OCONTO COUNTY TIMES HERALD

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Gillett raises sewer rates 10% for residents

USDA requiring other action to get city to increase revenue

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor



Mayor Jon Blaskowski expresses his distaste for raising Gillett's sewer rates during the Nov. 5 Gillett Common Council meeting as City Clerk Chelsea Anderson looks on. Blaskowski noted the timing is bad as residents' expenses have soared, but it would be worse to have the U.S. Department of Agriculture cancel $3 million in loans to the city.
LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

Members of the Gillett Common Council almost had to plug their noses Nov. 5 as they reluctantly approved a 10% increase in residential sewer rates.

Residential sewer meter costs will go up $2.80 per month. This comes on the heels of a 40% increase in the city's water rates Oct. 1.

City Clerk Chelsea Anderson told the city's utility committee earlier in the evening that all of the city's loans are through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and that agency is requiring that Gillett either increase its revenue by 30% by the end of 2027 or cut its expenses by that amount.

"We can do that by either cutting expenses or by raising rates," Anderson said, noting that she provided the council numbers for 30% and 50% increases, as well.

Utility operator Matt Wickman said he would like to sell two vehicles used for city operations and replace them with one that could do the work of both jobs. However, that would not be enough of a financial balance, he said.

Several members of the council felt conflicted about raising sewer rates while noting that over $3 million in loans could put the city in a financial pinch. Mayor Jon Blaskowski was one of them.

"It really bothers me to keep raising rates," he said. "We've already raised our water bills. We can't keep doing this to the community."

Blaskowski noted that the city is in a tight spot financially. He doesn't think a rate increase will benefit residents, but neither will having to repay $3 million in loans right away if Gillett doesn't comply with USDA's requirements.

"I understand the reason for having to raise," Blaskowski said. "I understand the

SEWER, continued on page 3



A second consecutive defeat of Gillett School District's operational referendum is going to require major budget cuts beyond those already made. It's possible the district may have to dissolve, resulting in Gillett students being divvied up between neighboring school districts.
FILE | NEW MEDIA

School referenda in Gillett, Pulaski fail

Second defeat for Gillett will require tough budget choices

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

An operational referendum for the Gillett School District and a capital referendum for the Pulaski Community School District were both turned away by voters Nov. 3.

Gillett was asking voters to get $1.9 million annually for the next three years in excess of the state revenue limits. This was the second time this year Gillett asked for an operational referendum; this request, however, was less than the previous one where Gillett sought a five-year override with $2 million in the first year that would have increased to $4.3 million by the fifth year.

The latest operational referendum fell with 57.6% of voters saying no, 1,068 votes, to 786 saying yes. Most of the precincts saw no votes, except for the city of Gillett, which had a statistical tie of 239 in favor and 238 against.

With the referendum going down for a second time, Superintendent Nathan Hanson said the outlook is bleak.

"We're disappointed," Hanson said. "The school board is prepared to meet and talk about what our next steps are. We're not sure what our best options are going to be."

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INSIDE

Elijah Behnke defeats Shirley Hinze to stay in legislature.
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Oconto County sides with Republicans

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

David Crowley's win over Congressman Tom Tiffany in the race for governor headlined a big night for Democrats, who also won control of the Wisconsin Legislature and flipped two Congressional seats.

Crowley defeated Tiffany 54% to 46%.

Oconto County reported a 60% voter turnout.

Tiffany collected 12,995 votes compared to Crowley's 5,866.

Democrats also won the other three statewide offices. Attorney General Josh Kaul was reelected over Eric Toney, JoCasta Zamarripa defeated Jay Schroeder for Secretary of State and challenger Yee Leng Xiong beat incumbent Treasurer John Leiber.

The Secretary of State position was vacant, as incumbent Sarah Godlewski ran for lieutenant governor with Crowley.

In Oconto County, Toney had 12,716 votes, and Kaul had 6,087; Schroeder topped Zamarripa 12,772 to 5,304; and Leiber defeated Xiong 13,280 to 5,367.

Wisconsin voters approved two new constitutional amendments and rejected another.

The measures were put on the ballot by the Republican-controlled Legislature, which passed them in two consecutive legislative sessions.

A proposal to limit the governor's veto power was approved 51% to 49%.

The question to prohibit the closure of worship sites during an emergency was defeated 52% to 48%. Finally, the question prohibiting governmental entity discrimination passed 56% to 44%.

In Oconto County, voters supported the first question 11,944 to 6,330, the second question 11,639 to 6,730 and the third question 12,646 to 5,548.

In Congress, Republican Tony Wied won reelection to his 8th Congressional District seat over Democrat Rick Crosson by about 16,000 votes, 54% to 46%.

Oconto County voters supported Wied 12,937 to 5,832.

Democrats flipped District 1 and District 3 as the party now controls the House. Across the nation, enough Democrats won to give them control of the U.S. Senate as well.

In local Wisconsin legislative races, final results include incumbent Republican David Steffen beating Democrat Alexia Unertl in Assembly District 4, incumbent Republican Elijah Behnke defeating Democrat Shirley Hinze in Assembly District 6 and incumbent Republican Calvin Callahan beating Democrat Elizabeth McCrank in Assembly District 35.

Locally, the races for sheriff and clerk of courts were unopposed with the Republican incumbents winning another term. They are Todd Skarban for sheriff and Trisha LeFebre for clerk of courts.

All numbers are unofficial pending certification.

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Kristen Fish-Peterson, chief executive officer of Redevelopment Resources, lays out Gillett's strategic plan to address residential and commercial development during the Nov. 5 Gillett Common Council meeting. Aldermen David Bunker, center, and Matt Young look on.
LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

Gillett needs more housing, according to strategic plan

Downtown redevelopment also needed to revitalize city

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

Gillett is in need of more housing, and more development of the city's downtown is needed.

Both were key points in a presentation Nov. 5 to the Gillett Common Council of the city's strategic plan, which was made possible through a grant from the Thrive Rural Wisconsin program, an offering of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation.

Demographics from the WEDC show that the projected population through 2030 is expected to stay stagnant, but there will be a need for more homes in the future, according to Kristen Fish-Peterson with Redevelopment Resources, a consulting firm based in Madison. She noted that the city had no additional homes built in the 2010s, and only 1% of the homes have been constructed in the current decade.

"You have a very small amount of one-unit attached, which would be duplexes," Fish-Peterson said. "You don't have a lot of multi-family or attached units in the community. That can be good, and that can be bad. Some communities like Whitewater, for example, have more apartments than single-family occupied homes. When there's a misbalance like that, we try to fix it."

Fish-Peterson said it would be beneficial to have more apartment buildings to allow for more people to come into the community if they wish to live there. Right now, almost one of four residential structures were built in 1939 or earlier.

"You have old housing stock," Fish-Peterson said. "This is why there's a shortage of housing in communities. The reason is that seniors are staying in their homes a lot longer than they ever have, so they're not making that house available to someone else."

Redevelopment Resources is estimating that the city will need another 56 multi-family rental units between now and 2030. Fish-Peterson said 27 of them will need to be affordable housing and units for those 55 and over, while the rest would be at the market rate.

Gillett will also be needing another 104 single-family homes, according to Fish-Peterson, with 50 of those needing to be affordable housing or workforce housing.

Fish-Peterson said she consulted with local Realtor Amanda Bohm, and the statistics show a low amount of time homes are on the market for sale. That indicates the high demand for housing in the community.

"Your properties are not sitting and getting moldy on the market," Fish-Peterson said. "They're selling pretty quickly."

The problem the city has is there's little raw land to be developed for homes, according to Fish-Peterson. She noted there are three or four larger parcels that could be utilized, but more is needed.

"To build houses at higher quantities, you're going to need some land to do that, and there are fewer opportunities for that," Fish-Peterson said. "You also have very low average rents. This is considered a weakness because, if I want to come in and redevelop the nursing home property and put multi-family on there, I'm going to have to charge a pretty high rent, because any new construction is not going to be supportive of low rents."

Gillett also has lower home values, so bringing them up is a priority, according to Fish-Peterson. That not only benefits homeowners but also the city government as that means increased revenue.

Absent landlords are also a problem, and Fish-Peterson is recommending the city open a dialogue with those property owners to figure out long-term plans for growth and improvement.

"You have minimal housing options for new teachers coming to town," she said. "The school district is trying to hire new teachers to come, but there's not much opportunity and not many options for them."

As for the downtown area, Fish-Peterson told the council that there are two issues. First, there are a lot of vacant or underutilized buildings in the area. Second, some of those buildings have first-floor residential areas, which is not conducive to boosting Gillett's commerce.

"There are vacant lots on which a new tax base could be constructed," Fish-Peterson said. "You also have buildings that need improvements, and that would create more usable rental space or retail space."

Gillett needs a thriving commercial district, according to Fish-Peterson, and she's recommending that residential properties in the downtown corridor be moved up or moved out to provide more space for businesses.

Fish-Peterson is recommending the city create a new community development authority. She suggested the strategic plan should be integrated into the authority's mission and revolving loans developed for both residential and commercial rehabilitation.

"This would give Gillett the organizational structure to handle these challenges for both housing and the downtown," Fish-Peterson said. "The state statutes give the CDA certain power to get these things done with property and with recruiting not only businesses but new residents and everything else we're recommending."

