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Documentary prompts talk on teen suicide

Experts explain why teenage minds leap to extremes

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

Students, staff and families came together Oct. 26 at Oconto Falls High School in support of mental wellness and suicide prevention with a screening for "My Ascension." The feature-length documentary showcases how a 16-year-old cheerleader attempted suicide and was paralyzed in the attempt, but used her experience to bring hope to others.

Emma Benoit, of Dutchtown, Louisiana, partnered with Hope Squad, a school-based suicide prevention program, and became a national speaker in the hopes that her journey would help prevent teen deaths. The program operates at more than 1,600 locations around the world, including Oconto Falls.

After viewing the documentary, those in attendance listened to school and health experts from the area talk about some of the issues around wellness for teens and the potential reasons why some think suicide is an option.

Abby Huntley, clinic director for Innovative Services Inc., said the teenage brain from the age of 13 until almost 25 is set up where they experience emotion at a level 10 times more than any other time in their lives.

"So when you have the love of your life at 17 that you cannot live without, that is more intensely a love feeling than you will ever have with your future spouse that you're with for 50 years, simply because of the way your brain chemistry is at that time," Huntley said. "A lot of times, teens get the all-or-nothing thinking with 'I hate my mom right now.' That is the most accurate description for how intensely you are frustrated and upset with them at that moment. That's OK."

The teenage brain can also make them impulsive, Huntley said, noting that there is no such thing as a "pause button" on some reactions.

"That's really one of the important things about developing a support system, so that you can come to somebody," Huntley said. "When our young people come to us with really big, hard things, we have to meet them with validation and not judgment, and we have to put our fear aside in that moment and just sit with it. It's not necessarily a time for big emotions and reactions or consequences. Natural consequences are going to come."

Brianna Morrissey, social worker and homeless liaison for the Oconto Falls School District, said the exposures and pressures that teens experience should be taken into account as potential reasons why teens gravitate toward suicide when they can't handle their lives.



Abby Huntley, left, clinic director for Innovative Services Inc., talks about how she would rather sit and listen to a teen's feelings of hopelessness and frustration than attend their funeral later during a panel discussion Oct. 26 at Oconto Falls High School while social worker Brianna Morrissey listens.
LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA



Jamie Kuhn, Oconto Falls school resource officer, talks about how people's emotional experiences differ when it comes to feeling depressed or suicidal and how one person's extreme experience does not solidify another person's state of mind during a panel discussion Oct. 26 at Oconto Falls High School.
LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

"Any time our students are able to go online or have exposure to the online world, it automatically opens them up to this comparison," Morrissey said. "When I work with students, especially in the middle school and high school age group, I find that students are comparing themselves to a highlight reel of someone else's world. Oftentimes, they feel like, 'Well, I'm never going to live up to that life that that person's living. So what's the point?'"

That thinking has created a new level of crisis among teens that wasn't felt as much before the internet became a way of life, Morrissey said. It's important for parents and other family members to notice changes in their teen's behavior or routines, and once they see them, step in and ask, "Are you OK?"

"The biggest thing I tell parents when they're talking, 'How do I know? How do I know if this is happening?'" Morrissey said. "It's not predictable in the way that it should be, but what is something that we can look at is whether there's higher anxiety. Have we noticed an increase in agitation, or have we noticed people trying to isolate themselves? Do we notice if they're spending more time in their rooms or if they're not doing the things they wanted to do before?"

Sara Dick, program coordinator for Oconto County with the National Alliance for Mental Illness North Bay Wisconsin, recalled how she lived with anxiety and depression as a teen. Sometimes

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INSIDE

Lena girls compete in state cross country meet.

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Wisconsinites take in World Series games

Residents watch from the stands in Milwaukee, St. Petersburg

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

The Rev. Edward Looney wasn't going to let a little thing like an away game in Florida stop him from staying on the Milwaukee Brewers bandwagon.

After snagging a ticket for Game 1 in Milwaukee, the priest from Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Shawano traveled to St. Petersburg to catch Games 3 and 4 of the World Series at Tropicana Field, home of the Tampa Bay Rays.

"I'm all about experiences. It was always my intent to go to Florida," he said. "It was just going to be the one game, but then I thought I'd stay for the sweep."

When the Rays won Game 4, Looney said he had to return to Shawano.

"I saw two great games there," he said. "I saw them score the 10 runs. Everybody in the stands was so happy. An older gentleman next to me had tears in his eyes."

The 12-inning Game 4 was a series of highs and lows. The home run in the top of the 12th inning was exciting, but then came the deflating experience in the bottom of the inning.

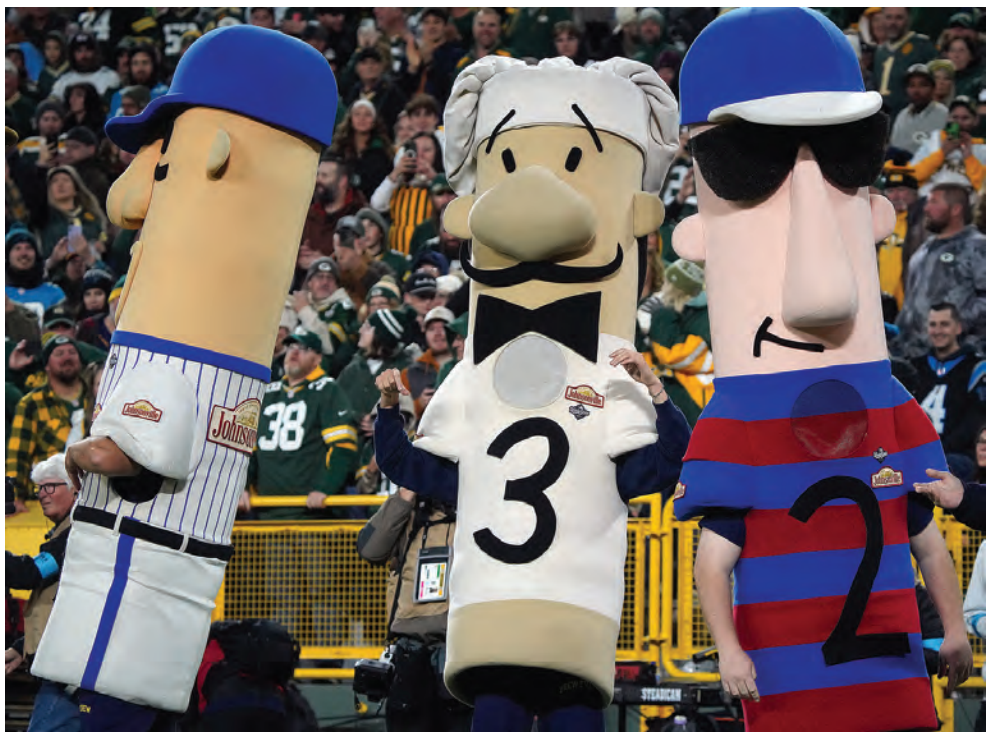
Looney doesn't call himself a lifelong die-hard fan, but he expects to attend a few home games during the regular season next year.

For Shawano's Jim Leuenberger, watching Game 2 of the World Series with his sons at American Family Field was the great way to spend his 80th birthday.

His son, Jeff, bought him a ticket for his birthday. The two watched the game together. His other son Jeremy, watched from the Deer District in downtown Milwaukee.



Members of the World Series Champion Milwaukee Brewers hoisted their trophy at the start of the Green Bay Packers game against the Carolina Panthers on Oct. 29 at Lambeau Field. Players at the game included, Aaron Ashby, Jake Bauers, Christian Yelich (with trophy) and Logan Henderson. GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA



The Milwaukee Brewers Racing Sausages made their debut at Lambeau Field on Oct. 29 during the Green Bay Packers vs. Carolina Panthers game. GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

"I've been to a lot of Brewer games over the years, but this one was like no other," he said. "The crowd was just electric. Before the game, we went to a bar for something to eat. People were high-fiving each other and lots of hollering, 'Go Brewers!' It was so much fun."

Leuenberger sat in the fourth level behind home plate.

Not only has he witnessed plenty of Brewers games, he was at a couple of the games in Milwaukee when the Brewers lost to the St. Louis Cardinals in 1982.

"I went to two game in the 1982 World Series, Games 4 and 5. We won both to go 3-2, but then we went back to St. Louis and lost them both," he said. "That was the last time I cried over a baseball game."

The sale of Brewers merchandise is at historic levels.

"I bought a hat, and I already have three jerseys," Leuenberger said. "I'm (getting) the World Champions merchandise now."

James Habeck, a former circuit court judge in Shawano and Menominee counties, was also at Game 2 in Milwaukee.

"I was at last year's Divisional Series against the Dodgers and the Wild Card Series 15 years ago against St. Louis," he said. "It's a new experience.

"It was pretty amazing. We were down 4-0 just like the last game against Los Angeles in the Divisional Series. They never gave up."

Habeck has a knack for being at the big games.

He attended Wisconsin's first Rose Bowl win on Jan. 1, 1994, a 21-16 victory over UCLA. He was also at Super Bowl XXXI when Green Bay defeated New England 35-21.

Habeck has been a fan of the Brewers since they moved to Milwaukee from Seattle in April 1970.

"I was in high school then, and I've been following them since that time," he said.

He compared the victory in that Game 2 to the Rose Bowl he attended.

"Both were exciting and came down to the last minutes," he said. "In the Rose Bowl, Wisconsin was leading by 5 at the end. In the World Series, the Rays had a man on third before the final out."

From his stadium seat in Florida, Looney declared Oct. 27 to be Brewers Spirit Day at Sacred Heart Catholic School.

With more than 70% of the school participating, students from 3K through eighth grade, along with teachers and staff, wore Milwaukee Brewers apparel and team colors, transforming the school into a sea of blue and gold.

The celebration was about more than baseball, officials said. It was an opportunity to bring the school community together through teamwork, unity, school spirit and a shared love for Wisconsin's home team.

At Sacred Heart Catholic School, students are encouraged to recognize the importance of teamwork, perseverance, good sportsmanship and supporting one another. These values extend far beyond the classroom and are reflected in the dedication and determination of athletes who work together toward a common goal.

Brewers Spirit Day provided a fun and meaningful opportunity to remind students that being part of a team means encouraging others, celebrating successes, remaining faithful through challenges and never giving up.

The celebration was also a reminder of the pride that comes from supporting Wisconsin teams and the special connections that sports can create across generations and communities.

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TALK, continued from page 1

outgoing teens become quiet, she said, while teens who were more reserved tend to become more risk-takers.

"I remember really acting out, and I was very impulsive, more than other people," Dick said. "When I look back at my warning signs, that was a major one. I was a quiet kid, and then all of a sudden, there was a big change. I was much more risky."

Dick said she was nervous about how people would react to her as a teen, which is common among youths in that age group, with the fear someone would tell her what she's feeling isn't real. That's why it's important for parents to provide an open space for their children to discuss their feelings.

"I think Hope Squad is doing a phenomenal job with that, as well," Dick said. "Making sure to ask, 'Are you OK? I've noticed X, Y, Z. I've noticed you're more isolating yourself.' If you just asked me 'Are you OK?' I'd just say, 'Yes.'"

When doing a suicide screening, every one is different, according to Jamie Kuhn, Oconto Falls school resource officer.

"What we see a lot of times is resistance in terms of 'I talked to so-and-so, and they had this experience,'" Kuhn said. "Everybody has different safety risks. Everybody has a different home environment. Everybody has a different group of support systems. So what you personally experience is going to be very different in terms of safety planning, in terms of law enforcement response, in terms of school response. So if you ever hear someone say, 'I don't want to speak up,' that's not a really good reason."

Adults sometimes feel like they're being judged, too, Kuhn said.

"What feels insurmountable to me is not going to feel insurmountable to somebody else," she said. "Those are things you've got to think about when somebody's in that moment in terms of encouraging them to get help, or listening to them and validating their statement."

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OBITUARIES

MARY C. ELLIOTT

Mary C. Elliott, 73, Green Bay, died Wednesday evening, Oct. 28, 2026, at Serenity Springs Senior Living in Green Bay.

She was born Sept. 30, 1953, in Oconto Falls to Howard V. and Barbara (Scheffel) Elliott. Mary was the second-born of the Elliotts' 10 children.

Mary attended Oconto Falls public schools, graduating with the class of 1971. She went on to study at UW-Stevens Point and graduated with a degree in education in 1976. She worked as the physical education teacher at Holy Trinity Catholic School in Oconto from 1978-86. In May 1986, she started her



career at Humana, where she worked until she retired in January 2018.

During her many years living in Oconto Falls, Mary worked with the Oconto Falls Ambulance Service as an EMT and enjoyed playing softball with the Oconto Falls women's bar league. She was also an avid supporter of Toys for Tots, donating many loads of toys every Christmas.

She was passionate about the Brewers and took her nieces and nephews to many of the games. She would have been ecstatic if she'd have seen them take the World Series, but we feel she's celebrating with Uecker. Please wear your Brewers or Packers attire to the service; she would have liked that.

Survivors are her eight siblings, Susan (Jerry) Winter, of Abrams, Joanne (Dennis) Winnega, of Two Rivers, Patricia (Jim Christensen) Elliott, of Little Suamico, Howard (Linda) Elliott III, of Oconto Falls, Douglas (Leia) Elliott, of Oconto Falls, William Elliott, of Saunemin, Illinois, Richard (Barb Mand) Elliott, of Green Bay, and David (Randal Herrin) Elliott, of Greenfield; 16 nieces and nephews; 19 great-nieces and -nephews with the 20th on the way; and uncle, Mark (Linda) Scheffel, of Reno, Nevada.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Howard and Barb Elliott; sister, Eleanore Elliott; along with grandparents, aunts and uncles.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, Nov. 7, 2026, at Jones Funeral Service in Oconto Falls with a visitation at 9 a.m. until the time of service at 11 a.m. Burial will follow at Woodlawn Cemetery in Oconto Falls.

The Elliott family would like to thank the staff at Serenity Springs, formerly Grancare Gardens, and Moments Hospice for the love and tender care given to Mary, especially during her last days.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Mary's name to Toys for Tots or Wounded Warriors.

Treatment options available for enlarged prostate

Prostate cancer remains one of the most common cancers among men.

One common condition is benign prostatic hyperplasia, or BPH. It's a noncancerous enlargement of the prostate that becomes more common with age. It can cause symptoms that affect sleep, work, travel, exercise and everyday comfort.

"The good news is that people do not have to just live with this condition," said Dr. Daniel Higgins, of ThedaCare Urology Care in partnership with the Wisconsin Institute of Urology. "From lifestyle changes to medications to innovative, minimally invasive procedures like Aquablation, many effective treatments are available."

The prostate is a small gland located below the bladder. The urethra, the tube that carries urine out of the body, passes through the prostate.

As the prostate grows, it can squeeze the urethra making it difficult for urine to flow. That pressure can lead to lower urinary tract symptoms, such as a weak stream, frequent urination or waking often at night to use the bathroom.

BPH becomes more common after age 40 and is especially common after age 50. Between ages 50 and 60, around 50% of men will develop BPH. That jumps to 70% after age 60 and 80-90% after age 70.

Common signs and symptoms include needing to urinate more often, especially at night; a sudden or urgent need to go; trouble starting urination, a weak stream or a stream that starts and stops; dribbling after urination; and feeling like the bladder is not fully empty.

In more serious cases, signs of BPH may include urinary tract infections, bladder stones, blood in the urine or inability to urinate. Over time, symptoms may affect confidence, relationships and quality of life.

"A person may avoid long drives, movies or activities because they worry about finding a bathroom," Higgins said. "Waking up multiple times at night can cause daytime fatigue. Urgency can make exercise, errands or social events stressful."

A urology evaluation usually starts with a conversation about a person's symptoms and medical history. A doctor also may recommend a physical exam and tests to rule out other causes, such as infection, bladder problems or prostate cancer.

Evaluation may include a digital rectal exam, urine and blood tests, and, when needed, additional testing such as urinary flow measurement, post-void residual testing, ultrasound, cystoscopy or bladder function studies.

Treatment depends on the severity of symptoms, prostate size, overall health and personal goals.

"If symptoms become bothersome or complications develop, we can consider minimally invasive procedures or surgery to remove or reduce extra prostate tissue and improve urine flow," Higgins said.

Treatment options may include lifestyle changes, medications, minimally invasive procedures and surgery. Lifestyle strategies such as limiting evening fluids and reducing caffeine or alcohol can help manage symptoms. Medications may improve urine flow or shrink the prostate over time. For more severe symptoms, outpatient procedures or surgical treatments, including Aquablation, may be recommended.

"In the past, traditional procedures often used heat, cutting or electrical energy," Higgins said. "The waterjet approach of Aquablation helps surgeons remove the right amount of tissue."

11/6/26, 11/13/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
OCONTO COUNTY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING DIVISION OF PARCEL – Village of Lena
November 16, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

Please take notice that a public hearing will be held before the Village Board of the Village of Lena, Wisconsin on Monday, November 16, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the Village of Lena Municipal Building located at 117 E. Main Street, Lena, WI.
Land parcel proposed to be divided are as follows:
Tax Parcel Number: 146043501222R2.
The property is in the Rosera Business Park, in the Village of Lena.
Proposed Parcel Maps are available for viewing during normal business hours at the Village of Lena Municipal Building.
At the above time and place, all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard.
BY ORDER OF THE VILLAGE OF LENA VILLAGE BOARD

WNAXLP
OCO144

11/6/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
OCONTO COUNTY

TOWN OF OCONTO FALLS, OCONTO COUNTY
Notice of Public Budget Hearing
Notice is hereby given that on Monday, November 9, 2026, at 5:00 P.M. at the Town of Oconto Falls Town Hall, 8680 State Hwy 22, Oconto Falls, Wisconsin, a public hearing will be held on the **PROPOSED 2027 BUDGET** for the Town of Oconto Falls, Oconto County. The proposed budget and comparison will be available for inspection on the Town of Oconto Falls website at townofocontofalls.org/budget/2027 proposed budget.
Notice of Special Town Meeting of the Electors
Notice is hereby given that on Monday, November 9, 2026- immediately following completion of the public hearing on the proposed 2027 budget (which begins at 5:00 P.M.)-a special town meeting of the electors is called by the Town Board, pursuant to section 60.12 of Wisconsin Statutes, for the following purpose:
1. To approve the 2026 town tax levy to be paid in 2027 pursuant to Section 60.10(1) (a) of Wisconsin Statutes.
Notice of Special Town Board Meeting
A special Town Board meeting will be held immediately following the Special Town Meeting of the Electors for the purpose of adopting the 2027 Town of Oconto Falls budget .
NOTICE-November Town of Oconto Falls Board Meeting
The November Town Board meeting will be called to order IMMEDIATELY following the Public Budget Hearing, The Special Town Meeting of the Electors and the Special Town Board Meeting on Monday, November 9, 2026, at the Oconto Falls Town Hall.
Dated-October 13, 2026
Susan L Mogged, Clerk
Town of Oconto Falls

WNAXLP
OCO143

11/6/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
OCONTO COUNTY

TOWN OF BREED
ELECTORS BUDGET HEARING NOTICE
Notice is given to the electors of the Town of Breed, Oconto County that the meeting to approve the 2027 budget and tax levy will be held on Monday November 30th, 2026, at 6:00PM at the Breed Community Center located at 11155 State Hwy 32 Suring, WI 54174.
Budget Hearing agenda can be found on the town website: www.townofbreedwi.org and is posted at the Breed Community Center.

Kristen Telford
Town of Breed Clerk

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Ours will have to wait, and when we reach that garden in which there is no pain, we'll put our arms around you and never part again.

Happy Birthday to twin sister Yvonne

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Love, Mom, Dad, Sisters, Nieces, Nephews, Aunts, Uncles, Family and Friends.

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What does it matter?

Rule change negated by chairman's decision

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Shawano County Supervisors Randy Mallmann and Joe Miller – along with 11 others – believed they were successful in changing the rule on how the board chairman appoints someone to fill a vacancy on the board.

Apparently, they weren't.

After the board voted in September to confirm Chairman Tom Kautza's appointment of Katherine Jacob to fill the vacancy in District 5, supervisors discovered there was a second interested candidate, Victoria Elst, who was not disclosed at the time of the appointment.

They were not happy.

Supervisors voted 13-11 in August that if there is more than one candidate for a vacancy, the names and statements of qualifications be forwarded to all board members prior to allow them time to review the candidates and make a more informed vote.

"We were not given that opportunity," Miller said. "This has nothing to do with the person who was selected. It has everything to do with why we were not informed or given the opportunity that second candidate. When the board approves a rule change, why is that rule change not followed?"

Mallmann admitted that Kautza and Elst had an initial conversation but could not get together to discuss her interest and qualifications. By email, Mallmann asked Kautza why supervisors didn't get the information.

"His response to me, too, was with this vote that Supervisor Miller is talking about, we weren't listening as a board about what we were voting on," Mallmann said of Kautza's email response. "To me, that's very offensive."

He said at a minimum, information should be sent to the board in advance of the meeting. The board is given information on all other matters.

"This should be no different," Mallmann said. "If it's important enough for the board to vote on, it's important enough for us to do our homework and read it before we vote on anything. Passing it out to us 15 minutes earlier is not a professional thing to do."

Kautza said the rule change was nullified by what comes earlier in the rule regarding appointments.

"The rule change that you proposed, the way you changed it, it changed nothing, because … the first thing it says in there in that rule is that the chairman may deviate," he said.

When deviation occurs, the rest of the rules are nullified.

"By not taking that portion out, that basically means the chairman can do whatever he wants," Kautza said.

He told Mallmann and others who want to change the rules, they need to run it past corporation counsel first to ensure it accurately reflects what is intended.

"If you go back and watch the tape, I even said, 'It changes nothing,'" he said. "That's where I said nobody was listening, because it didn't. It didn't change the process. Because there's two, three, five or 10 candidates, it still says the chairman may deviate. And I did, because I was sure I had the right candidate."

Since the appointment of Jacob, she has informed Kautza she is too busy with her job to serve on any standing committees. Kautza agreed and appointed other supervisors to serve on the two committees Jacob had originally been appointed to.

"What disappoints me, as a board member, and you knew all this, and yet you're just letting us basically waste the county's time, because you knew nothing was going to change," Mallmann said.

Miller asked Kautza why he voted for the rule change, and Kautza said he knew it would change nothing.

"We were manipulated. I'm tired of it," Miller said. "We should have been given the opportunity to vet that second candidate, because that's what we wanted to do, and it all went by the wayside. Thank you very much."

Supervisor Kathy Luebke said the board has turned into a mess where nobody wants to work with each other anymore. She begged supervisors to stop the nonsense and do better.

kpasson@newmedia-wi.com

School board approves budget

Tax rate increases 13 cents, even though property values are up

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

The Shawano School Board approved its final 2026-27 budget Oct. 26 with the tax rate going up slightly and the spending limit increasing by about $800,000.

