



Manuel Antonio Herrera-Hernandez listens to Marinette County Circuit Court Judge James Morrison give opening instructions to the jury on Sept. 28 at the beginning of his trial for first-degree intentional homicide.

WARREN BLUHM

Trial begins in 2021 murder

Defendant killed the victim to wipe out a drug debt, says DA

By **WARREN BLUHM**
Correspondent

Five and a half years after a man was shot to death in a remote area of Oconto County, the trial of his accused killer got underway Sept. 28.

Manuel Antonio Herrera-Hernandez, 37, a former Green Bay man whose address is now listed as the Oconto County Jail, is charged with first-degree intentional homicide in connection with the February 2021 death of Miguel Gutierrez “Grande” Palomares, a 35-year-old man previously identified by authorities only by his initials, MGP.

Herrera-Hernandez, who was free on bail on drug trafficking charges, was arrested three months later and has been held since then in lieu of \$2 million cash bail.

Oconto County District Attorney Joshua Dryak said in his opening remarks that Herrera-Hernandez, also known as “Manny,” had been arrested in October 2020 with nearly a half-pound of methamphetamine and several bags of marijuana.

Dryak said Herrera-Hernandez owed money to Francisco “Pancho” Cortez-Mendez, whom he described as a mid-level

drug dealer who oversaw distribution in the Green Bay area, and that Palomares owed a great deal more.

“Pancho sends down the order: ‘Manny, either get Grande to repay the money, or kill him,’” Dryak said.

The DA said on Feb. 21, 2021, Herrera-Hernandez and his then-girlfriend, Mara Vance, picked up Palomares and drove to a DNR lot off a dead-end road in the Town of Little Suamico, identified in the criminal complaint as the parking area of the Green Bay Shores State Wildlife Area on Lade Beach Road.

They had an “animated and angry” conversation in Spanish, Dryak said Vance would testify.

“Grande ran out of people to call, ran out of time to get that money,” Dryak said, “and Manny shot him, because he was following orders and in an attempt to wipe out his own debt to Pancho.”

Herrera-Hernandez didn’t shoot him just once, but kept shooting “until the slide locked back and he couldn’t shoot him anymore,” the DA said.

The break in the case came in May 2021 when Herrera-Hernandez and Vance were arrested during a traffic stop in Green Bay.

The criminal complaint indicates that 44.71 grams of fentanyl and 360.93 grams of methamphetamine were seized from the car.

During the initial interview with Vance, she told investigators Herrera-Hernandez admitted to her that he had shot and killed Palomares, according to the homicide complaint.

Attorney Abigail Ruckdashel, who gave the opening statement for the defense, acknowledged that the defendant and the witnesses who are tied to the crime are all part of the criminal underworld, and as a result their testimony couldn’t be predicted.

“We know what they said to the cops; we have no idea what they’re going to get up on the witness stand and say, so I’m not up here to say, ‘You’re going to hear this,’ because the truth of the matter is we don’t know,” Ruckdashel said. “The truth of the matter is they might not know. The truth of the matter is they might be lying. The truth of the matter is they might not remember — this all happened more than five years ago.”

She added that the jury will not hear about a gun, because the weapon that

TRIAL, continued on page 4

Baldwin speaks out on sports broadcasts

For the Fans Act would ease costs for families, sports bars

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin is pushing for sports fans to be allowed free access to broadcast sports events in their home state through her bill, the For the Fans Act.

Baldwin strategically held a press conference via Zoom on Sept. 24, the same day as the Green Bay Packers home opener against the Atlanta Falcons, which was being broadcast on Amazon Prime, a streaming service that requires a subscription, instead of on network television, which has been a tradition for decades.



TAMMY BALDWIN

“Today is one of those days Wisconsinites circle on their calendar,” Baldwin said. “There’s a crispness in the air, and tonight the Green Bay Packers play their home opener at Lambeau Field. The sound of football should fill living rooms and sports bars across the state, but tonight, millions of Packers fans won’t be able to simply turn on the TV and cheer on the Green and Gold, and that’s because the game is streaming on Amazon Prime Video.”

This year, four of the Packers games are being broadcast on streaming services, including the night before Thanksgiving, a special Wednesday night football game where Green Bay faces off against the Los Angeles Rams that will be shown on Netflix. Baldwin said requiring fans and businesses to “shell out money” to watch a sporting event that’s practically in their backyard is unacceptable.

“In January, the Packers-Bears playoff game was also on Amazon Prime,” Baldwin said. “It was the kind of game that Wisconsinites expect to crowd around the TV to watch together, but folks across Wisconsin discovered they couldn’t get it through their normal TV package.”

Baldwin said that sports fans shouldn’t be forced to pay more money to watch

BALDWIN, continued on page 2

INSIDE

Businesses prepare for slow season with tourists gone.

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What happens after tourists head home?

Businesses deal with a slowdown during offseason

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

Running a business in a small, tourism-dependent community has its challenges, especially after out-of-town traffic slows down this time of year.

Nobody knows that more than Vicki Pintsch, who has owned and operated Pintsch's True Value for 50 years. She has been involved in the business, located at 17891 State Highway 32 in Townsend, since she and her late husband, Richard, took it over in 1976.

Customers will find anything from hardware to sporting goods to housewares to lumber at the store.

"It's a little bit of everything," Pintsch said. "Everybody knows you, and you try to have what people need in stock. If you need something right away, it's close, and you don't have to take so much time out of your day to go somewhere else when you're working on a project."

Business at the store was good during the 2026 tourism season, according to Pintsch.

"It was a nice summer, and when winter comes along, you have to be prepared, because the population is a lot less and therefore, sales go down," she said. "The snowbirds go south, and that's usually any time between October and November through March or April when people come back. Normally, it's the start of the fishing season when we start to see things picking up."

Wisconsin's gun deer



Julie Gmeiner, left, and Amanda Fournier stock shelves at Pintsch's True Value in Townsend. The Pintsch family has owned and operated the store for more than 100 years and enjoyed a successful summer tourism season, according to owner Vicki Pintsch.

GREG SEUBERT

season, held in late November, is also good for business.

They see "a lot of hunters," Pintsch said. "We open early for the hunting season. We've been selling (hunting) licenses for many years."

The store has been in the Pintsch family for more than a century. Richard's grandfather and father operated the business before Richard and Vicki took it over in 1976.

"I married into it, so I didn't have a choice," Pintsch said. "My husband passed away in 2013, and since then, I've had it. It's been in the family for over 100 years."

She said there's a reason why the store has been successful when others failed.

"I don't know if there's

any secret except hard work," she said. "It's been a lot of hard work, and we did as much as we could as a family. You miss a lot of holidays because you're working, and you work seven days a week. There's a lot of sacrifice that goes with it to a degree."

Retirement is on Pintsch's mind these days.

"I hope so, I'm 75," she said. "If you know anyone that's open to buy (the store), let me know."

She said her children aren't interested in running the store, because they operate their own businesses.

Pintsch has been thinking about retiring for a few years but doesn't have the business or building listed yet with a Realtor.

"People know," she said. "We've had some people interested, but it's a little bigger than some people thought. Hopefully, when the time comes, there'll be somebody that'll continue the store. Right now, it's on our mind, because the grocery store next door is closing its doors, and that's been there for as long as we've been here."

When she does retire, Pintsch said she'll miss the business.

"My husband was born and raised here, so everybody knew him," she said. "He was popular, and a lot of people liked him, because he was their hometown boy."

At the same time Pintsch was dealing with customers at her store, Josh Banie and his staff were opening the Old

Town Hall Sports Bar & Restaurant at 17767 State Highway 32.

Banie has owned the business off and on for more than 15 years.

"For us, it was a really good summer for my first year getting back into it," he said. "I sold it about a year and a half ago and then got it back."

Banie admitted it's not easy to run a place like Old Town Hall, which has a bar and adjacent restaurant.

"I'm pretty fortunate," he said. "We have good employees here."

The tourism season typically runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day weekends.

"It's the best three months, for sure – June, July and August," Banie said.

Old Town Hall is one of

several choices for food in the Townsend area and has been a part of the community for years.

"We do a lot more food with the full restaurant with weekly specials," Banie said. "The chicken dinner is a big one. The Friday fish fry is a big one."

The business relies on support from local residents year-round, he said.

"They're a big part of our core business," he said. "We're open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, so we see a lot of them regularly."

Most of Old Town Hall's business comes from the restaurant, while the bar is busy during Green Bay Packer games.

ATV and UTV trails that run through Townsend also bring in customers, Banie said.

"The trails are open for a while yet, and we have the gas station next door. So a lot of people are stopping," he said. "Being right on the trail and easy access is definitely a plus. The local club does a good job. They grade this and water it to keep the dust down. They're always out there."

Banie admitted that business does drop during the winter.

"December's probably the slowest month with Christmas coming up and everybody's saving for that," he said. "We get quite a few Christmas parties and employee parties and banquets. This is probably one of the bigger ones that can hold stuff like that. We have those in the slow months, and hopefully we have snow for the snowmobile season."

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BALDWIN, continued from page 1

events on television at a time when the economy is stretching families' budgets to the extreme. Under her bill, sports leagues would still be allowed to ink deals with streaming services to broadcast games, but they would have to provide a free option for the local market. That means, in Wisconsin, there would need to be a free option to watch the Packers, the Milwaukee Brewers and the Milwaukee Bucks.

"This could be broadcasting on TV, a streaming network, YouTube

or wherever they want," Baldwin said.

The For the Fans Act would also prevent the leagues from blacking out any games for local markets, according to Baldwin. She noted this is for those who can afford the streaming services but discover after the fact that certain of their favorite team's games are not being broadcast like they thought.

"This doesn't just affect families at home. This also impacts sports bars and restaurants, where so many Wisconsinites gather to watch

the games together," Baldwin said. "For establishments with multiple TV monitors, these streaming costs add up very, very quickly. Our sports unify us, whether it's a high-five with a stranger at a bar when the Packers score or a simple smile and a nod at the grocery store who has on a Brew Crew T-shirt. Our sports really do bring us together."

Baldwin estimated the cost for watching all of the Packers, Bucks and Brewers games on streaming services will cost each Wisconsin

household an average of \$1,400 per year.

"My bill, the For the Fans Act, would put a stop to this chaos," Baldwin said.

Don Mjelde, eastern district vice president of the Wisconsin Tavern League who owns two establishments in Green Bay, said his small businesses have been seeing costs jump up, and keeping up with providing sports for his loyal customers has eaten away at his bottom line. He noted that Thursday night football games, which are exclusively on Amazon

Prime, would cost business owners anywhere from \$1,100 to \$95,000 per year, based on the size of the business.

"What makes this unique is its geographic impact on our state, as well as other states in the nation," Mjelde said. "If you want to chance it and break the rules, there's a fine, anywhere from \$750 to \$30,000 and could escalate to \$150,000 if proven willful, and that's per violation, per streaming service, per instance."

The current state of sports access is causing economic strain on

bars, restaurants and supper clubs, and Mjelde believes Baldwin's bill is the way to get rid of it.

"With thousands of small businesses being impacted in Wisconsin, something needs to be done," Mjelde said. "Speaking on behalf of a lot of these businesses, I hope the For the Fans Act continues with bipartisan support to regulate costs and streaming blackouts and provide free access for everyone."

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Oconto Hospital named top performer

Emplify Health by Bellin Oconto Hospital recently announced it has been recognized as a top performer in the 2026 Bernard A. Birnbaum, MD, Quality Leadership Ranking by Vizient.

Oconto Hospital was one of 16 Vizient provider clients in the Critical Access Hospital cohort recognized for demonstrating excellence in delivering high-quality care based on the Vizient Quality and Accountability Study.

“Quality and accountability are the cornerstone of the patient care and experience we provide at Emplify Health by Bellin Oconto Hospital, and we are grateful to receive this recognition that reflects that commitment,”

said Julie Bulin, the hospital’s vice president. “As a Critical Access Hospital providing care to our rural northeast Wisconsin communities, our second-to-none providers and staff take seriously our duty to provide safe, effective, patient-centered care that is on par with what patients expect from a larger urban hospital.”

This year, 1,348 participating hospitals were segmented into seven cohorts for the Vizient study. The study measures performance on the quality of patient care in six domains: safety, mortality, effectiveness, efficiency, patient centeredness and variation in care. The study factors in measures from

the Vizient Clinical Data Base and includes performance data from the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems survey and the CDC’s National Healthcare Safety Network.

“Delivering consistently high-quality care requires organizations to align clinical expertise, operational discipline and a continuous focus on improvement,” said Dr. David Levine, Vizient chief medical officer. “The hospitals recognized this year demonstrate what is possible when that commitment is embedded across the organization, resulting in better performance and, most importantly, better care for patients.”

TRIAL, continued from page 1

killed Palomares has never been found, and the only evidence that ties the defendant to the death is “a measly cigarette butt in the middle of nowhere.”

According to the criminal complaint, Herrera-Hernandez told police there was a struggle for the weapon and “the gun just went off.” Ruckdashel suggested the confession may not carry as much weight as the prosecution contends.

“Mr. Herrera was in a position that not many of us here have ever been in

our entire lives and probably won’t be in,” she said, “an impossible situation where one choice gets you killed and one choice sends you to prison.”

Online court records indicate that Cortez-Mendez has been convicted in a variety of cases related to drug trafficking and is currently serving a sentence at Racine Correctional Institution in Sturtevant.

At the time of the murder, Herrera-Hernandez was free after posting bail on felony charges of

possession with intent to deliver amphetamine and bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of possession of THC and possession of drug paraphernalia. Those charges were consolidated into the homicide case for trial.

The case attracted some political attention after then-U.S. Rep. Mike Gallagher said the suspect should never have been in America in the first place, citing reports he was an deported as an illegal alien in 2013 and charged with illegal reentry in 2018.

Lakes Country Public library seeks new director

The Lakes Country Public Library Board of Trustees is seeking a full-time library director for its renovated and expanded facility in Lake-wood, a small town in the Wisconsin Northwoods about 90 minutes from Green Bay, Appleton or Wausau.

“We are looking for someone with a college degree, a love for learning and a deep desire to make a meaningful difference,” said board president Kathryn Chandler. “The library director position is an excellent way for you to utilize your education, talent

and skills while working in, for and with our local community.”

Anyone seeking the position can send a cover letter, resume and three references to directorsearch@lakescountrylibrary.org. The search will continue until the position is filled.

