



Drama team heads to state

The Oconto Falls High School drama team's one-act "Terminal Terror" advances to the Wisconsin theater festival next week.

PAGE 5

Every shot needs to count

Gun Hunting Guide: There's a shortage of ammo, along with everything else, so hunters will need to make sure every shot hits its mark.

INSERT

Workforce of the future

Rebecca Deschane of New North on what the region needs to do to attract and retain workers in this week's Employment Connections.

INSERT

PANEL RECOMMENDS BUILDING NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

Oconto Falls School District residents walk the dimly-lit corridors of Washington Middle School on Nov. 3 in between sessions of a World Cafe event to unveil a \$49.9 million building referendum proposed for April 5. In addition to a new \$31 million middle school, the plan includes upgrades and deferred maintenance at the district's other three buildings. SEE STORY, PAGE 2-3.

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Schools task force unveils \$49.9 million building plan

Oconto Falls School Board to decide Jan. 10 whether to hold referendum on new middle school, other improvements

By **WARREN BLUHM**

Editor-in chief

A task force of community members and educators, working in concert with a consulting firm, has submitted a \$49.9 million building plan for the Oconto Falls School District.

With a new \$31 million middle school as its centerpiece, the proposal appears to be headed for an April 5 referendum vote pending a community survey later this month and a vote by the school board in December or January.

The plan was unveiled in a Nov. 3 “World Cafe” event at Washington Middle School and presented to the board at its regular Nov. 8 meeting. In the World Cafe, residents shuttled between classrooms for about two hours, hearing presentations about each of the district’s four school buildings and the financial plan to pay for the projects.

Superintendent Dean Hess told the World Cafe audience that planning for a potential building referendum literally began about five years ago.

Parts of Washington Middle School — a second-floor gymnasium and several classrooms — were built in 1910. A large portion was built in 1957 after a fire devastated most of what was then the high school, and other improvements date to 1983 and 2001.

Task force members said they worked with consulting firm Nexus Solutions to come up with a cost estimate for bringing Washington closer to 21st century standards.

“We determined it would cost \$24 million to renovate this building, to get it to a place where it should be, to be a safe and good educational environment for the kids,” Stephanie Landreman, the middle school principal, said during the World Cafe

“Seven million less than the building of a new middle school; however, at the end of the day you’ll still have an old building with old bones that will constantly still require expensive maintenance.”

EMILIE TRUDELL, Facilities Task Force member

presentation.

Emilie Trudell, a parent and task force member, told the school board that the price point is the only advantage to renovation versus building a new facility.

“Seven million less than the building of a new middle school; however, at the end of the day you’ll still have an old building with old bones that will constantly still require expensive maintenance,” Trudell said.

In the long term, the difference in the impact on taxpayers between building new and renovating and then trying to maintain the aging structure was marginal, so the group agreed to take Washington Middle School off the table, she said.

The new middle school would be built across County Road I from Oconto Falls High School and Oconto Falls Elementary School, using about 20 acres of a 100-acre parcel the district bought for future use. That purchase will be paid off by the end of the year, so land costs do not need to be included in the building package.

The new building would have modern learning spaces to inspire and innovate children, Landreman said, with a footprint about 10,000 square feet larger than Washington Middle School.

“It would look very different from this building because we would have space,” Landreman said. “The current learning environment really puts constraints on what we’re able to do with the kids, and it limits education-

al opportunities.”

Trudell added that the new school would have green space, something that Washington utterly lacks.

“I would think as a member of this community, you would have some type of value on outdoors. We aren’t able to provide that value in the classroom in this building,” Trudell said. “Recess is on a concrete slab, and I know these are middle schoolers, but they still should be able to have an enjoyable environment outdoors, where they’re not completely landlocked in the middle of town.”

Hess said the district has prepared a proposal with minimal impact on property taxpayers, acting on the new work just as the debt service is completed on building referendums of 25 and 30 years ago.

The impact would be less than 10 cents per \$1,000 of equalized value, less than \$10 on a \$100,000 home, he said.

“We actually expect it to be less than that, but I like to under-promise and over-deliver,” Hess said.

The next step is a community survey to gauge support for the measure, starting about Nov. 19, with results to be presented to the board at a special meeting on Dec. 16.

“That feedback is going to be absolutely critical for us as a school district to know what level of support is out there, what are things that people think are good ideas, where things are that people maybe have concerns,” he said.

The board would then decide Jan.

CORRECTIONS

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

10 whether to place the plan on the April 5 ballot as a referendum question.

Kim Sinclair, finance director, said the property tax rate for the 2021-22 school year is \$10.12 per \$1,000 of equalized value. She prepared estimates that if the referendum were to pass and the money borrowed at current interest rates, the tax rate would remain fairly stable, actually lower than the current rate for at least the first four years.

Sinclair acknowledged that otherwise the rate would go down because the old debt will be paid off, although the building issues remain.

With current interest rates as low as they have been for 30 years, now is an advantageous time, she added.

"We're in this kind of perfect storm, if we could catch this average here — 1.5% is where it is now — obviously our numbers would even be better than what we're showing, but we're going on the conservative side because we don't know when we borrow the money what the rates will be at the time."

Mike Bouche, the district's buildings/grounds and maintenance supervisor, said that all of the buildings would see deferred maintenance as part of the referendum package.

"Regardless of whether this goes through or not, we're going to keep trucking and do the best we can, do improvements and add lighting and stuff," Bouche said. "There are just some things that we can't afford at all at one time."

Hess said specific details and blueprints will come if the project moves forward. As presented the proposal shows general outlines of the work, and conversations with architects or engineers would come later.

"People need to understand that, you know, sometimes people want to know the exact 'What's the blueprint,'" Hess said. "Well, that's very costly to get to that level of planning. You're not going to do that until you know that you have the support."

School officials and the task force have made an effort to prioritize only what is needed, he said.

"Each building has different needs, but I think you're going to see we're trying to focus on the needs, not wants," Hess said.

In addition to the new middle school, the building proposal includes:

- \$8.4 million for work at Oconto Falls High School, which was built in 1996 with additions and remodeling in 1996 and 2001.

"The high school is a quality



Oconto Falls superintendent Dean Hess, left, addresses residents who came to Washington Middle School on Nov. 3 to learn more about a proposal to build a new middle school. A referendum question would go to local voters April 5.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA



Linoleum on the floors of Washington Middle School is well worn after many years of use.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

facility, but it needs a little work," Principal Dan Moore said. "You have to understand the 'new addition' is now 20 years old."

The project includes more secure entrances and a reconfiguration of the conference rooms near the office; a redesigned and safer parent drop-off area; improvements to the technical education complex to open the shop area to the classrooms to improve efficiency and safety; and updates to the IMC/library with more of a technology focus.

Deferred maintenance items include replacement of a 20- to 30-year-old boiler and other larger

ticket items to upgrade heating and cooling.

- \$6.4 million for Oconto Falls Elementary School, which was built in 1996 with additional work in 2001.

The proposal features a more secure entryway, reconfiguring the current office space for greater safety and greater privacy for students visiting school nurse, a dropoff/pickup area, an addition to create a larger commons and kitchen, converting the cafeteria to a music room, and deferred maintenance.

Because the current cafeteria is so small, OFES needs to use half of the gym for two hours a day, Principal

Lisa Hencsik said.

- \$4.06 million for Abrams Elementary School, which was built in 1957 with upgrades in 1996 and 2001.

The project includes a secure entry, remodeling the office area, and reconfiguring existing space to create commons and cafeteria area and kitchen. Currently the Abrams gym doubles as a cafeteria, and staff has to move tables in and out every day.

For another \$5 million, central heating and air conditioning could be added to the two elementary schools, but the task force left them off the final project to keep the total cost just under \$50 million.

OCONTO COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

Proceedings of Nov. 4

After about three hours of deliberation, a jury found Joshua L. Dickinson, 43, Portage, guilty of the repeated sexual assault of the same child, in connection with incidents alleged to have occurred in 2015. Judge Michael T. Judge scheduled sentencing for Jan. 27 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

Proceedings of Nov. 2

Nathan S. Borkovec, 36, Lena, was sentenced to two years in prison, followed by two years of extended supervision, for fleeing an officer and operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fifth offense), in connection with an incident that occurred May 15. Judge Michael T. Judge ruled that the prison term be served consecutive to any other sentence.

Borkovec is eligible for the Substance Abuse Program, which may lead to early release on successful completion. During extended supervision Borkovec must maintain absolute sobriety and complete all assessments, counseling and treatment deemed necessary by his Department of Corrections agent. His driver's license is revoked for 36 months and ignition interlock devices must be installed on any vehicle he owns.

Sentencing was postponed until Nov. 30 for Olivia P. Francois, 21, Oconto, because she failed to meet with a Department of Corrections agent conducting a pre-sentence investigation. Francois pleaded guilty July 16 to burglary in connection with an incident that occurred Dec. 16. Judge Jay N. Conley revoked her bond and ordered her taken

into custody until sentencing so she can meet with the agent.

At the request of her attorney a competency exam was ordered for Lakisha M. Nash, 43, Hobart, who faces charges of second-degree reckless endangering safety and fleeing an officer, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Sept. 11. Judge Jay N. Conley scheduled a status conference for Dec. 16.

Diana Marie Wynos, 26, Neopit, pleaded no contest to fleeing an officer in a vehicle, in connection with an incident that occurred Dec. 21, 2019. Judge Jay N. Conley sentenced her to one year in the county jail consecutive to any other sentence.

Proceedings of Nov. 1

Bond was set at \$35,000 cash for

Nathan R. Neldner, 29, De Pere, after he was charged with burglary, eight counts of theft, and bail jumping, in connection with a break-in and theft of cash and guns from a residence in the Town of Gillett that occurred Sept. 27. His initial appearance was adjourned until Nov. 11.

Proceedings of Oct. 29

Bond was set at \$3,000 cash for Curt T Schmitt, 32, Suring, after he was charged with manufacture with intent to deliver THC, possession with intent to deliver THC, maintaining a drug trafficking place, and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Oct. 27. His initial appearance was adjourned until Nov. 11.

OCONTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Nov. 4

Deputies responded to 50 incidents, including animal neglect on Frog Pond Road in the Town of Oconto, a wanted person on County Road F in the Town of Lakewood, a disturbance on Superior Avenue in Oconto, a wanted person on Emily Lane in the Town of Lakewood,

five traffic stops, one traffic hazard, six traffic offenses, six citizen assists, one miscellaneous traffic incident, two welfare checks; one 911 hangup and six open lines; three ambulance calls; five crashes, two involving deer.

Nov. 3

Deputies responded to 33 incidents,

including suspicious activity near Timberline and Brehmer roads in the Town of Abrams, suspicious activity near Lee Lake Road and Lee Lake Park Lane in the Town of Brazeau, a search warrant at an undisclosed location, a disturbance on Business 41 in the Town of Oconto, a missing person on County Road E in the Town of Abrams, three traffic stops, three traffic offenses, two citizen assists, one miscellaneous traffic incident, one welfare check; one open line call to 911; two ambulance calls; three crashes, two involving deer.

Nov. 2

Deputies responded to 35 incidents, including suspicious activity on West Frontier Road in the Town of Little Suamico, suspicious activity near U.S. Highway 41 and Woodview Road in the Town of Little River, fraud on Ziweis Lane in the Town of Mountain, theft on Hunts Lane in the Town of Gillett, suspicious activity near state Highway 32 and County Road MZ in the Town of Maple Valley, squad damage near state Highway 32 and Four Towns Road in the Town of Maple Valley, two traffic stops, two traffic offenses, one citizen assist, two 911 hangups and four open lines; one ambulance call; four deer-related crashes.

Nov. 1

Deputies responded to 36 incidents, including theft near U.S. Highway 41-141 and County Road D in the Town of Abrams, an animal bite on U.S. Highway 141 in the Town of Abrams, a disturbance on state Highway 32 in the Town of Townsend, an internet crimes against children investigation in Oconto, threatening on Balcom Lake Road in the Town of Gillett, an animal bite on Wilderness Trail in the Town of Abrams, an incident at the county jail on Arbutus Avenue in Oconto, a noise disturbance on Airport Road in the Town of Mountain,

two traffic stops, one traffic hazard, two traffic offenses, two citizen assists, one miscellaneous traffic incident, one welfare check; five 911 hangups and three open lines; four crashes, three involving deer.

Oct. 31

Deputies responded to 56 incidents, including a disturbance on East Railroad Street in Gillett, a noise disturbance on state Highway 22 in Gillett, a noise disturbance near County Road S and West Frontier Road in the Town of Little Suamico, a disturbance on South Oakland Avenue in Oconto Falls, fireworks on Windancer Drive in the Town of Chase, a disturbance on North McKenzie Street in Gillett, harassment on Knapp Street in Suring, property damage on Quarterline Road Bridge in the Town of Gillett, suspicious activity on Michael Circle in the Town of Underhill, suspicious activity on White Lake Road in the Town of Bagley, suspicious activity on Geano Beach Road in the Town of Abrams, 10 traffic stops, two traffic hazards, four traffic offenses, four miscellaneous traffic incidents, six open line calls to 911; three ambulance calls; six crashes, three involving deer.

Oct. 30

Deputies responded to 41 incidents, including a wanted person on Elm Road in the Town of How, fraud on East Main Street in Lena, a structure fire on Tower Drive Road in the Town of Stiles, an ATV accident near Peshtigo Brook Fire Road and Old 64 Road in the Town of Brazeau, a disturbance on Green Bay Avenue in Oconto Falls, underage alcohol at an address in the Town of Breed, four traffic stops, three traffic offenses, four miscellaneous traffic incidents, two welfare checks; three 911 hangups and three open lines; one ambulance call; five crashes, four involving deer.

CHURCHES ARE BACK... So is the Worship Directory!

When the coronavirus pandemic hit, churches and other places of worship had to close, which meant NEW Media's worship directory had to go away. Now that the faithful are returning to their houses of worship, we're in the process of rebuilding our worship directory on our website

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Houses of worship can send their vital information, including physical addresses, days and times of services, names of leaders and contact information, to

EDITOR@NEWMEDIA-WI.COM. Be sure to have "WORSHIP DIRECTORY" in the subject line.



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OFHS drama team advances to state

Community performance scheduled Friday

The Oconto Falls High School drama team recently earned a return trip to the Wisconsin State Inter-scholastic Theatre Festival, being held next week at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Preparing and presenting the one-act play "Terminal Terror" by Kitty Burns, the students comprising this extension of the school's drama club previously traveled and competed in Tomahawk and Green Bay to reach this final destination of achievement.

Published in the collection "If God Wanted Us To Fly He Would Have Given Us Wings," "Terminal Terror" mixes a classic comedy with an

episode of "The Twilight Zone" as four passengers gather in the lounge area of Phoenix Airlines in JFK International Airport. Soon interplay between an unusual airline agent and the four reveal that two are deadly afraid of flying. Their fear is eased once they are in the air — until their destination is revealed.

The production is under the direction of faculty member Gayle Gander, assisted by student director Alaina Blaser. Blaser is also part of the acting troupe, along with Savannah Long, Raina Coopman, Ashlynn Vanderheyden, Sophia Collar, and Ana Feliz. Technical support is provided by Emily Riebe, Allison

Grzelak, and John Wolford.

A community performances for "Terminal Terror" is scheduled for 7 p.m. Nov. 12 in the Falls Area Performing Arts Center at Oconto Falls High School, 210 N. Farm Road.

Tickets can be purchased online at our.show/ofhs-performing-arts for \$5 or at the door for \$7. Any questions about this production can be directed to the PAC Office at 920-848-4467, ext. 4150.

Thanksgiving community meals planned in Gillett, Townsend

Two long-standing Thanksgiving community dinners are returning to Gillett and Townsend, although the latter remains a to-go event for the second year of the pandemic.

Hillside Assembly of God Church is planning its 31st annual Gillett Community Thanksgiving Dinner, consisting of turkey and ham with all the trimmings, from 3:30-6:30 p.m. Nov. 24, the day before Thanksgiving. The dinner at the church, 5890 State Highway 22, Gillett, is offered free of charge to anyone who would enjoy the feeling of being a part of a large family.

Carry-out delivery is available to anyone who is homebound and lives in Gillett, Suring, Cecil or Oconto Falls. Due to COVID-19 seating will be limited. When making reservations, diners are asked to sign up for a specific time slot: 3:30-4:15 p.m., 4:30-5:15 p.m. or 5:30-6:15 p.m.

For dine-in dinner reservations, meal pickup, meal delivery, or to volunteer, call the church at 920-855-2962, email teri@hillsideassembly.com, or reserve a dine-in time at www.hillsideassembly.com. People who leave a phone message are asked to include a phone number to confirm.

The 2021 Thanksgiving Day Dinner hosted by St. John Lutheran Church, Townsend, will be a to-go

event instead of a sit-down meal.

"We prefer to have the traditional Thanksgiving dinner at the Church Fellowship Hall to offer a place to go for those who want to join us on this very special day," said coordinator Lynn Schmidt. "However, due to COVID-19, we believe it is safer for everyone to offer curbside pickup."

Dinners consisting of turkey and all the trimmings, including pumpkin pie will be prepared, assembled, and packaged for easy pickup in the church parking lot, 17963 State Highway 32, Townsend. Call Donna at 715-304-7244 by Nov. 21 to schedule a pickup time between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Nov. 25.

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OBITUARY

Richard P. Firgens

Richard “Rick” Paul Firgens, aka Rickman, 53, of Suring (actually Breed’s East Side), passed away Nov. 4, 2021. Born to Richard “Dick” Firgens and Ethel nee Schuettpelez on Jan. 14, 1968. Rick was a 1986 graduate of Suring High School. He was baptized and confirmed as a Lutheran.



Rick worked on the family farm and the original Firgens homestead. He was a gifted and skilled carpenter who helped build and remodel many homes. Farming was

his great passion. He won the Outstanding State Farmers Award from FFA in 1985. Rick played football, basketball, ran track, and “farmer basketball” in high school. His love of sports continued to grow, you could always find him cheering on all the Wisconsin teams at Bonz Bar. Rick also enjoyed hunting and fishing, especially deer hunting with his buddies from the “Love Shack.”

Rick is survived by his mother, Ethel Firgens; his son, Ryan Firgens; his sister Lisa (Jeff) Bloemers; his brother James “Jim” Firgens; his niece and goddaughter Danielle (Nick) Collier and their children Blake and Brantley; his nephew Tim (Aubrey) Schroeder; and his godson, Michael Booth. Also survived by his shotgun rider Marley, an aunt and uncles, many cousins and special friends whom he called family.

Rick was preceded in death by his father, Dick Firgens; his paternal grandparents, Richard and Lenora Firgens; his maternal grandparents, Leo and Elsie Schuettpelez; many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Rick was a very humble man and lived a simple life with few needs or wants and always saw the positive side of things. He had a goofy sense of humor with quirky one-liners that will be missed.

There will be no formal funeral service, but rather a celebration of Rick’s life on Saturday, Nov. 13, 2021, starting at 3 p.m. at the Breed Community Center.



Gillett Public Library looks to the stars

A child peers into a Neville Public Museum Astronomical Society telescope at Jupiter and four of its moons Oct. 26 outside the Gillett Public Library Community Center. The society hosted a standing-room-only presentation about what could currently be seen in the skies and available apps that can be helpful during stargazing, such as Skyview, which identifies constellations and planets when the user points their phone to the sky. SHANNON NICHOLA STONER

Peshtigo shooting range temporarily closed

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has announced the temporary closure of its Peshtigo shooting range in Marinette County due to a staffing shortage.

The department is recruiting personnel to staff the facility to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all users.

While this facility is temporarily

closed, the department recommends users review the DNR’s Public Shooting Ranges webpage for links to other range websites as well as updates regarding changes to range operations.

Range users can visit two nearby sites. Peshtigo Gun Club, W2803 Pheasant Farm Road, Peshtigo, is a shotgun-rifle facility, and Mach-

ickanee, 3490 Garrity Road, Oconto Falls, is a county-owned, rifle-pistol facility.

The Peshtigo range is expected to reopen to normal operations once staffing is in place. For a list of additional shooting ranges and updates regarding changes to range operations, visit the DNR’s Public Shooting Ranges webpage.

Gillett native, journalist passes away

Sandra A. “Sandy” Cota, who spent her career as a newspaper reporter in Iowa and Wisconsin, died Oct. 8. She was 89.

After graduating from Gillett High

School, Cota went on to earn her college degree in journalism.

She started her career in newspapers with the Dubuque, Iowa, Telegraph Herald, where she worked as a

reporter before moving on to work in the newsrooms of The Racine Journal Times and Milwaukee Journal.

She retired to her home in Peshtigo.



Monsters and goblins on parade

ABOVE: Sacred Heart Catholic School held a special Halloween Spirit Parade on Main Street in Shawano on Oct. 27. Students in preschool to seventh grade dressed up in their costumes and walked up and down Main Street greeting pedestrians and business owners, including Aaron Gilling, center, of Stubborn Brothers Brewery. Officers with the Shawano Police Department escorted the students and assisted them at the crosswalks.

