



NEWS • Safe Haven ball honors first responders; award renamed for a retired police officer.

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Wittenberg-Birnamwood schools aim to teach students about patriotism.

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Shawano franchise recognized for its commitment to workers with disabilities.

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Retlaff skips court, bench warrant issued

Ann Retzlaff, owner of Annie's Campground, fails to appear on charges of fleeing officers.

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WITT-BIRN ADVANCES IN POST-SEASON

Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Ben Wesolowski, center, runs with the ball during the team's playoff win over Tomahawk on Oct. 22 in Wittenberg. It was the Chargers first playoff win in 17 years. **READ THE FULL STORY ON PAGE 18.**

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Publisher

Greg Mellis gmellis@newmedia-wi.com

Editor-In-Chief

Warren Bluhm wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com

Sports Editor

Morgan Rode sports@newmedia-wi.com

Retail advertising

Tim Murphy tmurphy@newmedia-wi.com

News

wittenberg@newmedia-wi.com

Obituaries

obits@newmedia-wi.com

Classifieds/legal notices

classifieds@newmedia-wi.com

Subscriptions

circulation@newmedia-wi.com

Subscription, delivery or payment question?
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Witt-Birn to host Veterans Day celebration

Principal hopes students learn about patriotism

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

One area school is hoping to spread patriotism on Veterans Day.

"Our local VFW post is coming down to Wittenberg Elementary/Middle School for a Veterans Day celebration," said Vicky Haas, principal.

According to Haas, a Veterans Day celebration will take place at 9 a.m. Nov. 11 in the school gym, 300 S. Prouty St. The event will be open to the public.

"This event features students sharing writings and poetry with veterans," said Haas. "We also have our kindergartners make cards or other crafts for the vets."

Haas said that out of all of the holidays, Veterans Day is one of the toughest ones for young kids to observe.

"We are trying to help our kids develop a sense of patriotism and respect for our veterans and the flag," said Haas.

Haas said that she hopes that members of the community will

come to the school to take part in the event.

"This is just a short, half-hour event geared towards a younger audience," said Haas. "We want people in our community to come out and celebrate with us, so they can feel the sense of patriotism, too."

Haas believes hosting this event for students and the community is important.

"Anytime you can make the bridge between our school and the community, it is important," said Haas. "It is also important to get adult modeling. We want our students to learn from community members as well."

She said that the school has hosted this event in the past, and the stories and experiences that veterans share are very touching.

"I think that this has affected people in the past," said Haas. "We get a huge thank you from the veterans. The kids enjoy it, too. They really enjoy seeing the 21-gun salute."

Haas said that she enjoys being able to host this event, not just due to having her students learn about

veterans, but also because of her personal connection to it.

"This is a moving experience for me," said Haas. "I always invite my father, who is an elderly veteran, to this event. I want him to see that people are still making an effort to honor veterans."

The event at the elementary-middle school is followed up by another event at Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School at 10:30 a.m. This event will be similar to the event at the elementary/middle school, in that local veterans will take part in an assembly.

"They will communicate to the students what it means to be a veteran," said Wittenberg-Birnamwood superintendent Garrett Rogowski. "Students will also present writings on their experiences with veterans."

Haas said that she hopes everyone who attends the event will learn something.

"We are hoping to spark a sense of patriotism in our students and community," said Haas.

Witt-Birn School Board approves budget, levy

The levy decreased 12 cents from last year

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

Wittenberg-Birnamwood Superintendent Garrett Rogowski presented the 2021-22 budget and levy to the school board and public at the Oct. 25 school board meeting.

Rogowski presented the budget, totaling \$14,586,700, as well as the mill rate for the 2021-22 school year.

"The mill rate was passed at \$8.22 per \$1,000 of equalized value," said Rogowski.

This means that someone with property valued at \$100,000 will pay \$822 to the school district this year. This is down 12 cents from last year's mill rate of \$8.34.

The school board also approved a levy of \$5,014,104.

"The operations Fund 10 is \$3,518,072," said Rogowski, referring to the fund numbers the state has established for standardized local budgets. "Fund 39, which incorporates the referendum debt, is at \$1,271,032. The community Fund 80 is at \$225,000."

This has increased from last year's levy from \$4,753,036. This levy is also about \$200,000 more than the estimated levy that was

presented at the school board's annual meeting in August.

"This year's levy is slightly more than last year," said Rogowski. "This is due to an adjustment that we made to our referendum debt. This allows us to create interest savings over the life of the debt schedule."

He said that due to the reduction of interest payments, this would positively affect tax payers.

"Our audience at the meeting were in support of this," said Rogowski.

The levy and the budget were unanimously passed by the school board.

CORRECTIONS

Accuracy is important to the Enterprise & News, and it wants to correct mistakes promptly. Call errors to our attention by phone at 715-526-2121, ext. 7018.

Culver's gets DWD Exemplary Employer Award

Shawano restaurant, owner recognized for providing jobs to people with disabilities

By **LYNN ZAFFRANN**
Correspondent

Culver's Restaurant in Shawano was presented Oct. 20 with an Exemplary Employer Award by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) for its strong commitment to recruiting and hiring job seekers with disabilities.

The Exemplary Employer Award highlights businesses that recruit and hire people with disabilities and helps to encourage other businesses to provide opportunities for this skilled, dedicated and capable workforce.

Brian Lovelien, owner-operator of the Shawano Culver's, said that recruiting individuals with disabilities is a hiring focus of the restaurant, 1220 E. Green Bay St., Shawano, ever since it opened in summer 2018.

"The longer I've been doing this, the more successes that I've seen, and the more opportunities that we've given to people of different abilities has illustrated how important this is to the success of Culver's," Lovelien said in accepting the award.

Michael Glaser, business services consultant with the Wisconsin Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, noted that "businesses that go above and beyond to incorporate individuals into the regular workforce can see the same successes that Brian has."

"I just want to thank Brian and his group for being a dream maker, because that's what you do," Glaser said. "The individuals that are looking for the employment that you provide, it changes their lives and actually makes their dreams come true."

Lovelien employs about 40 employees at the Shawano Culver's. Five are individuals with disabilities.

"The nomination for the award was made through the Bay Area Workplace Development Board staff," said Danielle Williams, DWD assistant deputy secretary.

Bay Area is one of 11 DWD local employment and training areas. Staff at the board were aware of the efforts and successes Lovelien has made to hire and sustain disabled



Danielle Williams, left, assistant deputy secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, presents the 2021 Exemplary Employer Award to Shawano Culver's owner Brian Lovelien for his successes in hiring job seekers with disabilities. Lovelien employs five who have some form of disability.

LYNN ZAFFRANN

workers, which meet the award's criteria. Multiple service providers work through the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation to refer individuals to Lovelien for job placement. Referrals also come to Lovelien through Shawano Community High School.

Some of the individuals are provided job coaches for a few days, to a few weeks, until they become acclimated to their positions.

"I'm often surprised with what they can achieve" in their jobs, Lovelien said.

Lovelien isn't new to being acknowledged for creating job opportunities for individuals with disabilities. He was presented with the Exemplary Employer Award by DWD once before, when he was

with the Culver's in Sheboygan.

"It's a big deal and I'm happy that for a second time we've won this award," he said. "If you put the time in from the beginning, you see that things pay off in the end."

Culver's has sponsored hiring of individuals with disabilities since its first restaurant opened in Sauk City in 1984.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM 2021), an annual celebration dedicated to raising awareness about disability employment issues and celebrating the incredible contributions of people with disabilities. This year's theme is "America's Recovery: Powered by Inclusion." The theme reflects the importance of ensuring that people with dis-

abilities have full access to employment and community involvement during the national recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gov. Tony Evers proclaimed October as Disability Employment Awareness Month in Wisconsin. Evers called on Wisconsin employers to recognize "the critical role that workers with disabilities play in strengthening" Wisconsin's economy, "especially as we continue to bounce back from the unprecedented economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic."

As the state's talent development agency, DWD connects employers with a robust pool of skilled workers and assists job seekers with disabilities in achieving their employment potential.

PUBLIC RECORD

SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Oct. 25

Deputies responded to 33 calls, including disorderly conduct on Main Street in Birnamwood; burglary on County Road J in the Town of Morris; a drug problem on County Road OO in Eland; reckless driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Hartland; four crashes, one involving deer.

Oct. 24

Deputies responded to 36 calls, including reckless driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Wittenberg; a domestic disturbance on Hilltop Road in the Town of Almon; reckless driving on Maple View Road in the Town of Lessor; a sexual assault on North Smalley Street in the Town of Wescott; an assault on state Highway 29 in the Town of Herman; reckless driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Wittenberg; a weapons offense on County Road G in the Town of Red Springs; reckless driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Waukechon; a domestic disturbance on Main Street in Gresham; reckless driving on U.S. Highway 45 in the Town of Grant; disorderly conduct on South Warrington Avenue in Cecil; three crashes involving deer.

Oct. 23

Deputies responded to 43 calls, including operating while intoxicated on state Highway 117 in the Town of Hartland; criminal damage on Norrie Road in the Town of Birnamwood; reckless driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Hartland; reckless driving on U.S. Highway 45 in the Town of Birnamwood; a disturbance on North Second Street in Bonduel; a disturbance on Old 47 Road in the Town of Lessor; a fleeing/pursuit on Ebert Street in Gresham; five crashes involving deer.

Oct. 22

Deputies responded to 38 calls, including a threat on West Sandy Drive in the Town of Washington; reckless driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Wittenberg; reckless driving on U.S. Highway 45 in the Town of Fairbanks; a drug problem on state Highway 29 in the Town of Angelica; reckless driving on Birch Street in Birnamwood; operating while intoxicated on County Road D in the Town of Seneca; disorderly conduct on U.S. Highway 45 in Aniwa; trespassing on U.S. Highway 45 in Aniwa; four crashes, two involving deer.

Oct. 21

Deputies responded to 39 calls, including an overdose on Cozy Oaks Circle in the Town of Wescott; reckless

driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Herman; reckless driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Morris; a threat on North Main Street in Shawano; reckless driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Maple Grove; a disturbance on Oakwood Drive in the Town of Wescott; property theft on Mosling Road in the Town of Green Valley; reckless driving on State Highway 55 in the Town of Maple Grove; reckless driving on U.S. Highway 45 in Eland; reckless driving on U.S. Highway 45 in the Town of Fairbanks; one crash involving deer.

Oct. 20

Deputies responded to 34 calls, including reckless driving on state Highway 22 in the Town of Belle Plaine; harassment on Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; reckless driving on state Highway 47-55 in the Town of Wescott; reckless driving on Spruce Road in the Town of Angelica; two crashes, one involving deer.

SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Oct. 25

Officers responded to 18 calls, including a controlled substance problem on East Center Street; property theft at Family Dollar, 413 S. Main St.; a disturbance on North Franklin Street; reckless driving on East Green Bay Street;

a probation violation on South Hamlin Street.

Oct. 24

Officers responded to 21 calls, including a disturbance at Sharona's Bar, 111 S. Washington St.; property theft at Family Dollar, 413 S. Main St.; a domestic disturbance on East Richmond Street; reckless driving on Waukechon Street.

Oct. 23

Officers responded to 18 calls, including property damage on South Main Street; property damage on East Elizabeth Street; a disturbance on South Washington Street; property theft on County Road B; harassment on South Andrews Street.

Oct. 22

Officers responded to 30 calls, including a disturbance at ThedaCare Medical Center, 100 County Road B; a disturbance on South Main Street; car property damage on East Green Bay Street; a burglary attempt on Acorn Street.

Oct. 21

Officers responded to 19 calls, including a hit-and-run on County Road B; a domestic disturbance on South Union Street; a hit-and-run on South Union Street; a disturbance on East Richmond Street; a threat on Birch Hill Lane; car property damage on East Green Bay Street.

COURT NEWS

▪ Rosella C. Kaquatosh, 19, Oconto, was charged Oct. 18 with one count of possession of methamphetamine and one misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Katherine Sloma set a signature bond of \$2,500 and scheduled a resumed initial appearance for Nov. 23.

▪ Brandon P. Sackatook, 38, Shawano, was charged Oct. 18 with one count of substantial battery, one misdemeanor count of battery, one misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct and one misdemeanor count of criminal damage to property. Sloma set a cash bond of \$400 and a signature bond of \$2,500. She also scheduled a preliminary hearing for Nov. 24.

▪ Ginger L. Peoples, 44, Shawano, was charged Oct. 18 with one count of theft of movable property. Sloma set a signature bond of \$2,500 and scheduled a resumed initial appearance for Dec. 7.

▪ Darwin A. Mahkimetas, 47, Shawano, was charged Oct. 18 with one count of possession of THC (second or subsequent offense) and one misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. Sloma set a cash bond of \$750 and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Oct. 29.

▪ Charges against John R. Surprise, 23, Gresham, were dismissed Oct. 18

on prosecutor's motion. Those charges include one count of strangulation and suffocation and one misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct.

▪ Nicole M. Belongia, 26, Shawano, was charged Oct. 19 with one count of possession of THC (second or subsequent offense) and one count of possession of narcotic drugs. Sloma set a cash bond of \$500 and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Nov. 8.

▪ Charges against Stuart L. Long, 35, Cecil, were dismissed Oct. 19 on prosecutor's motion. Those charges include one count of operating a vehicle to flee/elude an officer, one count of first degree recklessly endangering safety and one misdemeanor count of operating while revoked.

▪ Taylor P. Pingel, 25, Clintonville, pleaded no contest Oct. 19 to one count of bail jumping. Judge William F. Kussel Jr. gave Pingel a fine of \$250.

▪ Terrill J. Henning, 32, Shawano, was charged Oct. 20 with one count of sex registry violation and two counts of bail jumping. Sloma set a cash bond of \$500 and a signature bond of \$1,000 and set a resumed initial appearance for Nov. 10.

▪ Beverly A. Alexander, 38, Shawano, was charged Oct. 20 with four counts of bail jumping. Sloma set a cash bond of \$100 and a signature bond of \$1,000 and set a scheduling conference for Oct. 25.

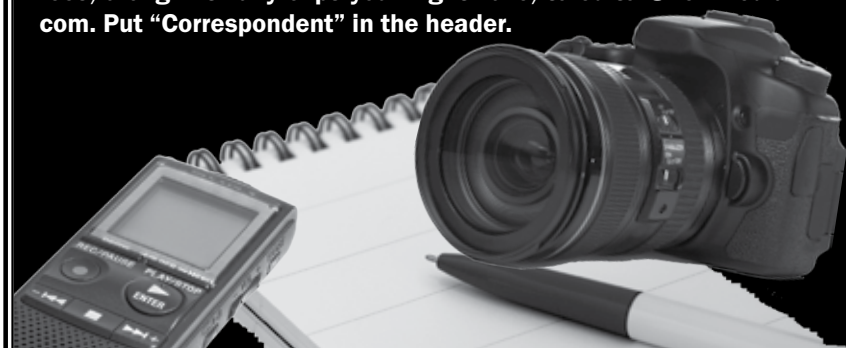
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Send a cover letter detailing your writing experience and your fees, along with any clips you might have, to editor@newmedia-wi.com. Put "Correspondent" in the header.



Legendairy Cookies' summer a success

Business owner working on inside seating for winter

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

One local business in Shawano experienced a successful summer this year.

"I would call this summer a success," said owner Jeremy Mattson of Legendairy Cookies 'N Creamery.

The relatively young business found its niche in selling specialized cookie sandwiches to customers.

"We open the shop six years ago," said Mattson. "It always used to be called the Golden Cone. This year, we re-branded it to Legendairy Cookies."

Mattson said that this summer and last were the two busiest summers that he has seen at his shop, located at 1063 E. Green Bay St. in Shawano. He attributed the success to a number of factors.

"During COVID, people were looking for a reason to get out," said Mattson. "The weather helped, too. Being a walk-up shop, we are very weather dependent."

He added that the inclusion of custom cookie sandwiches on the menu played a part in why the store saw more success.

"That differentiated us from our competition, being Culver's and Dairy Queen," said Mattson.

As Mattson continued to grow and get the word out about Legendairy Cookies, he found that operating a food truck during the summer helped with publicity.

"We got the dessert truck in July and brought it down to events in the Green Bay area," said Mattson. "It was a huge hit down there."

Mattson said that the truck was supposed to be at the store in April, but it ended up being delayed for a few months.

"Due to not having it until July, the truck side of the business was slower than I had anticipated," said Mattson.

He said that even though the truck was delayed, he found success with it at Brown County events, such as farmer's markets and wedding parties.

"We just started just filling our schedule," Mattson said. "We were just trying to get in where we could."

Mattson said that there was great feedback from the food truck.



Legendairy Cookies owner Jeremy Mattson works on setting up indoor seating for guests to come in during winter.

LUKE REIMER | NEW MEDIA



Legendairy Cookies owner Jeremy Mattson serves cookies out of the truck to a bride and groom at their wedding party.

CONTRIBUTED

"Everywhere that we were, people were saying that it was cool to see the difference than a regular food truck," said Mattson.

He attributed this reaction to the color and the style of the truck.

"It is so different than your typical food truck," said Mattson. "It's not big, bright and colorful; rather, it's more of a modern, industrial, matte-black with wood accents. It is kind of like the 'in'

style right now."

Mattson made a point of modernizing the food truck to set it apart from others.

He said that the freedom to customize your cookie sandwich in whatever that you want attracted people as well.

Now that summer is over and the weather is getting colder, Mattson is turning his attention to supplying indoor seating at his store.

"We are staying open year-round," said Mattson. "As we continue to grow and expand, it is difficult to be seasonal. We are just looking at having a small seating area, where people can come in and enjoy their food."

Since he's staying open through winter, Mattson is adding coffee and hot chocolate to the menu, as well.

"We are also hoping to get a display freezer," said Mattson. "There are things on our menu that people don't know that we have. Having people come in, they will be able to see that stuff."

He added that they are also looking at putting together catering packages for events that are going on in the winter.

While the truck was well-received in the Green Bay area this summer, Mattson said he is looking at bringing the truck to other areas in Wisconsin in the future.

"I am hoping next year to really fill out our schedule with different county fairs," said Mattson. "It is kind of hard getting into areas without a lot of experience."

He said that the first summer with the truck served as a learning experience.



Shawano resident Rita Trinko shows off a gift that she was given by community members after her accident. CONTRIBUTED

Trinko recovering from her injuries

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

Shawano resident Rita Trinko is back on her feet after an accident left her in the hospital.

Trinko suffered major injuries after being struck by a vehicle on Main Street as she was crossing the street on June 23.

"I am fine," said Trinko. "I have no pain, other than a little numbness in some fingers on my right hand."

Trinko said that metal rods were put into both of her legs and into her right arm. With the rods, she said that there are some sore spots on her body.

"It could have been much worse," said Trinko. "I am pretty thankful that things aren't worse."

Trinko said seeing all of the support that she got was very eye opening.

"It feels fabulous to see all of the support," said Trinko. "It amazes me. I did not know that people knew who I was. It feels like God is with me."

With all of the support, Trinko realized how close of a community Shawano is.

"This shows how many friends that I have," said Trinko. "I can't say thank you enough."

She said that when she was in the hospital, numerous people reached out, visited her and sent cards.

