



HANAUER'S PREPARES FOR HOLIDAY SEASON

Hanauer's Tree Farms workers harvest Christmas trees from their plantings in the Town of Richmond in Shawano County. The "cut your own" farm opens for the season Nov. 26.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Nutrition shop now in Tigerton

Apex Nutrition has arrived in Tigerton, and its owner and staff have been kept busy with interest from the village and surrounding areas.

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No change for board meet times

The Shawano County Board debated changing its meeting time, but ultimately voted against the measure.

PAGE 4

Asleep at the Wheel coming

Rubber Soul Productions is once again bringing live music to Wittenberg as Asleep at the Wheel rolls into town in December.

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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

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Nutrition club gets warm welcome in Tigerton

Owner calls the first couple of weeks a success

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

A new nutrition club has open its doors in Tigerton.

Chris Kopitzke, his family and friends opened Apex Nutrition in Tigerton in October to help promote a healthy lifestyle.

"We have meal replacement shakes, protein balls, protein coffee, different flavors of tea and different nutritious frappes," said Kopitzke.

Kopitzke called the first couple of weeks of business a success.

"Tigerton has been fantastic," said Kopitzke. "We have been busy every day."

Kopitzke said residents from other communities have stopped in as well.

"We have had people come in from Wittenberg, Marion, Appleton and other surrounding towns," said Kopitzke. "Everyone has been so great."

Kopitzke attributed the early success to not only the support of local residents, but also the product.

"I think that people are coming in because we offer these alternatives, like tea if someone wants to stop drinking soda," said Kopitzke. "Our products are also nutritious and taste good."

He said the biggest reason for the store's success is their wide variety of options and flavors for their products.

He made the decision was made to open the store after his aunt had tried to get Kopitzke and his family to work at other nutrition clubs.

"She was really trying to push us to work at one," said Kopitzke. "Since we live in Tigerton, it was easy for us to open one of our own. She has been great in helping us run it, too."

Kopitzke added that having a business like this in Tigerton gives



Apex Nutrition in Tigerton features a menu with healthy snacks and drinks, such as protein balls, protein coffee, tea and other nutritious items.

CONTRIBUTED

residents an opportunity to try nutritious products more conveniently.

He said that he noticed an overwhelmingly amount of positive reaction from the community.

"People come in and say that they want to try the same products in different flavors," said Kopitzke. "They also say that they will spread the word about the store."

Kopitzke said that through the first couple of weeks running the business, he has learned that Tigerton is a very supportive community.

"This just reconfirms to me that Tigerton residents will always support businesses and people," said Kopitzke. "They will always help each other."

According to Kopitzke, Apex Nutrition is doing what they can to give customers the best experience possible.

"We are taking call-in orders and text-in orders, in case people need something on the go," said Kopitzke. "People can even request items through Facebook Messenger."

Kopitzke is already looking at what he can add to the menu.

"We have tossed around an idea of taking our protein base and using it to make pizzas," said Kopitzke. "I also have a crazy idea of turning our teas into smoothies or slushies."

He said that those ideas will be considered after the holiday season.

"We are just trying to get everything rolling right now and trying to get our name out there," said Kopitzke.

Apex Nutrition is located at 220 Cedar St. in Tigerton, with hours of 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

www.newmedia-wi.com

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.

County board debates meeting times

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

Meeting times will remain the same for the Shawano County Board of Supervisors.

Members of the board discussed whether the times should be changed during their county board meeting on Nov. 17. Some on the board wanted to change the meeting time from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The final vote was 17-8 against changing the time. With a majority of supervisors voting no, this means that the time will remain at 3 p.m. for the next term, starting April 1.

Discussions arose surrounding who would be able to show up to the meetings and when they would be available.

"It is my opinion that if you are running for a county board supervisor position, you know what time the meeting is and you will take appropriate action with your employer to be absent that time," said Supervisor Theresa Serrano. "It is not necessary to change it to 6 p.m."

Shawano County Board Supervisor

Aaron Damrau said that he believes changing the meetings to 6 p.m. is appropriate.

"Right now, we have about three people on our county board who are under the age of 50," said Damrau. "That kind of shows that our population is not represented on our county board."

Damrau elaborated, saying that he thinks there should be more younger representation on the county board.

"There are a lot of people that are retired right now," said Damrau. "I understand that if you change the times, that might create some competitive races. I think that is democracy."

Damrau said that it is important to get more people and more ideas to the county board meetings.

"We should get the opinions of people that are in the workforce," said Damrau. "There are a lot of people with good ideas out there, that aren't running right now because of the inconvenient time."

Damrau said that the county is not running to its full potential.

"Right now, I do not think that our county is a well-oiled machine

and, at times, is a dumpster fire," said Damrau. "I think that we need to do better, and changing the time will help."

Supervisor Deb Noffke said that the time does not only pertain to the board.

"Aaron (Damrau) is right," said Noffke. "Who wants to burn all of their vacation time just to attend board meetings?"

She added that in her past experience serving on the board, there have been people with good ideas who may have missed meetings due to work commitments.

"It is about the public and the ability to run," said Noffke. "You should not be restricted to board service if you are retired or unemployed."

Noffke added that changing the meeting time to a later date also gives the public an opportunity to attend meetings and give their input.

"If the public wants to participate, it should be easier to do so," said Noffke.

Supervisor John Ainsworth added that the board should keep in mind that there are people who don't work

during the day, but at night.

"What would happen if we elected a dairy farmer?" said Ainsworth. "Would we have to change the time to 8 p.m.?"

Supervisor Sandy Steinke said that in her experience serving on the board, there was a compromise where half of the year, meetings were held in the morning and the other half of the year, meetings were held in the evening.

"It would be nice if we could go back to a compromise of half and half," said Steinke.

Supervisor Gene Hoppe said that he has been asked by the public why there aren't meetings in the evening.

"There are pros and cons to both suggestions," said Hoppe. "You are not going to please everybody. I know that new people want to get on this board; the only thing holding them back is their job."

Supervisor Richard Ferfecki said that the board should not rely on department heads to come in at 6 p.m.

"If someone wants to be in this board, they can find a way to do it," said Ferfecki.



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5 school districts exceed state expectations

5 individual schools rank in highest category, with most area schools getting passing grade

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

Schools in northeast Wisconsin received their annual report cards from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction on Nov. 16. For the most part, the results were encouraging in spite of the pandemic altering school schedules at random points in the 2020-21 school year.

Almost all school districts received a passing grade, with the majority of them falling into the “meets expectations” category. However, five area school districts had scores that fell into the “exceeds expectations” group, which requires a score of 70 out of 100. Bowler School District had the highest score among Shawano, Oconto and Menominee counties with a score of 76.9, followed by Wittenberg-Birnawood School District with a score of 75.6 and Pulaski School District with a score of 75.1. Suring School District achieved a score of 71.9, while Bonduel School District scored 70.8.

Only one school district in the area did not meet expectations. Menominee Indian School District had a score of 49, and school districts needed to score at least 58 to meet expectations.

Individually, most area schools also had passing grades, but several schools scored in the highest category, which means they significantly exceed the state’s expectations. Oconto School District’s Bayshore Academy scored an 89.5, while Bonduel Elementary School scored 86.7, Birnamwood Elementary-Middle School scored 86.6, Hillcrest Elementary School in Pulaski scored 85.6 and Lena Elementary School scored 84.3.

Pulaski Community School District was the only area school to have all of its schools scoring in the exceeding or significantly exceeding categories. Hillcrest was the highest-scoring school in the district, while Sunnyside Elementary School was at the lower end with a respectable 72.1.

“Through hard work and dedication from both students and staff, PCSD is encouraged by their state report card scores across the district during a global pandemic,” said Allison Space, Pulaski superintendent, via press release. “We realize this is only one measure of student achievement that is collected statewide, and we will continue to work with students, families and staff to ensure that any unfinished learning during these times is regained.”

BY THE NUMBERS

District report card results

EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS: Bowler (76.9), Wittenberg-Birnawood (75.6), Pulaski (75.1), Suring (71.9), Bonduel (70.8).

MEETS EXPECTATIONS: Oconto (69.2), Lena (67.1), Oconto Falls (66.9), Shawano (66.6), Tigerton (64.6), Marion (63.7), Gresham (58.6), Gillett (58.4).

MEETS FEW EXPECTATIONS: Menominee Indian (49).

School report card results

SIGNIFICANTLY EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS: Bayshore Academy (89.5), Bonduel Elementary School (86.7), Birnamwood Elementary-Middle School (86.6), Hillcrest Elementary School-Pulaski (85.6), Lena Elementary School (84.3).

EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS: Wittenberg Elementary-Middle School (80.5), Oconto Middle School (80.3), Oconto Elementary School (78.9), Suring High School (78.2), Lannoye Elementary School (78.2), Bowler High School (77.7), Gillett Middle School (76.7), Abrams Elementary School (75.1), Pulaski High School (74.1), Glenbrook Elementary School (73.6), Fairview Elementary School (73.2), Pulaski Community Middle School (72.8), Sunnyside Elementary School (72.1), Oconto Falls High School (70.2).

MEETS EXPECTATIONS: Bowler Elementary School (69.9), Tigerton High School (69.5), Shawano Community Middle School (68.3), Gillett Elementary School (67.6), Suring Elementary School (67.6), Olga Brener Intermediate School (66.4), Washington Middle School (65.3), Shawano Community High School (64.6), Marion High School (64.2), Gresham High School (63.7), Lena Middle School (63.5), Marion Elementary School (62.9), Bonduel High School (61.8), Bonduel Middle School (59.9), Menominee Indian High School (59.8).

MEETS FEW EXPECTATIONS: Wittenberg-Birnawood High School (57.7), Lena High School (56.8), Tigerton Elementary School (51.8), Oconto High School (51.6), Gresham Elementary School (51.2), Menominee Indian Middle School (50.1), Keshena Primary School (49.7).

FAILS TO MEET EXPECTATIONS: Gillett High School (39.4).

Bowler School District Superintendent Glenda Butterfield-Boldig was quick to point out she had nothing to do with her district’s outstanding work since she recently took the position, but she noted that student growth factored more in the high scores than the achievement scores.

“We’ve performed better than we have in years past,” Butterfield-Boldig said. “We’ve been working hard with UDL, which is Universal Design for Learning, a kind of proactive way that we think to teach and we can provide opportunities and access to students.”

Butterfield-Boldig pointed out that achievement is not where her district wants to be at, so that will be something the schools focus on this year to hopefully get even higher scores in the future. She noted the district is closing achievement gaps at higher than the state average, but there is still a long way to go.

“We’re about continuous improvement,” Butterfield-Boldig said. “We believe in continuous improvement, so the focus needs to be improving those achievement scores, particularly for our subgroups — students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged and American Indian. We still have some gaps we need to seriously address.”

The district has recently revamped

its English curriculum for the younger grades, and it is working on adopting a new math curriculum for all grades, according to Butterfield-Boldig. She said it’s advantageous that her district is small, so it’s easier for staff to work with students one on one.

“Our students are growing at faster rates than other students in the state, and that means we are going to get there (closing the gaps) in the future,” she said. “We’re really looking at making sure we’re addressing the needs and meeting the needs of all of our demographics, not just the middle-of-the-road, average student.”

Suring School District Superintendent Kelly Casper said her district was “ecstatic and extremely excited” about the scores, especially considering the coronavirus pandemic disrupted learning institutions all over. School officials were able to look at the results prior to the information being released to the public, and Suring was eager to share its outstanding results with the public.

“We have room for growth, like everybody else, but we were very pleased,” Casper said. “We didn’t know, going into COVID, what it was going to look like.”

Michelle Pendl, Suring’s curriculum coordinator, said the district was trying to maintain as much of

“We believe in continuous improvement, so the focus needs to be improving those achievement scores, particularly for our subgroups — students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged and American Indian.”

GLEND BUTTERFIELD-BOLDIG, Bowler School District superintendent

its programming as possible during the pandemic. There were cameras in all of the classrooms to accommodate students who were in virtual learning, she said, so those students were able to participate in classes the same as the students attending in person.

“We didn’t use much for alternative programming, like canned curriculum,” Pendl said. “We didn’t go that route and decided to stick with what we’ve been doing here.”

According to the DPI, the scores this year are calculated in four areas — achievement, growth, target group outcomes and on-track to graduation.

Shawano School District’s report card looks different compared to previous years, according to Kurt Krizan, the district’s director of personalized learning, due to a number of changes made to the report card, so it’s not possible to do a comparison with previous years to look at improvement.

“It’s always difficult to compare district to district with the large numbers of some districts with non-participation and opting out of the testing,” Krizan said.

Despite that and despite being in virtual learning for a chunk of the last school year due to the pandemic, the district is pleased that its schools are meeting expectations.

“Anytime you can meet the expectations that are set by the state, that’s where you want to start off,” Krizan said. “We definitely know we have some work to do and some areas that we can celebrate where we’ve been successful.”

COURT NEWS

▪ Shakoka M. Wahsquonaikeshik, 37, Keshena, was charged Nov. 15 with one count of bail jumping and one misdemeanor count of criminal damage to property. Judge Katherine Sloma set a signature bond of \$1,000 and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Jan. 14.

▪ William J. Tomow, 33, Keshena, was charged Nov. 15 with one count of possession of THC (second or subsequent offense) and two misdemeanor counts of possession of drug paraphernalia. Sloma set a signature bond of \$750 and scheduled a resumed initial appearance for Dec. 15.

▪ Kaeyapon Komanekin, 42, Neopit, was charged Nov. 15 with one count of possession of methamphetamine. Sloma set a signature bond of \$1,000 and scheduled a resumed initial appearance for Dec. 21.

▪ Stacy A. Delgado, 30, Keshena, was charged Nov. 15 with four counts of bail

jumping, one misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct and one misdemeanor count of bail jumping. Sloma set a cash bond of \$250 and a signature bond of \$1,000. She also scheduled a scheduling conference for Nov. 17.

▪ Charges against Nicole L. Emery, 39, Keshena, were dismissed Nov. 16 on prosecutor's motion. Those charges include one count of possession of narcotic drugs and one misdemeanor count of theft of movable property, less than or equal to \$2,500.

▪ Wilbert N. Orley, 46, Shawano, pleaded no contest to one count of false imprisonment and one count of first-degree recklessly endangering safety. Two misdemeanor counts of disorderly conduct and three misdemeanor counts of battery were dismissed, but read into the record. One misdemeanor count of attempted first-degree intentional homicide was dismissed on prosecutor's

motion. Judge William Kussel Jr. sentenced Orley to five years in state prison and five years of extended supervision.

▪ Vernon C. Bessette, 59, Tigerton, was charged Nov. 18 with one count of possession of methamphetamine, two counts of bail jumping, one misdemeanor count of operating while revoked and one misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. Sloma set a signature bond of \$10,000 and scheduled a resumed initial appearance for Jan. 3.

▪ Cindy S. Bessette, 58, Clintonville, was charged Nov. 18 with one count of possession of methamphetamine, three counts of bail jumping, one misdemeanor count of possession of THC and one misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. Sloma set a signature bond of \$5,000 and scheduled a resumed initial appearance for Jan. 5.

▪ Joseph S. Duxtator, 52, Bowler, was

charged Nov. 18 with 10 counts of bail jumping and one misdemeanor count of operating without a valid license (second offense within the last three years). Sloma set a signature bond of \$5,000 and scheduled a resumed initial appearance for Dec. 13.

▪ Brenda S. Miller, 29, Bowler, was charged Nov. 18 with one count of battery or threat to a judge, prosecutor, or law enforcement officer, two misdemeanor count of resisting or obstructing an officer, and four misdemeanor counts of bail jumping. Sloma set a cash bond of \$750 and a signature bond of \$1,000. This case will resume at a later date.

▪ Bruce G. Cornelius, 35, Fox Lake, was charged Nov. 19 with one count of bail jumping and one misdemeanor count of operating while revoked. Sloma set a signature bond of \$2,500 and scheduled a resumed initial appearance for Dec. 10.

PUBLIC RECORD

SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Nov. 20

Officers responded to 16 calls, including disorderly conduct at Amerivu Inn and Suites, 211 Waukechon St.; a disturbance on East Lieg Avenue; an assault on County Road B; reckless driving on South Main Street; a disturbance on Teddington Lane.

Nov. 19

Officers responded to 40 calls, including a drug offense at ThedaCare Medical Center, 100 County Road B; a domestic disturbance on West Picnic Street; criminal damage at Luigi's Pizza, 607 S. Main St.

Nov. 18

Officers responded to 23 calls, including an automobile theft on West Eagle Street; car property damage at People's Express North, 1381 E. Green Bay St.; trespassing at Charlie's County Market, 521 S. Main St.; reckless driving on South Smalley Street; trespassing at Amerivu Inn and Suites, 211 Waukechon Street; an automobile theft at Lakeshore Lanes, 210 N. Airport Drive.

Nov. 17

Officers responded to 30 calls, including a hit-and-run on South Sawyer Street; property damage at People's Express North, 1381 E. Green Bay St.; reckless driving on South Maiden Lane; property theft on South Lincoln Street; a hit-and-run on North Main Street; reckless driving on South Lincoln Street; car property damage at Luigi's Pizza, 607 S. Main St.; reckless driving on East Green Bay Street; a burglary attempt on South Lincoln Street.

Nov. 16

Officers responded to 23 calls, including

a disturbance on West Fifth Street; a threat at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B; property damage at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B; shoplifting at Charlie's County Market, 521 S. Main St.

SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Nov. 20

Deputies responded to 36 calls, including a fleeing/pursuit on state Highway 47-55 in the Town of Wescott; reckless driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Waukechon; a domestic disturbance on East Green Bay Street in Bonduel; operating while intoxicated on East State Street in Bonduel; four crashes, two involving deer.

Nov. 19

Deputies responded to 43 calls, including operating while intoxicated on East Lieg Avenue in Shawano; reckless driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Waukechon; trespassing on Valley View Road in the Town of Pella; reckless driving on state Highway 47 in the Town of Hartland; property theft on Bartlett Street in Gresham; reckless driving on U.S. Highway 45 in Tigerton; a threat on Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; a domestic disturbance on Main Street in Gresham; eight crashes, five involving deer.

Nov. 18

Deputies responded to 35 calls, including trespassing on County Road U in the Town of Herman; one crash involving a deer.

Nov. 17

Deputies responded to 26 calls, including trespassing on state Highway 29

in the Town of Herman; reckless driving on state Highway 47 in the Town of Lessor; reckless driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Wittenberg; three crashes, one involving deer.

Nov. 16

Deputies responded to 29 calls, including trespassing on West Campfire

Road in the Town of Grant; trespassing on state Highway 47-55 in the Town of Wescott; a disturbance on County Road Y in the Town of Belle Plaine; reckless driving on County Road D in the Town of Pella; reckless driving on U.S. Highway 45 in the Town of Birnamwood; three crashes, one involving deer.

