

OCONTO COUNTY TIMES HERALD



GREEN & GOLD

Don't look now, but the Packers' playoff chances have risen from negligible to 30%.

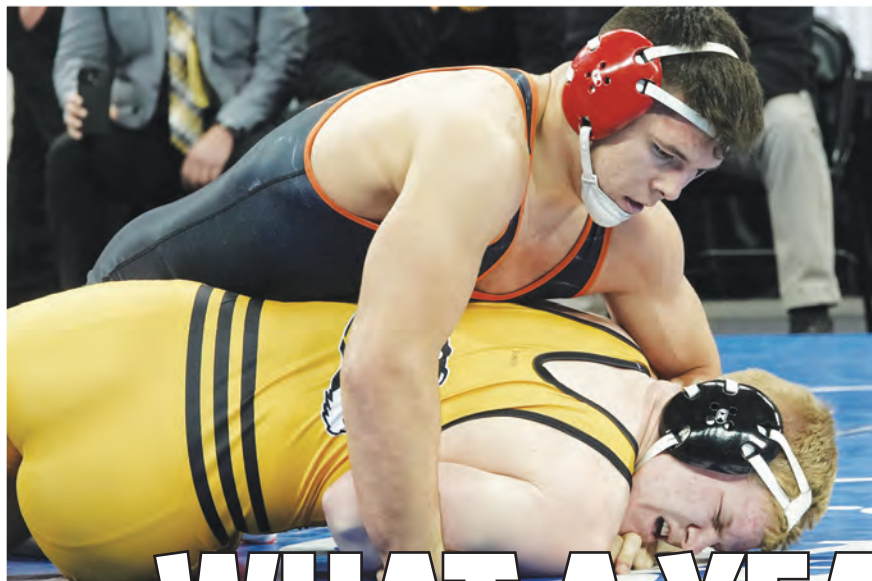
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Friday, December 30, 2022

4 Sections, 60 Pages

Volume 21, Issue 52 \$1



WHAT A YEAR THAT WAS

The top 10 news and sports stories of 2022

Clockwise from upper left, Oconto Falls senior Clayton Whiting records another win on his way to his fourth state wrestling championship; the Suring School Board hears from unhappy residents over controversial searches of students; Jim Moynihan, Oconto Falls Class of 1955, checks out the 65-year-old boilers at Washington Middle School; an Oconto County Sheriff's squad car flounders in flood waters after a culvert washes away part of County Road A on June 12. Top 10 news stories begin on Page A2, and Top 10 sports on Page B6.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

NEWS

Menominee Indian High School students march in memory of Restoration Day.

PAGE A15

SPORTS

Pulaski soccer team wins sportsmanship award at state tournament.

PAGE B3

LIVING

Lena Lions hand out Educator and Community Service awards at banquet.

PAGE C9



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piggly wiggly



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Student search controversy leads top 10 stories of 2022



Suring Superintendent Kelly Casper leaves an Oconto County courtroom after the criminal complaint against her was dismissed June 21. FILE | NEW MEDIA

DA office woes, town board recall, new middle school also among year's leaders

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

Every year has its share of triumphs and tribulations, and 2022 was no different for Oconto County, as reflected in the top 10 news stories of the year as selected by NEW Media staff.

The tribulations early in the year for the Suring Area School District were chosen as the top story of the year. Close behind was Oconto County's empty district attorney's office, which helped lead to a backlog of trials that is finally clearing up as the new year begins, and the turmoil that led to the recall of two of the three members of the Morgan Town Board.

The rest of the top 10 includes: prospects for a new middle school in Oconto Falls; a hellacious night of rain that led to the rescue of a sheriff's deputy as county roads were washed out; and a positive outlook for expanding a Northwoods library.

1. Superintendent charged, acquitted, resigns

After a group of Suring students

were caught vaping in January, Superintendent Kelly Casper searched them to retrieve the devices, and the search included having them strip to their underwear in front of Casper and a school nurse.

More than three dozen parents came to the Feb. 9 school board meeting to object to the searches, and a larger crowd attended a special meeting March 2 when, after an hour of emotional statements and a closed session, Casper was placed on administrative leave.

She was charged with six felony counts of false imprisonment, but Judge Marc Hammer dismissed those charges June 21. He said he was unable to find evidence in the criminal complaint that the students objected to their confinement or that Casper knew she had no authority to confine them, two key elements to finding probable cause to level charges.

The Suring School Board approved a resignation/separation agreement with Casper, effective June 30, following a closed session June 8. In August, the board hired Paul Orlich, who had

been superintendent in Mishicot.

Through it all, Suring teachers and students kept doing what they do best. When the state Department of Public Instruction released its annual school report cards in the fall, Suring High School was rated a five-star school with a score of 84.2, best among the 27 high schools in CESA 8.

2. Stress on the county court system

Oconto County Circuit Court began 2022 struggling to overcome the effects of decisions made to suspend most jury trials during the pandemic, and then the system sustained two personnel blows.

First, Assistant District Attorney Lisa Rowe was offered a position in the Dane County District Attorney's Office, and she left the county in April. Rowe does plan to continue working on several of her more complicated Oconto County cases through trial.

A couple of months later, District Attorney Ed Burke experienced a serious health issue and went on medical leave, and the Oconto office was left without a full-time attorney. Assistant

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.



Oconto County District Attorney Ed Burke went on medical leave in early summer and decided to retire effective Sept. 1. FILE | NEW MEDIA



HANNAH SCHUCHART

1. In mid-October Gov. Tony Evers tabbed Hannah Schuchart, an ADA from Brown County, to fill Burke's un-

expired term through the end of 2024. district attorneys, mostly from Brown County, helped keep the system afloat, but major trials were again put on hold.

Burke, 63, was on his way to recovery but decided it was time to retire from office, effective Sept.



A large solar energy farm proposal sparked an outcry and the recall of two Morgan Town Board members July 12. FILE | NEW MEDIA

expired term through the end of 2024.

Rowe's former position, however, remains unfilled as the new year approaches. In fact, more than 40 openings currently exist for ADAs across Wisconsin's 72 counties. The Oconto County Board on Oct. 20 passed a resolution asking the state to increase the entry-level wage for assistant district attorneys.

3. Morgan Town Board recall

As 2021 was drawing to a close, emotions were building between the Morgan Town Board and opponents of a proposed solar farm.

A company called NextEra Energy announced in 2021 that it plans to seek regulatory approval for a 150-megawatt solar array that would tie into an existing substation along CCC Road near

County C in Morgan. The town board told concerned residents in October that this is a state issue and out of their control.

That stance led to several rancorous meetings through the winter, and petitions circulated in March and April gathered signatures seeking the recall of Supervisor Leonard Wahl and Town Chairman Fran Wranosky.

When the recall election was held July 12, Wranosky and Leonard Wahl were defeated by Rob Berg and Jeffrey Folts, respectively. Clerk Julie Belongia and Treasurer Cindy Smith had announced their resignations the night before, saying they no longer felt they had their neighbors' trust.

4. Oconto Falls approves new middle school

Parts of Washington Middle School in Oconto Falls are more than a century old, dating to when it was the high school, and a large area was rebuilt after a devastating 1957 fire. The community seemed to agree it was long past time to replace the old building.

There was some disagreement, however, about what other projects the district needed to address. In April, voters rejected a \$49.9 million referendum question that included a \$31 million middle school and several other

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building and maintenance issues.

The district tried again in November. Inflation had increased the new school's cost to nearly \$35 million, but the list of other projects was pared back, and the \$37.6 million referendum passed easily.

A planning process has begun, starting with arranging the financing and assembling a design team that is expected to finalize plans for the new middle school across County Road I from Oconto Falls High School. The goal is to open the new facility for the 2025-26 school year.

5. Little Suamico man charged in double homicide

A horrifying discovery was made Oct. 2 when deputies were called to 1251 Melissa Blvd. in Little Suamico and found the bodies of Paul R. Brennan, 75, and his wife, Lori (Steinmetz) Brennan, 55, outside their mobile home with multiple gunshot wounds.

Lori Brennan's son, David Steinmetz, was identified as a person of interest a short time later, and he was apprehended in the parking lot of Thompson's County Market in Oconto not long after that.

Steinmetz, 27, was charged with two counts of first-degree intentional homicide and one count of possession of a firearm by a person convicted of a felony. During a brief initial court appearance Oct. 21, Judge Jay N. Conley set bail at \$1 million cash.

His next court appearance is scheduled for Jan. 12.

6. Bonfire explosion sends dozens to hospital

It's still not entirely clear how many people were injured when a Pulaski High School homecoming bonfire went horribly wrong the night of Oct. 14. Not long after midnight, the Brown County Emergency Dispatch Center reported to Shawano County that hospitals were reporting a rash of burn victims.

One of the victims told hospital officials that the injuries were from a bonfire explosion at a home on Cedar Drive in the Town of Maple Grove. It appeared that an accelerant was applied to the fire, which caused it to expand out of control.

The sheriff's department reported that at least 17 victims had been located, but several sources said more than 30 students and alumni in the Pulaski Community School District were injured. Further, it was reported that six were burned badly enough to need treatment at St. Mary's Hospital's burn center in Milwaukee.

Sheriff-elect George Lenzner said in a Nov. 14 press release that the



An Oconto County Sheriff's Department squad car was wrecked May 12 when the pavement on County Road A gave way as he drove over a culvert that had been compromised by rushing flood waters. He and his K-9 partners escaped without injury, but the road remained closed for weeks.

OCONTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Shawano County Sheriff's Department was forwarding charges against a 17-year-old Green Bay boy and a 16-year-old Pulaski boy for review, including second-degree reckless injury and injury by negligent handling of fire. The department also forwarded charges against the homeowner, who was present during the incident.

7. Mother Nature's fury strikes

Severe thunderstorms and high winds struck northern Oconto County around sunset May 12, with up to 3 inches of rain that caused flash flooding in several areas.

An Oconto County sheriff's deputy escaped injury at the height of the storm when the pavement collapsed under his squad car on County Road A east of Erickson Road in the Town of Maple Valley.

Sgt. Chad Angus was in the car with K-9 officers Riggs and Barron in the back. After Angus got out, Chris Burg, Highway Department patrol superintendent, arrived and worked with the sergeant to rescue the dogs before the water washed the disabled vehicle into the woods next to the highway.

It took until June 23, after a new culvert arrived to replace the one that washed out in the storm, before that

stretch of County Road A reopened. A similar washout on County Road B was fixed a few weeks later.

8. School board president defeated

In addition to defeating a school referendum in April, voters swept longtime Oconto Falls School Board president Ron Leja out of office after 33 years, instead choosing recently appointed board member Sarah Schindel and newcomer Chad Earley.



RON LEJA

At his final board meeting April 11, Leja remembered a similar night.

"About 30 years ago, I did get voted off when we ran another referendum for about \$13 million," Leja said. "We ended up doing less 10 years later for \$28 million. So when taxpayers think they're going to save some money, they more than doubled their burden at that time."

9. New city administrator hired

Peter Wills' career in economic development and municipal manage-



PETER WILLS

ment brought him home.

Wills started his new job as Oconto Falls city administrator on July 11, succeeding Vicki Roberts, who resigned earlier in the year. A native of Abrams, he is a

proud member of the Oconto Falls High School Class of 1992.

"I'm certainly familiar with the area," he said, having worked for Senn Landscaping as a teenager. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay with a degree in business and political science and worked first in the banking industry and later economic development. Most recently, he was city administrator in Brillion.

Wills also was executive director for several years for Progress Lakeshore in Manitowoc County.

10. Library expansion advances

Lakes Country Public Library in Lakewood is in the midst of an initiative to renovate and expand.

With an increased need for the library's services, it is looking to expand to nearly double its current size. That would include a teen area with books and activities, expanded office space, expanded floor space for additional books and materials and a couple of extra meeting rooms to meet the demand of community organizations looking for a place to gather.

As the year ends, the campaign is entering a new phase, with the library board asking architect Jeff Musson to find a general contractor for the project.

Other 2022 news stories that didn't quite make the top 10:

- Bug Tussel and Oconto County agreed to partner on a \$16.5 million project to expand broadband access across the county.

- The Gillett School District also lost a referendum question in April and came back to pass an initiative in November.

- HSHS St. Clare Hospital in Oconto Falls celebrated its 100th anniversary with a special visit by Green Bay Catholic Bishop David Ricken

- Philip and Laura Fingers, who were selected as Wisconsin Outstanding Young Farmers a year earlier, were named National Outstanding Young Farmers for 2022.

- An ongoing bus driver shortage led the Oconto Falls School District to stop busing students who live within a mile of school.

OBITUARIES

Wayne A. Sleeter

Wayne A. Sleeter, 56, of Suring, passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 24, 2022.

Wayne was born to Fred and Cheryl Sleeter on Feb. 10, 1966, in Oconto Falls. He was a supportive father, a devoted grandfather, the best brother, a caring uncle and a dependable friend, always. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran, serving four years stationed at Hurlburt Field Air Force Base in Florida. He graduated from Troy State University in Alabama with a bachelor's degree in computer science in 1993. He worked as the Technology Services Director of Oconto County for the past 22 years and served on the Suring School Board for 21 years in a number of different roles, serving the last seven years as president.

Wayne was a proud pillar of the Suring community. He also coached for multiple sports including basketball (many 3-on-3 tournaments)



Suring Eagles.

Wayne enjoyed spending time with family and reminiscing on the old times while creating new memories. He spent time driving his John Deere tractor with his grandson, Emmet, and playing board games with his granddaughter, Henley. He also attended the Hodag Country Fest in Rhinelander annually with friends and family. He enjoyed relaxing on his front porch while listening to a good song (usually Sammy Kershaw). His biggest fear was birds but he

and little league (F&M/Citizens Bank) while his daughters attended Suring Public School District. He was an avid sports fan, and he loved the Packers, Brewers, Bucks, Badgers and the

loved watching them enjoy his bird feeders from the safety of his living room.

Wayne is survived by his three daughters, Stevie Sleeter (Matthew Carlson), Jordyn (Dustin) Ermis and Greta Sleeter (Joshuah Reed), his granddaughter, Henley Ermis, his grandson, Emmet Ermis, and his partner, Kelly Sailer. He is also survived by his parents, Fred and Cheryl Sleeter, and his sister Kelly (Mark) Fisher, along with his nephew Tyler Fisher, niece Autumn Fisher, and various aunts, uncles and cousins.

Wayne was preceded by his maternal grandparents, Oscar and Ruth Tachick; paternal grandparents, Harold and Martha Sleeter; uncles,

Bob Sleeter, Dale Sleeter and Elger Hoffman; aunts, Rena Hoffman, Betty Kopatz; cousins, Andy Sleeter, Mike Sleeter and Janet Sleeter.

Family and friends are invited to attend funeral services on Friday, Dec. 30, 2022, at the Red Maple Golf Course in Suring from 1 p.m. until the memorial service at 4 p.m., with Pastor Steve Anthes officiating. The family requests attendees wear Green Bay Packers apparel, as it was one of Wayne's

faves. Military honors will follow the service. Wayne will be interred at Hickory Cemetery. Gruetzmacher Funeral Home in Suring is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences can be expressed at www.gruetzmacherfuneralhome.com.



Judith M. Steffens

In loving memory and celebration of life for Judith Margaret (Rosenberg) Steffens.

Born October 6, 1939, Judy left us peacefully at home with family by her side on Dec. 20, 2022, at the age of 83.

Judy loved to garden, enjoyed watching her birds and other wildlife. Her favorite time of the year was the fall season. She would take the kids on a road trip to see all the beautiful fall colors. Decorating for Christmas was also a joy of hers, which included numerous Christmas lights; she especially loved hiding the green pickle in the tree. She was extremely talented and enjoyed cooking, crocheting, crafts, and of course making all of these incredibly intricate cakes for weddings and occasions. She was dedicated to church and played organ for the choir for many years.

She is survived by her husband Gary (Kelly) Steffens of 64 years. Their children, Fonda (Scott) Fischer, Kelli (Kory) Lax, Gary (Carole) Steffens, Matt (Cathy) Steffens, Chris (Sean) Gabriel, David (Shanda) Steffens, Daniel (Amy) Steffens, Jessica (Alvin) Noche. Nineteen (19) grandchildren, Tanya, Leah, Bryan, Chelsie, Shannon, Amanda, Miriah, Lacey, Olivia, Matthew, Emily, Isaac, Cory, Jesse, Issabella, Tristan, Trenton, Rylee and Brady. Twelve (12) great-grandchildren, Abigale, Levi, Payton, Josyah, Ava, Vivianne, Finn, Harper, Matthew,



sisters-in-law, Barb, Noni, Judy (Marv) and SueAnn (Richard). And nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her daughter Sandra, parents Dorothy (Blaser) Rosenberg and Norbert Rosenberg. Father-in-law and mother-in-law Matthew and Deloris Steffens, her sister Bonnie, brothers David and Doug, brothers-in-law John, Robert, Gary "Buck" and Maynard (Patsy) Steffens. And nieces and nephews.

Family and friends visited Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022, from 3-7 p.m. at Jones Funeral Service, 107 S. Franklin St., Oconto Falls, and Thursday, Dec. 29, from 9-11 a.m. at St. Anthony Catholic Church, 253 N. Franklin St., Oconto Falls. Mass of Christian Burial followed at 11 a.m. Burial will be at St. Anthony Cemetery, 830 S. Main St., Oconto Falls.

Special thanks to the staff at Rennes Health and Rehab-West in Peshtigo for their wonderful care for Judy. Her family cannot thank them enough.

Oakley, Landon and Rylin. And one great-great-grandchild, Charlee. Three sisters, Jeanne, Kathy and Carol (Tom). Two brothers, Dennis (Chris) and Gary (Judy). Four

George A. Rathsack Jr., age 86, of Kelly Lake, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 22, 2022, after a short illness, with his wife by his side. George was born April 1, 1936, to the late George Rathsack Sr. and Ruebelle Yankee Rathsack Gratton.

George is survived by his wife of 58 years, Betty Ann (Kalbes) Rathsack; brother, Robert (Connie) Rathsack, Little Suamico; sister, Mary Ann Gratton Hanek, Idaho Falls, Idaho; sister-in-law, Darlene Komorous (partner, Robert Smetana), Placitas, New Mexico; nieces and nephews, Sonja (Albert) Kelly of Gilbert, Arizona, Billy Rathsack of Oconto Falls, Sara Rathsack of Green Bay, Jonathan Rathsack of Green Bay and Teresa (Tim) Bruun of Idaho Falls, Idaho; grand-nieces and nephews, Cade Rathsack of



is further survived by friends and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Per George's request, no services will be held. George will be interred at Pine Hill Cemetery beside his mother. Gruetzmacher Funeral Home in Suring is assisting the family

with arrangements. Online condolences can be expressed at www.gruetzmacherfuneralhome.com.



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Shawano schools strategic plan getting updates

Administrators tweaking goals after many of them were not achieved this year

By **LEE PULASKI**

City Editor

Shawano School District could be revamping its strategic plan after a review of the latest goals showed many, especially those geared toward student success, were not achieved.

Only one of the six goals laid out under student success was achieved. That goal was to have a four-year graduation rate of 94% or higher as reported on the state report cards, and Shawano had a 94.3% graduation rate.

The other five goals were the following:

- Exceeding or significantly exceeding expectations on the state report card as a district. Olga Brenner Intermediate School exceeded expectations as an individual school, but the overall district score only met expectations.

- Meeting or exceeding the state average in literacy and math as measured by state assessments. Shawano's scores were below the state

average.

- Chronic absenteeism rate for the district of 89 or higher as reported on the report card. Shawano's absenteeism rate was 85.7.

- A score of 85 or higher for being on-track for high school graduation. Shawano's score was 81.4.

- Having 90% of all students meet their growth percentage as measured by the Star Assessment. Shawano was below 90%.

The strategic plan was initially developed two years ago through community groups, according to interim Superintendent Kurt Krizan, with it ending in 2038, when the children born in 2020 would be graduating from high school. That prompted district officials to develop goals for each year to determine whether the strategic plan was progressing. The goals were shared with the Shawano School Board early in 2022, Krizan said.

"We determined that either the goals were not met, or they were written in a way that was not achiev-

able or measurable in a year's time," Krizan said. "We have some baseline data, and we have some areas that we need to improve upon."

He told the board it might be better to set up goals and processes that can be achieved in a five-year period rather than setting goals, especially unattainable ones, on an annual basis.

"Some of the work that we've been doing as a leadership team is a draft of a strategic plan that will take us from 2022 to 2027 and looking at some of those goals as we go through," Krizan said. "We're talking about honoring the work of the previous strategic plan group but also tying in some of the history that we have as well, so that we have something that represents the district for the next five years."

He added that being a school district that overall exceeds state standards or better is a goal Shawano should continue to strive toward.

Board member Karen Smith applauded Krizan's efforts to revise the

plan, noting that it didn't originally come about with all the input from community members who participated.

"Talking with some of the community members who were in that group, they said they felt like their voice was not really represented when the final document came out," Smith said. "The first time I saw the current strategic plan was when it was presented in the board packet. It was a lot of words, and some of it wasn't measurable, like you said. So I applaud you and your team for coming back around and celebrating what had been done, but realizing we need to take some of the good and refine it so it's reasonable."

Board member Mart Grams agreed with Smith's assessment of the original strategic plan.

"The original strategic plan was just babble," Grams said. "It didn't say anything, like most strategic plans don't do."

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Gas Pumps & Signs: Unrestored Wayne 615 visible gas pump from the 1920's, Wayne 32 Curbside gas pump from the 1910's, Bennett 1500 curbside pump, Diamond 51x36" gasoline-motor oil double sided porcelain sign, 1950 "Ask for Wolf's Head Oil" tin sign, 1954 Valvoline Motor Oil 12x60" tin sign, Gilbert & Barker 62 lubester, 1936 Socony-Vacuum porcelain 2-sided sign with "Flying Red Horse", Attendant hat with Mobil Pegasus, 1950 & 51 Mobil lubrication charts, Socony Mobil Oil Co. dealer award, 1960's Pontiac & Chevy II manuals, 1920's license plates, 1930's Amber Glass visor, 1937 Ford teardrop headlight glass, Sm Good Year blimp, Lollipop bases, New Old Stock 1948 PURE porcelain pump signs, O'Neil's Velvet motor oil rocker can, Tokheim glass tank float, Copper tank floats, Red Crown stencil, 70 octane banner, Brass nozzles & spouts, Glass oil bottle, Rocker can in cage, Collection of 5gal Oil Cans including Wadham's, Texas Co & Standard, 1924 cast iron octagon STOP sign, Embossed street signs, Road maps, Household oil cans, Ice picks, Letter openers, Coupon books, Pens & all types of Gas Station advertising, Folk Art display with brass front car parts

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Antiques & Collectibles: Hwy 64 Outdoor Theatre sign, 1950's "King Edward Cigars" 2-sided porcelain sign 46x70", 1930's Vertical "Bus Stop" porcelain sign 6"x30", 1930's Jennings Chief lighted front 5-cent Slot Machine, 1930's Jennings Silver Chief 5-cent Slot, 1940's Mills Q.T. Slot, 1961 Aristocrat Nevada 10-cent Slot, 1960's Mills & 1970's Bally Slots, Folz 50-cent Prize Vendor, Adult alligator skull, Taxidermy coyote, otter, squirrels, Golden pheasant, Black fox & Several fish, Solid Copper EASY Vacuum Wringer Washer, Edison cylinder player w/ brass horn & rolls, Western Electric oak wall phone, DeLaval cream separator porcelain sign, Economy Chief cream separator, 1886 Penn tobacco plug cutter, 1890's Red Wing salt glaze Rib cage 3gal crock, 1880 "BOOTH'S OYSTERS" crock, Eastern 2gal crock w/ blue flowers, Redwing 3gal canning jar, 1900 Swift's Arsenate of Lead crock with embossed "POISON", 20gal crock, Purina Mink Chow plates, Japaneeso stone bowl, 1894 Mettlich "Presentation" tu-reen/punch bowl with names of cities, Hand cut Crystal, Colored crystal, 1927 Frankart Art Deco lamp with amber globe, Bracket lamp with mercury glass, Oil lamps, Hull Wildflower vase, Oxen yoke, Frigo milk sign, Union Hardware Deming pumps sign, Collection of Winchester tools including brass level, 3201 rabbit plane, hand planes, hatchet, flashlight, drill brace & bits, pliers, screwdrivers, scissors, icepick, fishing reels, Winchester ice & roller skates, War ration books, Bell Pay phone, Oak Curio w/ curved glass, Ornate oak bedroom set with carving, Possum-belly Kitchen Cupboard, Oak 3-door Icebox, Oak bookshelf w/ rope-twist columns, 1930's Atwater-Kent Console Radio, Rosewood tables, Revolving Nut & Bolt bin, Shaving mirror & mugs, Straight razors, Planter's peanut jar, Cameo Ballerina green Depression glass, Jadeite bowl, Shirley Temple bowl, "Companions" wolf print by Brenders, 1950's Marx train set, Ant. Photos & frames, 1960's Coke bottle thermometer, 1970's Pepsi cake taker, Miller moon girl trays, Camel thermometer, ornate Italo-American accordion, 2 flat screen HDTV's, Vtech Switch 'n Go dinosaur animated Store Display, Cast iron egg pan, 1920's Hubley cast iron Pointer dog doorstop, Lightning rods & weather vane, Arcade wall coffee grinder, Blue Delft spice set, Bike horn, Old padlocks, Brass Extinguisher & More

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Tips to avoid heart attack while shoveling

As big winter storms leave a number of Midwesterners with several inches of snow to clear, many will find themselves removing pounds of snow this year. However, this annual task can put some at risk of a heart attack.

