



Steve Janesch takes a look at the meat display at Mike's Super Market in Townsend. Janesch, who has worked at the store since he was 9 years old, and his wife, Shelly, are closing the store Oct. 31 after operating it for 29 years. GREG SEUBERT

Townsend's only grocery store to close doors Oct. 31

Janesches: Independent grocers hobbled by increased overhead

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

It's the end of an era in Townsend. Mike's Super Market, the northern Oconto County community's only grocery store, will close its doors Oct. 31 after more than 40 years in the Janesch family.

Steve and Shelly Janesch have operated the store since 1997 and their sons, Clayton and Carter, worked there, as well as Steve's brother, John. Steve and John's parents, Mike and Marge Janesch, had purchased the store, located at 17887 State Highway 32, in 1982.

Shelly Janesch said the writing has been on the wall for years.

"It's hard for independent grocers to make a go of it anymore," she said. "You

STORE, continued on page 21



A real estate sign has stood outside of Mike's Super Market on State Highway 32 in Townsend for the past three years. GREG SEUBERT

Tiffany's 9/11 education call baffles schools

Superintendents say class discussions about event already take place

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

U.S. Rep. Tom Tiffany, in his bid to become Wisconsin's next governor, used the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks to call for legislation that requires schools to teach students about 9/11, including the terrorist attacks, the people who lost their lives and what happened after that fateful day.

"Twenty-five years ago, America was forever changed when terrorists attacked our country," Tiffany said in a press release. "We must never forget the 2,977 innocent lives taken, the first responders who ran toward danger, the passengers of Flight 93 who fought back, and the Americans who answered the call to serve our country in the years that followed."

That has area school leaders scratching their heads, as schools are already doing that. Nathan Hanson, Gillett School District superintendent, pointed out that state statute 118.02 already calls for schools to observe 9/11 on that day or close to it if the day falls on a weekend.

"We started the day with a remembrance and moment of silence," Hanson said. "Our secondary physical education classes did a stair climb at our stadium to honor the first responders of 9/11. All social studies classes held discussions based around the events of 9/11. Elementary classes also had lessons."

Hanson added that the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has provided instructional resources to help teachers provide a full account of 9/11 at <https://dpi.wi.gov/news/dpi-connected/resources/observance-september-11th-terrorist-attacks>.

"I appreciate that the DPI has collected and provided these free resources for schools to use in our instruction," Hanson said.

Wittenberg-Birnhamwood School District Superintendent Garrett Rogowski noted that social studies classes also discussed 9/11 in detail on the anniversary, but his district went one step further the day before.

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INSIDE

Darleen Sturleen latest Panther to get into hall of fame.

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Hinze makes 2nd attempt for Assembly seat

Affordable housing among top issues she'll champion

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

Shirley Hinze's first try to defeat Rep. Elijah Behnke for the 6th Assembly District seat ended with a loss, but she believes the current state of matters in Wisconsin and the United States requires someone with her sensibilities in the state capitol, so she's trying again to make it happen.

Hinze, a Democrat from Shawano, will face off against Behnke in the Nov. 3 general election to represent a district that includes most of Shawano County, all of Menominee County, the southwest segment of Oconto County and slivers of Waupaca and Outagamie counties. In an interview with NEW Media, Hinze said she sees higher prices on food, gasoline, healthcare and more making it difficult for friends, neighbors and complete strangers to live happily.

"This isn't just politics anymore," Hinze said. "People are being hurt. Lives are shifting. That's why I'm running again at my age."

Being a Democrat and 70 years old might seem like a steep hill to climb in an area that has two hard-red counties, but Hinze believes the woes aren't just limited to independents and people in her own party, noting that she's heard from Republicans who are unhappy with everything costing more.

"I'm looking at the future generations of this community and the country as a whole," Hinze



Shirley Hinze is making a second attempt to represent the 6th Assembly District, vowing to make affordable housing and cost of living top priorities if she's elected to the legislature.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

said. "I'm seeing people in my age group having to struggle financially when it should be their golden years. We're back to families now having to juggle with aging parents because that retirement income for mom and dad has been reduced while paying for college tuition and seeing a reduction in your own wages."

Affordable housing is a key issue Hinze wants to address if elected to office. She noted the matter has been brought up by aldermen in Shawano, and she believes the problem can be linked to state laws about requirements with communities having to allot for a percentage of greenspace in the municipal boundaries, a

percentage for residential property and a percentage for businesses.

"What's happening is we have corporate real state buying up land around our communities and putting in development where there's a limited amount of space to put up affordable housing," Hinze said. "What I can do, once elected, is have communities approach the state to waive the greenspace allowance to use for affordable housing. There are different programs that can be utilized."

Hinze noted tax increment districts are helping municipalities to bring developers for residential and business infrastructure, but it results in

local governments paying to promote subdivisions where housing is out of the price range for many residents. She said the matter isn't just a crisis in the 6th Assembly District, but all over.

"Affordable housing is something that can be done, but it only can happen if you get me elected so I can, on the floor, bring this matter up and have the state waive certain mandates," Hinze said. "Every community in this state is hurting for affordable housing."

Cost-of-living is another matter that has people in the district all fired up, according to Hinze. Shawano County is an aging county, as is Oconto County, she noted, and said the

tariffs implemented by President Donald Trump have destroyed farming communities, and current plans to import beef from other countries cuts into farmers' income.

"This undercuts even our dairy herds," Hinze said. "A dairy farmer rotates non-productive milking cows into the beef market that goes into the slaughterhouses and produces ground beef, etc. Now, Mr. Trump is bringing all this beef in. What is that going to do for that mega-farmer's profit?"

Hinze claimed that her opponent, Behnke, has made little effort to appear before people in the district, unless they are events orchestrated by the Republican Party, she said.

"Mr. Behnke only shows up for a photo op," Hinze said. "I am a constituent, first and foremost. I haven't seen hide nor hair of him here for two years doing local speaking events unless it's controlled by the local Republican party."

The budget surplus, which has sat idle for years, needs to be drawn down, in Hinze's view. She noted that the state should have a board that manages it through grants to communities for assorted projects.

Hinze also vowed to take on the school voucher program that allows families to enroll in private and parochial schools, with some of the school taxes going to pay children's tuition. She said the program siphons public school money away, making it difficult to provide education for the children who remain in the public system.

"Those voucher programs pay the school to educate your kid, but they don't pay for busing and transportation," Hinze said. "If you're a voucher parent, you have to get that kid to the school."

Hinze said she plans to make laws through compassion and empathy by pushing her constituents' agenda through the Assembly, not strictly what the Democratic Party wants done. She said she would say no to her party to items that go against her constituents' wishes.

"This isn't just a job," she said. "This isn't my agenda, and it's not my agenda when I am elected and representing the people in Madison. The only agenda to present is that of the people of this community. Period."

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"This isn't my agenda, and it's not my agenda when I am elected and representing the people in Madison. The only agenda to present is that of the people of this community. Period."

SHIRLEY HINZE, Democratic candidate for 6th Assembly District

Gillett cutting ribbon for highway, playground

The Gillett Area Chamber of Commerce will join residents, businesses and visitors in a special community celebration as the community officially marks the completion of a highway improvement project and the opening of a new playground with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The event will take place from 4:30-6 p.m. Oct. 16 at Zippel Park, 150 N. McKenzie St., Gillett.

The event will celebrate the completion of the year-long project to upgrade state Highway 22 in the city of Gillett. It will also celebrate the new playground at Zippel, where equipment that was over 70 years old was replaced to the tune of \$1 million – paid for through a Community Development Block Grant.

The event will feature music,

food, guest speakers, a Cub Scout flag presentation, kids' activities, a historical display highlighting changes in the area and the unveiling of a new banner display. The program will recognize the partnerships, dedication and vision that helped bring these projects to life.

"This celebration is about more than cutting a ribbon," said Christopher Byars, chamber

president. "It is an opportunity to recognize the progress we've made together and the investments that will benefit residents, businesses and families for years to come."

The improved highway supports safer travel and stronger connections throughout the area, while the new playground provides a welcoming space for children and families to gather,

play and create lasting memories. Together, these projects reflect the community's commitment to growth, accessibility and a bright future.

"We are excited to bring the community together to celebrate these accomplishments," said Byars. "This event honors both where we have been and where we are headed as a community."

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Stutleen named to OFHS Wall of Fame

1948 graduate spends much of her life teaching others, including in Oconto Falls

Darleen Stutleen will be the latest inductee as the Oconto Falls School District celebrates the 30th anniversary of the Oconto Falls High School Wall of Fame.

Stutleen embodies a lifetime of dedication to education, community service and Panther pride. A graduate of Oconto Falls High School's class of 1948, she began her educational journey at Kelly Brook School before continuing to OFHS, where she distinguished herself as both a student and leader. During her senior year, she was selected as the 1948 homecoming queen and was voted invitational track queen, representing Oconto Falls among 17 participating schools.

Inspired by her mother, Stutleen pursued a career in education by attending Marinette Teachers Normal and later continuing her studies at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. She began what would become a 37-year teaching career where she taught at Spruce School and Kadlec's School before serving the Oconto Falls School District as a substitute teacher for many years, providing short- and long-term instruction at schools including Kelly Lake, Busy Nook, Messenger Creek, Little Suamico, Jefferson, Washington Elementary, Abrams and Spruce.



DARLEEN STUTLEEN

Stutleen concluded her career with 11 years as a sixth-grade teacher at St. Anthony's School, retiring in 1987. Throughout her career, she also provided in-home instruction for students recovering from illness or injury, ensuring every child had the opportunity to succeed. Known for her enthusiasm, compassion and unwavering commitment to excellence, Stutleen influenced the lives of hundreds of students.

Her commitment to young people extended far beyond the school day. As a 4-H member and later a leader with the Kelly Brook and Spruce clubs, she mentored countless youths while sharing the skills and values that shaped her own childhood. She earned two blue ribbons at the Wisconsin State Fair for demonstrations in Danish pastry and milk pasteurization.

She has also been a lifelong member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Spruce, where she served as a Sunday school teacher, Vacation Bible School volunteer and member of the Ladies Aid since 1950.

An accomplished golfer, Stutleen helped clear and develop the land that became River Island Golf Course and captured the 1971 Ladies' Championship Flight title. She also enjoyed competitive

bowling, card playing, travel and outdoor recreation.

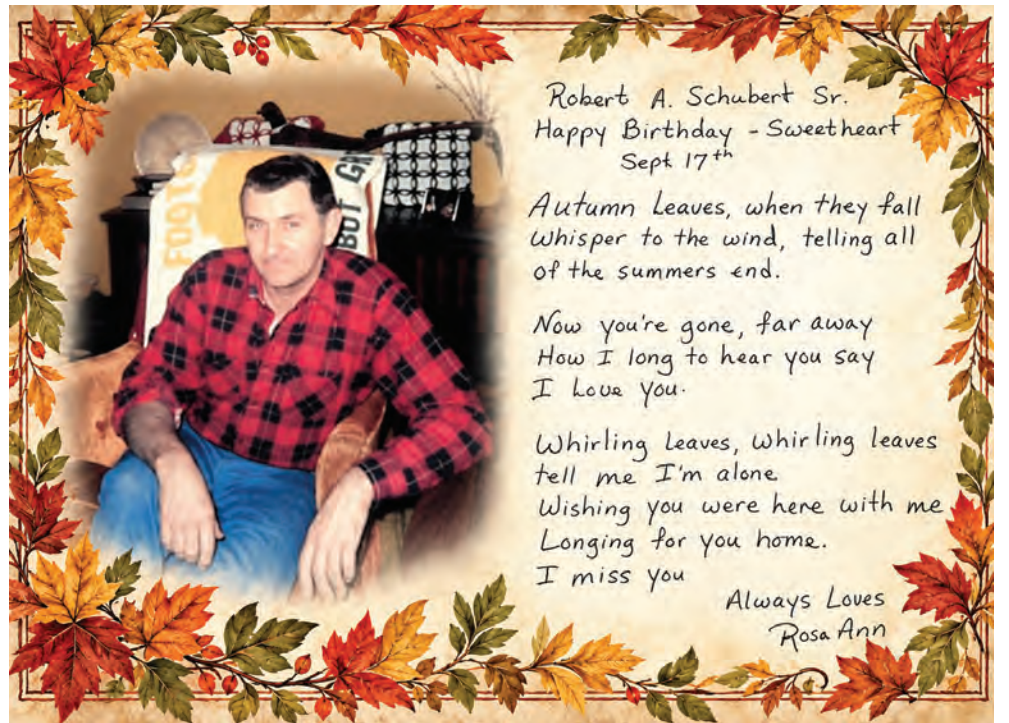
Her travels have taken her to all 50 states, Europe, Latin America, Hawaii, the Caribbean and Israel, where walking the path of Jesus in Jerusalem became one of her most cherished experiences.

A devoted Green Bay Packers fan, Stutleen attended countless games, including the Packers' historic 1966 NFL Championship victory in Dallas.

Known affectionately as Sparkly Grandma for her signature sequined outfits and joyful personality, she has inspired generations of family, friends, students and community members through her optimism, confidence and servant's heart.

OFHS will honor Stutleen at its homecoming football game. The induction ceremony will be held at 3 p.m. Oct. 3 in the school commons.

Established in 1996, the OFHS Wall of Fame was created to honor exceptional alumni who have demonstrated outstanding professional success, civic achievement, leadership and service to their communities. For three decades, this tradition has celebrated the accomplishments of Panther graduates whose dedication and contributions have made a meaningful difference in the lives of others.



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Negativity topic for mental health event

The Healthy Oconto County Coalition will hold a special men's mental health event from 5-8 p.m. Oct. 22 at Romy's Holiday Inn, 9600 County Road G, Suring.

The evening will feature a presentation by Dr. Michael Weber titled "Learn How to Deal with Negative People and Keep from Becoming Negative Yourself." Weber will share practical strategies for managing difficult relationships, maintaining a positive mindset and building resilience in everyday life.

Mental health challenges affect individuals

of all ages and backgrounds, yet men, specifically, are less likely to seek support or openly discuss their struggles. This event aims to create a welcoming environment where they can learn valuable tools for improving emotional well-being while connecting with others.

The event includes dinner and the presentation, with tickets costing \$25 per person. Attendees will also have the opportunity to win door prizes and giveaways generously donated by local businesses. Community members interested in attending are encouraged

to register early, as seating may be limited. Register at t.ly/lRpsY and find more information about the event on the Healthy Oconto County Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/HealthyOCTeam>

The Healthy Oconto County Coalition is committed to ensuring that financial circumstances do not prevent anyone from attending. Sponsorships are available for individuals who may find the registration cost to be a barrier by reaching out to Brenda Rehberg at 920-835-1101 or brenda.rehberg@emplyhealth.org.

