

School district sees \$1.6M gap in future budget

Superintendent warns taking no action could deplete fund balance within 5 years

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

The year 2026 has barely begun, but Shawano School District's superintendent is already sounding the alarm about the need to trim \$1.6 million in operating expenses in its 2027 budget.



KURT KRIZAN

Kurt Krizan sent a written notice to school district staff on Jan. 9 warning that maintaining the status quo would likely deplete its fund balance within five years, putting the district in a dangerous financial situation. Currently, the district has almost \$10.3 million in its fund balance, just under 30% of its expenses in the 2025-26 budget. If the district does nothing to reduce its operating budget, it's estimated that the 2030-31 school year will see the district's fund balance just under \$2 million, around 5.16% of the district's expenses.

Experts recommend that school districts keep a fund balance that's between 20-30% of its annual expenses. Krizan wrote that doing this prevents the district from having to do short-term borrowing during the school year while waiting for state aid to arrive, as well as having funding available in the event of emergencies. If the district can reduce its expenses, then the fund balance can stay where it is.

The reason the district needs to reduce its budget is the continued decline in student enrollment, Krizan indicated. Five years ago, the district's enrollment was around 2,300 students, but the estimate for the next school year is that the district will hover around 2,000 students, a reduction of over 13% in the six-year period.

State aid amounts are primarily based on student population with at least \$11,000 per student provided to school districts.

Krizan wrote that revenue limits prevent the district from setting the budget at whatever amount they want. To exceed

SCHOOL BUDGET, CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



Mequon Oshkosh, right, serves himself some creamy potato and ham soup Jan. 7 at the Menominee community kitchen in Keshena while Diane Dodge, left, and Summer Caldwell check out the condiments of shredded cheese, salted crackers and bacon bits set up near the rolls.

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Church of God serving up warm meals in Keshena

Organizers sees food event as way to give back to Menominee

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

Folks in and around the Menominee reservation can enjoy a warm meal and get to know some new people thanks to a new community meal program facilitated by the Church of God.

The Cecil-based church is providing the food every Wednesday at the new community kitchen that also serves as the headquarters for the tribe's department of agriculture and food services. In exchange, church members are hoping those who come will provide the thoughts — at least, the spoken ones.

The community meals started Jan. 7 with a creamy potato and ham soup, rolls and cookies. The food will be different each week, according to church representative Brianne Frazier, in the hopes that people will keep coming back. The meal is not strictly for those who are poor, but



Brianne Frazier, a member of the Church of God, gets things set up for the inaugural community meal held Jan. 7 at the Menominee community kitchen.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

rather for those who want to see friends and neighbors, perhaps adding to their circle of close people.

Mequon Oshkosh was one of the folks in Keshena who came for the first meal, bringing along his daughter and some of her teammates on the local basketball team. Jan. 7 was an icy day that closed down the public schools and the tribal offices, but Oshkosh said he appreciated that the meal went on.

"It's always good to support people who do this, especially if they take the time to do this on a day that the tribe is closed," Oshkosh said.

Frazier said the idea to give back came about as a result of the youths in the church.

"Our young people were talking about how they feel so blessed to be able to live in our community, and we were thinking about what could we do to give back," Frazier said. "We thought about the powwows that we had gone to and how much we enjoyed that. The powwows really blessed us, and we thought, 'Oh, we should bless them, too.'"

Although the publicity materials being put out about the meal said it would continue through Feb. 18, Frazier said the church plans to hold the meals as long as

COMMUNITY MEALS, CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

INSIDE

Area athletes are part of football national championship team.

PAGE 13

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Four county supervisors to face challenges in April

By **KEVIN PASSON**
Editor-in-Chief

Shawano County District 22 Supervisor Michael Trinko did not file paperwork for reelection nor did he file a declaration of non-candidacy, County

Clerk Raymond Rigsby said.

That led to a 72-hour extension past the 5 p.m. Jan. 6 deadline for anyone to file; yet, no one did.

District 5 Supervisor Curtis Naja and District 7 Supervisor Jeremy

Gretzinger declined to run, and no one else filed paperwork.

Rigsby said there are now no candidates for those three districts.

On the flip side, there are four districts that will see candidates challenging

the incumbents. “We have new candidate challengers to the incumbents in Districts 9 Supervisor (Ken) Capelle, 14 Supervisor (Matt) Pleshek, 20 Supervisor (Rick) Giese and 25 Supervisor (Dennis) Knaak,” Rigsby said.

Capelle is challenged by Charles Fritsch. Timothy Novitski is challenging Pleshek. Giese is being challenged by Roy Martin, and Steven Steinke is challenging Knaak. Also not seeking another term are Heather Pahl in

District 2 and Lowel Hammett in District 16. Collin Pomplun will seek the District 2 seat, and Curt Korth will seek the District 16 spot. The remaining incumbents are running unopposed.

Best of Wolf River Region

SHAWANO LEADER

2025

Readers Poll

Deadline: January 19, 2026

BEST OF SHAWANO LEADER 2025

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

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BEST OF SHAWANO LEADER 2025

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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Sparks fly at 4-H program

ABOVE: Isabela Booth, left, and Sofia Booth with the Tri-County 4-H work to decorate some planters in one of the classes for Spark Saturday, held Jan. 10 at Shawano Community High School. Spark Saturday gave current and prospective 4-H members a chance to see what was available to youth who join a 4-H club. **RIGHT:** Zoey Riesenber with the Belle Plaine 4-H works on a design for a barn quilt Jan. 10 during Spark Saturday at Shawano Community High School.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA



City, school board races lacking in competition

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

No competitive races are lined up for three seats on the Shawano Common Council, three seats on the Shawano School Board and the Shawano mayor's post.

The deadline of Jan. 6 passed with no challengers for any of the seats, and there is also one seat on the school board with no one running. This was after Mike Musolf filed a notice of non-candidacy, reporting that his duties as police chief no longer afford him sufficient time to perform his duties on the board.

That leaves Tim Renard

and John Arens running opposed for new board terms. If a write-in candidate does not vie for the vacant seat, the school board will need to fill the position itself once the new term of the board begins in the spring. Any write-in candidate would need to live in the towns of Wescott or Washington.

Meanwhile, Mayor Bruce Milavitz will be elected to his fourth term with no opposition. Aldermen Jim Hauer, Jack Young and John Hoefts also have a clear run for new terms unless write-ins emerge.

The city pays the same expenses for elections whether there is opposition

or not, said City Clerk Lesley Nemetz, due to county, state and school district elections happening at the same time.

"It doesn't affect the city's finances either way," she said.

Nemetz said that residents should be checking their voter eligibility, especially if they have not voted in several years. She recommends using the My Vote Wisconsin website, myvotewi.gov, to check and make sure their registration hasn't lapsed or, if they've moved since the last election they voted in, checking to make sure their home address is current.

"They should make sure that they're registered to vote ahead of time," Nemetz said. "We will have absentee voting ahead of time for those two weeks prior if people want to do that. We just want to be sure they have all their ducks in a row and are registered ahead of time so they don't have to wait for extra time in line on Election Day."

The spring general election is April 6, with polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. City of Shawano residents will cast their ballots at City Hall, 127 S. Sawyer St., Shawano.

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Sex offender released in Shawano area

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

A 58-year-old man convicted of using a computer to facilitate a child sex crime and possession of child pornography was released into the Shawano area Jan. 8, according to the Shawano County Sheriff's Department.

Christopher K. Morley is listed as 6 feet tall, weighing 190 pounds. He is white with blue eyes and gray hair.

Morley, formerly of Sunning, is considered homeless in Shawano County.

He is required to register with the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry Program for life and is required to comply with GPS tracking.

From 2013-16, Shawano County authorities arrested 43 men in online sex sting operations; Morley was one of the men.

In 2016, he was sentenced to five years in prison, 12 years of probation and 15 years of sex offender registry after his release for using a computer to facilitate a child sex crime.

Later, in federal court, Morley had six years added to his prison time for possessing child pornography and was ordered to be placed on lifetime supervision after being released from prison.

The Shawano Leader



CHRISTOPHER MORLEY

reported that according to court documents, a sheriff's detective contacted Morley's wife about her husband's

initial arrest, and she later told the detective she had found sexually explicit images of minors on Morley's computer.

She and Morley consented to a search of Morley's computers, external drives and storage devices. The search revealed hundreds of child pornography images and stories of adult male sex encounters with 10- to 14-year-old girls. Morley's child pornography collection dated to at least 1998 when he lived in Illinois.

Wisconsin state law authorized law enforcement agencies to inform the public of a sex offender's release when, at the agency's discretion, the release of such information will enhance public safety, awareness and protection.

The Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry can be located at <https://doc.wi.gov> or www.wistaysafe.gov.

Questions or concerns regarding Morley should be directed to the sex offender registry at 608-240-5830.

People of interest sought in shooting

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Two people of interest are being sought by the Shawano Police Department after a shooting in the city Jan. 8.

Officers responded to a report after 9 p.m. regarding a shooting at a residence in the 500 block of South Sawyer Street in the City of Shawano. Upon arrival, officers located one victim who had sustained a non-life-threatening gunshot wound. The victim received medical treatment at the scene and was transported by Shawano Ambulance Service for further evaluation.

The police department is seeking the community's assistance with locating Deonte Matchopatow, 20, and Derek Corn, 19, who are considered people of interest in this ongoing investigation. At this time,

no conclusions have been made, and these individuals are not being labeled as suspects, according to a police department press release.

Anyone who may have information regarding their whereabouts, recent activities, or who may have seen or interacted with them is encouraged to come forward, according to the release. Information can be provided confidentially, and even details that may seem minor could be helpful to the investigation. The police department is warning not to approach the men directly but to contact the appropriate authorities with any relevant information.

This incident remains an active investigation. Additional information will be released as it becomes available, according to the release. Anyone with information should contact the police at 715-524-4545.

McDermid's mining permit extended 10 years

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Michael McDermid, owner of Performance Excavating, was granted a 10-year renewal of his non-metallic mining extraction conditional use permit by the Shawano County Planning, Development and Zoning Committee on Jan. 7.

McDermid's previous permit for non-metallic mining was renewed multiple times and was set to expire July 7.

"We're digging sand out

and just hauling it for bedding for farmers," McDermid said. "The woods and stuff is staying. The stuff that we did take out ... is getting reclaimed."

The site will be reclaimed with the topsoil that was stripped off to access the sand underneath. McDermid said there is a possibility of creating a pond in the center of the site.

It is expected the site will be entirely excavated within the time frame of the new permit.

McDermid's site is on 40 acres at N4406 Old Dump Road in the Town of Angelica. The town board recommended approval in September 2025.

The parcels consist of woods and open space, as well as mapped wetlands in the wooded area and an unnamed creek in the northwest corner.

One of the previous conditions was removed by the committee as it was deemed unnecessary.

Kyle Waelchli, Shawano County zoning adminis-

trator, said Scott Konkle, senior planner with East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, suggested removing the condition regarding the former dump test wells. Waelchli said that condition was created to create another condition that requires a setback of 100 feet to be maintained from the old dumping areas.

The setback requirement will stay as part of the new permit.

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CORRECTION

The Dec. 19 issue incorrectly identified Shawano Police Officers Isaiah Manthey and T.J. Mueller in photos taken at Shawano City Hall. We regret the error.

Crafting the heart of their faith



Second grade students, from left, front row, Aliyah Redmerski, Ava Carroll, Rylea Cumberland, Olivia Kast, Nakoma Daugherty and Elijah Radek; back row, Joseph McDougal, Wyatt Zoellner, Alfred Gueths, Elli Farley, McCoy Miller and Abel Mathwich; under the guidance of art teacher Sue Simeons, students crafted beautifully designed Sacred Hearts recently. As part of the lesson, the Rev. Edward Looney shared the story and symbolism of the Sacred Heart of Jesus — an image that reflects Christ’s love, compassion, and mercy. This devotion holds special meaning for the school community, where the Sacred Heart serves as a daily reminder of the faith, love, and service that guide its mission.

CONTRIBUTED

Shawano County Jail population on the brink

Some inmates may be shipped to other counties

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

A rising jail population has Shawano County authorities considering shipping some inmates to neighboring counties. Troy Beyer, jail administrator, told members of the public safety committee Jan. 7 the average daily population in December was 185 and stood at 195 just hours before the meeting.

“Normally between Thanksgiving and Christmas, our population goes down. It didn’t happen (last year); it went up,” he said. “Currently, we are at 195 inmates in custody, 153 in the jail and we’re rated to hold 155.”

As of Jan. 7, there were 132 pre-sentenced inmates in custody, with 115 of them facing felony charges.

Staff will review all inmates’ classifications to see if any can be moved to the Huber Work Release Center as overflow.

However, even though the 115 facing felony charges may not all go to prison, they can’t be

transferred to Huber. “I’m going to have to be reaching out to other counties,” Beyer said. “Potentially, we might have to ship inmates out.” Sheriff George Lenzner said they would select the most cost-effective place to transfer inmates.

In addition to a daily housing charge, the county also has to pay a deputy to transport the inmate back and forth from the other county jail to Shawano for court proceedings.

“There’s a handful waiting to go to prison,” Beyer added. “Normally, that was usually a two-week wait. Now it’s two months due to staffing and issues that DOC (Department of Corrections) has.”

Of the 132 pre-sentence inmates in custody, two have been in custody since 2022, two have been there since 2023, and 11 have been there since 2024.

There are 107 pre-sentenced inmates in custody since 2025 and 10 since Jan. 1.

The jail still has four vacancies for corrections officers with Jerome Turbyville starting Jan. 5 and Kevin Rogers starting Jan. 12.

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Horse barn fan creates mess

County agrees to pay invoice from June

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

A new fan in the horse barn at the Shawano County Fairgrounds created quite the mess for the Shawano County Ag and Extension Committee.

Members agreed to pay the remaining \$950 of an invoice from work performed in June 2025, while also declaring the county will close its pockets to future projects if proper procedures are not followed.

“I don’t have a problem paying the \$950,” Supervisor Randy Young said. “I have a problem with the process.”

The mess started about nine months ago when an individual volunteer with the UW Extension horse committee approved an

agreement with Raddant Electric Service to install 10 GFCI receptacles for \$3,175 and an 18-inch wall mount louvered exhaust fan for \$950.

“They’re an independent group who just want to do things and get it done. I think that’s part of our issue,” said Megan Suehring, 4-H educator. “They’re used to just doing it and getting it done, but they don’t necessarily seek approval from the fair, and that’s where this is stemming from.”

She told them their first call has to be to the Shawano Area Agricultural Society, which runs the fairgrounds, as financial decision are not theirs to make.

“That’s been very explicitly communicated at this point, because this is the same group of people that we have communication gaps with,” Suehring said.

When Young asked who authorized the work, Suehring and Bob Schmidt of the

ag society said they did not know.

Raddant sent an invoice to the ag society. The UW Extension office of Shawano County agreed to pay the \$3,175. The ag society then forwarded the remaining \$950 to the county for payment.

However, county supervisors are upset because someone unknown to the committee is approving maintenance projects on county property without authorization and then expecting the county to pay the bill.

“The thing is, they just went with that fan without talking to any of us,” said Nick Hesse, the county’s facilities management director.

“That’s where we always have the issue — of not coming to us prior to doing projects,” Young added.

He said discussions about proper procedures have been held in the past, but nothing changes.

Julie Hasser, human

resources director and interim administrative coordinator, said all concerned parties sat down together last month to come to an understanding of those procedures.

“We would encourage them, when an issue develops, to reach out to our maintenance department; so that at that point, before they call anybody else, their first call should be to Nick,” she said. “That, one, informs us immediately that there is an issue, and two, hopefully helps with cost in that maybe it’s something that we can fix. Everybody seemed to be on board, but again, we’ve gone down this road before.”

Supervisor Joe Miller was even more blunt, saying it’s the job of Hesse as the department head to determine what work needs to be done at county expense. Miller said the committee won’t approve any invoice without Hesse’s approval.

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Reconstructive surgery aids trauma recovery

Reconstructive plastic surgery plays an important role in helping individuals heal after traumatic injuries.

These procedures restore function and appearance following accidents, falls, or other events that damage skin, soft tissue, or underlying structures. According to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, more than 1 million reconstructive procedures were performed in 2023.

Initial trauma care begins with emergency response.

“The first step in treating a traumatic injury is seeking immediate medical attention,” said Dr. Thomas Howard, Aspirus board-certified plastic surgeon. “Apply direct pressure to stop the bleeding, keep the area clean, and get to the emergency department as quickly as possible.”

Once stabilized, patients are evaluated to determine the extent of the injury. In cases of complex soft tissue damage, particularly to the face or hands, a plastic surgeon may be consulted.

“We assess important structures like the lips, eyelids, and nose,” Howard said. “Sometimes this means taking a patient to the operating room right away to perform a meticulous repair.”

The recovery timeline varies by injury but follows a predictable pattern.

“The first week is usually the most difficult,” Howard said. “Swelling, bruising, and discomfort are normal. By two to three weeks, most

patients begin to see noticeable improvements. Full recovery can take several months.”

