we have used these blessings to help others as well. Whether it was through volunteering in our community, church and schools, or through our interactions with the people we worked with over the years, we hope we have had a positive impact on others.

As we reflect on our lives, we have so much to be thankful for! We truly are blessed!

Lee and Linda Kreklow are longtime Tigerton residents. Lee runs his own business, and Linda is a retired teacher from the Tigerton School District. Both volunteer in the community.

Lee and Linda Kreklow have been supported and encouraged by their extended families and friends throughout their lives. Whether it was giving them advice, sharing knowledge and skills, cheering there on or just being there for them, the Kreklovs are who are today due to the tremendous support of their families and friends.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA



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Reflecting on health, freedom, gratitude

BY CLINT BRAUN
Special to NEW Media

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I find myself reflecting on the essence of gratitude, and the first thought that surfaces is a quote that has always lingered in my mind: “When you have your health, you have 1,000 dreams. When you don’t, you have one.”

This simple yet profound statement encapsulates the core of why we should give thanks, especially for our health. In today’s fast-paced world, we often get engulfed by the daily grind, losing sight of our blessings.

As Jordan Peterson wisely advises, “Treat yourself like someone you are responsible for helping.” This philosophy extends beyond self-care into recognizing how fundamental health is to our existence.

The basics — exercise, diet, hydration, sleep, and even exposure to sunlight — are often overshadowed by modern medical solutions. Yet, these natural remedies hold immense power in maintaining our well-being, which in turn, allows us to appreciate the broader aspects of life: family, friends, career, and spiritual beliefs.

We live in an era where convenience is at its peak — climate control, lighting, food, education, and communication are accessible with minimal effort. This ease, however, can sometimes breed a sense of entitlement or dissatisfaction. We forget that many of these things were once the results of struggle and sacrifice. Our military, police, firefighters and health care workers ensure our safety and well-being, often at great personal risk.

The paradox of modern society is our inclination towards depression over unmet instant desires, a stark contrast to historical struggles for survival. It’s estimated that 90% of our worries and anxieties never materialize, suggesting that much of our mental turmoil is self-induced rather than



Life’s milestones often drive us forward, but it’s crucial not to overlook the journey itself, says new Oconto Falls Mayor Clint Braun.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

a reflection of our actual circumstances.

Shifting our mindset to focus on progress rather than perfection, and valuing experiences over material possessions, can significantly enhance our life’s quality.

Life’s milestones often drive us forward — educa-

tion, career, family, retirement — but it’s crucial not to overlook the journey itself. Each step, with its challenges, molds us, teaching resilience and appreciation. Instead of being caught in the consumerist cycle where the joy from new purchases quickly fades, investing in experi-

ences and relationships yields lasting happiness.

As we approach Thanksgiving, it’s a moment to reflect not only on what we have but also on how we can better appreciate and utilize these gifts. It’s time to slow down, to really see the people around us, to engage with life rather than

just pass through it.

This Thanksgiving, let’s choose to be thankful not just for the tangible but for the intangible — for health, for freedom, for the love we give and receive. Let’s remember that while modern life offers us comfort, it’s our responsibility to use these comforts to

enrich our lives and those around us.

Happy Thanksgiving to all. May you find time to give thanks and cherish the journey as much as the destination.

Clint Braun was elected mayor of Oconto Falls in April. He is co-owner of the PROCAR automotive repair shop in Oconto Falls.

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Oconto County Times Herald news editor Warren Bluhm said he's a little surprised to still be at work. It will be eight years and change on May 19, 2025, when I plan to put in my last day on the job. I'd been trying to find a time to retire for awhile, and when I passed my 49th anniversary last May, I figured, "What the heck? Let's make it an even 50 years and call it a career."

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Thankful for 50 years in community journalism

By **WARREN BLUHM**
News Editor

I sat down with Morgan Marti, the station manager, and told him I was looking for my first job in the "real world" and thought I might be able to help WDUX.

"That depends," Marti said with an enigmatic smile. "What can you do?"

I talked about my experience as program director for the student radio station at Ripon and my love for music and —

"Nope, we don't need another disc jockey," he said. "What else you got?"

His interest perked up when I said I had also spent a little time as editor of the student newspaper at the other end of the second floor of the student union. It seems WDUX needed a news director.

And so, the following

Monday, May 19, 1975, I started my career as a community journalist instead of driving back to New Jersey with my parents to face an uncertain future.

After my four years at Ripon, I already knew that I'd rather make Wisconsin my home, and so among the multitude of reasons I have to give thanks, that chance visit to the Wau-paca radio station is at the top of the list.

I'm grateful that for the most part, I've been able to stay employed telling stories and keeping my communities informed about what was happening around the town and county. I even got to be a disc jockey after all at times during my 22 years in radio.

I give thanks that after stumbling around for almost a quarter century, I

found a life partner who spent more than 25 years sharing love and stability until she passed away last June. I miss her every day, but I'm so grateful for the time Red and I had.