As she recovers, Trinko said that she will rehab at home, doing various exercises to regain her strength.

lrreimer@newmedia-wi.com

City pay hikes concern for council members

Police officers getting 3% hike in pay, remaining employees only getting 1%

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

Pay raises became a topic of concern for the Shawano Common Council during a discussion of the proposed 2022 city budget on Oct. 20.

The concern came up that most city employees would be getting a 1% raise in the next year, while police officers would be seeing their paychecks go up by 3% as a result of union negotiations.

Alderman Rhonda Strebel said she was not comfortable with such a small increase for those outside the police department, given that the cost of living has gone up in the last year.

"I always have a hard time, no disrespect to our police officers, but when our police officers get 3% and the city gets 1%, that doesn't ever sit well with me," Strebel said. "If we can afford to, I would like to see the city employees get the same as PD (police department) at 3%."

She added that such an increase would be necessary to be competitive with other municipalities.

Leveling out the pay increases for 2022 would likely impact the tax rate, which is already expected to jump up from the current year. The proposed budget includes a tax rate of \$9.88 per \$1,000 of equalized valuation, which means the owner of a property worth \$100,000 would be charged \$988 in taxes for the city alone. The 2021 tax rate is \$9.52.

City Administrator Eddie Sheppard said that the pay raises for city employees and the police department have leveled out in recent years. In 2019, city employees received a 2% increase, while 2020 saw a 2.5% increase and 2021 another 2%. For the police department, there were 2% increases in

2019 and 2020, with 2021 seeing a 3% increase.

"In the end, it ended up being a half-percent increase for PD over the city in three years," Sheppard said.

Alderman Sandy Steinke echoed Strebel's concerns and reiterated how the cost of living has jumped up. She said that city employees are dedicated, but if pocketbooks get too tight, it might force some to find better-paying jobs.

"I think we really need to keep our workers," Steinke said. "We've got good ones."

Mayor Bruce Milavitz wasn't convinced that pay would be a lone factor to prompt city employees to find other jobs.

"Anybody can pay more," Milavitz said. "We want to make sure that our overall package is better — our health insurance, our retirement."

Retirements were a concern for Strebel, who questioned if the city could bring in new workers after the current ones retire. She noted it's a trend nationwide, and many people are looking to retire early in light of the pandemic and other issues.

"We've had a number of baby boomers retire," she said. "We've been seeing this coming for 20 years, and we've been talking about it for at least 10 that we're not going to have enough people in the workforce, and we're seeing it happen."

Alderman Kevin Barkow noted that a planned 3.2% increase in health insurance rates is being implemented across the board, so it makes sense to do the same with the pay.

"If we're equal with insurance, we should be equal with pay," Barkow said.

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Bench warrant issued for Retzlaff

Campground owner skips court hearing on charges of fleeing officers, reckless endangering safety

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

A bench warrant has been issued for the arrest of Annie's Campground owner Ann Retzlaff on Oct. 26 after she was again a no-show in court.

Her hearing was scheduled for 1:30 p.m., but due to other hearings, her case did not come up until almost 3 p.m., and she was still not present. Judge William Kussel Jr. said the defendant, who is facing charges from both Shawano and Menominee counties related to a high-speed chase, had sent emails to the Shawano-Menominee County Circuit Court.

In Shawano County, Retzlaff is being charged with felony fleeing and eluding officers and two counts of second-degree recklessly endangering the safety of those officers, along with a misdemeanor count of resisting and obstructing an officer. In Menominee County, she is being charged with a misdemeanor count of resisting and failing to stop.

The first email was sent to the court at 12:51 p.m. informing the judge that Retzlaff had asked the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL), based in Milwaukee, to defend her, but the organization did not have anyone available to take her case.

"They said even though my case had merit, they cannot take on any more cases at this time," Retzlaff wrote. "I'm able to self-represent. Under the Sixth Amendment, it grants me the right for me to appear as myself on



ANN RETZLAFF

my own behalf. I am a human being protected under the Constitution."

WILL states on its website that it takes on cases involving free speech, workers' freedom, open government, good government and other individual rights, claiming it has prevailed in over 75% of its cases.

A second email came at 1:04 p.m. where she proclaimed herself as "a sovereign being of light" — something she had called herself at an earlier court hearing in August — and said she sent an email to Clerk of Courts Ethan Schmidt and Shawano-Menominee County District Attorney Greg Parker saying she would not present her case until "we are back under common law, laws of nature, God's law."

Retzlaff also said in the second email that she doesn't feel safe entering the courthouse, "nor do I safe leaving my property at this time."

Kussel said Retzlaff sent a third email that included a lot of Bible verses and was too lengthy to read into the record.

"The fact of the matter is, she's not here," Kussel said, noting her absence had not been excused by the court.

Assistant District Attorney Laura Nelson told the judge she wasn't convinced that Retzlaff would be present without court action.

"My conclusion is that Ann Retzlaff has no intention of presenting herself to the court," Nelson said. "In light of that, the state would ask that a warrant for Ms. Retzlaff be issued in each of these cases in the amount of the bonds that have been set."

Nelson also asked for forfeitures on the bonds that had already been posted, which Kussel granted.

Kussel went a little beyond Nelson's request, issuing a bench warrant with a \$3,000 bond in the felony cases, double the \$1,500 that had been posted previously. He also stipulated there would be a \$500 bond for the misdemeanor cases, the same amount Retzlaff had posted.

Retzlaff was also facing traffic citations in Menominee County for failing to obey a traffic officer or signal, which had a bond of \$175.30, and Shawano County for failing to stop at a stop sign, which had the same bond amount. Kussel declared her guilty by default on the traffic citations.

This is the second time Retzlaff was not at a scheduled court hearing. On Oct. 5, Retzlaff did not attend and informed the court she was ill. Kussel granted an adjournment to Oct. 26 but stipulated Retzlaff must attend in person.

On May 15, a Shawano County deputy heard on Menominee County radio traffic about a high-speed chase involving a vehicle registered to Retzlaff for failing to stop at a traffic light, according to the criminal complaint. The chase, starting in Keshena

on state Highway 47-55, continued through the towns of Wescott and Richmond, where deputies twice laid out spike strips, and ended on state Highway 29 just west of County Road MMM.

Deputies with Shawano and Menominee counties initiated a "high-risk stop," according to the complaint, and shut down traffic on the highway's westbound lanes. A lieutenant advised Retzlaff to get out of the vehicle, but she allegedly said she was a "sovereign citizen" and would not exit. A deputy used a slim jim to open the passenger door, which is when Retzlaff allegedly tried to drive off, nearly hitting two Shawano County officials.

Eventually, the vehicle was stopped again, and deputies pulled Retzlaff out of her vehicle. According to the complaint, as she was being handcuffed and searched, she claimed the deputies were involved with covering up sex trafficking and said she was rescuing one of her employees from a sex trafficking house on "Crow Territory" in Menominee County.

Retzlaff has had other cases in Shawano County. In April, she had restraining orders against her for harassing Shawano County Supervisor Joe Miller and his wife, Jackie Miller. In November 2020, a guilty verdict due to a no contest plea was entered against Retzlaff for a case where she made a phone call and claimed she was a sheriff's deputy.

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

Shawano school tax levy, budget approved

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

The Shawano School Board signed off Oct. 25 on its 2021-22 budget, which will see taxes go down slightly overall for property owners.

The tax rate has hovered at \$9.58 per \$1,000 of equalized valuation for several years, but that will drop to \$9.56 for 2022. That means the owner of a property valued at \$100,000 would pay \$956 in taxes specifically for the school district.

The total levy will be just shy of \$14.7 million for the district in 2022, according to Finance Director Josh

Swanson. He noted that the district's general fund saw an increase of \$608,000, a result of an increase in anticipated taxes and state school aid, which he said was a good news-bad news kind of scenario for the public schools.

"We had a higher decline in enrollment than we'd originally anticipated," Swanson said. "The good news is that it increases our revenue short-term, but it does not help us in future years."

Swanson noted that there was an increase in expenses of \$180,000, which he attributed to the increase in vouchers. He estimated an additional 20-22 students were going to private

schools and utilizing public school funds using the voucher program.

Equalized value for property is often a factor in the tax rate, and Swanson said the current valuations show property within the district went up 5% overall, which is why the levy jumped up from last year's \$14 million. While the equalized value can result in a wider swing either direction of the tax rate, the district has been trying to keep it consistent to try and avoid sticker shock for taxpayers if there is a sharp drop in property values.

"Right now, it's on a steep up," board member Mart Grams noted.

The tax levy received preliminary approval from the community at the Shawano School District's annual meeting on Sept. 27, but still requires the board to give final approval once all the key information — including student enrollment numbers and 2021 equalized property values — is received. Enrollment numbers are not available until schools conduct their third Friday count, which takes place in September, and property values are furnished to school districts in mid-October.

The total expenditure budget is \$32.3 million, a decrease of more than \$100,000.

Safe Haven ball honors first responders

Behind the Badge award renamed for dedicated supporter

First responders packed the pavilion at Shawano Lake County Park on Oct. 22, but there was no fire or emergency to speak of. Rather, the gathering was an opportunity for Safe Haven to honor police officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel and their supporters at the Ball of the Badges.

Safe Haven announced that its big award, the Behind the Badge honor, would hereafter be named for retired Shawano police officer Jody Johnson, who has been a part of the organization in some form since the current shelter was built 20 years ago. Stacy Cicero, who recently stepped down as executive director, said Johnson exemplifies all of the qualifications of the award, which includes providing support and aid to victims of domestic violence.

"One of her many passions includes helping victims of domestic violence, especially the children," Cicero said. "Jody always stops off at Safe Haven, just to see if we need anything. She routinely referred victims to Safe Haven and was always available to answer questions. She quickly became our go-to person."

In accepting the award, Johnson noted that first responders are part of a bigger family, beyond the one created at home. She noted that, even though she's no longer an active police officer, she's not ready to step back from helping people find a way out of violent homes.

"No one can quite understand the sacrifices and commitment that it takes to answer that fire call, get on that ambulance, put on your uniform and go to work every day," Johnson said. "It is such an honor to be able to do that, and I miss it greatly."

Johnson added that there were plenty of people in the audience who are equally deserving of such an award.

"I don't sit much. I just go, go, go," Johnson said, noting that her

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LEE PULASKI • CITY EDITOR

Stephanie Hintz is all smiles as she says a few words while accepting the 2021 Telecommunicator of the Year award on Oct. 22 at the Ball of the Badges at Shawano Lake County Park.





Jody Johnson, left, recipient of the Behind the Badge award for 2021, stands quietly as Safe Haven Executive Director Jennifer Laude Bisterfeldt applauds on Oct. 22 at the Ball of the Badges at Shawano Lake County Park.

husband, Mike Wizner, retired from law enforcement two years earlier and had some peace and quiet before “Hurricane Jody” came home to roost.

Supporters like Johnson are needed, not only in Shawano County, but everywhere. Jennifer Laude Bisterfeldt, the new Safe Haven executive director, noted that it was important to have events like the Ball of the Badges to show gratitude for those people who often save lives at the expense of family time, holidays, weekends and, oftentimes, their own health.

“Domestic violence and sexual abuse remain a hidden problem in our society,” Bisterfeldt said. “Every nine seconds, a person is beaten by their intimate partner. Last year in Wisconsin, 68 people were killed as a result of domestic violence incidents; 11 of these were children. We hear these difficult stories in the news, through friends, and many of us know someone who is a survivor.”

Locally, law enforcement completed 185 domestic violence assessments, and 55% of them were deemed high danger, according to Bisterfeldt, which means a potential homicide risk.

“Safe Haven sees firsthand the impact first responders have and the vital role they play in being the first to arrive and help people with domestic violence,” she said. “Your jobs are far from easy, as you rush toward danger while everyone else is running away. You do so for complete strangers but never question it.”

George Lenzner, chief deputy for the Shawano County Sheriff’s Department, said the county is a good place

AT A GLANCE

The awards for the 2021 Ball of the Badges:

- **JODY JOHNSON:** Behind the Badge
- **DANA RITCHIE:** Support Staff of the Year
- **JANE GEHM:** Volunteer Firefighters’ Wife of the Year
- **RODNEY HOPPE:** EMS Person of the Year
- **ANGELICA TOURTILLOTT:** Correctional Officer of the Year
- **STEPHANIE HINTZ:** Telecommunicator of the Year
- **ERIC CHERNETSKI:** Deputy of the Year

for first responders. There are not many who want to do the job of law enforcement or emergency services, he said, so it was important to recognize those who answered the call of duty.

“We get so much support from the community, compared to other places around the state,” Lenzner said. “We’re all one big team of first responders, and we need each other to make it work.”

However, it’s not just the first responders who deserve kudos, according to Cal Kanowitz, who was presenting awards for EMS and fire departments. As he presented an award to Jane Gehm, wife of the late Shawano Assistant Fire Chief Larry Gehm, Kanowitz said spouses and other family members are waiting at home, not completely certain whether their loved ones will be coming through the door again.

“When the call comes in the middle of the night, the wives are often sitting up, not being able to get back to sleep because they’re thinking of their loved



Jane Gehm, the widow of Larry Gehm, who served on the Shawano and Bonduel fire departments for 30 years, says a few words as she accepts the 2021 Volunteer Firefighters’ Wife of the Year award Oct. 22 at the Ball of the Badges at Shawano Lake County Park.



Cal Kanowitz, right, representing Marion Body Works, talks about why Rodney Hoppe with the Bonduel EMS is receiving the 2021 EMS Person of the Year on Oct. 22 at the Ball of the Badges at Shawano Lake County Park.

ones,” Gehm said. “One of their most important jobs is being a sounding board for their loved one because the death and devastation that you experi-

ence and encounter every day can often be emotional.”

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gas pump w/ Texaco globe, Standard Oil Co. of New York porcelain sign dated 1932, SOCONY-VACUUM porcelain sign w/ Pegasus from 1936, Some antique car parts, Old car radios, 100+ hub caps including 57 Chevy, 29 Chev radiator, 61-63 Chev manuals, 73 Ford manuals, Chilton & Motor manuals from 1943-1975, 57 Chev owner's manual, 58 Ford, 67 VW & 76 Ford manuals, Kohler service manuals, Old car books, magazines & calendars, Old oil cans, Li-cense plates, Old gas cans

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Antiques & Household Goods: Ant. Chippendale mahogany Highboy w/ double carved shells, 1940's Lane cedar-lined Chippendale Lowboy w/ ball & claw feet, King-size High 4-poster bed, 19th Century walnut Sideboard w/ fine carving & chocolate marble top, Victorian walnut dropleaf table & set of chairs, Victorian Etagere, Rococco parlor table, Emperor mahogany Grandfather clock, Karastan Bokhara 9x12 rug, Persian silk rug & Oriental wool rugs, Piecrust table, French Armoire w/ mirrored door, Empire high chest w/ flame veneer, Glass curio, Mahogany Sheraton flip-top game table, Federal buffet, Cherry tea cart, 1940's mahogany bedroom set, Ant. platform rocker, Marble top washstand, Walnut frame sofa,



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ThedaCare physician offers Halloween tips

The family-fun tradition of Halloween festivities will soon have little goblins, ghouls and witches going door-to-door for sweets.

"It is wonderful to see some traditional activities returning as several communities in the area will have specific times for children, dressed in their Halloween best, to go trick-or-treating," said Dr. Jorge Darwich, a pediatrician with ThedaCare Physicians Pediatrics-Neenah. "As families are taking part, it's important to have a plan for the big night to help ensure safety for all."

To begin with, trick-or-treat times often begin before sunset, and continue into the evening after dark.

"It's vital to put an emphasis on pedestrian safety because children may want to run to the next home or to the decorated home across the street," Darwich said. "Let's help remind them to stay by mom and dad and look both ways before crossing a street."

Planning and preparing what streets to take while trick-or-treating with your children can be a fun way to get your children more involved in the night, and set expectations for everyone.

"The extra benefit of planning out your route can also help set the intentions for your children," Darwich said. "They'll know that once you arrive at a certain street or once it's a certain time, that it's time to head back home. Also, be sure to discuss rules for the night for children so they know what's expected of them."

"It's typically fine to let your child indulge their sweet tooth occasionally, however, you need to make sure they do not eat too much at one time and that the things they do eat are safe. Be sure to check everything over and just toss anything that might look skeptical."

Drivers should also be aware of an increase in pedestrians during the month of October when several Halloween festivities are planned. Darwich said to be sure to slow down in residential areas and watch for children who may dart out from the street or from parked cars.

For those plan on handing out candy, it's also a good idea to make sure your yard is safe and ready for

FYI

Other tricks and tips for Halloween safety include:

- Remind children to walk, not run.
- Hold hands with an adult and look both ways when crossing the street.
- Use bright colors in costumes or reflective tape.
- Make sure costumes fit properly. Be sure to hem pants or skirts to avoid tripping.
- Use flashlights.
- Pin a tag with your child's name and contact information to their costume in case you get separated.
- Reinforce to children that they do not get into a car with someone they do not know or go inside a home.
- Don't accept homemade treats from strangers.
- Parents should check over every piece of candy for tears or tampering.
- Throw away anything that looks suspicious.

children by removing any obstacles from your yard, porch or steps to avoid tripping or falling and make sure your front porch is well-lit for trick-or-treating hours.

Another safety precaution that has been top of mind for many parents for nearly two years is COVID-19. The CDC has released some guidelines for trick-or-treaters, as well as for neighbors handing out candy. Families should travel in small groups and avoid crowding at one doorstep. Everyone should wash their hands before leaving the house to trick-or-treat and when they return home.

"It helps that Halloween is generally an outdoor-focused holiday and children can easily incorporate a fun mask with their costumes," said Darwich.

People handing out candy should avoid direct contact with trick-or-treaters. Give treats outdoors if possible, and wash hands before handing out candy. If you have not been vaccinated for COVID-19, or have an autoimmune disease, it's recommended to leave candy out in a dish for trick-or-treaters to help themselves.

"If you have symptoms of COVID-19 or were exposed to someone who has tested positive, we would ask that you do not participate in in-person Halloween festivities," said Darwich. "While we all look forward to getting back to traditional celebrations and events, it's still important to continue practicing precautions so that we can do our best to stay healthy."

Social Security announces 5.9% benefit increase

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for approximately 70 million Americans will increase 5.9% in 2022, the Social Security Administration announced today.

The 5.9% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits payable to more than 64 million Social Security beneficiaries in January 2022. Increased payments to approximately 8 million SSI beneficiaries will begin Dec. 30. The Social Security Act ties the annual COLA to the increase in the Consumer Price Index as determined by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Some other adjustments that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$147,000 from \$142,800.

Social Security and SSI beneficiaries are normally notified by

mail starting in early December about their new benefit amount. Most people who receive Social Security payments will be able to view their COLA notice online through their personal my Social Security account. People may create or access their my Social Security account online at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Information about Medicare changes for 2022, when announced, will be available at www.medicare.gov. For Social Security beneficiaries receiving Medicare, Social Security will not be able to compute their new benefit amount until after the Medicare premium amounts for 2022 are announced. Final 2022 benefit amounts will be communicated to beneficiaries in December through the mailed COLA notice and my Social Security's Message Center.