NEWS CORRESPONDENTS

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SURING PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET PUBLICATION, 2026-27
Proposed Budget Summary

GENERAL FUND	Audited 2024-2025	Actuals 2025-2026	Unaudited 2025-2026	Budget 2026-2027
Beginning Fund Balance	5,067,832.09	4,574,142.94	4,574,142.94	4,794,348.64
Ending Fund Balance	4,574,142.94	4,794,348.64	4,794,348.64	4,794,348.64
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES				
Transfers-In (Source 100)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Local Sources (Source 200)	5,125,466.17	5,800,433.46	5,800,433.46	5,975,034.00
Inter-district Payments (Source 300 + 400)	212,044.01	195,436.91	195,436.91	202,000.00
Intermediate Sources (Source 500)	7,110.34	8,482.41	8,482.41	7,850.00
State Sources (Source 600)	902,050.77	905,797.26	905,797.26	876,164.00
Federal Sources (Source 700)	311,221.17	351,492.00	351,492.00	243,595.00
All Other Sources (Source 800 + 900)	47,133.83	38,704.81	38,704.81	34,500.00
TOTAL REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	6,605,026.29	7,300,346.85	7,300,346.85	7,339,143.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES				
Instruction (Function 100 000)	2,492,539.63	2,307,532.44	2,307,532.44	2,519,245.00
Support Services (Function 200 000)	3,202,514.86	3,373,110.54	3,373,110.54	3,369,802.00
Non-Program Transactions (Function 400 000)	1,403,660.95	1,399,498.17	1,399,498.17	1,450,096.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	7,098,715.44	7,080,141.15	7,080,141.15	7,339,143.00

SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND	Audited 2024-2025	Actuals 2025-2026	Unaudited 2025-2026	Budget 2026-2027
Beginning Fund Balance	196,925.82	231,580.59	231,580.59	228,367.15
Ending Fund Balance	231,580.59	228,367.15	228,367.15	228,367.15
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	1,515,850.93	1,473,001.19	1,473,001.19	1,360,902.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	1,481,196.16	1,476,214.63	1,476,214.63	1,360,902.00

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	Audited 2024-2025	Actuals 2025-2026	Unaudited 2025-2026	Budget 2026-2027
Beginning Fund Balance	37,328.74	10,915.79	10,915.79	165,050.10
Ending Fund Balance	10,915.79	165,050.10	165,050.10	169,930.10
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	60,190.34	165,509.88	165,509.88	4,880.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	86,603.29	11,375.57	11,375.57	0.00

FOOD SERVICE FUND	Audited 2024-2025	Actuals 2025-2026	Unaudited 2025-2026	Budget 2026-2027
Beginning Fund Balance	4,665.82	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ending Fund Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	344,173.84	280,658.61	280,658.61	314,594.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	348,839.66	280,658.61	280,658.61	314,594.00

COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND	Audited 2024-2025	Actuals 2025-2026	Unaudited 2025-2026	Budget 2026-2027
Beginning Fund Balance	58,037.17	25,946.44	25,946.44	53,968.14
Ending Fund Balance	25,946.44	53,968.14	53,968.14	50,768.14
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	200,618.75	206,743.67	206,743.67	201,200.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	232,709.48	178,721.97	178,721.97	204,400.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	Audited 2024-2025	Actuals 2025-2026	Unaudited 2025-2026	Budget 2026-2027
ALL FUNDS				
GROSS TOTAL EXPENDITURES -- ALL FUNDS	9,248,064.03	9,027,111.93	9,027,111.93	9,219,039.00
Interfund Transfers (Source 100) - ALL FUNDS	844,541.80	799,657.20	799,657.20	833,096.00
NET TOTAL EXPENDITURES -- ALL FUNDS	8,403,522.23	8,227,454.73	8,227,454.73	8,385,943.00
PERCENTAGE INCREASE - NET TOTAL FUND EXPENDITURES FROM PRIOR YEAR		-2.10%	0.00%	1.93%

PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY	Audited 2024-2025	Actuals 2025-2026	Unaudited 2025-2026	Budget 2026-2027
FUND				
General Fund	4,900,984.00	5,641,610.00	5,641,610.00	5,636,134.00
Referendum Debt Service Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Non-Referendum Debt Service Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capital Expansion Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Community Service Fund	200,000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00
TOTAL SCHOOL LEVY	5,100,984.00	5,841,610.00	5,841,610.00	5,836,134.00
PERCENTAGE INCREASE --		14.52%	0.00%	-0.09%
TOTAL LEVY FROM PRIOR YEAR				

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



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SHERBERT



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LILY



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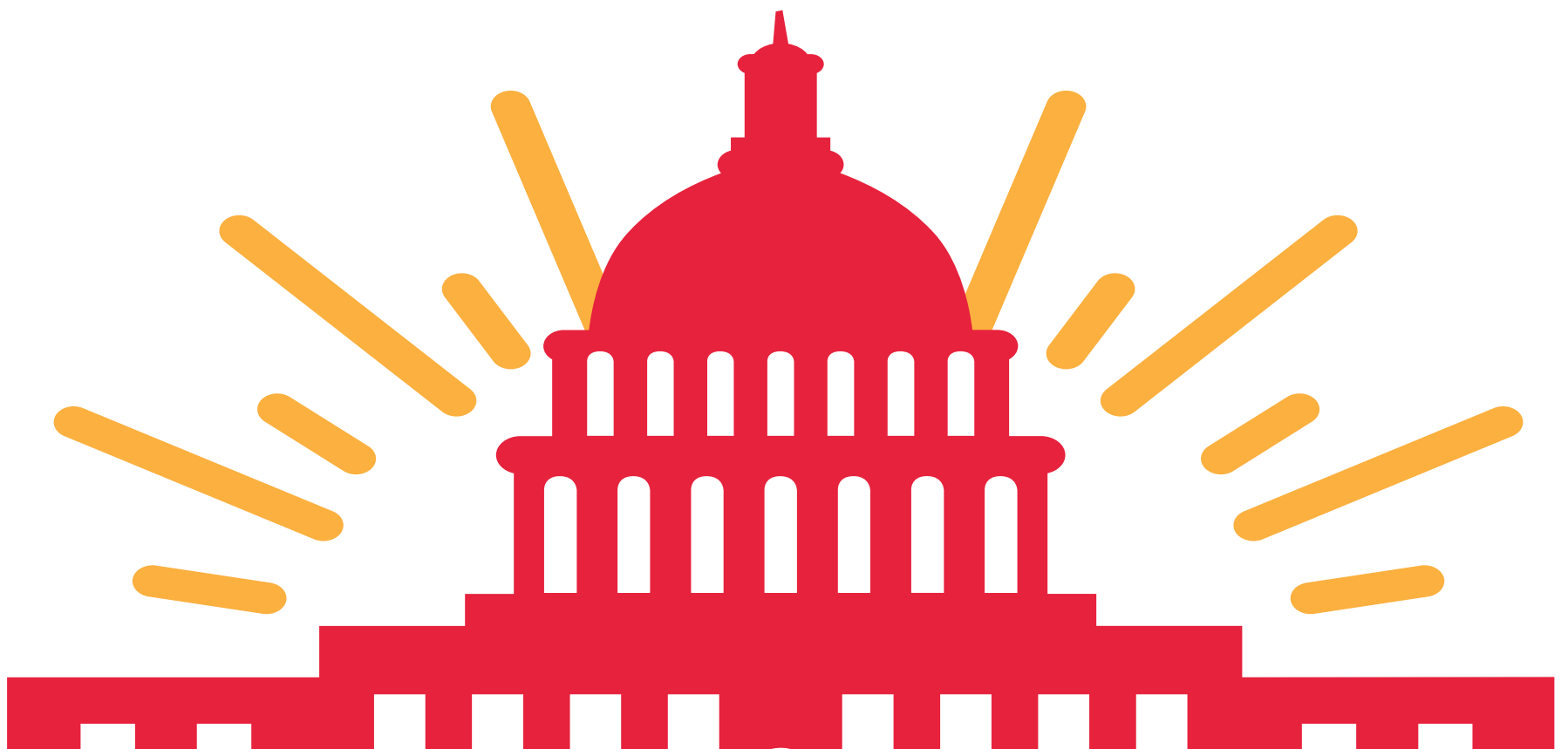
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Bonduel hesitant to sign humane society deal

Questions, lack of access to records concerning to village

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

The Bonduel Village Board isn't ready to sign on with the Shawano County Humane Society's proposal that would require municipalities to chip in for the care of stray cats and dogs. Trustees have questions about how the village would be billed and whether the animals are from the village itself or the surrounding towns.

The board met Sept. 23 as the committee of the whole to review the proposal, which offers two options for the village to provide financial support for the no-kill shelter.

The first option is for municipalities to pay \$2.50 for each resident within their borders, based on the most recent official numbers from the U.S. Census. For Bonduel, that would mean paying the humane society \$3,837.50 annually.

Earlier in the meeting, it was announced that the village's levy limit would go up \$12,000 for next year, but board members were trying to keep their budget at the same amount as last year.

The second option would seek \$500 for every stray dog or cat, or for every dog or cat with a litter apprehended within municipal boundaries. Municipalities would be billed on a quarterly basis under this option.

Originally, the humane society said through a letter to municipalities that any municipality that didn't ink a deal utilizing either option would not be allowed to bring stray animals to the Shawano shelter. However, Village Clerk Michelle Maroszek said that she attended one of the society's town hall sessions and learned that officials plan a different alternative.

Maroszek said the humane society would notify the village about an animal

brought in, and village officials would have 24 hours to pick up the cat or dog. After that, the humane society would charge a boarding fee of \$30 per day for the five-day holding period and then assess the \$500 per animal fee via its second option if they still have the animal.

Maroszek said so far most of the municipalities she deals with have not signed the humane society deal. The society gave a deadline of Nov. 1 with the new policies taking effect at the start of 2027.

"There's still a lot of municipalities who are not happy," Maroszek said.

She noted that a letter from the Wisconsin Towns Association has been drafted asking the humane society for more information like investment allocations, IRS forms and detailed operating budgets, among other things.

"Most townships have not agreed to anything," Maroszek said. "It's basically coming down to animals or people, and I know everybody loves their animals, but it's a no-kill facility, so they have animals there that they're spending lots of money on for vet services."

Maroszek said some of the expenses include ACL replacement for two dogs, as well as a disease in the shelter that impacted 10 dogs with veterinary expenses averaging \$1,000 per dog.

"They do some euthanasia, but only when it's necessary," Maroszek said. "I asked them, what is the protocol, and they didn't say."

The humane society also takes in animals from other counties, Maroszek said, with the reason being that Shawano doesn't kill them unless their health is beyond their ability to help.

"Yeah, but now you're asking taxpayers to pay for all these," she said.

Maroszek has been talking with Bonduel Police Chief Keith Fischer to see if there was somewhere that village officials could hold stray cats and dogs surrendered or found by village residents, or perhaps finding other shelters that take strays.

"We were told we had seven strays this year (from a Bonduel address)," Maroszek said. "When we asked where they were picked up, they had no idea. There are six municipalities that have a Bonduel address. That is a problem."

Another sticking point for Maroszek was that the humane society only had records available for the current year. She said she had requested the last three years.

That piece of information did not sit well with board member Sean Falk.

"Signing up for that, you should leave yourself open for any municipalities to check and make sure your books are kept well," Falk said.

Maroszek noted the village has a tight budget, and the humane society's demand would require something to be eliminated or scaled back.

"How do I cut something in the budget to pay for animals?" Maroszek said. "I would recommend we don't do anything until we hear more on what their final things is going to be."

The humane society has previously said it found homes for 1,109 animals last year, a mix of stray and surrendered animals. However, during the same year, the humane society only received \$17,335.41 through the state's statutory apportionment for dog license fees. The rest of the costs have been funded private donors, community supporters, businesses and foundations.

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County's plan to buy apartments fails

Library project will need to consider other avenues

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

A proposal for Shawano County to purchase a small apartment complex for a potential library construction project fell short of the required two-thirds support needed.

Supervisors voted 15-10 (with one abstention and one member absent) on Sept. 23 to purchase the two-building, 12-unit complex at 205 E. Division St. However, County Clerk Raymond Rigsby later informed the board that because the purchase was unbudgeted, a two-thirds vote of the entire board (18 of 27 members) was required.

The proposal was to buy the apartments for \$975,000 and eventually raze the buildings for an expanded public library. For at least two years, until construction of a library would begin, the residents would be allowed to continued living there. If plans for the library did not materialize, the apartment would remain and the property sold.

Shawano resident Dick Karth said his father built the apartments in 1974, and it was sold about 20 years ago.

"I'm here to talk about the concern that you're taking 12 apartment units that are affordable housing for people that don't have a lot of alternatives," he said. "Many of them are elderly, and many have moved to there to live out the last years where they can live independently."

He suggested purchasing the Wisconsin House, 216 E. Green Bay St., which is on the same block but northeast of the library.

Fellow resident Nancy Cramer said she sees the need for a new library but questioned the need for a lot of parking.

"Most of the time, the library is not that busy, and it does not require parking," she said. "I just don't think at this point you need to buy the land that that apartment

building is on."

Library director Stacy Rubenzer countered the comments that the library is not busy and does not have significant parking needs.

"We had over 97,000 patrons this last year alone. Most of those were in the library here," she said.

Rubenzer also noted the library had more than 157,000 physical checkouts, more than 6,000 computer use sessions, more than 22,000 Wi-Fi sessions, 930 room reservations and 820 programs that draw more than 9,000 attendees.

"Modern libraries are the hub of their communities," she said. "I can't go to donors and ask, 'Could you give us money for a library we don't know where we're going to build?' The investment in a library is an investment in the future of this community."

Kurt Berner, consultant with The Samuels Group, said the choice to take affordable housing from the community was not taken lightly.

He said if the county does not purchase the property, it will go back on the market, and there is interest from others in buying it.

"This opportunity leaves you," Berner said. "That is your decision today."

Supervisor Joe Miller said he was against the purchase.

"This county has a unique ability of purchasing real estate for proposed projects before those proposed projects are even approved by the county board," he said.

Miller said he wanted to see cost comparisons on building new versus renovating and expanding the current building.

Supervisor Jeremy Gretzinger said the current building is obviously still operable.

"Do we need a new building, and what are the library's needs?" he asked. "There needs to be a set plan going forward."

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City leaf collection begins Oct. 12

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

It won't be long before the leaf vacuums will be roaming the streets of Shawano and collecting residents' yard waste.

According to public works director Mike Mahloch, leaf cleanup begins Oct. 12 and continues five days each week for six weeks until Nov. 20, just before the start of the gun deer hunting season. The leaf cleanup will coincide with a neighborhood's garbage collection day, he said, with two leaf vacuums running through areas.

"Sometimes we might run the leaf vacuums a little longer if necessary," Mahloch said.

He said that garden waste and grass clippings can be included in the piles of leaves, but other debris should be separated from leaves. This includes sticks, brush and pumpkins, which are collected via a separate truck on weeks opposite of recycling collection, also following the schedule of garbage collections.

Animal waste should also not be in piles of leaves. Mahloch said some Shawano residents don't separate dog feces from the leaves they've raked up, and it can impact the equipment collecting the leaves.

Rocks and garbage should also be kept out of the leaf piles, Mahloch said. Leaf piles should be kept a distance away from utility poles, mailboxes and garbage cans.

"The hose swings out from the leaf vacuum, so we do need room to operate," Mahloch said. "Sometimes, the poles will hamper us from picking things up, so please be mindful."

Another problem city staff have sometimes when collecting leaves is when people park on the street during the leaf collections and block access to the leaves. Mahloch said there are times when the vacuums have to leave those piles behind and try to come back later to do the cleanup. He noted that it's not always residents blocking the leaf piles; sometimes, it's visitors or neighbors parking on the

street and causing issues.