The National Safety Council recommends the following tips to shovel safely this winter.

- Do not shovel after eating or while smoking.
- Take it slow, and stretch out before beginning.
- Shovel only fresh, powdery snow. It's lighter.
- Push the snow rather than lift it.
- If lifting is required, use a small shovel or only partially fill the shovel.
- Lift with your legs and not your back.
- Do not work to the point of exhaustion.
- Know the signs of a heart attack. If symptoms occur, stop immediately and call 911.

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SAVVY SENIOR

Simple home safety solutions for aging-in-place

Dear Savvy Senior:

Falls and fires are the two things I worry most about for my elderly father, who lives alone. Do you have any suggestions on what we can do to help keep him safe and keep an eye on him from afar?

Concerned Daughter

Dear Concerned:

There are a number of small adjustments and modifications you can make to your dad's home to help protect him from falls and fires, both of which cause thousands of injuries and deaths each year. Here are some tips to get you started.

- **Eliminate tripping hazards:** Since falls are the leading cause of home injury among seniors, a good place to start is to pack away your dad's throw rugs, which are common tripping hazards, or use carpet tacks or double-sided tape to secure them. You may also need to adjust your dad's furniture so there are clear pathways to walk through, and position any electrical or phone cords along walls and out of the way.

For hardwood steps, consider attaching a nonslip tread to each one to



JIM MILLER

provide traction and help him see the edge. And for added protection in the bathroom, buy some nonskid rugs for the floors and use adhesive nonslip treads or a mat with rubber suction inside his tub or shower stall.

- **Improve his lighting:** Good lighting is essential for safe aging-in-place. Check the wattage ratings on your dad's lamps and light fixtures, and install the brightest bulbs allowed. Add supplementary lighting, if necessary.

You should also purchase some dusk to dawn nightlights for the bathroom and in the hallways that light up when the sun goes down. And mount some motion-sensor lights outside the front and back doors and in the driveway that automatically come on when he comes and goes after dark.

- **Get grab bars:** These can significantly reduce his risk of bathroom

falls. Install them where he enters the shower or tub and on a wall inside the stall, but don't use grab bars that attach with suction. Instead, have wall-mounted bars put in by someone who can affix them to the wall studs. It's also best to choose bars whose surfaces are slightly textured and easier to grip.

- **Ensure railings are stable:** Wherever he has steps — stairways, entryways or basements — he needs sturdy railings. Ideally, they should be on both sides of the steps.

- **Prevent cooking fires:** There are several affordable products you can purchase to help your dad prevent home cooking fires. For instance, BurnerAlert discs attach to a stove's knob and will continuously blink or beep after the stove has been in use for a preset amount of time. Ome smart knobs can control a stove's heating settings from an app. Or you can invest in a more expensive iGuardStove sensor that shuts the stove off when it doesn't detect motion for five minutes.

- **Install smoke alarms:** Install a smart smoke alarm in your dad's

house (buy one for each floor) that will alert him when smoke or carbon monoxide is detected. These smart devices will also send alerts to your phone to let you know when a problem is detected. Google Nest and First Alert have both smart smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

- **Add fire extinguishers:** Get portable, multipurpose fire extinguishers for each level of your dad's house and in the garage.

- **Consider a medical alert:** To ensure your dad's safety and provide you some peace of mind, consider getting him a medical alert device that comes with a wearable SOS button that would allow him to call for help if he were to fall or need assistance.

For more tips, get a copy of AARP's "HomeFit Guide" (see AARP.org/HomeFit), which has more than 100 aging-in-place suggestions that can help make your dad's home safer and easier to live in.

Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book. Send your senior questions to Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org.

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SATURDAY				MORNING / AFTERNOON																DEC. 31			
	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30	
ABC	Good Morning America (N) 		 Good Morning America (N)   Action 2 News: This Morning (N)		 Wildlife  Morning	 oh baby!  (E) 	 Hearts of  Wildlife 	 Saving Pets  oh baby! 	College Football TransPerfect Music City Bowl: Iowa vs Kentucky. The Hawkeyes and Wildcats square off, for the second time in 365 days, in the Music City Bowl. (N)  (Live) 							 To Be Announced  Weather Gone Viral 		 Heroes  Storm of 	 Sports Stars of Tomorrow (N) 	 Sports Homes for the Holidays 	 Gone Wild 	ABC World News 	
CBS	 Mission  CBS Sat 	 Hope in the Wild  (E) 	 CBS Sat  Lucky Dog 	 Innovation Nation 	 Mission Unstop- pable 	 Hope in the Wild  (E) 	All In With Laila Ali 	Did I Men- tion In- vention? 	College Basketball Louisville at Kentucky. Rupp Arena. (N)  (Live) 				College Basketball Oklahoma State at Kansas. Allen Fieldhouse. (N)  (Live) 				College Basketball San Diego State at UNLV. Thomas & Mack Center. (N)  (Live) 		 Paid Program  Beat 		CBS Weekend News 		
FOX	 Xplor. Planet  News 	 Xploration Space 	 Life 2.0  (E) 	 Sci Q  (E) 	 Health  Theft 	 Paid Program 	 Paid Pro- gram 	FOX Col- lege Hoops Tip-Off 	College Basketball Connecticut at Xavier. Cintas Center. (N)  (Live) 				College Basketball Arizona at Arizona State. Desert Financial Arena. (N)  (Live) 				Women's College Basketball Creighton at DePaul. Wintrust Arena. (N)  (Live) 		 Shel- don  Sports 		 Sheldon  Greatest 		
NBC	 Today  (6:00) Today 	 906 Outdoors 	 Today's Home- owner  Saving Pets 	 Paid Pro- gram  Earth Od- yssey With Dylan 	 Wild Child  (DVS) 	Harlem Glo- be-trotters 	One Team- Sports 	 Paid Prog.  The Voy- ager 	Premier League Soccer Brighton & Hove Albion vs Arsenal. (N)  (Live) 				Premier League Goal Zone (N)  (Live) 		The Men in Blazers Show 	Triathlon Clash Day- tona. From Daytona Beach, Fla. (Taped) 		Monster Jam (N) 	 Paid Prog.  Theft 	NBC Nightly News 			
PBS	 Hero El- ementary  (E)  (DVS) 	 Alma's Way  (E)  (DVS) 	 Curious George  (E) 	 Daniel Tiger's Neigh- borhood  (DVS) 	 Best of Sewing With Nancy  (DVS) 	 Quilting Arts Em- broidering vacation photos. 	 Growing a Green- er World  (E) 	 Classic Wood- working  (E) 	 Jacques Pépin: Heart & Soul  (E) 	 Lidia's Kitchen "Serving Up Pasta"  (E) 	 Steven Raichlen's Project Fire  (E) 	 Taste- MAKERS  (E) 	 Cook's Country Gorditas; tortilla presses. 	 Chris- topher Kimball's Milk Street 	 Sara's Weeknight Meals "Holiday Sweets" 	 Pati's Mexi- can Table Roasted charred chicken. 	 This Old House "Atlanta: Families Meet" 	 Ask This Old House "Little Free Library" 	 Week- ends With Yankee  (E) 	 Welcome to My Farm  (E) 	The Lawrence Welk Show "New Year's" Auld Lang Syne; a salute to Rose Bowl. 		
 WACY	Hearts 	oh baby! 	Paid 	Mak 	Paid 	Out 	MidWest 	Bensin 	World's 	World's 	SOS: Survive 		Silver 	Martin 	Musky 	Angling 	Heartland 	Mod 	Mod 	Gold 	Gold 		
 WTPX	Paid 	Paid 	Paid 	Paid 	Law & Order: SVU 		Law & Order: SVU 		Law & Order: SVU 		Law & Order: SVU 		Law & Order: SVU 		Law & Order: SVU 		Law & Order: SVU 		Law & Order: SVU 		Law & Order: SVU 		
CW	 Outdoor  Pop- star! 	 Paid Program  MyPillow 	Jack Hanna's Into the Wild 	Jack Hanna's Into the Wild 	Jack Hanna's Into the Wild 	Jack Hanna's Into the Wild 	 Pet Vet Dream Team 	 Tails of Valor  (E) 	 Science  Live 	 Free Pans  Alan Jackson 	 Get-Breeze  Rescue 	 Cook Like  Theft 	 *** The Weather Man (2005, Comedy-Drama) Nicolas Cage.  *** Things We Lost in the Fire (2007, Drama) Halle Berry. 		 Sports Stars 	 Greatest  Liqui- dator 	 Save On Your Gro- cery Bills! 	 Last Man  Burgers 	 Last Man  Burgers 				

SATURDAY			EVENING								DEC. 31	
	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
ABC	News 9 WAOW at 6PM (N)	Financially Speaking with Buska Re	Dick Clark's Primetime New Year's Rockin' Eve With Ryan Seacrest 2023 Festivities in Times Square in New York. (N) (Live)				News 9 WAOW at 10PM (N)	Dick Clark's Primetime New Year's Rockin' Eve With Ryan Seacrest 2023 Festivities in Times Square in New York. (N) (Live)		Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve With Ryan Seacrest 2023 Festivities in Times Square in New York. (N) (Live)		
WAOW	Action 2 News at Six (N)	Paid Prog.					Small Towns					
WBAY												
CBS	Game Time With Boomer	Discover Wisconsin	New Year's Eve Live: Nashville's Big Bash Celebrating the new year. (N) (Live)				Positively Wisconsin 2022	New Year's Eve Live: Nashville's Big Bash Celebrating the new year. (N) (Live)				
WFRV	NewsChannel 7 at 6	2022 WBA Hall of Fame					NewsChannel 7					
WSAW												
FOX	The Big Bang Theory A trip to wine country. (L)	The Big Bang Theory (L)	Hell's Kitchen "Game On!" Chefs Jon Shook and Vinny Dotolo. (L) (DVS)		Hell's Kitchen "Putting the Carne in Carnival" Competing in games for an advantage. (L) (DVS)		The Big Bang Theory (L)	The Big Bang Theory Sheldon visits his mom in Houston. (L)	Hell's Kitchen "Breakfast 911" Feeding a group of first responders. (L) (DVS)	S.W.A.T. "Veritas Vincent"	The King of Queens Couple decide to renew their vows. (L)	
WZAW	Jeopardy! (L)	Wheel of Fortune (L)					2022 Tejano Music Awards			Seinfeld "The Nose Job"		
WLUK												
NBC	NBC26 News at 6pm (N)	Paid Program	A Toast to 2022! A look back at 2022's biggest moments. (N) (L)				A Year of Giving	Hope for The Holidays		Miley's New Year's Eve Party Celebrating live from Miami, Fla. (N Same-day Tape) (L) (DVS)		Saturday Night Live (L)
WGBA	Inside the Huddle	Wheel of Fortune (L)					To Be Announced	Miley's New Year's Eve Party Celebrating live from Miami, Fla. (N) (Live) (DVS)				
WJFW												
PBS	The Carol Burnett Show Guests: Dick Van Dyke and Tony Randall.		Sister Boniface Mysteries "Crimes and Miss Demeanours" A beauty queen is discovered dead. (L)		Shakespeare and Hathaway -- Private Investigators "No More Desire a Rose" Voice in the Dark. (L)		Frankie Drake Mysteries "Ghost in the Machine" Nora is visited by a ghost. (L)		United in Song 2022: Ringing in the New Year Together A New Year's concert. (N) (L)		United in Song 2022: Ringing in the New Year Together A New Year's concert. (L)	
WHRM												
WLEF												
WPNE												
WACY	Family Feud (L)	Two/Half Men	NBA G League Basketball Grand Rapids Gold at Wisconsin Herd. (N)				Am Housewife	Am Housewife	The Simpsons	Family Guy (L)	Family Guy (L)	S.W.A.T. (L)
WTPX	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	
CW	The Big Bang Theory (L)	The Big Bang Theory Leonard buys a dining room table. (L)	iHeartRadio Music Festival Night 2 Highlights of the annual event. (L)				The Rookie (DVS)	★ ★ The Weather Man (2005) Nicolas Cage. (L)	The National Desk (N) (Live)		TMZ (N) (L)	To the Rescue The BISSELL Pet Foundation. (L)
WCWF	The Good Doctor (L)						The Liquidator					
WYOW												

SUNDAY		
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SUNDAY				EVENING								JAN. 1	
	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	
ABC	America's Funniest Home Videos		*** The Lion King (1994, Children's) <i>Voices of Matthew Broderick, Jeremy Irons, James Earl Jones.</i>					Abbott Elementary The teachers view a shocking commercial.	9 News 9 WAOW at 10PM (N)	9 (:35) Entertainment Tonight (N) 9 (:35) Cover 2	9 (:05) Entertainment Tonight (N) 9 (:05) Sports Xtra	9 (:35) Weather Gone Viral Some weather events defy explanation.	
9 WAOW 2 WBAY	Wedding disasters. (N) 9 (DVS)		Animated. The son of a king battles treachery to claim his destiny. 9						9 Action 2 News at 10 (N)				
CBS	(3:25) NFL Football Minnesota Vikings at Green Bay Packers. (N)	60 Minutes "Radio Free Europe; The Vanishing Wild; Obesity" Radio Free Europe; obesity. (N) 9 (DVS)	Fire Country "Pilot" A young convict seeks redemption. 9 (DVS)		Fire Country "The Fresh Prince of Edgewater" Bode requests to be transferred. 9 (DVS)		Fire Country "Where There's Smoke..." A call in a remote forest. 9 (DVS)		9 Local 5 News at 10:00 (N) 9 NewsChannel 7 at 10 (N)	9 (:05) Sports Xtra 9 (:05) Investigate TV	9 (:35) Joel Osteen Ministries 9 (:35) SEAL Team 9		
5 WFRV 7 WSAW													
FOX	The Simpsons Animated. The Boy Explorers become coed. 9		Bob's Burgers Animated. Louise plans for her future. 9	The Simpsons "My Life as a Vlog" (N) 9 (DVS)	(:31) The Great North "Arranger-ous Minds Adventure" (N) 9	Bob's Burgers "Comet-y of Errors" 9 (DVS)	Family Guy Animated. Peter investigates in noir-style. 9	55 Seinfeld "The Tape" 11 Fox 11 News at Nine (N)	55 Seinfeld George's girlfriend gets nose job. 9 (DVS)	55 The Goldbergs 11 Fox 11 News at 10 (N)	55 Goldbergs 11 Sharyl Attkisson	55 American Housewife 11 (:05) The National Desk	
55 WZAW 11 WLUK													
NBC	Football Night in America (N) 9 (Live) (DVS)			(:15) NFL Football Los Angeles Rams at Los Angeles Chargers. The Rams and Chargers face off for the first time since moving into So-Fi Stadium. (N) 9 (Live) (DVS)						25 News 12 Newswatch 12 at 10pm		25 The Race 12 Outdoorsman International	25 Graham Bensinger 12 Funny You Ask
25 WGBA 12 WJFW													
PBS	Escape to the Chateau "Only 20 Rooms to Go" Dick and Angel work on 20 rooms. 9 (DVS)			Great Performances "From Vienna: The New Year's Celebration 2023" Celebrating the New Year. (N) 9 (DVS)			All Creatures Great and Small: The Next Chapter All Creatures Great & Small. 9 (DVS)		Antiques Roadshow "Best Bargains" Chiparus sculpture. 9 (DVS)		Austin City Limits "Jon Batiste" Jon Batiste performs. 9 (DVS)		
20 WHRM 35 WLEF 38 WPNE													
32 WACY	Family Feud 9	Two/Half Men	** Short Circuit 2 (1988, Children's) <i>Fisher Stevens, Michael McKean.</i>				Mom 9 (DVS)	Mom 9 (DVS)	The Simpsons	Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers	S.W.A.T. (DVS)	
45 WTPX	NCIS A cadaver goes missing. 9		NCIS 9 (DVS)			NCIS "Blood and Treasure" 9		NCIS "Sunburn" 9 (DVS)		NCIS "1mm" 9 (DVS)		NCIS "The First Day" 9	
CW	14 The Big Bang Theory 9 (DVS)	14 The Big Bang Theory Sheldon visits his mom in Houston. (DVS)	World's Funniest Animals Dashing dogs; outlandish owls. 9 (DVS)	World's Funniest Animals Karate kittens; birds barrage bicycles. 9	Whose Line Is It Anyway? "Darren Criss 2" 9 (DVS)	Whose Line Is It Anyway? Guest comic Gary Anthony Williams.	14 WOW - Women 34 Liquidator	34 Chicago P.D. Burgess receives a shocking diagnosis. 9	14 Truth of God	34 WOW - Women Of Wrestling (N) 9	14 Extra (N) 9 (DVS)	34 Moviefone TV 9 (DVS)	
14 WCWF 34 WYOW													

WEEKDAYS					MORNING / AFTERNOON																	JAN. 2				
	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30				
ABC	Good Morning America				9 Live	2 25 Words or Less	The View		9 News 9	9 Drew Barrymore	9 GMA3: What	2 Paid Program	General Hospital		9 Tamron Hall 2 GMA3: What You Need to Know		Dr. Phil	Varied Programs	9 News at 4PM	2 Action 2 News	9 News 9	ABC World News				
9 WAOW					2 WBAY					2 Inside	2 Pawn	2 News											2 News			
CBS	CBS Mornings				5 Local 5	7 Paid Program	The Price Is Right		The Young and the Restless		9 News	Bold and the Beautiful	The Talk		Let's Make a Deal		5 Friends	5 Friends	9 Local 5 News	9 Local 5 News	9 News	CBS Evening News				
5 WFRV					7 WSAW							9 NewsChannel 7									9 Local 5 News	9 Local 5 News	9 NewsChannel 7			
FOX	55 Business First	55 Ag-Day	55 Dateline		55 Rachael Ray		55 The Jennifer Hudson Show		55 Fam-Feud	55 Fam-Feud	55 Blast	55 Daily Blast	55 Judge Mathis		55 Hot Bench	55 Hot Bench	55 Judge	55 Judge	55 News	55 Fam-Feud	55 Sheldon	55 Sheldon				
55 WZAW	11 News				11 Live with Kelly and Ryan		11 Fox 11 Living With Amy		11 Rachael		11 Varied	11 Jdg Judy	11 The Jennifer Hudson Show		11 Barrymore	11 Barrymore	11 Peo. Court	11 Judy	11 Jdg Judy	11 Jdg Judy	11 News	11 Varied				
NBC	Today				Today 3rd Hour		Today With Hoda & Jenna		25	25 List	NBC News Daily		25 Date-line	12 Pictionary	25 Tamron Hall	12 Funny You Ask	25	12 TMZ	25 Fam-Feud	25 Aft. Focus	25 News	NBC Nightly News				
25 WGBA									12 WJFW		12 Neighborhood		12 You Bet	12 Pictionary	12 Pictionary	12 You Ask	12	12 Up North	12 Jeopardy							
PBS	Hero Elementary	Alma's Way	Curious George	Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood	Rosie's Rules	Donkey Hodie	Sesame Street	Pinkalicious & Peterrific	Dinosaur Train	Elinor Wonders Why	Sesame Street	Rosie's Rules	This Old House	Cook's Country	Downton Abbey on Masterpiece			Rick Steves' Europe	Odd Squad	Arthur	Molly of Denali	BBC World News America				
20 WHRM																										
35 WLEF																										
38 WPNE																										
32 WACY	Judge	Relative	Divorce	Divorce	Wom	Grill'n	iCRIME	iCRIME	The First 48		Dateline		Chicago Fire		Sherri		TMZ Live		Mod	Mod	Gold	Gold				
45 WTPX	Varied Programs																									
CW	14 National	34 Caught in Providence	14 Weather	14 Paid Program	14 Court	14 Couples Court	14 Hot Bench	14 Hot Bench	14 Paternity	14 Paternity Court	14 Law & Order: SVU	14 Access Hollywood	14 Judge Jerry	14 Judge Mathis		14 Pictionary	14 You Bet Your Life	14 Jeopardy	14 Funny You Ask	14 You Bet	14 Sheldon					
14 WCWF	34 Divor.		34 M'ry		34 S. Wilkos		34 Karamo		34 M'ry		34 XTRA		34 Sherri	34 Judge Jerry		34 Karamo	34 You Bet Your Life	34 Steve Wilkos		34 Judge	34 Judge					
34 WYOW																										

