



A pair of jumpers head for the waters of the Wolf River channel while others rush to return to shore Jan. 1 at the Lighthouse for the 25th annual Polar Plunge for Shawano. LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

Bonduel man tells a whopper of a tale

Buchholz wins Burlington Liars' Club annual contest

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Regan Buchholz can certainly tell a tall tale. As proof, the Bonduel man was just named the winner of the 2025 Burlington Liars' Club contest.

According to Buchholz, "My parents were so poor that they had to bury Grandfather naked just so my dad had a suit to wear to the funeral."

The retired letter carrier said it was only the third time he entered the contest.

"I've always had a good sense of humor," Buchholz said. "I was sitting around, watching TV and thinking of something goofy or funny that people would get a kick out of."

Winning came as a surprise. "I was shocked when I opened the email," he said. "Honorable mention would have been an honor itself."

Not one to rest on his laurels, Buchholz already has a few ideas for entries in the 2026 contest.

"I didn't want to enter everything at once," he said. "One of them has to do with ice fishing."

Buchholz grew up in the Bonduel area,

LIAR, CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

Polar Plunge cool way to start new year in Shawano

Many first-time participants take part in 25th annual event

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

Frigid temperatures, near subzero wind chills and the threat of snow were no match for the stamina of 45 people who participated in the Polar Plunge on New Year's Day at the Lighthouse, which was the 25th time the restaurant near the Shawano Municipal Airport held the event.

The snow stopped shortly before 2 p.m., with a temperature around 13 degrees that had a wind chill near zero, but plenty of folks bellied up to the dock to dive into the channel that connects Shawano Lake with the Wolf River. There were plenty of previous jumpers and families, but many of them were first timers.

Corey Vander Zanden not only made



Only six people dared to dive into the water for the first Polar Plunge in Shawano, but 45 jumped in this year — including the dozen people standing here on the dock waiting for their turn to hit the frigid waters. LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

the plunge himself, but he also got some of his employees to don Speedos and jump in the frigid water as a team-building exercise. Vander Zanden owns Home-

stead Stump Grinding and Excavating in the Appleton area.

PLUNGE, CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



Bonduel's Regan Buchholz was declared the winner of the 2025 Burlington Liars' Club annual contest. For nearly 100 years, entries have been submitted from around the country by folks fibbing for fame and folly. CONTRIBUTED

INSIDE

Shawano hockey team wants to join Great Northern Conference.

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LET'S PLAY, WISCONSIN!

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Season of diseases filling up hospitals

Health director seeing upticks in flu, COVID-19

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

The season of giving has passed, but the season of diseases is wreaking havoc in Shawano County as cases of cold, flu, COVID-19 and more are on the rise.

Nick Mau, Shawano-Menominee Counties Health Department director, said ThedaCare Medical Center-Shawano is full, with some of the more serious cases being transported to the New London hospital and other nearby facilities.

“We had, I believe, 10 COVID hospitalizations within the last week and several for influenza,” Mau said Dec. 30. “We’re seeing influenza outbreaks in our long-term care facilities starting to creep up, as well. We’re definitely coming to a peak for cold and flu season.”

With the cold and flu season typically going on through April, Mau believes this season will be especially problematic for the counties.

“Those who haven’t gotten vaccinated yet, we’re still right in the middle of that season,” he said. “Getting that vaccine, a COVID shot or a flu shot right now is still a good idea. There’s still a long period of time (for the season), so that shot can provide some immunity for you going into the new year.”

If people get ill, despite the vaccine, Mau recommends staying at home to prevent the further spread of viruses.

“Stay home, drink lots of fluids and seek medical attention for fevers lasting several days or if you’re having trouble staying hydrated,” Mau said. “Definitely talk to your



NICK MAU

doctors, as well, about immunizations if you have questions. I recommend just talking to your primary care doctor and see if any of those vaccines are right for you.”

Flu is not just affecting the people of Shawano and Menominee counties. Mau said there have been a few cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza that have come to his attention and are starting to affect the milk supply.

“It’s nothing to be alarming, because the state has been monitoring Wisconsin’s milk supply since the beginning of this year (2025),” Mau said. “Nothing that has tested positive has reached the consumer, but it’s best to be mindful, for those that have backyard flocks to just keep an eye on them for symptoms and making sure they seem healthy.”

Anyone who has sick birds or birds that suddenly pass away should consult with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, according to Mau. He said doing this will help to keep the rest of the flock healthy and prevent transmission to other farms or places where birds are located.

“Even our backyard chickens can interact with seasonal waterfowl and things like that,” Mau said. “We just want to make sure we’re keeping things as contained as possible (to) protect our dairy herds and poultry.”

Mau noted that RSV, which has been a problem in previous winter seasons, hasn’t been a factor, but that doesn’t mean it won’t make its presence known during the next few months.

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

“Those who haven’t gotten vaccinated yet, we’re still right in the middle of that season. Getting that vaccine, a COVID shot or a flu shot right now is still a good idea.”

NICK MAU, Shawano-Menominee Counties health director

Dancing to celebrate sobriety



ABOVE: The honor guard with the Veterans of Menominee Nation and other select representatives make their way around the arena Dec. 31 during the Menominee Nation Sobriety Powwow held at the Omaeqnomenewak Wetohkatikamek Center in Keshena. Prior to the powwow, a feast was held. During the ceremony, there was an annual sobriety countdown, basket raffles, spot dances and more — all in an effort to illustrate how sacred the youths are to the Menominee people and encourage a sober future.

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LEFT: LaRaine Red Kettle, the current Miss Menominee Nation, introduces herself Dec. 31 during the Menominee Nation Sobriety Powwow held at the Omaeqnomenewak Wetohkatikamek Center in Keshena. Red Kettle was among a number of Menominee royalty who participated in the powwow.

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BELOW: Fancy shawl dancers perform Dec. 31 during the Menominee Nation Sobriety Powwow held at the Omaeqnomenewak Wetohkatikamek Center in Keshena. Besides specific dances based on the regalia, there were also luck of the draw dances, a feather dance and a grand entry special.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA



Dog owners reminded rabies shots, licenses required

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

All owners of dogs in Shawano County are reminded that rabies vaccinations and dog licenses are required for the animals.

A rabies vaccination by a veterinarian is required within 30 days after the dog reaches 5 months of age and revaccinated within one year after the initial vaccination. Older vaccinated dogs must be

revaccinated when the certificate expires or within three years of the previous vaccination.

Presentation of evidence that the dog is currently immunized against rabies must be presented when obtaining dog licenses.

All dogs 5 months of age or older require a license.

The minimum license fee for neutered males or spayed females is \$3 and \$8 for the unneutered male

or unspayed female dog, or one-half of these amounts if the dog became 5 months of age after July 1 of the license year.

These minimums may be supplemented by local municipal rules.

The fee for a multiple dog license is \$35 for the first 12 dogs. There is an additional fee of \$3 for each dog more than 12.

A late fee of \$5 will be assessed to the owner of

each dog 5 months of age or over who fails to obtain a dog license by April 1 of each year. An owner who fails to have a dog vaccinated against rabies may be fined between \$50 and \$100.

Dog licenses must be obtained from the owner’s local municipal treasurer.

For more information, contact the Shawano County clerk’s office at 715-526-9150.

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Publisher

Greg Mellis
gmellis@newmedia-wi.com

Editor-in-chief

Kevin Passon
kpasson@newmedia-wi.com

Retail advertising

advertising@newmedia-wi.com

News

news@newmedia-wi.com

Obituaries

obits@newmedia-wi.com

Classifieds/legal notices

classifieds@newmedia-wi.com

Subscriptions

circulation@newmedia-wi.com



Jeannie Otto, NWTC's K-12 Pathways and Community Impact coordinator, welcomes welcomed community members, students, and health care professionals to a joint open sponsored by NWTC and ThedaCare-Shawano. CONTRIBUTED

NWTC, ThedaCare welcome community to hands-on nursing open house

Event highlights collaborative effort to expand rural nursing pathways

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and ThedaCare Medical Center-Shawano, recently welcomed community members, students, and health care professionals to an open house showcasing one of Wisconsin's most innovative approaches to rural nursing education: hands-on training inside a working hospital.

This open house highlighted educational nursing simulation spaces, where students complete coursework and clinical training in the same environment where they will ultimately care for patients.

This long-standing partnership between NWTC and ThedaCare focus on addressing health care workforce gaps in rural regions. Together, both have developed solutions that allow students to train close to home, reducing barriers to entry and strengthening the local health care pipeline.

Attendees explored cutting-edge AR/VR

simulation technology, hands-on clinical spaces and new pathways designed to prepare the next generation of nurses directly within the Shawano community. These experiences provided a glimpse into how modern technology and collaborative learning environments are preparing students to deliver high-quality patient care from day one.

"This collaboration with ThedaCare-Shawano, not only supports the expanding health care needs but provides relevant hands-on experiences that make valuable impacts in the workforce," said Jeannie Otto, K-12 Pathways and Community Impact coordinator, "We are supporting the long-term well-being of the community and creating a bright future for Shawano."

By expanding nursing education access in Shawano, NWTC and ThedaCare are helping more learners pursue careers in health care while building a stronger, more resilient local workforce.



An NWTC student demonstrates cutting-edge AR/VR simulation technology at a recent open house showcasing some of Wisconsin's most innovative approaches to rural nursing education. CONTRIBUTED

Applications being accepted for Alice in Dairyland

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection invites individuals with a passion for promoting agriculture to apply for the position of 79th Alice in Dairyland through Jan. 30.

As one of the most widely recognized marketing communications professionals in Wisconsin agriculture, Alice in Dairyland travels extensively, promoting Wisconsin's agricultural industry and its impact on the state economy.

Alice in Dairyland serves as a full-time spokesperson; cultivates relationships with television, radio, and print media outlets throughout the state; writes and delivers speeches at events; and uses social media to tell the stories of Wisconsin agriculture.

Additional duties include developing and executing marketing plans, delivering classroom presentations and networking with industry professionals. Alice must also learn and retain information about the diversity of Wisconsin agriculture and be able to tailor that information to educate urban and rural audiences.

"Serving as 'Alice' is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said current Alice in Dairyland Sarah Hagenow. "This role is an incredible way to contribute to Wisconsin's agricultural industry as an educator, communicator, media professional, relationship builder, student and so much more. I couldn't be more excited to continue the important work of sharing the stories of the diverse people and places that make Wisconsin an agricultural powerhouse, while educating others and inspiring them to do the same."

Alice in Dairyland applicants should have an

interest in Wisconsin agriculture, public speaking experience and at least three years of experience, education or training in communications, marketing, education or public relations. Applicants must also be Wisconsin residents and at least 21 years old.

This one-year, full-time contractual position starts July 6. The chosen candidate will travel solo extensively throughout the state and be required to have weekly in-person office time at DATCP's Madison office. The annual salary for Alice in Dairyland is \$45,000 and includes holiday, vacation and sick leave, as well as use of a vehicle while on official business. Reimbursement is provided for an individual health insurance premium up to \$450 a month and professional travel expenses.

To apply, provide a cover letter, completed application form, resume and contact information for three professional references to DATCPAlice@wisconsin.gov by 4:30 p.m. Jan. 30. Application materials are available on the Alice in Dairyland website.

Qualified applicants will participate in a preliminary interview Feb. 21 at DATCP's Madison office or via Microsoft Teams. The resulting top candidates will be required to attend a two-day program briefing and press announcement March 6-7, and the three-day final interview process May 14-16 in Marathon County.

Questions about the position or application process can be directed to DATCPAlice@wisconsin.gov. For information about the Alice in Dairyland program, visit <https://www.aliceindairyland.com> or follow Alice online on Facebook and Instagram.

'Birds of the Great Lakes' author to visit library

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Dexter Patterson, author of "Birds of the Great Lakes," will be part of a Saturday afternoon discussion and meet-and-greet event at the Shawano County Public Library.

He will talk about his birding adventures at 2 p.m. Jan. 24 as part of the 2026 Community Read program.

Community Read of-

ficially kicked off Jan. 12 with an unveiling of the books on the library's Facebook page.

Shawano County Library Community Read will focus on four books throughout the entire year.

The four featured books are:

- "Night Magic" by Leigh Ann Henion, an invitation to explore the natural world and its creatures after dark.

- "Better Living Through Birding" by Christian Cooper, a memoir by the gentleman who was arrested for birding while Black and his joys and sorrows in the natural world.

- "The Last Fire Season" by Manjula Martin, a reflection on living in Northern California through the most severe fire season on record.
- "Soil" by Camille

Dungy, a story of a Black woman's life told through her garden.

In addition to the books and discussion groups, other reading materials, events and activities will be planned at all six Shawano County Library sites across the county.

Also, a special Facebook group page will be created full of information for those participating in the Community Read.

Hit and run to a garage



An unknown driver crashed into the side of a garage at 1220 Engel Drive, Shawano, the night of Dec. 29 or the morning of Dec. 30. He or she then fled the scene. Property inside the garage was damaged, but the SUV inside avoided serious damage. CONTRIBUTED



The Knights of Columbus give \$5,743.60 to Lakeland Industries on Dec. 17. From left, front row, are Ron Hoffman, John Hoffman and Chuck Kation; back row, are Mike Richter, Richard Martens, Amy Neuman, Dave Wilson, Charles Ketchum and Troy Sadler.

CONTRIBUTED

Knights give to Lakeland Industries following fundraiser

The Knights of Columbus Bishop Fox Council 2836 announced a charitable donation to Lakeland Industries on Dec. 17, underscoring the organization's ongoing commitment to community support and local partnership.

The donation of \$5,743.60, raised through a council-sponsored Tootsie Roll fundraiser, was presented during a brief gathering attended by council officers and representatives

of the Knights of Columbus and Lakeland Industries. Council leaders said the funds are intended to support Lakeland Industries' continued operations and its role as a local employer and community partner.

"Supporting organizations that strengthen our community is central to our mission," said Charles Ketchum, chairman of the Tootsie Roll event.

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal

organization dedicated to the principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. Lakeland Industries, a company operated at the Shawano County Human Services Complex in the Town of Wescott, has provided services to adults with intellectual disabilities and chronic mental health conditions for more than 40 years, including teaching about woodworking, recycling, assembly, life skills and more.

Best of Wolf River Region

SHAWANO LEADER

2025

Readers Poll

Deadline: January 19, 2026

BALLOT #1

Best Goods:

☐ Appliances

☐ Carpet/Flooring

☐ Farm and Feed Store

☐ Flower Shop

☐ Furniture/Home Accessories

☐ Grocery Store

☐ Gift Store/Antiques

☐ Hardware

☐ Health Food

☐ Jewelry

☐ Men's Clothing

☐ Women's Clothing

☐ Paint Store

☐ Pet Grooming & Boarding

☐ Plant/Nursery

Best Services:

☐ A/C & Heating

☐ Attorney

☐ Bank

☐ Butcher/Meat Shop

☐ Child Care/Daycare

☐ Chiropractor

☐ Credit Union

☐ Dentist

☐ Electrician

☐ Fitness Center

☐ Gas Station/C-store

☐ Hair Salon/Barber

☐ Insurance Agency

☐ Massage

☐ Pharmacy

☐ Plumber

☐ Real Estate Company

☐ Retirement Community

☐ Travel Agency

☐ Veterinarian

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No purchase necessary to win. Deadline: January 19, 2026

A minimum of 10 categories on ballot must be completed in order for your vote to count to be eligible to win prizes.

Best of Wolf River Region

SHAWANO LEADER

2025

Readers Poll

Deadline: January 19, 2026

BALLOT #2

Best Thing To Do:

☐ Casino

☐ Cheese Factory

☐ Happy Hour/Night Spot

☐ Hotel/Motel/Resort

☐ Live Music

☐ Museum

☐ Golf Course

☐ Campground

Best Vehicle Services:

☐ ATV Store

☐ Auto Body Repair

☐ Auto Parts/Supply Store

☐ Boat Dealer/Maintenance

☐ Car Dealer

☐ Vehicle Service Center

☐ Car Wash

☐ Tire Store

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YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

Protect transparency, save WisconsinEye

Every year in Wisconsin state government, billions of taxpayer dollars are spent on programs and policies that impact every citizen, community, school and business.

While many people roll their eyes and tune out the sometimes messy, partisan, unpredictable work of state government, WisconsinEye Public Affairs Network encourages citizens to lean in. For the past 18 years, Wisconsin's equivalent to C-SPAN has provided an inside look into the workings of state government. This inside look, which I have been involved in from the start, has included:

- Free, live and unedited coverage of the Wisconsin Legislature, executive branch and state Supreme Court.
- Fourteen thousand hours of searchable and shareable archived video of official state proceedings.
- An additional 16,000 hours of unedited and spin-free coverage of news conferences, interviews, campaigns, elections and related civic events that add context and perspective.

As the nation's first independent, non-government-controlled state Capitol network, WisconsinEye does not favor the political left or right but is rooted firmly in that all-important middle ground where diverse voices are welcome and informed dialogue contributes to positive outcomes for Wisconsin.

The transparency that it delivers is essential to building the trust that keeps democracy functioning. Once citizens in a democracy come to understand how decisions are made, they can better use their voices and voting power to shape outcomes.

As an independent nonprofit resource, WisconsinEye has relied on charitable donations to support its lean annual budget of \$900,000. This funding approach is no longer sustainable in what has become a highly competitive, post-pandemic philanthropic environment. That's why the painful decision was made to shut down the functions of WisconsinEye, beginning Dec. 15, until the funding gap is plugged.

To this end, WisconsinEye is asking the legislature and governor to reconfigure a previously designated \$10 million matching grant approved



in a unanimous bipartisan act, to help WisconsinEye build a permanent \$20 million endowment. We are asking for lawmakers to remove the "match" requirement, and instead allocate \$900,000 for the network's 2026 budget.

Additionally, we are calling on the state to invest the rest of the endowment, with earnings flowing annually to the network to cover two-thirds of its annual budget. The remaining one-third will be raised through three proven streams: annual program sponsorships, small-gift and online donations, and an annual fundraising dinner.

Meetings with state officials are underway, but it will potentially take three months to work its way through the state process.

In the meantime, WisconsinEye needs to raise \$250,000 (three months of its operating budget) to bridge the financial gap and allow state Capitol programming to resume. Without this bridge funding, WisconsinEye could lose up to four highly skilled, cross-trained staff members. The domino effect would put the network at considerable risk of failure.

An alternative plan, that of a state government takeover of the network, was introduced by several Democratic legislators. Their plan, in my view, is in opposition with the decades-long commitment of the Wisconsin Legislature to provide citizens with an independent, trusted, neutral view of state government.

WisconsinEye cannot continue to provide a valued space where citizens can see for themselves, consider events and issues in context, and draw their own conclusions — if it is operated and controlled by the very entity it exists to cover.