DIXIE

Dixie has a wonderful personality that truly shines once she's had time to build trust. She can be a bit shy when meeting new people, but her loyalty and affection are worth the wait.

KAREN

Karen is a 2 year old cat with a strong personality. She is very confident around the shelter and has made great friends with the staff. She would prefer a calmer home and few visitors. She is suited for an adopter who understands catitude!

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Panel puts brakes on data centers
Members of the Shawano County Planning, Development and Zoning Committee voted unanimously June 3 to halt development of data centers for the next 12 months.



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New wheelchair recliners
expand access to dental care

NorthLakes Community Clinic is making dental care more accessible for patients with mobility needs.

New specialized wheelchair recliners have been added at NorthLakes dental clinics in Ashland, Hayward and Oconto. The equipment allows patients to remain safe in their own wheelchair while it is positioned and reclined for dental treatment, reducing or eliminating the need to transfer into a traditional dental chair.

The Compact Wheelchair Recliners are designed to accommodate manual and powered wheelchairs. Their wide entrance can accommodate a range of wheelchair sizes and configurations, including the needs of bariatric patients. The platform reclines the patient while they remain seated in their own wheelchair, helping position them comfortably for dental treatment.

For patients who cannot safely transfer to a dental chair, receiving care directly from a wheelchair can otherwise make positioning difficult for the patient and dental team. The new equipment allows providers to position patients more comfortably for treatment, helping make appointments safer, more comfortable and more efficient.

“For patients who have difficulty transferring from their wheelchair, something as simple as getting into a dental chair can become a barrier to care,” said Candace Anderson, NorthLakes dental program manager. “These



NorthLakes Community Clinic staff demonstrate one of the new specialized wheelchair recliners installed at the Oconto clinic. The equipment allows patients to remain safe in their own wheelchair while it is positioned and reclined for dental treatment, reducing or eliminating the need to transfer into a traditional dental chair.

CONTRIBUTED

recliners allow patients to remain in the chair they’re comfortable in while helping our dental teams provide care safely and effectively.”

The three new wheelchair recliners build on NorthLakes’ experience with similar equipment already in use at its Turtle Lake Clinic. Positive feedback from patients and providers there helped demonstrate the value of expanding the equipment to additional communities.

The investment is especially important in northern Wisconsin, where many of the communities NorthLakes serves have higher percentages of residents with mobility disabilities than the statewide average. It also supports NorthLakes’ mission to actively remove barriers to wellness and make quality dental care accessible to more people.

“Access to healthcare means making sure our services work for the people in the communities we serve,” said Ana Tochtermann, NorthLakes CEO. “These new recliners are a practical investment that removes a barrier and helps more people receive the dental care they need, close to home.”

Funding for the new equipment was provided by the Delta Dental of Wisconsin Foundation.



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To apply, send a cover letter and samples of work (if any) to City Editor Lee Pulaski at lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com.

Warm way to help those in the cold



Visitors peruse the ceramic bowls painted and provided for Shawano Area Matthew 25 during the Empty Bowls, Caring Hearts fundraiser Sept. 19 at Shawano Community High School. The event helps Shawano Area Matthew 25 to operate its emergency shelter, which opens again in October, and health clinic, which operates year-round. LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA



Musicians Randy Bruce, left, and Joel Kroenke provide a little music to go with the soup lunch, Sept. 19 that was part of the Empty Bowls, Caring Hearts fundraiser at Shawano Community High School. LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA



Raffle baskets were plentiful as local residents looked around Sept. 19 during the Empty Bowls, Caring Hearts fundraiser at Shawano Community High School. LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

Work culture improving with county

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

deciding to stay, another positive sign.

It's taken some time, but things are looking up for the human resources department of Shawano County government.

Director Julie Hasser told executive committee members Sept. 16 that the culture for employees is definitely improving.

"I think good things we're seeing are some of the areas that we're focusing on. We're actually seeing numbers that we reinforce what we're trying to do," she said. "We've been really talking culture and trying to create a better environment for our employees, and that over the last two years has gone down 2 percentage points, which is really great."

She also noted there are fewer employees leaving due to pay and schedules.

"Seeing, combined, a 4% decrease in those two areas is really huge, because it means that the decisions you're making are having a direct impact on our employees," she said.

The number of employees retiring is also declining, which indicates long-term employees are

In August, the county had only one resignation and one termination, equivalent to 0.5% of its workforce, its lowest percentage in the past 12 months.

She said a 20% annual turnover rate is traditionally considered a high rate, which is where the county was at in 2024-25. In 2025-26, that rate dropped to 17%.

"We're doing a really, really great job with that," Hasser said.

She also noted the turnover rate is flattening out, meaning it's more consistent and controllable.

Hasser would like to get the turnover rate below 15% and even closer to 10%.

She said a high monthly turnover is a hidden cost to the county.

"We can't put a dollar sign on it from a budgeting standpoint, but the ripple effect of high turnover rates are felt across the board," she said. "It's also felt across culture and employee engagement."

Supervisor Kathy Luebke said the morale among employees is definitely better, and it can be seen from the outside.

Bonduel High named T-Mobile contest winner

Bonduel High School was named a T-Mobile's Friday Night 5G Lights \$5,000 Fridays winner in week 6 of the company's national program built around high school football and community pride.

These funds are theirs to allocate how they see fit, whether it's supporting their academics, athletes or the broader school community.

Now in its third season, Friday Night 5G Lights

will award more than \$8.4 million in prizes to high schools in towns with under 150,000 people. Bonduel stands to win \$25,000 if selected as one of the program's 40 division finalists; \$250,000 if voted one of four division champions; and the ultimate grand prize – a full football field transformation valued at \$1 million.

Bonduel is one of 20 schools in Wisconsin to win \$5,000 so far this year.

School renamed for Ada Deer

A school in the Madison Metropolitan School District now carries the name of Ada Deer Elementary School, named for the prominent Menominee scholar, activist, and civil servant.

The school board decision was announced Aug. 24. Three schools were given name changes, including the former Conrad A. Elvehjem Elementary School.

The name change is effective with the 2026-27 academic year.

As the force behind the Menominee Restoration Act, Deer won back federally recognized status and

sovereignty for the tribe. She would go on to become the first woman to lead the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Deer was also the first member of the Menominee Tribe to earn an undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the first Native American to receive a master of social work degree from the Columbia University School of Social Work, the first woman to chair the Menominee Tribe in Wisconsin and the first Indigenous woman in Wisconsin to run for United States Congress.

City looking at deal with Marion Body Works

Company needs more space for product while looking at expansion

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

The city of Shawano is working to give Marion Body Works a little more breathing room with its local operation.

The Shawano Industrial and Commercial Development Committee on Sept. 17 signed off on a deal that would lease 5 acres of a 32-acre parcel of city land to Marion as a place to put vehicle chassis, as the existing building is not big enough to keep up with demand.

City Administrator Eddie Sheppard said the company is "bursting at the seams" after renovating and moving into the former Owens Flooring building at the Bay Lakes Industrial Park a couple

of years ago and needs a temporary space to put extra chassis. The deal would be for a single five-year term at a cost to Marion of \$10,000 annually, although Sheppard noted a few final details still need to be worked out.

"The exterior is literally full of product, because they're having a really good run as a company," Sheppard said. "They reached out, and they're looking for some additional space for their equipment."

The deal also provides for a first right of refusal for the first three years of the lease in the event that Marion wants to expand its operation. Sheppard noted that the company is looking at potentially building a larger facility on

the city land, but nothing has been finalized.

"They've offered to buy the current facility, but the owner is not willing to sell," Sheppard said. "The building is suiting their needs right now, but they're thinking about expanding long term."

Sheppard noted the deal benefits the city in the here and now with money for the land and could result in a bigger influx of money in the future. He said that if Marion decides to buy the land, the lease fees would be deducted from the property price.

"There's some skin in the game," Sheppard said.

He added that the deal provides an opening for furthering good relations with a local business.

"If you're approving this lease, you're essentially looking at this and saying, 'Yeah, long term if everything works out with Marion Body, building a new facility on those 32 acres is a good use of that space,'" Sheppard said.

Currently, the remaining 27 acres is being utilized for farmland, according to Sheppard, so there is some revenue coming in.

Mayor Bruce Milavitz supported the deal, noting that if Marion decides not to purchase the land, the city can look for other options.

"If they haven't committed after three years, we can start marketing it," Milavitz said.

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ThedaCare encourages balance as school resumes

Juggling school club activities, music lessons, sports, homework and social events can leave families feeling stretched thin. ThedaCare has advice for parents and caregivers trying to balance their children's activities with family well-being.

"It's not uncommon for overscheduling to occur," said Hannah Gracyalny, ThedaCare nurse practitioner. "It often happens through the good intention of wanting to help kids become well-rounded, but having too little free time can take a toll."

The beginning of the school year is an ideal time to take inventory of children's schedules, she said.

"Ask yourself if the load is realistic, and remember that letting a few obligations go could improve quality of life for both you and your child," Gracyalny said.

Activity overload can creep in for many reasons, Gracyalny said.

"Sometimes it sneaks up when we sign up for more and more until suddenly you realize you don't have a free day all week," she said. "Other times, kids may drive it. For example, they may want to participate in both basketball and volleyball."

In some cases, overscheduling may be driven by a parent or caregiver's desire to set their child up for future success, Gracyalny said. That can include encouraging participation in numerous activities and providing a



HANNAH GRACYALNY

wide range of experiences. Families may also fill their children's schedules out of concern that too much free time could lead to boredom.

"It's understandable to want to keep kids engaged in enriching activities," she said. "It's also important to build in time for rest and unstructured play and, yes, even boredom."

Though it's often seen as a negative, boredom can help kids in several ways, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. These include honing creativity and imagination and building independence and problem-solving skills.

It can be easy to dismiss the need for free time, but it's important for children of all ages – from toddlers to teens.

For young children, unstructured play is critical, according to the American Psychological Association. This type of free play bolsters children's physical, emotional, mental and social health. It also helps them develop creativity, problem solving and critical thinking, while at the same time allowing them to determine what they're interested in.

"Make time for unstructured play in your child's day and consider

getting in on the fun with them," Gracyalny said. "Engaging in play with your child helps build your relationship and encourages healthy attachment."

Enriching unstructured activities can include drawing, arts and crafts, biking, hands-on play with toys and reading.

As the stresses of school and activities mount, building in downtime is also important for older children and teens, Gracyalny said. They need opportunities to rest their minds and bodies and to spend time with friends.

A child may not verbalize that they are overwhelmed, Gracyalny said. Signs of burnout can appear in several ways including through irritability, mood swings or anxiety; poor or worsening school performance; loss of interest in favorite activities; and physical symptoms such as headaches, stomachaches and difficulty sleeping.

Each child and family is unique. There's no simple formula for determining the right amount of downtime. The APA recommends trying to ensure kids have at least two or three days a week that are free of back-to-back time commitments.

People with questions about the right balance of activities for their children are encouraged to schedule an appointment with a pediatrician or ask at their child's next well visit.



Sacred Heart Catholic School student McCoy Miller poses next to a bush at the school during a nature scavenger hunt. CONTRIBUTED

Nature focus of Sacred Heart scavenger hunt

Third grade students at Sacred Heart Catholic School recently took their learning outdoors during an exciting science scavenger hunt around the school campus.

The hands-on activity gave students the opportunity to explore areas beyond the classroom, including the blacktop and playground, while observing the natural world around them. Armed with curiosity and enthusiasm, students searched for signs of life and discovered a variety of insects and

creatures – including ants, beetles and moths, as well as intricate spider webs.

The scavenger hunt provided an engaging way to connect science lessons with real-world observation. Students were excited to investigate their surroundings, ask questions and learn more about the living organisms that share their environment.

By combining outdoor exploration with scientific discovery, the activity encouraged curiosity, teamwork and a deeper appreciation for nature.

Toothpaste teaches lesson about clean words

First grade students at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Shawano recently learned an important lesson about the power of their words through a hands-on activity called Toothpaste Words.

The students squeezed toothpaste onto plates and then attempted to put it back into the tube. As they discovered, once the toothpaste is out, it is nearly impossible to put it all back in.

This simple activity helped students understand a powerful truth – hurtful words are a lot like toothpaste. Once mean or unkind words leave mouths, people cannot take them back. Even when they apologize, the words can still leave a mark on someone's heart.

Together, the class talked about how God calls everyone to treat others with kindness, respect and love. They discussed the



Sacred Heart Catholic School students Braylin Pasek-Maloney and River Ledvina try to put some of their words made in toothpaste back in the tube. CONTRIBUTED

importance of thinking before they speak, choosing

encouraging words and remembering that every

person is a child of God deserving of kindness.

Steffen proposes screen-free classrooms for youngest students

State Rep. David Steffen, R-Howard, announced he will introduce legislation in the coming session that will establish screen-free classrooms through the second grade.

The proposal builds upon recently enacted efforts to curb technology in classrooms, such as 2025 Act 42, which prohibited use of cell phones during instructional time.

"The research is clear; our youngest students have the least to gain from

screens in the classroom and the most to lose," said Steffen, whose district includes part of Oconto County. "Prioritizing digital learning over hands-on activities comes at a cost, especially during early development. Studies show that everything from language skills to attention span to math and reading outcomes are compromised by screen time during younger years."

The bill mirrors the position of the American

Federation of Teachers, the second-largest teachers union in the U.S. and their Devices Down, Eyes Up, Hands-On proposal.

Under the bill, prekindergarten through second grade classrooms will be screen-free, aside from limited exceptions related to standardized assessments, computer science requirements and supporting students with special needs.

Utah and Alabama have recently enacted

similar legislation.

"Beyond all the studies and research, I've had candid conversations with teachers in our community who have expressed their real concern for our kids and the impact of too much technology too soon," Steffen said.

The legislation will be formally introduced in the 2027-28 legislative session and incorporates a delayed effective date to ensure adequate implementation time.

DOR warns senior homeowners about viral property tax scam

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue is warning homeowners about a viral online video promoting a nonexistent federal property tax relief program.

The video claims that Congress passed a law providing significant property tax relief for older homeowners, enabling seniors to freeze or reduce property taxes. Viewers are directed to contact their county assessor and request a "Senior Homeowner Tax Review Request" or "IRS Form 1098-SR."

No such federal program or form exists and the contact information provided to homeowners directs them to scammers, not their county assessors.

With the proliferation of artificial intelligence, scammers are increasingly using fake videos to spread misinformation. Sophisticated technology is used to generate videos that impersonate government officials,

making them appear to say things they never actually said. These videos often include official-looking logos, the seals of real government agencies and government terminology, making it difficult to differentiate between a real video and one that is fake.