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

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Editor-in-chief Kevin Passon kpasson@newmedia-wi.com
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Behnke will continue to represent 6th Assembly

Legislator concerned about effectiveness in Dems majority

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

Republican Elijah Behnke will continue to represent the 6th Assembly District for the next two years even as the Wisconsin Legislature will be dominated by Democrats for the first time since 2010.

Behnke, R-Angelica, was able to retain 63.9% of the overall vote Nov. 3 in a district that includes all of Menominee County, most of Shawano County, a good chunk of Oconto County and slivers of Outagamie and Waupaca counties. Behnke received 15,894 votes, compared to the 8,980 votes that went to Shirley Hinze, a Shawano Democrat who failed for a second time to gain a seat that is engulfed in GOP country.

Hinze did win Menominee County, receiving 910 votes to 246 for Behnke. Hinze won 778 of her votes from Keshena, while also getting 132 votes out of 138 in the race in Neopit.

However, Shawano and Oconto counties were much larger counties, and Behnke handily won in both of those counties.


ELIJAH BEHNKE


SHIRLEY HINZE

In Shawano County, Behnke received 8,934 votes to 4,802 for Hinze. Behnke won most of the municipalities in the county, with the exception of the Town of Bartelme, where he only received 72 votes to Hinze's 246; the Town of Red Springs, where the vote was 164-244; and Bowler, where each candidate received 55 votes.

Over in Oconto County, Behnke won by an almost 3-to-1 margin, gaining 3,029 votes compared with 1,144 for Hinze. Behnke won all the municipalities, with the largest margin being in the Town of Gillett, where he received 415 votes, while Hinze only got 97.

Fewer voters in the district cast ballots this year compared with 2024. In Oconto County, Behnke got 4,200 votes that year compared with 1,317 for Hinze. Shawano County cast 11,918 votes for Behnke two years ago versus 5,713 for Hinze, while Menominee County case 1,132 votes for Hinze, while Behnke received 321.

Behnke will be entering his fourth term in the assembly, although it's his second in the 6th Assembly District after legislative maps were redrawn a few years earlier.

During his campaign, Behnke said he didn't see the need for data centers for everyday life while saying they were a necessary evil for the U.S. Department of War. He pushed for keeping open enrollment and voucher programs for the state's schools.

Behnke campaigned on returning the surplus to property owners through tax relief and also help local communities get more money through shared revenue through the state. He recommended a moratorium on the state gas tax to help reduce fuel prices and recommended schools cut down on student technology use before age 12 while vowing to restore the public's faith in government.

In a phone interview Nov. 4, Behnke said he is pleased to serve another term but is apprehensive about his effectiveness being in the minority in the Assembly.

"I'm kind of sad for the team, but I did expect to win," Behnke said. "I'm glad I was right about my assumptions."

He noted there were only 46 safe seats for Republicans in this race, and when it came to districts that were toss-ups, the GOP didn't win any. Republicans were blamed for national issues, he said.

"I'm thinking inflation and gas prices are every-couple-of-day reminders about where the economy is at, and you see the prices and how you fill up," Behnke said. "That extra $20 or $40 per fill-up is etching away at your disposable income that you could spend on other things. People are just frustrated with the economy. I think that's always No. 1. People vote with their pocketbooks."

Behnke said he was appreciative of voters' confidence in him, especially as he was in the midst of a big move during the general election season. He had been renting a home in the Town of Chase in Oconto County, but he was recently able to close on a home in the Town of Angelica in Shawano County.

"I'm honored," Behnke said. "I enjoy being closer to the city of Shawano. It's a 25-minute drive rather than a 45-minute drive. We trick-or-treated in my neighborhood, and they spoiled my kids, so that was adorable."

One of Behnke's priorities once the new legislative session is addressing medical testing on animals, particularly dogs. The case involving dozens of beagles in Dane County being subjected to medical experiments shows there's a need for reform, he said.

"Wisconsin tends to follow along with federal guidelines on animal testing for different medicines and procedures," Behnke said. "We want to update that to not include dogs and other household pets."

Despite being in the minority, Behnke sees plenty of opportunity to reach across the aisle and work with Democrats on issues. One example he cited was the manufactured homes bill he sponsored so companies like North Country Homes in Bonduel have to deal with fewer regulations from the state compared to what stick-built homes deal with.

"Maybe we've got to fund the Department of Professional Services a little bit more to get them to sign my bill into law," Behnke said. "I'm going to work on the exact same things."

Hinze said she accepted the results of the election, although she's concerned about whether residents of the 6th Assembly District will get proper representation under Behnke. She claimed Behnke has not been at any public meetings during his previous term, although she was at a town hall Behnke held in 2025 when the state was finalizing its biennial budget.

"The Democrats did what they had to do or set out to do with the trifecta in Madison," Hinze said. "I'm very grateful for that, even though I didn't win; but I do expect more from Mr. Behnke in this district than what he has provided before. Change doesn't happen overnight."

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

REFERENDA, continued from page 1

Hanson said the projected deficit for the next school year is $1.4 million, and that is on top of the major cuts the Gillett School Board made to balance the current budget.

"That only increases as the years go on," Hanson said.

One possible bright spot for the superintendent is the legislative shift from Republicans to Democrats. Liberal legislators have been in favor of funneling more state money into public schools.

"In order for the district to continue, it's a decreasing formula. So each year we'll have less and less money," Hanson said. "One way or another, we're either going to have to cut every year or talk about another referendum. Obviously, there's talk all around the state about dissolution and about how that's the direction some school districts are going. That has to be on the table to be considered."

He added that any dissolution process would require more than a year to be completed, so there's no immediate threat that Gillett's schools will be closing their doors.

Hanson said that the pocketbook issues that determined a lot of races at the state and national levels definitely had an impact on how his referendum turned out.

"We've seen a lot of comments about rising property taxes, rising water bills," Hanson said. "I think if you look around the state, you see a number of referendums that failed, and really it comes down to – and I said this last time – people don't want to fund schools this way."

Pulaski was asking voters for $59.8 million that would go toward improving and renovating school facilities just four years after getting approval of another referendum that was $10 million more. The most recent measure failed by 127 votes, with 5,752 saying no while 5,625 voted yes.

In Oconto County, voters cast 1,965 votes against the referendum, while 1,587 voted to approve. In Shawano County, 814 voters said no, while 629 voted yes.

Superintendent Allison Space did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment, and a press release from the district's communications director, Eric Schreiber, said the district would not be commenting at this time.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 79 school districts brought referenda to voters Nov. 3.

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

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consequences. We can't have USDA cancel the loan, and we're on the hook for $3 million, because that's going to cost our taxpayers even more. We're going to have to do something to show the USDA we're working at it. Hopefully with the cuts that Matt is making, that will work out. Unfortunately, I don't see how we don't do something."

Alderwoman Nanette Mohr questioned whether action needed to be taken right away.

"I don't want to mess with them," Mohr said. "I just don't want to get into trouble because, once you're red-flagged, it takes a long time to get rid of that red flag."

Anderson noted that the USDA audits the city quarterly, so additional action will be needed in the next year to remain in compliance with the loan requirements. She noted the revenue changes needed to be done before the loans were received in September.

"We won't know how much we need to cut until we do a quarter worth of looking at it," Anderson said. "It was their (USDA's) idea to cut expenses."

She noted that the city had $717,000 in revenue from the sewer utility, and it has to generate another $215,100 to be in compliance unless expenses can be drastically cut. Anderson added the sewer rates haven't been raised in 10 years.

Alderman Matt Young said this was a really bad time for Gillett to raise rates.

"The cost of living is really high, and that's really affected our revenue," Young said.

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

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Shawano County Clerk of Court Ethan Schmidt discusses how much storage space is needed for old case files during an August 2024 tour of the Shawano County Courthouse. His office staff has begun the process of purging some civil case filings in anticipation of a smaller storage space in the new courthouse.
FILE | NEW MEDIA

County preparing interim space for third judge

Civil case filings from 1967-93 being purged from storage

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Shawano County may not have to wait until the new courthouse is operational sometime in 2029 to have a third judge to oversee another courtroom.

Ethan Schmidt, clerk of courts, told the public safety committee Nov. 4 the director of state courts has indicated to the chief judge of the Ninth Judicial District that her office begun the process of pursuing new circuit court judgeships through introduction of a judgeship bill in this legislative session, and Shawano-Menominee Counties is specifically mentioned as one of the counties to be included within the judgeship bill.

"They are aware that we are building a new building," he said. "We are one of the first potential counties to receive a third judge."

All counties under consideration for third judge must submit a resolution to the state by the end of the year. The public safety committee approved the resolution, and the full county board is expected to vote on it Nov. 18. Approval requires a majority vote of the board members present.

As part of the resolution, the county has to pledge infrastructure and financial support for the third judge.

The new courthouse will have three full-size courtrooms, while the existing courthouse only has two.

"Usually, you have to have what's called a jury-ready courtroom, which is a courtroom that can hold a jury trial for that third judge," Schmidt said. "Being that we're building a new building and it may be that we are awarded a third judge before that courtroom is ready, they're willing to waive that and allow us to use the county board room."