During the Shawano School District's annual meeting earlier in the evening, Bryan Kadlec, business services director, presented a budget for over $34.6 million. The 2025-26 budget showed spending around $33.8 million, although revenues were only $33.5 million, resulting a $326,234 gap that was filled with the district's general fund.

"When we began the year here, we implemented a strategy phase that ultimately looked at needing to bring our expenditures in alignment with our revenue," Kadlec said. "We had a lot of tough conversations about the fact that our enrollment has dropped significantly."

The levy limit increased by about $1.2 million from $13.7 million to $14.9 million, and the tax rate goes from $5.56 per $1,000 of equalized value to $5.69. That means someone who owns a $200,000 piece of property can expect to pay $1,138 in school taxes.

The tax rate is increasing because the district's property values only increased by 6.6%, even though values had increased by more than 10% each of the last two years.

The district is getting less in general aid from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, about $17 million. It received almost $17.8 million in the 2025-26 school year, even with a $325 per pupil increase approved during the state's last budget in 2025. That comes from a drop in students from 2,179 last year to 2,132 this year, part of an ongoing trend where the student population continues to decrease.

"We've dropped in the last five years by about 300 students," Kadlec said. "We looked at the student-to-staff ratios and made some reductions."

The district's fund balance, which is utilized to pay bills and staff while waiting for state aid to come in, is over $10.9 million, which comes to 31.6% of the district's total expenditures. Financial experts always recommend a fund balance that falls within 25-30% of expenditures.

"We're in a healthy place with that, with the unevenness of revenue going into the state biennial budget," Kadlec said.

About $1.8 million of the district's revenue limit is going out to private school vouchers, according to Kadlec. He noted the amount has increased from year to year.

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

WITTENBERG-BIRNAMWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT
2026-27 ORIGINAL BUDGET

GENERAL FUND (FUND 10)

	ACCOUNT CODE	2026-27 BUDGET
REVENUES		
Local Sources	200	4,624,189
Interdistrict Payments Within Wisconsin	300	2,213,880
Intermediate Sources	500	13,565
State Sources	600	10,175,254
Federal Sources	700	249,646
Other Sources	900	35,000
TOTAL REVENUES		**17,311,534**
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES		
Undifferentiated Curriculum	110000	4,091,737
Regular Curriculum	120000	2,673,308
Vocational Curriculum	130000	505,975
Physical Curriculum	140000	8,200
Co-Curricular Activities	160000	274,520
Pupil Services	210000	344,540
Instructional Staff Services	220000	722,424
General Administration	230000	407,024
School Building Administration	240000	1,085,101
Business Administration	250000	2,638,077
Central Services	260000	91,300
Insurance & Judgments	270000	199,900
Debt Services	280000	14,611
Other Support Services	290000	449,955
Inter-fund Transfers	410000	2,114,666
Purchased Instructional Services	430000	1,690,196
TOTAL EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES		**17,311,534**

SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDS (FUND 21, 27)

	ACCOUNT CODE	2026-27 BUDGET
REVENUES		
Inter-fund Transfers	100	1,468,793
Local Sources	200	275,000
State Sources	600	725,000
Federal Sources	700	336,240
TOTAL REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES		**2,805,033**
EXPENDITURES		
Special Education Curriculum	150000	1,912,659
Co-Curricular Activities	160000	245,000
Pupil Services	210000	323,648
Instructional Staff Services	220000	226,426
Business Administration	250000	16,100
Central Services	260000	7,400
Other Support Services	290000	9,800
Purchased Instructional Services	430000	34,000
Post Secondary Scholarship Expenditures	450000	30,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		**2,805,033**

DEBT SERVICE FUND (FUND 39)

	ACCOUNT CODE	2026-27 BUDGET
REVENUES		
Local Sources	200	1,481,106
TOTAL REVENUES		**1,481,106**
EXPENDITURES		
Debt Services	280000	1,513,306
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		**1,513,306**

LONG-TERM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TRUST FUND (FUND 46)

	ACCOUNT CODE	2026-27 BUDGET
REVENUES		
Inter-fund Transfers	100	645,873
Local Sources	200	100,000
TOTAL REVENUES		**745,873**
EXPENDITURES		
Business Administration	250000	2,933,241
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		**2,933,241**

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND (FUND 49)

	ACCOUNT CODE	2026-27 BUDGET
EXPENDITURES		
Business Administration	250000	2,694
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		**2,694**

FOOD SERVICE FUND (FUND 50)

	ACCOUNT CODE	2026-27 BUDGET
REVENUES		
Local Sources	200	267,000
State Sources	600	19,000
Federal Sources	700	475,000
TOTAL REVENUES		**761,000**
EXPENDITURES		
Business Administration (Food Services)	250000	761,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		**761,000**

COMMUNITY SERVICE FUNDS (FUND 80, 81)

	ACCOUNT CODE	2026-27 BUDGET
REVENUES		
Local Sources	200	421,000
TOTAL REVENUES		**421,000**
EXPENDITURES		
Business Administration	250000	155,932
Central Services	260000	800
Other Community Services	390000	273,468
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		**430,200**

Corner Bar and Grille closing after 38 years

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

The Corner Bar and Grille, known for its Friday fish fries and Saturday ribs and prime rib, will close its doors for good in November.

Owners John and Cindy Schneider announced their retirement on social media, noting that the bar's last day for business will be Nov. 21.

"It's with both anxiety and excitement that Cindy and I have decided to enter into the next phase of our lives." John Schneider wrote in the online post. "Just like anyone else who has retired, we don't have all the answers, and for the first time in decades, the prospect of unstructured days, weekends off and the freedom to simply enjoy life's quieter moments, fill us with great anticipation."

The Corner Bar is located at W10430 County Road M in the Town of Pella, where County Road M intersects with Valley Road, about 8 miles west of the Wolf River.

Schneider said he and his wife have witnessed some customers grow up before their eyes, stopping in as children with their parents to becoming parents themselves.

"The friendships that we've developed over the years will live with us forever," he said.

He also thanked his staff and customers.

"Our success would not have been possible without the dedication of all of our extraordinary staff, whose loyalty and passion carried us through joyous highs and challenging lows alike," he said. "To you, our loyal and dedicated customers – a sincere thank you for your commitment to us through the good, bad and even during the most unprecedented times, COVID-19. Your unwavering support for our restaurant during that time allowed us to continue doing what we love, when so many other restaurants were not as fortunate."

Until the bar closes, hours will remain the same, opening at 4 p.m. Thursdays, 11 a.m. Fridays and 4 p.m. Saturdays.

kpasson@newmedia-wi.com

Legals

11/6/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

Public Notice to Village of Cecil Residents
No person shall park a vehicle on Village streets between 3:00AM and 8:00AM from November 1 st to April 1 st to facilitate snow removal. Village Ordinance 176 Sec. 1.03(3).
Cecil Village Board

Teri Westerfeld, Clerk/Treasurer
Village of Cecil

WNAXLP
SHA-395

11/6/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

Public Notice to Village of Cecil Residents
Property owners are reminded to clear entire sidewalk of snow and ice within 24 hours after any given snowfall. Failure to keep ice and snow clear of sidewalks may subject the property owners to fines and charges for removal.
In addition, property owners are reminded not to plow or blow snow from parking lots or driveways onto streets or alleys. The Village will remove snow deposited and bill the property owner for the cost of such removal. Village Ordinance #69 State Stats. 66.615(5).
Cecil Village Board

Teri Westerfeld, Clerk/Treasurer
Village of Cecil

WNAXLP
SHA-396

11/6/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

Village of Bonduel
Public Notice to Residents

Winter Parking
No person shall park any vehicle on any Village streets or alleys or in any Village parking lots between 2:30 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. from November 15th to April 15th. Village Ordinance Sec 28-7(b).

Snow and Ice Removal
Property owners are reminded to clear entire sidewalk, to include concrete terrace, of snow and ice within 24 hours after any given snowfall. Failure to keep sidewalks clear of ice and snow may subject the property owner to fines and charges for removal.

In addition, property owners are reminded not to plow or blow snow from premises onto Village streets, alleys, sidewalks, or public places. The Village will remove snow deposited and bill the property owner for the cost of such removal. Village Ordinance Sec. 26-5 and WI Stats. §66.0627.

Michelle Maroszek
Clerk

WNAXLP
SHA-398

11/6/26, 11/13/26, 11/20/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT
IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF
Jaiden Marie Maasch
By Jaiden Marie Maasch
Notice of Name Change Hearing
Case No. 26CV225
NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: Jaiden
[Middle] Marie
[Last] Maasch
To: Jaiden
Marie
Maasch - Hoffman
Birth Certificate:
Jaiden
[Middle] Marie
[Last] Maasch
This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of SHAWANO
Judge William F. Hussel Jr
Shawano County Courthouse.
311 Main St Shawano, WI 54166.
12/14126
8:15am
reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-526-9347 the court does not provide transportation.

WNAXLP
SHA-400

11/6/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

NOTICE OF JOINT REVIEW BOARD MEETING
REGARDING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO PROJECT PLANS
FOR TAX INCREMENTAL DISTRICT (TID) NUMBER 2 and TAX INCREMENTAL DISTRICT (TID) NUMBER 3 IN THE VILLAGE OF BONDUEL, WISCONSIN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Village of Bonduel will hold a Joint Review Board (JRB) meeting on Thursday, November 12, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Bonduel Village Hall located at 117 W. Green Bay Street or virtually at the following link:

Microsoft Teams meeting
Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/2997116366365586?p=0Sqe0LVEEaFAqgTI3P
Meeting ID: 299 711 636 636 558 6
Passcode: Sh9yi6pL

The purpose of this meeting is for the JRB to approve Amendments to TID 2 and TID 3, following approval by the Bonduel Village Board on October 28, 2026. The meeting is open to the public.

Copies of the proposed amended project plans are available for review in the clerk's office located at the Bonduel Village Hall, 117 W. Green Bay Street, and will be provided upon request. Arrangements for either inspection or receipt of a copy of the project plan may be made by contacting the village clerk, 117 W. Green Bay Street, Bonduel, WI, phone (715) 758-2402.

Dated this 29th day of October 2026

Michelle Maroszek, Clerk

WNAXLP
SHA-401

11/6/26

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Lakeland Storage 722 Waukechon Street, Shawano WI 54166 November 21, 2026 to November 23, 2026 at 1PM. Bidding is on complete contents of unit. Sale will take place on www.storagetreasures.com. Owner: Katie Jones Contents: fan, speakers, bookshelf, household furniture, totes, boxes, clothes, luggage, misc.

WNAXLP
SHA-404

11/6/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT
Nsighttel Wireless LLC, d/b/a Cellcom
P.O. Box 5301
De Pere WI 54115
Plaintiff(s),
-VS-
Alexa H. Burks
822 S Franklin St
Shawano WI 54166
Defendant(s):
Publication Summons And Notice (Small Claims)
Case No. 2026SC000523
If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-526-9347 at least 10 working days prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.
Publication Summons
And Notice of Filing
TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE AS DEFENDANT(S): You are being sued by the person(s) named above as Plaintiff(s). A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. The lawsuit will be heard in the following
Small Claims court:
Shawano Courthouse Branch 2
715-526-9347
311 N Main St
Shawano WI 54166
On the following date and time:
Date: 11-24-2026
Time: 1:00 pm
If you do not attend the hearing, the court may enter a judgment against you in favor of the person(s) suing you. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate (property) you own now or in the future and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property. You may have the option to Answer without appearing in court on the court date by filing a written Answer with the clerk of court before the court date. You must send a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff(s) named above at their address. You may contact the clerk of court at the telephone number above to determine if there are other methods to answer a Small Claims complaint in that county.
Plaintiff Erica Clark
Telephone Number 1-800-550-8091
Date 10/27/2026

WNAXLP
SHA-397

10/23/26, 10/30/26, 11/6/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
SHAWANO COUNTY
Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing
Case No. 26CV212
IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF
Gavin James Buss
By Gavin James Buss
NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: Gavin James Buss
To: Gavin James Shmo
Birth Certificate: Gavin James Buss
IT IS ORDERED:
This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Shawano County, State of Wisconsin
Judge Name: Kathrine Sloma
Place: Shawano County Courthouse
311 N. Main ST, Shawano, WI 54166
Date: 12/30/2026
Time: 8:30 am

WNAXLP
SHA-380

10/30/26, 11/6/26, 11/13/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT, SHAWANO
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
PATRICK C. HAUPT
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 26 PR 77
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 01/21/1964 and date of death 09/09/2026 was domiciled in Shawano County, State of Wisconsin with a mailing address of 305 E Wood Avenue, Wittenberg, WI 54499
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is January 29, 2027
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano County Courthouse 311 N. Main Street, Room 202, Probate Office Shawano, WI 54166
Kourtney E. Imig
835 Fifth Avenue
Antigo, WI 54409
(715) 623-2905
1115847

WNAXLP
SHA-394

10/30/26, 11/6/26, 11/13/26

DATE SIGNED: October 19, 2026
Electronically signed by Gwen Hoffman
Probate Registrar
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, SHAWANO COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
KAREN M. CORN
Amended
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 26 PR 76
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 9/6/1943 and date of death 9/28/2026 was domiciled in Shawano, County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of: W5022 Highland Dr., Shawano, WI 54166
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4.The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is January 29, 2027
5.A claim may be filed at the Shawano County Courthouse, 311 N. Main Street, Room 202, Probate Office
Shawano, Wisconsin 54166
Form completed by: James Vomastic
Address 1488 E Green Bay St.
Shawano, WI 54166
Telephone
715-851-3669
Bar Number (if any) 1045783

WNAXLP
SHA-386

10/23/26, 10/30/26, 11/6/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Robert L. Lehman, Jr.
Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)
Case No. 26 PR 75
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2.The decedent, with date of birth 6-5-1967 and date of death 8-31-2026 was domiciled in Shawano County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of N3119 Tower Road, Tigerton, WI 54486
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is January 29, 2027
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano CountyCourthouse,311 N. Main Street, Wisconsin, Room 202, Probate office Shawano, WI 54166
James E. Aschenbrener 1008896
P.O. Box 146, Shawano, WI 54166
715-524-6258

WNAXLP
SHA-382

Bowler School District
BUDGET PUBLICATION, 2026-27

GENERAL FUND	Audited 2024-2025	Unaudited 2025-2026	Budget 2026-2027
Beginning Fund Balance	3,351,761.18	2,685,412.05	2,777,638.45
Ending Fund Balance	**2,685,412.05**	**2,777,638.45**	**2,573,331.45**
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES			
Transfers-In (Source 100)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Local Sources (Source 200)	959,458.97	1,340,081.91	1,562,950.00
Inter-district Payments (Source 300 + 400)	211,519.00	188,638.76	231,070.00
Intermediate Sources (Source 500)	17,651.17	22,088.22	14,644.00
State Sources (Source 600)	4,621,799.19	4,664,440.72	4,437,667.00
Federal Sources (Source 700)	1,127,921.90	1,092,864.18	1,064,274.00
All Other Sources (Source 800 + 900)	77,345.51	7,614.53	7,500.00
TOTAL REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	**7,015,695.74**	**7,315,728.32**	**7,318,105.00**
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES			
Instruction (Function 100 000)	3,002,276.18	2,711,325.45	2,613,110.00
Support Services (Function 200 000)	2,829,936.72	2,681,417.18	2,895,102.00
Non-Program Transactions (Function 400 000)	1,849,831.97	1,830,759.29	2,014,200.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	**7,682,044.87**	**7,223,501.92**	**7,522,412.00**

SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND	Audited 2024-2025	Unaudited 2025-2026	Budget 2026-2027
Beginning Fund Balance	55,510.10	74,838.06	87,326.66
Ending Fund Balance	74,838.06	87,326.66	86,274.66
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	1,238,223.46	1,237,866.60	1,284,643.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	1,218,895.50	1,225,378.00	1,285,695.00

DEBT SERVICE FUND	Audited 2024-2025	Unaudited 2025-2026	Budget 2026-2027
Beginning Fund Balance	49,290.69	45,057.87	40,688.82
Ending Fund Balance	45,057.87	40,688.82	35,943.82
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	348,412.18	347,675.95	346,300.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	352,645.00	352,045.00	351,045.00

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	Audited 2024-2025	Unaudited 2025-2026	Budget 2026-2027
Beginning Fund Balance	841,946.56	790,216.25	815,625.93
Ending Fund Balance	**790,216.25**	**815,625.93**	**507,651.93**
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	**60,717.70**	**29,792.73**	**25,000.00**
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	**112,448.01**	**4,383.05**	**332,974.00**

FOOD SERVICE FUND	Audited 2024-2025	Unaudited 2025-2026	Budget 2026-2027
Beginning Fund Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ending Fund Balance	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	**301,768.78**	**267,552.30**	**294,444.00**
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	**301,768.78**	**267,552.30**	**294,444.00**

COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND	Audited 2024-2025	Unaudited 2025-2026	Budget 2026-2027
Beginning Fund Balance	22,804.50	302,885.80	210,884.68
Ending Fund Balance	**302,885.80**	**210,884.68**	**128,690.68**
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	**573,880.67**	**234,426.53**	**222,539.00**
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	**293,799.37**	**326,427.65**	**304,733.00**

Total Expenditures and Other Financing Uses

ALL FUNDS	Audited 2024-2025	Unaudited 2025-2026	Budget 2026-2027
GROSS TOTAL EXPENDITURES -- ALL FUNDS	9,961,601.53	9,399,287.92	10,091,303.00
Interfund Transfers (Source 100) - ALL FUNDS	835,896.81	675,235.46	753,804.00
Refinancing Expenditures (FUND 30)	0.00	0.00	0.00
NET TOTAL EXPENDITURES -- ALL FUNDS	**9,125,704.72**	**8,724,052.46**	**9,337,499.00**
PERCENTAGE INCREASE -- NET TOTAL FUND EXPENDITURES FROM PRIOR YEAR		**-4.40%**	**7.03%**

PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY

FUND	Audited 2024-2025	Unaudited 2025-2026	Budget 2026-2027
General Fund	776,428.00	1,234,327.00	1,377,000.00
Referendum Debt Service Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Non-Referendum Debt Service Fund	346,800.00	346,000.00	344,800.00
Capital Expansion Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Community Service Fund	450,000.00	110,000.00	110,000.00
TOTAL SCHOOL LEVY	**1,573,228.00**	**1,690,327.00**	**1,831,800.00**
PERCENTAGE INCREASE -- TOTAL LEVY FROM PRIOR YEAR		**7.44%**	**8.37%**
MILL RATE	$ 6.46	$ 6.44	$ 6.29

WNAXLP
SHA-399

10/30/26, 11/6/26, 11/13/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
RUSSELL LEE FRANK
d.o.d. February 16, 2020
10-07-2026
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 26 PR 74
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 08/23/1953 and date of death 02/16/2020 was domiciled in Shawano County State of Wisconsin with a mailing address of N6985 Menominee Drive Shawano, WI 54166
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is January 15, 2027
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano County Courthouse, Courthouse, 311 N Main Street Wisconsin, Room 202, Probate Office Shawano, WI 54166
Attorney Gabrielle Boehm
P.O. Box 717
Mukwonago, WI 53149
(262) 363-7311
1011378

WNAXLP
SHA-389

Supervisors want library addition, renovation

Board scolded for comments regarding library donor

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Consultants with Shawano County continue to develop plans for what a new public library would look like, but some county supervisors are urging them to take a step back and consider a different path.

Supervisor Joe Miller said that if the city of Shawano is willing to give the county the deed to the parking lot east of the library, and the county acquires the garage on the Bertram Wireless property and the small parking lot from Associated Bank, in his opinion, that should be enough land for the library.

"That would facilitate a significant amount of space for an addition to the current library," he said at the Oct. 28 county board meeting. "I do not believe tearing down that existing library at any point in time is warranted. Build an addition on the back in that parking lot area."

He said the city did something similar when it renovated the recreation center in 2025 and 2026,

"I look at what the city did at the rec center," he said. "They added on to it. They didn't tear anything down. It's a beautiful, beautiful building."

Supervisor Jeremy Gretzinger agreed.

"We need to get something that's more of a practical thing that can happen," he said. "Say we get something from the city and some from Associated Bank, like an addition should happen. Maybe we doctor up the building."

Supervisor Kimberly Leffel, who is also the chair of library board, said that and other options have been discussed at length throughout the past five or six years.

"A few years ago, we did a study what it would cost to renovate vs. build new," she said. "The cost ended up being about $2 million different; however, it was based on the current site with no other additions to it."

Prior to discussions about the state of the library, supervisors were scolded for their comments at the September meeting.

Gwen Hoffman referred to discussions about Anita Hartman's donation to the library upon her death in 2023. The two women were close friends, and Hoffman was Hartman's power of attorney.

"She was adamant about education, reading and most importantly, providing tools and the opportunity for children to learn," Hoffman said "As a close friend and her chosen power of attorney while she was alive, Anita trusted me to monitor her finances and work with her financial advisers to keep her affairs in order."

Hoffman said 90% of Hartman's assets were bequeathed to charities, including the Shawano County Public Library. Her will did not specify how that donation should be used, Hoffman said.

"Last month at the county board meeting, I listened to board members call her by the wrong name, say that they had read her will and say that they knew her and what she would have wanted. It distressed me," Hoffman said. "If they really had known her, they would have called her by her correct name, and if they had read her will, I would have known about it, because I am the register in probate, and they would have had to go through my office to read it.

"I'm very disappointed with some of the members of the board to use Anita's gracious $505,742.72, which was the bequeathed value in 2023, as a point of contention in the advancement and progression of a new library for our families and our children. We were given a gift. Why do you continue to argue about the little things that do not matter? Because you do not like change, or that change happened too swiftly? Change costs money, and future change is not going to be any cheaper."

kpasson@newmedia-wi.com

Shawano schools join social media suit

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

The Shawano School District has agreed to join a class action lawsuit against social media companies, including Meta, TikTok, ByteDance, Snap and Google after the board approved a resolution Oct. 26.

The resolution allows the district to execute a retainer agreement with the law firms of Lieff Cabraser Heimann and Bernstein; Brockstedt Mandalas Federico; Renning Lewis and Lacy, SC; Spotlight Justice, PLLC; and Medina Morgan, LLC. The agreement only requires the district to be responsible for attorney fees and costs if it recovers damages from the suit.

Shawano is one of more than 200 school districts in Wisconsin to become part of the lawsuit, according to Superintendent Kurt Krizan. There are more than 1,300 districts nationwide that are suing based on research that social media is harming younger generations by their design and engineering of their products that promote excessive use by children.

The U.S. Surgeon General's Office issued an advisory in 2023 about how 40% of children ages 8-12 use social media, even though most platforms have a minimum age of 13. Some of the side effects quoted in scientific literature includes increased anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, eating disorders, harm from online bullying, impairment of self-control and regulation, and sleep deprivation.

The school district is taking part in the suit based on the belief that social media leads to behavioral problems and disruptions in schools, impairs student learning and requires staff to respond and intervene when social media platforms affect students' mental and physical health.