Howard recommends an approach he calls “active recovery.” Patients are encouraged to stay hydrated, eat well, rest, move around throughout the day, and follow all post-operative care instructions. He also urges patients to trust their instincts and that if something feels wrong, they should contact their medical professionals.

New baby kicks off 2026



Angel Dick and Kyle Waupoose's newborn daughter received the distinction of being the first baby born in 2026 at ThedaCare Medical Center-Shawano. The baby, named Kaira Diana Waupoose, was born at 2:55 p.m. Jan. 2, just missing the mark for being designated a new year's baby. She weighed 7 pounds and 4 ounces at birth and was 19 1/2 inches long.

CONTRIBUTED

Final steps in place for new radio system

Official's persistence averts four-month delay

By **KEVIN PASSON**
Editor-in-Chief

All of the equipment is on site, and Motorola crews are working on the final implementation stage for a new radio system at the Shawano County Sheriff's Department.

Lt. Chris Madle said a mistake by Motorola almost pushed the setup back four months, but his persistence prevented the delay.

"All equipment is here," he told the public safety committee Jan. 7. "We avoided a major catastrophe yesterday. We were told that there were two parts at every tower site that needed to be replaced prior to this now happening, which is covered under our current contract that they overlooked in the fall. They told me the lead time on these 14 parts was 120 days, and our project was going to get pushed back to April.

"Professionally as I could, I expressed my displeasure, and magically they found 14 parts that will be here tomorrow (Jan. 8), and

the project will still be on schedule."

The total cost of the 40 new radios is \$342,947.20, and the implementation cost is \$101,062.

Madle said the last of the necessary parts arrived in December, and the change-over to the new system will be completed by Jan. 16.

"They're doing the install of all of the tower site equipment and our site here this week," he said. "They will then have a major team of 10-12 people here. We will be doing cutovers on each individual channel."

Some of the old radios will be kept for backup. Some will be sold to local fire departments, and two will be given to the highway department in exchange for the department powerwashing the sheriff's department building last year.

A contract with Motorola for the existing equipment was set to expire in 2028, but by renewing early, the county upgraded to newer equipment at a cost savings of \$148,000 over the 10-year life of the new

contract.

The new radio system will enhance operability with surrounding counties like Brown and Outagamie; Shawano County can't directly communicate with them now.

The new system also provides cybersecurity monitoring provided by Motorola.

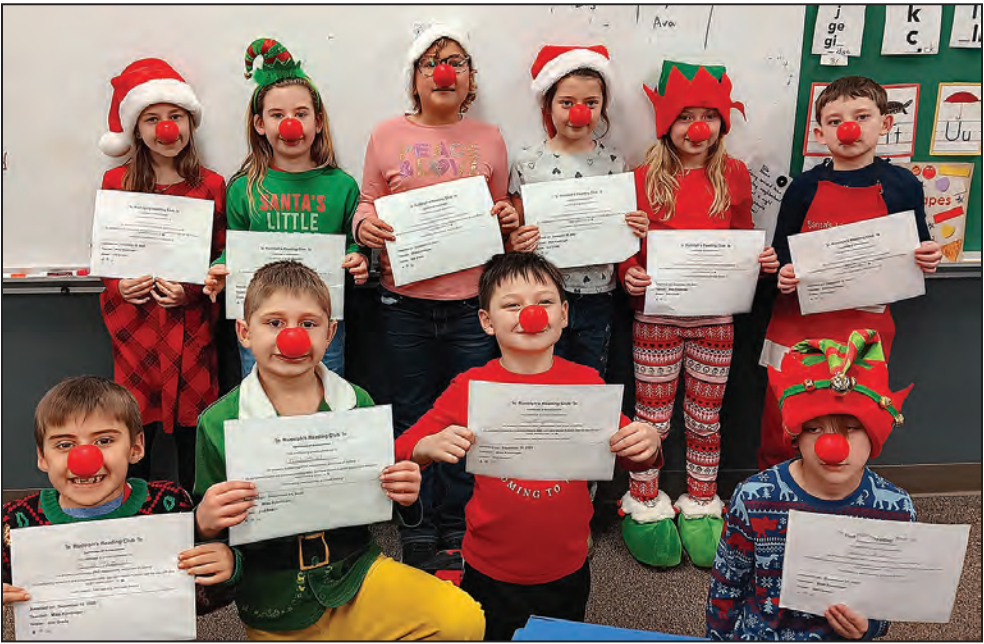
The new portables also enable GPS tracking of a deputy's location, which can be beneficial in foot pursuits and critical incidents in buildings such as schools and hospitals.

In dead zones that often occur inside schools, hospitals, casinos and other large buildings across the county, the radios will automatically switch over to a cell phone network.

Also, working with officials of those buildings, the radios will be programmed to connect to the local Wi-Fi network. So if the cell phone network doesn't work, this option will automatically occur.

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Reading through the holidays



Sacred Heart Catholic School has recognized second grade students who completed their reading logs from Thanksgiving through Christmas break for class with certificates. Front row, from left, are Joseph McDougal, Elijah Radek, Wyatt Zoellner and Alfred Gueths. Back row, from left, are Olivia Kast, Rylea Cumberland, Aliyah Redmerski, Elli Farley, Ava Carroll and McCoy Miller. These young learners embraced the joy of reading throughout the holiday season, demonstrating academic commitment and a love for learning rooted in faith.

CONTRIBUTED

County 4-H introduces new cooking curriculum

Kitchen equipment, microwave basics being taught

By **KEVIN PASSON**
Editor-in-Chief

Two decades ago, the cookbook "A man, a can, a microwave" was a big hit.

Today, Shawano County 4-H educator Megan Suehring is using a similar idea for the foundation of a new cooking curriculum.

"We've got a lot of kids in our schools who love cooking. They want to learn how to cook, but at home, they don't necessarily have great kitchen facilities to do it," she said. "We're starting a new curriculum where they can recognize different kitchen tools."

The program is aimed at children in kindergarten through middle school.

"We know our kids want to learn these things, and frankly, a lot of parents my age don't have a lot of

experience doing that," Suehring said.

She referenced her mother's copy of "A man, a can, a microwave" that provided enough information to prepare full meals in the standard kitchen appliance.

"That's what we're going with," she said. "We're going with microwave mug recipes for these kids to show them how you can make an omelet in the microwave, how you can make pizza in the microwave, how you can make essentially a whole meal in the microwave. We are going to introduce, also, the griddle and how to boil some things with water."

The curriculum will also include identifying kitchen equipment, handwashing rules and several weeks of recipes.

Suehring is also the Area 8 interim director, filling in the next two months until a replacement for Mandi Dornfield is hired. Dornfield resigned earlier this month.

Area 8 includes Shawano, Menominee, Oconto and Marinette counties.

Suehring said AmeriCorps member Taya Jannusch has also helped expand 4-H's reach across the county.

"She's been helping bring programs to a couple of other populations that I don't have time to do just on my own," Suehring said. "She's kind of getting some things started."

Jannusch has reached out to the Stockbridge-Munsee community, the Boys and Girls Clubs in the Shawano schools, school districts in the western part of the county, as well as Marion and Gresham. Jannusch and Suehring also coordinate events at Safe Haven on a monthly basis.

For information on the cooking curriculum or other 4-H programs, call Suehring at 715-526-6136, ext. 4869.

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"We know our kids want to learn these things, and frankly, a lot of parents my age don't have a lot of experience doing that."

MEGAN SUEHRING, Shawano County 4-H educator

Town of Lessor land now in agricultural enterprise area

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

More than 22,000 acres in the Town of Lessor are now part of a newly designated agricultural enterprise area set up by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection as of Jan. 1.

Ten landowners, along with local government and other partners, petitioned for the AEA designation to preserve agricultural lands in an environmentally friendly way. According to DATCP, this will be done by providing farmer-led education, enrolling in farmland preservation agreements and adopting nutrition management plans.

AEAs in Monroe and Sheboygan counties were created at the same time as the Town of Lessor. That brings the total to 54, protecting more than 1.7 million acres covering portions of 33 counties, 147 towns and the Bad River Reservation.

"AEA designations are important to Wisconsin's agricultural future and support local farmland protection goals, the agricultural economy, environmental efforts and rural prosperity," said Dan Richter, DATCP public information officer. "Landowners

within designated AEAs are eligible to enter into voluntary farmland preservation agreements, committing all or a portion of their farm to agricultural use and maintaining state soil and water conservation standards. In return, they may be eligible to claim the annual farmland preservation tax credit."

The Lessor AEA is the second one for Shawano County. Land in the Town of Maple Grove was designated for agricultural enterprise in 2011, according to Blake Schuebel, land conservation technician with the Shawano County Land Conservation Department.

AEAs serve to preserve land deemed important to Wisconsin's agricultural future. Being designated as an AEA, according to the DATCP, allows land owners to sign farmland preservation agreements, which are voluntary and in effect for 10 years. These agreements allow land owners to claim a tax credit of \$10 per acre, or \$12.50 if the land is also located in a certified farmland preservation zoning district.

Schuebel noted that a lot of work is required for farmers to get the tax credit, and steps have to be taken to protect the land.

"You have to have a nutrient management plan," Schuebel said. "Obviously, if you have a manure pit, it can't be running over. There's just all the performance standards."

The work to preserve farmland has already been done by the farmers, according to Schuebel. The AEA designation solidifies the land as being strictly for crops and animals.

"It heightens the awareness of the program in the fact that a lot of farmers are doing these things," Schuebel said. "So, they're being rewarded for what they've already done. The majority of the farms in the Town of Lessor already have nutrient management plans."

He added that farmers in the AEA, to qualify for tax credits, must also set up a 5-foot buffer to any navigable body of water.

"Is this going to change anything regarding farming in the Town of Lessor? Probably not," Schuebel said.

For information about establishing an AEA, contact the county land conservation department at 715-526-4820. DATCP is accepting petitions for new AEAs through July 21.

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Dispatch center near full staff

By **KEVIN PASSON**
Editor-in-Chief

You could almost hear the collective sigh of relief at the Jan. 7 public safety committee meeting when members were told the Shawano County Dispatch Center was near full employment.

Kasey Cross, communications supervisor, said two vacancies remain in the department, but there are two candidates in

the final stages of pre-employment screening. If all goes well, the department will be at full staff for the first time in many months.

A new communications coordinator position was filled, and each shift now has a lead position in place.

At one point in early 2025, six of the department's then 16 positions were empty.

Pay increases and

promotion opportunities within the dispatch center contributed to the current state of near full employment, Cross said.

Cross also noted the total number of 911 calls into the dispatch center in 2025 totaled 11,236, a decrease of 1.4% from the 11,284 received in 2024.

Administrative incoming and outgoing calls also decreased in 2025.

kpasson@newmedia-wi.com



Shawano Community High School agriculture teacher Steve Stomberg stands next to a nutrient film technique hydroponic system. This produces lettuce that is harvested and given to the food service program to use for school lunch, supported by the Shawano FFA alumni.

KAY REMINGER

SCHS agriculture teacher heading out to pasture

Stomberg teaches students in Shawano more than just how to produce food

By KAY REMINGER
Correspondent

After 34 years of influencing aspiring young adults with the benefits of agriculture, Shawano Community High School's Steve Stomberg is retiring.

Growing up on a 50-cow dairy farm in northern Minnesota, his family also raised 100 beef cows. Hence, Stomberg had a foundation in agriculture from an early age.

Originally, Stomberg had planned on taking over the home dairy farm. While studying at the University of Minnesota-Crookston, one of his professors asked him if he'd ever thought about teaching high school agriculture.

"That's what got the ball rolling, and my parents were behind it," Stomberg said. "When I told them that I was going to interview for teaching positions, they immediately put the cows up for sale. That actually finalized my decision to be a teacher. I've been in Shawano ever since."

Receiving an associate's degree in dairy production from the University of Minnesota-Crookston, Stomberg then transferred to the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and received his bachelor's degree in agriculture education. He also attended Viterbo University receiving his master of arts including innovative teacher leadership and instructional coaching.

With an interest in agriculture deeply ingrained in his formative growing-up years, Stomberg realized there were many facets of agriculture that branch out to other areas of life.



This is a Dutch buckets hydroponic system, where students at Shawano Community High School grow tomatoes and cucumbers under the direction of their teacher, Steve Stomberg.

KAY REMINGER

"As I've stated to my students for many years, agriculture is more than horses, cows, sows and plows," said Stomberg.

Many career opportunities can be considered, branching out but not directly related, to the production aspects of agriculture, such as how is the food processed, how it is marketed (marketing and graphic arts) and public relations (social media).

Also to be considered is the technical side — computer-generated growing systems, how to program the software to make the systems work and function.

"During my teaching career, I've just scratched the surface a little bit, introducing the kids to many of these possibilities," said Stomberg.

Students learn hands-on how food is produced and harvested from farm-to-table.

The agriculture department at SCHS, under the tutelage of Stomberg, determined alternative forms of agriculture and discerned how the students could produce food more efficiently. The food service bought all the growing systems for the program. Lunch in the cafeteria includes lettuce the students literally grew.

SCHS is under renovation to improve the technical education and ag education areas. Included is a small animal lab, complete with fish tanks that house tilapia, bluegills, perch and even at one point, a sturgeon.

This past December, Stomberg's class took a field trip to Brei's Aqua Farm in Leopolis with a behind-the-scenes tour of the shrimp operation there, inspiring students to learn more about aquatic fish farming and sustainable food production.

As well as teaching agriculture for more than 30 years, Stomberg is an FFA adviser, involved with the FFA alumni, serves as the cross country coach, and is vice president of the Shawano Athletic Booster Club — making connections and building relationships over his lifelong teaching tenure, volunteer-

Silencer purchase tedious but faster

Government is rarely efficient, but when it happens, it is always a refreshing surprise.

At year's end, I made the decision to buy and then apply for the transfer of a firearms silencer.

So did thousands — and perhaps tens of thousands — of gun owners and hunters in 42 states.

That's because a federal law change on Jan. 1 eliminated the \$200 tax

on silencers (also known as suppressors or cans), a transfer tax on the books since 1934.

I found a gun shop well-stocked with silencers, but more importantly, staffed with knowledgeable employees who could answer my many questions about these mystical devices, and who also had an electronic system to submit my paperwork, fingerprints and mug shot to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Professional Firearm Services in Fond du Lac had everything I needed, and their patient staff fielded all my questions, both for my own silencer and my stories. They also warned me that the paperwork line was growing for submission to ATF's new and improved computer system, which briefly shut down for the upgrade just before they opened the electronic floodgates on Jan. 1.

Shop owner Dominic Eatherton said it was possible that most or even all of his nearly 100 applicants submitting Form 4 would get approved in days, but he also warned that it could be weeks. A few years ago, applicants were waiting up to 14 months for approval.

I was really in no hurry, and remembering the previous federal computer fiasco for Obamacare (Healthcare.gov) exceeded \$2 billion and never worked well, I didn't want to hold my breath.

I was shocked to find my transfer approval in my Jan. 4 emails. At that point, I had to drive back to the shop and then fill out the transfer paperwork, which is essentially the same paperwork as buying a firearm. (No, I am not a drug addict. No, I never renounced my citizenship and no, I am not a convicted felon.) Those who have never bought a gun from a gun dealer don't realize the paperwork involved and the idiotic questions I have answered dozens of times since the Gun Control Act of 1968.

I've never been good at planning ahead, but when buying a suppressor, it's good to think about what firearms you may want to quiet with the same device.

Dominic and his staff helped me decide on a .358-caliber Rex Silentium, a Montana-made device that can be used on AR-15 and other threaded-barrel .223/5.56 rifles, as well as my .308 threaded-barrel Glenfield bolt-action rifle and my semi-auto Ruger PC Carbine in 9mm. I could also use it on some 9mm pistols, but I need a special adaptor if the semi-auto barrel slants.

Dominic convinced me to buy a taper-mount system that makes using the same can on multiple guns a breeze. Once the initial adaptor is installed tightly inside the silencer, taper mounts are installed on the desired firearms and torqued to the correct



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FARM LIFE FROM A FARM WIFE

This little vice of mine, coffee won't rise and shine

I'm not sure when coffee introduced itself into my life, but I think it was back in the 1970s during my Shamoco Ford days. Fresh out of high school, a greenhorn in the working-off-the-farm world, I started drinking coffee.

Our service manager at the time, Bob Mott — a fellow I'd come to admire in the 12 years I'd worked there — made a fresh pot of really great coffee for the mechanics and us girls in the office. If the coffee ran out, I could always get my caffeine fix with a cold bottle of Sundrop from the vending machine — for a quarter.

As the years unfolded, I'd try different coffees, but always resonated toward strong and midnight black first thing in the morning. With afternoon coffees, I've recently dabbled in the coffee flavor section of the grocery store. Discovering salted caramel brownie, I wonder how many calories I add to my midnight black. In the summer, if I happen to be in town, I treat myself to an occasional iced caramel coffee as a mid-day pick me up.