The Social Security Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. For information, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/cola.



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Resources available for family caregivers

Dear Savvy Senior,

Can you recommend any resources that offer help to family caregivers? I've been taking care of my 86-year-old mother and could use some help.

Burned-Out Brenda

Dear Brenda,

Caring for an aging parent or other loved one over a period of time can be very challenging both physically and mentally. Fortunately, there are a number of tips and services you can turn to that can help lighten the load. Here are several to consider.

- **Assemble a care team:** A good first step is to put together a network of people including family, friends and even neighbors that you can call on to help out when you can't be there or need a break.

- **Tap local services:** Many communities offer a range of free or subsidized services that help seniors and caregivers by providing things like home-delivered meals, transportation, senior companion services and more. Call 211 to find out what's available in your community, or call AARP's caregiving resource center at 877-333-5885,



JIM MILLER

which provides referrals to local resources.

• **Use respite:** Respite services can provide short-term care to your mom so you can take some time off. To locate services in your area, try the ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center at ARCHrespite.org.

- **Hire in-home help:** You may want to consider hiring a part-time home-care aide that can help with things like preparing meals, housekeeping or personal care. Costs can run anywhere from \$12 to \$30 an hour depending on where you live and the qualification of the aide. To find help through an agency, use Medicare's search tool Medicare.gov/care-compare. To find someone on your own, which is a more affordable way to go, try websites like Care.com or CareLinx.com.

- **Use financial tools:** If you're handling your mom's finances, you can

make things easier by arranging direct deposit for her income sources and set up automatic payments for her utilities and other routine bills. Also, consider setting up your mom's online banking service at her bank so you can pay her other bills and monitor her account anytime. If you want or need help, there are professional daily money managers (see AADMM.com to locate someone) that can do it for you. They charge between \$60 and \$150 per hour.

Also, if your mom is lower-income use BenefitsCheckup.org, a free, confidential website that will help you locate financial assistance programs that can help pay for her medications, utilities, health care and other needs.

- **Get insurance help:** If you have questions about what Medicare or Medicaid covers, or about long-term care, your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) provides free counseling on all these issues. Call 877-839-2675 or visit ShiptaCenter.org to locate a nearby counselor.

You can also get help at Medicare.gov or by calling 800-633-4227, and through the Medicare Rights Center,

which staffs a helpline at 800-333-4114.

- **Tap other resources:** There are a number of other organizations you can draw on for additional information like the Family Care Alliance (Caregiver.org/family-care-navigator), which provides a state-by-state listing of caregiving programs and services; Caring.com, which offers caregiving advice, senior housing information and online support groups; the Alzheimer's Association (ALZ.org/care), which provides information unique to the challenges of dementia caregivers; and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (www.caregiver.va.gov), which offers services to veterans and spouses.

If you're sharing care responsibilities with others, sites like LotsaHelpingHands.com and CaringBridge.org can help you coordinate together.

- **Take care of yourself:** Make your own health a priority. Being a caregiver is a big job that can cause emotional and physical stress and lead to illness and depression. The only way you can provide the care your mother needs is to make sure you stay healthy.

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Jean E. Lewis

Jean Eleanore (Swanson) Lewis, 92, of Shawano, formerly of Hurley, died Oct. 15, 2021, in Shawano with her family by her side.

Jean was born Aug. 15, 1929, in Detroit, Michigan, daughter of the late Clifford and Laila (Asunto) Swanson. Jean's ancestors were pioneer residents of Ironwood, Michigan. She attended schools in Winegar (Presque Isle) and Ironwood, graduating from Luther L. Wright High School in 1947. While in the high school band, she was seated first saxophone and that love of music remained a big part of her life.

After graduation, she was briefly employed at an Ironwood glove factory until she was offered a job with the Ironwood Phone Company, where she worked through the early 1960s. Later in life, she worked at, and then managed, Johnny's Gas Station and Convenience Store in Hurley.

Jean fought for union rights all of

her adult life and served many years as an officer for the Iron County Democratic Party. She was a lifelong Democrat and served as a delegate for Jimmy Carter at the Wisconsin State Democratic Convention in 1976. Even though she didn't attend, she was thrilled to be invited to Carter's inauguration.

She was a strong advocate for the humane treatment of all animals, and her homes always included at least one or two stray or rescued dogs. She was a well-known card player and especially enjoyed playing bridge with the Range Duplicate Bridge Club or poker and cribbage with family and friends.

In retirement, she liked to travel and spend time at her cottage in Mercer. She was an excellent cook and had a knack for creating beautiful flower gardens throughout her yard. Jean's greatest joy was being with her family, especially time spent with her grandsons. She was always so proud

to see them reach the milestones in their lives.

On Sept. 23, 1950, Jean was united in marriage to Laurence "Gus" Lewis, of Hurley, at the First Presbyterian Church by the late Rev. C.L. Harries. Over the years, Jean and Gus resided in Ironwood, Hurley and Mercer. Gus preceded her in death in April 2005. After Gus died, Jean moved to Shawano to be closer to family.

Jean is survived by her sons, Craig Lewis, Hudson, and Tod (Jeanie) Lewis, Shawano; grandsons, Erik Lewis (Kristina Ewald), Green Bay, Ian Lewis (Mackenzie Mentel), East Lansing, Michigan, and Addison Lewis, Shawano; her brother, Dennis (Terry) Swanson, Merrill; two nieces, Jeri Swanson, Colorado, and Kristy (Scott) Brunso, Indiana; and 18 cousins.

Besides her parents and husband,

Jean was preceded in death by her brother and sister-in-law, Gerald and Patti Swanson.

A private service will be held in the summer 2022, to celebrate her life.

Memorial contributions may be made in her memory to HOPE Animal Shelter, PO Box 261, Ironwood, MI 49938, or to Compassus Hospice, 2960 Allied St., Suite 105, Green Bay, WI 54304.

Her family would like to extend their thanks and appreciation, for the care and kindness shown to Jean, to the staff at Maple Lane Nursing Home, Birch Hill Nursing Home and, most recently, her care team from Compassus Hospice.

Arrangements were made with McKeivitt-Patrick Funeral Home in Ironwood, Michigan, assisted by Mickelson Funeral and Cremation Service in Shawano.



Mary Louise Grignon

Mary Louise Grignon, 83, of Keshena, passed away on Monday, Oct. 18, 2021. She was born April 25, 1938, in Keshena to the late Raymond and Josephine (Nahwahquaw) Grignon Sr. Mary attended St. Joseph's Catholic School, Shawano High School and went on to Milwaukee Vocational School. Mary worked at Menominee Tribal Offices, and then she became the first clerk of court and register of deeds for Menominee County. Mary later worked at the Menominee Tribal Court and then the Menominee Casino Resort before retiring from



the Menominee Tribal Housing Authority.

Mary was an avid bowler and was on bowling leagues for many years. She has enjoyed playing Bingo and going

on casino tours with her family. She enjoyed watching the Brewers, Bucks, Badgers and Packers. Mary especially loved being surrounded by her family and going to visit her

sister Myrna while they sat outside. Mary was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church of Keshena.

Mary is survived by her son, Jeff (Dory) Grignon; siblings, Myrna Winter, Dennis (Linda) Grignon and David (Donna) Grignon; grandchildren, Desirae (Justin) Wilber, Stevie Grignon, Evelyn (Jay Johnson) Grignon and Jacob (Avari Fernandez) Grignon; six great-grandsons, Justin, Rebel, Shelton, Silas, Onyx and Wylie; nieces and nephews, David (Glee) Grignon, Pam Grignon, Ruth (Andy Kessen) Winter, Ben (Lucy) Grignon,

Dan (Nanaque LaTender) Grignon, Marcus (Monica G.) Grignon, Kenew (John) Tucker, Shawn Cunningham, Rami (Don) Hoaglin and Cameron (Amanda) Cunningham; many great-nieces and great-nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Wilfred, Raymond Jr., Cecil and Robert; and two sisters in infancy, Delores and Mona.

A memorial service for Mary was held at 3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 21, 2021, at Swedberg Funeral Home in Shawano.

www.swedbergfuneralhome.com

Russell A. Stoehr

Russell "Buck" Anthony Stoehr, 94, Gresham, passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2021. He was born Oct. 16, 1927, in Gresham to the late Matthew and Anna (Gottschalk) Stoehr. He attended Gresham High School. On Feb. 28, 1952, he married Geneva Straley.

Buck served his country in the U.S. Army, attaining the rank of corporal from 1945 until 1947. Buck farmed throughout his adult years,



and after retirement had a beef farm as a hobby. He enjoyed deer hunting, watching the Packers, and playing baseball with the Gresham team. Buck was a member of the

Lions Club and St. Francis Solanus

Catholic Church, where he belonged to the men's club.

He is survived by his daughter, Michelle (Jack Kiefer) O'Keefe; granddaughter, Heather Schoff; grandson Ryan (Jasmine) Heilmann; great-grandchildren, Clayton Schoff, Hailey Schoff, Ella Heilmann and Jaidyn Steinfeldt; and his sister Connie Kuckuk.

Buck was preceded in death by his wife, Geneva; his parents, Matt and

Ann Stoehr; and sisters, Myra Ebert, Audrey Stoehr, and Janice Lemke.

Friends may visit after 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021, at St. Francis Solanus Catholic Church, 724 Mader St., Gresham, until the Mass of Christian burial at 11:00AM with the Rev. Nonito Baras officiating burial at the parish cemetery.

Ryan Funeral Home in De Pere is assisting the family.

Donna M. Krueger

Donna M. Krueger, 93, formerly of the Town of Belle Plaine, passed away Thursday, Oct. 21, 2021, in Appleton.

The Eberhardt-Stevenson Funeral Home and Crematory in Clintonville is assisting her family.

Joseph D. Gau

Joseph D. Gau, 68, of Bear Creek, passed away Thursday, Oct. 21, 2021, at home.

The Eberhardt-Stevenson Funeral Home and Crematory in Clintonville is assisting the family.

Kendall Raether

Kendall Raether, 80, of Caroline, passed away Thursday, Oct. 21, 2021, at Mayo Clinic Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota.

Beil-Didier Funeral Home in Marion is assisting with the arrangements.

Theodore D. Hitzler

Theodore David Hitzler, 88, of Franklin, North Carolina, passed away Oct. 18, 2021.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is assisting the family.

Family's military service honored in barn quilt

Shawano County's 373rd barn quilt honors members of a family who have served in the military, including one who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

The quilt, named Love of Service, is on display at the home of Jim and Beth Karlson at N2861 Rustic Drive, Clintonville.

"Ever since I saw the beautiful barn quilts going up around Shawano County, I wanted to get one," Beth said, "and now that we do, it makes my heart flutter every time I look at it."

Beth procrastinated for a few years, until her granddaughter, Leah, "took the bull by the horns" and contacted Jim Leuenberger about how to go about getting the quilt. Jim worked with Beth on the pattern for the quilt, which has special meaning for Beth and Jim. Jim Karlson served with the Marines in Vietnam, while one son, Matthew Hansen, was an F18 mechanic in the Marine Corps; another son, Pete is a firefighter, and the third son, Warren, served in the Army.

Warren went into the Army in 1986, right after graduating from high school. He served until Nov. 15, 2003, a day the Karlsons will never forget. That morning, while patrolling in a helicopter with 11 other soldiers in Mosul, Iraq, the helicopter behind them was hit by a rocket propelled grenade, which caused it to crash into the helicopter Warren was in. Then Warren's helicopter was hit by an RPG causing both helicopters to crash. Warren and 11 of his comrades were killed. Only five survived.

"When something like this happens, the family gets through it, but they never really get over it," Jim Leuenberger said. "It was an honor to do this special barn quilt for them."

The Karlsons' barn quilt was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee and was put on display by LeRoy Raddant and his grandson, Keenan, both of whom work for Raddant Electric in Shawano.

Shown with Shawano County's 373rd barn quilt, called Love of Service, are, from left, Leah Karlson; her dad, Pete; Jim and Beth Karlson; and their son, Matthew Hansen.

JIM LEUENBERGER



USDA reimbursing farmers for organic certification

Organic producers and handlers can now apply for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds to assist with the cost of receiving or maintaining organic certification.

Applications for the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) are due Nov. 1.

OCCSP provides cost-share as-

sistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products for the costs of obtaining or maintaining organic certification under the USDA's National Organic Program. Eligible producers include any certified producers or handlers who have paid organic certification fees to a USDA-accredited certifying agent during 2021 and any

subsequent program year.

Producers can be reimbursed for expenses made between Oct. 1, 2020, and Sept. 30, 2021, including application fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement and arrangement requirements, travel expenses for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments and postage.

For 2021, OCCSP will reimburse 50% of a certified operation's allowable certification costs, up to a maximum of \$500 for each of the following categories (or "scopes"): crops, wild crops, livestock, processing/handling and state organic program fees.

To learn about organic certification cost share, visit usda.gov/organic.



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BEST OF
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SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Witt-Birn advances after routing Tomahawk

Chargers earn 1st playoff win in 17 years

By MORGAN RODE
Sports Editor

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School football team dominated the first half before cruising to a 54-12 victory over Tomahawk in a Division 5 first round playoff game Oct. 22 in Wittenberg.

The second-seeded Chargers built a 42-0 lead over seventh-seeded Tomahawk by halftime and then were content to rest starters in the second half.

The win was Witt-Birn's first level one playoff win since 2004. The Chargers earned a forfeit win last year when the postseason was limited to two weeks.

"We were excited. We didn't want to let up because this was the first time in 17 years we won a playoff game in round one," said Witt-Birn sophomore Marshall Fraaza. "That's really exciting, so we just wanted to make it happen."

"I think it's pretty incredible," said senior Jack Fraaza of the team accomplishment. "I've had brothers come through and not be as successful, and it's just nice to finally get our program to a good place where the upcoming players are excited to play and are excited to win."

The Chargers seized control of the contest right from the opening kickoff.

Witt-Birn's defense forced a three-and-out before its offense quickly marched down the field for a touchdown. Senior quarterback Ben Wesolowski had three first-down runs on the drive before Jack Fraaza scored on a 10-yard run.

After forcing another three-and-out, Witt-Birn needed just five offensive plays go 66 yards and score again. Wesolowski found senior receiver Kaden Schmidt on a 14-yard pass to cap the drive.

Tomahawk picked up a first down on the ensuing drive, but a fumble a play later was recovered



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Marshall Fraaza, right, runs with the ball on a 50-yard touchdown reception as teammate Jordan Landowski runs in to provide blocking during the team's Division 5 playoff win over Tomahawk on Oct. 22 in Wittenberg.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

by Marshall Fraaza, giving the Chargers' offense great field position.

Witt-Birn took advantage, as three plays later, Wesolowski found senior Ben Flak for a 41-yard touchdown pass.

"I think it took place in the film," said Flak on why the team's offense was so efficient on the night. "We had that touchdown to me where their outside backer came and blitzed. He was blitzing every time, so we just called a pass, wide open, touchdown. That was easy."

Witt-Birn's defense made a fourth-down stop on the next Tomahawk offensive possession,

with senior Johnny Stewart being credited with the sack on fourth down.

Witt-Birn then made one of its few mistakes on the night, as Wesolowski was intercepted on a deep ball up the right sideline.

Wesolowski didn't hang his head and soon made up for the turnover by intercepting a pass on defense. On the second play of the ensuing drive, Wesolowski broke free for a 77-yard touchdown run.

"Our coaches just always preach a short mindset. So if you mess up, just go make a good play, and that's what I tried to do," said Wesolowski.

After forcing a Tomahawk punt

after just three plays, Witt-Birn extended its lead out to 35 after a quick four-play drive. Wesolowski found Marshall Fraaza on a short pass, and then Fraaza made a couple defenders miss along with breaking a couple tackles on his way to a 50-yard score.

Witt-Birn forced another punt from the visitors on the next drive, which helped set up the Chargers last touchdown in the first half. Marshall Fraaza capped that drive with a 4-yard run.

Despite most of the starters sitting the second half, Witt-Birn was still able to match Tomahawk's 12 points.

Sophomore Nathan Waupekenay led two touchdown drives, throwing touchdown passes to sophomore Casey Kielman and freshman Jett Rogowski to cap the scoring for the hosts.

With the win, the Chargers advance to the second round of postseason play, where third-seeded Brillion awaits. Witt-Birn will host the game at 7 p.m. Oct. 29.

"We know they are gonna be dogfights the rest of the year. We just gotta put in the work that we've been doing the whole year and just trust our coaching and trust our players," said Wesolowski.

Tomahawk 0 0 6 6 — 12

Witt-Birn 21 21 6 6 — 54

First quarter

WB: Jack Fraaza 10-yard run (Nathan Waupekenay kick), 8:03

WB: Kaden Schmidt 14-yard pass from Ben Wesolowski (Waupekenay kick), 4:45

WB: Ben Flak 41-yard pass from Wesolowski (Waupekenay kick), 1:58

Second quarter

WB: Wesolowski 77-yard run (Waupekenay kick), 9:41

WB: Marshall Fraaza 50-yard pass from Wesolowski (Waupekenay kick), 6:30

WB: M. Fraaza 4-yard run (Waupekenay kick), 2:42

Third quarter

WB: Casey Kielman 4-yard pass from Waupekenay (run failed), 3:32

T: Jake Kaminski 5-yard pass from T.J. Jablonski (kick failed), 0:35

Fourth quarter

T: Bode Imm 11-yard run (kick failed), 9:24

WB: Jett Rogowski 5-yard pass from Waupekenay (run failed), 4:35

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

Wittenber-Birnamwood wins regional title

Chargers take down Peshtigo in final

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School volleyball team won a Division 3 regional title after earning three playoff wins last week.

Witt-Birn, a No. 3 seed, opened the postseason by sweeping No. 14 Menominee Indian on Oct. 19 in Wittenberg. The Chargers won by scores of 25-13, 25-17, 25-14.

London Metropulos finished the match with 12 digs and 12 total kills for Witt-Birn, while Lilly Betry posted 15 assists and seven aces.

Reese Rogowski recorded 13 total kills for the Chargers, while Layla Huffman had 11. Jadalynn Davids chipped in nine digs.

The win set the Chargers up against No. 6 Amherst in a regional semifinal match on Oct. 21 in Wittenberg. The Chargers advanced with a 25-19, 25-16, 25-19 victory.

Metropulos posted 18 total kills to lead Witt-Birn, while Rogowski had 14 attack kills and 12 digs. Payton Foster contributed 16 assists, and Kiara Deruchowski served 14 times on the night and added two aces.

Betry served 15 times and had two aces while also providing 14 assists. Davids tallied 12 digs and three aces. Halle Beverdorf was credited with four block kills, while Huffman and Kaydence Burclaw had three each.

In the regional final against No. 2 Peshtigo on Oct. 23 in Peshtigo, Witt-Birn won by scores of 25-17, 22-25, 25-20, 25-19.

Metropulos finished the match with



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Lilly Betry sets the ball during the team's regional title win over Peshtigo on Oct. 23 in Peshtigo.

TINA BACON

24 total kills and 13 digs, while Davids had 17 digs and two block kills. Betry served 14 times and had two aces while also tallying 21 assists.