Please consider joining the movement to save WisconsinEye by going to wiseye.org/donate. Your donation is tax deductible.

Jon Henkes is the president and chief executive officer of WisconsinEye. Your Right to Know is a monthly column distributed by the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council (wisfoic.org), a nonprofit, nonpartisan group dedicated to open government.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't be confused by writer's obfuscation

To the editor:

In my opinion, Richard Kucksdorf's recent guest column is begging for a critical examination.

Kucksdorf attacks six lawmakers, veterans all, for saying that military people should not follow illegal orders. Until recently, that statement would seem true and obvious. Is the author suggesting that soldiers and sailors should follow illegal orders or that illegal orders don't happen because oaths were taken? I think Kucksdorf's position is that illegal orders don't happen because oaths are taken. He claims the oaths are checks and balances.

This is an obfuscation, a confusion of concepts in order to manufacture a defense.

Donald Trump often says, "It's common sense."

Oaths are just promises and are often violated. My Lai, Abu Ghraib, Kent State and a myriad of wartime events in Iraq and elsewhere over the ages prove Kucksdorf wrong.

A current Economist/YouGov poll indicates 46% of Americans approve of the veterans' actions, 39% disagree. The poll also shows 29% support Trump's call for sedition charges and 59% disapprove of charges. It is likely that of the original 39% disapproving folks, many understood the truth of the patriotic veterans' statement but didn't want them to speak up.

ment but didn't want them to speak up.

Back in 2020 when Trump was sliding in the polls, Kucksdorf had another guest column published in the Shawano Leader. On June 27, he criticized Gen. James Mattis, Trump's Secretary of Defense, the most honored military officer in the country. Gen. Mattis had passed his Senate confirmation 93-5.

After Mattis, Gen. Mark Milley, Chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, publicly stated that he would not follow an illegal order from the president, per military.com.

Yogi Berra would describe the current threat of prosecution for sedition against the lawmakers as

"deja vu all over again." What beauty contestant will do the prosecution this time? The campaign of retribution is an abject failure.

The Democratic lawmakers have the power of foresight. Not two weeks after they spoke up the military "finished off" two shipwrecked sailors, possibly on an illegal order, resulting in murder. The failure of Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth to release the video prevents the public from ascertaining whether an illegal order was issued and by whom.

I agree with Richard Kucksdorf's point that people shouldn't be fooled. It just depends on who is trying to fool you.

Stephen Menard, Shawano

GUEST COLUMN

House passage of gray wolf delisting excellent

The Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association is grateful for the bipartisan passage of the Pet and Livestock Protection Act in the U.S. House of Representatives.

This legislation introduced by Reps. Tom Tiffany, R-WI, and Lauren Boebert, R-CO, restores the 2020 rule delisting gray wolves in the lower 48 states and prevents future judicial overturns.

The move marks a significant step forward for Wisconsin's cattle producers and rural communities who have faced increasing livestock losses, emotional stress and financial strain from growing wolf populations.

The passage of this bill is a huge win for cattle producers who have lived



for years with uncertainty and real consequences from unmanaged wolf populations. Science shows the gray wolf has more than recovered, yet producers have been left without meaningful tools to protect their livelihoods. (This) vote sends a strong message that Congress is listening to farmers and ranchers who are impacted every day.

Gray wolves were delisted in 2020, but a federal court ruling in 2022 overturned that decision.

Since being listed under

the Endangered Species Act in 1974, wolf populations have exceeded recovery goals by more than 300% nationwide.

The Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association has long advocated for science-based wildlife management and state authority over wolf management decisions. WCA remains actively engaged and prepared to help navigate next steps as the legislation advances.

As part of that effort, Bob Mitchell serves on the Wisconsin Wolf Advisory Committee on behalf of the Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association, ensuring the voices of cattle producers are represented as wolf policy and management discussions continue at the state level.

Having representation at the table is critical. With Mitchell serving on the Wolf Advisory Committee, WCA is positioned and ready to respond, engage and advocate as we move forward following (this) vote. We will continue working with state and federal partners to ensure livestock producers are protected and rural voices are heard.

The Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association joins the National Cattlemen's Beef Association in urging the U.S. Senate to take up and pass the Pet and Livestock Protection Act to restore certainty and return wolf management authority to the states.

Tressa Lacy is president of the Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association.

Podcast exactly what the doctors ordered

If you're interested in hearing about how language can heal a nation, two Oneida doctors have just the prescription.

"Not Those Kind of Doctors — A Serious Podcast by Unserious People" is hosted by Dr. Rosa Rylene King and Dr. Priscilla Belisle. Streaming on Spotify, it "explores the intersections of Oneida language, culture, healing, sovereignty and resilience."

Their website states that the podcast is for everyone, noting that "Whether you're Oneida, Indigenous or simply curious, this is a space for remembering, reclaiming and reimagining what it means to live well together."

As a fan since its April 2025 debut, I asked King to share some of her experiences so that NEW Media readers can recognize why they should include it in their listening queue.

In addition to being a seasoned Oneida language and history adjunct faculty member at the College of Menominee Nation, King is "an Indigenous language revitalization scholar" as well as the executive director of Skaṇnikú:lat Inc. — an organization dedicated "to rematriating Oneida language and culture."

Her co-host, Belisle, is one of CMN's adjunct business faculty members, known for being a "community-based researcher focused on Indigenous knowledge, wellness and systems change."

"Our work spans immer-



sion education, curriculum design, research, community programming and public education grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing and accountability to our nations," King said.

While many dynamic teachers are speaking about the power of using ancestral tongues throughout Turtle Island, "Not Those Kind of Doctors" heralds a different perspective — one that is open about the personal responsibility that is entwined within language work.

"We created the podcast to have honest, Indigenous-led conversations about language, culture, wellness and systems that often go unexamined. It's a space to speak plainly, challenge harmful narratives and center Indigenous brilliance without having to translate ourselves for non-Indigenous comfort," King said.

The four-episode first season featured topics that spanned from the Oneida creation story, to the impact of colonization, to how language usage brings healing and the role humor plays in bringing balance.

Running between 40 minutes to just over an hour in length, episodes were made for consumption, reflection and implementation.



When asked to describe their dynamic, King said, "Relational, honest, and grounded. We balance humor with depth, care with critique, and challenge each other in ways that feel supportive rather than performative."

The second season has shifted focus to the reality that working to revitalize a language can be challenging. While ultimately hopeful and uplifting, in the first two episodes, the doctors admit that teaching language and culture can lead to burnout. They emphasize that self-care is essential for continuing the important work they're doing.

The podcast is certainly resonating, as their use of storytelling and laughter to reconnect with ancestral knowledge feels fortifying for language teachers and inviting to those who want to learn more about Oneida culture.

"Listeners consistently share that the podcast feels affirming, grounding and refreshing," King said. "Many say it helps them feel less alone in language work, leadership and Indigenous wellness spaces — and that it gives language to things they've felt but hadn't heard named before."

Hardly the kind of people to rest on their



laurels, King and Belisle said the podcast will evolve throughout their forthcoming episodes.

"We plan to continue expanding conversations, welcoming guest voices and deepening episodes that support long-term sustainability in Indigenous language and cultural work. Growth will remain intentional, not extractive," King said.

I concluded my questions by asking King to share her favorite Oneida word.

King said it is "yukwat-sistay^," which translates into English as "our fire — the fire we have within each of us."

King elaborated, "We use it as a reminder that language and culture live within each of us and our responsibility throughout our lives is to tend to and nurture this fire to support our internet logs for the purpose of continuity and the future of Oneida language revitalization."

"Not Those Kind of Doctors" offers anyone with an internet connection the opportunity to hear powerful voices sharing stories about the life-changing work happening in northeast Wisconsin.

The conversations are dynamic, insightful and reinvigorating. If you tune in, you'll find the podcast offers listeners a taste of the good medicine that can heal a nation.

Ryan Winn, Ph.D., teaches communications, English, history and theater at the College of Menominee Nation. Visit www.menominee.edu for more information about the school.

GARDENING WITH MELINDA MYERS

Winter seed starting can be affordable and easy

Turn off the grow lights, gather a few milk jugs and potting mix, and start planting seeds. Winter sowing is a way to start transplants from seeds outdoors without a greenhouse or cold frame.

You'll save money on equipment and time tending the seeds and seedlings. Just transform milk jugs, soda bottles and other items into mini grow chambers to start some of your favorite and hard-to-find transplants from seeds.

Gather flower and vegetable seeds, milk jugs or two-liter soda bottles, duct tape, a quality potting mix and weatherproof marker. Check the seed packet for information on planting details and timing. Winter sowing dates vary with the growing climate, individual gardener and the seed variety you are planting.

Try starting hardy perennials, hardy and self-seeding annuals and cold weather vegetables now through late winter. Other flowers and vegetables seeds are typically winter



sown at about the same time you would plant them indoors or a month or two before the transplants get moved into the garden. Keep a record of your planting dates and results to help you fine tune your planting schedule and increase future success.

Wash containers and make four to 12 small holes in the bottom of the jug for drainage. A hot skewer, knife, screwdriver or drill work well for this step. Next, partially cut the jug to create a hinged lid. Make your cut about three to four inches above the bottom, leaving the area with the handle attached so it forms a hinge. Use the bottom of the milk jug handle as your guide.

Place a coffee filter or piece of paper towel over the drainage holes to con-



Winter sowing allows gardeners to start transplants from seeds outdoors using recycled items. MELINDAMYERS.COM

tain the potting mix while still allowing water to drain. Fill the bottom with moist, quality potting mix. Plant seeds at the depth and spacing recommended on the seed packet. Mix smaller seeds with sand to help with proper spacing.

Gently water until the excess runs out the bottom of the container.

Make transplanting easier by using the cardboard tubes from toilet paper to help space winter sown seedlings. Cut the toilet paper cardboard tubes to the right height and set them in the milk jug. Fill the bottom of the milk jug with potting mix and plant the seeds. Otherwise, plan on doing some careful separating of the individual seedlings in each milk jug or soda bottle.

Label the inside and outside of the jug with a permanent marker. Close the lid and seal it shut with duct tape. Remove the cap before setting your milk jugs in a sunny location outdoors where rain and snow can reach it. Set jugs in a milk crate in windy locations and protect them from curious pets and wildlife if needed.

Water your outdoor seed starting chambers during snow-free and dry weather. This will be much less often than those seedlings growing indoors under artificial lights.

Your plants will be ready to move into the garden at their normal planting time. Just open the lid, harden off the seedlings and move them into the garden.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the "Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition" and "Small Space Gardening." She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" streaming courses and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds and Blooms magazine and her website is www.melindamyers.com.

New year should start in April, not January

When I put up my new calendar, it said the first month of 2026 is January. Now lest you think I enjoyed one too many toddies this past Christmas holiday, I assure you that is not the case. In fact, my head is so clear that I got to thinking. Jon warned me how dangerous that can be, but did I pay attention? Of course not. Anyway, what I got to thinking about is the irrational way the Gregorian Calendar is arranged.

Earth to Gregory XIII. Wouldn't it have made a lot more sense to begin the New Year on April 1? For starters, April is a much warmer month, so a partygirl could actually go out on New Year's Eve stylishly dressed like those models in magazines. You know, in a slinky dress and strappy high-heeled sandals instead of a bulky sweater, long-johns, Sorel boots and a thick woolen scarf — or, God forbid, a



snowmobile suit. Ugh.

Then, too, April Fool's Day would be a far better choice because a huge number of people awaken on Jan. 1 wondering how much of a fool they made of themselves the evening before on what Jon calls Amateur Night. Full disclosure: I did do that in my younger days, but I am way too old to cut the mustard anymore. If you have no idea what that means, do the Google. While you're at it, take a side trip to YouTube and check out a song by Jean Shepherd, "Many Happy Hangovers to You." Trust me, it's worth a listen.

I digress. The main reason the first day of April

should start the New Year is the perpetual cycle of the changing seasons. On the natural world calendar, April marks the earth's awakening from a long sleep that starts in November when Mother Nature snuggles down under her snow quilt for her long winter's nap. Except for the January thaw, she slumbers undisturbed until the end of March when longer days and warmer temperatures jump-start the regeneration process we call spring.

Here I go thinking again, this time about those faint-hearted snowbirds who miss out on one of the most rewarding things about living in a freezer from November to March: sharing your hopes for an early spring with everyone you meet at the store or landfill. Yes, who among the hardy souls who live in the Northwoods year-round doesn't eagerly anticipate that wonderful

season when the earth is reborn? Unfortunately, due to climate change, we seem to be stuck with three months of March. Double ugh.

Be that as it may, here's the deal. Even Mother Nature sees a new year as the time for a fresh start. It's why we make all those resolutions that nobody ever keeps, right? I think (here I go again) those promises to reform are doomed to failure. Why? Simple. With the New Year starting in January when we are all frozen in place, who could be expected to keep any resolution — much less the most popular one, which is to lose weight.

Careful readers will notice I did not end that sentence with a question mark. Why? Because it's a rhetorical question and thus needs no special end punctuation. In other words, we already know the answer. Absolutely no

one can be faulted for renegeing on new year's resolutions because the new year starts at the wrong time. Let me expound on my hypothesis with the best example I can think of, the aforementioned getting in shape.

Who wants to go to the gym when the weather outside is frightful? Besides, driving on slippery roads is far more perilous than transporting around your own personal spare tire. How can you shed those excess pounds when you are cooped up inside the house with the couch and afghan calling your name with all the seduction of the Sirens in Greek Mythology? Hello-o-o.

It goes without saying that hot cocoa and leftover Christmas cookies pack a lot more calories than iced tea and chilled strawberries. No self-respecting northerner would fancy that combo after snowmo-

biling, ice-skating, cross-country skiing, sledding, snowshoeing or walking in a winter wonderland.

If I haven't convinced you that we should exchange New Year's Day and April Fool's Day, take heart. It will never happen. People say they want change, but they don't, even when it makes perfect sense. We're so accustomed to our current calendar that anyone who suggests such a drastic change would be considered a rabid revolutionary. Oh dear; I should have listened to Jon. Too much thinking is dangerous. Back to my coffee and cookies cocoon. I hope you had a wonderful Christmas season, and oh, a belated happy new year.

Kathleen Marsh is a lifelong educator, writer and community advocate. She has published eight books, four on the history of Townsend, where she and husband Jon are happily retired on the beautiful Townsend Flowage.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, JAN. 9

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

SATURDAY, JAN. 10

SHAWANO: Spin to Win Fish-O-Ree, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bamboo Bar, W5884 Cedar Court. Details at Bamboo Bar Facebook page. Breakfast pizza available starting at 5:30 a.m.

NAVARINO: Introduction to Cross Country Skiing, 9 a.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Members \$5, non-members \$10, families \$25. Register by Jan. 9 at 715-758-6999; arrive early if you want to rent skis.

MONDAY, JAN. 12

LENA: American Red Cross blood drive, 1-6 p.m., Lena High School, 304 E. Main St. Appointments at RedCrossBlood.org or 800-733-2767.

OCONTO: Masonic Pine Lodge 188 dinner, 6 p.m., 513 Superior Ave. Open to family, friends and interested guests, followed by Master Mason private meeting at 7

p.m. For more info contact the Lodge Secretary at 920-373-0950.

TUESDAY, JAN. 13

WABENO: Free Veterans Breakfast, 9:30 a.m., American Legion Hall, 4494 N. Branch St. Coffee ready 9 a.m. Chef's choice, hosted by Donna and Vicki, 715-889-3731.

GRESHAM: American Red Cross blood drive, noon to 5 p.m., Gresham High School, 501 Schabow Road. Appointments at RedCrossBlood.org or 800-733-2767.

SHAWANO: Shawano Pathways board meeting, 6 p.m., Shawano Civic Center, 225 S. Main St.

KESHENA: Recovery

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

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14

KESHENA: Recovery

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

THURSDAY, JAN. 15

OCONTO: American Red

Cross blood drive, noon to 5 p.m., Bond Community Center, 1201 Park Ave. Appointments at RedCrossBlood.org or 800-733-2767.

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



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Dr. Ben Schlais, ThedaCare Physicians

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Dr. Michael Ryan, UW-Madison researcher on running

**Shawano County Department of Human Services programs
January 31st**
Jennfer Frost, Katie Bartell, and Karla Downs -
Shawano County DHS

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Shawano hockey hopes to join GNC

WIAA initially OK, but some teams oppose the move

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Leaders of the Shawano/Bonduel high school boys varsity hockey team are hoping to move from an independent program to being a member of the Great Northern Conference with the start of the 2027-28 school year.

“We play most of these teams already,” coach Adam Gafner said. “They are similar sized programs, and it’s where we fit.”

Gafner said there are several reasons to join the GNC. Doing to would:

- Allow Shawano and Bonduel to have meaningful competition throughout the season.
- Allow the team and players to compete for conference titles and individual conference awards.
- Provide a more structured season schedule. Currently, without a conference schedule, the Hawks often have to incur significant travel to find teams to be able to play.
- Allow the program to develop a conference relationship and potentially

conference rivalries.

• Provide legitimacy to the team’s performance. Gafner said experience has been that the team’s performance is often overlooked and not taken seriously at seeding meetings.

The GNC includes Antigo (co-op with Wittenberg-Birnamwood), Lakeland, Medford (co-op with Abbotsford, Edgar and Rib Lake), Mosinee, Northland Pines, Rhinelander (co-op with Laona, Phelps and Three Lakes), Tomahawk and Waupaca.

According to the WIAA proposal, adding Shawano/Bonduel to the mix would see minimal changes to the average travel time for games for current GNC members. The largest decrease would be seven miles for Waupaca and the largest increase would be eight miles for Lakeland.

Shawano/Bonduel is a Division 2 program, and seven of the eight GNC schools are also D2. Tomahawk is in the D1 program due to the competitive success factor.

The WIAA Conference Realignment Task Force reviewed and accepted the proposal Dec. 9.

Gafner said there is an appeal process, with a meeting set for Jan. 15. He expects Tomahawk and Northland Pines to appeal; however, Gafner does not believe they will be successful in stopping the

realignment.

Also, on Oct. 29, the GNC athletic directors held a meeting at which Shawano/Bonduel made its case to join. Without providing any reason, the ADs present voted 7-0 against expanding the conference.

Gafner and others with the local program said if the request to align with the GNC is denied, they would rather remain independent instead of joining a different conference.

“We were part of a conference with much larger programs for a year,” he said. “It was not a good experience.”

Shawano was a member of the Badgerland Conference for one season in 2021-22.

“We found this to be a very negative experience and almost caused our program to collapse,” according to the realignment proposal. “Our team went winless on the season, including in conference play. The games were very lopsided and presented player safety concerns. We found that we simply could not compete with those programs that were in most cases significantly larger than our program.”