"Basically, the information is coming from these social media companies," Krizan said. "Not only did they do the studies showing their products were addictive to teenagers, but they continue to build them that way, as well. Being part of the litigations helps to, if successful, provide some support for the district in funds that we can use to do some additional training or support for our students that are dealing with addictions from those social media pieces, as well."

Krizan said there was zero cost to the district, and the attorney fees would come from receiving 25% of whatever penalties are assessed against the social media companies. He noted this suit is separate from the one where Meta settled with states to pay $17 billion because of child safety issues.

Krizan said the work on the district's side is expected to take about eight hours and would include providing the district's enrollment numbers to attorneys.

"They just need to know how many students we had over the last X number of years," Krizan said. "A lot of the litigation has already been done at the state level."

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

11/6/26, 11/13/26, 11/20/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
MARATHON COUNTY
Case No. 26-CV-644
Publication Summons & Notice
CREATIVE FINANCE, INC.
815 Business Park Road
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965, Plaintiff,
vs.
TRISTAN MICHAEL FICK
464 Sarah Street
Birnamwood, WI 54414, Defendant.
You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. Within forty (40) days after November 6, 2026, you must respond with a written demand for a copy of the complaint. The demand must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is: Clerk of Circuit Court, MARATHON COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 500 Forest Street, Wausau, WI 54403, and to the plaintiff's attorney, Ann L. Patteson, von Briesen & Roper, s.c., 300 North Broadway, Suite 2B, Green Bay, WI 54303. You may have an attorney help or represent you. If you do not demand a copy of the complaint within 40 days, the court may grant judgment against you for an award of money or other legal action requested in the complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property. This is an attempt to collect a debt; any information obtained shall be used for this purpose. Dated this 28th day of October, 2026.
Ann L. Patteson
Plaintiff's Attorney
von Briesen & Roper, s.c.
300 N. Broadway, Ste. 2B
Green Bay, WI 54303
Telephone 920.713.7800
WNAXLP
WIT041

11/6/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

NOTICE TO ELECTORS OF THE TOWN OF ALMON,
SHAWANO COUNTY, WISCONSIN
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Electors Meeting of the electors of the Town of Almon, Shawano County, Wisconsin, will be held at the Almon Town Hall at N8096 Regina Rd, Bowler WI 54416, on the 17th day of November *2026*, at 6 p.m., pursuant to Section 60.12(1) of the Wisconsin State Statutes, by the Town Board for the following purposes:
1. To seek election authorization to make the Town of Almon Clerk and Treasurer positions appointed rather than elected.
Dated this 2nd day of November ***2026***.
By: Heather Matsche

Town Clerk

WNAXLP
#######

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10/23/26, 10/30/26, 11/6/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
MARATHON COUNTY
PUBLICATION SUMMONS & NOTICE
Case No. 26-CV-587
CREATIVE FINANCE, INC.
815 Business Park Road
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965,
Plaintiff,
vs.
CHARLES ALAN BURNETT
478 Sarah Street
Birnamwood, WI 54414,
Defendant.
You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. Within forty (40) days after October 23, 2026, you must respond with a written demand for a copy of the complaint. The demand must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is: Clerk of Circuit Court, MARATHON COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 500 Forest Street, Wausau, WI 54403, and to the plaintiff's attorney, Ann L. Patteson, von Briesen & Roper, s.c., 300 North Broadway, Suite 2B, Green Bay, WI 54303. You may have an attorney help or represent you. If you do not demand a copy of the complaint within 40 days, the court may grant judgment against you for an award of money or other legal action requested in the complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property. This is an attempt to collect a debt; any information obtained shall be used for that purpose. Dated this 14th day of October, 2026.
Ann L. Patteson
Plaintiff's Attorney
von Briesen & Roper, s.c.
300 N. Broadway, Ste. 2B
Green Bay, WI 54303
Telephone 920.713.7800
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Improper use of car seats increases injury risk

For children and teens ages 1 to 19, motor vehicle collisions are the second leading cause of death.

For younger children, improper use of car seats and booster seats can increase the risk of serious injury in a crash. The good news is that parents and caregivers can help protect children by ensuring they are properly secured in a car seat, booster seat or seat belt that is appropriate for their age and size.

"Using a car seat appropriately can truly save a child's life," said Kate Klovstad, community injury prevention coordinator at Aspirus Health.

There are four stages of child passenger safety: rear-facing car seat, forward-facing car seat, booster seat and seat belt. Knowing when to move a child from one stage to the next is one of the most common questions parents ask.

Klovstad said it's important not to rush these transitions, especially the move from a rear-facing to a forward-facing seat.

"Keeping children rear-facing for as long as possible is one of the most effective ways to keep young children safe in the car," she said.

A child has outgrown a rear-facing car seat when they reach the seat's maximum rear-facing height or weight limit. Because those limits vary by car seat, parents should check the manufacturer's instructions before making the switch to a forward-facing seat.

Car seats should be installed using either the LATCH system (Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children), which uses built-in vehicle anchors, or the vehicle seat belt. Some parents try to use both systems at the same time, believing they provide extra security. However, car seats are designed to be installed using one method or the other, not both.

"Either one of those systems is safe and will keep your baby secure," Klovstad said. "We do not want to use both systems together because it puts too much pressure on the car seat and can cause excessive wear."

One installation method is not safer than the other. The best option is the one you can install consistently and correctly every time. Be sure to refer to the instructions in the car seat manufacturer's manual.

Car seat guidelines can feel overwhelming at times, but they aren't arbitrary. Each one is based on research designed to protect children and reduce the risk of serious injury.

"Car seat laws and best practices are not officials being picky," Klovstad said. "They are based on evidence and research designed to help keep your child safe in the car."

If you're unsure whether your child's car seat is installed correctly, a Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician can help. Many hospitals, fire departments and community organizations offer car seat checks to ensure your child is riding safely.

National recommendations highlight team approach to AFib

For patients living with persistent atrial fibrillation (AFib), finding the right treatment isn't always straightforward.

New national recommendations released this summer emphasize a multidisciplinary approach to caring for complex AFib, encouraging cardiac surgeons and electrophysiologists to work together when determining treatment.

The updated recommendations outline best practices for hybrid convergent ablation programs and reinforce the importance of coordinated care throughout diagnosis, treatment and long-term follow-up. The guidance highlights collaboration between cardiac surgeons, electrophysiologists and patients as a key component in determining the most appropriate treatment strategy for persistent and longstanding persistent atrial fibrillation.

"Persistent atrial fibrillation is a complex condition, and treatment shouldn't rely on a one-size-fits-all approach," said Dr. Stephen Thorp, Aspirus cardiothoracic surgeon. "When cardiac surgeons and electrophysiologists evaluate patients together, we can better determine which treatment options are most appropriate based on the patient's condition, medical history and long-term goals."

For select patients, that collaborative evaluation may lead to hybrid surgical-electrophysiology ablation, a treatment that combines minimally invasive surgical ablation with catheter-based ablation. Rather than focusing on a single procedure, the multidisciplinary team develops a personalized treatment plan based on factors including the duration of AFib, previous treatments, overall heart health and the patient's symptoms.

The recommendations also emphasize that successful treatment extends beyond the procedure itself. Long-term follow-up, ongoing rhythm monitoring and collaboration between specialists help ensure patients continue receiving the most appropriate care as their condition changes over time.

"The procedure is only one part of the patient's journey," Thorp said. "What's equally important is having the right specialists involved from the beginning. Working together allows us to evaluate every available option and tailor treatment to each patient's needs."

An estimated 12.1 million Americans are expected to be living with atrial fibrillation by 2030, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Because AFib increases the risk of stroke, heart failure and other cardiovascular complications, early evaluation remains an important step in helping patients understand their treatment options before the condition progresses.

Patients experiencing symptoms such as heart palpitations, fatigue, shortness of breath or dizziness should talk with their primary care provider about whether an evaluation by a heart specialist is appropriate.

SHAWANO LAKE SANITARY DISTRICT NO. 1

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, pursuant to Section 65.90(3) of the Wisconsin State Statutes, the Commission of the Shawano Lake Sanitary District No.1 have tentatively adopted the Budget for 2027 as hereinafter set forth. Said Budget is available for public inspection at the office of the Shawano Lake Sanitary District No. 1 beginning with the date thereof. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that on November 24, 2026, at the hour of 9:00 AM, in the conference room at the Shawano Lake Sanitary District No. 1, a Public Hearing will be held on said Budget.

Summary

	Actual 2025	Projected 2026	Budgeted 2026	2027 Proposed Budget Water	2027 Proposed Budget Sewer
Expenditures:					
Water Distr.	$ 578,453	$ 646,800	$ 590,400	$ 675,700	$ -
Collections	$ 522,281	$ 518,000	$ 506,300	$ -	$ 577,300
Sewerage Treatment	$ 454,005	$ 464,189	$ 469,587	$ -	$ 483,538
Debt Service/Interest	$ 131,455	$ 131,454	$ 131,454	$ 63,700	$ 66,300
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$ 1,686,194**	**$ 1,760,443**	**$ 1,697,741**	**$ 739,400**	**$ 1,127,138**
Revenues:					
Local Customer Serv:					
Water	$ 488,491	$ 478,100	$ 485,000	$ 678,100	$ -
Sewerage	$ 1,038,582	$ 1,030,800	$ 1,025,000	$ -	$ 1,031,000
Outside User Charge:					
Jobbing/Rent/Misc	$ 53,941	$ 67,626	$ 58,826	$ 31,226	$ 30,700
Funding from OP	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Tax Levy	$ 130,000	$ 130,000	$ 130,000	$ 63,700	$ 66,300
Proj. Surplus/Return	$ (24,820)	$ 53,917	$ (1,085)	$ (33,626)	$ (862)
TOTAL REVENUES	**$ 1,686,194**	**$ 1,760,443**	**$ 1,697,741**	**$ 739,400**	**$ 1,127,138**

Detail of Operating Expenditures

Sewer Collection:					
Labor and Benefits	$ 239,853	$ 250,600	$ 259,900	$ -	$ 273,400
Lift Station Power	$ 79,608	$ 90,900	$ 84,000	$ -	$ 90,000
Operating Supplies	$ 22,048	$ 21,800	$ 24,000	$ -	$ 23,500
Transportation	$ 8,347	$ 12,400	$ 10,000	$ -	$ 11,000
Maintenance	$ 53,089	$ 80,500	$ 45,000	$ -	$ 90,000
Outside Services	$ 9,190	$ 11,500	$ 12,000	$ -	$ 12,000
Insurance	$ 10,756	$ 11,100	$ 11,000	$ -	$ 13,000
General Expense	$ 16,280	$ 6,200	$ 7,400	$ -	$ 7,400
Contingency/Funds	$ 83,110	$ 33,000	$ 53,000	$ -	$ 57,000
TOTAL	**$ 522,281**	**$ 518,000**	**$ 506,300**	**$ -**	**$ 577,300**
Water Distr. System:					
Labor and Benefits	$ 360,437	$ 370,000	$ 362,600	$ 379,100	$ -
Utilities	$ 37,093	$ 41,000	$ 35,000	$ 41,000	$ -
Operating Supplies	$ 27,296	$ 31,200	$ 31,600	$ 27,800	$ -
Maintenance	$ 82,064	$ 106,500	$ 50,000	$ 100,000	$ -
Transportation	$ 8,347	$ 12,400	$ 10,000	$ 11,000	$ -
Outside Services	$ 17,782	$ 24,200	$ 23,900	$ 21,500	$ -
Insurance	$ 14,416	$ 15,000	$ 15,000	$ 17,600	$ -
General Expense	$ 7,594	$ 12,600	$ 13,800	$ 8,700	$ -
Contingency/Funds	$ 23,424	$ 33,900	$ 48,500	$ 69,000	$ -
TOTAL	**$ 578,453**	**$ 646,800**	**$ 590,400**	**$ 675,700**	**$ -**

Depreciation Fund

Beginning Balance	$ 230,000	$ 230,000	$ 230,000	$ 230,000
Revenues	$ 7,151	$ 6,300	$ 7,000	$ 6,300
Expenditures	$ (7,151)	$ (6,300)	$ (7,000)	$ (6,300)
Ending Balance	**$ 230,000**	**$ 230,000**	**$ 230,000**	**$ 230,000**

Operations Plan Fund

Beginning Balance	$ 197,663	$ 158,929	$ 155,743	$ 195,949
Revenues	$ 78,216	$ 37,020	$ 87,047	$ 142,200
Expenditures	$ (116,950)	$ -	$ -	$ (53,917)
Ending Balance	**$ 158,929**	**$ 195,949**	**$ 242,790**	**$ 284,232**

SHAWANO LAKE SANITARY NO. 1 COMMISSIONERS,
Edward Zeitler, President

WOLF TREATMENT PLANT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to Section 65.90(3) of the Wisconsin State Statutes, the Commission of the Wolf Treatment Plant have tentatively adopted the Budget for 2027 as hereinafter set forth. Said Budget is available for public inspection at the office of the Wolf Treatment Plant beginning with the date thereof. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that on November 24, 2026 at the hour of 10:00 AM, in the conference room at the Wolf Treatment Plant, a Public Hearing will be held on said Budget.

Summary

	Actual 2025	Projected 2026	Budgeted 2026	2027 Proposed Budget
Expenditures:				
Sewage Treatment	$ 1,959,261	$ 2,030,400	$ 2,053,100	$ 2,124,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$ 1,959,261**	**$ 2,030,400**	**$ 2,053,100**	**$ 2,124,000**
Revenues:				
Outside User Chgs:				
City of Shawano	$ 1,211,134	$ 1,280,416	$ 1,293,670	$ 1,350,860
SLSD #1	$ 454,005	$ 464,189	$ 469,587	$ 483,538
Richmond District	$ 61,603	$ 62,839	$ 63,819	$ 65,280
Village of Bonduel	$ 159,939	$ 152,260	$ 154,481	$ 151,389
BPW District	$ 8,488	$ 8,099	$ 8,156	$ 8,471
Village of Cecil	$ 64,092	$ 62,597	$ 63,387	$ 64,462
TOTAL REVENUES	**$ 1,959,261**	**$ 2,030,400**	**$ 2,053,100**	**$ 2,124,000**

Detail of Operating Expenditures

Sewerage Treatment Plant:				
Labor and Benefits	$ 652,599	$ 670,100	$ 671,400	$ 702,500
Utilities	$ 268,774	$ 286,400	$ 273,000	$ 291,000
Chemicals	$ 53,915	$ 57,600	$ 62,300	$ 78,000
Operating Supplies	$ 38,458	$ 41,300	$ 41,000	$ 45,000
Transportation	$ 2,293	$ 2,200	$ 3,000	$ 3,000
Maintenance/Replace	$ 37,905	$ 39,000	$ 61,000	$ 60,000
Outside Services	$ 13,910	$ 13,000	$ 15,000	$ 15,000
Insurance	$ 29,480	$ 29,500	$ 31,000	$ 35,000
General Expense	$ 18,533	$ 26,800	$ 20,500	$ 20,200
Transfer to Funds	$ 850,500	$ 854,100	$ 854,100	$ 857,700
Sludge Hauling	$ 61,476	$ 83,200	$ 78,000	$ 90,000
SUBTOTAL	**$ 2,027,843**	**$ 2,103,200**	**$ 2,110,300**	**$ 2,197,400**
Less: Misc Revenues	$ (122,965)	$ (122,800)	$ (107,200)	$ (123,400)
Contingency	$ 54,383	$ 50,000	$ 50,000	$ 50,000
TOTAL	**$ 1,959,261**	**$ 2,030,400**	**$ 2,053,100**	**$ 2,124,000**

Replacement Fund*

Beginning Balance	$ 1,628,729	$ 1,728,215	$ 1,732,729	$ 1,860,715
Revenues	$ 138,229	$ 141,900	$ 140,400	$ 148,500
Expenditures	$ (38,743)	$ (9,400)	$ -	$ -
Ending Balance	**$ 1,728,215**	**$ 1,860,715**	**$ 1,873,129**	**$ 2,009,215**

* Contingent upon Commission Use of Fund

Outstanding Indebtedness: $ -

WOLF TREATMENT PLANT COMMISSIONERS,
Jane Krueger, President

A Halloween workout



The exercise group, the Silver Foxes, had a Halloween workout Oct. 28 at the Shawano Civic Center. They exercised to spooky music, played games for Halloween prizes and enjoyed lots of treats.

CONTRIBUTED

THEME: HOLIDAY MOVIES

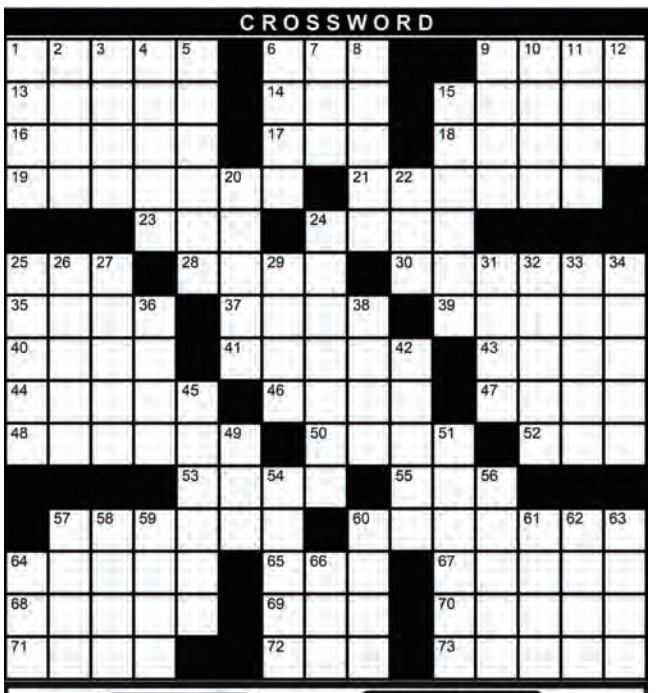
ACROSS

1. "As the World Turns" and such
6. Hundredweight, acr.
9. Notable achievement
13. Keep a threat ____ ____, or away
14. Across, in verse
15. Jiggly dessert
16. Opposite of bow
17. Sch. grp.
18. Kidman's ex
19. *HomeExchange story, with The
21. *Rudolph's father
23. *Kevin to Buzz in "Home Alone"
24. "Dickens!"
25. Quantity, acr.
28. *"Candy ____ Lane" starring Eddie Murphy
30. Opposite of anaerobe
35. Russian mountain range
37. Coxae, sing.
39. Tori, sing.
40. Goals
41. Famous Mac & Cheese manufacturer
43. One of auto pioneers
44. Letter-shaped girder
46. Home to Taj Mahal
47. A la _____, with ice cream
48. Relating to teeth
50. "My bad"
52. Eucharist vessel
53. Multicolored horse
55. NHL court
57. *Bailey of Bedford Falls
60. *Mount ____, Grinch's home
64. Supercharger
65. Ewe's mate
67. Alice Halsey on "Little House on the Prairie"
68. Ammo in a quiver, sing.
69. Knot-tying vow (2 words)
70. Sensory threshold, in psychology
71. Artist's inspiration
72. Bajillion years
73. Guns N' Roses lead guitarist

DOWN

1. "Away to the window I flew like a flash, ... and threw up the ____"
2. "Beetle Bailey" pooch
3. Cain's brother
4. *The McCallisters' travel destination
5. Trustee
6. Printer button
7. *Harry and Marv, a.k.a. the ____ Bandits
8. Pro move
9. Shade-loving plant
10. Hamburg river
11. Winglike
12. Freight weight
15. Official work trip
20. Taken where?
22. South American tuber
24. Six-sided polygon
25. *Cousin Eddie actor
26. Human social group
27. Mandarin's headquarters
29. *Luther Krank's wife
31. Living space
32. Lowest deck
33. *Will Ferrell's famous holiday role
34. English county
36. Future J.D.'s hurdle
38. Like Bob Ross' do
42. Short-trunked ungulate
45. Bone filler
49. Yule treat
51. Type of racing boat, pl.
54. Nest for an eagle
56. Not your grandmother's mail?
57. Spiritual leader
58. Makes a mistake
59. Double reed woodwind
60. Slangy "Follow me!"
61. Cat on a shoe
62. Wraths
63. Hyperbolic tangent
64. _____ o' shanter
66. Fuss, to Shakespeare

CROSSWORD





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SUDOKU



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BEST OF SHAWANO LEADER 2025

Halfway snack in Cecil family tradition

Vacations from Neenah to Townsend included stop at Shawano Lake village

By FRANK BURNS
Special to NEW Media



Arriving in Cecil means taking in breathtaking views of Shawano Lake. For Frank Burns and his family, seeing the lake meant it was time for the children to enjoy their halfway treat — a mozzarella stick.
LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

It is about 50 miles and about an hour's drive from Neenah to Cecil. Then another 40 miles or so to our summer home in Townsend. So it really wasn't the exact halfway point, except to our psychological framework.

Highway 47 shapeshifts into Highway 117 in Bonduel and then, for us, 117 hits Shawano Lake at the T on Highway 22. We always thought we were in Shawano, because of the lake. Cecil humbly exists, and we love the area despite our initial misconception of the naming. We couldn't recall if there was even a green city limits sign coming north on 117 into the lake view with the now green BP gas station as the first landmark, but there is. On a recent trip over the old path, we noticed the sign and the "529" for the current population estimate.

The meeting of 117 and 22 was the place we made our two children wait until my wife administered our famous "Halfway Snack." This traditional semi-healthy treat was not candy but one of Wisconsin's own, a mozzarella cheese stick. With pride, my wife would administer one strip each to the children. She'd peel the wrapper halfway down and hand it back to them.

At the time, we were driving in my Silver 1986-1/2 Nissan 4x4 extended cab, with two rear truck seats facing each other. When they were tots, their child safety seats elevated them a bit, and they could view passing glimpses of the outside journey through their side panel windows or even less through a fraction of our front seat windows. They would have to bend forward to see anything we were talking about through the front windshield, but they really wouldn't see anything unless it was a fleeting eagle or a seagull or a tree branch.

We could telljust after leaving Bonduel that the first wave of boredom and sense of confinement would hit them in their little compartment. Our daughter would begin with some phrase like, "He's looking at me like crazy." We would have to remind him not to look at his sister like that, and that they were only a few minutes away from their halfway snack.

On special occasions and if they were especially good, we would stop at the Dairy Cove to get them a dipped frozen custard, a flavored ice cream in a waffle cone or small sundae of their choice. The Dairy Cove is located just outside Cecil's main drag, after turning left, from the west, onto Country Road R. It is about a mile from our official, unofficial halfway mark, and an easy wait for them after hearing the ice cream promise.



Dairy Cove was one of the Burns family's favorite places to stop in Cecil while traveling from Neenah to Townsend for special occasions, and everyone got a dipped frozen custard, a flavored ice cream in a waffle cone or small sundae of their choice.
LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

From there, the treat, whether cheesy or sweet, seemed to settle them for most of the rest of the trip.