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

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

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Houses of worship can send their vital information, including physical addresses, days and times of services, names of leaders and contact information, to
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Have a story idea? Let us know!
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Asleep at the Wheel is coming to Wittenberg



Asleep at the Wheel traces its heritage to 1970 when Roy Benson, center, moved to Paw Paw, West Virginia, with friends Lucky Oceans and Leroy Preston and formed a band.

CONTRIBUTED

Americana legends play Dec. 5 at Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

Get ready for live music in Wittenberg.

Asleep at the Wheel, a Western swing band that started in West Virginia and has been entertaining audiences for more than 50 years, is coming to Wittenberg early next month.

"This is a part of their series of shows," said Rob Wyman, who is a concert promoter for Rubber Soul Productions LLC.

The concert will be held in the auditorium at the Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School starting at 7 p.m. Dec. 5.

"This is an opportunity for the auditorium to be used," said Wyman. "The auditorium is underused, so hosting a concert here made sense for us."

He said that Wittenberg was a good destination for the band to play because they are playing in Stoughton the night before. He also said that the

American roots style that Asleep at the Wheel plays may be popular in central Wisconsin.

"I think that they will play well to the community," said Wyman.

Tickets for the event are \$45 and all seats are reserved. Wyman said that some proceeds of this concert will go back to the school.

"We have high school groups help to set up the concert and take it down," said Wyman. "They also run the concessions. Some proceeds will be a donation to them."

Founded by guitar player Roy Benson in 1970, Asleep at the Wheel has released more than 30 albums and landed nearly two dozen singles on the country charts. Their latest album, "Half A Hundred Years," was released in August.

Wyman said that this concert originally was planned for May 2020 before the pandemic intervened.

"We have had to reschedule this concert twice," said Wyman. "It is odd to host a concert in December, because I am used to earlier months."

In his past experiences with booking concerts in Wittenberg, Wyman noticed that the majority of attendees come from out of town. As he has received calls about people interested in tickets, Wyman said that he has talked to people from surrounding states.

"One concert that we hosted in the past, there was someone who came all the way from Connecticut. People are passionate about the live music that they like," said Wyman. "For this concert, I am fielding calls from people in Minnesota, Illinois and Michigan — mostly our neighboring states."

Wyman estimates a solid crowd of people will attend this concert.

"In the past, we have had concerts that have sold out and some that have not done very well," said Wyman. "I anticipate there to be around 400 to 450 people at this one."

Wyman said that hosting this concert is a positive for the community.

"This helps Wittenberg," said Wyman. "This brings people from outside the area to Wittenberg. It

helps all of the local businesses."

He added that this concert gives people the opportunity to see a national live music act.

According to Wyman, the initial response from people he has talked to is that they are excited to hear that this band is coming to Wittenberg.

"I have been taking calls about the venue and some details about the concert," said Wyman. "I do think that they have had a positive response."

Wyman said that after the COVID-19 pandemic, Rubber Soul Productions has been trying to rebuild its brand.

"We are building momentum to building that brand," said Wyman. "We are slowly getting back."

Wyman anticipates that tickets will be available at the door, but he encourages people interested in buying tickets to call 715-584-4203 to be sure that they reserve their spot.

"This concert is inclusive for anyone," said Wyman. "If prior arraignments are needed, I can take calls."

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Monday, September 20	7:15 pm	DETROIT LIONS	ESPN
Sunday, September 26	7:20 pm	@ San Francisco 49ers	NBC
OCTOBER			
Sunday, October 03	3:25 pm	Pittsburgh Steelers (GOLD)	CBS
Sunday, October 10	NOON*	@ Cincinnati Bengals	FOX
Sunday, October 17	NOON*	@ Chicago Bears	FOX
Sunday, October 24	NOON*	WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM	FOX
Thursday, October 28	7:20 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 (GOLD)	FOX
DECEMBER			
BYE WEEK			
Sunday, December 12	7:20 pm*	CHICAGO BEARS	NBC
Sunday, December 19	NOON*	@ Baltimore Ravens	FOX
Saturday, December 25	9:30 pm	CLEVELAND BROWNS	FOX
JANUARY			
Sunday, January 02	7:20 pm*	MINNESOTA VIKINGS	NBC
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& BIRNAMWOOD NEWS

DATCP urges hunters to use local, certified firewood

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is asking hunters who use firewood to either buy local or certified firewood in order to prevent the spread of harmful forest pests and diseases. Protecting our forests helps preserve wildlife habitats used for hunting.

"Preventing the spread of forest pests and diseases supports tourism, timber and nursery industries," said Brian Kuhn, DATCP's Bureau of Plant Industry director. "Burning certified firewood is the safest option, as it has been treated to reduce the risk of spreading pests and diseases to new areas."

State certified firewood displays a DATCP label with a certification number and the firewood dealer's name. It is available at many retail locations including gas stations, and may be purchased directly from certified firewood dealers. DATCP's firewood dealer certification program is voluntary, and there are currently 36 participants.

"Just because you can't see them doesn't mean forest pests aren't present in your firewood," said Kuhn. "DATCP works closely with local, state and federal partners to survey for pests and diseases in order to protect the Wisconsin forests our citizens, businesses and communities rely on."

Examples of some of the pests and diseases DATCP monitors for include emerald ash borer, spotted lanternfly and Asian longhorned beetle. Limiting firewood movement helps prevent the spread of tree-killing and habitat-damaging insects, some of which are not yet established in Wisconsin. To learn about invasive pests in Wisconsin and how to identify and report them, visit <https://plantpests.wi.gov>.

For information and to learn about DATCP's firewood dealer certification and firewood movement rules, visit https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/Firewood.aspx.



Otto Schultz and Melissa Thomack, along with their dog, Brax, are shown with Shawano County's 376th barn quilt on their shed at E10646 County Road C, Clintonville.

JIM LEUENBERGER

Bald eagle takes flight on barn quilt

Shawano County's 376th barn quilt, featuring a bald eagle in flight, is now on display on a building owned by Otto Schultz at E10646 County Road C, Clintonville.

Schultz purchased 38 acres five years ago and has thought about getting a barn quilt ever since.

"I've seen the barn quilts around Shawano County, and my dad has one on his barn, so I thought it would be nice to get one too," Schultz said. His dad, Tim, got a barn quilt for his barn at 1521 E. Main St. in Embarrass, which is adjacent to Schultz's land, in 2011.

Schultz and his girlfriend, Melissa Thomack, picked out the quilt pattern.

"We wanted something simple," Thomack said, "and since we see bald eagles soaring over our prop-

erty quite often, thought it would be nice to have an eagle featured in the pattern."

Schultz added that since his mother and Thomack's dad have died during the past few years, they feel that every time they see an eagle, it's their parents watching over them and letting them know they are OK.

"That's why we named the quilt 'Watching Over You,'" he said.

Thomack is a hairdresser in Clintonville, and Schultz hauls fuel and oil throughout the Midwest, something he's done for the past five years.

The 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.

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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.

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

WWW.NEWMEDIA-WI.COM

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

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Abrams theater to present 'Guys and Dolls'

Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. invites the community to its performance of the Broadway musical "Guys and Dolls."

Tickets are on sale now for this entertaining love story, to be presented Dec. 2-5 and Dec. 9-12 at the Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St., Abrams. The show, directed by Abby Frank, is a classic Broadway musical that the whole family can enjoy.

"This is a large cast of about 25 actors, all doing so many different things — all for the same show," Frank said. "We have talent of all ages, plenty of veterans to ASPI, as well as several new faces. They've all been working exceptionally hard to pull together this big show in our two-month timeline."

"Guys and Dolls" is a story of two big-city gamblers and the women who love them. Set in Depression-era Times Square, the show features the overlapping stories of Sky Masterson, who falls in love with mission worker Sarah Brown, and Nathan Detroit, engaged for 14 years to Hot Box Club headliner Miss Adelaide.

"This show has several well-known songs the audience is sure to love, including 'A Bushel and a Peck' and 'Sit Down You're Rocking the Boat,'" Frank said. "I can't wait for our talented actors to show you what



A group of gamblers rehearse a scene for the musical "Guys and Dolls," to be presented Dec. 2-5 and Dec. 9-12 at the Nancy Byng Community Theater in Abrams. Performing are, from left, David Woosencraft, Nick Blaser, Bobby Buffington, Sydney Surber, and Will Knaapen. JOAN KOEHNE

they can do."

"Guys and Dolls" is based on the story and characters of Damon Run-

yon, with music and lyrics by Frank Loesser and book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrowsis.

To order tickets, visit abramsspotlightproductions.com or call the box office, 920-826-5852.

County Board OKs upgrades to emergency system

Existing radio system has been in service since 2006

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

A long-awaited upgrade of Oconto County's emergency radio system is being funded after a series of votes on Nov. 10 by the Oconto County Board of Supervisors.

"We have been working on this since I got here," Emergency Management Director Jon Spice told the board. "It's a long time a-coming."

The largest expenditure is a \$1.478 million contract to replace the current infrastructure equipment for the radio system that enables law enforcement, rescue and other emergency services to talk with each

other. The contract is with Motorola Solutions, with Baycom continuing to service the system.

"The last time this was upgraded was in 2006. When that stuff was installed, they gave us seven to 10 years of actual service, so we're past the useful service life of that equipment," Spice said. "It is still working OK, but I imagine it's just a matter of time before we have some sort of catastrophic failure. ... Being that this is life safety equipment, we want to make sure that we stay on top of it."

The funds were included in the 2022 county budget and will come from an established radio upgrade fund. Spice said the time is now to purchase the equipment, with a price increase expected early next year.

The board also authorized the purchase of portable radios for sher-

iff's department and other emergency services for \$182,312.97, to be funded out of the county's allocation under the federal American Rescue Plan Act.

Sheriff Todd Skarban said technology has advanced since the current radios and infrastructure were installed 15 years ago.

"These radios work really well in basements of houses, and we can get out in metal buildings and that type of thing," Skarban said. "That's the kind of safety that we need for our staff and my teammates when they're out there dealing with dangerous situations."

Finally, the board approved contracts for two new emergency radio towers that county officials said would improve communication between dispatchers and deputies on the road

in remote areas of the county.

Finish Tower, of Hiawatha, Iowa, was awarded the low-bid contract of \$652,472 to erect a 330-foot tower at the county highway shop in the Town of Mountain.

Daniels Construction, of Madison, received the contract of \$363,935 to build a 199-foot tower at the county courthouse in Oconto.

While the Mountain tower will be a traditional radio tower with guy wires, the courthouse tower will be a monopole, "so it'll kind of look like a gigantic flagpole," Spice said.

County Administrator Kevin Hamann said the current radio tower at the courthouse is 120 feet high, so the new tower is expected to greatly improve coverage.

wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com

"The last time this was upgraded was in 2006. When that stuff was installed, they gave us seven to 10 years of actual service, so we're past the useful service life of that equipment."

JON SPICE, Oconto County emergency management director

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Bazaar happenings at St. Michael's



Lots of goodies are available for perusal Nov. 20 during the holiday bazaar at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Keshena. Proceeds from the event will benefit the church's St. Kateri Prayer Circle, which offers up prayers to those in need.



Donna Smith helps Jaden Brown, 5, of Shawano, to select some books during the holiday bazaar Nov. 20 at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Keshena.



Kristi Kirk, right, points out where to pay for food while Carla Wilber prepares some soup on a tray Nov. 20 at the holiday bazaar at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Keshena.

PHOTOS BY LEE PULASKI • CITY EDITOR

WHY I GIVE THANKS

An annual collection of essays by community leaders in Northeast Wisconsin

Editor's note: For several years, NEW Media has asked community leaders to write a short essay on "Why I Give Thanks." These essays can be about the Thanksgiving holiday, what the writer is grateful for or just the concept of gratitude.

These are personal reflections,

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

deadline.

Knowing this, it is especially important for the editorial and advertising team at NEW Media to say "Thank you" to these writers. Thank you for sharing what is important to you. Thank you for being willing to make your feel-

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

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

Thankful for local heroes, friends, family

By JERRY MOYNIHAN

This opportunity to share with the community about what I am thankful for could not have come at a better time. I am currently reading John Maino's book "Fifty Strong," a collection of the personal stories about local veterans. Reading this book, during a time when we celebrate Veterans Day, has given me perspective and reminds me of the freedoms we have in America.

I am thankful for local veterans Chuck Wellens, Wilfred Cariveau, Hubert Robenhorst, Gerald Gerndt, and the thousands of other great American veterans I have not mentioned. These heroes were mere boys from Lena, Gillett, Surging, Stiles and Oconto Falls when they went to fight for our freedom in Vietnam, Korea and many other lands far away. They were boys who answered the call. They were boys who became men so that I could have my freedom.

Their stories make me especially grateful for my wonderful life in Oconto Falls. I am thankful because their sacrifice allows me to go to a job that is exciting, challenging and, most of all, incredibly rewarding. It is a job that I get to watch kids run, jump, shoot,



Jerry Moynihan is a familiar face at Oconto Falls High School, as athletic and activities director.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

throw, dance, laugh, cry and so much more! I am also thankful for their sacrifice because they allow me to live in a community that supports our red, white and blue, supports our black and blue, and supports all our first responders. All because of them, I can walk around our safe, beautiful city and travel throughout this amaz-

ing country to visit family and friends.

Seeing our local veterans at the recent Veterans Day assembly at Oconto Falls High School made me also think about the little things that I am thankful for. The most important things are not money, cars, houses or things. They are the good people from

this great community: friends who make booyah to share with the neighborhood; coaches who bring cookies to share with their team; parents who pick up pizza after work to bring to a parent meeting; my mail carrier, who is always pleasant every time I see her; and my assistant who has the same passion for her job as I do. Most importantly, I am thankful for my incredible family. I have a father I can visit on any given day, family and friends who are a call or text away, a daughter who goes to school in the same building that I work in so every day is "Take Your Daughter to Work Day," a son who has chosen to pursue a life of service as a firefighter/paramedic, and a wife who will let me work 60 hours per week and still allow me to go to the Packers game!

Finally, I am thankful for the person who asked me to write this letter. How often do we take time to reflect on our lives? I can truly say that being thankful can be interchanged with being blessed, being happy, being loved and being in a life that I would not change for anything!

Jerry Moynihan is athletic and activities director at Oconto Falls High School



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Home again to a loving and caring community

By **GLENDa BUTTERFIELD-BOLDIG**

I am truly thankful for so many things in my life that I cannot possibly list them all in such a short essay, but I've included those things that are most important and influential in my life. Thank you for allowing me to share them with you.

I am thankful for a loving and supportive family ...

My three siblings and I were raised by two hard-working parents. We certainly didn't have everything we wanted, but we definitely had everything we needed. Mostly, we had parents who instilled in us a strong work ethic, a belief that every person deserves dignity and respect, and that if someone was in need and we could help, then we should.

I am thankful for all the ways life doesn't go as planned ...

Twenty-four years ago, I came to the wonderful community of Bowler as a new teacher. I moved here because I had met someone in college from the area. Within a couple of years, our relationship had ended. But then I was introduced to the man who would become my husband.

I am thankful that I cannot predict the future ...

Dave Boldig is a Bowler boy through and through. His roots run deep in Bowler and when we were married in 2003, I knew my roots were forever connected here, too. Over the years, I taught in other districts, worked for CESA 8 and then was hired as the principal in White Lake in 2012. Dave retired in May 2017, and we moved from Bowler to Mountain. We enjoyed UTVing, fishing, vacationing, bonfires and cookouts with friends and family. We were looking forward to "post-COVID" so we could really start enjoying life again. Then on



Glenda Butterfield-Boldig holds a card "In Memory of David E. Boldig," her spouse who passed away in January 2021. David was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and died 13 days later. The Mountain Bay Trail was a favorite of David's; he was an avid snowmobile rider and member of the Bowler Bay Riders Snowmobile Club.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

New Year's Eve 2020, Dave started complaining of stomach pains. I lost him 13 days later to pancreatic cancer.

I am thankful that I get to do something I love every day ...

I believe that education is a calling, and I was called to serve students and families in this profession. I get the opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of others every day and I can't imagine a more fulfilling role.

I am thankful for my caring and loving friends ...

Through all the happiest events and deepest grief, I have been blessed to have friends to share those moments with me. I have

friends I've known since kindergarten, those with whom I've worked, and friends who entered my life through others. I love you all.

I am thankful that God has always provided for me ...

After my husband died, I had no reason to expect all of the things that followed to go smoothly: selling the house, changing jobs, moving. But I felt protected and provided for at every challenge. I can only attribute that to God's influence in my life and in the lives of others who stepped up to support me through the difficult times.

I am thankful for renewing old friendships ...

I have now returned to the

Bowler community, where I belong. Upon my return I realized that although I had left the community for a few years, it had never left me. I was welcomed back as the new superintendent at Bowler School and, more importantly, embraced by the community as a family member returning home. I am also deeply thankful that I reconnected with an exceptional man whom I have known for years. Joe has been my guiding light, leading me back from the darkness of grief. Because of his kindness and compassion, I am able to smile, laugh and love once again.

Glenda Butterfield-Boldig is superintendent of the Bowler School District.



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Emerging from pandemic season with gratitude

By MATTY MATHISON

The COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly impacted many of us in various ways. There have been times of great sorrow. But it has also provided me the opportunity to recognize who and what is important in my life. Despite the losses, I have much to be thankful for.

Nov. 19, 2020. The phone call I never wanted to receive. It was my 96-year-old-mother. "I have COVID. I can't taste or smell anything. My throat hurts, I ache all over and I can't stop coughing." I could tell from her voice she was scared — and so was I.

My eight siblings and I, along with Mom, had discussed previously what our options would be if Mom got COVID, so we had a general plan. Mom made it very clear she did not want to leave her apartment, and we would try to make that happen. Early the next morning, my EMT niece Katie and I were there with face shields, masks and gloves. "Grandma, if you can keep your temperature down and oximeter readings good, I think we can keep you out of the hospital. It's important that you rest, stay hydrated and eat, even though you can't taste."

Twice a day I did "window" visits and then reported out to my siblings. In between visits, I walked ... and walked ... and walked. Breathing fresh air and moving brought a sense of comfort and peace. I found myself being so thankful that my mom was alive and not getting worse.

After many days, Mom started to look and feel better, and she even seemed interested in a Thanksgiving dinner. It was 46 degrees, and I was sitting on a planter outside Mom's apartment window, eating cold turkey and watching my mother enjoying her meal, despite not being able to taste much. It was absolutely the best Thanksgiving I've ever had! As I write this and think back on those dark days,

I am so thankful for my family and friends. They provided support in so many ways — an apartment to stay in, food delivered to my door, listening to my fears, sharing my tears, providing wise medical advice, bringing me clothes, taking care of our home and the dogs, checking in with me and asking how they could help.

Many of you know, being quarantined is challenging and very lonely. I had support, but I needed something more, and my partner, Harlan, knew exactly what that was. A dog visit! We met halfway between Appleton and Shawano, and Magic, one of our curly-coated retrievers, was out of the car and in my arms almost immediately. Canine hugs and kisses! Just what I needed! I returned to the apartment rejuvenated.