The following practices will help prevent you from falling victim to scams:

- Question and investigate videos before believing them. Scammers use AI tools to create videos that copy the appearance and voices of real people.

- Do not share personal details. Government tax and assessor offices will never ask for sensitive personal or financial information over the phone, via text or through unverified online links.

- Verify locally. If you have questions about legitimate property tax relief programs, contact your local municipality directly.



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Red Raiders' run game, defense stymies Jaguars

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

As good as the Pulaski football team's defense looked in a 35-0 shutout of Ashwaubenon, the Red Raiders' rushing game was just as effective.

Anthony Ficarri and Bohdan Schmidt accounted for all five of Pulaski's touchdowns as the Red Raiders improved to 2-1 in Fox Valley Classic Conference-North play and 4-1 overall with a win over the Jaguars.

It was Pulaski's 11th straight win over Ashwaubenon and sets up a showdown with one of the FRCC-North's top teams, West De Pere.

Ficarri found the end zone on each of Pulaski's first two drives. He scored from a yard out and also scored on a 3-yard run.

The Red Raiders didn't score again until the third quarter, but had another opportunity in the second quarter after Braun Wotruba blocked a punt that set Pulaski up at the Ashwaubenon 20-yard line. However, a personal foul penalty pushed Pulaski back 15 yards, and the Red Raiders ended up turning the ball over on downs.

"Hats off to Ashwaubenon in the second quarter," coach Jerad Marsh said. "They made a couple



Anthony Ficarri picks up a first down in the second half of Pulaski's 35-0 Fox River Classic Conference-North win over Ashwaubenon. Ficarri ran for a team-high 149 yards and scored four touchdowns for the second game in a row.

GREG SEUBERT

of adjustments and did a nice job. We had a couple of hiccups that we couldn't quite finish. We had some momentum there and just couldn't capture it in the second quarter."

Pulaski added to its lead by scoring on its first three drives of the second half. Ficarri capped a 70-yard drive with a 25-yard, run and Schmidt added a 3-yard run and

also completed a pass to Ficarri for the two-point conversion to make it 28-0 with 1:32 remaining in the third quarter.

Ficarri's fourth touchdown, a 3-yard run, came



Bohdan Schmidt and teammate Anthony Ficarri accounted for all five of Pulaski's touchdowns in a 35-0 win over Ashwaubenon on Sept. 17. Schmidt scored on a 3-yard run in the second quarter and finished with 107 of the Red Raiders' 328 rushing yards.

GREG SEUBERT

midway through the fourth quarter.

"Our staff did a great job at halftime taking care of what needed to be cleaned up, and the guys came out here with some confidence," Marsh said.

Besides scoring five touchdowns, Ficarri and Schmidt also led Pulaski with 149 and 107 rushing yards, respectively. The Red Raiders finished with 328 rushing yards while Andre Burnett added 72 yards on only three carries, including a 61-yarder

to set up his team's first score.

Ficarri now has 16 rushing touchdowns in five games, including eight in the last two. He also scored four times Sept. 11 in a win over Green Bay Preble.

"With what we do offensively, that's what we hang our hat on," Marsh said. "The big guys up front take care of business and do things that we ask them to do. Bo is able to

FOOTBALL,
continued on page 10

Bonduel, Suring stay unbeaten with road wins

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

Bonduel and Suring's football teams are the area's only unbeaten squads after picking up conference wins on the road Sept. 18.

Bonduel traveled to Oconto Falls and returned home following a 41-15 Packerland Conference win over the Panthers, while Suring is now 5-0 after an 18-12 win over Lena/STAA in a matchup of Marinette & Oconto-8 Conference teams.

Meanwhile, Wittenberg-Birnbaumwood snapped a two-game losing streak with a 56-28 Central Wisconsin Conference-Large win at home over Spencer/Columbus Catholic in a game moved from Sept. 18 to Sept. 17 because of the weather.

Bonduel 41, Oconto Falls 16

Carter Moesch scored five of the Bears' six touchdowns as Bonduel

improved to 3-0 in conference play and 5-0 overall after handing the Panthers their second straight loss.

Bonduel built a 28-0 halftime lead after scoring on four of its six possessions.

Moesch scored on runs of 12, 68 and 5 yards, while Quinn Wesenberg connected with Malachi Gray for a 33-yard pass.

Moesch's fourth touchdown, a 16-yard run in the third quarter, gave the visitors a 35-0 lead and started a running clock, but Oconto Falls answered on its next drive with Croix Gardebrecht's 1-yard run and 2-point conversion run that made it 35-8.

Moesch found the end zone for a fifth time on Bonduel's next drive with a 66-yard run, and Landon Thompson scored the Panthers' second touchdown on a 4-yard run in the fourth quarter.

Moesch finished with 207 yards on 13 rushing attempts and averaged 16

yards a carry.

Oconto Falls fell to 2-3 overall and 1-2 in Packerland play.

Suring 18, Lena/STAA 12

Lena/STAA handed the Eagles a 36-6 loss last year, but Suring outscored the Titans in the rematch of two teams in the hunt for a 8-player conference championship.

Lena/STAA was originally scheduled to play Florence on Sept. 25, but Florence recently canceled the rest of the Bobcats' season due to low numbers and injuries.

The Titans will now return to Wabeno for the second time this season to face Laona/Wabeno. The Rebels defeated the Titans 12-6 in August in the season opener for both teams.

The Eagles will host a state-ranked team in Valley Christian at 7 p.m. Sept. 25. Suring's game against Florence originally scheduled for Oct. 2 has been canceled, and the team has

not announced a replacement opponent.

Wittenberg-Birnbaumwood 56, Spencer/Columbus Catholic 28

The Chargers had almost 600 yards of offense in their first CWC-Large win.

Both teams found the end zone twice in the first quarter.

Bo Davis opened the scoring for the Chargers with a 1-yard quarterback keeper, but the Rockets took an 8-7 lead on Jack Hoeper's run and successful 2-point conversion.

The lead didn't last long, as Davis connected with Logan Gibson for a 4-yard pass. The Rockets answered with Jack Gorst's 63-yard touchdown pass to Weston Nieman, and Spencer/Columbus Catholic took a 15-14 lead into the second quarter.

The Chargers added three unanswered touchdowns before halftime on Phoenix Horacek's 57-yard run, an 85-yard pass from

Davis to Gibson and Gibson's 51-yard run.

Wittenberg-Birnbaumwood added to its 34-15 halftime lead with two more scores in the third quarter on Davis' 33-yard pass to Braxton Olson and Horacek's 53-yard run.

Devin Phillips scored twice for the Rockets in the fourth quarter on runs of 3 yards and 1 yard, and Gibson added to his touchdown total with a 78-yard run.

The Chargers had three 100-yard rushers in Horacek, Gibson and Davis with 189, 133 and 108 yards, respectively. Davis also completed all six of his passes for 123 yards and three touchdowns.

The Chargers outgained the Rockets 582-342, including 442-127 on the ground. The Rockets had a 215-140 advantage through the air.

Denmark 19, Shawano 3

Shawano led 3-0 at halftime after a field goal in

the first quarter but never scored again.

Denmark's Kase Bradley scored a pair of rushing touchdowns in the second half and Zack Freeman added a 42-yard touchdown pass to Brayden Jeanquart.

The Hawks had five turnovers in the game, including two interceptions and three fumbles.

Rosholt 20, Marion/Tigerton 14

Rosholt hosted Marion/Tigerton on Sept. 17 and handed the Thundercatz a six-point loss.

Sept. 25 schedule (all games start at 7 p.m.)

11-player: Peshtigo at Bonduel; Wittenberg-Birnbaumwood at Shiocton; Pulaski at West De Pere; Oconto Falls at Sturgeon Bay. 8-player: Valley Christian at Suring; Port Edwards vs. Marion/Tigerton at Marion; Lena/STAA vs. Laona/Wabeno at Wabeno.

Sept. 26 schedule

11-player: Fox Valley Lutheran at Shawano, 1 p.m.



Harper Rogowski is ready to serve for Wittenberg-Birnamwood on Sept. 15 during the Chargers' Central Wisconsin Conference-East match with Iola-Scandinavia in Iola. GREG SEUBERT

Chargers go the distance, come up short against Iola

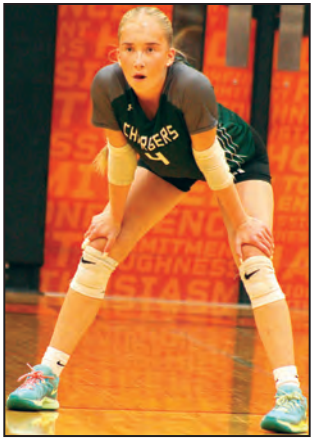
By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood volleyball team entered its Central Wisconsin Conference-East matchup with Iola-Scandinavia on a roll.

After opening conference play with a three-game sweep of Menominee Nation on Sept. 8, the Chargers headed to Waupaca on Sept. 12 and won a five-team invitational after 2-0 victories over Waupaca, Two Rivers, Wisconsin Rapids and Tomahawk.

Iola-Scandinavia put a stop to the Chargers' momentum by taking three of five sets Sept. 15 on the Thunderbirds' home court.

The Thunderbirds opened the match with a 25-22 win, but the Chargers answered with 25-19 and 25-20 wins to take a 2-1 advantage into the fourth set. Iola-Scandinavia forced a fifth set with a 25-22 win in the fourth game and overcame a 6-1 deficit in the decisive fifth game before coming back for a 15-13 win.



Charlie Eichman waits for a serve from Iola-Scandinavia in the first set of a Central Wisconsin Conference-East match. GREG SEUBERT

The match could have gone either way, coach Becky Rew said.

"Give it to Iola; they're very scrappy, play great defense and have for a couple years," she said.

No team led by more than five points throughout the match, which lasted nearly 2 1/2 hours.

"We let them back in it without making them work," Rew said. "That was the difference in the fourth set. The other one was determination and who makes the first error.

It really came down to that. That's what it comes down to, little tiny things that you can't always control."

Rew's message to the team after the match was that the season's not over. A conference championship, which the team shared last season with Amherst, is still a possibility, she said.

"This is only our second (CWC-East match), and there are a lot of good teams in our conference," she said. "I told the girls, 'Hey, the same thing happened to us last year. We lost to Amherst, but somebody beat Amherst and we shared it.' We can't hang our heads; we can't give up. We have to do our part and finish the conference with this one loss. Hopefully, somebody helps us."

Rew said she's impressed with her team's effort so far.

"The girls have worked very hard," she said. "Our mentality is: We have to win the point. We can't wait for other teams to make mistakes. We've been doing that very well, but tonight, not so much."

Panthers win Pulaski Invite

**Saturday, Sept. 19
Pulaski Invite**

Oconto Falls went 5-0 at the Pulaski Invite, battling through pool play and the Gold Bracket to bring home the championship.

The Panthers defeated Bonduel 25-15, 25-14, NEW Lutheran 23-25, 25-16, 15-9, and Seymour 25-12, 18-25, 15-0 in the morning pool play.

Oconto Falls then defeated Crivitz 25-8, 25-21 in the semifinal before facing NEW Lutheran again in the championship match.

The Panthers came away with a 25-10, 32-30 victory over a very disciplined NEW Lutheran team to claim the title.

Leading stats for the weekend included Izzy Otto - 111 assists, 33 digs, 8 aces, 12 kills; Lucy Ripley - 42 kills, 20 digs, 9 block kills; Rhiana Van De Yacht - 26 kills, 36 digs; Brylee Gorman - 23 kills, 10 block kills, 8 aces; Calli Bursa - 26 kills, 18 digs; Ella Jahnke - 11 kills, 4 block kills; Brenna Belanger - 32 digs; and Karington Beaman - 20 digs.

The Panthers improve to 19-4 on the season.

Pulaski 2, Kiel 1

Pulaski topped Kiel with scores of 19-25, 25-19, 15-11.

Green Bay NEW Lutheran 2, Pulaski 0

The Blazers won both close games 25-22 and 25-21.

Green Bay NEW Lutheran 2, Bonduel 0

The Blazers beat the Bears 25-21 and 25-16.

Bonduel 2, Kiel 1

A close 15-11 third set game Bonduel the victory over Kiel. The Bears won the first game 25-16 but dropped the second game 25-12.

Central Wisconsin Christian 2, Wittenberg-Birnamwood 1

Central Wisconsin Christian won the third and final set to claim a 2-1 win over Wittenberg-Birnamwood. Scores were 27-25, 15-25, 25-11.

Southern Door 2, Shawano 0

Southern Door claimed two straight wins by identical score of 25-18.

St. Mary Catholic 2,

Shawano 0

St. Mary Catholic shut down Shawano with scores of 25-12 and 25-21.

Shawano 2, Valders 0

The Hawks defeated the Vikings 25-16, 25-23.

Shawano 2, Ripon 0

Shawano won a pair of close games 25-23 and 25-19.

Iola-Scandinavia 2, Shawano 0

Iola-Scandinavia defeated Shawano 25-12, 25-22.

Lourdes Academy 2, Gillett 1

Gillett won the first game 26-24, but Lourdes Academy won the next two 25-14 and 15-8 to earn the match win.

Lourdes Academy 2, Bowler 0

Lourdes Academy swept Bowler by scores of 25-13 and 25-11.

Suring 2, Bowler 0

The Eagles won by scores of 25-18 and 25-14.

Bowler 2, Wausaukee 1

Bowler improved to 2-12 with a win over Wausaukee. Scores were 25-21, 17-25, 25-10.

Lourdes Academy 2, Suring 0

The Knights won both game against Suring 26-24 and 25-20.

**Thursday, Sept. 17
Tigerton 3, Port Edwards 1**

Tigerton hosted cross-conference Port Edwards and fought a tough battle, coming back from the first set loss to rally and win the match in four sets.

"The girls adjusted to Port's offense and played really well defensively in sets 2-4," coach Holly Meverden said. "They also took advantage of their opponent's mistakes and turned them into points for the home team. Great effort by the entire team."

Leading the Tigers were:

Assists: Danika Tiller 23.

Kills: Presley Stewart-Rolfs 18 and Mya Smith 5.

Digs: Jaelyn Brady 13, Tiller and Myah Dent 12 each, and Renata Nordwig 11.

Block kills: Stewart-Rolfs 7, and Nordwig and Tiller 2 each.

Service points and aces: Brady 17 points with 8 aces, Dent 16 points with 4 aces, Smith 15 points with 2 aces, and Nordwig 5 points with 3 aces.

Tigerton is 6-3 overall and 2-2 in CWC-North play.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood 2, Phillips 1

Phillips won the first match 25-23, but the Chargers fought back to win the next two sets 25-22 and 25-10 to earn the 2-1 victory.

Wild Rose 3, Marion 0

The Mustangs dropped three very close games by scores of 25-21, 26-24, 25-19.