On rarer occasions, we might stop just short of Cecil and pull into Yoder's Farm, where at one time, they housed a bakery next to their home. We would stop for one of their apple, blueberry, or triple-berry pies. Best we knew of — anywhere. Then to the roll of my wife's eyes, I would slide in an extra Saran-Wrapped paper plate holding a dozen freshly-made chocolate chip cookies onto the counter. Depending when we arrived on Friday afternoon, the breads might still have steam pressing the surface of their packaging, and then we had to pick up a loaf or two of the sourdoughs.

The kids preferred cookies with M&Ms in them and would receive one. Once up north, it would be time to seek and remove any cookie crumbs from their seats and the floor mats. It was amazing to see how many there would be from just one cookie each.

One of the most wonderful spectacles to see when driving over the rise on 117 was anticipating the view of the big white lake in middle December. Would it be brown and drabby, or would it be ice- and snow-covered?

At that time of the year, heading north out of Black Creek, we would see a real "White Lake" that might have open water still. White Lake has a public access near a home right off Highway 47. It is a reedy lake, and though its 160 acres once seemed isolated, large homes have sprung up along the west bluff and on some rolling hills to the north.

What amazed us was that Shawano

HALFWAY, continued on page 13

Better together: Medical doctors, chiropractors working for patients

Collaboration between medical doctors and chiropractors is an important part of modern musculoskeletal care.



BRIAN GRIEVES
GUEST COLUMNIST

As research continues to support conservative, non-drug treatments for conditions such as low back pain, opportunities for collaboration between these professions have grown. An important part of this collaboration is a shared commitment to evidence-based care.

This includes following established public health recommendations, using diagnostic imaging such as X-ray only when clinically indicated and choosing treatments supported by current research. When medical doctors and chiropractors share these principles, patients benefit from more coordinated, effective and appropriate care.

A clinical trial published in JAMA Network Open sought to determine whether adding chiropractic care to medical care results in better outcomes in patients withlow back pain.

The research team found that combined chiropractic and medical care was better for pain, showed less disability, had lower use of pain medications and resulted in higher patient satisfaction compared to medical care alone. This trial provides additional support for the addition of chiropractic care as a component of multidisciplinary health care for low back pain, as recommended in current guidelines.

Throughout my years practicing in Shawano, I've valued the professional relationships developed with local medical doctors and other health care providers. These relationships allow us to coordinate care, communicate about patients' progress and make referrals when another approach may be more appropriate.

Ultimately, patients benefit when health care providers work together, recognize the strengths and limitations of their respective professions and keep the patient's best interests at the center of every decision.

Dr. Brian Grieves is a doctor of chiropractic with a master's degree in public health and a member of the Shawano Community Health Action Team. Call 715-524-8722 for more information.

Hospital stay yields prize deer hunting porta-potty

I'm always looking for new deer hunting gear that will make forays into the woods easier and more successful, but when I walked into Aurora Medical Center in Oshkosh on Oct. 22 to have my thyroid gland removed, I never suspected I'd leave with a handy little piece of equipment for that most private of hunting's moments.



ROSS BIELEMA
COLUMNIST

The surgery was a success, and Dr. Lee Stratton removed the whole gland plus two nodules (one benign, one cancerous).

My brief one-day stay was a series of visits by 20 or more nurses. If you've never spent a night or two in the hospital, one thing you'll soon learn is that sleeping is largely discouraged by nurses.

"Hi, Ross, I just need to get your vitals."

At 3 a.m.? Doesn't that machine monitor everything? Are you taking bets on whether I'll get mad? The randomness of visits and seeming lack of coordination in care may be just because I'm the patient and not a trained professional.

Take peeing, for example. After the anesthetic starts to wear off, you will have to go but the process may be slower than normal. They want to know if your urine is coming out. So someone invented a dish-shaped plastic cup that sits just below the lid of the toilet.

I learned this visit that it's really designed for women, but the friendly nurses still want men to pee in it, too. If you are lucky enough to hit the target (maybe a 5-inch diameter), you will be rewarded with a spattering shower on your legs, feet and other areas. After my first accident, I asked if I could just miss the cup and go into the rest of the toilet. One nurse said yes, so I did.

The next nurse said no, but offered me use of a portable plastic urinal. What? Why have I not heard of this wondrous device? I've had many hospital stays and no nurse had ever offered me this collection tool.

The advantage of this hand-held urinal is that it eliminates all aiming errors, as men sometimes make, especially when drugs make a consistent shot nearly impossible. As I listened to the sweet sound of success, the deer hunter's light bulb came on. This bottle would be perfect in the ground blind.

No more spooking deer while sneaking outside to get rid of the morning coffee or tea. No more contaminating the area around my blind with human smell. In cold weather, no more fumbling … well, think at least three layers of coveralls, jeans and long johns. This was the missing link in the evolution of opening-weekend hunter to polished pro.

I recalled a piece of equipment advertised in the Sportsman's Guide, a Minnesota-based outdoors gear company, called the Little John. It was red and had a plastic cap, but looked just like my clear plastic mini-urinal. A quick browser search showed that Sportsman's Guide didn't carry it anymore but Bass Pro Shops and Scheel's both had versions of it.



Here's to a successful deer season in the woods. Columnist Ross Bielema discovered a handy piece of deer hunting equipment in the most unlikely of places: a hospital. He plans to put this mini-urinal with snap-fit lid to good use this year in his ground blind. ROSS BIELEMA

Magazine calls it quits

My favorite bowhunting magazine announced with its last issue (December/January 2027) that it was calling it quits.

Founder and publisher T.J. Conrads, a legendary traditional bowhunter and author, successfully published the magazine for 38 years. Readers hailed from 47 countries, and the beautiful publication scratched that old-school itch for those who prefer to use a recurve or longbow rather than a compound bow in pursuit of big and small game and fish.

"We thought we had a company to take over production, but that fell through," Conrads wrote in a note to readers.

He has promised a full refund on remaining issues, less a $3 fee for checks or a $1 fee for PayPal. A gentleman to the end.

Here's hoping someone will pick up the ball and keep a version of it going.

Comment through Nov. 20 on DNR turkey plan

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has an updated 10-year management plan for wild turkeys, and the agency wants your comments.

The 70-page plan focuses on maintaining stable turkey populations and optimizing quality hunting opportunities. The wild turkey's rebound from fragmented populations in Wisconsin and many other states in the 1960s and 1970s is a modern success story and testament to careful management that included many releases of wild birds through both state and private agencies, including the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Last year, the state's hunters bagged more than 47,000 turkeys. Making it easier for hunters to get the season dates and zones they want with a minimum of hassles should certainly be a consideration, too.

The Dec. 10 deadline for applying to get turkey licenses has caused many issues, and up to 30% of hunters applying for specific seasons and zones do not ultimately buy those licenses afterward, the DNR said last year.

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

Sepsis symptoms subtle but serious, could lead to death

Sepsis is a life-threatening medical emergency that occurs when the body's response to an infection damages its own tissues and organs.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 1.7 million adults and more than 18,000 children in the United States develop sepsis each year, and at least 1 in 5 adults who develop sepsis die during hospitalization or are discharged to hospice.

Aspirus Health is highlighting the education, technology and teamwork that help clinicians recognize and treat sepsis as quickly as possible. Because symptoms can be subtle and sometimes resemble other medical conditions, early recognition is critical to improving patient outcomes.

"Sepsis isn't really simple. It sneaks up on people and has a lot of different signs and symptoms to look for," said Emily Hess, Aspirus nurse educator. "They're really subtle until they're not, and that's when it becomes dangerous to the patient."

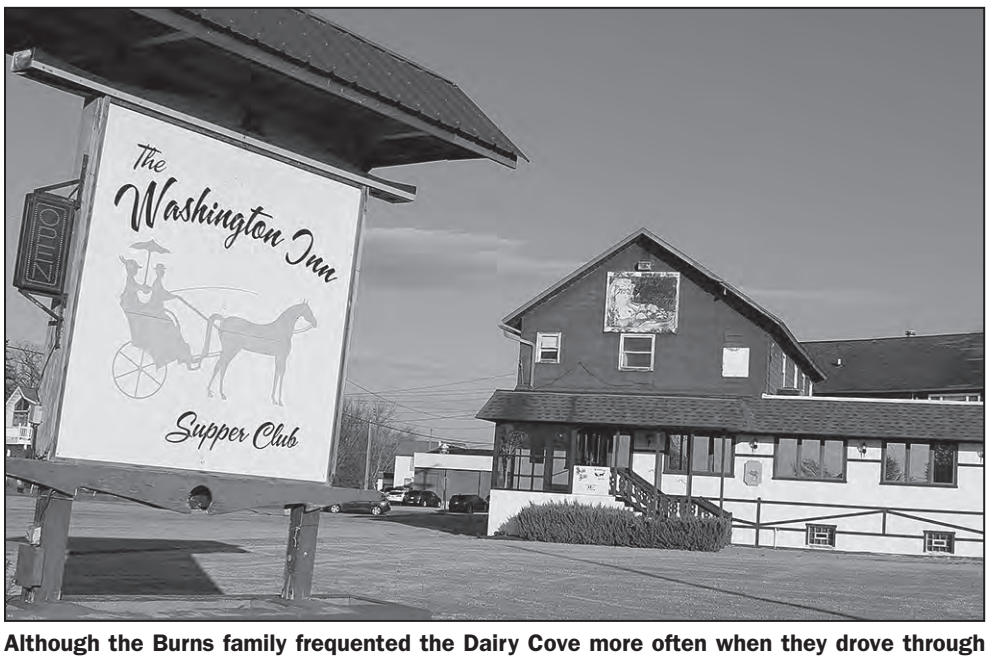
At Aspirus, nurses and providers receive ongoing education focused on identifying and treating sepsis. Training begins during onboarding and continues throughout a caregiver's career through interactive learning opportunities designed to strengthen sepsis recognition skills.

The health system also uses electronic health record tools that alert clinicians when a patient may be showing early signs of sepsis. Those alerts prompt caregivers to evaluate symptoms, review vital signs and laboratory results and collaborate on the next steps in a patient's care.

Treating sepsis requires a coordinated effort among nurses, physicians, pharmacists and laboratory professionals. From selecting the appropriate antibiotics to monitoring how patients respond to treatment, each team member plays a role in delivering timely care and helping patients recover.

Hess said patient education remains an important part of treatment. Individuals recovering from an infection should take medications as prescribed, attend follow-up appointments and watch for signs that symptoms may be returning or worsening.

HALFWAY, continued from page 12



Although the Burns family frequented the Dairy Cove more often when they drove through Cecil on the way to Townsend, there were a few occasions when they stopped at the Washington Inn Supper Club to enjoy a delicious meal. LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

Lake often had one tent on the south bay. Some individual would be the first to walk out onto the tundra. Perhaps the eastern shoreline would display a slice of open water, but this individual would be drilling holes, setting up tip ups and pan fishing. We wondered if the few perch were worth the risk, but it portended that we might be able to fish our own lake, safely.

However, sometimes after passing an ice fisherman or two on Shawano, we would drive by a much smaller Anderson Lake on Highway 32 near Chute Pond, and whitecaps might be evident in the lake's middle. It was truly baffling. The imaginary taste of our own panfish meal would melt away.

Cecil was not a town we just drove through. Beyond being our family's halfway mark, we stopped there. Once or twice, we dined at Washington Inn, bought children ice cream or a Yoder delicacy, and stocked up at the farmer's market in front of the Dairy Cove and it became a four-season fixture in all of our minds. The halfway point in Cecil and sights along the southern shore of Shawano Lake hold many memories for our family.

Oh, and that famous cheese stick we thought was so gratifying to the children – in one discussion during a Christmas gathering a few years back, both children revealed that those were "soggy and wilty," and they would roll their eyes together before their mother turned toward them with a big smile to proudly announce their snacks.

Best laid parenting plans.

Townsend writer Frank Burns has been writing for the Nicolet Express recently, and he has published other stories in Creative Wisconsin and The Chain (Florida Keys) in recent years. Readers can contact him at frankwrite@yahoo.com.

United Way supports youth mentoring in Shawano County



The Shawano Area United Way supports Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Wisconsin with funds that are used for the organization's one-to-one mentoring program, which matches youths facing adversity with caring adult volunteers. From left, are: Rhonda Strebel, Shawano Area United Way board president; Emily Burgess, Big Brothers Big Sisters director of philanthropy and Big Sister; Carol Sheier, Shawano Area United Way board member; and Maddison Priest, past Shawano Area United Way board member. CONTRIBUTED

United Way funding is helping Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Wisconsin support one-to-one mentoring relationships for youths in Shawano County, providing consistent guidance and encouragement to help young people build confidence and succeed in school and life.

The funding this year supported the organization's one-to-one mentoring program, which matches youths facing adversity with caring adult volunteers. The program serves children and adolescents who may experience social isolation, economic hardship or limited access to positive role models.

United Way's investment supports mentor recruitment, background checks, match supervision and youth development programming to help keep mentoring relationships safe, effective and sustainable.

Through the organization's evidence-based mentoring model, each youth, known as a "Little," is matched with a volunteer mentor, or "Big," based on shared interests, personality and life experiences.

Professional program staff provide training, resources and ongoing support to mentors and families. Activities range from academic support and career exploration to community involvement and recreation, helping youths strengthen social-emotional skills, improve academic engagement and develop confidence.

The Shawano County program also offers site-based mentoring in structured settings such as schools, after-school programs and workplace mentoring locations.

Volunteers meet with youths at scheduled times, typically during or immediately after the school day, for academic support, skill-building, goal setting and positive social interaction.

To learn more or get involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters in Shawano County, visit bbbsnew.org or contact Cassiti Schultz at cassitis@bbbsnew.org or 715-853-6716.

Learn more about other organizations funded by the Shawano Area United Way this year at shawanocountyunitedway.org/agency-funding-2026-shawano-area-united-way.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, NOV. 6

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

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

SATURDAY, NOV. 7

BONDUEL: SPYRT Craft Sale and Silent Auction, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, 240 E. Green Bay St. Craft sale, silent auction, chili and hot ham sandwich lunch, plus Ladies Aid bake sale. Admission $1.

NAVARINO: ArtFest 2026, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Local arts and crafts vendors, book sale, bake sale. Admission $1.

SURING: Fall Bazaar, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., St. Michael Catholic Church, 210 S. Krueger St. Shredded pork and turkey sandwiches, chili, chicken soup, pie, rummage, crafts, baked goods and raffles.

TOWN OF CHASE: Second annual Chase Christmas Market, noon to 6 p.m., South Chase Saloon, 494 County Road C.

SHAWANO: Annual Dinner and Auction, 3 p.m., Wolf River Lutheran High School, W7467 River Bend Road. "Through the Decades" theme; meal, spirits, live auction, silent auction, games, raffles. Admission $50; information at wrlhs.org.

SHAWANO: Jingle Mingle, 5:30-9 p.m., Sacred Heart School gymnasium, 302 S. Main St. $25 at the door, advance tickets $20, 21 and older. Local beer and food vendors, basket raffles, meat raffles.

SUNDAY, NOV. 8

TOWN OF CHASE: Second annual Chase Christmas Market, noon to 4 p.m., South Chase Saloon, 494 County Road C.

MONDAY, NOV. 9

ABRAMS: Musical auditions, 6-8 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St. Abrams Spotlight Productions will present "Something Rotten!" March 4-7 and 11-14. Information at abramstheater.com under the Events/Auditions tab.

OCONTO: Masonic Pine Lodge 188 dinner, 6 p.m., 513 Superior Ave. Open to family, friends and interested guests, followed by Master Mason private meeting at 7 p.m. For details, contact the Lodge Secretary at 920-373-0950.

TUESDAY, NOV. 10

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

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

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11

OCONTO FALLS: Veterans Day observances, 8:30 a.m., Oconto Falls High School, 210 N. Farm Road. Reception for veterans 8:30 a.m., school assembly and program 9-10 a.m., followed by Veterans Day concert at 10:30 a.m. at Oconto Falls Elementary School, 415 Marie Volk Drive. Veterans and public invited.

SHAWANO: Allied Vets Council Veterans Day Program, 11 a.m., Shawano County Courthouse, 311 N. Main St.

OCONTO: 1903 Book Club, 4 p.m., Farnsworth Public Library, 715 Main St.

ABRAMS: Musical auditions, 6-8 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St. Abrams Spotlight Productions will present "Something Rotten!" March 4-7 and 11-14. Information at abramstheater.com under the Events/Auditions tab.

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

THURSDAY, NOV. 12

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

OCONTO: Second Thursday Book Club, 2 p.m., Farnsworth Public Library, 715 Main St. Open discussion of interesting books with no assigned reading.

FRIDAY, NOV. 13

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

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

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

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Crowley, Tiffany weigh in on open government

Whoever wins the Nov. 3 election to become Wisconsin's next governor – whether it be Republican Tom Tiffany or Democrat David Crowley – will inherit a state whose long tradition of open government is replete with opportunities for improvement.

With that in mind, the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council last month sent questionnaires about government transparency to both candidates. Crowley answered our questions, while Tiffany did not.



JONATHAN ANDERSON
GUEST COLUMNIST

Here's a round-up of where the candidates stand when it comes to your right to know, drawn from Crowley's responses and from what he and Tiffany have said on the campaign trail.

Let's begin with common ground. Both Crowley and Tiffany say they support ending a legal loophole that exempts state legislators from record retention rules that are in place for all other state and local government officials. This loophole presently allows elected members of the state Assembly and Senate to delete emails and other files at will to prevent their release, absent a pending records request.

Crowley and Tiffany also say they oppose nondisclosure agreements between data center developers and local governments.

In his response to our questionnaire, Crowley said his administration would post commonly requested information online, monitor records processes across agencies and review records request procedures at least annually. He would also require that appointees receive training on the public records and open meetings laws and "make sure the agencies responsible for public records and open meetings compliance have the funding and staffing they need to do that work well."

Asked about potential changes to the public records and open meetings laws, Crowley said he supports increasing the location fee threshold – a provision in the law allowing custodians to charge location fees only when they are $50 or more – which has not been updated since 1981.

Tiffany has made several campaign promises related to government transparency. Tiffany said he would improve a state data portal to "make it easier for taxpayers to search and understand state spending." He promised to create agency dashboards that would show "taxpayers where their money is going, what services agencies are providing and the results taxpayers are receiving." Tiffany's spokesperson also said that Tiffany, if elected, would "set clear response-time standards for open records requests."

As a state senator, Tiffany in 2015 voted for a proposal that would have made it easier for lawmakers, the governor and other agencies to withhold records from the public. The measure was rescinded after intense public outcry. (Tiffany later apologized for his vote, saying: "Quite honestly, I am embarrassed by the event.")

Beyond the public records and open meetings laws, Crowley supports legislation targeting strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPP), used to retaliate against individuals and news outlets for engaging in protected activities. The state Assembly in February passed an anti-SLAPP bill, but it died in the Senate. Wisconsin is one of just 10 states without such protection.

Crowley also supports spending taxpayer dollars on WisconsinEye, a public affairs network like C-SPAN, as it works to find a sustainable funding model.

"Having served in the State Legislature and now as County Executive, I've seen firsthand how important it is for Wisconsinites to have direct access to their government – it strengthens both transparency and public participation," Crowley said.

Like government transparency, the values of press freedom and free expression are pillars of the broader project of representative democracy. On Sept. 24, Tiffany's staff blocked two Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reporters from a campaign event alleging bias in coverage. Afterward, he insisted, "I've always had an open policy in regards to the media."

To read Crowley's full response to WISFOIC's questionnaire, see this column at wisfoic.org. Also posted is the council's recent column on transparency regarding the contenders for state attorney general – incumbent Democrat Josh Kaul and Republican Eric Toney.

Jonathan Anderson is the treasurer for the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council. Your Right to Know is a monthly column distributed by the organization, which is dedicated to open government.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

When do words cross the line to bullying?

To the editor:

As a parent in the Shawano community, I am concerned about the bullying issues families have been bringing forward and how our school district is responding. I brought this concern forward to the school board on Oct. 26 during the monthly school board meeting.

During a recent interview on WTCH's Breakfast Club on Oct. 28, our superintendent, Kurt Krizan, stated, "If I call him stupid every single day, that still doesn't fall under bullying."

I believe this statement deserves serious consideration.

What happens to a child who is called stupid or dumb every single day? Over time, those words can wear down a child's confidence, damage their self-worth and make them question their own abilities. They may begin to believe what they are being told, dread going to school, withdraw from friends or feel like they don't belong.

Repeated humiliation can take an emotional toll that isn't always visible to the adults around them. Just because there are no physical injuries doesn't mean a child isn't being hurt.



Research shows that bullying victimization is associated with depression, anxiety and other lasting mental health difficulties. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine addressed these effects in its 2016 report, "Preventing Bullying Through Science, Policy and Practice." Research published in "Archives of Disease in Childhood" in 2015 also examined the long-term effects of bullying.

Federal guidance from www.stopbullying.gov recognizes name-calling and teasing as forms of verbal bullying. Not every insult automatically meets the definition of bullying, but repeated name-calling should not be dismissed without considering the circumstances, pattern of behavior and impact on the child.

This is not about labeling every disagreement as bullying. It is about ensuring repeated harmful behavior is taken seriously, investigated appropriately and addressed consistently.

Children deserve to feel safe at school. Parents deserve confidence that their concerns will lead to meaningful action. Bullying prevention should be about protecting children, not finding reasons why their experiences don't qualify.

Shawano School District, do better.

Stephanie Raddant, Shawano

Warm place a promise that needs people behind it

When an emergency shelter opens its doors for the cold season, the most important thing about that door is not the lock, the sign or the building behind it. It is the people who make sure help is still available when someone needs it.



DOUGLAS VANDERGRAPH
GUEST COLUMNIST

NEW Media recently reported that SAM's House in Shawano reopened for the 2026-27 shelter season. Shawano Area Matthew 25 plans to operate the emergency shelter from Oct. 15 through May 15. According to the newspaper, the program provided shelter for 89 people during the previous season, including children, and now fills an especially important role following the closure of another local shelter.

Those facts make the stakes plain: A place to sleep is not an abstract charitable goal when nights turn cold.

I live in Colorado, not Shawano. I have not met the people served by the shelter and cannot pretend to know the details of their lives. What I do recognize is a form of service that embodies a demanding part of Christian faith – caring for people in ways that remain useful after the first burst of sympathy has passed.

The Gospel of Matthew describes the importance of welcoming strangers and attending to people who lack basic necessities. Jesus' teaching does not allow us to turn another person's hardship into a debate about whether they have earned our kindness. It calls us to see the human being before us.

That principle is easy to praise and much harder to sustain through an entire winter.

A shelter needs far more than a generous announcement. It needs volunteers, meals, cleaning supplies, trained staff, coordination, safe procedures and people willing to accept the responsibility of returning on ordinary evenings. Its work has to continue when the weather is inconvenient and when the public's attention has turned to something else.

One of the most meaningful forms of generosity is a promise that can be kept.