I have quite the collection of mugs. When we'd go



on trips I always managed to check out the coffee mugs — the muggier the better. I usually have a favorite carafe but do switch it up occasionally just to validate my stash.

Our daughter, during her missionary trips around the world, would bring me a sampling of different coffee grounds. The best ever was from Thailand. She had lived at a coffee farm for a time during that trip. What a delectable treat.

Two of our three kids love coffee, and while my husband and I share many similar likes in this life, alas, he does not appreciate, not partake of, my love of a cup of joe. I asked him once, "Want some coffee?" "No." "Why not?" "It tastes like gravel," says he. "What does gravel taste like?" "It tastes like coffee." That was the end of that conversation.



Choosing a favorite among her many varied collection of coffee mugs is easy for columnist Kay Reminger. This one touches her heart — the message resonates well with her and, as an added measure, she fondly remembers it was a gift from her late sister, Beth.

During the course of my coffee-drinking years I've only stopped for one reason and just for a fleeting season when I was pregnant with

our daughter. Once, going through the coffee aisle at Charlie's County Market in Shawano, I felt the familiar unsettledness typically

experienced during my first trimester — and normally behind the straw cart in the back end of the barn during morning chores.

Uh oh. The smell, usually so tantalizing, was appalling. Holding my breath, I got through the aisle without incident but until our daughter was born, I avoided that aisle like the plague. The morning I gave birth, I enjoyed the best cup of coffee I'd ever had.

Because one of my nieces and I both love coffee, last year she suggested an additive I'd never heard of nor considered, until she brought it up.

"Hey Aunt Kay. Have you ever tried adding butter to your morning coffee?"

I was astounded and because this sweet niece of mine suggested it, I'd tried it. I'm since hooked. It adds a creamy texture without milking the coffee down. It takes the edge off, especially since I'm prone to rewarming my leftovers. To enhance the flavor even more, my niece suggested I try Irish butter — which has a richer flavor and creamier texture — and to grind beans instead of using grounds.

Coffee on the deck first thing on a gentle spring or summer or even early fall morning is a delight. There's something about sipping coffee outside that makes it even more enjoyable. Yet nothing comes even remotely close to satisfying than a soothing cup of hot brewed coffee on a cold winter morning. Snug in my back room wrapped in a blanket — cupping my favorite mug with both hands, breathing in that fragrant aroma, savoring a first sip — its settling.

I might be a little doltish because I absolutely have to have a back-up coffeemaker on hand, on the outside chance my working one decides to kick the bucket. One of my Christmas gifts from my husband was an exact replica of the Mr. Coffee I am currently using. It was on my list. Living in a town with nary a stoplight, a few bars and a church does not afford me running out in the morning to pick up a coffee.

Yes. I am hooked. ("Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31, New American Standard Bible)

STOMBERG, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

ing tenure, volunteering his efforts to promote family-centered connections and to encourage camaraderie.

"I am involved with many different facets around this community, which in turn shapes relationships with parents and as such, trickles right down to the kids," said Stomberg.

SCHS recently renamed its cross country invite the Steve Stomberg Invitational to honor Stomberg's decades of leadership and

dedication to youth. "My teaching career has been such a big part of my life, but after so many years there's been lots of changes," Stomberg said. "Teachers have to wear many hats outside the arena of actual hands-on teaching. We are educators, counselors, cheerleaders, disciplinarians, emotional support people and sometimes we even act as a parent." The world's constant changes with increased

demands for student learning and accountability — paralleled with a responsibility to grasp an understanding of the diverse student population — leaves teachers to deal with societal changes that directly impact what they can and cannot do in their classrooms. At one point in 2007, during a cross country meet, Stomberg assisted a participant as the youth had experienced a health

emergency. He was later credited for saving this young man's life. As a result, in front of the Wisconsin Assembly, Stomberg was recognized by former Rep. Peter Schmidt, the very man he had saved that day during the cross country meet. He was honored with the distinction of receiving a Hometown Hero Award for his efforts. Recognition that day also included many years of teaching, advising

and coaching countless students and athletes. Married for 25 years, Stomberg's wife teaches at Ashwaubenon High School in Green Bay. They've raised two boys, Bryce, who lives in Bend, Oregon, and Brady, currently a senior at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. "I'd want to be remembered as someone who loved teaching his subject areas and tried to encourage students to participate

in everything possible while in school," Stomberg said. "I love the kids. I can go out in this community and whether it be at a gas station, Walmart, Charlie's, wherever — I always run into a former student and many times just have some great conversation. Past students are treated as friends, and hopefully, I somehow encouraged them to be where they are at today. It was all about building relationships."

SILENCER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

specs. The can is then hand tightened to the mount and won't work loose during normal firing. With a simple threaded mount, there's a danger that the silencer can shake loose during firing. If the device isn't in perfect alignment with the barrel,

a bullet could actually strike the inner baffles and destroy it. The taper mount system, also made by Rex Silentium, seemed like a good investment. The good thing about getting your transfer approval on an electronic machine is that it makes

purchase of your second, third or fourth silencer simple. That might also be a bad thing. I'm certain I will be getting at least one for rimfire rifles and pistols, which are typically much lighter and less expensive than cans made for centerfire

firearms. Professional Firearm Services can often thread a barrel for \$125-\$150, but you can buy a pre-threaded Ruger 10/22 barrel for about the same price. A rimfire silencer is about \$460 and tax. My centerfire can was \$700 plus around \$200 for

the taper mount and two adapters. Many European countries have been using silencers for decades. It will be interesting to see how quiet the deer woods in Wisconsin and 40 other states (Connecticut doesn't allow them for hunt-

ing) will be in the years to come and how much longer we hunters and target shooters retain our precious hearing. With the price of hearing aids running into several thousand dollars, a firearm silencer seems a pretty good bargain.



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IN THE KITCHEN WITH FRANCESCA

Chowder adds warmth to winter days

One of my favorite soups for cold winter days is chicken corn chowder. Progresso brand chicken corn chowder is my favorite. Chickencorn chowder is creamy and hearty, while the corn adds a pop of freshness and sweetness to keep it from feeling too heavy.

I've wanted to try a homemade version for a while now, so recently I looked up a couple of recipes for it. Many recipes



Francesca Ullmer
Columnist

looked delicious, but had long ingredient lists and directions. Also, many recipes call

for bacon, which would add a tasty blast of flavor, but would also take more time to cook.

Finally, I found this more simplified version, which I simplified even more. Although it does taste different than my inspiration soup, it still has the creamy, hearty and fresh similarities that make it worth it.

I like that this recipe includes the extra veggies, carrots and celery, and also the fresh parsley. They add a healthier note to a rather rich soup.

The cayenne pepper adds a little kick, but be careful not to overdo it. The first time I made this soup, which was also the first time I cooked with cayenne pepper, I unthinkingly added about 1/4 teaspoon of cayenne pepper to it. The flavor was not really affected at first, but after a few spoonfuls, my throat burned.

I used some leftover broasted chicken in this recipe, but any kind of cooked chicken will work fine.

Heavy cream provides the creaminess in this recipe. You could also use heavy whipping cream or half-and-half.

After Christmas, I had quite a few leftover candied cherries. The container they came in also included several recipes. As I had no idea what to do with the cherries, I decided to try out one of the recipes.

These cookies turned out quite well. I used both red and green cherries, and since there are white chocolate chips in these cookies as well, they have Christmas colors.

Candied cherries are very sticky, so although it was not in the original recipe, I mixed the cherries with the flour before adding to the butter mixture. This helps ensure that the cherries would mix thoroughly into the cookie dough and not stick in one big clump. Baking times will vary, based on the size of the cookie.

Francesca Ullmer, the second child of a large homeschooled family, is from the Krakow area. She enjoys baking, reading, knitting, raising goats and entering numerous items in the Oconto County Fair.



Warm up with a hearty bowl of homemade chicken corn chowder.

FRANCESCA ULLMER



A perfect way to use up extra holiday ingredients, these chewy, loaded cookies are a delicious post-holiday treat.

FRANCESCA ULLMER

CHICKEN CORN CHOWDER

- 1 tbsp. butter

1 medium carrot, diced

1/2 tsp. dried oregano

1/8 cup flour

2 medium potatoes, chopped into 1/2-inch pieces

1/3 cup heavy cream

1 1/4 cups cooked chicken, chopped into bite-sized pieces
- 1 rib celery, diced

1/4 to 1/2 tsp. garlic powder

1/16 to 1/8 tsp. ground cayenne pepper, optional

2 cups chicken broth

1 cup corn kernels, fresh or frozen

2 tsp. chopped fresh parsley
- Melt the butter in a pot over medium/low heat. Add the celery and carrots. Cook until soft, 7-10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Reduce heat to low and add the garlic powder, oregano and cayenne pepper. Cook for 1 minute while stirring. Sprinkle in the flour and cook and stir for 2 more minutes. Slowly pour in the chicken broth, stirring constantly. Cook over medium/low heat until slightly thickened. Bring to a low boil and add the potatoes. Cook about 10 minutes, stirring occasionally, until potatoes start to soften. Add the corn and gently boil until potatoes and corn are tender, about 3 minutes. Reduce heat to low and stir in the chicken. Let warm for 1-2 minutes. Remove from heat and slowly stir in the cream. Add the fresh parsley. Add salt and pepper to taste, if desired.

CHERRY ALMOND WHITE CHOCOLATE COOKIES

- 1/2 cup butter, softened

3/4 cup brown sugar

1 1/4 tsp. vanilla

1/3 tsp. salt

1/2 tsp. baking soda

8 oz. candied cherries, green and/or red, chopped

1 cup white chocolate chips
- 1/4 cup white sugar

1 egg

1 3/4 to 2 cups flour

1/2 tsp. baking powder

1/2 cup slivered almonds
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Chop cherries; set aside. Mix butter, sugars, egg, vanilla, salt, baking powder and baking soda in a bowl until smooth. Mix cherries with flour; add to butter mixture with white chocolate chips and almonds. Mix until combined. Shape into balls; place on greased cookie sheets. Bake for 6-10 minutes, or until bottoms are browned.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, JAN. 16

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

SATURDAY, JAN. 17

SHAWANO: All Species Ice Fishing Tournament, 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.

WITTENBERG: Art of the Quilter XII, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal St. "A Patchwork of Memories."

NAVARINO: Porcupine Snowshoe Hike, 11 a.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Members \$5, non-members \$10, families \$25. Register by Jan. 15 at 715-758-6999.

SUNDAY, JAN. 18

WITTENBERG: Art of the Quilter XII, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal St. "A Patchwork of Memories."

TUESDAY, JAN. 20

OCONTO FALLS: Friends of the Oconto Falls Community Library meeting, 1 p.m., Oconto Falls Community Library, 251 N. Main St. Public is invited.

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. 21

NAVARINO: Storytime, 10 a.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Topic to be determined. Admission \$3.

PULASKI: American Red Cross blood drive, noon to 5 p.m., Assumption BVM Church, 124 E. Pulaski St. Appointments at RedCrossBlood.org or 800-733-2767.

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. 22

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

FRIDAY, JAN. 23

SHAWANO: American Red Cross blood drive, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Shawano City Hall, 127 S. Sawyer St. Appointments at RedCrossBlood.org or 1-800-733-2767.

TOWN OF CHASE: American Red Cross blood drive, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Chase Town Hall, 8481 County Road S. Appointments at RedCrossBlood.org or 1-800-733-2767.

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

SATURDAY, JAN. 24

SHAWANO: Bamboo Northern and Bass Ice Fishing Tournament, 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.

TOWN OF BRAZEAU: White Potato Lake Sportsman's Club Ice Fishing Derby, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Brad's Wouters Front 2, 13127 S. White Potato Lake Road.

SHAWANO: 2026 American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Shawano-Menominee Kick Off Meeting, 10 a.m. to noon, Shawano County Library, 128 S. Sawyer St., lower level. www.relayforlife.org/shawano-menominee

BREED: Breed Sportsman's Club Ice Fishing Jamboree, 11 a.m. to close, Breed Community Center, 11155 State Highway 32. Prizes by fish length, must be registered by 3 p.m. 50/50,

Shawano Area Writers accepting entries for 2026 contest

The Shawano Area Writers has kicked off the 2026 George Putz Memorial Student Writing Contest.

Information about the contest is being distributed to public and private schools and homeschoolers in Shawano and Menominee

counties. The contest is open for four grade groups: 1-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. There are three categories: Poetry, Fiction, and Nonfiction.

Students will be competing only within their grade group, and cash prizes will be given in each of the cat-

egories. Students may enter in more than one category, and they may submit entries as many times as they want.

The judges for the contest are selected from outside Shawano and Menominee counties. They will be picking a first, sec-

ond and third place in each category within each grade group. First, second, and third place winners in each grade group will receive cash prizes in each of the three categories. They will also be giving out honorable mentions to some of

the students. All winners, including honorable mentions, will get a certificate of achievement for being selected by the judges.

The contest deadline is March 27. Rules and entry forms are posted at <https://shawanoareawriters.org/>

george-putz-memorial-student-writing-contest. Each entry must have an entry form. Entries can be mailed to Shawano Area Writers, P.O. Box 657, Shawano, WI 54166 or emailed to student.writing.contest@shawanoareawriters.org.

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Menominee Nation's Cecelia Grignon guards Weyauwega-Fremont's Chamille Birdyshaw. Menominee Nation led for most of the Jan. 8 game before dropping a 47-41 decision on the Warhawks' home court. GREG SEUBERT

Shorthanded Eagles fall in Weyauwega

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

Can the Menominee Nation girls basketball team compete in the Central Wisconsin Conference-East without its leading scorer?

The Eagles answered that question Jan. 8 in its first of two matchups this season with Weyauwega-Fremont. Menominee Nation led for most of the game before dropping a 47-41 decision on the Warhawks' home court.

The game was the Eagles' first without Urijah Reeves, who injured her ankle in practice recently and is out indefinitely.

The loss ended a four-game winning streak for the Eagles that included wins over Crandon and Wabeno/Laona at a holiday tournament in Edgar.

The Eagles led by as many as 10 points in the first half in Weyauwega and took a 21-12 lead into the locker room at the break.

Cecelia Grignon opened the second half with a basket that gave the Eagles their biggest lead, but the Warhawks slowly chipped away at the deficit and took their first lead – 35-34 – on

Chamille Birdyshaw's steal and basket with just under seven minutes remaining in the game. The Eagles quickly regained the lead on a basket from Natalie Peters, but Weyauwega-Fremont took its second lead on another Birdyshaw basket with 4 1/2 minutes left and never trailed again.

"The biggest thing is we were missing our leading scorer tonight, and that showed at the end of the game," coach Warren Wilber III said. "We were missing 18 points a night out there tonight."

He said he's not sure when Reeves will return to the lineup.

"We don't know yet," he said. "She sprained her ankle in practice the other day. We're hoping next week, but it's going to take some time. It's pretty bruised up and swollen. It's not healing as quick as we thought it would."

Reeves wasn't the only player that didn't suit up for the Eagles.

"We also had another starter out tonight, and our sixth girl off the bench was out, too," Wilber said. "We have a couple of girls coming back hopefully tomorrow or early next week."

He said he is happy with

his team's effort in the first half that included 12 points from Aaliyah Corn.

"My locker room talk was I'm proud of what we did tonight, because we came in shorthanded and gave them a run for their money," he said. "We gave as much as they could handle."

Corn led the Eagles with 17 points, while Birdyshaw led all players with 22.

The Eagles fell to 2-3 in CWC-East play. Menominee Nation has wins over Amherst and Shiocton but fell to Wittenberg-Birnamwood and Bonduel, two teams ahead of the Eagles in the conference standings.

"We think the conference (games) are going well," Wilber said. "We love the competitiveness of our conference. We see each other twice a year, and we know each other. We live for these conference games. They're a lot more fun."

The game in Weyauwega started a busy week for the Eagles that also included nonconference road games Jan. 9 at Southern Door and Jan. 12 at Port Edwards, as well as a CWC-East game Jan. 13 in Manawa.

Nordin joins 2,000-point club

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Friday, Jan. 9

Xavier 57, Shawano 51
With a major milestone in her sights, Shawano's Leah Nordin entered the Jan. 9 home game against Xavier just 11 points shy of 2,000 career points.

A layup in the game put the UW-bound senior in the record books.

Nordin credits her teammates for helping her get to this point, saying the milestone is a reflection of the trust and chemistry shared on the court. She says her success comes from teammates putting her in the right positions and feeding off their energy while continuing to focus on winning games.

Unfortunately, Shawano as a team ended up on the short end of a 57-51 final score.



With a major milestone in her sights, Shawano's Leah Nordin entered the Jan. 9 home game against Xavier just 11 points shy of 2,000 career points. A layup in the game put the UW-bound senior in the record books. FILE | NEW MEDIA

Wittenberg-Birnamwood 88, Iola-Scandinavia 37

There was no trouble for Wittenberg-Birnamwood when the girls extended their season record to 11-0 with a dominating 88-37 win over Iola-Scandinavia.