The Badgerland, Fox River Classic and Wisconsin Valley conferences have average program enrollments that range from 700-2,672 greater than the Shawano/Bon-



Shawano/Bonduel hockey coach Adam Gafner gives instructions to Max Huntington in the Hawks’ Jan. 2 victory over Spooner. Shawano had made a request with the WIAA to realign the team from its independent status to become a member of the Great Northern Conference starting with the 2027-28 school year. A final decision is expected in March.

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

duel’s enrollment. Those conferences are also com-

posed of predominantly D1 programs.

“If we had to choose between playing in one of these larger-program conferences or staying independent, we would opt to stay independent,” the proposal noted.

But, Gafner is confident the request will be approved by the WIAA.

“The WIAA typically wants teams to be part of a conference,” he said. “I’m excited for us. I think it’ll pass.”

The WIAA board of control will give final consideration of realignment plans advanced by the task force at its March 10 meeting.

kpasson@newmedia-wi.com



Members of the Shawano/Bonduel hockey team line up to start their Jan. 2 game against Spooner. Playing as an independent team, the Hawks are applying to the WIAA to join the Great Northern Conference that currently includes Antigo (co-op with Wittenberg-Birnamwood), Lakeland, Medford (co-op with Abbotsford, Edgar and Rib Lake), Mosinee, Northland Pines, Rhinelander (co-op with Laona, Phelps and Three Lakes), Tomahawk and Waupaca. If approved, the change would occur with the start of the 2027-28 season.

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

Shawano boys take 21st at Oshkosh invite

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Shawano had nine boys wrestling at the Oshkosh on the Water tournament Dec. 29-30, as they tallied 219 points and placed 21st among 64 teams.

Four wrestlers made the second day of wrestling, which means they earned a spot in the placing rounds of the tournament.

“This was the most wrestlers that we have had medal at Oshkosh on the Water,” coach Mike Homan said.

Dane Hodkiewicz had a bracket that was loaded with state qualifiers. In his blood round match, he beat a former state qualifier just to earn the right to be in the placing bracket. He took ninth place.

Kody Popelka earned

a sixth-place finish in the tournament.

“Kody really wrestled well on his feet and was very dominant in his take-downs this week,” Homan said. “Along with wrestling a great tournament, Kody also earned his 100th victory today.”

Marcus Brezgel also took sixth place.

Drew Chelberg earned a fourth-place finish.

Saturday, Dec. 20 Shawano Invitational

Shawano’s boys out-scored their opponents 196-174 to win their first ever home invitational.

The girls team won the event twice in the past three years, but this marked the first win for the boys in the since the tournament started more than 30 years ago.



Shawano wrestler Kody Popelka recently earned his 100th win on the mat. He collected his century-mark victory the same week teammate Dane Hodkiewicz earned his 100th win.

CONTRIBUTED

Kian Morstad, Nikkolas Waukau and Drew Chelberg each won first place in their weight divisions.

Kody Popelka placed second, with Cash Panske and Marcus Brezgel each taking fourth place.

Dane Hodkiewicz finished in fifth place, and

Dylan Gartner and Austin Stickney each placed sixth. The girls had a short list of competitors due to injury and placed fourth as a team.

Jenna Moede finished in first place, with Lauren Seehafer in third and Amiyah O’Kimosh in fifth.



Shawano Community High School wrestler Dane Hodkiewicz recently earned his 100th win. Coach Mike Homan described Hodkiewicz as a hard worker and great teammate with dedication.

CONTRIBUTED

Tigerton boys defeat Newman Catholic 70-49

Shawano Hoops Holiday Classic games played at UW-Green Bay

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Eight players from Laona/Wabeno scored in the Rebels’ 58-17 win over Gillett’s boys basketball team Jan. 3.

Brandon Slatky led the six Tigers who scored with four points.

Other scores: Tigerton 70, Newman Catholic 49.

Friday, Jan. 2 Seymour 76, Shawano 47

Shawano trailed by as many as 20 points in the first half before knotting the score halfway through the second half. But then, the Thunder rolled and scored more than 30 points while keeping the Hawks in single digits to return home with a 76-47 win.

Collin Dieck and Jackson Nordin led Shawano with 12 points each. Nordin and Cooper Boucher each had five rebounds, with Dieck collecting three steals, and Boucher and Dieck each getting two blocks.

Grayson Swedberg had four assists.

St. Mary Catholic 71, Wittenberg-Birnamwood 54

The Zephyrs and Chargers played a close first half with St. Mary Catholic up 36-32 at the break and then pulling away in



Cheryl Pytleski was honored in late December as the 10,000th fan of the 2025-26 school year at Panther athletics events. This honor is presented annually in memory of the ultimate OFHS Super Fan, Mary Bukowski. OFHS athletic director Jerry Moynihan presented Pytleski with some gifts, and her name will be added to the plaque that is permanently displayed at OFHS.

CONTRIBUTED

the second half en route to a 71-54 win.

It was the first loss of the season for Wittenberg-Birnamwood.

Senior Zandyr Barke led Wittenberg-Birnamwood with 25 points, followed by senior Oliver Fraaza with 18.

Fraaza led with eight rebound, while Barke contributed seven and junior Milo Salvesen had four. Fraaza and Barke each had two steals. Fraaza also led

his teammates with six assists, with junior Logan Gibson dishing out five.

Other scores: White Lake 55, Lena 46; Bay Port 59, Pulaski 51; Laona/Wabeno 64, Suring 39.

Tuesday, Dec. 30 Bonduel 79, Roncalli 72

Bonduel’s boys, ranked No. 3 in the state, opened play at the Shawano Hoops Holiday Classic at the Kress Center at UW-Green Bay with a 79-72

win over No. 6 ranked Roncalli.

Ryan Westrich had a double-double with 25 points and 15 rebounds. Quinn Wesenberg also scored 25 points, as the Bears improved to 6-0 on the season.

Griffin Uelmen scored 13 points.

Shawano 74, Oconto Falls 59

The Hawks led the Panthers by as much as 30 points in the second

half and coasted to a 74-59 win at the Shawano Hoops Holiday Classic at the Kress Center at UW-Green Bay.

Jameson Beaman and Collin Radtke led Oconto Falls with 14 points, and J.J. Pytleski added 12.

Teagan Tate had six rebounds, and Beaman had a pair of steals.

Beaman, Brady Bursa and Carson McDermid each contributed three assists.

Sevastopol 67, Lena 28

The matchup between Lean and Sevastopol at the Shawano Hoops Holiday Classic at UW-Green Bay was nearly the opposite of the game between the school’s girls teams.

This time, Sevastopol easily won 67-28.

The Pioneers dominated pretty much from the beginning, holding a 36-19 lead at the half. A 31-9 second half game Sevastopol its 39-point win.

Gresham 55, St. Thomas Aquinas Academy 54

A 3-point basket at the end of the game was enough to lift Gresham past St. Thomas Aquinas Academy 55-54 at the Wildcats home tournament.

The Cavaliers led by three at the half, maintained and even built upon their lead throughout the second half – until the final basket.

St. Thomas Aquinas Academy 60, Bowler 55

The Panthers trailed by double digits with just a few minutes left in the game, and although they battled back, they couldn’t get close enough before

time ran out. St. Thomas Aquinas Academy beat Bowler 60-55 at the Gresham Tournament.

Providence Academy 68, Gillett 39

Gillett and Providence Academy played a tight first half with Providence Academy taking a 25-21 lead into the break. However, the hosts blew the game open in the second half 43-18 to win 68-39.

Gillett spread the ball around with seven players scoring. Sophomore Brandon Slatky led his teammates with nine points.

Other scores: Wabeno/Laona 73, Menominee Nation 59; Montello 57, Marion 42; Hortonville 58, Pulaski 42.

Monday, Dec. 29 Shawano 61, Green Bay Southwest 45

Shawano opened the Shawano Hoops Holiday Classic at the Kress Center at UW-Green Bay with a 61-45 win over Green Bay Southwest.

Menominee Nation 94, Crandon 69

Menominee Nation defeated Crandon 94-69 on the opening day of the Edgar Holiday Tournament.

Bowler 60, Gresham 37

Gresham opened its home tournament with a 60-37 loss to Bowler. The Wildcats fell to 2-6, while the Panthers improved to 3-3.

Spencer 83, Marion 30

Spencer scored nearly 20 points before Marion finally got on the board at the Tomahawk Holiday Tournament.

Spencer won 83-30, following a commanding 49-11 halftime lead.



Blake Swedberg (12) is surrounded by Spooner players near the Rails' goal in the first period Jan. 2 at the Crawford Center. He and Cameron Schroeder assisted Gavin Hundt in scoring at 9:36, the first of goals for Shawano/Bonduel in its 5-2 win.

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

Shawano, Antigo hockey teams each beat Spooner

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Antigo improved to 8-3 overall with a 4-1 nonconference win over Spooner on Jan. 3.

Billy Portman scored a hat trick for the Red Robins. He started the scoring with a goal at 8:36 in the first period with an assist from Richie Vera.

In the second period, Liam Burt assisted Portman at 4:37. Spooner scored its goal near the end of the period to make it 2-1.

At 2:51 in the final period, Portman scored unassisted, and Burt did the same at 11:35 to end the scoring.

Antigo goalie Austin Martinson had 48 saves against 49 shots on goal. Spooner goalie Dalton Brummond had 17 saves against 21 shots on goal.

The Red Robins were penalized five times for 10 minutes, while the Rails had three penalties for six

minutes.

Fond du Lac 2, Bay Area 1

Bay Area Storm dropped below .500 overall with its 2-1 nonconference loss to Fond du Lac. The Storm are now 5-6.

Friday, Jan. 2 Shawano/Bonduel 5, Spooner 2

The Hawks improved to 8-2 overall with a 5-2 home win over Spooner.

All five goals by Shawano/Bonduel came from different players.

Gavin Hundt scored first at 9:13 with help from Blake Swedberg and Cameron Schroeder. Spooner tied the game five minutes later.

In the second period, Swedberg scored with assists from Kielian Armbruster and Hundt, Quinten Harkey scored with help from Teagan Harkey and Jeremy Helmuth, and Armbruster scored with Hundt assisting.

Spooner scored at 1:50

in the third period, but Landon Vickery scored unassisted at 4:36 to make the final score 5-2. Hawks goalie Tyson Lyons had 28 saves on 30 shots on goal. Rails goalies Logan Smith had 16 saves against 16 shots on goal, and Dalton Brummond had 37 saves against 42 shots on goal.

Shawano/Bonduel was sent to the penalty box twice for four minutes. Spooner was penalized four times for 11 minutes.

Monday, Dec. 29 Bay Area 2, Middleton 1

The Bay Area Storm won 2-1 over Middleton on the second day of holiday tournament in Neenah.

Conner Viau scored with assists from Braden Becks and Ryan Leahy, while Aiden Buchan had an unassisted goal.

Goalie Landon Mason had 20 saves.

Sunday, Dec. 28 Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha 3, Bay Area 2

Bay Area Storm opened action at the Rocket Red Nose Classic in Neenah with a 3-2 loss to their hosts, the Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha Rockets.

Down 2-0 early in the second period, the Storm fought back to tie the game at 2-2 by the end of the period.

First, Cash Ebeling scored with assist from Grant Forgette and Ian Justman. A few minutes later, Conner Viau scored with help from Axton Anderson and Braden Becks.

Unfortunately, the Rockets scored the winning goal at 11:05 in the third period.

Both teams had 20 shots on goal, with Rockets goalie Matthew Nelson collecting 18 saves and Storm goalie Justin Pintar getting 17.

Bay Area was penalized once for two minutes, while Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha was penalized five times for 10 minutes.

Ice Bears win it all at Hayward tournament

Girls hockey team improves to 12-0 on the 2025-26 season

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

The Ice Bears swept the competition at the tournament in Hayward with a final 4-1 win over the Black River Falls Tigers on Dec. 30.

Bay Area is now 12-0 on the season.

Monday, Dec. 29 Bay Area 3, Eau Claire Area 2

For the first time this season, the Bay Area Ice Bears found themselves trailing an opponent when they faced the Eau Claire Area Stars in Hayward.

Down 1-0 in the first period and then 2-1 in the third period, Bay Area scored twice in rapid succession to tie and then take the lead, beating Eau Claire Area 3-2.

The Stars scored first at 2:24 in the first period, but Hannah Von Haden tied the game at 1-1 just 21 seconds later with an assist from Mya Sheppard.

After a scoreless second frame, the Stars retook the lead early in

the third period. Ava McDonald tied the score at 2-2 with another Sheppard assist, and Aisling Buchan had the winning goal 26 seconds later with Lily Lyons assisting.

The Stars were penalized four times for eight minutes, and the Ice Bears had six penalties for 12 minutes.

Eau Claire Area's goalie, Evie Pritzl, had 39 saves against 42 shots on goal. Bay Area's Reese Spiering had 16 saves against 18 shots on goal.

Bay Area 8, Chippewa Falls/Menomonie 0

The Ice Bears opened tournament play by shutting out the Chippewa Falls/Menomonie Sabers 8-0.

Hannah Von Haden and Lily Lyons each had two goals, all four of them coming in the first period.

Von Haden's first goal came just 21 seconds into the game with an assist from Ava McDonald.

HOCKEY, CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

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Wisconsin Free Fishing Weekend opens doors to the outdoors Jan. 17-18

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is hosting its annual Winter Free Fishing Weekend from Jan. 17-18 to share the fun and excitement of winter fishing.

Winter Free Fishing Weekend gives families, friends and newcomers an opportunity give fishing a try or introduce another to the sport. Fishing offers more than just a chance to hook a fish; it is a way to connect with nature, share time with loved ones, learn about Wisconsin's aquatic resources and put some delicious food on your table.

During Winter Free

Fishing Weekend, residents and non-residents may fish most state waters without purchasing a fishing license, trout stamp or salmon stamp (see exceptions regarding trout waters).

All other 2025-26 Hook and Line regulations including bag limits, size limits and species restrictions remain in effect. Regulations are available online and in print.

While most trout streams are open during the catch-and-release season on Free Fishing Weekend, there are trout streams, spring ponds and lakes that are closed to

fishing.

Before any winter adventure, ice safety should be a primary consideration, as no ice is ever 100% safe.

Dress appropriately for the weather, and remember safety gear:

- Warm layers that are water-resistant.
- Sturdy waterproof boots with spike-style creepers for traction.
- Extra hat and gloves.
- Rescue throw rope.
- Ice claws.

The DNR does not monitor ice conditions. However, local bait shops and fishing clubs are good sources for current conditions and fishing tips.

Lena girls run over Oneida Nation

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Lena freshman Ella Thomson scored 15 points in the girls 62-20 trouncing of Oneida Nation on Jan. 2.

The Wildcats dominated the Thunderhawks, leading 40-10 at the half and then outscoring their hosts 22-10 in the second half.

Freshman Alisa Finger added another 12 points for Lena, and Carla Caballero-Morante contributed another 10.

Finger led with eight rebounds, while senior Madilyn Thomson added six and Ella Thomson had five. Madilyn Thomson also had three steals.

Junior Kaitlyn Borkovec led Lena with five assists.

Bay Port 52, Pulaski 23

Pulaski took an early lead, but the girls couldn't keep it as Bay Port battled back to a 22-13 halftime lead and 52-23 final score.

Other scores: Coleman

55, Gillett 31; Seymour 55, Shawano 53; Weyauwega-Fremont 65, Gresham 17; Suring 64, St. Thomas Aquinas Academy 29.

Tuesday, Dec. 30 Menominee Nation 51, Wabeno/Laona 31

The Eagles played a slow and stead first half, eventually overtaking Wabeno/Laona halfway through en route to a solid 51-31 win at a tournament in Edgar.

By halftime, Menominee Nation led the Rebels 23-18 and then overpowered them in the second half 28-13.

Marion/Tigerton 64, Montello 35

The Thundercats ended their play at a tournament in Tomahawk with a 64-35 win over Montello.

Marion/Tigerton improved to 5-2, while the Hilltoppers dropped to 1-6.

Shawano 62, Menasha 37

The Hawks improved to 7-3 win a 62-37 win over

Menasha at the Shawano Hoops Holiday Classic at the Kress Center at UW-Green Bay.

The Hawks got out to a strong start behind Jayden Brown's hot shooting and never looked back.

Lena 44, Sevastopol 17

Lena held a respectable 17-8 halftime advantage over Sevastopol at the Shawano Hoops Holiday Classic at UW-Green Bay but blew the game open with a 27-9 second half as the Wildcats beat the Pioneers 44-17.

Senior Madilyn Thomson led Lena with 11 points, while freshman Ella Thomson scored 10. Each also led the team with 10 rebounds and four steals each.

Laila Collar and Madilyn Thomson each had three assists.

Other scores: Shiocton 41, Gillett 26; Bonduel 52, Assumption 28; Pulaski 65, Luxembourg-Casco 37.

HOCKEY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

At 1:27, Lyons scored with McDonald and Mya Sheppard assisting.

Von Haden scored an unassisted goal and then teamed up with Sheppard to assist Lyons on her second goal.

The Ice Bears scored three times in the second frame, each goal by a different player.

Aisling Buchan scored

32 seconds into the period with help from Lyons and Von Haden. Faye Brunke, with a Von Haden assist, scored next, and Bridget Welsing scored the third goal with assists from Eliana Memken and Abby Mommaerts.

Malin Jewitt scored for Bay Area in the third. Assisting were Addison Dahl and Madeline Engles.

The Sabers were called for two penalties for four minutes, and the Ice Bears had five penalties for 10 minutes.

Bay Area had more than three times as many shots on goal as the Sabers, 44-14.

Ice Bears goalie Reese Spiering had 14 saves, and Sabers goalie Aubrie Dowd had 36.

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The Newsday Crossword

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

A CENTURY AGO: What happened in 1926

by S.N.

- ACROSS

1 Wedding vow locale

6 Goad into action

10 Insignificant

14 ___ latte (breakfast beverage)

19 Designer Geoffrey

20 Barcelona bull

21 Ice cream thickener

22 Folklore brutes

23 He recorded the first of his 2000+ tunes

25 George Bernard Shaw declined it

27 Federal Reserve increase

28 Ease off

30 Watch carefully

31 Fill with cargo

32 Secret schemes

33 Race's safety vehicle

37 Military swords

40 Request for a card

41 Verdi opera

42 X ___ (tic-tac-toe choices)

43 Dracula title

44 20-Grammy pop star was born

46 Nautical diary

47 "And besides..."