There is also a difference between providing immediate safety and creating a path toward greater stability. A warm place to rest is essential. People may also need help navigating employment, housing, transportation, medical appointments or relationships strained by a difficult period. Not every volunteer is qualified to assist with these challenges. Responsible service includes knowing when to support trained professionals rather than improvising answers to complicated problems.

Christian compassion should bring humility, not a desire to be the hero of someone else's story.

We should also be careful how we describe the people seeking shelter. Some are parents. Some are older adults. Some work while lacking stable housing. Some live with circumstances strangers cannot see. We do not need to know the entire history of a person before respecting their privacy or recognizing the danger of spending a freezing night without safe shelter.

The people receiving help are not a category separate from the rest of the community. They are neighbors.

This is a good season to ask local service organizations what support would genuinely help them. Perhaps they need someone to prepare meals, replenish supplies or take a regular shift. Perhaps the most useful act is to follow their guidance rather than arrive with unsolicited ideas or items that cannot be used.

After one act of service, it is worth asking whether we can return.

No shelter can solve every cause of housing insecurity by itself, but its continued operation can protect lives and give people a little more room to face tomorrow.

The promise of a warm place becomes real when the people behind it stay faithful to the work.

Douglas Vandergraph is a Fort Collins, Colorado-based Christian inspirational writer and speaker who writes about perseverance, human dignity and practical compassion.

PUBLIC RECORD

OCONTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Nov. 1

Deputies responded to 45 incidents, including a disturbance near Scherer Avenue and First Street in Oconto; a disturbance on state Highway 22 in the Town of Oconto;a weapon offense on Lee Lake Road in the Town of Brazeau; a death investigation at a redacted location; a disturbance on Brazeau Avenue in Oconto; three traffic stops, five traffic hazards, two traffic offenses, three citizen assists, two miscellaneous traffic incidents, one welfare check; two open-line 911 calls; five ambulance calls; three crashes, two involving deer.

Oct. 31

Deputies responded to 61 incidents, including suspicious activity near County Road S and West Frontier Road in the Town of Little Suamico; criminal damage on Pickerel Lake Road in the Town of Townsend; suspicious activity at the Mountain Fire Department, 13824 State Highway 32-64, Mountain; criminal damage on Saint Bernadette Road in the Town of Bagley; suspicious activity on County Road A in the Town of Lena; a fire control burn at Evergreen Cemetery, 316 Cook Ave., Oconto; a disturbance on Eagle Drive in the Town of Little Suamico; four traffic stops, two traffic hazards, one traffic offense, four citizen assists, two miscellaneous traffic incidents, three welfare checks; one 911 hangup and three open lines; five ambulance calls; two crashes, one involving deer.

Oct. 30

Deputies responded to 70 incidents, including a fire control burn on Madison Street in Oconto; theft at the county jail, 220 Arbutus Ave., Oconto; suspicious activity on state Highway 32 in the Town of Maple Valley; an animal bite on Nellis Lane in the Town of Pensaukee; suspicious activity on Allen Road in the Town of Little Suamico; a hazardous material incident near County Roads E and C in the Town of Morgan; suspicious activity on East Main Street in Suring; 13 traffic stops, one traffic hazard, three traffic offenses, one citizen assist, four miscellaneous traffic incidents, two welfare checks; one 911 hangup and two open lines; seven ambulance calls; five crashes, three involving deer.

Oct. 29

Deputies responded to 45 incidents, including a disturbance on Goldhorn Road in the Town of Brazeau; two reports of property damage on Pickerel Lake Road in the Town of Townsend; a disturbance on North Anderson Lake Lane in the Town of Mountain; a wanted person on South Chase Road in the Town of Chase; four traffic stops, one citizen assist, two miscellaneous traffic incidents, one welfare check; six ambulance calls; six crashes, four involving deer.

SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Nov. 1

Deputies responded to 28 incidents, including disorderly conduct near North Washington and West Fifth streets in Shawano; operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated near state Highway 29 and County Road D in the Town of Seneca, on County Road S in the Town of Maple Grove, and near state Highway 29 ad Hickory Road in the Town of Richmond; a disturbance on County Road M in the Town of Richmond; attempted theft at St. Francis Solanus Catholic Church, 1050 Main St., Gresham; a disturbance on Cedar Street in Tigerton; a disturbance on Maple Road in the Town of Herman; four 911 calls; one traffic stop; two reckless driving incidents; four crashes, one involving deer.

Oct. 31

Report not received by press time.

Oct. 30

Deputies responded to 49 incidents, including a disturbance on County Road B in the Town of Waukechon; trespassing on Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; one 911 call; six traffic stops; two reckless driving incidents; one traffic hazard; one welfare check; three crashes, two involving deer.

Oct. 29

Deputies responded to 37 incidents, including drugs at Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg, N7198 U.S. Highway 45, Wittenberg; an animal bite on Homewood Avenue in the Town of Wescott; suspicious activity on U.S. Highway 45 in Tigerton; suspicious activity on County Road BB in the Town of Green Valley; a disturbance at Haven Hotel, 104 N. Airport Drive, Shawano; four 911 calls; nine traffic stops; two traffic hazards; one welfare check; four crashes, two involving deer.

SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Nov. 1

Officers responded to 23 incidents, including disorderly conduct near North Washington and West Fifth streets; a fight in progress at Kwik Trip, 1241 E. Green Bay St.; a drug offense near West Fifth and North Lafayette streets; a disturbance on Mountain Bay Trail Drive; a drug offense on Alpine Terrace; four 911 calls; one traffic hazard; three welfare checks; one crash.

Oct. 31

Officers responded to 20 incidents, including a noise disturbance near West Eagle and South Franklin streets; suspicious activity near West Green Bay and North Bartlett streets; an intoxicated person at Franklin Park, 235 S. Washington St.; a drug offense at a redacted location; assault on South Franklin Street; suspicious activity at Woodlawn Cemetery, 1115 E. Green Bay St.; fireworks near South Union and East Stevens streets; a noise disturbance on North Franklin Street; suspicious activity at Shawano Health Services, 1436 S. Lincoln St.; one 911 call.

11/6/26, 11/13/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Shawano Plan Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, November 18, 2026 at 5:00 PM at Shawano City Hall, 127 S. Sawyer St., Shawano, WI to consider the following:

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT to allow White Pine Lodge LLC to have a banquet facility at 208 E. Maurer Street, Shawano, WI per City of Shawano Municipal Code Section 10-58(7) indoor commercial entertainment, as a conditional use. The property is located in the Neighborhood Mixed Use (NMU) zoning district. (Legal description: Parcel #281-404002680 City of Shawano Assessors Map All of Lots 5-6-7-8 & Lot 9 Ex E 12' Blk 32 & Vacated Alley Des V605 P667 201 E Richmond St-Garage.)

At the above time and place all interested persons will be given the opportunity to be heard.

Lesley Nemetz, City Clerk
City of Shawano

WNAXLP
SHA-405

Budget Hearing for the Village of Cecil

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, November 17th , 2026 at 4:00PM at the Village Community Hall, a PUBLIC HEARING on the 2027 proposed budget of the Village of Cecil will be held, following will be a PUBLIC HEARING on the 2027 proposed budget of the Cecil Sewer System. The proposed budgets, in detail, are available for inspection at the Village Community Hall in the Clerk/Treasurer's Office by appointment. The following is a summary of the proposed 2027 budget:

Village of Cecil
Operating Budget
2027

Revenue	Budget 2026	Proposed Budget 2027	% Change
Taxes			
General Property	329013	330228	0.37%
Other Taxes	12380	6950	-43.86%
Intergovernmental Revenues	120836	113971	-5.68%
Licenses & Permits	5916	5200	-12.10%
Public Charges for Services	178740	168400	-5.78%
Intergovernmental Charges-Services	69750	71657	2.73%
Miscellaneous Revenues	7050	8500	
Total Revenues	723685	704906	-2.59%
Cash Balance Applied	0	0	
TOTAL Revenue & Cash Bal App	723685	704906	
Expenditures			
General Government	174999	171190	-2.18%
Public Safety	129192	131752	1.98%
Public Works	227049	205569	-9.46%
Culture, Recreation, & Education	32750	42300	29.16%
Conservation Development	2300	2200	-4.35%
T Mac Room Tax	12000	6500	-45.83%
Capital Outlay-Park/Bridge	85395	85395	0.00%
CO-Park Improvements/New2023	60000	60000	0.00%
CO-FireDept Equipment	0	0	
Reserve for Capital Purchases	0	0	
Total Expenditures	723685	704906	-2.59%
Reserve for Contingencies	0	0	
TOTAL Expenditures & Reserve	723685	704906	-2.59%

Village Of Cecil
Sewer Budget
2027

Revenue	2026 Budget	Proposed 2027 Budget	% Change
Public Charges	298130	269456	-9.62%
TOTAL Revenue	298130	269456	-9.62%
Expenditures			
Labor	23500	23500	0.00%
Maintenance	24000	24000	0.00%
Operation Fee	15900	18000	13.21%
Treatment Service	70000	75000	7.14%
Power	8000	8500	6.25%
Administrative Cost	7478	8000	6.98%
System Upgrade	59000	22204	-62.37%
TOTAL Operating Costs	207878	179204	-13.79%
Debt Service	82048	82048	
USDA Requirement	8204	8204	
Replacement Fund		0	
TOTAL Expenditures	298130	269456	-9.62%

Teri Westerfeld, Clerk/Treasurer
Village of Cecil

COURT NEWS

SHAWANO-MENOMINEE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

• Darwin A. Mahkimetas, 50, Chippewa Falls, pleaded no contest Oct. 29 to misdemeanor charges of theft and disorderly conduct. The charges were amended from felonies in a plea agreement. Judge William Kussel Jr. levied fines and court costs of $1,210.

• Calvin J. Olson, 33, Suring, pleaded guilty Oct. 28 to substantial battery intending bodily harm and felony bail jumping. Kussel levied fines and court costs and sentenced him to nine months in county jail.

• Elizabeth E. Cappel, 44, Green Bay, pleaded guilty Oct. 30 to felony bail jumping. Judge Katherine Sloma imposed and stayed a jail term, then placed her on one year of probation with conditions.

• Cody B. Leroy, 52, Neenah, was charged July 28 with burglary, removing a vehicle's parts without consent and two counts of misdemeanor bail jumping. Kussel authorized a warrant for Leroy's arrest Oct. 26 after he failed to make his initial court appearance.

• Nicholas J. Matz, 30, Shawano, was charged July 28 with false imprisonment and misdemeanor counts of battery and disorderly conduct. Kussel set a $2,000 signature bond on Oct. 26 and scheduled a final pre-trial hearing for Dec. 8.

• Dujuan Deshawn Vales, 28, Howard, was charged July 28 with felony bail jumping. Kussel authorized a warrant for Vales' arrest Oct. 26 after he failed to make his initial court appearance.

• Jose Molina-Gonzales, Dorchester, was charged Aug. 3 with felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of possession of cocaine. Kussel set a $5,000 signature bond on Oct. 26 and scheduled a status conference for Dec. 22.

• John J. Aguilar, 50, Keshena, was charged Oct. 26 with possession of methamphetamine, felony bail jumping and misdemeanor bail jumping. Kussel set a $250 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Nov. 5.

• Dylan E. Moore, 20, Oneida, was charged Oct. 26 with driving or operating a motor vehicle without consent, two counts of misdemeanor bail jumping and a misdemeanor charge of hit and run. Kussel set a $1,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Nov. 2.

• Hailey R. Tank, 19, Oneida, was charged Oct. 26 with two counts of second-degree recklessly endangering safety, six counts of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of hit and run and resisting or obstructing an officer. Kussel set a $2,500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Nov. 2.

• Mara L. Clasen, 39, Krakow, was charged July 30 with possession of a firearm by a person convicted of a felony and nine counts of felony bail jumping. Kussel set a $750 cash bond on Oct. 29 and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Nov. 30.

• Crystal M. Denny, 43, Gresham, was charged Oct. 27 with two counts of felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of operating while revoked. Kussel set a $750 signature bond on Oct. 29 and scheduled a status conference for Nov. 10.

• Antonio J. Kakwitch, 25, Keshena, was charged July 21 with failure to report to jail. Kussel set a $750 cash bond on Oct. 30 and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Nov. 3.

OCONTO COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

• Angel Arturo Arias Hernandez, 25, a Chicago man being held in Oconto County Jail, previously in the Brown County Jail, pleaded no contest Aug. 24 to possession of cocaine with intent to distribute. Judge Jay Conley imposed and stayed a prison sentence, then sentenced him to one year in jail with conditions, consecutive to his Brown County sentence. Hernandez did receive credit for 183 days already served.

• Cameron Michael Krause, 27, an Oconto man serving a sentence at Redgranite Correctional Institution, pleaded no contest Aug. 19 to possession of narcotic drugs. Conley sentenced him Oct. 29 to 18 months in prison followed by two years of extended supervision with conditions.

• Marcee A. Hammersley, 55, Little Suamico, pleaded no contest April 29 to possession of methamphetamine. Conley imposed and stayed a prison sentence, then placed her on two years of probation with conditions including 120 days in county jail. She was given credit for 79 days already served.

• James P. Linz, 45, Oconto, pleaded no contest Oct. 30 to possession of THC (second or subsequent offense) and a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. Conley levied fines and court costs and sentenced him to nine months in county jail, with credit for 159 days already served.

• Joshua A. Diedrich, 42, Pound, was charged Oct. 26 with possession of methamphetamine, felony bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of bail jumping and possession of drug paraphernalia. Conley set a $500 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until Nov. 16.

• Zachary L. Robernhorst, 23, Oconto, was charged Oct. 27 with battery by prisoners, two counts of felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct. Conley set a $3,500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Nov. 2.

• Cannon Edward Verkuilen, 32, Kaukauna, was charged Oct. 8 with first-degree reckless homicide by delivering drugs, two counts of manufacturing fentanyl with intent to deliver and three counts of manufacturing amphetamine with intent to deliver. Conley set a $250,000 cash bond on Oct. 29 and adjourned his initial appearance until Nov. 19.

• Dean Francis VanDreel, 50, Pulaski, was charged Oct. 29 with felony bail jumping. In a separate file, he was charged Oct. 30 with two additional counts of felony bail jumping, and in a third file, he was charged with second-degree sexual assault and felony bail jumping. Judge Hannah Schuchart set a $10,000 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearances until Dec. 16.

• Milton E. Christensen, 54, Suring, was charged Oct. 30 with child abuse-recklessly causing harm. Schuchart set a $500 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until Nov. 19.

Lena/STAA girls make the most of first trip to state since 2002

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent



Adrena Rabas and Aspynn Anderson pass the 1-mile mark while competing for Lena/STAA on Oct. 31 in the girls Division 3 race at the WIAA State Cross Country Championships in Wisconsin Rapids. Rabas and Anderson placed 90th and 61st, respectively, in their first trip to state and helped the team place ninth out of 16 teams with 230 points. GREG SEUBERT

It's been more than 20 years since Lena High School's girls cross country team made back-to-back trips to state, placing seventh in 2001 and fourth the following year in Division 3.

The Wildcats were back at the WIAA State Cross Country Championships for the first time since 2002 and made the most of the opportunity by placing ninth out of 16 Division 3 teams Oct. 31 at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids.

Lena – now competing as a co-op team with St. Thomas Aquinas Academy of Marinette – competed at this year's state meet with the Bonduel boys and Wittenberg-Birnamwood girls teams.

Bonduel went on to place 16th in Division 3, while the Chargers placed 15th in Division 2.

Division 3

Lena/STAA wrapped up its season on a strong note after winning Marinette & Oconto Conference and Rosholt Sectional championships.

The Wildcats sent only five runners — seniors Aspynn Anderson and Adrena Rabas and sophomores Alisa Finger, Sydney Pirlot and Brooklyn Viestenz — to the meet, while 13 of the other 16 girls Division 3 teams sent seven.

Anderson led the team by placing 61st in 21:03.6. She was followed by Finger (64th, 24:10.1), Pirlot (89th, 21:57.6), Rabas (90th, 21:58.3) and Viestenz (97th, 22:24.9).

"They're all such a nice group of girls," coach Chelsea Heise said. "I have two seniors who are excellent leaders. We had a few new girls come out this year, so it was a perfect mix of good leadership and helping some of the younger runners. They're very encouraging, work well together and do all the stuff together."

Besides competing at state as a team, Heise said one of the team's highlights of the season was winning its sectional meet.

"I didn't realize we were ranked first in the sectional until about three weeks before," she said. "Our goal was to win conference again and we did. We saw the sectional and said, 'Well, let's go for it and see what happens.'"

Placing in the top 10 with 230 points is a big deal for the team, according to Heise.

"It's so fun to see these girls," she said. "They worked so hard, and they're such a great group. They're easy to coach and make coming to practice fun every day for us as coaches."

Heise wasn't sure how her team would react to running with almost 150 competitors in front of thousands of spectators.

"None of us knew what to expect; this is my first time at state, and it's been a great experience," she said. "I leaned on a couple of really good coaching friends. Tina Porath in Oconto has been a great help to me and Bill DeJung in Gillett has been here, too. Not that we winged it, but we had a plan, followed the plan and it went great."

That plan included the same routine, Heise said.

"We kept the routine the same in practice but lightened the load a little and just talked about having fun," she said. "The girls had themed dress-up practices all week, so we really did a lot to get excited for it."

Meanwhile, seniors Gage Anderson, Garrett Anderson, Oliver Chitwood and Joah Dworniczak ran their final cross country races for Bonduel as the Bears placed 16th with 356 points.

"We have the same group of guys that have been running together for eight years," Gage Anderson said. "This is our senior year, so we had to do good. It feels great. That was the goal."

Besides the four seniors, juniors Carter Beilfuss and Josiah Ford and sophomore Griffin Richter also ran for the Bears.

"Good coaches and dedicated athletes," Gage Anderson said when asked why Bonduel's program has been successful in recent years. "We've always had a large team. We take it pretty seriously."

The Bears advanced to state after winning a sectional meet in Rosholt.

"We were runner-up as freshmen and sophomores," Anderson said. "To be able to win it was great."

The Bonduel boys didn't win a Central Wisconsin Conference championship this season but ran at state with two other CWC teams, Weyauwega-Fremont and Amherst. They ended up placing 10th and 15th, respectively, and Weyauwega-Fremont's Marcus Benjamin went on to place second overall.

Gage Anderson led the Bears by placing 58th in 17:38, while other places and times were Garrett Anderson (100th, 18:30.2), Chitwood (128th, 19:30), Richter (129th, 19:31.3), Dworniczak (130th, 19:32.9), Ford (139th, 20:11.2) and Beilfuss (141st, 20:12.6).

"We had a lot of guys who came in and just wanted it," coach Jacob Grenke said. "They worked hard. We had our sixth, seventh and eighth runners, and I think those were the guys that pushed everybody else. That's what won us the sectional."

Sending a cross country team to state is nothing new for Bonduel High School, as the boys and girls each have made seven trips in recent years.

The girls team made it to state in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024, while the boys competed in 2012, 2013, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2023 and 2024.

Division 2

Wittenberg-Birnamwood girls headed to state after winning a CWC championship and placing second at the Rhinelander Sectional.

The Chargers placed 15th with 375 points.

Freshman Brielle Rose led Wittenberg-Birnamwood by placing 80th in 20:59. Other places and times for the Chargers came from senior Gabrielle Timm (110th, 21:34.5), freshman Kendyll Ladwig (115th, 21:45.6), senior Nora Bushman (129th, 22:23.3), junior Harper Krull (131st, 22:27.3), freshman Sophie Wendler (145th, 24:08.8) and sophomore Lilyana Groh (147th, 25:01.3).

Like Bonduel, the state meet is a familiar place for Wittenberg-Birnamwood's runners.

Heading into this year's meet, the Chargers girls and boys teams have a combined 13 trips to state. The girls team qualified in 1982, 1986, 1999, 2010, 2016, 2024 and 2025, while the boys made it in 1971, 1973, 1982 and 1997.

The vast majority of Wisconsin's high school cross country runners never have an opportunity to run at state, and that thought isn't lost on a coach like Bonduel's Grenke.

"It's a state meet," he said. "Don't worry about the time; it's all about placement. You made it and you're here. Why not see what you can do?"

Waupoose leads area runners at state meet

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

Five individuals represented five area schools Oct. 31 at the WIAA State Cross Country Championships in Wisconsin Rapids.

Among the local runners heading to The Ridges Golf Course were Pulaski's Maggie Gerth (Division 1); Shawano's Josiah Kuehl, Menominee Nation's Bryant Waupoose III and Oconto Falls' Lily Meissner (Division 2); and Suring's Natalie Seibert (Division 3).

Division 1

Gerth, a junior, placed 41st with a time of 19:14.7 . She returned to state for a second straight year after placing 20th as a sophomore.

Division 2

Kuehl, a senior, wrapped up his cross country career with the Hawks by placing 68th in 17:25.2. He competed at state as an individual as a sophomore and with the boys team as a freshman and junior.

Waupoose, a junior in his third trip to state, had the highest finish among local individual runners, as he placed 23rd in 16:36. He placed 46th as a sophomore last year and 74th as a freshman in 2024.

Meissner, a sophomore, finished 90th in 21:08.3 in her first trip to state.

Division 3

Seibert, a senior, placed 71st in 21:31.8 in her first trip to state.

Stevens Point, Campbellsport and Marathon won boys team championships in divisions 1-3, respectively, while the top girls team finishers in each division were Neenah, New Berlin Eisenhower and Southwestern.



Pulaski's Maggie Gerth (left) passes Wauwatosa East's Brynn Danen near the end of the girls Division 1 race at the WIAA State Cross Country Championships in Wisconsin Rapids on Oct. 31. Gerth wrapped up her junior season by placing 41st and was one of five local individuals to compete at state. GREG SEUBERT

Moesch stands out on offense, defense



Belleville's Charley Spiegel tries to keep up with Bonduel's Andrew Kolaske. His catch set up one of the Bears' three first-half touchdowns in a 41-14 win over the Wildcats.
GREG SEUBERT

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

Five touchdowns, three interceptions and 226 rushing yards.

It's just a regular day at the office for Carter Moesch.

The Bonduel senior running back had one of the biggest nights of his football career Oct. 30 as the Bears improved to 11-0 on the season with a 41-14 win over Belleville in a Division 6 Level 2 playoff game at Rush Niles Memorial Field.

The win means the top-seeded Bears are still alive in the WIAA state playoffs and will host No. 3 Cedar Grove/Belgium at 7 p.m. Nov. 6. The Rockets defeated second-seeded Kewaunee 17-14 in another Level 2 game, preventing the fourth matchup in the last two seasons between the Bears and Storm, as both teams compete in the Packerland Conference and also met in the playoffs last year.

The fourth-seeded Wildcats raised a few eyebrows on their first drive, as they opened the game with a 76-yard drive that included Jackson Fahey's 12-yard touchdown run with 6:45 left in the first quarter.

Bonduel turned the ball over on downs after a high punt snap on fourth down, but the Bears regrouped and scored on their next three drives to take a 21-14 halftime lead.