Foster also posted 21 assists for the Chargers. Rogowski tallied 16 digs, while Huffman and Beverdorf had three and two block kills, respectively.

"Regional champions — what a great feeling," said Witt-Birn coach

Becky Rew. "We knew we could beat Peshtigo because we faced them twice in a tournament early in the season where we each came away with a win, but preseason is very different from postseason.

"Being a younger team, I wasn't sure how we would handle the pressure of a regional finals game, but the girls demonstrated great composure

FYI

This week's sectional match recaps can be found online at www.newmedia-wi.com.

and confidence. We started very strong in the first set, struggled in the second, but bounced back at the very end of the second — not enough to take it, but enough to push into the third and fourth sets with great momentum to finish the match with a win."

With the win, Witt-Birn moves into sectional play, where top-seeded Oconto awaits. Oconto will host the match at 7 p.m. Oct. 28.

In other area volleyball regional action, Bowler and Tigerton were taken down in their first matches.

Bowler, a No. 10 seed in Division 4, was swept by No. 7 Suring on Oct. 19 in Suring. Bowler lost by scores of 25-10, 26-24, 25-18.

Ava Paiser tallied six digs, four assists and four attack kills for Bowler.

Brandi Spencer posted seven assists, five digs and three attack kills, while Tia Kroening had five digs and three attack kills. Sabrina Nava had seven digs, while Paige Treptow had six.

Tigerton, another No. 10 seed in D4, was topped 25-23, 25-23, 25-14 by No. 7 Green Bay NEW Lutheran/Providence Academy on Oct. 19 in Green Bay.

Skyler Hauser led Tigerton with 10 total kills and 15 digs, while Elizabeth Robbins totaled 13 assists and nine service points.

Jaycee Hoppe-Schmidt posted 11 digs for the Tigers, while Samantha Suehring had four attack kills. Leandra Kalwitz and Angel Welch provided eight and seven service points, respectively.



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WEST BEND

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Mellusi, Allen help Wisconsin run past Purdue

By MARK AMBROGI
The Associated Press

Wisconsin freshman running back Braelon Allen figures the Badgers got back to their their strengths.

Graham Mertz completed just 5 of 8 passes for 52 yards. But it didn't matter with the Badgers running for 290 yards on 51 carries.

"That's Wisconsin football. That's what we're known for, imposing our will on defenses," Allen said. "We are finally getting back to our brand of football. It's worked for the

longest time."

Chez Mellusi ran for 149 yards and a touchdown, and Allen had 140 yards and two scores to help Wisconsin beat No. 25 Purdue 30-13 on Oct. 23

Mellusi and Allen both had career highs for yards, with Mellusi carrying 27 carries and Allen 12 for the Badgers (4-3, 2-2 Big Ten).

Wisconsin has won 15 straight against Purdue (4-3, 2-2 Big Ten).

Allen fumbled in the first quarter but was able to gather himself.

"Everyone was coming up to me and telling me to keep my head up,"

Allen said. "I knew I had to bounce back, forget about it and hold on to the football."

Wisconsin coach Paul Chryst said it was a matter of doing whatever would move the football.

"We weren't great on third down and we got to be better there, but the running game was going and the way our defense was playing, if we can continue to do that, I thought that might be best," Chryst said.

The Boilermakers took a 13-10 lead on defensive end George Karlaftis' 56-yard fumble return with 6:13 left in the second second quarter.

John Torchio intercepted Aidan O'Connell's pass and returned it 37 yards to the 1. However, Mellusi was stopped for no gain and quarterback Kendric Pryor had a 3-yard loss on third down. Collin Larsh made a 23-yard field goal to tie it at 13.

The Badgers took the lead for good at 20-13 on Mellusi's 20-yard run. Allen's 70-yard run set up the touchdown, putting the ball on the 24.

Wisconsin pushed it to 27-13 on Allen's 14-yard run early in the fourth quarter. Larsh added a 43-yard field goal.

HIGH SCHOOL CROSS-COUNTRY

No area runners advance to state championships

By MORGAN RODE
Sports Editor

No Wittenberg-Birnwood or Gresham/Bowler cross-country runners qualified for state after competing in the Division 3 Athens Sectional on Oct. 23 in Athens.

The Witt-Birn girls team had four runners in action, while the boys team placed 10th with a score of 190. Gresham/Bowler had one boys runner competing.

Ruby Nowinsky led the Witt-Birn girls team after completing the course

in 24 minutes, 16.5 seconds.

Annika Resch (26:03.1), Ava Hegewald (27:05.8) and Amelia Bessert (30:24.7) were the other runners.

Simon Schairer (18:51.8) led a group of seven Witt-Birn boys runners.

Craig Wendel (19:27.5), Mason

Meverden (19:40.3), Ian Salvesen (20:52.6), Hayden Miller (21:59.6), Pierson Potrykus (22:29.4) and Dustin Welch (24:34.3) filled out the team.

Bryson Nelson was the lone competitor for Gresham/Bowler. He finished the boys race in 21:20.2.

RECREATION SCOREBOARD

BOWLING

Resch Lanes — Monday Ladies Handicap

Team	W	L
Fandrey Construction	13	5
Lisa's Lakeside	10	8
Resch Lanes	9 1/2	8 1/2
Tavern Front	9	9
Fantastic Sams	7 1/2	10 1/2
Strike-a-pose	5	13

High team handicap games: Tavern Front 869, Fandrey Construction 868, Resch Lanes 838.

High individual handicap games (top 7): Mary Krause 283, Jennifer Resch 249, Cassandra Eckes 246, Jessica Kubichek 242, Lynn Wickman 237, Sue Zeinert 228, Jaime Resch 227.

High team handicap series: Tavern Front 2,477, Resch Lanes 2,438, Fandrey Construction 2,438.

High individual handicap series (top 7): Jennifer Resch 732, Mary Krause 711, Lynn Wickman 688, Cassandra Eckes 673, Jessica Kubichek 656, Jordyn Krueger 653, Cherie Zeinert 629.

Chet & Emil's Wednesday Business

Team	W	L
Kessen Auto Body	12	6
CWAA	12	6
S&M Tool	11	7
Melody Mill	10	8
TLC Auto Body	8	10
Kropf's Meat Pro	7	11
Rew Motors Inc.	7	11
Chet & Emil's	5	13

High team scratch games: Melody Mill 1,086, S&M

Tool 1,035, Kropf's Meat Pro 926.

High individual scratch games: Lane King 244, Jeremy Praslowicz 224, Stephan Miller 219.

High team scratch series: Melody Mill 2,00, S&M Tool 2,741, Kropf's Meat Pro 2,663.

High individual scratch series: Tyler Krull 632, Doug Kunst 609, Dave Schultz 600.

Chet & Emil's Thursday Early Birds

Team	W	L
Rightway Propane	3	1
Schairer Farms	2	2
Stadler Farms	2	2
M&J Harvesting	1	3

High team scratch games: Rightway Propane 570, Stadler Farms 569, Schairer Farms 531.

High individual scratch games: Kim Zeller 235, Jennifer Rainville 192, Darcy Hille 181, Patricia Stadler 174.

High team scratch series: Rightway Propane 1,612, Stadler Farms 1,582, Schairer Farms 1,550.

High individual scratch series: Kim Zeller 556, Patricia Stadler 501, Jennifer Rainville 469, Darcy Hille 465.

Resch Lanes — Wednesday Night Handicap

Team	W	L
Resch Lanes	43	6
Mama's Place	29	20
Liberty Potatoes	26	23
Rachel's Roadside	24	25
Slammers	23	26
Tavern Front	20	29
Kemmer Electronics	18	31
Hanke's Sentry Foods	13	36

High team handicap games (top 3): Tavern Front

1,240, Kemmer Electronics 1,217, Mama's Place 1,188.

High individual handicap games (top 7): Jeff Arndt 299, Brian Mattmiller 287, Todd Vanderkoy 274, Tom Schrank 272, Bill Timm 272, Kris Poehnelt 271, Will Kubeny 271.

High team handicap series (top 3): Kemmer Electronics 3,600, Mama's Place 3,527, Tavern Front 3,501.

High individual handicap series (top 7): Jeff Arndt 804, Steve Burkhart 759, Jimmy Hohensee 756, Dave Falstad 743, Greg Rosenow 731, Brian Mattmiller 729, Todd Vanderkoy 720.

Chet & Emil's Monday Women's League

Team	W	L
Cady Home	14 1/2	5 1/2
Banner Banks	12 1/2	7 1/2
Star Campsite	7	13
Chet & Emil's	6	14

High team handicap games: Cady Home 755, Banner Banks 733, Star Campsite 709.

High individual handicap games: Courtney Tryba 228, Jen Duranceau 215, Kim Zeller 213, Alicia Schinzel 202, Jenna Kriha 195, Karla Kunst 192, Shelia Hemblet 192.

High team handicap series: Banner Banks 2,127, Cady Home 2,090, Star Campsite 2,040.

High individual handicap series: Courtney Tryba 605, Jen Duranceau 589, Kim Zeller 570, Karla Kunst 533, Sandy Meverden 530, Alicia Schinzel 525.

Resch Lanes — Thursday Men's League

Team	W	L
Melody Mill	34	15
Legacy Seed Pro	32	17

RJ Auto Repair	27	22
Resch Lanes	25	24
Golden Eagle Res.	23	26
Gutt er Done	20	29
Legacy Seed	18	31
Cherek Transport	17	32

High team scratch games (top 3): Legacy Seed Pro 1,087, Resch Lanes 1,023, Cherek Transport 974.

High individual scratch games (top 6): Taylor Arndt 254, Brad Davis 248, Pat Provoast 247, Jeff Arndt 247, Nick Thiele 243, Greg Wolff 242.

High team scratch series (top 3): Legacy Seed Pro 3,066, Resch Lanes 2,877, Cherek Transport 2,748.

High individual scratch series (top 6): Jeff Arndt 718, Greg Wolff 674, Carson Malueg 644, Taylor Arndt 643, Nick Thiele 640, Pat Provoast 637.

Chet & Emil's Tuesday Commercial

Team	W	L
Schmidt Schulta	12	6
Clark Construction	11	7
White Insurance	10	8
Kautza Excavating	10	8
Chet & Emil's	8	10

High team scratch games: Chet & Emil's 981, Clark Construction 957, Kautza Excavating 939.

High individual scratch games: Dave Schultz 289, Jeremy Praslowicz 254, Eric Schultz 251.

High team scratch series: Chet & Emil's 2,855, Clark Construction 2,791, Kautza Excavating 2,579.

High individual scratch series: Eric Schultz 691, Dave Schultz 675, Eric Clark 641.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

Pulaski wins regional title in thrilling fashion

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

The Pulaski High School boys soccer team won a Division 2 regional title after two shutout wins last week.

The top-seeded Red Raiders first postseason match came Oct. 19 against No. 8 Merrill. Pulaski left little doubt in a 10-0 victory.

The Red Raiders built a 7-0 lead by halftime, scoring four goals in the final four minutes of the first half to take control.

Austin Decker, Joe Wacholz and

Jack Ryan had two goals each for Pulaski, while Chase Ambrosius, Ben Uelmen, Dylan Carley and Ryan Drafz scored one goal each.

Oscar Aronsen was credited with three assists on the night. Trentin Dauk, Aidan Dauk and Alex Kouzov had one assist each.

Goalies Mason Baker and Gaven Haldemann combined to post the shutout for the Red Raiders.

Pulaski's second postseason match was a much tighter one, with the Red Raiders coming away with a 1-0 win

over No. 4 Wausau East in overtime on Oct. 23 in Pulaski.

Will Steeno was the hero for Pulaski, scoring the game-winning goal in the first period of overtime.

Baker made two saves to post the shutout. Pulaski outshot Wausau East 10-2 on the night.

Pulaski advances on to sectional play next and will host No. 3 Green Bay Southwest at 7 p.m. Oct. 28.

In their Fox River Classic Conference match this fall, Pulaski topped Green Bay Southwest 3-0.

FYI

This week's sectional match recaps can be found online at www.newmedia-wi.com.

In other area postseason action, Shawano and Gresham/Bowler were topped in their lone matches.

Shawano, a No. 6 seed, lost 2-1 to No. 3 Mosinee in a Division 3 regional semifinal match on Oct. 21 in Mosinee.

No. 17 Gresham/Bowler lost 1-0 to No. 16 Lourdes Academy/Valley Christian in a D4 matchup on Oct. 19 in Oshkosh.

COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Rockhurst

Shawano Community High School graduate Averil Vomastic helped the Rockhurst University volleyball team to a 2-0 mark last week.

Vomastic posted nine attack kills, five digs and a block assist in the team's sweep of Truman on Oct. 21.

She recorded 18 attack kills, 13 digs, two aces and two block assists in the team's sweep of Quincy on Oct. 23.

UW-Eau Claire

Bonduel grad Isaac Garside caught a touchdown pass and led the UW-Eau Claire football team in receiving yards in the team's loss to UW-Oshkosh on Oct. 23.

Garside had a 15-yard touchdown reception in the fourth quarter. He caught seven passes for 88 yards in the contest, with a long reception of 35 yards.

ONLINE

More college highlights can be found at www.newmedia-wi.com.

UW-Whitewater

Shawano grad Baylie Hansen helped the UW-Whitewater volleyball team to three more wins last week. The team is 23-1 on the season.

In a sweep of UW-Platteville on Oct. 20, Hansen totaled four attack kills. She had three attack kills and three block assists in a sweep of Cornell College on Oct. 22.

In the team's sweep of Wheaton on Oct. 23, Hansen finished with one dig and one attack kill.

UW-Green Bay

Wittenberg-Birnamwood graduate McKenna Metropulos opened her college career for the UW-Green Bay women's swim team Oct. 23 in a dual loss to the University of St. Thomas.

As an individual, Metropulos claimed second in the 100-yard

freestyle with a time of 55.06 seconds. She was fourth in the 50 freestyle (25.52).

Metropulos was also on the second-place finishing 200 medley relay that posted a time of 1:51.47. She also swam on the second-place finishing 400 freestyle relay team, which earned a mark of 3:39.41.

North Iowa Area

Oconto Falls graduate Samantha Coron recorded 16 assists, eight digs, a solo block, a block assist and three attack kills in the North Iowa Area Community College volleyball team's loss to Iowa Lakes Community College on Oct. 20.

For the season, Coron has accumulated 715 assists, 446 digs, 164 attack kills, 51 aces and 28 total blocks across 38 matches.

Winona State

Gillett grad and current Winona State women's cross-country runner Sylvia Hansen placed 81st at the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Championships on Oct. 23.

Hansen completed the 6K course in 25:14.59, which helped the team to a fifth-place finish.

UW-Oshkosh

Oconto Falls graduate Mac Winkler rushed for a touchdown and also was credited with three total tackles in the UW-Oshkosh football team's win over UW-Eau Claire on Oct. 23.

Winkler's touchdown was a 1-yarder in the fourth quarter. He finished with seven carries for 31 yards.

Two of his three tackles were solo ones. He also got credit for forcing a fumble.

MSU-Moorhead

Gillett grad Derek Hanson, who runs for the Minnesota State University-Moorhead men's cross-country team, took 90th at the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Championships on Oct. 23.

Hanson posted a time of 28:38.87 on the 8K course. His team finished eighth.

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Sacred Heart Catholic School fifth-grade students, from left, Ivan Kary, Logan Frechette and Addyson Fowler perform an adaptation of "Little Red Riding Hood." The class has been comparing fairytales to their adaptations. Students were tasked with coming up with adaptations of some of their childhood favorites. Others adaptations were of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" and "The Frog and the Seven Flies." After students wrote scripts and made props, they performed for the class.

CONTRIBUTED

Classifieds work! 715-526-2121

PUBLIC NOTICE UTILITY TERRAIN VEHICLE (UTV) FOR WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING OCONTO FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Oconto Falls fire department will be receiving sealed bids/quotes for a UTV used for wildland firefighting, at the office of the Oconto Falls fire department 98 Cherry Street, or mailed to the City of Oconto Falls (Att: Oconto Falls fire dept.) and marked (UTV BID/QUOTE) 500 North Chestnut St. Oconto Falls WI. 54154 until November 3rd 2021 at 3pm. Please contact the Oconto Falls fire chief at station 920-846-4202 or cellphone at 920-373-4607 for a list of required specifications. Sealed bids/quotes will be reviewed by UTV committee on November 4th after 8pm and will be awarded to the vendor whose bid/quote is most responsive to the solicitation and are most advantageous to the Oconto Falls fire department, considering price, quality and other factors. Oconto Falls fire department reserves the right to reject any and all bids/quotes.

Oconto Falls Fire Department
Fire Chief
Tim Magnin

Christmas Open House November 5 & 6

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MARRIAGES

SHAWANO COUNTY

Skyler Eugene Adamski and Morgan Marie Becker, both of the Town of Angelica, Oct. 2, 2021.

Douglas Christian Allen and Colette Louise Laakso, both of the Town of Washington, Sept. 25, 2021.

Adam James Bartz, of the Town of Belle Plaine, and Sara Elizabeth Hokenstad, of the Town of Wescott, Oct. 2, 2021.

Dutch Anthony Bloecher and Abigail Ann Knaup, both of Tigerton, Oct. 2, 2021.

Kevin Russell Brimmer and Sabrina Louise Jackson, both of Shawano, Sept. 21, 2021.

Myles Timothy Brooks and Meghan Marie Hoffman, both of Shawano, Oct. 9, 2021.

Jeffrey Lee Buettner and Annalise Louise Sharpless, both of Shawano, Oct. 2, 2021.

Justin Ray Buntrock and Tamra Jean Hobart, both of the Town of Richmond, Sept. 18, 2021.

Bryce Steven Clements, of Suring, and Daphne Nicole Ruley, of Bonduel, Sept. 25, 2021.

Kevin Richard Compton and Alicia Marie Orozco Jolitz, both of Chantilly, Oct. 9, 2021.

Tye Lane Gauthier and Cassandra Virginia Tousey, both of Shawano, Oct. 1, 2021.

Lucas James Goodletson and Cassi Lynn Edwards, both of Pulaski, Sept. 25, 2021.

Taylor Lee Burr, and Morgan Rene Weckler, both of Ramsey, Sept. 18, 2021.

William Charles Grunewald and Iris Irene Lohff, both of the Town of Grant, Sept. 18, 2021.

Tommy James Hangartner and Kaitlyn Grace Cerveney, both of the Town of Herman, Oct. 9, 2021.

Bronson Elliott Huntington and Dartania Josephine Heinz, both of the Town of Richmond, Oct. 2, 2021.

Justus Levi Kaat, of Bruce Crossing, and Ashley Hope Schmude, of Tigerton, Sept. 13, 2021.

Benjamin Ryan Kary and Dawn Nichole Alamedia, both of Shawano, Sept. 18, 2021.

Kevin Eric Kernin and Angel Mavis Dillenburg, both of Shawano, Oct. 2, 2021.

Ronald James Kielar, of the Town of Angelica, and Layla Hannah Baldwin, of Little Chute, Sept. 28, 2021.

Scott William Koeller and Stormie Jean Braatz, both of the Town of Wescott, Sept. 18, 2021.

Andrew John Krause, of the Town of Belle Plaine, and Heidi Gladiann Wanta, of Green Bay, Sept. 25, 2021.