Heidi, Winter, Lakota, Jasper, Magic, Morgan and Sister. I'm grateful for the lessons I've learned from each one of these rescue dogs. They're loyal, transparent, are always glad to see us and show unconditional love. They love to play, eat snacks, make us laugh and are always up for an adventure. They read our emotions and respond accordingly. They are good listeners and "stress-busters." Their only fault is they don't live long enough. I recognize that these characteristics also describe my friends and family. I hope they take that as the ultimate compliment!

The yearlong isolation was difficult for me at times; I thrive on in-person interactions. However, my energy channeled into endeavors that demanded creativity, planning and organization, hands-on physical activities and limited small group projects as well as learning new-to-me possibilities such as Zoom meetings. I'm thankful these challenges resulted in satisfying personal growth, group accomplishments and, often, community improvements.

It's snowing today, and my favorite season is coming. It's time to start the outdoor wood stove, and I smile



Matty Mathison has lived in a cabin on the Wolf River since 1976. Her yard represents "many of the things she loves." A wood carving serves as a memorial to her beloved curly-coated retrievers, adopted through the years as part of a rescue program.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

as I look at the wood I've stacked — plenty for 2022. Mom is back to baking, sewing, quilting, rosemaling, walking, exercising and cheering for the Packers. I will take a hike with my faithful companion, Morgan. I will text pictures from the forest to my friends and family and give silent thanks for

the educators, health care workers, essential workers and volunteers who have worked so diligently to help us through these trying times.

"Matty" (Janis) Mathison
Nov. 15, 2021

Matty Mathison is a longtime Shawano County resident and a key member of Shawano Pathways.

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Early lessons led to a lifetime of service

By MIKE REIMER

There are numerous opportunities, blessings and gifts in life, and I try to focus my appreciation on them every day.

I, personally, am most appreciative of being raised in a home of faith. I wish that everyone could have this kind of upbringing. People of faith learn personal strength, independence, humility and kindness. Our community has many people of faith across many denominations. I believe it positively contributes to our cooperation and common sense approaches to our challenges.

I have had people in my life offer me prayer and guidance. Relationships with family, friends, colleagues, neighbors and others have been important to me. The opportunities created through people in my life have been more than I deserve, and I am indebted to all of them.

I am thankful that when growing up I was made to do my homework and chores. I am thankful that I was made to work from a very young age — mowing lawns, shoveling snow and many, many part-time jobs and much volunteer work. Through this, I was able to develop an appreciation for education and am forever grateful that I was somehow able to secure an education. The struggle to support oneself through an education can be very difficult yet very rewarding. There were many life lessons to be learned through that time. The experience of the struggle is something that I will always appreciate, and those life lessons continue to help me now.

I am thankful to be a citizen of our country. I hope that all of us recognize the significance of this gift. The understanding of the freedoms that we have need to be passed down to the younger people. This is our responsibility. I do not believe we can understate the importance of United States citizenship in our lives. I believe that our young

people can also understand the sacrifices made for them and future generations by patriotic Americans if we only tell them about our history, including the bad as well as the good. There are many young Americans who want to be patriotic and want to understand the privilege of their citizenship.

I appreciate the communities that I have been able to live and work in. I have a strong regard for the excellence and resiliency of all people, and especially those that continue to live with pain, trauma and challenges. I have a special sense of appreciation for those who are caregivers for their elderly family members, disabled family members, grandchildren and foster children. They are unsung heroes.

I appreciate all of those who work to provide for their families. The people who sacrifice for their children, work hard in their jobs, involve themselves in their children's lives, protect their families and help their neighbors are our strength. These are the folks who give our community the high quality of life that we enjoy. We need to help all of our younger people to take the responsibility to continue to preserve what we have, including all of those who have made mistakes and are working to improve. We need everybody.

I am blessed to have been able to serve the citizens of Oconto County for most of my career. The stories and life situations of our citizens have offered me a perspective that many do not see. I have great respect for the strength of those who remain kind to others despite their suffering. It is an honor to serve those who come to us. There are many amazing things that happen every day in our community. I am thankful for the things that I have been able to assist with or in some way support.

I give thanks for all of these reasons.

Mike Reimer retires in January as director of the Oconto County Health and Human Services Department, where he has served the county for three decades.



Mike Reimer says he is blessed to have served Oconto County citizens for most of his career.

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Seeking joy and miracles in every moment

By DAVE PASSEHL

Being thankful means being grateful and finding joy every day!

Have you ever been asked what you are thankful for? It's harder than you think; unfortunately it is far easier to talk about our problems, sadness or complaints in general. Our circumstances typically set the tone each day, but today and most days, I choose to be joyful. Many who know me know that I am an eternal optimist and try very hard to find joy in whatever situation I'm put in. I'm happy that I am able to create that perception of optimism, but you should know that I have daily struggles just like you ... but I choose to dig deep and find joy.

There are so many immediate things I think about when asked what I'm thankful for. Like my beautiful wife and children and our parents who have laid a foundation of integrity for us to build on. Our health and protection which we pray for each day. A great and supportive group of friends who share similar family values and interests. For an amazing community to live in with great schools for our kids to attend and a wonderful church to worship at freely. Our home to live in, and cars that work; the freedoms we enjoy because of those who fought for them. This short list can go on and on, but I'll simply expand on a few.

I am grateful for a family that loves and supports me and makes me feel that I matter to them. My wife, Leah, and I both have parents who care and lead by example, and we each have brothers and sisters who are not just family but are our friends, too. My wife has been my biggest fan since we met 24½ years ago, and I couldn't imagine life without her. I'm grateful that God put Leah in my life at literally just the right time that many years ago, and she has been my partner in life since. We've struggled and thrived, just like everyone else, but have learned that living to honor God and each other has created a life we were destined for. We



Dave Passehl, a longtime Ski Sharks volunteer and president for the organization, stands on the shores of the Wolf River, the site of the Ski Sharks shows.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

are blessed with four children who are smart, caring and talented and who certainly keep us on our toes. From age 9 to 17, I can say we seem to always have a sporting event, school event, a church event and of course another ski show to get to! But we wouldn't have it any other way. I'm proud of each of them and pray for a veil of protection over them every day. God has big plans for all of them, and we can't wait to see what's next.

I'm grateful to live in Shawano for what we feel is a small community with big opportunities. Traveling around our country, we often find nice places to visit, but Leah and I always look forward to coming home. Shawano provides a safe place to live, with so many resources and opportunities to enjoy life. We love the time we spend on the Wolf River and Shawano Lake with family and friends, our vibrant downtown and walking into a restaur-

ant and knowing most of the people in it. I love how our community rallies around the Shawano Ski Sharks, our family's summer pastime that we can all participate in together. I'm grateful that our city leaders continue working to make our city great ... including helping our ski team carry out our crazy visions of making Shawano a true water-ski destination.

I am grateful for the blessing of growing a business in our great little town. Our financial planning firm is built with an amazing team of advisers and the best administrative team anyone could hope for! Waking up every day and looking forward to working with our team, my business partner, Scott, and our incredible clients is a great feeling and makes my work not feel like work, but as a calling to serve.

As I close on the dialogue for what I'm thankful for, I wanted to share words of wisdom that my good friend

Manny reminds us of all the time: "No matter how bad we think we have it, there's a million other people that would trade their circumstances for ours in a heartbeat." This sits well with me, and I think it is the perfect summary to why I choose to be grateful in all circumstances — as hard as it can be sometimes. If you really think about it, your days are made up of hundreds of little victories — even miracles — that if you would notice them, I suspect that joy could be found even in the struggle. So, when you ask me how I'm doing, and I respond in one of my two classic ways, "never better" or "living the dream," please understand, not everything in my life is perfect, but I work very hard to live with joy in my life and I hope my response is encouraging to you.

Dave Passehl is president of the Shawano Ski Sharks water-ski team and a Thrivent financial representative in Shawano.

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Grateful for those special moments of clarity

By JENNIFER LAUDE BISTERFELDT

Every once in a while, you'll have one of those moments of clarity — when you see the world from a different perspective. Suddenly, the colors are a little brighter, and your happiness catches you off guard. I had one of those moments today. A split-second of pause when you think to yourself, "Everything is OK."

These moments can be few and far between, especially in the rush of daily life. We go to work, engage mindlessly in the monotony of daily exercise and regimen, run kids to swim practice or piano lessons. Before you know it, the day is over and there has been no time for reflection. Then, suddenly, it hits you ... through all the chaos and routine, for a moment, all is well with the world. You say to yourself, "Today was OK! I'm happy, healthy, have people to love and they love me. Overall, life is good." Those few seconds of pause are special. It's the final reflection on the constant of life. A true gift from some higher level of consciousness. I love those moments.

Often, these realizations come after a period of challenges. To have and to be thankful for contentment arises out of difficult times. I think I am always very conscious of this as my work in nonprofits (currently with Safe Haven and previously with SAM25) reminds me daily that life isn't always so easy. Devoting my days to organizations with missions that are centered around helping people during some of the darkest periods of their lives really provides you with a large dose of reality. This awareness is further deepened when the holiday season approaches. We try to lighten the holidays and provide all of the comforts possible, but it can still be a very lonesome time



Jennifer Laude Bisterfeldt had served as executive director for Shawano Area Matthew 25 until recently, when she took leadership over Safe Haven in Shawano.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

of year — especially for anyone living in shelter.

While the holidays tend to be a bit melancholy when you do this work, it all makes me incredibly grateful for the simple things in life ... the most essential things. Basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter; a warm, safe place where you can find refuge. I pray each night before I close my eyes, and the first thing I reflect upon is my gratefulness for a bed, a roof over my head and the comfort it all brings. I'm truly grateful for the most basic pieces of my well-being because I'm all too aware that many people go without

them. We should all take stock in the many things we have to be grateful for, as all of this will end one day. Nothing is forever, and good times will surely be replaced by hard times. However, if we hold on long enough, we can eventually have those "Everything is OK" moments again. We persevere through sadness, grief and life's challenges to come out on the other side with a thankfulness for simply being alive. That is a gift!

For this holiday, for this month, this year and all the rest of my days, I will never take the comfort of a warm bed, a full stomach and the refuge of a

home for granted. I treasure the safety and security of my family and a home to raise them in. It is a beautiful thing to have those moments of clarity. I'm especially thankful to understand that my experience is unique and that not everyone has these comforts. I pray for all who are suffering that they have those moments of peace, too. It is in our darkest days that we see the basic routine of life as the greatest gift. It means everything is OK.

Jennifer Laude Bisterfeldt is executive director of Safe Haven, which provides domestic abuse shelter services from its base in Shawano.



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Town of Menominee, WI Invitation for Bid for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and Accessories Solicitation Notice 22 November 2021

The Town of Menominee Fire Department, which is located in Menominee County, Wisconsin, is requesting sealed bids to provide: (a) 71 self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) equipment and accessories; (b) seven additional face pieces; (c) as an option, annual qualitative fit testing for five years for all face pieces; and (d) as an option, annual air flow testing for 71 self-contained breathing apparatus units.

Award of the bid is to be funded in part with federal funds through the FY2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). Funding is contingent upon compliance with all terms and conditions of funding award. All prospective bidders shall comply with all applicable federal laws, regulations, executive orders, Assistance to Firefighter grants (AFG)/FEMA requirements and the terms and conditions of the funding award. In addition, bidders providing submittals shall be responsible for complying with state law and local ordinances.

In order to be considered for award, all sealed bids must be submitted in writing and received no later than **4:00 p.m. on December 6, 2021**. Bidders mailing bid packages should allow delivery time to ensure timely receipt of their bid. The responsibility for getting the bid response to the Town of Menominee Clerk on or before the specified time and date is solely and strictly the responsibility of the submitting bidder. The Town of Menominee Fire Department and the Town of Menominee shall in no way be responsible for delays caused by any occurrence.

Sealed bids may be hand delivered or mailed to:
Town of Menominee
Attn: Town Clerk
P.O. Box 279
W3269 Courthouse Lane
Keshena, WI 54135

Hours of Operations: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday
Phone: (715) 799-3311
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Questions regarding the bid information may be directed to Fire Chief Pat Roberts, Town of Menominee Fire Department, at (715) 853-6213.

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Faith, family, friends and the beautiful Northwoods

By KEVIN HAMANN

Faith

Always be thankful for everything God has provided. God has provided family, friends and this beautiful place in northeast Wisconsin.

I am thankful for our church community, especially Father Nusi and the Knights of Columbus members, who support me spiritually as well as through fellowship. Giving thanks to God is something I need to do more often, not just once a year at Thanksgiving or just when life is going well.

Family

Thankful for my wife, Sheila, who passed away almost two years ago, but spent 35 years putting up with me. Thankful for our twins, Amanda and Steven, who turned out pretty darn good. Glad they listened to their mother. Thankful for my mom and dad. As I grow older, I realize how much they sacrificed and were much smarter and wiser than I ever thought growing up. I am thankful for my in-laws — yes, in-laws. They all live in the Crivitz area and seem to have a get-together for every type of event. Typical holiday gatherings are 40 to 50 people, with no shortage of food, drink and friendly ribbing. They also taught me the tradition of hunting camp. Thankful for my dog, Lacey. The tail-wagging greeting after work, the numerous walks a day and that face that can change your attitude from a frown to a smile. Thankful for the rituals that give security and meaning to daily life. For those who know me, I like routine and normal schedules. These past few years have really tested me, and those rituals have gotten me through some tough times.

Friends

Thankful for my close friends, especially my best friend from high school, Roger. Thankful for him to be alive, as he is a heart transplant recipient, now going on eight years. Thankful for my work friends for my 25 years at



Kevin Hamann has spent the past quarter-century working under the dome of the Oconto County Courthouse. He retires in January as county administrator. GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Oconto County. Staying that long in one place, especially in my position, is unusual. Friendly and supportive co-workers make those years enjoyable. Thankful also for a supportive county board, who took a chance on a young, unpolished kid. Glad they still accept the unpolished portion.

Sometimes it's the small things that I am thankful for. Neighbors waving hi, especially Mike who also gives Lacey the loving and dog treats. Also, Tom who rolls down his truck window just

to say "Good morning, Kevin," in a loud voice, to myself and Lacey, while we walk by early in the morning by the elementary school.

Northwoods

Peace and quiet in the woods, the fall colors, numerous places to fish, hunt and enjoy the outdoors. Sharp Park in Oconto has served as a peaceful and beautiful place to take a walk with Lacey after work to unwind and take all the stresses out of the day. A quiet

place on the bay or an inland lake to fish certainly is something to be thankful for. Thankful for the in-laws for the land to hunt in the Crivitz area. This time of the year to be out in the woods seem to soothe the soul and make me appreciate the wonders of nature.

I am truly grateful for faith, family, friends and the beautiful Northwoods. That is why I give thanks.

After serving Oconto County as administrative coordinator and now county administrator since 1996, Kevin Hamann is scheduled to retire Jan. 7.

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Grateful for non-negotiables: family, career, relationships

By CHRIS NIER

Recently I attended the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association Conference in Wisconsin Dells for three days, and one of the lectures I attended talked about non-negotiables in your life.

When I was asked to list what I was thankful for, I immediately went to those non-negotiables. When it comes right down to it, my family, my career and my relationships instantly come to mind.

On any given day, I spend most of my waking hours working as an athletic director, volleyball coach and dean of students at the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District. I am very thankful to have a career I enjoy and work with people that I truly care about. I am thankful for the opportunity to make a difference in students' lives, especially through coaching girls' volleyball and working with the students and athletes of the Witt-Birn School District. I am thankful for the elementary students who always wave to me in the hall, the middle schoolers who joke around with me and the high school kids who stop by my office and say hi, even if it is just to get a Jolly Rancher! I am thankful I get to know the volleyball team so well as they keep me young and make me laugh every single day! When things get hectic and it feels like I can't keep my head above water, I thankfully am surrounded by coworkers — including teachers, aides, custodians, secretaries, coaches, officials, administration and all the other staff who work for the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District — who always seem to step up and help when I most need it.

In my downtime, I spend my summers in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and I'm very thankful for God's gift of the U.P. and beautiful Lake Superior. I'm not sure what I did to deserve that opportunity to spend so much time in the woods and on the beach, but I feel very lucky and thank-



Chris Nier credits her many coworkers for helping her when things get hectic in her various roles at the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

ful I can. The summer months give me the chance to unwind and spend a lot of time with friends and family and my dog, Willow, too!

Above all, my family would be the No. 1 thing I am most thankful for. Now that my kids are grown and out of the house, living in De Pere, Texas and Waukesha, I realize what I want most is to spend time with them. I am so thankful for who they are, what they have achieved and what kind of people they have become. Having smart, hard-working, kind and funny kids is a blessing. Although I am thankful for the time I do get to spend with them, especially when we are rarely all to-

gether, what I am even more thankful for is that they are happy, healthy and successful.

In addition to my kids, I am thankful for my husband, Eric, and his great sense of humor. I'm the one who makes sure things get done in our family, but he's the one that makes sure we have fun doing it. Also I am thankful for my parents for their never-ending love and support and for being great role models to me, raising me in a way that I am proud of, even if I did make more than my share of mistakes along the way. They provided an example for me to follow when Eric and I raised our kids. I am also thankful to

my mother-in-law for giving me my husband and loving my children along with the rest of my extended family. Even though we are spread out all over the country, when we are together we have a fantastic time!

To sum it all up, in my opinion, the key to my life being happy, healthy and successful is maintaining positive relationships with family, friends, coworkers, students, athletes and God. I am thankful to have those relationships in my life and, because of that, I am truly blessed.

Chris Nier is athletic director, volleyball coach and dean of students for the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District.

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CLUB NOTES



Participating in the 75th anniversary celebration for Delta Kappa Gamma, Nu Chapter, on Nov. 6 were, from left, front row, Marge Wichmann, Chris VanHoof, Joan Huber and Mary Kovach; middle row, Deb Rades, State President Stephanie Malaney, Sig Shaw, Nancy Brewer, Jenny Hangartner and Lynn Aprill; back row, Sue Hlinak, Pat Osmuss, Elaine Schuler, Jodi Mallak, Peggy Nerby, Carol Gerlach, Wendy Dallman, Jan Mielke, Kathy Akey, Judy Kucksdorf and Mary Lou Donnelly.

CONTRIBUTED

Lena Lions

The Lena Lions Club honored Logan Shallow, son of Rich and Jenni Shallow, as student of the month for October. The award was presented by Lion Ben Pyteleski, district administrator and elementary principal of the Lena Public Schools.

Logan is a senior at Lena High School where he is a member of the National Honor Society and Lena High Band. Logan is an enthusiastic athlete and uses skills on the Lena High football, baseball, and basketball teams. His friends describe him as gentle, committed, and agreeable.



LOGAN SHALLOW

Logan's hobbies are hunting and weightlifting. His community activities include helping at the National Honor Society Food Drive, St. Anne's Food Pantry, helping with the religious education program at St. Annes Parish, and Love Begins Here community service.

Logan's work experience includes cutting grass at the St. Annes Cemetery and working at Lena Swamp Archery.

Logan plans on attending the University of Wisconsin-Platteville to earn a degree in electrical engineering and play college basketball.