CONTRIBUTED

LEFT: Sacred Heart Catholic School student Bailey Wild gets a treat from a scary looking Deacon James Lonick on Oct. 27. After the parade, students went back to school and held classroom parties and enjoyed the haunted house set up by the eighth grade. Besides Lonick, Principal Gary Cumberland, the Rev. Scott Valentyn, Autumnne Gee and Lori Mathwich walked around handing out candy to students during their parties.

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Cowles' PSC reform bill signed by Evers

Sen. Robert Cowles praised the signing of Assembly Bill 300, which was signed into law Nov. 5 as 2021 Wisconsin Act 85, by Gov. Tony Evers.

"The PSC approval process can not only be costly, but it can also be timely lasting months or even a full construction season. Additional delays racked up before the review by the commissioners and public comment period can further delay a process, putting a halt on some urgent and necessary projects," Cowles said in a press release. "The responsibilities placed upon local water utilities can make it a hard enough job without the delays faced in the regulatory processes."

Cowles said Act 85 is expected to put a stop to these unnecessary delays by requiring the Wisconsin Public Service Commission act on construction authorization and lead service line applications in a timely manner.

In recent years, some water utilities seeking a certificate of authority to perform a construction project or approval of a Lead Service Line Replace-



ROB COWLES

ment Program have experienced lengthy delays in having their applications addressed. While the PSC had deadlines in law already under most circumstances for deadlines to address applications once the Notice of Investigation (NOI) is opened by the commissioners, applications by water utilities did not have a statutory timeline from when an application is submitted for staff review until the NOI is opened unlike many energy utility applications.

After the city of Kaukauna, part of Cowles' district, submitted its application for a lead service line replacement program, staff review led to 295 days from their application being submitted to an NOI being opened. Act 85 looks to put a stop to unnecessary delays by requiring that the PSC act on these applications within 45 days.

Felzkowski bill looks at school spending transparency

Gov. Tony Evers signed Senate Bill 373, authored by Sen. Mary Felzkowski, R-Tomahawk, into law Nov. 5.

The bill will provide Wisconsin residents with access to information and details regarding how their school district is spending their taxpayer dollars.

"I am thrilled that this bill is being signed into law today," Felzkowski said in a press release. "Over the last several years, I have worked with stakeholders throughout the education community to forge a consensus on making school district spending information accessible to the public."

The aim of the legislation, according to Felzkowski, is to make it easier for the public to track exactly how their school district is spending the funding they receive. The end will be an easy-to-access school expenditure portal that the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction shall maintain on its website.

Any member of the public, parent, or teacher can look up their school district and see what funding their school



MARY FELZKOWSKI

is receiving and where the money is going. This bill will create an advisory committee comprised of individuals selected by the governor, Assembly, and Senate who will make recommendations on categories DPI must include in the school expenditure portal.

"At its core, our bill is about transparency and access, and about every taxpayer, parent, teacher, reporter, and school board member who has at one point or another found our school funding data difficult to comprehend," Felzkowski said. "Every member of the public should have the opportunity for an informed discussion about school spending with their school's leadership."

SB 373 was signed into law as 2021 Act 89.

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Crafts are in abundance at St. James



Craft vendors and visitors pack the gym at St. James Lutheran School as they hosted a craft fair on Nov. 6.



From left, Bowler residents Jermain and Woody Davids look at different jewelry and ornaments at the St. James Lutheran School Craft Fair on Nov. 6.



A popular stand was the mittens as visitors were stocking up before the winter season begins at the St. James Lutheran School Craft Fair on Nov. 6.

PHOTOS BY LUKE REIMER • REPORTER

Broadband money available for rural areas

Small communities scramble to use tidal wave of public funding

By **PETER CAMERON**
The Badger Project

Ed Risler, 71, doesn't use the internet much, but his granddaughter sure does.

When school shut down during the pandemic last year, 10-year-old Bella spent school days at her grandfather's while her mother was at work. With a home deep in the rolling hills of western Wisconsin's Driftless Area, his internet speeds are "piss poor," said Risler, the chairman of the town board in Drammen, a rural community between Mondovi and Eau Claire. While many kids in the state could do their work digitally, Drammen's poor internet speeds meant Bella had to get paper assignments from school.

"I knew we needed it in the township," Risler said. "We needed to do something."

Risler and the whole community of Drammen will soon have high-speed internet, also known as broadband, thanks to the fiber optic cables two local cooperatives, Tri-County Communications Cooperative and 24-7 & West Wisconsin Telcom, are burying in the ground right now.

The town of around 800 residents is able to afford the nearly \$3 million project thanks to a state grant of \$1.5 million, and \$200,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill President Joe Biden signed into law in March.

The pandemic shutdown made the already pressing issue of high-speed internet expansion a priority, as children and adults in rural areas struggled to study and work from home. If they didn't already, local governments are now realizing the importance of broadband for improving quality of life and the local economy, including retaining existing businesses and residents and attracting new ones.

In response, the federal and state government are showering rural broadband projects with cash. Since the start of the pandemic, Congress has passed three huge spending bills — The CARES Act in March 2020,



the Consolidated Appropriations Act in December and ARPA in March of this year — each including millions that can be used for broadband expansion.

According to Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) chair Rebecca Cameron Valcq, nearly 400,000 households in the state, most of them rural, lack access to high-speed internet access. Valcq estimates the cost of bringing it to all of them could be about \$700 million.

Christopher Mitchell, director of the Community Broadband Networks Initiative, a Minnesota-based think tank that helps communities with their telecommunications, estimates Wisconsin will receive between \$600 million and \$1 billion in total for use in high-speed internet expansion.

"This is a time with unprecedented money available, and if Wisconsin is smart about it, they could resolve a lot of their problems," Mitchell said. "But if Wisconsin is not smart about it, they have no one to blame but themselves."

From 2015 to 2020, federal programs like the FCC's Connect America Fund provided hundreds of millions of dollars to service provid-

ers for high-speed internet expansion in Wisconsin. Major internet service providers like CenturyLink, Frontier Communications, TDS Telecom and AT&T secured huge sums of funding. Mitchell said the programs were poorly designed and poorly enforced, allowing the big companies to funnel the money into areas that were most profitable — cities and suburbs with high population density. Rural areas were ignored.

Some providers have been accused of misrepresenting the quality of their product, giving the impression that the internet speeds provided were higher than they actually were.

Frontier, which provides service to about 80,000 Wisconsinites, received more than \$180 million in federal funding between 2015 and 2020 for projects in Wisconsin alone. The company then declared bankruptcy in 2020. In May, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) along with law enforcement agencies from six states, including Wisconsin, sued the company for misrepresenting internet speeds. A judge has dismissed the claims of Wisconsin and four other states, but allowed the suits from the

FTC and California to continue.

Brigid Smith, a spokeswoman for Frontier, said the company's bankruptcy did not affect the company's commitment to fulfilling its obligations with the federal funding. Regarding state funding, Smith said Frontier has received broadband grant funding in numerous states "and has fulfilled its grant obligations in all of them."

As of October, Frontier still finishes near the bottom of a ratings survey of telecommunications companies by Consumer Reports, and the Better Business Bureau gives the company a grade of F.

At the state level, before Wisconsin Democrats broke Republicans' complete control of state government with Gov. Tony Evers' win in 2018, the GOP budgeted what experts call a pittance for rural broadband expansion: \$20 million in the program's first years between 2014 and 2019.

Now that's all changed.

ARPA sent checks directly to every state, county and municipality in the United States, but put restrictions on how the money could be used. High-speed internet is one allowable item, and Evers and local governments are taking the suggestion.

This summer, the governor set aside \$100 million in federal funds in a first round of a competitive grant process for broadband expansion, giving priority to projects in areas "with the least access or slowest speed and the highest need." At the state level, the budget for the next two years also sets aside an additional \$129 million for broadband expansion grants, doubling the previous budget.

As of October, the state has awarded about \$100 million, mostly to smaller internet providers, but received more than \$420 million in applications.

In order "to help guide funds to areas where it is needed most," the PSC awards grants based on criteria including the current availability or lack thereof in an area, as well as the proposed speeds and matching funds of the project, said Jerel Ballard, a spokesman for the commission.

This story was funded in part by The Wisconsin Idea, a reporting project of the progressive news magazine In These Times, focused on issues facing the state's rural communities. The Badger Project describes itself as a nonpartisan, citizen-supported journalism nonprofit in Wisconsin. For the full story, go to www.newmedia-wi.com

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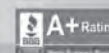
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ThedaStar Air Medical completes reaccreditation

ThedaStar Air Medical, based at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah, has recently completed an extensive reaccreditation process to ensure the continued safety and quality of care that is provided by the program.

Completing this accreditation process demonstrates ThedaStar's commitment to work collaboratively with ThedaCare, PHI Air Medical and regional partners to provide coordinated care to communities.

The Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems, also known as CAMTS, evaluated the program's compliance with established safety and quality standards.

"CAMTS is a voluntary peer-review organization," said Kirk Vandenberg, ThedaStar manager. "CAMTS has established evidence-based standards of performance. These standards focus on improving the quality of patient care and providing a safe transport environment. They also ensure our team is well-trained and has the equipment they need to provide excellent care."

The CAMTS accreditation is valid for up to a three-year period, and ThedaStar has earned accreditation certifications in 2015, 2018 and 2021. Vandenberg said the accreditation process holds ThedaStar accountable to the standards. Prior to CAMTS on-site review, the organization requests records from the past few years to better understand how a program is meeting or exceeding standards.

"These are standards we practice every day," said Vandenberg. "We're very proud of our team members for their dedication to best practices, allowing us to provide quality care for those in north-east and central Wisconsin."

ThedaStar's team consists of flight nurses, critical care paramedics, pilots, mechanics, and communications specialists. The nurses and paramedics have minimum pre-hire experience requirements, and require advanced certifications and education in critical care, trauma,

and transport. Communications specialists receive training specific to air medical transport.

The pilots and mechanics are employed by PHI Air Medical LLC, which provides the helicopter and aviation support. All team members are ready to respond at a moment's notice, said Vandenberg.

"ThedaStar's success relies on a team approach," he said. "We work closely with EMS, fire departments, law enforcement, and other health care systems. It takes a coordinated effort to provide patients with the best possible care, and we're just one small part of the patient care continuum."

The CAMTS reaccreditation comes the same year ThedaStar is also celebrating its 35th year of providing air medical care. Since 1986, ThedaStar has transported more than 15,000 patients while serving the communities throughout North-east and Central Wisconsin.

"Thanks to hospital leaders, physicians and community support, ThedaCare established the ThedaStar program in June 1986," said Vandenberg. "When ThedaStar launched, it was the third air ambulance program in the state and the only one north of Milwaukee or Madison."

ThedaStar provides helicopter transports for critically ill or injured patients. The majority of patients are transported from local or regional hospitals to specialized care services at ThedaCare hospitals or other tertiary care centers. The smaller portion of patients are transferred directly from incident scenes to the closest appropriate hospital.

"Over the years there have been many advancements in equipment and technology, including the helicopter, that have improved safety for our team and the care we provide to our patients," said Vandenberg. "Our team members are proud to offer coordinated care to improve patient outcomes."

For information, visit thedacare.org/about-us/thedastar.

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SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Pulaski's season comes to an end after playoff loss

Late comeback falls short after illegal touching call

By LUKE REIMER
Reporter

The Pulaski Red Raiders had their late fourth quarter comeback fall short as the Hartford Orioles won the level three Division 2 football matchup 35-28 on Nov. 5 in Pulaski.

"I am proud of the way that you all battled tonight," said Pulaski head coach Jerad Marsh as he addressed the team after the game. "There was no quit in this team."

Falling behind 35-7 late in the third quarter, the Red Raiders made a furious comeback started by a halfback pass from junior Maverick Cole to junior Jacob Doxtator for a 25-yard touchdown. Pulaski was able to hold Hartford to a three-and-out and got the ball back early in the fourth quarter. Senior Aaron Maroszek scored on a 23-yard rushing touchdown on Pulaski's subsequent drive to cut Hartford's lead to 14.

On Hartford's next possession, it was forced to punt the ball after Pulaski's rush defense caused a three-and-out. Pulaski senior Riley Lom blocked Hartford's punt, resulting in great field position on Hartford's side of the field. Maroszek ran in a 21-yard touchdown to cut the lead to seven with 1:22 left in the game.

Pulaski attempted an inside kick and recovered the ball, but were flagged for illegal touching as they had touched the ball before it went 10 yards. Hartford was able to run out the clock with a couple of kneel downs and advance to level four of the playoffs.

"The comeback was exciting," said Pulaski junior Jake Adams. "We kept getting points up and kept getting stops. It was awesome."

Despite the loss, Marsh said he was very happy to see the Red Raiders stage that comeback. He hopes that younger players on the team will follow suit when their name is called.

"The resiliency of the group is phenomenal," said Marsh. "This is



Pulaski junior Maverick Cole attempts a pass in the team's level three playoff matchup against Hartford on Nov. 5 in Pulaski.

LUKE REIMER | NEW MEDIA

really neat for our younger players to see and be a part of."

The loss ended Pulaski's playoff home streak after they had hosted three playoff games.

"To be able to play three playoff games at home — it does not happen often," said Marsh.

The scoring opened up with a Maroszek 14-yard run, followed by a 17-yard passing touchdown from Hartford.

In the second quarter, Pulaski was able to push Hartford to fourth down twice inside the Pulaski 25-yard line. The first possession ended with a touchdown run and the second possession ended with a passing touchdown on fourth-and-8. Two

early third quarter touchdown runs put Hartford up 35-7.

Maroszek finished the game with 14 rushes for 115 yards and three touchdowns. He added another 38 yards receiving on two catches.

"The (offensive) line and our halfbacks did a great job blocking tonight," said Maroszek. "The blocking was huge."

With this being Maroszek's final high school game, he reflected on the season that Pulaski had.

"There is a lot you take from this game and the season," said Maroszek. "There is a lot that you take to life. The relationships with my teammates will last forever."

Marsh said that as the team

handles the loss, he hopes that the team will stay together.

"At this point, we just want the younger guys to make sure that they love up the guys that are around them," said Marsh. "It will take a little bit to heal."

Marsh also gave advice for the younger players on the team.

"If they want to take care of business and leave a positive legacy, they have to add what was given to them," said Marsh. "I think they will do a good job of that."

Adams said he learned a lot from the seniors on the team.

"The seniors are leaders," said Adams. "They did a great job leading the team through hard times."

Adams and Maroszek both noted how much fun it was to host three playoff games in Pulaski's playoff run.

"It was extremely fun," said Adams. "We were blessed to be able to host three playoff games. We played as one and everyone did their job."

"I don't think that it is anything that has been done here before," said Maroszek. "To do it at home, it was incredible."

Maroszek added that Pulaski football is in good hands in the future.

"On offense we are a pretty young team," said Maroszek. "I think that they will get a lot better. Pulaski is going to be back."

Marsh also thanked the Pulaski players and fans on a great season.

"We love you guys," said Marsh.

Hartford 7 14 14 0 — 35

Pulaski 7 0 7 14 — 28

First quarter

P: Maroszek 14-yard run (Will Steeno kick), 5:37
H: Pepin 17-yard pass from Kutz (Tanner Navin kick), 0:04

Second quarter

H: Pepin 1-yard run (Navin kick), 5:26
H: Bielmeier 24-yard pass from Kutz (Navin kick), 1:24

Third quarter

H: Pepin 4-yard run (Navin kick), 7:10
H: Kutz 1-yard run (Navin kick), 1:44
P: Doxtator 25-yard pass from Cole (Steenko kick), 0:43

Fourth quarter

P: Maroszek 23-yard run (Steenko kick), 9:43
P: Maroszek 21-yard run (Steenko kick), 1:22

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Panthers' Thomson, Kallies honored by conference

Total of 10 Oconto Falls players make all-conference lists

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

A total of 10 Oconto Falls High School football players were named to all-conference teams in the Northwoods Conference after the season wrapped up.

Oconto Falls finished 6-1 in conference place to take second behind Coleman.

Two Panthers picked up individual awards from the conference. Senior Dylan Thomson was named the conference's Offensive Player of the Year, while junior Mitchell Kallies was named the Co-Offensive Lineman of the Year.

Thomson made the first team all-conference unanimously as a running back. He also made the second team as a linebacker.

Thomson broke the school's regular season rushing record previously held by Nate Rogatzki after tallying 1,445 yards. Thomson rushed for 18 touchdowns in the team's nine regular season contests.

On defense, Thomson was credited with 40 total tackles, two of which went for losses. He also had a sack.

Kallies was a unanimous selection to the first team as an offensive and defensive lineman.

"I am really honored and happy to be named Co-Offensive Lineman of the Year," said Kallies. "It is really exciting to see where I'll go senior year where I am going for hopefully all-state."

Kallies helped provide running



Oconto Falls quarterback Carter Hill hands off to Dylan Thomson during the team's Northwoods Conference win over Menominee Indian on Sept. 17 in Oconto Falls. Thomson was the conference's Offensive Player of the Year and earned an all-conference nod at two positions, while Hill made the all-conference second team for his quarterback play.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

room for Thomson and the team's offense that averaged over 27 points per

game. He racked up 21 total tackles, four forced fumbles and a sack on

defense.

In his first and only season of football, senior Isaac Raddatz made an all-conference list at three positions. He made the first team unanimously as a punter, second team as a wide receiver and honorable mention team as a defensive back.

"Honestly, to me it is kind of overwhelming," said Raddatz. "To get three all-conference awards on my first-ever high school football team is something special to me. Going into the season I didn't really know how much I'd play being a senior and not having a lot of experience. But the coaches and players trusted me with my athletic ability. I would like to thank the coaching staff and players for trusting and believing in me throughout the season."

Raddatz led the Panthers with 359 receiving yards in the regular season, doing so on just 13 catches for an impressive 27.6-yard average. He also hauled in five touchdowns.

On defense, he had 15 total tackles. He made a game-sealing interception in the team's season-opening win over Oconto.

Seniors Noah Hirst and Weston Borkovec were also first-team selections on the defensive side of the ball. Hirst made the list as a defensive back, while Borkovec made it as a linebacker.

Borkovec led Oconto Falls with 49 total tackles on the season, two of which went for losses. He also forced a fumble and intercepted a pass.

"It was pretty special," said Borkovec of the all-conference honor. "Football is my favorite sport so making it on the top of the list my senior year means a lot. My work for the past four years has paid off so I'm glad I'm done with football with no regrets."

Hirst ended the regular season with



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"It means a lot to be all-conference as a senior," Hirst. "I got second team last year and my goal from then on was first team and I'm glad I achieved that my senior year."

Juniors Carter Hill (quarterback) and Kody Vorpahl (defensive end) and seniors Zach Fonder (offensive lineman) and Jeremy Caldwell (defensive lineman) were all second team selections.

Behind the blocking of guys like Fonder, Hill passed for 769 yards and nine touchdowns. Hill also rushed for 124 yards and five more scores.

"It was very special for me to be even nominated for all-conference," said Fonder. "I have worked very hard the past years and overcame many adversities. I am very proud to be second team all-conference. I am also very proud of my team this season for how much we have accomplished."

Vorpahl had three tackles for losses



Oconto Falls' Kody Vorpahl, right, reaches over an Oconto offensive lineman and tries to knock down a pass attempt during a nonconference game on Aug. 20 in Oconto Falls. Vorpahl made the all-conference list at two positions this fall.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

among his 31 total tackles. He also forced a pair of fumbles.

Caldwell capped the regular season

with 28 total tackles, one of which was for a loss. He also forced a fumble and recorded a sack.

FYI

An all-region fall sports section will be published in the Nov. 19 edition of the paper.

"It felt like such a big accomplishment finally making the all-conference list my senior year knowing that the last four years of hard work and determination has led to an amazing ending to my high school football career," said Caldwell.

Vorpahl (tight end) and senior Dylan Fabry (offensive lineman) were honorable mentions, helping provide strong blocking for the Panthers.

"It means a lot to me to be able to make all-conference after all of the hard work and effort that was put into my final year of football and for that I have to thank my team and coaches for helping me improve and having an amazing final year," said Fabry.

sports@newmedia-wi.com

COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

St. Norbert

Pulaski grad Kendall Karcz had a strong game in the St. Norbert football team's win over Eureka College on Nov. 6.

Karcz was credited with two total tackles in the contest, while also intercepting two passes. He returned those interceptions a total of 30 yards.

Cardinal Stritch

Gillett graduate Aubrey DeBauch put together three strong games for the Cardinal Stritch University women's basketball team last week.

In a loss to Trinity Christian on Nov. 3, DeBauch played 28 minutes off the bench. She grabbed nine rebounds, scored four points and had two steals. She also had an assist.

She started and played 26 minutes

in the team's loss to St. Francis on Nov. 5. She scored four points and had a steal.