Winneconne 3, Shawano 0

The Hawks lost three straight games by scores of 25-18, 25-20 and 25-20.

Oconto Falls 3, Wrightstown 0

Oconto Falls Volleyball opened their home schedule with a strong performance against the Wrightstown Tigers. The Panthers came away with a 3-0 victory, winning 25-19, 25-11, 25-16.

Oconto Falls had a balanced offensive attack led by setter Izzy Otto, who finished with 30 assists and 6 digs. Lucy Ripley had 11 kills, 6 aces, 3 block kills; Calli Bursa: had 9 kills, 8 digs; Brylee Gorman: added another 8 kills; and Karington Beaman: had 7 digs.

Before the match, Oconto Falls recognized Otto for breaking the Oconto Falls High School volleyball record for career assists at the Shawano Invite.

The previous record was held by Emma Hubert, who recorded 2,457 career assists in 2018.

Otto has now surpassed that mark and currently has 2,651 career assists - and counting.

Suring 3, Gillett 0

The Eagle won in three straight sets 25-20, 25-17, 25-21.

Gresham 2, Rosholt 0

The Wildcats beat the Hornets 29-27, 25-14.

Manawa 2, Gresham 0

Manawa handed Gresham a pair of losses 25-16 and 25-10.



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Hawks have best local score at Marinette's Little River Golf Course

Thursday, Sept. 17
Marinette Invitational
Fifteen teams competed at Little River Golf Course in Marinette, with Shawano topping local teams.

The Hawks tallied 412 and placed ninth. Oconto Falls scored 431 for 12th place, and Bonduel had 436 for 13th.

Shawano: Hailey Hawkinson 97, Alyssa Slinger 99, Lauren Seehafer 104 and Mya Coffey 112.

Oconto Falls: Riley Borkovec and Lilly Wanger 98 each, Chloe Anastasopoulos 108 and Emilie Sanders 127.

Bonduel: Quinn Hartlaben 94, Morgan Graf 101, Paige Wolf 106 and Helaina Kober 135.

FRCC Mini-Meet #5
Pulaski golfers scored 211 and placed eighth among nine teams at Sheboygan Town & Country Golf Course in Sheboygan. The Red Raiders finished one stroke ahead of

Manitowoc Lincoln. Scoring for Pulaski were Ellie Mork 46, Taylor Murphy 53, Teagan Dercks 54 and Talia Van Hout 58.

Tuesday, Sept. 15
Bay North Conference Mini-Meet 5

Seymour once again ran away with the title while the other four teams battled for the remaining positions when golfing at Golden Sands Golf Course in Cecil.

Seymour scored 169, followed by Oconto 210, Shawano 212, Bonduel 217 and Sturgeon Bay 222.

Bonduel, the home team, was led by Paige Wolf, whose 42 was the second best of the day. She was joined by Quinn Hartlaben 54, Morgan Graf 56 and Hailey Eggert 65.

Scoring for the Hawks were Lauren Seehafer 45, Hailey Hawkinson 53, Alyssa Singer 54 and Mya Coffey 60.

Monday, Sept. 14

Oconto Falls Invitational

Oconto Falls placed fifth among 10 teams at its home invitational at River Island Golf Course in Oconto Falls.

Shawano was fourth at 422, followed by Oconto Falls at 436, Bonduel in seventh at 473 and Pulaski in 10th at 563,

Shawano scores were Hailey Hawkinson 96, Lauren Seehafer 104, Alyssa Singer 107 and Mya Coffey 115.

For Oconto Falls, it was Lilly Wagner 96, Riley Borkovec 97, Chloe Anastasopoulos 118 and Emilie Sanders 125.

Bonduel's scorers were Quinn Hartlaben 106, Paige Wolf 112, Morgan Graf 120 and Hailey Eggert 135.

Scoring for Pulaski were Teagan Dercks 106, Macie Senter 150, Aubrie McElrone 153 and Mircea McDowell 154.



Pulaski's Cole Nowak, Mason Goodness and Raphael Fischer wait as Ashwaubenon's offense breaks a huddle. GREG SEUBERT

FOOTBALL, continued from page 8

do so much on his own. When a play breaks down, he's able to use what the good Lord gave him."

Next up for the Red Raiders is an FRCC-North matchup with West De Pere on Sept. 25 in De Pere.

West De Pere, the defending WIAA Division 2 state champion that eliminated Pulaski from the playoffs last year, is

currently 5-0 overall and 3-0 in conference play and sits atop the FRCC-North standings tied for first place with Bay Port, another undefeated team that fell in the Division 1 state championship game last year, handed Pulaski its only loss this season.

Bay Port and West De Pere will meet Oct. 2 on the Pirates' home field.

"We have to take care of our business," Marsh said of his team's upcoming game with West De Pere. "These are great games and we're lucky to be in an excellent conference with a state runner-up and champion. Anytime we get to compete against that kind of pace, speed and execution, that only makes us better."

Shawano's singles depth fuels 4-3 win over Menasha

Thursday, Sept. 17
Shawano 4, Menasha 3

Shawano (6-12) defeated Menasha (4-12) by a 4-3 score, taking three of four singles matches.

West De Pere 7, Pulaski 0

The Red Raiders were shut by West De Pere with the best effort coming from Riley Hartman in the fourth-seed singles match. Hartman took her opponent to three sets before losing the third set 10-5.

Singles
No. 1 - Madelyn Seidlitz, West De Pere, def. Anna Krause, Pulaski, 6-0, 6-0.

No. 2 - Avni Gupta, West De Pere, def. Emory Groteluschen, Pulaski, 6-3, 6-2.

No. 3 - Ava Hein, West De

Pere, def. Alana Stangler, Pulaski, 6-3, 6-3.

No. 4 - Morgan Henry, West De Pere, def. Riley Hartman, Pulaski, 5-7, 6-1, 10-5.

Doubles
No. 1 - Bryn Steenbock - Julia Whipp, West De Pere, def. Linde Lemerond - Aubrie Schuessler, Pulaski, 6-0, 6-2.

No. 2 - Olivia Hoffman - Maryn Steenbock, West De Pere, def. Cora Hansen - Vivienne Miskulin, Pulaski, 6-1, 6-0.

No. 3 - Cadence Hopson - Abby Helgeson, West De Pere, def. Reese Burich - Kaesyn Klarkowski, Pulaski, 6-0, 6-1.

Tuesday, Sept. 15
Notre Dame Academy 6, Pulaski 1

Pulaski's number one doubles team of Linde Lemerond and Aubrie Schuessler defeated their Notre Dame Academy opponents 6-3, 6-1 for the

Red Raiders sole win.

Singles
No. 1 - Vivi Bigari, Notre Dame Academy, def. Anna Krause, Pulaski, 6-0, 6-2.

No. 2 - Anna Miller, Notre Dame Academy, def. Emory Groteluschen, Pulaski, 6-2, 6-2.

No. 3 - Kathryn Weiland, Notre Dame Academy, def. Alana Stangler, Pulaski, 6-0, 6-1.

No. 4 - Sofia Collins, Notre Dame Academy, def. Riley Hartman, Pulaski, 6-1, 6-1.

Doubles
No. 1 - Linde Lemerond - Aubrie Schuessler, Pulaski, def. Secora Collins - Tess Boeckman, Notre Dame Academy, 6-3, 6-1.

No. 2 - Ella Hotchkiss - Anna Thomas, Notre Dame Academy, def. Cora Hansen - Vivienne Miskulin, Pulaski, 6-4 6-2.

No. 3 - Valeria Ponce - Clara Murphy, Notre Dame Academy, def. Reese Burich - Kaesyn Klarkowski, Pulaski, 6-2, 7-5.

Shawano soccer pulls out victory over Winneconne

Thursday, Sept. 17
Sheboygan North 2, Pulaski 1

The Red Raiders fell to the Golden Raiders 2-1 in Fox River Classic Conference play.

Cooper Jost and Matthew Decker scored for Sheboygan North. Logan Seubert got the lone goal for Pulaski.

Jacoby Knowles made seven saves in goal for North (4-2-2, 1-1). Blake Bazter had four saves in goal for Pulaski (6-2-2, 0-2).

Shawano 2, Winneconne 1

With one goal in each half, Shawano pulled out a 2-1 win over Winneconne in a conference match.

Wyatt Schroeder scored in the first half and Brayden Meade made a goal in the second half.

Newman Catholic 7, Gresham/Bowler 1
Tuesday, Sept. 15
Green Bay Preble 2, Pulaski 0

The Hornets handed the previously unbeaten Red Raiders their first loss of the season with a 2-0 victory.

Joe Rivas and Christian

Lopez scored the goals for Preble.

Elijah Alexander made two saves in goal for the Hornets (6-1-2, 2-1). Blake Bazter had two saves in goal for Pulaski (6-1-2, 0-1).

Shawano 1, Green Bay East 1

Shawano and Green Bay East tied in their Bay Conference matchup.

Grayson Swedberg make the first score on a penalty kick just before halftime.

Monday, Sept. 14
Amherst 11, Gresham/Bowler 0



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Witt-Birn girls place third in Wausau

Saturday, Sept. 19 Smiley Invitational

Wittenberg-Birnamwood's girls placed third among Division 2 and Division 3 teams at Wausau East, while the boys were 16th. Oconto Falls girls placed seventh, and the boys were 14th.

Among Division 1 schools, Shawano's boys were 16th, followed by Pulaski in 17th. Pulaski's girl placed 15th.

Division 1 boys
Shawano: 66, Josiah Kuehl, 17:30.9; 71, Teagan Harkey, 17:51.3; 76, Quinten Harkey, 17:55.5; 104, Beckett Hendricks, 18:24.2; 120, Brayden Fish, 18:53.7.

Pulaski: 32, Mitchell Pilon, 16:57; 52, Grayden Gossen, 17:27.5; 108, Paxton Marshall, 18:32.6; 124, Carter Ryskowski, 18:56.1; 130, Jack Klarkowski, 19:03.9.

Division 1 girls
Shawano: 91, Mikelah Powers, 21:49.5; 121, Madilyn Powers, 22:50.2; 123, Lorelei Hancock, 22:51.3; 143, McKenna Miller, 24:07.7.

Pulaski: 8, Maggie Gerth, 18:56.8; 62, Addie Bruckert, 20:57.8; 89, Cameron Reiss, 21:43.9; 144, Tenley Zimmerman, 24:09.2; 156, Estella Vieaux, 25:04.

Division 2/3 boys
Wittenberg-Birnamwood: 87, Marty Nowinsky, 19:22; 99, Dalton Fletcher, 19:47; 149, Colten Mueller, 21:08; 170, Maksym Guk, 22:39; 172, Milo Salvesen, 22:35.

Oconto Falls: 53, Sage Mendolla, 18:31.7; 54, Mason Lotto, 18:32; 62, Isaiah Holtz, 18:38; 121, Lucas Vanhulle, 20:30.2; 142,

Carson Laluzerne, 21:03.

Divison 2/3 girls
Wittenberg-Birnamwood: 17, Brielle Rose, 20:46; 24, Nora Bushman, 20:58; 41, Gabrielle Timm, 21:41; 57, Kendyll Ladwig, 22:14; 66, Harper Krull, 22:36.

Oconto Falls: 8, Lily Meissner, 20:14.3; 52, Emma Meissner, 22:06.9; 71, Ellie Beschta, 22:36.4; 81, Ava Savage, 22:56.9; 88, Alexandria Braund, 23:07.8.

Angel CC Invitational
Bonduel and Gillett runners competed at UW-Parkside in a meet hosed by Racine St. Catherine.

Bonduel's girls placed 12th with 326 points.

Gillett runners did not compete as a team.

Bonduel: 17, Lillian Burack, 21:19.7; 43, Amelia Wilcox, 22:28; 77, Payten Bierhals, 23:36.2; 126, Kember Frome, 25:23.3; 180, Dahlia Harris, 27:48.3.

Gillett: 42, Hope Soper, 22:27.6; 58, Amanda Pate, 23:54; 140, Halle Wendorff, 25:57.1; 145, Bayli Holub, 26:13.8.

Bonduel's boys were 15th with 437 points, and Gillett was 27th with 706.

Bonduel: 45, Gage Anderson, 18:14.4; 95, Garrett Anderson, 19:19.4; 98, Griffin Richter, 19:22.9; 111, Oliver Chitwood, 19:37; 127, Joah Dworniczak, 19:55.2.

Gillett: 13, Noah Soper, 17:26.8; 226, Braxton Valley, 21:39.8; 291, Nolan Van Donsal, 23:38.9; 296, Henry, Schaal, 23:45.1; 311, Brandon Slatky, 24:29.7.

Bulldog Invite

As a team, Suring's boys placed 10th among 10 teams in New London. The runners tallied 303



Wittenberg-Birnamwood girls placed third at the Smiley Invitational in Wausau on Sept. 19.

TINA BACON

points.

Suring: 57, Charles Richard, 21:52.3; 66, Blake DeGrave, 22:29.8; 68, Liam Matelski, 22:50.6; 80, Garrett School, 25:14.8; 84, Aidan Thompson, 37:57.4.

Marion/Tigerton: 77, Brecklin Gleason, 24:03.7; 79, Brayden Zietlow, 24:34.6.

For the girls, Suring's Natalie Seibert finished eighth with a time of 22:47.

Marion/Tigerton's Brooklyn Ahlers placed 19th in 24:06.2.

Tuesday, Sept. 15 Bonduel Bear Invite

Menominee Nation's Bryant Waupoose III won the boys race at Bonduel,

while Shawano won the team competition.

Boys teams: Shawano 20, Bonduel 48, Wittenberg-Birnamwood 91, Oneida Nation 100, Oconto 140, Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas Academy 157.

Shawano: 3, Josiah Kuehl, 18:26.3; 5, Beckett Hendricks, 19:11.2; 6, Quinten Harkey, 19:11.2; 7, Teagan Harkey, 19:11.2; 8, Aloysius Frechette, 19:11.5.

Bonduel: 2, Gage Anderson, 18:06.5; 11, Garrett Anderson, 19:51.5; 12, Joah Dworniczak, 19:58.9; 15, Griffin Richter, 20:09.7; 21, Oliver Chitwood, 21:20.6.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood: 13, Marty Nowinsky,

20:06.5; 16, Dalton Fletcher, 20:26.8; 27, Maskym Guk, 22:25.6; 33, Milo Salvesen, 23:07.4; 34, Colten Mueller, 23:08.4.

Lena/STAA: 36, Dash Comins, 23:20.7; 44, Cooper Malloy, 24:17; 51, Emiliano Almanza, 25:24.9; 53, Wyatt Kosch, 25:52.7; 54, Bronne Thoun, 25:59.9.