"We have a lot of people who, for some reason, park in front of the leaf piles," Mahloch said.

Sometimes, the leaf vacuums will get ahead on pickup and start collecting in the next day's areas, but if residents haven't moved leaves to the curb before the day of garbage collection, Mahloch said there's no reason to worry. Leaf vacuums will start picking up the full neighborhood that day, even the areas serviced the day before.

"We will start over on Tuesday's route Tuesday morning, even if we were there Monday," Mahloch said.

For those who don't want to wait for trash collection day to roll around, they can bring their leaves to the landfill, 1099 Rusch Road, Shawano, for disposal, Mahloch said. There is no fee for leaves.

There is also no fall cleanup for bulk items like there is in the spring. Anyone who wants to dispose of those large items can take them to the landfill.

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Native art on full display at casino



Ronnie Preston, left, paints a pair of eagle feather earrings made from dentalium shells while Lisa Bernal beads a heart that will go on a brown bow during the Native American Art Showcase on Sept. 25 at the Menominee Casino Resort. Bernal said some of her beadwork can take about an hour to do, while some larger projects are done over the course of a day.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA



Tyson Powless adds a little performing art by playing on his guitar while his artwork surrounds him Sept. 25 during the Native American Art Showcase at the Menominee Casino Resort.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA



Linda Thunder, of Keshena, takes the opportunity during a lull in the day to work on a pair of beaded earrings Sept. 25 during the Native American Art Showcase at the Menominee Casino Resort.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

Two area schools part of Center Stage program

The Fox Cities Performing Arts Center has announced a record-setting year as the Center Stage High School Musical Theater Program enters its 11th season.

The program, which celebrates and supports the achievements and development of theater programs, leaders and performers across Northeast Wisconsin, will feature 40 participating schools during the 2026-27 season, including Shawano Community High School and Pulaski High School.

"This promises to be a very exciting season for the Center Stage Program," said Maria Van Laanen, Fox Cities Performing Arts Center president and

CEO. "Following up on the success of our milestone 10th anniversary season, this year we welcome a record number of theater programs from across the region, which will also offer a greater number of opportunities to help students build confidence, creativity and connections through the live performing arts."

Since its launch in 2016, the Center Stage Program has served students and educators from participating schools with experiences and educational opportunities to enrich and support their theater programs and yearly productions. Select students will serve as student ambassadors or audition for the

Encore Singers, a featured ensemble that performs at center-hosted and community events throughout the year.

Additionally, the program equips students for further exploration of careers in the live performing arts; among the expected opportunities in the 2026-27 Season are dance workshops led by local professionals and pit orchestra workshops with cast and crew from visiting Broadway productions.

The season will culminate in a Tony Awards-style Showcase on May 15 at 7:30 p.m. As one of the most anticipated events of the year, the Center Stage Showcase celebrates the achievements of

participating schools with a red-carpet entrance, unforgettable performances and the nomination of two students to represent Northeast Wisconsin at the Jimmy Awards in New York City in June 2027.

Tickets for the Center Stage High School Musical Theater Showcase are \$20. Online and phone purchases include mandatory fees. Tickets can be purchased at www.foxcitiespac.com, through the Fox Cities PAC mobile app, by visiting or calling the ticket office at 920-730-3760 or via Ticketmaster online. For ticket office hours, visit foxcitiespac.com. Performance schedules, prices and performers are subject to change.

Octoberfest, Witches' Night Out planned

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

It's a busy time for Lindsay Johnson and business owners in downtown Shawano.

Johnson, Shawano Business Improvement District coordinator, is putting the finishing touches on the Octoberfest and Witches' Night Out events, set for Oct. 3 and Oct. 9, respectively.

Businesses will celebrate Octoberfest from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"Octoberfest is traditionally a family-friendly event. The best way to describe it is that it's like a street festival," Johnson said. "We have kids' game, crafters, food trucks."

Events will include more than 50 craft vendors; children's activities courtesy of the Shawano County Library, Shawano County 4-H and Shawano Area Early Childhood Partnership; free pumpkins from Idell Johnston State Farm Insurance; the FRESH Project Farmers Market (open until 1 p.m. at Franklin Park); pumpkin succulent planters at The Stock Peddler; and T-shirt sales at the Witches' Night Out booth.

Belmark Inc. is the event sponsor. Senzig's Fine Home Furnishings will sponsor polka music.

From 10 a.m. to noon, visitors can enjoy the sounds of the Mark Jiricevic Band. Sugar Bush Lite will play from 12:30-3 p.m.

There's no reason to go away hungry or thirsty.

"We have two German food trucks coming this year," Johnson said.

Stubborn Brothers Brewery will feature a German menu inside the restaurant, along with Oktoberfest, pumpkin ale and salted caramel beers. Old Glory Candy will feature open-faced caramel apple bars.

Food trucks will include The Melt Stop, El Tequila,

Home Field Kettle Corn, Wisco Eatery, Luigi's On the Go, Busted Spud, The Bubble Bar, Guetn Appetit, Big Axe Chops and ThaiLicious.

Witches' Night Out will be held from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 9.

"Witches' Night Out is more like a ladies' shopping event," Johnson said. "Of course, warlocks are welcome, too."

Shoppers are encouraged to dress in their best witch costume.

"They really are getting more and more impressive the past couple of years," Johnson said. "And each participating business does something special, whether it's sales, drinks or something else only offered during these hours."

Attendees are invited to try out the spooky bowls, poison apple caramel smoothies or the vampire blood punch.

There will also be a photo booth at Berkshire Hathaway.

The band Spark Spark Bang will perform from 7-10 p.m. at The Naberhood. Sponsors are Wallrich Agency, Stubborn Brothers Brewery and The Daily Drip Coffeehouse.

Johnson said 35 businesses are participating — the most ever in the history of the event.

Witches' Night Out has been held since 2018, and Octoberfest began several years before then.

Johnson said she communicates with participating business owners to determine what is and is not successful at the events. She sometimes gets comments from attendees, as well.

Other Shawano Downtown events coming up this year are the Christmas Open House, all day Nov. 6-7, Small Business Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 28, the Holiday Stroll and Tree Lighting from 3-5 p.m. Nov. 28 and the Santa Parade from 6-7 p.m. Dec. 4.



Special drinks and foods are served during the 2025 Witches' Night Out in downtown Shawano. More than 35 businesses will participate this year — the most ever, according to Lindsay Johnson, Shawano Business Improvement District coordinator.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

Renard departs school board, leaving vacancy

Tim Renard has stepped down from the Shawano School Board after moving to another location outside the Shawano School District, and the district is seeking to fill the vacancy.

The district will be accepting applications from anyone interested who is a

resident of Area III, which is the Town of Wescott and a portion of the Town of Washington that is a part of the Shawano School District, must be 18 years of age or older, and a U.S. citizen.

The appointment will be through the April 2027

spring election at which time the successor could be elected for the remainder of the term, which ends April 2029.

A declaration of interest must be filed with Lori Sherman, school board assistant, no later than 3:30 p.m. Oct. 19. Filing

forms are available from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. are at the district office, 1310 S. Union St., Shawano. The board may interview applicants. If the decision is made to interview, this will be in an open session during a school board meeting.



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Road work takes chunk of CIP for next 2 years

Green Bay, Main streets among top projects for Shawano

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

The city of Shawano is working on getting its next list of capital improvement projects ready for approval later this year by the Shawano Common Council, with the biggest road projects being West Green Bay Street, all of North Main Street and a significant part of South Main Street.

The council got its first look at all of the proposed projects, which total almost \$4.7 million over the next two years. Public works projects are taking up two-thirds of the list, whereas parks and recreation projects usually take up a significant chunk of the CIP list.

According to Matt Hendricks, parks and recreation director, his department has made it through a lot of priorities in recent years, including the recent renovation of the Shawano Recreation Center, the creation of the Naberhood Plaza, improvements to Kuckuk Park and more. As a result, now is a time to re-examine the parks and see what should become priorities in future planning stages, so those costs are dropping for the next years.

Green Bay and Main streets are two main thoroughfares through Shawano, so both will be major projects, with Green Bay Street in 2027 and Main Street in 2028. Fortunately, a lot of the costs for the two streets will be covered through outside funding.

For example, West Green Bay Street, which will cover from Main to Bartlett streets, is expected to cost more than \$2.5 million, with design, street construction and utility construction all to be completed. However, the city only has to pay out \$72,000 for the design of the project and \$457,943 of the street reconstruction. The other 80% is paid for through grant funding.

"That is a street that we, in no way, could do on our own in one year," said Eddie Sheppard, city administrator. "That would probably be a three- or four-year project. The last thing we want to is interrupt West Green Bay Street for multiple years, going back and forth, so this is a huge gift for us."

When it comes to Main



West Green Bay Street from Main to Bartlett streets will be reconstructed in 2027 as part of the city of Shawano's two-year capital improvements plan. The total cost for the project is \$2.5 million, but thanks to outside funding, the city's allocation is only around \$500,000.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

Street a year later, which will cover from Zingler Avenue to the bridge for the channel between the Wolf River and Shawano Lake, the city anticipates only spending \$220,000 for street construction and another \$135,000 for designing, with the latter being done in 2027.

Other street reconstruction projects in 2027 will include the extension of Willow Wood Drive, which will cost an estimated \$300,000, along with repaving Madison Way and Industrial and Eberlein Park drives. Public works will also be spending \$70,000 reconstructing business district alleys next year in anticipation they will be experiencing heavy use when Main Street is under construction in 2028. Reconstructing Smalley Street is also planned for 2027.

In 2028, other street reconstructions will include Maiden Lane and Hamlin, Union and Maurer streets. Simple repaving projects will involve work on Arlington and North Franklin streets, Teddington Lane, Pickadilly Circle and Lieg Avenue.

"I'm very excited for the next two years with the amount of road reconstruction projects that we have," said Mike Mahloch, public works director.

Along with other annual maintenance work like relining culverts, crack filling services, sidewalk replacement and rail lead maintenance, public works will also replace equipment and reconstruct traffic signals at Fairview Way and Lincoln Street.

The total estimated expenses for public works projects is more than \$3.45 million.

Other CIP work for the city in the next two years includes the following:

- Parks and recreation department: Lift and chair for the pool at

the Shawano Recreation Center, master plan for a park in southeast Shawano, replacing the trail at Kuckuk Park, rehabilitating ball diamonds, improving cemetery roads and providing better connectivity at Memorial Park to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The total estimated cost for the projects is \$367,000.

- Police department: Replacing three squad vehicles, replacing cameras and equipment, and the second phase of renovating the police department. The estimated cost for the projects is \$369,097.

- Fire department: Purchasing a new fire truck and replacing radios. The estimated cost for the projects is \$379,320.

- City hall: The second phase of renovating the facility, purchasing Badger Books for elections and a GIS project. The estimated cost for the projects is \$92,091.

- Airport: \$30,000 for capital contributions.

Sheppard noted that the amount of work wouldn't have been possible if city staff hadn't searching for additional funding through outside grants and resources.

"There's about \$7.3 million in road projects, and the city's only expensing about \$3.4 million," Sheppard said. "We've done a really good job of seeking out opportunities for funding when it's available and putting it into this. We've been able to leverage this to double, or in some cases triple, our money. That's why we've been able to keep up on this stuff."

Even with the massive amount of outside funding, Sheppard said a couple of things might need to be trimmed or pushed back, as the city is only planning to borrow \$4.6 million short-term to cover capital projects.

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Plenty of spirit for Shawano homecoming



The Shawano Community High School Hawk mascot was roaming through the stands during Shawano's homecoming football game against Fox Valley Lutheran. Unfortunately, the Foxes outran the Hawks en route to a 49-14 win.

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA



The theme for this year's Shawano homecoming parade was "Out of this World." Some students created a float based on "Guardians of the Galaxy."

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA



ABOVE: Younger students with the Shawano School District wave and pass out candy Sept. 25 along the homecoming parade route.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

ABOVE RIGHT: The next generation of Shawano football players via the Shawano Youth Football League was well represented Sept. 25 as the younger athletes took part in the annual Shawano homecoming parade.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

RIGHT: Shawano Community High School students Jai Bisterfeldt, left, and Tristan Lane were two members of the homecoming court who took part in the parade Sept. 25.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

BELOW: The Shawano Community Middle School marching band provided a musical interlude that mixed in with the cheering and applause Sept. 25 at the Shawano homecoming parade.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA



Members of the Shawano Community High School band perform at the start of the Sept. 26 homecoming football game against Fox Valley Lutheran. The band also performed a couple numbers during halftime.

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA



The rivalry between the two mascots — the Shawano Hawk and the Fox Valley Christian Fox — became epic on a galactic scale as the pair engaged in a light saber battle to add a little humor to the Shawano homecoming parade. This year's theme was "Out of This World."

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

Opening drives set tone in Bonduel's latest victory

Moesch, Gray combine for 6 TDs

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

They might not be as flashy as Green Bay Notre Dame's Kingston Allen, but the Bonduel football team has a pair of running backs that are putting up big numbers as well.

At the same time Allen was rushing for 296 yards and six touchdowns in a 49-0 win over Oshkosh North, Carter Moesch and Malachi Gray combined for six of the Bears' eight touchdowns Sept. 25 in a 56-14 Packerland Conference win over Peshtigo at Rush Niles Memorial Field.

Not only did Bonduel improve to 6-0, the Bears also opened a three-game home stand by holding the Bulldogs to one offensive touchdown, with Peshtigo's other score coming on a kickoff return.

Peshtigo, which entered the game tied with Bonduel for first place in the Packerland with a 3-0 record, took the opening kickoff and used most of



Carter Moesch added to his touchdown total for Bonduel on Sept. 25 by rushing for four scores in a 56-14 win over Peshtigo.

GREG SEUBERT

the first quarter driving toward the Bears' end zone.

Charlie Cooper scored on a 9-yard run with just over three minutes to go in the opening quarter, but a holding penalty on Peshtigo took the six points off of the scoreboard, and the Bulldogs ended up turning the ball over on downs on the 2-yard line.

It didn't take the Bears long to take the lead, as Moesch scored on the drive's first play on a 98-yard run.

Peshtigo answered Bonduel's touchdown on its next drive, as Zac Schonfeld capped a 67-yard drive with a 7-yard run two minutes into the second quarter and a missed extra point cut the lead to 7-6.

Moesch fumbled to end

Bonduel's next drive, but the Bears added to their lead with a pair of scores in the final three minutes of the first half.

Ryan Niles scored on a 2-yard run to make it 14-6 and after a second straight 3-and-out for the Bulldogs, the Bears took over on Peshtigo's 35-yard line and Moesch scored from 10 yards out with 17 seconds remaining to give Bonduel a 21-6 halftime lead.

Bonduel then sealed the win with touchdowns on all five of its possessions in the second half.

The opening drives helped set the tone for the game, according to coach James Westrich.

"We're very fortunate that we have two really explosive backs that can break it loose at any



Malachi Gray returns a kickoff for Bonduel in the second half of the Bears' 56-14 win over Peshtigo.