Delta Kappa Gamma

Delta Kappa Gamma, Nu Chapter, celebrated its 75th anniversary during the Nov. 6 meeting held at Crystal Falls in New London. Wisconsin



DEB RADES

chapter history.

Fourteen Shawano County women were initiated into Delta Kappa Gamma in Milwaukee on Nov. 9, 1946. Olga Brener was the founding organizer and the chapter's first vice president. She was the principal at Lincoln School for 43 years and founded Girl Scouts in Shawano. The chapter president was Hulga Goergen, who taught at Franklin Middle School.

Deb Rades was initiated during the chapter's November meeting. She is a fourth grade teacher in the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District. Deb graduated from University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, earning a degree in elementary education, grades 1-6, and special education, preK-9.

Delta Kappa Gamma, Nu Chapter, includes 39 key women educators in Shawano and Waupaca counties. The chapter sponsors a scholarship for students enrolled in a school of education, distributes books for newborns to local hospitals and clinics, supports Educators Rising, and donates \$200 to each of two different school libraries each year.

State Organization President Stephanie Malaney, along with 20 chapter members, was present. Second Vice President Lynn Aprill gave a Slidesgo presentation about



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Club Notes can be submitted for publication by emailing them to news@newmedia-wi.com

County Board compensation plan revised

Supervisors approve pay plan, new district boundaries

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

The new Oconto County Board committee structure is still being tweaked, but the pay for the 2022-24 supervisors has been set.

That's because compensation needs to be established prior to Dec. 1, when nomination papers begin circulating for the next term, County Clerk Kim Pytleski told the board Nov. 10.

The new compensation plan passed 26-2, with supervisors Gregory Sekela and Kenneth Linzmeyer dissenting.

Currently supervisors are paid a per-diem fee for attending meetings of the full board and its 14 standing committees. That creates some disparity among the board members, who serve on as few as one committee or as many as five.

Under the system given tentative

approval in October, the number of standing committees will be reduced to six, and each supervisor will be given just one committee assignment.

The new pay structure provides most supervisors with a \$200 monthly salary and a per diem of \$100 per meeting, or about \$3,600 a year. They would get an additional \$60 per diem for meetings of non-standing committees, such as the Library Board, that don't necessarily meet every month.

Pytleski said on average that would give them approximately the same compensation as they receive now.

The chair and vice chair will each receive more compensation based on their extra duties. The chair is in line for a \$15,000 annual salary but will not receive additional pay for attending meetings. Current Chairman Paul Bednarek attends several committee meetings every month in addition to coming to the courthouse as often as three or four days a week.

The vice chair will receive a \$4,900 base salary with the same per-diem pay as other supervisors.

County Administrator Kevin Hamann acknowledged that having a

base salary could be seen as reducing the incentive to show up for meetings, but he said there's more to being a county board member than attending meetings.

"You have other duties other than going to the county board and committee," Hamann said. "People call you; you have to do other things. That's what the salary is for."

Pytleski added that sometimes supervisors get sick or otherwise just can't physically come to a meeting.

"That's what we've seen in the past, too. Somebody will fall ill the day before, and they've done all the work. They've read everything; they've answered for their constituents. They've let me know if they have any objections," she said.

The board also gave final approval to the new boundaries between the 31 supervisory districts, based on the results of the 2020 U.S. Census.

Supervisors had instructed Hamann to draft the plan without regard to where incumbents live. As a result, several of the new districts have no incumbent, and two or more incumbents live in several other districts and would have to run against each other.

Districts with more than one incumbent include District 6 in the Town of Chase, where Supervisors Dennis Kroll and Robert Pott reside; District 9 in Abrams and Morgan, home to Allan Stranz, Fran Wranosky and Leonard Wahl; District 11 in the Towns of Oconto and Pensaukee, home to Diane Nichols and Karl Ballestad; District 15 in the Town of Little River and City of Oconto, where John Matravers and Rose Stellmacher live; and District 22 in the towns of Brazeau and Spruce, where Bednarek and David Parmentier reside.

Districts with open seats include District 3 (parts of Little Suamico and Chase), District 7 (Chase Wards 4 and 5), District 8 (parts of Abrams and Morgan), District 12 (Oconto Wards 1 and 2), District 20 (parts of Stiles and the city of Oconto Falls), and District 28 (parts of How and Breed).

Nomination papers must be submitted by 5 p.m. Jan. 4. Incumbents who decide not to run for reelection are required to submit a notice of non-candidacy by Dec. 25.

wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com

Love Lights tree returns to St. Clare hospital

The Volunteer Partners for HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital in Oconto Falls are again inviting the community to participate in Love Lights, an annual Christmas fundraiser.

People can honor a loved one or a health care hero by having the individual's name placed next to the lighted Love Lights Christmas tree at the hospital. On Dec. 21 from 11 a.m. to noon, a blessing of these trees and all those being honored will take place virtually at all four HSHS hospital locations in Northeast Wisconsin. The trees will remain on display throughout the Christmas season.

Love Lights is a way to honor loved ones who may be receiving care at the hospitals, or who have passed and are dearly missed. Participants can also use this opportunity to honor their favorite health care hero. This annual fundraiser is way to help the hospitals, which are part of a not-for-profit, Catholic-based health care system, to continue to provide health, healing and hope to all they serve.

Participants can make their purchase online, or with a check via mail by Dec. 17. Information for the St. Clare Love Lights event can be found at www.hshs.org/stclare/lovelights.

Names of loved ones are interspersed with decorations on the Love Lights Christmas tree at HSHS St. Clare Hospital in Oconto Falls.

FILE | NEW MEDIA



NEW Media city editor publishes 20th novel

Story set in rural Arizona tries to fulfill 8-year-old boy's wish for a white Christmas

A new novel being put out by Wisconsin author Lee Pulaski will have you believing in Christmas miracles.

Pulaski, who resides in Shawano County and is the city editor for NEW Media, goes back to his hometown of Chino Valley, Arizona, in "White Christmas in the Desert," his 20th book. The story follows Meldrick Stazenski as he returns home to manage the family cattle ranch with his 8-year-old son, Evan, who tells Santa Claus that the only thing he wants this holiday season is to have a white Christmas.



LEE PULASKI

"Last year, around the holidays, it occurred to me that I've written most of my books with a Wisconsin backdrop, but not once did I tap into the place where I grew up for inspiration," Pulaski said. "It's not as though I don't like where I grew up — quite the opposite. That's why it was important for me to make this story take place in Arizona and bring up an interesting holiday dilemma."

In the story, Meldrick is determined to make sure Evan gets that white Christmas he's dreaming of, because he knows his son is feeling abandoned following the divorce of Meldrick and his husband and is slowly coming to grips with moving to a new town. However, fake snow to cover the ranch is cost prohibitive, and Meldrick can't control the weather, so he must figure out alternative means to pull off a big snowfall.

Meldrick meets a vegetable farmer named Jesse Turner, who is about to lose his livelihood after his family's gambling debts have put the farm too far into hock to be able to save it. Despite being on hard times, Jesse is intrigued by Meldrick's plans to give Evan a white Christmas and agrees to lend a hand. In the course of plotting a pleasant holiday, the two men soon discover that the boy's wish is not the only one that needs fulfilling.

"Meldrick is so busy trying to pick up the tat-



ONLINE

NEW Media City Editor Lee Pulaski was recently featured on the Written on the Edge podcast, where he talked about "White Christmas in the Desert" and some of the other books he has written. Listen to the podcast at www.wrotepodcast.com/lee-pulaski.

tered pieces of his son's life that he forgets that he's had to make major adjustments to his life, as well," Pulaski said. "Two lost souls finding each other is always so romantic, and having two good, strong men fall in love in a country atmosphere should warm even the coldest heart this holiday season."

Pulaski was able to tap into his memories from his younger years and incorporate them into "White Christmas in the Desert." In one chapter, Meldrick, Evan and Jesse go on a trail ride and chase hot-air balloons. Another chapter has Meldrick taking Evan to see the World's Largest Gingerbread Village in a neighboring community.

A key theme that Pulaski brings into "White Christmas in the Desert" is faith. Interwoven throughout Meldrick's return to the country is a Christian upbringing that he wants to pass on to his son.

"Meldrick goes to church every Sunday like a lot of other folks, and when things take a dark turn later in the book, Meldrick says some prayers in the hope that Christmas will turn out all right," Pulaski said. "It was important to me for readers to see that gay people can have as much faith in the Lord as anyone else, and that there are some churches that don't turn their backs on the LGBT community and actually embrace them."

"White Christmas in the Desert" is currently available on Amazon in ebook, hardcover or paperback. For information about this book or the other novels in Pulaski's catalog, visit www.leepulaski.com.

Oconto Falls 2022 budget hearing set for Nov. 30

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

The Oconto Falls City Council is scheduled to hold a public hearing Nov. 30 on a \$2.9 million budget for 2022.

The hearing is set for 6 p.m. in the

council chambers at City Hall, 500 N. Chestnut Ave., Oconto Falls. The council plans a special meeting after the hearing for a vote on approving the budget.

City officials have been working for several weeks, which represents a

4.4% increase over 2021. The proposed property tax levy of \$1.466 million is a 5.5% increase; the mill rate estimating the cost for individual taxpayers will be determined at the Nov. 30 meetings.

The budget is available for in-

spection at the city website, www.cityofocontofalls.com, with printed copies at City Hall, Oconto Falls Community Library, the U.S. Post Office in Oconto Falls, and Iverson's Piggly Wiggly.



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\$1M to pay for Shawano School District's iPads

The Shawano School District announced it has been awarded over \$1 million to be used to pay for the cost of the iPads distributed this September from the Emergency Connectivity Fund, part of the Federal Communication Commission's funding in support of schools providing equipment and broadband services for students and families.

This funding blends in directly to the investments already put into network and connectivity for students and staff, according to a school district press release.

"The award will free up regular technology budget dollars to accelerate the design and implementation of presentation technologies that

replace 10-year-old projectors and presentation boards to be used by staff and students to share ideas, demonstrate learning and experience the world through access to high-definition video and video conferencing capabilities," said Vicki Lyons, a consultant with the district's technology department.

The district held listening sessions with staff to look at how to best spend the money, according to Kurt Krizan, the district's director of instruction and personalized learning.

"Their insight into technology and instructional support needs will help drive the use of this funding, which ensures every student has the support and resources they need to be successful," Krizan said.

According to the FCC, the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program was established to provide funding for schools and libraries for the purchase, during the coronavirus pandemic, of connected devices and broadband connections for use by students, school staff and library patrons. One study estimates that, during the spring, more than 15 million public school students did not have home access to either an internet connection or a device adequate for distance learning, and approximately 9 million lived in households with neither an adequate connection or device.

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

Thank a farmer for what's on the table this holiday

Happy Thanksgiving. With these words, you often hear a message of thanks. This holiday, I echo this message and share my immense gratitude to everyone from the farmer to the consumer. In 2021, however, I also want to share my tremendous pride this Thanksgiving, and I hope you, Wisconsin agriculture, are proud as well.

When you look at the Thanksgiving table, you see a bounty of products that are grown and raised in the state. From the poultry farms of western Wisconsin to the cranberry marshes of central Wisconsin to the green bean fields of southern Wisconsin, farmers are working hard each day to produce safe, quality and nutritious foods for families around the world. Farmers, I hope you are proud of the land you care for, crops you harvested and livestock you raised.

These products could not move off the farm without our milk haulers and truck drivers. Transportation is essential to ensure our raw goods make it from the field to the processors to their final point of sale. Drivers, be proud of your important contribution to our food supply. Because of long hours and hundreds of miles on the state's interstates, county highways and town roads, our food supply is secure to its destination.

In Wisconsin, we are lucky to be home to so many food processors who take the milk from the tank and crops from the farm and transform them into the value-added products we rely on for our dinner table. Our dairy, meat, vegetable and other food processors are dedi-



RANDY ROMANSKI

cated to innovation and food safety to meet the needs of consumers. Processors, I hope you are proud of your commitment to creating the products we rely on year after year for our holidays.

Many families visit their local grocery store or restaurant to fill their table for Thanksgiving Day. Employees work around the clock to fill the retail shelves with the products you are seeking, from fresh potatoes to canned corn. Chefs are working to create meals that are ready to carry out for families to enjoy. Grocery and restaurant staff, be proud of the important role you play to allow families to fill their tables.

While most are able to purchase the foods they need, others rely on food pantries during times of need to feed their families. Organizations, volunteers and donors work together to ensure families are able to have a happy holiday and feed their loved ones a nutritious meal. Food security networks, be proud of all you do to distribute food to those in need.

Consumers should also feel a great sense of pride this holiday. You are the ultimate customer for Wisconsin agriculture. You spend your hard-earned dollars on Wisconsin products and choose to purchase foods that are grown and raised in the state. You keep the food supply chain moving. Consum-



ers, when you look at your dinner table this Thanksgiving, be proud to be from such a plentiful agricultural state.

Here at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, I am proud that the department, its dedicated team and I can be a small part of Wisconsin agricultural products' journey to your dinner plate. Gov. Tony Evers understands the challenges Wisconsin farmers continue to face because of supply chain disruptions due to COVID-19. Because of that, he invested another \$50 million in the Farm Support Program to provide aid payments directly to farmers.

The governor also realizes the tremendous pressure on the state's food processors. Through his

2021-23 biennial state budget, he invested in a new meat processing grant program and included additional dollars for the dairy processor grants. These funds will ensure the agriculture industry is able to modernize its facilities, expand its products and grow its capacity for years to come.

Wisconsin agriculture, I am proud to be part of this industry, and on this holiday, I hope each of you take a moment to feel that pride of what you accomplish each harvest, growing season and milking. It is because of you, Wisconsin agriculture, that our tables are full. Happy Thanksgiving.

Randy Romanski is the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection secretary.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bank objects to proposed monitoring rules

To the editor:

We typically do not raise issues occurring in Washington with the public, but because the people in our community are important to us, we want to inform our neighbors of proposed legislation that could significantly impact millions of families and small businesses.

There is currently proposed legis-

lation that, if enacted, would require all financial institutions to report to the IRS the gross financial inflows and outflows of every business and personal customer account above \$10,000. The proposal would use banks as a third-party information source to find and report taxpayers' income.

As a bank, The Stephenson National Bank and Trust strongly believes in protecting our customers' private financial information. We only collect personal, financial data

for the purpose of serving consumers and businesses — and we do our utmost to safeguard their money and their privacy. The proposal would require financial institutions to transfer a large amount of personal data to the IRS, significantly more data than has been shared with the IRS before.

The IRS is already a common target for cyberattacks (approximately 1.4 billion attacks annually) due to the amount of personal data currently in its control. Therefore, adding a

new set of sensitive consumer data puts the privacy and financial data of millions of Americans at greater risk.

We felt it was important to share this information with the public so each individual can determine whether to take action. If a person would like to express their opinion, they may contact their member of Congress: aba.social/ContactCongress.

Daniel J. Peterson, president, Stephenson National Bank and Trust, Marinette

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Special Notices

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

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

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

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Special Notices

GUN SHOW: December 3-5, Sunnyview Expo, 500 E. Cty Rd Y, Oshkosh, WI. Fri 3-8pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 9am-3pm. Admission: \$7 (14 & Under FREE) Buy/Sell/Trade 608-752-6677 www.bobandrocco.com.

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Shopping Event-Rocky Top 1710 Hill Rd Greenleaf WI. 1710 Hill Road, Greenleaf, WI. Sat. Dec. 4th, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.. Multiple vendors-4H Host Food. 920.619.7711.

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

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SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

9 Chargers recognized for conference play

QB Wesolowski named Offensive Player of the Year after big season

By **MORGAN RODE**

Sports Editor

Nine Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School football players were named to all-conference teams in the Central Wisconsin Conference-Large Division this fall.

Senior Ben Wesolowski made the first team on both sides of the ball. He was named the conference's Offensive Player of the Year as well.

"It is great to see all my hard work and dedication to the sport pay off," said Wesolowski. "None of it would have been possible without my teammates and coaches helping me along the way."

As a quarterback, Wesolowski finished with 1,080 passing yards and 15 touchdowns in six conference games. He also rushed for 727 yards and 10 more scores and added a receiving touchdown.

As a defensive back, the senior tallied 21 total tackles in conference play and intercepted one pass.

Senior Ben Flak made the first team for his play as a defensive lineman.

Flak capped conference play with a team-leading 62 total tackles and nine sacks to go along with eight tackles for losses, a forced fumble and a fumble recovered.

"I'm thankful to be recognized for the all-conference first team," said Flak. "It was a big goal of mine in previous years, but now that I've received the award it doesn't really seem like the biggest deal. Over those years, I've been able to see that football is the best team sport, and although it's good to be recognized for an individual award, football isn't just about one guy."

Jack Fraaza made the first team defense as a linebacker.

Fraaza accumulated 39 total tackles, with four going for losses in conference play. He also forced a fumble and returned an interception for a score.

"It's a great honor," said Fraaza. "It's a great reward for the work all season and overall career."



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Johnny Stewart lines up for a play during the team's playoff win over Amherst on Nov. 5 in Amherst. Stewart made an all-conference list at two positions this fall.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

Seniors Johnny Stewart and Kaden Schmidt made the first team on offense and picked up second team honors on defense.

Stewart was a lineman for the Chargers. On defense, he had 10 tackles for losses among his 26 total tackles, including one sack. He also rushed for a touchdown for the Chargers.

"For me, it means a lot to get recognition from the rest of the conference," said Stewart. "I've worked very hard to get where I am now this past offseason. But all in all it feels great to get (honored on) both sides of the ball."

Schmidt was on the first team as

a wide receiver and made the second team as a defensive back.

Schmidt led the team with 504 receiving yards and nine touchdowns on 21 receptions in conference action, while also rushing for a score and 113 yards. He intercepted four passes and recovered a fumble to go along with 17 total tackles on defense.

"It means a lot. I mean I've worked hard to be able to earn that honor, but I also can't thank my teammates enough," said Schmidt. "They were there alongside of me the whole way, and I couldn't have done it without them."

Junior defensive lineman David

Gauderman made the second team.

He finished conference action with 34 total tackles, eight of which went for losses. He had three sacks and forced a fumble.

Junior Max Fraaza and sophomore Charlie Nowinsky both made the second team as offensive linemen.

Senior defensive back Jordan Landowski was an honorable mention pick for the Chargers. He intercepted a pass and had 15 total tackles.

Witt-Birn finished 6-1 in conference play to place second behind Amherst.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

Pulaski has 7 players make all-conference lists

4 Shawano and Gresham/Bowler players also recognized

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

Boys soccer players from the Pulaski, Shawano and Gresham/Bowler co-op were recognized for their play this fall with spots on all-conference teams.

Seven Pulaski players made the Fox River Classic Conference lists. Four Shawano players made the Bay Conference lists, while four Gresham/Bowler players were honored by the Central Wisconsin Conference.

Pulaski

Senior midfielder Will Steeno represented Pulaski on the all-conference first team.