Menominee Nation: 1, Bryant Waupoose III, 17:53.1; 17, Cashius Reevis, 20:28.6; 52, Eric Webster, 25:42.6; 59, Christopher Waubanasum, 28:56.2.

Gresham/Bowler: 14, Caleb Putnam, 20:08.7; 28, Blaze Ejni, 22:30.5; 46, Mason Pyatskowitz, 24:29.4; 47, Mason Martin, 24:42.4.

Marion-Tigerton: 26, Breckin Gleason, 22:05.8.

Wolf River Lutheran: 61, Ivan Long, 30:01.9; 63, Mark Buchholz, 32:27.5.

For the girls, Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Nora Bushman finished second to lead local runners, as her team captured the top spot.

Girls teams: Wittenberg-Birnamwood 28, Bonduel 79, Lena/STAA 92, Shawano 93, Clintonville 98, Oconto 147, Oneida Nation 171

Wittenberg-Birnamwood: 2, Nora Bushman, 21:40.7; 5, Brielle Rose, 21:48.2; 6, Gabrielle Timm, 22:22.2; 10, Kendyll Ladwig, 23:06.8; 12, Harper Krull, 23:42.1.

Bonduel: 3, Lillian Burack, 21:41.5; 14, Payten Bierhals, 23:46; 17, Amelia Wilcox, 24:00.6; 23, Kember Frome, 25:27.9; 41, Katie O'Brien, 28:18.9.

Lena/STAA: 4, Aspynn Anderson, 21:44.6; 8, Alisa Finger, 22:30.4; 11, Andrea

Rabas, 23:38.7; 39, Ella Thomson, 27:54.9; 60, Elizabeth Telford, 36:09.4.

Shawano: 9, Mikelah Powers, 22:55.6; 19, Madilyn Powers, 24:15; 20, McKenna Miller, 24:16.7; 22, Lorelei Hancock, 24:42.5; 43, Katelyn Race, 28:53.3.

Wolf River Lutheran: 13, Violet Buchholz, 23:43.7.

Marion-Tigerton: 25, Brooklynn Ahlers, 25:38.3.

Menominee Nation: 30, Kaylee Nacotee, 26:40.4; 44, Aaliyah Waupoose, 29:18.6; 58, Elaine Skenadore, 33:39.9.

Gresham/Bowler: 59, Aubrey Miller, 35:49.4.

Jakubek-Willems Invite

Pulaski's boys cross country runners placed second among five teams at a race hosted by St. Mary Catholic School in Oshkosh.

Weyauwega-Fremont won with 30 points, and Pulaski collected 49.

Grayden Goosen placed third in 17:59, and Paxton Marshall was 10th in 19:01.8. Also scoring for the Red Raiders were Carter Ryskowski, 11th, 19:13; Jack Klarkowski, 12th, 19:15; and Ben Augustine, 13th, 19:20.

The girls placed first among two teams. They tallied 19 points, while St. Mary Catholic had 40.

Leading the way for the Red Raiders was Maggie Gerth, who won the meet in 19:27.2. She was followed by Addie Bruckert in second in 21:32.1 and Cameran Reiss in third in 21:41.4.

Paige Michalski finished in sixth in 23:43.2, and Estella Vieaux was seventh in 23:47.4.

Rosinski, Hayes to lead Shawano boys basketball team

Shawano Community High School's boys varsity basketball program in 2026-27 will be led by coach Rick Rosinski and assistant coach Jim Hayes, both recently hired by the district.

Rosinski has 23 seasons

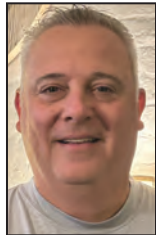
of varsity head coaching experience at Green Bay East and Green Bay Preble. Hayes has coached alongside Rosinski for 23 seasons – 20 at Green Bay East and three at Green Bay Preble – making the upcoming season their

24th together.

"I'm very excited to begin leading the boys basketball program at Shawano High School," Rosinski said. "I'm greatly looking forward to meeting the Shawano players and the many fans and supporters

of the program. I'm eager to get back in the gym and begin laying the groundwork for a fun and successful season in the Bay Conference."

Rosinski is encouraged by the foundation already in place, including a core



RICK ROSINSKI

of returning players and a promising incoming freshman class.

Hayes a l s o brings familiarity with Shawano, having coached against the Hawks for eight seasons in the Bay Conference while at Green Bay East.

"I always enjoyed the enthusiasm and excitement displayed by the students and fans in the Shawano gymnasium," Hayes said. "Now, I'm eager to experience that type of fun atmosphere as a coach for the Shawano Hawks."

The longtime coaching partners share a commitment to preparation, hard work and building lasting relationships with student-athletes.

"We love basketball and greatly enjoy coaching



JIM HAYES

and being part of a team," Hayes said. "The long-lasting relationships we have built with so many of our players over the years have been the highlight of our coaching careers."

Kayla Brendemuehl, Shawano's activities and athletics director, said their experience and established partnership will be an asset to the program.

"We are excited to welcome Rick and Jim to Shawano," Brendemuehl said. "Their experience, familiarity with the Bay Conference and shared commitment to student-athletes make them a great fit for our boys basketball program. We are excited for the future of Shawano boys basketball."

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Ginger Swedberg Huntington looks over pre-needs planning documents and resources for people who are interested in meeting with her at Swedberg Funeral Home, 518 W. Fifth St., Shawano. Born and raised in Shawano, she said the values of the community are representative of how Swedberg Funeral Home does business.

LYNN ZAFFRANN

Planning loved ones' funerals can be done ahead of time

Having everything in place helps survivors finalize arrangements

By LYNN ZAFFRANN
Correspondent

The thought of planning one's funeral isn't typically at the top of someone's to-do list. But should it be?

Planning a funeral for a deceased relative, significant other or friend is ranked as one of the most difficult tasks in life when funeral arrangements aren't made ahead of time.

Funeral homes offer a way to arrange one's funeral through pre-needs planning.

According to Rob Mickelson, from Mickelson Funeral and Cremation Service, and Ginger Swedberg Huntington, from Swedberg Funeral Home, both based in Shawano, planning your funeral in advance makes sure your wishes are honored.

"Services are not for the deceased," Swedberg Huntington said. "I mean, they honor the deceased, but it benefits the living."

She said that she often hears, "When my mom died, she didn't have anything done, and I don't want to do that to my kids."

Pre-needs planning helps someone get the funeral and burial services they want and removes the burden from family members.

A lot of difficult choices have to be made when someone dies. She said pre-needs planning helps avoid the stress of trying to guess what services the deceased person wanted.

"When someone's just had a death, are experiencing great grief or shock, they still need to arrange the funeral services, where



Rob Mickelson, left, and Payton DuBois are Shawano funeral providers who work with area residents to set up pre-needs contracts for funeral arrangements. Pre-needs planning is important for people to make sure their wishes for their future funerals are followed. Pre-needs planning also helps people set aside funds to help them become or stay eligible for Medicaid.

LYNN ZAFFRANN

they can be hit with choosing a casket, providing a maiden name, a Social Security number and many other things," Swedberg Huntington said.

Pre-planning keeps people from

experiencing that one extra thing in their busy lives that comes up without warning, according to Swedberg Huntington.

FUNERALS, continued on page 17

Parton's death reminder to value life

I was shocked Aug. 26 when I read online that Dolly Parton had died.

"That's impossible," I thought. "I'll turn on the TV to see if it's true."

It was. Breaking into tears, I had to sit down, unable to process the idea that Dolly was gone. Though I never met her, it felt like a part of me was gone, too.

Within a few days, I was able to get past the sadness, uplifted by a geyser of well-deserved tributes and remembrances that poured in from all over the world. Dolly deserved every bit of the adulation sent her way.

Larger than life, Dolly was the quintessential example of a girl who rose from rags to riches. She was a star, but she never forgot where she came from. She had a heart as big as Alaska and spent her entire life giving back. My kind of hero.

Dolly Parton was my favorite female country singer since I first saw her perform in Nashville in 1973. I saw her show three more times over the years, until the ticket prices went insane.

Truth is, I flat-out loved Dolly, not just for her incredible voice and infectious personality, but for voicing my truth in her songs. She emphasized our shared dedication to family, faith, philanthropy and fun. It was natural that she became my role model.

There was another reason why I felt commonality with Dolly. I'm approaching my 80th birthday next month and jokingly compared myself to Cher Bono and Dolly Parton. Born in 1946, they'd both already turned 80, still living vibrant, meaningful lives.

It was of some comfort that they both looked and acted far more youthful than their years. It's ever so nice when people tell me that I do, too. I respond that I'm 80, going on 13. Seriously. That's what

PARTON, continued on page 20



KATHLEEN MARSH
COLUMNIST



Kathleen Marsh's daughter wore a Dolly Parton costume for Halloween in 1979 when she was 5 years old.

CONTRIBUTED

Popek combines passions for bourbon, farm

Former Pulaski teacher working with sister on new business

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

A former elementary school teacher in Pulaski has found a way to combine two of her passions into a successful business venture with her sister.

Becky Popek left her position as an advanced learner services teacher at Glenbrook Elementary School in Pulaski at the end of the 2025-26 school year to become associate principal at Rock Ledge Elementary School in Seymour.

At the same time she was transitioning to a new school and community, Popek also spent much of the summer in Wild Rose at True Harvest Bourbon Co., a bourbon distillery business she created with her sister, Jennifer Popek, that incorporates the family farm.

"We are a bourbon company," Becky Popek said. "We are part of the manufacturing process, which means we make our bourbon and blend it, proof it, bottle it here in the building."

Southern Distilling Co., a distillery based in Statesville, North Carolina, ships barrels to the business.

"We have two bourbons and a whiskey," Popek said. "We do cocktails based around those and switch those up seasonally, so we're just getting



Becky Popek removes glasses from the counter of True Harvest Bourbon Co. in Wild Rose. Popek, who stepped down earlier this year as an elementary school teacher at Glenbrook Elementary School in Pulaski to become associate principal at Rock Ledge Elementary School in Seymour, opened the bourbon distillery business with her sister, Jennifer, last year.

GREG SEUBERT

ready to do our fall cocktails. We do a lot of events like music, food trucks. We just started with cigars, so we're doing a cigar series where you can learn about cigars and smoke a cigar with our bourbon. We have an outdoor patio so people can enjoy the cigars that they buy here outside."

The Popeks found that their unique business is a hit in the Waushara County village of 600 residents.

"We started this, because we have a fourth-generation farm," Jennifer Popek said. "Farming and agriculture has been a big,

popular experience for us and our family. With all the grains being grown in Waushara County to make bourbon, we decided this is a great place. This is home for us."

The Popeks inherited the farm after their father, Peter, died in 2021.

"Our parents divorced, and we spent our weekends with Dad on the farm and with Mom in the (Fox) Valley," Jennifer Popek said. "I did graduate from high school in Wild Rose, and Mom ended up moving to Pennsylvania. Becky moved with her, and I

stayed here in Wild Rose."

True Harvest also helped the sisters reconnect after years of living apart.

"For a number of years, Becky and I saw each other a couple of times a year," Jennifer said. "When Dad passed away, both of us realized that we had to come together a little more. At the time, I was managing Mom's health, as well as the farm and a few other things."

The idea for the business started with what was already growing in the family farm's fields.

"Dad had rye in the fields," Jennifer Popek said. "We looked at the idea of what do we want to do to keep the farm going, keep it in the family for generations. When we realized that Waushara County grows all the grains that make bourbon, and we have some of the grains on the farm, I went back to school to the University of Louisville for a graduate certificate in distilled spirits. That gives us a chance to understand the business structure. My education is not in farming or agriculture, it's in health care, and Becky's is in education."

Part of True Harvest's business plan is to work with local farmers to supply grain to make bourbon, a barrel-aged American whiskey made primarily from corn.

A core concept of True Harvest is a connection with local farmers, according to Jennifer Popek.

"We have to make sure we can find ways to bring something local from Waushara County to our business," she said. "We work with local businesses all the time. We bring honey here and work with local bakeries. We're doing the same thing with the farm. Waushara County has amazing agriculture here."

Customers come from miles away now that the True Harvest has an active social media presence with a website and Facebook, Instagram and TikTok pages that Becky oversees.

Not only are the Popeks running a thriving new

business, they're also in the process of making their bourbon available in other communities, including Iola, Waupaca, Princeton and Neenah.

"It was more of a three-year plan, but we expedited that process a little sooner," Jennifer Popek said. "We're in a really good spot, so it's something we're willing to move forward with."

Jennifer said changing careers to start a business with her sister wasn't in the back of her mind.

"I think we always knew we wanted to do something valuable with the farm and leave a legacy," she said. "I don't think we knew exactly what that would look like, but it's easy when we both enjoy something. I brought bourbon to her, and she brought cigars to me. She is the extrovert. She has a great concept for cocktails and entertainment. I love the science, so we bring both to the table and it works perfect."

True Harvest is open year-round and recently changed to fall and winter hours, which are 4-9 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Jennifer Popek said the decision to start a business from scratch turned out to be a learning experience for the siblings.

"When you have a passion for bourbon and you enjoy it, it's not work," she said. "It's a hobby, and it's joy."

seubert4@gmail.com

Nudge poinsettias and holiday cacti into bloom

Colorful poinsettias and flowering Thanksgiving or Christmas cactus fill garden centers and homes during the holiday season. If you saved your plants from last year, it is time to get started forcing them into bloom for the upcoming holidays.

Starting between late September and Oct. 1, cover or move your plants into a dark location for 14 hours each night. This treatment is needed to initiate the flowering in these plants. Shield them from any outdoor, street or reading lights that can delay or prevent flowering.

Uncover or move your plants back to a brightly lit location each morning. Growing the plants in a cooler location, especially at night, and keeping the soil slightly drier will help stimulate bloom. Some experts believe this is all that is needed to rebloom Christmas cactus. A combination of the two treatments seems to give the best results.

The colorful parts of the poinsettia, often called the flowers, are modified leaves called bracts. These are the leaves that turn color after the dark treatment. The true poinsettia flower is the knobby yellow

growth that appears in the center of the colorful bracts at the tip of the stem.

Continue the dark treatment until the poinsettia bracts are fully colored or your Christmas cactus is covered with well-developed buds. Move the flowering plants to a cool location free of hot and cold drafts with bright indirect light. Continue to water thoroughly and often enough to keep the soil slightly moist while the plants are flowering. This is especially important to prevent bud and flower drop on Christmas cactus.

Consistently providing the required dark period is key to having flowers for the holidays. Each missed or interrupted 14-hour night delays blooming by one day. There is no need to give up after a couple of interrupted nights. Continue the dark treatment and enjoy the flowers whenever your plant blooms. Their colorful bracts and flowers are sure to brighten any winter day.