The final 2025 Wisconsin Weighted Caseload Study indicates a current need for three judges in the Menominee-Shawano Counties Circuit Court System.

The current caseload in all areas has continued to increase annually, and this has led to delays in processing and handling of all case types and exceeds the reasonable capacity of two judges.

The Shawano County sheriff, district attorney, corporation counsel, clerk of court, human services director and child support director have all agreed that the addition of a third judge and a third courtroom would be of great benefit to the operation and efficiency of the Menominee-Shawano system.

While the salary and fringe benefits for the judge are paid for by the state, other costs are paid for the county. Those costs are not yet known and will need to be included in future budgets.

Schmidt also informed the committee his office is currently purging old case files.

"With the anticipation of the new courthouse, we're working on going through our old files that can be purged," he said.

Over the last couple months, staff members have been going through old civil case filings.

"We have to compile a list to submit to the Wisconsin State Historical Society," Schmidt said. "They then go through that list and tell us which case files they want and which case files we can then purge."

Schmidt now has that list, and his staff is working their way through files from 1967-93.

The new courthouse will include a smaller storage area; however, it is anticipated that going forward, everything will be digital.

kpasson@newmedia-wi.com

Oconto Falls man charged with homicide

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

An Oconto Falls man has been charged in Shawano-Menominee County Circuit Court with two counts of first-degree reckless homicide, two counts of homicide by intoxicated use of a vehicle and homicide by use of a vehicle with a prohibited alcohol concentration from a crash one year ago.

Tylor M. Georgia, 28, was charged Nov. 2 in the deaths of two people who were in his vehicle on County Road BB on Nov. 9, 2025, when the vehicle, traveling northbound when it entered a ditch and barrel rolled a number of times, ejected three people.

According to the criminal complaint, none of the people in the vehicle were wearing seat belts at the time. One passenger had his head crushed between the ground and vehicle window frame, while the passenger in the rear died from injuries after being ejected.

Investigators believe Georgia survived the crash because he was ejected when the vehicle connected with the ground instead of being thrown into the air.

Georgia's iPhone made an automatic call to the 911 dispatch center, according to the criminal complaint, and he told dispatchers he'd been in a crash and had sustained injuries. Medical records obtained by investigators showed he'd fractured four to six of his ribs.

According to the complaint, Georgia had gone to a home on Highway 32 near Gillett the evening of Nov. 8, 2025, and allegedly was drinking there. Georgia had bought the vehicle in the crash that night for $300 and allegedly claimed he was going to use it either as a winter vehicle or scrap it out for parts. Prior to the crash, he allegedly stopped at a bar in Advance and bought several bottles of water to put in the radiator so the motor didn't blow out.

Several witnesses indicated Georgia had been swerving and gunning the gas pedal in the vehicle after drinking.

Reports showed Georgia's blood-alcohol level was 0.084 when his blood was drawn.

The Shawano-Menominee County District Attorney's Office requested a $150,000 cash bond at an initial appearance Nov. 4, while a public defender requested $10,000. Judge Katherine Sloma set a $20,000 bond, and court records indicate it was posted later in the day.

Sloma scheduled a status conference for Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. to see if Georgia has obtained permanent legal representation. Online court records did not indicate if Georgia qualified for a public defender.

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

United Way seeks $100K in 2026 campaign

Nonprofit requests up; agency's role expands into food, housing issues

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

The Shawano Area United Way is aiming to get $100,000 during its 2026 campaign in hopes of helping out some community nonprofits.

United Way is already 15% of the way to the goal, according to Uriah Williams, executive director. However, the local organization has set $100,000 goals for the last few years and not quite reached them. Williams said the 2025 campaign brought in $89,000.

Getting $100,000 means that half of it would go to the nonprofits seeking funding, while the rest would go toward keeping existing United Way programming going, according to Williams.

"It's a pretty doable goal, I think," he said. "It just requires the community support to make it happen."

The 2026 campaign has been in full swing for several weeks with fundraisers and other projects, and it will continue through Dec. 18, Williams said.

To help encourage people to open their wallets and purses, United Way is making a number of social media posts each week and sending press releases to area media letting people know what it is doing.

"We have a videographer who we worked with this year each Friday, and we're highlighting another partner agency that we helped fund this year," Williams said. "We do interviews with them, and we talk about what United Way services provide."

United Way will be sharing campaign updates on Saturdays showing how far along fundraising is going, according to Williams.

"In addition to our social media campaign, we are sending out articles to our media partners," he said.

For those who might need a little time to come up with donations, Giving Tuesday might be the day to send them in, according to Williams. Thrivent Financial will be matching donations for United Way on that day, Dec. 1.

"That's a pretty significant match that Thrivent is doing while encouraging donors," Williams said. "So, if they want to wait until after Thanksgiving, on Dec. 1, giving through Thrivent is a good idea."

The more people can give, the better, Williams is recommending, as the total requests from nonprofits are up 37%. Last year, nonprofits sought $103,000 combined from United Way, while this year's requests top $142,000.

"They're from about 20 different agencies," Williams said. "It's a big ask that the nonprofit community sends our way, and we can't fund those unless we have the funding from the community to support them. When you donate to United Way, you're not supporting just one nonprofit. The donations support quite a few."

Williams added that 14 nonprofits were helped from 2025 funds totaling $43,000, meaning that United Way was not able to fund even 50% of the requests.

Funding for the agency itself, however, is needed more than ever, as well. Williams noted that the local United Way has taken on a more regional leadership role.

United Way has formed a food coalition to address systemic and root causes of food insecurity. Williams said that coalition meets quarterly.

"Currently, we're working on some emergency management planning," he said. "We're thinking about, God forbid, a tornado happening like in Menasha here; but how do we prepare for it from a food standpoint to make sure everybody gets to eat?"

United Way has also started a housing coalition to address affordable housing in Shawano and Menominee counties. Williams said it's not a role United Way has taken on previously in the area, but it's logical that the benevolent organization takes on the task.

"That has been a fascinating role to play," Williams said. "We have representatives from the city of Shawano, Shawano County government, various nonprofits in the area. We've had a couple of developers and a Realtor come, so we have a multi-sector effort addressing how we provide equitable housing for all people."

The housing coalition plans to develop a strategic plan for three to five years that is expected to be completed in September 2027.

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

Bonduel State Bank to get a new look



Bonduel State Bank officials throw dirt to mark the beginning of a $3 million expansion and renovation project. Crews will take about a year to complete the work.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

An expansion project in excess of $3 million is underway at Bonduel State Bank.

Bank officials and community residents gathered Oct. 23 to kick off the project that will enhance and update the drive-thru, add office space and bathrooms, and update the employee break area.

Mike Papendorf, president and CEO, said the updating and modernization is long overdue.

"It was built in 1971 with little updating since then," he said. "We need more office space. We need to hire three to five more people here in the next 12-24 months."

Papendorf said positions include a backroom staff lender, customer service and an analyst.

"(The) early stage has started," he said. "(The) contractor said it will be about a 12-month project, done in stages."

Bonduel State Bank prides itself on being the oldest local bank in Shawano County, stretching back 120 years.

The bank was organized in October 1905. The doors were opened Sept. 21, 1906, at Cecil and Green Bay streets.

As the bank continued to grow, it moved to its current location at 130 N. Cecil St. in September 1970.

Papendorf said the bank has made significant strides in the past three decades.

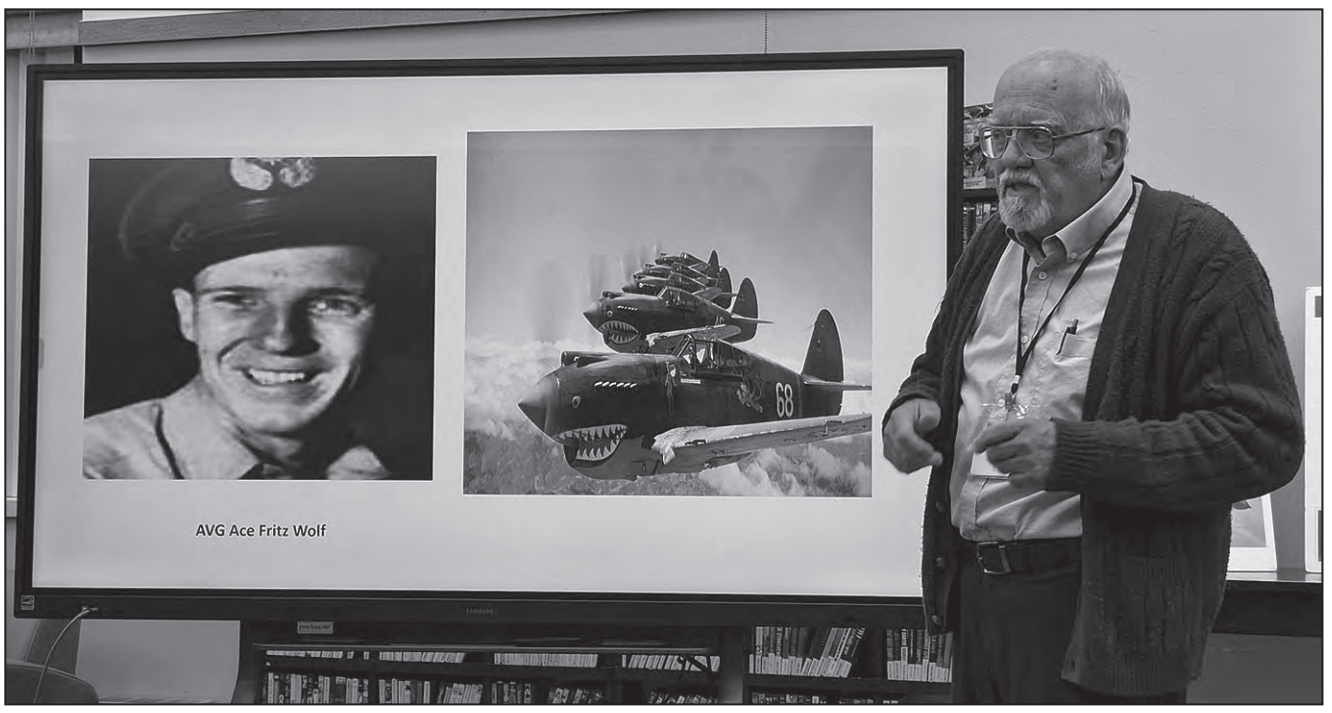
From 1995 to 2025, net loans have increased from $17.8 million to $85.5 million. Total assets and liabilities have grown from $35.2 million to $128 million, and total deposits have increased from $28.5 million to $110 million.