48 High-quality, as collectibles

49 Bart's bus driver

50 Sky shade

51 Was introduced to

52 He lost his heavyweight title to Gene Tunney

56 Talk show visitor

57 Multivariety retail cartons

59 Burrowing mammals

60 Sharp increases

61 Doesn't stay put

62 Subtraction word

63 1926, today

64 Rubber stamp refresher

66 Seasons, as fries

67 What whiteboards are

70 Leaks out slowly

71 Babe Ruth slugged them in one World Series game

73 Boathouse blade

74 Out of town

75 Cleverly done

76 ___ legs (dog's twosome)

77 Actress Teri

78 Launcher of the 71-Across

79 He made the first flight over the North Pole

83 Small canyon

84 Self-image

85 Protest singer Phil

86 Sign before Taurus

87 Welded together

88 Taking quite a while

90 Cancels a deletion

91 Kitchen herb

92 "Steady as ___ goes"

93 Intermission follower

94 Film fan

98 Rocket propellant first used

102 Broadcast media group founded

104 Just waking up

105 One of the Brontës

106 Robin's friar friend

107 Bert's kid-vid friend

108 Somewhat, informally

109 GPS calculations

110 Elevator giant

111 "Good heavens!"

3 Circus venue

4 SoCal urbanite

5 Reach the Top-40 again

6 Feed, as a fire

7 Sit for a picture

8 Metro area

9 Income for an author

10 Everglades mammal

11 Four-award achievements

12 Broccoli ___ (salad green)

13 Poetic preposition

14 Imitative person

15 Concur (with)

16 Calendar column

17 Turkish tasseled topper

18 Nationality suffix

24 Unburdens (of)

26 Result in

29 Film fiasco

32 Longed (for)

33 Devoutness

34 It administered its first SATs

35 Spark to action

36 Synonym source

37 Scoundrel

38 Early Web browser

39 His comedy classic *The General* debuted

40 Makes noise in traffic

41 Poker fees

44 Antique clock sounds

45 Snoops (around)

48 Confronted

50 Myanmar alias

52 Diner beverages

53 Novelist Zola

54 ___ Carlo, Monaco

55 Luxurious

56 Take a stab

58 Bread seed source

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- 60 Glass fragment

62 Georgia urban transport system

63 General drift

64 Writer Allende

65 Modern music genre

66 Mideast rulers of yore

67 Mideast rulers

68 Vast

69 Went wrong

71 Hardware expert

72 Emphatic assent
- 75 Placed in a recess

77 Failed to happen as planned

79 Nest egg option

80 Unnerves

81 *Eins* + 2

82 Started chewing

83 Encouraging words

87 Bugaboo

89 Astronaut attire

90 Movie excerpt

91 Loses altitude
- 93 Possible babysitter

94 Fourth century starter

95 23- or 44-Across performance

96 Duo + 1

97 Squeaked (out)

98 Part of UNLV

99 Prefix like equi-

100 15 min. of football

101 Many miles from here

103 "On the other hand..."

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OBITUARIES

Ida Amanda Brekke, 100, of Wittenberg, passed away peacefully Monday, Dec. 29, 2025, at Milestone Senior Living in Woodruff.

Ida was born Aug. 9, 1925, in Elderon, the daughter of the late Emma and Ole R. Dobbe, of Rosholt. She was the granddaughter of Berthine Isakson Olson and Jorgen (George) Olson from Elderon, who immigrated from Norway.

Ida graduated from Rosholt High School in 1943. After high school, she began her career at Rosholt State Bank. She later managed the dry goods department at the Red Owl store, traveling by train to Chicago markets to select merchandise, a responsibility she carried out thoughtfully and with care.

Ida married Dr. Alfred Brekke, a veterinarian in Wittenberg, and worked alongside him until his death in 1988. Long before “veterinary technician” was a recognized role, she assisted with procedures and cared for animals with skill and knowledge.

Nancy C. Leonard, 81, Pulaski, passed away peacefully Monday, Dec. 22, 2025, at Country Villa Assisted Living in Pulaski. The daughter of Klerus “Nick” and Dorothy (Krause) Uelmen was born Jan. 25, 1944, in Shawano.

Nancy was a graduate of Bonduel High School. On Sept. 18, 1965, she married Dennis Leonard at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Bonduel. Nancy had worked as a clerk for many years at Pick ‘n Save and for several years as a hostess at Marc’s Big Boy.

In her early years, she enjoyed bowling. Nancy was an avid Packers fan and enjoyed an occasional trip to the casino. She was a hard worker and was always willing to lend a hand. Most of all, she enjoyed spending time with family and friends and was

Randy L. Shepard, 76, of Clintonville, passed away early Tuesday morning, Dec. 30, 2025, at Theda-Care Regional Medical Center in Appleton.

Randy Lee Shepard was born Aug. 20, 1949, son to the late LeRoy and Maxine (Barker) Shepard in Clintonville. He attended Clintonville schools and graduated from Clintonville High School in 1967.

Immediately after high school, he worked on the railroad in Clintonville for a short time, before starting his career at FWD Seagrave in 1967. When he was first employed, he worked in entry level positions, and over the years worked his way up to senior purchasing, retiring in 2003.

Outside of work, Randy had a love for antiques and classic cars, and owned an

Ida Brekke



Ida’s interests included playing bridge with the Wittenberg ladies, enjoying the piano, making lefse and preparing memorable holiday meals — always beginning with the traditional Norwegian prayer, I Jesu Navn.

Preceding Ida in death was her loving husband, Alfred Brekke; grandchildren, Marne Oestreich and Madeline Brekke; and two brothers and four sisters.

Ida is survived by children, Linda (Gene) Oestreich, Jane (Phil) Paige, Jim (Judy) Brekke, Rick (Caro-

Nancy C. Leonard



always the life of the party.

Survivors include her son, Mike (Ashley) Leonard, Appleton, and their sons, Everett, Pierce and Brooks; her special nieces, Cindy Graf, Pulaski, and her daughters, Carrie (John) Schneider and Lisa (Matt) LaMay, and Jodi (Kelly) Cramer, Pulaski, and their sons, Brandon (Courtney) Maciejewski

Randy L. Shepard



El Camino, a Ford Ranchero and a Caprice. Collecting firetruck memorabilia was something Randy also enjoyed.

He was a very skilled woodworker and loved his dogs. Randy had a happy personality and was known for his sense of humor. He was very social, always kind and had a magnetic personality.

lina) Brekke; grandchildren, Jon (Beth) Oestreich, Thomas Oestreich, Connor (Jenny) Paige, Hailey (Jonathan Price) Paige, Victoria Paige, Eleanor (Blake) Gottschalk, Henry (Hadar) Brekke-Peer, Sara (Tucker) Maris and Benjamin Brekke; great-grandchildren, Anja Oestreich, Elsa Oestreich, Alice Gottschalk and Daphne Gottschalk; sister, Darlene (Rusty) Knitter; and many nieces and nephews.

Friends and family are invited to celebrate Ida’s life on Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Wittenberg. A burial will follow at Forest Home Cemetery, Wittenberg. Visitation will be on Saturday from 10 a.m. until the time of service at the church.

Schmidt and Schulta Funeral Home, Wittenberg, is assisting the family with funeral arrangements. Memories and messages of support may be shared at schmidtschulta.com.

and Brad (Courtney) Cramer; and a brother-in-law, Robert Treptow.

In addition to her husband, Dennis, and parents, Nick and Dorothy, she was preceded in death by her sister, Betty Treptow; and her brother, Wayne Uelmen.

A private family funeral service will be held at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Pulaski. Burial will take place in St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery, Bonduel.

The family would like to thank the Moments Hospice Team, especially nurse Jolene, and also the staff at Country Villa Assisted Living for the outstanding care given to Nancy.

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

Randy is survived by his daughters, Lisa (Kevin) Schreiber, Jacquelyne (Kyle) Kaczorowski, Erin (Jose Alvarado-Cruz) Shepard, Amber (Lucas Lamberies) Shepard and Kimber Shepard; 13 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren with another on the way; siblings, Shari (Mark) Pfeiler, Dick (Cheryl) Shepard and Sandy (Dan) Fischer; many nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Tom Shepard.

A gathering of family and friends was held Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026, at the Eberhardt-Stevenson Funeral Home and Crematory, 53 N. Main St., Clintonville.

An online guestbook can be found at eberhardt-stevenson.com.

WBHS seeking successful grads to speak at commencement

The worthwhile accomplishments of Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School alumni will again be recognized this year at the class of 2026 commencement ceremony.

Residents of the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District and all alumni of Wittenberg-Birnamwood schools are invited to make nominations. Nominations must be in writing, signed by the nominator and in the

hands of principal Megan Rothmeyer by Feb. 6. In addition, the nomination must include qualifications of the person nominated and the year he or she graduated from WBHS.

To be nominated for this award, the individual must have distinguished himself or herself in an area of honorable endeavor, whether it be a professional, vocational, business or military field. Documentation that

clearly explains the scope and significance of a candidate’s accomplishments must be included.

The final selection for this honor will be made by a committee composed of Rothmeyer, two members of the high school faculty and officers of the senior class. The honored alumnus will be asked to present a short message to the graduating class of 2026 in May.

Best of Wolf River Region

SHAWANO LEADER

2025

Readers Poll

Deadline: January 19, 2026

BALLOT #3

Best Food/Dining:

☐ Bakery

☐ Bar

☐ Breakfast

☐ Burger

☐ Coffee House

☐ Dessert

☐ Dinner

☐ Family Restaurant

☐ Fast Food

☐ Fish Fry

☐ Ice Cream

☐ International

☐ Lunch

☐ Pizza

☐ Sandwich

Best of Wolf River Region

SHAWANO LEADER

ENTRY FORM

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email

Clip & Mail Your Ballots To:

Shawano Leader

Attn: Best Of

1464 E. Green Bay St., Shawano WI 54166

e-mail: advertising@newmedia-wi.com

Deadline: January 19, 2026

A minimum of 10 categories on ballot must be completed in order for your vote to count to be eligible to win prizes.

No purchase necessary to win.

PUBLIC RECORD

SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Jan. 4
Deputies responded to 29 incidents, including a disturbance on East Front Street in Wittenberg; suspicious activity on County Road K in the Town of Waukechon; suspicious activity near Ash Circle and state Highway 22 in the Town of Wescott; three 911 calls; three reckless driving incidents; one traffic hazard; one welfare check; seven crashes.
Jan. 3
Deputies responded to 35 incidents, including a fight

in progress at the Shawano County Jail, 405 N. Main St., Shawano; theft and trespassing at Jungles On Main, 1215 Main St., Gresham; an assault near state Highway 29 and County Road U in the Town of Herman; disorderly conduct on Riverside Drive in the Town of Wescott; trespassing on Ash Circle in the Town of Wescott; criminal damage on South Warrington Avenue in Cecil; disorderly conduct on High Street in Birnamwood; operating after revocation on East Green Bay Street in Shawano; a weapon offense on Ebert Street in Gresham; attempted burglary at All-Stor Self Storage, N4844 Wauke-

chon St., Shawano; one 911 call; one reckless driving incident; two traffic hazards; four welfare checks; six crashes, one involving deer.
Jan. 2
Deputies responded to 33 incidents, including drugs at the Shawano County Jail, 405 N. Main St., Shawano; suspicious activity near County Road G and Zimdars Road in Leopold; harassment near County Road SS and Main Street in the Town of Fairbanks; suspicious activity on Ash Circle in the Town of Wescott; drugs near East Grand Avenue and Robin Road in the Town of Wittenberg; a weapon offense on state

Highway 156 in the Town of Lessor; suspicious activity on Hummingbird Road in the Town of Birnamwood; child abuse on Poplar Road in the Town of Richmond; two 911 calls; two reckless driving incidents; one traffic hazard; five welfare checks; six crashes.
Jan. 1
Deputies responded to 25 incidents, including one traffic hazard; two welfare checks; five crashes.
Dec. 31
Deputies responded to 31 incidents, including a snowmobile accident on County Road M in the Town of Richmond; one 911 call; one traffic hazard; two welfare checks;

six crashes.
Dec. 30
Deputies responded to 31 incidents, including harassment on East Grand Avenue in Wittenberg; a noise disturbance on Hiawatha Court in the Town of Wescott; a disturbance on County Road M in the Town of Grant; drugs at the Shawano County Jail, 405 N. Main St., Shawano; operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated near North Genesee Street and East Wood Avenue in Wittenberg; three 911 calls; one reckless driving incident; two welfare checks; seven crashes.
Dec. 29
Deputies responded to 45 incidents, including bail jumping at the Shawano County Jail, 405 N. Main St., Shawano; drugs on River Drive in the Town of Wescott; an assault on County Road BB in the Town of Green Valley; four 911 calls; one reckless driving incident; four traffic hazards; two welfare checks; 12 crashes.
Dec. 28
Deputies responded to 33 incidents, including a disturbance on Aspen Court in Shawano; an animal bite on Willow Creek Road in the Town of Pella; threatening on Fourth Street in Mattoon; operating after revocation near North Warrington Avenue and North Lemke in Cecil; a noise disturbance on County Road U in the Town of Belle Plaine; three 911 calls; one traffic hazard; two welfare checks; nine crashes.

fare checks; two crashes.
Jan. 3
Officers responded to 19 incidents, including suspicious activity on South Franklin Street; a disturbance on South Smalley Street; a noise disturbance on Aspen Court; harassment on Olson Street; attempted burglary at All-Stor Self Storage, N4844 Waukechon St.; disorderly conduct at Haven Hotel, 104 N. Airport Drive; one reckless driving incident; one welfare check; two crashes.
Jan. 2
Officers responded to 14 incidents, including a noise disturbance on East Richmond Street; a death investigation at an undisclosed location; a noise disturbance on Kleeman Court; one welfare check; one crash.
Jan. 1
Officers responded to eight incidents, including a disturbance on Mountain Bay Trail Drive; one 911 call.
Dec. 31
Officers responded to 11 incidents, including a disturbance on West Richmond Street; a noise disturbance on East Richmond Street; trespassing on South Hamlin Street; two welfare checks.
Dec. 30
Officers responded to 13 incidents, including suspicious activity at the Humane Society, 1290 Jaycee Court; property damage on Engel Drive; a noise disturbance on Kleeman Court; a drug offense on Estates Lane; two welfare checks; two crashes.
Dec. 29
Officers responded to 18 incidents, including suspicious activity on South Union Street; a drug offense on West Third Street; suspicious activity near South Lafayette and West Picnic streets; one welfare check.

SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jan. 4
Officers responded to 11 incidents, including operating after revocation ear East Green Bay and Ellis streets; an assault on South Sawyer Street; one 911 call; four wel-

BIRTHS

Heather Knaup and Keith Knaup, of Hatley, announce the birth of a son, Sawyer James Knaup, born Dec. 19, 2025. He weighed 9 pounds 5 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long.

COURT NEWS

- Robert W. Carey, 53, Marion, was charged Dec. 29 with battery to public officers, two misdemeanor counts of disorderly conduct, and misdemeanor charges of possession of THC and resisting or obstructing an officer. Judge Katherine Sloma set a \$2,500 signature bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Jan. 13.
- Hunter R. Riden, 34, Mat-

1/9/26, 1/16/26, 1/23/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT SHAWANO COUNTY
Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC
Plaintiff,
vs.
Craig Charles Ternouth, Jane Doe Ternouth a/k/a Amanda Ternouth a/k/a Amanda Spangler and Cross River Bank
Defendants.

NOTICE OF ADJOURNED FORECLOSURE SALE
Case No. 25-CV-000133
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that by virtue of a judgment of foreclosure entered on September 3, 2025 in the amount of \$87,159.61 the Sheriff will sell the described premises at public auction as follows:
ORIGINAL TIME: December 10, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
ADJOURNED TIME: February 11, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.
TERMS: Pursuant to said judgment, 10% of the successful bid must be paid to the sheriff at the sale in cash, cashier's check or certified funds, payable to the clerk of courts (personal checks cannot and will not be accepted). The balance of the successful bid must be paid to the clerk of courts in cash, cashier's check or certified funds no later than ten days after the court's confirmation of the sale or else the 10% down payment is forfeited to the plaintiff. The property is sold 'as is' and subject to all liens and encumbrances.
PLACE: In the front lobby of the Shawano County Courthouse, City and County of Shawano
DESCRIPTION: Commencing at a point on Vinal Street 10 feet Southwest from the most Northerly point of Lot One (1), Block Three (3), according to the recorded Plat of the Martin Luther Orphan Home Association Subdivision of Block Twenty-seven (27), according to the recorded Original Plat of the Village of Wittenberg, in the Village of Wittenberg, Shawano County, Wisconsin; thence running in a Southeasterly direction at right angles with Vinal Street 140 feet to Lot Number Six, Block Number One of the Martin Luther Orphan Home Association Subdivision of Block Number Twenty-seven; thence in a Northeasterly direction parallel with Vinal Street 71 feet 4 inches more or less; thence in a Northwesterly direction at right angles with Vinal Street 140 feet to Vinal Street; thence in a Southwesterly direction along Vinal Street 71 feet 4 inches more or less to the place of beginning. Also all that part of Lot Six (6), Block One (1), according to the recorded Plat of the Martin Luther Orphan Home Association Subdivision of Block Twenty-seven (27), according to the recorded Original Plat of the Village of Wittenberg, in the Village of Wittenberg, Shawano County, Wisconsin; lying North and East of a line described as follows: Commencing at a point on Vinal Street 10 feet Southwest from the most Northerly point of Lot Number One, Block Number Three, of the Martin Luther Orphan Home Subdivision of Block Number Twenty-seven, according to the recorded Original Plat of the Village of Wittenberg, Shawano County, Wisconsin; thence running in a Southeasterly direction at right angles with Vinal Street 140 feet to Lot Number Six, Block Number One of said Martin Luther Orphan Home Association Subdivision of said Block Number Twenty-seven and there shall be the place of beginning; thence continue in a Southeasterly direction at right angles with Vinal Street across said Lot Number Six to the South line of said Lot Number Six. Together with Easement Agreement recorded as Doc. No. 731870.
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 317 W Vinal St Wittenberg, WI 54499-9055
DATED: November 26, 2025
Gray & Associates, L.L.P., Attorneys for Plaintiff
16345 West Glendale Drive New Berlin, WI 53151-2841 (414) 224-8404
George Lenzner Shawano County Sheriff
Please go to www.gray-law.com to obtain the bid for this sale.
Gray & Associates, L.L.P. is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. If you have previously received a discharge in a chapter 7 bankruptcy case, this communication should not be construed as an attempt to hold you personally liable for the debt.

WNAXLP
SHA-061

12/26/25, 1/2/26, 1/9/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Korby Jean Krueger
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 25PR95

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 03/14/1957 and date of death was 11/18/2025 domiciled in with a mailing address of 615 S Smalley St. Shawano WI. 54166
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is March, 20,2026
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano County Courthouse, Wisconsin, Room 202, Probate office. 311 N. Main St, Shawano
Form completed by: Timothy Krueger 615 S Smalley St. Shawano WI. 5416

920 621-7267

WNAXLP
SHA-079

1/9/26, 1/16/26, 1/23/26

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
MILWAUKEE COUNTY

CAPTIVA INVESTMENTS, LLC,
as assignee of Don Bosco Masonry Incorporated,
Plaintiff,
v.
MILWAUKEE OTTER LLC,
DOOR CREEK CONSTRUCTION OF ILLINOIS, LLC,
Defendants.