If your poinsettia fails to flower, you can still enjoy your plant this winter. Just add some faux poinsettia blooms, berry sprays or other floral décor. No one needs to know this

wasn't the plan all along.

Don't be surprised if flowers appear on your Christmas cactus at Thanksgiving. Although sold as a Christmas cactus, it may truly be a Thanksgiving cactus or a hybrid of the two. The true Christmas cactus has small segments with smooth edges and blooms later than the Thanksgiving cactus with toothed or jagged segments.

Fortunately, the Christmas and Thanksgiving cactus' growing requirements and care are basically the same. The plants will do fine; they just bloom during different holidays. Both are native to the tropical rain forests, not the desert, as their common name implies. Place them in bright indirect light and water thoroughly when the top few inches of soil begin to dry when they are actively growing.

Enjoy the experience as well as the results. No matter the outcome, you'll have fun trying something new.

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

GARDENING WITH MELINDA MYERS



MELINDA MYERS
COLUMNIST



Princettia sparkling rouge poinsettia has red bracts with a pink splash pattern. WWW.MELINDAMYERS.COM

FUNERALS, continued from page 15

“If I can help plant the seed: That it’s good to have everything in place,” she said. “Just doing pre-planning doesn’t mean that your death isn’t going to come any faster.”

Swedberg Huntington said that it may be a good time to think about pre-needs planning with a funeral provider at the time that someone meets with an attorney to create a will.

Mickelson’s opinion matches that of Swedberg Huntington in that making plans through a financial adviser may not be the best avenue for setting aside funds for future funeral needs, which should be done with a funeral provider.

“You don’t take your car to a plumber to get your car fixed,” he said. “Financial people are wonderful, but they don’t have the resources that we have here to give true cost amounts. We’ve experienced cases where the funds weren’t adequate to pay

for the funeral.”

He said that he doesn’t care where they put the money, but someone should at least get a true estimate of what to put aside by meeting with a funeral director first. Meeting with him in this scenario also ensures that the services the person wants will be documented by Mickelson for the future.

According to Swedberg Huntington, the pre-needs benefit is multifaceted. It makes it easier for the family to review what can be put into place ahead of time, and it gets the conversation started.

Both Swedberg Huntington and Mickelson encourage having a family discussion about what the person’s pre-need planning will entail.

“It’s probably one of the most difficult things you can do in your life, if not the most difficult,” Mickelson said about sitting down to talk about one’s final

wishes. “When I do pre-needs planning with someone, one of the most important things that I tell people is to bring their kids in, so your family knows what’s going on.”

Mickelson said that it is important for children or other family members to attend the pre-needs planning meeting with the person, so that everyone knows what to expect.

Mickelson feels that many Shawano residents don’t have the funds to be able to set up pre-needs plans, that it is more important for them to put food on the table.

“It’s a challenging time,” he said. “We have to be really cautious with what we do and how we do it. People want to know that if they ‘pre-need’ their money, will it be safe? ‘Where’s this money going? Could I lose it?’”

Mickelson stressed that setting up a pre-needs fund will protect the money.

Both Mickelson and Swedberg Huntington said that the interest rates paid on the plans they establish through their insurance providers will be enough to cover any future funeral increases.

Mickelson said that’s why it’s so important to meet with a funeral director for pre-needs planning, to get all of the available options, to get all questions answered. He said that he tells people up-front what the cost would be if the funeral were to be needed that day.

There are online resources on both funeral providers’ websites to get more information about pre-needs planning before meeting with them at www.mickelsonfs.com and www.swedbergfuneralhome.com.

In addition to pre-planning someone’s funeral, pre-needs planning is also done for people who need to reduce their assets to become eligible for Medicaid.

Medicaid eligibility is dependent on how much money someone has.

Both Mickelson and Swedberg Huntington are well-versed in Medicaid eligibility factors and are able to assist individuals who are looking to set aside funds for Medicaid purposes.

Swedberg Huntington said that in the Shawano area, there is a lot of motivation to prepare for Medicaid eligibility.

“I was born and raised in Shawano. The values that we have as a small community are representative of how we do business,” she said. “We feel very privileged and honored to provide services for our extended family, our community.”

Mickelson said that “nothing beats the face-to-face” discussion about pre-needs planning.

“I want to talk to you,” he said. “I want you to know what you’re going to be up against and what we’re going to do for you.”

“It’s a challenging time. We have to be really cautious with what we do and how we do it. People want to know that if they ‘pre-need’ their money, will it be safe? ‘Where’s this money going? Could I lose it?’”
ROB MICKELSON, owner of Mickelson Funeral and Cremation Service

THEME: THE 2010s ACROSS

1. Convention freebie

5. *Tucker of TV’s “Modern Family”

8. To the ____ degree

11. *Space Shuttle Program org.

12. Deal with it

13. Extra tire

15. Stead

16. Real estate land unit

17. Enter user name and password (2 words)

18. *Instagram’s parent company

20. “Fine by me”

21. Strong virile man

22. Caviar alternative

23. *Bruno Mars’ hat

26. Highest-reaching

30. Before of yore

31. Quill-dipping vessel

34. Popular aquarium show star

35. Schoolmarm’s whip

37. Neither here ____ there

38. Opposite of cation

39. Hurry up, acr.

40. Blood infection

42. Not com or edu

43. Arranged in order

45. Inside info

47. Aye’s opposite

48. B2C business

50. Hyperbolic tangent

52. *Katy Perry’s 2010 hit

55. Battle royal

56. One R in R&R

57. Nightcrawler

59. *Hipsters’ facial trend

60. Prima donnas’ problems

61. Not in favor

62. Public promotions

63. Even, to a poet

64. CISC alternative

DOWN

1. *Pete Davidson’s TV show

2. Ragamuffin

3. On a deck, perhaps

4. Cowboy, in South America

5. Popular warming drink

6. Chef’s garb

7. Opposite of domineering and bold

8. Hindu serpent deity

9. Legendary King Priam’s city

10. Chicken coop dweller

12. Taxi driver

13. Ship with a single mast

14. * ____ GO game

19. Spooky

22. Decay

23. Greek cheese, pl.

24. Remove from existence

25. ____’s, blended Scotch whisky

26. High rocky hills

27. Celestial hunter

28. Open disrespect

29. Sour-tasting

32. Capped joint

33. *Funko ____!

36. *Toy for the fidgety

38. Off kilter

40. Dirty dwelling

41. Specks in the sea

44. Oohed and ____

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5	8						9	2
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			4		1			
	6	5	9			2		

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A migrating blackburnian warbler in fall plumage makes a stop in Two Rivers. JOEL TRICK

Tune into the birds on your fall walks

Fall is a great time for birding as many species are on the move, migrating from their northern breeding grounds to their wintering grounds in the south.

During a recent walk at the Oconto Marsh, I was greeted with what Merlin, a free birding app, identified as a Virginia rail. I did not see this secretive bird as it was well hidden in a dense cattail stand, but it was a thrill nonetheless knowing it was likely there, only yards from where I stood.

Both swamp sparrows and song sparrows were flitting about and occasionally perching in the dead shrubs along the trail allowing me glimpses of them before their nervous energy spirited them away.

Two great egrets and a small flock of mallards were dabbling about in a pond. Although I tried to be unobtrusive, the ducks took flight after my arrival while the egrets remained. As I watched, these beautiful white herons went stealthily about their business, stalking their prey, heads down and long pointed bills ready to spear their next meal.

Two bald eagles wheeled above making lazy circles in the sky, and another perched in a distant tree. It's always inspiring to see these birds, considering, after a precipitous drop in their populations due to the use of DDT and other threats, they have made such a great come back. You can now see these majestic birds in every county in Wisconsin.

When I trained my binoculars on a suspicious brown figure in the top of a distance dead tree it resolved into an American bittern. Head up, and long spear-like bill pointing skyward, it was in one of its classic poses. As I watched, it moved its head slowly scanning its surroundings. I wondered if it spied me as I it.

According to the Cornell Lab All About Birds (AAB) website, the American bittern, a medium sized heron, is rarely out in the open, making my sighting unusual. They are considered stealth predators. Standing stock still in the marsh, they wait for prey to approach, or very, very slowly stalk it until within easy reach.

As I turned a corner on the trail, a few goldfinches whizzed by flashing yellow, and I saw a cedar waxwing flitting about in the shrubs, no doubt looking for some succulent fruits to enjoy.

Fall is a great opportunity to see some birds in greater numbers than usual like the red-winged blackbirds. They join other blackbirds such as grackles, cowbirds and starlings in the fall and winter forming flocks that number in the thousands and even up into the millions according to AAB. One night at the marsh

around sunset, we watched for at least 10 minutes, amazed, as a continuous large trailing flock of blackbirds flew overhead before the last bird was swallowed up by the night.

One of our favorite birds to see at the marsh is the sandhill crane. From September through early November, the count of migrating cranes roosting at the marsh increases, eventually numbering well into the hundreds.

We love watching the cranes appear, flock after flock in the evening and hearing their loud exuberant trumpeting as they spiral down into the marsh, their legs and broad wings outstretched as they come in for a perfect landing. With sunset as a backdrop, this is one breathtaking sight.

Spotting warblers is difficult in the fall, so we joined an early morning bird walk at Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve in Suamico (just north of Green Bay) led by an expert bird guide. With the leaves still on the trees and the males no longer in their bright breeding plumage, it is difficult to see and identify these birds. But with the help of our guide, we were delighted to observe about a dozen warbler species as they flitted amongst the trees.

The warbler's colorful names evoke their showy spring plumage. We saw, among others, the blackburnian, bay-breasted, blackpoll, yellow-rumped, black-and-white, black-throated green and American redstart warblers. We also spied a yellow-bellied sapsucker, woodpeckers, swallows and a merlin, a small yet fierce bird of prey and namesake of the wonderful Merlin app.

It's easier now than ever to learn about birds and fall is a good time to see many of them. The Merlin app offers three ways to identify birds; via a photo, a description and by their calls, and includes images of each bird and information on their habitat, calls and range. There are several field guides available if you prefer a book format.

You can also look for birding groups or events in your area to make the learning process more fun and informative. Of course, one can appreciate the beauty and songs of birds without knowing which species they are. All one needs to do is open their eyes and ears to include the company of birds.



CATHY CARNES
COLUMNIST

Cathy Carnes is a retired biologist in Oconto who worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Green Bay Field Office and prior to that with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch in Buffalo, New York. As endangered species coordinator for the USFWS, she helped conserve and recover federally listed threatened and endangered species in Wisconsin.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Candidates differ on rural school support

To the editor:
The primary season is over, and we know who the two candidates for Wisconsin governor are.

While the totality of each candidate's positions and promises is important there is one factor I find especially critical – funding for rural school districts. Our rural districts are facing increasing challenges, and it is important to decide which of the two candidates is committed to meeting the educational needs of all Wisconsin families.

The school is, in many rural areas, the heart of the community. Not only is it the means of addressing the birthright of every Wisconsin child to obtain a high quality public education, it serves as a social gathering place and entertainment center for the community. Unfortunately, the reality is that rural school districts have been facing funding and operating problems in Wisconsin for some time.

State records show that over the past two decades, more than 600 public schools have closed, with nearly 40% of those occurring in small and rural communities. Funding for rural districts is an ongoing challenge compounded by lower enrollments and

OPINION PAGE POLICY

NEW Media welcomes letters on topics of local relevance from its readers. Letters must be typed and no longer than 400 words. Longer pieces of up to 800 words will be considered for guest columns. All columns require a photo of the author. All opinion pieces must be signed by the author, and an address and telephone number must be included for verification. Anonymous opinion pieces will not be published under any circumstances. The newspaper reserves the right to edit letters for accuracy, brevity and clarity, without changing the meaning or intent of the letter. No personal attacks will be allowed. Letters from new writers will be considered first over more frequent participants. The newspaper reserves the right to decline to publish any letter for any reason. The most expedient way to send letters is by email to news@newmedia-wi.com. Put "letter to the editor" in the subject line, and send the text in the body of the email. Letters can also be sent by mail or delivered in person to 1464 E. Green Bay St., Shawano.

a state revenue model dependent upon local property taxes.

While the funding model has improved slightly over the past eight years, the reality is that our rural school districts continue to be shortchanged by legislators who refuse to address the need for investment by the state in rural districts that does not place an undue burden on the rural taxpayer.

As you think about who you will be voting for, take into consideration the candidate's plan for ensuring that every Wisconsin child is provided the opportunity to prepare for their role as adults through a quality public education. It is important to consider behaviors and not simply campaign promises.

While he served in the state legislature, one of the candidates never offered support for any increase in funding for districts to keep pace with inflation, an acute concern in rural districts, while supporting increased funding for private school vouchers. The other has displayed a firm commitment to ensuring that every Wisconsin child, including those in rural districts, has the opportunity to obtain a solid education.

There are a number of factors to consider in making your choice for Wisconsin's next governor.

However, as it relates to funding and support for education, especially in the rural areas, I believe the choice is clear.

Dan McCollum,
Town of Elderon



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WHAT’S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, SEPT. 25

OCONTO: Storytime, 10:30 a.m., Farnsworth Public Library, 715 Main St. Story and crafts for preschool children. A caregiver must stay with the child.

SHAWANO: 2026 Homecoming Parade, 6 p.m., Main Street. Theme “Out of This World.”

SATURDAY, SEPT. 26

GRESHAM: Fall Harvest Day, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., car show, food trucks, live music, pin-up contest, craft sale, pancake breakfast. Questions? Contact Randy at 715-853-4526.

SHAWANO: FRESH Project Shawano Farmers Market, 8 a.m. to noon, Franklin Park, 235 Washington St.

STILES: St. Patrick’s Rummage Sale, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., 5760 County Road I.

ABARAMS: Machickanee Harvest Hustle fun run/walk, 8 a.m. shotgun start, 6625 Timberline Road. 4-mile and one-mile routes; untimed but recognition for top three men’s and women’s finishers in the 4-mile course.

OCONTO: Harvest Fest, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.,

Main Street. Vendors, music, car show, family activities.

SHAWANO: Mountain-Bay State Trail 30th Anniversary Celebration, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Trail Information Center, 620 S. Main St. Food, family activities, prizes.

BOWLER: Nature Bathing Along the Trail Walk, 10 a.m., Snowmobile Pavilion, 104 E. Railroad St. Outdoor enthusiast Nikole Koszarek leads a 1.5-mile walk designed to help participants slow down, engage their senses and experience the natural beauty of the Mountain-Bay State Trail.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 27

SHAWANO: Zurko’s Flea Market, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Shawano County Fairgrounds, 990 E. Green Bay St. Admission \$2.

SHAWANO: Pedal for Pancakes and Pie Group Ride, 8:30 a.m., Huckleberry Harbor. Friends of Mountain-Bay State Trail meet for on-road ride through towns of Wescott and Richmond to St. Jakobi breakfast.