I'm grateful for having grown up in a family with parents who loved each other and two brothers as lifetime friends. I'm tickled to see a new version of that family in Son of Red, the beautiful woman he married and their three young sons.

I had just met Red when I transitioned to newspapers in 1997, and she was with me when I first saw the building that housed the Door County Advocate in Sturgeon Bay in 2002. I'd been offered the editor-in-chief position but wasn't sure I really wanted to leave the Green Bay News-Chronicle.

A bronze replica of the Advocate's first front page hung outside the front door, and as I admired Vol. 1, No. 1, I noticed that it was published March 22, 1862. The paper and I shared the same birthday, a few years apart.

"Maybe that's your sign to take the job," Red said, and the decision was made. I give thanks for the opportunity to be part of that legendary newspaper's history for more than a decade.

I had expected to retire from the Advocate when I turned 70, but the corporation had other plans and decided a twice-weekly newspaper didn't need a full-time editor, a few months shy of my 64th birthday. I am grateful that the Oconto County Times Herald and NEW Media called a short time later.

I'm a little surprised to still be at work more than seven years later. It will be eight years and change on May 19, 2025, when I plan to put in my last day on the job. I'd been trying to find a time to retire for awhile, and when I passed my 49th anniversary last May, I figured, "What the heck? Let's make it an even 50 years and call it a career."

Lord willing, I'll be able to spend more time with my beloved golden retrievers, Dejah and Summer, bring the gardens closer to the beauty that Red created here, and finish those Great American Novels I've been tinkering with in my spare time.

Hopefully my successor will give Oconto County the thing I regret not being able to give — a community newspaper editor who lives in the com-

munity. Red and I built a home in Door County near the shores of Green Bay in 2012, and I have been loathe to leave it.

But in a perfect world, the person who reports on the doings of a community should be a part of that population. I look forward to seeing what the next editor can accomplish commuting from a home somewhere in Oconto County.

It's been a challenge finding that person. Maybe it will be someone who walks into the office next May, four days before they graduate, and offers to help.

"That depends," I imagine myself saying. "What can you do?"

Warren Bluhm is news editor for NEW Media and author of the novella "Dejah & Summer in the Time of Magic," which is scheduled for release Dec. 3.

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For memories made that we hold dear.
To instructors and volunteers so true,
Who lead our programs, we honor you.**

**To lifeguards at the pool inside,
Ensuring safety with care and pride.
To non-profits and volunteers combined,
In every event, your work we find.**

**To Shawano's kids, both young and old,
Who played in our parks, both warm and cold.
To those who stayed healthy, active, and free,
Enjoying our parks in harmony.**

**To businesses who gave their support,
Making events a joyful resort.
Grateful we are, for all that you do,
Here's to 2024, and a heartfelt thank you!**

*Sincerely,
Your City of Shawano Parks &
Recreation Team*

Joni Denise
Carl Montane
Tom JD
Mike
Lisa Passon
Sheresa Marguette
Nicole Kresche



Volunteers give it their all to make events fun for community

New, old traditions help provide connections with others

By **LUKE REIMER**
Correspondent

Football season is in full swing, and the evening air is crisp and cool. But, before you completely embrace the cold Wisconsin winter, take a moment to appreciate the efforts of volunteers who gave selflessly of their time and talent to make our communities a wonderful place to live, work and play.

Significant events like Thursdays at Franklin, the Shawano Ski Sharks performances and the Shawano Municipal Airport Fly-In and Car Show have once again produced countless memories that are shared by many.

“(Having these events in Shawano) gives an opportunity for people who live here to have something to do during the summer,” Shawano Mayor Bruce Milavitz said. “It also gives people who don’t live here the opportunity to want to come to our community and to be able to participate in all of the wonderful things that we have going on here.”

The Ski Sharks is the oldest of these summer traditions, with the Thursday concerts and airport activities more recent additions to the summer lineup of free and fun events.

Thursdays @ Franklin

Shawano hosts Thursdays at Franklin, which features various music talent at Franklin Park, near the city’s historic downtown.

The former Shawano High School and Franklin Middle School gave way to bulldozers in 1998, leaving several blocks of wide open space. In 2014, voters approved a referendum to support additional park projects, and Franklin Park took off from there.

“We went through some park planning pro-



Thursdays@Franklin has become a joyful gathering place for all ages. The former middle school was razed in 1998 and currently is the home to both the Saturday Farmers Market and the Thursdays @ Franklin. The “BYOB” format extends to bringing your own chair, tables and food.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

cesses, and people in the community really wanted an outdoor event space,” said Shawano Parks and Recreation director Matt Hendricks. “You will notice that there are no playgrounds, there is not a basketball court in there.”

Hendricks said that in about 2016, Thursdays at Franklin was introduced. The event started off much smaller than what it has

evolved into today.