Christian John Martini and Mariah Emma Ruehle, both of Cecil, Sept. 18, 2021.

Andrew Michael Meisner and Emily Rose Stepanek, both of the Town of Richmond, Sept. 17, 2021.

Levi Leon Miller and Morgan Fay Olson, both of Bowler, Sept. 25, 2021.

Donald Dennis Pockat, of the Town of Grant, and Jennie Ann Collins, of Clintonville, Sept. 25, 2021.

Andrew J. Prelipp and Christa Marie Schneider, both of the Town of Hutchins, Sept. 25, 2021.

Justin Daniel Przybylski and Aasha Arriaga Suarez, both of Cecil, Oct. 2, 2021.

Robert Gian Torborg and Anika Marie Klement, both of Shawano, Sept. 18, 2021.

Joan Enrite Waukau and Erica Jane Marie Celeste Wade, both of Shawano, Sept. 18, 2021.

Jacob Edward Zeitler, of the Town of Washington, and Samantha Rae Bohm, of the Town of Waukechon, Oct. 16, 2021.

OCONTO COUNTY

Benjamin David Ruch and Andrea Jo Schroeder, Oconto Falls.

Justin Joseph Larmay and Tara Lea Seefeldt, both of Lena.

Connor Allen Ebben and Madalynn Kate Meyer, both of Oconto.

Devin Duane Kohls and Jennifer Victoria Spang, both of Oconto Falls.

Steve Lee Marcotte, of Wausaukee, and Danielle Kristie McDonald, of Oconto Falls.

Ryan Joseph Giese and Joan Catherine Page, both of Breed.

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

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

GUN SHOW: November 5-7, 2021 Central WI Conference & Expo Center, 10101 Market St., Rothschild, WI. Fri 3-8pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 9am-3pm. \$7 (Under 14 FREE) 608-752-6677 www.bobandrocco.com

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Former Shawano man bags black bear



Paul Paiser shot this 200-pound black bear with a gun on Oct. 6 in Pembine. The 76-year-old Paiser lives in Green Bay, and formerly resided in Shawano. It's his fifth-ever bear harvested, with three coming with a bow and two with a gun.

CONTRIBUTED

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NEW MEDIA INC.

COLLEGE NOTES

University of Iowa

This fall's incoming undergraduate class at the University of Iowa — a group that includes Neely Goerlinger, of Clintonville — has yet again topped previous records in achievement with a higher average high school grade-point average, at 3.81, than any previous class. The average high school GPA for the classes of 2024 and 2023 were 3.78 and 3.76, respectively.

Goerlinger is majoring in university honors.

Southern New Hampshire University

Ashley Stelloh, of Shawano, has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's summer 2021 dean's list. Eligibility for the dean's list requires that a student accumulate an academic grade-point average of 3.5 and earn 12 credits for the term.

Ripon College

Logan Zeinert, class of 2022, participated in Ripon College's Theatre production of "After the Blast" by Zoe Kazan. The show took place Oct. 14-17, at the Benstead Theatre in the C.J. Rodman Center for the Arts at Ripon College. Zeinert is from Wittenberg, and his parents are Kurt and Susan Zeinert, of Wittenberg.

At Ripon, Zeinert majors in psychology and theater.

The futuristic drama was about Anna and her husband, Oliver, as they wait to be approved for "fertility" by a government agency so they may have a child. Anna struggles with her mental health, so Oliver brings home the latest technology for domestic aid: a talkative and caring robot to be a companion for Anna.

St. Norbert College

Omicron Delta Kappa welcomed 105 students from colleges and universities during September, including St. Norbert College students Kaitlyn Martin, of Pulaski, and Kori Halstead, of Shawano.

Students initiated into the society must be sophomores, juniors, seniors, or graduate/professional students in the top 35% of their class, demonstrate leadership experience in at least one of the five pillars, and embrace the ODK ideals. Fewer than 5% of students on a campus are invited to join each year.

Bemidji State University

Taylor Nier, from Hatley, graduated with a bachelor of science in exercise science from Bemidji State University in Bemidji, Minnesota, during the 2020-21 school year.

Drake University

Hailey Gutowski, Sobieski, graduated from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, with a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance after the spring 2021 semester.

University of Iowa

Jacob Kokko-Ludemann, Lena, was one of 88 University of Iowa Doctor of Pharmacy students who recited the Oath of the Pharmacist and were officially welcomed into the profession and college during the College of Pharmacy's annual White Coat Ceremony.

UW-Eau Claire

Casey Fischer, an Abrams graduate of Oconto Falls High School, has been awarded a Freshman Honors Scholarship and Ralph E. Duxbury Biological Sciences New Student Scholarship from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

UW-La Crosse

The following area students completed degree requirements at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in May:

- Mikayla Pagel, Abrams, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in psychology.

- Brian Draheim, Lena, earned a Bachelor of Science in computer science, with an emphasis on embedded systems.

- Scout Gerndt, Mountain, received a Bachelor of Science in exercise and sport science with an emphasis in sport management.

- Jacob Gille, Sobieski, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in exercise and sport science on a pre-professional track.

- Sydney Ripley, Little Suamico, earned a Bachelor of Science in exercise and sport science on a pre-professional track.

- Corrina Romandine, Lena, received a Bachelor of Science in psychology, graduating with honors.

- Kathryn Witt, Lena, earned a Master of Science in education with a focus on student affairs administration in higher education.

Life Line Screening coming in November

Residents living in and around the Shawano area can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening.

Boarders Inn and Suites, W7393 River Bend Road, Shawano, will host this community event on Nov. 30.

Screenings can check for the level of plaque buildup in arteries, related to risk for cardiovascular disease,

stroke and overall vascular health; HDL and LDL cholesterol levels; diabetes risk; bone density as a risk for possible osteoporosis; kidney and thyroid function, and more.

Special package pricing starts at \$149, but consultants will work with visitors to create a package that is right for them based on age and risk factors. Call 877-237-1287 or go to www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

Immunizations become victim of own success

There is a dangerous trend across the nation. Increasing numbers of Americans are rejecting vaccines. These "refusers" claim that vaccinations lead to serious adverse events. Specifically, some of these "refusers" say that Guillain-Barré syndrome is caused by vaccines. However, scientific research disputes this assertion.

A study published in Clinical Infectious Diseases examined patients who had a diagnosis of Guillain-Barré syndrome and the likelihood that the syndrome was associated to any vaccination. Data from the entire Kaiser Permanente Northern California population was studied. Medical researchers assessed all vaccinated individuals and Guillain-Barré syndrome diagnoses over an 11-year period. They compared the odds of vaccination to onset of Guillain-Barré syndrome with the odds of vaccination during the same time intervals in all vaccinated individuals in the entire Kaiser Permanente Northern California population.

This research team found no evidence of an increased risk of Guillain-Barré syndrome following vaccinations of any kind, including influenza vaccination. These results are consistent with several previous research studies.

According to the Mayo Clinic, Guillain-Barré syndrome is a disorder in which your body's immune system attacks your nerves. Weakness and tingling in your extremities are usually the first symptoms. These sensations can quickly spread,



BRIAN GRIEVES

eventually paralyzing your whole body. In its most severe form, Guillain-Barré syndrome is a medical emergency requiring hospitalization. The exact cause of Guillain-Barré

syndrome is unknown, but it is often preceded by an infectious illness such as a respiratory infection or the stomach flu.

There's no known cure for Guillain-Barré syndrome, but several treatments can ease symptoms and reduce the duration of the illness. Most people recover from Guillain-Barré syndrome, though some may experience lingering effects from it, such as weakness, numbness or fatigue.

Research dispels one of the commonly held beliefs among vaccine-refusing people that vaccines cause more harm than good. Immunization has been credited with the eradication or control of smallpox, polio, diphtheria, measles, mumps and rubella. Now patients are no longer worried about the diseases themselves. They're more worried about vaccine safety. Immunizations have become a victim of their own success.

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

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

Active citizenship what we need in Wisconsin

An understanding of civics — of the rights and duties of citizens — is essential to a well-functioning democracy. That means the effective teaching of civics is also essential. We want our children to grow up to be engaged citizens, to be critical consumers of information, to be actively involved in the civil discourse of this state and nation, to understand and participate in the processes of government and to vote.

Let's strengthen our commitment to civics education in Wisconsin by honoring the process of democracy and the independent and nonpartisan nature of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. We do this by creating the Wisconsin Civics Advisory Council.

The Wisconsin Civics Advisory Council will harness the collective knowledge of DPI, thought leaders,



JILL UNDERLY

legislators, parents and — most importantly of all — the educators in the classroom who teach these lessons and reach our students every single day.

Tasked with developing high-quality instructional materials and professional development, as well as making recommendations to DPI and the legislature on any policy changes that would strengthen students' learning of civics, this council will be able to tap into the riches Wisconsin has to offer: the state, local and tribal histories found within our borders; the historical sites and museums that call Wisconsin home; and the movements that began

in halls of power and around dining room tables across our state.

This work stands strongly within our charge at DPI to advance public education and libraries in our state, and I look forward to being a part of leading this work and implementing the Wisconsin Civics Advisory Council's recommendations.

What could be more central than civics education in a state that holds the birthplace of the Republican Party, passed the first workers' compensation law to be upheld by the Constitution and was the first state in the nation to ratify the 19th Amendment affirming the right to vote for women? What could be more dedicated to the Wisconsin Idea than a strong, well-considered, bipartisan work group on civics?

What could be more important than

securing that the future leaders of our state and our country receive a civics education that is as rigorous, inclusive and as thorough as possible? We accomplish this through the Wisconsin Civics Advisory Council.

After all, it was Wisconsin's own Robert La Follette who, during his 1924 presidential campaign, said, "America is not made. It's in the making. ... Mere passive citizenship is not enough." We know our children understand this. They are engaged. They are hungry to learn more about civics. It is up to this agency to lead and to work with our school boards to ensure our children grow up to be well-informed and active citizens. That is how we move Wisconsin forward.

Jill Underly is the superintendent for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mask mandate necessary despite objections

To the editor:

Recently, I read the Shawano Leader's coverage of a school meeting held at the end of September. At this meeting, several parents voiced strong opposition to the mandated use of masks through the end of October. One of the parents actually claimed that he had talked with our sheriff and mayor and claimed that both indicated that he had the right to contest this mandate legally.

Now, if the officials merely indicated that the right to sue exists, so be it. If they encouraged him to do so, shame on them.

The facts are that, due to spikes in COVID-19 cases, the board's decision was made for the overall health of the community. We constantly hear from whining parents that their freedom is being taken away. My point, is that you are not free to jeopardize my health because of your ignorance. Also, folks that voice these specious objections to mandates are also the folks that are led around like docile sheep by the toxic statements and actions of our former president and his minions.

People who want to jeopardize the health of others in the name of freedom, do exercise the following

freedom: Keep your children home.

Ken Kroenke, Shawano

Broken democracy leads to authoritarianism

To the editor:

When voters are asked what political party they vote for, they should ask themselves what kind of government do they really want? Do they want a government that protects the rights of individuals and cares about people, or one that puts money in the hands of corporations and the super wealthy?

At this juncture, our democratic government is being pushed from the right to make it more difficult for citizens to vote. This can only lead to an authoritarian form of government where voters' influence is minimal.

Some have lost faith in our democracy. Some think our government hasn't done anything to help them. Some spread the idea that Democrats are socialists, Marxists and even Communists.

The United States has a mixed economy that is based on capitalism. It has embraced necessary social programs and also provided private ownership of businesses. Would anyone want to do away with social security, Medicare/aid, public schools, public police, common defense or public roads?

With Marxism, there are social programs, but it can also lead to tyranny. Here, the capitalists are the ruling class; they live off the work of all the workers. They own the government, the army and the courts. Marxism's real goal is to overturn capitalism in favor of communism.

Communism is based on the idea of common ownership and the absence of any social classes. All property is shared, and all may benefit from everybody's work. In a Communist government, there is only one political party and there is control over worker production.

However, our government can have free education, free health care and state-run utilities without being Marxist or Communist. We can have the human infrastructure outlined in President Joe Biden's plan. Social programs like preschool for all children, fast universal internet and free post-secondary education are possible while still maintaining our freedoms.

If we want to continue to have a democracy, we need to trust that our elections are fair. Everyone should have an equal opportunity to vote, and the results should be protected from outside interests.

A broken democracy can only lead to an authoritarian type of government in which there is bound to be corruption by the few in power. Each

of us can influence the future of our country by thinking about the things that are important to them, to their families and to other citizens, and using their knowledge to vote wisely.

Jan Koch, Shawano

Support real heroes, not sports figures

To the editor:

What's wrong with our country? People pay high prices for sport events, for boats, motorcycles, campers, help pay the outrageous wages for our favorite sports team, when our police, firemen, EMTs, military men and women, doctors and nurses will never make that one-year salary their sports teams get in their entire lifetimes. We buy sports-team outfits without a thought, but we can't fly our flag proudly in our yards.

These men and women risk their lives daily and don't get the support they should from us. (I am so glad my son or daughter isn't in harm's way.)

There might be a time we won't have our volunteers to keep us safe, and then the draft will be back. Will those men and women we raise be up to that task? I don't think so! Show your pride in our country and the memory of the heroes who died to keep us safe.

Support the real heroes.

Virginia Bublitz, Oconto Falls



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20.70	20.90	21.10	21.30	21.50
21.70	21.90	22.10	22.30	22.50
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SEPTEMBER - REGULAR SEASON			
Sunday, September 12	3:25 pm	@ New Orleans Saints	FOX
Monday, September 20	7:15 pm	DETROIT LIONS	ESPN
Sunday, September 26	2:20 pm	@ San Francisco 49ers	NBC
OCTOBER			
Sunday, October 18	3:25 pm	Pittsburgh Steelers (GOLD)	CBS
Sunday, October 24	NOON*	@ Cincinnati Bengals	FOX
Sunday, October 27	NOON*	@ Chicago Bears	FOX
Sunday, October 31	NOON*	MASSACHUSETTS FOOTBALL TEAM	FOX
Thursday, October 26	7:20 pm	@ Arizona Cardinals	FOX
NOVEMBER			
Sunday, November 07	3:25 pm*	@ Kansas City Chiefs	FOX
Sunday, November 14	3:25 pm*	SEATTLE SEAHAWKS	CBS
Sunday, November 21	NOON*	@ Minnesota Vikings	FOX
Sunday, November 28	3:25 pm*	LOS ANGELES RAMS (SILVER)	FOX
DECEMBER			
BYE WEEK			
Sunday, December 12	2:20 pm*	INDIANAPOLIS COLTS	NBC
Sunday, December 19	NOON*	@ Baltimore Ravens	FOX
Saturday, December 25	3:30 pm	CLEVELAND BROWNS	FOX
JANUARY			
Sunday, January 02	2:20 pm*	MINNESOTA VIKINGS	NBC
Sunday, January 09	NOON*	@ Detroit Lions	FOX

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BOOKS AND STUFF

Ice Age saga is full of twists and turns

"Corridor of Storms" by William Sarabande is the second in his "First Americans" series.

The vast area that is now Alaska was home to several nomadic bands.



JAN JONES

After Torka's entire band was killed by a mammoth, he finds three women and a young boy. Young Karana explains during a time of hunger the magic man Navahk decreed that the children of his band must

be left behind when they moved the camp. Only Karana survived using his special ability to predict storms and locate game.

They quickly become a small, but strong band. Torka takes Lonit as his mate and adopts Karana. The boy is unhappy when they encounter his former band. All are shocked to see him alive and walking with tame dogs.

Navahk told them that all the children were dead.

Navahk is jealous of Karana's abilities and wants to possess Lonit, but she is repulsed his behavior. Eventually, he manages to convince Supnah to expel Torka's band from the camp. It is forbidden to enter the Corridor of Storms, but Karana has told Torka that they'll do well there and they do until Mother Below shakes the ground and Father Above sends choking ash from the Mountain that Smokes, and Torka decides that is time to move his band closer to others.

So they set out for the Gathering to wait out the long dark winter. Along the way they join up with Zinkh's band and travel together.

Supnah's band is also traveling to the Gathering, but has suffered. In his obsession to kill Torka, Navahk has killed two young girls and blamed their deaths on Torka. Game has been scarce and the people are starving as they walk toward the Gathering, where they plan to feast on mammoth meat.

They have all heard the call of a

strange creature called the wanawut, and they are stunned when one attacks Supnah. It is very tall with thick silver hair covering most of its body. The head has heavy brow ridges and long, sharp fangs. The cunning Navahk "accidentally" kills Supnah then sends a spear into the creature's chest. But instead of dropping dead, it rips off Supnah's arm and head and runs into the mountains.

Navahk follows, finds the creature dead, skins it and wears the skin as a trophy while the creature's offspring watches in hiding. Karana warns against joining the Gathering, but Torka prevails.

The people there view Torka's band with a mix of awe and fear. As soon as Navahk arrives, he uses the fears and superstitions of the time to turn the people against Torka.

After a night of turmoil, Torka and Karana and Lonit are beaten. The men are left to die, and Lonit is taken by Navahk. When he decides to kill her children, Iana fights back. The women escape, find Torka and Karana

and head east knowing that Navahk will follow.

The trek is long and hard. To reach the valley they must cross ash-covered ice flows. Even then, they aren't safe from earthquakes and the hate-fueled Navahk. Karana knows that he must be the one to face Navahk, but when the final showdown comes the unexpected happens. Navahk's spear knocks Karana into an under-ice river and he is swept away.

Navahk is wounded and wakes to find his leg caught in the snow and the wanawut child ready to avenge her mother's death and mutilation. Now she will dance in his skin.

Karana wakes to see his totem, the mammoth that killed Torka's band, warming him with its breath. He knows that Torka's little band has prevailed and will prosper in this new land.

Few of us would have what it took to survive during the Ice Age, but we can imagine walking with the first peoples there. Drop by your public library and check it out.



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Swine experts speak out in November

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension and the Wisconsin Pork Association will host the 2021 Badger Swine Symposium via Zoom in November.

Speakers will present current topics on swine production beginning Nov. 3. Each session begins at 7

p.m. with a presentation followed by a question-and-answer session until 8:30 p.m.

Sessions are:

- Nov. 3: Dr. Neil DeBuse, Minnesota Swine Reproduction Center — Working together to keep the Wisconsin herd healthy.

- Nov. 10: Dr. Jay Johnson, USDA Agricultural Research Service — In utero heat stress, knowns, unknowns, and implications for the swine industry.

- Nov. 17: Dr. Laura Greiner, Iowa State University Swine Outreach and Extension and CALS — Managing

production costs with feed costs.

There is no charge to participate, but pre-registration is required to allow access. Registration can be made at <https://tinyurl.com/BadgerSwine2021> or by calling 608-723-2125 or 608-509-8436.

Runoff advisories tell when manure can be spread

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is reminding farmers and manure applicators to check the runoff risk advisory forecast before spreading manure on fields.

The tool helps determine the potential for manure runoff from a field depending on weather conditions and soil temperature. Spreading manure when there is an elevated risk of runoff can send manure into streams and threaten water quality.