GREG SEUBERT

time," he said. "They run hard and block hard for each other. That's a nice one-two punch to have. We've got Carter doing punt returns and Malachi doing kickoff returns. We try to keep them involved and good things usually happen."

That's exactly what happened on each of the Bears' first drives of the second half, as long kickoff and punt returns by Gray and Moesch, respectively, set the Bears up at the Peshtigo 20-yard line.

Moesch scored from 4 yards out with 9:04 to

go in the third quarter, and Gray added a 20-yard scoring run on the first play of the second drive to make it 35-7.

Peshtigo's final points came on the kickoff

BEARS,
continued on page 11



Shawano quarterback Tristan Lawe (10) brings his arm back as he prepares to make a throw early in the first quarter Sept. 26 in the Hawks' homecoming game against Fox Valley Lutheran. Shawano lost 49-14.

KEVIN PASOSN | NEW MEDIA

Panthers get back to .500 with road win over Sturgeon Bay

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

Oconto Falls' football team snapped a two-game skid in Packerland Conference play Sept. 25 with a big night of offense in a 54-24 win over Sturgeon Bay.

The Panthers were the only area team besides Bonduel to pick up a win in Week 6, as Wittenberg-Birnamwood, Pulaski, Shawano, Suring, Marion/Tigerton and Lena/STAA lost their games.

Oconto Falls 54, Sturgeon Bay 34

The Panthers are now 3-3 overall and 2-2 in the Packerland Conference after heading to Door County and returning home with a win over the Clippers in Sturgeon Bay's homecoming game.

The Panthers scored a season-high 54 points but also gave up more than 200 yards of offense to Sturgeon Bay's Rayshaun Johnson.

Jeffrey Pytleski opened the scoring with a 37-yard touchdown run on the game's opening drive and Croix Gardebrecht scored on a 2-yard run on Oconto Falls' next drive to give the Panthers a 13-0 lead.

Sturgeon Bay answered on its next drive on Johnson's 65-yard touchdown run, but the Panthers added to their lead on their next drive on Nathaniel White's 1-yard quarterback keeper, and Oconto Falls took a 21-6 lead into the second quarter.

The teams combined for three more touchdowns before halftime.

Pytleski's interception set up Gardebrecht's 6-yard scoring run, Johnson scored on a 95-yard run for the Clippers, and Gardebrecht added a third rushing touchdown that gave the Panthers a 33-12 lead at the break.

Trygg Stuth's 77-yard touchdown pass to Johnson in the third quarter made it 33-18 before Landon Johnson added to the Panthers' lead with a pair of rushing touchdowns.

Sturgeon Bay's final score came on Johnson's 79-yard run before Gardebrecht scored his fourth rushing touchdown for Oconto Falls.

The Panthers' final points came on a sack of Jack Higgenbotham in the end zone for a safety.

Shiocton 21,

Wittenberg-Birnamwood 6

Shiocton hosted the Chargers on Sept. 25 for a nonconference matchup of teams from the Northwoods Conference and Central Wisconsin Conference-Large and improved to 6-0 by beating Wittenberg-Birnamwood for the first time in eight years.

The Chargers opened the scoring in the second quarter on Bo Davis' 8-yard pass to Braxton Olson, but it turned out to be their only points of the night.

After a scoreless opening quarter, Wittenberg-Birnamwood struck first in the second quarter.

Kaleb Voight's 1-yard

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BEARS, continued from page 10

after Gray’s touchdown, as Cody Nesberg scored on a 75-yard kickoff return and Jackson Malke connected with Carter Drong for the 2-point conversion. Bonduel wasn’t finished, however, as the Bears scored on their next three drives.

Gray scored on a 4-yard run with 2:17 remaining in the third quarter and caught a 35-yard pass from Quinn Wesenberg

early in the fourth quarter that started a running clock. Thomas Vanderzanden wrapped up the scoring with an 80-yard run. Westrich said there’s a reason why the Bulldogs came into the game undefeated in conference play after picking up shutout wins over Southern Door and Sturgeon Bay and coming from behind to top Marinette.

“We knew they were going to be physical,” he said. “Defensively, we have a few new guys, not so much on offense. We’re filling some spots. The heart of our defense is missing right now and hopefully, we’ll get a couple of guys back soon. We have some young guys. They’re doing fine. They’re a little behind, but we just have to get them up to speed.”

FOOTBALL, continued from page 10

run just before half-time and the successful extra point gave the Chiefs all the scoring they needed before Shiocton added a pair of touchdowns in the third quarter.

Kyle Bergsbaken added to the Chiefs’ lead with a quarterback keeper that made it 13-6, and Voight set up Shiocton’s final score by returning an interception to the Wittenberg-Birnamwood 2-yard line. Wyatt Hess scored from 2 yards out and the Chiefs converted the 2-point conversion to complete the scoring.

Phoenix Horacek led the Chargers and all rushers with 90 yards on 18 carries as the Chargers fell to 2-4 overall.

West De Pere 35, Pulaski 10

The undefeated Phantoms held Pulaski scoreless until the fourth quarter Sept. 25 in a Fox River Classic Conference-North game in De Pere.

West De Pere took a 28-0 lead into the fourth quarter after finding the end zone three times in the first half and once more in the third quarter.

Pulaski didn’t score until Mason Borseth’s 27-yard field goal on the first play of the fourth quarter.

The Phantoms answered with a touchdown pass before Pulaski wrapped up the scoring on Bohdan Schmidt’s 14-yard pass to Andre Burnett with 13 seconds remaining in the game.

West De Pere’s



Shawano’s offense lines up against Fox Valley Lutheran early in the team’s Sept. 26 homecoming game. The Hawks lost 49-14.

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

defense held Pulaski’s Anthony Ficarra and Schmidt to a combined 106 rushing yards. Ficarra finished with 77 yards on 20 carries, while Schmidt added 29 yards to go along with 122 passing yards. He completed 11 of 18 passes, including eight to Trentyn Linz for 78 yards.

Fox Valley Lutheran 49, Shawano 14

The Foxes led 35-6 at halftime and went on to pick up a Bay Conference win over Shawano Sept. 26 in the Hawks’ homecoming game.

Shawano fell to 1-5 overall and 0-4 in conference play.

Valley Christian 28, Suring 22

Valley Christian handed Suring its first loss of the season Sept. 25 in a nonconference matchup of 8-player teams in Suring.

Valley Christian scored a touchdown in each of the first two quarters to take a 13-0 halftime lead.

Suring answered with a pair of

touchdowns in the third quarter, but the Eagles still trailed 20-14 heading into the final period.

Each team added a touchdown and 2-point conversion in the fourth quarter.

The Eagles were originally scheduled to host Florence on Oct. 2, but that game was canceled after the Bobcats recently called off the rest of their season. Suring will now host Phillips and is scheduled to close out the regular season Oct. 9 with a nonconference matchup with Iola-Scandinavia in Scandinavia.

Laona/Wabeno 20, Lena/STAA 14

The Titans headed to Wabeno for the second time this season Sept. 25 and dropped a nonconference 8-player game to the Rebels for the second time.

Lena/STAA also opened the season against the Rebels in August and fell 12-6.

The Titans were originally scheduled to play Florence on Sept.

25 and will host Iola-Scandinavia on Oct. 2. The Titans were scheduled to host Gillett in Lena that day, but Gillett suspended its varsity program for 2026.

Port Edwards 32, Marion/Tigerton 20

The Hornets spoiled the Thundercats’ homecoming game Sept. 25 in a Central Wisconsin Conference-8 8-player contest in Marion.

Kelson Casey rushed for 152 yards and completed 12 of 18 passes for 140 yards and three touchdowns for Port Edwards. Ayden Schumer caught seven passes for 70 yards and two touchdowns and also led the Blackhawks with 20 tackles.

Oct. 2 schedule (all games start at 7 p.m.)

11-player: Oconto at Bonduel; Marinette at Oconto Falls; Green Bay Southwest at Pulaski; Colby at Wittenberg-Birnamwood; Shawano at Waupaca. 8-player: Iola-Scandinavia at Lena/STAA; Phillips at Suring; Marion/Tigerton at Tri-County.

Shawano, Pulaski soccer teams have perfect week

Thursday, Sept. 24

Pulaski 6, Manitowoc Lincoln 0

The Red Raiders cruised to a 6-0 win over the visiting Ships of Manitowoc Lincoln.

Pulaski got first half goals from Max Mondloch, Walker Wozniak and Kevin Cruz Lagunes.

The Red Raiders added three more in the second half courtesy of Wozniak’s second, Miles Mondloch and Daenen Kehoe.

Miles Mondloch also had two assists on the night.

Kyle Hansen had one save in goal for Pulaski (8-2-2, 2-2).

Shawano 3, Menasha 1

The Hawks came away with a win under the lights.

The game was very physical, and Kyler Shepherd made some great saves to hold Menasha to only 1 point. Shawano’s Grayson Swedberg scored in the first half and kicked it in for another score on a penalty kick. Kasten Kegel also scored on a penalty kick.

Tuesday, Sept. 22

Pulaski 4, Bay Port 2

The Red Raiders topped the Pirates 4-2 in Fox River Classic Conference action at Bay Port.

Pulaski jumped out to an early lead with goals in the 12th, 16th and 29th minutes. Bay Port battled back courtesy of a penalty goal by Grady Volmert and a goal from Elijah Wettstein.

The score remained 3-2 until the 65th minute when Walker Wozniak got his second goal of the game to stretch the Red Raider lead back to two. Miles Mondloch had the assist.

Blake Bazter had three saves in goal for Pulaski (7-2-2, 1-2).

Shawano 2, Medford 0

Shawano beat Medford 2-0 in a nonconference match.

Monday, Sept. 21

Columbus Catholic 14, Gresham/Bowler 0

The Dons shut out the Wildcats 14-0 in a game in Marshfield. Gresham/Bowler fell to 0-7-1 overall, while Columbus Catholic improved to 7-3.

Shawano shuts out FVL 7-0

Thursday, Sept. 25

Pulaski 4, Manitowoc Lincoln 3

Pulaski’s girls tennis team won three of the four singles matches en route to a 4-3 win over Manitowoc Lincoln.

Emory Groteluschen. Alana Stangler and Riley Hartman won their singles matches, while Linde Lemerond and Aubrie Schuessler claimed victory in their doubles match.

Singles

No. 1 - Ava Wetenkamp, Manitowoc Lincoln, def. Anna Krause, Pulaski, 6-0, 6-0.

No. 2 - Emory Groteluschen, Pulaski, def. Anna Hartlaub, Manitowoc Lincoln, 6-0, 6-0.

No. 3 - Alana Stangler, Pulaski, def. Haley Patel, Manitowoc Lincoln, 6-1, 6-0.

No. 4 - Riley Hartman, Pulaski, def. Anna Carey, Manitowoc Lincoln, 6-3, 6-2.

Doubles

No. 1 - Linde Lemerond - Aubrie Schuessler, Pulaski, def. Elighana Camacho- Julia Jagemann, Manitowoc Lincoln, 6-3, 6-0.

No. 2 - Sophia Levihn - Hannah Brown, Manitowoc Lincoln, def. Cora Hansen - Vivienne Miskulin, Pulaski, 6-3, 6-3.

No. 3 - Graceyn Konecny - Zina Dong, Manitowoc Lincoln, def. Reese Burich - Kaesyn Klarkowski, Pulaski, 5-7, 7-5, 10-6.

Tuesday, Sept. 22

Pulaski 5, Ashwaubenon 2

Pulaski’s tennis team cruised to a 5-2 win over Ashwaubenon.

The Red Raiders won three of the four singles matches and two of the three doubles contests.

At No. 3 doubles, Pulaski’s Reese Burich and Kaesyn Klarkowski, took Camella Ducat and Evelyn VanLaanen to three sets before winning 2-6, 6-3, 10-8.

Singles

No. 1 - Amrusha Prathigudupu, Ashwaubenon, def. Anna Krause, Pulaski, 6-0, 6-1.

No. 2 - Emory Groteluschen, Pulaski, def. Eden Wojtyla, Ashwaubenon, 6-0, 6-3.

No. 3 - Alana Stangler, Pulaski, def. Chloe Lemmen, Ashwaubenon, 6-1, 6-0.

No. 4 - Riley Hartman, Pulaski, def. Leah Hansgate, Ashwaubenon, 6-0, 6-2.

Doubles

No. 1 - Linde Lemerond - Aubrie Schuessler, Pulaski, def. Mariah Weiss - Caleigh Kiser, Ashwaubenon, 6-1, 6-0.

No. 2 - Aliyah Matuszewski - Kenley Mundigler, Ashwaubenon, def. Vivienne Miskulin - Cora Hansen, Pulaski, 6-3, 6-1.

No. 3 - Reese Burich - Kaesyn Klarkowski, Pulaski, def. Camella Ducat - Evelyn VanLaanen, Ashwaubenon, 2-6, 6-3, 10-8.

Shawano 4, Fox Valley Lutheran 3

Shawano (8-12) defeated Fox Valley Lutheran (6-6).

Monday, Sept. 21

Shawano 7, New London 0

Shawano (7-12) defeated New London (2-8) by a 7-0 score.



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Emery Thompson concentrates before serving for Bonduel on Sept. 22 during the Bears' Central Wisconsin Conference-East volleyball match against Amherst on the Falcons' home court. GREG SEUBERT

Bonduel netters drop CWC-East match to Amherst

Bears fall to 0-3 in conference

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

It was an opportunity for the Bonduel volleyball team to make a little noise in the race for a Central Wisconsin Conference-East championship.

The Amherst Falcons didn't go along with that plan, however, as they hosted the Bears on Sept. 22 and sent them home following a three-set sweep.

Amherst improved to 3-0 in CWC-East play with a 25-22, 25-17, 25-16 win, while the Bears fell to 0-3 in conference play after also dropping recent four-set matches to Shiocton and Weyauwega-Fremont.

Bonduel's best chance for a set win came in the first game, as the Bears built 14-10 and 20-17 leads. Amherst led from start to finish in the second and third sets.

Coach Abby Krull and her team have already faced two favorites to contend for a conference championship in the Falcons and Shiocton.

"We have a lot of youth, so it's taken us a little bit

to get rolling on the same page," she said. "We made some strides in the last couple of matches and tournaments that we've had, so we're getting there."

The Bears' starting lineup against the Falcons included sophomores Casey Wesenberg and Jorja Reinke and freshman Kollins Wesenberg.

"I think it's going to continue to compete when we come in the gym and do everything we can to make it tough on the other side," Krull said.

The Bears didn't have much time to dwell on the loss, as they host Wittenberg-Birnamwood two days later on Sept. 24.

"That's definitely a goal for us here, get the first (CWC-East win) and get some momentum going for ourselves," Krull said.

Several of Amherst's points, especially in the second and third games, came on Bonduel's unforced errors that included service errors and misplayed balls at the net.

"It's the little stuff," Krull said. "Get the pass up to the center hitters, everybody be ready to go so you have all your options and make them play defense. When we do that, that's when we look really good. When we have unforced errors, that's when we're going to struggle."