Steen scored seven goals and was credited with an assist this fall.

“First team all conference was a great accomplishment and has always been a goal of mine,” said Steeno. “I’ve been working towards it my whole high school career, and I’m very thankful for the reward.”

Senior forward Oscar Aronsen and senior defender Trentin Dauk were second-team selections for the Red Raiders.

Aronsen recorded four goals and four assists this season. Dauk had four goals and an assist.



Shawano's Ethan Schwitzer, left, fights for a loose ball during the team's match against New London on Sept. 2 in Shawano. Schwitzer made the all-conference second team in the Bay Conference.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

Senior midfielder Noah Jaime, junior defender Austin Lipsey, senior forward Joe Wacholz and senior defender Peyton Winkelman all made the honorable mention list.

Jaime finished the year with five goals and four assists, while Lipsey scored one goal.

Wacholz led Pulaski with 11 goals and seven assists. Winkelman scored

three goals and added an assist.

Shawano

Senior forward Ethan Schwitzer and junior Julian Perez made the all-conference second team for Shawano.

Schwitzer led Shawano with 12 goals this fall.

“Going from playing offense since I started playing soccer at 6 years old,

then to being a freshman in high school and being moved to defense and earning honorable mention as a sophomore and second team as a junior, then moved back to offense and earning second team in a completely different position during my senior year means a lot,” said Schwitzer. “I’m just mostly glad I was able to go back to playing offense.

“I always knew I was an offensive threat, and I think it means even more that other coaches also see me as that as well. The best part was that it all happened so fast. I had no plans of moving up; it just was a quick switch that us as a team decided to make and I’m glad that it all worked out in the end, and I was able to do what I did put on the field during my final year.”

Perez finished the season with four goals and a team-leading six assists.

Junior defenders Chad Norton and Andrew Herrmann were honorable mentions picks.

Norton chipped in three goals and an assist this fall.

Gresham/Bowler

Junior defender and midfielder Blade Hoffman landed on the second team for Gresham/Bowler.

Senior defender Jack Haffner, junior goalie James Davids Jr. and senior forward and midfielder Diego Martinez all made the honorable mention list.

Martinez had a team-leading five assists. Davids Jr. had 173 saves on the season.

sports@newmedia-wi.com

COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

By **NEW MEDIA STAFF**

St. Norbert

Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School graduate Emma Herb played in both of the St. Norbert women's basketball team's games last week.

In a win over Ripon on Nov. 19, Herb blocked a shot in four minutes of action. She grabbed a defensive rebound in the team's loss to UW-Oshkosh on Nov. 20.

Ripon

Wittenberg-Birnamwood graduate Lauren Bahr competed in two individual events and a relay for the Ripon women's swim team at the Beloit Quad on Nov. 20. Individually, Bahr came in fourth

in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 1 minute, 8.47 seconds. She was also fourth in the 50 freestyle (27.33).

Bahr helped the 200 freestyle relay team to first with a time of 1:46.87.

UW-Green Bay

Witt-Birn graduate McKenna Metropulos swam to several strong finishes while representing the UW-Green Bay women's swim team at the House of Champions event on Nov. 18-20.

On the first day of action, Metropulos was a member of the sixth-place finishing 200 freestyle relay (1:37.51) and eighth-place finishing 400 medley relay (3:55.73). On Nov. 19, Metropulos was

on the 200 medley relay team that placed seventh in 1:47.47.

On the final day, Metropulos was on the seventh-place finishing 400 freestyle relay team (3:32.83). Individually, she took 23th in the 100 freestyle with a time of 53.14.

Minnesota Crookston

Witt-Birn grad Abi Fraaza played 20-plus minutes in each of the Minnesota Crookston women's basketball team's games last week.

In a loss against Northern Michigan on Nov. 18, Fraaza scored six points, grabbed 11 rebounds and had two steals in 23 minutes off the bench.

Fraaza posted five points, five rebounds, two blocks and an assist in

the team's loss to Michigan Tech on Nov. 19.

Oakland City

Bowler graduate Reanne Kietlinski and the Oakland City women's basketball team went 2-1 on the court last week.

In a win over St. Mary Woods on Nov. 16, Kietlinski made all four of her shots to score 11 points. She added three rebounds, two assists and a steal.

Kietlinski tallied three points, five assists and two rebounds during the team's win over Welch College on Nov. 19.

In the team's loss to Midway on Nov. 20, Kietlinski totaled two points and a rebound.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Allen carries Wisconsin to win over Nebraska

Badgers within win of Big Ten title berth

By STEVE MEGARGEE
The Associated Press

Braelon Allen continued a tradition of Wisconsin running backs steamrolling Nebraska defenses. Allen rushed for 228 yards and three touchdowns — including a tiebreaking 53-yarder with 3:50 remaining — to help No. 19 Wisconsin outlast Nebraska 35-28 for its seventh consecutive victory on Nov. 20.

Wisconsin has beaten Nebraska eight straight times and typically has done it with dominant rushing performances, starting with the night when Melvin Gordon and Montee Ball each ran for over 200 yards in the 2012 Big Ten championship game. Gordon rushed for a school-record 408 yards against Nebraska in 2014. Jonathan Taylor exceeded 200 yards against Nebraska three separate times.

“All week I heard about the yards and touchdowns that we have put up on Nebraska every year,” Allen said. “It’s cool to kind of continue the tradition.”

The Badgers (8-3, 6-2 Big Ten) handed Nebraska (3-8, 1-7) its fifth straight loss and moved a step closer to playing for a conference title.

Wisconsin will clinch its fourth Big Ten championship game appearance in the last six years if it wins its regular-season finale at Minnesota. Wisconsin is tied with No. 18 Iowa for first place in the West but owns the tiebreaker advantage because it beat the Hawkeyes 27-7 on Oct. 30.

The Badgers kept their winning streak alive Saturday because Allen was spectacular on a day when their top-ranked defense wasn’t as effective as usual.

Allen’s performance came with Gordon watching as an honorary captain. Allen, who considers the Denver Broncos running back an idol and an inspiration, said it was surreal to shake his hand and talk to him before the game.

“It started with the 408 against Nebraska,” Allen said. “At the time, I was just finishing up my fifth-grade season. I honestly didn’t know if I even liked football at that point. I saw that game and that’s kind of what sparked it all for me, trying to be like him one day.”

Allen, who had 22 carries, has rushed for over 100 yards in each of

Wisconsin’s last seven games. The 17-year-old had totaled 12 carries during Wisconsin’s 1-3 start.

He has rushed for a total of 401 yards and six touchdowns in the two games since fellow running back Chez Mellusi suffered a season-ending knee injury. Mellusi was Wisconsin’s leading rusher at the time he got hurt.

“He wants to do it for the guy next to him,” offensive tackle Tyler Beach said. “I think that’s where his maturity is right now. It’s on a whole different level for a guy as young as he is.”

He had a career-long 71-yard touchdown in the first quarter and a 3-yard score late in the third quarter. After Nebraska tied the game with 6:27 left in the game on Marvin Scott’s 3-yard touchdown, Allen put Wisconsin ahead again with one more breakaway.

Allen went through the right side of the line, headed toward the sideline and easily shed safety Myles Farmer’s tackle attempt inside the 30.

“He’s a special guy,” Nebraska defensive end Garrett Nelson said. “He’s going to be a problem for the Big Ten for a long time.”

Nebraska nearly found a way to win anyhow.

The Cornhuskers drove to

Wisconsin’s 11-yard line in the final minute but ended up losing the ball on downs at the 21.

After right tackle Bryce Benhart committed a holding penalty that pushed the Cornhuskers back 10 yards, Adrian Martinez threw four straight incompletions. Faion Hicks broke up the fourth-down pass to Xavier Betts with four seconds left.

Nebraska coach Scott Frost received an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty after the fourth-down incompleting, apparently believing Hicks made contact with the receiver before the throw arrived.

“I didn’t get an explanation,” Frost said. “I was too angry to ask for one.”

The takeaway

The Badgers had three scoreless trips inside Nebraska’s 35-yard line but still showed their offense is good enough to win games when their defense isn’t dominant.

Poll implications

Wisconsin could move up a few spots but probably won’t get into the top 15.

Up next

Wisconsin visits Minnesota on Nov. 27.

RECREATION SCOREBOARD

BOWLING

Chet and Emil's Monday Women's League

Team	W	L
Cady Home	25 1/2	10 1/2
Banner Banks	19 1/2	16 1/2
Star Campsite	17	19
Chet and Emil's	10	26

High team handicap games: Cady Home 781, Star Campsite 741, Banner Banks 728.

High individual handicap games: Tanya Rekow 214, Jen Duranceau 212, Cindy Mortenson 206.

High team handicap series: Cady Home 2,224, Star Campsite 2,117, Banner Banks 2,066.

High individual handicap series: Tanya Rekow 582, Courtney Tryba 576, Jen Duranceau 572.

Resch Lanes — Wednesday Night Handicap

Team	W	L
Resch Lanes	50	27
Mama's Place	45	32
Liberty Potatoes	43	34
Slammers	41	36
Tavern Front	40	37
Rachel's Roadside	40	37
Kemmer Electronics	30	47
Hanke's Sentry Foods	19	58

High team handicap games (top 3): Mama's Place 1,316, Rachel's Roadside 1,269, Hanke's Sentry Foods 1,254.

High individual handicap games (top 7): Jim Borchardt 314, Dennis Gilbertson 301, Kris Poehnelt 300, Jeff Arndt 300, Robert Harris Sr. 279, Will Kubeny 278, Randall Skaggs 269, Derrick Jehn 269.

High team handicap series (top 3): Rachel's Roadside 3,598, Mama's Place 3,585, Tavern Front 3,578.

High individual handicap series (top 7): Jeff Arndt 793, Dennis Gilbertson 792, Kris Poehnelt 788, Nick Thiele 757, Tom Schrank 739, Jim Borchardt 737, Jordan Wanta 729.

Resch Lanes — Thursday's Men's League

Team	W	L
Legacy Seed Pro	51	26
Melody Mill	45	32
RJ Auto Repair	44	33
Resch Lanes	41	36
Cherek Transport	36	41
Legacy Seed	35	42
Golden Eagle Res.	30	47
Gutt er Done	26	51

High team scratch games (top 3): Legacy Seed Pro 1,039, Resch Lanes 999, Cherek Transport 978.

High individual scratch games (top 6): Jason Cherek 255, Gavin Czerwonka 238, Doug Kunst 235, Pat Provoast 233, Jeremy Falkowski 225, Scott Bembenek 225.

High team scratch series (top 3): Legacy Seed Pro 2,978, Resch Lanes 2,891, Cherek Transport 2,814.

High individual scratch series (top 6): Jason Cherek 667, Jeremy Falkowski 644, Doug Kunst 636, Gavin Czerwonka 632, Ron Onesti 631, Greg Wolff 605.

Chet and Emil's Tuesday Commercial

Team	W	L
Schmidt Schulta	22	8
Kautza Excavating	18	12
White Insurance	17	13
Clark Construction	15	15
Chet and Emil's	14	16

High team scratch games: Chet and Emil's 1,191, Clark Construction 1,014, Kautza Excavating 994.

High individual scratch games: Corey Krull 269, Doug Kunst 267, Reid Praslowicz 257.

High team scratch series: Chet and Emil's 3,294, Kautza Excavating 2,894, Clark Construction 2,889.

High individual scratch series: Corey Krull 746, Doug Kunst 716, Tyler Krull 666.

Chet and Emil's Thursday Early Birds

Team	W	L
Schairer Farms	13	7
Rightway Propane	13	7
M&J Harvesting	11	9

Stadler Farms	3	17
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High team scratch games: MandJ Harvesting 642, Schairer Farms 627, Rightway Propane 615.

High individual scratch games: Kim Zeller 235, Samantha Stadler 200, Jennifer Rainville 192.

High team scratch series: Schairer Farms 1,833, Rightway Propane 1,757, M&J Harvesting 1,705.

High individual scratch series: Kim Zeller 556, Patricia Stadler 501, Susan Zienert 500.

Chet and Emil's Wednesday Business

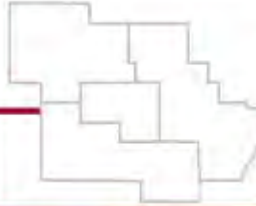
Team	W	L
CWAA	20	10
Melody Mill	18	12
S&M Tool	18	12
TLC Auto Body	15	15
Rew Motors Inc.	15	15
Kessen Auto Body	14	16
Kropf's Meat Pro	10	20
Chet and Emil's	10	20

High team scratch games: Melody Mill 1,095, SandM Tool 1,020, CWAA 934.

High individual scratch games: Lane King 256, Dave Schmidt 244, Jeremy Praslowicz 220, Dave Schultz 220.

High team scratch series: SandM Tool 3,001, Melody Mill 2,986, CWAA 2,691.

High individual scratch series: Doug Kunst 637, Steve Preuss 574, Paul Hanke 564.



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Much to be thankful for this season

As I write this newsletter, there is much going on and even more to be thankful for in the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District.



GARRETT ROGOWSKI

Our students in grades PK-12 are back to attending school in a way that most are accustomed to. The co-curricular activities that are afforded to them are occurring at every level in the music, arts and athletic arenas.

Attendance in both the academic setting and extra-curricular offerings are seeing great participation.

As fast and furious as the school opens and takes hold, it's hard to believe the first quarter of the school year has come and gone. The end of the quarter always falls right before our annual Veterans Day services. It pleases me every year to see bulletin boards up in our schools showing recognition and appreciation for those that have served. To see the respect and admiration that our

students have for our local residents that have given their all for the causes of peace and freedom is truly remarkable to witness.

Being in attendance for these events is humbling to say the least. I look forward to the assemblies at each of our three schools honoring our local veterans.

The month of November provides us in the school environment an opportune time to teach students about what it means to be "thankful" and how important the gift of "giving" and being selfless in our actions and words makes the world a better place. The month of November provides many opportunities that remind us about the importance of family, coming together, and appreciating the simple things in life.

As we enter a new season of the calendar year, a new chapter in the school year, and a time where we have so much to be thankful for, I wish all of our residents a Happy Thanksgiving and to those that participate, best of luck this deer season!

Garrett Rogowski is superintendent for the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District.

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

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

WWW.NEWMEDIA-WI.COM

Houses of worship can send their vital information, including physical addresses, days and times of services, names of leaders and contact information, to **EDITOR@NEWMEDIA-WI.COM**. Be sure to have **"WORSHIP DIRECTORY"** in the subject line.



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SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WITTENBERG-BIRNAMWOOD and VILLAGE OF WITTENBERG AMENDED NOTICE OF SPRING PRIMARY AND ELECTION

April 5, 2022

STATE OF WISCONSIN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that an election to be held in the Village of Wittenberg and School District of Wittenberg-Birnamwood on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, the following offices are to be elected to succeed the present incumbents listed. The 2 year term for Village Board members begins on April 19, 2022. The term for Wittenberg-Birnamwood Public School District Board of Education members is for 3 years and begins on April 25, 2022.

WITTENBERG-BIRNAMWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION (3 year term)

Office	Incumbent
Board of Education Area 1	Christopher Pietz
Board of Education Area 5	Chuck Wendler
Board of Education Area 6	Dan Stewart

VILLAGE OF WITTENBERG (2 year term)

Office	Incumbent
Village Trustee	Renee Switalla
Village Trustee	Paul Yaeger
Village Trustee	Barb Buchholz

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the first day to circulate nomination papers for the Village of Wittenberg and the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District is December 1, 2021 and the final day for filing nomination papers is 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 in the office of the Clerk.

NOTICE IF FURTHER GIVEN that a Campaign Registration Statement and a Declaration of Candidacy must be filed between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday, and no later than 5:00 P.M. on January 4, 2022 in the office of each Clerk. The School District office is located at the High School with papers filed with Joy Hartleben, School Board Official Secretary.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that if a primary is necessary, the primary will be held on February 15, 2022.

The last day for incumbent officeholders not intending to seek re-election to file Notification of Non-candidacy is December 24, 2021, by 5:00 P.M.

Kristy Meredith, Clerk
Board of Education
400 W. Grand Avenue

Traci Matsche, Clerk
Village of Wittenberg
208 W. Vinal Street

BOOKS AND STUFF

Eryn Scott serves up a tasty mystery

This week I plopped in the middle of Eryn Scott's Stoneybrook Mystery Series. This one was book three, "A Flaky Alibi."

The small city of Stoneybrook, Washington, is nestled north of Seattle in the breathtaking Cascade Mountains. It is a busy place that has managed to retain the small town feel and relationships. The Farmer's Market has combined with the annual Grande County Bake-Off sponsored by Sunrise Living Magazine and brings lots of shoppers to town.

It is week five of the contest with Mickie Burbank, Grady Fines, Willow Hunt, Ian Yellowlees, and Erica Sutton still competing. All are excellent bakers with their own sub-specialties. This week's category was Cherry Pie.

The judges this year include our narrator, Hadley James, her childhood friend Luke Fenner, and contest organizer Olivia. All goes well until Olivia announces that Grady was the winner and Willow had been eliminated. Before storming out, Willow



JAN JONES

delivered in a special pie plate just like the one Mickie likes to use, so she is the prime suspect. She's also just like sister to Hadley.

Hadley knows Heide is innocent but must find a way to prove it. Doing that will be difficult since her twin brother Paul is the town's lead officer who must be neutral in investigation. Hadley and her best friend Suze are joined by Luke in their unique search for the real killer.

One by one they dig out the back stories for every contestant. Then they move on to the those close to the

shouts that Grady has been cheating. Minutes later Grady is found dead in the locker room.

Somehow, he has ingested cyanide in what should have been a secure building. The poison was

contestants. The fact that Hadley's teenage crush, Luke, has left Seattle to convert an old farm into orchards is distracting. Just when she thinks he has feelings for her, his old girlfriend Gretchen arrives. Hadley is too embarrassed to ask Luke about the relationship, so they stumble along trying to solve the case.

Week six's challenge is cakes. Heidi wins and Ian is eliminated, bringing an outburst from Ian's mother Nell. She insinuates that Grady and Ian had been at odds for a long time. Hadley remembers that Grady had been found with a card reading "checkmate." In the back her mind she knows somehow the card connects to Grady's death.

The final week of competition is breads. Hadley's sleuthing must be put on hold as she judges each delicious, yeasty creation. Just before the winner is announced, Hadley knows who killed Grady. She rushes to Paul and tells him what she believes.

The twist who, how and why

goes way back. Ian and Grady were once classmates. Grady, urged by his mother, had always bullied Ian. While Ian tried to move on after the humiliations, his mother's resentment intensified. When she discovered that Erica's adorable baby George had been fathered by Grady, she sought a way to humiliate him. Together they planned the horrific revenge Nell wanted. Using Grady's arrogance, they sneaked in the poisoned pie and dared him to taste it.

This book ends with Mickie's name cleared and pronounced Bake-Off winner, Hadley's Jam Shop remodeled and opened, and her relationship with Luke on solid ground. I'll wait a little while to read book four – maybe I'll go back and start with one, so I understand more of those who live in Stoneybrook.