Moesch scored on a 67-yard run on the first play of the second quarter to cap an 86-yard drive. He added a 4-yard run with 4:17 to go in the first half, but Belleville tied the game on its next drive with Rayden Taylor's 13-yard pass to Charley Spiegel.

The Wildcats never found the end zone again, while Bonduel added to its lead before halftime on Moesch's third touchdown, a 5-yard run with 33 seconds to go before the break.

Moesch's fourth touchdown – an 11-yard run – capped a 73-yard drive to start the second half and he ended Belleville's next drive with an interception.

The Bears couldn't take advantage of the turnover, however, as Landon Yarbough picked off a Quinn Wesenberg pass to give the ball back to the Wildcats.

Moesch's final touchdown came on an 18-yard run with five seconds remaining in the third quarter.

He ended Belleville's next drive with his second interception.

Malachi Gray wrapped up Bonduel's scoring with an 8-yard run with 4:39 to go in the game, and Moesch wrapped up his day on the field with his third interception to end the Wildcats' next drive.

Gray added 108 rushing yards.

Westrich said Moesch ended up being the difference in the game.

"The kid's great," he said. "He works extremely hard all year long (and is) very dedicated to his craft. No one works harder than him and when games like this come, he wants the ball in his hands."

Red Raiders move on, Eagles gets shut out

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

Pulaski High School's football team has faced several obstacles this season.

Taking on the state's top running back is next on the list.

The Red Raiders advanced to the third round of the WIAA state playoffs Oct. 30 with a 10-7 win over Kaukauna. Pulaski will now take on Kingston Allen and Notre Dame in a Division 2 Level 3 game at 7 p.m. Nov. 6 on the Tritons' home field in Green Bay.

While Pulaski's season is continuing, Suring saw its season end Oct. 30 with a 40-0 loss to Wabeno/Laona in the third round of the 8-player playoffs.

Division 2

Pulaski 10, Kaukauna 7

Mason Borseth's 33-yard field goal in the opening minute of the fourth quarter turned out to be the difference in the game, as the third-seeded Red Raiders topped second-seeded Kaukauna on the Galloping Ghosts' home field.

Pulaski's Bohdan Schmidt opened the scoring with a 6-yard run midway through the first quarter.

Kaukauna had an opportunity to score in the opening period, but an incomplete pass on fourth-and-goal from the 2-yard line gave the ball back to the Red Raiders.

Kaukauna's Muhammad Jobe tied the game with a 10-yard run in the second quarter and the score remained 7-7 until Borseth's field goal broke the tie 10 seconds into the fourth quarter.

Anthony Ficarri had 96 of the Red Raiders' 133 rushing yards, while Schmidt added 56 yards on the ground and completed four of six passes for 64 yards as Pulaski improved to 9-2 on the season.

Notre Dame improved to 11-0 Oct. 30 with a 45-13 win over Menasha in its Level 2 game. Allen, a University of Wisconsin recruit, ran for 269 yards and his five touchdowns included runs of 46, 50 and 55 yards.

8-player

Wabeno/Laona 40, Suring 0

The second-seeded Eagles headed north on state Highway 32 but saw their season end with a loss to the top-seeded Rebels.

Wabeno/Laona will now face another No. 1 seed, Belmont, in a state semifinal in Belmont. No. 1 Gilman will host No. 3 Owen-Withee in the other semifinal, and the two winners will meet Nov. 14 in Wisconsin Rapids for the state championship.

Nov. 6 schedule (both games start at 7 p.m.): WIAA Level 3 11-player playoffs: Division 2: No. 3 Pulaski at No. 1 Notre Dame. Division 6: No. 3 Cedar Grove/Belgium at No. 1 Bonduel.

Listen to
~ Health Talk ~
Saturdays at 10:00 am on
WTCH am960 and FM 96.1
The impact of screens on mental health in young people.
- Allegra Fowler and Amanda Baddmoccosin-Barnes
Psychotherapists at Sweetgrass Behavioral Healtha
November 7th & 21st
Hosted by
Dr. Brian Grieves, DC, MPH



Winning penalty kicks send Pulaski to state soccer tournament

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Saturday, Oct. 31

Pulaski 0, Fox Valley Lutheran 0 (Pulaski wins 4-3 in PKs)

After 100 minutes of scoreless soccer, fourth-seed Pulaski advanced in penalty kicks 4-3 over second- seed Fox Valley Lutheran.

The Red Raiders outshot the Foxes 9-2 during the match but could not find the net. Fox Valley Lutheran goalkeeper Eric Techlin made several great saves.

During the shootout, Ezra Schaser, Emiliano Guzman and Techlin scored for the Foxes. Colin Tackmier, Gunner Decker, Brayden Puyleart, and Daenen Kehoe scored for the Red Raiders with the winning kick coming from Kehoe.

Techlin made nine saves during the match in goal for Fox Valley Lutheran. Blake Batzer had three saves in goal for Pulaski.

Pulaski advances to state for the third time in program history and first since 2022. The semifinal game will be against Wauwatosa East at 11 a.m. Nov. 5 at Uihlein Soccer Park in Milwaukee.


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GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

WWW.NEWMEDIA-WI.COM FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2026 WEEK 9: NOV. 8 AT NEW ENGLAND

Love and defense cover multitude of sins

No ground game, missed kicks, dropped passes, penalites ...

By **LUKE REIMER**
Green & Gold Express

Despite a shaky end to the game, Jordan Love's big day got the Packers back in the win column in its Week 8 matchup.

On the back of Love's three touchdown passes, Green Bay took down the Carolina Panthers 27-19 at Lambeau Field on Oct. 29.

On top of Love's trio of touchdowns, Josh Jacobs scoring two touchdowns in his return to Lambeau Field was enough to hold off Carolina's late comeback.

Green Bay entered the fourth quarter up 27-13, but a Love interception and a Panthers wide receiver Jalen Coker touchdown suddenly turned the contest into a one-score affair. After punting on its next drive, Green Bay's defense stepped up and forced Carolina to turn the ball over on downs with fewer than two minutes left in the game, essentially sealing the victory.

"I would say it is disappointing," said Packers head coach Matt LaFleur, on how the Packers closed the game. "Obviously got the one first down and then we tried to lean on the run game, and we went backwards. So that's an area of emphasis that we have to improve upon, because it puts a lot of pressure on your pass game to continue to find ways to move the ball down the field."

As a whole, Green Bay's run game was once again a struggle, as Jacobs finished with 39 yards on 21 carries. In total, Green Bay finished with 66 total rushing yards.

PANTHERS, continued on page 20







Above, Green Bay's defense was all in against Carolina, sacking quarterback Bryce Young six times, collecting an interception and forcing a fumble. And it looks like it may only get better as Micah Parsons, far left, is expected to return in Week. 12. They'll need to keep it up to make up for some mistakes on offense, like Christian Watson's fumble.
GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

Patriots will be a stronger test for Packers

Green Bay needs a win to stay in the playoff hunt

By **JACOB WESTENDORF**
Green & Gold Express

Green Bay will travel to New England for a Nov. 8 game between two teams each at 5-3.

Packers offense vs. Patriots defense

How tough is Christian Watson? In a scene straight out of "WWE Smackdown," Watson left the last game in an ambulance, was treated at the hospital and returned to the stadium an hour later in full uniform.

Watson returned to the lineup to a raucous ovation. He revealed after the game that he is going to play with a fractured rib, and he finished the game against Carolina with a critical third down conversion. Watson went over 100 yards receiving on the night and has emerged as a go-to player in the passing game after receiving a contract extension in the offseason.

Matthew Golden shook off some early drops and had a nice night as well, including a 24-yard touchdown to help open up the Packers' lead on the scoreboard.

Ultimately, the Packers offense rises and sets with Jordan Love. Love was responsible for just under 82% of Green Bay's total yardage Oct. 29. The offensive line still is not very good. The run game has not been resurrected with the presence of Josh Jacobs.

Jacobs had some more issues rise with more reporting surrounding his current legal situation.

The NFL is monitoring that situation, and that makes Jacobs' status uncertain.

If he's on the field, not much has changed for the Packers on the ground. They're still not able to move the ball much when they turn to their ground game.

On the offensive line, Aaron Banks returned and took his spot at left guard, which shifted Laken Tomlinson to right guard. Barring an injury during the week, that seems to be the likely guard combination when the Packers head to New England.

New England has a powerful front that is built around Milton Williams and Christian Barmore.

The two defensive tackles are very disruptive with four sacks between them.

PATRIOTS, continued on page 20



Jordan Love takes a snap from John Williams.
GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

PANTHERS, continued from page 19

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As a whole, Green Bay's run game was once again a struggle, as Jacobs finished with 39 yards on 21 carries. In total, Green Bay finished with 66 total rushing yards.

Through the air, Love completed 30-of-41 passes for 288 yards, three touchdowns and one interception.

After leaving the game with a chest injury but eventually returning, Christian Watson led the Packers receiving corps with 113 yards on eight receptions. Matthew Golden added 79 yards and a touchdown on seven receptions, while Tucker Kraft totaled 53 yards and a touchdown on six receptions. Jacobs was the other recipient of Love's touchdown passes.

With the run game struggling, Thursday's game marked the sixth time Love has thrown for 270 or more yards this season. With Golden, Watson and now Kraft playing good football, Green Bay's passing attack looks like one of the better in the NFL this season.







Christian Watson was "resurrected" after a round trip in an ambulance. On the next drive after his early fumble, Watson caught a 53-yard bomb but landed on the ball and was slow to get up. He walked off on his own but was coughing up blood on the sideline, so he was taken to a local hospital in an ambulance for precautionary tests. Those tests came back clean, except for a broken rib, and he returned to the game in the second half to finish his 113-yard outing, generating quite the cheer as he re-emerged from the Packers' tunnel.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

PATRIOTS, continued from page 19

Rookie Gabe Jacas has been a find for the Patriots as well; he's coming off a game where he had 1.5 sacks against Malik Willis. The Patriots have 22 sacks as a team and just brought down Willis five times.

When the ball does go in the air, Christian Gonzalez is one of the best cornerbacks in football.

This defense has plenty of personnel to be a very stiff test for Green Bay's offense.

Packers defense vs. Patriots offense

Green Bay's defense continues to dazzle without Micah Parsons. The pass rush is coming off arguably its best game of the season. The Packers had six sacks from six different players against Carolina.

New England's offensive line struggled to finish the 2025 season, with a disastrous performance in the Super Bowl. They've been better to start this season, but Drake Maye still entered play on Sunday having been sacked 13 times this year. He was sacked three more times by the Dolphins on Sunday. There is some potential for the Packers defense to get after Maye.

Maye is an excellent quarterback, but he's had some issues taking care of the ball. He has thrown eight interceptions this season and has given other opportunities to the defense.

Maye is playing shorthanded at the moment as well. New England's prime acquisition this offseason was wide receiver AJ Brown. Brown missed Sunday's game against Miami with a knee injury that has bothered him over the years. He may be banged up going into Sunday's game.

Former Packer Romeo Doubs is on injured reserve and will miss this game. Hunter Henry was struggling with an injury on Sunday as well, which could make his status for Sunday's game uncertain.

Jonathan Gannon's group should feel good about their chances of having a big day.

Special teams

The Packers have a problem at kicker. Trey Smack leads the league with eight missed kicks on the season after adding another to his total with a missed extra point after Green Bay's first touchdown of the game.

The Packers are coming off one of their worst special teams games in terms of catastrophic mistakes.

Smack missed a PAT, and Coleman Owen, who is filling in for the injured Skyy Moore, fumbled the opening kickoff to give away Green Bay's first possession of the game. They were able to weather the storm of those two mistakes, but the Patriots are a much better team than the Panthers.

The Patriots are solid in the kicking game and a well-coached group all around with Mike Vrabel leading the charge as the head coach. Kyle Williams and Corey Kiner have both been solid as kick returners during the season. This should be a good test for the Packers special teams, which have been up and down throughout the year.

GREEN BAY PACKERS AT NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Time and date: 3:25 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8

Location: Gillette 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 5-3, Patriots 5-3.

History: Far and away the most famous matchup between these two teams came after the 1996 season.

Super Bowl XXXI saw Brett Favre and the Green Bay Packers match up against Drew Bledsoe and the New England Patriots. Favre hit Andre Rison early for a touchdown pass to give the Packers an early 7-0 lead. Eventually they fell behind 14-10, but Favre hit Antonio Freeman to give them a 17-14 lead.

The Packers would never trail again thanks to the heroics of Desmond Howard. A 99-yard kick return for a touchdown iced the game and helped Howard earn MVP honors.

Overall, the Packers lead the series 7-6. The last time these two teams met came in 2022 when Aaron Rodgers led a game-winning drive in overtime that Mason Crosby finished off with a game-winning field goal.

The last time these two teams met in Foxborough, Rodgers faced Tom Brady on Sunday Night Football. The Packers were competitive but ultimately fell short, losing 31-17.

Coaches: Packers, Matt LaFleur, eighth season, 80-42-1. Patriots, Mike Vrabel, second season, 54-45 overall.

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, W 17-14

Sunday, Oct. 11, vs. Chicago, W 31-7

Sunday, Oct. 18, vs. Dallas, W 23-13

Sunday, Oct. 25, at Detroit, L 20-17

Thursday, Oct. 29, vs. Carolina, W 27-19

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, Nov. 5

Jacksonville at Baltimore, 7:15 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 8

Cincinnati at Atlanta (in Madrid, Spain), 8:30 a.m.

Cleveland at New Orleans, noon

NY Jets at Kansas City, noon

Denver at Carolina, noon

Dallas at Indianapolis, noon

NY Giants at Philadelphia, noon

LA Rams at Washington, noon

Detroit at Miami, noon

Houston at LA Chargers, 3:05 p.m.

Arizona at Seattle, 3:25 p.m.

Las Vegas at San Francisco, 3:25 p.m.

Green Bay at New England, 3:25 p.m.

Tampa Bay at Chicago, 7:20 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 9

Buffalo at Minnesota, 7:15 p.m.

MOMENT

GREEN BAY 27, CAROLINA 19



GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

SIX PACK OF SACKS

The Green Bay Packers defense dominated the Carolina Panthers in a 27–19 victory on Thursday Night Football (Week 8) at Lambeau Field. Green Bay's pass rush came alive under defensive coordinator Jonathan Gannon, racking up six sacks from six different players (including Lukas Van Ness, Devonte Wyatt, Barryn Sorrell, Dani Dennis-Sutton, Ty'Ron Hopper and Brenton Cox Jr.) along with 25 total pressures. The Packers defense recorded two takeaways (an interception by Hopper and a red-zone end-zone interception by Zakee Wheatley, plus a forced fumble) and stopped Carolina on two fourth-down attempts.

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MOMENT

GREEN BAY 27, CAROLINA 19



GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

REDEMPTION!

Green Bay Packers wide receiver Matthew Golden redeemed himself immediately after dropping a pass in the end zone during Week 8 against the Carolina Panthers. Golden dropped a potential pass in the end zone, which led to a third-and-13 situation for the Packers offense. On the very next play, quarterback Jordan Love came back to Golden, who hauled in a touchdown pass in the end zone.

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Dennis Bohm, left, and Richard Kucksdorf, participate in the annual Veterans Day ceremony at the Shawano County Courthouse. This year, B0hm will serve as master of ceremonies, and Kucksorf will lead the Pledge of Allegiance. At right is Terry Baumgartner, commander of AMVETS Post 10. He will lead a rifle volley. GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA



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Helicopter to be centerpiece of memorial

Aircraft now in Gresham 23 years after first being requested

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief



Gresham is the new home for this AH-1 Cobra helicopter that saw enemy action in Vietnam. It will become the focal point of a new veterans memorial in the village.
CONTRIBUTED

It's been nearly a quarter century in the making, but Gresham American Legion Post 390 has its helicopter.

The AH-1 Cobra attack helicopter was delivered Oct. 9 and will rest across the street from the baseball diamond at Veterans Memorial Park and Ballfield.

"When I saw this unit come south of Gresham around the corner, I choked up. You don't know what this means to me coming full cycle," veteran Marshall Giese said. "I don't think anybody going by here will not turn their head and look over."

Post Commander Raymond Rigsby said the flags and unknown soldier tomb near the water will be moved to the site of the helicopter for a new memorial. There will also be a memorial wall of bricks honoring local veterans.

"I'm so surprised that helicopter is here with all the roadblocks," he said.

Those roadblocks didn't stop the veterans.

Rigsby said that about 18-24 months ago, the Army Donations Program began automating its system, including how it tracks the location of military surplus weapons, like the rifles owned by the Gresham American Legion Post.

He was told there was a helicopter waiting for the post, if the group still wanted it.

"I got the OK from the Legion to pursue it and submitted the (updated) paperwork," Rigsby said. "But the caveat for all this was we had to figure out how to get it here. It was down in Fort Hood, Texas. It was part of the 1st Cavalry Division's museum."

Getting it to Wisconsin was not going to be easy — or cheap.

"The Army Donations Program, while they'll award you the helicopter and deed it to you, they cannot provide any kind of support — financial or planning — to actually get the item moved to its final location," Rigsby said.

Estimates from local firms to pick up and deliver the helicopter varied from $3,400 to $5,800.

Rigsby was in Texas removing the rotors and strapping down anything that might open during transport. He received a call from Bill Graf, owner of KAM Specialized Trucking in Bonduel, who offered to make the trip at no cost to the post.

"We had an Army unit there (in Texas) that saw the value of a training opportunity to load the helicopter onto the actual trailer," Rigsby said. "So that's another cost that we didn't incur, because the crane was $3,800."

The helicopter was strapped to the trailer and, upon entering Shawano County, was escorted into Gresham by the Shawano County Sheriff's Department. The Cobra was unloaded and put back together.

"They made the sacrifice. A lot of them can't even be here to see this," Graf said, "and I have so many friends, close friends, older friends who served in Vietnam, and it makes me feel so good to be able to do that for them. It's the best thing I've ever done in 27 years of trucking."

Rigsby said tentative plans are to place the helicopter on a pedestal at an angle to appear as if it is coming in for a landing.

"I think we owe it to display it accordingly," he said.

The helicopter was damaged under enemy fire in Vietnam. After the war, it was used in South Korea, then with a Texas National Guard unit and finally with the 1st Cavalry Division museum.

"There are two mini guns underneath the pilot," Giese said. "And these mini guns would fire a thousand rounds a minute. They told us when we were over there that they could cover every square inch of the football field at that time. So it's a lot of firepower. It really is."

The two-seater has room for a gunner in front and pilot in the back.

Rigsby said they are considering repairing it to resemble what it looked like in 2003. Also, the interior needs some restoration work.

"We have some more work to do. We'v got to secure all of the hatches … to make sure it's safe," Rigsby said. "I don't anybody to cut themselves or get hurt. I want them to experience this, especially the kids, because that might encourage them to pursue something in the military."

It is hoped to break ground on the new memorial around Memorial Day 2027 with a dedication near Veterans Day 2027.

Businesses or individuals wanting to donate to the restoration and building costs can mail checks to Gresham American Legion Post 390, Attn: Gresham Veterans Park, P.O. Box 48, Gresham, WI 54128.

Rigsby can also be reached at 715-851-2251.

kpasson@newmedia-wi.com



The AH-1 Cobra helicopter is loaded at Fort Hood, Texas. KAM Specialized Trucking in Bonduel picked up and delivered the chopper to Gresham at no cost.
CONTRIBUTED



The AH-1 Cobra attack helicopter is ready for shipping from Fort Hood, Texas, to Gresham.
CONTRIBUTED

High school, elementary school honoring veterans

Oconto Falls High School is hosting area veterans, families and community members for its Veterans Day program Nov. 11 at Oconto Falls High School, 210 N. Farm Road, Oconto Falls.

A reception for veterans and their guests will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the OFHS Commons, followed by the high school assembly and program at 9 a.m. Veterans are encouraged to bring family members and guests to share in this special occasion. Upon arrival, veterans are asked to sign in so they can be recognized for their service.

Following the high school program, attendees are also invited to the combined Oconto Falls Elementary School and Abrams Elementary School Veterans Day concert, beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the school, 415 Marie Volk Drive, Oconto Falls.



Bob Schmidt loads ammunition as gunner on a 105 howitzer cannon, stationed at Pohakuhaku, Hawaii, in April 1969.
CONTRIBUTED



Currently, Bob Schmidt honors veterans by conducting honor and color guard at events and holidays, such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Schmidt is a member of the Caroline Blashe-Peters-Tober Post 456 of the American Legion.
KAY REMINGER

Schmidt kept ammunition moving during his service

Veteran goes on serving his country through law enforcement

By KAY REMINGER
Correspondent

Bob Schmidt began his military service in 1968 by willingly enlisting, despite protests from his parents.

The draft had been established, and he thought it was just a matter of time before he was called up.

After graduating high school in 1967, he began working at Marion Body Works in Marion. Knowing there was a probability that he'd be heading into the military, he checked in with the veterans service office in Shawano. There, he learned about his options: He could go in as a draftee status, picking when to enlist.

"I figured this way I could pick where they'd send me instead of just getting told where to go," said Schmidt. "It was a huge benefit because I went in October 1968, and it wasn't terribly hot in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. The weather was good. As soon as basic was over, it was close to Christmas and I got leave to come home for the holiday."

After completing U.S. basic training in Kentucky, Schmidt was sent to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for advanced individual training as a cannoneer with the 105 howitzer cannon.

"From there, I got orders to go to Hawaii for what I'd thought was advanced jungle training because the Vietnam War was big right then," said Schmidt. "The Hawaiian National Guard was put on duty for six years. So as they aged out, I was called to fill in. I ended up in the Hawaiian National Guard. They'd load us up on planes, fly us over from our barracks to Honolulu to the Big Island of Hawaii, putting us way up in the mountains, right up there next to the volcanoes."

Soon after Schmidt got off the plane at Honolulu, they heard former President Dwight Eisenhower had died. Within the first day, he was there when the infantry conducted a 21-gun salute at the military cemetery in Hawaii. The unit wasn't stationed on the Big Island however, so they had to fly all the guns and the trucks and the unit back over to the cemetery.

As a gunner on a howitzer, which had a range of several miles, Schmidt was put in charge of loading the ammunition.

"The bullets were huge. I was one of the guys that started out loading the ammunition. I had to put the shells together with different charges of powder. They came separated. The gun powder came in little packs with strings on it and however many needed to get the proper distance, you load that many packs in."

Just before leaving his military service, anything happening in the Pacific area, his unit would have been the first to be released to serve. At one point, Schmidt's battalion was on the tarmac for three days awaiting any further flare-ups.

"Our unit was ready to be deployed with guns and trucks and equipment loaded up on huge C-141 planes," said Schmidt. "We were there waiting and thankfully did not have to head out."

Released after serving his two-year assignment, Schmidt had earned the rank of corporal. He returned to Wisconsin and tried his hand at a number of potential careers, such as working at Four Wheel Drive in Clintonville, then running a backhoe to put in septic systems and eventually, for a time, hauling calves all over the United States.