Paige Niquette and the Bonduel volleyball team dropped three games to Amherst on Sept. 22. GREG SEUBERT

Oconto Falls goes 5-0 to capture West De Pere Invite championship

Saturday, Sept. 26
West De Pere Invite

Oconto Falls volleyball continued its impressive season, going 5-0 at the West De Pere Invite and capturing the tournament championship. With the perfect tournament performance, the Panthers improved to 25-4 on the season.

Oconto Falls opened the day with three pool-play victories, defeating Sheboygan Falls 25-23, 25-20; Marinette 25-9, 25-9; and Oconto 25-21, 25-17.

The Panthers advanced to the afternoon bracket and continued their strong play with a 25-9, 25-13 victory over Winneconne, setting up a championship matchup with host West De Pere.

The championship match proved to be a battle between two teams determined to finish the day on top.

Oconto Falls took control early, winning the opening set 25-19. West De Pere responded in the second set, earning a 25-19 victory to even the match and force a deciding third set.

The Panthers came out strong in the final set, building an early lead before holding off West De Pere down the stretch to earn a 15-9 victory and claim the tournament championship.

Oconto Falls was led throughout the tournament by a balanced offensive attack and strong defensive play.

Izzy Otto finished the tournament with 101 assists, 21 digs and 13 kills. Lucy Ripley led the Panthers offensively with 54 kills, while also contributing seven block kills, 28 digs and nine aces.

Rhiana Van De Yacht added 21 kills, 31 digs and nine aces, while Brylee Gorman recorded 20 kills and six aces. Ella Jahnke added 14 kills. Brenna Belanger contributed 19 digs and nine aces, while Karington Beaman added 17 digs. Rylan Macha contributed nine aces.

Three Lakes 2, Suring 0

Suring was defeated 25-10 and 25-12 at the Columbus Catholic Invitational.

McDonnell Central 2, Suring 0

The Eagles went down 25-17 and 25-13.

Lena 2, Goodman-Pembine 0

The Wildcats knocked off the Patriots 25-23 and 25-14 at White Lake.

Crivitz 2, Bonduel 0

Crivitz squeaked by Bonduel 25-20 and 26-24.

Valley Christian 2,

Bonduel 0

The Warriors topped off the Bears 25-18, 25-12.

Sevastopol 2, Bonduel 1

Sevastopol won the deciding match 15-5 to earn a 2-1 win over Bonduel. The Pioneers won the first game 25-11, and the Bears won the second contest 25-17.

Bonduel 2, Two Rivers 0

The Bears narrowly defeated Two Rivers 26-24 in the first game but won more easily in the second game, 25-15.

Appleton North 2, Pulaski 0

Pulaski was defeated 25-21 and 25-12 at the Appleton East Invitational.

D.C. Everest 2, Pulaski 1

The Red Raiders won the first game but were defeated the next two in a loss to the Evergreens. Scores were 25-21, 25-17, 15-4.

Kewaskum 2, Pulaski 0

Kewaskum beat Pulaski by identical 25-19 scores.

Thursday, Sept. 24
Tigerton 3, Bowler 1

The Tigers hosted CWC North foe Bowler in their homecoming match and defeated the Panthers 3-1 in a back-and-forth contest with set scores of 25-20, 20-25, 25-18 and 25-13.

"Everyone contributed something to the team's victory tonight," coach Holly Meverden said. "It was a well-fought match, with the players improving on multiple skills since the last match they played."

Leading the Tigers were:

Digs: Jaelyn Brady 14, Renata Nordwig 11, Myah Dent and Mya Smith 9 each, and Danika Tiller 7.

Assists: Tiller 36.

Kills: Presley Stewart-Rolfs 23, Nordwig 12, Dent 5 and Smith 4.

Block kills: Stewart-Rolfs and Nordwig 1 each.

Service points and aces: Stewart-Rolfs 15 points with 5 aces, Smith 11 points with 4 aces, Brady 11 points with 3 aces, Dent 10 points with 1 ace, and Tiller 7 points with 2 aces.

Tigerton improved to 3-3 in the CWC North and 7-4 overall.

Marion 3, Northland Lutheran 1

After being tied at 1-1, Marion pulled away in the last two games to beat Northland Lutheran 3-1. Game scores were 25-14, 20-25, 25-12, 25-14.

Ashwaubenon 3, Pulaski 2

VOLLEYBALL,
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With the West De Pere Invite championship, Oconto Falls continues to build momentum heading into the final stretch of the regular season. Front row, from left, are Izzy Otto, Leah Bigelow, Karington Beaman, Isla Powell, Rylan Macha and Rhiana Van De Yacht. In back, from left, are Calli Bursa, Ella Jahnke, Lucy Ripley, Brylee Gorman, Elsie Trochil, Brenna Belanger, Kazlyn Graves and Melanie Frank.

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VOLLEYBALL, continued from page 12

The Red Raiders had victory in their grasp, but it slipped away as the Jaguars won the final two games of five-set match 3-2.

Ashwaubenon won the first game 25-20, with Pulaski winning the next two by identical 25-22 scores. The Jaguars won the fourth game 25-17 and then the deciding fifth contest 15-3 for the match victory.

Oconto Falls 3, Denmark 0

It wasn't easy, but Oconto Falls turned back

Denmark and won 3-0. Game scores were 25-22, 31-29, 25-14.

Xavier 3, Shawano 0

Xavier swept Shawano in three sets 25-13, 25-22, 25-15.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood 3, Bonduel 0

Gresham 3, White Lake 0

Gillett 3, Crandon 1

Manawa 3, Menominee Nation 0

Tuesday, Sept. 22

Suring 3, Oneida Nation 0

Suring had little trouble

sweeping Oneida Nation 25-10, 25-13, 25-9.

Gresham 3, Bowler 0

Gresham defeated Bowler 25-14 in each of the first two games and then won the match with a 25-11 win in the third game.

Marion 3, Tigerton 0

Marion defeated Tigerton 25-18, 25-16, 25-13.

Iola-Scandinavia 3, Menominee Nation 0

Iola-Scandinavia wasted little time in defeating Menominee Nation in three straight sets 25-7, 25-15, 25-6.

Oconto Falls 3, Clintonville 0

The Panthers swept the Truckers in three straight sets 25-12, 25-8, 25-19.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood 3, Manawa 0

Wittenberg-Birnamwood topped Manawa by scores of 25-21, 25-17, 25-20.

Crivitz 3, Lena 0

Lena wound up on the short end of a conference match, losing to Crivitz 25-14, 25-9, 25-15.

Monday, Sept. 21

Florence 3, Lena 0

Conference championship golf meets held

Thursday, Sept. 24

Fox River Classic Conference Championship

Pulaski golfers scored 414 and placed eighth among nine team at Wander Springs Golf Course in Greenleaf.

Scoring for the Red Raiders were Ellie Mork 87, Taylor Murphy 107, Teagan Dercks 108 and Madison Schuh 112.

Wednesday, Sept. 23

NEC Championship

Oconto Falls recorded

a 474 and placed seventh among eight teams at Wander Springs Golf Course in Greenleaf.

Scoring for the Panthers were Riley Brokovec 96, Neala Horkman and Emilie Sanders 125 each, and Lilly Wagner 128.

Tuesday, Sept. 22

Bay Conference Championship

Shawano golfers scored 439 and placed sixth, while Bonduel had 497 and was 10th among 10

teams at Wander Springs Golf Course in Greenleaf.

For Shawano, it was Lauren Seehafer at 102, Hailey Hawkinson at 106, Alyssa Slinger at 114 and Mya Coffey at 117.

Scoring for the Bears were Paige Wolf 107, Quinn Hartlaben 108, Morgan Graf 119 and Jennifer Calaway 163.

Monday, Sept. 21

Notre Dame Triton Invitational

Pulaski golfers placed

14th and Shawano was 19th among 19 teams at Oneida Golf & Country Club in Green Bay.

Pulaski tallied 423, and Shawano scored 484.

Scoring for the Red Raiders were Ellie Mork 92, Taylor Murphy 99, Kaylee Weinbrenner 116 and Teagan Dercks, also 116.

Scoring for the Hawks were Hailey Hawkinson 115, Alyssa Slinger 117, Mya Coffey 119 and Lauren Seehafer 133.

Gerth leads local runners at Lourdes

Saturday, Sept. 26

Lourdes Academy Invitational

Pulaski's girls had 273 points and finished 10th, and Bonduel had 362 and placed 14th among 19 teams in Oshkosh.

Pulaski: 4, Maggie Gerth, 18:49.7; 52, Addie Bruckert, 21:38.5; 61, Cameron Reiss, 21:50.1; 91, Ellie Murphy, 23:08.7; 101, Tenley Zimmerman, 23:49.6.

Bonduel: 20, Lillian Burrack, 20:17.2; 72, Amelia Wilcox, 22:20.8; 82, Payten Bierhals, 22:39.4; 112, Kember Frome, 24:37.8; 126, Katie O'Brien, 26:09.9.

Pulaski's boys had 378 points and finished 13th, and Bonduel had 433 and placed 17th among 23 teams.

Pulaski: 35, Grayden Gossen, 17:31.1; 60, Mitchell Pilon, 18:05.6; 89, Paxton Marshall, 18:43; 97, Jack Klarkowski, 19:01.9; 107, Ben Augustine, 19:17.9.

Bonduel: 37, Gage Anderson, 17:33.1; 92, Garrett Anderson, 18:46; 100, Griffin Richter, 19:10.1; 103, Oliver Chitwood, 19:12.2; 115, Joah Dworniczak, 19:43.1.

Thursday, Sept. 24

Jim Bremser Memorial XC Meet

The Oconto Falls girls earned 149 points to place fourth among 13 large school teams in Mishicot.

Ellie Beschta placed 36th in 22:41.3, and Ava Holtz was 37th in 22:42.9. Alexandria Braund was right behind in 38th place in 22:52.1.

The boys collected 179 points and placed sixth among 12 large school teams.

Isaiah Holtz led the Panthers with a 21st place finish in 19:02.8. He was followed by Mason Lotto in 41st in 20:01.3.

Among small schools, the Panthers were 14th among 37 schools with 461 points.

Sage Mendolla was 52nd in 19:34.5, followed by Landon Timm in 86th in 20:15.3, Lucas Vanhulle in 134th in 21:24 and Carson Laluzerne in 142nd in 21:42.8.

Three Lakes Invitational

Suring's Natalie Siebert finished eighth in 21:36.7 in Three Lakes.

Suring's Blake DeGrave finished 46th in 21:09.7. Garrett School was 54th in 22:01.8, and Aidan Thompson placed 78th in 26:56.3.

Tuesday, Sept. 22

Eagle Invitational

Bonduel's boys and Wittenberg-Birnamwood's girls runners claimed team titles at Menominee Nation High School.

All five Bears who collected Bonduel's 27 points placed in the top 10, including Gage Anderson who won with a time of 17:56.4.

Joining him were Garrett Anderson, fourth, 19:22.8; Griffin Richter,

sixth, 19:43.7; Joah Dworniczak, seventh, 19:54.9; and Oliver Chitwood, ninth, 20:23.8.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood's boys were third with 78 points.

Scoring for them were Marty Nowinsky, eighth, 20:15; Dalton Fletcher, 10th, 20:57.4; Colten Mueller, 17th, 21:56.6; Maksym Guk, 21st, 23:13.6; and Milo Salvesen, 22nd, 23:25.

Running as individuals were Byrant Waupoose III, Menominee Nation, first, 17:39.2; teammate Eric Webster, 47th, 25:42.1.

Gresham: 9, Caleb Putnam, 19:51; 24, Blaze Ejnik, 22:40.5; 42, Mason Martin, 24:55.8; 54, Mason Pyatskowitz, 27:17.

Wolf River Lutheran: 23, Anthony Long, 22:33.3; 57, Ivan Long, 31:12.5; 58, Mark Buchholz, 31:22.4.

Marion-Tigerton: 35, Brayden Zietlow, 23:53.9; 45, Breckin Gleason, 25:02.8.

Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas Academy: 48, Cooper Malloy, 25:49.9; 52, Wyatt Kosch, 26:39.3; 53, Bronne Thoune, 26:41.6; 56, Caleb Jenkins, 30:23.5.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood's girls tallied 24 points, followed by Lena/STAA in second with 54 and Bonduel in third with 61.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood: 2, Brielle Rose, 21:38.6; 3, Nora Bushman, 21:51.1; 4, Gabrielle Timm, 22:05.2; 6, Kendyll Ladwig, 22:19.6; 9, Harper Krull, 23:12.3.

Lena/STAA: 5, Aspynn Anderson, 22:12.1; 7, Alisa Finger, 22:34.8; 10, Brooklyn Viestenz, 23:20.2; 11, Adrena Rabas, 23:29.9; 21, Sydney Pirlot, 27:37.8.

Bonduel: 1, Lillian Burrack, 21:20.5; 8, Amelia Wilcox, 23:02.9; 12, Payten Bierhals, 23:37; 15, Kember Frome, 26:05.1; 25, Dahlia Harris, 28:24.3.

Competing as individuals were:

Wolf River Lutheran: 13, Violet Buchholz, 23:27.

Marion-Tigerton: 17, Brooklyn Ahlers, 24:58.8.

Menominee Nation: 22, Kaylee Nacotee, 26:35; 33, Aaliyah Waupoose, 28:25; 50, Elaine Skenadore, 36:29.3.

Gresham: 48, Aubrey Miller, 34:47.8.

Winneconne Invite

Shawano's Josiah Kuehl finished in sixth place with a time of 17:28.8 at Winneconne High School.

Also placing for the boys were Teagan Harkey, 10th, 17:44; Quinten Harkey, 14th, 17:53.6; Aloysius Frechette, 25th, 18:34; and Brayden Fish, 28th, 18:41.8.

Madilyn Powers set the pace for the girls, finishing 23rd in 22:02.9. She was followed by Mikelah Powers, 32nd, 22:26.9; McKenna Miller, 52nd, 23:56.7; and Lorelei Hancock, 54th, 24:01.

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Sustainable living not a one-size-fits-all

Raising Pynes provides natural products to shoppers

By KAY REMINGER
Correspondent

Rachel Pyne, owner of Raising Pynes, is a homesteading mom of three, surrounding herself with chickens and garden beds.

Opening her store more than two years ago June 4, 2024, she is intent on bringing her knowledge to the Shawano area.

"I want to help others to grow confident and more self-reliant on our life's journey," Pyne said. "And it's not a one-size-fits-all."

Offered at the store are refillery items as well as homestead wares.

Refillery products are mineral- and plant-based, such as liquid and block dish soaps, liquid and powdered laundry detergents, laundry detergent sheets, compostable and natural dryer sheets, wool-dryer balls, laundry scent boosters, cleaner, all-purpose sprays and many more, all which are septic-safe, biodegradable, environmentally friendly, cleaner products.

Sold by weight, customers are encouraged to bring in clean, empty containers that are weighed before filling. They can take as little or as much refillery product as needed. The container's weight is then subtracted at the checkout. The customer pays only for the product.