MONDAY				EVENING							JAN. 2	
6 PM		6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
ABC	9 News 9 WAOW at 6PM (N)	Entertainment Tonight (N)	Monday Night Countdown (N) (Live)	NFL Football Buffalo Bills at Cincinnati Bengals. Joe Burrow and the Bengals battle the Bills in a potential AFC playoff game preview. (N) (Live)					9 News 9 WAOW at 10PM (N)	(:05) Jimmy Kimmel Live!		
9 WAOW	9 Action 2 News at Six (N)								9 Action 2 News at 10 (N)			
2 WBAY												
CBS	9 Local 5 News at 6:00	9 Local 5 News at 6:30 (N)	The Neighborhood	Bob Hearts Abishola	NCIS "Daddy Issues" A break-in at a government bunker.		NCIS: Hawai'i "Blind Curves" A body is discovered in a junkyard.		9 Local 5 News at 10:00 (N)	(:35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert		(:37) The Late Late Show With James Corden
5 WFRV	7 (5:59) NewsChannel 7 at 6	7 Inside Edition (N)	Dave causes a power outage.	hatch a plan.					9 NewsChannel 7 at 10 (N)			
7 WSAW												
FOX	55 The Big Bang Theory	55 The Big Bang Theory	Fantasy Island "Tara and Jessica's High School Reunion; Cat Lady" (Season Premiere)		TMZ Presents: Lamar Odom: Sex, Drugs & Kardashians Lamar Odom's troubled marriage. (N)		55 NewsChannel 7 at 9pm (N)	55 Seinfeld "The Alternate Side" Elaine breaks up with her beau.	55 Seinfeld "The Butter Shave"	55 Last Man Standing	55 Last Man Standing	55 The Goldbergs
55 WZAW	11 Jeopardy! (N)	11 Wheel of Fortune (N)	Roarke juggles a secret romance. (N)				11 Fox 11 News at Nine (N) (Live)	11 Fox 11 News at Nine	11 Fox 11 News at 10 (N)	11 (:07) The King of Queens	11 (:35) The King of Queens	11 (:35) The King of Queens
11 WLUK										11 (:35) Seinfeld		
NBC	25 NBC26 News at 6pm (N)	25 Family Feud	America's Got Talent "All-Stars: Auditions 1" Winners, finalists and more audition. (N)				Quantum Leap "Fellow Travelers" Ben lands in 1979 Chicago. (N)		25 NBC26 News at 10pm (N)	25 (:34) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon (N)	(:37) Late Night With Seth Meyers	
25 WGBA	12 Newswatch 12 at 6 (N)	12 Wheel of Fortune							12 Newswatch 12 at 10pm (N)	12 (:34) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon		
12 WJFW	"Winter Hideaway" (N)	"Winter Hideaway" (N)										
PBS	PBS NewsHour (N)		Antiques Roadshow "Filoli Hour 1" (Season Premiere) An English sterling silver horse. (N) (Part 1 of 3)		Rick Steves Art of Europe "Stone Age to Ancient Greece" Stone Age; Western art.		Independent Lens "Children of Las Brisas" Youths strive for a better life. (N)		All Creatures Great and Small: The Next Chapter All Creatures Great & Small.			
20 WHRM												
35 WLEF												
38 WPNE												
32 WACY	Family Feud	Two/Half Men	Dateline "The Waiting Car"		Chicago P.D.		My News at 9	NBC 26 Tonight	Two/Half Men	Am Housewife	Am Housewife	Mom
45 WTPX	Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds "Derek"		Criminal Minds "The Sandman"		Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds "Tribute"	Criminal Minds "Inner Beauty"		
CW	14 The Big Bang Theory	14 The Big Bang Theory	All American "Ludacrismas" Spencer throws an epic Christmas party.		All American: Homecoming "We Need a Resolution" Simone decides to focus on tennis.		14 Last Man Standing	14 Seinfeld	14 The National Desk (N) (Live)	14 The National Desk (N) (Live)	14 Last Man Standing	14 Young Sheldon
14 WCWF	34 Divorce Court (N)	34 Divorce Court					34 The Liquidator	34 Chicago P.D.		34 black-ish	34 black-ish	34 Family Guy
34 WYOW												

TUESDAY				EVENING								JAN. 3	
	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	
ABC	9 News 9 WAOW at 6PM (N)	9 News 9 Pack Attack	The Rookie "The List" (N) (DVS)		The Rookie: Feds "The Silent Prisoner" A mysterious caller makes a threat. (N) (DVS)		Will Trent "Pilot" (Series Premiere) Will Trent relies on his keen instincts. (N) (DVS)		9 News 9 WAOW at 10PM (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live! (DVS)	(:(37) Nightline (N) (DVS)		
WAOW WBAY	9 Action 2 News at Six (N)	9 Entertainment Tonight (N) (DVS)							9 Action 2 News at 10 (N)				
CBS	9 Local 5 News at 6:00	9 Locker Room	FBI "Second Life" A young woman is abducted. (N) (DVS)		FBI: International "Wheelman" The team must halt a major art heist. (N) (DVS)		FBI: Most Wanted "Processed" A child psychiatrist is kidnapped. (N) (DVS)		9 Local 5 News at 10:00 (N)	(:35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert (DVS)	(:(37) The Late Late Show With James Corden (DVS)		
WFRV WSAW	9 (5:59) NewsChannel 7 at 6	9 Locker Room							9 NewsChannel 7 at 10 (N)				
FOX	55 The Big Bang Theory (DVS)	55 The Big Bang Theory (DVS)	The Resident "All In" Kit breaks some shocking news. (N) (DVS)		Fantasy Island "Tara and Jessica's High School Reunion; Cat Lady" Roarke juggles a secret romance. (DVS)		55 NewsChannel 7 at 9pm (N)	55 Seinfeld "The Red Dot" Alcoholic resumes drinking. (DVS)	55 Seinfeld "The Voice" (DVS)	55 Last Man Standing (DVS)	55 Last Man Standing (DVS)	55 The Goldbergs (DVS)	
WZAW WLUK	11 Jeopardy! (N) (DVS)	11 Wheel of Fortune (N) (DVS)					11 Fox 11 News at Nine (N) (Live)		11 Fox 11 News at 10 (N) (DVS)	11 (:07) The King of Queens (DVS)	11 (:35) Seinfeld (DVS)	11 (:35) The King of Queens (DVS)	
NBC	26 NBC26 News at 6pm (N) (DVS)	26 Packers Live	America's Got Talent "All-Stars: Auditions 1" Winners, finalists and more audition. (DVS)				New Amsterdam "Falling" Sharpe unexpectedly returns to New York. (N) (DVS)		26 NBC26 News at 10pm (N)	(:34) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon (DVS)	(:(37) Late Night With Seth Meyers (DVS)		
WGBA WJFW	12 Newswatch 12 at 6 (N) (DVS)	12 Wheel of Fortune							12 Newswatch 12 at 10pm (N)				
PBS	PBS NewsHour (N) (DVS)		Finding Your Roots With Henry Louis Gates, Jr. "Hidden Kin" (Season Premiere) Edward Norton; Julia Roberts. (N) (DVS)		American Experience "The Lie Detector" (Season Premiere) The creation of the polygraph. (N) (DVS)		Frontline "Global Spyware Scandal: Exposing Pegasus, Part 1" Investigating the spyware Pegasus. (N) (Part 1 of 2) (DVS)		Rick Steves Art of Europe "Stone Age to Ancient Greece" Stone Age; Western art. (DVS)		NOVA "The Truth About Fat" The mysteries of fat. (DVS)		
WHRM WLEF WPNE													
WACY	Family Feud (DVS)	Two/Half Men	Dateline "Broken Circle" (DVS)		Chicago P.D. "Little Bit of Light"		My News at 9	NBC 26 Tonight	Two/Half Men	Am Housewife	Am Housewife	Mom (DVS)	
WTPX	Chicago Fire "Ambition" (DVS)		Chicago Fire "Retaliation Hit" (DVS)		Chicago Fire "Leaders Lead" (DVS)		Chicago Fire "Let Her Go" (DVS)		Chicago Fire "A Hell of a Ride" (DVS)		Chicago Fire "A Problem House"		
CW	14 The Big Bang Theory (DVS)	14 The Big Bang Theory (DVS)	The Winchesters "Masters of War" Millie is worried about her son. (DVS)		Mysteries Decoded "Lake Champlain Monster" Mysterious creature in a New York lake. (DVS)		14 Last Man Standing (DVS)	14 Seinfeld (DVS)	14 The National Desk (N) (Live)	14 The National Desk (N) (Live)	14 Last Man Standing (DVS)	14 Young Sheldon (DVS)	
WCWF WYOW	34 Divorce Court (N) (DVS)	34 Divorce Court (N) (DVS)					34 The Liquidator (DVS)	34 Chicago P.D. (DVS)	34 black-ish "Pilot" (DVS)	34 black-ish (DVS)	34 black-ish (DVS)	34 Family Guy (DVS)	

WEDNESDAY						EVENING						JAN. 4	
		6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
ABC		9 News 9 WAOW at 6PM (N)	9 Packers Live	Celebrity Wheel of Fortune "Janelle James, Sheryl Lee Ralph and Chris Perletti" Janelle James; Sheryl Lee Ralph. (N) 1		Abbott Elementary Jacob and Gregory join forces. (N) 1		Big Sky "Super Foxes" (N) 1 66 (DVS)		9 News 9 WAOW at 10PM (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live! 1 66		(:37) Nightline (N) 66
9 WAOW 2 WBAY		9 Action 2 News at Six (N)	9 Entertainment Tonight (N) 1 66							9 Action 2 News at 10 (N)			
CBS		9 Local 5 News at 6:00	9 Green Bay Nation (N)	The Price Is Right at Night Previous contestants get another chance. (N) 1 66		Tough as Nails "Welcome to Catalina Island" (Season Premiere) Competitors must build a concrete wall. (N) 1 66				9 Local 5 News at 10:00 (N)	(:35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert 1 66		(:37) The Late Late Show With James Corden 1 66
5 WFRV 7 WSAW		7 (5:59) NewsChannel 7 at 6	9 Inside Edition (N) 1 66							9 NewsChannel 7 at 10 (N)			
FOX		55 The Big Bang Theory 1 66	55 The Big Bang Theory 66	Special Forces: World's Toughest Test "Test of Character and Weakness" (Series Premiere) The recruits arrive for training. (N) 1 66 (DVS)				55 NewsChannel 7 at 9pm (N)	55 Seinfeld The pals find adventure on the subway. 1 66	55 Seinfeld "The Serenity Now"	55 Last Man Standing 66	55 Last Man Standing 66	55 The Goldbergs 1 66
55 WZAW 11 WLUK		11 Jeopardy! (N) 1 66	11 Wheel of Fortune (N) 66					11 Fox 11 News at Nine (N) (Live)		11 Fox 11 News at 10 (N)	11 (:07) The King of Queens 66	11 (:35) Seinfeld 66	11 (:35) The King of Queens 1 66
NBC		26 NBC26 News at 6pm (N) 66	26 Total Packers-Matt LaFleur	Chicago Med "A Little Change Might Do You Some Good" Charles helps a woman and her grandson. (N) 1 66 (DVS)		Chicago Fire "Something for the Pain" Kidd and Carver's lives are in danger. (N) 1 66 (DVS)		Chicago P.D. "This Job" Things get complicated for Torres. (N) 1 66 (DVS)		26 NBC26 News at 10pm (N)	(:34) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon 1 66		(:37) Late Night With Seth Meyers 1 66
26 WGBA 12 WJFW		12 Newswatch 12 at 6 (N) 66	12 Wheel of Fortune							12 Newswatch 12 at 10pm (N)			
PBS		PBS NewsHour (N) 1 66		Nature "The Alps: The High Life" New-born animals in the Alps. 1 (Part 1 of 2) 66 (DVS)		First Contact: An Alien Encounter An extraterrestrial artifact. (N) 1 66		Chronicles: The Visit (N)		Finding Your Roots With Henry Louis Gates, Jr. "Hidden Kin" (Season Premiere) Edward Norton; Julia Roberts. 1 66		Frontline "Global Spyware Scandal: Exposing Pegasus, Part 1" Investigating the spyware Pegasus. 1 (Part 1 of 2) 66	
20 WHRM 36 WLEF 38 WPNE													
32 WACY		NBA G League Basketball College Park Skyhawks at Wisconsin Herd.				Family Feud 1		Two/Half Men		My News at 9		NBC 26 Tonight	
46 WTPX		Blue Bloods "Pain Killers" 1		Blue Bloods "Heavy Is the Head"		Blue Bloods "Second Chances" 1		Blue Bloods "The Brave" 1		Blue Bloods "Erasing History" 1		Blue Bloods 1 66 (DVS)	
CW		14 The Big Bang Theory 1 66		Penn & Teller: Fool Us "That (Bleeping) Teller!" Luka Vidovic; Connor McDonald. 1 66		Kung Fu "Harmony" Jin faces a new challenge. 1 66		14 Last Man Standing 66		14 Seinfeld 66		14 The National Desk (N) (Live)	
14 WCWF 34 WYOW		34 Divorce Court (N) 1 66		34 Divorce Court 1 66				34 The Liquidator 66 (DVS)		34 The National Desk (N) (Live)		34 The National Desk (N) (Live)	
										34 black-ish "The Nod" 1		34 black-ish 66	
												34 Young Sheldon 1	
												34 Family Guy 1	

THURSDAY						EVENING						JAN. 5	
		6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
ABC		9 News 9 WAOW at 6PM (N)	Entertainment Tonight (N)	Celebrity Jeopardy! "Quarterfinal 7: Michael Cera, Brianne Howey and Zoë Chao" Michael Cera; Brianne Howey; Zoë Chao. (N)		The Parent Test "Stranger Danger" The Fine Dining Challenge. (N)		The Chase "As RuPaul Says, The Library Is Open" Victoria Groce is the featured chaser. (N) (DVS)		9 News 9 WAOW at 10PM (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live!	(:(37) Nightline (N)	
9 WAOW 2 WBAY		9 Action 2 News at Six (N)								9 Action 2 News at 10 (N)			
CBS		9 Local 5 News at 6:00 (N)	9 Local 5 News at 6:30 7 Inside Edition (N)	Young Sheldon Sheldon considers dropping out. (N)		:(:31) Ghosts Sam and Jay find an assistant. (N)		CSI: Vegas "Eyeballs" A party ends with a brutal murder. (N)		9 Local 5 News at 10:00 (N) 7 NewsChannel 7 at 10 (N)	(:35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert	:(:37) The Late Late Show With James Corden	
5 WFRV 7 WSAW													
FOX		55 The Big Bang Theory "The Toast Derivation" 11 Jeopardy! (N)	55 The Big Bang Theory 11 Wheel of Fortune (N)	Hell's Kitchen "Everyone's Taco'ing About It" The chefs must create elevated tacos. (N)		(:01) Welcome to Flatch It's Barb's birthday. (N)	Call Me Kat Phil's mother shows up at Kat's Cafe. (N)	55 NewsChannel 7 at 9pm (N) 11 Fox 11 News at Nine (N) (Live)	55 Seinfeld George wants the upper hand in romance.	55 Seinfeld "The Blood" 11 Fox 11 News at 10 (N)	55 Last Man Standing 11 (:07) The King of Queens	55 Last Man Standing 11 (:07) The King of Queens	55 The Goldbergs 11 (:35) The King of Queens
55 WZAW 11 WLUK													
NBC		25 NBC26 News at 6pm (N)	25 Family Feud 12 Wheel of Fortune 12 Newswatch 12 at 6 (N) "Winter Hideaway" (N)	Law & Order "Land of Opportunity" Cosgrove and Shaw discover a cover-up. (N)		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Jumped In" Benson is the target of a gang leader. (N)		Law & Order: Organized Crime "Trap" The task force targets a dangerous gang. (N)		25 NBC26 News at 10pm (N) 12 Newswatch 12 at 10pm (N)	(:34) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon	:(:37) Late Night With Seth Meyers	
25 WGBA 12 WJFW													
PBS		PBS NewsHour (N)		Wisconsin Life "Milton House Museum"	Around the Corner with John McGovern "Platteville"	Agatha Christie's Poirot "Three Act Tragedy" Poirot investigates when a clergyman chokes to death at a cocktail party.		Bad Move "Dead Zone" Nicky and Steve can't get the Internet.		American Experience "The Lie Detector" (Season Premiere) The creation of the polygraph.		Nature "The Alps: The High Life" New-born animals in the Alps. (Part 1 of 2) (DVS)	
20 WHRM 35 WLEF 38 WPNE													
32 WACY		Family Feud	Two/Half Men	Dateline		Chicago P.D.		My News at 9	NBC 26 Tonight	Two/Half Men	Am Housewife	Am Housewife	Mom
45 WTPX		Chicago P.D. "A Material Witness"		Chicago P.D.		Chicago P.D. "Turn the Light Off"		Chicago P.D. "8:30 PM"		Chicago P.D. "My Way"		Chicago P.D. "The Docks"	
CW		10 The Big Bang Theory	11 The Big Bang Theory	Walker "Just Desserts" The Walkers celebrates Thanksgiving.		Walker Independence "Pilot" Abby Walker embarks on a journey.		10 Last Man Standing 11 The Liquidator		11 The National Desk (N) (Live)	11 The National Desk (N) (Live) 11 black-ish	11 Last Man Standing	11 Young Sheldon 11 Family Guy
14 WCWF 34 WYOW		11 Divorce Court (N)	11 Divorce Court										

March continues for Menominee independence

Menominee Indian High School students brave cold weather to remember Restoration Day

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

Walking in the footsteps of those who came before took on a significant meaning Dec. 21 for more than 100 Menominee Indian High School students marching in honor of Restoration Day.

Restoration Day is a very important day for the Menominee people, as it marks the day that President Richard Nixon signed the bill that made the tribe a federally recognized sovereign entity once again after the U.S. government took those rights away in 1954, an attempt at cultural assimilation. It restored tribal supervision over members and property, as well as services granted to Native American tribes.

Dawn Wilber, a Menominee culture and language teacher at the high school, noted that before the tribe was recognized again, the Menominee people marched from the reservation to Madison to make their case.

"This is a representation of that," Wilber said of the 2022 march.

Besides the march, the students also got the opportunity to learn about key moments in the tribe's history that day, according to Wilber. One classroom had a presentation on both restoration and the Menominee Termination Act of 1954, along with the details of when the Menominee Warrior Society took over the Novitiate in 1975 and more.

"We also had some traditional games that the kids were playing," Wilber said. "We have a snow snake outside. We had a moccasin game in the library, and then we had the Indigenous Games from North America in the gym."

Wilber noted the march was originally supposed to be longer, but the subzero temperatures prompted staff to make the walk shorter to protect student health.

"We're already thinking, what can we do next year?" Wilber said.

Wilber said showing these lessons through demonstration and presentation is vital to help students maintain their identity as Menominee.

"Our children, our students need to learn about their identity and who they are, the importance of being Menominee and how special it is to be a Menominee and to give them their own history on this day," she said.

Benjamin Grignon, director for



Menominee Indian High School sophomore Myklo Guzman carries the eagle staff as he leads his fellow students Dec. 21 across the road from Keshena Primary School to the high school.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA



Signs commemorating tribal sovereignty were carried along State Highway 47-55 on Dec. 21 as Menominee Indian High School students replicated the march of the Menominee people from Keshena to Madison to commemorate Restoration Day.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

Kaehkenawapahtaeq Charter School, said he sees the observance of Restoration Day as the Menominee tribe's Independence Day.

"This is about renewal, having our students understand what our people went through to reclaim our status as

Menominee people," Grignon said.

"All of the factions that happened in the past — the DRUMS (Determination of Rights and Unity for Menominee Stockholders), and MEI (Menominee Enterprises Inc.), the Menominee Warrior Society — it took our whole

nation together to bring this idea of being a tribe in the eyes of the government back."

Grignon said the march and celebration remembers what the Menominee people did in the past while also taking note of who they are now.

"Being the elements, being humbled by nature, I think that it's important for us to go through a little bit of a struggle in order to do the celebration," Grignon said.

Myklo Guzman, a sophomore at the school, was asked to carry the eagle staff during the march, which he described as "really cool."

"I care about it because it makes me remember what they went through, what they had to go through," Guzman said.

When asked about his feelings if the federal government ever tried to take away the Menominee's sovereign rights, Guzman was not willing to let such a thing happen.

"I would be mad, because we've already been here, so we shouldn't have to show that we are here," Guzman said. "We've been here already."

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AUCTIONS

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"NEW YEAR'S DAY AUCTION":
Sunday, January 1st at 1 p.m.
(Preview 12/30/22 AND 12/31/22) at
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341-7355/906-450-7356. (gnc)

HAVE AN EVENT TO SHARE?

There are two ways to submit calendar notices:

- Go to the form on our website at <http://www.newmedia-wi.com/content/community-calendar> and fill it out to send to us.
- Send your information by email to editor@newmedia-wi.com and put "Community Calendar" in the subject line.

SPEAK OUT!

Now, more than ever, it's important to make your voice heard in the community.

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Send us a letter expressing your views on the issues affecting your community. You have 400 words to make your point. Hope to hear from you soon!



Send letters to the editor at editor@newmedia-wi.com. All letters must have a name and phone number for verification. We will not publish anonymous letters.

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BEST OF SHAWANO - LEADER 2021

OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

Bounceback grants create model for success

As we look ahead to the new year, we're also looking back on the completion of one of Wisconsin's most successful small business development initiatives — the Main Street Bounceback grants.

When Gov. Tony Evers created the program in spring 2021, the idea was to help communities build thriving downtowns by providing \$10,000 grants to businesses and nonprofits that moved into empty storefronts.

The governor initially provided \$50 million in federal recovery funds, or enough to assist 5,000 businesses. As demand for the grants surged, he increased funding to cover another 2,500 businesses, then 2,500 more — bringing total funding to \$100 million for 10,000 grants.

With the program set to end Dec. 31, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. staff and our regional partners are closing in on assisting nearly 7,800 businesses in all 72 counties.

Gaining so many new small businesses in less than two years is impressive enough, but what makes



MISSY HUGHES

these grants unique are the impacts they're having on communities and on the business owners — and the lessons we've learned making these investments.

From Washburn on Lake Superior in northern Wisconsin to Prairie du Chien along the Mississippi River in southwestern Wisconsin and all points in between, local leaders tell us these grants are bringing excitement to downtowns by filling in the gaps between stores, encouraging people to linger, shop, dine and spend in their own communities.

For the business owners, the grants have often provided that last little boost that allows them to realize their dreams. One of my favorite examples came last fall, when Gov. Evers and I were visiting some of the first Bounceback businesses to open in Fond du Lac.

Monica Lara spotted us walking along Main Street and burst out of her store, with her Bounceback check in hand, so she could personally thank the governor and take a picture with him. Just this month, I stopped back at her store, Argentum et Aurum, and found that not only was her custom jewelry business booming, but she's planning to expand.

We've heard many stories like Lara's, and we've seen what businesses like hers mean to a community.

One unexpected result of the Bounceback program has been that more than half of the grants have gone to women-owned businesses — and over a third of the grants have gone to businesses in rural communities. From these results, we've learned that when resources are available, underrepresented entrepreneurs in every part of our state are ready to jump in and succeed.

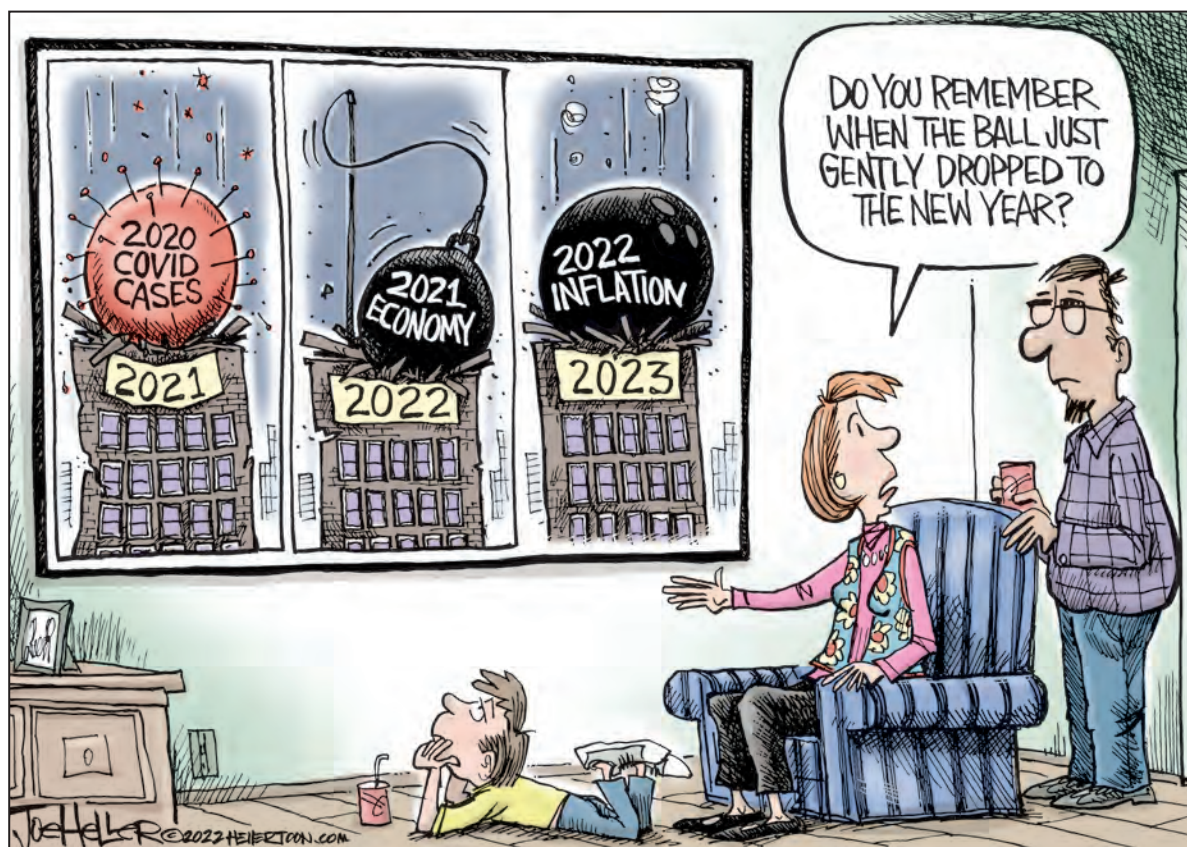
Another key lesson from the Bounceback grants is how important it is to invest in all our communities.