In the team's loss to Marian on Nov. 6, DeBauch came off the bench and played 29 minutes. She scored seven points and grabbed two rebounds.

UW-Stevens Point

Oconto Falls graduate Dakota Carriveau was credited with two solo tackles in the UW-Stevens Point football team's loss to UW-Oshkosh on Nov. 6.

UWSP fell to 2-7 overall.

Viterbo

Gillett graduate Lauren Herzog turned in a 15th-place finish to help the Viterbo women's cross-country team place second at the North Star Athletic Association Conference Championship on Nov. 5.

Herzog completed the course in 22 minutes, 2.61 seconds.

Concordia-St. Paul

Pulaski graduate Andrew Egnarski racked up 11 total tackles in the Concordia University-St. Paul football team's loss to MSU-Moorhead on Nov. 6.

Four of the 11 tackles were solo ones.

UW-Oshkosh

Oconto Falls grad Mac Winkler rushed for over 100 yards and a pair of touchdowns in the UW-Oshkosh football team's win over UW-Stevens Point on Nov. 6.

Winkler finished with 114 yards on just nine carries for a 12.7-yard average.

The running back ripped off a 67-yard touchdown run in the first quarter before a 21-yard rushing score in

the second quarter.

Carroll

Oconto Falls grad Sammy Shallow played six minutes in the Carroll University women's basketball team's season-opening win over Milwaukee School of Engineering.

Shallow hit a 3-pointer in those minutes, as the team won 70-36.

Pulaski grad Joe O'Leary had a solo tackle in the Carroll football team's win over Carthage on Nov. 6.

Carroll won 26-17.

MSU-Moorhead

Gillett grad Derek Hanson placed 189th while representing the MSU-Moorhead men's cross-country team at the NCAA Division II Central Region Cross-Country Championships on Nov. 6.

Hanson completed the 10K course in 35:52.1.



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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Wisconsin wins 5th straight, beats Rutgers

Badgers now eligible for a bowl game

By **TOM CANAVAN**
The Associated Press

Not only has Wisconsin put its horrid 1-3 start behind it, everything is suddenly within reach for the Badgers.

Graham Mertz threw a season-high three touchdown passes and Wisconsin won its fifth straight game and become bowl eligible for the 20th straight year with a 52-3 victory over Rutgers on Nov. 6.

"I can say about everyone on the team, guys are truly putting out during the week," said Mertz, who was 11 of 16 for 240 yards. "We see the work that everybody puts in and it's getting to a special place. So got to keep building on it."

This game might have been the most complete of the season for the Badgers (6-3, 4-2 Big Ten).

They got contributions from all three phases of the team in rolling up 579 yards yards in total offense and limiting Rutgers (4-5, 1-5) to 207.

Coupled with No. 20 Minnesota's loss to Illinois, Wisconsin will have a share of first place in the conference's West Division after opening the season with its worst since 1990. Win out and they play for the Big Ten title.

Wisconsin coach Paul Chryst drew some laughs when asked if the start seemed light years ago.

"I remember every game," he quipped. "You have to maximize each week. You put all your focus and energy in that, and I appreciate that the guys are doing that."

Chez Mellusi, Braelon Allen and Jackson Acker each ran for a touchdown and cornerback Caesar Williams highlighted a dominant performance by the Badgers' top-ranked defense by returning an interception 29 yards for a TD.

Mertz's touchdown passes covered 1-yard to John Chenal, 25 yards to Kendrick Pryor and 72 yards to Danny Davis as the Badgers had their biggest point production since scoring 61 against Central Michigan early in 2019.

Wisconsin never trailed in beating Rutgers for the fourth time in as many games.

Mellusi, who led the game late with an undisclosed injury, opened the scoring with a 14-yard run on the second play after linebacker Noah Burks intercepted Noah Vedral's first pass and returned it to the Scarlet Knights 15.

Val Ambrosio's 24 yard field goal on the ensuing series were Rutgers' only points. The Badgers scored 24 in the second quarter to put the game away.

The turning point came after a short field goal by Collin Larsh. Former Badger Aron Cruickshank fumbled on the ensuing kickoff return and that set up the short, fourth-down TD pass by Mertz. Fourteen seconds later, Williams scored on the interception return and the rout was on.



SANDY

Meet Sandy. She is a 1 year old Pit mix with all the young puppy energy. She loves doing zoomies and playing with the staff. She absolutely loves her toys and would love a home that will spoil her!



HOLLY

Meet Holly. She is a 5 year old Plott Hound. Holly loves spending her days outdoors taking in all the fresh air! She has a friendly and calm personality. She would be perfect for a rural or barn lifestyle.



NELL

Meet Nell. She has been at the shelter for 4 months now and is in search of a calm household. She has a typical Tortie personality and likes to have her independence. She loves breakfast time and will always greet the staff in the morning.



LEBOWSKI

Meet Lebowski. He is a 2 year old kind boy looking for a home. He loves spending his days snuggled up in a cat bed. He would enjoy a calmer household and lots of time for attention.



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HIGH SCHOOL SWIM

Pulaski's Taya Schmidt qualifies for state as a diver

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Pulaski High School junior Taya Schmidt qualified for state as a diver after placing second at the Division 1 Neenah Sectional, which ran Nov. 5-6 in Neenah.

Schmidt posted a score of 392.1 to take second during the diving competition on Nov. 5.

She will compete in the state competition on Nov. 13 at the Waukesha South Natatorium in Waukesha. The diving competition begins at 2 p.m.

While no other Red Raiders qualified for state, the team did have a couple of other top-10 finishers.

Schmidt took sixth in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 25.6 seconds.

She was on the ninth-place finishing 400 freestyle relay team, which posted a time of 3:57.72. Abigail Roberts, Mary Duffrin and Gracie Mihalski rounded out the team.

Witt-Birn

Wittenberg-Birnamwood turned in several strong finishes at the Division 2 Menomonie Sectional on Nov. 6 in Menomonie, but was unable to advance any swimmers to state.

The Witt-Birn 200 freestyle team of Faith Resch, Olivia Bessette,

Olyvia Stark and Annika Resch had the team's top finish, placing fourth in 1:45.8.

Stark, Faith Resch, Annika Resch and Isabella Hegewald teamed up for a fifth-place finish in the 400 freestyle relay (3:57.84). The same four took sixth in the 200 medley relay (1:58.98).

Faith Resch had the team's individual finish, placing eighth in the 50 freestyle (25.47).

Shawano

Shawano was unable to advance any individuals or relay teams to

ONLINE

Full sectional results and state qualifiers can be found at <https://www.wiaawi.org/Sports/Fall/Girls-Swim-Dive/Tournament>.

state after competing in the Division 2 Plymouth Sectional on Nov. 6 in Plymouth.

The Hawks had a pair of eighth-place finishes on the day.

Anne Carrier, Piper Novitski, Allison Langlois and Allison Brown claimed eighth in the 200 freestyle relay (1:58.52).

Individually, Brown was eighth in the 100 backstroke (1:09.87).

RECREATION SCOREBOARD

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Chet and Emil's Wednesday Business

Team	W	L
CWAA	16	8
SandM Tool	14	10
Kessen Auto Body	14	10
Melody Mill	13	11
TLC Auto Body	11	13
Rew Motors Inc.	11	13

Chet and Emil's 9 15

Kropf's Meat Pro 8 16

High team scratch games: SandM Tool 1,036,

Melody Mill 949, CWAA 873.

High individual scratch games: Paul Hanke 240,

Tyler Krull 201, Brandon Trzebiatowski 200.

High team scratch series: SandM Tool 2,940,

Melody Mill 2,690, CWAA 2,509.

High individual scratch series: Jeremy Praslowicz

634, Doug Kunst 612, Eric Resch 597.

Lakeshore Lanes — Guys and Dolls League

Team	W	L
9 Pin Tappers	45	18
Slingers	41	22
Happy Old Farts	36 1/2	26 1/2
The Aces	35	28
10 Pin Strikers	35	28
Newbees	34	29

Any Old Thing 33 30

SSI'S 33 30

4 Amigo's 29 34

Good Times 26 37

A Team 24 1/2 38 1/2

High individual games (women): Ronda Nolan 173.

High individual games (men): Roger Strebeg 223,

Terry Tonn 221, Jim Schwaller 214, 213, Don Hudson

213, Scott Seymour 200.



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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

Striking workers have good reason to be mad

It's going to be a very good year for the top dogs and shareholders at Deere & Co. The Iowa-based equipment manufacturer says it earned more in the first nine months of its fiscal year



**JULIE
KEOWN-BOMAR**

than during its best year in 2013. The corporation's third-quarter results are nearly \$4.7 billion. John May, the company's CEO, made over \$14.7 million in total compensation in 2020.

Reports are that his salary increased 160% during the pandemic while laid-off manufacturing workers saw "incentive" pay cut.

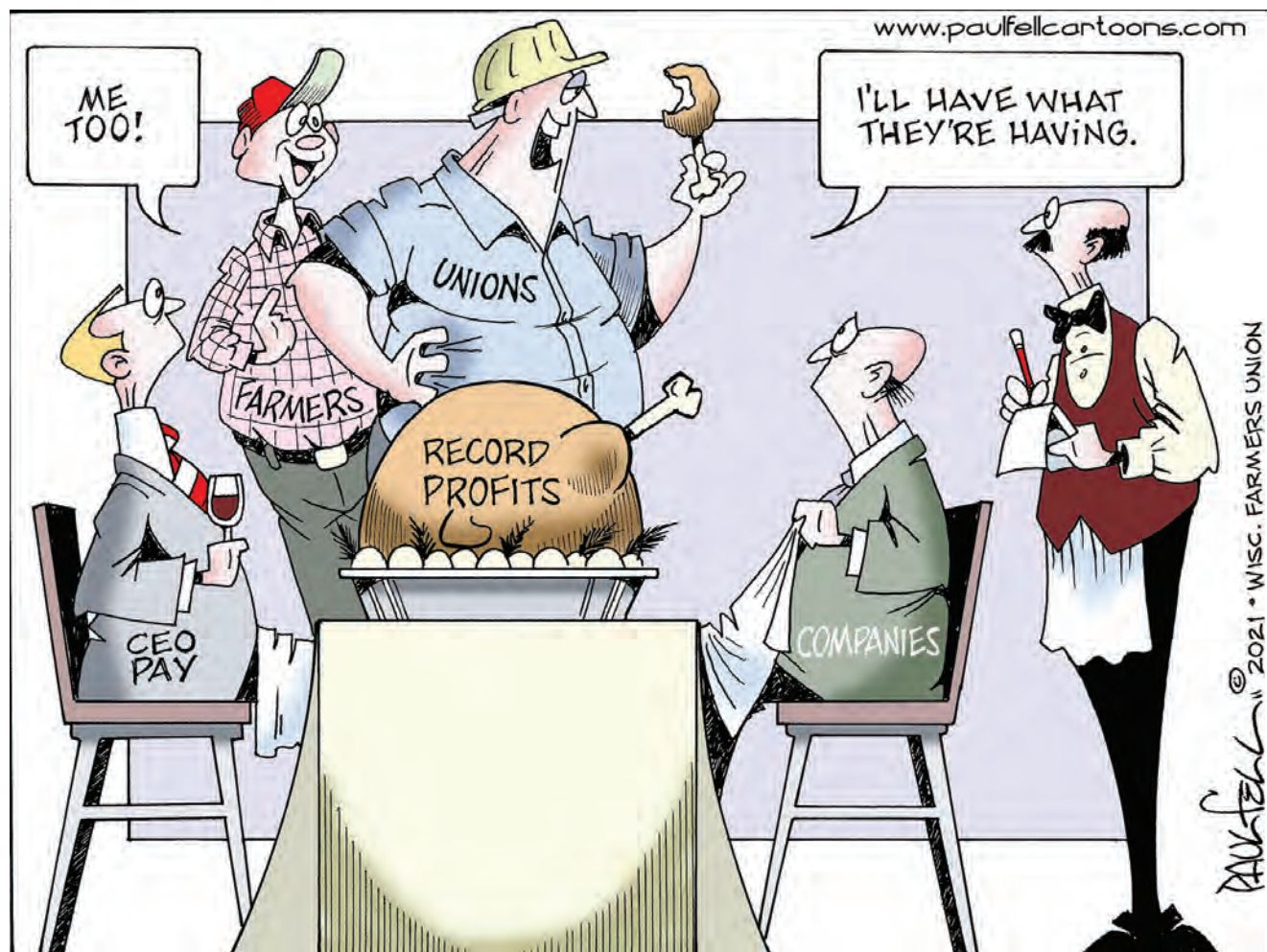
On Oct. 14, 10,000 unionized skilled manufacturing employees at Deere & Co. initiated their right to bargain by rejecting the contract put forth by management and going on strike. Does it surprise anyone that skilled workers went on strike after the company agreed to bump pay by little more than \$1 per hour over the next six years? Deere management also proposed cutting pensions and creating a two-tiered workforce to limit new employee benefits.

The company boasts that it pays skilled workers \$30 per hour. That sounds like a fair wage, but one has to take the company's propaganda with a grain of salt — salary figures include "incentive pay" that most Deere workers are forced to rely on to make a living wage.

Today, workers are voting on another proposal that would bump wages 10% in the first year, then by 5% every other year with 3% lump sum payments every year in between.

Farmers have their own standoff with John Deere and have led the charge to pass right to repair laws. Ask Montana Farmers Union President Walter Schweitzer about struggles to get his tractor fixed and he notes, "These equipment manufacturers are holding me hostage to them, forcing me to use their dealerships to repair my equipment — on their schedule, on their time and at their rates. That's wrong."

With a tight labor market, worker exhaustion and record corporate profits, unionized workers are using



collective muscle to exert pressure on employers to pay and treat workers better. So many workers are striking that this fall has been dubbed Striketober.

Alongside low pay, treatment of employees is coming to the surface. Workers at Frito-Lay went on strike this summer, citing concerns with forced overtime, 100-degree plus working conditions, and "suicide shifts" less than eight hours apart. Frito-Lay also exceeded profit goals during the pandemic.

Before you dunk that Oreo cookie in a milk bath of sad despair, note that Mondelez International, parent conglomerate of Nabisco, angered employees when it proposed turning eight-hour shifts into 12-hour ones without overtime. Workers would receive overtime on the sixth and seventh days. The company also tried to move additional health insurance costs onto the shoulders of new employees.

Fed up with 12- to 16-hour days, seven days a week, with mandatory

overtime, Kellogg union workers were pushed over the edge by the company's drive to create a two-tiered system that would downgrade wages and benefits for "transitional" workers. Like the aforementioned companies, Kellogg's top dogs know one of the most effective ways to destroy union loyalty is to pit workers against one another. Kellogg legacy workers stood up for the next generation, and they all went on strike to preserve benefits.

Another technique is threatening to take jobs elsewhere. At the Kellogg bargaining table, union negotiators were told they must accept the offer or jobs would be taken to Mexico.

The farmer's share of a \$4.99 box of cereal is 12 cents, and this pittance has been dropping for decades. The American food system is characterized by cheap food at an unfair cost to farmers, laborers and the land. Striketober is showing that some folks are getting filthy rich off this exploitative system. Kellogg's CEO made \$11.6

million last year and received a 20% salary increase from 2020 to 2021. Yet this profit-making corporation had the gall to say it was "disappointed" that its essential production workers went on strike.

Hey, food giants, I am disappointed in you. Farmers and workers are getting taken advantage of while those at the top rake in record profits and salaries.

Farmers and labor have stood together in the past as the WFU farmer labor solidarity podcast illustrates. Corporations will try every technique possible to divide workers, farmers and consumers. Don't fall for it.

As you eat your next bowl of Froot Loops or Kashi, please consider those who are being taken advantage of in the food chain — and encourage friends and family to stand in solidarity this Striketober.

Julie Keown-Bomar is executive director of the Wisconsin Farmers Union. Learn more at www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com.

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

Records shed light on DNR board shenanigans

The Natural Resources Board, an all-volunteer body that guides policy for the Department of Natural Resources, is part of Wisconsin's tradition of open government. The idea to empower volunteers — rather than politicians — was first proposed in the progressive era by leading conservationists, including Aldo Leopold, who understood that decisions about natural resources should be guarded against backroom deals between politicians and lobbyists.

For this reason, the board is designed to allow for direct input from ordinary people and for an open decision-making process. But a shadow has fallen over the board. Its current chairperson, Frederick Prehn, has clung to the role past his term, which ended in May. Dr. Prehn, a dentist in Wausau, maintains that he can hold on to the role until the state Senate confirms his replacement.

Gov. Tony Evers in late April nominated Sandra Naas to replace Prehn, but the state's GOP-controlled Legislature has refused to take it up.



**TONY WILKIN
GIBART**

Wisconsin's public records law has shed light on this murky situation. My organization, Midwest Environmental Advocates, made several demands under that law for records regarding Prehn. They show that Prehn spoke with staff of the Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu, which helped him obtain a memo from the Legislative Reference Bureau about remaining on the board. Other records document Prehn's regular coordination with lobbyists from Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC).

These same lobbyists met with LaMahieu about Prehn's term before his replacement was announced. In other records, he suggested he should remain on the board to block the governor's proactive approach to PFAS contamination (the toxins found in Teflon and other products),

policies that WMC is also fighting tooth and nail.

The records law has given the public a clearer picture of what Prehn and others are up to, but the picture is far from complete, and that is why my group has sued Prehn.

Midwest Environmental Advocates believes Prehn may have illegally hidden the full extent of his coordination with WMC and others. We requested all forms of written communications Prehn sent and received about his decision. He turned over no text messages, but through a request to another official, we later discovered a text message in which Prehn reflected on his decision to stay on to oppose the governor's policies. Prehn was legally obligated to retain and disclose this message.

Our lawsuit is about holding Prehn accountable by obtaining records that we all have a right to see. Prehn is not respecting the state's open government traditions, so essential to the board.

The case involving Prehn points to ways to better implement the

public records law to avoid litigation. Prehn regularly communicated about board business on personal email and text. Of course, he is not alone in using personal accounts for public business, which is not illegal, even though all such communications are still public records.

Officials should be discouraged from this practice. When public records exist on private accounts, we are forced to rely on the word of the official who created the records. Compliance officers at state agencies should consider requiring officials who created public records on personal accounts to attest under oath that they complied with their duties to search for and disclose records. Doing so would make officials think twice before attempting to skirt the law, and it would promote transparency.

Your Right to Know is a monthly column distributed by the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council (wisfoic.org), a group dedicated to open government. Tony Wilkin Gibart is the executive director of Midwest Environmental Advocates, a nonprofit environmental law firm.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Give Fair Maps submission a fair shake

To the editor:

An open letter to my legislative representatives. For information on the issue, see Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition in web browser or Facebook. (News release referred to was by Coalition following the public hearing on the Legislature's proposed maps.) Let your representatives know we demand fair maps because they are elected to represent us and not the interests of a political party.

Rep. Jeff Mursau and Sen. Mary Felzkowski,

I forward this press release to you as it represents my opinion along with more than 80% of the citizens of Wisconsin, 56 county governments through supportive resolutions, and the recommendations of every good government organization in the state.

Last year, in response to a question of 36th District constituents in Rep. Mursau's newsletter, an overwhelming majority of respondents indicated they favored a change in how legislative redistricting was done in Wisconsin. I was heartened and applauded Jeff's courageous ac-

tion in representing the wishes of his constituents by signing on to a bill that would have legislative redistricting maps developed by the nonpartisan Legislative Reference Bureau.

I note with dismay that as of yet, on similar legislation proposed this year, while there are Republican cosponsors, your name is absent. What changed? It is obvious by testimony at this hearing the desires of most of your constituents have not.

Maps released by the legislative leadership and the subject of the hearing demonstrate that in the face of overwhelming opposition, Republican leadership continues to attempt to create districts that will allow its members to thumb their noses at the will of a majority of the citizens of the state by grossly gerrymandering districts, thus allowing them to illegitimately maintain power rather than earning our votes by responding to needs and desires of constituents in fairly drawn districts.

I urge you both in the strongest terms possible to listen to and represent the will of the majority of Wisconsinites to disavow the gerrymandered maps submitted by the Republican leadership, vote to approve fairly drawn maps and support

legislation to change the procedure for redistricting to return responsive government to the people of Wisconsin.

It is noteworthy that many of the options presented by the People's Commission and others demonstrate that Republicans would likely maintain an advantage in the legislature but would have to be more responsive to constituents. That is all we ask.

Ken Harter, Oconto Falls

Election workers protecting democracy

To the editor:

Running our Wisconsin elections in a timely, accurate, and honest manner requires many hundreds of local, county, and state government clerks, employees, volunteers — and even prosecutors, sheriffs, and judges — all dedicated to truth. Given our rural political landscape, most of these elected officers, employees and volunteers are Republican.