“It was a couple of smaller local bands. It was maybe two or three of these bigger bands,” said Hendricks. “It was two or three movie nights and maybe a family night. We did that for a year, maybe two, and the feedback was that people really loved the live music. On Thursday nights, people just want to come out, hang

out, be with their families and so that’s where the idea of just going with the music series went.”

Hendricks said what visitors are used to seeing the past few years has pretty much stayed the same.

“We are pretty dialed in. I don’t foresee a lot of changes,” he said.

Thursdays at Franklin kicks off on the first

Thursday in June and lasts through the end of August. Every Thursday, visitors to Franklin Park are treated to high quality local bands, various food trucks and an area to gather and socialize.

Hendricks said attendance has gradually increased as the word has spread and as the event has become more and more popular.

“If we were to just use this year and the first year as years of comparison, the first year, even what we considered to be one of the bigger bands that we have seen, brought 300-400 people,” said Hendricks. “Now, the bigger bands, while difficult to estimate, are in the 2,000-3,000 people range. Our top evenings, I think we are close to that 3,000 mark, and our typical audience, we are probably close to 1,000 people.”

A typical Thursday behind the scenes sees a number of volunteers and workers helping to put on the event. Hendricks estimates that the parks and recreation department has three people to plan and organize the event. As for the day of the event, he estimates that 30 people are there every week to work, including nonprofit organizations, food truck vendors, police, bands and the crew for the bands.

Included in those are two nonprofit organizations, Shawano Pathways and the Shawano Optimist Club. Those two organizations have been with the event since its inception. At the concerts, the organizations sell beverages and run 50/50 raffles as a fundraiser.

“That is really cool, because Pathways and the Optimist Club have done a lot of great things locally with that money that might not have been able to do otherwise,” said Hendricks.

As the event has continued to grow, Hendricks said more nonprofit organizations have reached out about getting involved with their own fundraisers.

“The humane society really stepped up this year, which was really cool,” he said. “They reached out and brought out adoptable animals – cats and dogs. They had people out there talking with the humane society and they brought these animals, and from what I understand, every dog that was brought there was adopted out. Fridays were some of their busiest days. I thought that was a pretty cool story of how an event like this can help that.”

As a whole, Hendricks said Thursdays at Franklin provides an area and an event for residents and visitors to get together and socialize while enjoying good music.

“Thursdays at Franklin has a lot of attributes, the biggest one being that social connection,” said Hendricks. “Even though we have social media and cell phones in our pockets and are more connected, sometimes I hesitate to say that is true. I think events like this, where you are able to sit together with your friend, neighbor, co-worker or someone you haven’t seen in years, don’t happen. So that is super cool.”

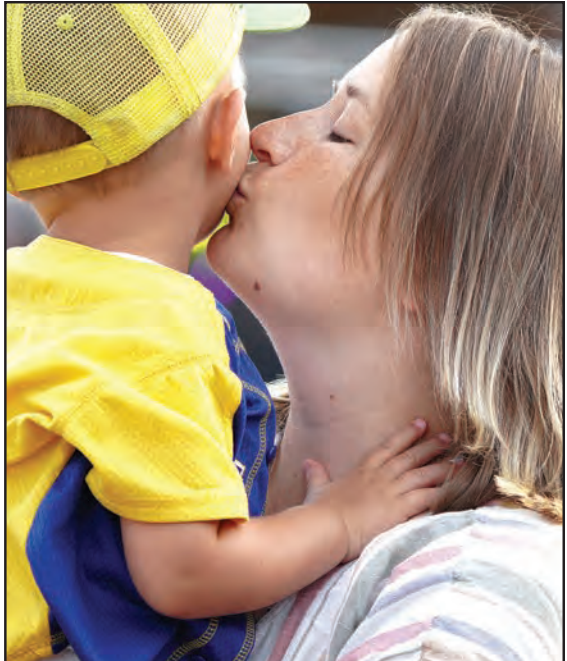
Hendricks said the concerts are also a draw for tourists to the area.

“It is very supportive for people who are maybe out on the lake or came to town for a primary purpose and stumbled upon this,” he said. “It has a significant tourism aspect, we believe, and then for us, it validates parks and why we have these open spaces and why people pay taxes to support them.”

EVENTS, CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



With an army of weekly volunteers the event also aids two community organizations, the Shawano Pathways and the Shawano Optimist Club. The groups alternate weeks selling raffle tickets with the proceeds benefiting each organization.



EVENTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Shawano Ski Sharks

The Shawano Ski Sharks got their start in 1976 and approaching 50 years of entertaining residents and tourists alike. On Wednesday nights, spectators are treated to a ski show, with a theme, at Smalley Park on the banks of the Wolf River. Performances feature many stunts and tricks, including pyramids. Starting with help from the Crandon Ski Serpents, the Ski Sharks have evolved into a record-setting, nationally recognized waterski team. Today, the Ski Sharks see about 120 members, with about 40 skiers on the team and 80 volunteers. Outside of the roster, the Ski Sharks Board consists of six members. “Year-round, the work is the board,” said Dave Passehl, president of the

Ski Sharks. “Then June comes and away we go.” On any given Wednesday during the summer, the audience consists of about 400-500 spectators. “Our biggest shows are 1,500-2,000 (spectators) our smallest shows are 200-300 (spectators),” Passehl said. Passehl said those numbers continue to grow year-by-year along with the team in general. Over the past decade, excitement surrounding the team continues to grow. Along with the excitement and success comes the impact within the waterskiing community, as well as the Shawano community. “The interest is high,” said Passehl. “There is pretty good buzz around the team, so we just keep seeing more and more each year. We have added infrastructure to handle that

– more bleacher seating to accommodate. I mean, we are recognizing that we have a lot of people to hold every week.” Looking at the success of the team is one way to see how popularity continues to grow surrounding the Ski Sharks. Since 2010, the Ski Sharks have achieved three Wisconsin State Championships (two in Division 2 and one in Division 3), a second place finish at the National Division 2 Show Ski Tournament. The Ski Sharks have hosted numerous tournaments, including Division 2 National Show Ski Tournaments and have set world records, including a record of 40 barefooters behind one boat. “The quality of our show has continued to improve each year – the dedication and commit-



It's truly become a regional destination, especially for those who enjoy music, conversation and laughs at no charge.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

ment to excellence,” said Passehl. “I talk about it all of the time – our best foot forward each week starting day one. People should show up knowing that it is a family-friendly

environment.” As the Ski Sharks have continued to grow and become a big part of Shawano, Passehl said that he, as well as the team, are happy for the recognition and are

proud to be able to share this success with residents and visitors in Shawano. Passehl said the Ski Sharks have helped to extensively develop Smalley Park to continue to bring residents and visitors to Shawano. Partnering with the city and the parks and recreation department, Passehl said that Ski Sharks have invested more than \$240,000 into the park. “We feel grateful that people are recognizing our efforts and are excited about it for our town,” said Passehl. “Most of these events – it brings hundreds, if not, thousands of people to town that would not normally be here, so we are very proud of that, but again, that was our objective – keep Shawano on the map.”

EVENTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Whether it be the thriving downtown, Shawano Lake, the Up North feel, Shawano has staked its reputation on being a major tourist hub, especially in the summer. Passehl said the Ski Sharks are just another feature that goes into that tourist designation for the city.

“There are so many things going on in our town, and we happen to be one of those,” said Passehl. “Again, we just feel proud to be a part of the conversation of why people want to come to Shawano.”

Shawano Municipal Airport Fly-In and Car Show

On top of those weekly events, Shawano has recently introduced a once-a-summer event that involves a very prominent part of the city – the airport.

The fly-in started when the city developed a “refresh” of the air, Milavitz said. There were a number of upgrades, including a new building, a new runway, a revamped surface and fresh painting.

He said there used to be fly-out event at the airport a number of years ago. Visitors went to the airport to see planes land and then had the chance to talk to the pilots and see the planes up close.

“That was successful in years past, so we decided to do something that was going to be much



Shawano Ski Sharks, Shawano's veteran weekly free summer event, is a fan favorite. Visitors fill the stands at Smalley Park each Wednesday (and select special shows) to watch the show. A combination of thrills, including many community members, make each summer Wednesday special.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

more family friendly, and also, we wanted to make sure that the community understood that this fence (around the airport) is not a barrier,” said Milavitz. “We want people

to participate in our local community airport.”

Milavitz said a multi-faceted event was created in 2022 to help show off what was new at the airport. This event in-

cluded airplanes flying in, a Young Eagles program (free airplane and helicopter rides for children and teenagers), support from the police and fire departments and an accompany-



ing car show.

“We just have something for everybody that would attract people out there, because we want to dedicate and show what was going on at the airport,” said Milavitz.

According to Milavitz, in 2022, the first year the event was held, about 2,000-3,000 people attended.

In 2023, the arrival of a Black Hawk helicopter was added.

“We probably gained another 1,000 people at that point,” said Milavitz.

The 2024 was even bigger, with Milavitz estimating a crowd of 4,000-5,000. Also, 215 children took part in the Young Eagles program this year.

“Again, all of these things continue to grow,

and the community has really gotten behind this event,” said Milavitz.

In reviewing what the event has done for the Shawano community as a whole, Milavitz said the airport has gained much more exposure for pilots and aviation enthusiasts, as well as brought more visitors to the city in the weeks and days before and after the show.

“I know people that fly in and come to Thursdayz at Franklin, I know other people have come in and visited the Ski Sharks, so it really is a community event,” said Milavitz. “It is definitely helping with tourism, attracting new faces to the community.”

More than just tourism,

EVENTS, CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



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EVENTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Milavitz said this event has also opened eyes of those who may use the airport at a business level.

“Instead of maybe flying into Green Bay or Appleton and driving to our community, they are starting to think about landing here at our airport and supporting local businesses that way,” said Milavitz.