I'm sure that all six books and many, many others can be found through your public library. Just take a little time to check it out.



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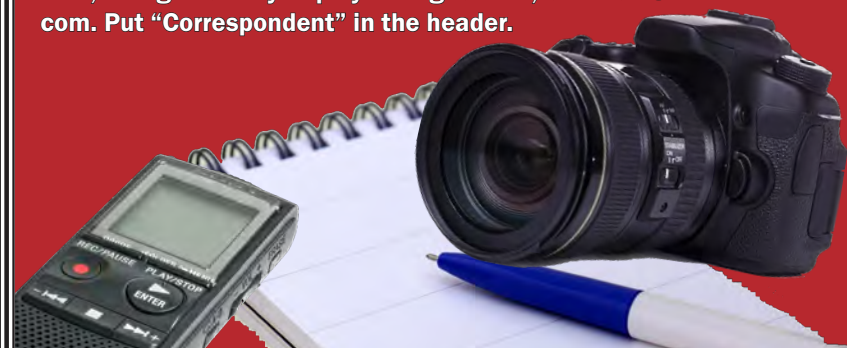
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WANTED: Correspondents

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NEW Media seeks freelance correspondents to prepare feature stories, cover community and high school sports, cover meetings and cover events of local interest in Shawano, Oconto and Menominee counties for our online and print products. Self-starting correspondents have the opportunity to meet new people, learn about their communities and tell interesting stories to a broad audience. Correspondents must be able to take photos to accompany stories.

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.



NWTC receives grant to close equity gaps

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College has been awarded a \$2 million grant by the U.S. Department of Education to strengthen student success and close equity gaps in higher education.

"It's important that students see themselves with passion in the profession they have chosen," said Jeff Rafn, NWTC president. "This grant focuses on engagement — a critical component, and the next step we need to take on our continued path to ensuring student success."

While NWTC is a nationally recognized institution for its outstand-

ing commitment to equity-centered efforts, course incompleteness among students of color and low income continues to exist at a local level and beyond. The grant proposal, Connect for Student Success, is designed to move students toward degree completion by leveraging proven practices that drive student success inside and outside of the classroom.

"NWTC recognizes that closing these gaps will require a strategic cultural change and evolving our approach to student learning," said Kathryn Rogalski, NWTC vice president of learning. "As part of our

approach, we will shift to more active learning and culturally relevant high-impact practices that will promote students to fully engage in their coursework and ensure that students are learning."

NWTC serves more than 27,000 students living in northeast Wisconsin and beyond, including campuses in Shawano and Oconto Falls, and nearly half are first-generation college students. NWTC is on track to achieve its 2023 goal of 65% graduation rate, which is 17% higher than the statewide average of technical colleges, according to Wisconsin

Public Radio.

"It's important that we as educators continue to evaluate how to best prepare our current and future students as our community continues to grow in diversity," Rogalski said. "This grant will help us provide the time and resources to make the transformational changes needed to close the equity gap. While we are on the right path, we are always focused on continuous improvement."

The duration for the Connect for Student Success grant is five years, projected to be completed by September 2026.

Wittenberg-Biramwood School District Official Minutes of the Board of Education October 25, 2021

Called to order by Vice-President Bree Krueger-Schmidt, Pursuant to WI.STATS.1984 (1). Superintendent Rogowski verified that this meeting was posted and published as required by law.

Roll Call of the Board: All nine Board members present, Pietz late. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approve the Minutes: (Olson - Meredith) moved to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2021 regular meeting as circulated. Motion carried.

Delegations & Communications: In attendance along with Board members were: Garrett Rogowski, Joy Hartleben, Randy Berndt, Vicky Haas, Bill Hass, Nikki Steigerwald, Patrick Alcantara, Taylor Bergner, Matt McGregor, Chris Nier, John Rudeen, and Jill Meverden.

Public Comments: None

Student Representative, Taylor Bergner shared with the Board that Homecoming went very well, class officer teams have been assembled and prom is being planned and fundraising for the event has begun. They also plan to hold a Snowball Dance this year.

Board Concerns & Reports: Laura Magee stated that the Nature Center Open House was very well attended and a successful event. Stewart stated that he has heard positive comments on the concession stand and new area by the football field.

Financial Report: (Magee - Schmidt) Moved to pay the following as of September 27, 2021: Budgetary checks numbering 104893-105097 in the amount of \$185,231.19, payroll checks numbering 142255-142276 in the amount of \$204,016.32, direct deposit advices in the amount of \$444,381.31, ACH payments in the amount of \$301,407.14 and credit card payments in the amount of \$32,951.15. I make a motion to approve all journal entries made for the month of September. Roll call vote: 8 yes 1- absent. Motion carried.

Superintendent Rogowski reported a cash on deposit as of September 30, 2021, of \$3,864,889.10 and LGIP

Account balance as of September 30, 2021 of \$1,522.93.

Approve Agenda: (Stewart - Hanson) moved to approve the agenda with New Business items C & H to closed session. Motion carried.

Administrative Reports:

Randy Berndt, Biramwood Elementary/Middle School Principal shared important dates that are coming up. Mrs. Bauch and Mr. Balliett are looking at a new Social Studies curriculum for the Middle School. The fence posts are up around the community gardens. Fall data meetings are wrapping with teachers developing whole group and small group interventions to support students.

Vicky Haas, Wittenberg Elementary/Middle School Principal also shared some important upcoming dates. She shared that the teachers are working hard to use the initial data collected from the fall assessments to create directed instruction to extend student learning.

Bill Hass, Wittenberg-Biramwood High School Principal stated that the FFA tractor day was a huge success. Caught the attention of Channel 9 who indicated that they would like to do a future story on our ag program and building. Matt Christianson applied for a grant and received a \$2500 donation from Rural Mutual Insurance. Many events and field trips have been taking place to further students' educational experience.

John Rudeen, Aquatic Center Director stated that Fall Swimm lesson have over 100 students registered, the largest group they have ever had. Still looking at the heat exchangers and HVAC issues. The High School swim team dual meet season has ended and the WASP program is set to start November 2nd.

New Business A: Mr. Rogowski gave a presentation to the Board on the ESSER II funds. These are funds used to support learning loss with response to COVID19. There was much discussion.

New Business B: (Stewart - Schmidt) moved to approve the Capital Projects Plan as presented by Mr. Rogowski. Motion carried.

New Business C: Moved to close session

New Business D: (Magee - Hanson) moved to approve the overall budget for 2021-2022 as presented in the amount of \$14,586,700.00. Roll Call Vote 9-yes. Motion carried.

New Business E: (Stewart - Magee) moved to approve the overall tax levy; Fund 10 as \$3,518,072.00, Fund 39 as \$1,271,032.00 and Fund 80 as \$225,000.00 bringing the total to \$5,014,104.00. Represents a mill rate of \$8.22. Roll Call Vote 9-yes. Motion carried.

New Business F: (Stewart-Schmidt) moved to approve the hire of Chris Kulas as part time Librarian with a stipend of \$3000.00. Motion carried.

New Business G: (Olson - Meredith) moved to hire Bernard Holsey as JV2 Boys Basketball Coach. Motion carried.

New Business H: moved to close.

New Business I: (Schmidt - Magee) moved to approved he hire of Jill Resch as District Administrative Assistant, compensation being \$40,000.00 annually. Motion carried

New Business J: (Meredith - Stewart) moved to accept the resignation of Chelsea Lehman as JV Girls Basketball Coach. Motion carried.

New Business K: (Schmidt - Olson) moved to accept the resignation of Michelle Martinez as EI Professional Assistan. Motion carried. The Board thanks Michelle for her 2.5 years of service. Michelle will still support us as translator and interpreter.

Adjournment: (Stewart - Hanson) moved to adjourn 7:36 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Joy A Hartleben
School Board Secretary



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THE OFFENSE HAS STILL GOT IT

Rodgers, Packers' offense
finds life vs. Vikings

PAGE 2

Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers looks on during the team's game against the Minnesota Vikings on Nov. 21 in Minneapolis.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

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QB, offense prove they can still carry team

While he hasn't played poorly so far this season, Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers hadn't carried the team on his back like in previous seasons.



MORGAN RODE

Despite a road loss to the Minnesota Vikings on Nov. 20, Rodgers still showed he could carry the team should the defense or special teams struggle — which they both did Sunday.

Rodgers completed 23 of his 33 attempts on the day for 385 yards and four touchdowns for a nearly perfect 148.4 quarterback rating.

What made the 37-year-old quarterback's big day even more impressive was that he did it on a banged up toe.

"I was in a lot of pain," said Rodgers. "Went in at halftime early to get it checked out, but it's very, very painful. Got stepped on in the first half and that kind of activated all the symptoms I was having."

He also said that his practice

time might continue to be limited until the bye week, when he hopes some time off the injured toe might help him get closer to 100%.

The offense's 31-point showing was its second largest output of the season, but Rodgers thought the team left points on the field.

"We just started a little bit too slow," said Rodgers. "(We) Didn't score enough points."

Green Bay scored first on a field goal from Mason Crosby before Minnesota scored the next 16 points. The Packers played catch up for most of the rest of the contest.

Rodgers connected with second-year tight end Josiah Deguara to make it a one-score game by halftime.

After the Vikings scored to open the second half, Rodgers and the Packers' offense responded with a touchdown drive capped with Rodgers connecting with star wideout Davante Adams.

After the defense made one of its few stops of the contest, Rodgers led a third-straight touchdown drive, hitting Adams for another touchdown to cap it.

After Minnesota scored and went back up seven, Rodgers went

deep to Marquez Valdes-Scantling to tie it up in a hurry.

Unfortunately for the Packers' offense, that was their final play in the game, as the Vikings ran out the clock before kicking the game-winning field goal.

Despite the end result being a team loss, there was plenty of positives, especially in the second half for the offense.

"We just found a flow at that point," said Adams of the unit in the second half. "We were hurting ourselves in the first half (with) a lot with penalties, putting ourselves in first-and-long, second-and-really long situations. It becomes tough when you play a team like that with a really good defense at home. We shot ourselves in the foot a little bit with some self-infliction early, and then we just started gelling and figuring it out."

Adams later added, "We still could have done a lot more, and I would have liked to start faster than we did. Once we look at the film, we can analyze it and see what led to the second half production."

While the Packers' offense had some success running it against the Vikings and averaged five yards a

ONLINE

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

carry, it was the team's passing that really stood out.

Adams and MVS each had over 100 receiving yards, with running back A.J. Dillon, wide receiver Equanimeous St. Brown and Dequara all over 35 yards.

Typical starting wideout Allen Lazard missed the game with an injury, and starting running back Aaron Jones was also out, so the 467 yards of total offense and 8.6-yard average are positive signs for an offense that still hasn't put together a complete game.

The Packers have also yet to play a well-rounded game on both sides of the ball, and the team's special teams continues to struggle.

While there's things to clean up in multiple facets of the game, there's at least a glimmer of hope that Green Bay could be a well-rounded team. It's just a matter of putting it all together at the biggest moments of the season.

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



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers (12) throws a pass as offensive linemen Billy Turner (77) and Royce Newman (70) block during the team's loss to the Minnesota Vikings on Nov. 21 in Minneapolis. Despite the setback, the Packers' offense showed promising signs.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Packers fall to Vikings on game-ending FG

Green Bay's defense unable to slow Minnesota

By **DAVE CAMPBELL**
The Associated Press

Greg Joseph made a 29-yard field goal as time expired to give the Minnesota Vikings a 34-31 victory over the Green Bay Packers on Nov. 21, finishing a classic back-and-forth with Aaron Rodgers by making sure the three-time NFL MVP didn't get to touch the ball last.

Kirk Cousins passed for 341 yards and three touchdowns for the Vikings (5-5), who watched yet another game come down to the final play after Rodgers threw three of his four touchdown passes in the second half.

Unable to practice much at all this week because of a toe injury, after missing much of the first half of the month with COVID-19, Rodgers finished 23 for 33 for a season-high 385 yards.

Justin Jefferson had eight receptions for 169 yards and two scores, including a third-down catch against rookie Eric Stokes that Cousins delivered for a 23-yard touchdown while being decked on a blitz by Darnell Savage. Dalvin Cook ran in the 2-point conversion to make up for an earlier missed extra point by Joseph.

Then on the next play from scrimmage, Rodgers threw a rainbow to Marquez Valdes-Scantling streaking past safety Xavier Woods for a 75-yard score to tie the game just before the two-minute warning.

When the Vikings regained the ball, Cousins nearly cost himself the comeback by slightly underthrowing Jefferson, whom Savage darted in front of to intercept the ball. He bobbled it on the way down, though, and a replay review overturned the call.

Cousins then went 3 for 3 for 51 yards on the next three snaps, Cook ran for one more first down, and then the Vikings knelt down to set up the final kick by Joseph. They posted the highest score against the Packers since their 38-3 loss to New Orleans in the season opener.

Green Bay (8-3) gave up just 34 points over the previous three games. Preston Smith had two sacks, but the Packers didn't have the same pass rush with outside linebacker Rashan



Green Bay Packers T.J. Slaton, left, pressures Minnesota Vikings quarterback Kirk Cousins during a game on Nov. 21 in Minneapolis.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Gary (elbow) sidelined. Za'Darius Smith and Whitney Mercilus are also out with long-term injuries.

Dangerous duo

Rodgers threw to Davante Adams twice for touchdowns, including an 18-yard strike on third-and-6 midway through the fourth quarter when he was trying to call timeout before the shotgun snap.

Adams has 12 scoring receptions against the Vikings, the most by any opposing player.

Strong start

The Vikings lost their way on offense in recent losses to Dallas and Baltimore by failing to consistently deliver the ball to Jefferson and Thielen, but Cousins picked up where he left off in last week's win

over the Los Angeles Chargers by continuing to target his star tandem.

Jefferson became the first player in the league this season to top 100 receiving yards in the first quarter. He drew a 37-yard pass interference penalty on Savage in the second quarter, a big boost on a drive that ended with a 10-yard touchdown pass from Cousins to Thielen on third-and-goal for a 16-3 lead.

Kingsley Keke's helmet-to-helmet hit on Cousins triggered a roughing-the-passer penalty and erased an interception by Savage on that eventful possession.

For all the success that was fueled by aggressiveness, the Vikings swung the momentum to the visitors when a toss sweep to fullback C.J. Ham on third-and-1 at their 29 was stopped

for no gain late in the second quarter.

The Packers went the other way for the first of four straight touchdown drives, excluding a one-play kneel-down at the end of the first half, that covered 74 yards or more. Josiah Deguara had his first career scoring catch to cap that possession and cut the lead to 16-10.

Injury report

Packers' offensive lineman Elgton Jenkins went down in the fourth quarter with an apparent injury to his left knee and was carted to the locker room.

After a Pro Bowl selection in 2020 at LG, Jenkins has replaced David Bakhtiari at LT this season. Bakhtiari has yet to return from a torn ACL suffered last year.

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Active

#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
2	Mason Crosby	K	6-1	207	37	15	Colorado
7	Corey Bojorquez	P	6-0	217	25	4	New Mexico
8	Amari Rodgers	WR	5-9	212	22	R	Clemson
10	Jordan Love	QB	6-4	219	23	2	Utah State
12	Aaron Rodgers	QB	6-2	225	37	17	California
13	Allen Lazard	WR	6-5	227	25	3	Iowa State
17	Davante Adams	WR	6-1	215	28	8	Fresno State
18	Randall Cobb	WR	5-10	195	31	11	Kentucky
19	Equanimeous St. Brown	WR	6-5	214	25	4	Notre Dame
20	Kevin King	CB	6-3	200	26	5	Washington
21	Eric Stokes	CB	6-0	194	22	R	Georgia
22	Shemar Jean-Charles	CB	5-10	184	23	R	Appalachian State
24	Isaac Yiadom	CB	6-1	190	25	4	Boston College
26	Darnell Savage	S	5-11	198	24	3	Maryland
27	Patrick Taylor	RB	6-2	217	23	1	Memphis
28	AJ Dillon	RB	6-0	247	23	2	Boston College
29	Rasul Douglas	CB	6-2	209	26	5	West Virginia
31	Adrian Amos	S	6-0	214	28	7	Penn State
33	Aaron Jones	RB	5-9	208	26	5	Texas-El Paso
36	Vernon Scott	S	6-2	202	24	2	TCU
39	Chandon Sullivan	CB	5-11	189	25	4	Georgia State
40	Tipa Galeai	LB	6-5	229	24	1	Utah State
41	Henry Black	S	6-0	204	24	2	Baylor
42	Oren Burks	LB	6-3	233	26	4	Vanderbilt
44	Ty Summers	LB	6-1	241	25	3	TCU
46	Steven Wirtel	LS	6-4	228	24	1	Iowa State
49	Dominique Dafney	TE	6-2	243	24	1	Indiana State
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
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
69	David Bakhtiari	T	6-4	310	30	9	Colorado
70	Royce Newman	T/G	6-5	310	24	R	Mississippi
73	Yosh Nijman	T	6-7	314	25	2	Virginia Tech
74	Elgton Jenkins	G	6-5	311	25	3	Mississippi State
76	Jon Runyan	G	6-4	307	24	2	Michigan
77	Billy Turner	G/T	6-5	310	30	8	North Dakota State
79	Dennis Kelly	T	6-8	321	31	10	Purdue
81	Josiah Deguara	TE	6-2	238	24	2	Cincinnati
83	Marquez Valdes-Scantling	WR	6-4	206	27	4	South Florida
84	Tyler Davis	TE	6-4	252	24	2	Georgia Tech
86	Malik Taylor	WR	6-1	220	25	2	Ferris State
89	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	29	7	Mississippi State
93	T.J. Slaton	DL	6-4	330	24	R	Florida
94	Dean Lowry	DL	6-6	296	27	6	Northwestern
95	Tyler Lancaster	DL	6-3	313	27	4	Northwestern
96	Kingsley Keke	DL	6-3	288	25	3	Texas A&M
97	Kenny Clark	DL	6-3	314	26	6	UCLA

Reserve/Injured

23	Jaire Alexander	CB	5-10	196	24	4	Louisville
25	Will Redmond	S	5-11	186	27	6	Mississippi State
32	Kylin Hill	RB	5-10	214	23	R	Mississippi State
47	Chauncey Rivers	LB	6-2	259	24	1	Mississippi State
50	Whitney Mercilus	LB	6-4	261	31	10	Illinois
55	Za'Darius Smith	LB	6-4	272	29	7	Kentucky
56	Randy Ramsey	LB	6-3	238	26	2	Arkansas
71	Josh Myers	C/G	6-5	310	23	R	Ohio State
85	Robert Tonyan	TE	6-5	237	27	4	Indiana State

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
30	Shawn Davis	S	5-11	202	23	R	Florida
35	Ryquell Armstead	RB	5-11	220	25	3	Temple
38	Innis Gaines	S	6-1	202	23	R	TCU
45	Bronson Kaufusi	TE	6-6	270	30	3	Brigham Young
48	Kabion Ento	CB	6-1	187	25	2	Colorado
54	La'Darius Hamilton	LB	6-2	261	23	1	North Texas
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	Abdullah Anderson	DL	6-3	303	25	2	Bucknell
99	R.J. McIntosh	DL	6-5	286	25	4	Miami