As we head into 2022, numerous audits and judicial decisions by these public servants have declared the 2020 elections overwhelmingly accurate. Those living in reality know that it is

extraordinarily difficult to successfully commit voter fraud due to existing Wisconsin voter laws, numerous procedural checks and balances, and the integrity of our town, city, and county clerks. Republicans even threw out the Government Accountability Board and created the Wisconsin Elections Commission during their last gerrymandered trifecta to ensure their preferred electoral results.

Those who are gullible to conspiracies should be reminded of a human tendency best articulated by Ben Franklin: "Three can keep a secret if two of them are dead."

While there is no way I could ever be a Republican in today's disturbing climate, I very much appreciate the few who still cling to what Republicans used to be highly moral, conservative, humble individuals always earnestly seeking to do the right thing.

With that in mind, a big thank you to every Republican clerk, judge, prosecutor, sheriff, employee, and volunteer who has been protecting valid election results — and what little is left of our ailing democracy — often despite death threats from their own party.

Mark Smith, Oconto Falls



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Christmas

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New Year's

Fri., Dec. 31

Thurs., Dec. 23 NOON



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Special Holiday Advertising Deadlines for:

Product	Publication Date	Ad Deadline
Oconto Co. Times Herald	Wed., Nov. 24	Wed., Nov. 17
Wittenberg Enterprise	Wed., Nov. 24	Wed., Nov. 17
Shawano Leader	Wed., Nov. 25	Wed., Nov. 17

*Enjoy a safe and
happy holiday!*



NEW MEDIA INC.

Dietitian: Cut caffeine without headaches by reducing intake

There's a way to cut the caffeine without debilitating, migraine-like withdrawal headaches.

It's all about taking it slow, said Ashley Krautkramer, a certified diabetes care and education specialist and clinical dietitian with ThedaCare. Along with headaches, withdrawal from the stimulant caffeine can cause other symptoms — including tiredness and fatigue, decreased energy, a loss of alertness, irritability and foggy thinking.

"These symptoms typically set in 12 to 24 hours after discontinuing caffeine intake," Krautkramer said. "Symptoms usually peak within one or two days and have been shown to persist for up to nine days."

Anyone who quits caffeine cold turkey and the withdrawal symptoms are too much can drink something caffeinated will usually resolve symptoms within 30 to 60 minutes, she said.

"I recommend slowly withdrawing from caffeine intake instead," Krautkramer said. "You still might experience some of the symptoms, but they won't be as intense."

Coffee drinkers might go with a half-caffeinated order instead, for example — equal parts caffeinated and decaffeinated coffee, or maybe a quarter decaf, to start.

Some research has indicated that caffeine may have some health benefits, including increasing alertness and memory, as well as reducing risk of some serious diseases including some cancers.

Too much, however, can cause people to be jittery and even exacerbate cardiac issues such as arrhythmias; it can also exacerbate gastrointestinal issues like Irritable Bowel Syndrome or inflammatory bowel disease, as well as insomnia, anxiety and depression.

About 400 milligrams of caffeine

per day is considered safe, with two cups of coffee totaling about 280 milligrams, Krautkramer said. People who drink coffee and related drinks should be aware that different drinks will have different levels of caffeine — an espresso will have less caffeine because of the serving size, for example. People should watch the sugary additions and flavors, which can create problems with blood sugar and weight gain.

Withdrawal symptoms can appear when people use as little as 100 milligrams per day, she said.

"Before you start reducing your caffeine intake, try finding another option to replace the habit," Krautkramer said. "If you don't have a replacement, it's more likely that you'll go back to drinking coffee or related drinks."

Tea is a great alternative — even the caffeinated versions have much less caffeine than a cup of coffee, with a cup of green tea containing between about 25 and 40 milligrams of caffeine and black teas up to 75 milligrams. Matcha and mate teas have the most, containing between 60 and 85 milligrams of caffeine. Herbal teas typically contain no caffeine.

Tea has other potential benefits, with different types offering different benefits, including improved sleep and reduced stress, antioxidants and potential reduction in disease-causing inflammation.

Some bottled teas are very low in caffeine, but people should be mindful of other ingredients such as sugars.

"Reducing caffeine the gradual way can reduce the symptoms that you may experience," Krautkramer said. "I've had patients say they've felt less anxious or notice they just felt better without the daily caffeine intake. It really can be worth it to cut the caffeine."

Classifieds work!
715-526-2121



Monsters and goblins on parade

ABOVE: Sacred Heart Catholic School held a special Halloween Spirit Parade on Main Street in Shawano on Oct. 27. Students in preschool to seventh grade dressed up in their costumes and walked up and down Main Street greeting pedestrians and business owners, including Aaron Gilling, center, of Stubborn Brothers Brewery. Officers with the Shawano Police Department escorted the students and assisted them at the crosswalks.

CONTRIBUTED

LEFT: Sacred Heart Catholic School student Bailey Wild gets a treat from a scary looking Deacon James Lonick on Oct. 27. After the parade, students went back to school and held classroom parties and enjoyed the haunted house set up by the eighth grade. Besides Lonick, Principal Gary Cumberland, the Rev. Scott Valentyn, Autumnne Gee and Lori Mathwich walked around handing out candy to students during their parties.

CONTRIBUTED

CLASSIFIEDS

In Person or Call: 715-526-2121 9am - 3pm Monday,
Wednesday, Friday; 9am- noon Tuesday.
Online: classifieds@newmedia-wi.com

WWW.NEWMEDIA-WI.COM

SHAWANO LEADER

OCONTO COUNTY
TIMES HERALD

WITTENBERG
ENTERPRISE
& BIRNAPWOOD NEWS

Ad Deadline: Noon Friday Prior

Antiques

ANTIQUE SHOW Nov 13 9-5pm & 14 10-3pm Marathon Park, 1201 Stewart, Hw 39 ex 192 Wausau; antiqueshowsinwis.com

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Case 210 Loader & Long Reach Back Hoe With 3 Buckets - 12, 24, and 36-Inch. Seen Little Use, Excellent Condition. Asking \$8,650. Also New Skid Steer Grapple Buckets, \$1,295 and New Skid Steer Rock Buckets, \$795. 920-878-0005

DO YOU HAVE ITEMS TO SELL? ... GET RESULTS! Affordable advertising that fits your budget! Reach OVER 300,000 homes! Place your ad in MANY weekly Wisconsin Shoppers & Buyers' Guide papers for as low as \$36.00 Call today! Publishers Development Service, Inc. (PDS, Inc.) 1-800-236-0737 www.pdsadnet.com

For Sale: Dry hardwood fire wood
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HUGE INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE! 10% off Everything! (Excludes Festool) Retiring after 28 years, business is for sale. WoodworkersDepot.com M-Sat 8-4, Oneida St., off 41, right at Subway, 2965 Ramada Way, Green Bay 800-891-9003 (WCAN)

NEW LISBON GUN SHOW Nov. 12 & 13, 2021 American Legion Post 110, 110 Welch Prairie Rd./Hwy 80, Fri 3-8, Sat 9-4. BUY-SELL-TRADE-BROWSE! Adm. \$5 WE PAY CASH FOR GUNS & RELATED ITEMS. Bring them to the show or Call The Gun Buyer 608-548-4867 (WCAN)

tar Special Concertina "C" \$1900 Stradivarius "B" \$1700 Exc Cond 715-446-2335

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

PLYMOUTH FURNITURE: QUEEN MATTRESSES FROM \$199 40 Styles on Display! All Sizes Avail. PlymouthFurnitureWI.com 2133 Eastern Ave Plymouth WI 920-892-6006 Open Daily (WCAN)

THE GENERAC PWRcell a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 1-855-707-0232 (WCAN)

Special Notices

A.A. Oconto Group: Mondays & Fridays at 7 p.m. Wednesdays at 10 a.m. (open meeting) at First American Lutheran Church, Oconto James 920-834-6276. TF

AA Group Meeting: 24 hour group every Wed. night. 8:00 p.m. at Masonic Lodge on corner of Washington St. and Caldwell, Oconto Falls TF

ATTENTION MEDICARE RECIPIENTS! Open Enrollment for Medicare health plans is here! Call our licensed insurance agents for an affordable quote for your needed coverage. Call for a no obligation free quote now! 855-686-2201 (TTY: 711) (WCAN)

Classified advertising at it's best. Reach over 280,000 homes in northeast WI and Upper Michigan. Place your ad in over 25 newspapers/shoppers. Just go to www.greatnorthernconn.com. Fast, easy and affordable.

Co-Dependency Meeting Thursdays at noon. St. James Lutheran Church, 1402 Main St., Marinette TF

Living Well With Depression and Bipolar - Bellin Behavioral Health Center, 301 E. St. Joseph St., Green Bay, Mondays and Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. Contact: Jerry Kamke 920-544-5596. TF

Special Notices

WCAN (Wisconsin Community Ad Network) and/or the member publications review ads to the best of their ability. Unfortunately, many unscrupulous people are ready to take your money! PLEASE BE CAREFUL ANSWERING ANY AD THAT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE! For more information, or to file a complaint regarding an ad, please contact The Department of Trade, Agriculture & Consumer Protection 1-800-422-7128 (WCAN)

PETS

Absolutely Beautiful Bichon Puppies, Born Oct. 9th and Teddy Bear Puppies, Born Sept. 23rd. Up to date on shots. \$800. 906-246-3729 (home line) marthas.shihtzus@gmail.com

AKC BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG PUPS Shots, dewormed, vet checked, dewes, \$1200 No Sun calls (495932) 715-409-3321 (WCAN)

AKC GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPS,shots/dews/wormed Vet Ckd \$1000 715-223-6970 (269146)

AKC GOLDEN RETRIEVERS shots/wormed/dews/vet checked Ready Dec. 17th 715-721-0458

BERNEODOODLE PUPPIES Tri-Color, Shots/Vet Checked, dewes, dewormed \$1200 No Sunday Calls 715-409-3321 (495932) (WCAN)

BERNESE MTN CROSS PUPS shots/Vet checked \$400 No Sun Calls 715-409-3321 (495932)

CAVAPOO PUPPIES Vet checked/wormed/dews, \$1000 No Sun Calls 715-409-3321 (495932) (WCAN)

FLUFFY AKC COCKER SPANIEL PUPS \$ Super Cute!!! 920-563-3410 pennylanecockerspaniel.com Lic#268588-DS (WCAN)

GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPS AKC Excel Temp Genetic Guarantee Parents OFA'd 715-537-5413 www.jerland.com #268001-DS (WCAN)

PETS

REG COCKER SPANIEL PUPPY Vet/dewormed/dews/ shots, \$1600 OBO; MINI AUSSIEDOODLE PUPPY \$1300 715-536-0697 (WCAN)

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WE BUY-BOATS/RV/PONTOONS/SLED/ATVs& MOTORCYCLES! "CASH PAID" NOW! AMERICAN MARINE & MOTORSPORTS SUPERCENTER, SHAWANO 866-955-2628 WWW.AMERICANMARINA.COM

Vehicles

2011 Chevrolet 1500 Silverado 4x4, Big, 4-Door Cab, 6' Box With Liner and Cover, 176K Miles, Awesome. Only \$12,950. 2005 Ford F150 XLT triton 4.6 V8, Cab+1/2, 8' Box, 4x4, Only 120K Miles, As Sharp As They Come, \$12,750. 2004 F150 XL 2WD V6 Auto, Excellent Gas Mileage, 6-1/2 Box, Only 79K Miles, Runs So Nice, \$3,950. 920-878-0005

Vehicles

DONATE YOUR CAR or TRUCK to HERITAGE FOR THE BLIND. Free 3-Day Vacation. Tax Deductible. Free Towing. All paperwork taken care of! CALL 844-374-3067 (WCAN)

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FREE AUTO INSURANCE QUOTES See how much you can save! High risk SR22 driver policies available! Call 844-841-5198 (WCAN)

YOUR CAR, BOAT OR MOTORCYCLE helps Rawhide provide mental health services that redirect local Wisconsin youth & adults from harmful decisions. Donate Today! 888-653-2729 (WCAN)

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Buying junk cars and trucks. No title needed, but vehicles must be lien free. No charge for pick up. Paying cash. Also buying Catalytic Converters. Call 715-851-7027 or 715-250-2506 for questions or pricing.

CASH FOR COMIC BOOKS AND COMIC BOOK TOYS, CALL 906-396-5860

Wanted: Hardwood Bolts Wanted, 8" & up. Truckloads only delivered to Peshtigo Wi. Email JoyWoodProducts@Gmail.com or Call/Text to 715-923-6135.

Wanted: Your equipment, tools, guns for our December 4th consignment sale. Call Jeff at Bahrke Auction & Real Estate, Inc 920-373-2928.

WILSON ENTERPRISES: NOW BUYING: White Birch Poles, 2"-7" diameter. Please call for specs, pricing and delivery times before cutting. M-F 9-4 EST. 906-497-5040, Wilson, MI 49896

EMPLOYMENT

DRIVERS: SEMI - HOME WEEKENDS for 550 Mi Radius Runs. Mainly WI. Park Truck at Home! Must Have 1 Yr Exp, Good Driving Record. Benefit Pkg Avail. Call 800-544-6798 (WCAN)

Help Wanted: General Laborer. Morgan Wood Products. Oconto Falls. Call 920-604-0477

Hiring Cooks, Dishwashers & Servers. W17256 Red Oak Lane, Email resume to: theharvestwi@gmail.com

EMPLOYMENT

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John's One Stop
Is looking for full/part time help during the Summer / Fall time!
*Benefits include 1/4rly Bonuses, fuel, food, Tanning discounts
Want just weekends?
Extra income or few days week?
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Services

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STROKE & CARDIOVASCULAR disease are leading causes of death, according to the AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION. Screening can provide peace of mind or early detection! Contact Life Line Screening to schedule your screening. Special offer - 5 screenings for just \$149! Call 1-888-675-5048 (WCAN)

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Doing four things adds 14 years to your life

The great killers of humanity for most of our history have been infectious diseases, but these have been largely eliminated. Now most premature deaths and illnesses are the results of poor lifestyle choices. In fact, it is estimated that people's lifestyles account for 70% of hospitalizations and 80% of healthcare related expenses.

The four main lifestyle issues related to health are lack of exercise, smoking, stress and poor diet choices. Approximately 40% of deaths are caused by modifiable behavior patterns, such as poor diet, physical inac-



BRIAN GRIEVES

activity, substance abuse, and poor coping strategies for stress. Examine your own daily behavioral routines. How much do you eat, what do you eat, how much do you exercise, do you smoke, and how much alcohol do you use? These lifestyle behaviors are significantly and positively related to the quality of

health and mental health.

A study from England examined the combined impact of not smoking, being physically active, having a moderate alcohol intake, and a having a high fruit and vegetable intake on mortality among men and women aged 45 to 79 years, followed up for about 11 years. That study concluded that the difference between the highest and lowest health behavior score in the study was equivalent to approximately 14 years in chronological age.

This means that doing four things can add 14 years to your life. No drugs.

No expensive procedure. Just improve your lifestyle. Additionally, increasing healthy lifestyle behaviors not only improves the length, but also the quality of your life. These findings have been supported by several other scientific research teams America and Europe.

If you are interested in living longer and with better quality of life, take a look at your lifestyle choices.

Dr. Brian Grieves is a doctor of chiropractic with a master's in public health and a member of the Shawano Community Health Action Team. Call 715-524-8722 for more information.

Work completed on State Highway 32

By **NEW MEDIA STAFF**

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation Northeast Region has announced completion of all major construction to improve 14.2

miles of state Highway 32 from South Chase Road in the village of Pulaski to state Highway 22 in the town of Gillett.

The \$8.6 million project began July 26 and finished on time and on

budget, according to the DOT.

Construction included resurfacing of the highway, applying a polyester polymer concrete overlay to the Pensaukee River bridge, culvert pipe replacement/repairs, shoulder shaping, beamguard upgrades or repair, pavement markings, and installation of centerline and shoulder rumble strips. Northeast

Asphalt Inc. of Greenville was the prime contractor.

Roadway resurfacing is expected to extend the life of the existing pavement and provide a smoother driving surface for motorists. New centerline/shoulder rumble strips and beamguard were included to enhance safety for the traveling public.

Services

UP TO \$15,000 OF GUARANTEED LIFE INSURANCE! No medical exam or health questions. Cash to help pay funeral & other final expenses. Call Physicians Life Insurance Company 844-433-5898 or visit www.Life55plus.info/wcp (WCAN)

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Beautiful recently
Fully Remodeled
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\$199 Deposit
Tom
715-280-0525

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Saturday, Dec. 11th 11:00

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Intersection of Hwys. 141 & 64 in Pound, WI

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in the Shawano Leader, Oconto County Times Herald,
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GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

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GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS
Friday, December 4, 2020
www.newmedia-wi.com

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Veteran delivering one of his best seasons after team drafted QB in 1st round
Special pullout section pages 19-30

THIS IS THE YEAR OF THE PACK!
TWIG'S BEVERAGE 920 S. Franklin St. Shawano 715-526-5031

Green Bay Football 2021 Season

SEPTEMBER - REGULAR SEASON			
Sunday, September 12	3:25 pm	@ New Orleans Saints	FOX
Monday, September 20	7:15 pm	DETROIT LIONS	ESPN
Sunday, September 26	2:20 pm	@ San Francisco 49ers	NBC
OCTOBER			
Sunday, October 18	3:25 pm	Pittsburgh Steelers (GOLF)	CBS
Sunday, October 25	NOON*	@ Cincinnati Bengals	FOX
Sunday, October 31	NOON*	@ Chicago Bears	FOX
Sunday, October 31	NOON*	WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM	FOX
Thursday, October 28	7:20 pm	@ Arizona Cardinals	FOX
NOVEMBER			
Sunday, November 07	3:25 pm*	@ Kansas City Chiefs	FOX
Sunday, November 14	3:25 pm*	SEATTLE SEAHAWKS	CBS
Sunday, November 21	NOON*	@ Minnesota Vikings	FOX
Sunday, November 28	3:25 pm*	LOS ANGELES RAMS (GOLF)	FOX
DECEMBER			
BYE WEEK			
Sunday, December 12	2:20 pm*	INDIANAPOLIS COLTS	NBC
Sunday, December 19	NOON*	@ Baltimore Ravens	FOX
Saturday, December 25	3:30 pm	CLEVELAND BROWNS	FOX
JANUARY			
Sunday, January 02	2:20 pm*	MINNESOTA VIKINGS	NBC
Sunday, January 09	NOON*	@ Detroit Lions	FOX

**Follow the Green and Gold
season with us!**

BEAT
The
Expert

**AND-follow along as our local business
owners compete to "Beat The Expert".**



NEW MEDIA INC.

SHAWANO LEADER

**OCONTO COUNTY
TIMES HERALD**

**WITTENBERG
ENTERPRISE
& BIRNAMWOOD NEWS**

THANK YOU!

Oconto Falls Fire Department would like to thank the Friends of Oconto Falls Fire Department for purchasing for our department some much needed shelving for our storage container. Without their support our fire department wouldn't be able to deliver all of the services to the community that we currently do. Thank you to the Friends of Oconto Falls Fire Department and all the community supporters.



MECHANIC

Oconto County Highway Department is accepting applications for full time Mechanic to start in January 2022. Pay rate is \$25.88/hour plus excellent fringe benefits. Requirements include: a high school diploma or GED, a minimum of a diesel mechanic certificate and/or degree or 5 years of work experience in diesel equipment or truck repair. Applicants with experience in parts inventory and good organizational skills are preferred but not required.

Finalists will be required to undergo a detailed background check, physical exam, and mechanics test. Successful candidate must possess a current valid commercial driver's license (CDL) with A, B, D and N endorsements.

See link below for full job description. Interested candidates please apply on-line. Please include a resume and references. **Application deadline is Monday, November 29, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.** For more information, please contact the Oconto County Highway Department at 920-834-6885.

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

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

WNAXLP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Oconto County – CDBG Citizens Participation Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 8, 2021
New View Industries
222 Park Street, Gillett WI
Multi-Purpose Room

Notice is hereby given that the Oconto County CDBG Citizens Participation Committee will hold a public hearing regarding the Community Development Block Grant Public Facilities (CDBG-PF) CL-PF 20-11 project to construct the New Beginnings store and training center on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 during the regularly scheduled County CDBG Citizens Participation Committee Meeting which begins at 4:00 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend and provide comment on the proposed projects. The agenda for the hearing is as follows:

1. Overview of the (CDBG-PF) CL-PF 20-11 Project
2. Project Construction Status
3. Public comment
4. Adjourn public hearing

Additional information on this CDBG project can be obtained by contacting Kevin Hamann, County Administrator at 920-834-6811 or kevin.hamann@co.oconto.wi.us.

Notice is further given that printed copies of the complete agenda are available for inspection at the Office of the County Clerk, Courthouse, 301 Washington Street, Oconto, Wisconsin 54153, during regular office hours, and from the County's website calendar: www.co.oconto.wi.us

Dated this 5th day of November, 2021.