A recent survey found Wisconsin ranked first in the nation in the share of federal recovery funds allocated to business and second in the share dedicated to economic development. Many of these funds went directly to small businesses, often in relatively small amounts.

What we discovered from the success of the Bounceback grants is that you don't have to spend big to show big results. That's because, as one store owner told me, "Small businesses know how to stretch a dollar."

Our state will reap the benefits of the Main Street Bouncebacks for years to come as these businesses celebrate each new year, and our communities continue to flourish. At the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp., we'll keep the spirit of the Bounceback grants alive by continuing to invest in our small businesses, supporting our communities and making sure all Wisconsinites have the chance to fulfill their dreams.

Missy Hughes is chief executive officer of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp.



OPINION PAGE POLICY

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

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

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

All opinion pieces must be signed by the author, and an address and telephone number must be included for verification. Anonymous opinion pieces will not be published under any circumstances.

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

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

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



Maggie - Meet Maggie. She is a 2 year old Golden Retriever mixed breed ready for her forever home. She loves roaming and spending time with the staff.



Meet Diogi. She is a 2 year old Beagle Hound mixed breed. Diogi is a social gal who makes friends quickly. She has good listening skills and is a great dog.



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Meet Chloe. She is a Hound mixed breed. She is an easy going and social girl. She loves her bed and her daily walks. If you think Chloe is the gal for you, contact the shelter.



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OEC ACCEPTING SEALED BIDS

Oconto Electric Cooperative (OEC) has two crop land parcels totaling approximately 30 tillable acres, available for rent beginning Spring 2023.

Parcel Locations: Section 24, T28N, R19 E. USDA map shows 6.26 acres and 23.42 acres are located along Chestnut Rd, in Oconto Falls.

Bidding requirements: Bids must be submitted for a 5-year agreement (2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027). Each year's rent is due no later than March 1st of that year. Sealed bids may be mailed to Attention: Byron Nolde, CEO, or dropped off at OEC, 7479 REA Rd, PO Box 168, Oconto Falls, WI 54154.

Deadline: 4:00 p.m. Friday, January 27th, 2023. OEC reserves the right to refuse any and all bids.

ROBERT A SCHUBERT, SR.



Merry Christmas Sweetheart

Another Christmas is here
Still missing you
Still loving you
Still heartbroken
Time does not make things easier

Love Always,
Rose Ann



ALICE & RAY YOUNG, SR.



Merry Christmas Mom & Dad



Remembering...

All the special Christmas
times we enjoyed together.
Miss those days.

Love Always,
Rose Ann



Nominations sought for community service award

NEW Credit Union is seeking applications for the Harold P. Heckendorf Community Service Award, given out in honor of the longtime member of the board of directors at the credit union.

The award is open to anyone who has displayed exemplary community service and volunteerism. There is no age limit. The recipient will receive a commemorative plaque, a cash award of \$250 and a matching donation to the charity of their choice.

Nomination forms for the Harold P. Heckendorf Community Service Award can be picked up at any office of N.E.W. Credit Union, call 920-848-2793 to have one mailed, or find them online at www.newcu.org/pdf/CommunityServiceAward.pdf

Deadline for all applications is Jan. 25.

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Town of Morgan Caucus

Monday, January 9, 2023 at 6:00 PM
3276 County Road C, Oconto Falls, WI

Notice of Caucus

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, January 9, 2023 at 6:00 PM, at the Town of Morgan Hall, 3276 County Road C, Oconto Falls, WI, will be holding their caucus. The caucus is the Town of Morgan's method of nominating candidates to be placed on the Spring Election ballot. The caucus is open to the public, but only qualified electors of the municipality may nominate and vote for candidates for office.

Location: 3276 County Road C, Oconto Falls, WI 54154

Date: Monday, January 9, 2023

Time: 6:00 PM

This posting is pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 8.05(1)(b) and can be found in 3 posting locations: Morgan Town Hall, Morgan Fire Station & Hilltop Bar, as well as the town website www.townofmorgan.org.

Dated: December 21, 2022

Erin Mooers, Clerk

Town of Morgan

WNAXLP

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING REGARDING CITY OF GILLETT CODE BOOK CHAPTER 25 FLOODPLAIN

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public meeting regarding the City of Gillett's CHAPTER 25 FLOODPLAIN ORDINANCE will be held on THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2023 at 5:30 PM at the City Hall, 150 N McKenzie Avenue, Gillett, Wisconsin.

At the above time and place, all interested persons will be given the opportunity to be heard.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

Chelsea Anderson, Clerk
150 N. McKenzie Avenue
Gillett, WI 54124

WNAXLP

Best of Oconto County Region

OCONTO COUNTY
TIMES HERALD



2022

2022

Readers Poll

Deadline: January 23, 2023

BALLOT #1

Best Goods:

☐ Flower Shop _____

☐ Grocery Store _____

☐ Hardware Store _____

Best Services:

☐ A/C & Heating _____

☐ Child Care _____

☐ Chiropractor _____

☐ Credit Union _____

☐ Dentist _____

☐ Electrician _____

☐ Insurance Agency _____

☐ Gas Station/C-Store _____

☐ Hair Salon/Barber _____

☐ Pharmacy _____

☐ Plumber _____

☐ Real Estate Company _____

☐ Retirement Community _____

☐ Tax Service _____

☐ Veterinarian _____

Best of Oconto County Region

OCONTO COUNTY
TIMES HERALD

ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Clip & Mail Your Ballots To: **Shawano Leader**

Attn: Best Of

1464 E. Green Bay St., Shawano WI 54166

e-mail: advertising@newmedia-wi.com

Deadline: January 23, 2023

•A minimum of 10 categories on ballot must be completed in order for your vote to count to be eligible to win prizes. No purchase necessary to win.

OCONTO COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

Proceedings of Dec. 22

• Bond was set at \$10,000 cash for James T. Carriveau, 64, Oconto, after he was charged with felony bail jumping and accused of violating the terms of his bail on Dec. 16. He was already facing charges of intimidating a domestic violence victim and misdemeanor counts of disorderly conduct and resisting or obstructing an officer, in an incident that allegedly occurred Aug. 6. His initial appearance on the new charge was adjourned until Feb. 16.

Proceedings of Dec. 21

• Cynthia Annette Pecore, 26, Appleton, was sentenced to 18 months in prison, followed by two years of extended supervision, for fleeing an officer in a vehicle, in an incident that occurred May 13. Judge Michael T. Judge ruled that the sentence is consecutive to any others she is currently serving. Conditions of extended supervision include that she maintain absolute sobriety and complete an alcohol and other drug abuse assessment with follow-through on any recommended treatment or counseling.

• Dana G. Galske, 53, Green Bay, was sentenced to 15 months in prison, followed by 15 months of extended supervision, for possession of methamphetamine, in an incident that occurred Dec. 24, 2021, and felony bail jumping, in an incident that allegedly occurred March 29. Judge Michael T. Judge ruled that Galske is eligible for the Substance Abuse Program,

which can lead to early release upon successful completion.

• Sentence was withheld and Sean Michael Schulz, 30, Suring, was placed on two years of probation for possession of methamphetamine, in an incident that occurred July 1, and felony bail jumping and misdemeanor disorderly conduct, in an incident that occurred July 7. Among other conditions, Judge Jay N. Conley ruled that Schulz must maintain full-time employment and complete an alcohol and other drug abuse assessment.

• Jenna R. Garrigan, 33, Oconto Falls, pleaded no contest to false imprisonment, in an incident that occurred March 27, and felony bail jumping and misdemeanor disorderly conduct in an incident that occurred April 2. Judge Michael T. Judge scheduled sentencing for Feb. 28 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

• Marcus William Stodola, 31, De Pere, pleaded no contest to possession of narcotic drugs, in an incident that occurred April 29. Judge Michael T. Judge scheduled sentencing for Feb. 23 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

• Patricia Ann Nunway, 29, Keshena, waived her right to a preliminary hearing and entered pleas of not guilty and not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect to operating a motor vehicle without the owner's consent and bail jumping, in an incident that allegedly occurred Oct. 27. A status conference was scheduled for Feb.

16.

• Bond was set at \$5,000 cash for Jacob Brian School, 36, Oconto Falls, after he was charged with intimidating the victim of a domestic abuse crime, in an incident that allegedly occurred Nov. 9. A preliminary hearing was scheduled for Jan. 3.

Proceedings of Dec. 20

• Robert Allen Shane Oshkenaniew, 24, Oconto, was sentenced to four years in prison, followed by two years of extended supervision, for strangulation and suffocation, bail jumping and misdemeanor battery, in an incident that occurred June 13, 2021. Judge Michael T. Judge ruled that the sentence is to be served consecutively to a prison term Oshkenaniew is already serving for crimes committed in other counties.

• Melissa M. Wolf, 38, Oconto, was sentenced to two years in prison, followed by two years of extended supervision, for bail jumping and possession of methamphetamine, in an incident that occurred March 19, and possession of methamphetamine and bail jumping, in an incident that occurred July 23. She was given credit for 156 days already served in the county jail. Among other conditions of extended supervision, Judge Michael T. Judge ruled that Wolf must maintain absolute sobriety and full-time employment and may have no relationship with any known drug user.

• Dylan Richard Garrigan, 25, Lena, pleaded no contest to misdemeanor counts of fourth-degree sexual assault and sexual intercourse with a child 16 or older, in an incident that occurred March 14. Three related felony charges were dismissed in a plea agreement. Judge Jane M. Sequin withheld sentencing and placed Garrigan on three years of probation.

• A May 23 jury trial was set for Derrick Dale Rockman, 27, Gillett, on charges of substantial battery and misdemeanor bail jumping, in an incident that allegedly occurred May 23, 2021, as well as substantial battery, felony bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of resisting or obstructing an officer, disorderly conduct and bail jumping, in an incident that allegedly occurred July 2 of this year. A final pre-trial conference was scheduled for April 17.

• A final pre-trial conference was held for Joey E. Kingsley, 41, Oconto, who is charged with escape from criminal arrest, two misdemeanor counts of resisting or obstructing an officer and misdemeanor disorderly conduct, in an incident that allegedly occurred May 12, 2021. A two-day trial is scheduled to start Jan. 18. Judge Jane Sequin set a Jan. 13 deadline for attorneys to submit their final witness lists or notify her that the case has been resolved.

• Kayla H. Chevalier, 36, Oconto, waived her right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to burglary and misdemeanor theft, in an incident that allegedly occurred Nov. 17, as well as

misappropriating identity information to obtain money and misdemeanor bail jumping, in an incident that allegedly occurred Oct. 23. On a defense motion, her bond was reduced from \$5,000 cash to \$2,500. A pre-trial conference was scheduled for Jan. 12.

Proceedings of Dec. 19

• Phleecce K. Young, 21, Oconto, pleaded no contest to charges of felony possession of amphetamine with intent to deliver and misdemeanor counts of battery, disorderly conduct and possession of drug paraphernalia, in an incident that occurred June 16. Judge Jay N. Conley approved a deferred judgment agreement on the felony count, suspending judgment for two years, and placed Young on two years of probation for the misdemeanors. Among other conditions of probation, Young must maintain absolute sobriety and employment, and Conley ordered her to undergo an alcohol and other drug abuse assessment and follow through with recommended treatment.

• Brian T. Baeten, 32, Oconto, pleaded no contest to operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fourth offense), in an incident that occurred May 19. Judge Michael T. Judge scheduled sentencing for Feb. 23 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

• Tony M. Tomcheck, 44, Oconto, pleaded guilty to operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fourth offense), in an incident that happened March 20, and felony bail jumping, in an incident that allegedly occurred Sept. 23. A plea hearing was scheduled for Dec. 19. Judge Michael T. Judge scheduled sentencing for Feb. 23 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

• Matthew J. Fuller, 30, Oconto, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to fleeing an officer in a vehicle and misdemeanor resisting or obstructing an officer, in an incident that allegedly occurred Nov. 5. A pre-trial conference was scheduled for Jan. 12.

• Christina Marie Campbell, 42, Menasha, waived her right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to felony bail jumping, in an incident that allegedly occurred Oct. 3. A pre-trial conference was scheduled for Jan. 6 regarding both this case and earlier charges of substantial battery and misdemeanor disorderly conduct, in an incident that allegedly occurred July 24.

• After a preliminary hearing, Craig L. Miller, 67, Milwaukee, was bound over on charges of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fifth or sixth offense), in an incident that allegedly occurred Feb. 4. A motion hearing was scheduled for Feb. 17.

• An arrest warrant was authorized for Cody A. Dufrane, 32, Milwaukee, after he failed to appear for a status conference on charges of operating a motor vehicle without the owner's consent and misdemeanor hit-and-run, in an incident that allegedly occurred April 29, 2021.

**Legals
WNAXLP**

#1492
December 9, 16, 23, 30, 2022
& January 3 & 13, 2023
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
OCONTO COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
Case No. 21-CV-53

Plaintiff:
COVANTAGE CREDIT UNION
-Vs-
Defendant:
DOUGLAS KEMPKE
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that by virtue of a judgment of foreclosure entered on June 8, 2021 in the amount of \$37,851.88 the Sheriff will sell the described premises at public auction as follows:
TIME: January 31, 2023 at 10:00 am
TERMS: Pursuant to said judgment, 10% of the successful bid must be paid to the sheriff at the sale in cash, cashier's check or certified funds, payable to the Oconto County Clerk of Courts. (Personal checks cannot and will not be accepted). The balance of the successful bid must be paid to the clerk of courts in cash, cashier's check or certified funds no later than ten days after the court's confirmation for the sale or else the 10% down payment is forfeited to the plaintiff. The property is sold 'as is' and subject to all liens and encumbrances.
PLACE: Oconto County Courthouse, 2nd Floor, Lobby of the Treasurer's Office, 301 Washington Street, in the City of Oconto and Oconto County
DESCRIPTION: Real property in the Town of Abrams, County of Oconto, State of Wisconsin, and is described as follows:
Part of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast (SE 1/4 of SE 1/4), Section Twenty-seven (27), Township Twenty-seven (27) North, Range Twenty (20) East, in the Town of Abrams, Oconto County, Wisconsin, described as follows:
Commencing at the East 1/4 corner of said Section 27; thence South 00 deg. 00' 00" West along the East line of said Section 27, 1330.68 feet to the NW corner of said SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of said Section 27 and being the point of beginning; thence continuing South 00 deg. 00' 00" West, 214.50 feet; thence South 87 deg. 38' 50" West, 202.95 feet; thence North 0 deg. 00' 00" East, 214.50 feet; thence North 87 deg. 38' 50" East, 202.95 feet to the point of beginning. EXCEPT THEREFROM any parts used for road/highway purposes.

**Legals
WNAXLP**

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 2991 County Road EE, Abrams, WI 54101
DATED: December 5, 2022
Galanis, Pollack, Jacobs & Johnson, S.C.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
839 N. Jefferson Street, Suite 200
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414-271-5400
Galanis, Pollack, Jacobs & Johnson, S.C. is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. If you have previously received a discharge in a Chapter 7 bankruptcy case, this communication should not be construed as an attempt to hold you personally liable for the debt.
WNAXLP

#1496
December 30, 2022 & January 6 & 13, 2023
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
OCONTO COUNTY
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 22IN99

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Murylene R. Clements
DOD 12/8/2022
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 3/1/1940 and date of death 12/8/2022, was domiciled in Oconto County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 230 North Barkman Street, Suring, WI 54174.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 3/28/2023.
5. A claim may be filed at the Oconto County Courthouse, 301 Washington Street, Oconto, Wisconsin, Room: Sharon Greene-Gretzinger
503 South Main Street
Shawano, WI 54166
715-526-2401
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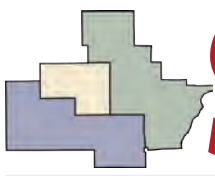
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2022



TIGERS PICK UP CONFERENCE WIN

Tigerton rolls to road win over Gresham

PAGE B2

Tigerton's Asher Michaelis, left, takes a contested shot as Gresham's Bryson Nelson, center, and Seth Marks defend during a conference game on Dec. 19 in Gresham.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS, B3 • ATHLETE PROFILES, B4-B5 • TOP SPORTS STORIES OF YEAR, B6-B7

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Tigerton boys ease past Gresham

Tigers start fast, cruise to conference win

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The Tigerton High School boys basketball team rolled to a 72-9 victory over Gresham in a Central Wisconsin Conference-North Division clash on Dec. 19 in Gresham.

Tigerton scored the game's first 16 points and never looked back after that. The Tigers had nine different players score in the contest and used a balanced attack to run away with the game.

Early on in the game, Tigerton attacked the basket. Ryder Graham led that charge, scoring 10 of the first 16 points.

"A lot of movement," said Graham on what led to the strong offensive night for the team. "We've realized in the past few years, sitting around on the outside of the 3-point line doesn't do anything. So we kind of put it together — screens, run around the court, get open — you're not going to score if you sit still, pretty much."

Graham continued to power Tigerton, tallying 16 of the opening 31 points before sitting the final three-plus minutes of the half. At that point, Tigerton was ahead 31-3.

With Graham on the bench, Maverick Maas took over, knocking down five of his six first-half 3-pointers in the final 2:45 of the half.

After Maas hit the first couple triples, his teammates and the visiting crowd took notice. By the time Maas hit the final 3-pointer — right before the halftime buzzer — he sent the team and fans into a frenzy.

"When our big guys moved out, we had a lot of smaller guys in," said Maas. "That really set the tone for our 3-pointers..."

The sophomore added that he hadn't hit that many shots in a game this season and that it, "felt really, really good. It gave me a lot of confidence to keep letting it fly."

After deploying a full-court press that rattled a young and inexperienced Gresham team, Tigerton backed off in the second half, but



Tigerton's Joey Zimdars, left, holds the ball as Gresham's Blade Hoffman defends him during a CWC-North contest on Dec. 19 in Gresham.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

still continued to stifle the hosts.

The team's starters played the first seven-plus minutes of the half, at which point Tigerton led 60-7, before turning to its bench players for the remainder of the contest.

"Our defense pushed them to the point where they just started throwing up random passes, and they weren't sure what they were doing with it," said Graham, who finished with 22 points, 11 rebounds and three assists. "It opened up opportunities for fastbreak layups, it opened up opportunities for postups and simple 3-point shots."

Maas added that it was all effort that led to the defensive showing, highlighting boxing out, hustling and continuing to play hard all game.

Maas finished the contest with 18 points, while Logan Wanta

had eight points and six rebounds. Ethan Carlson grabbed five boards for the Tigers.

Colby Wanta set things up for the Tigerton offense and finished the night with nine assists and six steals.

Gresham had just two players score in the contest, Bryson Nelson and Blade Hoffman.

Nelson hit a couple field goals and also got to the free-throw line several times on his way to a seven-point showing. Hoffman had the Wildcats' third and final field goal in the game.

Hoffman, a senior, said that being a team that plays sophomores and freshmen, the full-court press put on by Tigerton isn't something those guys have faced many times yet.

The senior complimented Tigerton, saying it, "has one of the best

rotations I've seen on defense from the press to (half-court) defense. They do it seamlessly. Everyone knows where to go, so it works out perfect for them."

Being a leader on a young team that's struggled a bit to this point of the season, Hoffman is focused on keeping things positive.

"I really just try and teach them and mentor them as much as I possibly can," said Hoffman.

Tigerton 46 26 — 72

Gresham 3 6 — 9

Tigerton (72): Maverick Maas 0-0 18, Seneca Cooper 0-0 4, Colby Wanta 0-1 3, Logan Wanta 0-0 8, Ethan Carlson 0-0 4, Sam Anheuser 0-0 4, Joey Zimdars 0-0 4, Ryder Graham 0-0 22, Asher Michaelis 1-2 5.

Gresham (9): Bryson Nelson 3-5 7, Blade Hoffman 0-2 2.

HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Shawano 58

Green Bay East 22

Shawano rolled to a Bay Conference win over Green Bay East on Dec. 20 in Green Bay.

Leah Nordin scored 15 points to lead Shawano offensively.

Abby Bystol chipped in eight points for the Hawks, while Brynlie Boyles and Rylee Trochil had seven each.

Witt-Birn 71

Northland Pines 19

Wittenberg-Birnamwood dominated Northland Pines in a nonconference clash on Dec. 20 in Eagle River.

Reese Rogowski led Witt-Birn with 22 points, seven steals and six assists. Rory Salvesen added 17 points and five rebounds, while Melaina Granquist had 13 points, 12 rebounds, six steals and three blocks.

Allison Linke recorded seven points and three steals for the Chargers. Faith Resch added seven points and four steals. Jami Wendler finished with three steals.

Lena 49

Wausaukee 31

Lena picked up a Marinette & Oconto Conference win over Wausaukee on Dec. 20 in Lena.

Eva Brooks scored 11 points to lead a balanced Lena attack. Whitney Potter chipped in 10 points.

Claire Brooks tallied nine points for the Wildcats. Chaela Rabas contributed seven points, while Natalie McNurlen had six.

Bonduel 60

Sevastopol 52

Bonduel handed Sevastopol its first loss of the season during a nonconference clash on Dec. 20 in Sturgeon Bay.

Ella Hischke scored 19 points to power Bonduel to victory. Hailey Zernicke and Tatum Sporisky added 11 points each, while Audrey Weier had 10.

Zernicke also grabbed seven rebounds for the Bears. Hischke and Weier each dished out three assists, with Hischke also finishing with four steals.

Niagara 53

Suring 43

Suring dropped an M&O contest to Niagara on Dec. 20 in Suring.

Bunny Cramer scored 15 points for Suring, while Christine Sleeter had 12. Emma Kristof totaled seven points for the Eagles.



Pulaski's Morgan Vertz, left, leaps up to try and grab the ball during a conference game against Sheboygan North on Dec. 20 in Pulaski.

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ONLINE

More high school highlights, college highlights and this week's recreation scoreboard can all be found at www.newmedia-wi.com.

Sheboygan North 52

Pulaski 39

Pulaski lost a Fox River Classic Conference clash against Sheboygan North on Dec. 20 in Pulaski.

Madeline Christenson scored 11 points for Pulaski, while Ella Wiese had nine.