If the customer does not have a container, there is no need to purchase one. A community shelf convenience is provided that offers free containers to take as needed. A variety of new containers are available for purchase. Raising Pynes welcomes donations of clean, odor-free jars that are suitable for reuse.

"My homestead wares are those things that make you feel sustainable in your own home," said Pyne. "Most of us have items in our homes that have multiple purposes that we are not even aware of that would give us cleaner and more affordable options. We're in the era of convenience."

Products that are brought into the store have to go through the "Rachel Test," Pyne said. It should align with the values behind Raising Pynes — helping people build self-reliance, make more sustainable choices and create a healthier, more intentional home.

Pyne prioritizes small businesses, Wisconsin-made products, responsible business practices and items designed to last. Body care and cleaning products are carefully selected for their straightforward ingredients and their impact on people, animals and the environment.

"I started by bringing in a little bit of everything that represents what I envision Raising Pynes becoming," said Pyne. "Eventually, I would like the store to offer products covering many parts of a self-reliant lifestyle, from natural home, health and body products, to gardening and animal husbandry supplies."

Pyne plans to offer classes and demonstrations led by local crafters and creators.

"I want to provide people in the community with a place to teach and



Owner Rachel Pynes pauses at her counter at Raising Pynes, 816 E. Green Bay St., Shawano. Refillery containers are ready to fill with natural, biodegradable household needs — dish soaps to laundry soaps and more.



Natural body care salves such as lotions, balms and womb oils are offered for sale, to aid hormone balances. The balms are made onsite by owner Rachel Pyne.

KAY REMINGER
showcase their skill while helping others understand how those skills can be

used in their own home or homesteads," said Pyne. "Learning practical and traditional skills builds confidence, helping people realize they are capable of doing and making things themselves. They do not always have to rely on purchasing a ready-made product. That knowledge creates a greater sense of self-reliance and self-sustainability."

Raising Pynes is built around three brand pillars — inspire, learn and thrive.

Loving what she does, Pyne said, "I want this to be a judgement-free space. There are no silly questions. If I know the answer, I'll share it. If I don't, I'll do my best to help find it. We can all learn from one another."

Raising Pynes welcomes community members interested in teaching, demonstrating a skill or hosting a class at the store.

To find various upcoming events, for questions on products, or to inquire about sharing your skill, like Raising Pynes LLC on Facebook. Connect by emailing raisingpynes@gmail.com or calling 715-852-7963. The store is located at 816 E. Green Bay St., Shawano.

Memories in certain years bring smiles, tears

Certain years hold life's memories and experiences that find a place deep in our souls. Recollections may be warm and sweet. Others could be heart-wrenching.

After seven years of infertility, we were blessed with the adoption of our first son

FARM LIFE FROM A FARM WIFE



KAY REMINGER
COLUMNIST

— just 12 days old
— in November 1988. Two years later, at three weeks old, our second adopted son was placed in our arms in March 1991. We've thanked God over and over through the years that their birth mothers chose life. In

October 1995, I miraculously gave birth to our only biological child; a daughter.

Recalling each one of those events bring back a rush of emotion — Tender, scared, grateful, anxious, thankful, overwhelmed, sleep-deprived — all full of joy and motion. Blanketed by love.

I remember crying at one point because I couldn't get one of them to nap. It brought me up short as I had cried wanting to be a mama, and here I am a crying mama. It all came with the territory. I learned, grew and came to cut myself some slack.

The years flew by when our kids were small. We were parenting three precious little souls and tending a farm. Both, at times, were blurry.

Fast-forward to 2009. It remains in my heart as a year of ecstatic hilltops and heart-crushing valleys.

My mom passed Jan. 24 of that year. By then, both of my parents had been in the nursing home system for two years. Their minds were sharp, but their physical bodies were wearing out.

I was on my way that morning and had planned on stopping for a coffee-to-go when I received a phone call from a good friend that happened to be a nurse on staff.

She simply said without explanation: "Kay, come as soon as you can."

I'll be forever grateful to her.

The coffee forgotten, I sped to the nursing home in time to sit between my parent's beds, holding my dad's hand in one and my mom's in the other. I could tell that she was close to going home.

After praying aloud, I bent down to her ear and softly whispered, "Go ahead, Mom. Jesus is waiting."

In a tranquil peace, she quietly slipped away. I profoundly sensed the presence of heaven's angels.

Just four months later, I was again privileged to be with Dad when he drifted away from his physical bond to join Mom. Within months, my siblings and I were orphaned. We all acknowledged, because they knew Jesus as their Lord and Savior, they were more alive than we were, skipping together on streets of gold. What comfort that brings.

Later, in spring of that year our middle son won a state baseball championship. The emotional rollercoaster of moving up and winning the games one by one to make it to state was hair-raising. Working the cows around the games, we attended every single one, as was our custom.

"Eventually, I would like the store to offer products covering many parts of a self-reliant lifestyle, from natural home, health and body products, to gardening and animal husbandry supplies."

RACHEL PYNES, owner of Raising Pynes



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Story of survival, resilience now illustrated

Lederhaus' story available at Dreier's in Shawano

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Dreier Pharmacy Gift Shoppe and Boutique in Shawano is extra special to Tansy Lederhaus.

Her book "43 Days" is available at the local business, but the store is also the first location to carry the new illustrated version of the book that tells of her survival, strength and resilience in coming back from a traumatic car crash more than two decades ago.

"Dreier's is exactly the kind of small town, locally-owned business that makes a community feel like home," Lederhaus said. "It's a pharmacy, yes, but it's also so much more than that. Step inside, and you'll find an incredible gift shop filled with all kinds of treasures, unique finds and things you didn't know you needed until you saw them."

Shawano is a neighboring city to her hometown of Clintonville, so having

"43 Days" make its way into a locally-owned business in a community so close to home feels especially fitting, she said.

In June 2002, Lederhaus and her best friend, Sarah Severson, were involved in a car-and-semi crash near Clintonville. Severson did not survive.

Lederhaus, 17 at the time, clung to life. Her injuries required her to be taken by ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah.

At the hospital, imaging revealed she suffered two fractured femurs (thigh bones), a ruptured spleen and a grade five liver laceration – a severe, life-threatening injury involving extensive damage to the liver. Her liver bled profusely.

"It required repeat treatments to try to get it to stop bleeding," Lederhaus said. "I required more than 100 units of blood products in order to survive."

The book is based on her father's journal of the time she spent in the hospital.

"From the moment I decided to turn my story into a book, I knew I wanted to include photos as well," she said. "Once I



Tansy Lederhaus stands in front of Dreier's Pharmacy in downtown Shawano with her book "43 Days." It chronicles her time in the hospital following a life-threatening crash in 2002. The Shawano store is the first to carry an illustrated version of the book.

CONTRIBUTED

finished writing, I felt like I had painted an accurate picture of my experience.

After I published and some of my friends and family read it, they

questioned why I hadn't included photos. That was all I needed to decide to finally include photos in an illustrated edition of '43 Days.'"

Writing "43 Days" turned out to be a form of therapy Lederhaus didn't know she needed.

"I had read my dad's journal and paged through my photo album hundreds of times, but reflecting on each of his entries and adding my memories and thoughts was truly therapeutic," she said.

The selection of Dreier's as a sales outlet was intentional.

"One of my dearest high school friend's moms works at Dreier's," Lederhaus said. "She actually suggested it to me a while ago, and I loved the idea of having my book in a store in a city with such close affiliations to Clintonville. I love the unique combination of a pharmacy which ties in to my medical background, while also having an incredible and expansive boutique. I thought it would be a good addition to their store."

She continues to donate blood as often as possible.

"I've personally donated just over 60 units of blood. I recently received my 7-gallon pin," she said. "I will continue to donate blood every eight weeks as long as my body lets me. My goal is to give back at least part of what I received."

She has received several messages from people who've read her book – people who knew her parents, people who remember the crash and even complete strangers.

"I love hearing that they couldn't put it down, it left an impact on them or it made them emotional," Lederhaus said. "I love hearing that they scheduled a blood donation and donated for the first time."

In addition to Dreier's, "43 Days" is available online at <https://shop43days.com>.

It's also available at the very location where the story takes place, the gift shop at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center in Neenah. The book can also be found at Down Home on Main in Clintonville, Lyons Fine Books in Neenah and online through Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

kpasson@newmedia-wi.com

Sportsmen organize to vote for their values

Hunters and anglers don't mind getting up before dawn to pursue deer or walleyes. They'll sit for hours in the rain, snow or frigid temperatures for a shot at a big buck or some slab crappies.

When it comes to voting, they tend to stay home, according to Hunter Nation.

This Kansas-based activist group for sportsmen, credited with the legal action that helped get Wisconsin a wolf season in 2021, is sounding the alarm before the November elections to help right some of the perceived wrongs that have been occurring in our state and elsewhere in America.

"We're losing our rights quicker than anything," said Ken Sikora, of Oconto, speaking for Hunter Nation last month at a political rally in Manawa. "We need a voice."

According to Hunter Nation, about 300,000 hunters and anglers did not vote in the last presidential election. Sikora noted that about 20,000 sportsmen in Waupaca County alone didn't vote last time.

With a margin of victory measured at about 20,000 votes statewide, it's clear that these sportsmen's

votes can be critical on issues important to those who value hunting, fishing and gun ownership.

Rather than relying on state or federal game biologists for wildlife management, certain game animals (notably wolves) are being managed in the courts through lawsuits and judicial rulings.

While the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources currently estimates the state's wolf population at 1,200 animals, Sikora told the rally that the number is closer to 5,000. The increased wolf population in northern counties is reducing the deer herd, and hunters are selling their cabins to largely non-hunters who may be from out of state and not as likely to support sportsmen's views.

As evidence of the discrepancy in wolf numbers, HN points to the past few wolf seasons.

In the 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 seasons, it took 69, 70 and 52 days, respectively, for hunters and trappers to harvest 117, 257 and 154 wolves, respectively. A season brought about by a HN lawsuit in February 2021 saw 218 wolves harvested in just 60 hours. The



Ken Sikora, of Oconto, speaking on behalf of Hunter Nation and Wisconsin Outdoor Alliance, addresses a political rally in Manawa on Sept. 12. Sikora said thousands of sportsmen have not voted in recent elections and must join together to support their values and their outdoor activities.

ROSS BIELEMA

wolf population of 660 animals in 2014 had more than doubled to 1,340 animals in 2021, according to DNR estimates. Many northern residents believe the actual number is much higher.

"When a season that used to take 50-70 days is effectively over in 60 hours with similar license participation, responsible predator management requires a full re-evaluation of the population estimate and its

margin of error," according to the HN website.

The DNR had planned to hold a hunt in November 2021, but a judge ruled the DNR was violating state law by not holding a hunt immediately after gray wolves were removed from the Endangered Species list.

Chris Vaughan, Hunter Nation's Wisconsin state director, said the group is not partisan but encourages

sportsmen to vote for candidates who share their values and supports the Second Amendment and hunting.

Sportsmen are not voting in large numbers because "they just don't feel represented," he said.

HN's Wisconsin chapter was the first state chapter started in 2023 and already takes credit for stopping an anti-hunting effort to end organized coyote hunting contests earlier this year. Although outnumbered, HN made it clear that such contests were not violating any laws and convinced the Natural Resources Board to stop the push for a contest ban.

U.S. Rep. Tom Tiffany was a sponsor of HR 845, the Pet and Livestock Safety Act, that was approved in the U.S. House. The act would delist the wolf from the Endangered Species list and restore state control of wolf hunting. Although stalled in the Senate, President Donald Trump signed an executive order Sept. 4 to remove federal protection of wolves, which Interior Secretary Doug Burgum must decide on by Dec. 3.

The state DNR could work on details of a hunt, but the Wolf Advisory Committee has just three pro-hunting members of the 24-member committee, Vaughan said.

HN is trying to simplify hunting, fishing and trapping laws nationwide. He noted that a 1956 copy of the state's game laws was three pages, and one of them was a table of hunting hours. Today's booklet is 31 pages. HN recently helped removed a restriction in Pennsylvania that prohibited all hunting on Sunday.

National spokesman and rock legend Ted Nugent will be on hand from 6-8 p.m. Oct. 8 at the Epic Event Center in Green Bay during a Sportsmen's Rally. Tiffany and Hunter Nation founder and CEO Keith Mark also will appear.

The other prong of sportsmen's political voting organization is the Wisconsin Outdoor Alliance. This group's website unites hunters, anglers, boaters, trappers, shooters, archers, powersports lovers and wildlife watchers to help them learn the issues affecting their sports.

One of the alliance's tools is a podcast. Sikora discusses a confirmed wolf attack in southern Oconto County and also the spread of chronic wasting disease on one episode at <https://wisconsinoutdooralliance.com/podcast>.

Ross Bielema is a freelance writer from New London and owner of Wolf River Concealed Carry LLC. Contact him at Ross@wolfriverccw.com.

WHAT’S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, OCT. 2

SURING: Brat/Burger Fry, 9 a.m. until brats are gone, Suring Area Library Parking Lot, 604 Main St. Hosted by Suring Area Historical Society to support museum project. Last of the season.

WABENO: “Nana’s Naughty Knickers,” 7 p.m., Nancy Volk Auditorium, 4325 N. Branch St. Wabeno Area Players production. Adults \$15, students \$10.

CAROLINE: 38th annual Lions Colorama, 7:30-11:30 p.m., W12721 Buss Road. Food and vendors, horse trail ride. Music, \$5 admission.

SATURDAY, OCT. 3

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

CAROLINE: 38th annual Lions Colorama, 7 a.m. to 12:30 a.m., W12721 Buss Road. Breakfast 7-10 a.m., Food and vendors, horse-drawn wagon rides. Legion Auxiliary craft sale 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., trail ride 10 a.m., bean bag tournament noon

(\$20 entry fee), music 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., \$5 admission.

SHAWANO: Shawano Area Quilters Quilt Show, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Elizabeth Street Business Center, 605 E. Elizabeth Street. Admission \$5.

NAVARINO: Fall Family Fun Day with Bluey, 9 a.m. to noon, Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Family activities such as apple cider press, candle dipping, rope making, bird feeder building (Price depends on feeder), crafts, tours, photos with Bluey. Admission \$1.

SHAWANO: Downtown Octoberfest, Main Street, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free live music, food, craft vendors on the streets, kids games and more.

OCONTO FALLS: Wall of Fame Induction Ceremony, 10:30 a.m., Oconto Falls High School, 210 N. Farm Road.

NAVARINO: Sunset Trolley Ride, 4:30-7 p.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Trolley ride to view the sandhill cranes coming

in to roost. \$10 fee, limited space on trolley. Register by Sept. 30 at 715-758-6999 or navarino.org.

WABENO: “Nana’s Naughty Knickers,” 7 p.m., Nancy Volk Auditorium, 4325 N. Branch St. Wabeno Area Players production. Adults \$15, students \$10.