"It was nice getting back on the floor after 18 days," coach Nick Mechelke said. "We came out well tonight and got a big lead."

Rory Salvesen led the

Chargers with 27 points, and Melaina Granquist added 21. Harper Rogowski scored another 15 points, and Ava Brei had 10.

Other scores: Gresham 44, Port Edwards 31; New London 71, Oconto Falls 47; Notre Dame 68, Pulaski 25; Menominee Nation 66, Southern Door 22.

Thursday, Jan. 8

Crivitz 49, Lena 35
Lena suffered its first loss of the season, a 49-35 loss at home.

Crivitz held a slim 20-18 lead at halftime and extended it with a 29-17 second half.

Ella Thomson led the Wildcats with 11 points, followed by Madilyn Thomson with eight and Abby Kostreva with six.

Alisa Finger and Ella Thomson each had 11 rebounds, with Kaitlyn Borkovec adding seven.

Ella Thomson also three blocks and two steals. Finger had a block and three steals, and Borkovec had one steal.

Laila Collar led Lena with five assists. Madilyn Thomson contributed three, and Finger had one.

Bonduel 51, Amherst 19

The seventh-ranked Bears easily defeated Amherst 51-19 in a CWC-East game. Bonduel is 6-0 in league play, while Amherst is 2-5.

Audrey Jacobs led Bonduel with 10 points, with Juliana Jacobs scoring nine and Casey Wesenberg credited with six.

Juliana Jacobs led the team with six rebounds, and added a steal. Mariah Wondra had five rebounds, and Audrey Jacobs had three rebounds and four steals.

Cierra Schnell led Bonduel with four assists, with Emery Thompson having three and Marlie Hartmann getting one.

Other scores: Gillett 52, Oneida Nation 27; Coleman 58, Suring 44; Marion/Tigerton 52, Port Edwards 17; Clintonville 45, Oconto Falls 38.

Tuesday, Jan. 6

Lena 64, Peshtigo 41
The Wildcats remain undefeated at 11-0 after a 64-41 win over Peshtigo in nonconference action.

Ella Thomson and Alisa Finger each recorded a double-double. Ella Thomson scored 16 points and had 16 rebounds. Finger scored 13 points with 10 rebounds.

Madilyn Thomson contributed 14 points and nine rebounds.

Madilyn Thomson also had six blocks, and Ella Thomson had three steals. Ella and Madilyn Thomson each had four assists.

Bonduel 63, Crandon 36

Bonduel improved to 10-1 overall with a 63-36 dominating win over Crandon.

Juliana Jacobs led the Bears with 16 points, with Peyton Westrich contributing 10 and Alison Zernicke adding eight.

Jayla Reinke pulled down seven rebounds and collected three steals. Marlie Hartmann had six rebounds and two steals, while Cierra Schnell had six rebounds and one steal.

The all-around team performance continued with Reinke adding an assist, and Hartmann and Jacobs each with two.

Monday, Jan. 5
Pulaski 39, Seymour 36

Pulaski pulled off an upset with its 39-36 win over Seymour.

After the nonconference game, the Red Raiders improved to 6-7, while the Thunder fell to 6-5.

Other scores: Gresham 43, Rosholt 30; Wabeno/Laona 51, Gillett 25; Suring 55, Sevastopol 38.

Ice Bears girls hockey team suffers first loss of the season

The Ice Bears pounded out 71 shots on goal as they shut out the Madison Metro Lynx 5-0 on Jan. 10. Scoring started in the first period with an Addison Dahl goal with assistance from Aisling Buchan and Abby Monmaerts.

In the seance period, when Bay Area had 28 shots on goal, Buchan scored at 0:37 with assists from Piper Losey and Dahl. Faye Brunke scored at 6:41 with assist from Hannah Von Haden and Lily Lyons.

Mya Sheppard scored at 2:55 in the final period with

Brunke and Von Haden assisting. Then, Elliana Memken scored at 12:21 with help fro Buchan and Losey.

Bay Area goalie Kade Kitchenmaster had 19 saves. Lynx goalie Addy Buzzell had 66.

Madison Metro was penalized three times for six minutes, while Bay Area had no penalties.

Bay Area is 14-1 overall. **Friday, Jan. 9**
Gentry Academy 5, Bay Area 3

The Gentry Academy Skaters did what no

other team has done this year. They beat the Bay Area 6-3, handing the Ice Bears their first loss of the season.

Trailing 1-0 after the first period, Bay Area tied the game at 2:51 in the second period on a Mya Sheppard unassisted goal. The Ice Bears took the lead at 8:51 when Hannah Von Haden scored with assist from Addison Dahl and Faye Brunke. Five minutes later, Gentry tied the game at 2-2 to end the second period.

Gentry Academy scored

twice in the early minutes of the third period to take a 4-2 lead. Elliana Memken scored for Bay Area at 15:39 with Aisling Buchan and Dahl assisting. However, Gentry scored twice more before the end of the game. To seal the win.

Bay Area goalie Reese Spiering had 17 saves against 21 shots on goal. Gentry Academy goalie Gabbi Johnson collected 20 saves on 23 shots on goal.

Bay Area was called for seven penalties for 14 minutes. Gentry Academy had three infractions for

six minutes.

Tuesday, Jan. 6
Bay Area 4, Fox Cities 0

It was another win and another shutout for the Bay Area Ice Bears girls hockey team when they defeated the Fox Cities Stars 4-0.

The Ice Bears are now 13-0 overall and 6-0 in the Eastern Shores Conference. The Stars are 6-4 overall and 1-4 in the conference.

Addison Dahl started the scoring with an unassisted goal at 2:05 in the first period. Ava McDonald

had her own unassisted goal at 4:49.

In the second period, Elliana Memken scored at 16:52 with Aisling Buchan and McDonald assisting.

And in the third period, Memken scored again at 16:30 with help from Faye Brunke and McDonald.

Ice Bears goalie Reese Spiering notched 24 saves against 24 shots on goal, while Stars goalie Addison Grasse had 17 saves against 21 shots on goal.

Each team was penalized three times for six minutes.

Local players play role in national championship

Timm, Wesolowski stand out for UW-River Falls

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

It wasn't that long ago that Gage Timm and Ben Wesolowski spent their Friday nights playing for the Shawano and Wittenberg-Birnhamwood football teams.

While they never had a chance to play for a high school state championship with the Hawks and Chargers, both players can now say they're members of a national championship team.

Timm and Wesolowski suited up for the University of Wisconsin-River Falls on Jan. 4 in the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl in Canton, Ohio, the NCAA's national championship game for Division 3 programs.

The Falcons capped a 14-1 season with a 24-14 win over North Central, the defending national champion. The Illinois team had also won national titles following the 2019 and 2022 seasons.

Timm, who played high school football in Shawano, stood out for the Falcons' defense; the senior linebacker finished with 13 tackles, a pair of sacks and a fumble recovery. Wesolowski, a junior wide receiver who played at Wittenberg-Birnhamwood, had one catch for 12 yards.

They aren't the only area players on the Falcons' roster. Shawano's Jack Dietz is a freshman offensive lineman, while Mitchell Kallies, from Oconto Falls, is a junior defensive lineman.

Timm makes his mark

Timm was part of a UW-River Falls defense that held the Cardinals scoreless in the second half after North Central had taken a 14-0 lead.

"I would say the biggest thing was everyone on the team doing their job," he said. "Plays just came my way more than other people. Without everyone doing their job, I wouldn't be able to do my job. On the fumble recovery, the quarterback and running back weren't on the same page. It was just a lucky thing for me."

North Central was playing for a national championship for the

sixth year in a row and came into the game with a 14-0 record and a 29-game winning streak.

The Falcons, on the other hand, were playing in the Division 3 postseason for the first time since 1996.

"One of the things that our coach talks about a lot for the teams we play is what he calls logo teams," Timm said. "When some teams play certain teams, they see the logo on the helmet and don't play how they normally play. That was a big message going into the game: playing our brand of football, no matter what. It doesn't matter that they've been there."

North Central took a 14-0 lead, but the Falcons answered in the second quarter with a field goal and Kaleb Blaha's 13-yard touchdown pass to Blake Rohrer that cut the deficit to 14-10 at halftime.

Blaha gave the Falcons the lead for good with a 7-yard touchdown run in the third quarter. He added a 12-yard run with just under nine minutes to go in the game to cap the scoring.

He finished the game with 291 passing yards and 128 rushing yards to finish the season with 6,189 yards, which broke Joe Burrow's all-time NCAA total of 6,039 yards during the 2019 season.

Timm said he knew the Falcons could have a special season following wins over UW-Whitewater and UW-La Crosse.

"They were both ranked (in the) top 10, and we were ranked one behind one of them," he said. "Once we blew out top-10 teams, we knew we had something special, and we could get in the playoffs and make a run."

River Falls, La Crosse and Whitewater compete in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, along with UW-Oshkosh, the only team to defeat the Falcons during the regular season.

"I think we had five teams ranked in the top 25 at one point," Timm said, of the WIAC. "You're playing good teams every week, and you have to be on your A game. That really helps because we're playing teams that are good enough to be in the playoffs."

Position change

Wesolowski played quarterback in high school for the Chargers but switched to wide receiver after arriving in River Falls.



Shawano High School graduate Gage Timm (No. 12) had 13 tackles, two sacks and a fumble recovery for UW-River Falls Jan. 4 in a 24-14 win over North Central in the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl.

JOSH PADILLA | UW-RIVER FALLS



Former Wittenberg-Birnhamwood football player Ben Wesolowski lines up as a wide receiver for UW-River Falls in the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl, the NCAA's Division 3 national championship game.

JOSH PADILLA | UW-RIVER FALLS

He headed to college thinking he might have a shot at playing quarterback, but those plans changed once he met Blaha.

"I've been with him for a long time," he said. "I started out in the quarterback room, so we were in the same room for two years. He's such a good dude, the most selfless dude ever. You get that good, you'd think that he's a

little cocky, but he's not like that at all."

Wesolowski spent his freshman season on the sidelines watching Blaha on the field.

"They said they don't want to waste another year of me just watching quarterbacks," he said. "That's when I switched (to wide receiver), and I'm loving it. I hadn't played receiver since

third grade."

The switch was not difficult, according to Wesolowski.

"I think it came natural, because when you're a quarterback, you know what you want your receivers to do. I was in the quarterback system for two years, so I know what I want my receivers to do. I try and do that to help Blaha."

Blaha is a senior, but Wesolowski isn't sure where he'll fit in for his senior season.

"I've been getting pretty comfortable at receiver now," he said. "We'll have to see what the coaches think. I haven't had my end-of-the-year meeting, and there's a lot of decisions to make."

Wesolowski said Wittenberg-Birnhamwood's program helped prepare him for football at the college level.

"When I was in high school, I played for great coaches like Bernard Holsey and Jason Rieck," he said. "They made me want to keep playing. Those coaches gave me a love for the game."

The COVID pandemic in 2020 helped Wesolowski become a better athlete.

"I was a skinny sophomore, and one of my buddies got a weight room in his garage and we lifted for two, three hours a day," he said. "I became an actual athlete and wasn't a scrawny kid out there. Get in the weight room and start working. That's all you can do."

River Falls reaction

The team returned to River Falls the day after the game.

"There were people lining Main Street when our buses came back," Timm said. "The community's always been great in supporting us. The fans were out and about in the playoff run, especially in the cold. It's always windy at our field. We had a lot of fans at the game — a lot more than North Central had, and they were a closer team."

"The coolest part for most of us is seeing the alums and community members so happy," Wesolowski said. "We came home to a parade, and there were thousands of people welcoming us home. Even at the game, our stands were five times more filled than theirs. This program hasn't had a lot of success, so we're winning for a lot of people. We knew we were winning for a lot more than just us: We were winning for the community."

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Chargers rebound from home loss to Bonduel

Witt-Birn boys cruise to fifth conference victory

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

Three days after a 30-point home loss to Bonduel, it was gut-check time for the Wittenberg-Birnhamwood boys basketball team. Mission accomplished. The Chargers headed to Iola on Jan. 9 for a Central Wisconsin Conference-East matchup with Iola-Scandinavia and returned home with a 56-41 win over the Thunderbirds.

Not only did the team snap its two-game losing streak after opening the season with seven straight wins, it also kept pace in the conference standings with Bonduel.

The game was the first for Wittenberg-Birnhamwood since the Chargers ended up on the short end of a 67-37 loss to Bonduel on Jan. 6 that kept the Bears undefeated and on top of the conference standings.

The first of two CWC-East matchups with the Thunderbirds this season included a pair of early lead changes. A pair of 3-pointers from Oliver Fraaza turned a 9-6 deficit into a 12-9 lead and the Chargers never trailed again.

Wittenberg-Birnhamwood headed to the locker room with a 27-20 halftime lead. The Thunderbirds cut the lead to two points twice in the second half but never got any closer.

A 15-4 run down the stretch helped the Chargers pull away for their fifth CWC-East win.

Fraaza led all players with 18 points, while Zandyr Barke and Kaden Yaeger also finished in double figures with 15 and 11 points, respectively. R.J. Opperman led the Thunderbirds with 17.

Coach Garrett Rogowski wanted to see how his team would respond following a lopsided home loss.

"This group I'm coaching this year has really responded well to the things we're asking them to do," he said. "We played a bad game on Tuesday night against Bonduel. We didn't value the basketball and turned it over a lot. A lot of our practice time this week was spent on making corrections offensively. The boys were excited to see how those corrections transfer to game play."

"That's the great thing about coaching high school athletics. They're kids. They do things well, and they make mistakes. You can learn a lot from losing. You have to move forward and get better. You have to have a short-term memory in sports. You have to move on to the next game and the next play."

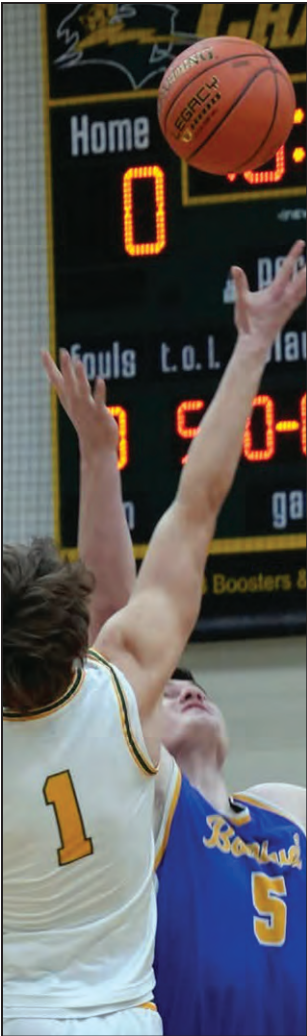


Above, Wittenberg-Birnhamwood's Oliver Fraaza battles for a loose ball with Iola-Scandinavia's Wyatt Wolberg on Jan. 9 in Iola. Fraaza went on to lead all scorers with 18 points in a 56-41 win over Iola-Scandinavia. Below, Iola-Scandinavia's Charlie Tappa tries to keep Wittenberg-Birnhamwood's Logan Gibson from grabbing a rebound after a free throw. At right, Milo Salvesen tries to find an open Wittenberg-Birnhamwood teammate in the second half of the Chargers' win over Iola-Scandinavia.

GREG SEUBERT



Bears continue to roll through conference schedule



Bonduel senior Ryan Westrich (5) and Wittenberg-Birnhamwood junior Logan Gibson (1) jump for the ball to start the Jan. 6 game in Wittenberg. Bonduel won 67-37 and improved to 7-0 overall.

TINA BACON

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Friday, Jan. 9 Bonduel 66, Amherst 58

Bonduel improved to 6-0 in the conference and 8-0 overall with a 66-58 win over Amherst.

Ryan Westrich led the Bears with 18 points, followed by Quinn Wesenberg with 16, Carter Moesch with 14, Jack Zernicke with 10 and Griffin Uelmen with eight.

Menominee Nation 62, Weyauwega-Fremont 53

Menominee Nation improved to 3-4 in the CWC-East with a 62-53 win over Weyauwega-Fremont.

Ryan Corn paced the Eagles with 23 points, while Kenew Awonohopay added 18 and Anik Corn had 11.

Awonohopay and Anik Corn each pulled down eight rebounds, and Ryan Corn had four. Awonohopay led Menominee Nation with five steals, with Ryan and Anik Corn each getting one.

Ryan Corn dished out six assists, with Awonohopay and Anik Corn contributed two each.

Xavier 89, Shawano 63

Xavier led from the beginning and defeated Shawano 89-63.

Will Verkuilen led the Hawks with 22 points. Collin Dieck and Anderson Schmidt each had six points.

Verkuilen, Grayson Swedberg and Cooper Boucher each had four rebounds. Verkuilen had two steals, while Swedberg and Boucher each had one.

Austin Heling and Swedberg each had three assists, while Jackson Nor-din had two.

Niagara 83, Lena 39

Lucas Mongiat scored 16 points for Lena, but the Wildcats came up short, losing 83-39 to Niagara.