THE OCONTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By: Kim Pytleski, Oconto County Clerk

WNAXLP

HELP WANTED - Seasonal LP Driver/ Service Tech COUNTRYSTYLE PROPANE based in Oconto Falls is seeking a Seasonal LP Driver/ Service Tech

A commercial drivers license with hazmat, air brakes and tanker endorsement must be current.

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Forestry & Parks Technician

Oconto County Forest, Parks & Recreation Dept. is seeking to fill a full time Recreation Forest Technician to start after January 1, 2022. This is an entry level position assisting in the implementation of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

This position will assist in all aspects of the forestry program including layout, setup and field administration of timber sales, and other forestry related practices. This position will assist in all aspects of the park program including janitorial duties, construction maintenance, and landscaping projects. This position will assist with all aspects of the recreation program including trail reconstruction, boat launch maintenance, and grant project assessment and cost estimates.

An Associate's Degree in Forestry or Natural Resources is preferred, however a high school diploma or general education degree (GED) and significant work experience in forestry and parks operations or equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered. Must have a Wisconsin driver license with CDL class A or obtain one within 90 days of employment. Starting wage rate \$21.41 - \$23.64 hr. with full time Oconto County fringe benefits.

Applications will be accepted until November 29, 2021 at 12:00 PM.

For more information, contact Oconto County Forest & Parks, 301 Washington St., Oconto, WI 54153, 920- 834-6995. To apply fill out application online:

www.co.oconto.wi.us/career_opportunities

Finalists may be required to undergo a detailed background investigation.

Oconto County is an EO/AEE Employer.

WNAXLP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF MAPLE VALLEY, OCONTO COUNTY

Notice is hereby given that on Thursday, November 18, 2021, at 7:00 pm at the Maple Valley Town Hall, a PUBLIC HEARING ON THE proposed 2022 BUDGET for the Town of Maple Valley in Oconto County will be held. Hearing to be held at the Maple Valley Town Hall, 9088 Cnty Rd. Z, Suring, WI 54174. The proposed budget in detail is available for inspection at the Town Clerk's office by appointment.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OF THE ELECTORS OF THE TOWN OF MAPLE VALLEY, OCONTO COUNTY

Notice is hereby given that on Thursday November 18, 2021, immediately following completion of the Public Hearing on the proposed year 2022 budget, which begins at 7:00 pm at the Maple Valley Town Hall, a special Town Meeting of the electors is called pursuant to Seciton 60.12 (1)c of Wisconsin Statutes by the Town Board, for the following purpose, will be held:

- To approve the 2021 town Tax Levy to be collected in 2022 pursuant to Section 60.10 (1)(a) of Wisconsin Statutes.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING TOWN OF MAPLE VALLEY, OCONTO COUNTY

Notice is hereby given that on Thursday November 18, 2021 immediately following the completion of the Public Hearing and Special Town Meeting of the Electors, a special Town Board meeting will be held for the purpose of adopting the 2022 Town of Maple Valley Budget. The Monthly Town Board meeting will immediately follow the Special Town Board meeting.

Dated this 29th day of October, 2021

Cindy Tousey, Clerk

WNAXLP

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\$12.99
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**Johnsonville
Breakfast Sausage
Links or Patties**
\$3.29
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York Strip Steaks**
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**Local Acorn,
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Butternut,
Spaghetti Squash**
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\$1.99 12oz
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**Dole
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\$1.19
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Dean's Dip
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Asst Variety

**Lay's
Potato Chips**

2/\$5
5-8oz
Asst Variety

Ritz Crackers

2/\$6
Asst Variety
8.8-13.7oz

**Stove Top
Stuffing**
2/\$3 Asst
Variety
6oz

**Philadelphia
Cream Cheese**

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8oz
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**Kraft Miracle
Whip**
\$3.49 30oz
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or Light

**Orv's Ultimate
Rizers or Ultra**

Thin Pizzaria Pizza
3/\$9.99
Asst Variety
16-28.45oz

**Rhodes Frozen
White Dinner or
Cinnamon Rolls**
\$3.99 36.5-48oz

**Gold Medal
Flour**

2/\$5
5# Bag
All Purpose or
Unbleached

**Hershey's
Baking Chips**

2/\$5
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**Crystal Light
Brown, Dark
Brown, or
Powdered Sugars**
\$1.49 2 lb
Bags

**Crystal
Granulated
Sugar**

\$1.99
4 lb Bag

Cool Whip
\$1.29 Asst
Variety
8oz

**Sara Lee
Classic Frozen
Pies**

2/\$9
34oz
Dutch Apple, Cherry,
Pumpkin, or Apple

DATCP offers meat processing grants for 2022

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is offering new meat processor grants through Jan. 14, 2022.

The grants were proposed by Gov. Tony Evers in his 2021-23 biennial budget, and the funds were recently released by the Joint Finance Committee. The meat processing grant program aims to grow Wisconsin's meat industry and improve the long-term viability of the state's livestock industry.

"Even before the global pandemic

there was a lot of need out there to modernize, expand, and enhance the capacity of our meat processing infrastructure," said DATCP Secretary Randy Romanski. "The funding included in the Governor's budget can be used to ease some of the supply chain bottlenecks and help our state's already strong meat processing industry increase throughput."

Eligible applicants must operate or intend to operate a DATCP or U.S. Department of Agriculture licensed meat-processing establishment in Wisconsin and be engaged

in livestock harvest or processing. Projects must increase harvest capacity or production. Funding from these grants can be used for operating expenses directly related to the grant project, including expenses for engineering, architectural design, construction, food safety consultation, equipment, and equipment installation.

DATCP will award grants for up to \$50,000 for projects that are up to two years in duration and help expand capacity or increase throughput. Processors are required

to provide a match of 100 percent of the grant amount. Recipients will be chosen through a competitive selection process.

Applications are due to DATCP Grants Manager Ryan Dunn at ryandunn@wisconsin.gov by 5 p.m. on Jan. 14. Questions about the grant process can also be directed to Ryan. Grant recipients will be announced in February 2022. The grant application and materials are available at https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Growing_WI/MeatAndLivestockDevelopment.aspx.

CITY OF OCONTO FALLS 2022 PROPOSED BUDGET

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Oconto Falls Municipal Building, 500 North Chestnut Avenue, Oconto Falls, Wisconsin, a public hearing will be held on the proposed 2022 budget. Following the public hearing, the Council will meet to vote on the proposed budget during a special Council meeting at approximately 6:15 pm. The proposed budget is available for inspection on the City website at www.cityofocontofalls.com, at City Hall, the Oconto Falls Public Library, the Oconto Falls Post Office and Iverson's Piggly Wiggly.

The following is a summary of the proposed 2022 City Budget:

General Fund	2021 Approved Budget	2021 Estimated Budget	2022 Proposed Budget	% Change
Revenues				
General Government	2,463,003	2,485,190	2,573,432	4.5%
License	24,490	38,771	38,130	55.7%
Gifts & Grants	29,019	27,430	37,782	30.2%
Penalties & Forfeitures	28,900	30,610	36,500	26.3%
Special Assessments	121,382	148,252	131,257	8.1%
All Other Revenues	144,663	176,019	150,547	4.1%
Fund Balance	104,838	0	78,000	
G.F. Revenues	2,916,295	2,906,272	3,045,648	4.4%
Expenditures				
General Government	909,214	896,884	982,355	8.0%
Protection Person & Property	722,839	755,223	821,064	13.6%
Health, Welfare, & Sanitation	228,915	202,605	260,863	14.0%
Transportation	362,419	344,767	351,984	-2.9%
Education & Recreation	179,187	183,866	186,625	4.2%
Conservation & Development	3,566	3,250	3,572	0.2%
Transfer to Debt Service	395,042	395,042	406,385	2.9%
Transfer to Capital Projects	115,113	115,113	32,800	-71.5%
G. F. EXPENDITURES	2,916,295	2,896,750	3,045,648	4.4%
GF Net Surplus (deficiency)	0	9,522	0	
DEBT SERVICE FUND				
Revenues	395,042	395,542	406,385	2.9%
Expenditures	395,042	395,542	406,385	2.9%
DSF NET SURPLUS (deficiency)	0	0	0	
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND				
Revenues	121,613	121,338	39,300	-67.7%
Fund Balance	0	0	0	
Expenditures	121,613	358,842	39,300	-67.7%
CPF NET SURPLUS (deficiency)	0	-237,504	0	
TAX LEVY				
General Fund	879,141		1,027,071	16.8%
Debt Service Fund	395,042		406,385	2.9%
Capital Projects Fund	115,113		32,800	-71.5%
Total Approved Levy	1,389,296		1,466,256	5.5%
Levy limit	1,389,296		1,466,256	5.5%

A quorum of the Common Council may be in attendance of this public hearing.

Notice was given to the public at least 15 days prior to this hearing - Notice was forwarded to newspapers and any news media or persons who have requested the same - Notice was published in the Oconto County Times Herald, Notice was posted at City Hall, Oconto Falls Community Library, Iverson's Piggly Wiggly, and on the City website at www.cityofocontofalls.com

Any person wishing to attend the hearing who requires special accommodations because of a disability should contact the Clerk's office at 920-846-4505 with adequate notice so appropriate accommodations can be made.

WNAXLP



Big turnout for Halloween party

More than 200 children and their families attended the Kids Halloween Party at the Suring Fire Department on Oct. 30, sponsored by the Suring Business Association. "This event is a passion project of mine," said organizer Katy Kegel. "I remember the Suring Lioness Club's Halloween party held at Suring School as a child myself and a few years ago I wanted to bring back those same types of memories for my four children and the community as a whole. The community supported my vision from the start as I reached out to sponsors to raise the money needed for decor, creating new games, prizes, candy, snacks and crafts. And they keep showing up year after year. It's definitely a ton of organization and upfront prep work, a 'labor of love' I like to say, but in the end it's worth it for me to see families enjoy this time together." Over 30 middle and high school students helped run the games. Donors included Chute Pond Snowmobile Club, which held a fundraiser with shared proceeds for this event. Other donations came from Great Lakes Manufacturing, Suring Area Public Library, Arrowhead Saloon, Gruetzmacher Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Flynn Energy, Alicia Prochnow (Independent Thirty-One Consultant), Suring Auto and Hardware, Dimension Lumber, Tina Hanson and Family, Gina Wendt and Family, Crafty Jans, Rhodes Oasis, Dan and Sherrie Guendert, Dave and Christine Nieling, Boarding House Supper Club, Jim Wegner, Northwoods Parts and Auto, Justin Schulz and Family, School's Service and Repair, Kreative Marketing and Design, Jay and Katie Tousey, Jeff and Roxanne Tienor, and Lois Brazeau.

KATY KEHEL

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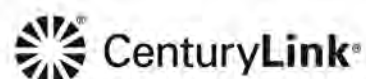
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CenturyLink participates in a government benefit program (Lifeline) to make residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers are those that meet eligibility standards as defined by the FCC and state commissions. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be on either wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload or faster to qualify.

A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain a Lifeline discount can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-800-201-4099 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.



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NOT SO SPECIAL TEAMS

Packers special teams continue to struggle this season

PAGE 2

Green Bay Packers safety Henry Black, right, makes a tackle on kickoff coverage during the team's game against the Washington Football Team on Oct. 24 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

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Special team issues a priority for Pack

Bojorquez the lone bright spot

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

Despite a road loss in week nine, the Green Bay Packers still are tied for the second-best record in the league.

It hasn't been for stellar play on special teams though. Far from it.

The Packers loss to the Kansas City Chiefs again showed that Green Bay's special teams unit needs some serious work.

In the setback, the usually reliable Mason Crosby missed a field goal and had another attempt blocked. The Packers also fumbled on a punt return.

"Obviously we could have used the six points," said coach Matt LaFleur. "We basically gave them points when we fumbled the ball. We can't have that happen."

Take those mistakes away, and the Packers probably beat the Chiefs — and remember, that was without quarterback Aaron Rodgers.

The Packers' offense has no reason for concern at this point, and should only get better with the return of some injured players. Green Bay's defense has been the key to the team's success so far, and again was stout against Kansas City.

Special teams, on the other hand, cost the Packers a road win last week, and it hasn't been the first time the unit has underperformed.

In week two, with the Pack in a battle with the Detroit Lions in the first half, Green Bay's kickoff unit surrendered a 33-yard return right after the Packers had tied the game.



Green Bay Packers kicker Mason Crosby, center, has a kick blocked as punter/holder Corey Bojorquez, left, looks on during the team's game against the Washington Football Team on Oct. 24 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. Crosby has had a couple kicks blocked this season and has missed several field goals.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

Detroit went on to kick a field goal before the first-half clock expired.

Green Bay was up 17-0 and rolling in week three against the San Francisco 49ers before the kickoff unit allowed a 68-yard return. The 49ers scored a touchdown on the drive as the first-half clock expired.

Of course, the Packers needed some late-game heroics to escape with a win that week, and the long kick return certainly aided in San Fran's comeback.

In a home contest against the Pittsburgh Steelers in week four, Crosby had a field goal blocked. Luckily for the Pack, the Steelers were flagged for an offside penalty, and Crosby went on to knock in the next try.

Pittsburgh had kickoff returns of 38 and 40 in the game.

Week five was an absolute disaster for the Packers special teams unit, as Crosby missed three field goals, all of which could have won the game for Green Bay.

Again the Pack were bailed out, this time from matching poor kick-

ing from the Cincinnati Bengals. The Bengals had a 44-yard kickoff return in the game.

The Packers have shored up the kickoff coverage the past several weeks. Until the team's last three games, the Packers had worse field position — or were tied for starting field position — than all of their opponents.

In week seven against the Washington Football Team, Crosby had a field goal attempt blocked, while punter Corey Bojorquez nearly had a punt blocked.

"We have to get it fixed. Certainly the operation on PAT (point after touchdown)/field goal has got to be better. We have to do a better job of protecting to give us a chance to score some points," said LaFleur.

"And then, in terms of our punt return game — again, you got a young returner (rookie Amari Rodgers) back there, and I'm not trying to make excuses for anybody — we have to be better, we all know that."

Speaking of Bojorquez, he's really

been the lone bright spot all year for the special teams unit.

His 28 punts have averaged 48.7 yards so far, and only 13 have been returned for just 90 yards. He's pinned opponents inside their own 20-yard line 10 times.

One might argue that some of these miscues were minor ones that didn't truly affect the outcome of the game, but the fact that there are so many examples to choose from is definitely a reason for concern.

An NFL team can have the greatest offense or defense, but most play-off games still come to to just a few points. Many times, special teams play is the difference in a game.

To this point of the season, the Packers have not been winning the special teams facet of the game, and it certainly could bite them against stronger teams in the playoffs. They have time to right the ship and will certainly be spending quality time on the issues during practice moving forward.



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KEYS TO THE GAME

By **BILL HUBER**
Correspondent

The Green Bay Packers (7-2) will host the Seattle Seahawks (3-5) at 3:25 p.m. Sunday at Lambeau Field. CBS will televise the game.

History

The Packers are 11-8 against Seattle in the regular season and 3-1 in the playoffs. In games at Lambeau Field, Green Bay's Aaron Rodgers is 4-0 against Seattle's Russell Wilson.

The last matchup came in the 2019 playoffs, a game Green Bay led 21-3 at halftime but held on to win 28-23. Preston Smith's third-down sack of Wilson and Rodgers' third-down completion to Jimmy Graham clinched the win. Aaron Jones had a pair of 1-yard touchdown runs and Davante Adams had touchdown catches of 20 and 40 yards.

Coaches

Green Bay – Matt LaFleur, 33-8, third season. Seattle — Pete Carroll, 148-99-1 overall, 16 seasons; 115-68-1 in 12th year with Seattle.

When the Packers have the ball

In one way, these teams are similar. Both teams have big-time quarterbacks but are being led by underrated defenses. The Seahawks enter week 10 ranked eighth with 21.1 points allowed per game. In games before their bye, they allowed 13 points against New Orleans and seven points against Jacksonville.

Oddly, Seattle is keeping teams from scoring even while giving up yards by the bushel. Seattle is 31st in total defense (401.5 yard per game) and 28th against the pass (273.9). The Seahawks aren't forcing turnovers (23rd with eight takeaways) and aren't sacking the quarterback (30th in sack percentage).

But they are strong where it's critical: sixth on third down (34%), fifth in the red zone (48.4%) and fifth in goal-to-go situations (58.8%). The Packers' offense, obviously, has struggled in those phases, ranking 18th on third down, 20th in the red zone and 28th in goal-to-go.

Seattle's base defense is 4-3. On the defensive line, Rasheem Green and Kerry Hyder are the ends and Al Woods and Poona Ford are the tackles. Woods and Ford quietly form one of the better tandems in the league, especially against the run.

The Seahawks use a 10-man rotation up front, which means constantly fresh bodies. One of those



Green Bay Packers running back Aaron Jones, right, runs behind blocking from offensive lineman during the team's game against the Arizona Cardinals on Oct. 28 in Glendale, Arizona. Jones and the Packers' rushing attack will go up against a solid Seahawks' run defense this Sunday. GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

backups, end Darrell Taylor, leads the team with four sacks and eight quarterback hits. Longtime Bengals standout Carlos Dunlap has only a half-sack but leads the team with 20 pressures, according to Pro Football Focus. Plus, at 6-foot-6, he's batted down four passes.

The primary linebackers are perennial Pro Bowler Bobby Wagner and 2020 first-round pick Jordyn Brooks. Even with a bye last week meaning one less game than some other defenders, Wagner leads the NFL with 93 tackles. Brooks has 72.

The Seahawks spend a lot of the game with five or six defensive backs on the field. Against Jacksonville, D.J. Reed and Tre Brown were the corners and Ugo Amadi manned the slot. Former first-round pick Sidney Jones plays a lot, as well.

What stands out is the height — or lack thereof. Between Reed, Brown and Amadi, none stand 5-foot-10 without rounding up. That could be an issue; Allen Lazard is 6-foot-5 and Marquez Valdes-Scantling is 6-foot-4. That said, Reed and Brown have been really good, having allowed catch rates of about 50 percent, according to PFF.

Quandre Diggs and Jamal Adams are the safeties. Adams is the big name but Diggs has played with the bigger game this season. He has all three of the Seahawks' interceptions.

Adams, the sixth pick of the 2017 draft by the Jets and a three-time Pro Bowler, is third on the team with 55 tackles. He is a physical player vs. the run and an adept blitzing but not

great in coverage. The Seahawks will line him up at safety, linebacker and even in the slot. While he doesn't have any sacks this season, he had an eye-popping 9½ sacks in just 12 games last year.

When the Seahawks have the ball

Seattle is 19th with 22.6 points per game, just ahead of the Packers' 22.1-point average. Really, though, most of their rankings are irrelevant because Wilson has played in only about four-and-a-half games. It is interesting to note, however, that it's second in the red zone but 31st on third down.

Back from a three-game absence following surgery on the middle finger on his throwing hand, Wilson is one of the best quarterbacks in the NFL. His 125.3 passer rating is a whopping 15 points better than anyone else. He's second with a 72% completion rate and first with 9.57 yards per attempt. The deep ball is a possibility on every play, and he's very good at it.

Wilson isn't the only top player coming back from injury. Running back Chris Carson, who has missed the last four games with a neck injury, is expected back this week. Carson rushed for 1,151 yards in 2018 and 1,230 yards in 2019, and had 232 yards and a 4.3 average in the first four games of this season. He is a powerful runner and solid receiver.

Tyler Lockett and D.K. Metcalf form one of the top receiver duos in the NFL. The pint-sized but rocket-fast Lockett has 41 receptions for 579

yards and three touchdowns. Metcalf, with his freakish combination of size and speed, has 39 receptions for 580 yards and eight touchdowns, that latter figure ranked second in the NFL.

Gerald Everett (14 catches) and Will Dissly (10) share the duties at tight end.

Left tackle Duane Brown, left guard Damien Lewis, center Kyle Fuller, right guard Gabe Jackson and right tackle Brandon Shell form the offensive line, which has been a source for consternation in Seattle for years.

The 36-year-old Brown, a four-time Pro Bowler, is the unit's best player. That's not saying much. He's allowed six sacks, second-most in the NFL. Seattle ranks a woeful 31st in sack percentage allowed.

Special Teams

Seattle's typically strong special teams are off to poor starts.

While Green Bay's Mason Crosby has missed an NFL-worst six field goals, Seattle's Jason Myers has made an NFL-worst 63.6 percent of his field-goal attempts.

Last season, former All-Pro punter Michael Dickson was third in net average. This year, he's 17th. He's already booted a career-high seven touchbacks.

Receiver Freddie Swain has averaged a solid 9.5 yards per punt return. Running back D.J. Dallas averages a ho-hum 21.3 yards per kickoff return.

The coverage units are strong. Especially noteworthy is Seattle's kickoff team. Myers isn't looking to kick touchbacks. Rather, Seattle relies on its coverage unit to create bad field position. It ranks third with just 18.3 yards allowed per runback and has forced the opponent to start inside the 20 a league-high 12 times.