Milavitz estimated that 50 volunteers take time out of their days to help the fly-in and car show be the success it is.

“That comes from the car show, that comes from aviation, that comes from pilots, that comes from air patrol – it takes a lot of people to put on an event like this,” said Milavitz. “We have a great local sponsorship. That sponsorship is not only financial in nature, but it is also donations in terms of different types of equipment and things like that. That is what really makes it successful.

“The community that has gotten behind this.”

As for next year, Milavitz said preparations have already begun.

“We are hoping it grows, and it is going to be the biggest ever,” said Milavitz. “We are really looking at on the grounds how we can utilize the space that we have available. We are also looking at different types of events that we can add. Last year, we added skydivers. We have flight schools.



In its third year, the Shawano Airport Fly-In has quickly become an August weekend favorite for both air and car enthusiasts. Shawano Mayor Bruce Milavitz and Shawano Airport Commission members lead the charge and had the forethought to open the airport to all of those in the community.

Next year, we are going to add more airplane rides to the community itself, more than just children, but the entire population.”

Whether it’s on water, land

or air, Shawano’s summers are full of opportunities to connect with friends, neighbors and visitors. Organizers have already started on plans for 2025. You should, too.





Thank You

SHAWANO AIRPORT FLY-IN VOLUNTEERS

The board of the Shawano Airport expresses its heartfelt appriation for all the volunteers who contributed in any way to help make the 2024 Shawno Airport Fly-In a great success.



JACOBS' 106 YARDS AND 3 TOUCHDOWNS PROPEL PACKERS TO A 38-10 WIN OVER 49ERS



Josh Jacobs is the first Packers player with 100-plus rushing yards and three rushing touchdowns in a game since running back Ryan Grant in the 2007 NFC Divisional Round vs. the Seattle Seahawks.
GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

TURNOVERS & TDS GIVE PACKERS THE WIN

BY LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

It was sweet revenge at Lambeau Field this week, as the Green Bay Packers dominated the San Francisco 49ers, who eliminated Green Bay from the playoffs last season, 38-10. “It feels good. I mean any time you can get a win, it feels amazing,” said Packers quarterback Jordan Love, on if the win over the 49ers meant anything extra to the team. “Obviously, coming off of the playoff last year, we wanted to see these guys. It feels good – any win feels good.”

With San Francisco dealing with a flurry of injuries to key players, the Packers were able to exploit the 49ers’ defense. Packers running back Josh Jacobs was the major thorn in the 49ers’ side, as the Alabama alum rushed for 106 yards and three touchdowns. In total, Green Bay finished the game with 169 rushing yards on the day, with Emanuel Wilson picking up 41 yards and Chris Brooks picking up 11 on the ground.

“The offensive line was blocking great,” said

Jacobs, on his big day. “I came in here with a mindset to want to make a play and want to set the tone and things like that, and it just happened to play out that way.”

In a game where the running game was so efficient, Love and the passing attack was not asked to do too much. In total, Love completed 13-of-23 passes for 163 yards and two touchdowns. Romeo Doubs led the Green Bay receivers with 54 yards on three receptions. Tight end Tucker Kraft registered 26 yards and a touchdown on two receptions, while Malik Heath registered 15 yards and a touchdown on two receptions.

The 49ers were without quarterback Brock Purdy, defensive end Nick Bosa, offensive tackle Trent Williams and defensive back Charvarius Ward due to injuries. With wide receiver Brandon Aiyuk already out for the season, San Francisco struggled to find production anywhere in this game.

Although Green Bay continues to win games, so do the Detroit Lions and the Minnesota Vikings.



Above, Lukas Van Ness and Kenny Clark teamed up to make life miserable for San Francisco quarterback Brandon Allen on this fourth-quarter play, as Van Ness collected a sack forced a fumble that Clark recovered, setting up the score that put the Packers up 31-10 and effectively sewed up the W.

At left, Packers players celebrate another score and another win over the 49ers on Sunday. The victory was head coach Matt LaFleur’s 64th career regular-season win..

KEYS TO THE GAME

Green Bay needs to halt Dolphins' speed

By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

Two games down, one to go. The Green Bay Packers are in the midst of their stretch of three games in 11 days.

This week, they'll have a Thanksgiving night showdown against Tua Tagovailoa and the high-powered Miami Dolphins' offense.

In a scheduling oddity, this is the second meeting between Matt LaFleur and his friend Mike McDaniell, the first of which came on Christmas Day in 2022, when the Packers won 26-20 to keep their playoff hopes alive.

This time, the two teams are in different places.

Both entered the season as contenders, but the Dolphins lost their quarterback to another concussion, which kept him out for over a month.

The Dolphins struggled during that stretch, falling to 2-6 on the year.

They did, however, score a big win against the Los Angeles Rams earlier this month.

The Dolphins, when they are healthy, are as talented as anyone on offense in the NFL.

These are the keys for

the Packers keeping that offense under wraps.