kpasson@newmedia-wi.com

Shawano's 'ace' made his mark in WWII

Story of Wolf, others detailed in new book

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief



Shawano's Fritz Wolf, pictured left, is one of 44 flying aces from Wisconsin. His story was shared by author Mike O'Connor in his book "Badger Aces," which he discussed Nov. 4 at the Shawano Public Library.

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

Fritz Wolf was a stellar athlete at Shawano High School and later at Carroll College (now University) in Waukesha.

He was so good that he was going to try out for the Green Bay Packers, but a case of appendicitis caused him to miss the tryouts. Instead, the 1933 Shawano High School graduate joined the Navy and would go on to become one of Wisconsin's 44 flying aces – men credited with shooting down at least five enemy aircraft during times of war.

Wolf's story, and those of several others, were shared Nov. 4 at the Shawano Public Library, when author Mike O'Connor gave a presentation on his book "Badger Aces."

Wolf, who is buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in Shawano, joined the U.S. Navy in 1939 and became a dive bomber pilot.

Before the U.S. entered World War II in December 1941, the Japanese had been bombing China for years. Chinese leaders had little success in stopping them and devised a plan to hire American pilots to fly on China's behalf. Anyone who joined the American Volunteer Group, also known as the Flying Tigers, would be paid $750 a month with a $500 bonus for shooting down a Japanese aircraft.

Wolf was one of 99 pilots who joined.

"Fritz Wolf went over there, and he shot down four Japanese bombers and fighters," O'Connor said. "He didn't see a lot of combat, because he came down with malaria and a number of different diseases. At one point in time, he was so sick, they started to build a coffin for him, because they thought he was going to die from all these diseases."

According to the Shawano County Historical Society, on Dec. 20, 1941, Wolf took part in the first AVG action near Kunming, China.

He shot down two Mitsubishi bombers and assisted in downing a third before his ammunition ran out. In February 1942, somewhere near Rangoon, Burma, Wolf took part in a dogfight with 14 Japanese fighters. He shot down one before he had to turn tail and run. This victory was confirmed but combat records were lost.

On April 8, 1942, near Loiwing, China, he took part in another AVG action where he shot down two more Japanese fighters.

That same month, near Magwee, China, Wolf was almost killed when he was caught on the ground when the Japanese bombed the airfield.

He served in the Flying Tigers from December 1940 to July 1942.

"Fritz comes back to the U.S., rejoins the Navy and goes into fighters instead," O'Connor said. "He flies combat off the Yorktown and the Hornet, and in 1945, he becomes (commanding officer) of a squadron and he downs a Japanese fighter over Japan. That is kill number five, so he becomes an ace."

There were more than 70,000 U.S. pilots in the 20th century. Of those, 1,447 were credited with downing at least five enemy aircraft, thereby becoming an ace. And of those aces, 44 were from Wisconsin.

Wisconsin's aces included two in World War I, 39 in World War II, two in Korea and one in Vietnam.

After leaving active duty with the Navy in April of 1946, Wolf became the first paid employee of the new Wisconsin Aeronautics Commission.

When the commission merged with the newly formed Department of Transportation, Fritz was named bureau director. Fritz retired from state service in May 1981.

In 2006, the State of Wisconsin honored his contributions to aviation by renaming the State Aviation Facility at the Dane County Regional Airport in Madison the Fritz E. Wolf Aviation Center.

Wolf was inducted into the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame in 1989 and died in 1997.

kpasson@newmedia-wi.con

McCabe gets 12 years for child porn possession

Detectives found more than 700 images on devices

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

Patrick McCabe, of Shawano, was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment and another 12 years on probation after accepting a plea deal involving 200 counts of child pornography from 2024.

McCabe, 69, pleaded no contest to 105 of the counts Aug. 11 while the other counts were dismissed but read into the record. He was sentenced Oct. 30 and was credited for the 988 days he'd already been in the Shawano County Jail, held on a $750,000 cash bond.

Conditions of his extended supervision include not having contact with minors without his probation agent's approval, no access to the internet, no electronic devices with access to the internet, complying with the sex offender registry and participating in sex offender treatment.

Multiple letters urging leniency for McCabe were sent to the court, some of them pointing out McCabe was a contractor who helped to improve homes and other buildings in northern Wisconsin.

One letter came from a childhood friend, Lisa Haefs, a former editor for the Antigo Daily Journal.

"I have known Pat my entire life – we graduated from the small Elcho High School only years apart – and while I certainly cannot condone or fathom the actions for which he is accused, it it important to know that is not 'who' he is," Haefs wrote. "Much like the chapter in a book or the verses and chorus in a song, a person's life has many separate facets."

According to the criminal complaint, the Shawano Police Department received an internet tip about inappropriate content being on a computer at McCabe's home on Lutz Street. Detectives executed a search warrant on Jan. 16, 2024, and seized computers and phones from the home.

Detectives said McCabe denied viewing child pornography or pornography of any kind, and when they pointed out there were images on his computer, he claimed he'd been hacked. According to the complaint, detectives previewed more than 700 images of child pornography on the devices with file folders named "Young Girls Galleries" and "Younger Pink."

Detectives wrote in their reports that it was clear the pornography found was not there by accident or a one-time incident. According to the criminal complaint, McCabe had moved to Shawano in 2022.

Interviews with McCabe's wife indicated the couple had separate devices and that they never shared them with each other.

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

Toys for Tots begins 2027 campaign

The holiday season is just around the corner, and Shawano County Toys for Tots is preparing to make Christmas brighter for children and families throughout the community.

With the 2026 campaign underway, organizers are inviting families to apply for assistance and encouraging community members, businesses and organizations to help spread holiday joy.

Families living in central and eastern Shawano County who need assistance providing Christmas gifts for their children are encouraged to apply. The program serves children from newborn through age 18.

Online registration is open through Dec. 8 at shawano-wi.toysfortots.org.

Volunteers are the heart of Toys for Tots, so individuals, families, students and community groups are encouraged to lend a hand with collecting, sorting and preparing gifts for distribution. Volunteering is also a great opportunity for students to earn community service hours while making a difference close to home.



Shawano County Sheriff's Deputy Nathan Thornborrow, right, grins as he holds up a basketball set that he and Lt. Chris Madle purchased, among other things, in 2025 with cash donated to Toys for Tots during the fourth annual Stuff the Squad event at Walmart in Shawano. The Toys for Tots campaign for 2026 started in early November. FILE | NEW MEDIA

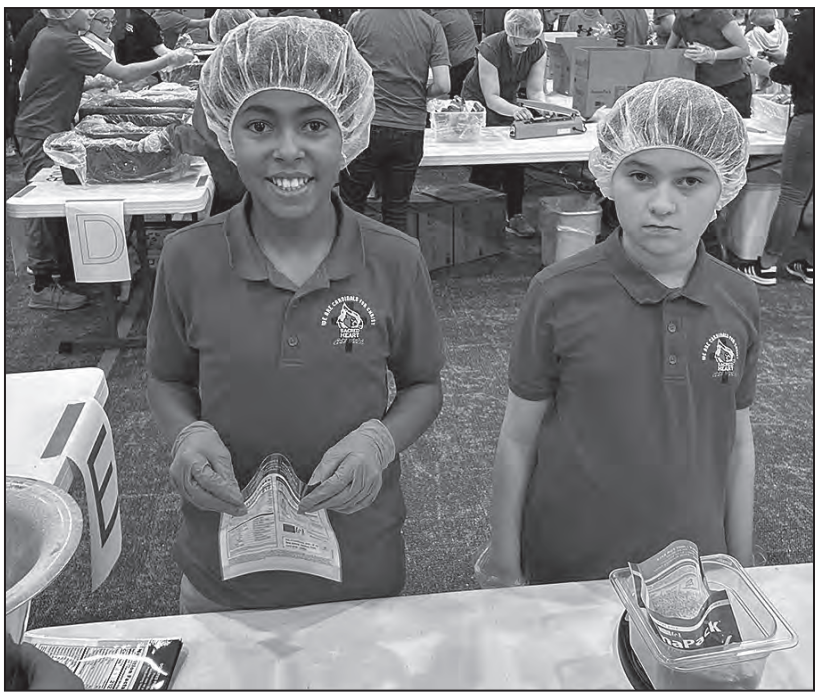
Donations of new, unwrapped toys and books are accepted, with a special reminder to remember teenagers ages 13-18, who are sometimes overlooked during holiday toy drives.