Dash Comins added 15 points for Lena, and P.J. Finger had six.

Finger collected nine rebounds, while Luke Kossowsky and Mongiat had seven each. Mongiat also had five steals.

Finger contributed two assists, while Cooper Demmuth and Mongiat each had one.

Other scores: Suring 53, Gillett 26; White Lake 54, Gresham 48; Notre Dame 67, Pulaski 64.

Thursday, Jan. 8 Tigerton 79, White Lake 22

For the first few minutes of the game, the Tigers trailed the Lakers. But once Tigerton overtook the lead at 9-8, it was all Tigers from there, as they rolled to a 79-22 win in the CWC-North.

Tigerton improved to 10-0 overall with a 4-0 in conference action, while White Lake dropped to 3-5 overall and 1-2 in the conference.

Senior Sam Anheuser led the Tigers with 24 points. He was joined by James Brady with 21 and Tanner Dent with 16.

Brady led the team with eight rebounds, three blocks and four steals. Anheuser also had four steals and pulled down five rebounds. Caleb Dahlstrom had four rebounds and three steals.

Anheuser set the pace with seven assists, while Dahlstrom contributed five and Brady dished out four.

Bonduel 69, Peshtigo 29

Quinn Wesenberg led Bonduel with 22 points, while Ryan Westrich had another double-double with 20 points and 16 rebounds as the Bears soundly defeated Peshtigo 69-29.

Carter Moesch also

scored nine points for the Bears.

Bonduel improved to 8-0.

Oconto Falls 77, Clintonville 70

In a high scoring North Eastern Conference matchup, Oconto Falls prevailed over Clintonville 77-70.

The Truckers dominated the first half, leading 41-22 at the break. But, the Panthers clawed their way back and used a 55-29 second half to secure the win.

Teagan Tate led Oconto Falls with 18 points. He was joined by Collin Radtke with 15 and Jame-son Beaman with 14.

Other scores: Menominee Nation 76, Manawa 62.

Tuesday, Jan. 6 Bonduel 67, Wittenberg-Birnhamwood 37

Quinn Wesenberg scored 19 points and Ryan Westrich had 18 as Bonduel's boys basketball team rolled over Wittenberg-Birnhamwood 67-37.

Griffin Uelmen chipped in nine points for Bonduel. The Bears led 35-12 at halftime and posted a 32-25 second half score.

Zandyr Barke led the Chargers with 12 points. Milo Salvesen scored six points, and Tommy Gagnon knocked down five.

Bonduel improved to 7-0 on the season and leads the CWC-East at 5-0. Wittenberg-Birnhamwood is 7-2 overall and is in second place in the conference at 4-1.

Pulaski 69, Green Bay Southwest 42

Bohdan Schmidt led the Red Raiders with 20 points as Pulaski downed Green Bay Southwest 69-42.

Noah Mijal added another 11 for Pulaski, and Eli Brancefield scored seven.

Brancefield led his teammates with seven rebounds, while Benjamin Shaw and Eli Heuser each had five.

Schmidt contributed with three assists, and Mijal and Brancefield each dished out one.

Menasha 74, Shawano 40

The Hawks fell to 1-4 in the Bay Conference and 4-6 overall with a 74-40 loss to Menasha.

The BlueJays improved to 3-7 overall and 3-3 in conference play.

Monday, Jan. 5 Port Edwards 58, Marion 54

The Blackhawks defeated the Mustangs 58-54 in a nonconference game.

Marion fell to 4-6 overall.

Shawano/Bonduel hockey ties, loses

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Saturday, Jan. 10
South Central 6, Shawano 2
South Central defeated Shawano 6-2 at the Merrill Tournament.

The Navigators took a 2-0 lead after the first period. Gavin Hundt got Shawano/Bonduel on the board at 15:58 in the second period with assistance from Quinten Harkey. The Navigators added four goals in the third period before Shawano/Bonduel got its last goal from Cameron Schroeder at 15:39. Kielian Armbruster and Max Huntington assisted. Hawks goalie Kaiden Thornborrow had 24 saves, and Navi-

gators goalie Dane Pulvermacher had 35.
Antigo 2, Lakeland 1 (OT)
The Antigo Red Robins defeated Lakeland 2-1 in overtime on Billy Portman's second goal of the game. Portman first scored at 15:02 in the first period with assists from Liam Burt and Ethan Novy. The Thunderbirds tied the game in the second period, and with no scoring in the third period, the game moved to overtime. On the winning goal, Portman was assisted by Burt and Carson Rhode. Antigo goalie Austin Martinson notched 47 saves against 48 shots on goal, while Lakeland goalie Cam Bernard had 35 saves

against 37 shots on goal. Each team was penalized three times for six minutes.
Thursday, Jan. 8
Shawano 3, Appleton United 3
Shawano held a 3-1 lead after two periods, but Appleton United fought back to tie the game and leave the two teams with a 3-3 score. Neither team scored in the first period, and Appleton United took a 1-0 lead at 1:16 in the second period. Shawano scored all three of its goals in the same period. First, at 4:20, Blake Swedberg scored with Gavin Hundt assisting. Hundt scored at 6:02 with Cameron Schroeder assisting.

Finally, Hundt scored again at 14:02 with Swedberg assisting. Hawks goalie Tyson Lyons recorded 36 saves on 39 shots on goal. Appleton United goalie Brady Boldt had 12 saves against 15 shots on goal. Appleton United was penalized three times for nine minutes, while Shawano was called for five infractions for 10 minutes.
Waupaca 3, Antigo 1
Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Ethan Novy scored the only goal for the Red Robins as Waupaca defeated Antigo 3-1. Trailing 1-0, Novy scored unassisted at 7:50 in the second period. Neither team scored in the first or third periods.

Red Robins goalie Austin Martinson collected 44 saves against 47 shots on goal. Comets goalie Carson Jameson had 17 saves against 18 shots on goal. Each team was penalized one time for two minutes.
Fond du Lac Springs 1, Bay Area 0
Fond du Lac Springs and Bay Area combined for 67 shots on goal but only had one score as the Legders topped the Storm 1-0. Storm goalie Justin Pintar had 34 saves, and Ledgers goalie Memphis Young had 32. Fond du Lac Spring was called for four penalties for eight minutes, while Bay Area had five infractions for 10 minutes.

Miller earns 150 career wins



Wittenberg-Birnamwood wrestler Ben Miller earned his 150th career win Jan. 10 at the Merrill Invitational. To top off his day, he also finished in first place in his weight class.

CONTRIBUTED

Shawano boys take second at Valders

Shawano's boys wrestlers earned a second place finish at Valdez's on Jan. 10, getting outscored by their opponents 226-182. Nikkolas Waukau took first at 113 pounds. "He wrestled well during his matches today," coach Mike Homan said. "He is becoming more consistent in his matches." Kian Morstad also placed first in his 150-pound weight class. "He always keeps the pressure on in his matches," Homan said. "He has a great cross face cradle, and he uses it well. He has now pushed his total wins to 26 on the year." Placing second at 190 was Drew Chelberg. Marcus Brezgel placed third at 165. Placing fourth were Cash Panske at 120 and Dylan Gartner at 132.

Dane Hodkiewicz was fifth at 126. Finishing in eighth were Collin Piper at 144, Kody Popelka at 157 and Joel Shaver at 175. Austin Stickney took ninth at 138.

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WWW.NEWMEDIA-WI.COM

SHAWANO LEADER

OCONTO COUNTY TIMES HERALD

WITTENBERG ENTERPRISE & BIRNAMWOOD NEWS

Ad Deadline: 3pm Thursday Prior

MISCELLANEOUS

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www.cnaads.com *Kantar Millward Brown, Feb. 2018

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715-280-0525

The Newsday Crossword

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

PHOTO FINISH: With camera conclusions

by Guilherme Gilioli

ACROSS

1 Very quick, in brand names

6 Reggae relative

9 Poetic tributes

13 38th president

17 Diet drink phrase

18 Loads and loads

20 Pioneering computer

21 State positively

22 "Chess champ" rap DJ

25 Granny

26 Before now

27 Books with 83-Across

28 Needing speeding

30 "Agnus ___" (Mass prayer)

31 Poetic planet

33 Halifax, ___ Scotia

35 Big name in nail polish

36 January ritual

44 Balance sheet column

47 Welcome warmly

48 Keep safe

49 Great time

50 No longer valid

51 Oboe insert

52 Mauna ___ (Hawaii's highest volcano)

53 Pay cash for

54 Sports coliseum

56 Made a web

58 Never existed

60 Worker welfare agcy.

62 NL West team

63 Literary whaler

64 Not in the clergy

66 PR person's advice

73 Brewery supply

74 Mars alias

75 SNL aier

76 Former partners

77 Parcels (out)

80 Low poker pair

81 Lock of hair

83 UFO passengers

84 Devoured

85 De-wrinkle

87 Lettuce purchase

88 Skate park trick

90 With a bent-page corner

93 Biblical song

95 Raises, as flags

96 Succinct

99 Extremely long time

100 Holiday season

101 35mm camera type

102 How-___ (manuals)

105 Spicy sausages

109 Japanese warrior

112 Leaves high and dry

115 Tablet hardware brand

116 Copland narrated work

119 "Don't just sit there!"

120 "Long time ___!"

121 Loki's movie stepfather

122 Blue Cross competitor

123 Practice punching

124 Shut securely

125 Half a rodeo cry

126 Shamrock shade

DOWN

1 Picnic playwright

2 US/Canada defense group

3 Fill with fear

4 Sunbathing evidence

5 German-based grocer

6 Twinkly, as night skies

7 Ring victories

8 Colony insects

9 Broadcasting now

10 Spanish day

11 Daybreak direction

12 Educated

13 Beyonceworld.com, e.g.

14 Shaped like 0

15 City near Carson City

16 Lottery broadcast

19 Brief moment, in brief

20 Exertion

23 Cats' comments

24 Dishwasher cycle

29 Major musical work

32 Window box flower

34 Colorado ski spot

37 Blues singer ___ James

38 Diva's solo

39 Signal to stop

40 Mined mineral

41 Miffs

42 Bakery fixture

43 Uncluttered

44 Monastery leader

45 Half-melted snow

46 Welcome quickly

50 "Kiss" and "tell"

51 Lipstick hue

55 Hoarse voice

56 Bowling rentals

57 Stats on golf scorecards

58 Nintendo game system

59 Pinnacle

61 Tennis icon Arthur

63 Puffy hair

64 Applied oil to

65 Story trajectories

67 What Macs run on

68 First light

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43

44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72

73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104

105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126

69 Access to highways

70 Skaters' jumps

71 "Understand?"

72 Most of "Swiss"

77 June honorees

78 Texter's "That said..."

79 Toy brick giant

80 Hot winter drink

81 Prefix for commuting

82 Any day now

85 Certain Mideasterners

86 ___ Faire (jousting venue)

87 "That's a laugh!"

89 Careless trash tosser

91 Kindle or a competitor

92 Bit of bromine

93 Urban force

94 Court reporter

95 Personnel person

97 Underwater passage

98 Much-told joke

103 Deliver a speech

104 Goosebumps author

105 Virtual game people

106 Each

107 Rocky outpouring

108 Type of plum

110 Former *Idol* judge, familiarly

111 Artist Warhol

113 Deer with antlers

114 Lee of Marvel fame

117 "Patience ___ virtue"

118 Last course with a crust

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Turn to the experts

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

1/16/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for Non-Metallic Mine Reclamation Permit & Reclamation Plan Review for Cecil Trucking & Excavating, Inc.

In accordance with Shawano County, Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance #1-07, we are hereby giving notice that a non-metallic mining reclamation permit has been requested and a reclamation plan has been received for review. Section 15.10(1) of the ordinance requires public notice of application and opportunity for public hearing. Contact Scott Konkle, East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC), 400 Ahnaip Street, Menasha, WI 54952, (920) 751-4770, (the County's Agent) for designated plan review locations.

Initial Post Date: January 9, 2026 – Please express concerns to the above address, including any request for holding a public informational hearing to County's Agent within 30 days of post date.

DESCRIPTION OF MINE SITE :

Owner of Property: Dan Gumieny

Applicant: Cecil Trucking & Excavating, Inc.

Location of Mine Site: North of Olson Road. ½ mile West of County Road BB.

Legal Description: SW ¼ of the SW ¼, Section 10, T27N, R18E, Town of Green Valley, Shawano County. Parcel No. 020103400000

EXPLANATION: The mine site will be operated for the extraction of sand. The site will be reclaimed as passive recreation/wildlife habitat.

WNAXLP
SHA-095

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

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

OFFICIAL NOTICE TO BIDDERS
SHAWANO MUNICIPAL AIRPORT
2026 SANITARY SEWER & WATERMAIN PROJECT

ESTIMATE OF QUANTITIES

400 LF of Sanitary Sewer w/ Manhole
450 LF of Watermain w/ Valve & Hydrant
3 EA Sanitary Laterals & 3 EA Water Services
Site Restoration

Bids will be received by the City of Shawano in the office of the Department of Public Works, 2905 E. Richmond St., Shawano, Wisconsin, until 10:00 AM Local Time on February 3 rd , 2026, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Complete sets of Bidding Documents may be obtained in PDF electronic format by calling the Department of Public Works at (715)509-0297 or by email: mpleshek@cityofshawano.com. All bidders shall bid in accordance with and shall bid upon the Proposal Forms provided in the Contract Documents.

The City of Shawano requires Bidders to be pre-qualified for this project in accordance with the Wisconsin Statutes 66.29(2). Qualifications shall be emailed to mpleshek@cityofshawano.com at the DPW office not less than 5 working days prior to the bid deadline. The Owner's decision as to the qualifications shall be final.

A bid bond payable to the City of Shawano in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid shall accompany each bid as a guarantee, that if the bid is accepted, the Bidder will execute and file the Contract, Performance and Payment Bonds, and the Insurance Certificate within ten (10) days after the receipt of the Notice of Award by the City. If the bidder fails to file such a Contract and Bonds within the time set forth above, the Bid Bond shall be forfeited to the City as liquidated damages.

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 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
Bruce Milavitz, Mayor Lesley Nemetz, City Clerk Matt Pleshek, City Engineer

WNAXLP
SHA-099

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

LOIS E. HIGGINS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

(Informal Administration)

Case No. 25-PR-102

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for Informal

administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth of

October 17, 1964, and date of death

October 28, 2025 was domiciled in

Shawano County, State of Wisconsin,

with a mailing address of 413 N.

Humphrey Cir., Shawano, WI 54166.

3. All interested parties waived notice.

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 202 -

Probate Office.

BY THE COURT:

DATE SIGNED: December 26, 2025

Electronically signed by Gwen Hoffman,

Probate Registrar

Attorney Bridget M. Erwin

Hager, Dewick & Zuegler, S.C.

200 S. Washington St., Ste. 200

Green Bay, WI 54301

(920) 430-1900

Bar No. 1055528

WNAXLP
SHA-085

1/16/26, 1/23/26, 1/30/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

HARLOW DILLENBURG

Order Setting Time to Hear Petition for

Administration and Deadline for Filing

Claims (Formal Administration)

Case No. 26 PR 01

A Petition for Formal Administration was

filed.

THE COURT FINDS:

The decedent, with date of birth August

24, 1954 and date of death December

12, 2025, was domiciled in Shawano

County, State of Wisconsin with a mailing

address of W10645 Mill Creek Road,

Clintonville, WI 54929

THE COURT ORDERS:

1. The Petition be heard at the Shawano

County Courthouse, Shawano Wisconsin,

Room Branch 1 before Circuit Court

Judge/Circuit Court Commissioner

Katherine V. Sloma on 02/23/2026 at

9:45 AM.

You do not need to appear unless you

object. The petition may be granted if

there is no objection.

2. The deadline for filing a claim against

the decedent's estate is April 24, 2026

3. A claim may be filed at the Shawano

County Courthouse, 311 N. Main Street,

Shawano, Wisconsin, Room 202,

Probate Office

4. Heirship will be determined at the

hearing on petition for final judgment.

5. Publication of this notice is notice to

any persons whose names or addresses

are unknown.

If you require reasonable

accommodations due to a disability to

participate in the court process, please

call 715-526-8631 prior to the scheduled

court date. Please note that the court

does not provide transportation.

BY THE COURT: DATE SIGNED:

January 6, 2026

Electronically signed by Katie Sloma

Circuit Court Judge

Michael Steber

385 Williamstowne

Delafield, WI 53018

(262) 646-4850

Bar Number 1005518

WNAXLP
SHA-094

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 11/19/1941and 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 13,2006.

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

1/16/26, 1/23/26, 1/30/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
SHAWANO COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

Todd Lee Kimball.

Notice to Creditors

(Informal Administration)

Case No. 26 PR02

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal

administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 01-11-

1962 and date of death 12-13-2025 with

a mailing address of 214 W. Richmond

St. Apt. 6. was domiciled in Shawano

County, Shawano, WI 54166

3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against

the decedent's estate is April 24, 2026.