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RAMS ROSTER

Active

#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
2	Robert Woods	WR	6-0	195	29	9	USC
3	Odell Beckham Jr.	WR	5-11	198	29	8	LSU
4	Jordan Fuller	S	6-2	203	23	2	Ohio State
5	Jalen Ramsey	CB	6-1	208	27	6	Florida State
6	Johnny Hekker	P	6-5	241	31	10	Oregon State
8	Matt Gay	K	6-0	232	27	3	Utah
9	Matthew Stafford	QB	6-3	220	33	13	Georgia
10	Cooper Kupp	WR	6-2	208	28	5	Eastern Washington
11	Darius Williams	CB	5-9	187	28	4	Alabama-Birmingham
12	Van Jefferson	WR	6-1	200	25	2	Florida
13	John Wolford	QB	6-1	200	26	2	Wake Forest
16	Bryce Perkins	QB	6-3	214	24	1	Virginia
17	J.J. Koski	WR	6-1	195	24	1	Cal Poly
18	Ben Skowronek	WR	6-3	224	24	R	Notre Dame
21	Dont'e Deayon	CB	5-9	159	27	4	Boise State
22	David Long Jr.	CB	5-11	196	23	3	Michigan
23	Julu Hughes	S	5-11	188	23	2	Fresno State
24	Taylor Rapp	S	6-0	208	23	3	Washington
25	Sony Michel	RB	5-11	215	26	4	Georgia
26	Terrell Burgess	S	5-11	202	23	2	Utah
27	Darrell Henderson Jr.	RB	5-8	208	24	3	Memphis
31	Robert Rochell	DB	6-2	195	23	R	Central Arkansas
33	Nick Scott	S	5-11	201	26	3	Penn State
37	Tyler Hall	DB	5-10	190	23	2	Wyoming
38	Buddy Howell	RB	6-1	225	25	4	Florida Atlantic
39	Antoine Brooks Jr.	LB	5-11	210	24	2	Maryland
40	Von Miller	OLB	6-3	245	32	11	Texas A&M
42	Matthew Orzech	LS	6-3	245	26	2	Azusa Pacific
44	Jamir Jones	LB	6-3	255	23	1	Notre Dame
45	Ogbonnia Okoronkwo	OLB	6-2	253	26	4	Oklahoma
48	Chris Garrett	OLB	6-4	245	23	R	Concordia College St. Paul
50	Ernest Jones	LB	6-2	230	22	R	South Carolina
51	Troy Reeder	ILB	6-3	245	27	3	Delaware
52	Terrell Lewis	OLB	6-5	262	23	2	Alabama
54	Leonard Floyd	OLB	6-5	240	29	6	Georgia
55	Brian Allen	OL	6-2	303	26	4	Michigan State
56	Christian Rozeboom	LB	6-2	230	24	1	South Dakota State
63	Austin Corbett	OL	6-4	306	26	4	Nevada
65	Coleman Shelton	OL	6-4	299	26	3	Washington
68	AJ Jackson	OL	6-7	285	23	R	Iowa
70	Joe Noteboom	OL	6-5	321	26	4	TCU
71	Bobby Evans	OL	6-4	312	24	3	Oklahoma
72	Tremayne Anchrum Jr.	OL	6-2	314	23	2	Clemson
73	David Edwards	OL	6-6	308	24	3	Wisconsin
77	Andrew Whitworth	OL	6-7	330	39	16	LSU
79	Rob Havenstein	OL	6-8	330	29	7	Wisconsin
86	Kendall Blanton	TE	6-6	262	26	1	Missouri
88	Brycen Hopkins	TE	6-4	245	24	2	Purdue
89	Tyler Higbee	TE	6-6	255	28	6	Western Kentucky
91	Greg Gaines	DL	6-1	312	25	3	Washington
94	A'Shawn Robinson	DL	6-4	330	26	6	Alabama
95	Bobby Brown III	DL	6-4	235	21	R	Texas A&M
96	Michael Hoecht	DL	6-4	310	24	1	Brown
99	Aaron Donald	DL	6-1	280	30	8	Pittsburgh

Reserve/Injured

15	Tutu Atwell	WR	5-9	165	22	R	Louisville
32	Travin Howard	ILB	6-1	219	25	3	TCU
34	Jake Funk	RB	5-10	205	23	R	Maryland
58	Justin Hollins	LB	6-5	248	25	3	Oregon
64	Jamil Demby	OL	6-5	321	25	2	Maine
69	Sebastian Joseph-Day	DL	6-4	310	26	4	Rutgers
82	Johnny Mundt	TE	6-4	233	26	4	Oregon
87	Jacob Harris	TE	6-5	211	24	R	UCF

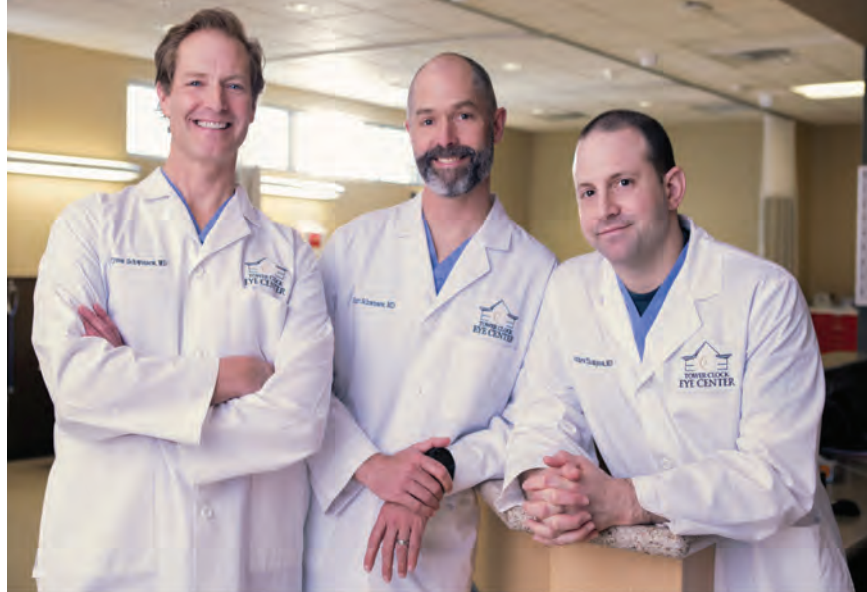
Reserve/Non-Football Injury

23	Cam Akers	RB	5-10	217	22	2	Florida State
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Practice Squad

14	Javian Hawkins	RB	5-9	196	22	R	Louisville
19	Brandon Powell	WR	5-8	181	26	4	Florida
35	Kareem Orr	DB	5-11	195	24	2	Tennessee-Chattanooga
36	Mekhi Sargent	RB	5-8	208	24	R	Iowa
39	Jake Gervase	S	6-1	212	26	2	Iowa
46	Grant Haley	DB	5-9	190	25	3	Penn State
53	Justin Lawler	OLB	6-4	265	26	4	Southern Methodist
60	Jeremiah Kolone	OL	6-3	316	27	1	San Jose State
66	Max Pircher	OL	6-7	300	22	R	Italy
67	Chandler Brewer	OL	6-6	320	24	2	Middle Tennessee State
81	Jared Pinkney	TE	6-4	257	24	1	Vanderbilt
83	Warren Jackson	WR	6-6	219	22	R	Colorado State
84	Landen Akers	WR	6-0	191	24	R	Iowa State
90	Earnest Brown IV	DL	6-5	270	22	R	Northwestern
92	Jonah Williams	DL	6-5	275	26	1	Weber State
93	Marquise Copeland	DL	6-2	287	24	1	Cincinnati

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GAME VITALS PACKERS DEPTH CHART

GREEN BAY PACKERS (8-3)
vs. LOS ANGELES RAMS (7-3)
WHEN: 3:25 p.m., Sunday
WHERE: Lambeau Field
TV: FOX
RADIO: 620 AM (WTMJ), Sirius
Satellite Radio (WTMJ feed)

THE SERIES

Packers vs. Rams
All-time, regular season: 45-46-2
All-time, postseason: 2-1
All-time, at Packers: 30-19
Streaks: The Green Bay Packers have won six of the last seven contests against the Rams, dating back to 2007, when it was the St. Louis Rams. The Packers have won their last three home games against the Rams.
Last meeting, regular season: Jan. 16, 2021, Packers won 32-18 at Lambeau Field in the NFC Divisional Playoff Round. Aaron Rodgers threw for two touchdowns and rushed for another score. Aaron Jones also rushed for a score.

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time	TV
Sept. 12	at New Orleans	Loss 38-3	
Sept. 20	vs. Detroit	Win 35-17	
Sept. 26	at San Francisco	Win 30-28	
Oct. 3	vs. Pittsburgh	Win 27-17	
Oct. 10	at Cincinnati	Win 25-22	
Oct. 17	at Chicago	Win 24-14	
Oct. 24	vs. Washington	Win 24-10	
Oct. 28	at Arizona	Win 24-21	
Nov. 7	at Kansas City	Loss 13-7	
Nov. 14	vs. Seattle	Win 17-0	
Nov. 21	at Minnesota	Loss 34-31	
Nov. 28	vs. L.A. Rams	3:25 p.m.	FOX
BYE WEEK			
Dec. 12	vs. Chicago	7:20 p.m.	NBC
Dec. 19	at Baltimore	noon	FOX
Dec. 25	vs. Cleveland	3:30 p.m.	FOX
Jan. 2	vs. Minnesota	7:20 p.m.	NBC
Jan. 9	at Detroit	noon	FOX

OFFENSE

RB
Aaron Jones
A.J. Dillon



QB
Aaron Rodgers
Jordan Love



WR
Davante Adams
Randall Cobb



TE
Josiah Deguara
Tyler Davis



RT
Billy Turner
Dennis Kelly



RG
Royce Newman
Lucas Patrick



C
Lucas Patrick
Jake Hanson



LG
Jon Runyan
Lucas Patrick



LT
Elgton Jenkins
Yosh Nijman



TE
Mercedes Lewis
Dominique Dafney



WR
Marquez Valdes-Scantling
Allen Lazard



DEFENSE

CB
Kevin King
Chandon Sullivan



DE
Dean Lowry
Tyler Lancaster



NT
Kenny Clark
T.J. Slaton



DE
Kingsley Keke
Jack Heflin



CB
Eric Stokes
Rasul Douglas



OLB
Preston Smith



ILB
Krys Barnes
Oren Burks



ILB
De'Vondre Campbell
Ty Summers



OLB
Rashan Gary
Jonathan Garvin



S
Adrian Amos
Vernon Scott



S
Darnell Savage
Henry Black



FYI

Rosters and depth charts are accurate as of Nov. 21, 2:30 p.m.



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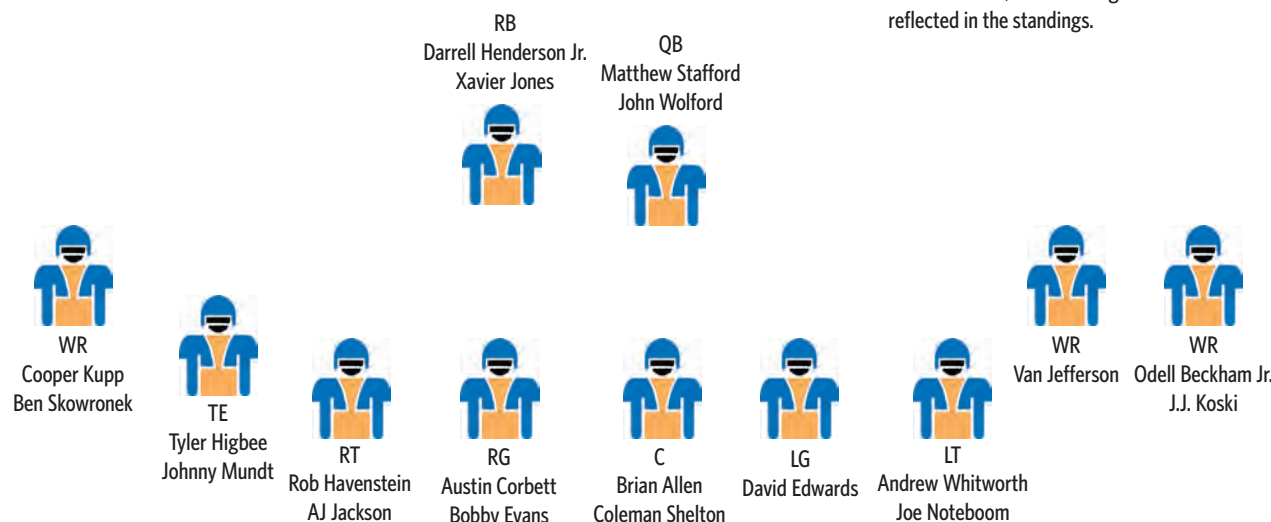


RAMS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

FYI

The Giants, Buccaneers game from Nov. 22 is not reflected in the standings.



DEFENSE



SCHEDULE

Thursday's Games

Chicago at Detroit, 11:30 a.m.
Las Vegas at Dallas, 3:30 p.m.
Buffalo at New Orleans, 7:20 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Tampa Bay at Indianapolis, noon
N.Y. Jets at Houston, noon
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants, noon
Carolina at Miami, noon
Tennessee at New England, noon
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, noon
Atlanta at Jacksonville, noon
L.A. Chargers at Denver, 3:05 p.m.
L.A. Rams at Green Bay, 3:25 p.m.
Minnesota at San Francisco, 3:25 p.m.
Cleveland at Baltimore, 7:20 p.m.

Monday's Game

Seattle at Washington, 7:15 p.m.

Teams on bye: Arizona, Kansas City

Thursday's Game

Dallas at New Orleans, 7:20 p.m.

STANDINGS

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

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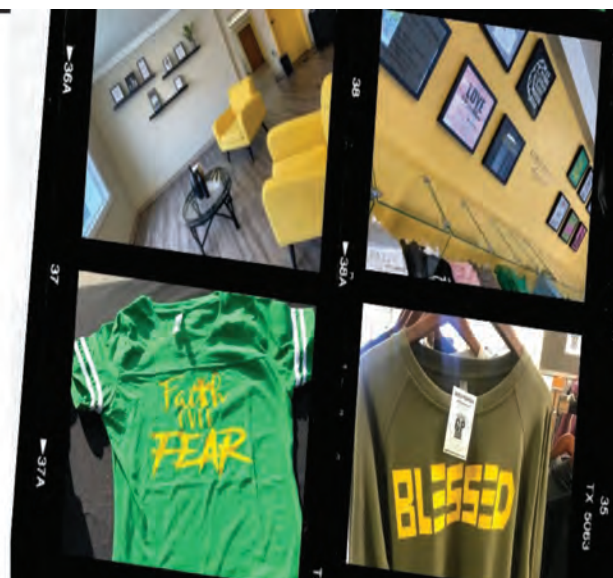
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Grande Amber Paul Masson Brandy \$14⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Seagram's VO Canadian Whiskey \$19⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Fireball Cinnamon Whiskey \$19⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Bailey's Irish Cream \$45⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Maker's Mark Bourbon Whiskey \$20⁹⁹ 750 ml.



Canadian, Caramel or Apple
Black Velvet Whiskey \$7⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

After \$5.00 mail in rebate



Captain Morgan Spiced Rum 2 FOR \$37⁹⁸ 1.75 ltr.

After \$12.00 rebate on 2



Windsor Canadian Whiskey 3 FOR \$26⁹⁷ 1.75 ltr.

After \$15.00 rebate on 3



Tito's Handmade Vodka \$28⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Bacardi Rum \$19⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Jose Cuervo Tequila \$29⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Jameson Irish Whiskey \$39⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Tito's Handmade Vodka \$28⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Bacardi Rum \$19⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Jose Cuervo Tequila \$29⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Jameson Irish Whiskey \$39⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.



Regular or Light Kessler Whiskey 2 FOR \$25⁹⁸ 1.75 ltr.

After \$4.00 mail in rebate on 2

Spiced, Coconut or Cherry Spiced Admiral Nelson Rum \$6⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

After \$5.00 mail in rebate

Early Times Whiskey \$16⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Original, Fire or Honey Jack Daniel's Whiskey \$34⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.



Canadian Club Whiskey 2 FOR \$25⁹⁸ 1.75 ltr.

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Light, Light Rye or Light Cherry Mount Royal Whiskey \$19⁷⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Rich & Mellow Korbel Brandy \$18⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Southern Comfort Whiskey \$22⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Christian Brother's Brandy 2 FOR \$26⁹⁸ 1.75 ltr.

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DeWar's White Label Scotch Whiskey \$29⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.



Beefeater London Dry Gin \$29⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Grey Goose Vodka \$46⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

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Cabernet
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750 ml.

BEAT The Expert



Morgan Rode
NEW Media Sports Editor

Week 12 Games: Sunday, Nov. 28

Teams on bye: Arizona & Kansas City

Las Vegas @ Dallas Thurs., Nov. 25
Buffalo @ New Orleans Thurs., Nov. 25
Pittsburgh @ Cincinnati
NY Jets @ Houston
Tampa Bay @ Indianapolis
Atlanta @ Jacksonville
Carolina @ Miami
Tennessee @ New England
Philadelphia @ NY Giants
LA Chargers @ Denver
LA Rams @ Green Bay
Minnesota @ San Francisco
Cleveland @ Baltimore
Seattle @ Washington Mon., Nov. 29

Tie Breaker Game:
Chicago @ Detroit Thursday, November 25

Weekly Standings

	Weekly Record	Overall Record
God's Purpose Apparel	8-5-1	100-49-1
Tower Clock Eye Center	7-6-1	96-53-1
Shawano Seasons Restaurant	6-7-1	95-54-1
22 Shell	6-7-1	93-56-1
Buss Automotive	5-8-1	93-56-1
Tim Murphy	5-8-1	93-56-1
Morgan Rode	6-7-1	92-57-1
Dennis Brei	6-7-1	91-58-1
Hawkeyes	5-8-1	90-59-1

Weekly Standings

	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Shawano Place Assisted Living	6-7-1	90-59-1
State Farm-Idell Johnston	6-7-1	90-59-1
P & D Sale and Service	6-7-1	88-61-1
Smokey Joes	7-6-1	88-61-1
B & C Auto Recycling	5-8-1	86-63-1
Gehm's Club 117	5-8-1	83-66-1
Iverson's Piggly Wiggly	8-5-1	79-70-1
Cirrinity/Wittenberg Telephone	4-9-1	78-71-1
Senn Insurance	6-7-1	78-71-1



Due to holiday time constraints and press schedules, the standings will be updated in next week's Green & Gold issue. Winners for each of the 2 weeks will also be listed at that time. Thank you, and have a great Thanksgiving!