Taylor Olson tallied seven points for the Red Raiders. Morgan Vertz and Ellie Mangold chipped in six points each.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Bonduel 71

Marinette 50

Bonduel eased past Marinette in a nonconference contest on Dec. 19 in Marinette. Ten Bears scored in the lopsided win.

Ryan Westrich scored 20 points to lead Bonduel offensively. Noah Weier added 13 points, while Cade Johnson had 12.

Colin Margelofsky was credited with nine assists in the win.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

Pulaski boys team earns WIAA/Rural Insurance Sportsmanship Award

The Pulaski High School boys soccer team earned the Sportsmanship Award for the 2022 fall state tournament.

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association, in cooperation with Rural Mutual Insurance Co., revealed the team winners on Dec. 20.

The WIAA/Rural Insurance Sportsmanship Award is presented to one school program and community – or communities in the case of cooperative programs – in each of the state team tournaments that demonstrates outstanding sportsmanship.

Award winners are determined by the conduct and sportsmanship displayed by athletes, coaches, cheer and support groups, mascots, bands and spectators. Additional consideration is given for the effort of school administrators and chaperones to

ensure support for their teams are positive and that the highest ideals of sportsmanship are demonstrated.

Pulaski receives the honor in boys soccer with its display of sportsmanship both on and in the stands during the state tournament at Uihlein Soccer Park in Milwaukee on Nov. 3. The Red Raiders fell to Whitefish Bay in their semifinal match, 4-2.

It marks the second time Pulaski has received the award overall. Award winners receive a trophy and banner in recognition of the honor.

The selection process includes contributions and evaluations from contest officials, tournament management, police and security personnel, crowd control and ushers, WIAA staff members, and area hotels and restaurants on occasion.

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ATHLETE PROFILE: CADEN YOUNG

Shawano senior wants to make last season his best

Shawano Community High School senior wrestler Caden Young already knows he'll be wrestling at the collegiate level, but first he's focused on making his final high school season his best one yet.

Young signed his letter of intent to Southwest Minnesota State University on Nov. 17. Since then, he's won a bunch of matches and turned in some strong finishes at tournaments.

Young finished 5-0 for the Hawks during the Catbird Duals on Dec. 3.

He earned a technical fall win in the team's dual win over Bonduel on Dec. 8.

The senior, who qualified for state as a junior, placed second at the Battle on the Bay on Dec. 10. Young also placed second at the Shawano Holiday Classic on Dec. 17, winning by technical fall and two decisions.

Coming into the season, Young was already a three-time all-conference first team performer and had never lost a conference match. He also has two regional titles and a sectional title to his name.

Q: When did your interest in wrestling begin?

A: I started wrestling in third grade, but I really started to get interested in wrestling in middle school after making youth state a few times.

Q: What is your favorite part about the wrestling season?

A: My favorite part of the wrestling season is the tournaments. I love competing and actually going out there and competing with my friends.

Q: What has wrestling taught you over the years?

A: Wrestling has taught me determination. You're met with all types of struggles throughout everyone's wrestling career, whether



Shawano's Caden Young, top, wrestles during the Shawano Holiday Classic on Dec. 17.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

it's injuries, losses or something else. But you learn to just keep pushing and keep improving.

Q: Talk about the work you've put in to become the wrestler you are today.

A: To become the wrestler I am today, it's literally taken years. I train all year-round, and the only sport I do is wrestling. It's really taken a lot of hard work and time to get where I am today.

Q: Do you have any individual goals you hope to accomplish this season, and what will it take to achieve those?

A: My goal is to win a state title. It's going to take a lot of hard work, but I think with a little fine tuning, I'm at the level.

Q: Many seniors will have their wrestling careers come to an end after the season ends. How special is it knowing you

will get to continue wrestling at the college level?

A: It's really special, and I'm very grateful to be able to continue my wrestling at the college level. I love this sport and can't wait to continue to chase my goals at the college level.

Q: As a senior, how do you try to lead the rest of your team?

A: I try to lead by example and help out with the other wrestlers when I can.

Q: What's your favorite memory of competing on the Shawano wrestling team?

A: My favorite wrestling memory was the Green Bay United dual last year. It was a crazy dual with some very interesting matches. That was probably the most fun I've had at a dual.

Q: Favorite movie, TV show and musical artist?

AT A GLANCE

Athlete: Caden Young
Sport: Wrestling
Weight class: 170 pounds
School: Shawano Community High School
Year: Senior

A: Movie — "Jurassic Park 2."
TV show — "The Office." Musical artist — Juice WRLD.

Q: Name one thing about yourself that not many people know.

A: I have been to Sweden and Denmark for wrestling.

Q: What are some things you hope to accomplish after graduating high school?

A: I hope to become an NCAA All-American and then become a teacher. Hopefully, one day I can coach high school wrestling.



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ATHLETE PROFILE: MACKENZIE BAILEY

Suring senior willing to do whatever it takes

Basketball teams tend to turn in better seasons when a player on the roster can do it all on the court. Senior Mackenzie Bailey is a player who can do it all for Suring, and she's a big reason why the girls team is near the top of the Marinette & Oconto Conference standings.

Through the team's first 10 games, Bailey was averaging 7.2 points, a team-leading 11.1 rebounds and 4.5 assists and also 2.4 steals per game.

Bailey scored a season-high 15 points in a conference win over St. Thomas Aquinas Academy on Dec. 2. She's grabbed 10-plus rebounds in every game but the season opener.

Q: When did your interest in basketball begin?

A: My interest in basketball began when I started going to Saturday morning basketball in third grade. I loved Saturday morning basketball and was up early for it every morning. Since then, I have looked forward to every season.

Q: What is your favorite part about the basketball season?

A: My favorite part is the games themselves. I love practicing with my team to get ready for each game. Playing with some of my best friends is truly amazing, and it is nice to see how far we have come.

Q: What has the game of basketball taught you over the years?

A: It has taught me how to be a better leader, work with my teammates and get out of my comfort zone. I have developed so many different leadership skills throughout my years. I love working with my teammates during practices and games.

Q: What is your favorite thing to do out on the basketball court, and why?

A: My favorite thing to do is face

guard. I love when I am able to face guard because not many teams/fans really understand why we do this. Most people assume that I'm just not a good defensive player, but really it's because we respect that player for their ability, and we need to stop them from scoring.

Q: Do you have any individual goals you hope to accomplish this winter season, and how do you plan on achieving those?

A: I want to become a better shooter and a player all around. I have been working with my confidence in order to get more shots up. I also want to have a great last season with my team, and I know we are and will continue to if we all work to achieve the most.

Q: Being several games into the season, what are some aspects of the game in which your team wants to improve?

A: There are some games where our team is fantastic with our defense and being where we are supposed to, but there are other games where we are slacking. I think our team needs to become more consistent while playing. We are doing amazing for only this far in the season, and I'm excited to see how much better we are able to get.

Q: As a senior, how do you try to lead the rest of your team?

A: As a senior, I try to make everyone know that I believe in their ability and what they are capable of doing. I believe in every single person on our team, and I hope they build up the confidence to realize what they are able to accomplish.

Q: Before a game starts, do you or the team have any routines or rituals you go through?

A: Before every game, I listen to a motivational speech that was introduced to me my freshman year from a



Suring's Mackenzie Bailey looks for an open teammate during a conference game against Lena on Dec. 5 in Suring.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

senior at the time. It's called "Make it count," and it's by Team Fearless.

Q: What's your favorite memory of competing on the Suring girls basketball team?

A: My favorite memory is my sophomore year when we got conference and regional champions. We didn't get recognized for conference, but we did for regionals. That was a very special year for our team, and we all worked so hard for everything.

Q: Favorite movie, TV show and musical artist?

A: Favorite movie: "Love & Basketball." TV show: "Criminal Minds." Musical artist: Drake Milligan or Canaan Cox.

Q: Name one thing about your-

AT A GLANCE

Athlete: Mackenzie Bailey

Sport: Girls basketball

Position: "All of them; I get put wherever I am needed."

School: Suring High School

Year: Senior

self that not many people know?

A: For the last two years, I have competed in the demolition derby that is held in Suring during Labor Day weekend.

Q: What are some things you hope to accomplish after graduating high school?

A: I hope that I continue to be successful within college at UW-Stevens Point, along with serving in the Army National Guard.

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Whiting's 4th title the top area sports story

Witt-Birn volleyball, Pulaski boys soccer state appearances take No. 2-3 spots

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

The past year has produced plenty of memorable sports accomplishments.

There were impressive individual moments, like Oconto Falls' Clayton Whiting winning his fourth state title, which was unanimously voted the top sports story of 2022. Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Reese Rogowski and Pulaski's Taya Schmidt, along with several area wrestlers, also had strong state showings to earn spots among the top-10 stories.

There were also plenty of area teams that shone, like the Witt-Birn volleyball and Pulaski boys soccer teams qualifying for state. Other teams, like Lena volleyball, Bonduel softball and girls basketball and Lena football, didn't quite make it to state, but each had memorable seasons for other reasons to earn spots in the top 10 sports stories.

Here's a closer look at the top area sports stories for 2022:

Whiting caps monster career with 4th title

The high school wrestling career for Oconto Falls' Clayton Whiting was one most wrestlers only dream of.

Whiting finished 3-0 in his state matches at 182 pounds as a senior to win a fourth title on Feb. 26, becoming only one of 22 wrestlers ever to win four titles. All 15 of the points he gave up at state came on free escapes.

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

He capped his senior year with a 50-1 record. His high school record finished at 163-5, with only two losses after his freshman season. Whiting's first three titles came at 152, 170 and 182 pounds.

Only four of the 22 four-time champs have a title over 152, and Whiting is the only one to have a title over 160 pounds.

Whiting graduated high school as one of four Panthers to ever win multiple state titles and was the only four-time champ.

"I think my legacy is going to stay in there forever, and I think it means a lot to all the wrestlers that are incoming to my high school," said Whiting. "It's going to motivate them that any-



Oconto Falls' Clayton Whiting, top, wrestles Northwestern's Ian Smith during the Division 2 182-pound weight class first-place match at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament on Feb. 26 at the Kohl Center in Madison. Whiting ended his incredible high school career with a fourth state title that weekend.

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The Wittenberg-Birnamwood volleyball team celebrates a point during a Division 3 state semifinal match against Howards Grove on Nov. 4 at the Resch Center in Green Bay. The Chargers qualified for state for the first time in school history this fall.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

thing is possible, and they can become just like me someday."

Whiting now wrestles for the University of Missouri.

Witt-Birn volleyball team makes state for 1st time

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood volleyball program has enjoyed plenty of success over the past few seasons, but the Chargers made history this fall when they qualified for state for the

first time in school history.

Witt-Birn won the Central Wisconsin Conference-East Division title with a 7-0 record. The Chargers then knocked off Coleman and Bonduel to win a regional title. Witt-Birn swept Weyauwega-Fremont before rallying past Edgar in an epic, five-set sectional final.

"It's crazy," said Lilly Betry, one of six seniors on the roster, after qualifying for state. "It's so nice that it's our

last year, too. This is the way we're going to go out. It's just amazing."

"Literally everything, it's crazy," said Kiara Deruchowski, another senior. "Our team has worked so hard for this, and to be a senior and go to state is absolutely amazing."

At state, Witt-Birn was topped 25-13, 25-18, 25-9 by Howards Grove, which went on to win the title for a fourth straight year. That didn't diminish the season in the slightest for the Chargers.

"I'm so proud of all my girls," said coach Becky Rew in a postgame press conference. "They fought the whole way through. They didn't let the nerves of state get to them. They fought and they pushed every point ... I just can't say enough about these girls and how they never give up on each other."

Pulaski boys soccer team returns to state

The same day Witt-Birn's volleyball team punched its first ticket to state, the Pulaski boys soccer team also qualified for state.

The Red Raiders opened the postseason by outscoring its first two opponents 21-1 to win a regional title. Things got tougher in sectional play, but top-seeded Pulaski prevailed, topping West De Pere 4-3 in penalty kicks and then downing Tomah 1-0 in the sectional final to make it to state for the second time in school history.

"It's very special; I honestly couldn't ask for anything better," said senior Ryan Drafz of making state. "We lost last year in the sectional finals, so it feels really nice to even the score and advance to state. We were able to win with confidence, passion and playing the full game. We never let up or gave up; we played our hearts out, and that's why we were able to win and advance to state."

At state, Pulaski put up a great fight against top-seeded Whitefish Bay, but lost 4-2. Corbin Tackmier and Chase Ambrosius scored for the Red Raiders at state.

Pulaski capped the season with an 18-5-2 record, and coach Jeff Schneider believed that season will be just the start of big things for the program.

"For these guys to finally punch through and get it, I think it's going to only help our program, because we do talk about getting to state and it's not a foreign concept," said Schneider. "Now that we've actually been here, we've played a game down here, I think the program in general — it's a bright future. I'm very proud of the team; this was a great opportunity and, I thought, a good showing."

Witt-Birn's Rogowski a star at state

Before helping the volleyball team to state, Witt-Birn's Reese Rogowski capped her junior year with a huge track and field season.

The season culminated at state, where she placed second in the 200- and 400-meter dashes, seventh in the 100 dash and 10th in the long jump.

"It means a lot because I knew I wanted to place higher this year in at least a few of my events, and that's what I did," said Rogowski of her performances at state.

Earlier in the season, Rogowski won CWC-Large titles in the 100, 200, 400 and long jump, doing so in dominant fashion.

Rogowski's big season continued at regionals, where she placed first in the 200 and 400 and was second in the long jump and 100. The junior then placed first in the 200, second in the 400 and third in the 100 and long jump to qualify for state in all four events.

Lena volleyball team goes on magical postseason ride

The Lena volleyball team also made some history during the fall, winning



Pulaski goalie Mason Baker prepares to kick the ball after making a save during the soccer team's Division 2 state semifinal match against Whitefish Bay on Nov. 3 at Kohler Engines Stadium at Uihlein Soccer Park in Milwaukee. Pulaski boys qualified for state for the second time in school history.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

its first regional title in 32 years.

The regional title wasn't expected, with the Wildcats coming in as a No. 4 seed and needing a furious rally and a couple upsets to advance.

Lena dropped the first two sets against No. 5 Gillett in a regional quarterfinal, but rallied to win 16-25, 17-25, 25-16, 25-16, 15-5 in five sets.

Against top-seeded Suring, Lena pulled off a 25-20, 16-25, 25-12, 23-25, 15-11 road win. The Wildcats won the regional title over No. 2 Gresham by rallying a couple times, 16-25, 25-16, 19-25, 25-20, 15-10.

Lena's magical postseason run came to a close after a loss to Wabeno/Laona in a sectional semifinal.

"We feel very proud that we came this far," said Lena's Makynna Herald. "It is sad that it has to end this way, but we came this far and it was super fun."

Pulaski's Schmidt caps career on state podium

Pulaski's Taya Schmidt was no stranger to the state scene, making the meet as a diver on three occasions. She saved her best for last.

Schmidt qualified for state as a senior after winning the sectional by

more than 35 points. She placed fifth at state with a score of 428.45.

"This year, I thought I did pretty good at state," said Schmidt. "Although a few dives did not go the way I was hoping, I did my best I could've in the moment, and I'm happy with the way I placed."

Earlier in the season, Schmidt was first in the Fox River Classic Conference to earn the Diver of the Year honor. She also broke the 6-dive school record score, with her mark of 269.15 topping the old mark of 251.6.

Bonduel softball team dominant in spring

The Bonduel softball team arguably had the best regular season showing from any area team in 2022.

The Bears were undefeated during the regular season and went on to win a regional title before eventually falling in the sectional semifinal game.

Bonduel flexed its muscles during CWC-East play, outscoring opponents 99-14 to win the title by three games.

Even more impressive was the fact that the Bears' roster wasn't all that experienced, with just two seniors on the roster.

Heartbreak finish caps positive year for Bonduel girls basketball squad

The Bonduel softball team continued where the Bonduel girls basketball team left off in the winter. The Bears tied Amherst for the CWC-East title and finished the season with a 23-5 record.

Bonduel got past playoff nemesis Crandon to open the postseason and then routed Shiocton to win a regional title.

The Bears then defeated St. Mary Catholic in a sectional semifinal matchup, a round that had dispatched the program from the playoffs several times over the past few years.

Bonduel then played in an instant classic against Westfield in the sectional final. The Bears fell behind early and trailed by 11 points with about 14 minutes to play.

Bonduel slowly clawed back into the contest and eventually tied it with 25 seconds to play. Just when it looked like the game would head to overtime, Westfield hit a one-handed desperation shot at the buzzer to stun Bonduel.

Lena/STAA football co-op enjoys another big season

The Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas Academy football team turned in its second straight big season this past fall.

The co-op went 6-1 in Peninsula Conference play to take second, with a loss to Gibraltar. Lena/STAA avenged that loss by upsetting Gibraltar in the first round of the playoffs. The co-op was eliminated by Wabeno/Laona in a second round game.

Lena/STAA earned 12 all-conference honors and had Sam Marquardt (offense) and Josh Kristof (defense) take home the Players of the Year awards.

Wrestlers rack up top finishes at state

While Whiting was winning his fourth state title, other area wrestlers were also performing well at the state tournament. Sixteen other wrestlers qualified for state last winter.

Pulaski's Trenton Gibbons placed second, while Mason Wells was third and Ethan Eggert fifth. Witt-Birn's David Gauderman also placed third. Lena's Dylan Comins, Oconto Falls' Cole Bozile and Bonduel's Tyson Bogacz all came in sixth place.

Bonduel's Hailey Berg and Maddy Sokolski and Shawano's Piper Novitski all participated in the first-ever girls tournament. Berg and Sokolski each came in second, while Novitski was fifth.

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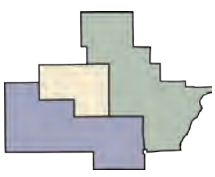
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BIG YEAR FOR THE SUSANS

Garden expert Rob Zimmer
tells about rudbeckia accolades

PAGE C4



Bright and cheery black-eyed Susan is celebrated during the coming year.

ROB ZIMMER



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Hinnefeld's college route has had some turns

After overcoming obstacles, social work graduate aims to help others do the same

By DENISE OLSON
Special to NEW Media

Most graduates at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire plan to use their degrees to make the world a better place, and some have had a specific experience that has inspired a career path to make change.

For Finn Hinnefeld, that experience was witnessing widespread homelessness, and the journey of discovery began with a trip to Chicago as a second-year student.

"I was a music education major at the time and was beginning to sort of doubt that was the right path for me," the Shawano native said. "Being in Chicago and seeing for the first time what it looks like when so many people in one place are experiencing homelessness — it just really broke my heart and stayed with me."

Hinnefeld said that reflecting on that trip for a couple of weeks prompted a process of potentially changing majors. After mulling over a well-honed "pros and cons list," changing to a social work major won the inner argument.

After officially changing majors in spring 2019, Hinnefeld enrolled in a 200-level social work course that focused on global issues and human rights and injustice, topics that sparked deep interest in how systemic change can come about.

"The class was SW 290, Human Rights and Global Injustice, and it was my first real introduction to social justice and human rights," Hinnefeld said. "We discussed race and systemic racism in the prison system, for example. That's the class that really fired me up to be someone who seeks change."

Hinnefeld said that just as a true fire was lit by the field of social work, the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown was issued in March 2020, and things suddenly became unclear once again. In addition to struggling academically with online classes, Hinnefeld said that period also was fraught with processing self-realizations about gender identity.

"I came back to school in fall 2020, but issues around my queer identity were hard. My overall mental health was not great," said Hinnefeld, who uses the pronoun they. "Although I had a ton of amazing support from my social work cohort and faculty, as well as Student Health Service and Counseling Services, I hit midterms and



Finn Hinnefeld wants other students to know that taking a break from academics for personal or other reasons is not failure — it's self-care that can make all the difference in getting back on track to their best futures.

CONTRIBUTED

had a hard conversation with my mom about school."

Hinnefeld said that with their mother's support, the decision to withdraw from classes and take some time away from school was best.

"It was a scary decision, and I was disappointed in myself because none of my older siblings ever needed to take a break from school," they said. "My mom just said, 'It seems that this is what you need to do; it will all be fine,' which really helped me."

Spending the rest of the 2020-21 academic year at home, working a new job and focusing on their mental health while discovering and accepting their gender identity turned out to be a tremendous growth opportunity for Hinnefeld.

"I always knew I would be going back to school; that was never a question," Hinnefeld said. "But I took that year to really reflect, think about who I am and what I want. I did counseling — it was a healing year for sure."

Hinnefeld said that returning to school felt great, and what little trepidation there was about jumping back into their social work courses was quickly resolved by supportive faculty and advising staff.

Hinnefeld said they earned all A's that semester and have maintained all A's and B's ever since.

With academics going well, Hinnefeld decided to pursue an internship in social work to complete their pre-service experience in the field. They worked with the organization Western Dairyland, a community action nonprofit serving disadvantaged individuals in Buffalo, Eau Claire, Jackson and Trempealeau counties.

"At this organization, I had opportunities to dive into macro elements in social work, meaning systemic problems and policy change, including homelessness," Hinnefeld said. "I thought that since it was homelessness that got me interested in social work to begin with, it made sense for this internship to bring me full circle by working to make change in that area."

As part of the larger picture of housing in the region, Hinnefeld works directly with people experiencing homelessness in Eau Claire, a population that hovers around the 200 mark, according to recent data.

"One of the things I noticed right away in my internship was that there really isn't a forum for people experiencing homelessness to be heard, for

their voices to make it to meaningful discussions on the topic. One of my projects has been to create a homelessness roundtable, monthly discussions at the downtown Community Haven House, formerly known as the Warming Center," Hinnefeld said.

Hinnefeld said these roundtables offer people experiencing homelessness a place to voice specific concerns, ask questions about services and to simply "be seen and heard."

Hinnefeld's immediate plans after graduation are to find full-time employment.

"There happens to be an opening at Western Dairyland, so I am applying to that," Hinnefeld said. "I do want to get my master's, but first I'd like to work for a couple years."

Hinnefeld acknowledges that a career in social work can be daunting, the circumstances of which can take a personal toll on case workers.

"The work at Western Dairyland has been heavy; it can be a challenge to staying positive," Hinnefeld said. "I've learned things through this internship that will help long term in this field, like taking care of myself and setting good boundaries between work and life."



Black-eyed Susans are a classic wildflower favorite that are excellent for attracting butterflies to the garden.

ROB ZIMMER

Rudbeckia named perennial plant of the year

The coming year is going to be a good year for an old-fashioned favorite. Black-eyed Susan, botanically known as Rudbeckia, has been named the perennial plant of the year by two of the gardening industry's most prestigious plant organizations.

Specifically, the garden hybrid known as American Gold Rush, has been named Perennial Plant of the Year by the Perennial Plant Association. Additionally, The National Garden Bureau has proclaimed 2023 as the Year of the Rudbeckia. Quite an honor for such a traditional, longtime favorite.

Black-eyed Susans are one of the easiest to grow garden plants. They are also exceptional for attracting a variety of butterfly species, as well as providing a food source for migrating and



ROB ZIMMER

compact size.

All of the Rudbeckia are excellent for beautiful, bright color in the garden; these long blooming perennials begin in late June and continue sometimes into November. This makes them an especially good source of late season pollen and nectar for bumblebees, honeybees, as

overwintering songbirds during fall and winter.

American Gold Rush is a desirable hybrid with splendid branching, rigid stems that don't break, a high bud and bloom count, and a relatively

well as migrating monarchs.