The runoff risk advisory forecast includes maps showing short-term runoff risk for daily field application planning. The maps account for soil saturation and temperature, weather forecast, snow and crop cover and slope. The National Weather Service

updates the forecast three times daily. For information about nutrient management planning, visit https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/NutrientManagement.aspx.

Farmers should contact their crop consultant, county land conservation office or the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for help identifying alternatives to high-risk spreading. One possible alternative is stacking manure in a safe location.

DATCP reminds manure haulers and drivers to put safety first when traveling on roadways in order to avoid spilling manure, prevent injuries, and protect the health of people and the environment.

All agriculture and livestock operations must report spills or runoff

affecting water to the DNR's 24-hour emergency spills hotline at 800-943-0003. Information about planning and

prevention is available at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/agbusiness/manurespills.html>.

2022 PROPOSED BUDGET VILLAGE OF WITTENBERG

On Wednesday, November 10, 2021 the Village Board of Wittenberg will meet at the Wittenberg Community Center at 6:00 pm for the purpose of hearing any citizen or taxpayer on the proposed budget for the Village of Wittenberg for the year 2022.

A detailed proposed budget is open for inspection at the Community Center during regular office hours of the clerk.

SUBJECT:	2021 Budget	2022 Proposed
REVENUE		
General Property Taxes	\$254,849.00	\$258,366.00
Taxes	10,428.00	8,870.00
Intergovernmental	371,515.00	431,384.00
Licenses & Permits	6,010.00	6,000.00
Fines/Penalties	300.00	300.00
Public Charges for Services	17,836.00	17,236.00
Misc. Revenues	7,637.00	6,036.00
Unrestricted Funds	333,470.00	133,000.00
	\$1,002,045.00	\$861,192.00
EXPENSES		
General Government	\$340,982.00	\$284,666.00
Public Safety	22,500.00	22,500.00
Public Works	183,810.00	183,308.00
Health/Human Services	300.00	300.00
Conservation & Development	-	-
Culture/Recreation	14,453.00	14,553.00
Capital Outlay	440,000.00	304,159.00
Transfer to Other Funds		51,706.00
	\$1,002,045.00	\$861,192.00

	WATER	SEWER
Expenses	\$227,760.00	\$887,554.00
Revenues	\$227,760.00	\$588,506.00

	IND. PARK/TID #1	TID #2	TID #3
Expenses	\$79,444.00	\$-	\$73,150.00
Revenues	\$153,083.00	\$40,000.00	\$130,000.00

	REVOLVING LOAN
Expenses	\$-
Revenues	\$24,687.00

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING MARATHON COUNTY FINAL SUPERVISORY REDISTRICTING PLAN

PLEASE BE ADVISED, Pursuant to Wis Statutes §59.10(3)(b)1, that a public hearing will be held on the Final County Supervisory District Plan before the Marathon County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room, Marathon County Courthouse, 500 Forest St, Wausau, WI 54401. The hearing will be held as part of the regularly scheduled County Board Meeting. All interested parties will be heard.

A copy of the Final Plan will be available as part of the County Board packet that can be found at the following link beginning on Friday, October 29, 2021: <https://www.co.marathon.wi.us/Home/Calendar/tabid/65/ModuleID/437/ItemID/4626/mctl/EventDetails/Default.aspx>

Following the Public Hearing, the County Board may discuss and adopt a Final Plan at its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, November 9, 2021.
Dated this 12th day of October, 2021

Kim Trueblood
Marathon County Clerk

WNAXLP

NOTICE OF WINTER PARKING VILLAGE OF WITTENBERG

MUNICIPAL CODE 7.04 PARKING RESTRICTIONS. (1) WINTER OVERNIGHT PARKING. No person shall park or leave standing any motor vehicle between the hours of 2:00 A.M. and 7:00 A.M. from the first day of November to the first day of May.

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APPEASING NO. 12

Have the Packers shifted their ways to keep Rodgers around?

PAGE 2

Green Bay Packers coach Matt LaFleur, center, talks with quarterbacks Aaron Rodgers, right, and Jordan Love during a timeout in a game against the Washington Football Team on Oct. 24 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

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Pack's roster moves a change from the norm

The big story surrounding the Green Bay Packers coming into the season was how quarterback Aaron Rodgers felt neglected by the organization.



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When Rodgers returned to Green Bay for the team's training camp in late July, Rodgers spoke about wanting to be part of the conversation regarding potential free agent signings and felt he could be used as a recruiter.

"I think we can all understand, you know, Green Bay isn't a huge

vacation destination, people are coming here to play with me, to play with our team and knowing that they can win a championship here," said Rodgers at the time.

The quarterback went on to say that he thought he'd earned that right after playing with the organization for 16 years.

While there's been rumblings from time to time on potential landing spots for Rodgers should he leave Green Bay, most of the conversation has subsided, for now.

Winning can definitely cure any issues, but Rodgers also mentioned back in that July press conference that he was locked in and ready to help the team chase its big goals this season.

So is everyone inside the organi-

zation putting on a happy face for now, and then will show their true emotions once the season is over?

Only time will tell, but one thing you can say for certain right now is that Rodgers has been happy with how the team has constructed its roster to this point in the season.

Green Bay, like many teams around the NFL, was dealing with salary cap issues after last season ended, so not many names on the roster changed going into this year.

In the past, Green Bay has primarily built through the draft, while also priding itself on turning undrafted guys into key contributors to teams. I've seen a switch in their approach, with more veteran players and well-known names being brought in.

That could be a product of the possible impending departure of Rodgers and other key players and the organization wanting to go all in for this season before rebuilding after it. It could be that several key players — cornerback Jaire Alexander and outside linebacker Za'Darius Smith to name a couple — got injured, but in most cases in the past, those kind of impact players had been replaced by draft picks or players still trying to make a name for themselves.

Lastly, I think it could be a product of the organization trying to appease Rodgers, just like when it traded for wide receiver Randall Cobb. "Obviously without Aaron, I don't think we would probably be pursuing that, but he's still a really



Green Bay Packers outside linebacker Whitney Mercilus, right, sprints to catch Washington Football Team receiver DeAndre Carter during the team's matchup on Oct. 24 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. Mercilus was the team's latest veteran free agent addition, something Rodgers was pleased with and something the organization hasn't done often in the past.

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good player,” said Packers General Manager Brian Gutekunst after making the trade.

Whatever the case might be, Rodgers has gone out of his way several times to talk about some of the newest additions to the team.

The Packers brought in middle linebacker De’Vondre Campbell during free agency. It wasn’t a splashy move, but it was an unusual one in that Campbell was an established veteran and had a proven track record in the NFL prior to being signed.

According to nfl.com, before the Packers signed him, Campbell had played in 75 games in his five-year career, including all 16 the previous four seasons. He’d racked up at least 88 total tackles in his 16-game seasons, with a high mark of 122 with the Atlanta Falcons in 2019.

He’s been a blessing for the Packers’ defense this season, and he led the team with 68 total tackles after seven weeks.

“You’ve got to look at De’Vondre and the production he’s had is just incredible,” said Rodgers after the win over Washington. “For a guy to not get a big deal, to not be a priority free agent and to step in and start and be the play caller on defense, and be so productive for us, it’s fantastic.”

After Alexander went on injured reserve a couple weeks ago, the Packers signed a couple of veteran cornerbacks instead of turning things over to some late-round draft picks or undrafted guys of their own.

Rasul Douglas was one of the pickups. The 26-year old is in his fifth NFL season and had 172 total tackles and five interceptions to his name before signing in Green Bay.

In his first two games, Douglas had nine total tackles, a pass breakup and a forced fumble.

“I thought Rasul did a nice job today, came back from getting banged up, and I thought he covered well,” said Rodgers after the Washington game.

With Za’Darius Smith out indefinitely, and fellow outside linebacker Preston Smith banged up too, Green Bay signed veteran OLB Whitney Mercilus.

The 31-year old Mercilus is playing in his 10th NFL season this year. In his career, he’s amassed 57 sacks and 335 total tackles.

“I’m a big fan of the Mercilus signing for a number of different reasons, but the way that Preston has played this year and his leadership and, obviously, the way that Rashan (Gary) has played, and then



Green Bay Packers linebacker De’Vondre Campbell, right, tackles Washington Football Team running back J.D. McKissic during the team’s matchup on Oct. 24 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. Campbell was a veteran free agent pickup last offseason, and the move has sparked the Packers’ defense and caught the attention of quarterback Aaron Rodgers.

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bringing in a stud like Whitney, who’s motivated and can still play, I love him. I really like that signing,” said Rodgers.

What makes Rodgers comments on the team’s recent transactions even more meaningful is that he wasn’t asked about any of those guys, instead going on tangents to bring them up.

If the organization was making those moves to appease Rodgers, they best keep it up if they want him to be in Green Bay past this season. If the moves weren’t made in efforts to keep Rodgers in town, it appears the franchise has taken a different approach to constructing its roster.

In either case, the Packers are a better team because of the moves that have been made. It’s kept the pressure off many young players and put veteran players in the spotlight instead, and so far they’ve delivered.

At a recent press conference,

Rodgers mentioned how this season has reminded him of the team’s Super Bowl season in 2010. The 2010 season was marred with injuries, but the Packers brought in several key pieces and were somehow able to win the Super Bowl.

Obviously, Rodgers hates seeing his teammate go down with inju-

ries, but he won’t make excuses because of it. His expectation is still to win this year’s Super Bowl.

Like like his future in Green Bay, only time will tell what happens next.

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

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PACKERS ROSTER

Active

#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
2	Mason Crosby	K	6-1	207	37	15	Colorado
7	Corey Bojorquez	P	6-0	217	25	4	New Mexico
8	Amari Rodgers	WR	5-9	212	22	R	Clemson
9	Jaylon Smith	LB	6-2	235	26	5	Notre Dame
10	Jordan Love	QB	6-4	219	22	2	Utah State
12	Aaron Rodgers	QB	6-2	225	37	17	California
13	Allen Lazard	WR	6-5	227	25	3	Iowa State
18	Randall Cobb	WR	5-10	195	31	11	Kentucky
19	Equanimeous St. Brown	WR	6-5	214	25	4	Notre Dame
20	Kevin King	CB	6-3	200	26	5	Washington
21	Eric Stokes	CB	6-0	194	22	R	Georgia
22	Shemar Jean-Charles	CB	5-10	184	23	R	Appalachian State
24	Isaac Yiadom	CB	6-1	190	25	4	Boston College
26	Darnell Savage	S	5-11	198	24	3	Maryland
28	AJ Dillon	RB	6-0	247	23	2	Boston College
29	Rasul Douglas	CB	6-2	209	26	5	West Virginia
31	Adrian Amos	S	6-0	214	28	7	Penn State
32	Kylin Hill	RB	5-10	214	23	R	Mississippi State
33	Aaron Jones	RB	5-9	208	26	5	Texas-El Paso
36	Vernon Scott	S	6-2	202	24	2	TCU
39	Chandon Sullivan	CB	5-11	189	25	4	Georgia State
41	Henry Black	S	6-0	204	24	2	Baylor
42	Oren Burks	LB	6-3	233	26	4	Vanderbilt
43	Hunter Bradley	LS	6-3	241	27	4	Mississippi State
44	Ty Summers	LB	6-1	241	25	3	TCU
50	Whitney Mercilus	LB	6-4	261	31	10	Illinois
51	Krys Barnes	LB	6-2	229	23	2	UCLA
52	Rashan Gary	LB	6-5	277	23	3	Michigan
53	Jonathan Garvin	LB	6-4	257	22	2	Miami
54	La'Darius Hamilton	LB	6-2	261	23	1	North Texas
58	Isaiah McDuffie	LB	6-1	227	22	R	Boston College
59	De'Vondre Campbell	LB	6-3	232	28	6	Minnesota
62	Lucas Patrick	G	6-3	313	28	5	Duke
67	Jake Hanson	C	6-4	296	24	1	Oregon
70	Royce Newman	T/G	6-5	310	24	R	Mississippi
73	Yosh Nijman	T	6-7	314	25	2	Virginia Tech
74	Elgton Jenkins	G	6-5	311	25	3	Mississippi State
76	Jon Runyan	G	6-4	307	24	2	Michigan
77	Billy Turner	G/T	6-5	310	30	8	North Dakota State
79	Dennis Kelly	T	6-8	321	31	10	Purdue

81	Josiah Deguara	TE	6-2	238	24	2	Cincinnati
84	Tyler Davis	TE	6-4	252	24	2	Georgia Tech
85	Robert Tonyan	TE	6-5	237	27	4	Indiana State
89	Mercedes Lewis	TE	6-6	267	37	16	UCLA
90	Jack Heflin	DL	6-3	304	23	R	Iowa
91	Preston Smith	LB	6-5	265	28	7	Mississippi State
93	T.J. Slaton	DL	6-4	330	24	R	Florida
94	Dean Lowry	DL	6-6	296	27	6	Northwestern
95	Tyler Lancaster	DL	6-3	313	26	4	Northwestern
96	Kingsley Keke	DL	6-3	288	25	3	Texas A&M
97	Kenny Clark	DL	6-3	314	26	6	UCLA
Reserve/Injured							
23	Jaire Alexander	CB	5-10	196	24	4	Louisville
25	Will Redmond	S	5-11	186	27	6	Mississippi State
47	Chauncey Rivers	LB	6-2	259	24	1	Mississippi State
49	Dominique Dafney	TE	6-2	243	24	1	Indiana State
55	Za'Darius Smith	LB	6-4	272	29	7	Kentucky
56	Randy Ramsey	LB	6-3	238	26	2	Arkansas
71	Josh Myers	C/G	6-5	310	23	R	Ohio State
83	Marquez Valdes-Scantling	WR	6-4	206	27	4	South Florida
Reserve/Physically Unable to Perform							
69	David Bakhtiari	T	6-4	310	30	9	Colorado
Practice Squad							
6	Kurt Benkert	QB	6-3	218	26	2	Virginia
11	J.J. Molson	K	5-11	180	24	1	UCLA
16	Chris Blair	WR	6-2	198	24	R	Alcorn State
27	Patrick Taylor	RB	6-2	217	23	1	Memphis
30	Shawn Davis	S	5-11	202	23	R	Florida
38	Innis Gaines	S	6-1	202	23	R	TCU
40	Tipa Galeai	LB	6-5	229	24	1	Utah State
45	Bronson Kaufusi	TE	6-6	270	30	3	Brigham Young
46	Steven Wirtel	LS	6-4	228	24	1	Iowa State
48	Kabion Ento	CB	6-1	187	25	2	Colorado
57	Ray Wilborn	LB	6-3	230	24	1	Ball State
64	Ben Braden	G	6-6	329	27	2	Michigan
78	Cole Van Lanen	T/G	6-4	305	23	R	Wisconsin
88	Juwann Winfree	WR	6-1	210	25	2	Colorado
98	Aaron Adeoye	LB	6-6	260	28	1	Southeast Missouri State
99	R.J. McIntosh	DL	6-5	286	25	4	Miami
Reserve/COVID-19 list							
17	Davante Adams	WR	6-1	215	28	8	Fresno State
86	Malik Taylor	WR	6-1	220	25	2	Ferris State

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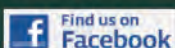
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PACKERS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR
Davante Adams
Equanimeous St. Brown

TE
Robert Tonyan
Tyler Davis

RT
Billy Turner
Dennis Kelly

RG
Royce Newman
Lucas Patrick

C
Lucas Patrick
Jake Hanson

LG
Jon Runyan
Lucas Patrick

LT
Elgton Jenkins
Yosh Nijman

TE
Marcedes Lewis
Josiah Deguara

RB
Aaron Jones
A.J. Dillon

QB
Aaron Rodgers
Jordan Love

WR
Allen Lazard
Randall Cobb

FYI

Rosters and depth charts are accurate as of Oct. 25, 7 p.m.

SCHEDULE

Sunday's Games
Cincinnati at N.Y. Jets, noon
Tennessee at Indianapolis, noon
L.A. Rams at Houston, noon
Pittsburgh at Cleveland, noon
Philadelphia at Detroit, noon
San Francisco at Chicago, noon
Carolina at Atlanta, noon
Miami at Buffalo, noon
New England at L.A. Chargers, 3:05 p.m.
Jacksonville at Seattle, 3:05 p.m.
Washington at Denver, 3:25 p.m.
Tampa Bay at New Orleans, 3:25 p.m.
Dallas at Minnesota, 7:20 p.m.

Monday's Game
N.Y. Giants at Kansas City, 7:15 p.m.

Teams on bye: Baltimore, Las Vegas.

Thursday's Game
N.Y. Jets at Indianapolis, 7:20 p.m.

DEFENSE

CB
Kevin King
Chandon Sullivan

DE
Dean Lowry
Tyler Lancaster

NT
Kenny Clark
T.J. Slaton

DE
Kingsley Keke
Jack Heflin

OLB
Preston Smith
La'Darius Hamilton

ILB
Krys Barnes
Oren Burks

ILB
De'Vondre Campbell
Jaylon Smith

OLB
Rashan Gary
Jonathan Garvin

S
Adrian Amos
Vernon Scott

S
Darnell Savage
Henry Black

CB
Eric Stokes
Rasul Douglas

STANDINGS

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

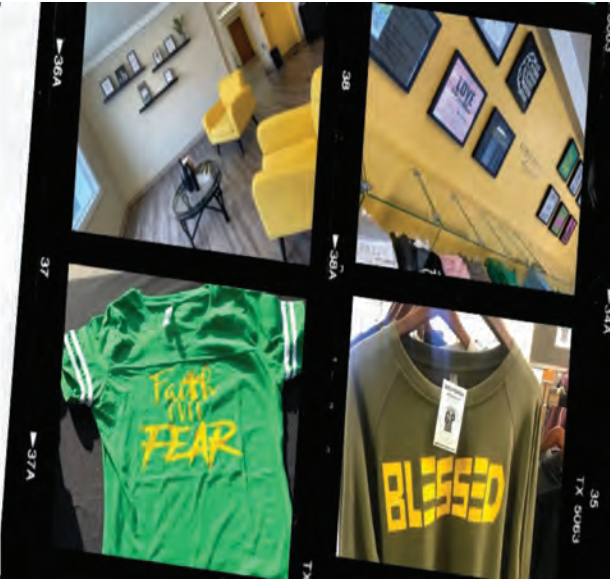
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REPORT CARD: OFFENSE

By **BILL HUBER**
Correspondent

That the Green Bay Packers are off to a strong start shouldn't be a surprise. After all, during the first two seasons under coach Matt LaFleur, they went 26-6 in the regular season and advanced to two NFC Championship Games.

Nonetheless, to be in such a strong position following a lopsided loss to the New Orleans Saints in week one has been incredibly impressive.

All-Pro left tackle David Bakhtiari, All-Pro cornerback Jaire Alexander, Pro Bowl pass rusher Za'Darius Smith and Pro Bowl guard Elton Jenkins have been sidelined for significant periods of the season, as were big-play receiver Marquez Valdes-Scantling, rookie center Josh Myers and veteran cornerback Kevin King. Even outside linebacker Preston Smith's 102-game ironman streak came to an end.

"I feel good about where we're at," quarterback Aaron Rodgers said. "Not many people would have expected this, maybe looking at our schedule starting the season – definitely not after week one. So, I'm proud of our guys, the way we're playing, getting contributions from a lot of different guys who weren't necessarily on the roster maybe to start the season or were add-ons this year."