5. A claim may be filed at the

Shawano County Courthouse,

311 N. Main St. Shawano, Wisconsin,

Room 202, Probate Office

WNAXLP
SHA-092

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

The Shawano County
Highway Commission will accept
sealed quotes until 8:00 A.M. on Tuesday,
February 3, 2026 for the following:

Quote #1

Bituminous Paving Mix Material for
asphalt paving projects to include
Bituminous Paving Mix Material for
County LRIP projects located on CTH M,
CTH E, CTH C, CTH H and CTH F.

Bid specifications may be obtained at the
Shawano County Highway Office, 3035
E. Richmond St., Shawano, WI 54166 or
by calling 715-526-9182.

The Shawano County Highway
Commission reserves the right to reject
any and all quotes, to waive irregularities
and informalities therein and further
reserves the right to award the contract in
the best interests of the County.

SHAWANO COUNTY HIGHWAY
COMMISSION

Grant Bystol, Commissioner

WNAXLP
SHA-083

1/16/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

Notice of Public Sale
Lakeland Storage, 722 Waukechon St,
Shawano WI 54166

www.storage treasures.com
January 31, 2026 - February 3, 2026
at 11am. Bidding is on the complete
contents of the unit.

Owner: Thomas Nacotee Contents:
totes, boxes, bags, household furniture,
tires, buckets, car parts, electric heater
with logs, coolers, misc.,

WNAXLP
SHA-098

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

Notice of Public Hearing
Planning, Development and Zoning
Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 4, 2026 @ 9:00

AM

Shawano County Courthouse, Rooms

A & B

Members: Ken Capelle, Jeremy

Gretzinger, Lowel Hammett, Kathy

Luebke, Theresa Serrano

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public
hearing will be held by the Shawano
County Planning, Development and
Zoning Committee under the Shawano
County Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 40, in
Rooms A/B on February 4, 2026 at 9AM,

to consider the following:

CU-2-26: Karen Benishek, owner of
Benishek Properties LLC, request
conditional use permit for the purpose
of conducting an Indoor Sales business
(land use) in the OAR, Open Lands,
Agriculture, and

OBITUARIES

COURT NEWS

James G. Bushy

James G. Bushy, 61, of Shawano, formerly of Antigo, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026.

He was born in Crookston, Minnesota, on July 2, 1964, son of the late Glenn and Theresa (Polak) Bushy and was a graduate of Antigo High School, class of 1982.

Jim worked for many years at Winebrenner Shoe Factory in Antigo. He was united in marriage to Donna Fletcher on April 26, 2003. They shared 18 years of marriage before Donna passed away on Dec. 4, 2021.

Jim was an avid outdoorsman and especially enjoyed fishing. He loved to grill and cook for his family and friends. Jim truly cherished nights out, celebrating with an old-fashioned and some good food. Watching sports was one of his favorite pastimes and loved to cheer on the Packers and Brewers. In addition to sports, he also enjoyed watching his other shows, most notably QVC, where he purchased items to his heart's delight.

James is survived by his son, Brandon (fiancée Melanie Conte) Bushy; step-daughter, Elizabeth (Dakota) Knapp; significant other, Dawna Myers; his brother, Mike (Julie) Bushy; his sister, Janet (fiancé Jim Leveque) Clark;



and two step-grandchildren, Brooklynn and Garrett Knapp. He is further survived by a brother-in-law, Dan Brickheimer, nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Donna; siblings: Laura Brickheimer, Brenda Wensel, Robert Bushy and Linda (Phil) Arrowood; and an uncle, Larry Polak.

A celebration of Jim's life will be held at a later date. For updated service information or to leave a message of condolence for the family, please visit www.newcomergreenbay.com.

Jim's family would like to extend their gratitude to the staff at Aurora Hospital, Marinette, the transplant team at UW-Madison and to all health care professionals that cared for Jim throughout his life.

Clifford Paul Church

Clifford Paul Church, 76 (known by many as C.C.), passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026, at his residence in Bowler after a courageous battle with cancer.

Clifford was born in Milwaukee to Dewey Wilbur Church and Colleen (Huff) Bailey, served in the U.S. Army 1972-78 and received a technical diploma from the College of the Menominee Nation in 2010. He enjoyed taking long country drives, nature, volunteering at the Mohican Family Center and sharing his sense of humor with others.

Survivors include his children, Richard (Jennifer) Church, of West Bend, and Karrie (Paul) Nieto, of New London; three grandchildren, Michael (Elizabeth) Nieto, of Omro, Paul Nieto, of Menasha, and Zachary Church, of West Bend. His surviving siblings are Jeanene (Ron) Brown, of Vancouver, Washington, Mary Ann Bailey-Webster, of Keshena, Faron Bailey, of Green Bay, Jeff Bailey, of Keshena, Terrence Bailey, of Keshena, Dawn Web-



ster, of Keshena, Sterling (Dora) Bailey, of Keshena, Roni Bailey, of Keshena, and Lizette Bailey (B.W.) O'Kimosh, of Keshena.

He was preceded in death by one grandson, Joshua Ryan Nieto; and seven siblings, Bridgette Grueb, Dewey Bruce Church, Donald Bailey, Emerson Bailey, Lyndon John Bailey, Renee Leroy and Thomas Bailey. Spring burial intended at Red Springs Cemetery, Gresham, details to follow in Mohican News, Menominee Nation News and Shawano Leader.

www.swedbergfuneral-home.com

• Robert P. Dodge, 32, Green Bay, pleaded no contest Jan. 6 to three misdemeanor charges of resisting or obstructing an officer. The charges were amended from felony counts in a plea agreement. Judge William Kussel Jr. levied fines and forfeitures of \$5,216.50.

• Tiffany D. Creapeau, 43, Gresham, pleaded no contest Jan. 5 to three counts of misdemeanor bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of possession of THC. A related felony charge was dismissed but read into the record in a plea agreement. Kussel withheld sentencing and placed her on three years of probation with conditions.

• Naseen N. Pyatskowitz, 24, a Shawano man serving a sentence at Dodge Correctional Institution in Waupun, pleaded no contest Jan. 5 to possession of methamphetamine, possession of narcotic drugs, possession of THC (second or subsequent offense), felony bail jumping, four counts of misdemeanor bail jumping, and misdemeanor counts of operating while revoked, resisting or obstructing and officer and possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Katherine Sloma imposed and stayed a jail sentence and placed him on two years of probation with conditions.

• Terry T. Siolka, 58, Suring, pleaded no contest Jan. 7 to operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fourth offense). Sloma imposed and stayed a prison sentence, then placed him on three years of probation with conditions including a 33-month revocation of his driver's license.

• William J. Vendermoss, 60, Shawano, pleaded no

contest Jan. 8 to two counts of battery as a domestic abuse repeater. Kussel withheld sentencing and placed him on three years of probation with conditions.

• Thurston W. Prescott, 21, Schofield, pleaded no contest Jan. 8 to two counts of misdemeanor bail jumping. The charges were amended from felony counts in a plea agreement. Sloma withheld sentencing and placed him on two years of probation with conditions.

• Chenice E. Olson, 24, Gillett, pleaded guilty Jan. 7 to felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor charge of resisting or obstructing an officer. Kussel levied fines and sentenced her to 120 days in county jail, time deemed served.

• Patricia Sullivan, 65, Shawano, was charged Jan. 5 with battery to certain individuals involved in a court or legal system and misdemeanor counts of resisting or obstructing an officer and disorderly conduct. Sloma set a \$5,000 signature bond and scheduled a status conference for Feb. 17.

• Maeghan M. Bouressa, 34, Marion, was charged Jan. 5 with felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct. Sloma set a \$100 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for Jan. 13.

• Theodore J. Howard, 40, Antigo, was charged Jan. 5 with operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fourth offense) and threatening to cause bodily harm to certain individuals involved with a court or legal system. Sloma set a \$1,000 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for Feb. 19.

• Darcy A. Spruce, 44, Bowler, was charged Jan. 5 with

four counts of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of battery, disorderly conduct and two charges of resisting or obstructing an officer. Sloma set a \$750 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for March 2.

• Charles H. West, 34, Gresham, was charged Jan. 5 with fleeing an officer in his vehicle, operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fourth offense), eight counts of felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of operating while revoked. Sloma set a \$5,000 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for Feb. 9.

• Raymond D. LeMieux, 43, Coleman, was charged Jan. 6 with felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor county of resisting or obstructing an officer. Sloma set a \$1,500 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for March 9.

• Calvin J. Fowler, 34, Neopit, was charged Jan. 6 with felony bail jumping, misdemeanor bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of operating without a valid license. Sloma set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for March 5.

• Melina Kathryn Isabel Herr, 24, Gillett, was charged Jan. 6 with possession of narcotic drugs, three counts of felony bail jumping, and misdemeanor counts of possession of THC and possession of drug paraphernalia. Sloma set a \$1,500 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for March 9.

• Joseph S. Doxtator, 56, Bowler, was charged Jan. 6 with possession of methamphetamine, disorderly conduct as a domestic abuse repeater, eight counts of misdemeanor bail

jumping and two misdemeanor counts of possession of drug paraphernalia. Sloma set a \$500 cash bond, and Kussel scheduled a preliminary hearing for Feb. 6.

• Joseph Pedro Rodriguez, 23, Rockledge, Florida, was charged Jan. 7 with possession with intent to distribute cocaine, three misdemeanor counts of possession of an illegally obtained prescription, two misdemeanor counts of carrying a concealed weapon, and misdemeanor counts of possession of THC and possession of drug paraphernalia. Sloma set a \$2,500 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for March 2.

• Kendriana C. Shojgreen, 25, Shawano, was charged Jan. 7 with possession with intent to distribute cocaine, possession of an illegal article, three counts of felony bail jumping, three misdemeanor counts of possession of an illegally obtained prescription, two misdemeanor counts of carrying a concealed weapon, and misdemeanor counts of possession of THC and possession of drug paraphernalia. Sloma set a \$5,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Jan. 14.

• Kayden James Pagel, 19, Aniwa, was charged Jan. 8 with four counts of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of possession of THC and possession of drug paraphernalia. Sloma set a \$2,500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Jan. 14.

• Ayesha M. Dodge, 30, Keshena, was charged Jan. 9 with two counts of felony bail jumping. Sloma set a \$2,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Jan. 14.

PUBLIC RECORD

SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Jan. 11 Deputies responded to 30 incidents, including a noise disturbance at Higher Wire, N6017 Lake Drive, Town of Wescott; suspicious activity on East Park Street in Bonduel; operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated near East Green Bay Street and North Airport Road in Shawano; suspicious activity on Golfview Road in Cecil; a disturbance on Poplar Road in the Town of Richmond; operating after revocation near U.S. Highway 45 and Oriole Road in the Town of Birnamwood; five 911 calls; two reckless driving incidents; one traffic hazard; four welfare checks; one crash.

Jan. 10 Deputies responded to 36 incidents, including a disturbance at Ship Wreck'd, 110 S. Warrington Ave., Cecil; an animal bite on Main Street in the Town of Angelica; operating after revocation near Spruce Road and County Road C in the Town of Angelica; five 911 calls; two reckless driving incidents; two welfare checks; five crashes.

Jan. 9 Deputies responded to 46 incidents, including a scam on River Heights Lane in the Town of Green Valley; an assault on state Highway 22 in the Town of Washington; theft on South Sawyer Street in Shawano; a disturbance at the Village Inn,

500 S. Webb St., Wittenberg; six 911 calls; four reckless driving incidents; one traffic hazard; one welfare check; eight crashes.

Jan. 8 Deputies responded to 35 incidents, including suspicious activity on Sarah Street in Birnamwood; operating after revocation near state Highway 29 and Maple Lane in the Town of Seneca; internet sex crime on South Elm Street in Bonduel; two 911 calls; four reckless driving incidents; two traffic hazards; three welfare checks; three crashes, one involving deer.

Jan. 7 Deputies responded to 34 incidents, including fraud on County Road M in the Town of Herman; identity theft at the county jail, 405 N. Main St., Shawano; drugs near Lake Drive and County Road R in the Town of Washington; a bad check at the county jail, 405 N. Main St., Shawano; drugs on Lake Street in Aniwa; one 911 call; two reckless driving incidents; three welfare checks; three crashes.

Jan. 6 Deputies responded to 27 incidents, including operating after revocation near state Highways 29 and 22 in the Town of Belle Plaine; two noise disturbances on South Warrington Avenue in Cecil; a scam on Lake Road in the Town of Almon; two 911 calls; one traffic hazard; one welfare check; six crashes, one involving deer.

Jan. 5 Deputies responded to a vehicle fire on Chrissie Circle in the Town of Washington; a noise disturbance on South Warrington Avenue in Cecil; theft on Basswood Road in the Town of Richmond; two 911 calls; three reckless driving incidents; three welfare checks; four crashes, two involving deer.

SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT
Jan. 11 Officers responded to 17 incidents, including a noise disturbance on South Water Street; an intoxicated person at Walmart, 1244 E. Green Bay St.; harassment on South River Street; assault on South Lafayette Street; trespassing on East Elizabeth Street; three 911 calls; two reckless driving incidents.

Jan. 10 Officers responded to 17 incidents, including harassment on South Sawyer Street; identity theft on South Main Street; trespassing on South Main Street; suspicious activity on South Lincoln Street; an animal bite on South Franklin Street; operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated near South Lincoln Street and County Road B; one welfare check.

Jan. 9 Officers responded to 23 incidents, including disorderly conduct on East Green Bay Street; burglary on South Sawyer Street; suspicious activity on South Main Street; truancy at Hillcrest Primary School; theft on South Sawyer Street;

a disturbance on Estates Lane; suspicious activity near East Green Bay Street and North Fairview Way; one 911 call; one reckless driving incident; one traffic hazard; two welfare checks; two crashes.

Jan. 8 Officers responded to 24 incidents, including a noise disturbance on South Sawyer Street; a fight in progress on South Sawyer Street; a weapon offense at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B; truancy at Hillcrest Primary School, 1410 Waukechon St.; suspicious activity at Walgreens, 401 E. Green Bay St.; a disturbance on West Richmond Street; harassment on River Heights; two reckless driving incidents; one welfare check; one crash.

Jan. 7 Officers responded to 16 incidents, including truancy at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B; two 911 calls; one welfare check; three crashes.

Jan. 6 Officers responded to 23 incidents, including operating after revocation near South Prospect and East Elizabeth streets; a sex offense on East Ziegler Avenue; a weapon offense near West Lieg Avenue and South Lafayette Street; trespassing on South Sawyer Street; a drug offense near East Elizabeth and Olson streets; a scam on Engel Drive; a noise disturbance on East Richmond Street; two 911 calls; one crash.

Last chance to vote
for the best things of
Shawano County!
Ballots on pages 2 and 19

COMMUNITY MEALS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

there is interest. She said the Wednesday dates were a trial run, and the church is asking guests whether the midweek meal is best or if it should be held Saturdays.

“We’re going to do several weeks on Wednesdays and then have a conversation to see if we liked doing it on Wednesdays, or would Saturday work better?” Frazier said. “If we see that Wednesday’s not the best, then we’ll try on Saturday.”

Frazier said that the local Church of God has done meals for its community in Cecil before, but those were usually hosted at the church’s school.

“This is the first time we’ve gone to another location and hosted a meal,” she said.

Prior to the meal starting, Frazier said there was some concern as to whether the first event would bring people out, both because it was an inaugural event and also because of the weather making roads on the reservation treacherous.

“We’re kind of nervous,” Frazier said. “We hope it tastes good.”

Many members of the church are committed to



People came in right when the doors opened Jan. 7 for the first community meal being facilitated by the Church of God from Cecil.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

making the community meal a success.

“It’s mostly our young people,” Frazier said. “A few of us older ones are involved with planning. There will be a rotation. Different ones will help one week, and it might help for others to serve another week. It won’t be the same people every week, so everyone can be involved.”

Giving back is something that is preached in the Christian faith, Frazier said, and the meal is just one way the Church of God can do that.

“The scriptures say to love your neighbor as yourself,” Frazier said. “You’re our neighbors, so we want to love on you a little bit.”

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

SCHOOL BUDGET, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

revenue limits, the only options available are through voter-approved referenda. The district received approval from voters in November 2024 to spend more than \$51.2 million for expanding facilities and modernizing the existing ones. Many of those construction projects are underway.

Referenda can also be called to increase operations budgets for a pre-determined number of years, usually three to six, although Krizan’s letter does not indicate that is currently on the table. Other surrounding school districts have taken their requests to voters, with most getting approval.

Krizan wrote that several options have been determined by administrators as ways to reduce operations but noted that it has not been written in stone that the following reductions will take place:

- Operational and administrative reductions: Recommended and optional reductions target non-instructional costs, including benefits, contracts, stipends and administrative structures.
- Staffing and class size adjustments: Multiple scenarios adjust class sizes at various grade levels and explore changes to middle and high school schedules. Some scenarios also consider the future of the LEADS Charter School.
- Program changes: Options explore scaling back, restructuring or delivering select instructional offerings through alternative models — including

consolidation, virtual options or modified access to advanced learning opportunities.