Donation drop-off locations throughout Shawano County are accepting gifts now. Monetary donations are also welcome online or in person.

Drop-off locations in Shawano include AbbyBank, All Aboard Nutrition, Associated Bank, Bank First, Bay Title and Abstract, Inc., Belmark Inc., Berkshire Hathaway, HomeServices Bay Area Realty, BMO Bank, Bolin's Speedy T's, Bullfrogs and Butterflies Childcare Center, Capital Credit Union, Channel Letter Factory, Charter Arrowcast, Coldwell Banker Real Estate, CoVantage Credit Union, Culver's, Dearco, Dreier Pharmacy and Gift Shop, Edward Jones – Jon Aumann, Edward Jones – John Stang, El Jefe Mexican Bar and Grill, Exit Elite Realty, Family Dollar, Farm Inn on Main, Four Seasons Hotel, Fusion Salon and Total Fitness, Genex, Glas Coffee House, Heins Appliance and Refrigeration, Hillcrest Primary School, Idell Johnston State Farm, IHOP, Island Tropics Hair Design Spa, Shawano County Job Center, KerberRose, Little Blessings Childcare Center, Little Rapids Paper Mill, Longhorn Saloon, Northwestern Mutual, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, Old Glory Candy, Olga Brener Intermediate School, Premier Community Bank, Prey and Asenbrenner Insurance, Pure Essence Salon and Spa, Qualheim's True Value, Performance Foodservice, RL Hall Land and Title Company, Sacred Heart Catholic School, Sacred Heart Catholic Parish, Shawano Café, Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce, Shawano County Human Services, Shawano County Courthouse, Shawano County Library, Shawano Community High School, Shawano Community Middle School, Shawano County Sheriff's Department, Shoe Sensation, Shuffles Studio of Dance, St. James Daycare, St. Mary's Catholic Church in Leopolis, Strive Behavioral Solutions, Stubborn Brothers Brewery, The Avenue, ThedaCare Medical Center, Thrivent, TimberPro, Tractor Supply, TrueNorth, Twig's Beverage, Verkuilen Chiropractic, Walgreens and Wolf River Lutheran High School.

Toys can also be dropped off in Bonduel at Bear Cubs Childcare and Learning Center, Doc's Harley-Davidson, Griesbach Chiropractic, Bonduel High School, Hungry Bear Café, KI, Bonduel State Bank, The Mill, The Rustic Shed and World Wide Sign Systems, as well as in Gresham at Gresham Village Hall, Gresham Town Mart, AbbyBank, Dollar General and Gresham Hardware and Auto.

To apply, volunteer or donate, visit shawano-wi.toysfortots.org or contact Michael Johnston, local coordinator, at 715-280-0991.



Blaine Evenson, left, and Ashton Springborn were two of many Sacred Heart Catholic School students who helped out Oct. 6 at Green Bay Community Church to put together meals for the Feed My Starving Children MobilePack. CONTRIBUTED

Sacred Heart students give time

Sacred Heart Catholic School's older students spent Oct. 6 making a meaningful difference in the lives of others by participating in the annual Feed My Starving Children MobilePack event in Green Bay.

Students traveled to Green Bay Community Church, the host site for the Feed My Starving Children MobilePack, where they took part in one of the corporal works of mercy – feeding the hungry. Working alongside parent volunteers and other community members, students hand-packed nutritious meals containing a blend of vitamins and minerals, rice, soy and dried vegetables. The meals were then sealed, boxed and prepared for shipment to communities around the world where food insecurity is a daily challenge.

During their volunteer shift, Sacred Heart students helped pack enough meals to provide 184 children with a daily meal for an entire year – a powerful reminder of how a small act of service can make a lasting impact.

Following the MobilePack event, students continued their day of service at the Green Bay Botanical Garden, where they assisted with maintaining the grounds and caring for the beautiful outdoor spaces enjoyed by the community.

Experiences like these provide Sacred Heart students with an opportunity to put their faith into action, develop a spirit of compassion and recognize the importance of serving others. Through hands-on service, students learn that living their faith extends beyond the classroom and into the community and world around them.

Baskets abound at craft fair



There were plenty of baskets eagerly awaiting good homes Nov. 7 at Richmond Town Hall for the annual Christmas on Spruce craft fair. Other Christmas decor and handmade items were available for people to purchase, and there will be other craft fairs and events to herald in the Christmas season in the coming weeks around northeast Wisconsin. LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

School supply drive donation



The August Roundup Program at Iverson's Piggly Wiggly in Oconto Falls generated funds for the Oconto County school supply drive. Store owner Bryce Iverson presented a $2,000 check to Stacey Dequaine and Karen Nygren. CONTRIBUTED



The AbbyBank Foundation awarded a $3,000 grant to Wolf River Lutheran High School to support the purchase of standing desks and stools. From left, are Tracy Engman, associate vice president/cash management specialist at AbbyBank; Rebecca Kuczer, Gresham and Shawano branch manger at AbbyBank; Paul Steinhaus, principal at Wolf River Lutheran High School; Jim Meyer, vice president/commercial loan officer at AbbyBank; and Craig Stuedemann, president/CEO at AbbyBank. CONTRIBUTED

WRLHS receives $3K from AbbyBank

The AbbyBank Foundation Inc. awarded a $3,000 grant to Wolf River Lutheran High School to support the purchase of standing desks and stools, providing students with more flexible classroom seating options.

The new furniture will allow students to alternate between sitting and standing throughout the school day, creating a learning environment that better accommodates different learning styles and individual needs. The standing desks will also provide practical benefits for classroom activities, such as art projects and other hands-on learning experiences that may be better suited to a standing position.

The AbbyBank Foundation was formed in 1986 as a private charitable foundation of AbbyBank, which has contributed more than $1,922,300 to the foundation. Since 1986, the foundation has made donations to Abbotsford, Appleton, Green Bay, Gresham, Medford, Shawano, Wausau, Weston, Withee and neighboring area organizations totaling more than $1,498,980.91

For more information regarding AbbyBank and its charitable foundation, visit www.abbybank.com, call 715-223-2345 or stop at one of the locations.

Optimists celebrate 50th anniversary, honor Edwards, Elsner

The Shawano Optimist Club recently held a banquet to celebrate its 50th year of serving the young people in the Shawano area. The master of ceremonies was charter member Jim Leuenberger who gave a brief review of Optimist International and of the Shawano Club, and welcomed several former members and guests.

Until 1987, Optimist International was a "men only" organization. In 1989, the Shawano Optimists welcomed Sandra Phillips as its first female member. She is still an active member today.

"Since that time, numerous women have been members of the local club and have contributed greatly," Leuenberger said.

Vanessa Rueth, who just completed her year as governor of the Wisconsin North-Upper Michigan district, presented a proclamation from Optimist International congratulating the Shawano Optimists on their contributions to the Shawano area over the past 50 years.

Receiving the club's highest honor, the James Leuenberger Lifetime Achievement Award, was Troy Edwards, who has been a member since 2002. In 2023, the Optimist board of directors established the award, which was to be presented to a longtime member in good standing who has contributed greatly to the club.

Edwards, a member since 2002, has served as club president for two terms and was named the club's Optimist of the Year in 2014-15. He participates in nearly all club service projects and fundraisers and has served on the board of directors for several terms. He has also filled in as past president for members who left the club and has received the club's perfect attendance award for 18 years.





ABOVE: On behalf of Optimist International, immediate past governor for the WINUM district, Vanessa Rueth, presents a 50th anniversary proclamation to, from left, Shawano Optimist President Ryan Alexander, Vice President-Fund Raising Jim Liesner and charter member Jim Leuenberger. CONTRIBUTED

LEFT: Jim Leuenberger, right, presents Troy Edwards with the Optimist Club's highest award, the James Leuenberger Lifetime Achievement Award. CONTRIBUTED

BELOW: Kristine Rankin presents the Optimist of the Year award to Ben Elsner. CONTRIBUTED



Two years ago, Ben Elsner transferred from another club to the Shawano Optimists. During that time, he has participated in nearly every club activity and has also served as the lieutenant governor for the zone. He is now the governor-elect for the WINUM district for 2027-28. In making the presentation, last year's recipient, Kristine Rankin, said that Elsner has been a very valuable member ever since he joined the local club and brings considerable leadership experience as well.

Each year, Shawano Optimist members who achieve a certain level of attendance at club meetings, fundraisers and service projects are given a perfect attendance award. Heading the list is Leuenberger, who has achieved 49 years of perfect attendance.