Morgan Rode
Shawano
Leader

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Carolina	Baltimore
Buffalo	New England	Seattle
Cincinnati	NY Giants	
NY Jets	LA Chargers	
Indianapolis	LA Rams	
Atlanta	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score : Chicago 23 @ Detroit 21



Tim Murphy
Shawano
Leader

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Miami	Baltimore
Buffalo	New England	Seattle
Cincinnati	Philadelphia	
Houston	LA Chargers	
Tampa Bay	Green Bay	
Atlanta	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 23 @ Detroit 20



Dennis Brei
Oconto County
Times Herald

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Carolina	Baltimore
Buffalo	New England	Seattle
Pittsburgh	NY Giants	
NY Jets	Denver	
Tampa Bay	Green Bay	
Atlanta	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 21 @ Detroit 13

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Toby
B&C Auto
Recycling

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Carolina	Baltimore
Buffalo	Tennessee	Washington
Cincinnati	NY Giants	
Houston	LA Chargers	
Tampa Bay	Green Bay	
Atlanta	Minnesota	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 23 @ Detroit 21



Iverson's Staff
Iverson's
Piggly Wiggly

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Carolina	Baltimore
Buffalo	Tennessee	Seattle
Cincinnati	Philadelphia	
NY Jets	LA Chargers	
Tampa Bay	Green Bay	
Jacksonville	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 23 @ Detroit 17



Amber
Smokey Joe's
& JDoggs

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Miami	Baltimore
Buffalo	New England	Seattle
Cincinnati	Philadelphia	
Houston	LA Chargers	
Tampa Bay	Green Bay	
Atlanta	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 23 @ Detroit 20



Robert Buss
Buss
Automotive

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Carolina	Baltimore
Buffalo	New England	Seattle
Pittsburgh	NY Giants	
NY Jets	Denver	
Indianapolis	Green Bay	
Atlanta	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 21 @ Detroit 17



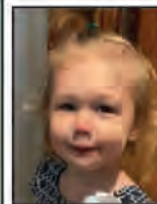
Dena
P&D Sales
& Service

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Carolina	Baltimore
Buffalo	New England	Seattle
Cincinnati	Philadelphia	
Houston	LA Chargers	
Tampa Bay	Green Bay	
Jacksonville	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 20 @ Detroit 17



Caroline
Idell Johnston
State Farm Agent

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Carolina	Baltimore
Buffalo	Tennessee	Seattle
Cincinnati	Philadelphia	
Houston	LA Chargers	
Tampa Bay	Green Bay	
Atlanta	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 23 @ Detroit 21



Scott Nyman
Cirinity

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Miami	Baltimore
Buffalo	New England	Seattle
Cincinnati	Philadelphia	
Houston	LA Chargers	
Tampa Bay	Green Bay	
Atlanta	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 23 @ Detroit 20



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This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Miami	Baltimore
Buffalo	New England	Seattle
Cincinnati	Philadelphia	
Houston	LA Chargers	
Indianapolis	Green Bay	
Atlanta	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 28 @ Detroit 21



Jim Wiegand
Tower Clock
Eye Center

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Carolina	Baltimore
Buffalo	Tennessee	Seattle
Cincinnati	Philadelphia	
NY Jets	LA Chargers	
Tampa Bay	LA Rams	
Atlanta	Minnesota	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 14 @ Detroit 13



Russ
Gehm's
Club 117

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Carolina	Cleveland
New Orleans	New England	Seattle
Cincinnati	Philadelphia	
NY Jets	LA Chargers	
Tampa Bay	Green Bay	
Atlanta	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 24 @ Detroit 14



Shane Senn
Senn
Insurance

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Carolina	Cleveland
Buffalo	New England	Seattle
Cincinnati	Philadelphia	
Houston	LA Chargers	
Indianapolis	Green Bay	
Jacksonville	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 14 @ Detroit 17



Brenda
22 Shell

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Carolina	Baltimore
Buffalo	New England	Washington
Cincinnati	Philadelphia	
Houston	LA Chargers	
Tampa Bay	Green Bay	
Atlanta	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 24 @ Detroit 17



Chris
God's Purpose
Apparel

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Carolina	Baltimore
Buffalo	Tennessee	Seattle
Cincinnati	NY Giants	
Houston	LA Chargers	
Indianapolis	Green Bay	
Atlanta	Minnesota	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 23 @ Detroit 10



Aaron
Shawano
Place

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Miami	Cleveland
Buffalo	Tennessee	Seattle
Cincinnati	NY Giants	
NY Jets	LA Chargers	
Tampa Bay	LA Rams	
Atlanta	Minnesota	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 24 @ Detroit 17



Dale
Hawkeye
Hearth & Home

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Carolina	Baltimore
Buffalo	Tennessee	Washington
Cincinnati	NY Giants	
Houston	LA Chargers	
Tampa Bay	Green Bay	
Jacksonville	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 21 @ Detroit 10

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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*	INDIANAPOLIS COLTS	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*	@ PHOENIX PACKERS	FOX	

Lewis willing to do it all for Packers

He hopes to become longest-tenured tight end ever

By **BILL HUBER**
Correspondent

What do you give a guy who presumably has everything?

When Matt LaFleur turned 41 last year, his coaches bought him a Mercedes Lewis jersey.

It's easy to see why.

"Mercedes embodies everything that I think we're all about here," LaFleur explained last season. "Everything he does is so selfless. It's for the team."

At age 37, Lewis is the NFL's oldest tight end. After each of the past three seasons, general manager Brian Gutekunst has coaxed Lewis back for one more season. To heck with one year. Tight ends coach Justin Outten wants Lewis to play through his 45th birthday.

"Woo," Lewis said with a laugh early this season. "I think realistically at this level that I'm playing, I have at least three. At least three. I can see to three playing at a high level. When I feel like I can't play at this level, I don't think I can be a guy just chilling with a jersey on. That's not me."

"I respect JO so much and I appreciate him saying that. I take that as a compliment. I don't know, man. It's just special being here. The fact that I'm able to go do my thing on the field and come back and get in the meeting room where just positive vibration flowing all through that room, it makes it worth it."

The feeling is as mutual as the math is simple. By playing through 2023, Lewis would be the most-tenured tight end in NFL history. Hall of Famer Tony Gonzalez holds that honor with 17 seasons.

"That's my goal," Lewis said. "For me, I'm pretty hard on myself. My expectations for myself are heavier than what a coach could ever put on me, a family member or a critic. So, if I couldn't do it, I would be honest with myself and back out. I dictate the physicality. I'm not getting whipped. You can turn my film on. I'm not the one getting thrown on the ground and all that. Because of that, I'm able to play a little longer."

Lewis is straddling two eras. He is a throwback tough guy who has thrived in a kinder, gentler NFL. One of the best blockers at his posi-



Green Bay Packers tight end Marcedes Lewis, right, runs a route during the team's game against the Minnesota Vikings on Nov. 21 in Minneapolis.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

tion in the NFL, Lewis is as physical as they come. He trains in mixed-martial arts during the offseason to stay in tip-top shape. But the modern NFL, with the elimination of two-a-day practices during training camp and the change to less-taxing practices during the season, has allowed Lewis to stay on top of his game.

"As far as the game and how much it's evolved, it's less Oklahoma drill mind-set, beating each other up, and it's more taking care of each other and learning how to work as a pro," Lewis said. We're all professionals. We're all big, strong and fast.

"We know we could hurt each other on any given play. Why do that against each other when we've got 17 games to do that? I think for the most part, for me, that's been the biggest difference is in camp and practices. Practice is where you get more tested and get ready for the season. It's just not like it used to be, and I'm grateful for that. I think there's a lot less concussions during practice because of that. From a humanity side, I just think we're all human beings first."

Once the regular season begins, teams are allowed to practice in pads only 14 times, with a maximum of once per week. The Packers typi-

cally hold their padded practice on Thursdays. Because of his value to the team, Lewis typically gets that day off.

Lewis appreciates the ability to step away from the field to get in an extra lift while keeping his legs fresh.

"We started it last year," he said of the no-practice Thursdays. "I never got a day off. I was in Jacksonville getting run into the ground. I'd take the No. 1 reps and then they wanted another look for the 2s and be like, 'Cedes, can you get out there?' just because they didn't trust who was behind me. Me, being who I am, I'm like, 'All

right, cool.' But after a while, I'm like, 'Bro, I won't last long doing this.' So, the fact that I'm able to come here and put in my work and get my work in on days that I'm working and then have a day off has helped put plays and reps back on my body."

So, when Lewis was asked to play a season-high 42 snaps against Seattle in Week 10, his blocking was as strong on the final series as it was on the first. When Lewis – aka "Big Dog" – started the Week 11 game at Minnesota, it extended his starts streak to 23 games – the third-longest current streak among tight ends.

"It's hard to keep him off the field with his production and his consistency and what he brings to the table and allows us to do on offense," Outten said. "He probably didn't feel it [the playing time vs. Seattle] just because when the crowd started barking, it electrified not only him but the sideline. It was pretty cool when he caught the ball and just hear the crowd start to bark. It was a cool atmosphere to hear that and the appreciation they have for him. He puts it in every single day. He's just a cornerstone that we lean on."

Lewis' game has evolved as the NFL has evolved, though it's sort of been in the opposite direction. When Lewis entered the league in 2006 as a first-round pick by Jacksonville, the game wasn't so pass-centric. That made Lewis a rare breed as a two-way tight end, capable of factoring as a blocker and receiver. In 2010, he caught 58 passes for 700 yards and 10 touchdowns. He added 52 receptions in 2012.

Over the years, the position has evolved in such a way that tight ends are often nothing more than oversized receivers. His teammate, Robert Tonyan, is a prime example of that. Lewis isn't that kind of play-



Green Bay Packers tight end Marcedes Lewis looks on during the team's game against the Minnesota Vikings on Nov. 21 in Minneapolis.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

er anymore. Age has taken a couple steps in his game. But there's value in doing the dirty work, and Lewis excels in that phase.

Not that the big guy is nothing more than an extra offensive lineman. He made two huge catches in the overtime victory over Cincinnati, for instance. Through 11 games, he's caught 12-of-14 targets for 117 yards. Of the 59 tight ends who have been targeted at least a dozen times, he's ninth with 6.9 yards after the catch per catch.

"I feel like I'm a secret weapon, just in case," Lewis said. "It's team-first for me. If I have to put a guy on his neck so '33' can score a touchdown, then I'm going to put that dude on his neck so Aaron Jones can get in the end zone. If they need me to catch a fade in the

back of the end zone, I'll do that. Whatever it is, I think that's my role and I own that and I'll be the best at that."

For Lewis, the pride, determination and dedication started at an early age. Before blossoming into a Parade All-American while at Long Beach Polytechnic High School and a college All-American at UCLA, Lewis was a poor, inner-city kid born to – and inspired by – his 15-year-old mom.

"We didn't have nothing. Everything is a profit for me," he said. "All the positive energy that I share with my teammates and my coaches and people around this building is an enhancement of my life. I look at it like just taking advantage of my opportunities and not wasting a gift. I was born with a certain skill-set. It's all about the energy and my love for the game. That hasn't gone anywhere. For me, it's just a blessing to be on a team where my skill-set is still respected, and I don't take that for granted."

While the NFL has changed, and Lewis' game has adapted with it, his mentality hasn't changed one bit. He is a revered leader and team captain. He leads by word and deed. His wisdom hits home with every player on the team, whether it's 37-year-old quarterback Aaron Rodgers, the up-and-coming Tonyan, or an undrafted free agent such as fellow tight end Dominique Dafney.

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Employment problems go up in smoke

Simplified menu helps accommodate for staffing shortfalls at Pigeon River Brewing Co.

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

Many businesses dealing with a shortfall in employees have been reducing their hours to keep from running their current workers ragged.

For Pigeon River Brewing Company, the solution was as simple as changing the menu.

Kayla Knaack, who owns the Marion business with her husband, Nate, said that they'd been able to keep employment numbers in check until the end of the summer, but then they found they had a couple of vacancies they couldn't find anyone to fill.

"My husband and I were both splitting up our days. He was working here part of the day, and I was working another part of the day," Knaack said. "All of our staff that were working here were really getting stretched thin as well, and not getting the work-life balance that we'd like to be able to offer."

She added that having five children at home did not make it easy for her and her husband to be in the trenches with the cooks, servers and bartenders.

"We got to the point where we were like, something needs to change," Knaack said. "We couldn't do this anymore."

That's when Knaack and her husband realized there was a way to streamline the process, and it all had to do with something Nate was already doing — smoking meats. Knaack said it's something he's been doing for years at home, but they hadn't done anything as far as implementing that smoked meat into the menu at the brewing company.

The Knaacks simplified their menu, taking off burgers and other items that took a lot of time to cook from raw meat, and instead introduced smoked meat sandwiches and other goodies. With smoked brisket, pork and chicken available, Pigeon River is offering sandwiches like the mac attack brisket, pork tacos, smoked Gouda chicken sandwich and more.

"It was a way of dealing with a bad situation, but it was also an opportunity to become more true to ourselves," Knaack said. "He's really passionate about (smoking meat). He loves it. He's getting to the point where he enjoys smoking meat



Pigeon River Brewing Company co-owner Kayla Knaack holds up the mac attack brisket sandwich, with the restaurant's signature fries. The brisket sandwich is one of several streamlined menu items using meat smoked by her husband, Nate, to alleviate the pressures of food prep at times when there are fewer employees available to work.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

almost as much as he enjoys brewing beer."

The mac attack brisket, which combines smoked brisket with macaroni and cheese, caramelized onions and beer cheese, has been the favorite among all the new dishes, according to Knaack. Following up close behind is the brandy old-fashioned pork sandwich, which includes Monterey Jack cheese and brandy old-fashioned flavored bacon and cherry jam.

"It's a bacon jam made with Gary's Old Fashioned Mix and brandy and sweetened, dried cherries, so that old-fashioned flavor goes well with the pulled pork," Knaack said.

By putting the skill at the front end of the process, smoking the meats, Knaack said time is drastically cut in preparing the food, which means orders do not get backed up and thus, employees are not stressed out during the busy times of the day.

"It's a lot more manageable and efficient for the staff that we have, and they feel like they can breathe

a little bit more during the shift and not feel quite so burned out," Knaack said. "They're able to put food out a lot faster."

Having a menu with smoked meats is also helping Pigeon River deal with supply chain issues, as well, according to Knaack.

"If we're ordering fresh ingredients like fresh brisket or fresh pork, it's a lot easier to source those ingredients locally versus some of the other pre-made stuff that you just can't get your hands on these days," she said. "Everyone's having a hard time finding chicken wings. Fish is kind of getting in short supply, and we've been lucky enough that we can get a good supply of haddock, because we have a very popular fish fry."

The simplified menu has helped in light of the brewing company hiring some new cooks. The easier items catch on more quickly to those being trained, according to Knaack, and it makes it easier if Pigeon River has to hire any cooks in the future.

Even though patrons enjoyed the

burgers, wraps and pizzas offered, streamlining the menu made a difference in time management.

"When you've got 20 burgers on a char grill, there's a lot of pressure in being able to time them all right," Knaack said. "If you're off by a minute or two, people's burgers are going to be overcooked or undercooked. It's really hard to keep consistency in something like that, whereas with this product it's not quite as timing specific, and we're able to put out a consistent product without having that pressure on everybody."

Knaack noted their consistent patrons have expressed sadness as losing some of Pigeon River's mainstays, but the new items on the menu work to fill the gaps.

"Everybody who's willing to try it out has liked it," Knaack said. "We're just trying to do whatever we can to support our family, support our staff and support our community. We're really hopeful that they're going to support us in return."



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JOB DESCRIPTION

General mill labor. Operating production equipment as well as board stackers needed. Responsible for running lumber mill equipment as well as housekeeping around the equipment. Monitoring the quality of product is a must during production time. Ability to monitor equipment and do preventative maintenance. Ability to stand for long durations of time. Ability to bend and lift up to 25 pounds at a time.

BENEFITS

Vacation and holiday pay. Health, life, dental, vision and short term disability insurance, 401K/Profit sharing. Plus production bonuses & Safety incentives!

Apply online at DimensionLumberCompany.com or

In person at 11852 Hwy 32E Suring, WI 54174

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Small Business Season has arrived

Plenty of opportunities to Shop Local this weekend and next

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

For the Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Saturday is just a start.

Small Business Saturday — held this year on Nov. 27 — was first celebrated by American Express in 2010 as a way to encourage shoppers to support their local businesses, sandwiching the “Shop Small Saturday” observance between Black Friday and Cyber Monday during the weekend after Thanksgiving.

The Shawano business group has been distributing “Small Business Season” merchandise to its members this month, with the slogan “Shop Small With Us This Season,” not just on a single day.

Festivities are planned throughout the area this weekend as the Christmas season gets underway a few minutes after most folks push themselves away from the Thanksgiving dinner table.

The Oconto Falls Lioness Club returns to its traditional Avenue of Lights lighting ceremony at 6 p.m. Nov. 27 at East Side Beach, a year after pandemic concerns limited the event. Members of the Oconto Falls High School choir will entertain with songs of the season, followed by the lighting and a visit from Santa Claus.

Shawano’s annual Holiday Stroll and Tree Lighting includes downtown businesses offering special in-store promotions from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and a variety of holiday events at Franklin Park from 3-5 p.m., concluding with the lighting of a 65-foot decorated Christmas tree.

This event is the kick-off to holiday shopping downtown, coinciding with Shop Small Saturday. Downtown businesses will have special promotions and features to inspire shoppers to focus their Christmas shopping in local stores.

The second weekend of the holiday season begins Dec. 2, in Oconto Falls, with the annual Christmas Open House from 3-7 p.m. downtown. Activities include wagon rides around town from the Antique Bar, a selfie station at the Oconto Falls Community Library, cookie decorating at Stay at HomeCare, and a gingerbread house contest at the Flower Shoppe.

Christmas in Bonduel starts with the Santa Dash run/walk at Village



Mrs. Claus stops her stroll around Franklin Park in Shawano to look at some of the trees decorated for the holiday season during a recent Holiday Stroll. The evening gives hundreds of local residents to wander around the park and examine the trees decorated by local organizations. The tradition returns Nov. 27.

FILE | NEW MEDIA



Wagon rides through downtown Oconto Falls are part of the Christmas Open House events planned for Dec. 2.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

Park at 10 a.m. Dec. 4, and family activities continue throughout the community culminating in the lighting of the park at 5 p.m.

Gillett businesses and organizations will be busy at Zippel Park pre-

paring light displays to be unveiled during the annual Christmas in the Park festivities on Dec. 4. Family activities are planned 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Expo Hall, with horse-drawn wagon rides around town, and

the annual craft and vendor fair at St. John’s Lutheran Church is scheduled for 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The day concludes with the lighting of the Christmas lights at 5 p.m. followed by fireworks over the park.

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Green Bay Football 2021 Season

SEPTEMBER - REGULAR SEASON			
Sunday, September 12	3:25 pm	@ New Orleans Saints	FOX
Monday, September 20	7:15 pm	DETROIT LIONS	ESPN
Sunday, September 26	2:20 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	7:20 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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