Tyreek Hill

For whatever reason, when the discussion of who the best receiver in football is comes up, Tyreek Hill's name is rarely mentioned.

It's unclear as to why. One thing that is clear, is Hill is still the fastest man in the NFL and can break a game open at any moment.

Hill's numbers suffered without Tagovailoa this season. He scored a touchdown in the first game of the year, but he did not score again until the team's Veterans Day showdown with the Rams.

Jeff Hafley has liked to play a lot of cover-1 since taking over as the team's defensive coordinator, which can leave a cornerback singled up with Hill.

That's a dangerous way to live, because Hill can run by anyone. Whether it is

Jaire Alexander or any of Green Bay's other cornerbacks, Hill can break the game open at a moment's notice.

This game could feature more of a shell defense, trying to force the Dolphins to run the ball more and, more importantly, keep their fast receivers in front of them.

Devon Achane

Miami is fast, and they're fast everywhere.

Devon Achane is the guy who stirs the drink in their backfield.

If the Packers are going to trip and keep a lid on their defense with Hill and Jaylen Waddle standing on the other side, it'll be up to their front to slow down Miami's run game with fewer men in the box.

Achane can make any run defense look silly, and Green Bay has been up-and-down for most of the season.

The physical element of football can be more prevalent with a short turnaround as well.

The Packers are coming off a physical battle against a San Francisco team that gets off the bus trying to establish their run game.

Miami is coming off a divisional game against a physical Patriots team.

Whoever handles this physical confrontation could go a long way toward winning the game.

Once you get past the physicality, you could blink and miss Achane running by you.

He's a big play waiting to happen. The Packers need to do a good job of keeping explosive plays to a minimum. That starts with the two guys who are highlighted first.

Packers' Pressure vs. Tagovailoa

Pressure is the ultimate

equalizer in the NFL, and Tagovailoa is no different when it comes to quarterback play.

When Tagovailoa has time, he can dice up any defense in front of him.

When he's pressured, he's more prone to mistakes. Miami's offensive line has struggled recently. Rams' rookie Jared Verse had his way with Miami's offensive tackles in their 33-15 win over the Rams.

Miami's offense can be potent, but the easiest path to slowing them down is putting their quarterback under pressure.

Tagovailoa struggles pushing the ball to the boundaries of the defense, and some of his passes have a tendency to float.

If the ball floats, there could be a big opportunity for a defensive backfield that is hungry for more takeaways.

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TIME AND DATE: 7:20 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 28

LOCATION: Lambeau Field

TV: NBC

RADIO: Flagship WRNW-FM Milwaukee — 97.3; Packers Radio Network includes WIXX-FM Green Bay — 101.1, WRLO-FM Antigo — 105.3, WLST-FM Marinette — 95.1, and WSAU Wausau — 55.0 AM and 95.1 FM

2024 RECORDS: Packers 8-3, Dolphins 5-6.

HISTORY: The Packers and Dolphins have met 16 times with the Dolphins holding a 10-6 edge in the series. The Packers do, however, have a three-game winning streak in the series. The Packers won the most recent matchup between the two teams, coming on Christmas Day in 2022. Three second half turnovers from Tua Tagovailoa helped power Green Bay to a 26-20 victory, keeping their slim playoff hopes alive.

The last time these two teams met at Lambeau Field, Mike McCarthy was the head coach in Green Bay. Mike McDaniell was still in San Francisco.

The Packers won 31-12 in what might have been the best game in an otherwise forgettable 2018 season.

Of course, there was also the unforgettable game in Miami in October 2014, where Aaron Rodgers faked a spike in the house of Dan Marino. He'd finish off the drive with a touchdown pass to Andrew Quarless to give the Packers a 27-24 victory.

COACHES: Packers — Matt LaFleur, fifth season, 64-30. Dolphins, Mike McDaniell, third season. 25-20.

W 30-14

Sunday, Sept. 29 vs. Minnesota Noon

L 29-31

Sunday, Oct. 6 at LA Rams 3:25 p.m.

W 24-19

Sunday, Oct. 13 vs. Arizona Noon

W 34-13

Sunday, Oct. 20 vs. Houston W 24-22

Sunday, Oct. 27 at Jacksonville W 30-27

Sunday, Nov. 3 vs. Detroit 3:25 p.m. L 14-24

Week 10 BYE

Sunday, Nov. 17 at Chicago Noon

W 20-19

Sunday, Nov. 24 vs. San Francisco W 38-10

Thursday, Nov. 28 vs. Miami 7:20 p.m. NBC

Thursday, Dec. 5 at Detroit 7:15 p.m. Amazon Prime

Sunday, Dec. 15 at Seattle 7:20 p.m. NBC

Monday, Dec. 23 vs. New Orleans 7:15 p.m. ESPN

Sunday, Dec. 29, at Minnesota Noon FOX

Week 18 vs. Chicago TBD

NFL SCHEDULE

Thursday, Nov. 28

Chicago at Detroit, 11:30 a.m.