"I even tried my hand at selling insurance. That didn't work; I was terrible," said Schmidt.

Then he noticed an ad in the paper for the sheriff's office in Shawano and applied for the position.

"And darned if I didn't get the job," said Schmidt.

Beginning with the police force in 1974, his salary was $450 per month.

"This job had no overtime, and we were put on 12-hour shifts if needed," said Schmidt.

Moving quickly up the ranks, Schmidt went from jailer, to dispatcher, to patrolman – all in less than a year.

"Through the years progressing within the department, I was supervisor under different sheriffs and moved up to sergeant where I was running a shift. In the late 1980s with 20 years in, I felt the time was right to run for Shawano County sheriff," said Schmidt. "The crew made me look good. I was the face. I was lucky enough I could talk to people, and I let my guys do the work. I retired in 2007 after serving in the police force for 33 years."

Schmidt is a member of the Caroline Legion Blashe-Peters-Tober Post 456 of the American Legion where he attends monthly meetings.

"Our main purpose as veterans is to do as much as we can to honor past veterans, to donate what we can, where it will do as much good as possible," said Schmidt.

To honor all servicemen and women who've served, Schmidt – along with the Caroline Legion branch – takes part in color and honor guards for Memorial Day and Veterans Day events, parades and especially presenting the honor guard at military funerals.

Before the fireworks at the annual National Night Out in Marion, the organization conducts a special tribute gun salute. Instead of using rifles as usual, fireworks are discharged. As Schmidt gives the command to fire, they shoot a rocket off.

"I think in my military time, I served I was very fortunate of where I went – what I got to see and do. Plus, I get great benefits now with the VA and good health insurance. They don't owe me, I owe them," said Schmidt.

Breakfast, Blackhawk part of school ceremony

The Shawano School District will host veterans, their families and community members in a special Veterans Day celebration Nov. 10 at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B, Shawano.

Attendees should use Entrance 1 or Entrance 35.

The morning will begin with breakfast at 8:30 a.m., followed by an anticipated Blackhawk helicopter landing at 9:30 a.m. The Veterans Day ceremony will begin at 9:45 a.m.

Breakfast is complimentary for veterans and $5 for all other attendees.

The celebration is made possible through the support of the Shawano School District and generous community partners – including Shawano's Hometown Heroes, the event's breakfast sponsor, and Charlie's County Market and Fire Fitness Camp Shawano, the event's flower sponsors.

"This is an opportunity for our students, staff and community to come together in gratitude and recognize the sacrifices made by those who have served our country," wrote Kurt Krizan, superintendent, in a press release. "We are proud to honor our veterans and grateful to the community partners who help make this special event possible."

Kucksdorf serves 34 years for his country

Retired colonel helped bring democracy to Iraq

By KAY REMINGER
Correspondent



Col. Richard Kucksdorf, second from left, pauses for a photo with his family, from left, son Mike Kucksdorf, wife Connie Kucksdorf and daughter Amber Beran as they celebrate Kucksdorf's retirement in March 2014 at the Menominee Casino Resort in Keshena. Many were in attendance helping the colonel note over three decades of decorated service to his country. CONTRIBUTED

Col. Richard Kucksdorf retired from military service on December 2013, after serving 34 years with the United States Army.

"When I was a kid in sixth grade, I started reading military history," said Kucksdorf. "By the time I got to high school, they had big libraries and more of a selection. I read every book on World War I and World War II, drawing navy ships, designing what I thought would be a perfect navy ship. I had every notion I'd join the navy."

Graduating high school in 1972, the draft had ended January 1973. A few of Kucksdorf's friends at that time decided to go to college to avoid the draft, as they wanted to go "discover themselves."

"My dad's concept was if you wanted to discover yourself, stay home and shovel cow manure," said Kucksdorf. "So, I decided I was going to go off on my own. I knew I could get the GI bill to pay for my college education.

"Me and a few friends decided to join the military. We did what was called a 'delayed entry' in April 1972. We went on active duty July 1, 1972."

Kucksdorf was stationed in Korea for a year. During that deployment, he taught English at a Korean orphanage. His battalion financially helped to support this orphanage, populated with children of American soldiers. They were shunned because of their genetics.

In May 1975, three years after enlisting, Kucksdorf's father experienced a back injury, and Kucksdorf was discharged with a hardship discharge to work on the farm. After his discharge and working on the farm for about six months, Kucksdorf was employed at different jobs while still living at home and working on the farm.

Stopping in one day at the National Guard Armory in Clintonville, he'd developed friendships with guys who prompted him to sign up with the Wisconsin National Guard.

"After signing up for the National Guard, everything fell into place for me. I just knew this was what I was supposed to be doing," said Kucksdorf.

Kucksdorf received his commission by attending Officers Candidate School (OCS). He was commissioned as a second lieutenant Dec. 6, 1985. Kucksdorf attended several active-duty professional development schools and served in various positions in the Wisconsin National Guard, rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel. Kucksdorf transferred from the National Guard on Oct. 1, 2002, to the United States Army Reserves stationed at Fort Sheridan, Illinois.



Col. Richard Kucksdorf poses in his dress greens at his home in rural Bonduel in the summer of 2008. CONTRIBUTED

Kucksdorf had various jobs during his 34-year career, from enlisted soldier rising to the rank of sergeant before attending OCS and getting a commission. Kucksdorf was promoted to colonel on Feb. 6, 2006.

"I met a lot of good people," Kucksdorf said. "Went to 32 different states, spent time in Korea and Iraq, including two combat commands in Iraq. In Iraq, I was not part of a unit but was an individual selectee and was combined with other individual selectees. We were put into nine-man teams. Almost everyone had combat experience or an equivalent. Every member of the team was a staff sergeant or above or a captain or above. We'd help them plan missions and watch them conduct the mission. Our goal was to be sure they could plan a mission on how to capture and defeat 'the bad guys.'"

Kucksdorf's first command was taking several nine-man teams to embed with the Iraqis. His teams assisted with setting up the first Iraqi constitution and assisting to safeguard the vote Oct. 15, 2005. Next was the first-ever election for president, which happened Dec. 15, 2005. Kucksdorf's second Iraq command was to advise the Iraqi CORP Commander who commanded 20,000 Iraqi troops.

Kucksdorf and his embedded nine-man teams helped establish a democracy in Iraq.

"We wanted them to be able to stand on their own. We wanted to get out of there," he said. "There was one nine-man team setting up Ministry of Oil or Energy, another one setting up Ministry of Agriculture and the first-ever version of the Iraqi Stock Exchange. Iraq had none of that."

Since retiring, Kucksdorf has written a book that at this time requires a process for clearance of classified and sensitive material by the Department of Defense prior to publishing. The book doesn't focus on combat but instead emphasizes establishing an Iraqi government and building their democracy.

One job Kucksdorf was assigned was to write what was called the Military Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE), which detailed what equipment a corps requires, such as how many vehicles, rifles, pistols, what mechanics tool kits, dental kits, barber kits, cooking kits, etc. are necessary – everything an army of 20,000 men would need. The MTOE was established in order for the United States to know what type and how many items they would need when they sent equipment to supply this Iraqi corps.

In 2006, Kucksdorf was asked by an active duty general to be a G-3, or chief of operations for an active-duty division to assist with the mobilization of American units to deploy overseas. The unit was 1st Army Division East, located at Fort Mead, Maryland.

Kucksdorf was in charge of all operations and training of all mobilizations. If a unit was mobilized to a fort east of the Mississippi River, that unit fell under the jurisdiction of Kucksdorf. He made sure the soldiers were trained, equipped and healthy, which included dental work.

"Many times, I'd have to fly in a team of oral surgeons and hygienists to get them healthy before deployment," said Kucksdorf.

Graduating in 2010 from the War College at the Carlisle Barracks in Pennsylvania, Kucksdorf earned double masters in international relations and strategic studies. This was an extremely competitive school with over 14,000 applicants. Just under 700 were accepted and approximately 300 U.S. and international students graduated.

Currently, Kucksdorf heads up one of two boards for selecting attendees to military academies from the 8th Congressional District for U.S. Rep. Tony Wied. Kucksdorf interviews potential applicants that desire to enter a military academy such as West Point, Air Force Academy, Naval Academy, Merchant Marine, etc. Kucksdorf peruses everything from academics, to extracurricular activities to attitudes.

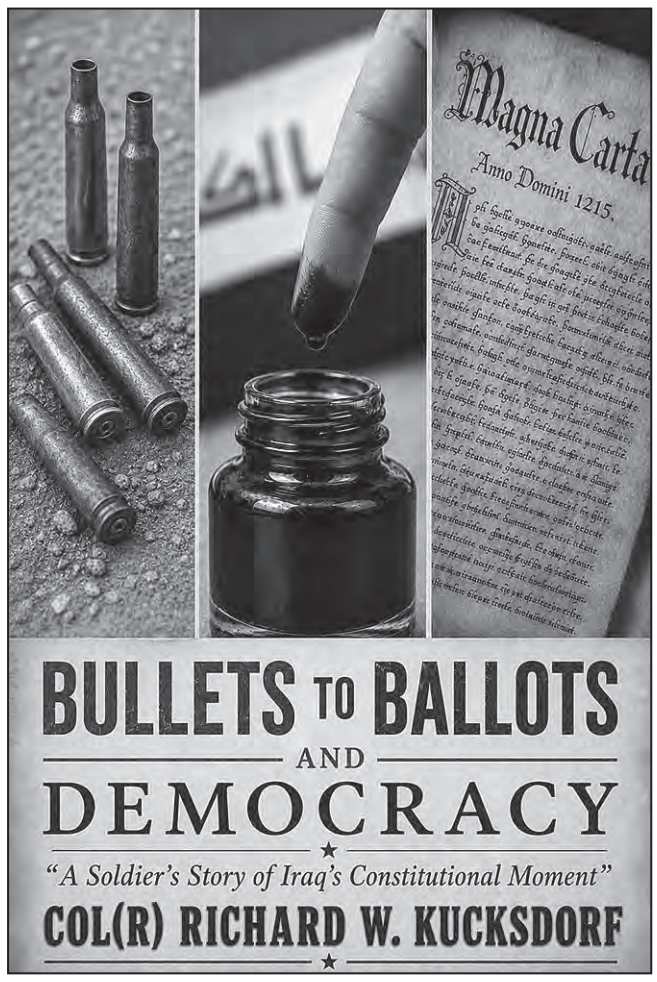
During his military career, Kucksdorf was extremely grateful for his supportive wife, Connie.

"She did everything. We're a good team. There's no way that I could have been as successful in the military if Connie hadn't been there to support me. Done deal," said Kucksdorf. "We also have wonderful neighbors who helped her out."

Like all National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers, Kucksdorf had a dual career. Besides the military, Kucksdorf was with the United States Postal Service, retiring as postmaster of the Kaukauna Post Office.

Kucksdorf encourages any young man or woman graduating high school or out for a few years finding themselves without a purpose, to join the military. They'd be trained in any profession they'd be interested in, be it dental hygienist, electrician, welder, logger, diesel mechanic, electronics on an airplane, police force, etc. It would pay for college or a establish a home loan.

"In the military, everybody starts on the same line, no pecking order. You either step up to the plate or you don't. The military won't give up on you if you don't give up on you," said Kucksdorf. "People tell me, 'Thanks for your service,' but I honestly say, I can never give back as much as I've been given. This is a great country, has given me lots of opportunities, and I got to work with some pretty phenomenal people. We're a family."



"Bullets to Ballots," written by Richard Kucksdorf, chronicles establishing an Iraqi government and building their democracy. As yet unpublished, the book requires a process for clearance of classified and sensitive material by the Department of Defense. CONTRIBUTED

Burrack spent year in Vietnam fighting war

Marine came home, served as police officer for 28 years

By LYNN ZAFFRANN
Correspondent



Former Shawano police officer Bernie Burrack stands in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post in Shawano. Burrack was in the Marines for four years, deployed to Vietnam from February 1970 to February 1971. LYNN ZAFFRANN

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 206 in Shawano is the local post for veterans who served between Nov. 1, 1955, and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location from Aug. 5, 1964, to May 7, 1975.

The chapter meets at the new Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2723, 820 S. Olson St., Shawano.

Bernie Burrack, of Shawano, a U.S. Marine and veteran of the Vietnam War, is a past president of the chapter, which he joined in 2005.

He was encouraged to join the VVA by Chet Hanson, a Shawano County deputy, who was a big motivator in getting the VVA chapter going in Shawano.

Initially, Burrack didn't really care to have much to do with anything service-related.

"Coming back from Vietnam wasn't a good experience," he said. "It left me a little bitter. I joined in 2005 and found a very nice group of guys to be around and to work with. You feel at home with this group of Vietnam vets because we all have something we can relate to."

He also joined the Suring American Legion Post, where he was vice commander for a number of years.

Burrack, who grew up on a dairy farm near Suring and graduated from Suring High School, entered the United States Marine Corps on July 30, 1969.

"About seven months after that," he said, "I was on my way to Vietnam. When I got to Vietnam, I was assigned to the 7th Engineer Battalion, Charlie Company."

Burrack said that when he got there Feb. 8, 1970, Vietnam was kind of a crazy place. His first week was spent at battalion headquarters in Dog Patch, near Da Nang.

Dog Patch was a settlement near the Da Nang Air Base, managed by the U.S. military. A lot of Marines, like Burrack, passed through there before going on to their assigned posts.

"My first night in-country, five mortar rounds came in at battalion headquarters," he said. "I found the next day that it was Marines who had got kicked out of the enlisted men's club. They got back to their hill and sent the mortar rounds into the base."

One of the rounds landed next to the hut that Burrack and other new Marines were in. He commented: "That was different".

"On my first week on Hill 37 with Charlie Company, someone threw a frag into the staff NCO (non-commissioned officer) hut," Burrack said. "That killed an ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) staff sergeant, I think."

He said that for his first week and a half in Vietnam, he wondered what was going on.

"I was assigned to headquarters platoon with Charlie Company, and I drove a dump truck," Burrack said. "We built roads."

He said that 7th Charley Company got pulled out around November 1970, and he was going to go back to the United States with them. But because he had motion sickness and they were taking all of the equipment back on a boat, he didn't leave with them.

"Someone looked at my orders and saw that I had a few months due left in-country," Burrack said. "At that time, there was a year rotation."

From there, Burrack went to 1st Medical Battalion and worked in security at the hospital. He stayed there until February 1971 when he rotated back home.

"I got back to the States, and I was a driving instructor for about six months," Burrack said. "That was very enjoyable."

He said he had to train two young Marines from Chicago who didn't even know how to ride a bicycle, and he taught them how to drive trucks.

"That was fun," Burrack said. "From there I went to Marine Barracks in Alameda, California, which was a Naval Air Station."

Burrack was there for just short of two years. He said that he didn't enjoy it too much in Alameda because it was a "lot of spit and polish."

After his time in the Marines ended, Burrack went to Northeast Wisconsin Technical College to study police science. In 1975, he was hired by the Shawano Police Department and worked there for 28 years, retiring in 2003.

"At the police department, myself and another officer started the K-9 program," Burrack said. "I got to work with my dog, Marco, for almost 10 years."

Burrack was also a firearms instructor for the department for about 23 years.

Veterans Day observance traced to World War I

Veterans Day is intended to thank and honor all those who served honorably in the military — living or dead, whether in wartime or peace.

In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank living veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who serve have sacrificed and done their duty.

While Veterans Day is often confused with Memorial Day, the two observances serve different purposes and have different histories. Memorial Day, which has its roots in the post-Civil War effort to "memorialize" all those who died in that war, has become a modern holiday to remember those from all wars and conflicts who gave their lives in service to the country.

To ensure the sacrifices of America's fallen heroes are never forgotten, in December 2000 the U.S. Congress passed and the president signed into law The National Moment of Remembrance Act. It was designed to "encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their country, which provides them so much freedom and opportunity" by encouraging and coordinating commemorations of Memorial Day and the National Moment of Remembrance. The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for two minutes of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation.

Veterans Day, however, was first known as Armistice Day. It was a celebration of the resolution of World War I, a peace recognized historically on the date and time of that event — Nov. 11, 1918, at 11 a.m. The day salutes surviving service members as well as those who have passed away since their service.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming Nov. 11 as Veterans Day and called upon Americans everywhere to rededicate themselves to the cause of peace.

He issued a presidential order directing the head of the Veterans Administration (now the Department of Veterans Affairs) to form a Veterans Day National Committee to organize and oversee the national observance of Veterans Day.

In 1968, in keeping with the Monday Holiday Bill, Congress briefly moved Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It became quickly apparent, however, that the American public held fast to the historical significance of the First World War armistice on Nov. 11. So, in 1978, Veterans Day was returned permanently to its traditional date.

Hence, the Veterans Day National Ceremony is held each year on Nov. 11 at Arlington National Cemetery. At 11 a.m. Eastern Standard Time, a color guard made up of members from each branch of the military renders honors to America's deceased veterans during a tradition-rich ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The president or his representative places a wreath at the tomb, and a bugler sounds taps. The balance of the ceremony, including a parade of flags by veterans service organizations, takes place inside the memorial amphitheater, adjacent to the tomb.

On Oct. 7, 2016, President Barack Obama signed the Veterans Day Moment of Silence Act. The law requires that the president issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe a two-minute national moment of silence on Veterans Day at 3:11 p.m. Atlantic standard time, 2:11 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, 1:11 p.m. Central Standard Time, 12:11 p.m. Mountain Standard Time, 11:11 a.m. Pacific Standard Time, 10:11 a.m. Alaska Standard Time and 9:11 a.m. Hawaii-Aleutian Standard Time.

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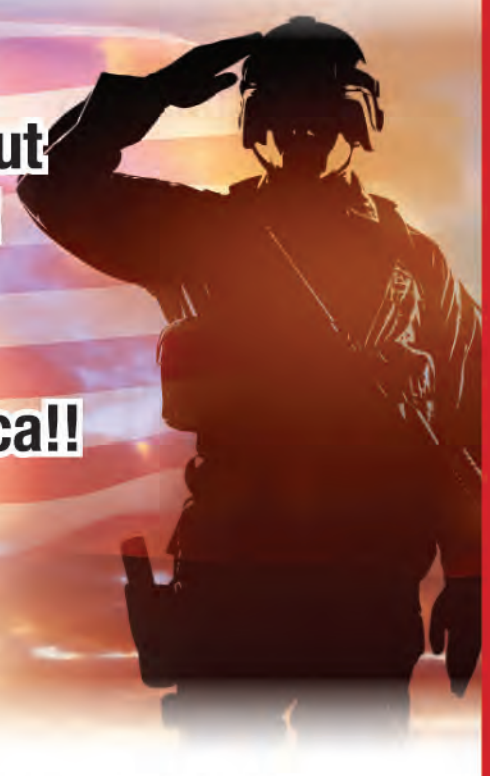
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First tour included hijacked airplane

Russians held Borchardt, others for 3 days

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

Mike Borchardt spent only three years in the U.S. Army, but it was an experience he'll never forget.

Less than a year after graduating from Wittenberg High School in 1967, Borchardt was on an airplane for the first of two tours of Vietnam during the height of the Vietnam War.

"I enlisted (in the Army) my senior year," he said. "I knew I was going to get drafted because I wasn't college material, so I went and enlisted on what they called the 90-day delay. I had 90 days before I went in for active duty."

Borchardt headed to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, for basic training and then Fort Polk, Louisiana, for advanced individual training.

"From there, I went to Vietnam," he said. "I had just turned 19, fresh out of high school. Just about everybody who went in was going to Vietnam. It was just a matter of what my infantry was going to be. We went over as replacement troops. There were 212 of us, and none of us knew each other – all strangers from all over."

Before arriving in Vietnam, however, Borchardt experienced something most veterans never did.

Borchardt and more than 200 other soldiers left for Vietnam on an airplane out of Tacoma, Washington, on June 30, 1968. He said the plane stopped for fuel in Anchorage, Alaska, and the next stop was supposed to be Yokota, Japan.



Mike Borchardt and his wife, Dar Ryba-Borchardt, hold a small quilt that Dar made for her husband a few years ago to mark his years of service in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. Borchardt served two tours of duty in Vietnam before returning to his hometown of Wittenberg, while Ryba-Borchardt traveled to Vietnam with her all-girl band, the She Five. Borchardt saw the She Five perform in Vietnam, but the two didn't meet until they returned to the United States and started working at the same place in Little Chute. GREG SEUBERT

En route, Borchardt looked out and saw small aircraft with red stars.

"I thought we were getting an escort into Yokota," he said. "We didn't know what was going on. We started going down and there was nothing but water. It was like we were going to nosedive into the water and all of a sudden, the plane came back up to turn around. These planes started shooting at us, and I thought we were crashing into the water. The island was so small, a landing strip on this Japanese island, but it was Russian territory. It was the Russian military that forced us down, but they were piloted by the Japanese."

The plane landed on one in a chain of islands off the coast of Japan. Borchardt didn't know what was happening, but he recalled the locals coming out of their cabins.

"The plane was boarded by the Russian military, and the first thing they made us do was pull all the window shades down so we couldn't see outside," he said. "We didn't know where we were. We had no clue. We were all individuals. There was nobody in charge of us. We didn't have a teacher or sergeant telling us what was going on. Of course, the Russians or Japanese didn't speak any English. It was all hand communication until they got an interpreter."

Borchardt and the other American soldiers eventually learned they were being held as captive prisoners.

"We were held captive for three days," he said. "The locals came with big 5-pound loaves of bread for us to eat. We were just sitting in this plane in the dark on this runway. I got off the plane once in that three-day time to go to the bathroom. They took you out three persons at a time with five to seven military guards on you and took you out into the woods."

All these years later, Borchardt said he still has no idea what Russia's intention was to do with the plane and the soldiers. Russia supported the North Vietnamese fighters during the war.

"Basically, we were going to fight against them," Borchardt said. "They knew where we were going. I found out years later that all the locals were out in the bay in their boats, waiting to pick up the bodies when the plane crashed."

Eventually, the soldiers made it to Yokota.

"Reporters were there wanting to talk to us, but we didn't have time," Borchardt said. "We finally got to Vietnam and were interrogated there for two days from military higher-ups from the U.S. They wanted to hear what happened. After we told them, they pretty much looked at you and said, 'Everything you said did not happen.' It was bigger news in Russia than it was in the U.S. I couldn't tell you if it was on the national news."

Borchardt and the other soldiers eventually left for their assigned units.

"If you could stay alive for a year, you could come back to the U.S. and tell your parents," he said. "Of the 212 that went there, to this day, I only know of two who were on that plane."

After spending a year in Vietnam, Borchardt returned to the United States to Fort Carson, Colorado, and later returned for a second seven-month-long tour from 1970-71.

"I was a truck driver (on the first tour), so I ran convoy everyday hauling ammunition to the base camp and other camps," he said. "On my second tour, I was on a gun truck."

Borchardt was discharged from the Army upon his return in February 1971.