With that as a backdrop, here is our midterm report card for the Packers offense.

Quarterbacks

After a tumultuous offseason, it's been standard operating procedure for the three-time MVP. Rodgers



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers, left, looks for an open receiver as offensive lineman Lucas Patrick (62) blocks for him during the team's win over the Washington Football Team on Oct. 24 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. The Packers' offense hasn't hit its stride yet, but has done enough to rack up wins.

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has performed with his typical efficiency.

If you were wondering whether he was invested in the team, you got your answer in week three at San Francisco with an emphatic fist pump after connecting with Davante Adams to set up the game-winning field goal.

If you still weren't convinced, there was a similar reaction after Rodgers connected with Adams to set up another game-winning field-goal attempt at Cincinnati. Or, there was the iconic "I still own you!" celebration after clinching yet

another win at Chicago.

If anything, given his still-uncertain future, Rodgers is more invested in winning this season.

Rodgers hasn't been as dominating as he was last season. In 2020, he led the NFL in completion%age, touchdown%age, interception%age and passer rating.

This year, he's merely in the top 10 in each of those categories. With a revolving door of offensive linemen, he hasn't been as sensational but he's still the winning factor in most games.

There are two trouble spots that

must improve if this team is finally going to get back to the Super Bowl. First, his long-ball accuracy is hovering toward the bottom third of the league. The return of his offensive linemen and Valdes-Scantling should help. Second, when pressured, only rookies Trey Lance and Zach Wilson have been less accurate, according to Pro Football Focus.

Grade: A-

Running Backs

The tandem of Aaron Jones and A.J. Dillon have been as-advertised. They're on pace to rush for more than 1,500 yards and top 2,200 yards from scrimmage.

In a surprise, the Packers were able to retain Jones in free agency. He's just so elusive. He ranks 13th in carries but seventh in missed tackles.

Maybe Jones will fall short of a third consecutive 1,000-yard rushing season but he's an elite receiving threat. He started the season catching 26-of-28 targets with four touchdowns in the first seven games.

Dillon is just so big and strong that he's getting yards even when it looks like he's been stalled. Rarely asked to catch the ball at Boston College or as a rookie, he caught four passes for 45 yards and one touchdown at Cincinnati.

Of the top 45 in carries, Dillon is 12th in average yards after contact on rushes and 11th in yards per pass route. Jones is 19th in yards after contact and 16th in yards per pass route. Both have fumbled twice. That problem has to be resolved ASAP.

Grade: B-



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Receivers

It's been The Davante Adams Show. The All-Pro receiver continues to dominate. Before being put on the COVID-19 list after the week seven victory over Washington, Adams had 52 of the 92 receptions (56.5%), 72 of the 133 targets (54.1%), 744 of the 1,230 yards (60.5%) and three of the eight touchdowns (37.5%).

Adams is unstoppable. Throw it short, he'll make the first defender miss. Throw it deep, he'll track it down. Throw it anywhere in the vicinity, he'll catch it.

Through week seven, he was tied for second in receptions and third in yards. He had only one drop; of the 10 players with 40-plus catches, he was the only player with less than two drops.

There hasn't been a consistent No. 2 receiver, much to the chagrin of fantasy football players, but there's generally been someone to step up alongside Adams.

Allen Lazard, LaFleur's "goon," relishes doing the dirty work. More than just a blocker, he caught five passes for 60 yards and one touchdown on one series against Washington.

Randall Cobb caught five passes for 69 yards and two touchdowns

against Pittsburgh.

Valdes-Scantling missed a big chunk of time with an injured hamstring after catching three passes for 59 yards and one touchdown vs. San Francisco.

Through seven games, the entire group had dropped only two passes (Adams and Cobb).

Grade: B+

Tight Ends

There were enormous expectations on Robert Tonyan following last year's breakout season.

In 2020, he caught 52 passes, scored 11 touchdowns, failed to catch only seven passes and had zero drops. In the first six games of this season, he caught 11 passes, scored one touchdown, failed to catch nine passes and had one drop.

Perhaps a 25-yard touchdown vs. Washington will get him going. A healthy offensive line would help, too, so he wouldn't have to help so much as a blocker.

Ageless Mercedes Lewis continues to block in the run game and run through defenders as a receiver. Amazingly, of the 47 tight ends with at least nine catches, Lewis is fourth in yards after the catch per catch. Defenders bounce off the 37-year-old like he's a 27-year-old.

More than the production, he is a wildly popular and respected team leader who is a model for everyone on the roster on how to do things the right way.

Josiah Deguara, a third-round pick last year, and Dominique Dafney, a former bouncer, need to stay healthy for this offense to hit its peak.

Grade: C+

Offensive Line

The best offensive lines are the ones that practice together and play together. That hasn't been the case with his unit. In the first seven games, Green Bay lined up with five starting quintets.

At times, it was the double whammy of little continuity and little experience. For week three against San Francisco, this was the line: left tackle Yosh Nijman (zero starts), left guard Jon Runyan Jr. (one start), rookie center Josh Myers (two starts), rookie right guard Royce Newman (two starts) and veteran right tackle Billy Turner.

Bakhtiari is one of the great offensive linemen in the NFL. Rodgers has called him a future Hall of Famer. And yet the Packers have won with Jenkins and even Nijman at left tackle.

FYI

A report card on the packers' defense, special teams and coaching staff can be found on pages 8-9.

Patrick won the starting job at left guard, only to suffer a concussion in the opener and be replaced by Runyan.

When Meyers went down, Patrick moved in at center. At least the right side of the line played together, though it's been a school-of-hard-knocks rookie year for Newman.

Generally, the group has been up to the task. Washington's defensive line, with four first-round picks, dominated the first half before Green Bay's blockers seized control.

Offensive line coach Adam Stenavich had big shoes to fill when he replaced James Campen and he's done it. The good news is Bakhtiari will be back at left tackle and Jenkins will return at left guard. That will solidify that side of the line and, in turn, should mean more opportunities in the passing game.

Grade: C+

First-Half MVP on Offense:

Rodgers

First-Half Surprise: Nijman

Second-Half Key on Offense:

Bakhtiari



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REPORT CARD: DEFENSE, SPECIALISTS, COACHING

By **BILL HUBER**
Correspondent

Here is our midterm report card for the Packers defense, special teams and coaching staff.

Defensive Line

After dominating the 2019 season, Kenny Clark suffered a groin injury in the 2020 opener at Minnesota. It took him three months to round into form. Healthy in 2021, he's returned to elite status.

Of the 70 interior defensive linemen with at least 100 pass-rushing snaps, he was eighth in ProFootball-Focus.com's pass-rushing productivity, which measures sacks, hits and hurries per pass-rushing snap. Of the 47 interior defensive linemen with at least 100 run-defending snaps, Clark was sixth in PFF's run-stop percentage, a metric that essentially measures impact tackles.

Only Clark, Pittsburgh's Cameron Heyward and Tennessee's Jeffery Simmons were in the top 10 in both metrics.

Dean Lowry, who many fans wanted to dump during the offseason to save some money against the cap, has had a quality season.

The key for the second half of the year will be third-year player Kingsley Keke, who had done almost nothing to start the season but had 1½ sacks against Washington. He's the player who has the largest potential for growth.

It will be interesting to see if fifth-round rookie TJ Slaton will eventually take run-defending snaps from veteran Tyler Lancaster.

Grade: C+

Outside Linebackers

The Smith Bros. – Za'Darius Smith and Preston Smith – were the driving forces behind the Packers' surprise run to the 2019 NFC Championship Game. The Packers returned to the title game in 2020, even though Za'Darius Smith wasn't quite as dominant and Preston Smith fell off the face of a cliff.

All offseason, the speculation was the Packers would release Preston Smith in a cost-cutting move. Good thing they didn't. Za'Darius Smith practiced only once in training camp and played only a little in week one before going on injured reserve and having back surgery. His season might be over.

While the stats might not show it, Preston Smith has had a strong bounce-back season. He's so good against the run.

The key, however, has been Rashan



Green Bay Packers punter Corey Bojorquez prepares to kick the ball during the team's win over the Washington Football Team on Oct. 24 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. Bojorquez has improved the team's special team's unit, but it's still made far too many errors so far this season.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

Gary. The 2019 first-round pick has become an every-down force. Of the 73 edge defenders with at least 100 pass-rushing snaps, Gary was sixth in PFF's pass-rushing productivity and pressures.

The Packers were in trouble against lowly Washington before his sack/strip to start the second half. He's powerful and relentless, and he's not just focused on sacks.

With Za'Darius Smith, Chauncey Rivers and Randy Ramsey on injured reserve, Jonathan Garvin has emerged as a key role player after barely playing as a seventh-round rookie last year. Position coach Mike Smith raves about his intelligence and toughness.

Obviously, this unit would be better if Za'Darius Smith returns but the recent addition of 31-year-old Whitney Mercilus will provide some critical insurance.

Grade: B-

Inside Linebackers

Through seven games, De'Vondre Campbell and Colts All-Pro Darius

Leonard were the only players in the NFL with three-plus passes defended, two-plus interceptions and two-plus forced fumbles. He had that stat line along with ranking fifth in the league with 67 tackles (15 more than Leonard).

To think he was unemployed until deep into June is amazing. He's been the Packers' best defensive player this season and the best inside linebacker in a decade.

Campbell is a big, physical tackler. It might go unnoticed but when Campbell hits the man with the ball, he generally drops him on the spot rather than allowing him to fall forward for another yard or two. Those hidden yards add up.

In coverage, he might not be the most fleet of foot but he's got excellent instincts and length.

It's been a revolving door of mediocrity next to him with Krys Barnes, Oren Burks and veteran addition Jaylon Smith. To get around it, the Packers often line up with three defensive linemen, two outside linebackers, one inside linebacker and five defensive

backs.

Grade: B

Cornerbacks

An elite cover man, Jaire Alexander is one of the more irreplaceable players on the roster. When he suffered a shoulder injury on his fourth-down stick of 230-pound Steelers running back Najee Harris in week four, the entire season took a turn.

A string of top quarterbacks began on Thursday against Arizona and will continue with Kansas City's Patrick Mahomes, Seattle's Russell Wilson (depending on his injured finger), Minnesota's Kirk Cousins and the Rams' Matthew Stafford before the bye, then Baltimore's Lamar Jackson, Cleveland's Baker Mayfield and Cousins again during the final quarter of the season.

Can Green Bay's defense survive without one of the top defenders in the NFL?

Kevin King missed time with a shoulder injury, too, though that's hardly news. Injuries have been the theme of his career. The good news is first-round pick Eric Stokes was forced into a sink-or-swim role as the primary defender against the opponents' top receiver and hasn't sunk. There's been more good than bad.

If Alexander returns and Stokes continues to grow, this defense could be dangerous in January.

Chandon Sullivan got off to a slow start in the slot but has picked up the pace. Veteran Rasul Douglas, who was grabbed off Arizona's practice squad, has been a helpful addition.

Grade: C-

Safeties

One of the driving forces behind last year's run to the NFC Championship Game was the play of Adrian Amos and Darnell Savage during the second half of the season. They were superb down the stretch, eliminating big plays while creating big plays of their own. By season's end, they had combined for six interceptions and 21 passes defended.

In the first seven games of this season, they had one interception and six passes defended. If they can kick their play into high gear again, it would be a huge development.

At this point, Savage – a first-round pick in 2019 – remains an enigma. There are enough splash plays that he looks like a potential star. But there is so much mediocre in his play. Maybe that's just who he is – a decent starter but a disappointment in terms of draft status.

While Savage and No. 3 safety

Henry Black have missed too many tackles, Amos is Mr. Reliable in that regard. He's just so steady.

Grade: C

Specialists

At the end of training camp, general manager Brian Gutekunst acquired punter Corey Bojorquez and released JK Scott. From a punting standard, this was a home run of a transaction. Aside from one bad game against Cincinnati, Bojorquez has been tremendous.

One week, he had an 81-yard punt at Chicago. The next week, he deftly landed a pooch punt just inches from the goal line so it could be downed at the 3 against Washington. At risk of hyperbole, he's probably the best punter in franchise history.

On the other hand, the field-goal unit has been in a bit of disarray. While Scott wasn't a great punter, he was a tremendous holder. The change in the operation, along with some early protection issues, is a reason why Mason Crosby missed four field goals to start this season after missing just two the past two seasons combined.

On the block against Washington, the protection wasn't great but Crosby's kick barely got off the ground. The season could depend on getting the snap-hold-kick combination squared away.

Rookie Amari Rodgers already has two punt returns longer than Green Bay's best from last year. Fellow rookie Kylin Hill had a 41-yard kickoff return vs. Detroit but otherwise hasn't found any room.

Fourth-year long snapper Hunter Bradley was lucky to survive training camp but has been OK to start the season.

Grade: C

Coaching and Personnel

By the end of the Bears game in week six, the Packers had eight starters out with injuries. And yet they won that game, like they won almost every game during the first half of the season. So, while victories over Chicago and Washington lacked style points, the fact they won those games with so much firepower on the bench shouldn't be swept aside simply because of the mediocre competition.

Credit for that belongs to LaFleur and his coaching staff – specifically position coaches Stenavich, Mike Smith and Jerry Gray (defensive backs), whose groups have been hit hardest.

Meanwhile, general manager Brian Gutekunst has continued to supplement the roster with veterans. Against Washington, Douglas, Mercilus and Jaylon Smith combined to play 99 snaps on defense. They weren't even



Green Bay Packers defensive lineman Kingsley Keke, center, sacks Washington Football Team quarterback Taylor Heinicke during the team's matchup on Oct. 24 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. Keke could help the Packers' defense take another step forward in the second half of the season. MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

on the team at the start of October. The acquisitions of those three and Cobb are moves this team simply hasn't made over the years.

If you want to know what "all in" means, this season is the definition. Entering the offseason, the Packers were more than \$25 million over the salary cap. Gutekunst mostly kept the gang together for one more run by restructuring the contract of literally every veteran on the roster. Win or lose this year, they'll pay the piper for

that aggressive approach next year, when they're a projected \$46 million over the cap.

Grade: A

First-Half MVP on Defense:

Campbell

First-Half Disappointment:

Za'Darius Smith

Second-Half Key on Defense:

Keke

Rookie of the Half-Year: Stokes

Coach of the Half-Year:

Stenavich



Home-field advantage.

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Morgan Rode
NEW Media Sports Editor

Week 8 Games: Sunday, Oct. 31

Teams on bye: Baltimore & Las Vegas
 Green Bay @ Arizona Thurs., Oct. 28
 Carolina @ Atlanta
 Miami @ Buffalo
 San Francisco @ Chicago
 Pittsburgh @ Cleveland
 Philadelphia @ Detroit
 LA Rams @ Houston
 Tennessee @ Indianapolis
 Cincinnati @ NY Jets
 Jacksonville @ Seattle
 Washington @ Denver
 Tampa Bay @ New Orleans
 Dallas @ Minnesota
 NY Giants @ Kansas City Mon., Nov. 1

Tie Breaker Game: New England @ LA Chargers

Weekly Standings

Weekly Record Overall Record

God's Purpose Apparel	10-3.....	75-32
Tower Clock Eye Center	9-4	73-34
Buss Automotive.....	9-4	72-35
Shawano Seasons Restaurant	10-3.....	72-35
Dennis Brei.....	9-4	71-36
Hawkeye Hearth & Home	9-4	71-36
Tim Murphy	9-4	71-36
22 Shell.....	9-4	70-37
Morgan Rode	9-4	70-37

Weekly Standings

Weekly Record Overall Record

Shawano Place Assisted Living.....	8-5	70-37
Smokey Joe's	10-3.....	68-39
B & C Auto Recycling.....	7-6	66-41
P & D Sales & Service	9-4	66-41
Idell Johnston, State Farm Ins. Agent.....	8-5	66-41
Cirrinity/Wittenberg Telephone	9-4	61-46
Gehm's Club 117	9-4	61-46
Iverson's Piggly Wiggly	7-6	60-47
Senn Insurance	9-4	60-47



This Week's Winner: Shawano Seasons Restaruant



Morgan Rode
Shawano
Leader

This Week's Picks:

Arizona	LA Rams	Minnesota
Carolina	Indianapolis	Kansas City
Buffalo	Cincinnati	
San Francisco	Seattle	
Cleveland	Denver	
Detroit	New Orleans	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score : New England 20 @ LA Chargers 31



Tim Murphy
Shawano
Leader

This Week's Picks:

Arizona	LA Rams	Dallas
Atlanta	Tennessee	Kansas City
Buffalo	Cincinnati	
San Francisco	Seattle	
Cleveland	Denver	
Philadelphia	Tampa Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: New England 17 @ LA Chargers 27



Dennis Brei
Oconto County
Times Herald

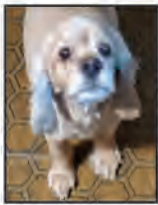
This Week's Picks:

Green Bay	LA Rams	Dallas
Atlanta	Tennessee	Kansas City
Buffalo	Cincinnati	
Chicago	Seattle	
Cleveland	Washington	
Philadelphia	Tampa Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: New England 17 @ LA Chargers 31

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Toby
B&C Auto
Recycling

This Week's Picks:

Arizona	LA Rams	Dallas
Atlanta	Tennessee	Kansas City
Buffalo	Cincinnati	
Chicago	Seattle	
Pittsburgh	Denver	
Detroit	Tampa Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: New England 24 @ LA Chargers 31



Iverson's Staff
Iverson's
Piggly Wiggly

This Week's Picks:

Green Bay	Houston	Minnesota
Carolina	Tennessee	NY Giants
Miami	Cincinnati	
San Francisco	Seattle	
Cleveland	Washington	
Detroit	Tampa Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: New England 24 @ LA Chargers 14



Amber
Smokey Joe's
& JDoggs

This Week's Picks:

Arizona	LA Rams	Dallas
Atlanta	Tennessee	Kansas City
Buffalo	Cincinnati	
San Francisco	Seattle	
Pittsburgh	Denver	
Philadelphia	Tampa Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: New England 17 @ LA Chargers 23



Robert Buss
Buss
Automotive

This Week's Picks:

Green Bay	LA Rams	Dallas
Atlanta	Tennessee	Kansas City
Buffalo	Cincinnati	
Chicago	Seattle	
Pittsburgh	Washington	
Detroit	Tampa Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: New England 21 @ LA Chargers 38



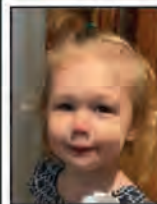
Dena
P&D Sales
& Service

This Week's Picks:

Green Bay	LA Rams	Dallas
Atlanta	Tennessee	Kansas City
Buffalo	Cincinnati	
Chicago	Seattle	
Cleveland	Denver	
Philadelphia	Tampa Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: New England 17 @ LA Chargers 30



Caroline
Idell Johnston
State Farm Agent

This Week's Picks:

Arizona	LA Rams	Dallas
Carolina	Tennessee	Kansas City
Buffalo	Cincinnati	
San Francisco	Seattle	
Cleveland	Denver	
Philadelphia	Tampa Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: New England 17 @ LA Chargers 35