Others achieving perfect attendance were Adam Gast, one year; Ben Elsner, two years; Sandra Carroll and Kristine Rankin, four years; Robyn Shingler, eight years; Jim Liesner, nine years; Dan Mauel and Lorine Raddant, 10 years; Troy Edwards, 18 years; Ryan Alexander, 19 years; Michael Sleeper, 26 years; Gail Moesch, 27 years; and Jim Black, 28 years.

Officers and directors for the 2026-27 year were introduced by Leuenberger. They include President Ryan Alexander; Vice President-Fund Raising Liesner; Vice President-Youth Activities-Kristine Rankin; Secretary Moesch; Treasurer Black; and immediate past President Shingler.

Directors are Edwards, Mauel, Carroll, Greg Parker, Gast and Raddant.

The Shawano Optimists meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 6:45 a.m. at Farm Inn' On Main in downtown Shawano. Anyone wanting to learn about joining the club can contact any Optimist member or go to the Shawano Optimist Club website.

'Discover Wisconsin' episode features Ho-Chunk basket weaving, Truman Lowe

"Discover Wisconsin," the nation's longest-running travel and tourism TV series, highlights the rich cultural heritage of the Ho-Chunk Nation in its newest episode, "Ho-Chunk Nation — Carrying Culture Forward."

This episode was created in partnership with the Ho-Chunk Nation. It honors the traditions, resilience and contributions of the Ho-Chunk. From time-honored traditions and art forms to modern-day leadership, it explores how the People of the Sacred Voice carry their history, culture and people forward.

"It's been incredibly rewarding to work alongside the Ho-Chunk Nation and help share their stories through 'Discover Wisconsin,'" said producer Brett Rolstad. "Their history, traditions and culture are such an important part of Wisconsin's story, and I'm proud of the work we've done to highlight their people, their resilience and the ways they continue to carry their culture forward. I hope sharing these stories with our audiences helps foster a deeper appreciation for the Ho-Chunk Nation and its lasting impact on Wisconsin."

The episode features one of the oldest living traditions of the Ho-Chunk — basket weaving. Kimberly Crowley walks viewers through the history and process.

The episode also honors the life and legacy of Truman Lowe, showcasing his sculpture, art and installations. Later, viewers discover how the Ho-Chunk Nation continues to care for its people through affordable housing programs and support services.

You can stream the episode through discoverwisconsin.com and YouTube.

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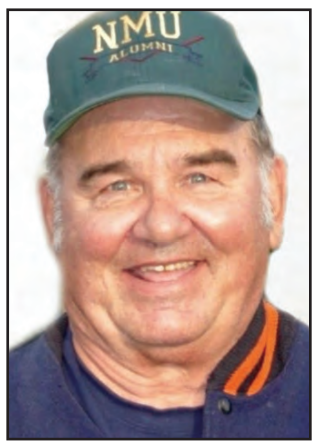
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OBITUARIES

RICHARD BLANK



Richard William Blank, 90, of Ovid, Michigan, formerly of Birnamwood, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2026, at Welcome Home Assisted Living in Owosso, Michigan.

Per Richard's wishes, cremation has taken place. A graveside memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Nov. 14 at Forest Cemetery in Birnamwood, with military honors conducted by the Darling Gunderson Post 341. A meal and get-together will be held at Richard's favorite restaurant and bar, Chet and Emil's in downtown Birnamwood. All are welcome after the short service.

Richard was born in Munising, Michigan, on March 3, 1936, the son of William J. Blank and Mary Jo (Dolaski) Blank. He graduated from Mather High School in Munising in 1954. In high school, he earned all-state in football, Class B.

After leaving high school, he joined the U.S. Navy and spent four years as a submariner on the USS Sea Leopard (SS 483) and the USS Corsair (SS 435). After leaving the Navy, he attended Northern Michigan University and earned a bachelor of science degree. He also did graduate work at NMU and Michigan State University.

While at NMU, he belonged to the Blue Key National Honor Fraternity and was a member of Northern's Veterans Club. While there, he was hired by the U.S. Forest Service in Marquette and worked on diseases of the northern hardwoods. He was then transferred to Rhinelander, where he worked for the Atomic Energy Commission in radiation ecology. He met Lois Dorothy Passuello during this time. On May 4, 1974, Richard married Lois, and they spent 50 years together prior to her passing on May 22, 2024.

The U.S. Forest Service transferred Richard again, this time to Michigan State University, where he had two offices and several labs to work on insects and diseases and eventually in fire technology. During his time on MSU's campus, he became a fire behavior officer and created two items now in the U.S. Forest Service Hall of Fame in Texas.

Mr. Blank won an award with Dr. Robert Haack for $250,000 for their pioneering work in listening to the noises that trees make when they are stressed or dying. He authored, co-authored and held patents in the U.S. Forest Service. He retired April 1, 1991, and started the Blank-A-T-Blank Christmas Tree Farm with Lois in Birnamwood. He retired from the farm in 2016 but continued to manage the land and trees.

Richard was an active member of the American Legion and served as commander at Post 269 in Haslett, Michigan. He remained a member of Post 341 in Birnamwood. He was also a lifetime VFW member. Additionally, he was also a proud member of the Birnamwood Bowhunters Association.

Richard was passionate about the outdoors and loved hunting deer and turkeys. Both hunting seasons were his and Lois' favorite times of year, as they shared a special bond over hunting. He frequently went fishing with a close group of friends at the 7-Mile in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Another favorite time of year for him was the Fourth of July. He spent most of these holidays back in Munising, visiting old friends and family.

Richard will also be remembered as a die-hard Detroit Lions fan. He watched his football games every Sunday during the NFL season. He rarely missed a Lions game.

He was survived by his children, Dana Blank, of Ovid, Michigan, Beth (Tim) Walter, of New London, North Carolina; his grandchildren, Katrina Tefft, of Greensboro, North Carolina, and Alyssa (Andrew) Owens, of Reidsville, North Carolina; great-granddaughter, McKenzie Owens; his brothers, Fred (Lynn) Blank and Jim (Darlene) Fromm; daughter, Jolene Burg, of Rhinelander; many nieces and nephews; and beloved caretaker, Shanice Robinson and family.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents, William Blank and Mary Jo Blank; his wife, Lois Blank; sister, Patricia (Don) Monette; sister, Dedra J. Blackwelder; and his nephew, Dean Monette.

Schmidt and Schulta Funeral Home, Birnamwood, is serving the family. Memories and message of support may be shared at www.schmidtschulta.com.

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OBITUARIES

JOYCE ANDERSON



Joyce Marie (Ammerman) Anderson, 87, passed away Thursday, Oct. 29, 2026. She was born Sept. 18, 1939, to Roland and Arlyne Ammerman.

Joyce married Vernon Anderson on Nov. 30, 1957. Together they built a family and a lifetime of memories. Joyce spent 22 years working at Allen Bradley in Milwaukee before eventually retiring and returning up north.

Joyce was a woman who never needed a microphone to make herself heard. Feisty, quick-witted and unapologetically herself, she didn't sugarcoat things, didn't waste time beating around the bush.

Joyce also had the biggest heart. She had a gift for making people feel welcome, a warmth that could brighten a room, and a kindness that showed up in the little things. Joyce was strong, resilient and full of life, with a wonderful sense of humor that could bring laughter even on the hardest days. She was the kind of woman who left an impression wherever she went, not because she tried to, but because being herself was more than enough.

To her grandchildren, she was simply Granny, but she was much more than a grandmother to her own family. She was Granny to an entire community. If you needed a recipe, a pair of pants hemmed, a vehicle to borrow, someone to listen or someone to tell you how it really was, Granny was your person. She could offer a helping hand, a listening ear or a well-deserved scolding, sometimes all within the same conversation. And if she didn't have what you needed, she'd find a way.

Her kitchen was a place of comfort, guidance, tradition and some closely guarded recipes. Her potato pancakes and chicken pot pie were legendary, and her collection of cookbooks could keep several generations busy. She passed along more than recipes; she passed along traditions, lessons and the occasional reminder that there was, in fact, a right way to do things.

Joyce was a cancer survivor for over 35 years, demonstrating the strength and determination that were such a big part of who she was. She loved to travel and visited nearly every state, along with trips to Canada and two visits to Israel.

She was active in her community and dedicated much of her time to others. Joyce was involved with the Hayes Homemakers, the Suring Library Page Turners from 2003-15, a cancer support group in Oconto Falls and a sheephead group for 10 years. She also enjoyed many years of playing nickels with a group of friends (Donna, Dar, Lois and Sharon, to name a few).

She was proud of her faith and a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Gillett, she served on numerous church committees and was passionate about the egg salad being done just right.

She leaves behind her handsome striped cat that she adored, Snuggles.

Joyce loved her family fiercely, helped her friends generously and had a way of making ordinary moments feel special and lived life entirely on her own terms. She was strong, stubborn when necessary (and sometimes when it wasn't), funny, caring and one of a kind. She was the matriarch of her family, a trusted friend, a familiar face to so many and a Granny to all. Her influence lives on in the traditions she passed down, the recipes she shared, the advice she gave and the countless people whose lives she touched.