SHAWANO: Potato Pancake Breakfast, 10 a.m.

to 12:30 p.m., St. Jakobi Lutheran Church, W8089 County Road A. All-you-can-eat potato or wheat pancakes, sausage, maple syrup, cheese, applesauce, pie. \$10, children 6-12 \$5, 5 and younger free. Takeouts available. Silent auction.

SHAWANO: Celebrate St. James Community Picnic, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., St. James Lutheran Church, 324 S. Andrews St. Live music, raffles, food truck rally, kids carnival and bounce houses.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 30

STILES: St. Patrick’s Rummage Sale, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., 5760 County Road I.

BONDUEL: Farmers Market, 4-7 p.m., corner of Cecil and Green Bay streets.

THURSDAY, OCT. 1

OCONTO: Thursday Play Group, 10:30 a.m. to noon, Farnsworth Public Library, 715 Main St. Meant for children to play and interact with other children at the library. A caregiver must stay with the child.

SHAWANO: God’s Little Wonders: Parent/Tot

Hour, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1254 S. Union St. Hands-on activities and crafts, songs and stories, faith nurturing.

NAVARINO: Senior Safari Lunch and Learn, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Topic: Fall Trolley Tour. Suggested meal fee \$5. RSVP at 715-758-6999 or navarino.org.

NAVARINO: Hike with the Sandhill Cranes, 6-8 p.m., Navarino Nature Center W5646 Lindsten Road. Enjoy the nightly flight of the sandhill cranes after a hike to the Hazelwood Observation Platform. Binoculars, spotting scopes and cameras recommended. NNC members \$5, non-members \$10, families \$25. Register by Sept. 30 at 715-758-6999 or navarino.org.

OCONTO: Historical Society Speaker Series, 6:30 p.m., Beyer Home and Carriage House Museum, 915 Park Ave. “Bottoms Up!” A toast to Wisconsin bars and restaurants with Jim Draeger, including a special Oconto tavern. Light refreshments, Oconto beer caps and T-shirts available for purchase.

PARTON, continued from page 15

teaching tweens and teens for 35 years can do to you.

Now please understand that in no way am I comparing myself physically to these famous, beautiful women. I didn’t have the time, money or energy it takes to look so fabulous, because you must have “work done.” Plastic surgery to keep a pretty face and well-toned body long past your prime can be painful.

In addition, you need resources to hire people to do life in our lane – childcare, housekeeping, yard work, cooking, cleaning, etc. Women in my world don’t have hired professionals taking care of our daily needs nor do we have

personal trainers or makeup artists to keep us looking in tiptop shape. We have to settle for eating healthy, exercising, exfoliating, cosmetics and hair dye. That is, if we can afford it.

I have read that Dolly chose blood relatives to do a lot of the ordinary things in her extraordinary life, but she did have access to unlimited “outside helpers” to take care of her needs. She was so accessible though that many people who began working for her as strangers became part of her extended “family.” Good for her.

Still, there’s definitely a downside to having paid staff at your beck and call. The loss of privacy

and private time has to take a toll. Dolly was away from home, often for extended work tours, but she cherished time spent with her husband at their farm in Tennessee. She wasn’t afraid to say that when she was home, she ditched the heavy makeup and wigs, threw on comfy clothes, and snuggled on the couch with Carl.

Knowing that makes me smile, because I love my life here at Otter Run with Jon, but let’s get real. No one can do laundry, cleaning, yard work, grocery shopping or meal prep while wearing 5-inch heels and sporting perfectly manicured 2-inch fingernails.

Dolly and I had another thing in common. Workaholics. She maintained an intense work schedule focused on projects that she still hoped to accomplish, continuing to work for as long as her health allowed. I share her desire to create even as my health isn’t what it once was. There’s one more: I ain’t blonde and I ain’t dumb.

So the girl from Pigeon Forge is gone, but her incredible legacy that garnered global praise will live on forever. Her music and philanthropy were world-class. It’s fitting that Imagination Library continues to honor her illiterate father by putting books into the hands of children who would

probably never have owned one.

My sister Marge, who is 18 months older than me, has a priceless view on birthdays that has become my mantra. She says we should think of aging in a different way: If you didn’t know your birth date, how old would you think you are? She says for her it’s 40. I’d say for me it’s 50. Seeing I’m almost 80, I like that perspective.

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



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8:30AM- 4pm.
Tons of tools including Stihl chain saws, ladders, air compressor, many hand tools and misc items. Other items include beds, dressers, clothing, kitchen/household items.



Clayton, Steve, Shelly and Carter Janesch stand in front of Mike’s Super Market, the grocery store in Townsend that has been in the Janesch family since 1982. The family will close the store Oct. 31.

CONTRIBUTED

TOWNSEND, continued from page 1

don’t have any purchasing power, and overhead just increases. Anyone that’s looked at it said there’s not enough volume here to continue, so we’re going to dissolve the groceries and sell the property.”

The Janesches plan to close the store Oct. 31.

“We’re selling as much inventory as we can,” Steve Janesch said. “We’ll end up doing blow-out sales and clearance sales.”

“The equipment and everything is staying until we sell the building in case somebody wants the shelving,” Shelly Janesch said.

Several factors went into the decision, according to Steve Janesch.

“It was a very, very hard decision,” he said. “It’s the time commitment, the stress of everything, multiple things.”

He said he and his family have received support from the community once the decision to close was made.

“It was put on Facebook, and a lot of people have come in showing support and telling a lot of stories,” he said.

Before Mike and Marge Janesch purchased the store, it was known as Ehler’s Super Market at the current location.

“This side was the

hardware store, and this side was the grocery store,” Steve Janesch said. “We’ve been talking about this for five years. The first two years, you try to sell through other warehouses, so not a lot of people know. The (for sale) sign has been out up front for the last three (years). People definitely knew that we wanted to move on to something else. Our kids are out of school and moved away. Both of us have parents that are getting up there, and we can’t be tied here seven days a week.”

Steve Janesch is originally from Townsend, and Shelly Janesch grew up in Crandon. The Janesches purchased the store 12 years ago.

“You get to know an awful lot of people in town,” Steve Janesch said. “I get some customers that have known me since I was 9 years old. They’re sad to see it go, but they also understand why it is.”

Small-town grocery stores are important to the communities they serve, he said.

In Townsend’s case, the store kept residents from having to travel to Lakewood’s grocery store six miles away or even further to Crandon, Rhinelander or Antigo.

“I can go into one of

those stores and purchase certain items from companies like Frito-Lay, Pepsi or Coke cheaper than I can purchase from those companies, just because they’re corporate chains and they have corporate deals,” Steve Janesch said. “That’s hard, yet you do have a lot of locals that support you and get those things from you.”

Steve Janesch said he and his wife aren’t ready to retire.

“Too young,” he said. “I will be 54. The first plan is to take time off. After working seven days a week, you need some time off. We’ll stay in the area and both look for jobs.”

“If we went back, we would have done all of it over again,” the Janesches wrote in a farewell letter to customers. “As the Janesch family, we are eternally grateful for the last 44 years. I know the Townsend community will miss that little grocery store, but I also know that this community will support us through this big change.”

“Who knows what the future holds for these walls. We are a little sad, very grateful and excited to see where the future takes us.”

seubert4@gmail.com

TIFFANY, continued from page 1

“In one high school social studies classroom, we showed a video of President (George W.) Bush and Condoleezza Rice discussing their memories of the day and our veteran staff told stories of what they remembered about the day here at WB when it happened,” Rogowski said. “It lasted about 15 minutes in each class. In another, they provided a similar overview and talk about it as a group and offer them the perspective that the students and this particular younger staff member do not have any physical memories of the event. Interesting to compare that to older generations

who do recall that day.”

Bowler School District Troy Krause said his schools had all teachers discuss 9/11 in their classrooms, but it is especially emphasized in the social studies classes.

“This allowed the teacher to determine which content was appropriate for the various grade levels,” Krause said. “I do not believe we need legislation on this matter.”

In the Lena School District, Sept. 11 started with a special announcement detailing what happened 25 years ago, along with a full minute of silence that’s followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, according to Superintendent

Ben Pytleski.

“Is there an assumption that schools do not recognize, teach or discuss the events of 9/11?” Pytleski said.

Gresham School District Superintendent Newell Haffner said his school does something similar, noting that the discussions in social studies classes look at how the world has changed in the last 25 years.

“We make sure that our discussions are grade appropriate,” Haffner said. “The juniors and seniors discuss more detail and the first graders get the overview.”

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PUBLIC RECORD

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Sept. 17
Deputies responded to

9/25/26, 10/2/26, 10/9/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
OCONTO COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT
N.E.W. Credit Union
Plaintiff, Case No. 26CV136
v. Code No. 30301

Benjamin J. Gordon
XYZ Unknown Defendant
Defendants.

PUBLICATION SUMMONS
STATE OF WISCONSIN
To each person named above as a Defendant:
You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you.
Within 40 days after September 25, 2026, you must respond with a written demand for a copy of the complaint. The demand must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is Clerk of Courts, Oconto County Courthouse, 301 Washington St, Oconto, WI 54153-1621, and to Justin J. Bates, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is PO Box 1473, Wausau, WI 54402. You may have an attorney help or represent you.
If you do not demand a copy of the complaint within 40 days, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.
Dated: September 15, 2026.
Bates Legal Group, LLC
Attorneys for Plaintiff
By: /s/ Justin J. Bates
Justin J. Bates
State Bar No. 1066128
P.O. Box 1473
Wausau, WI 54402-1473
(715) 843-5599

WNAXLP
OCO109

63 incidents, including an unwanted party on County Road J in the Town of Little Suamico; a wrong-way driver near U.S. Highway 41 and U.S. Highway 141 in the Town of Abrams; a structure fire on Broadway Avenue in Oconto; a disturbance on North Rosera Street in Lena; harassment on River Road in the Town of How; theft on Maiden Lake Road in the Town of Riverview; theft on East Frontage Road in the Town of Abrams; suspicious activity at the Law Enforcement Center, 220 Arbutus Ave., Oconto; fraud on South Pineview Circle in the Town of Breed; suspicious activity on state Highway 64 in the Town of Brazeau; one traffic stop, one traffic hazard, three citizen assists, two miscellaneous traffic incidents; two open-line 911 calls; seven ambulance calls; three crashes, one involving deer.

Sept. 16
Deputies responded to 54 incidents, including squad damage on Star Lake Road in the Town of Doty; a structure fire on Madison Street in Oconto; a disturbance on Warrington Lake Drive in the Town of Underhill; an animal

bite on Long Street in the Town of Lakewood; child abuse at a redacted location; fraud on East Frontage Road in the Town of Little Suamico; suspicious activity on North Creek Lane in the Town of Little River; two traffic stops, one traffic offense, four citizen assists, one miscellaneous traffic incident; two 911 hangups and six open lines; three ambulance calls; eight crashes, four involving deer, one involving a bear.

Sept. 15
Deputies responded to 61 incidents, including a wanted person on Early Lane in the Town of Abrams; a drug-endangered children case at a redacted location; burglary on Logtown Road in the Town of Oconto; animal neglect on County Road S in the Town of Oconto; theft on South Krueger Street in Suring; threatening on Peshtigo Brook Road in Suring; property damage on Lone Pine Court in the Town of Chase; trespassing on Dumman Lane in the Town of Lakewood; four traffic stops, two traffic offenses, three citizen assists, four miscellaneous traffic incidents, three welfare checks; one

911 hangup and three open lines; four ambulance calls; four crashes, two involving deer.

Sept. 14
Deputies responded to 64 incidents, including illegal burning on County Road I in the Town of Stiles; internet fraud on West Railroad Street in Abrams; fraud on Whisper Way in Abrams; threatening on Farnsworth Avenue in Oconto; a disturbance on Klatt Road in the Town of Underhill; a wanted person at the Law Enforcement Center, 220 Arbutus Ave., Oconto; squad damage on South Porcupine Lake Road in the Town of Spruce; a disturbance on White Lake Road in the Town of Bagley; three traffic stops, one traffic hazard, two traffic offenses, two citizen assists, two miscellaneous traffic incidents, one welfare check; three 911 hangups and two open lines; seven ambulance calls; three crashes.

Sept. 13
Deputies responded to 44 incidents, including a structure fire on County Road T in the Town of Townsend; a wrong-way driver on U.S. Highway 141 near County Road E in the

Town of Abrams; a disturbance on Spring Hill Road in the Town of Gillett; a disturbance on Beaumier Lane in the Town of Chase; a noise disturbance on Red Fox Lane in the Town of Townsend; suspicious activity on state Highway 22 in the Town of Stiles; suspicious activity on Douglas Road in the Town of Little Suamico; five traffic stops, one traffic hazard, two traffic offenses, one citizen assist, one miscellaneous traffic incident; six open-line 911 calls; seven ambulance calls; one crash.

Sept. 12
Deputies responded to 51 incidents, including a death investigation at a redacted location; a noise disturbance on state Highway 32 in the Town of Maple Valley; a disturbance near Brazeau Avenue and Baldwin Street in Oconto; a disturbance on Havenwood Hills Drive in the Town of Little Suamico; three wanted persons at redacted locations; fireworks near Main Street at T Berg Circle in Abrams; suspicious activity on West Slope Lane in the Town of Stiles; four traffic stops, five traffic hazards, two traffic offenses, two

citizen assists, five miscellaneous traffic incidents, two 911 hangups and five open lines; four ambulance calls; three crashes.

Sept. 11
Deputies responded to 61 incidents, including a disturbance on Superior Avenue in Oconto; harassment on Barkman Street in Suring; a fire control burn on Business 41 in the Town of Oconto; a disturbance on County Road Z in the Town of Brazeau; trespassing on Youngman Lane in the Town of Lakewood; property damage on Bialozynski Road in the Town of Chase; an animal bite on North Road in the Town of Lakewood; criminal damage on Lee Lake Road in the Town of Brazeau; a wanted person on County Road M in the Town of Maple Valley; a weapon offense on Ball Park Road in the Town of Little Suamico; a disturbance on Jagiello Road in the Town of Lena; one traffic stop, one traffic hazard, two traffic offenses, five citizen assists, two miscellaneous traffic incidents, two welfare checks; one 911 hangup and three open lines; nine ambulance calls; two crashes, one involving deer.

COURT NEWS

• Isaiah M. Drella, 29, Sobieski, was charged Sept. 14 with failure to comply with an officer trying to take him into custody and misdemeanor counts of possession of amphetamine/LSD/psilocin, possession of THC, possession of

drug paraphernalia, criminal damage to property, and disorderly conduct. Conley set a \$5,000 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until Oct. 15.