SUNDAY, OCT. 4

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

CAROLINE: 38th annual Lions Colorama, 7 a.m. to close, W12721 Buss Road. Food and vendors. Pancake breakfast 7-10:30 a.m., trail ride 9:30 a.m., parade 1 p.m., auction after parade.

ABRAMS: Farmers Market, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Town Square, 5877 Main St.

WABENO: “Nana’s Naughty Knickers,” 2 p.m., Nancy Volk Auditorium, 4325 N. Branch St. Wabeno Area Players production. Adults \$15, students \$10.

SHAWANO: Coast to Coast

Rosary Rally, 3-5 p.m., Franklin Park, 235 S. Washington St. Hosted by Sacred Heart Parish and Wisconsin Right to Life for Respect Life Month.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 7

SHAWANO: Chamber Coffee Connection, 8-9 a.m., The Daily Drip, 215 N. Main St., Unit B.

SHAWANO: Shawano Municipal Utilities Customer Appreciation Event, 3-6 p.m., SMU, 122 N. Sawyer St. Live demonstrations, kids activities.

Playing at Empty Bowls



Musicians Dale Kakkak, 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.

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HOUSE FOR RENT

3000+ square foot executive ranch style home on a 19 acre wooded lot with nearly 2000 ft of frontage on the Wolf River, close to Shawano. 3 bedroom (or 2 with den), 2.5 bath, 3/4 basement, screen porch, 2+ car garage and a detached multi-car garage. Available now. \$1,820 a month (internet included), plus utilities and yard maintenance. Wildlife paradise. References needed. Call for an appointment. 312-925-2337

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REAL ESTATE: Home & Shed 1930's Bungalow 3 bedroom 1 1/2 story Home with vinyl siding, replaced windows, steel roof & alum. Soffits. The Shed is 24x38ft with vinyl siding & 2 overhead doors. This garage is 20 years old & has a concrete floor, finished walls and separate Shop/Hobby area. The large Corner Lot is (2) City Lots with some nice shade trees & concrete driveway. Home is served by municipal water, sewer, natural gas & utilities. It has 1,300 sq ft of Living Space, Refinished Hardwood Floors in the living room & bedroom, a Newer furnace & needs some Updates. Please call Len Yoap to schedule a Viewing at (920) 604-1704. Terms: \$ 10,000 earnest money Downpayment with Offer. Property is being Sold in AS-IS Condition.

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PUBLIC RECORD

OCONTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sept. 27

Deputies responded to 31 incidents, including a wrong-way driver on U.S. Highway 141 near County Road A in the Town of Lena; a disturbance near Superior Avenue and Main Street in Oconto; property damage on Sundew Road in the Town of Little Suamico; property damage at Chute Pond Campground, 12436 Chute Dam Lane, Mountain; harassment on Lower Road in the Town of Little Suamico; two traffic stops, one traffic offense, two citizen assists, three miscellaneous traffic incidents, two welfare checks; four open-line 911 calls; three ambulance calls.

Sept. 26

Deputies responded to 64 incidents, including a disturbance near Main Street and Superior Avenue in Oconto; a disturbance on Pleasant View Drive in the Town of Chase; suspicious activity on Hayes Road in the Town of How; suspicious activity on County Road HH in the Town of Underhill; theft on County Road G in the Town of Maple Valley; trespassing on Emond Lane in the Town of Spruce; a weapon offense on County Road H in the Town of Underhill; fire on Nero Lane in the Town of Little Suamico; sexual assault at a redacted location; suspicious activity on Jaworski Road in the Town of Chase; five traffic stops, five miscellaneous traffic incidents; two 911 hangups and seven open lines; six ambulance calls; three crashes, two involving deer.

Sept. 25

Deputies responded to 59 incidents, including suspicious activity near United Cooperative, state Highway 22 and County Road B in the Town of Oconto Falls; a disturbance on state Highway 32 in the Town of Lakewood; suspicious activity on state Highway 32 in the Town of Riverview; a disturbance on Pensaukee Bayshore Road in the Town of Pensaukee; harassment on County Road J in the Town of Oconto; suspicious activity on County Road C in the Town of Morgan; trespassing on Joseph Lane in the Town of Mountain; an ATV crash on County Road F in the Town of Lakewood; criminal damage on Elizabeth Lane in the Town of Little Suamico; suspicious activity on West Forrester Road in the Town of Lakewood; five traffic stops, one traffic hazard, two citizen assists, five miscellaneous traffic incidents, two welfare checks; one 911 hangup and three open lines; seven ambulance calls; one crash.

Sept. 24

Deputies responded to 75 incidents, including a wanted person at a redacted location; a death investigation at a redacted location; fraud on East Frontage Road in the Town of Little Suamico; a weapon offense on Tower Drive Road in the Town of Stiles; seven traffic stops, one traffic hazard, four traffic offenses, three citizen assists, five miscellaneous

traffic incidents, two welfare checks; one 911 hangup and three open lines; six ambulance calls; three crashes, one involving deer.

Sept. 23

Deputies responded to 57 incidents, including a wanted person at the Law Enforcement Center, 220 Arbutus Ave., Oconto; a fire control burn on Hoehne Lane in the Town of Oconto; harassment on Sherrie Lane in the Town of Underhill; an animal bite on Gallas Road in the Town of Oconto Falls; suspicious activity on Island Lane in the Town of Townsend; suspicious activity at Gillett Elementary School, 210 W. Main St., Gillett; trespassing on Joyce Lane in the Town of Lakewood; suspicious activity near County Roads E and EE in the Town of Abrams; a noise disturbance near West Main and West First streets in Gillett; five traffic stops, one traffic hazard, four traffic offenses, one citizen assist, four miscellaneous traffic incidents, three welfare checks; two 911 hangups; six ambulance calls; one crash, involving deer.

Sept. 22

Deputies responded to 47 incidents, including threatening at the Law Enforcement Center, 220 Arbutus Ave., Oconto; theft on state Highway 64 in the Town of Doty; fraud on Gray Lake Road in the Town of Oconto Falls; an animal bite on Gary Alberts Lane in the Town of Chase; a wanted person at the jail, 220 Arbutus Ave., Oconto; fraud on First Street in Lena; one traffic stop, three traffic offenses, two citizen assists, four miscellaneous traffic incidents, one welfare check; three 911 hangups; four ambulance calls; four crashes, two involving deer.

Sept. 21

Deputies responded to 62 incidents, including harassment on Timber Lane in the Town of Townsend; harassment in the Sheriff's Department lobby, 220 Arbutus Ave., Oconto; a disturbance on Brookside Cemetery Road in the Town of Pensaukee; a death investigation at a redacted location; suspicious activity on East Main Street in Gillett; seven traffic stops, two traffic hazards, four traffic offenses, four citizen assists, one welfare check; three open-line 911 calls; six ambulance calls; two crashes, one involving a bear.

Sept. 20

Deputies responded to 38 incidents, including a death investigation at a redacted location; a disturbance on South White Potato Lake Road in the Town of Brazeau; suspicious activity on Manor Drive in Suring; suspicious activity at the Patzer Boat Landing, County Road H, Town of Underhill; a disturbance on First Street in Lena; two traffic stops, two citizen assists, two miscellaneous traffic incidents; two 911 hangups and one open line; four ambulance calls; three crashes, one involving deer.

Sept. 19

Deputies responded to 42 incidents, including a fire control burn on Pawlak Lane in

the Town of Lena; suspicious activity on Spring Creek Road in the Town of Mountain; suspicious activity on Schutt Lake Road in the Town of Underhill; a disturbance near state Highway 32 and County Road CC in the Town of Morgan; a noise disturbance on Kosmal Lane in the Town of Lena; a wanted person near U.S. Highway 41 and County Road W in the Town of Little River; four traffic stops, one traffic hazard, four traffic offenses, one miscellaneous traffic incident; one 911 hangup and two open lines; four ambulance calls.

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VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on Election Day may submit a request to vote an absentee ballot to their municipal clerk. A qualified elector is any U.S. citizen who:

- will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day.
- has resided in the ward or municipality where they wish to vote for at least 28 consecutive days before the election.

The elector must also be registered to vote to receive an absentee ballot. **Proof of identification must be provided before an absentee ballot may be issued*.**

Making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail

Contact your municipal clerk and request that an application for an absentee ballot be sent to you for the primary or election or both. You may make written application to your municipal clerk for an absentee ballot by mail, by fax, by email or at MyVote.wi.gov. Or you may apply in person at the clerk's office during the In-Person Absentee Voting period listed below. Your written request must include:

1. your voting address within the municipality where you wish to vote
2. the address where the absentee ballot should be sent, if different from the address above
3. your signature
4. a copy of your photo identification*

The deadline for making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail is: 5:00 pm on the fifth day before the election, Thursday, October 29, 2026.**

Towns of:	Municipal Clerk	Phone	Address
Abrams	Jean Hansen	(920) 826-2999	5877 Main Street, Abrams, WI 54101
Bagley	Alan Sleeter	(920) 590-0198	10005 Madsen Rd., Suring, WI 54174
Brazeau	Jamie Waller	(920) 897-3855	10892 Parkway Road, Pound, WI 54161
Breed	Kristen Telford	(920) 842-2166	11155 State Highway 32, Suring, WI 54174
Chase	Colleen Walgurski	(920) 828-1560	8481 County Road S, Pulaski, WI 54162
Doty	Cheryl Field	(715) 276-7554	14899 County Road T, Mountain, WI 54149
Gillett	Renee Carlson	(920) 819-7475	10908 Town Hall Road, Gillett, WI 54124
			Mailing Address: PO Box 605 Gillett, WI 54124
How	Becky Dickson	(920) 842-9851	12896 State Highway 32, Suring, WI 54174
			Mailing Address: PO Box 187, Suring, WI 54174
Lakewood	Michelle Moczynski	(715) 276-3579	17181 Twin Pines Rd, Lakewood, WI 54138
			Mailing Address: PO Box 40 Lakewood, WI 54138
Lena	Dawn VanArk	(715) 281-4672	6087 Goatsville Road, Lena, WI 54139
			Mailing Address: 8489 Sunshine Rd, Lena, WI 54139
Little River	Amy Peterson	(920) 834-3617	3627 County Road A, Oconto, WI 54153
Little Suamico	Lisa Gliniski	(920) 826-7655	5964A County Road S, Sobieski, WI 54171
Maple Valley	Cindy Tousey	(920) 598-0601	9088 County Road Z, Suring, WI 54174
			Mailing Address: PO Box 384, Suring, WI 54174
Morgan	Erin Mooers	(920) 846-0699	3276 County Road C, Oconto Falls, WI 54154
Mountain	Lynn Kauzlaric	(715) 276-6474	13503 Weller Road, Mountain, WI 54149
			Mailing Address: PO Box 95, Mountain, WI 54149
Oconto	Lori Scanlan	(920) 834-4351	6120 Cream City Road, Oconto, WI 54153
			Mailing Address: 3649 Hwy 22, Oconto, WI 54153
Oconto Falls	Susan Mogged	(920) 373-6663	8680 State Hwy 22, Oconto Falls, WI 54154
			Mailing Address: 5076 Golden Conrers Road, Oconto Falls, WI 54154
Pensaukee	Trudie Chico	(920) 826-2010	4684 Brookside Road, Abrams, WI 54101

*****Town of Oconto Falls Office Hours will also be held October 20th and October 27th from 4:00pm to 8:00pm**

Villages / Cities:	Municipal Clerk	Phone	Address
Riverview	Beth Hartman	(715) 276-6914	15152 Island Lake Rd, Mountain, WI 54149
			Mailing Address: PO Box 220, Mountain, WI 54149
Spruce	Lisa Peitersen	(920) 829-5111	346 Jackson Street Oconto Falls
			Mailing Address: PO Box 52 Oconto Falls, WI 54154
Stiles	Terrah Patton	(920) 634-5348	5718 Watercrest Road, Lena, WI 54139
Townsend	Linda Ziegler	(715) 276-6856	16564 Elm Street, Townsend, WI 54175
			Mailing Address: PO Box 227, Townsend, WI 54175
Underhill	Tracy Winkler	(920) 855-2942	5597 Cardinal Road, Gillett, WI 54124
Village of Lena	Jodi Marquardt	(920) 829-5226	117 E. Main Street, Lena, WI 54139
Village of Suring	Kim Gruetzmacher	(920) 842-2333	604 E. Main Street, Suring, WI 54174
			Mailing Address: PO Box 31, Suring, WI 54174
City of Gillett	Chelsea Anderson	(920) 855-2255	150 N. McKenzie Avenue, Gillett, WI 54124
City of Oconto	Camille Belleau	(920) 834-7711	1210 Main Street, Oconto, WI 54153
City of Oconto Falls	Jenny Friedman	(920) 846-4505	500 N. Chestnut Ave Oconto Falls, WI 54154

*****Village Suring Office Hours Monday – Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm No appointment necessary**

*****City of Gillett Office Hours Monday – Thursday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm No appointment necessary**

*****City of Oconto Office Hours: Mon. – Fri. 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. No appointment necessary**

*****City of Oconto Falls Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:00am to 4:30pm No appointment necessary**

*Voters who are indefinitely confined due to age, illness, infirmity, or disability may not be required to provide photo ID. If this applies to you, contact the municipal clerk regarding deadlines for requesting and submitting an absentee ballot.

**Special absentee voting application provisions apply to electors who are indefinitely confined, in the military, hospitalized, or serving as a sequestered juror. If this applies to you, contact the municipal clerk regarding deadlines for requesting and submitting an absentee ballot.

Voting an absentee ballot in person

You may also request and vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office or other specified location during the days and hours specified for casting an absentee ballot in person. *****Absentee voting is by appointment; unless noted.**

The first day to vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office is: Tuesday, October 20, 2026.

The last day to vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office is: Friday, October 30, 2026 at 5:00 pm*.

No in-person absentee voting may occur on the day before the election. The municipal clerk will deliver voted ballots returned on or before Election Day to the proper polling place or counting location before the polls close on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

Any ballots received after the polls close will not be counted.

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Asst. Variety



**Blue Ribbon
Classics
Ice Cream**

\$4⁹⁹

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Asst. Variety



**Johnsonville
Brats**

Original, Beer,
Italian, Dr. Pepper

\$5²⁹

15 oz.



**Sunrise
Cortland or
McIntosh Apples**

\$3⁶⁹

3# Bag

**Oscar
Mayer Bacon**
Original, Applewood,
or Thick Cut

\$5²⁹

16 oz.



**USDA Choice
Boneless Top
Round Steaks
or Roasts**

\$5⁹⁹

lb.



**Beefsteak
Tomatoes**

\$1⁷⁹

lb.

**Johnsonville
Smoked Sausages**
Original, Andouille,
or Cheddar

\$3⁹⁹

12 oz.

**Food Club
Canned Vegetables**
Asst Variety
14.5-15 oz.

79¢



**Yellow
Onions**

\$2²⁹

3# bag



**Center-Cut
Boneless Pork
Chops or Roasts**

\$2⁹⁹

lb.



**Wisconsin
Russet Potatoes**

\$1⁹⁹

5# bag

**Niagara
Drinking
Water**

16.5 oz / 24 pack



\$2⁹⁹

**Clyde's
Donut
Holes**

7.5-12 oz.
Asst. Variety



2/\$4⁰⁰

**Prairie Farms
Sour Cream**



\$2²⁹

16 oz.