Joyce is survived by her daughter, Sandra Olivier; grandchildren Andrew (Amy) Schulz, Lori Schulz, William (Jaimie) Schulz, Gerald (Amanda) Schulz, Joshua Anderson, Steven (Natalie) Anderson, Dustin Lederer, Ammie (Jake) Anderson, Rachel Thompson, Paige (Cody) Thompson, Nichole Olivier; great-grandchildren Caleb, Jaxsen, Katie and Kaeson; her sister, Lois Reichwald; brothers-in-law, Melvin Reichwald and Robert Anderson; special friend, Gary (Jordan) Heise; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Vernon Anderson; her children, Steven and Susie; her sisters, Charlotte Wasmund and Pamela McMahon; and her brothers-in-law, Norman Wasmund and Douglas McMahon.

Joyce leaves behind a legacy that will take a lifetime to fully appreciate. She will be missed not only by her family but by the many people who were fortunate enough to know her.

There will never be another Granny quite like Joyce. Life will certainly be a little less interesting without her opinions, a little less comforting without her advice and a little less delicious without her cooking.

She may have left us, but we're fairly certain she still has opinions about how we're doing things.

Rest peacefully, Granny. You will never be forgotten.

Services will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Gillett on Dec. 6, 2026. Visitation will be from 1-3 p.m. with service to follow. A celebration of life and meal will be provided afterwards at Breed Community Center Town Hall.

ALLEN JOSEPH COUNARD



Allen Joseph Counard, a devoted husband and father and respected trial attorney, passed away peacefully Nov. 1, 2026, at the age of 88.

After living on Grosse Ile for 45 years, Allen and his wife, Valerie, retired to their home in Ludington, Michigan, in 2021.

Born on Dec. 5, 1937, in Shawano to Yvonne (née Baudhuin) Counard and Clifford Counard, Allen lived a life marked by service, leadership and a deep commitment to his family, profession and community.

Following two years of service in the United States Army, Allen earned a bachelor of arts degree from Michigan State University in 1965. He then graduated cum laude from Wayne State University Law School in 1969, while attending night school and working full time. By this point he was also married with two children.

Allen enjoyed a distinguished legal career spanning more than five decades. A dedicated trial attorney, he was a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the Downriver Bar Association and the Michigan Association for Justice. Allen was admitted to practice in the United States Supreme Court in August 2009. He was honored in 2019 at the State Bar of Michigan's 50-Year Golden Celebration Luncheon, recognizing his remarkable longevity and commitment to the practice of law.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Allen believed strongly in giving back to the organizations and communities that enriched his life. His loyalty to Michigan State University continued long after his student years. A founding member of the Michigan State University College of Arts and Letters Alumni Association, Allen served on its board for 20 years, including as president from 1993-95.

He also served as president of the Grosse Ile Rotary Club and as both chairman of the board and commodore of the Grosse Ile Yacht Club.

Allen was an avid fly-fisherman who enjoyed pursuing his passion in some of the country's most beautiful waters, including the Au Sable River in Michigan and in Montana and Alaska. He had a love of travel, exploring destinations around the world with his family and friends. These adventures provided a lifetime of experiences and cherished memories shared with those closest to him.

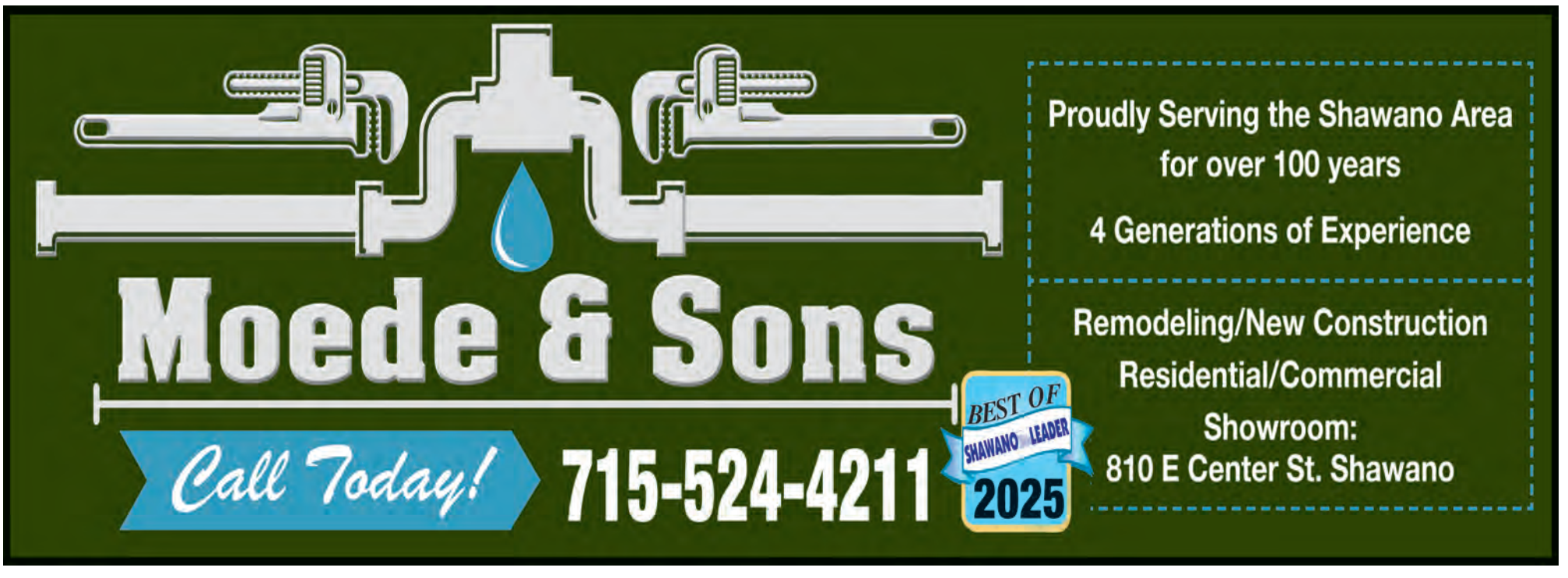
Allen is survived by his wife of 66 years, Valerie; his two daughters, Dr. Catherine Counard (Dr. Mark Simon) and Cara Counard (Eric Green); and was preceded in death by his son, Craig.

He is also survived by his grandchildren, Claire, Elaine and Andrew Simon, and Dr. Sophia Grant-Christiansen.

The Counard family plans to hold a small celebration of Allen's life next summer.

Arrangements were entrusted to Grace Funeral Home and Cremation Services, www.GraceCremations.com.





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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GOP must be focused after midterms

To the editor:

As the former chair of the Shawano County Republican Party and former 8th District vice-chair, I received more than 40 phone calls, texts and emails after the election. Some even blamed me for the election results.

Let me clarify: I believe MAGA represents, at most, 15% of Republicans. I am an independent and a constitutionalist, but I strongly believe in the two-party system and support the Republican Party. I believe Republicans get it right about 70% of the time. After the primaries, I voted for Trump in 2016, 2020 and 2024.

Trump said he wanted to be on the ballot. He was. Voters remember his 2024 promises – release the Epstein files, lower prices within days, meet with Putin and end the Ukraine war within weeks and avoid new Middle East wars. Those promises created expectations. Another frustration was a Republican Senate that couldn't even pass the SAVE Act, despite national polling showing 83% support for requiring photo identification to vote.

People forgot the mess left by 12 years of Obama and Biden and blame everything on six years of Trump. Fixing years of problems takes time.

Trump was often his own worst enemy, constantly boasting about impending deals with Iran or Ukraine while nothing happened.

I voted for much of what Trump did. As an Iraq War veteran, I witnessed first-hand Iran's actions against American troops. Iran has called for "Death to America" since 1979. However, as an Army War College graduate, I have been critical of how Trump conducted the Iran war. Netanyahu did not convince Trump that Iran was a threat. Trump has been on various news and talk shows pushing combat action against Iran since the 1980s.

Democrats will become intoxicated with power and overreach through higher taxes, restrictions on rights and freedoms, social experiments and political retribution/retaliation. Such policies will alienate independent and moderate voters who determine elections.

Republicans must stay focused on parental rights, protecting girls' sports and bathrooms, limiting government and removing illegal immigrants, increasing wages and affordability. Never give up.

Just as Reagan transformed the Republican Party, Trump has changed it permanently. The old Republican Party isn't coming back.

Finish Iran. Remember, the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, but the Soviet Union didn't collapse until more than a year later. Change takes time.

Ultimately, this election was about Trump. High gas prices affected the cost of everything. As the saying goes, "It's the economy, Stupid."

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving. We have much to be thankful for.

Richard W. Kucksdorf, Bonduel

Measles case confirmed in Shawano County

Shawano-Menominee Counties Health Department has confirmed one case of measles in Shawano County. The case was confirmed through testing at the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene.

Shawano and Menominee counties in conjunction with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services continue to investigate the case, identify people who may have been exposed, and notify them directly.

Individuals who were at the Marshfield Medical Center–Weston emergency department, 3400 Ministry Parkway, Weston, between 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. Nov. 5 may have been exposed.

People who are most at risk are those who are not vaccinated or don't know their vaccination status. If you are unsure if you are vaccinated against measles, contact your health care provider or local or tribal health department.