In the garden, black-eyed Susans grow best in full sun, but will tolerate and bloom nicely in a bit of shade. With their bright, cheery, golden yellow blooms and long-lasting season, they are among the favorites of many gardeners. Perfect for a cottage garden setting, a butterfly garden, pollinator garden, prairie or meadow garden, even in containers, there are varieties of black-eyed Susans for all areas of the yard and garden.

Many black-eyed Susan varieties reseed freely, making them an excellent choice for large spaces and wildflower gardens.

Black-eyed Susans may be perennial, meaning they continue to come back and grow larger year after year, or biennial, meaning they form a

rosette of leaves their first year, then bloom the next. There are also many varieties of annual black-eyed Susan that grow and bloom their first year then die back permanently.

In addition to the classic gold with brown center, there are a number of other beautiful color choices. Many varieties are colored in autumn shades of brown, rust and orange. There is also the interesting variety known as Cherry Brandy, which is best treated as an annual, and blooms in a beautiful reddish brandy color.

Enjoy celebrating the "Year of the Black-eyed Susan" this year in your garden, as well as all of the bees, butterflies and birds that will thank you.

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

Keep an eye out for winter finches

The lakes are frozen over, and the white snow has blanketed the green grass. 'Tis the season to scrape off windshields and don wool socks. We've said our goodbyes to the monarchs, meadowlarks and the ruby-throated hummingbirds. But don't get buried in your winter blues, because something unexpected may be flying your way.



LISA JANSEN

There is a group of birds called "winter finches" that live year-round in the boreal forests of Canada. They include the pine siskin, purple finch, evening grosbeak, pine grosbeak, red crossbill, white-winged crossbill, common redpoll and hoary redpoll. Although not a member of the finch family, red-breasted nuthatches are often included in this group because of their similar feeding and wandering habits.

Winter finches feed on seeds stored inside the cones of conifer trees including spruces, pines and firs. Each species of finch has its own favorite kind of seeds. When that corresponding type of tree has poor seed production over a wide geographical area, those birds move outside of their normal range to find food. When one to two species move, it is called an irruption. When six or more species move, it is called a superflight.



Roger Tory Peterson described the purple finch as a "sparrow dipped in cranberry sauce." LISA JANSEN

As part of the Finch Research Network, biologist and ecologist Tyler Hoar, along with the help of more than 50 volunteers across Canada, analyzes the condition of the boreal forests' conifer trees. With the findings, Hoar predicts whether there will be enough food to sustain the birds throughout the winter, or if the finches will have to move to find food elsewhere. The announcement of the forecast is as exciting in the birding world as the commodities forecast was at the end of the movie "Trading Places."

Last year, there was so much

traffic to the forecast website that it crashed. You can read his forecast from the Finch Research Network at <https://finchnetwork.org/winter-finch-forecast-2022>.

Hoar's forecast helps us predict what birds may be heading our way, but what can't be predicted is which direction the birds will go when they reach Lake Superior. Will they head east across the north side of the lake and turn into the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, or will they swing around Duluth and move into Wisconsin? Fortunately, we have resources to help us watch, learn and

listen as the flocks move.

Brothers Ryan and Derek Sallmann created Badgerland Birding, an online resource offering free articles and videos about birds. You can watch a video of them talking with Tyler Hoar and Matt Young about this year's winter finch forecast. The YouTube video is called, "Winter Finch Forecast (2022/2023) What Species Might You See This Winter?"

Another resource is the "Finches, Irruptions and Mast Crops" Facebook group. It is a public group run by the Finch Research Network. Members post sightings and discuss the movements of finches as they make their way to backyards and city parks.

An invaluable resource is eBird. It is a free app from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. When someone sees a bird, they report it on the app so others will know what bird they saw and where they saw it. You can search by location to see what birds are nearby. You can also search by bird to see if a specific bird is coming your way. This is a wonderful resource to track winter finches.

I bet you are wondering what the scoop is for this year. The red-breasted nuthatches were the earliest irruptive species arriving throughout Wisconsin in September. Since then, evening grosbeaks, purple finches and common redpolls have been spotted all across Wisconsin. A few groups of white-winged crossbills have been reported here and there. Pine grosbeaks and red crossbills have arrived in the northern part of the state, and one hoary redpoll was sighted near Washburn. They may not all make it to our backyards, but I am eager to see who just might.

If the bitter wind and frosty ground give you the winter wearies, take a look outside. Perhaps a winter finch, from the boreal forests of Canada, has stopped by to visit your feeder. Now that you know how far they've come, I hope you get as excited as I do when you see one of these special finches, and now that you understand why they've come, perhaps you will provide food and water in hopes of making their lives a little easier. They will surely make ours a little more beautiful.



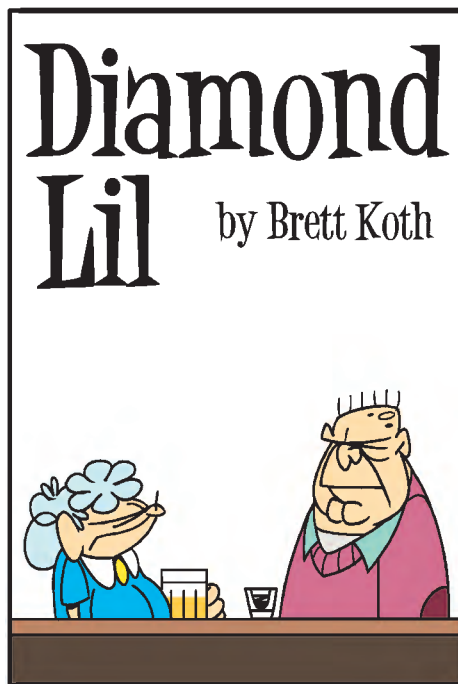
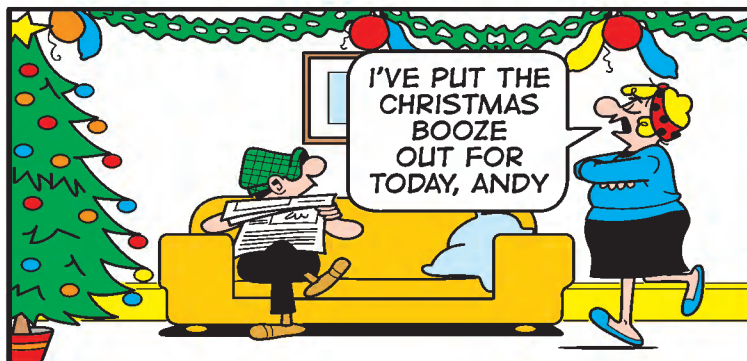
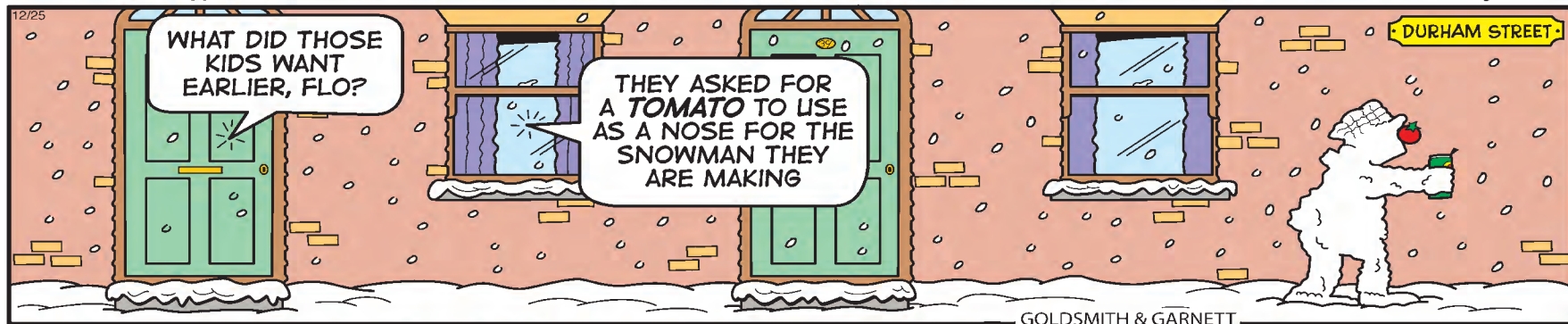
A flock of evening grosbeaks visits a platform feeder.

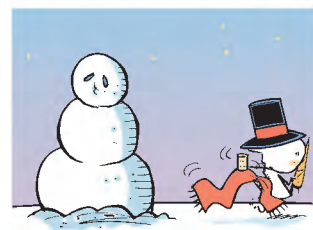
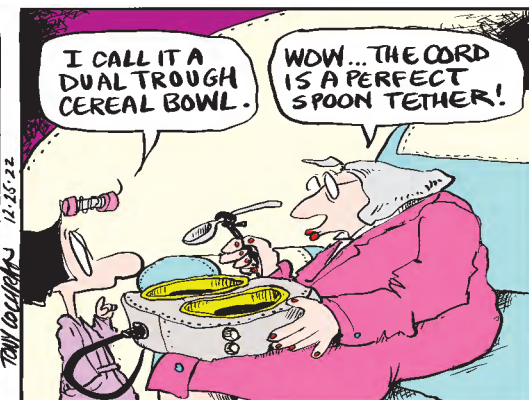
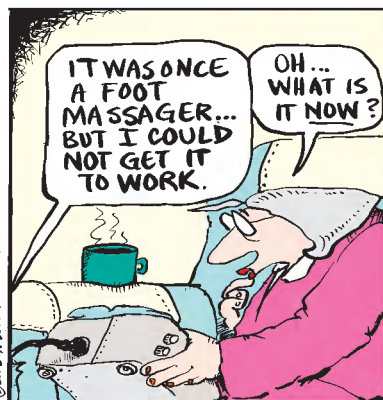
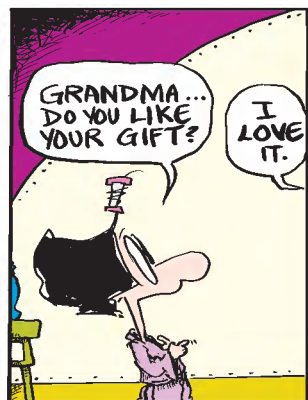
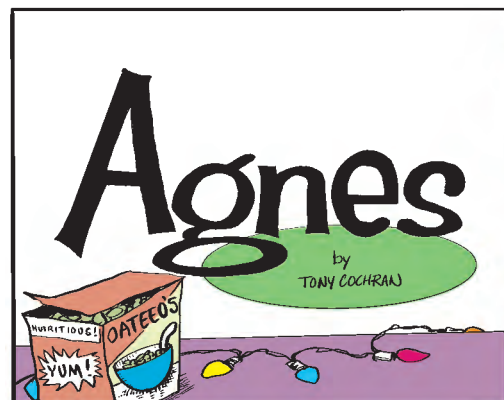
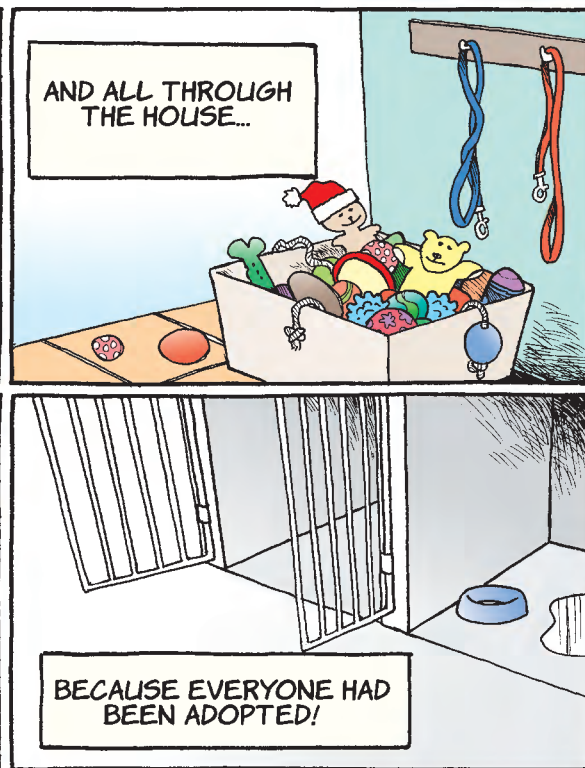
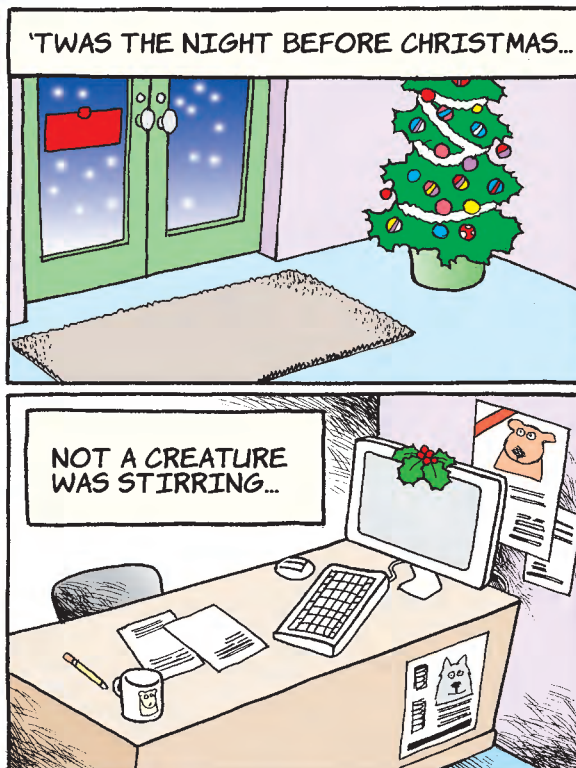
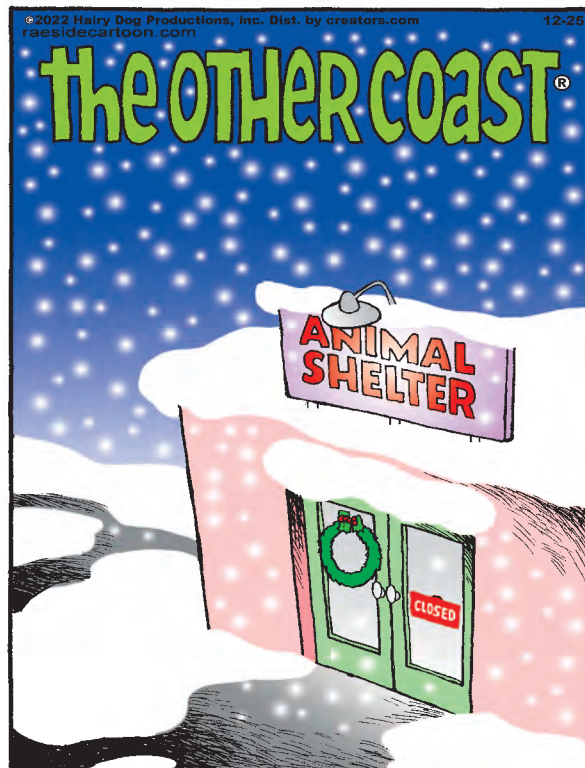
LISA JANSEN

Lisa Jansen is a conservationist, nature writer and award-winning photographer. She specializes in raising awareness of birds and butterflies of the Midwest.

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BY MICK MASTROIANNI AND MASON MASTROIANNI

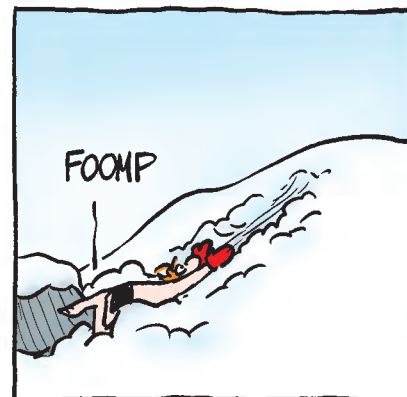
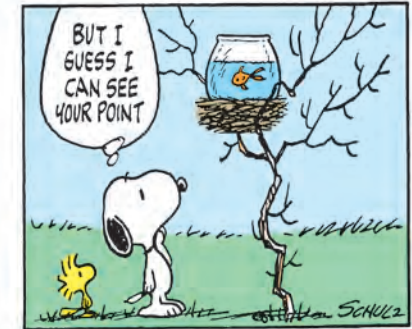


Puzzle Answers

5	4	1	6	7	2	3	9	8
8	2	6	3	9	4	7	1	5
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AROUND THE COMMUNITY



Ben Pytleski, left, with the Lena Lions presents Lisa Gruszynski, librarian for the Lena School District, with the Lena Lions Educator Award on Dec. 7.

CONTRIBUTED



Michele and Gary Jenquine, left, receive the Lena Lions Community Award from Paul Huberty.

CONTRIBUTED

Lena Lions give award to school district librarian

Lisa Gruszynski, Lena School District librarian, received the Lena Lions Educator Award during the Lions Christmas party held Dec. 7 at the Holiday Inn at Kelly Lake.

The award is in appreciation for all the time and hard work that Gruszynski has given to the students over the years.

Gruszynski started college at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire in 1986 and transferred to UW-Oshkosh after 2½ years. She started her career in Lena as a part-time librarian and a part-time kindergarten aide in 1991. Gruszynski got married in November 1991 and became the full-time librarian for the 1992-93 school year. She received her Masters of Curriculum and Supervision from UW-Oshkosh in 1995.

Gruszynski has been the librarian for Lena for her whole career, in a job that has never been the same two years in a row and that she loves. Gruszynski has added other duties over the years; she's also the district mentor for new teachers and teaches intervention students for the elementary school.

Outside of school, Gruszynski and her husband, John, have two daughters, Angel and Jamey, whom they try to see as often as possible. They try to plan a family day each month to spend time together as they all go their separate ways in life. Gruszynski enjoys gardening, canning and reading. She looks forward to some traveling in the future.

Lena farmers receive community service award

Gary and Michele Jenquine received the Lena Lions Community Service Award at the Lena Lions Christmas party held Dec. 7 at the Holiday Inn at Kelly Lake.

The Jenquines are the third generation to run the Jenquine family farm. They bought the farm in 1987 from Gary's father. They run the farm together, where they work hard and are proud of producing a quality milk product that is shipped to Bel-Gioioso Cheese. They are also proud to be a small farm and enjoy doing daily chores and milking together.

The Jenquines were both born and raised in Lena; both graduated from Lena High School. They will be celebrating 42 years of marriage this fall. The Jenquines have two children.

The Jenquines enjoy riding on their Harley, fishing, snowmobiling, spending time with their children and five grandchildren and experiencing a good campfire with family and friends.

The Jenquines are members of St. Anne Catholic Parish, where Gary is a member of the Knights of Columbus. The Jenquines are proud to represent the dairy farmers in the area.

Shawano library serving soup during January

The Shawano Public Library claims to be "soup-er" excited for the return of Soup on Fridays during January.

Weekly, a different soup will be provided, free of charge, at the library, 127 S. Sawyer St., Shawano. Soups include pasta fagioli on Jan. 6, sausage tortellini on Jan. 13, New Orleans gumbo on Jan. 20 and potato soup on Jan. 27. Soup will be available beginning at 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. or until the soup is gone.

Soup on Fridays is funded by the Friends of Shawano County Libraries, Inc. The Friends is a nonprofit group that provides financial and volunteer support to the county's six public libraries. Funds raised support the library's programs, technology, circulating collections and more. Annual memberships are \$10 for an individual, \$16 for a family and \$25 for a business. Membership applications can be picked up at any library.

For information, contact the library at 715-526-3829.

\$36K grant to fund community center

The Bellin Health Bond Community Center will use a generous grant from the Leon H. and Clymene M. Bond Foundation, Inc. to fund an outdoor youth playground, an annual kids' triathlon and continued monthly family/community nights.

The Bellin Health Foundation recently received \$36,872 from the Bond Foundation for use at the community center.

"Thanks to this extremely generous donation, we can continue to serve our members and community with enriching programming that enhances health and well-being," said Julie Bieber, vice president for Bellin Health Oconto Hospital. "We are incredibly grateful and know the funds will be put to good use in service of our community."

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Puzzles

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THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

SEASONAL LINES: From five familiar tunes

by S.N.

ACROSS

- 1 Exams for some college srs.
6 Is overproud
12 Stop insisting
19 Actress Zellweger
20 Choice word
21 Embarrassing error
22 Line from "The Christmas Waltz"
25 Spanish article
26 Drain-cleaner ingredient
27 Diamond official
28 Razorbill birds
29 Insignificant detail
30 Group of wolves or lies
32 *Li'l Abner* cartoonist
35 Symbol in Tolkien novels
36 Transgressions
37 Standard of excellence
39 Summer Games org.
40 Designer Cassini
42 Flora + fauna
43 Line from "Jingle Bells"
48 Opposite of paleo-
49 Where the buoys are
50 Spots for cookouts
51 CD ancestors
54 AMA members
56 Name that means "sorceress"
58 Leave port
63 King Charles ____
64 Selects, so to speak
66 ____ day (frequent vitamin dose)
68 Prefix for present
69 Line from "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town"
76 Reverberate
77 Loose soil
78 Latch (onto)

- 79 Meditative sect
80 Nation surrounded by South Africa
84 Rodeo accessory
87 Most Wanted List compiler
88 Mag execs, for short
89 Limits risk
91 Mean, to a statistician: Abbr.
93 Part of TGIF
95 Line from "Let It Snow! . . ."
104 Varnish source
105 Pays for
106 Main color of a Santa suit
107 Not exactly, conversationally
108 S&L customer
109 Brief upturn
111 Shooting star
114 Star of the "Ocean's" films
115 RR stop
116 Ruminant
117 Haddock cousin
118 Cut (off)
120 Deep black
121 Line from "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"
127 Straight up
128 "Forget it"
129 Climb up
130 Got angry
131 Balance-sheet details
132 Showed disapproval

DOWN

- 1 Alhambra's locale
2 Threatens
3 In addition
4 Relate
5 Informal farewell
6 Command to a canine

- 7 Salad dressing ingredient
8 Devoured
9 Hotel freebie
10 Fill-in worker
11 ____ Lanka
12 Pellet shooter
13 Similarly
14 One side of an issue
15 Bout enders
16 Point of view
17 Was a tributary of
18 Furniture maker's tool
22 Matchmaker of 116 Down
23 Former commissioner of baseball
24 Zilch
31 Actress Madeline
33 Bivouac beds
34 Sore spots
35 Entertained lavishly
36 Family member
38 Deceived
41 Ida of '40s/'50s films
42 Outdo
44 US/Canada defense group
45 Sunbeam
46 "____ the season . . ."
47 Ground-breaking implement
51 Type of tort
52 Portion
53 Sounds relieved
55 Sunscreen letters
57 Part of a Santa costume
59 Nine-symbol message
60 Flabbergast
61 Signed, as a contract
62 Property claims
65 Product of a certain farm
67 Director ____ Lee

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- 70 Tic-tac-toe victory
71 Gets angry
72 Like lawns
73 Santa subordinate
74 Edna Ferber novel
75 Craftspersons
81 Sparsely distributed
82 Every other hurricane
83 Rhapsodic verse
85 Downcast
86 Out in the open
90 Boon for WWII vets

- 92 Great joy
94 Cool it
95 Speaks ill of
96 About 2.5 acres
97 Person on the run
98 In good shape
99 Seven-sibling performing family
100 Role models
101 Mexican bean
102 Spoke
103 Italian word for "milk"

- 109 Reveille player
110 Frank ____ Wright
112 Murphy of *Shrek*
113 Place to perch
116 Ancient legend
117 Corporate brass
119 Single-stripe GIs
122 %
123 Crime scene evidence
124 Pretense
125 "You bet!"
126 Talk too much

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DEFENSE KEEPS PLAYOFF HOPES INTACT

Packers need to rally around defense, momentum

PAGE 2



Green Bay Packers defensive players celebrate during the team's win over the Miami Dolphins on Dec. 25 in Miami.