Case No. 2025CV009672
Money Judgment: 30301

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF WISCONSIN
TO: MILWAUKEE OTTER LLC,
c/o Jeff Seegmiller, Registered Agent
N7951 Regina Road
Wittenberg, WI 54499
DOOR CREEK CONSTRUCTION OF ILLINOIS, LLC,
c/o Jeffrey Seegmiller Registered Agent,
N7951 Regina Road
Wittenberg, WI 54499
YOU ARE HEREBY notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you.
Within forty (40) days after January 9, 2026, you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in Chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the Complaint. The Court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. That answer must be sent or delivered to the Clerk of Court, whose address is Milwaukee County Courthouse, 901 North Ninth Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233, and to the plaintiff's attorney, whose address is: MAYHEW LAW OFFICE, 12750 West North Avenue, Ste. B, Brookfield, Wisconsin 53005. You may have an attorney help or represent you. 2476-49 Summons by Publication.docx
If you do not provide a proper answer within forty (40) days, the Court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now, or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.
DATED this 30th day of December, 2025.
MAYHEW LAW OFFICE
Attorneys for Plaintiff
BY:
GERALD J. MAYHEW
State Bar No. 1018988

Mayhew Law Office
12750 West North Avenue, Ste. B
Brookfield, WI 53005
Phone: 262-432-1274 Fax: 262-432-1280
Email: jerry@mayhewlawoffice.com

OUR FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
WNAXLP
SHA-087

12/26/25, 1/2/26, 1/9/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
SHAWANO COUNTY
Notice and Order for
Name Change Hearing
Case No. 25 CV 257

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME
CHANGE OF
Isabella Marie Stichman
By Isabella Marie Stichman
NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: Isabella Marie Stichman
To: Spencer Oliver Stichman
Birth Certificate: Isabella Marie Stichman
IT IS ORDERED:
This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Shawano County, State of Wisconsin
Judge Name: William F Kussel Jr.
Place: Branch 2
311 N Main ST, Shawano, WI 54166
Date: January 14, 2026
Time: 8:15 a.m.

WNAXLP
SHA-076

1/9/26, 1/16/26, 1/23/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
SHAWANO COUNTY

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, SHAWANO
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Kenneth C. Moesch
DOD 10-29-2025
Notice Setting Time to Hear
Application and Deadline for Filing
Claims (Informal Administration)
Case No. 25 PR 98

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 2-27-1942 domiciled in Shawano and date of death 10-29-2025 County, State of Wisconsin mailing address of N6990 Beech Road, Shawano, WI 54166
3. The application will be heard at the Shawano County Courthouse Shawano, WI before Judge Sloma Branch 1 Probate Registrar 01/26/2026 at 9:00 a.m.
You do not need to appear unless you object. The application may be granted if there is no objection.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is April 10, 2026.
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano County Courthouse, 311 N. Main Street, Shawano, Wisconsin, Room, Probate 202
6. This publication is notice to any persons whose names or address are unknown.

James E. Aschenbrener
110 S. Main Street
715-524-6258
Bar Number 1008896

WNAXLP
SHA-089

1/9/26, 1/16/26, 1/23/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
SHAWANO COUNTY

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT,
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Jerome A. Bucher
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 25 PR101

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration
2. The decedent, with date of birth Shawano 11/19/1941 and date of death 12/13/2025 was domiciled in Shawano County State of Wisconsin with a mailing address of: 517 E. Lieg Avenue, Shawano, WI 54166
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is April 13, 2026.
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano Couty Court house 311 N Main St, Shawano, WI Wisconsin, Room 202. Probate office
Form completed by: Susan J. Evenstad 856 Lincoln St Seymour WI 54165 920-833-8789

WNAXLP
SHA-086

1/2/26, 1/9/26, 1/16/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
SHAWANO COUNTY

U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Citigroup Mortgage Loan Trust 2006-WFHE4, Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-WFHE4
Plaintiff,
vs.
Susan Pingel and Village of Wittenberg Housing Rehabilitation Program
Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
Case No. 25-CV-000108

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that by virtue of a judgment of foreclosure entered on July 21, 2025 in the amount of \$85,222.72 the Sheriff will sell the described premises at public auction as follows:
TIME:
February 11, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.
TERMS:
Pursuant to said judgment, 10% of the successful bid must be paid to the sheriff at the sale in cash, cashier's check or certified funds, payable to the clerk of courts (personal checks cannot and will not be accepted). The balance of the successful bid must be paid to the clerk of courts in cash, cashier's check or certified funds no later than ten days after the court's confirmation of the sale or else the 10% down payment is forfeited to the plaintiff. The property is sold 'as is' and subject to all liens and encumbrances.
PLACE:
In the front lobby of the Shawano County Courthouse, City and County of Shawano
DESCRIPTION:
Lots Number One (1) and Two (2) of Shawano Lumber Company's Subdivision of a portion of Block Number Four (4) of the original plat of the Village of Wittenberg, Shawano County, Wisconsin.
ALSO the West one-half (W 1/2) of Lot Number Six (6) in Block Number One (1) of Miller's Subdivision of Block Number Five (5) of the original plat of the Village of Wittenberg, Shawano County, Wisconsin.
PROPERTY ADDRESS:
311 E Grand Ave Wittenberg, WI 54499-9062
DATED:
November 19, 2025

Gray & Associates, L.L.P., Attorneys for Plaintiff
16345 West Glendale Drive
New Berlin, WI 53151-2841 (414) 224-8404

George Lenzner Shawano County Sheriff
Please go to www.gray-law.com to obtain the bid for this sale.
Gray & Associates, L.L.P. is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. If you have previously received a discharge in a chapter 7 bankruptcy case, this communication should not be construed as an attempt to hold you personally liable for the debt.

WNAXLP
SHA-054

1/2/26, 1/9/26, 1/16/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
SHAWANO COUNTY
Notice and Order for
Name Change Hearing
Case No. 25CV283

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME
CHANGE OF
Carime Renee Wojta
By Carime Renee Wojta
NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: Carime Renee Wojta
To: Carime Renee Panske
Birth Certificate: Carime Renee Panske
IT IS ORDERED:
This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Shawano County, State of Wisconsin
Judge Name: Judge Sloma
Place: BR1 311 N. Main St Shawano, WI 54166, Shawano, WI 54166
Date: February 4, 2026
Time: 8:30 am

WNAXLP
SHA-082

01/02, 01/09/2026
ABA Storage Units LLC
January 2, 2026
Notice of Public Sale
Sunday January 18th, 2026 10:00 AM
Bidding is on complete contents of Unit:
Art Livingston, 219 W Green Bay St, Shawano, WI 54166, Unit 308

January 2, 2026
Notice of Public Sale
Sunday January 18th, 2026 10:30 AM
Bidding is on complete contents of Unit:
Randy Laabs, 727 W Gruenwald St, Oshkosh, WI 54901, Unit 302

WNAXLP

Have a story idea? Email us!
news@newmedia-wi.com

LIAR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

moved to Green Bay for 11 years and then moved back to Bonduel. He was a city letter carrier in Green Bay for 34-plus years, retiring in 2020.

His retirement is now spent enjoying ice fishing, watching the grandkids on occasion, woodworking and traveling.

“It’s relaxing,” he said of retirement. “If you’re doing something and feel like quitting early, there’s always another day.”

According to its website, the Burlington Liars’

Club started as a joke in 1929.

A Burlington newspaper reporter wrote a story about how the “old timers” got together each New Year’s Day and lied for the championship of the city.

He told a fellow reporter of his plan, and the story was “sprung” just before New Year’s.

They considered the story a good local joke; however, city editors shared it with wire services. The following Decem-

ber, the Associated Press and other news agencies began phoning Burlington to find out if the city’s annual contest would be repeated.

Letters began to trickle in from the four corners of the country commenting on the “contest.” They furnished the inspiration for a real contest instead of a phony one, national in scope, and the Burlington Liars’ Club was formed to carry it on.

kpason@newmedia-wi.com

PLUNGE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“I was all, ‘Hey, I’ve got a great idea. Let’s do a polar plunge for charity and everything,’” Vander Zanden said. “Everybody was like, ‘Let’s jump in.’ I knew it was going to be cold, but it actually wasn’t as bad as I thought.”

Brandon Elrick, one of Vander Zanden’s employees, decided to hit the water wearing only an American flag Speedo.

“We thought it would be fun, and everybody would get some enjoyment out of it,” Elrick said.

Taylor Mahkimetas, another first-time jumper, said she participated because of a friend’s post on social media. She described her experience

as being the opposite of Vander Zanden’s.

“I always wanted to do it, but then I always missed it,” Mahkimetas said. “It was a lot worse than I expected with instant shock, but it felt great, though.”

Kookie Oshkosh took the plunge with her friend, Mahkimetas, saying she did it because it was something she’d never done before. She’s ready to do it again, though.

“I really liked that you could donate it to charity, and you get a cool, little towel out of it,” Oshkosh said. “We’re hoping to bring more people with us next year.”

Jeff Stachowiak, who owns the Lighthouse with

his wife, Tammy, recalled that only six people made the plunge the first year, so the event has grown steadily since its inception. This year’s proceeds will go to benefit a veterans organization, he said, although he’s still finalizing which organization will get the money.

“It’s great for the community,” Stachowiak said. “We get a lot of support from employees, friends.”

Tammy Stachowiak said she loves to see it when families take part.

“I really love to see the families and when the kids say, ‘Come on, Dad. Let’s do it,’” she said.

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

LIES, LIES AND MORE LIES

The Burlington Liars’ Club is flooded with entries from around the country, but none were as good as that entered by Regan Buchholz, of Bonduel.

Receiving honorable mention, in no particular order, were the following entries.

“In spring 2025, I consulted a meteorologist, who in the past had correctly predicted the number and severity of the upcoming hurricane seasons for southwest Florida. His words were ominous: 17 named storms, 10 hurricanes and six major hurricanes.

“When I saw him at the end of the season, I asked him why his prediction so badly missed the mark, since no hurricanes had reached Florida in 2025.

“He responded that the hurricanes were confused. They could not find the Gulf of Mexico.” — Dennis Lynch, Sarasota, Florida

“As I’ve gotten older, I’ve developed dry eyes and several years ago began using eye drops pretty regularly. I’ve gotten so good at it I can now do it with my eyes closed.”

— Thomas Steffy, Burlington

“I have to stop sending my lies to the Burlington Liars’ Club. I already have two pants on fire.” — Dale Wheelock, Delavan

“The intense heat from the less-filtered sun has been playing havoc with my garden. This year I have fried green tomatoes on the vine.” — Sandy Wagner, Burlington (granddaughter of Hubert “Pink” Schenning, one of the club’s founders)

“My brother went out jogging backwards and gained weight!” — Gerard Vail, Chicago (the club’s champion in 2021)

To enter the contest for 2026, email entries to champions@gmail.com or mail them to The Burlington Liars Club, P.O. Box 156, Burlington, WI 53105. Be sure to include your name and address.

To become an official card-carrying member of the Burlington Liars’ Club, include \$1 for each membership along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

12/26/25, 1/2/26, 1/9/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PAUL D. BREDE
NOTICE TO CREDITORS (Informal Administration)
Case No. 25 PR 97
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 04/16/1964 and date of death 10/25/2025, was domiciled in Shawano County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of N4456 N. Highline Road, Bonduel, WI 54107.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is March 20, 2026.
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano County Courthouse, Shawano, Wisconsin, Room 202 Probate Office.
BY THE COURT:
DATE SIGNED: December 10, 2025
Electronically signed by Gwen Hoffman, Probate Registrar
Attorney Michael A. Maas
Heritage Law Firm, LLC
2050 Riverside Drive
Green Bay, WI 54301
920-785-8570
Bar Number: 1061377

WNAXLP
SHA-075

12/26/25, 1/2/26, 1/9/26

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
SHAWANO COUNTY

Guild Mortgage Company LLC
5887 Copley Drive
San Diego, CA 92111
Plaintiff,
VS.
Jason Williams
619 E Center St
Shawano, WI 54166-2601
Defendants.

Jane Doe Williams
619 E Center St
Shawano, WI 54166-2601
Defendants.

PUBLICATION SUMMONS
Case No. 25-CV-000265

The Honorable Katherine Sloma
Case Code 30404
(Foreclosure of Mortgage)
The amount claimed exceeds \$10,000.00

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN
To each person named above as a defendant:
You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you.
Within 40 days after December 26, 2025 you must respond with a written demand for a copy of the complaint. The demand must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is 311 N. Main Street, Shawano, WI 54166-2145 and to Gray & Associates, L.L.P., plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 16345 West Glendale Drive, New Berlin, WI 53151-2841. You may have an attorney help or represent you.
If you do not demand a copy of the complaint within 40 days, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.
Dated this 18th day of December, 2025:
Gray & Associates, L.L.P.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
By: Ian J. Thomson
State Bar No. 1076280
Case No. 25-CV-000265
16345 West Glendale Drive
New Berlin, WI 53151-2841
(414) 224-1987

Gray & Associates, L.L.P. is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. If you have previously received a discharge in a chapter 7 bankruptcy case, this communication should not be construed as an attempt to hold you personally liable for the debt.

WNAXLP
SHA-078

1/9/26, 1/23/26, 1/30/26

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
MILWAUKEE COUNTY

Case No. 2025CV009757
Case Classification: Other - Contracts
Case Code: 30303

ASSET RECOVERY NETWORK, LLC
7909-7933 N. 73rd Street,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53223.

Carl Gates, Jr.,
6057 W. Calumet Road,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53223.
V.
Plaintiffs,

BEEDEE, LLC
c/o Registered Agent:
Jeff Seegmiller
N7951 Regina Rd.
Wittenberg, WI 54499
P.O. BOX 994;

Durant, Iowa 52747.
Defendant.

SUMMONS
THE STATE OF WISCONSIN. To each person named above as a Defendant:

You are hereby notified that the Plaintiffs named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The Complaint, which is attached, states the nature and basis of the legal action.

Within 45 days of receiving this summons, you must respond with a written answer, as defined in chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the complaint. The Court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The answer must be sent or delivered to the Court, whose address is Clerk of Courts, Milwaukee County Courthouse, 901 N 9th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233 and to Plaintiffs' attorney, Murdock Law, S.C., whose address is 4425 North Port Washington Road, Suite 107, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not provide a proper answer within 45 days, the Court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.
Dated: November 12, 2025
MURDOCK LAW, S.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff
Electronically signed by Anthony K. Murdock
State Bar No. 1054531
Charles D. Schmidt
State Bar Number 1030914

WNAXLP
SHA-088

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF SHAWANO COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Housing Authority of Shawano County will hold a public hearing regarding its 2026 Capital Funding Award. The Authority will have available information on all projects related to Federal Award ID - WI39P13950126.

The Hearing will be held at the office on February 24, 2026 from 10:00AM – 12:00PM. The Office is located at 1259 Engel Drive in Shawano, Wisconsin. Please call the office 751-526-6960 with any questions.

Jeff Theis
Executive Director / CEO

01/01, 01/09/2026

OFFICIAL NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS FOR FURNISHING:
CITY OF SHAWANO
2026 CRACK SEALING PROGRAM

Will be received by the City of Shawano in the office of the Department of Public Works, 2905 E. Richmond Street, Shawano, WI until 11:00 AM Local Time on January 19th, 2026, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Owner requires bid security in the form of a bid bond or cashier's check in the amount of 5% of the bid amount.

ESTIMATE OF QUANTITIES
Provide, Rout, Clean, and Seal Cracks with 30,000 pounds of hot poured rubber sealant

The Contract Documents may be examined at the office of the Department of Public Works, 2905 E. Richmond St., Shawano, WI 54166. Complete sets of Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Department of Public Works, 2905 E. Richmond St., Shawano, WI 54166. All bidders shall bid in accordance with and shall bid upon the Bid Forms provided in the Contract Documents.

Owner requires Bidders to be pre-qualified for this project in accordance with the Wisconsin Statutes 66.29(2). Qualifications shall be delivered to the Engineer, not less than 5 days prior to the bid deadline. The Owner's decision as to the prequalifications shall be final.

The City of Shawano Common Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informalities in bidding, or to accept the bid or bids which best serves the interest of the City. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days after the scheduled opening of bids without the consent of the City.
Published by the authority of the City of Shawano, Wisconsin.

BY: Bruce Milavitz, Mayor Lesley Nemetz, City Clerk Matt Pleshek, City Engineer
WNAXLP

NOTICE

TO: ALL SHAWANO COUNTY DOG OWNERS

Pursuant to Section 174.052 Wisconsin Statutes, notice is hereby given to all owners of dogs in Shawano County that rabies vaccinations and dog licenses are required under the statutes.

Vaccination by a veterinarian against rabies of all dogs is required (Section 95.21

(2)) within 30 days after the dog reaches 5 months of age and revaccinated within one year after the initial vaccination. Older vaccinated dogs must be revaccinated when the certificates expires or within 3 years of the previous vaccination. Presentation of evidence that the dog is currently immunized against rabies must be presented when obtaining dog licenses.

All dogs 5 months of age or older require a license. The minimum license fee for neutered males or spayed females is \$3.00 upon presentation or evidence attesting to the same and \$8.00 for the unneutered male or unsprayed female dog, or one-half of these amounts if the dog became 5 months of age after July 1 of the license year. These minimums may be supplemented by local municipal action. The fee for a multiple dog license is \$35.00 for the first 12 dogs. There is an additional fee of \$3.00 for each dog over 12 dogs.

PENALTIES
A late fee of \$5.00 shall be assessed to the owner of each dog 5 months of age or over who fails to obtain a dog license by April 1st of each year.

An owner who fails to have a dog vaccinated against rabies as required by statute may be required to forfeit not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$100.00. Dog licenses must be obtained from your local treasurer.

T Almon	715-851-1043	T Lessor	715-853-2183	V Aniwa	715-218-2364
T Angelica	920-822-1210	T Maple Grove	920-615-5682	V Birmamwood	715-449-0059
T Aniwa	715-449-2817	T Morris	715-250-2103	V Bonduel	715-758-2402
T Bartelme	715-347-3714	T Navarino	715-853-6457	V Bowler	715-793-4910
T Belle Plaine	715-524-2690	T Pella	715-526-2288	V Cecil	715-745-4428
T Birmamwood	715-449-2866	T Red Springs	715-787-3804	V Eland	715-253-6040
T Fairbanks	715-881-0939	R Richmond	715-853-4574	V Gresham	715-787-3991
T Germania	715-853-4695	T Seneca	715-280-0979	V Mattoon	715-489-3107
T Grant	715-853-3696	T Washington	715-853-2169	V Pulaski	920-822-5182
T Green Valley	715-851-1453	T Waukechon	715-853-1303	V Tigerton	715-535-2262
T Hartland	920-655-8755	T Wascott	715-526-9853	V Wittenberg	715-253-6063
T Herman	715-853-2868	T Wittenberg	715-581-9158	C Shawano	715-526-6138
T Hutchins	715-489-3334				

Any further questions, please contact the County Clerk's office at 715-526-9150.
Submitted by: R. Raymond Rigsby, Shawano County Clerk

WNAXLP
SHA-070

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A deal so hot, it'll make you sweat!