NY Giants at Dallas, 3:30 p.m.

Miami at Green Bay, 7:20 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 29

Las Vegas at Kansas City, 2 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 1

Houston at Jacksonville, Noon

Indianapolis at New England, Noon

LA Chargers at Atlanta, Noon

Seattle at NY Jets, Noon

Tennessee at Washington, Noon

Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, Noon

Arizona at Minnesota, Noon

LA Rams at New Orleans, 3:05 p.m.

Tampa Bay at Carolina, 3:05 p.m.

Philadelphia at Baltimore, 3:25 p.m.

San Francisco at Buffalo, 7:20 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 2

Cleveland at Denver, 7:15 p.m.

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My favorite NFL team to watch is...

"The Packers, I haven't been to a game in 30 years! I love to watch the Packers in my apartment. If they go to the Super Bowl this year though, I don't think they will win."

Henry Berner, Golden Pond Tenant

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WEEK 12/DEFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 38 VS 49ERS 10



Safety Xavier McKinney collected his seventh interception of the year when he picked off a pass from San Francisco quarterback Brandon Allen and returned the ball 48 yards to the San Francisco 26. The Packers would go on to score a touchdown. In total, the Packers scored 21 points off the three turnovers in the game. The seven picks by McKinney are the most by a Packer since cornerback Charles Woodson (seven in 2011). McKinney's seven games with an interception this season is the most by a Packer since Woodson did the same in 2009.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

21 POINTS OFF 3 TURNOVERS

GREEN BAY DOMINATES OLD NEMESIS IN LOPSIDED VICTORY

HO-CHUNK



GAMING

WITTENBERG

My favorite NFL team to watch is...

"I don't follow the Packers, Go Bears! My father-in-law played for the Bears, Patsy Clark and he played with Papa Bear Halas."

Lois Kawczynski,
Meadowlands Tenant





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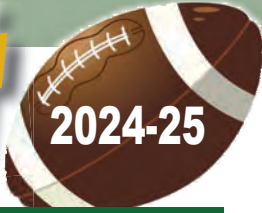
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Week 13 Games: Sun., Dec. 1
NY Giants @ Dallas - Thurs., Nov. 28
Chicago @ Detroit - Thurs., Nov. 28
Seattle @ NY Jets
Arizona @ Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:
Miami @ Green Bay - Thurs., Nov. 28

Weekly Standings	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Tim Murphy, NEW Media	3-1	43-16
Mike Worachek, Card & Coin	1-3	41-18
Matt/Rory, Buss Automotive	3-1	41-18
Jacob Westendorf, NEW Media	3-1	40-19
Tanya Hintz, Shawano Health Services	2-2	38-21
Luke Reimer, NEW Media	3-1	37-22
Kevin Passon, NEW Media	3-1	36-23
Staff, Walsh Dental Group	2-2	35-24
Muriel Wilke, The Cottages on Golden Pond	3-1	35-24
Gerri Hansen, The Cottages at Meadowlands	3-1	35-24
Staff, Iverson's Piggly Wiggly	3-1	29-30



This Week's Picks:
NY Giants
Detroit
Seattle
Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Miami 14 @ Green Bay 28

Due to time constraints the Monday night game and the weekly winner will be included in next week's issue of Green and Gold Express.



This Week's Picks:
Dallas
Detroit
Seattle
Arizona

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Miami 20 @ Green Bay 24



This Week's Picks:
Dallas
Detroit
Seattle
Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Miami 21 @ Green Bay 28



This Week's Picks:
NY Giants
Detroit
NY Jets
Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Miami 7 @ Green Bay 23



This Week's Picks:
NY Giants
Detroit
Seattle
Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Miami 14 @ Green Bay 21



This Week's Picks:
Dallas
Detroit
NY Jets
Arizona

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Miami 17 @ Green Bay 27



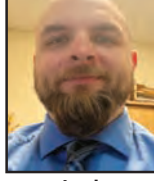
This Week's Picks:
Dallas
Detroit
Seattle
Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Miami 14 @ Green Bay 27



This Week's Picks:
NY Giants
Detroit
Seattle
Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Miami 18 @ Green Bay 20



This Week's Picks:
NY Giants
Detroit
Seattle
Arizona

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score : Miami 21 @ Green Bay 31



This Week's Picks:
Dallas
Detroit
Seattle
Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Miami 20 @ Green Bay 27



This Week's Picks:
NY Giants
Detroit
Seattle
Arizona

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Miami 24 @ Green Bay 31

WEEK 12/OFFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 38 VS 49ERS 10



With an 11-yard catch from Jordan Love that gave the Packers an early 7-0 lead, tight end Tucker Kraft registered his sixth touchdown reception, with all six coming in the last eight games. He caught two balls for 26 yards against the 49ers. Also collecting receiving yards were Romeo Doubs with 54, Jayden Reed with 26, Dontayvian Wicks with 25, Malik Heath and Chris Brooks with 15 each, and John FitzPatrick with 2.