Although Borchardt isn't active in any local veterans' groups, he and his wife have attended several Vietnam War veteran reunions in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

"There are five or six guys that were in my same unit," he said. "There was only one that I knew personally, but the other ones were there when I was there. I didn't really know them because the unit was that big."

Borchardt ended up spending less than two of his 77 years in Vietnam and only three of them in the Army.

"When I first got out, we were treated very poorly," he said. "It's been within the last 10 years where the Vietnam vet is finally starting to get some recognition. People now will come up and say 'thank you' where they never did before. You figure the youngest Vietnam vet is in his early 70s. It won't be long and they'll all be gone."

seubert4@gmail.com

There are reasons America respects veterans



LEE PULASKI
CITY EDITOR

You look at the red, white and blue coming down the street during a parade, and there's a veteran of the United States Armed Forces holding it up high. Others surround him carrying the flags for the state of Wisconsin, the branches of our military, the one for our prisoners of war and more. It's a beautiful sight to see, but we only see the surface of some incredible stories – most honorable, a few tragic, but all having a link to defending freedom and protecting us.

There are about 15.7 million veterans living in the United States, according to the U.S. Census. They make up less than 6% of the total population in the country. One in four of them served in the Persian Gulf from 1990 to the present. Almost 30% served after 9/11. Another 31.3% served during the Vietnam War.

Most of us have family members who have served in peacetime and war. My father served in Vietnam with the U.S. Army, and I have a cousin who spent many years with the U.S. Navy. Whether called upon by this country through the draft, or whether men and women volunteer to give up a few years – or sometimes a few decades – to make sure some other country doesn't waltz in and trample on our freedom, those who serve in the military have earned our respect.

In 2005, there were 23 million veterans in the United States, so fewer people are entering the military. That makes it all the more important that we realize those who do need to be given respect. They didn't have to give up time in their lives to protect us from harm. They didn't have to follow orders and engage enemies foreign and domestic. They did it because it meant being part of something bigger than themselves. They did it because they realize that freedom isn't a one-and-done deal, because if you get too complacent, some other country decides the grass is greener here and invades.

The saying goes that we, as a country, owe veterans a debt we can never repay, but that doesn't stop us from trying. Unfortunately, there are times like it seems we aren't trying hard enough.

The Veterans Administration has had a spotty history when it comes to helping the men and women who come home from war with scars both physical and psychological. Oftentimes, those people seeking help are told there are too many others ahead of them, and they'll just have to wait. The United States government sends them to war zones, and then we just assume that, once they come back home, everything immediately returns to normal as though all you have to do is flip a switch.

It doesn't work that way.

Many of our veterans return without some of the limbs they had that worked perfectly fine when they left. Many were sent into areas filled with poison, and when they came home, their bodies stopped working properly. It's not like Hollywood movies where the soldier comes home, kisses his wife and they live happily ever after.

Some veterans return home, and because of their difficulties assimilating back into society, they soon lose their homes. Some of those homeless bums are folks who agreed to serve in the military, and they were poorly repaid. Veterans who give up a few years to serve in combat should not end up on the streets because our society hasn't figured out how to care for these people.

Besides dying from neglect, many of our service members end up taking their own lives. In the VA's 2026 annual report on veteran suicides, it found 6,488 veterans died this way in 2024 – almost 18 per day. The report found 62% of those suicides were from veterans not receiving VA health care at the time. Even though the veterans enrolled in VA care rose from 19.5% in 2001 to 50.1% in 2024, that means half of our freedom fighters don't access care.

I've seen a number of tributes to veterans in Shawano, Bonduel, Wittenberg, Oconto Falls and other communities. Whether it's service organizations or schools, they say some amazing things about our veterans and beam with pride as they see them stand on request when someone at a podium asks if any veterans are present.

That's a very good start to try to repay the debt to these fine men and women, but it shouldn't be the standard. When we see them in uniform, thanking them is only one part of what should be done. America's finest should be able to enjoy the freedoms we do, and that includes a roof over their heads, medical care when they're suffering and putting them into places of employment so they don't have to worry about whether they can provide for their families.

Nov. 11 is designated as Veterans Day, but as far as I'm concerned, we should be making sure every day benefits veterans. They did a lot for us, and we should never stop doing things for them.

Lee Pulaski is the city editor for the Shawano Leader and the Oconto County Times Herald. Readers can contact him at lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com.

Organization recognizes Vietnam veterans

For more than 40 years, VVA supports those who served

By LYNN ZAFFRANN
Correspondent



Richard Waalkens, left, a member of the Shawano chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America, gives a report Oct. 13 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Clubhouse in Shawano. From left, Phil Nelson, treasurer, Bill Williams, president, and Kirby Shapiro, secretary, listen to his report. The report was a last man standing scenario about how local chapters should proceed when their numbers get too low to sustain the chapter. LYNN ZAFFRANN

When World War II veterans returned from the war, they were treated as heroes, with parades and other celebrations.

Multiple federal and state government programs were created to help them return to life at home. Various veteran groups welcomed them to join.

This didn't happen for Vietnam veterans. They came home to anti-war demonstrations and negative community sentiment. They were either ignored or blamed for the unpopular war.

"I didn't want to join any veteran groups, mostly because of the way the Vietnam veterans had been treated," said Bernie Burrack, a U.S. Marine veteran.

By the late 1970s, it was clear that veterans groups had failed to address the issues of concern for Vietnam veterans. So, in 1979, a group of Vietnam veterans founded the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA). They pledged to advocate and provide help for Vietnam veterans.

This national veterans service organization is comprised of, and for, Vietnam veterans. It called for local chapters, just like the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Chet Hanson and Val Johnson were instrumental in forming Shawano's VVA Chapter 206 in 1984, according to Burrack, a Shawano resident and VVA member.

"This was even before the Green Bay local chapter started," Burrack said.

Hanson and Johnson have since died.

Richard T. Nuske became president of the Shawano VVA in 1991 and served until his death in 2006, according to his wife, Virginia Nuske.

"VVA is very good in supporting vets in the community. They made a lot of sacrifices," Virginia Nuske said.

She was very active in the Shawano VVA, supporting her husband with the many projects the chapter ran.

"The Shawano VVA chapter raises money for scholarships," Virginia Nuske said. "One of the past fundraisers was operating a food stand at the Shawano County Fair."

At the age of 90, Virginia Nuske has managed the scholarship program for the Shawano VVA for the last 15 years. Scholarship applicants must interview a Vietnam veteran and write an essay about the interview to submit with an application.

"Two $1,000 scholarships are now going to grandchildren of the VVA members, maybe even great-grandchildren," she said.

Burrack joined the Shawano VVA in 2005 and became its president, serving until last spring. Bill Williams is the current president.

"The VVA used to do brat fries until about two years ago at Qualheim's and Charlie's Market," Burrack said. "This was a good way for us to raise money."

Another way the VVA raises funds is by selling orange blossoms, similar to the American Legion's crepe paper poppy sales around Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

"We sell orange blossoms, using the colors of the South Vietnam flag," Burrack said. "We do this on March 29 every year, which is National Vietnam Veterans Day."

Burrack said that about two years ago, two local Shawano gas stations stopped letting the VVA sell the crepe flowers at their sites.

"This left us with Charlie's market and Qualheim's," Burrack said. "Surprisingly, we made a couple of hundred dollars more last year, with two less locations to sell from."

Shawano VVA donates money mostly to two special causes. Besides the scholarships, the organization gives to Old Glory Honor Flight.

When the Shawano VVA was first formed, the group met at the Lighthouse Bar and Grill. Then, it wasn't too long before the VVA was welcomed to use the facilities at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Clubhouse at 202 W. Lieg Ave. When the VFW moved to its new location at 820 S. Olson Ave., the VVA was welcomed there, also.

VVA meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at the VFW, starting at 7 p.m.

The Shawano chapter has 40 active members. Ross Langhurst, a VVA member since 1985, has the longest tenure in the Shawano chapter.

"I remember marching in one particular Veterans Day parade in the early 1980s with Vietnam veterans," Langhurst said. "We went down Main Street. and turned onto Fifth Street. There was a woman there who called out 'thank you' to us. For almost all of us Vietnam veterans, that was the first time we heard that."

The aging of VVA's population is a concern to the VVA, but mostly on the national level.

"I don't see that as a big concern for us now," Williams said.

Langhurst said that he knows there any many Vietnam veterans in Shawano County and they would be welcome to join.

The Shawano VVA Chapter 206 can be reached by mail at P.O. Box 639, Shawano, WI 54166-0639 or by phone at 715-526-2449.

Spaghetti dinner in Suring to honor veterans

Vets 4 Vets of Northeast Wisconsin will honor local veterans during its 24th annual Veterans' Appreciation Spaghetti Dinner from 3-6 p.m. Nov. 11 at Red Maple Country Club, 501 Golf Course Road, Suring.

Organizers of the Veterans Day gathering invite veterans, their families, friends and community members to share a meal while supporting efforts to assist and recognize those who have served.

All veterans will receive a free spaghetti dinner and a special gift. Dinners for non-veterans are $7 per person, and takeout will be available.

Wabeno American Legion Post 44 is sponsoring two free cabin giveaways at Camp American Legion for the 2027 season. All veterans in attendance may enter a free drawing, with two winners each receiving a one-week cabin stay. Vets 4 Vets expressed its thanks to Post 44 for its generous sponsorship and continued support of the organization.

The event will feature several opportunities to support the organization, including silent auctions, ten-liner raffles, 50/50 raffles and a meat raffle. A special 52-card raffle will offer a Steve Brickner model train, with additional activities planned throughout the afternoon.

Organizers are accepting donated items for the silent auctions. Businesses, organizations and individuals interested in contributing can email vets4vetsnew@gmail.com to arrange a donation or request more information about the event.

Vets 4 Vets of Northeast Wisconsin is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization made up of veterans and non-veterans. Through community involvement and fundraising, the group works to fulfill its mission of assisting and honoring veterans in Northeast Wisconsin. Proceeds from the dinner will support local veterans and veterans' families.

Community members are encouraged to bring a favorite veteran, gather with family and friends or attend on their own. The annual dinner provides an opportunity to express appreciation for military service while helping the organization continue its work throughout the region.

Patriotism encouraged Ensrud to enlist

Pella man served in US Marines from June 1968 to July 1969

By LYNN ZAFFRANN
Correspondent



Dave Ensrud, of Pella, a Vietnam Veterans of America Shawano Chapter member, stands after a VVA meeting in the Herbert E. McLaughlin VFW Post 2723 at 820 S. Olson Ave. in Shawano. Ensrud served in Vietnam as a U.S. Marine for 12 months and 20 days, which the Marines called "12 and 20," from June 1968 to July 1969. Originally from California, his youngest son asked him if he wanted to move to the Shawano area and he packed up and did so.
LYNN ZAFFRANN

More than 2.7 million military personnel (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard) actively served in Vietnam, with 1 million to 1.6 million who either fought in combat, provided close support or were at least fairly regularly exposed to enemy attack.

Vietnam veterans weren't discharged back home with parades or recognition of any kind. This was unlike military who returned home from other wars.

Dave Ensrud is a U.S. Marine who enlisted Sept. 15, 1966, when he was 19.

"A lot of us didn't particularly want to go to war, although we felt it was kind of our duty," he said.

Ensrud noted patriotism "was on a big high" while he was in high school, and there was a lot of enthusiasm.

"When I came home in 1969, it was exactly the opposite. I heard of a lot of people having problems dealing with civilians or ex-military. I never had any of that. I don't think I was really ostracized, but I felt that I was. I was suffering from PTSD."

One time long after the war, when he was hunting with his sons, he experienced something like a flashback to his time in service. He heard shots fired in the woods and immediately dropped to the ground in a prone position with his rifle at the ready.

"Being a Marine, we were very well indoctrinated with whatever had to happen," Ensrud said. "I was happy that the person who had shot didn't step out."

A year after high school graduation, Ensrud made a decision to enlist.

"I had made a pact with a friend of mine, that whoever got his draft notice first, would go in with him, or him with me," he said.

Ensrud's friend was drafted first. The two of them went to visit the Air Force recruiter. The date of his friend's draft notice was apparently too recent, so they couldn't enlist. The same thing happened when they went to the Navy Recruitment office.

Neither of them wanted to go into the Army, so they tried the Marine Corps.

"No problem there," Ensrud said.

He enlisted for three years.

After boot camp at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, Ensrud was trained for electronics-radar. Then he went to Marine Corps Air Station in Cherry Point, North Carolina, to join a light anti-air missile battalion and spent about a year there.

Ensrud said he got tired of being in the Marines and stateside during a war.

"Not a good place to be," he said. "The first time a billet came up for Vietnam, I volunteered."

He served in Vietnam from June 1968 to July 1969. His initial duty station was in Chu Lai, a major Marine base situated on the coast in central Vietnam.

"I was in what was called 'I Corps,'" Ensrud said. "Vietnam was divided up into different sections, Corps I, II, III, IV. I Corps was in the very northern area, Chu Lai north up to the DMZ (demilitarized zone)."

According to Ensrud, in 1968 they were already downsizing his location when his unit arrived.

"We never fired a missile, he said. "I was there about 3 1/2 months."

Ensrud said that the unit he was with shipped back home. He was moved on to Da Nang, where he spent the rest of his tour.

In 1965, the U.S. Marine Corps had deployed an MIM23 Hawk Missile Battalion to South Vietnam, a pivotal moment marking a shift from advisory roles with the Army of the Republic of Vietnam to direct combat operations.

"Because the Hawk Missile Battalion was made up of mobile units, and because there wasn't much air attack coming from the north, we didn't have much to do," Ensrud said. "So, they would send us out on patrol. I was on Hill 327 to the west of Da Nang, overlooking the air field."

He earned the rank of corporal during his time in-country.

"I was on guard duty in Vietnam from the very first day I got there to the very last day I was there," he said.

Ensrud recalled about being on the hill in a bunker on his very last night in Vietnam, when fire started coming in near his perimeter. It turned out to be that there was a bunker of motor transport people who were stoned on barbiturates and were seeing enemies everywhere and were shooting at everything, including Ensrud's bunker.

"When that night finally ended, I got my seabag and hopped on a Jeep after I got my orders," he said. "It was quite a night. Weird stuff happened like that all the time. It kept us on our toes."

After his discharge, finding a job was difficult at first.

He pursued his education through the GI Bill and earned degrees in geology, then computer science and finally a teaching degree. These mostly kept him employed, and he retired from a teaching position in northern California.

Originally from California, Ensrud said that his son was instrumental in his moving to the Shawano area and settling in Pella. He said that he's never regretted the move.

"I love it here," he said.

Ensrud hunts and fishes and is active in the Shawano Vietnam Veterans of America, which he joined about five years ago.



Vraney served in US during Vietnam War

More than 2/3 of Vietnam vets did not serve in Vietnam

By LYNN ZAFFRANN
Correspondent

During the Vietnam War era (Aug. 5, 1964, to May 7, 1975), there were a total of 9,087,000 active military members. Of those, 6,377,082 never served in Vietnam.

The military personnel who didn't serve in Vietnam were stationed in the United States and all over the world. They served in various categories, many duties directly related to supporting the troops in Vietnam.

Dick Vraney, of Keshena, was an Army draftee who wasn't sent to Vietnam. In 1968, 19-year-old Vraney knew that he would be drafted. He lived in Clarks Mills, just west of Manitowoc. He was a high school graduate and had a good job with the Manitowoc Company.

"Back in those days, you could actually call the draft board to find out when you were going to get drafted," Vraney said. "They could project it, depending on what the allotment was for that month."

Vraney said that he and his lifelong best friend, Bill Leist, had birthdays within two months of each other. They came up with a plan that would allow them to go into the U.S. Army together, to at least be in basic training together.

"So, Bill called the draft board periodically to find out about when they would be drafted," Vraney said. "They had it pinpointed and told him that when we found out when I would be drafted, he could then volunteer for the draft, and that's what happened.

"I could have applied for deferments, because Manitowoc Company was building a lot of cranes and doing work for the Atomic Energy Commission. I never thought about it."

Vraney said, with tongue in cheek, that his dad would have disowned him if he had applied for a deferment. His family background includes a grandfather who served in World War I.



Dick Vraney stands on his deck near Keshena, far removed from his days in the U.S. military. Vraney is a proud Vietnam-era veteran who served his country in the United States during the war. Stationed at Fort Carson in Colorado, he supported the battalion commander.

LYNN ZAFFRANN



Dick Vraney stands in his Army uniform during his two-year enlistment in the middle of the Vietnam War era. He was drafted in 1969 when he was 19 years old.

CONTRIBUTED

Vraney said that he never gave it any thought at that time to skip out. He also said that he never gave any thought to the fact that the Vietnam War was going on at the time.

"I had five classmates, two in my class and three ahead of me, that were killed over there," he said, noting four of them died before Vraney went into the service.

Most of them had enlisted.

"At that time, when you enlisted, you'd be in service for three years. If you were drafted, it was typically for two years," Vraney said. "So, I waited to be drafted, because I didn't want any part of the three years. We went in on St. Patrick's Day 1969."

He said that when he and Leist arrived at the induction center in Milwaukee, a recruiter said that the Marines had a quota to meet and that they were looking for volunteers, a three-year commitment.

"I perked up and looked at my buddy, and he looked at me," Vraney said. "He said, 'You keep your mouth shut,'" to remind Vraney of their two-year plan.

Their basic training was at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

"Basic training was just a lot of getting harassed, and they gave you a hard time," he said. "They send you through all the drill and war scenarios. You spend a lot of time on the rifle range and a lot of time marching. It's just the way it is."

When basic training was over, Leist went to Fort Gordon, Georgia, and that was the last they saw of each other while in the Army. They continue to be friends.

"I had a two-week leave and went home," Vraney said. "Then I went to Colorado for 21 months."

He reported there on June 7, 1969.

"I always felt a little bit guilty because I sat there for 21 months and never went anywhere beyond that," Vraney said.

He was stationed in Headquarters Battery 284th Artillery at Fort Carson, Colorado. He was the battalion mail clerk.

"I drove the battalion commander, who was usually a lieutenant colonel. I was his driver. It was a pretty good job," he said.

Fort Carson was the headquarters of the Fifth Army.

"You got to meet guys from all over," he said. "Just about every state."

He said that when he got out in 1971, he had the rank of corporal. Vraney rode home with a guy from Michigan and a guy from Indiana.

"They took me home right to Clarks Mills," he said.

Vraney returned to work at the Manitowoc Company for the rest of his professional career. He now lives near Keshena with his wife, Ginny. He volunteers for Wolf River Habitat for Humanity.

Vraney is proud of his service and takes part in veterans' activities in his hometown.

Shawano plans Veterans Day ceremony at courthouse

The Allied Vets Council will hold a Veterans Day program at 11 a.m. Nov. 11 at the Shawano County Courthouse, 311 N. Main St.

The ceremony will begin with the sounding of the bells and fire whistle.

Veteran Dennis Bohm will greet those who gather, and the Rev. Scott Ludford of Zion Lutheran Church will give the invocation.



ERIC WIMBERGER

Veteran Richard Kucksdorf will lead the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by Patty Ainsworth singing the national anthem.

Bohm will introduce the main speaker, state Sen. Eric Wimberger.

Wimberger entered Marquette University Law School in 2002. After earning his law degree in 2005, Wimberger received a commission with the United States Marine Corps. He spent four years in the Marine Corps, working in the Judge Advocate Division in Japan and Washington, D.C. He was honorably discharged in 2010 as a captain.

Bohm and Kucksdorf will recite the names of deceased veterans, followed by the presentation of a wreath by Stacey Cicero, Shawano County administrative coordinator.

AMVETS Post 10, commanded by Terry Baumgartner, will offer a rifle volley. Taps will be played by Brent Buettner and company.

Ludford will offer the benediction, and Bohm will have closing remarks.

In case of rain, the program will be held inside Shawano Ambulance Service.

The Allied Vets Council includes VFW Post 2723, DAV Chapter 53, AMVETS Post 10, VVA Chapter 206 and American Legion Post 117.

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Honoring first responders





Shawano Ambulance Service welcomed U.S. Rep. Tony Wied on Oct. 29, National First Responders Day. Wied toured the business and met with several of the employees. Walmart in Shawano expressed its gratitude to the ambulance service employees by providing lunch for the staff. Shawano Ambulance Service, organized in 1967, maintains five ambulances in its station on Main Street. The station is staffed with either three or four crews, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days per year. Its primary response areas include nine towns, three villages (Bonduel, Cecil and Gresham) and the city of Shawano. It also performs paramedic intercepts for outlying ambulances and interhospital transports throughout the state.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Commitment doesn't end on Veterans Day



ZACHARY A. ZUEHLSDORF
GUEST COLUMNIST

Every Nov. 11, communities across our nation come together to recognize the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Veterans Day is a time to honor their service, reflect on their sacrifices and express our appreciation for everything they have given our country.

But I've always believed that honoring our veterans should extend beyond one day in November.

It's about what we do for them the other 364 days of the year.

After serving 25 years in the United States Army, I understand that military service becomes part of who you are. The friendships, experiences, challenges and sacrifices stay with you long after you take off the uniform.

When I became Shawano County's veterans service officer in March, I came into the position with a simple goal: to make a positive difference in the lives of our veterans and their families.

That means more than assisting with disability claims or navigating the Department of Veterans Affairs. While those services are incredibly important, I believe our responsibility also includes helping veterans feel connected, valued and supported within their communities.

On Oct. 22, we hosted our inaugural Veterans Connect breakfast at the Farm Inn on Main in Shawano. Thanks to the generosity of Twig's Beverage and the hospitality of the Farm Inn on Main, more than 50 veterans gathered for a morning of breakfast, coffee and conversation.

What made that morning special wasn't a presentation or anything said from the front of the room. It was watching veterans from different generations and military backgrounds sitting together, sharing stories, laughing and enjoying one another's company.

That's exactly why we created Veterans Connect.

We often talk about the challenges veterans experience after military service, but sometimes we overlook something as simple as the loss of camaraderie. That sense of belonging and connection doesn't always come easily once someone leaves the military.

Sometimes, all it takes is one conversation to make a difference in someone's life.

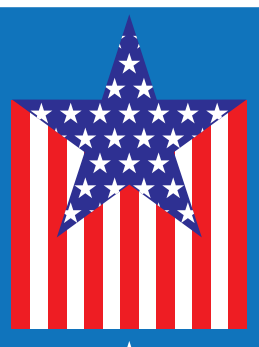
As we move forward, our office remains committed to strengthening the services available to the approximately 2,800 veterans living throughout Shawano County. We're expanding outreach into our rural communities, working to improve transportation access to medical appointments and continuing to build partnerships that benefit our veterans and their families.

Whether it's assisting a veteran with a disability claim, helping a surviving spouse understand their benefits, connecting someone with emergency assistance or simply being there to answer a question, our goal is to make sure veterans know they have someone in their corner.

Honoring our veterans isn't simply about remembering their service. It's about making sure they know their community hasn't forgotten them.



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