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*Tax Credit applies to select pellet & wood stoves only. Please see Sales Associate for details.



TIME FOR LOVE TO OWN THE BEARS

Johnson's Bears looking to negotiate new terms in longstanding rivalry

BY JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

Green Bay travels to Chicago to face the Bears in the first round of the NFL playoffs. The game will be played at 7 p.m. Saturday.

Packers' offense vs. Bears' defense

The last time these two teams met also happens to be the last time the Packers' full starting offense played. Jordan Love left in the first half with a concussion and has not been on the field since.

Love just finished up a season where he had his first passer rating over 100 for a full year. He was establishing himself as a fringe MVP candidate when he left the Chicago game with a concussion.

Green Bay's passing game has been able to find some holes in Chicago's secondary. The first time the two teams met, all three of Love's touchdown passes were more than 20 yards. Chicago's slot defenders and safeties are good at a lot of things, but they are not particularly fast. Christian Watson and Jayden Reed could both play a big role in Green Bay's passing game being successful this time around against Chicago.

The biggest question mark for the Packers right now is the health of Josh Jacobs. He missed Sunday's game against the Vikings but has not looked healthy since his 40-yard touchdown run against the Denver Broncos in mid-December.

He struggled against the Bears, including a fumble in the red zone that took points off the board, and followed that up with his least productive game as a Packer. The Packers are hoping a week off for Ja-

cobs means he'll have fresh legs against Chicago's porous run defense.

On the offensive line, Zach Tom should be back in the lineup this week after missing the last three games with a knee injury. If he's able to play, the Packers' offensive line may have a score to settle against Chicago's Austin Booker, who hit Love twice in the first game at Soldier Field with his helmet.



Aaron Rodgers celebrates during Green Bay's win over the Bears in the 2010 NFC Championship.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD

Defensively, Chicago's hallmark is being able to take the ball away. Kevin Byard and Nashon Wright have both been ballhawks in the secondary. Chicago only had one takeaway the first time these two teams met, with Love throwing an interception to Chauncey Gardner-Johnson on the game's opening possession.

The second time the two teams met, they forced Jacobs to fumble and also recovered a fumble from Malik Willis and Sean Rhyan in overtime.

If Chicago's defense does not take the ball away, they struggle and did so in both matchups against Green Bay. The Packers moved the ball almost at will the last time these two teams met but



Jordan Love ran for a go-ahead score in the closing minutes, and Green Bay hung on to beat Chicago 20-19 in 2024.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

did not finish in the red zone. Green Bay absolutely

needs to be better in that area this time around.

Dennis Allen is one of the most respected defen-



Ben Johnson is finding success in his first year as coach of the Chicago Bears.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

sive coordinators in football, so the chess match between Allen and Matt LaFluer is one to watch.

Packers' defense vs. Bears' offense

The last two possessions against Chicago and the ensuing four quarters against the Baltimore Ravens are some of the worst football Green Bay's defense has played under defensive coordinator Jeff Hafley.

They blew a lead against the Bears in the final minutes before losing the game in overtime. They followed that up by getting rolled over by Derrick Henry and the Baltimore Ravens for more than 300 rushing yards.

There is no cavalry coming. Micah Parsons and Devonte Wyatt are done for the rest of the season. The guys who are active are the ones who are going to be playing Saturday night.

One new guy who has entered into the secondary is former Dallas Cowboys cornerback Trevon Diggs. Diggs was claimed on waivers before the Packers' season finale against the Vikings and looks like he will be in line to start

PLAYOFF, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Reality check: Rivals to battle for third time in six weeks

Starters rest in Week 18 hoping to reverse losing streak

LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

The Packers dropped their final regular season game this past weekend, as the Minnesota Vikings defeated Green Bay 16-3 in Minneapolis on Jan. 4.

Even though this loss counts as the same for all of the other games played this season, Green Bay's Week 18 matchup felt more like a preseason contest

than a regular season game for a couple of reasons.

First, entering the week, Green Bay was locked into the NFC's seventh seed. The Packers could not have moved up with a win or moved down with a loss. The second reason was because of the amount of injuries that Green Bay suffered that season.

With so many injuries and nothing to play for, Packers head coach Matt

LaFleur elected to sit a number of Green Bay's key contributors in this game against Minnesota, including quarterback Jordan Love.

"I think we did the right thing today, and time will tell. I feel better about this than a year ago after the game," said LaFleur, on his decision to sit many starters. He also alluded to Christian Watson's injury last season in Green Bay's

Week 18 loss to Chicago. "It was a double whammy when we lose the game and you lose a key player for us to go into that run, so I thought this was the best decision."

Without Love, who served as the backup quarterback this week, Clayton Tune started under center for the Packers. Malik Willis was ruled out of

WRAPUP, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Green Bay head coach Matt LaFleur rested many starters in the regular season finale against Minnesota. With those starters expected to return for the Wild Card playoff game at Chicago, LaFleur is hoping for a better final result.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

WRAPUP, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the game with a shoulder injury. In his second career start, the first coming with the Arizona Cardinals in 2023, Tune completed 6-of-11 passes for 34 yards and no touchdowns or interceptions.

Then there was Jakobie Keeney-James, signed from Green Bay's practice squad the day prior, who led the team in receiving, as he finished with 15 yards on two receptions. Rookie Matthew Golden added 8 yards on one reception, while tight end Josh Whyte recorded 4 yards on one reception.

In the run game without Josh Jacobs, Chris Brooks led the Packers, recording 61 yards on 13 carries. Emanuel Wilson added 4 yards on 18 carries, while Tune ran for 23 yards on four carries.

Green Bay's only score of the game came very late. Down 16-0 with 4:09 left in the game, Green Bay started its march down the field. Using the run and quick pass game, the Packers worked down to the Vikings' 5-yard line and called timeout with one second left on the clock. LaFleur trotted out the field goal unit, and Brandon McManus nailed a 24-yard field goal to prevent the shutout.

As for the Vikings, they dominated the majority of the game, as Minnesota finished with 363 total yards, compared to Green Bay's 121. Quarterback J.J. McCarthy led the way for the Vikings, completing 14-of-23 passes for 182 yards and no touchdowns or interceptions.

He left the game due to a hand injury, which allowed backup Max Brosmer some extended time. Brosmer finished the game completing 7-of-8 passes for 57 yards.

Justin Jefferson was the



With many starters given the week to rest for the playoffs, the Green Bay Packers used several second string players and pulled a handful from the practice squad to play against Minnesota. Not surprisingly, the Vikings won 16-3.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

leading receiver for the Vikings, as he recorded 101 yards on eight receptions. Coming into the game, Jefferson needed 53 receiving yards to extend his 1,000-plus yard receiving streak to six seasons. Jalen Nailor added another 49 yards on three receptions, while Josh Oliver recorded 29 yards on two receptions.

In the run game, Jordan Mason paced the Vikings' backfield, totaling 94 yards on 14 carries. Ty Chandler added 23 yards on 10 carries, while Xavier Scott recorded nine yards on three carries.

In what was a fairly uneventful game, there

was one silver lining in this game — which can be good or bad, depending on how it is viewed. Packers punter Daniel Whelan finished the game punting the ball eight times for a gross punting yard total of 431 yards. That number ranks as the most gross punting yards in a game this season.

"I was just doing my job, trying to help out the team," said Whelan.

Now that the regular season is over, Green Bay enters the playoffs as the NFC's seventh seed for the third straight season. That sets up a matchup with the Chicago Bears, who fin-



Quarterback Jordan Love, left, and running back Josh Jacobs appear relaxed during the Packers regular season finale at Minnesota. They and several other starters rested on the day.

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ished as the NFC's second seed. On Jan. 10, Green Bay

and Chicago will match up for just the third playoff

game in the two franchise's histories.

PLAYOFF, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

this weekend over Car-rington Valentine.

Green Bay has overall performed really well against Chicago for the vast majority of both games. The second halves have been their bugaboo with Caleb Williams find-ing rhythm after the break.

The key to Chicago's offense is their run game.

D'Andre Swift and Kyle Monangai are two tough runners that can make plays after contact.

The Packers' ability to tackle in space is para-mount this week, as it was the first two times they met.

The biggest key to this week's game is keeping Williams in the pocket.

When he escapes, he's as dynamic as any player that lines up under center. He's a gifted runner who can make any throw on the field. The Packers also need to do a better job of getting him on the ground. They're pressured him a bunch in the first two games but only have one sack to show for it.

In postseason games, big plays often are the ones that swing the game. The Packers need to make more of those than Chi-cago does.

Special Teams

The good news for Green Bay's special teams is that Brandon McManus appears to have shaken off a midseason slump to

return to the form we saw out of him a season ago.

The first time these two teams met, special teams was virtually non-descript. Green Bay shut down Chicago's return game. The second time, however, was an abject disaster with one fatal error being the differ-ence between Green Bay

winning or having to go to overtime.

The Packers have cer-tainly had their fair share of special teams errors that have cost them in big spots.

They cannot afford any critical errors like that with their margin thinner than it ever has been this season.

GREEN BAY PACKERS AT CHICAGO BEARS

TIME AND DATE: 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10
LOCATION: Soldier Field
TV: Prime Video
RADIO: Flagship WRIT-FM Milwaukee — 95.7; Pack-ers Radio Network includes WIXX-FM Green Bay — 101.1, WRLO-FM Antigo — 105.3, WLST-FM Marinette — 95.1, and WSAU Wausau — 550 AM and 95.1 FM
2025 RECORDS: Packers, 9-7-1. Bears, 11-6.
HISTORY: The Bears and Packers have been locking horns since the 1930s. The Packers lead the all-

time series 110-78-7.
Both of their matchups this year were absolute thrill-ers, with the Packers and Bears both holding serve at home. Green Bay's scored first blood with a 28-21 vic-tory over the Bears on the strength of three touchdown passes from Jordan Love, and a game-sealing interception from Keisean Nixon.
The second time these two teams met, the Pack-ers led by 10 just before the two-minute warning when di-saster struck. Romeo Doubs bobbled an onside kick, and

Caleb Williams threw two touchdown passes on Chi-cago's final two possessions, with the finishing blow being struck by DJ Moore.
This will be the third postseason meeting between the two teams, with the Pack-ers winning the most recent matchup. BJ Raji's intercep-tion returned for a touch-down powered the Packers to a 21-14 victory over the Bears in the 2010 NFC Champion-ship Game.
COACHES: Packers, Matt LaFleur, seventh season, 78-39-1. Bears, Ben Johnson, first

season, 11-6.
PACKERS SCHEDULE
Sunday, Sept. 7, vs. Detroit Lions, W 27-13
Thursday, Sept. 11, vs. Washington Commanders, W 27-18
Sunday, Sept. 21, at Clevel-land Browns, L 10-13
Sunday, Sept. 28, at Dallas Cowboys, T 40-40 (OT)
Bye Week
Sunday, Oct. 12, vs. Cin-cinnati Bengals, W 28-17
Sunday, Oct. 19, at Ari-zona Cardinals, W 27-23
Sunday, Oct. 26, at Pitts-burgh Steelers, W 35-25

Sunday, Nov. 2, vs. Caro-lina Panthers, L 13-16
Monday, Nov. 10, vs. Philadelphia Eagles, L 7-10
Sunday, Nov. 16, at New York Giants, W 27-20
Sunday, Nov. 23, vs. Min-nesota Vikings, W 23-6
Thursday, Nov. 27, at Detroit Lions, W 31-24
Sunday, Dec. 7, vs. Chi-cago Bears, W 28-21
Sunday, Dec. 14, at Denver Broncos, L 34-26
Saturday, Dec. 20, at Chi-cago Bears, L 22-16 (OT)
Saturday, Dec. 27, vs. Baltimore Ravens, L 24-41

Sunday, Jan. 4, at Min-nesota Vikings, L 3-16
NFL Wild Card Round
Saturday, Jan. 10
LA Rams at Carolina, 3:30 p.m.
Green Bay at Chicago, 7 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 11
Buffalo at Jacksonville, noon
San Francisco at Philadel-phia, 3:30 p.m.
LA Chargers at New Eng-land, 7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 12
Houston at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.



Delivering a helmet-to-helmet blow to Jordan Love, Austin Booker was penalized for roughing the passer. Booker was flagged twice for roughing the passer during the Bears' 22-16 overtime victory in Week 16. Love left the game with a concussion with eight minutes left in the second quarter and left Chicago under the NFL concussion protocol.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

Packers, Bears to experience deja vu in playoffs?

Winner of each of previous playoff matchup went on to claim NFL title

BY LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

The greatest rivalry in football is set for Round 3 as the Green Bay Packers will travel to Illinois to take on the Chicago Bears in the Wild Card Round of the NFL Playoffs on Jan. 10.

It is no secret these two NFL franchises not only know but have a strong dislike for each other. As two of the oldest franchises in the NFL, Green Bay and Chicago have met 212 times, with the Packers leading the series 109-97-6.

When talking about the history of the NFL, it is hard to name other franchises that have impacted the game more than these two. From Curly Lambeau to George Halas, from Vince Lombardi to Gale Sayers, from Bart Starr to Walter Payton, from Brett Favre to Brian Urlacher, and eventually Aaron Rodgers, the Bears (No. 1) and the Packers (No. 2) have the most Hall of Famers by a franchise in the NFL.

On top of that, Green Bay is at the top of the list of the franchises with the most wins in NFL history at 819. Who is second on that list? The Chicago Bears, with 809.

Adding to the history, the Packers stand alone as the NFL franchise with the most championships at 13, while Chicago places second with nine.

With all of the history and the 212 matchups between these two longtime rivals, it is strange that there have only been two playoff matchups in history. This week will mark the third installment of the series.

After sitting a majority of its starters in Week 18, Green Bay enters the Wild Card matchup on a four-game losing streak but relatively healthier than the last time these two teams met. As for



Aaron Rodgers took one on the chin from Chicago's Julius Peppers but stayed on the field to engineer a 21-14 win in the NFC Championship Game on Jan. 23, 2011.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

Chicago, the Bears have enjoyed one of the franchise's better seasons in recent memory and are looking to continue that on the back of second-year quarterback Caleb Williams.

"You definitely stick with your process that you believe in," said Packers head coach Matt LaFleur, on how the Packers will change practice to get ready for the playoffs. "I think everybody just has to understand the magnitude of the playoffs and what that brings in regards to there is a finality to it, so you have to go play your best ball."

With the NFL's oldest rivalry set for matchup 213, the playoff record for both teams in the series is 1-1.

The first playoff matchup between

the two teams came in 1941 during the Western Divisional Playoff. In that game Chicago came away victorious by a score of 33-14.

Chicago's victory was fueled by a strong rushing effort from George McAfee and Norm Standlee, who finished with a combined 198 yards and two touchdowns on 29 carries. Bears Hall of Fame quarterback Sid Luckman finished the game completing 4-of-9 passes for 41 yards.

For Green Bay, quarterback Cecil Isbell completed 8-of-19 passes for 107 yards and a touchdown. Clarke Hinkle led the rushing attack for the Packers, totaling 17 yards and a touchdown on nine carries, while Tony Canadeo was held

to 7 yards on five carries. Don Hutson recorded just 19 yards on one reception as well.

The win vaulted Chicago to the NFL Championship, where it would take down the New York Giants in a 37-9 win, sealing the franchise's fifth championship.

Seventy years later, the two teams met for the second iteration of the rivalry in the playoffs, during the 2010-11 NFC Championship. In a cold January game in Chicago, Green Bay came out on top, winning 21-14.

Rodgers finished the game completing 17-of-30 passes for 244 yards but threw two interceptions. James Starks proved to be the spark for the Packers offense; the running back finished the game with 74 yards and a touchdown on 22 carries.

For Chicago, quarterback Jay Cutler was forced out of the game after completing 6-of-14 passes for 80 yards. In replacement, Caleb Hanie completed 13-of-20 passes for 153 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions.

With Green Bay up 14-7 late in the fourth quarter, defensive lineman B.J. Raji came away with one of the most iconic plays in the rivalry, as he intercepted Hanie and returned it back 18 yards for a touchdown, giving the Packers a two-score lead and ultimately the insurance that Green Bay needed to win.

The Packers eventually knocked off the Pittsburgh Steelers in the ensuing Super Bowl, sealing the franchise's 13th championship.

It is uncertain if the winner of the 2026 iteration of this matchup will go on to win the championship like in both previous playoff matchups, but one thing is certain: Saturday's game is sure to be another classic game between the NFL's two oldest rivals.

Diggs ready to give his best shot for Packers

Relationships with Parsons, McKinney make his transition easier

BY JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

Trevon Diggs is in Green Bay now after being claimed off waivers from the Dallas Cowboys when he was released shortly after Christmas Day.

Diggs made his debut against the Minnesota Vikings.

What were those first 24-36 hours like?

Definitely a change, a little hectic, but I'm just adjusting to it. And, you know, just ready.

What kind of opportunity is this for you?

It's a wonderful opportunity. I'm thankful for the organization giving me the chance, and you know, I'm ready to come here and help win games.

How did you find out?

I was with my kids. We were all in the house. I was about to take them to Dave & Busters, and then they call like, 'You've got to get on the flight.' I was like, 'Oh, I can't go to Dave & Busters.' So, you know, it was a good moment that I shared with them, and I was super excited.

What level of player do you think you are right now, at this point in your career?

I still feel like I'm the best.

How soon did you get in contact with Micah Parsons after you found out that you're going to be joining him up here?

Right away, I called him right away. He was super excited for me, super happy for me. You know, we have a great relationship — our family, our moms. Everyone is real close, so it all worked out.

What did he tell you about Hafley and Green Bay?

He told me, you know, it's work. It's a lot different. He said I'm going to like it a lot, and I'm going to enjoy it. So far, I've been enjoying it a lot. My first day was ... a lot of fun. And, it's a great, great thing to be here.

Learning a new defense?

Everything is, I don't want to say everything is the same. It's just different terminology I have to learn. The same coverages are same coverages. It's just different languages and, you know, different terminology. I feel like that's just going to be the tough part.

Have to prove you're not a malcontent and still a good player?

I think I just need to be myself, you know, be who I know I am. Go out there and perform, and everything will take care of itself. I'm not chasing accolades. I'm not chasing anything. I'm chasing, you know, being a better me, being better every day. You know, helping this team win.