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OPENING THE FLOODGATES



MENOMINEE
CASINO RESORT



GREEN BAY PACKERS

2	Malik Willis.....QB	29	Xavier McKinney.....S	73	Andre Dillard.....T
7	Quay Walker.....LB	30	Chris Brooks.....RB	74	Elgton Jenkins.....G/T
8	Josh Jacobs.....RB	31	Emanuel Wilson.....RB	75	Sean Rhyan.....G
9	Christian Watson.....WR	33	Evan Williams.....S	76	Kadeem Telfort.....T
10	Jordan Love.....QB	39	Zayne Anderson.....S	79	Travis Glover.....T
11	Jayden Reed.....WR	42	Matt Orzech.....LS	80	Bo Melton.....WR
13	Dontayvion Wicks.....WR	45	Eric Wilson.....LB	85	Tucker Kraft.....TE
17	Brandon Mcmanus.....K	50	Zach Tom.....OL	86	John FitzPatrick.....TE
18	Malik Heath.....WR	52	Rashan Gary.....DL	87	Romeo Doubs.....WR
19	Daniel Whelan.....P	53	Arron Mosby.....DL	89	Ben Sims.....TE
20	Javon Bullard.....S	55	Kingsley Enagbare.....DL	90	Lukas Van Ness.....DL
21	Eric Stokes.....CB	56	Egterrinn Cooper.....LB	93	T.J. Slaton.....DL
22	Robert Rochell.....CB	57	Brenton Cox Jr.....DL	94	Karl Brooks.....DL
23	Jaire Alexander.....CB	58	Isaiah McDuffie.....LB	95	Devonte Wyatt.....DL
24	Carrington Valentine..CB	59	Ty'Ron Hopper.....LB	96	Colby Wooden.....DL
25	Keisean Nixon.....CB	62	Jacob Monk.....C/G	97	Kenny Clark.....DL
26	Corey Ballentine.....CB	63	Rasheed Walker.....T		
27	Kitan Oladapo.....S	71	Josh Myers.....C/G		



MIAMI DOLPHINS

1	Tua Tagovailoa.....QB	25	Jaylen Wright.....RB	65	Robert Jones.....OL
3	Odell Beckham Jr.....WR	26	Marcus Maye.....S	66	Lester Cotton.....OL
4	Kader Kohou.....CB	27	Ethan Bonner.....CB	70	Kendall Lamm.....T
5	Jalen Ramsey.....CB	28	De'Von Achane.....RB	72	Terron Armstead.....T
6	Anthony Walker Jr.....LB	29	Kendall Fuller.....CB	74	Liam Eichenberg.....OL
7	Jason Sanders.....K	30	Alec Ingold.....FB	80	Jack Stoll.....TE
8	Jevon Holland.....S	31	Raheem Mostert.....RB	81	Durham Smythe.....TE
9	Jonnu Smith.....TE	33	Siran Neal.....CB	82	Dee Eskridge.....WR
10	Tyreek Hill.....WR	36	Storm Duck.....CB	83	Malik Washington.....WR
11	Tyrel Dodson.....LB	41	Channing Tindall.....LB	85	River Cracraft.....WR
16	Jake Bailey.....P	44	Chop Robinson.....LB	89	Julian Hill.....TE
17	Jaylen Waddle.....WR	45	Duke Riley.....LB	90	Da'Shawn Hand.....DT
19	Syklar Thompson.....QB	50	Mohamed Kamara.....LB	91	Emmanuel Ogbah.....LB
20	Jordyn Brooks.....LB	51	Tyus Bowser.....LB	92	Zach Sieler.....DT
21	Jordan Parker.....S	52	Patrick Paul.....T	93	Calais Campbell.....DT
22	Elijah Campbell.....DB	55	Aaron Brewer.....OL	95	Benito Jones.....DT
23	Jeff Wilson Jr.....RB	56	Quinton Bell.....LB	97	Neil Farrell.....DT
24	Cam Smith.....CB	60	Andrew Meyer.....OL		

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WEEK 12/OFFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 38 VS 49ERS 10



Malik Heath's 3-yard touchdown catch in the waning moments Sunday proved to be the final shovel of dirt over the visiting San Francisco 49ers, who fell to 5-6 in the NFC West with the 38-10 defeat. His two catches were among the 13 completed by quarterback Jordan Love, who finished the day with 163 yards and two touchdowns.

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WEEK 12/OFFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 38 VS 49ERS 10



Josh Jacobs didn't quite get home on this effort, but he would score on the next play, one of three touchdowns he notched in the Packers' 38-10 drubbing of San Francisco. Jacobs' game-high 106 yards rushing underscored the one-sided nature of the ground battle won by the Packers, who totaled 169 yards rushing to San Francisco's 44. Jacobs' 944 rushing yards this season ranks him third in the NFL behind Saquon Barkley and Derrick Henry.

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