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PACKERS ROSTER

Active

#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
2	Mason Crosby	K	6-1	207	37	15	Colorado
7	Corey Bojorquez	P	6-0	217	25	4	New Mexico
8	Amari Rodgers	WR	5-9	212	22	R	Clemson
10	Jordan Love	QB	6-4	219	23	2	Utah State
13	Allen Lazard	WR	6-5	227	25	3	Iowa State
17	Davante Adams	WR	6-1	215	28	8	Fresno State
18	Randall Cobb	WR	5-10	195	31	11	Kentucky
19	Equanimeous St. Brown	WR	6-5	214	25	4	Notre Dame
20	Kevin King	CB	6-3	200	26	5	Washington
21	Eric Stokes	CB	6-0	194	22	R	Georgia
22	Shemar Jean-Charles	CB	5-10	184	23	R	Appalachian State
26	Darnell Savage	S	5-11	198	24	3	Maryland
27	Patrick Taylor	RB	6-2	217	23	1	Memphis
28	AJ Dillon	RB	6-0	247	23	2	Boston College
29	Rasul Douglas	CB	6-2	209	26	5	West Virginia
31	Adrian Amos	S	6-0	214	28	7	Penn State
33	Aaron Jones	RB	5-9	208	26	5	Texas-El Paso
36	Vernon Scott	S	6-2	202	24	2	TCU
39	Chandon Sullivan	CB	5-11	189	25	4	Georgia State
41	Henry Black	S	6-0	204	24	2	Baylor
42	Oren Burks	LB	6-3	233	26	4	Vanderbilt
44	Ty Summers	LB	6-1	241	25	3	TCU
46	Steven Wirtel	LS	6-4	228	24	1	Iowa State
49	Dominique Dafney	TE	6-2	243	24	1	Indiana State
50	Whitney Mercilus	LB	6-4	261	31	10	Illinois
51	Krys Barnes	LB	6-2	229	23	2	UCLA
52	Rashan Gary	LB	6-5	277	23	3	Michigan
53	Jonathan Garvin	LB	6-4	257	22	2	Miami
54	La'Darius Hamilton	LB	6-2	261	23	1	North Texas
58	Isaiah McDuffie	LB	6-1	227	22	R	Boston College
59	De'Vondre Campbell	LB	6-3	232	28	6	Minnesota
62	Lucas Patrick	G	6-3	313	28	5	Duke
67	Jake Hanson	C	6-4	296	24	1	Oregon
70	Royce Newman	T/G	6-5	310	24	R	Mississippi
73	Yosh Nijman	T	6-7	314	25	2	Virginia Tech
74	Elgton Jenkins	G	6-5	311	25	3	Mississippi State
76	Jon Runyan	G	6-4	307	24	2	Michigan
77	Billy Turner	G/T	6-5	310	30	8	North Dakota State
79	Dennis Kelly	T	6-8	321	31	10	Purdue
81	Josiah Deguara	TE	6-2	238	24	2	Cincinnati
83	Marquez Valdes-Scantling	WR	6-4	206	27	4	South Florida

84	Tyler Davis	TE	6-4	252	24	2	Georgia Tech
86	Malik Taylor	WR	6-1	220	25	2	Ferris State
89	Marcedes Lewis	TE	6-6	267	37	16	UCLA
90	Jack Heflin	DL	6-3	304	23	R	Iowa
91	Preston Smith	LB	6-5	265	28	7	Mississippi State
93	T.J. Slaton	DL	6-4	330	24	R	Florida
94	Dean Lowry	DL	6-6	296	27	6	Northwestern
95	Tyler Lancaster	DL	6-3	313	27	4	Northwestern
96	Kingsley Keke	DL	6-3	288	25	3	Texas A&M
97	Kenny Clark	DL	6-3	314	26	6	UCLA

Reserve/Injured

23	Jaire Alexander	CB	5-10	196	24	4	Louisville
25	Will Redmond	S	5-11	186	27	6	Mississippi State
32	Kylin Hill	RB	5-10	214	23	R	Mississippi State
47	Chauncey Rivers	LB	6-2	259	24	1	Mississippi State
55	Za'Darius Smith	LB	6-4	272	29	7	Kentucky
56	Randy Ramsey	LB	6-3	238	26	2	Arkansas
71	Josh Myers	C/G	6-5	310	23	R	Ohio State
85	Robert Tonyan	TE	6-5	237	27	4	Indiana State

Reserve/Physically Unable to Perform

69	David Bakhtiari	T	6-4	310	30	9	Colorado
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Practice Squad

9	Blake Bortles	QB	6-5	236	29	7	UCF
11	J.J. Molson	K	5-11	180	24	1	UCLA
16	Chris Blair	WR	6-2	198	24	R	Alcorn State
30	Shawn Davis	S	5-11	202	23	R	Florida
35	Ryquell Armstead	RB	5-11	220	25	3	Temple
38	Innis Gaines	S	6-1	202	23	R	TCU
40	Tipa Galeai	LB	6-5	229	24	1	Utah State
45	Bronson Kaufusi	TE	6-6	270	30	3	Brigham Young
48	Kabion Ento	CB	6-1	187	25	2	Colorado
57	Ray Wilborn	LB	6-3	230	24	1	Ball State
64	Ben Braden	G	6-6	329	27	2	Michigan
72	Auzoyah Alufohai	DL	6-4	313	25	1	West Georgia
78	Cole Van Lanen	T/G	6-4	305	23	R	Wisconsin
88	Juwann Winfree	WR	6-1	210	25	2	Colorado
98	Abdullah Anderson	DL	6-3	303	25	2	Bucknell
99	R.J. McIntosh	DL	6-5	286	25	4	Miami

Reserve/COVID-19 list

12	Aaron Rodgers	QB	6-2	225	37	17	California
24	Isaac Yiadom	CB	6-1	190	25	4	Boston College

Practice Squad/COVID-19 list

6	Kurt Benkert	QB	6-3	218	26	2	Virginia
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SEAHAWKS ROSTER

Active

#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
2	D.J. Reed	CB	5-9	193	24	4	Kansas State
4	Michael Dickinson	P	6-2	208	25	4	Texas
5	Jason Myers	K	5-10	190	30	7	Marist
6	Quandre Diggs	FS	5-9	197	28	7	Texas
7	Geno Smith	QB	6-3	221	31	9	West Virginia
8	Carlos Dunlap II	LB	6-6	285	32	12	Florida
10	Benson Mayowa	LB	6-3	252	30	9	Idaho
14	DK Metcalf	WR	6-4	235	23	3	Ole Miss
16	Tyler Lockett	WR	5-10	182	29	7	Kansas State
17	Jacob Eason	QB	6-6	231	23	2	Washington
18	Freddie Swain	WR	6-0	199	23	2	Florida
19	Penny Hart	WR	5-8	180	25	2	Georgia State
20	Rashaad Penny	RB	5-11	220	25	4	San Diego St.
22	Tre Brown	CB	5-10	185	24	R	Oklahoma
23	Sidney Jones IV	CB	6-0	181	25	4	Washington
25	Travis Homer	RB	5-10	202	23	3	Miami
26	Ryan Neal	SS	6-3	200	25	2	Southern Illinois
27	Marquise Blair	FS	6-1	196	24	3	Utah
28	Ugo Amadi	FS	5-9	201	24	3	Oregon
29	John Reid	CB	5-10	187	25	2	Penn State
31	DeeJay Dallas	RB	5-10	214	23	2	Miami (Fla.)
33	Jamal Adams	SS	6-1	213	26	5	LSU
36	Blessuan Austin	DB	6-1	198	25	3	Rutgers
41	Alex Collins	RB	5-10	210	27	4	Arkansas
44	Nick Bellore	LB	6-1	250	32	11	Central Michigan
51	Kerry Hyder Jr.	DE	6-2	275	30	6	Texas Tech
52	Darrell Taylor	DE	6-4	267	24	2	Tennessee
54	Bobby Wagner	LB	6-0	242	31	10	Utah State
56	Jordyn Brooks	LB	6-0	240	24	2	Texas Tech
57	Cody Barton	LB	6-2	237	24	3	Utah
59	Jon Rhattigan	LB	6-0	236	22	R	Army
61	Kyle Fuller	C/G	6-5	320	27	3	Baylor
64	Dakoda Shepley	C	6-5	290	26	1	University of British Columbia
66	Gabe Jackson	G	6-3	335	30	8	Mississippi State
68	Damien Lewis	G	6-2	327	24	2	LSU
69	Tyler Ott	LS	6-3	253	29	7	Harvard
72	Brandon Shell	T	6-5	324	29	6	South Carolina
73	Jamarco Jones	T	6-4	293	25	4	Ohio State
74	Jake Curhan	OT	6-6	316	23	R	California

76	Duane Brown	T	6-4	315	36	14	Virginia Tech
77	Ethan Pocic	C/G	6-6	320	26	5	LSU
78	Stone Forsythe	OT	6-8	307	23	R	Florida
81	Gerald Everett	TE	6-3	240	27	5	South Alabama
84	Colby Parkinson	TE	6-7	251	22	2	Stanford
85	Tyler Mabry	TE	6-3	247	24	1	Maryland
89	Will Dissly	TE	6-4	265	25	4	Washington
90	Bryan Mone	DT	6-3	345	26	3	Michigan
91	L.J. Collier	DE	6-2	291	26	3	TCU
92	Robert Nkemdiche	DT	6-3	296	27	4	Mississippi
94	Rasheem Green	DE	6-4	279	24	4	USC
97	Poona Ford	DT	5-11	310	25	4	Texas
98	Alton Robinson	DE	6-3	259	23	2	Syracuse
99	Al Woods	DT	6-4	330	34	11	LSU

Reserve/Injured

1	Dee Eskridge	WR	5-9	190	24	R	Western Michigan
3	Russell Wilson	QB	5-11	215	32	10	Wisconsin
15	John Ursua	WR	5-9	182	27	2	Hawaii
32	Chris Carson	RB	5-11	222	27	5	Oklahoma State
39	Nigel Warrior	CB	6-1	197	23	1	Tennessee
48	Marcus Webb	DE	6-2	247	24	R	Troy
55	Ben Burr-Kirven	LB	6-0	230	24	3	Washington

Practice Squad

9	Jake Luton	QB	6-6	224	25	2	Oregon State
11	Cody Thompson	WR	6-2	205	25	1	Toledo
13	Phillip Dorsett II	WR	5-10	192	28	7	Miami (Fla.)
30	Mike Jackson	CB	6-1	210	24	2	Miami
34	Josh Johnson	RB	5-9	209	23	R	Louisiana-Monroe
38	Gavin Heslop	CB	6-0	197	23	1	Stony Brook
43	Aaron Donkor	LB	6-1	240	26	1	Arkansas State
49	Ryan Izzo	TE	6-5	255	25	4	Florida State
58	Tanner Muse	LB	6-2	227	25	2	Clemson
60	Phil Haynes	G	6-4	322	26	3	Wake Forest
62	Jarrod Hewitt	DT	6-1	290	24	R	Virginia Tech
62	Pier-Olivier Lestage	G	6-3	312	24	R	Montreal
65	Brad Lundblade	C	6-3	295	26	1	Oklahoma State
67	Myles Adams	DT	6-2	290	23	1	Rice
75	Greg Eiland	T	6-8	321	23	R	Mississippi State
87	Aaron Fuller	WR	5-11	188	24	1	Washington
88	Cade Johnson	WR	5-10	184	23	R	South Dakota State

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GAME VITALS PACKERS DEPTH CHART

GREEN BAY PACKERS (7-2)
vs. SEATTLE SEAHAWKS (3-5)
WHEN: 3:25, Sunday
WHERE: Lambeau Field
TV: CBS
RADIO: 620 AM (WTMJ), Sirius
Satellite Radio (WTMJ feed)

THE SERIES

Packers vs. Seahawks
All-time, regular season: 11-8
All-time, postseason: 3-1
All-time, at Packers: 12-3
Streaks: The Green Bay Packers have won four of the past five games against the Seattle Seahawks. Green Bay has won its last nine home games against Seattle.
Last meeting, regular season: Jan. 12, 2021, Packers won 28-23 at Lambeau Field in a NFC Divisional Round playoff game. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers threw for 243 yards and two touchdowns, while running back Aaron Jones rushed for two more scores.

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time	TV
Sept. 12	at New Orleans	Loss 38-3	
Sept. 20	vs. Detroit	Win 35-17	
Sept. 26	at San Francisco	Win 30-28	
Oct. 3	vs. Pittsburgh	Win 27-17	
Oct. 10	at Cincinnati	Win 25-22	
Oct. 17	at Chicago	Win 24-14	
Oct. 24	vs. Washington	Win 24-10	
Oct. 28	at Arizona	Win 24-21	
Nov. 7	at Kansas City	Loss 13-7	
Nov. 14	vs. Seattle	3:25 p.m.	CBS
Nov. 21	at Minnesota	noon	FOX
Nov. 28	vs. L.A. Rams	3:25 p.m.	FOX
BYE WEEK			
Dec. 12	vs. Chicago	7:20 p.m.	NBC
Dec. 19	at Baltimore	noon	FOX
Dec. 25	vs. Cleveland	3:30 p.m.	FOX
Jan. 2	vs. Minnesota	7:20 p.m.	NBC
Jan. 9	at Detroit	noon	FOX

OFFENSE

RB

Aaron Jones
A.J. Dillon



QB

Aaron Rodgers
Jordan Love



WR

Davante Adams
Equanimeous St. Brown



TE

Josiah Deguara
Tyler Davis



RT

Billy Turner
Dennis Kelly



RG

Royce Newman
Lucas Patrick



C

Lucas Patrick
Jake Hanson



LG

Jon Runyan
Lucas Patrick



LT

Elgton Jenkins
Yosh Nijman



TE

Mercedes Lewis
Dominique Dafney



WR

Allen Lazard
Randall Cobb



FYI
Rosters and depth charts are accurate as of Nov. 8, 8:15 p.m.

DEFENSE

CB

Kevin King
Chandon Sullivan



DE

Dean Lowry
Tyler Lancaster



NT

Kenny Clark
T.J. Slaton



DE

Kingsley Keke
Jack Heflin



CB

Eric Stokes
Rasul Douglas



OLB

Preston Smith
Whitney Mercilus



ILB

Krys Barnes
Oren Burks



ILB

De'Vondre Campbell
Ty Summers



OLB

Rashan Gary
Jonathan Garvin



S

Adrian Amos
Vernon Scott



S

Darnell Savage
Henry Black





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SEAHAWKS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE



WR
DK Metcalf
Freddie Swain



RT
Brandon Shell
Jake Curhan



RG
Gabe Jackson
Jamarco Jones



C
Kyle Fuller
Ethan Pocic



LG
Damien Lewis
Jamarco Jones



LT
Duane Brown
Jamarco Jones



TE
Gerald Everett
Will Dissly



QB
Russell Wilson
Geno Smith



FB
Nick Bellore



RB
Alex Collins
Rashaad Penny



WR
Tyler Lockett
Penny Hart

DEFENSE



CB
Sidney Jones IV
Tre Brown



EDGE
Rasheem Green
Carlos Dunlap II



NT
Poona Ford
Bryan Mone



DT
Al Woods
Bryan Mone



DE
Kerry Hyder Jr.
Robert Nkemdiche



CB
D.J. Reed
Blessuan Austin



OLB
Benson Mayowa
Darrell Taylor



MLB
Bobby Wagner
Nick Bellore



OLB
Jordyn Brooks
Cody Barton



S
Jamal Adams
Ryan Neal



S
Quandre Diggs
Marquise Blair

SCHEDULE

Sunday's Games
 Buffalo at N.Y. Jets, noon
 Tampa Bay at Washington, noon
 Atlanta at Dallas, noon
 New Orleans at Tennessee, noon
 Jacksonville at Indianapolis, noon
 Detroit at Pittsburgh, noon
 Cleveland at New England, noon
 Minnesota at L.A. Chargers, 3:05 p.m.
 Carolina at Arizona, 3:05 p.m.
 Philadelphia at Denver, 3:25 p.m.
 Seattle at Green Bay, 3:25 p.m.
 Kansas City at Las Vegas, 7:20 p.m.

Monday's Game
 L.A. Rams at San Francisco, 7:15 p.m.

Teams on bye: Chicago, Cincinnati, Houston, N.Y. Giants

Thursday's Game
 New England at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.

STANDINGS

NFC East					AFC East				
Team	W	L	T		Team	W	L	T	
Dallas	6	2	0		Buffalo	5	3	0	
Philadelphia	3	6	0		New England	5	4	0	
N.Y. Giants	3	6	0		N.Y. Jets	2	6	0	
Washington	2	6	0		Miami	2	7	0	
North					North				
Team	W	L	T		Team	W	L	T	
Green Bay	7	2	0		Baltimore	6	2	0	
Minnesota	3	5	0		Pittsburgh	5	3	0	
Chicago	3	6	0		Cleveland	5	4	0	
Detroit	0	8	0		Cincinnati	5	4	0	
South					South				
Team	W	L	T		Team	W	L	T	
Tampa Bay	6	2	0		Tennessee	7	2	0	
New Orleans	5	3	0		Indianapolis	4	5	0	
Atlanta	4	4	0		Jacksonville	2	6	0	
Carolina	4	5	0		Houston	1	8	0	
West					West				
Team	W	L	T		Team	W	L	T	
Arizona	8	1	0		L.A. Chargers	5	3	0	
L.A. Rams	7	2	0		Las Vegas	5	3	0	
Seattle	3	5	0		Kansas City	5	4	0	
San Francisco	3	5	0		Denver	5	4	0	

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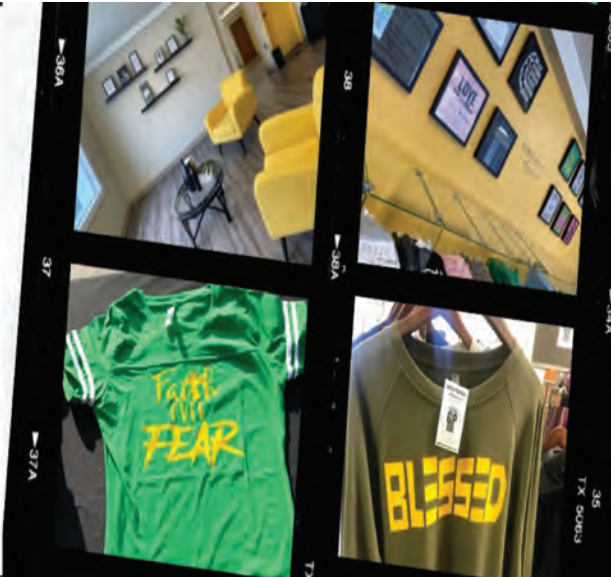
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Bacardi Rum Silver or Gold
Jose Cuervo Tequila
Jameson Irish Whiskey

Tito's Handmade Vodka \$28⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Bacardi Rum \$19⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Jose Cuervo Tequila \$29⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Jameson Irish Whiskey \$39⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

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Christian Brother's Brandy 2 FOR \$26⁹⁸ 1.75 ltr.
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Old Smoky Specialty Whiskey \$16⁹⁹ 750 ml.

All Bird Dog Whiskey \$14⁹⁹ 750 ml.