Was there any degree of relief to be out of Dallas and into a new situation?

Change is change. You know, I'm focused on moving forward. You know, it's crazy that it happened at the beginning of the new year. So, you know, I just want to put, uh, keep everything behind me and just move forward and focus on what's now.

Fresh start?

It feels good, you know? It's — I want to be comfortable with being uncomfortable being somewhere that I've never been before. Just starting over, starting fresh, a clean slate and just working, and keeping my head down,



Trevon Diggs, fully dressed including his trademark flashy jewelry, debuted Sunday in Minneapolis. Diggs was claimed off waivers from the Cowboys earlier in the week.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

and just working.

Back with Xavier McKinney?

Yeah, yeah. McKinney is a great guy, great pro. He does everything the right way, especially when we were in school. He was doing everything the right way. And, you know, I'm going to be right next to him every day.

How long you want to be here? They assumed your remaining three years on your deal.

I want to be here as long as they want me to be here. For sure. You know, I like it here a lot. I've got relationships here already, and I would love to call this place home.

Seeing Parsons and McKinney here and what they're accom-

plishing in the system, does that appeal to you?

Yeah, it gives me a lot of comfort. I know those guys' playmaking ability. I know my playmaking ability. You know, plays will be made, and success will be had. So I'm excited to join this team. It was already rolling, already on fire. So, you know, I'm just happy to be a part of it.

From a health standpoint, was the concussion really bad?

Nah, I haven't been through anything. That was my first one, so it was kind of different for me.

But I'm healthy now; I feel good. I'm ready to go.

Blocking out the noise the last couple months?

It's been a challenge. But, being around my fam-

ily, being around my kids, being around people that genuinely just care about me, like my friends and stuff, it's been helping a lot. And I'm finally happy that I'm just somewhere where it's a fresh start, you know, and I can just work.

How close is your friendship with Parsons?

The first day he got to Dallas, you know, we was in camp; he kind of locked in. I seen what kind of player he was, I seen he's a dog. He wants to work hard; he feels like he's the best player — always. So just that drew me to him, and we just had a relationship ever since then. You know, that's one of my good friends. He's someone that was helping me out through this process,

just talked me through things, just mentally and just being there for me. You know, that's one of my good friends. You know, I appreciate him a lot for that.

Any advice that you gave him? I know he was obviously there for you when you went through your injury.

As soon as he came home, I went to go see him, check on him, see how he was doing. You know, he's in good spirits. You know, I'm excited for him, for his journey. You know, he came to check on me when last year, when I was down in Florida, which meant a lot to me — like you just coming out your way to see how I'm doing, making sure I'm doing what I'm supposed to do.

So, that took a lot from him, and it meant a lot to me. So I'm for sure going to be there for him, every step of the way.

Did three defensive coordinators in Dallas affect you?

I feel like I can excel any system, as long as the proper coaching is there. Getting good coaching, you can learn anything, learn any system. And I feel like that has helped me. Me having different coordinators, I'm learning different systems, learning different things from everyone.

So I think it helped. And so, I'm ready, I'm ready to adjust and ready to get to work.

Are you staying with him until you maybe find a spot to stay? Does he have a spare room?

Yeah, no, he does. He said I can crash at his place, and he's on his cars, too.

The Packers gave you a vote of confidence by bringing you in.

Yeah, it meant a lot, you know? It shows that they believe in me, like I believe in myself. So, you know, I'm ready to show what I can do.

Flashes of greatness won't win a Super Bowl

Is third time the charm as seventh seed?

BY JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

It's Groundhog Day, again.

You'd be forgiven if that's how you were feeling at the end of this Green Bay Packers 2025 regular season. A season that began with so much promise ended with them right back where they

were a season ago. The Packers finished with the seventh seed in the NFC playoffs and saw a divisional foe take home the NFC North crown.

This time, it was the Chicago Bears.

Optimism gives way to injury

There were plenty of reasons for optimism after the first two games of the season.

The Packers beat the Detroit Lions and Washington Commanders by two scores with a dominant-looking defense, thanks to big-time trade acquisition Micah Parsons.

Unfortunately, Parsons will not be around for postseason play after suffering a torn ACL in the team's Dec. 14 loss to the Denver Broncos.

Everything on this team starts and stops with him. It took him all of one snap as a Packer to prove his worth as he got immediate pressure on Jared Goff, forcing a quick throw that led to a Lions punt.

From there, Parsons took off, emerging as a potential candidate for the NFL's defensive player of the year.

Unfortunately, with his season ending early,

that caused the rest of the Packers' defense to be in the position they were a year ago.

Last year, Green Bay's defense was good. Of the three units on the team, they were playing the best football by the time their season ended in Philadelphia.

The defense was good for the first 58 minutes of a full game without Parsons, dominating Caleb Williams and the Chicago Bears.

Unfortunately, the game is 60 minutes long, and the Packers' defense faltered alongside the spe-

cial teams. What looked like a massive win turned into a 22-16 overtime loss at Soldier Field.

The following week, they were bludgeoned by the Baltimore Ravens for more than 300 rushing yards. That's the second time the Packers have allowed 300 rushing yards in a game since 2022.

Ultimately, the defense took a break in Week 18 against Minnesota with many of their key regulars taking a back seat.

If Green Bay is going to make a run in the postseason, they will need to play much better on that side

of the ball. Their pass rush needs more from guys like Rashan Gary, who had 7.5 sacks in the first two months of the season but was shut out in the final two months. Lukas Van Ness battled through injuries and was not as productive as the team hoped he would be in this third full season.

In the secondary, they struggled at the end of the year without Parsons on the field. Carrington Valentine was benched. Nate Hobbs was injured for most of the year, and

FLASHES, CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

HISTORIC MOMENTS

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP, JANUARY 23, 2011



The last player one would expect to deliver a game-clinching pick six is a 338-pound nose tackle, yet that's exactly how it played out when B.J. Raja pilfered an attempt by Chicago Bears quarterback Caleb Hanie and ran it back from 18 yards out. His touchdown was celebrated by teammates, as Raja's timely score put the Packers ahead 21-7 with just over six minutes left to play.

GREG MELLIS |
GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS



338-POUND PICK SIX

SEVENTH-SEED PACKERS RIDE THROUGH CHICAGO ON WAY TO SUPER BOWL XLV VICTORY



FLASHES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Keisean Nixon had more downs than ups. They added Trevon Diggs for the final game of the regular season, and his role in the postseason will be interesting to watch.

Golden opportunity tarnished

Offensively, the biggest storyline coming into the year was Matthew Golden. Golden was met by a roar from the Lambeau Field crowd that saw the Packers take a receiver in the first round of the draft for the first time since 2002.

Expectations went through the roof. Golden was being talked about in some circles as the team's top target from the time the season opened.

The Packers, of course, explicitly state that they do not want to have a top receiving target. They prefer to spread things around, and that worked to a disadvantage for Golden.

Between injuries in

the middle of the season and being stuck behind four veterans the Packers liked coming into the year, Golden was not as productive as they'd hoped. He had some high flashes, and the team remains excited about his future, but his rookie season was disappointing.

One of the reasons Golden did not get as many opportunities is due to the return of Christian Watson.

Watson defied the odds, returning from a torn ACL that he suffered in January 2025. His first game saw him catch four passes for 84 yards against the Pittsburgh Steelers.

By the end of the season, he was the team's top target. He finished the season with a little more than 100 yards fewer than Romeo Doubs, the team's leading receiver, despite playing in only 10 games. He also finished tied for the team lead in



Running back Josh Jacobs rushed for 94 yards and a touchdown against the Eagles in the Wild Card playoff game in January 2025.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

touchdowns.

Sophomore slump for Jacobs?

One of the question marks on offense is the status of the run game.

Josh Jacobs was brilliant in 2024 as the key cog in Green Bay's offensive machine and the one setting franchise records.

His encore was not up to the same level. Jacobs fell short of the 1,000 yards threshold and battled injuries for most of the season.

He is going into post-season play with two of his worst games as a Packer being his most recent performances.

He took a back seat in Week 18 against the Minnesota Vikings, and perhaps two consecutive weeks of limited touches will have him fresh for postseason play. The Packers will need him.

Despite the struggles he's had this season, he's still one of their most important players.

Choices for Policy

When the season ultimately ends, all eyes will shift to the new man in charge. Mark Murphy re-

tired in July and gave way to Ed Policy as the team's new leading man.

Policy will have decisions to make regarding the contract status of general manager Brian Gutekunst and head coach Matt LaFleur.

Both entered 2025 with just two years remaining on their contract, and Policy stated he does not want to have a lame duck situation for his coach or general manager.

If the Packers flame out in the postseason, does Policy ask whether LaFleur, Gutekunst or both are the right men to lead the Packers back to Super Bowl glory?

They've both won significantly more than they've lost, but after Sunday's loss to Minnesota, the Packers are now 37-30-1 since 2022. They've won one playoff game since losing the NFC Championship Game at home to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

KEYS TO THE GAME

BY JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

Just like that, the slate is wiped clean. The Green Bay Packers finished the regular season at 9-7-1, but they will tell you that everyone is 0-0 as of now.

The reward for finishing second in the NFC North is a date with their oldest rival — the Chicago Bears at Soldier Field. The Bears are 11-6 and won the NFC North, earning the two seed in the NFC playoffs. The two teams met twice this season, with each team winning on their home field.

Saturday's game represents the rubber match. Here are our keys to the Packers walking out of Soldier Field with its first playoff victory since 2023.

1. Takeaways
These two defenses could not contrast each other any more.

Green Bay's defense is allergic to takeaways, and the Bears feast on them. If Chicago tips a pass, they typically come down with an interception. If Green Bay does, they drop it and it falls harmlessly to the turf.

Takeaways are always of the utmost importance, but that was truthfully the only way Chicago was able to slow down Green Bay's offense in either meeting. Taking care of the ball will need to be at a premium once again.

Green Bay took care of the ball when Jordan Love was under center. He only turned the ball over once. If they take care of the ball, there are plays to be made in Chicago's secondary.



The Packers win streak over the Bears reached 11 games in Week 11 in 2024 as Jordan Love's fourth-quarter touchdown plunge provided the winning difference. Shown here eluding Chicago's DeMarcus Walker, Love completed 13-of-17 pass attempts for 261 yards and one TD in the 20-19 triumph.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

2. Remember Who You Are

In a perfect world, Matt LaFleur likely envisioned his team having a punishing ground game and a suffocating defense. Last year, he had a ground game spearheaded by Josh Jacobs that was downright vampiric at times, sucking the life out of their opponents.

The defense was good for most of the year until

Micah Parsons was lost for the season with a torn ACL.

That's not who the Packers are now. If they're going to win Saturday night and make a potential run to the Super Bowl, it's going to be squarely on the right shoulder of Love.

Love and the passing offense were dominant in the first meeting between these two teams. Malik Willis and Love both

found success against Chicago's secondary as well.

Saturday's game is one where the Packers have the advantage at quarterback, and Love needs to be the better quarterback in this game.

LaFleur also needs to let Love prove it. The Packers are not going to be able to protect a lead by playing conservative. Playing to win with all of their chips on the table is the

only way this team is going to continue to advance.

3. Finish

It feels silly to say something like this, because ultimately the results are the results.

Green Bay won one game between these two teams, and Chicago won the other.

The reality also is the Packers have outplayed the Bears for a vast majority of the 120

minutes they've played in regulation.

The Packers were the better team for 58 out of 60 minutes when the two teams met at Soldier Field shortly before Christmas. It took a collapse of epic proportions for the Bears to have a chance to tie the game, let alone win it.

The Packers should have an opportunity to play with a lead again this week.



Packers' Daniel Whelan led the NFL in punting for the season. His 51.7-yard average won the title by more than a yard. Season highlights included Sunday's, eight punts for 431 yards. In addition, Packers have lost three games this season where they didn't punt, which is the most by any team in the Super Bowl era. There have been 60 seasons played since the inception of the Super Bowl, and in that span, there had only been two teams that had even lost two games in a single season without punting the ball: the 2021 Chargers and 2024 Bengals.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

Whelan and crew showed their worth against Vikings

BY JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

The Green Bay Packers are back in familiar territory for their postseason opener as they'll head to Soldier Field to take on the Chicago Bears on Saturday night.

The Bears are the NFC North champions and enter the postseason on a two-game losing streak after a 19-16 loss to the Detroit Lions in their regular season finale.



1. Coaches and QBs

Fair or not, the NFL postseason is often about coaches and quarterbacks. From that standpoint, the Packers should have an advantage in this game. Experience matters in these games, and that's especially true at quarterback.

Since 2014, quarterbacks in their first career playoff games are 11-22 straight up; furthermore, they're 26-46 against the spread since 2003.

The Packers have a quarterback who has playoff experience. Matt LaFleur has been the head coach in the postseason as well. Ben Johnson and Caleb Williams will be making their postseason debuts. From that standpoint at least, the Packers have an advantage.



2. Hot seat?

Speaking of coaches, what must be going through the mind of the decision makers at 1265 Lombardi Ave. right now? The Packers started the season 2-0 and looked like a bona fide Super



Packers special teamers Bo Melton, right, and Kitan Oladapo down a Whelan punt deep in Minnesota territory Sunday.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

Bowl contender. While the team has been ravaged by injuries, nobody in Green Bay was expecting a nine-win season after the 2-0 start and trade for Micah Parsons.

If the Packers lose Saturday, it will be their fifth consecutive loss to end the season.

The Packers are 37-30-1 in in the last four seasons, and they have won one playoff game since 2020. That's not going to cut it in Titletown. With LaFleur's contract set to expire following the 2026 season, this could be a situation to monitor if the Packers fall to the Bears.



3. Rare experience

These two teams are part of the oldest rivalry in NFL history. They've played 212 times, including two postseason matchups. The two is the number that sticks out. For as long as both of these teams have been around, it's been rare

that both have been good at the same time.

Green Bay won the most recent playoff game, a 21-14 triumph at Soldier Field to clinch a trip to Super Bowl XLV.

Sunday's game will be a bit of a rubber match in that regard. The Bears won the first playoff matchup, and the Packers won the second one 15 years ago.

Who wins this time?



4. Prime opportunity

With the matchup between the two teams set to fall Saturday night, that means the NFL will not broadcast this game with a national network. Instead, this game will be broadcast on Amazon Prime, which has had rights to post-season games under the league's new broadcasting agreement.

What must George Halas and Vince Lombardi be thinking, with the league's oldest rivalry set to be broadcast on a streaming

service?

Who knows? But if you want to watch the game Saturday, you'll likely need to check your internet connections to make sure everything is good to go.



5. New Man In the Secondary?

Trevon Diggs is in Green Bay now after being claimed off waivers from the Dallas Cowboys when he was released shortly after Christmas Day.

Diggs made his debut against the Minnesota Vikings and was in tight coverage on Justin Jefferson for a third down pass that fell incomplete, forcing the Vikings to punt.

Could Diggs be in line to start this Saturday against the Bears? Matt LaFleur would not rule that out, but it appears likely. The Packers have tried to put Carrington Valentine on the bench multiple times this year, including two separate times against the Baltimore Ravens.



6. Pass Rush Juice?

There was not much to glean from the Packers' 16-3 loss to the Minnesota Vikings at US Bank Stadium in the season finale, but one bright spot was the reserve defensive ends. Collin Oliver, Brenton Cox and Barryn Sorrell were disruptive against J.J. McCarthy and the Minnesota offense.

Sorrell got the first full sack of his career and recovered a fumble that was forced by Cox. Could the Packers find some extra juice for their pass rush from the reserves.



0 Matthew Golden.....WR	1 Jaylon Johnson.....DB
2 Malik Willis.....QB	2 D.J. Moore.....WR
6 Clayton Tune.....QB	4 D'Andre Swift.....RB
7 Quay Walker.....LB	8 Cairo Santos.....K
8 Josh Jacobs.....RB	9 Jaquan Brisker.....DB
9 Christian Watson.....WR	10 Luther Burden III.....WR
10 Jordan Love.....QB	11 Case Keenum.....QB
11 Jayden Reed.....WR	12 Devin Duvernay.....WR
13 Dontayvion Wicks.....WR	14 Olamide Zaccheaus.....WR
16 Bo Melton.....CB	15 Rome Odunze.....WR
17 Brandon McManus.....K	17 Tyson Bagent.....QB
19 Daniel Whelan.....P	18 Caleb Williams.....QB
20 Javon Bullard.....S	19 Tory Taylor.....P
23 Emanuel Wilson.....RB	20 Jahdae Walker.....WR
24 Carrington Valentine....CB	21 Travis Homer.....RB
25 Keisean Nixon.....CB	22 Elijah Hicks.....DB
27 Kitan Oladapo.....S	24 Nick McCloud.....DB
28 Trevon Diggs.....CB	25 Kyle Monangai.....RB
29 Xavier McKinney.....S	26 Nahshon Wright.....DB
30 Chris Brooks.....RB	29 Tyrique Stevenson.....DB
33 Evan Williams.....S	31 Kevin Byard III.....DB
34 Shermar Bartholomew..CB	33 Jaylon Jones.....DB
37 Johnathan Baldwin.....S	35 C.J. Gardner-Johnson....DB
38 Jaylin Simpson.....DB	36 Jonathan Owens.....DB
39 Zayne Anderson.....S	39 Josh Blackwell.....DB
42 Matt Orzech.....LS	45 Amen Ogbongbemiga...LB
45 Collin Oliver.....DL	46 Scott Daly.....LS
50 Zach Tom.....OL	47 Ruben Hyppolite II.....LB
52 Rashan Gary.....DL	48 D'Marco Jackson.....LB
53 Aaron Mosby.....DL	49 Tremaine Edmunds.....LB
55 Kingsley Enagbare.....DL	50 Grady Jarrett.....DL
56 Edgerrin Cooper.....LB	52 Drew Dalman.....OL
57 Brenton Cox Jr.....DL	53 T.J. Edwards.....LB
58 Isaiah McDuffie.....LB	58 Darnell Wright.....OL
59 Ty'Ron Hopper.....LB	62 Joe Thuney.....OL
62 Jacob Monk.....C/G	65 Luke Newman.....OL
63 Rasheed Walker.....T	71 Ryan Bates.....OL
64 Jonathan Ford.....DL	73 Jonah Jackson.....OL
65 Aaron Banks.....G	74 Jordan McFadden.....OL
68 Lecitus Smith.....G/C	75 Ozzy Trapilo.....OL
70 Darian Kennard.....T/G	79 Theo Benedet.....OL
71 Anthony Belton.....T	81 Durham Smythe.....TE
75 Sean Rhyan.....G	84 Colsteen Loveland.....TE
77 Jordan Morgan.....T/G	85 Cole Kmet.....TE
81 Josh Whyle.....TE	90 Dominique Robinson....DL
84 Jakobie	91 Chris Williams.....DL
Keeney-James.....WR	92 Daniel Hardy.....DL
87 Romeo Doubls.....WR	93 Joe Tryon-Shoyinka.....DL
88 Luke Musgrave.....TE	94 Austin Booker.....DL
90 Lukas Van Ness.....DL	97 Andrew Billings.....DL
91 Warren Brinson.....DL	98 Montez Sweat.....DL
93 Nazir Stackhosue.....DL	99 Gervon Dexter Sr.....DL
94 Karl Brooks.....DL	
96 Colby Wooden.....DL	
97 Jordon Riley.....DL	
99 Barryn Sorrell.....DL	