• Student support services: Potential reductions focus on the level and configuration of student support services, including academic, behavioral, social-emotional and instructional support systems.

“In addition to reductions, the district is exploring revenue-generating opportunities, such as increased facility-use fees, student fee adjustments, renewable energy projects, leasing opportunities, program expansion and partnerships,” Krizan wrote.

He outlined a process through the end of February where the district will determine where to cut expenses. Some of the options will be presented to the Shawano School Board at its next meeting Jan. 26. Community listening sessions have been tentatively planned for Jan. 28 and Feb. 2, although times and locations have not been announced. District officials plan to create scenarios based on feedback from community listening sessions, and then the school board is expected to vote Feb. 23 on a selected reduction package.

“I recognize the difficulty of this information and the real impact it may have on our staff and students,” Krizan wrote. “No decisions have been made at this time. The purpose of sharing this overview now is to be transparent, to outline the process ahead and to reaffirm our commitment to making thoughtful,

student-centered decisions guided by clear criteria.”

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

1/16/26, 1/23/26, 1/30/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT
COVANTAGE CREDIT UNION
PO BOX 107
ANTIGO, WI
54409

Plaintiff,
v.
COLBY DALTON WRIGHT
N5614 N. FRANKLIN STREET
SHAWANO, WI 54166
Defendant.

Publication Summons'
CASE NO-25-CV271
Money Judgment: 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. The Complaint,
which is attached, states the nature and
basis of the legal action.

Within 40 days after the date of first
publication, 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.
The answer must be sent or delivered to
the Court, whose address is Shawano
County Courthouse, 311 N. Main St.,
Shawano, WI 54166, and to Galanis,
Pollack, Jacobs & Johnson, S.C.,
plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is 413
North 2nd Street, Suite 150, Milwaukee,
Wisconsin 53203. You may have an
attorney help or represent you.

If you do not provide a proper answer
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 at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on
January 6, 2026.

GALANIS, POLLACK, JACOBS &
JOHNSON, SC
Attorneys for Plaintiff
P.O. Address:
413 N. 2 nd Street, /S/ Electronically
Suite 150 signed
Milwaukee, WI Joshua J. Brady
53203
Telephone: (414) WI State Bar No.
271-5400 1041428
WNAXLP
SHA-091



Frosted cookies provided a sweet conclusion to the Keshena community meal held Jan. 7, facilitated through the Church of God in Cecil.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

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.

Ring in the New Year with FREE HEAT!

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4000 lbs
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of stove and vent
package!

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



WILD CARD, SEASON A TALE OF TWO HALVES

Great start ends bad: Meltdown leaves players, fans empty, unfulfilled

BY LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

The Packers' 2025-26 season came to an end Saturday as the Packers lost to the Chicago Bears 31-27 in the Wildcard Round of the NFL playoffs at Soldier Field.

Late in the fourth quarter, Chicago took a four-point lead, giving Packers quarterback Jordan Love the opportunity to march down the field and win the game with 1:43 remaining. Love and the offense quickly moved down the field by way of completions to Jayden Reed, Matthew Golden and Romeo Doubs. Green Bay eventually worked down to the Chicago 28-yard line with seven seconds left.

On the ensuing play, Love fumbled the snap, picked up his fumble and worked around the pocket, looking for an open receiver. Nobody was able to get open, and in a desperation attempt, Love's pass to the end zone was batted down, giving Chicago the win and ending Green Bay's season.

"This one is going to hurt for a really, really long time," said Packers head coach Matt LaFleur.

The ending of the game was a far cry from the beginning. In the first half, Green Bay looked dominant. After Chicago jumped out to a 3-0 lead, the Packers rattled off 21 straight points to go into halftime with Love looking as good as had all season.

Coming out of the half, that quickly changed though, as Chicago ramped up its defense and pass rush, effectively killing Green Bay's run game and making throws difficult for Love.

Coming out of halftime, Green Bay's first four pos



Final 2 minutes

Caleb Williams leads the Bears to 25 fourth-quarter points, the largest fourth quarter comeback in team history. Kingsley Enagbare reacts to the Bears' game-winning touchdown with less than two minutes to go.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS



WRAPUP, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Christian Watson, targeted with a Jordan Love pass, comes up empty on the Packers' final drive, ending the Packers' 2025 season.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS



Matt LaFleur walks the sidelines during the fourth quarter of the Packers 31-27 Wild Card loss to the Bears.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

Injuries, poor execution lead to 5-game losing streak

BY LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

As has been the case for each of the last 14 seasons for Green Bay, the Packers bowed out of the playoffs much earlier than anyone around the organization would have hoped.

After being up 21-6, Green Bay suffered a monumental collapse in the second half of its Wild Card matchup with the Chicago Bears, ultimately resulting in a 31-27 loss and ending the Packers' season. While Green Bay fans

and players have become used to falling short in the playoffs, having a season end against the team's biggest rival in a game that looked over at halftime may be one of the most heart-breaking losses in not only Matt LaFleur's tenure, but in Packers history.

"I am disappointed for everybody that is associated with the Green Bay Packers," said LaFleur. "I am disappointed for our locker room, I am disappointed for our fans, I am disappointed for our lead-

ership, all of our employees, everybody involved with the Green Bay Packers right now."

LaFleur is right to be disappointed, as Green Bay now enters what is sure to be a long offseason full of question marks surrounding the team.

The Packers have not won a divisional title since 2021 and have entered the NFL playoffs as the NFC's seventh seed in three straight seasons. While making the playoffs is certainly an accomplishment, for an organization as

prestigious as Green Bay, making the playoffs and losing as the seventh seed is not going to cut it.

That is where the questions start. What is next for a Packers organization that has seemingly stagnated under LaFleur, quarterback Jordan Love and general manager Brian Gutekunst?

When looking at the makeup of the team, Green Bay does have talent on the roster.

Next season, Micah

NEXT, CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Magical start melted away



Brandon McManus contributed to the special teams breakdown during Saturday's Wild Card loss to the Bears. McManus missed three kicks, including two field goals and an extra point.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

WRAPUP, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sessions of the second half totaled 14 plays, resulting in four punts. During Chicago's first four possessions of the second half, it combined for 13 points, bringing the difference to just five points.

"The second half – you just look back on it and we just couldn't get anything going," said Love. "We came out, a couple three-and-outs to start and it was really disappointing. It is lack of execution and finding ways to make plays that really just hurt us."

In the midst of Chicago's comeback, it was Golden who was able to provide his first real spark of the season for the Packers.

Following Chicago cutting the lead to five in the fourth quarter, Green Bay elected to shy away from the run game. This resulted in 40 yards on the drive for Romeo Doubs, setting up a first-and-10 for the Packers from the Chicago 23-yard line. Love completed a pass to the flat to Golden, who broke tackles and avoided defenders, scampering in for a 23-yard touchdown, the first of his NFL career.

Chicago matched with a touchdown and converted on a two-point attempt on its next possession bringing the score to within

three points. On Green Bay's ensuing possession, kicker Brandon McManus was set up with a 44-yard field goal. His attempt was missed, giving Chicago prime field position.

The miss for McManus was his third miss on the day (two field goals and one extra point). Chicago responded by working its way down the field and scoring the go-ahead touchdown with 1:43 remaining.

"One of those kicks was a long kick at the end of the half," said LaFleur, on McManus' struggles. "Obviously, the conditions are windy, but the difference was they made theirs and we did not."

McManus finished the game missing both of his field goal attempts, while converting three-of-four extra point attempts. Bears kicker Cairo Santos made all three of his field goal attempts and hit both his extra point attempts.

Love finished the game completing 24-of-46 passes for 323 yards, four touchdowns and no interceptions.

Doubs was the biggest benefactor of Love's day, as he finished the game with 124 yards and one touchdown on eight receptions. Golden had his best day as a pro as well,



First-round pick Matthew Golden scores his first NFL touchdown in the fourth quarter against the Bears. Jordan Love completed touchdowns to four different receivers during Saturday's loss in Chicago.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

finishing the game with 84 yards and a touchdown on four receptions. Reed and Christian Watson were the only other two pass catchers with multiple receptions, as both also found the end zone in the game.

In the run game, Josh Jacobs, who had been dealing with a knee injury toward the end of the regular season, finished the game with 55 yards on 19 carries.

For the Bears, quarterback Caleb Williams com-

pleted 24-of-48 passes for 361 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions.

Tight end Colston Love-land hauled in eight passes, finishing with 137 yards. D.J. Moore added another 64 yards and a touchdown

on six receptions, while Olamide Zaccheaus was the recipient of Williams' other touchdown pass.

Chicago's run game was somewhat neutralized, as D'Andre Swift was held to 54 yards and a touchdown on 13 carries, while Kyle Monagai mustered 27 yards on eight rushes.

With Green Bay's Super Bowl hopes ending in Chicago, it now marks 15 years since the Packers have participated in the Super Bowl and five years since it made an NFC Championship. Since Jordan Love became the starting quarterback for Green Bay, the Packers have entered every postseason as the seventh seed, not winning the NFC North since 2021.

"It's going to take a lot of work, a lot of work," said LaFleur, on how Green Bay gets over the hump for the future. "We are not where we want to be. I know we have fought through a lot of adversity this year; unfortunately, we didn't do enough to overcome that adversity. That's all of us collectively. We have to do more, we have to be better."

Green Bay will enter the 2026-27 season without a first-round draft pick, as the pick was a piece in the trade to land Micah Parsons.

NFL PLAYOFFS

NFL Wild Card Round
Saturday, Jan. 10
LA Rams 34, Carolina 31
Chicago 31, Green Bay 27

Sunday, Jan. 11
Buffalo 27, Jacksonville 24
San Francisco 23, Philadelphia 19
New England 16, LA Chargers 3

Monday, Jan. 12
Houston 30, Pittsburgh 6
NFL Divisional Round
Saturday, Jan. 17

Buffalo at Denver, 3:30 p.m.
San Francisco at Seattle, 7 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 18
Houston at New England, 2 p.m.

LA Rams at Chicago, 5:30 p.m.
NFL Conference Championships,
Sunday, Jan. 25
Super Bowl, Sunday, Feb. 8

NEXT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Parsons, Devonte Wyatt, Tucker Kraft and Elgton Jenkins will all be returning from season ending injuries, and players like Love, Josh Jacobs and Xavier McKinney have proven that they will produce when called upon, but what about everyone else?

In what feels like an endless loop, Green Bay has a problem at the defensive back position. Keisean Nixon, while he had moments of strong play, seems to be too inconsistent to be relied upon as the number one corner on this team. Carington Valentine is in a similar situation, where there have been flashes, but overall, it appears that opposing teams are not afraid of him.

The Packers attempted to remedy this issue before the playoffs by signing Trevon Diggs. It is unclear what Diggs' future will be in Green Bay as his cap hit for 2026 is just north of \$15 million and with no guaranteed money left on his deal, there is not a strong financial burden that is going to hit Green Bay if he is released.

Another issue that is seemingly never ending for the Packers is the lack of pass rush.

This issue is likely to resolve itself as Green Bay will have Micah Parsons, who may be a top five player in football, back next season, but coming off of an ACL tear, Parsons will need time to be worked back into the defense. With this being the case, or if Parsons were to suffer another injury next season, there is little confidence the Packers pass rush will be enough as it stands to make an impact.

After Parsons' injury in Week 15, Green Bay recorded just four combined sacks in four games. That just isn't going to



Micah Parson celebrates a sack of Pittsburgh quarterback Aaron Rodgers on Oct. 26. Parsons tore his ACL in Green Bay's loss to Denver on Dec. 14, and the Packers failed to win another game in the 2025 season. GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

cut it when the team does not have the secondary needed to cover some of the better offenses in the NFL.

On the offensive side of the ball, it certainly looks like offensive line depth is a major concern.

Outside of Jenkins and Zach Tom, it does not appear that Green Bay's offensive line is consistent enough to be relied upon in big games. Sean Rhyhan's versatility on the offensive line is an asset, but at this point in his career, he has worked better as a plug-and-place player rather

than a full-on starter. Aaron Banks certainly struggled this season after signing a \$77 million deal in the offseason, and Anthony Belton and Jordan Morgan are in a similar situation to Rhyhan where they are better as depth pieces.

It is no secret that injuries played a major factor in this season, as having Parsons, Jenkins, Kraft and Wyatt all season would have put the Packers in a better spot.

"I know we lost some key players, but you have to find a way to overcome

that, because I think we do have a lot of talent on our team and it's disappointing," said LaFleur.

While the noise surrounding LaFleur's future in Green Bay is the loudest that it has been since he has taken over, is that truly what is best for this team? Can bringing in a new coach next season help to jumpstart a franchise that can't get over the hump?

Maybe. What is certain though is that the Packers have a long offseason ahead with many questions to answer.

Wittenberg woman named finalist for FAN Hall of Fame

Ten finalists have been named in the search for the 28th member of the Packers FAN Hall of Fame, and voting has begun for fans to make the selection.

Among those finalists is Lorraine Mueller, of Wittenberg.

The first professional football team to have a hall of fame, the Green Bay Packers enhanced that distinction in 1998 by establishing a Packers FAN Hall of Fame. It was founded for the purpose of annually honoring a devout and longtime Packers fan.

Packers fans were asked to nominate themselves or a friend for the honor with an essay of 500 words or fewer, accompanied by a photo, explaining why he or she should be recognized. From those nominations, 10 finalists were selected by the Packers FAN Hall of Fame selection committee.

Joining Mueller as finalists are Jeff Goldapske, Appleton; Patrick Hare, Moreno Valley, California; Jeff Lanier, Green Bay; Mark Murphy, La Crosse; Dean Schmitz, Wausau; Daniel Schneider, Crystal Lake, Illinois; Valerie Ann Smickk, Yorkville, Illinois; Patrick Suplicki, Stevens Point; and Thomas Thrall, Durham, North Carolina.

Fans can read the finalists' profiles and vote online by visiting packers.com/fhof. The winner will be selected by Packers fans and the Packers' selection committee.

For Mueller' 102nd birthday on Sept. 4, 2025, she received a box from the Packers containing a hat, a blanket and an auto-



Wittenberg's Lorraine Mueller is among 10 finalists to be named as the 28th member of the Packers FAN Hall of Fame, and voting has begun for fans to make the selection. At 102, Mueller has been to many Packer games. CONTRIBUTED

graphed Packer football.

She has been to many Packer games, but for the last nine years, she has been confined to the Homme Home due to a stroke.

Packers game day is the highlight of her week. She paints her nails in green and gold and dresses in a Packers hat and clothes. Mueller also wears Packers jewelry that she makes. She has made more than 3000 necklaces, bracelets, leaves and gnomes. She gives these away and also sells them for \$1. This is how she spends her day.

She is deaf in both ears and a stroke took her sight in one eye. She makes all the jewelry with just one eye.

The voting deadline is 11:59 p.m. Jan. 31. Voters will be entered into a random drawing to win Packers merchandise.

The honoree's selection will be announced in late February.

Past local winners include John Brosig, of Pound, in 2024, and John Breske, of Elderon, in 2022.



Tucker Kraft was like a man possessed in Week 8 against the Pittsburgh. Steelers with 143 yards and two touchdowns. The next week, against Carolina, he tore his ACL and missed the rest of the season. GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

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MOMENTS

CHICAGO BEARS 31, GREEN BAY PACKERS 27



The Packers second half offensive struggles included poor offensive line execution leading to Jordon Love under constant pressure and two intentional grounding penalties and a fourth quarter pass to lineman Darian Kinnard.
GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

News of the Weird

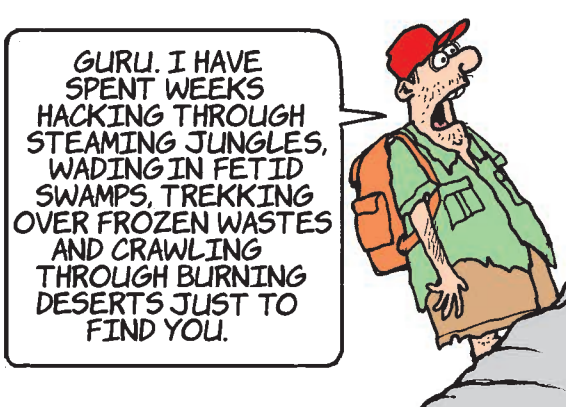
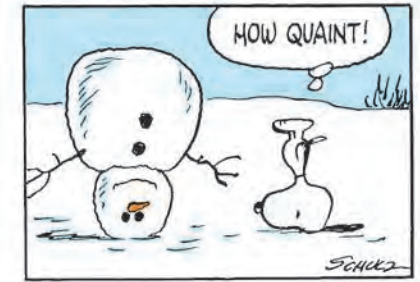
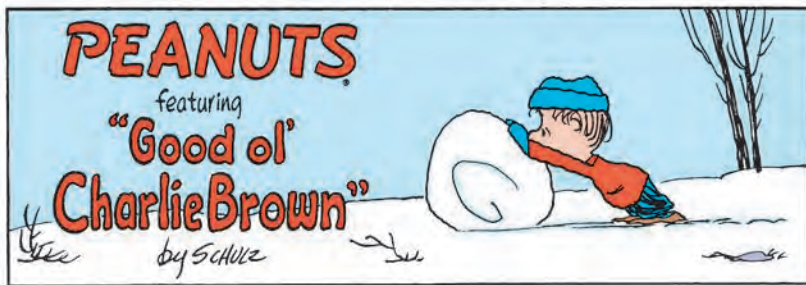
Tom Pelissero of the NFL Network posted on social media that Kinnard is unofficially the first offensive lineman in NFL history with a catch, two broken tackles, a fumble and a 15-yard punt on the same play.