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Packers now up to 30% chance to make playoffs

Green Bay needs 2 more wins, plus a Washington loss to make postseason

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

A three-game winning streak has kept wind in the Green Bay Packers' sails, as the 2022-23 regular season reaches the home stretch.

That comes after five games went Green Bay's way in week 16, including its own win over the Miami Dolphins.

The Packers still being alive come week 17 may be a shocker for fans, as many wrote off the team during a stretch where Green Bay lost seven out of eight games in the middle of the season.

Those feelings have quickly flipped, as the Packers defense has really kept this season alive. During Green Bay's current three-game win streak, they have beaten the Chicago Bears, Los Angeles Rams and Miami Dolphins.

Beating the Bears and Rams seemed likely as both of those teams are eliminated from playoff contention, but a win over Miami means a little bit more.

Thanks in part to the defensive play on Christmas, the Packers got that win. In the second half of that game against the Dolphins, the Packers defense blanked Miami, forcing interceptions on each of the last three drives.

"This team is just so resilient," said Packers defensive tackle Kenny Clark.

Green Bay's defense was able to seal this victory by causing four turnovers. Even after giving up big plays in the first half, Clark's comment about resiliency is exactly what this Packers defense has shown.

That idea of resiliency will need to be carried through the last two games of the regular season.

Coming up, the Packers will host the Minnesota Vikings on Jan. 1, in a game that should be a slugfest. Green Bay needs to win to keep its playoff hopes alive, while the Vikings are looking to sneak into the top seed in the playoffs and get a first-round bye.

One would have to imagine, too, that the Vikings would love to crush the Packers' playoffs hopes in Green Bay.

With superstars like Justin Jefferson, Dalvin Cook and T.J. Hockenson, the Packers will need to ride



Green Bay Packers defensive tackle Kenny Clark, top, sacks Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa during the team's win over the Miami Dolphins on Dec. 25 in Miami.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA



Green Bay Packers defensive linemen celebrate after a sack during the team's win over the Miami Dolphins on Dec. 25 in Miami.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

its defense once again to continue its march to the playoffs.

Playing a team like Minnesota or Miami, who both have a flurry of offensive weapons, is something that safety Adrian Amos is accustomed to, and noted that getting turnovers is the way to combat the talent.

"With takeaways, you keep giving offense opportunities and we lessen their opportunities to get down the field," said Amos.

It makes sense — turning over the opposing team limits their opportunities to score the ball. That should be the trick as well to take

ONLINE

More photos from the Packers, Dolphins game can be found at www.newmedia-wi.com.

down Minnesota, who averages 25.2 points per game this year.

That might be easier said than done though, as Minnesota has only recorded 17 giveaways all season, which is tied for seventh fewest in the NFL. On the other hand, the Packers have recorded 20 takeaways this year, which is tied for 12th in the NFL.

"I think it comes down to all 11 playing the call and doing the best that they can," said Packers head coach Matt LaFleur on how the defense can continue to perform well through adjustments.

With the defense playing well and the offense complimenting the defense, the Packers have put together a three-game win streak. More than a three-game win streak though — the Packers have momentum.

After recording 13 wins in each of the last three seasons, the Packers have not needed regular season momentum in a number of years. Similar to the NCAA basketball tournament, a team that can get hot before the playoffs can do some damage once it is there. Think of the Cincinnati Bengals last season.

"We've been in a good rhythm, practice, energy, cohesion, and playing a little better complimentary football," said Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers. "It's a good win for us."

Building off that momentum, the Packers will need to win each of its final two regular season games. That's not it though. Moving forward, the Packers also need either the Washington Commanders to lose one of its last two games, or the New York Giants to lose both of its remaining games.

Washington ends its season with two home games, one against the Cleveland Browns in week 17 and one against the Dallas Cowboys in week 18. The Giants, on the other hand, have the Colts and Eagles on the schedule. It seems more likely for Washington to lose one game — especially since Dallas needs to win that week 18 matchup if it wants to take home the NFC East crown.



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PACKERS ROSTER

Active							
#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
2	Mason Crosby	K	6-1	207	38	16	Colorado
6	Dallin Leavitt	S	5-10	195	28	4	Utah State
7	Quay Walker	LB	6-4	241	22	R	Georgia
9	Christian Watson	WR	6-5	208	23	R	North Dakota State
10	Jordan Love	QB	6-4	219	24	3	Utah State
12	Aaron Rodgers	QB	6-2	225	39	18	California
13	Allen Lazard	WR	6-5	227	27	4	Iowa State
16	Pat O'Donnell	P	6-4	220	31	9	Miami
18	Randall Cobb	WR	5-10	195	32	12	Kentucky
20	Rudy Ford	S	6-0	200	28	6	Auburn
22	Shemar Jean-Charles	CB	5-10	184	24	2	Appalachian State
23	Jaire Alexander	CB	5-10	196	25	5	Louisville
24	Tariq Carpenter	S	6-3	230	23	R	Georgia Tech
25	Keisean Nixon	CB	5-10	200	25	4	South Carolina
26	Darnell Savage	S	5-11	198	25	4	Maryland
27	Patrick Taylor	RB	6-2	217	24	2	Memphis
28	AJ Dillon	RB	6-0	247	24	3	Boston College
29	Rasul Douglas	CB	6-2	209	27	6	West Virginia
31	Adrian Amos	S	6-0	214	29	8	Penn State
33	Aaron Jones	RB	5-9	208	28	6	Texas-El Paso
35	Corey Ballentine	CB	5-11	196	26	4	Washburn
38	Innis Gaines	S	6-1	202	24	1	TCU
45	Eric Wilson	LB	6-1	230	28	6	Cincinnati
47	Justin Hollins	LB	6-5	248	26	4	Oregon
50	Zach Tom	OL	6-4	304	23	R	Wake Forest
51	Krys Barnes	LB	6-2	229	24	3	UCLA
53	Jonathan Garvin	LB	6-4	257	23	3	Miami
55	Kingsley Enagbare	LB	6-4	258	22	R	South Carolina
56	Jack Coco	LS	6-2	248	24	R	Georgia Tech
58	Isaiah McDuffie	LB	6-1	227	23	2	Boston College
59	De'Vondre Campbell	LB	6-3	232	29	7	Minnesota
63	Rasheed Walker	T	6-6	324	22	R	Penn State
69	David Bakhtiari	T	6-4	310	31	10	Colorado
70	Royce Newman	T/G	6-5	310	25	2	Mississippi
71	Josh Myers	C/G	6-5	310	24	2	Ohio State
72	Caleb Jones	T	6-9	370	23	R	Indiana
73	Yosh Nijman	T	6-7	314	26	3	Virginia Tech
74	Elgton Jenkins	G	6-5	311	27	4	Mississippi State

76	Jon Runyan	G	6-4	307	25	3	Michigan
78	Luke Tenuta	T	6-8	314	23	R	Virginia Tech
81	Josiah Deguara	TE	6-2	238	25	3	Cincinnati
83	Samori Toure	WR	6-1	191	24	R	Nebraska
84	Tyler Davis	TE	6-4	252	25	3	Georgia Tech
85	Robert Tonyan	TE	6-5	240	28	5	Indiana State
87	Romeo Doubs	WR	6-2	204	22	R	Nevada
89	Marcedes Lewis	TE	6-6	267	38	17	UCLA
90	Jarran Reed	DL	6-3	307	30	7	Alabama
91	Preston Smith	LB	6-5	265	30	8	Mississippi State
93	T.J. Slaton	DL	6-4	330	25	2	Florida
94	Dean Lowry	DL	6-6	296	28	7	Northwestern
95	Devonte Wyatt	DL	6-3	304	24	R	Georgia
97	Kenny Clark	DL	6-3	314	27	7	UCLA
99	Jonathan Ford	DL	6-5	338	24	R	Miami
Reserve/Injured							
21	Eric Stokes	CB	6-0	194	23	2	Georgia
40	Tipa Galeai	LB	6-5	229	25	2	Utah State
52	Rashan Gary	LB	6-5	277	25	4	Michigan
67	Jake Hanson	C	6-4	296	25	2	Oregon
Reserve/Suspended by Commissioner							
75	Sean Rhyan	T/G	6-5	321	22	R	UCLA
Practice Squad							
17	Ramiz Ahmed	K	5-11	193	27	1	Nevada
19	Danny Etling	QB	6-3	222	28	1	LSU
34	Micah Abernathy	S	6-0	195	25	1	Tennessee
39	Tyler Goodson	RB	5-9	197	22	R	Iowa
43	Kiondre Thomas	CB	6-0	186	24	1	Kansas State
46	Nick Guggemos	TE	6-5	247	27	1	University of St. Thomas
48	DQ Thomas	LB	6-2	216	24	R	Middle Tennessee State
54	La'Darius Hamilton	LB	6-2	261	24	2	North Texas
57	Tim Ward	LB	6-6	255	25	3	Old Dominion
65	Michal Menet	C	6-4	301	25	1	Penn State
79	Jean Delance	T	6-4	303	24	R	Florida
82	Jeff Cotton	WR	6-2	206	25	1	Idaho
86	Travis Fulgham	WR	6-2	211	27	3	Old Dominion
88	Juwann Winfree	WR	6-1	210	26	3	Colorado
98	Chris Slayton	DL	6-4	307	26	1	Syracuse

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Active																			
#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE												
1	Greg Joseph	K	6-0	206	28	3	Florida Atlantic												
2	Alexander Mattison	RB	5-11	215	24	4	Boise State												
3	Cameron Dantzler Sr.	CB	6-2	190	24	3	Mississippi State												
4	Dalvin Cook	RB	5-10	210	27	6	Florida State												
5	Jalen Reagor	WR	5-11	197	23	3	TCU												
7	Patrick Peterson	CB	6-1	198	32	12	LSU												
8	Kirk Cousins	QB	6-3	205	34	11	Michigan State												
12	Nick Mullens	QB	6-0	210	27	4	Southern Mississippi												
14	Ryan Wright	P	6-3	245	22	R	Tulane												
17	K.J. Osborn	WR	5-11	203	25	3	Miami (Fla.)												
18	Justin Jefferson	WR	6-1	195	23	3	LSU												
19	Adam Thielen	WR	6-2	200	32	9	Minnesota State												
20	Duke Shelley	CB	5-8	183	26	4	Kansas State												
22	Harrison Smith	S	6-2	211	33	11	Notre Dame												
24	Camryn Bynum	S	6-0	200	24	2	California												
25	Theo Jackson	S	6-1	198	24	R	Tennessee												
26	Kene Nwangwu	RB	6-1	210	24	2	Iowa State												
27	Kalon Barnes	CB	6-0	186	24	R	Baylor												
29	Kris Boyd	CB	5-11	195	26	4	Texas												
30	C.J. Ham	FB	5-11	250	29	6	Augustana (S.D.)												
33	Brian Asamoah II	LB	6-0	226	22	R	Oklahoma												
34	Nick Muse	TE	6-5	252	24	R	South Carolina												
39	Chandon Sullivan	CB	5-11	189	26	5	Georgia State												
42	Andrew DePaola	LS	6-1	229	35	8	Rutgers												
43	Luiji Vilain	OLB	6-4	252	24	R	Wake Forest												
44	Josh Metellus	S	5-11	207	24	3	Michigan												
45	Troy Dye	LB	6-3	225	26	3	Oregon												
47	William Kwenkeu	LB	6-1	235	25	R	Temple												
54	Eric Kendricks	LB	6-0	232	30	8	UCLA												
55	Za'Darius Smith	OLB	6-4	272	30	8	Kentucky												
56	Garrett Bradbury	C	6-3	300	27	4	North Carolina State												
58	Jordan Hicks	LB	6-1	236	30	8	Texas												
62	Chris Reed	G/C	6-3	314	30	7	Minnesota State												
63	Vederian Lowe	T	6-6	320	23	R	Illinois												
65	Austin Schlottmann	G/C	6-6	300	27	4	TCU												
67	Ed Ingram	G	6-3	307	23	R	LSU												
68	Kyle Hinton	G	6-2	315	24	1	Washburn												
71	Christian Darrisaw	T	6-5	315	23	2	Virginia Tech												
72	Ezra Cleveland	G	6-6	312	24	3	Boise State												
74	Olisaemeka Udoh	G	6-6	320	25	4	Elon												
75	Brian O'Neill	T	6-7	310	27	5	Pittsburgh												
83	Jalen Nailor	WR	6-0	190	23	R	Michigan State												
86	Johnny Mundt	TE	6-4	233	28	5	Oregon												
87	T.J. Hockenson	TE	6-5	248	25	4	Iowa												
90	Ezezi Otomewo	DL	6-5	282	23	R	Minnesota												
91	Patrick Jones II	OLB	6-4	264	24	2	Pittsburgh												
92	James Lynch	DL	6-4	295	23	3	Baylor												
94	Dalvin Tomlinson	DL	6-3	325	28	6	Alabama												
95	Khyiris Tonga	DL	6-4	338	26	2	BYU												
96	Ross Blacklock	DL	6-5	307	24	3	TCU												
97	Harrison Phillips	DL	6-3	307	26	5	Stanford												
98	D.J. Wonnum	OLB	6-5	258	25	3	South Carolina												
99	Danielle Hunter	OLB	6-5	263	28	8	LSU												
Reserve/Injured																			
6	Lewis Cine	S	6-2	199	23	R	Georgia												
21	Akayleb Evans	CB	6-2	198	23	R	Missouri												
23	Andrew Booth Jr.	CB	6-0	194	22	R	Clemson												
64	Blake Brandel	T	6-7	315	25	2	Oregon State												
79	Kenny Willekes	DE	6-3	264	25	3	Michigan State												
81	Bisi Johnson	WR	6-0	210	25	4	Colorado State												
82	Ben Ellefson	TE	6-3	250	26	3	North Dakota State												
84	Irv Smith Jr.	TE	6-2	240	24	4	Alabama												
89	Thomas Hennigan	WR	6-1	210	24	R	Appalachian State												
93	Jonathan Bullard	DL	6-3	290	29	7	Florida												
Reserve/Injured; Designated for Return																			
32	Ty Chandler	RB	5-11	204	24	R	North Carolina												
Practice Squad																			
9	Trishton Jackson	WR	6-1	191	24	2	Syracuse												
13	Blake Proehl	WR	6-1	190	23	2	East Carolina												
15	Josh Rosen	QB	6-4	226	25	4	UCLA												
31	Tay Gowan	CB	6-2	185	24	2	UCF												
35	Parry Nickerson	CB	5-10	179	28	4	Tulane												
38	Bryant Koback	RB	6-0	210	24	R	Toledo												
46	Myles Dorn	S	6-2	210	24	3	North Carolina												
48	Chris Garrett	OLB	6-4	245	24	2	Concordia College St. Paul												
50	T.J. Smith	DL	6-3	300	25	1	Arkansas												
51	Benton Whitley	OLB	6-3	260	23	R	Holy Cross												
52	Sheldon Day	DL	6-1	294	28	7	Notre Dame												
57	Ryan Connelly	LB	6-2	234	27	4	Wisconsin												
60	Josh Sokol	C	6-3	290	25	R	Sacred Heart University												
85	Dan Chisena	WR	6-3	203	25	3	Penn State												
89	James O'Shaughnessy	TE	6-4	245	30	8	Illinois State												

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Packers vs. Vikings
All-time, regular season: 63-56-3
All-time, postseason: 1-1
All-time, at Packers: 34-26-3
Streaks: The Minnesota Vikings have won three of the past four matchups against the Green Bay Packers, but the Packers have taken four of the past seven. Green Bay has won 11 of its past 17 matchups at home, with two ties also over that span.
Last meeting, regular season: Sept. 11, 2022, Vikings won 23-7 at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis. The Packers fell behind 17-0 by halftime and were only able to put together one scoring drive.

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time	TV
Sept. 11	at Minnesota	Loss 23-7	
Sept. 18	vs. Chicago	Win 27-10	
Sept. 25	at Tampa Bay	Win 14-12	
Oct. 2	vs. New England	Win 27-24 (OT)	
Oct. 9	vs. N.Y. Giants (London)	Loss 27-22	
Oct. 16	vs. N.Y. Jets	Loss 27-10	
Oct. 23	at Washington	Loss 23-21	
Oct. 30	at Buffalo	Loss 27-17	
Nov. 6	at Detroit	Loss 15-9	
Nov. 13	vs. Dallas	Win 31-28	
Nov. 17	vs. Tennessee	Loss 27-17	
Nov. 27	at Philadelphia	Loss 40-33	
Dec. 4	at Chicago	Win 28-19	
Bye week			
Dec. 19	vs. L.A. Rams	Win 24-12	
Dec. 25	at Miami	Win 26-20	
Jan. 1	vs. Minnesota	3:25 p.m.	CBS
Jan. 7/8	vs. Detroit	TBD	TBD

OFFENSE

WR

Christian Watson
Samori Toure

TE

Mercedes Lewis
Robert Tonyan

RT

Yosh Nijman
Rasheed Walker

RG

Jon Runyan
Royce Newman

C

Josh Myers
Zach Tom

LG

Elgton Jenkins
Royce Newman

LT

David Bakhtiari
Zach Tom

RB

Aaron Jones
A.J. Dillon

QB

Aaron Rodgers
Jordan Love

WR

Randall Cobb
Samori Toure

WR

Allen Lazard
Romeo Doubs

DEFENSE

CB

Rasul Douglas
Shemar Jean-Charles

DE

Dean Lowry
Devonte Wyatt

NT

Kenny Clark
T.J. Slaton

DE

Jarran Reed
Devonte Wyatt

CB

Jaire Alexander
Keisean Nixon

OLB

Preston Smith
Jonathan Garvin

ILB

De'Vondre Campbell
Isaiah McDuffie

ILB

Quay Walker
Krys Barnes

OLB

Kingsley Enagbare
Justin Hollins

S

Adrian Amos
Dallin Leavitt

S

Darnell Savage
Rudy Ford

FYI
Rosters and depth charts are accurate as of Dec. 26, 9 a.m.

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VIKINGS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR

Justin Jefferson
K.J. Osborn

RB

Dalvin Cook
Alexander Mattison

QB

Kirk Cousins
Nick Mullens

FB

C.J. Ham

TE

T.J. Hockenson
Johnny Mundt

RT

Brian O'Neill
Olisaemeka Udoh

RG

Ed Ingram
Chris Reed

C

Garrett Bradbury
Austin Schlottmann

LG

Ezra Cleveland

LT

Christian Darrisaw
Blake Brandel

WR

Adam Thielen
Jalen Reagor

DEFENSE

DE

Ross Blacklock

NT

Harrison Phillips
Khyiris Tonga

DT

Dalvin Tomlinson
James Lynch

CB

Cameron Dantzler Sr.
Kris Boyd

OLB

Danielle Hunter
Patrick Jones II

WLB

Jordan Hicks
Brian Asamoah II

MLB

Eric Kendricks
Troy Dye

OLB

Za'Darius Smith
D.J. Wonnum

S

Harrison Smith
Josh Metellus

S

Camryn Bynum
Theo Jackson

CB

Patrick Peterson
Chandon Sullivan

SCHEDULE

Thursday's Game
Dallas at Tennessee, 7:15 p.m.

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

Monday's Game
Buffalo at Cincinnati, 7:30 p.m.

STANDINGS

NFC East				AFC East			
Team	W	L	T	Team	W	L	T
Philadelphia	13	2	0	Buffalo	12	3	0
Dallas	11	4	0	Miami	8	7	0
N.Y. Giants	8	6	1	New England	7	8	0
Washington	7	7	1	N.Y. Jets	7	8	0
North				North			
Team	W	L	T	Team	W	L	T
Minnesota	12	3	0	Cincinnati	11	4	0
Detroit	7	8	0	Baltimore	10	5	0
Green Bay	7	8	0	Pittsburgh	7	8	0
Chicago	3	12	0	Cleveland	6	9	0
South				South			
Team	W	L	T	Team	W	L	T
Tampa Bay	7	8	0	Jacksonville	7	8	0
Carolina	6	9	0	Tennessee	7	8	0
New Orleans	6	9	0	Indianapolis	4	10	1
Atlanta	5	10	0	Houston	2	12	1
West				West			
Team	W	L	T	Team	W	L	T
San Francisco	11	4	0	Kansas City	12	3	0
Seattle	7	8	0	L.A. Chargers	9	6	0
L.A. Rams	5	10	0	Las Vegas	6	9	0
Arizona	4	11	0	Denver	4	11	0



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KEYS TO THE GAME

By **BILL HUBER**

Correspondent

The Green Bay Packers (7-8) will host the Minnesota Vikings (12-3) on noon Sunday at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. CBS will televise the game.

History

In a series that dates to 1961, the Packers lead 64-57-3. Green Bay won nine of the first 10 matchups. While Packers coach Matt LaFleur has had a lot of success against the NFC North, he's just 4-3 against Minnesota. The Vikings won 23-7 in week one at U.S. Bank Stadium.

Coaches

Green Bay — Matt LaFleur (fourth season, 46-18). Vikings — Kevin O'Connell (first season, 12-3).

When the Packers have the ball

Green Bay's offense has made some slow but steady progress. Over its last five games, the Packers are ninth in scoring. They scored 26 points against Miami on Sunday, a rather underwhelming performance considering the incredible field position delivered by the defense and special teams.

Minnesota's defense is terrible. The Vikings are 28th in points allowed with 24.9 per game. They are good on third down (ninth) and decent in the red zone (15th) but 31st in total defense (402.3 yards per game) and yards allowed per passing attempt (7.5).

Can Aaron Rodgers and an inconsistent passing attack take advantage? The health of rookie receiver Christian Watson (hip) to catch those passes and right tackle Yosh Nijman (shoulder) to provide protection will be vital.

The Vikings operate out of a 3-4 scheme. The defensive line consists of Harrison Phillips, James Lynch and Dalvin Tomlinson. It's an underrated group. Tomlinson is the big name and Phillips was a key offseason addition.

The run defense provided by that trio is the key to everything. If they can stop the run, then outside linebackers Za'Darius Smith and Danielle Hunter can attack the quarterback.

Smith, whom the Packers released this past offseason, was picked for the Pro Bowl last week. He has 10 sacks and 24 quarterback hits and, according to Pro Football Focus, ranks third in the NFL with 78 pressures. He had one sack



Green Bay Packers receiver Romeo Doubs, left, runs with the ball during a win over the Miami Dolphins on Dec. 25 in Miami.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

against Green Bay in week one.

The Vikings are 7-1 when Smith gets at least a ½ sack. Hunter has 10½ sacks and 20 quarterback hits.

The prospect of Smith and Hunter going against Zach Tom (if David Bakhtiari isn't back from his appendectomy) and Royce Newman (in place of Nijman) has to be at the forefront of LaFleur's game-planning. Tom has played well, but Newman really struggled against the Dolphins.

Longtime standout Eric Kendricks and Jordan Hicks are the linebackers. Both players have more than 120 tackles. Hicks has three sacks and 10 passes defended; Kendricks has eight tackles for losses.

The secondary is where there are all sorts of problems. The Vikings shook up the group a bit recently with limited impact last week against the Giants. Patrick Peterson and Duke Shelley are the corners, former Packers player Chandon Sullivan mans the slot, and Harrison Smith and Camryn Bynum are the safeties.

The 32-year-old Peterson, an All-Pro during his days with the Cardinals, has allowed only a 59.4% catch rate, according to PFF. He has four interceptions and a team-high 14 passes defended.

Shelley was on the bench for most of the season before being thrust into a prime role the last five weeks. He's allowed only a 56.3% catch rate, a huge upgrade over the benched Cameron Dantzler's 79.2%.