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MOMENTS

MINNESOTA VIKINGS 16, GREEN BAY PACKERS 3



Jakobie Keeney-James, an undrafted rookie out of UMass, made his NFL debut in Week 18 and caught two passes for 15 yards in Green Bay's 16-3 loss to Minnesota. Keeney-James has spent the season on the Packers' practice squad but was elevated for Week 18 with Green Bay resting most of its starters. Keeney-James caught both of his targets from Clayton Tune to lead the Packers.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

HELLO MY NAME IS

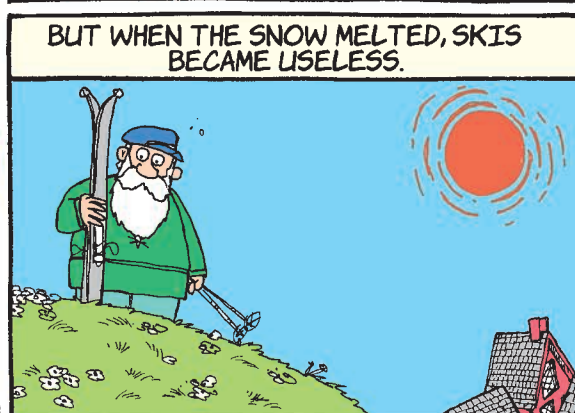
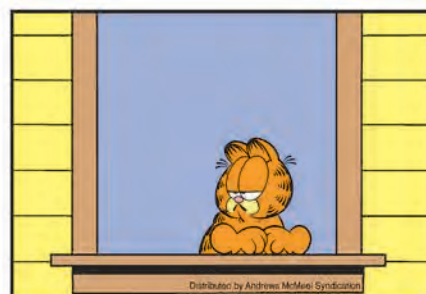
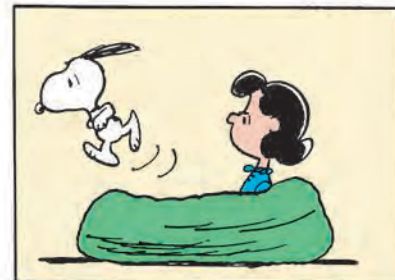
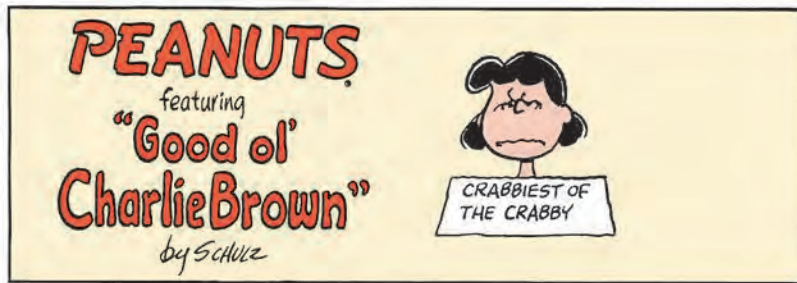
JAKOBIE KEENEY-JAMES SIGNED FROM PRACTICE SQUAD TO ACTIVE ROSTER, ROOKIE FROM UMASS

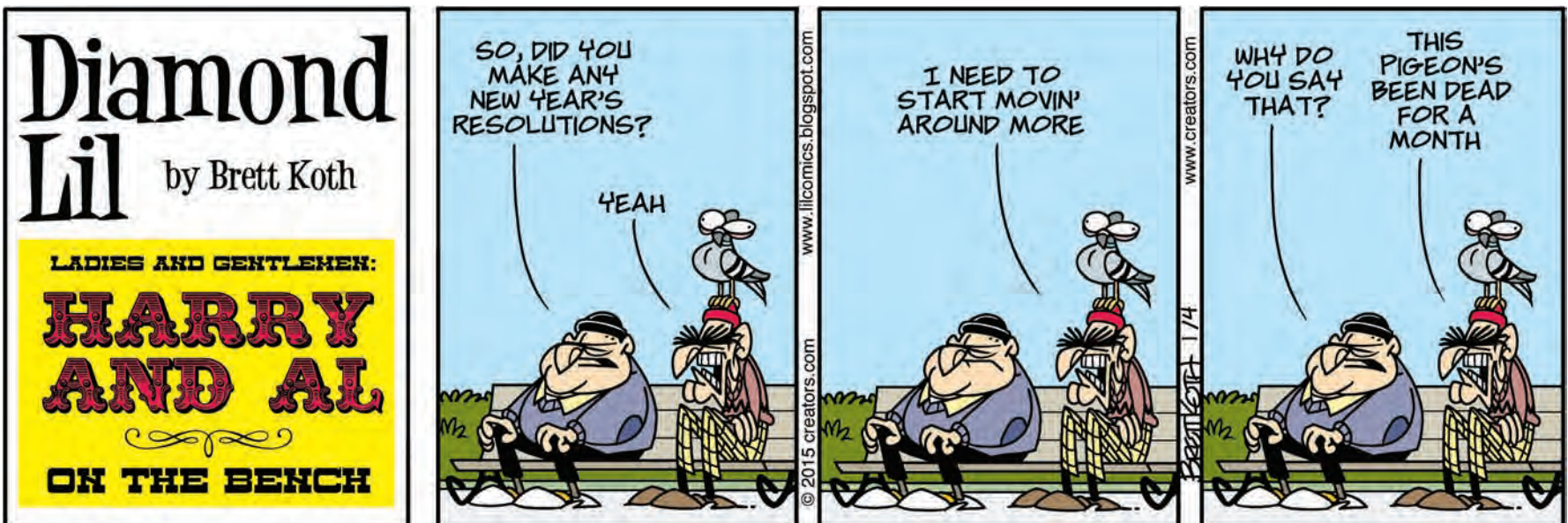
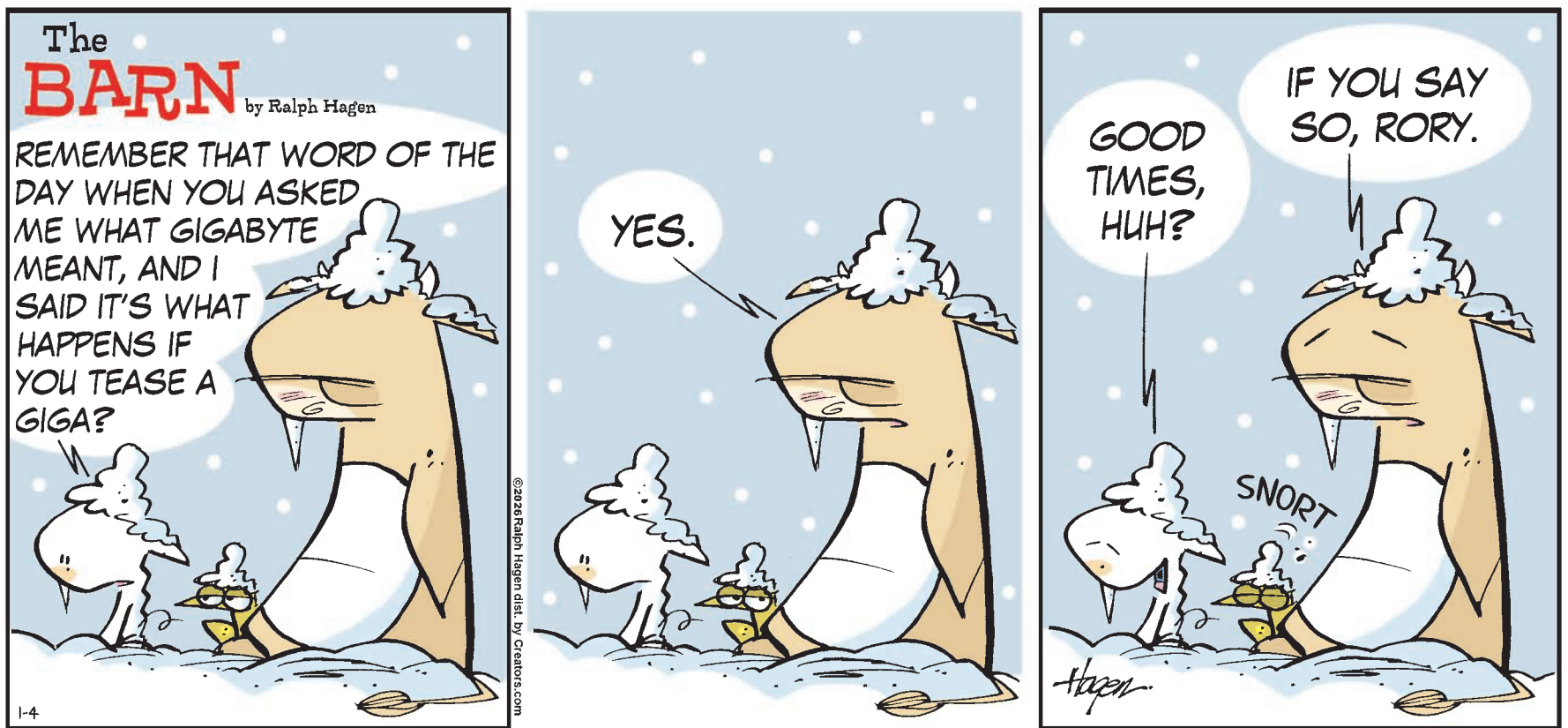
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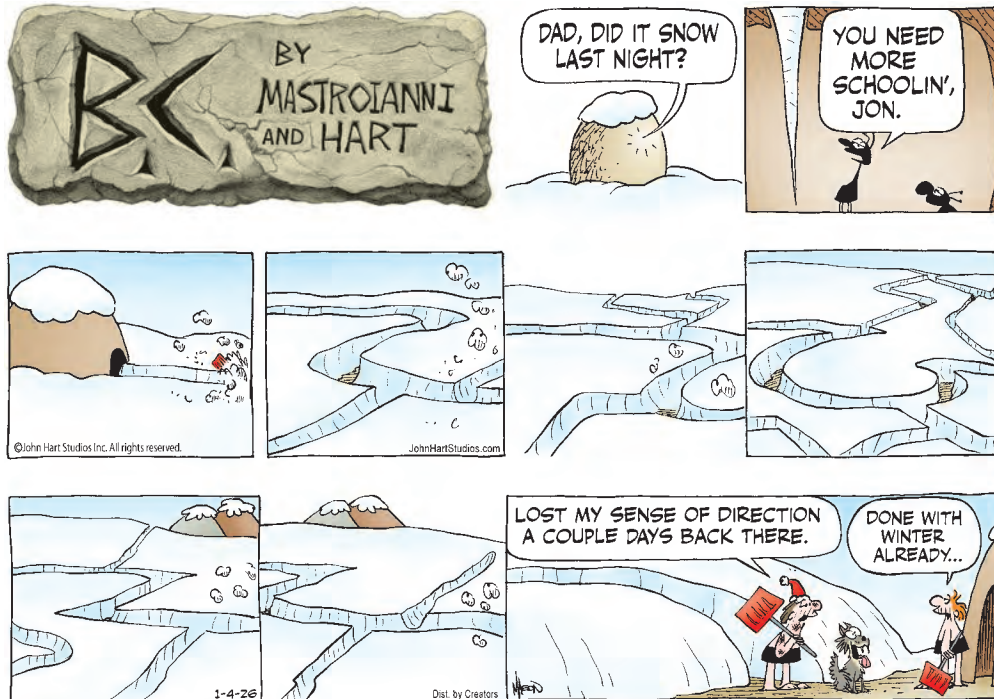
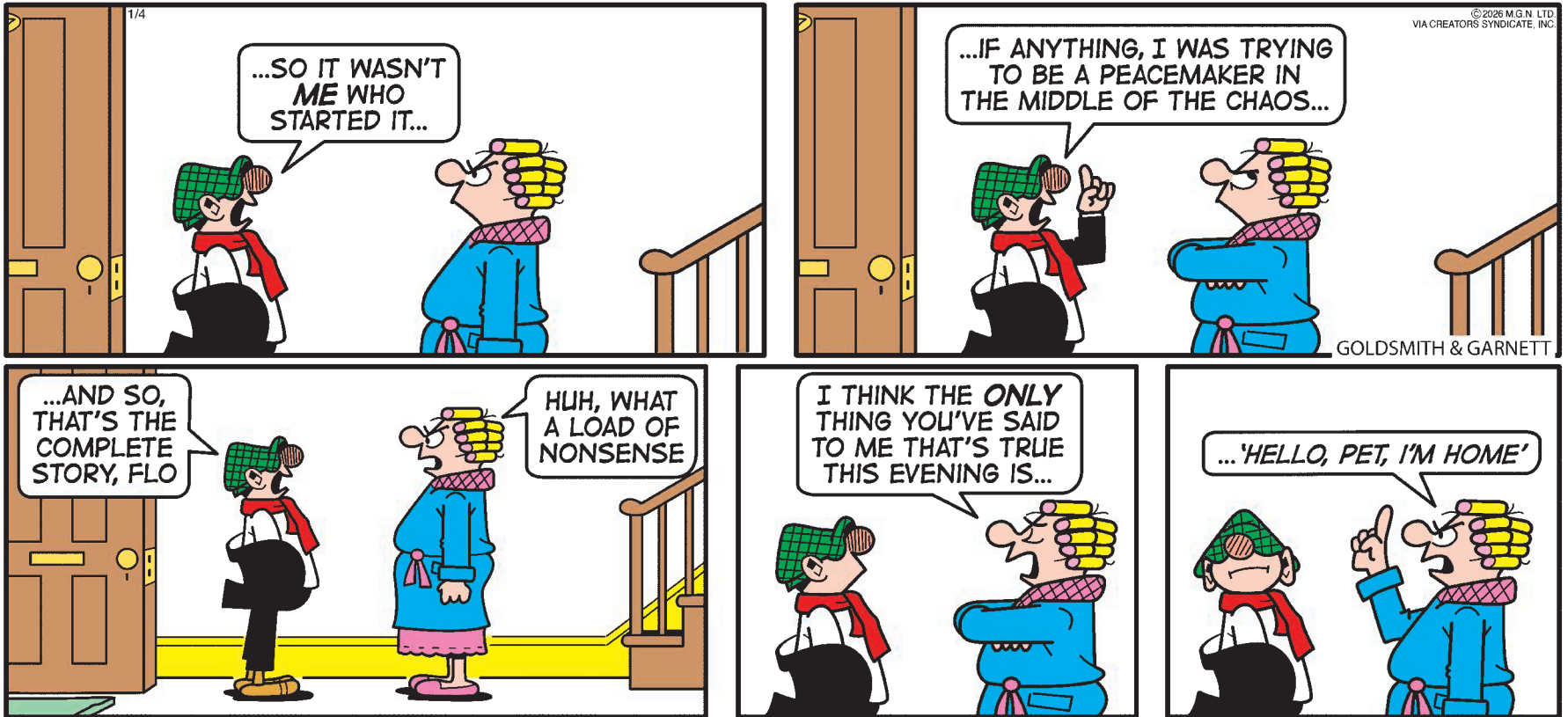
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ANDY CAPP

by Smythe



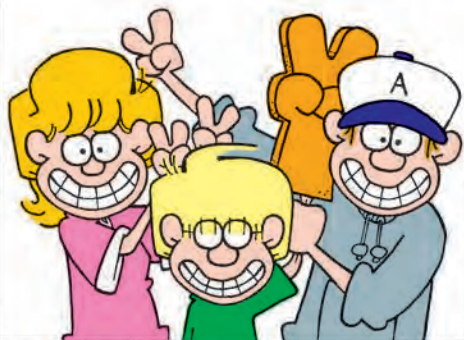
DOGS OF C-KENNEL

BY MICK MASTROIANNI AND MASON MASTROIANNI



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by Bill Amend



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A promotional graphic for Consumer Cellular. On the left, a large, 3D-style "\$25" is shown, with a smaller "SWITCH & GET" tag attached to it. To the right, a dark speech bubble contains the text "Off First Month of New Service!" and "USE PROMO CODE: GZ590". Below this, the "Consumer Cellular" logo is displayed in a white speech bubble. At the bottom, a black banner features the text "CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR" and the phone number "888-804-0913". A small copyright notice is at the very bottom: "© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For promo details please call 888-804-0913".

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THEME: ON THE FARM

ACROSS

1. Laura Ingalls' notebook
6. Boozer
9. Biblical pronoun
13. Sacred text, to some
14. "Fat chance!"
15. Afrikaners' ancestors
16. Cake spread
17. Chowd down
18. Clear the blackboard
19. *Barn chore
21. *John Deere, e.g.
23. Nirvana's "Come as You ____"
24. Spasm of pain
25. Broadband access overseer, acr.
28. Mark for omission
30. Recessed space
35. "____ and the Real Girl," movie
37. "Shoot!"
39. E in baseball box score
40. Oil org.
41. Intelligent
43. A mixture or medley
44. Children's respiratory disease
46. Foggy view?
47. Politicians, for short
48. In a sympathetic manner
50. Ski hill ride
52. Maiden name indicator
53. Bald eagle's nest
55. Repeated Latin dance step
57. *a.k.a. harvester
61. *Opposite of pasture
65. *Common varieties are yellow, red and white

DOWN

1. *Separate cream from milk
2. Locus, pl.
3. Seed coat
4. Form of Japanese poetry
5. Encircle
6. Deep pile carpet
7. *Cereal grass
8. Sorority letter

9. Cleopatra's necklace
10. Thermostat option
11. Guesstimate phrase (2 words)
12. Olympic cast-out, e.g.
15. Charles Darwin's vessel
20. Must-haves
22. Ribonucleic acid, acr.
24. Fine
25. *Group of chickens
26. Birthplace of Caprese
27. Oedipus' successor
29. *Baby sheep
31. * ____ rotation
32. Acrylic fiber
33. Bridal veil fabric
34. With a jagged margin
36. Gulf War missile
38. *Pasture-raised chicken's morsel
42. Vanish without this?
45. Lamentation
49. Japanese capital
51. Rh in Rh disease
54. Indiana Jones' find, e.g.
56. Not a minor
57. For boys and girls
58. Popular fairy-tale beginning
59. Stephen King's "The Green ____"
60. *Male pig
61. Abe Lincoln's hat material
62. Tatted cloth
63. Done
64. Seaside bird
67. UN labor grp.