Scott Nyman
Cirinity

This Week's Picks:

Arizona	LA Rams	Minnesota
Atlanta	Indianapolis	NY Giants
Buffalo	Cincinnati	
San Francisco	Seattle	
Cleveland	Denver	
Detroit	Tampa Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: New England 28 @ LA Chargers 14



In Memory of
Patty Lasher
Shawano Seasons
Restaurant

This Week's Picks:

Green Bay	LA Rams	Dallas
Carolina	Tennessee	Kansas City
Buffalo	Cincinnati	
Chicago	Seattle	
Pittsburgh	Denver	
Detroit	Tampa Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: New England 17 @ LA Chargers 31



Jim Wiegand
Tower Clock
Eye Center

This Week's Picks:

Arizona	LA Rams	Dallas
Atlanta	Tennessee	Kansas City
Buffalo	Cincinnati	
San Francisco	Seattle	
Pittsburgh	Denver	
Detroit	Tampa Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: New England @ 13 LA Chargers 24



Russ
Gehm's
Club 117

This Week's Picks:

Green Bay	Houston	Dallas
Atlanta	Indianapolis	Kansas City
Buffalo	NY Jets	
San Francisco	Seattle	
Pittsburgh	Washington	
Philadelphia	Tampa Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: New England 28 @ LA Chargers 21



Shane Senn
Senn
Insurance

This Week's Picks:

Arizona	LA Rams	Minnesota
Atlanta	Indianapolis	Kansas City
Buffalo	Cincinnati	
Chicago	Seattle	
Cleveland	Denver	
Philadelphia	Tampa Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: New England 17 @ LA Chargers 28



Brenda
22 Shell

This Week's Picks:

Green Bay	LA Rams	Dallas
Carolina	Tennessee	Kansas City
Buffalo	Cincinnati	
San Francisco	Seattle	
Cleveland	Washington	
Detroit	Tampa Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: New England 27 @ LA Chargers 31



Chris
God's Purpose
Apparel

This Week's Picks:

Green Bay	LA Rams	Dallas
Carolina	Tennessee	Kansas City
Buffalo	Cincinnati	
San Francisco	Seattle	
Cleveland	Washington	
Philadelphia	Tampa Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: New England 20 @ LA Chargers 31



Aaron
Shawano
Place

This Week's Picks:

Green Bay	LA Rams	Minnesota
Carolina	Tennessee	Kansas City
Buffalo	Cincinnati	
San Francisco	Jacksonville	
Cleveland	Washington	
Detroit	Tampa Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: New England 17 @ LA Chargers 27



Dale
Hawkeye
Hearth & Home

This Week's Picks:

Green Bay	LA Rams	Dallas
Atlanta	Tennessee	Kansas City
Buffalo	Cincinnati	
San Francisco	Seattle	
Cleveland	Denver	
Detroit	Tampa Bay	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: New England 17 @ LA Chargers 21

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Green Bay Football 2021 Season				
SEPTEMBER - REGULAR SEASON				
Sunday, September 12	3:25 pm	@ New Orleans Saints	FOX	
Monday, September 20	7:35 pm	DETROIT LIONS	ESPN	
Sunday, September 26	3:20 pm	@ San Francisco 49ers	NBC	
OCTOBER				
Sunday, October 03	3:25 pm	Pittsburgh Steelers (GOLD)	CBS	
Sunday, October 10	NOON*	@ Cincinnati Bengals	FOX	
Sunday, October 17	NOON*	@ Chicago Bears	FOX	
Sunday, October 24	NOON*	WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM	FOX	
Thursday, October 28	7:30 pm	@ Arizona Cardinals	FOX	
NOVEMBER				
Sunday, November 07	3:25 pm*	@ Kansas City Chiefs	FOX	
Sunday, November 14	3:25 pm*	SEATTLE SEAHAWKS	CBS	
Sunday, November 21	NOON*	@ Minnesota Vikings	FOX	
Sunday, November 28	3:25 pm*	LOS ANGELES DOLPHINS (GOLD)	FOX	
DECEMBER				
BYE WEEK				
Sunday, December 12	7:20 pm*	CHICAGO BEARS	NBC	
Sunday, December 19	NOON*	@ Baltimore Ravens	FOX	
Saturday, December 25	3:30 pm	CLEVELAND BROWNS	FOX	
JANUARY				
Sunday, January 02	7:20 pm*	MINNESOTA VIKINGS	NBC	
Sunday, January 09	NOON*	@ Detroit Lions	FOX	

Packers win 6th game in a row

Defense stout in red zone

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The Green Bay Packers bumped their win streak to six after a 24-10 win over the Washington Football Team on Oct. 24 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

It wasn't the prettiest of wins for the Pack, but all three phases made key plays in the victory.

With the Packers' running game struggling on the day, quarterback Aaron Rodgers completed 27 of his 35 attempts for 274 yards and three touchdowns. Receivers Davante Adams and Allen Lazard and tight end Robert Tonyan caught the touchdown passes.

Kicker Mason Crosby knocked in a 39-yard field goal in the fourth quarter after having a kick blocked earlier in the contest. Corey Bojorquez averaged 46.3 yards per punt, including one that pinned Washington inside its own 5-yard line. Green Bay also blocked a field goal attempt.

The visitors racked up 430 total yards of offense, but the Packers' defense held Washington out of the end zone in four red zone trips to help the team to victory.

Coach Matt LaFleur called it "another good team win" and added "there's still a lot for us to improve upon moving forward, but it sure does feel good to be 6-1."

Green Bay opened the contest on offense and marched 75 yards in 13 plays to grab the early advantage.

The 37-year-old Rodgers showed off his athleticism on the first drive, converting a third-and-11 with a 15-yard run up the middle of the field. He then avoided pressure and scrambled out of the pocket on a fourth-and-3 play before throwing back across his body to Adams, who made his way into the end zone for a 17-yard score.

Rodgers said he briefly thought about trying to pick up the first down by running, but realized he'd probably be short, so his attention turned back to Adams, who he'd wanted to go to the entire play. "I saw Davante kind of slide back inside and threw a good ball."

Washington answered with a quick touchdown drive, beating rookie cornerback Eric Stokes for a

40-yard touchdown to end the drive.

After forcing a three-and-out, Washington again was able to drive down the field. This time, the Packers defense was able to get off the field, setting up a 42-yard field goal attempt.

Rookie defensive lineman T.J. Slaton was able to block a low kick attempt, flipping the momentum back to the Packers.

"I thought that Slaton did a heck of a job getting the block on the field goal. That was a big play in the game," said LaFleur.

Washington was able to return the favor a few minutes later after the Packers got the ball to the opposing 16-yard line, as Crosby's 34-yard attempt was blocked.

The Football Team kept the momentum going when quarterback Taylor Heinicke ripped off a 38-yard run on the first play of the ensuing drive. The visitors gained seven yards on the next two plays, but back-to-back incompletions ended the drive.

The Packers regained control of the disjointed contest with a nine-play, 72-yard touchdown drive before the first half clock expired. The drive was all about Lazard, who made all five of his receptions across

those nine plays.

Lazard had an 11-yard reception to get the drive going before 7- and 13-yard receptions on back-to-back plays to help the team move the chains. He later hauled in a 19-yard pass to get the ball down to the 15-yard line. Lazard capped the drive with a 10-yard touchdown grab.

"Opportunities presented themselves and I was able to capitalize, so just thankful for those moments," said Lazard of the drive.

Green Bay's defense kept the momentum on the team's side when pass rusher Rashan Gary sacked and stripped Heinicke on the second play of the third quarter. Defensive lineman Dean Lowry fell on the loose ball to set the Packers' offense up at the Washington 27.

Three plays later, Rodgers hit Tonyan for a 20-yard touchdown pass to make it 21-7.

Tonyan expected Washington's safety to provide help to the linebacker across from him, but it never came.

"I saw the linebacker attached to me inside and I was like, 'This is the perfect look.' So I was hoping the ball was going to be there when I turned and it was," said Tonyan. "Good throw."



Green Bay Packers receiver Allen Lazard, second from right, carries the ball as tight end Robert Tonyan, second from left, blocks for him during a game on Oct. 24 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

The next few possessions of the game were about as wacky as you might see in the NFL.

Washington had a strong drive going and appeared to have scored on a 3-yard run from Heinicke, who dove into the end zone despite not really needing to. After a replay review, it was determined that Heinicke gave himself up, and when quarterbacks do that, they don't need to be touched down and the ball is instead marked down when a knee hits the ground.

So instead of a touchdown and one-score game, Washington's offense had to come back on the field and attempt to punch the ball into the end zone from inside the 1-yard line. The Packers' defense was up to the task, stopping Heinicke on a quarterback sneak play — it was the first red zone stop of the season for the Green Bay defense.

Middle linebacker De'Vondre Campbell was credited with a forced fumble of Heinicke on the play, and Gary recovered the ball.

After a 53-boot from Bojorquez, Washington's offense moved the ball inside the Green Bay 10. Again, the Green Bay defense was able to make a stop, forcing an incomplete pass on fourth down.



Green Bay Packers outside linebacker Rashan Gary, middle, tries to get in the passing lane of Washington Football Team quarterback Taylor Heinicke, right, as offensive lineman Cornelius Lucas blocks him during a game on Oct. 24 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

The Packers' offense then put together its final scoring drive, working 75 yards in nine plays before

Crosby's 39-yard field goal.

The big play of the drive was a 26-yard pass up the left sideline to

ONLINE

More Packers news can be found at www.newmedia-wi.com.

Adams, who reached up at the last second to pull in the throw from Rodgers.

Washington had two more drives reach the red zone, and in each case, Green Bay kept the visitors out of the end zone.

Cornerback Chandon Sullivan intercepted a Heinicke pass on third down on one drive before the Packers' defense got sacks from Gary and defensive lineman Kingsley Keke to force a 45-yard field goal on the other possession.

"Just locked in, concentrated. Understanding things they like to do in the red zone and just trying to take it away from them," said Gary on the team's red zone defense.

"Series by series, we got better throughout the whole game."

Gary finished the contest with two sacks, four quarterback hits, the forced fumble and seven combined tackles.

Campbell led the defense with 13 combined tackles and forced two fumbles.

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SAFE!



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers runs with the ball during the first quarter of the team's win over the Washington Football Team on Oct. 24 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

Aaron Rodgers showed off his athleticism during the team's 24-10 win over the Washington Football Team. The 37-year-old quarterback rushed for 17 yards in the game, including this 15-yard run on the team's first drive, which ended in a touchdown pass to Davante Adams after Rodgers scrambled on fourth down.

PHOTOS BY MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers slides to the ground after picking up a first down on his first quarter run against the Washington Football Team on Oct. 24 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.



Green Bay Packers receiver Davante Adams, center, beats a pair of Washington Football Team defenders to the end zone for a touchdown in a game on Oct. 24 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

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A Northeast Wisconsin Guide to Employment Opportunities



SCHOOLS, BUS COMPANIES IN THE HUNT FOR DRIVERS

Buses arrive, deliver students and depart from Shawano Community High School on Oct. 25 as a new school week dawns. Bus companies and school districts all across northeast Wisconsin are having difficulty hiring bus drivers, a trend that's being seen nationwide. **SEE STORY ON PAGE 2**

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

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Schools, bus companies need drivers

Companies and school districts offer incentives to raise employment

By **LUKE REIMER**

Reporter

School districts in Shawano County and Oconto County are looking for school bus drivers.

"We have very low employment," said Peggy Gordon, who is a terminal manager at Lamers Bus Lines and contracts with the Gillett School District.

Due to the low numbers of available drivers, school staff has been forced to drive students to both school and to athletic events.

Oconto Falls athletic director Jerry Moynihan is one of the staff members who is stepping up to make sure that students get to their games on time. He went through the process of obtaining a school bus driver's license last year.

"It is not the easiest thing to drive a school bus," said Moynihan.

He said the process to get a license to drive a school bus is rigorous.

"It is a challenge to driving these buses," said Moynihan. "You have to go through three weeks of training. There are tests that you have to take through the DMV, and I had to practice for two weeks."

He said there is an upside to driving the buses.

"The kids are excited to see me drive the bus," said Moynihan. "I will see the students in school and see the smiles on their faces when we get on the bus."

Other than sports games, Moynihan said that Oconto Falls has had problem with their morning and afternoon routes in bringing students to and from school.

"We have had to condense our routes," said Moynihan.

Gordon also mentioned that she has had to condense routes for the Gillett School District.

"We have gone down from eight to seven," said Gordon.

With the lack of drivers, Gordon said that she and Lamers has been accepting and reviewing applications.

"We are looking for people who have had their license for three years, have a good driving background and don't have a criminal background," said Gordon. "We have two interviews coming shortly for drivers."



Students climb aboard a Kobussen bus on Oct. 25 to be taken to school.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

Gordon said that in terms of getting student athletes to games on time and driving students home from school, drivers have had to drop students off at games early and go back to school to get everyone else home.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood superintendent Garrett Rogowski said the school district is also getting creative in how to get students to games on time.

"We have had to start games a little bit later," said Rogowski.

He added that as the school district has been looking for drivers, they are offering incentives.

"We are offering a competitive hourly rate," said Rogowski. "We are paying for training."

Gordon also mentioned that Lamers is offering positions for \$10/hour.

Ed Short, who is a terminal manager with Kobussen and contracts with Shawano and Bonduel, said that Kobussen has offered a \$1,500 sign-on bonus in the summer.

"We continue to offer our existing drivers a \$500 referral bonus," said

Short. "Coming up on Veterans Day, we are having an open house where the company will be offering up to a \$2,000 sign-on bonus. The Kobussens also enlisted a pay increase for the drivers."

Short said that if someone is interested in driving, more information can be found at www.kobussen.com.

"This is a great opportunity for moms, retired, or those with mornings or afternoons open and want to pick up some extra money," said Short. "Many think that a bus is too big to drive, but people are surprised to see others change their mind when they get in a bus."

Short added that he cannot pinpoint one reason why there is such a shortage for drivers.

"I don't think that you can point to one reason," said Short. "It has just been a perfect storm. There are so many factors that play into keeping someone from applying. Obviously, we continue to have COVID-19 concerns. There were also extra payments for unemployment. Some

people that we talked to said that, life is too short and they are going to fully retire."

Rogowski added that another reason that employment could be down is due to the limited scheduled.

"Maybe it is due to only driving for two hours in the morning and two hours in the evening," said Rogowski. "This job is attractive to those that have time."

Like Short, Moynihan believes that the issue comes from a number of factors.

"We had an employment decrease prior to the pandemic," said Moynihan. "COVID-19 was the tipping point."

Although the outlook looks bleak, some are saying that it will get better.

"We are getting creative and those who are driving are doing the best that they can," said Gordon.

"We are hopeful for more drivers," said Rogowski. "Our group now does a great job, but we are confident that we will get back to higher employment."

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Where are the workers?

Cutoff of jobless aid spurs no influx

By **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER, CASEY SMITH AND LARRY FENN**

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Earlier this year, an insistent cry arose from business leaders and Republican governors: Cut off a \$300-a-week federal supplement for unemployed Americans. Many people, they argued, would then come off the sidelines and take the millions of jobs that employers were desperate to fill.

Yet three months after half the states began ending that federal payment, there's been no significant influx of job seekers.

In states that cut off the \$300 check, the workforce — the number of people who either have a job or are looking for one — has risen no more than it has in the states that maintained the payment. That federal aid, along with two jobless

aid programs that served gig workers and the long-term unemployed, ended nationally Sept. 6. Yet America's overall workforce actually shrank that month.

"Policymakers were pinning too many hopes on ending unemployment insurance as a labor market boost," said Fiona Greig, managing director of the JPMorgan Chase Institute, which used JPMorgan bank account data to study the issue. "The work disincentive effects were clearly small."

Labor shortages have persisted longer than many economists expected, deepening a mystery at the heart of the job market. Companies are eager to add workers and have posted a near-record number of available jobs. Unemployment remains elevated. The economy still has 5 million fewer jobs than it did before the pandemic. Yet job growth slowed in August and September.

An analysis of state-by-state data by The Associated Press found that workforces in the 25 states that maintained the \$300 payment actually grew slightly more from May

through September, according to data released Friday, than they did in the 25 states that cut off the payment early, most of them in June. The \$300-a-week federal check, on top of regular state jobless aid, meant that many of the unemployed received more in benefits than they earned at their old jobs.

An earlier study by Arindrajit Dube, an economist at University of Massachusetts, Amherst and several colleagues found that the states that cut off the \$300 federal payment saw a small increase in the number of unemployed taking jobs. But it also found that it didn't draw more people off the sidelines to look for work.

Economists point to a range of factors that are likely keeping millions of former recipients of federal jobless aid from returning to the workforce. Many Americans in public-facing jobs still fear contracting COVID-19, for example. Some families lack child care.

Other people, like Rachel Montgomery of Anderson, Indiana, have grown to cherish the opportunity to spend more time with their families

and feel they can get by financially, at least for now. Montgomery, a 37-year-old mother, said she has become much "pickier" about where she's willing to work after having lost a catering job last year. Losing the \$300-a-week federal payment hasn't changed her mind. She'll receive her regular state jobless aid for a few more weeks.

"Once you've stayed home with your kids and family like this, who wants to physically have to go back to work?" she said. "As I'm looking and looking, I've told myself that I'm not going to sacrifice pay or flexibility working remotely when I know I'm qualified to do certain things. But what that also means is that it's taking longer to find those kinds of jobs."

Indeed, the pandemic appears to have caused a re-evaluation of priorities, with some people deciding to spend more time with family and others insistent on working remotely or gaining more flexible hours.

Some former recipients, especially older, more affluent ones, have decided to retire earlier than they had



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planned. With Americans' overall home values and stock portfolios having surged since the pandemic struck, Fed officials estimate that up to 2 million more people have retired since then than otherwise would have.

And after having received three stimulus checks in 18 months, plus federal jobless aid in some cases, most households have larger cash cushions than they did before the pandemic. A result is that some people are taking time to consider their options before rushing back into the job market.

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Wisconsin's unemployment rate remains at 3.9% for 6th month

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADISON — Wisconsin's unemployment rate for September remained unchanged at 3.9% for the sixth month in a row, the state Department of Workforce Development reported Oct. 21.

The report is the first since enhanced federal unemployment benefits expired on Sept. 6.

Republicans had argued that the benefit motivated people not to work, only worsening the state's worker shortage problem. But Democrats and labor force experts said the shortage, which has been a problem for years, was driven by a variety of factors.

Gov. Tony Evers, a Democrat, vetoed a Republican-authored bill that would have ended the benefits this summer. An attempt to override that veto failed in July.

Wisconsin's unemployment rate was better than the national average of 4.8% in September.

Private sector jobs in Wisconsin



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dropped by 100 in September compared to August. There were 51,800 more private sector jobs in September than a year ago.

On the national level, The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits fell last week to a

new low point since the pandemic erupted, evidence that layoffs are declining as companies hold onto workers.

Unemployment claims dropped 6,000 to 290,000 last week, the third straight drop, the Labor Department said Oct. 21. That's the fewest people to apply for benefits since March 14, 2020, when the pandemic intensified. Applications for jobless aid, which generally track the pace of layoffs, have fallen steadily from about 900,000 in January.



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