• Anthony S. Lonzo, 47, Oconto, was charged Sept. 18 with two

counts of felony bail jumping, as well as battery and disorderly conduct as a domestic abuse repeater. Conley set a \$10,000 cash bond and scheduled a waiver of preliminary hearing for Sept. 24.

• Danielle J. Kasee, 46,

Denmark, was charged Sept. 18 with strangulation and suffocation and misdemeanor counts of battery and disorderly conduct. Conley set a \$2,500 cash bond and adjourned her initial appearance until Oct. 15.

OBITUARIES

NORMAN J. CHRISTENSEN



Norman J. Christensen, 85, of Cecil, passed away Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2026.
Norman was born Oct. 28, 1940, to the late Conrad and Verna (Ramage) Christensen. He served his country in the United States Army and was discharged in 1968. On Aug. 12, 1967, Norman married Ruby Block at St. John's Lutheran Church in Pulcifer.

He was active in the community serving as scoutmaster for the local Boy Scouts, serving on

the church council and he was a Sunday school

superintendent. Norman was a member of the Gillett American Legion Post 300, Trout Unlimited and St. Paul Lutheran Church in Bonduel.

Norman enjoyed gardening, fishing, hunting and playing cards. He especially enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and going to Camp Luther.

Norman is survived by his five children, Kelly, Kim (Kevin) Hendrikson, Kyle (Karen), Kerry (Carrie) and Kara (Jesse)

Tulogeski; 12 grandchildren, Thomas (Ariana), Alexis (Dan), Paige, Peyton (Kayte), Pamela, Bailey (Corina), Ryan, Aidan, Joshua, Justine, Megan and Michael; brothers-in-law, Joe Ondik, Ruben Block and Russell (Kathy) Block; sisters-in-law, Rochelle Christensen, Marlene Christensen and Ruth Christensen. He is further survived by many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruby,

his parents; four brothers, Vernon, Elton, Marvin and Thomas; two sisters, Dorothy Cornish and Norma Ondik.

Visitation will be held at Gruetzmacher Funeral Home in Suring on Friday, Sept. 18, 2026, from 5-7 p.m. Visitation continues on Saturday at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Bonduel from 10 a.m. until the funeral service at 11 a.m. with Pastor Ryan Fehrmann officiating.

Norman will be interred at St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery.

Gruetzmacher Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences can be expressed at gruetzmacherfuneralhome.com.

A special thank you to Moments Hospice, Patient Pines Assisted Living and Alicia with Stay at Home Care.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established.



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SO MANY QUESTIONS, SPECIAL TEAMS HAS ANSWERS



Green Bay's offensive line is a mixed bag of starters, injured players and backups. The quality depth of the line will have a huge impact on the entire Packers season. From left, are five-year veteran Zach Bako-Bewele, third-year veteran Jacob Monk, five-year veteran Sean Rhyhan, second-year veteran Donovan Jennings and third-year veteran Jordan Morgan. GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

Roster depth will determine team success

Packers injury report grows, Bako-Bewele, Reed suffer severe injuries



Jordan Love wonders what's next for the offensive line. GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

By LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

While it is encouraging that the Green Bay Packers came away with a victory in its week two matchup with the New York Jets, it is becoming more apparent the offensive line is going to be an issue moving forward. Coming into the season, it appeared that while it wasn't the greatest

offensive line in the league, the Packers had experienced and somewhat reliable players with Jordan Morgan, Aaron Banks, Sean Rhyhan, Anthony Belton and Zach Bako-Bewele (formally Tom) on the front. Through two games though, that thought of experience and consistency couldn't be farther from the truth. First, the Packers offensive line got dismantled in

Week 1 by a very good Vikings defense. Minnesota was able to come away with four sacks, seven tackles for a loss and 15 quarterback hits. That number was improved in the Week 2 victory over the Jets, as New York came away with three sacks, six tackles for a loss and three quarterback hits. While Week 2 seems like an improvement, those numbers are still too

high for Jordan Love and the offense to work into sort of consistency. While the pass game certainly suffered against Minnesota, the run game as a whole has yet to get going this season. Through two weeks, Green Bay has totaled just 99 rushing yards and no rushing touchdowns. Without a consistent run game, passing the ball is going to be just as difficult

if the Packers' can't get linebackers and safeties to cheat up and respect the run. Through two weeks, the Packers have seen eight different offensive linemen log snaps: Jacob Monk, Sean Rhyhan, Jordan Morgan, Anthony Belton, Aaron Banks, Jager Burton, Donovan Jennings and Zach Bako-Bewele. DEPTH, continued on page 2

EARLY RETURNS, SPECIAL TEAMS DELIVER AN OT 'W'

By LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

Rookie kicker Trey Smack was thrust into the spotlight early in his career as a 26-yard field goal attempt in overtime sailed through the uprights giving the Green Bay Packers a 20-17 win over the New York Jets on Sept. 20. After seeing a revolving door at the kicker position over the past four years, it appears that Green Bay's willingness to spend a sixth-round pick at the position in the 2026 NFL draft is on the right path to success. With the inconsistent play from a majority of the team through the first two weeks of the season, Smack has been one of

Green Bay's better and more reliable players, connecting on all five of his field goal attempts and three out of four of his extra point attempts. While Smack was the player to put Green Bay over the top, it looked unlikely that Green Bay was even going to get to a chance to win the game, as according to ESPN's win probability chart, the New York Jets had an 88.7% chance to win when it had a 10-point lead with just under 11 minutes left in the game. From that point, the Packers scored 10 points in the fourth quarter to send the game into overtime, before ultimately holding the Jets on the first drive of the extra period

and setting up Smack for the game-winning kick. "It is hard to win in this league, especially on the road," said Packers head coach Matt LaFleur. "For our guys to continue to battle, hopefully that'll give us some momentum moving forward, because it was tough sledding in there for about three quarters." The Packers finished the game with 199 total yards on offense, but the play of edge rusher Lukas Van Ness and the defense did just enough to slow the Jets offense down all game to keep the score at a manageable deficit. Van Ness' career day saw the Iowa alum total 10 total tackles, RECAP, continued on page 2



Kicker Trey Smack delivered a 26-yard game-winning field goal in overtime to help the Packers defeat the Jets 20-17 on Sept. 20 in East Rutherford, New Jersey. GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS



Third-year running back MarShawnno Lloyd made his first NFL start in Week 1 against the Vikings. Leading him down the field were Sean Rhyen, front, and Anthony Belton (71). The Packers are still without Josh Jacobs, their top running back.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

RECAP, continued from page 1

including three tackles for a loss, four quarterback hits and 1.5 sacks.

“I am drained, I am exhausted, but it feels good,” said Van Ness, on his performance. “I laid it all out there for the team, and more than anything, I just had a lot of fun today.”

No play was bigger for Van Ness though than on fourth-and-one from the 50-yard line with 1:02 left in the game. The Jets attempted to keep the drive going, but the Packers edge rusher penetrated the offensive line and stuffed New York (and former Wisconsin Badger) running back Braelon Allen for no gain, ending the drive.

“We called a pressure from the right side, so I was able to tighten down. I saw the back step up (and) before I knew it, I was kind of able to just sneak through the back-field and come clean,” said Van Ness. “Obviously it was a huge turning point in the game, and obviously it was a big play.”

Quarterback Jordan

Love finished the game completing 16-of-29 passes for 145 yards and two touchdowns.

Christian Watson was on the receiving end of one of Love’s touchdown passes, as he totaled 41 yards on four receptions. It was Matthew Golden, though, who led the Packers in receiving, catching four passes for 58 yards.

Running back MarShawnno Lloyd was the other Packer who caught a Love touchdown, marking his first career touchdown.

In the run game, Kaleb Johnson led the way for the Packers, totaling 32 yards on eight carries, while Lloyd went for 20 yards on six carries. Chris Brooks added another 11 yards on four carries.

For the Jets, quarterback Geno Smith completed 27-of-41 passes for 247 yards and one touchdown.

Running back Breece Hall and wide receiver Adonai Mitchell tied for the receiving leaders, both totaling 63 yards. Garrett Wilson added another 57

yards on five receptions, including Smith’s lone touchdown.

In the run game, Hall was only able to manage 29 yards on 16 carries, while Allen totaled seven yards on five carries, including a touchdown.

While the win over the Jets in overtime gives Green Bay its first victory of the season, it may have come at a major cost.

Wide receiver Jayden Reed left the game early, as he was carted off on a spine board after a vicious hit in the first quarter. Following Reed leaving the game, right tackle Zach Bako-Bewele (formally Tom) also left the game in an inflatable cast.

“Jayden Reed – he’s got movement in all of his extremities; he will be staying overnight,” said LaFleur. “That was obviously a very scary deal anytime you see anybody down on the field and have to get carted off. An update on Zach Tom, that doesn’t look good either as far as – I think he could be out a long time.”

DEPTH, continued from page 1

That number may continue to climb, after a litany of injuries against the Jets affected Green Bay’s offensive line. Bako-Bewele and Jennings both left the game with injuries, severely thinning out the depth among the line.

“Guys are going to have to step up, and that is just the way that it is,” said coach Matt LaFleur, on the offensive line injuries. “We are going to have to do a great job coaching them up.”

Against New York, injuries and inconsistent play got so bad that LaFleur mentioned Green Bay was down to just four healthy offensive linemen.

“We were talking about having to put Tucker Kraft in at tackle when Monk was getting evaluated,” said LaFleur.

The absence of Josh Jacobs does not help the offensive line either, as the Alabama alum is one of the better running backs in the NFL and can help the offensive line set up its blocks with cuts and patience.

With players like MarShawnno Lloyd, Kaleb Johnson and Chris Brooks, that

element of the run game has not fully been developed yet, leading to the lack of success in one of the more important facets of the game.

The silver lining though is that rookie Jager Burton was one of Green Bay’s replacements among the offensive line, and while he is not ready to be a starter yet, the opportunity to play early in the season will only help his development as he works to become a future piece.

With all of the injuries among the offensive line, it is yet to see if Green Bay adds anyone to the locker room in free agency or through a trade. But one thing is certain. If the Packers cannot establish a strong and consistent run game moving forward, it is going to be very difficult for the offense to move the ball down the field this season.

In the short term, with Bako-Bewele injured, it appears that Belton will man the right tackle position, while Burton will continue to fill in at the guard spot depending on if Jennings, Banks or Monk are not able to suit up in the future.



One of the bright spots for the Packers’ defense is the tandem of third-year linebacker Edgerin Cooper (56) and nine-year veteran linebacker Zaire Franklin (44). The duo celebrate a tackle for a loss in Week 1 against the Minnesota Vikings.

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ATLANTA FALCONS AT GREEN BAY PACKERS

Time and date: 7:15 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 24
Location: Lambeau Field
TV: Prime Video
Radio: Flagship WRIT-FM, Milwaukee, 95.7. Packers Radio Network includes WRLO-FM Antigo, 105.3; WMJQ-FM, Clintonville, 92.3; WIXX-FM, Green Bay, 101.1; WLST-FM, Marinette, 95.1; and WSAU Wausau, 550 AM and 95.1 FM
2026 records: Packers 1-1, Falcons 0-2
History: The Packers have played the Falcons 36 times, including four postseason games, with Green Bay leading the

series 19-17.
The most recent game, in 2023, saw the Falcons come from 24-12 deficit at the start of the fourth quarter to win 25-24. Younghoe Koo kicked the winning field goal with less than a minute on the clock.
The last time the Falcons came to Lambeau Field was in an empty stadium.
COVID-19 restrictions forced the stadiums to be empty for most of the year. Aaron Rodgers and Green Bay’s offense rang up 30 points, and did just enough against Matt Ryan and the Atlanta offense to coast to a

two-score victory.
Coaches: Packers, Matt LaFleur, eighth season, 76-40-1. Falcons, Kevin Stefanski, first season, 0-2.
Packers Schedule
Sunday, Sept. 13, at Minnesota, L 39-22
Sunday, Sept. 20, at NY Jets, W 20-17 (OT)
Thursday, Sept. 24, vs. Atlanta, 7:15 p.m., Prime Video
Sunday, Oct. 4, at Tampa Bay, noon, FOX
Sunday, Oct. 11, vs. Chicago, 3:25 p.m., FOX
Sunday, Oct. 18, vs. Dallas,

7:20 p.m., NBC
Sunday, Oct. 25, at Detroit, 3:25 p.m., FOX
Thursday, Oct. 29, vs. Carolina, 7:15 p.m., Prime Video
Sunday, Nov. 8, at New England, 3:25 p.m., FOX
Sunday, Nov. 15, vs. Minnesota, noon, FOX
Week 11 BYE
Wednesday, Nov. 25, at LA Rams, 7 p.m., Netflix
Sunday, Dec. 6, at New Orleans, noon, FOX
Sunday, Dec. 13, vs. Buffalo, 7:20 p.m., NBC
Sunday, Dec. 20, vs. Miami, noon, FOX

Friday, Dec. 25, at Chicago, noon, Netflix
Monday, Jan. 4, vs. Houston, 7:15 p.m., ESPN
Week 18, vs. Detroit, TBD
NFL Schedule
Thursday, Sept. 24
Atlanta at Green Bay, 7:15 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 27
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, noon
New England at Jacksonville, noon
Tennessee at NY Giants, noon
Seattle at Washington, noon
NY Jets at Detroit, noon

Carolina at Cleveland, noon
Kansas City at Miami, noon
LA Chargers at Buffalo, noon
Houston at Indianapolis, noon
Arizona at San Francisco, 3:05 p.m.
Minnesota at Tampa Bay, 3:05 p.m.
Las Vegas at New Orleans, 3:25 p.m.
Baltimore at Dallas (at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), 3:25 p.m.
LA Rams at Denver 7:20 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 28
Philadelphia at Chicago, 7:15 p.m.

MOMENTS

VICTORY IN OVERTIME



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KICKER TANDEM LIFTS SPECIAL TEAMS

Green Bay’s special teams got a boost this year with new coordinator Cam Achord, return specialist Skyy Moore and kicker Trey Smack (28). They join fourth-year punter Daniel Whelan (19). Against the Jets, Whelan had six punts with an average of 54 yards, including a long punt of 66 yards. Smack started his NFL career with a 59-yard field goal against Minnesota and kicked a 26-yarder to beat the Jets in overtime.

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MOMENTS

GREEN BAY 20, NEW YORK JETS 17 (OT)



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VAN NESS FINALLY EMERGING

Fourth-year edge rusher Lukas Van Ness is a late bloomer, as the former first-round pick is finally breaking out. In Week 2 against the New York Jets, Van Ness recorded 10 tackles, including three tackles for a loss, 1.5 sacks and four quarterback hits. Pro Football Focus tallied six pressures and seven stops, which are tackles that constitute a failure for the offense.

HO-CHUNK



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