Smith might not be the all-around menace of yesteryear but

leads the team with five interceptions and is third with 80 tackles. Bynum has two picks.

When the Vikings have the ball

Coming off a season-saving second half at Miami in which they intercepted three passes and pitched a shutout, the Packers will have to contend with one of the best offenses in the NFL.

Minnesota is seventh with 25.2 points per game. The Vikings are only 18th in yards per play, 25th in rushing per carry and 18th in passing per attempt. They're only 15th on third down and 19th in pass protection. That's a lot of mediocrity. But when Kirk Cousins and Justin Jefferson get rolling, look out.

The 34-year-old Cousins has thrown for 4,117 yards with 27 touchdowns. After three consecutive seasons with 100 passer ratings, he's at only 93.3 this year. But he is hot with 425 yards and two touchdowns in a loss to Detroit, 460 yards and four touchdowns in the historic comeback over Indianapolis and 299 yards and three touchdowns in last week's win vs. the Giants.

The Packers allowed more than 100 yards apiece to Tyreek Hill and Jaylen Waddle at Miami. This week, the challenge is the indomitable Jefferson, sidekicks Adam Thielen and KJ Osborn, and tight end T.J. Hockenson.

Jefferson leads the NFL with 123 receptions for 1,756 yards. In three seasons, he has 4,772 receiving yards. He is the total package, and as hot as they come with 35 recep-

tions for 379 yards and two scores the last three games. In week one against Green Bay, he caught nine passes for 184 yards and two touchdowns.

Maybe defensive coordinator Joe Barry will do more to put Jaire Alexander on Jefferson. But that doesn't take into account the veteran Thielen (67 receptions, 692 yards, five touchdowns) or the underrated Osborn, who caught 10 passes for 157 yards and a touchdown in the comeback vs. Indy.

Hockenson was acquired from the Lions at the trade deadline. Against the Giants on Saturday, he caught 13 passes for 109 yards and two scores.

And if that's not enough, Dalvin Cook is sixth in the NFL with 1,109 rushing yards. Cook had 226 total yards and four touchdowns as the Vikings won at Lambeau in 2020 but just 13 total yards on 12 touches as Green Bay rolled at Lambeau last year.

The offensive line consists of left tackle Christian Darrisaw, left guard Ezra Cleveland, center Austin Scholttman, right guard Ed Ingram and right tackle Brian O'Neill. Darrisaw and O'Neill are high-quality bookends.

Ingram has struggled as a rookie. Scholttman has started the last three games for Garrett Bradbury (back). Kenny Clark needs a big game against Minnesota's interior trio.

Special teams

In Football Outsiders' rankings from before week 16, Green Bay was 27th and Minnesota was 30th.

The game could feature two of the NFL's premier kickoff returners. Minnesota's Kene Nwangwu is averaging 26 yards per runback this season and has three touchdowns in two seasons. Green Bay's Keisean Nixon leads the NFL with a 27.5-yard average. He had a 93-yarder vs. Miami, his league-leading fourth of 50-plus yards, but missed the second half with a groin injury.

Vikings kicker Greg Joseph is 19-of-19 on field goals from inside of 50 yards but only 3-of-8 from distance. But he's got a huge leg, as evidenced by his 61-yarder that beat the Giants. Punter Randy Wright has a 42.8-yard net average and a sensational 32 punts inside the 20 vs. only one touchback.

Receiver Jalen Reagor has only a 6.8-yard average on punt returns but had a 73-yard touchdown at Lambeau with the Eagles in 2020.

Packers pick off Tagovailoa 3 times, top Dolphins

Green Bay keeps playoff hopes alive

By **ALANIS THAMES**
The Associated Press

Packers cornerback Jaire Alexander knew the secondary needed to start playing better against the Miami Dolphins after defensive backs coach Jerry Gray surprisingly yelled at them at halftime.

“That woke us up for sure,” Alexander said. “He doesn’t really yell, but he was yelling at us then. And you see the results. He probably needed to yell at us at the beginning of the game.”

Gray’s motivational effort worked: The Packers intercepted Tua Tagovailoa three times in the fourth quarter to complete their comeback and defeat the Dolphins 26-20 to keep their playoff hopes alive.

The Packers had a season-high four takeaways in the game — three interceptions, one fumble recovery. Alexander caught one of Green Bay’s three interceptions early in the fourth.

“That’s how it is. You get one pick, more are going to come,” said cornerback Rasul Douglas, who caught the game-sealing pick. “Keep catching those, and you keep getting them. I’m just glad we caught them.”

Aaron Rodgers threw for 238 yards and a touchdown and was intercepted once, helping the Packers (7-8) to their third straight win.

After leading by as many as 10, the Dolphins trailed by six points with a chance to take the lead in the final two minutes, but Tagovailoa threw his third interception in three possessions to end Miami’s comeback bid. He threw a pick with about six minutes left that set up a Packers field goal.

Packers kicker Mason Crosby made the go-ahead field goal early in the fourth after turnovers by both offenses.

Undrafted Miami rookie Kader Kohou intercepted a pass by Rodgers intended for Allen Lazard, but the Dolphins gave it right back when Alexander intercepted Tagovailoa on the very next play.

Miami’s defense held the Packers to six points off turnovers in the second half, and also held Green Bay to two TDs and three field goals in five trips to the red zone.

“It wasn’t pretty, certainly,” Packers coach Matt LaFleur said. “I think a lot of times, when you kick a bunch of field goals, that’s usually just enough to get you beat.”



The Green Bay Packers sideline cheers on defensive back Keisean Nixon as he races down the field on a kick return during the team’s win over the Miami Dolphins on Dec. 25 in Miami.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

A.J. Dillon led the Packers with 36 yards rushing on 11 carries, and Lazard had 61 yards receiving on five catches.

Tyreek Hill had four catches for Miami to give him 113 for the season, setting a Dolphins’ single-season receptions record previously held by Jarvis Landry. Jaylen Waddle added five receptions for 143 yards.

But Miami spoiled those big receiving days with turnovers. Raheem Mostert fumbled in the first half, and Tagovailoa’s three interceptions were the most he has thrown all season.

Miami committed to the run game early, rushing for 82 yards against Green Bay after a season-high 188 yards against Buffalo in week 15.

The Dolphins ran four times for 38 yards on their opening drive and took a 3-0 lead, and Green Bay countered with a field goal to tie it after Keisean Nixon’s 93-yard kickoff return set up the Packers at the 9-yard line.

Miami built a 20-13 halftime lead after an 84-yard TD by Waddle and 1-yard TD run by Jeff Wilson.

Dillon’s 1-yard touchdown run on Green Bay’s first possession of the third quarter tied the game.

Tight end Marcedes Lewis also had a 1-yard TD catch in the first quarter.



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers, right, signs a football for Miami Dolphins defensive back Kader Kohou after Kohou intercepted Rodgers during a game on Dec. 25 in Miami.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

BEAT The Expert



Morgan Rode
NEW Media Sports Editor

Week 17 Games: Sunday, January 1

No teams on bye

Dallas @ Tennessee Thur., Dec. 9

Arizona @ Atlanta

Pittsburgh @ Baltimore

Chicago @ Detroit

Jacksonville @ Houston

Denver @ Kansas City

Miami @ New England

Indianapolis @ NY Giants

New Orleans @ Philadelphia

Carolina @ Tampa Bay

Cleveland @ Washington

San Francisco @ Las Vegas

NY Jets @ Seattle

LA Rams @ LA Chargers

Buffalo @ Cincinnati Mon., Jan. 2

Tie Breaker Game:

Minnesota @ Green Bay



Morgan Rode
New Media

This Week's Picks:

Tennessee	New England	Seattle
Atlanta	NY Giants	LA Chargers
Baltimore	Philadelphia	Buffalo
Detroit	Tampa Bay	
Jacksonville	Washington	
Kansas City	Las Vegas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score : Minnesota 27 @ Green Bay 24



Tim Murphy
New Media

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Miami	Seattle
Atlanta	NY Giants	LA Chargers
Baltimore	Philadelphia	Buffalo
Detroit	Tampa Bay	
Jacksonville	Washington	
Kansas City	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Minnesota 21 @ Green Bay 7



Luke Reimer
New Media

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Miami	Seattle
Atlanta	NY Giants	LA Chargers
Baltimore	Philadelphia	Buffalo
Detroit	Carolina	
Jacksonville	Washington	
Kansas City	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Minnesota 21 @ Green Bay 24

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2022 PACKERS

REGULAR SEASON

1 Sunday, September 11	at Minnesota Vikings	3:25 p.m.	FOX
2 Sunday, September 18	CHICAGO BEARS	7:20 p.m.	FOX
3 Sunday, September 25	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers	8:25 p.m.	FOX
4 Sunday, October 2	NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS	3:25 p.m.	CBS
5 Sunday, October 9	at New York Giants (1 Week)	8:30 a.m.	
6 Sunday, October 16	NEW YORK JETS	12 p.m.	FOX
7 Monday, October 23	at Washington Commanders	10 p.m.	FOX
8 Sunday, October 30	at Dallas Cowboys	7:45 p.m.	FOX
9 Sunday, November 6	at Detroit Lions	12:45 p.m.	FOX
10 Sunday, November 13	DALLAS COWBOYS	3:25 p.m.	FOX
11 Thursday, November 17	TENNESSEE TITANS	7:15 p.m.	FOX
12 Sunday, November 27	at Philadelphia Eagles	7:20 p.m.	FOX
13 Sunday, December 4	at Chicago Bears	12 p.m.	FOX
14	BYE WEEK		
15 Monday, December 19	LOS ANGELES RAMS	7:15 p.m.	FOX
16 Sunday, December 26	at Miami Dolphins	12 p.m.	FOX
17 Sunday, January 1	MINNESOTA VIKINGS	12:25 p.m.	CBS
18 Sunday, Jan 8	DETROIT LIONS	1 p.m.	TWO

This Week's Winner: Charter Aarrowcast

Weekly Standings

	Weekly Record	Overall Record
22 Shell	12-4	154-86
Buss Automoitve.....	11-5	151-89
Tower clock Eye Center.....	10-6	151-89
Tim Murphy.....	10-6	149-91
Charter Aarrowcast	13-3	148-92
Shawano Seasons Restaurant.....	11-5	148-92

Weekly Record

Overall Record

Weekly Standings

	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Bill Huber.....	9-7	145-95
Luke Reimer	11-5	145-95
Iverson's Piggly Wiggly	12-4	143-97
Morgan Rode	10-6	141-99
Gene's Floor coverings	8-8	139-101
Senn Insurance	9-7	136-104



Robert Buss
Buss Automotive

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	New England	Seattle
Atlanta	NY Giants	LA Chargers
Baltimore	Philadelphia	Cincinnati
Detroit	Tampa Bay	
Jacksonville	Cleveland	
Kansas City	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Minnesota 21 @ Green Bay 24



Shane Senn
Senn Insurance

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Miami	Seattle
Atlanta	NY Giants	LA Chargers
Baltimore	Philadelphia	Cincinnati
Detroit	Tampa Bay	
Jacksonville	Washington	
Kansas City	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Minnesota 27 @ Green Bay 31



Charter
Aarrowcast
Shawano

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Miami	Seattle
Atlanta	NY Giants	LA Chargers
Baltimore	Philadelphia	Cincinnati
Detroit	Tampa Bay	
Jacksonville	Washington	
Kansas City	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Minnesota 23 @ Green Bay 24



Iverson's Staff
Iverson's
Piggly Wiggly

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Miami	NY Jets
Arizona	NY Giants	LA Chargers
Pittsburgh	Philadelphia	Buffalo
Detroit	Tampa Bay	
Jacksonville	Washington	
Kansas City	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Minnesota 24 @ Green Bay 28



In Memory of
Patty Lasher
Shawano Seasons
Restaurant

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	New England	Seattle
Atlanta	NY Giants	LA Chargers
Baltimore	Philadelphia	Cincinnati
Detroit	Tampa Bay	
Jacksonville	Washington	
Kansas City	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Minnesota 21 @ Green Bay 28



Gene Maas
Gene's Floor
Coverings

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Miami	Seattle
Atlanta	NY Giants	LA Chargers
Baltimore	Philadelphia	Cincinnati
Detroit	Tampa Bay	
Jacksonville	Washington	
Kansas City	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Minnesota 28 @ Green Bay 31



Bill Huber
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	New England	NY Jets
Atlanta	NY Giants	LA Chargers
Baltimore	Philadelphia	Bills
Detroit	Carolina	
Jacksonville	Cleveland	
Kansas City	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Minnesota 23 @ Green Bay 24



Brenda
22 Shell

This Week's Picks:

Tennessee	Miami	Seattle
Atlanta	NY Giants	LA Chargers
Baltimore	Philadelphia	Cincinnati
Detroit	Tampa Bay	
Jacksonville	Washington	
Kansas City	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Minnesota 27 @ Green Bay 28



Jim Wiegand
Tower Clock
Eye Center

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Philadelphia	LA Chargers
Atlanta	Tampa Bay	Baltimore
Detroit	Washington	Buffalo
Kansas City	Jacksonville	
Miami	San Francisco	
NY Giants	Seattle	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Minnesota 13 @ Green Bay 27

PLAYOFF PICTURE

By **BILL HUBER**

Correspondent

When the Green Bay Packers lost to the Philadelphia Eagles in week 12, their record was 4-8, their quarterback had broken ribs and the season looked doomed.

The Packers' playoff chances were so remote that one of the country's biggest sportsbooks, FanDuel, no longer listed them in their "Odds to make playoffs" market.

The Packers not only are back on the list, they became the favorite to claim the final spot in the NFC playoffs after beating the Miami Dolphins on Sunday.

Officially, the Packers remain in 10th place in the NFC. As was the case after beating the Los Angeles Rams last Monday night, the Packers trail the New York Giants, Washington Commanders, Seattle Seahawks and Detroit Lions in the race for the final two playoff spots. But, after the Giants, Commanders, Seahawks and Lions all lost on Saturday and the Packers upset the Dolphins on Sunday, Green Bay is just a half-game behind Washington for the final spot.

"I'd like to be, you know, 10-5, 11-4, but, considering where we were a few weeks ago, a lot of has happened in our favor," quarterback Aaron Rodgers said after the game. "All the games that needed to go a certain way went a certain way. Now, there's obviously much left, but we've played meaningful games in December, we won all three of those. Now we're playing meaningful games in January, and we've got to win those."

It won't be easy. Of the five teams chasing the final two spots, the Packers have the toughest remaining schedule with home games against the Minnesota Vikings (12-3) and Detroit Lions (7-8). But with the momentum of three consecutive wins, homefield advantage and a battle-tested team, Green Bay is surging at the right time.

"It means that the work is working and just keep doing the things that we've been doing and things like that happen," tight end Marcedes Lewis said. "We've just got to stay the course. You don't really control wins and losses, but your attitude and your effort and your preparation going into games, you have complete control over that and today, we handled business."

With the Dallas Cowboys having secured one spot, here is a look at the race for the final two spots in



Green Bay Packers wide receiver Christian Watson, left, is tackled inches before the goal line during the team's win over the Miami Dolphins on Dec. 25 in Miami.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

the NFC playoffs.

New York Giants (8-6-1)

Week 17: vs. Indianapolis Colts (4-9-1)

Week 18: at Philadelphia Eagles (13-2)

The Giants need only to win one game to get in the playoffs. They're in good shape with the slumping Colts coming to town next week.

"We control our own destiny," Giants running back Saquon Barkley said. "Win and you're in. At home. That's beautiful."

If they were to somehow lose that game, they'd face the powerhouse Eagles in the finale. Philadelphia might have the No. 1 seed wrapped up, so it could be the Giants facing Gardner Minshew instead of MVP candidate Jalen Hurts, though Minshew almost won at Dallas on Saturday.

Washington Commanders (7-7-1)

Week 17: vs. Cleveland Browns (6-9)

Week 18: vs. Dallas Cowboys (11-4)

Washington is the target. The Commanders are slumping and have no idea what they're doing at quarterback. At one point, Taylor Heinicke led them to six wins in seven games. Now, they're 0-2-1 in their last three games. Carson Wentz replaced Heinicke for the end of Saturday's loss to San Francisco.

On one hand, their final two games are at home and both are winnable. Cleveland is 2-5 on the road and has scored just 33 points its last three games.

If Washington were to lose that game, it would host Dallas in the finale. The Cowboys might be locked into the No. 5 seed. If that's the case, chances are coach Mike McCarthy will rest his key play-

ers with an eye toward a wild-card game the following weekend.

Thus, the Packers' playoff hopes might hinge on quarterback Cooper Rush, running back Malik Davis and rookie receiver Jalen Tolbert.

"We still control our destiny," Washington receiver Terry McLaurin said. "Other teams in contention with us lost, as well, so it's kind of like a stalemate. But we've got to find a way to come back and get a win against Cleveland back at home. These last two at home, you can't really ask for much more to have an opportunity to get into the playoffs. We have two chances at home to do it, and we just got to get back and see what we can do to get that done."

Seattle Seahawks (7-8)

Week 17: vs New York Jets (7-8)

Week 18: vs. Los Angeles Rams (5-10)

The Seahawks are in eighth place because of tiebreakers. Detroit owns the tiebreaker over Green Bay because of its week nine victory, and Seattle owns the tiebreaker over Detroit because of its week four win.

Really, though, Seattle is irrelevant from Green Bay's perspective. If the Packers and Seahawks win out and tie at 9-8, Green Bay would win the tiebreaker based on conference records.

Seattle has fallen apart. A four-game winning streak lifted it to 6-3 and into first place in the NFC West. However, it's 1-5 in its last six games. It does get its last two games at home, where it's dropped three straight.

"These last two games will be enormous for us, obviously," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said following the loss to the Chiefs on Saturday. "We are playing the championship of the season right now. That is how we are going to approach it to get it done and give us a chance to be in it in the end."

Detroit Lions (7-8)

Week 17: vs Chicago Bears (3-12)

Week 18: at Green Bay Packers (7-8)

The Lions were the darlings of

the NFL after winning six of seven games to charge into the play-off hunt following a 1-6 start. But Detroit was upset on the road by the Carolina Panthers on Saturday. The Lions' horrendous defense was torched for 320 rushing yards.

Presumably, Detroit will beat Chicago next week. That would set the stage for a make-or-break week 18 showdown at Lambeau Field. The Lions haven't made the playoffs since 2016 and haven't won a playoff game since reaching the NFC Championship Game in 1991.

For what it's worth, the Lions have played one game on grass all season, a 31-30 win over Chicago on Nov. 13.

"I've been saying it all along while we were winning games, none of it matters if we don't go out there and perform again for the next one," left tackle Taylor Decker said. "And we were kind of in a position to control our own destiny and we kind of fumbled it away. So, all we can do now is go and play these next two games. We got two divisional opponents coming up and whatever happens, happens."

Green Bay Packers (7-8)

Week 17: vs Minnesota Vikings (12-3)

Week 18: vs Detroit Lions (7-8)

With three consecutive victories and everybody else dropping like bowling pins, the Packers have put themselves in position for the most unlikely of playoff berths. They'll have to beat two quality teams, and get some more help, to turn those dreams into reality.

For what it's worth, Mother Nature is going to release her icy grip on the area just in time for two dome teams to come to town. According to Accuweather, the forecast for Sunday's game against the Vikings is calling for a high of

37 with a chance of showers.

For the finale against Detroit, the long-range projection is a high of 26. With the potential of the game being flexed into primetime, the predicted low is 19 with wind chills in the single digits.

"We like our position, but it starts one game at a time with an NFC North opponent, which is Minnesota. (We have to) handle that first," running back Aaron Jones said.

"Before we look past or look forward to anything, you have to handle what's in front of you."

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Q&A WITH DAVID BAKHTIARI

By **BILL HUBER**
Correspondent

Having worked his way back from a knee injury that sidelined him for the 2020 playoffs, most of the 2021 season and the start of the 2022 season, former All-Pro left tackle David Bakhtiari had an emergency appendectomy a couple days before the Packers faced the Bears on Dec. 4. A few days later, on Dec. 7, he and his wife had a baby girl, Felix Ann Bakhtiari.

Q: Can you take us through what happened?

A: I thought I maybe strained my ab or had a contusion in my ab. I talked to my wife about it and I was like, 'If I feel the same pain, I'll bring it up to the doctors tomorrow.' So, I woke up the next morning, felt totally fine. Came in here and went and saw (team Dr. Pat) McKenzie and I'm like, 'Can you check this out real quick?' He thought I was just messing around. He said, 'Let me bring in Dr. (James) Ebben.'

Dr. Ebben came in, did a couple tests and he was like, 'Let's just rule out the worst-case scenario. Let's

give you a CT scan.' I was like, 'OK, Friday's my big practice day, so as long as I can get it done before so I can practice.' I go in there, I do the test, waiting for the doctor to clear it and she [Ebben's assistant] said, 'The doctor wants to talk to you.' When that happens, you're like, 'OK, what the (expletive) happened?'

They come in and he tells me. Long story short, he said, 'You're a couple days away, from what it looks like, and it's pressing on your abdomen. That's why you're having the pain.' So, I had to go to the surgery. When I woke up, she's like, 'We had to do the big surgery because it was leaking.' She thought I was a week from the CT but she's like, 'If it didn't burst Saturday, you would've burst it Sunday.'

Q: That's scary. If doesn't burst on Saturday, you're playing on Sunday and then what?

A: Then I'm on the field. The scary part for me that people don't understand is when we have adrenaline going, so much stuff gets covered up. I would probably bet I wouldn't even know I would've burst it until postgame. I would've thought I got hit in the

guts and I would have been like, 'Suck it up. Let's finish out the game and then let's figure it out.'

Q: Can you put into words what these last couple years have been like?

A: I think anyone that looks at the journey I've been on the last two years, I've been put under four times in Jan. 7 will be two years. That's not cool. I don't wish that on anyone and I don't enjoy it but that's the road, that's what's written on my life. Tough times don't last but tough people do. I'll keep rolling with it and eventually it's going to calm down and I can get back to what has been my regularly programmed scheduling of my life.

No matter what happens here at work or anything, the moment I walk through the door, it doesn't matter what kind of day you've had. Chest time's the best time. Being with my baby girl, being with my wife and family, it's been a blessing, it's been great and I love those moments.

With what's going on outside of my wife and my daughter, people say, 'You don't you just want to fast-forward through it?' But when

AT A GLANCE

Number: 69
Position: Offensive tackle
Age: 31
Season: 10th
College: Colorado

I spend every second with her, not a chance. I would never want to fast-forward. Every hiccup to yawn to cry to diaper change, those are moments that make it worth it. It's going to go through and I don't want to speed it up at all.

Q: How's fatherhood?

A: Not much has changed, really. My sleep – everyone talks about the sleep, I think it's a little blown out of proportion. Maybe I have a good baby. She's amazing. I'm getting six to eight hours of sleep. We had a plan where I was going to go sleep in a different room, but I didn't really feel like I needed to.

Now, do I sleep all throughout the night? No, I wake up when I hear her wanting to feed and there's not much I can do. Every now and then, I can help out if she needs me to hold a bottle in the middle of the night. It's awesome. Chest time's the best time for me. Big fan.

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- Oconto County correspondent needed to cover community events and tell feature stories in Gillett, Oconto Falls, Lena and Suring.
- Western Shawano County correspondent needed to tell feature stories and cover events in Wittenberg, Birnamwood, Tigerton, Aniwa, Mattoon and Bowler.
- Menominee County correspondent needed to cover events and tell feature stories on the Menominee Reservation.
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Send a cover letter detailing your writing and photography experience and your fees, along with any clips you might have, to news@newmedia-wi.com. Put "Correspondent" in the header.



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