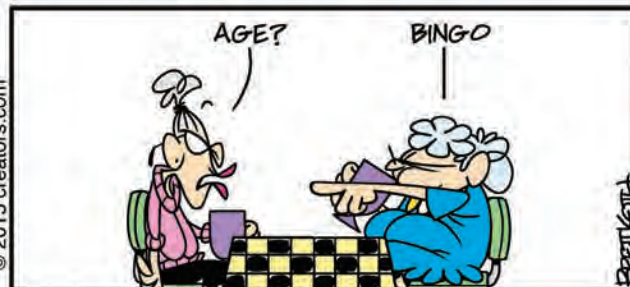
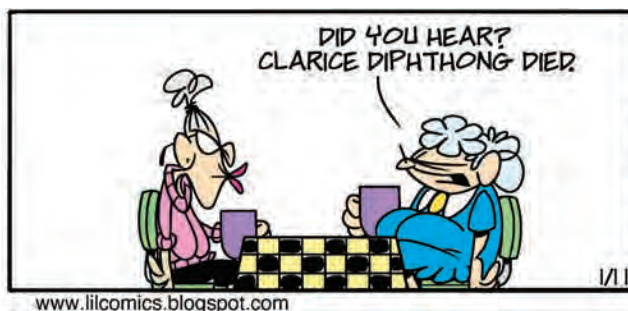
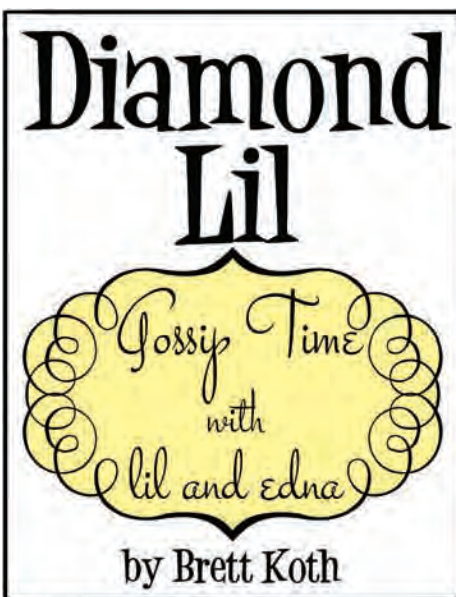
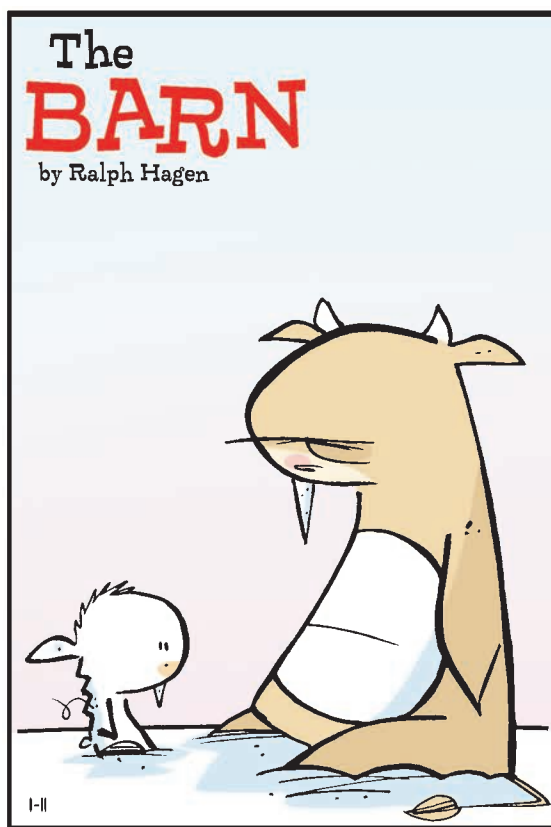
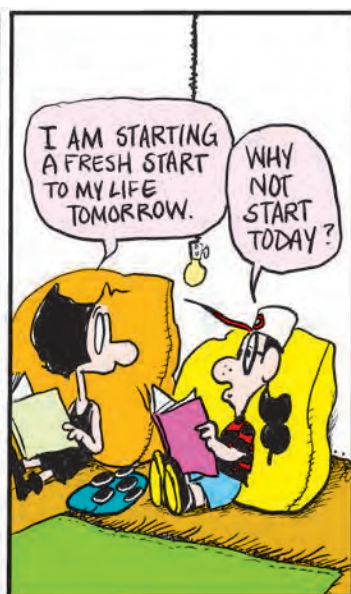
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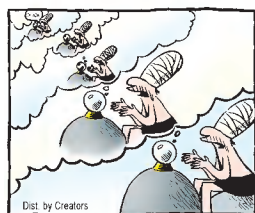
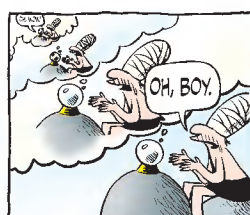
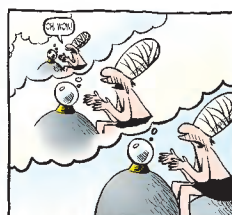
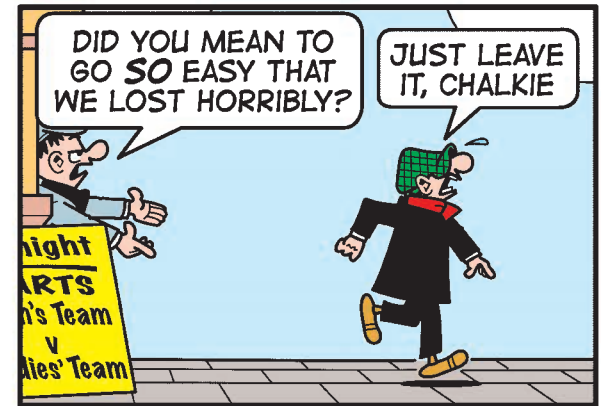
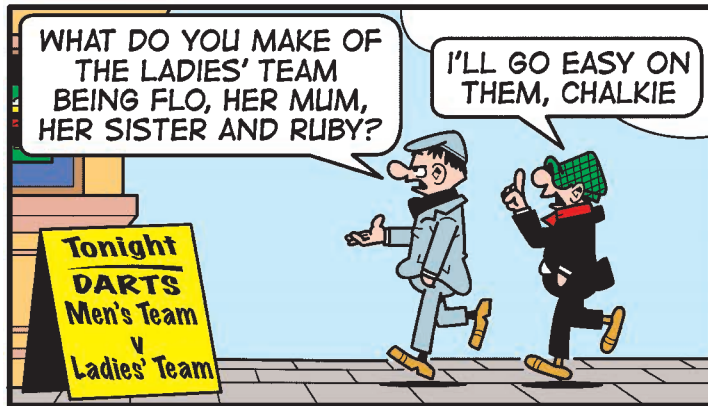
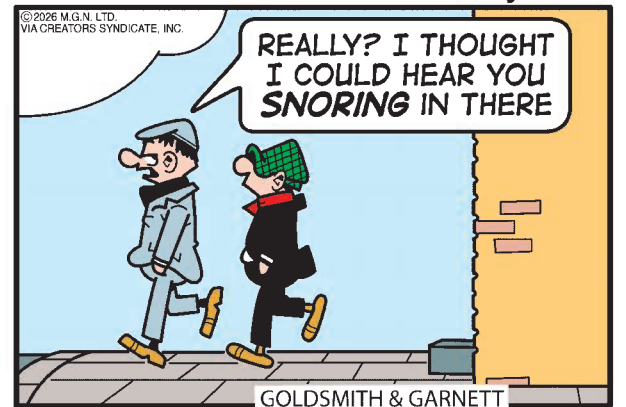
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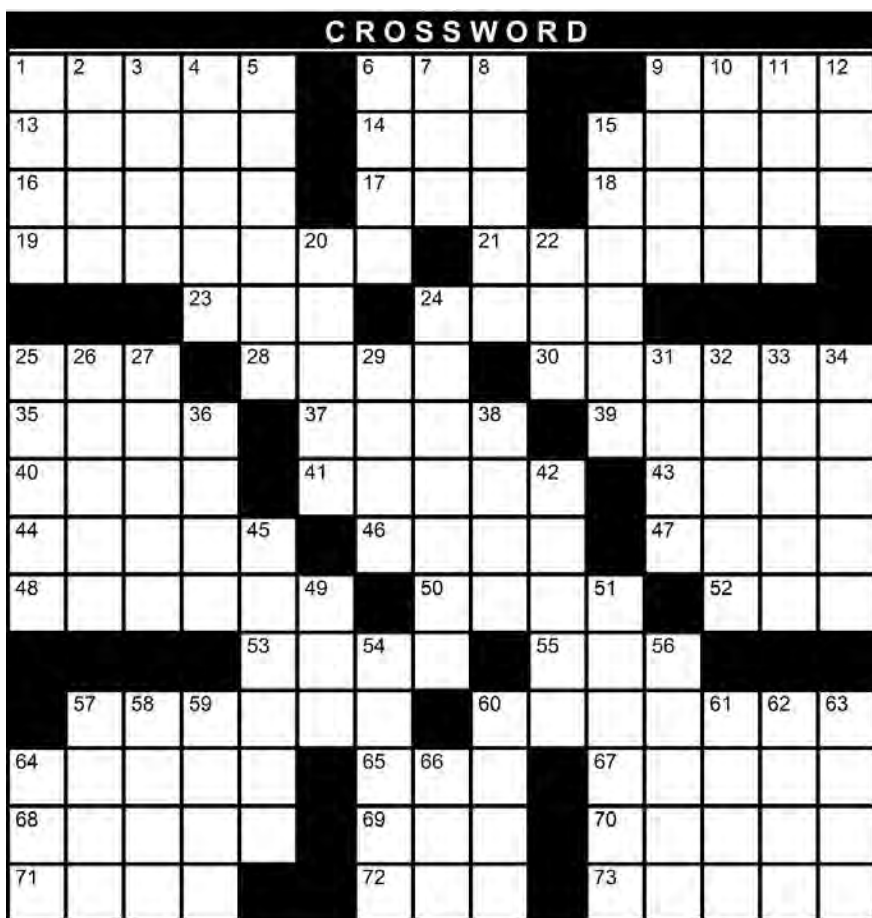
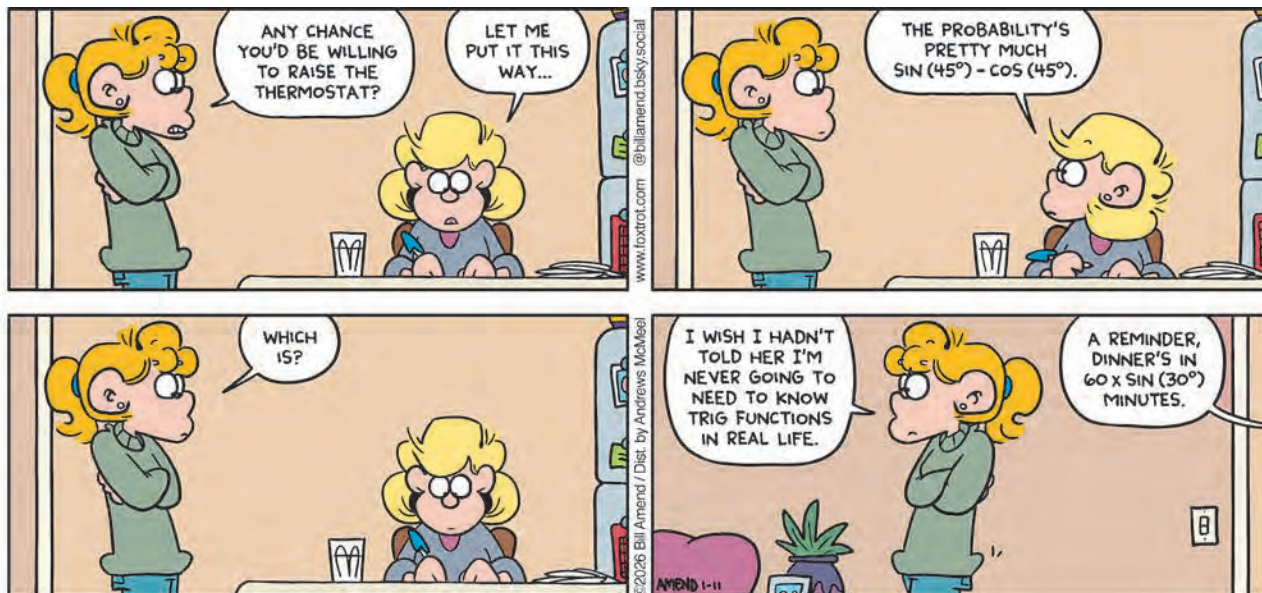
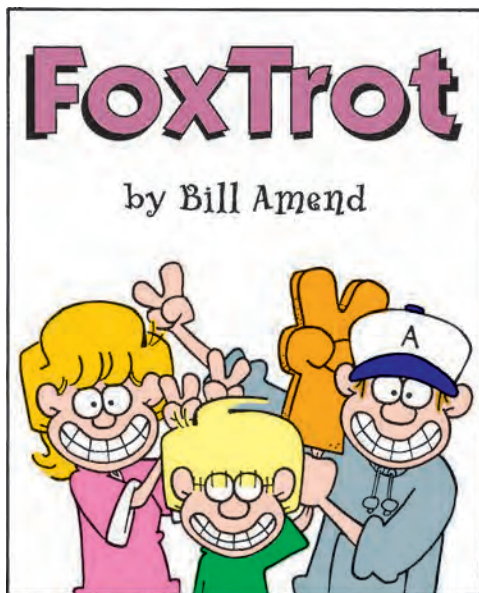


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THEME: THE GRAMMYS

ACROSS

1. Inundated
6. Word before humbug
9. Jim Carrey's 1994 disguise
13. Rough, as in voice
14. Kimono sash
15. Misrepresent
16. Do like ivy
17. Go for the bronze?
18. Poem of lament
19. *Grammy nominee Bad Bunny's first language
21. *KPop Demon Hunters' nominated song
23. Sought at crime scene
24. Lord's worker
25. Rob Manfred's org.
28. Jab, in speech
30. *_.com Arena
35. Rowboat engine, pl.
37. _ gum, ingredient
39. Cowboy's cry of joy
40. Big attraction
41. Spring holiday honoree
43. Live bait
44. Daytime moth
46. Puerto follower
47. Finger move
48. Colonnade
50. Invitation letters
52. "Zip it!"
53. Trash bag brand
55. Polar helper
57. *Lady Gaga's nominated album
60. *Tyler of CHROMAKOPIA, with The
64. Prejudiced one
65. Busy one
67. Do penance
68. Approves
69. Make a mistake
70. Sans- font
71. "I, Claudius" role
72. Jack and Jill did this
73. Changes to a manuscript

DOWN

1. Parentheses, e.g.
2. "Star Trek" speed
3. Away from port
4. Not be frugal
5. What TikTokers are often doing
6. This and that
7. Legal grp.
8. Door holder
9. Mix together
10. Away from wind

11. Leo or Libra, e.g.
12. *Wonder's "Songs in the ____ of Life," Album of Year (1977)
15. Where bats are?
20. Eurasian goat-like antelope
22. Middle-earth dweller
24. Pelican or albatross, e.g.
25. Person in an ad
26. One of Florida Keys
27. Health food pioneer of liquid aminos fame
29. *Nominated "Drop Dead Years" comedian Bill ____
31. Swerves
32. Sound units
33. Synagogue scroll
34. Zing or pizzazz
36. *Justin Bieber's nominated song
38. Fabled fliers
42. Red one, send somebody over!
45. Unalienable ones are in the Declaration of Independence
49. Draft pick
51. Give satisfaction
54. Spot for prehistoric fly
56. Doomed
57. *MCA, Ad-Rock and ____ D, Grammy-winning Beastie Boys
58. Culture-growing turf
59. Walk-the-dog toy
60. What concerning and discernable have in common
61. *Nine-time Grammy-nominated Amos
62. Fonzie's comeback: "Sit ____"
63. Whistle blowers
64. *Iver of SABLE, fABLE fame
66. Historical period