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Grey Goose Vodka \$46⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

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Wine

Roscato
Sweet
Wines

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BEAT The Expert



Morgan Rode
NEW Media Sports Editor

Week 10 Games: Sunday, Nov. 14

Teams on bye:
Chicago, Cincinnati, Houston & NY Giants

Baltimore @ Miami Thurs., Nov. 11
Atlanta @ Dallas
Jacksonville @ Indianapolis
Cleveland @ New England
Detroit @ Pittsburgh
New Orleans @ Tennessee
Tampa Bay @ Washington
Carolina @ Arizona
Minnesota @ LA Chargers
Philadelphia @ Denver
Seattle @ Green Bay
Kansas City @ Las Vegas
LA Rams @ San Francisco..... Mon., Nov. 15

Tie Breaker Game: Buffalo @ NY Jets

Weekly Standings

	Weekly Record	Overall Record
God's Purpose Apparel	7-7	92-44
Shawano Seasons Restaurant.....	7-7	89-47
Tower Clock Eye Center.....	7-7	89-47
Buss Automotive.....	7-7	88-48
Tim Murphy	8-6	88-48
22 Shell.....	8-6	87-49
Morgan Rode	8-6	86-50
Dennis Brei.....	6-8	85-51
Hawkeye Hearth & Home.....	5-9	85-51

Weekly Standings

	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Shawano Place Assisted Living.....	7-7	84-52
Idell Johnston, State Farm Ins. Agent.....	8-6	84-52
P & D Sales & Service.....	7-7	82-54
B & C Auto Recycling.....	7-7	81-55
Smokey Joe's	3-11	81-55
Gehm's Club 117	7-7	78-58
Cirrinity/Wittenberg Telephone.....	7-7	74-62
Senn Insurance.....	6-8	72-64
Iverson's Piggly Wiggly.....	5-9	71-65



This Week's Winner:
Idell Johnston, State Farm Agent



Morgan Rode
Shawano
Leader

This Week's Picks:

Baltimore	Tampa Bay	LA Rams
Dallas	Arizona	
Indianapolis	LA Chargers	
Cleveland	Denver	
Pittsburgh	Green Bay	
Tennessee	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score : Buffalo 31 @ NY Jets 17



Tim Murphy
Shawano
Leader

This Week's Picks:

Baltimore	Tampa Bay	LA Rams
Dallas	Arizona	
Indianapolis	LA Chargers	
Cleveland	Denver	
Pittsburgh	Green Bay	
Tennessee	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Buffalo 30 @ NY Jets 16



Dennis Brei
Oconto County
Times Herald

This Week's Picks:

Baltimore	Tampa Bay	LA Rams
Dallas	Arizona	
Indianapolis	LA Chargers	
Cleveland	Denver	
Pittsburgh	Green Bay	
Tennessee	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Buffalo 27 @ NY Jets 13

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Toby
B&C Auto
Recycling

This Week's Picks:

Baltimore	Tampa Bay	LA Rams
Dallas	Arizona	
Indianapolis	LA Chargers	
Cleveland	Denver	
Pittsburgh	Green Bay	
Tennessee	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Buffalo 31 @ NY Jets 28



Iverson's Staff
Iverson's
Piggly Wiggly

This Week's Picks:

Baltimore	Tampa Bay	LA Rams
Dallas	Carolina	
Indianapolis	LA Chargers	
New England	Denver	
Pittsburgh	Green Bay	
Tennessee	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Buffalo 28 @ NY Jets 14



Amber
Smokey Joe's
& JDoggs

This Week's Picks:

Baltimore	Tampa Bay	LA Rams
Dallas	Arizona	
Indianapolis	LA Chargers	
New England	Denver	
Pittsburgh	Green Bay	
Tennessee	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Buffalo 23 @ NY Jets 17



Robert Buss
Buss
Automotive

This Week's Picks:

Baltimore	Tampa Bay	LA Rams
Dallas	Arizona	
Indianapolis	LA Chargers	
Cleveland	Denver	
Pittsburgh	Green Bay	
Tennessee	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Buffalo 31 @ NY Jets 17



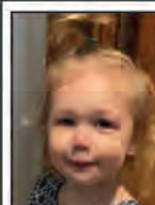
Dena
P&D Sales
& Service

This Week's Picks:

Baltimore	Tampa Bay	LA Rams
Dallas	Arizona	
Indianapolis	LA Chargers	
Cleveland	Denver	
Pittsburgh	Green Bay	
Tennessee	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Buffalo 40 @ NY Jets 17



Caroline
Idell Johnston
State Farm Agent

This Week's Picks:

Baltimore	Tampa Bay	LA Rams
Dallas	Arizona	
Indianapolis	LA Chargers	
Cleveland	Denver	
Pittsburgh	Green Bay	
Tennessee	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Buffalo 28 @ NY Jets 10



Scott Nyman
Cirinity

This Week's Picks:

Baltimore	Tampa Bay	LA Rams
Atlanta	Arizona	
Indianapolis	LA Chargers	
Cleveland	Denver	
Detroit	Green Bay	
Tennessee	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Buffalo 28 @ NY Jets 10



In Memory of
Patty Lasher
Shawano Seasons
Restaurant

This Week's Picks:

Baltimore	Tampa Bay	LA Rams
Dallas	Arizona	
Indianapolis	LA Chargers	
New England	Philadelphia	
Pittsburgh	Green Bay	
New Orleans	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Buffalo 42 @ NY Jets 10



Jim Wiegand
Tower Clock
Eye Center

This Week's Picks:

Baltimore	Tampa Bay	LA Rams
Dallas	Arizona	
Indianapolis	Minnesota	
Cleveland	Denver	
Pittsburgh	Green Bay	
Tennessee	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Buffalo 27 @ Jets 12



Russ
Gehm's
Club 117

This Week's Picks:

Baltimore	Tampa Bay	LA Rams
Dallas	Arizona	
Jacksonville	LA Chargers	
New England	Philadelphia	
Pittsburgh	Seattle	
New Orleans	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Buffalo 25 @ NY Jets 17



Shane Senn
Senn
Insurance

This Week's Picks:

Baltimore	Tampa Bay	LA Rams
Dallas	Arizona	
Indianapolis	LA Chargers	
New England	Denver	
Pittsburgh	Green Bay	
Tennessee	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Buffalo 38 @ NY Jets 10



Brenda
22 Shell

This Week's Picks:

Baltimore	Tampa Bay	LA Rams
Dallas	Arizona	
Indianapolis	LA Chargers	
Cleveland	Denver	
Pittsburgh	Green Bay	
Tennessee	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Buffalo 38 @ NY Jets 17



Chris
God's Purpose
Apparel

This Week's Picks:

Baltimore	Tampa Bay	LA Rams
Dallas	Carolina	
Indianapolis	LA Chargers	
New England	Denver	
Pittsburgh	Green Bay	
Tennessee	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Buffalo 31 @ NY Jets 10



Aaron
Shawano
Place

This Week's Picks:

Baltimore	Tampa Bay	LA Rams
Dallas	Arizona	
Indianapolis	LA Chargers	
Cleveland	Denver	
Pittsburgh	Green Bay	
Tennessee	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Buffalo 21 @ NY Jets 13



Dale
Hawkeye
Hearth & Home

This Week's Picks:

Baltimore	Tampa Bay	LA Rams
Dallas	Arizona	
Indianapolis	LA Chargers	
New England	Denver	
Pittsburgh	Green Bay	
New Orleans	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Buffalo 30 @ NY Jets 20

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Green Bay Football 2021 Season			
SEPTEMBER - REGULAR SEASON			
Sunday, September 12	3:25 pm	@ New Orleans Saints	FOX
Monday, September 20	7:15 pm	DETROIT LIONS	ESPN
Sunday, September 26	7:20 pm	@ San Francisco 49ers	NBC
OCTOBER			
Sunday, October 03	3:25 pm	Pittsburgh Steelers (GOLD)	CBS
Sunday, October 10	NOON*	@ Cincinnati Bengals	FOX
Sunday, October 17	NOON*	@ Chicago Bears	FOX
Sunday, October 24	NOON*	WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM	FOX
Thursday, October 28	7:30 pm	@ Arizona Cardinals	FOX
NOVEMBER			
Sunday, November 07	3:25 pm*	@ Kansas City Chiefs	FOX
Sunday, November 14	3:25 pm*	SEATTLE SEAHAWKS	CBS
Sunday, November 21	NOON*	@ Minnesota Vikings	FOX
Sunday, November 28	3:25 pm*	LOS ANGELES RAMS (GOLD)	FOX
DECEMBER			
BYE WEEK			
Sunday, December 12	7:20 pm*	CHICAGO BEARS	NBC
Sunday, December 19	NOON*	@ Baltimore Ravens	FOX
Saturday, December 25	3:30 pm	CLEVELAND BROWNS	FOX
JANUARY			
Sunday, January 02	7:20 pm*	MINNESOTA VIKINGS	NBC
Sunday, January 09	NOON*	@ Minnesota Vikings	FOX

NOTEBOOK

By **BILL HUBER**

Correspondent

Barnes' breakout

On Oct. 7, the Green Bay Packers signed former Pro Bowl linebacker Jaylon Smith.

"Elite," is how Smith described his game a day later.

"I believe every player has their doubters but, for me, everything I've done up to this point has been legit and I know what kind of player I am," Smith added. "The guys know what kind of player I am. The coaches know. I'm a team guy, and I'm a guy that's going to add value. So, honestly, I'm just head down, working and, when I get an opportunity, producing is the name of the game. So, I'm locked in and I'm ready to add some value."

On Oct. 17, Smith made his Packers debut and played 17 snaps against the Chicago Bears. Smith's playing time was taken from Krys Barnes, who played 47 snaps in week one and at least 23 snaps in three of the first four games. Against the Bears, Barnes played only 13 snaps.

Ultimately, the Smith Reclamation Project didn't work out. After playing 10 snaps against Washington the following week, he was a healthy inactive at Arizona and released last week.

Given a fresh opportunity, Barnes has taken full advantage. He was one of Green Bay's best defensive players while logging 42 snaps against Kansas City.

"I thought Krys was outstanding," coach Matt LaFleur said on Monday. "I thought he was physical. Just did his job, was flying around. I was super-impressed with him. I thought that was his best game he played as a Packer."

Having ceded the every-down role to standout veteran De'Vondre Campbell, Barnes recorded a season-high nine tackles against the Chiefs. Among the splash plays: a goal-line tackle of running back Darrel Williams to momentarily prevent a touchdown on the opening series, a thumping stop near the goal line to prevent a touchdown catch by Williams late in the first half and a tackle for loss against Williams on Kansas City's final possession.

"As a competitor, you always want to be on the field," Barnes said. "But it's such a team game, whoever's on that field, I want (him) to be successful, make plays for this team and help us get a chance to win. At the end of the day, no matter what my feelings are, those feelings don't help me do my job. So, I've got to push whatever feelings I



Green Bay Packers players celebrate a game-sealing takeaway during the game against the Arizona Cardinals on Oct. 28 in Glendale, Arizona. The Packers' defense will look to keep its strong play going against the Seattle Seahawks this weekend.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

have to the side. Jaylon Smith's a great player, he came in and did some great things for us, but that doesn't affect me. I've got to continue to do my job and continue to compete."

Bungling the blitz

This will be a fascinating and unprecedented week for Green Bay. So long as Aaron Rodgers is symptom-free and given the thumb's up by a physician, he'll be cleared from the NFL's COVID-19 protocol on Saturday and able to play against Seattle on Sunday.

During an appearance on The Pat McAfee Show on Friday, Rodgers said he was feeling better after dealing with some early symptoms. So long as Rodgers keeps trending in that direction, he'll be back after a one-game absence. It will be an odd week, with Rodgers' isolation continuing throughout the practice week.

Rodgers has played without practicing before. In 2018, for instance, he suffered a knee injury in the opener against Chicago. He didn't practice before games against Minnesota and Washington but started, as usual. At least he was in the building and on the practice field before those games, though. This week, his preparation will be done via Zoom.

"I have never been through this situation," LaFleur said.

Seattle will prepare to face Rodgers, coach Pete Carroll said.

"It is an interesting situation," he told reporters on Monday. "We're going to prepare like we're going to see their best guys, and that's the way

we'll go, and we'll expect that we'll see Aaron back out there. If that's not the case, then we'll have seen the game of Love and we'll know more about what we need to do there, but we've got to prepare for their best guys. And the way it looks, protocols and format and all that, he should be back out there."

While LaFleur will prepare specific packages for both quarterbacks, Seahawks defensive coordinator Ken Norton will be doing the same. If Love plays, it's certain to be a blitz-heavy scheme. Kansas City destroyed Love with one blitz after another last week. According to Pro Football Focus, Love was 7-of-18 for 40 yards and one touchdown vs. the blitz. The touchdown and half the yards came on Green Bay's final offensive snap, a 20-yard connection to Allen Lazard.

The NFL is a copycat league. Will Norton attack, regardless of the quarterback, to see if Green Bay can handle it, or will he play it more conservatively if Rodgers starts because of his experience, ability to adjust plays and downfield accuracy?

LaFleur took the blame for Love's poor performance — mostly.

"When you have six blockers and they're bringing seven, or you have seven blockers and they're bringing eight, they've got you outnumbered. So, you have to have something within your scheme so that you can beat the blitz," LaFleur said. "We just didn't have enough of that dialed up. But, if you make them pay early in the game, you don't see that anymore."

Barry's bunch

LaFleur's hiring of defensive coordinator Joe Barry came under fire given Barry's defensive rankings in prior stops in Washington and Detroit. However, Barry practically has been a miracle worker. Even with injuries leading to extended absences for All-Pro cornerback Jaire Alexander and Pro Bowl outside linebacker Za'Darius Smith, the Packers enter week 10 ranked sixth in points allowed (20 per game) and fifth in total defense (321.2 per game).

Against Kansas City, the Packers were without Alexander, Smith and rookie cornerback Eric Stokes for the entire game and defensive tackle Kenny Clark for most of the game. And yet, the Packers held the Chiefs to one touchdown and limited them to a Patrick Mahomes-era low of 237 yards.

"I thought our defense as a whole played outstanding," LaFleur said. "That's an explosive offense. We all know that. Outside of the first drive, our defense did as well as you'd ever expect anybody to do. I think anytime you hold an offense like that to 13 points, you should win the game. I thought our defense was flying around. I thought they were physical. I thought they did a great job of handling that whole situation."

"We were really shorthanded on defense going into the game. We only had 21 guys dressed, and now (with Stokes' pregame knee injury) you're down to 20 before you even kick off. Joe Barry, the rest of our defensive coaches, did just an unbelievable job."



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Green Bay Packers quarterback Jordan Love, right, scrambles away from Kansas City Chiefs defensive tackle Chris Jones during the team's matchup on Nov. 7 in Kansas City, Missouri.

CHARLIE RIEDEL | THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Packers' special teams let down Love in loss to Chiefs

By DAVE SKRETTA

The Associated Press

The Green Bay Packers did all they could defensively to help out Jordan Love in his first career start.

Too bad for Love their special teams weren't on board.

In fact, the Packers were so bad on kicks and punts in a 13-7 loss to the Chiefs on Nov. 7 it almost seemed as if they were trying to sabotage the backup quarterback, who was forced to start when Aaron Rodgers tested positive for COVID-19 this week.

There was the 40-yard field-goal attempt that Mason Crosby, their erstwhile sure-footed kicker, missed late in the first quarter that would have made it a 7-3 game, and the 37-yard attempt by Crosby that Chiefs defensive end Alex Okafor swatted away early in the second quarter as Kansas City took a 13-0 lead into the break.

There was the punt that bounced off downfield blocker Malik Taylor, which Kansas City recovered and turned into an easy field goal, and another punt early in the third quarter that Amari Rodgers muffed but was fortunate to recover himself.

Aaron Rodgers would have struggled just as much as Love to overcome that mess.

"I mean, obviously we could have used those six points," Packers coach Matt LaFleur said afterward, "and we basically gave them points when we fumbled the ball. You can't have that happen."

Indeed, the two missed field goals proved to be the difference in the final score.

Not that Love did much to make Green Bay brass feel good about spending a first-round pick on him last year.

He was 19 of 34 for 190 yards with a touchdown in the closing minutes, which at least gave Green Bay (7-2) a chance to keep its seven-game winning streak alive. But he also threw an interception near the Kansas City goal line a few minutes earlier, another mistake that cost the Packers a chance to escape Arrowhead Stadium with a win.

"I mean, what it comes down to is making plays," said Love, the Packers' first-round pick in the 2020 draft, who had thrown just seven regular-season passes before Sunday. "I think if we would have been able to hit one

of the plays against their all-out blitz, you wouldn't have seen it as much. That's all it takes is the one play. But I didn't do enough."

That doesn't mean Love doesn't think he can the next time.

Asked whether he thinks he's ready to be a full-time NFL quarterback, Love replied: "Yes, I do."

Still, the performance puts the Packers in quite a predicament.

Rodgers did little to endear himself to the organization, its fans and the rest of the league this week when it came out that he was unvaccinated — despite claiming to be "immunized" against COVID-19 earlier in the year. His loose adherence to NFL rules for unvaccinated players means there could be additional punishment coming down the line.

His future in Green Bay beyond this season already was murky after he nearly departed this past off-season.

More immediately, there's the fact that Rodgers must test negative to return by Saturday at the earliest. That means a tight window for him to play against Seattle next week; otherwise, Love would get his second career start.

"Jordan will get the reps and we'll see where we're at," LaFleur said. "(Rodgers) is our starting quarterback. It's just, I think he's gone through enough. Yeah, you like guys to practice all week long but I don't think it's absolutely imperative to do that. We just have to make sure he's well in tune with our plan."

At least the Packers' defense did what it could against Kansas City to help Love out on Sunday.

They held Patrick Mahomes to 20-of-37 passing for 166 yards — the fewest in a complete game in his career — and the high-flying Chiefs offense to 237 yards in all. They stuffed them on fourth-and-1 in the first half, held on third-and-goal at the Green Bay 4 to force a field goal later and forced a punt on third-and-1 late in the third quarter.

It was the kind of performance that — at least with Rodgers under center — is usually enough.

"Any time you can hold an offense that explosive to 13 points, I think you had a great night," Packers running back Aaron Jones said. "Most of the time we should win the game when we hold a team to 13 points."

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TRAINING THE FUTURE WORKFORCE

Sharon Barclay, left, takes the "blood pressure" of a training dummy while Ellie Petrella monitors its vitals in a simulation lab at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in Green Bay. The healthcare industry is one of many in the New North region that faces a challenge finding enough workers for available positions. **SEE STORY, PAGE 4.**

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

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Mission: Finding and keeping the workforce of the future

New North aims to bolster economic development over 18 counties

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

Businesses and municipal governments continue to struggle with a basic challenge: There are more jobs available than people to fill them.

“Every discipline that we have, everyone is short of healthcare workers,” said Scott Anderson, dean of health services and education at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College. “In some disciplines, signing bonuses are back.”

Not uncommon is the story of a student who became an intern at a local clinic and was asked if she could stay on after the internship was completed, Anderson said.

NWTC has a variety of programs leading to associate degrees or technical diplomas in the field of health care. About 50% of the training is done in clinical settings and the rest is in simulation labs like the one at NWTC’s main Green Bay campus or Regional Learning Centers like the one in Shawano.

New North, the regional organization that provides marketing and economic development services for 18 counties in Northeast Wisconsin, is in the thick of trying to address the challenge.

“There’s just not enough people to fill the roles and the openings that we have here in the state from an employment standpoint,” said Rebecca Deschane, vice president of talent development at New North.

Deschane recently delivered a well-received presentation at the Wisconsin Counties Association annual conference about recruiting and maintaining the work force of the future.

“What are some of the things you can do at the county level to help create that environment where



Rebecca Deschane is the vice president of talent development at New North, the 18-county marketing and economic development organization serving northeast Wisconsin.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

people want to come,” Deschane said. “How do we create a place that’s going to attract people to you but more importantly how are you going to retain those who already call that home?”

Especially in the northernmost counties, New North has an aging population that’s shrinking all the time, she said. That, and the pandemic-related initiatives that kept people working from home for months, have had a debilitating impact on the job market.

Three key challenges were magnified during the pandemic, Deschane said: child care, transportation, and housing.

For many workers, the lack of affordable child care can be a barrier to

employment. Access to public transportation or an alternative is also a challenge, especially in rural areas, and Deschane told the county leaders that understanding housing availability and needs is a key to growing the local workforce.

In the New North region, she highlighted Winnebago Catch-A-Ride, a volunteer program to help people who are not connected to public transportation get to and from work. Drivers are reimbursed for their mileage and can select the schedule that works best for them.

Deschane came to New North earlier this year after eight years with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp., most recently as talent initiatives coordinator in a joint ef-

fort with the University of Wisconsin System.

Her role at the state agency, and now at New North, has been to connect people who have similar challenges and working toward a solution, sharing with each other to reduce duplication of efforts, she said.

“We have a lot of great things that are happening, but a lot of times they’re happening at a very small level with a small group of folks and other people don’t know about them,” Deschane said.

New North, which covers a wide area, has been exploring ways to share ideas, share training opportunities and just have conversations across the region, she said.

“If we all know what each other is doing, all of a sudden you have that organic growth of the engagement that comes from it,” Deschane said.

The organization obtained a \$500,000 CARES Act funding grant to investigate broadband access across the region, identified as a core business need. The first step is a survey open through Nov. 12 that has received a tremendous response, she said.

New North is working with some consultants and will share the results with counties and providers with a goal of ensuring that broadband is accessible, reliable and available for all across the region.

During her presentation Deschane shared several talent-based initiatives in which New North is collaborating with other private and public organizations.

New North Hires Heroes is a partnership with Mission Wisconsin,

a veteran-owned business that supports transitioning service members and their families as they’re getting ready to leave the military, to connect them with communities and job opportunities.

“We know veterans have those skills that many companies are looking for, especially many of the companies and industries here in the New North region,” Deschane said.

Another initiative is Gener8tor Upskilling, a virtual rapid “reskilling” program for people looking for jobs in high-demand roles in their communities or working remotely for companies across the country. The program supports individuals who were most negatively impacted by pandemic – the hospitality sector, restaurant industry, people who lost their jobs – and retrains them in new fields.

The initiative, in collaboration with Microsoft, the Steve Stricker

Foundation and Thrivent, was recognized as the top 2021 talent initiative in Community and Economic Development by the Wisconsin Economic Development Association.

Deschane said New North is also working with the Cooperative Educational Service Agencies (CESA) on a regional career pathway program, to help convince students coming out of high school about their available options.

“How do we help students in our K-12 schools better understand what careers are available to them here in our region across multiple industry areas,” she said.

She worked with CESA and industry organizations to identify four or five key employment areas and job growth opportunities.