15 oz.
Asst. Variety

**Marie
Callendar's
Pot Pies**

\$3⁴⁹



8-13.7 oz.
Asst. Variety

**Nabisco Ritz,
Triscuits, or Wheat
Thins Crackers**

\$3⁹⁹



25.45-28.45 oz.
Asst. Variety

**Orv's
Ultimate
Rising Pizza**

3/\$10⁹⁸



**King's
Haiwiaan
Dinner Rolls**

\$3⁴⁹

Original or Butter

1 Dz.



32 oz.
Asst. Variety

**Coffeemate
Coffee
Creamer**

\$3⁹⁹



46 oz.
Asst. Variety

**Food Club
Orange
Juice**

\$3⁴⁹



12-20 pk.
Asst. Variety

**Blue Ribbon
Classics
Novelties**

\$4⁹⁹



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OCTOBER 31, 2026**



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Winners Announced
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Out of position and on the clock

Scrambling for answers, Green Bay has no line or running game

By **LUKE REIMER**
Green & Gold Express

The Packers offense once again sputtered out, as the Atlanta Falcons dismantled Green Bay by a score of 35-14 at Lambeau Field on Sept. 24.

The loss for the Packers gives Green Bay its first home opener loss in the last 11 seasons. This loss also marks the first time the Packers have started a season 1-2 since 2014.

The Atlanta Falcons rode a strong run game to the victory, with its superstar running back Bijan Robinson finishing the game with 194 rushing yards and two touchdowns on 29 carries. Backup Brian Robinson also added 50 yards and a touchdown on 10 rushes.

While Robinson is an elite talent at the running back position, the 242 rushing yards given up by the Packers defense appears to be a bit of an outlier, given that the team had only given up 174 rushing yards through the first two weeks.

"Obviously (Bijan Robinson) is a good running back, which isn't an excuse," said Packers linebacker Isaiah McDuffie. "I think we had a great plan; it is just about execution at the end of the day."

The game looked like



What's the plan? Packers President Ed policy, general manager Brian Gutekunst and coach Matt LaFluer had high hopes (and new contracts) to begin the year. Instead, the season has given way to a disastrous start. An embarrassing home opener leaves the Packers at the bottom of the division with many roster questions.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

it was going to go Green Bay's way early, as Falcons quarterback Michael Penix, who was seeing his first start of the season, threw an interception to Xavier McKinney on the fourth play of the game. Even though the Packers were not able to do anything with the strong field position, the Packers got on the board first on the back of Christian Watson's fourth touchdown reception of the season.

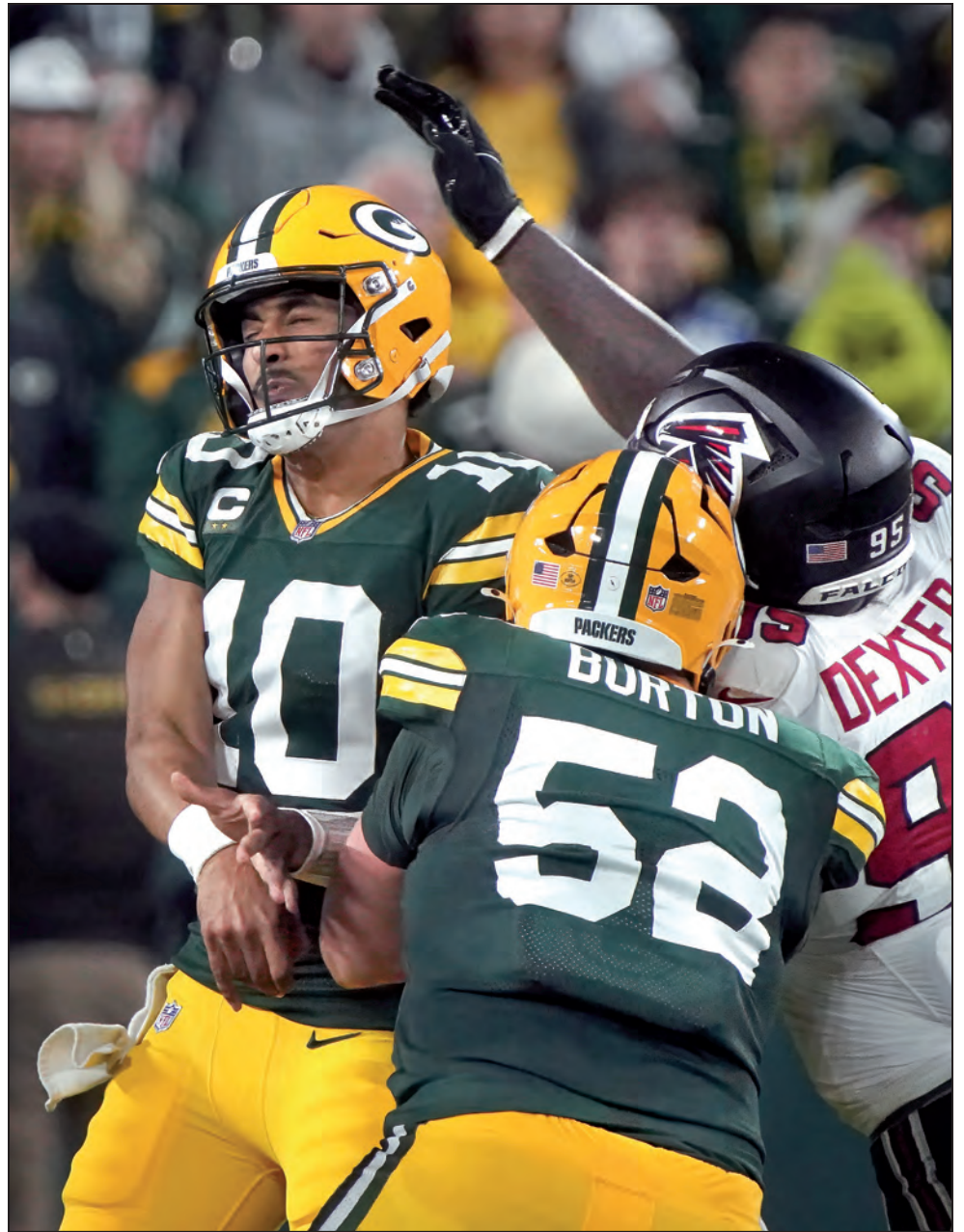
Facing third-and-11 on the Falcons ensuing drive, Packers pass rusher Brenton Cox forced heavy pressure on Penix, causing an incompletion, but a

questionable roughing the passer call gave Atlanta a first down. That first down set up a 55-yard Bijan Robinson rush before he finished the drive off with a touchdown.

More than just giving up a touchdown on the drive, the roughing the passer call seemed to take the wind out of Green Bay's sails, as from that point on, Atlanta outscored Green Bay 35-7.

As a whole, the Falcons totaled 498 total yards, compared to Green Bay's 328 as the Packers were only able to total 17

RECAP, continued on page 2



Banged and bruised, franchise quarterback Jordan Love has been pressured more than any other NFL quarterback this season.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

CELEBRATING 1996, WILL THE PACK BE BACK IN 2026?

By **JACOB WESTENDORF**
Green & Gold Express

Green Bay travels to Florida to take on the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in a Week 4 matchup.

Packers offense vs. Buccaneers defense

Can someone, anyone stand in the way of a defender who wants to hit Jordan Love? Green Bay's offense has been downright putrid since their hot start in Minnesota, and their offensive line has been one of the biggest reasons why.

There is no white knight coming to save this group. On defense, the Packers have Micah Parsons on their way back, which should make them better. There are rarely, if ever, good offensive linemen available at this point in the season.

The Packers would settle for below average at this point. According to Next Gen Stats, the Packers allowed 15 quick



Celebrating the 1996 Super Bowl victory, MVP Desmond Howard and his teammates left the fans yearning for a return to the championship tradition.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

pressures to the Atlanta Falcons on Sept. 24. That's the second most in a game this season. The most, was the 17 they allowed against Minnesota in Week 1.

Love is under siege to the point where it is affecting his play. He's missing throws when he has time, because he is

anticipating getting hit.

Green Bay's run game is doing nothing to take pressure off of their passing game as well. The Packers have their least amount of rushing yards through three games since 1933. They have been historically awful without Josh Jacobs in

the backfield. Marshawn Lloyd, Chris Brooks and Kaleb Johnson all have done nothing to assert themselves as a leading man in the backfield. Too many yards are left on the field even when a play is blocked up appropriately.

When they are actually able to get the ball in the air, Christian Watson and Matthew Golden are off to excellent starts this season. Both players scored in Green Bay's 35-14 loss to Atlanta.

Golden was the entire offense for a good portion of the game. The offense does have reasons for hope, but it's hard to envision anything good happening if Love is going to get hit 10 or more times in every game.

The Packers did grab some reinforcements on their offensive line. They signed veteran guard Laken Tomlinson off the Cowboys' practice squad.



Jordan Love has faced a tough start to the season. With only one win in three games, the Packers are at the bottom of the division.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

BUCS, continued on page 2



It was 194 times 2 when the Packers lost to the Falcons. Receiver Drake London (5) caught five passes for 194 yards including this 68-yard reception in which he shoves cornerback Brandon Cisse out of the way. Running back Bijan Robinson carried the ball for 194 yards and two touchdowns. His longest run was for 55 yards. GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

RECAP, continued from page 1

rushing yards, while Jordan Love was hit 12 times, sacked once and Atlanta finished with three tackles for a loss.

“I think that we have to continue to work with these guys and try to figure out what we do well, because right now I don’t know what we are doing well offensively,” said Packers head coach Matt LaFleur, on how to fix the offensive line. “I think that we can all see the benefit of having a strong rushing attack – how you can get into normal rhythm on

offense and that will open a lot of things in the passing game, but anytime you drop back (53) times in a game and you have nine rushes, it is usually not going to bode well for you.”

Penix finished the game completing 18-of-25 passes for 256 yards, one touchdown and one interception.

Austin Hooper was on the receiving end of Penix’s touchdown pass, as the tight end finished with 11 yards on two receptions. It was Drake

London though who had his biggest day of the season, recording 194 yards on nine receptions.

In another game where Green Bay’s offense struggled to get going, Love finished the game completing 28-of-53 passes for 312 yards, two touchdowns and one interception.

Matthew Golden led the team in receiving in the game, totaling 100 yards and a touchdown on five receptions.

Watson added another 96 yards and a touchdown on seven receptions.

In the run game, Mar-Shawn Lloyd totaled 11 yards on four rushes, while Kaleb Johnson added six yards.

“It is a very disappointing feeling right now, you know how we went out and played today,” said Love. “Like I said, myself to start. A lot of stuff to improve on, to get better at and to look at.”

Because it played on Thursday, Green Bay will get an extra three days of rest before taking on the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in a Week 4 matchup.



Bijan Robinson (7) is pushed out of bounds by Javon Bullard after gaining 31 yards on a third quarter run. His 194 total yards is more than the Packers have in their first three games. GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

BUCS, continued from page 1

Will he be ready to start on Sunday? That remains to be seen, but the Packers do not have a lot of answers up front right now, and signing a 34-year-old who struggled last season off a practice squad reeks appropriately of the desperate situation this team is in.

Packers defense vs. Buccaneers offense

Baker Mayfield got a contract extension before the season started, and he’s gotten off to a slow start. He threw for just 182 yards against the Cleveland Browns last week, in a game that went into overtime. He has one touchdown pass

and one interception.

When he’s able to get the ball in the air, his best receiver is Emeka Egbuka, who was a candidate for rookie of the year last year but lost out to Carolina Panthers star Tet McMillan.

Green Bay’s defense laid its first egg of the season against the Falcons, as Atlanta piled up more than 500 yards, with Bijan Robinson running around, over and through their hapless defense.

Edgerrin Cooper played his worst game of the season before leaving with a concussion.

The Packers defense gave up 27 unanswered

points and was a big part of suffering what was the most lopsided loss at Lambeau Field in Matt LaFleur’s tenure as the head coach.

Special teams

Green Bay’s special teams followed up their best game in what seemed like a decade with a bit of a dud against Atlanta. Their return game was shut down with Skyy Moore having little room to roam against Atlanta’s kick coverage.

Trey Smack made both of his PATs but had an egregious blocked field goal in the first half as the Packers were trying to climb their way back into the game.



Safety Xavier McKinney and the defense celebrate an interception that ended the Falcons’ first drive. GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

GREEN BAY PACKERS AT TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Time and date: Noon, Sunday, Oct. 4

Location: Raymond James Stadium

TV: FOX

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 1-2, Buccaneers 0-2.

History: In an old school NFC Central battle, these two teams have locked horns 59 times and were in the same division

until the NFL realigned before the 2002 season. The Packers lead the all-time series 34-24-1.

The last time these two teams met came in 2023, when the Bucs came to Lambeau in Jordan Love’s first season as a starter. Baker Mayfield was excellent, accumulating a perfect passer rating on the day as the Bucs won 34-20.

The last time these two teams met in Tampa was in 2022, the final meeting between Aaron Rodgers and Tom Brady. The Packers took an early lead on two touchdown passes from Rodgers to Romeo Doubs and Allen Lazard. Their defense had to hold off

the Bucs late, as they scored a late touchdown to get within 14-12.

Brady’s pass on the potential tying two-point conversion, however, was knocked away and the Packers escaped Tampa with a victory.

Coaches: Packers, Matt LaFleur, eighth season, 76-41-1. Buccaneers, Todd Bowles, fifth season, 35-35.

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, L 35-14

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, Oct. 1

Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 7:15 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 4

Indianapolis at Washington (in London), 8:30 a.m.

Dallas at Houston, noon

NY Jets at Chicago, noon

New England at Buffalo, noon

Jacksonville at Cincinnati, noon

Arizona at NY Giants, noon

Tennessee at Baltimore, noon

LA Rams at Philadelphia, noon

Green Bay at Tampa Bay, noon

Miami at Minnesota, 3:05 p.m.

Kansas City at Las Vegas, 3:25 p.m.

Denver at San Francisco, 3:25 p.m.

LA Chargers at Seattle, 3:25 p.m.

Detroit at Carolina, 7:20 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 5

Atlanta at New Orleans, 7:15 p.m.

MOMENTS

ATLANTA 35, GREEN BAY 14



GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

BRIGHT SPOT

One of the bright spots so far this season has been defensive end Lukas Van Ness. In the first quarter, he caught Atlanta quarterback Michael Penix in a tight grip and forced Penix into an intentional grounding situation. Green Bay was leading 7-0, but a roughing the passer penalty on the next play helped lead to a Falcons touchdown and a 7-7 game.

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EYES ON THE BALL

Christian Watson was targeted 10 times and caught seven passes for 96 yards and a touchdown. He was joined by Matthew Golden, who caught five passes for 100 yards and a touchdown. The receivers were a bright spot despite no running game.

HO-CHUNK



GAMING

WITTENBERG