The 2020 U.S. Census found that the region’s population has grown by 50,000 over the past decade, and more diverse – a 46% increase in the

Hispanic population and 61% more African Americans, for example, she said.

New North has submitted applications for Workforce Innovation Grant through the state of Wisconsin for building out ONE New North (Opportunity North for Equity). Deschane said the effort would help create a space and engagement strategies for recruiting Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) workers.

“How do we do a better job of recruiting BIPOC and under-represented individuals into manufacturing?” she said.

Deschane said she is working with manufacturing alliances to do specific training for new job seekers, people coming out of pandemic looking for more stable career opportunities, and those pivoting to new careers.



Northeast Wisconsin Technical College student Sharon Barclay works with a “patient” in a simulation lab at the school’s Green Bay campus. About half of NWTC’s training occurs in labs like this one and half in clinic settings, according to Scott Anderson, dean of Health Services and Education.

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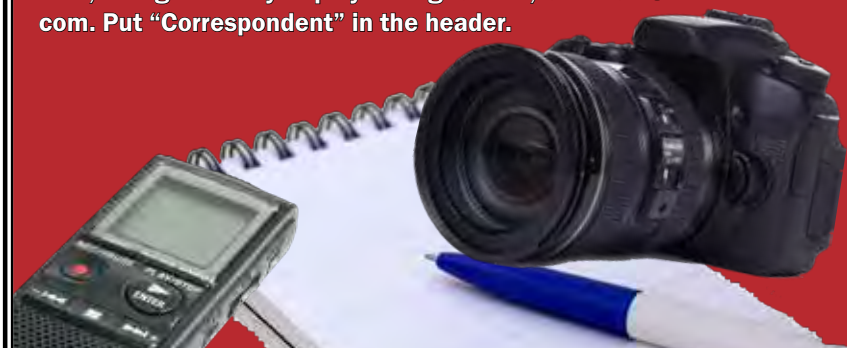
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US employers shrugged off virus and stepped up hiring

By **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — America's employers accelerated their hiring last month, adding a solid 531,000 jobs, the most since July and a sign that the recovery from the pandemic recession is overcoming a virus-induced slowdown.

The Nov. 5 report from the Labor Department also showed that the unemployment rate fell to 4.6% last month from 4.8% in September. That is a comparatively low level though still well above the pre-pandemic jobless rate of 3.5%. And the job gains in August and September weren't as weak as initially reported: The government increased its estimate of hiring for those two months by a hefty combined 235,000 jobs.

All told, the figures point to an economy that is steadily recovering from the pandemic recession, with healthy consumer spending prompting companies in nearly every industry to add workers. Though the effects of COVID-19 are still causing severe supply shortages, heightening inflation and keeping many people out of the workforce, employers are finding gradually more success in filling near record-high job postings.

"This is the kind of recovery we can get when we are not sidelined by a surge in COVID cases," said Nick Bunker, director of economic research at the employment website Indeed. By most barometers, the economic recovery appears solidly on track. Services companies in such

areas as retail, banking and warehousing have reported a sharp jump in sales. Sales of new and existing homes surged last month. And consumer confidence rose in October after three straight declines.

At the same time, though, the nation remains 4.2 million jobs short of the number it had before the pandemic flattened the economy in March 2020. The effects of the virus are still discouraging some people from traveling, shopping, eating out and attending entertainment venues.

In October, the pickup in hiring was spread across nearly every major industry, with only government employers reporting a job loss, mostly in education. Shipping and warehousing companies added 54,000 jobs. The battered leisure and hospitality sector, which includes, restaurants, bars, hotels and entertainment venues, gained 164,000. Manufac-

turers, despite their struggles with supply shortages, added 60,000, the most since June 2020.

And employers, who have been competing to fill jobs from a diminished pool of applicants, raised wages at a solid clip: Average hourly pay jumped 4.9% in October compared with a year earlier, up from 4.6% the previous month. Even a gain that strong, though, is barely keeping pace with recent surges in consumer inflation.

Those price increases pose a headwind for the economy. Higher costs for food, heating oil, rents and furniture have burdened millions of families. Prices rose 4.4% in September compared with 12 months earlier, the sharpest such jump in three decades.

Job prospects are brightening even for people who have been out of work for prolonged periods. The

number of long-term unemployed — people who have been jobless for six months or more — has fallen sharply in recent months, to 2.3 million in October from 4.2 million in April. That's still double the pre-recession total. But it's an encouraging sign because employers are typically wary of hiring people who haven't held jobs for an extended time.

At the same time, disparities in the job market have persisted. The Black unemployment rate was unchanged in October at 7.9%, for example, while for white workers, it fell to 4% from 4.2%. The Latino jobless rate dropped to 5.9% from 6.3%.

And though white-collar jobs in professional services like information technology, engineering and architecture are nearly back to their pre-pandemic employment levels, leisure and hospitality still has 1.4 million fewer jobs.

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Gun Hunting

Guide



NEW MEDIA INC.

2021

Enjoy every hunting opportunity you get

Avid hunters can be in the woods for several months a year if they wanted to.



MORGAN RODE

Take deer hunting for instance. The archery and crossbow season begins in mid-September and runs into January.

There's a youth hunt in early October before the gun seasons kick in.

The nine-day gun season is in late November, while muzzle-loader season is in late November and early December. There's also antlerless hunting opportunities in December.

That's a lot of opportunities to hunt and successfully harvest a deer, but there's also some hunters that can only get out a few days a year.

Whether you get to hunt several

days a week or several times a year, it's important to try and enjoy every minute of hunting you can get.

Filling a tag is the goal, but not filling them can really wear a person out, especially if you are able to hunt plenty of times.

I've found that the best way to view punching tags is as the ultimate high of hunting.

Not every time out in the woods is supposed to result in a harvest and punched tag. It's called hunting, and not killing or harvesting, for a reason.

The next highest success of a hunt is simply seeing the target animal — or any form of wildlife.

There's a chance to see everyday wildlife like squirrels or rabbits, but getting away from town and the rest of civilization can also turn into encounters with things like bears, coyotes or wolves.

So what happens when you get skunked on a hunt and see a whole lot of nothing? It's easy to get frustrated after those hunts, so I've tried to find any sources of happi-

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ness I can.

It could be listening to the woods wake up and hearing birds start chirping as the sun rises.

It could be just taking in the natural beauty the outdoors provides.

Sometimes, hunting is just a chance to take a breather from your everyday life.

I've found that perfectly calm days in the woods is one of the most relaxing things.

Personally, I've had a wide array of deer hunts this year.

There's been a few days that have resulted in seeing several deer and a couple that ended with no sightings at all.

Through it all, I've been able to walk out of the woods with a smile on my face.

On deer-less hunts, it was a chance take a break from work while taking in the sights and

sounds of the woods. Hunts with deer encounters were just a bonus. I'm still waiting for the ultimate high of hunting and being able to fill a tag.

Hopefully, I'll be able to fill a tag or two, but really I'm just looking forward to the next time I can hit the woods again.

Before you know it, the season will have come to an end and then we'll just be left dreaming of the year to come.

So whether you get the chance to embark on hunts several times the rest of the year, or only get out once more, do whatever you can to enjoy the hunt.

Enjoy the beauty of the outdoors and the sights, sounds and smells it provides.

If you see the animal you're after, that's a great day.

If you're able to fill a tag, enjoy it all and cherish every second of the harvest.

Morgan Rode is the sports editor for NEW Media. Readers can contact him at sports@newmedia-wi.com.

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Ammo shortage means making every shot count

Prices for ammo have skyrocketed

By ROSS BIELEMA
Correspondent

You've purchased a top-notch deer rifle with a scope to match. You have the best clothing, knife, backpack, ATV and pickup truck that money can buy. Leave out one important item and your hunt is done.

If you'll been looking for ammo the past few years, you've probably been frustrated and angry. We all faced this problem at least once or twice before, but since the pandemic began, rounds of hunting ammo have been as scarce as the elusive Turdy Point Buck.

If you need a reason, there are plenty to choose from. Ammunition factory workers were sent home for a few months at the height of the pandemic in 2020, but most are back to work now and those plants are cranking out cartridges around the clock, according to industry sources.

Yes, Remington went bankrupt, filing for Chapter 11 protection for the second time on July 27, 2020, and a few months later, a judge divvied up the legendary company's assets. Vista Outdoor Inc. paid \$81.4 million for the ammunition portion of the business, and has been cranking out ammo almost from the start.

Record numbers of newcomers bought their first firearms in 2020 and 2021, fearing both the spontaneous rioting we saw in towns from Seattle to Kenosha, and the promised gun control laws from President Joe Biden and his allies.

Local sporting goods store managers explained some of the ramifications of ammo shortages for deer hunters this fall as well as some of the other



This .308 Match ammo is among the few hunting ammunition choices recently at the Fleet Farm store in Oshkosh. Hunters have faced an extreme ammo shortage the past few years, searching far and wide for popular deer hunting rounds like the .30-06, .270, 30-30, .308, .243 and most others. ROSS BIELEMA

impacts it has had on other shooting sports. It's also affected how they order ammo.

"The hunting ammo is very, very sparse right now," said Seth Gyldenvand, general manager at Dunham's in Shawano. "I get a little and it's gone almost immediately," noting he had a small amount of .30-06 and .243 that flew off the shelves quickly. "We've had no 30-30 ammo in a year and no .270 in forever."

His store, like so many chain stores in the state and country, have no real say in what's coming in and simply take what they can get and sell it fast, often for two to four times the price it was prior to the pandemic.

At Butch's Archery in rural Embarrass, which also sells new and used guns and ammo, manager Justin Steinke said he ordered about 10 times the normal amount of hunting ammo back in February and March, expecting to receive a fraction of his wholesale orders.

"I have not received 30-30 ammo for a year," Steinke said. "I have more orders than I can pay for. We all know we are not going to get all we ordered. They are just not arriving."

Some of his wholesalers will call him and say they can offer him a box of .30-06 here or three boxes of .308 there, when he would normally receive multiple 10-box cases of ammo.

One major contributor of the ammo shortage, according to Steinke and many other experts in national firearms magazines, is hoarding. Whenever hunters and other shooters find ammo, they'll buy it, even if they already have a good supply at home, Steinke noted.

"The consumers right now are their own worst enemies," he said. "People need to stop buying it."

Those who manage to find ammo they don't really need immediately also sell it on national online sites like Gun Broker or Guns America, often making 300 or 400 percent profits. This has happened in past years with .22 Long Rifle and .223 ammo, which ironically now seem to be in relatively good supply.

Some small retailers have even bought ammo from customers to stock their shelves, and Steinke noted that rarely seen brands from foreign lands are now showing up, too. For example, he has some imported ammo called PPU in .308 soft point for about \$24 per box of 20, which he says is similar in quality to Remington's Core-Lokt, an extremely popular hunting round.

"We are trying our best to hold our integrity with our prices," he said.

Wholesalers continue to raise prices and retailers must follow suit to maintain profit margins. A box of Core-Lokt .300 Winchester Magnum loads that sold for \$31 last year now wholesales for the same price, so he must charge \$41.

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Gillett hunting ranch makes antlered dreams come true

Apple Creek Whitetails
also conducting
ground-breaking
CWD research

By **ROSS BIELEMA**
Correspondent

There's a high-fence deer hunting ranch in rural Gillett that makes it easier for you to harvest the buck of a lifetime.

No matter what you think of hunting captive-bred trophies, there's something even bigger happening at Apple Creek Whitetails that could one day dramatically reduce or even end the spread of CWD, according to operations manager Jon Pieper.

When Chronic Wasting Disease showed up at the 1,500-acre hunting ranch and captive breeding operation in September 2016, it was the first time the disease was detected in Oconto County. A feeding and baiting ban was implemented that November.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources normally requires deer farms or ranches with CWD to quickly kill and dispose of the entire herd, Pieper explained. But he and owner Scott Follett were able to convince the DNR to instead allow research on the disease.

Now, scientists from Texas A&M, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and other researchers use the hunting ranch as a living laboratory, and they've already made some amazing progress, according to Pieper.

For the past three to five years, Apple Creek has been using humic acid, a substance from decomposed rainforests that is collected in New Mexico, as both a deer food supplement and as a top dressing on the land, he explained. Humic acid is the only known substance found to kill the prions, or CWD proteins, that thrive in soil contaminated by CWD-infected deer and are spread to others.

"This would be amazing for the



A whitetail buck lays in front of the Apple Creek Whitetails sign in Gillett.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA



A whitetail buck stands in the woods on the Apple Creek Whitetails property in Gillett.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

entire white-tailed deer industry, as well as wild deer," he said.

The other element of CWD research is isolating the genetic

code of CWD-resistant deer on the ranch, using methods that were previously used to combat scrapie, a similar disease that affects sheep. Scrapie is also a prion-based fatal degenerative disease called a TSE (transmissible spongiform encephalopathy).

The use of humic acid at Apple Creek seems to be working, Pieper said.

"We don't see the physical effects on our deer," he said, referring to the classic "wasting" symptoms (emaciation, dehydration, inability to stand).

Although the research is far from over, Pieper hopes for a day when humic acid can be applied to deer feed, and administered to wild deer by reversing the bans on baiting and feeding of deer (currently banned in 57 counties). Oconto County has only captive CWD-positive deer, while Shawano County has both wild and captive CWD-positive deer, according to a DNR map. Visit <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/hunt/bait.html> to see the counties with baiting and feeding bans.

"We take the blame for CWD,

but it was first found in wild elk,” he said.

Pieper added that there has never been a documented case of a human contracting CWD by eating CWD-infected meat.

Apple Creek offers three-day guided hunts for hunters of almost any age and ability. Pieper and his 14 other guides have had clients as young as age 5, and seven of their 37 stands (including heated box blinds as well as ladder or hang-on stands and pop-up blinds) are handicapped-accessible.

When you pay \$4,000 to \$15,000 for a hunt (the price is based on the scoring of the trophy you shoot), expect top-notch accommodations and meals.

Their lodge has six bedrooms, a Hillside Hideaway has three and a private cabin sleeps two. The leisurely hunt includes plenty of meals, time for sighting in your favorite rifle, bow, crossbow or muzzleloader, and relaxing. Meat processing is included, but the on-site taxidermy service is extra.

The ranch can handle 10 to 12 hunters at a time and sees about 200 hunters per season. The hunt itinerary and testimonials are included on the ranch's website at www.applecreekwhitetails.com.

The 100-acre captive breeding facility has about 30 generations of breeding “big on big.” Pieper said they maintain pedigrees on all their captive deer, much like prized hunting or show dogs. Although buck semen is bought and sold between other captive-breeding operations, it's actually the does that carry the buck's genetics. It can take three generations of breeding to duplicate a giant buck from the past.

Pieper, who has been with the ranch for 11 years, said he's gotten pretty good at judging trophy bucks in the field. In the past four years, he's never been more than 10 points off (deer are scored using the Safari Club International measurement system).

At Apple Creek, there's a 99% chance of seeing a trophy buck and a 90% chance of getting the one you want.

Here's another surprise: 90% of the deer there were born on the property and behave like wild deer. Of the estimated 2,000 total deer, some aren't seen until they wander out of the swampy areas during the rut this month.

“The high fence is there to keep other hunters out,” Pieper said. “All these deer act the same as a wild deer.”



Apple Creek Whitetails offers top-notch accommodations and meals along with its hunts.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

You don't need a hunting license or deer permits, since it's a game farm. And the season there lasts from mid-August through Feb. 1. That's because bucks start shedding their coveted antlers in January.

If you can't afford a hunt, you can buy some of the massive shed antlers, although it's rare to find a matching pair, Pieper said.

And if you just have a taste for venison but don't want the fuss or mess, you are welcome to dine on venison pizza, a venison bacon BLT or a venison brat at Apple Creek's new Primal Eats restaurant, which opened in May. Smoked brisket and pulled pork are signature dishes, too.

You can take some venison sausage, brats or sticks home, too, as Primal Eats brand deer products are made on site and available at Festival Foods. Primal Eats is open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

With all those trophy deer wandering the oaks, pines and swamps of Apple Creek, what's the biggest buck taken there?

Would you believe the world-record SCI non-typical, a 5-year-old monster that scored 610 points.

Owner Follett took the trophy in 2013. You can see both the original rack and replicas at the ranch.



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Fall wolf hunt on hold after judge's ruling

DNR said to have never made a permanent rule to regulate wolf hunt

By ROSS BIELEMA
Correspondent

Wolf hunters anxious to resume a brief fall tradition are waiting for the state or some other governmental agency to make a decision after a judge suspended the hunt.

In October, just a few days before the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources was scheduled to contact successful wolf permit holders, Dane County Circuit Court Judge Jacob Frost sided with animal rights groups seeking to overturn the 2012 state law that authorized and required an annual wolf hunt. His decision was based on those hunts operating under an emergency rule, even though he believes those seasons are no longer an emergency and therefore unconstitutional.

Frost agreed with an attorney for Animal and Earth Advocates of Seattle that the DNR has never made a permanent rule to regulate the wolf hunt.

The state attorney general's office argued that it is not the legislature's role to order the DNR to have a wolf hunt, and the animal rights-based lawsuit is only about how the DNR is implementing the law.

In response to a September lawsuit filed by six Ojibwe tribes to stop the hunt, a federal judge on Oct. 29 heard arguments but refused to take any action while the state court ruling was pending. Thus all hunters and the state seem to be in limbo pending any further state legislation or DNR action.

Brian "Ratt" Nicks, a Medford-area hunting guide who runs treeing Walker hounds for bear, bobcat and wolf hunting, said one fact seems lost on the judges and their decisions: The management goal for the total statewide wolf population is 350 animals, and there are an estimated 1,200 now.

"I'm bent about the fact that they totally avoid that fact," he said. "I'm upset that they can drop an animal in your yard and say 'Enjoy it.'"

He believes the overall annual wolf harvest goal should be 1,000, not 200.

The other problem with the current wolf management approach is that Indian tribes are generally allocated



Wolf hunters are waiting on a judge's ruling after the 2021 season was put on hold after a judge agreed with an attorney for Animal and Earth Advocates of Seattle that the DNR has never made a permanent rule to regulate the wolf hunt.

WISCONSIN DNR

about half the harvest quota, but their spiritual beliefs oppose killing of any wolf.

"If the Indians want wolves on the reservation, go ahead, and if they (wolves) come off the reservation, we should be able to shoot them," Nicks said.

This fall's wolf quota was set at 130 wolves, including 56 permits for the Ojibwe tribes, who do not hunt wolves, and the remaining 74 for statewide hunters and trappers. The Natural Resources Board initially approved a 300-wolf quota, but the DNR rejected it.

Nicks has at least 10 hunters interested in a fall hunt with him. He and his dogs were able to help hunters harvest nine wolves in 2½ days in February, when Hunter Nation Inc., a Kansas-based hunter advocacy group, used the courts to force a hunt. Jefferson County Judge Bennett Brantmeier ruled in February that the DNR failed to meet its legal obligation to hold a wolf hunt, sending the DNR scrambling to issue permits and otherwise manage a hunt that was by state law supposed to begin in November and end on the last day of February.

Statewide, hunters and trappers

harvested 218 wolves in less than 72 hours, suggesting that wolves may be more plentiful than biologists believe. Although the February harvest exceeded the state quota, it's just 18% of the 1,195 wolves the DNR believes populate the state.

The Natural Resources Board had set the February quota outside the Indian reservations at 200, with 119 allocated for the state and 81 to the Ojibwe tribes to comply with treaty rights. There were 2,380 permits made available for chosen hunters/trappers.

Wisconsin started its modern wolf hunting in 2012, after wolves were federally delisted from the threatened species list on Jan. 27, 2012. The Midwestern wolf population has exceeded recovery goals for many years, according to the DNR website. Gray wolves were moved from endangered to threatened status in 2003 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In the 2012-13 season, hunters and trappers harvested 117 wolves. The following year, the harvest was up 119% to 257 wolves, including 180 trapped and 77 shot. In 2014-15, 154 wolves were taken, a 60% decrease from the previous year.

A federal spending bill in 2015 failed

to include a plan to remove the wolf from federal protection, thus maintaining federal court decisions that ruled state management plans in Wisconsin and three other states did not protect wolves enough.

There was no wolf hunt in Wisconsin from 2015 through 2020, and livestock and pet owners have seen the growing population prey upon their cattle, sheep, horses and dogs. In the first seven months of 2020, the DNR reported 34 confirmed and 64 reported wolf conflicts, according to the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel. By comparison, the same conflict totals for the same period in 2019 were 16 confirmed and 37 reported; 18 and 39, respectively, in 2018; and 20 and 37, respectively, in 2017.

In addition, there were five reports of wolves threatening humans in 2020, equaling the total number of human threats in the three previous years. The state has paid out \$2.7 million between 1985 and 2020 for lost livestock and pets killed by wolves, according to Wisconsin State Farmer.

For more information on the impacts of wolves on farmers and dog owners, visit www.wisconsinwolfacts.com.

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