11/13/26
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
SHA-403

11/13/26, 11/20/26, 11/27/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Robert R. Thomas
DOD 9-19-2026

Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 26 PR 81

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 9-18-1941 and date of death 9-19-2026 was domiciled in Shawano County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 1088 Engel Drive Rm 34, Shawano, WI 54166
3.All interested persons waived notice.
4.The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is February 12, 2027
5.A claim may be filed at the Shawano County Courthouse, 311 N. Main Street, Shawano, Wisconsin, Room 202, Probate Office
James E. Aschenbrener
P.O. Box 146, Shawano, WI 54166
715-524-6258
1008896

WNAXLP
SHA-408

11/13/26, 11/20/26, 11/27/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT
NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing
Plaintiff
vs
Cole D. Galland, et al.
Defendants

AMENDED
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
Case No: 26 CV 48

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that by virtue of a judgment of foreclosure entered on June 16, 2026 in the amount of $298,923.48 the Sheriff will sell the described premises at public auction as follows:

TIME: December 9, 2026 at 9:00 AM
TERMS: By bidding at the sheriff sale, prospective buyer is consenting to be bound by the following terms:
1.) 10% down in cash or certified funds at the time of sale; balance due within 10 days of confirmation of sale; failure to pay balance due will result in forfeit of deposit to plaintiff.
2.) Sold "as is" and subject to all legal liens and encumbrances.
3.) Buyer to pay applicable Wisconsin Real Estate Transfer Tax from the proceeds of the sale.
If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.
PLACE: First floor of the Shawano County Courthouse, 311 North Main Street, Shawano, WI 54166
DESCRIPTION: Lot One (1), Certified Survey Map No. 1746 recorded September 22, 1998, in Volume 6 of Certified Surveys on pages 265-266, as Document No. 510595, said map being part of Government Lot Two (2) in Section 12, Township 27 North, Range 15 East, Town of Wescott, Shawano County, Wisconsin.
PROPERTY ADDRESS: N6898 Balsam Row Road, Shawano, WI 54166
TAX KEY NO.: 362100001
Dated this 19th day of October 2026.
Shawano County Sheriff
Phillip A. Norman, P.C.
Kelly M. Smith
State Bar No. 1067970
245 S. Executive Drive, Suite 380
Brookfield, WI 53005
(262) 314-6564
Phillip A. Norman, P.C. is the creditor's attorney and is attempting to collect a debt on its behalf. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

WNAXLP
SHA-402

11/13/26, 11/20/26, 11/27/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY
CIRCUIT COURT
FIRST NATIONAL BANK IN TIGERTON
140 Cedar Street
Tigerton, WI 54486
Plaintiff,
-VS-
GAUTHIER'S YE OLE SALOON, LLC
320 Cedar Street
Tigerton, WI 54486
JOSEPH GAUTHIER a/k/a JOSEPH G. GAUTHIER
635 Elm Street
Tigerton, WI 54486
AMANDA GAUTHIER
635 Elm Street
Tigerton, WI 54486
STATE OF WISCONSIN - DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
P.O. Box 8901
Madison, WI 53708
SHARON GLOVER
N6409 Banner Road
Wittenberg, WI 54499
Defendants.
File No.: 26-CV-103
Class No.: 30404

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that by virtue of a judgment of foreclosure and sale entered in the above entitled action on the 8th day of September, 2026, in the amount of $129,802.59, the undersigned Sheriff of Shawano County, Wisconsin, will sell at public auction inside the main entrance of the Shawano County Courthouse, 311 N. Main Street, in the City of Shawano, Shawano County, Wisconsin, on the 13th day of January, 2027 at 9:00 a.m. of that day, the real estate and mortgaged premises directed by said judgment to be sold, and therein described as follows:
Parcel 1: Lot Ten (10) in Block Twenty-eight (28), according to the original Plat of the Village of Tigerton, Shawano County, Wisconsin.
Parcel No.: 700500990
Address: 320 Cedar Street, Tigerton, Wisconsin 54486
Terms of Sale: Pursuant to said judgment, 10% of the successful bid must be paid to the sheriff at the sale in cash, cashier's check or certified funds, payable to the Clerk of Court (personal checks cannot and will not be accepted). The balance of the successful bid must be paid to the Clerk of Court in cash, cashier's check or certified funds no later than ten days after the court's confirmation of the sale or else the 10% down payment is forfeited to the plaintiff. The property is sold "as is" and subject to all liens and encumbrances.
Dated this 29th day of October 2026.
Winter Law Office
Attorney Michael B. Winter
835 Fifth Avenue
Antigo, WI 54409
(715) 623-2905
State Bar No. 1025676
George Lenzner, Shawano County Sheriff

WNAXLP
SHA-406

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

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

11/13/26, 11/20/26, 11/27/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

DATE SIGNED: November 2, 2026
Electronically signed by Gwen Hoffman
Probate Registrar
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, SHAWANO COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ROSE L. KRUEGER

Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 26PR79

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth June 9, 1950 and date of death September 30, 2026, was domiciled Shawano County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 1603 Timber Trail, Shawano, WI 54166.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4.The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is February 12, 2027
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano County, Courthouse,311 N. Main Street, Shawano, WI 54166 Room 202, Probate Office
Form completed by: James Vomastic
Address:1488 E Green Bay St.
Shawano, WI 54166
715-851-3669
Bar Number (if any) 1045783

WNAXLP
SHA-409

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

10/30/26, 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

11/13/26, 11/20/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
OCONTO COUNTY

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING
TOWN OF BAGLEY

The Town of Bagley will hold the 2027 BUDGET HEARING at 6:00 PM on Wednesday November 18, 2026, at the Bagley Town Hall
9812 County Hwy Z,
Pound, Wi. 54161

#1 Consider adopting the Town Boards resolution to exceed the levy limit for the Town of Bagley, Oconto County WI. for operations going forward.
#2 Review the proposed budget and set the tax levy for the Town of Bagley for 2026
The tentative 2027 BUDGET will be reviewed at this PUBLIC HEARING in detail.
The proposed budget will be available after approval on 11-18-2026 by contacting the Municipal Clerk at 920-590-0198.
Pursuant to Section 60.10(1)(a) of the Wisconsin Statutes the called meeting of the electors shall adopt the tax levy to be paid in 2026.
Alan Sleeter, Clerk
Town of Bagley
Oconto County, WI.

WNAXLP
OCO146

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

11/13/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
OCONTO COUNTY

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
City of Gillett
150 N. McKenzie Ave, Gillett, WI 54124
Thursday, December 03, 2026 6:00 PM.

The City of Gillett will conduct a public hearing regarding its Community Development Block Grant Public Facilities (CDBG-PF) project for Zippel Park Improvements in the City of Gillett. The public is invited to attend to receive an update and provide input on the project activities and progress to date.
The agenda for the public hearing is as follows:
1. Update on the status of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project, including an overview of project activities completed to date and activities remaining to be completed.
2. Update on the status of any residential and/or business displacement and relocation assistance activities as a result of the CDBG project, if applicable.
3. Review housing needs in the community.
4. Public input and feedback from community residents on the CDBG project activities.
5. Other CDBG issues.
Residents of the of City of Gillett are encouraged to attend, especially residents with low to moderate incomes.
The meeting room is handicapped accessible.
Individuals needing special accommodations may make a request by contacting Chelsea Anderson, Clerk- Treasurer at telephone number 920-855-2255 or email: chelsea.anderson@cityofgillett.wi.gov.

WNAXLP
OCO147

11/13/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
SHAWANO COUNTY

Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District
Board of Education Meeting November 16, 2026

November 16, 2026
5:40 P.M. - Budget and Finance Committee Meeting
6:00 P.M. - Regular Board Meeting, Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School Library

AGENDA
I. Meeting Called to Order, Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.84(1).

II. Roll Call of the Board - Pledge of Allegiance

III. Motion to Approve the Minutes of the October 26, 2026 Regular Meeting as Circulated.

IV. Communications and Delegations

V. Public Comments

VI. Board Concerns or Reports

VII. Student Representative

VIII. Financial Report

IX. Approve the Agenda

X. I. The Board will adjourn to Closed Session at the close of the meeting pursuant to WI.STATS.19.85(1)© for Personnel Matters, and 19.85 (1)(g) for Legal Matter and 19.85(1)(e) for Negotiations.
II. The Board will reconvene to Open Session to ratify any decisions made in Closed Session.

XI. Administrative Reports
-Birnamwood Elementary and Middle School
-Wittenberg Elementary and Middle School
-Witt-Birn High School
-Pupil Services
-Technology
-Reading Specialist
-Aquatic Center

XII. Old Business
-None

XIII. New Business
A. Theater Directors Resignations for Approval
B. Coach Resignation for Approval
C. Coach Hire for Approval
D. Out of State Field Trip for Approval
E. First Reading of Volume 35, No. 2 Board Policy Updates
F. Building Automation System Upgrade for Approval
G. Title 1 Stakeholders Meeting for Information

XIIII. Adjournment

WNAXLP
######

PUBLIC RECORD

SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Nov. 8

Deputies responded to 38 incidents, including suspicious activity on East Reed Street in Wittenberg; bail jumping on Chrissie Circle in the Town of Washington; suspicious activity on Kussman Road in the Town of Grant; assault at Homme Youth and Family Services, W18126 Hemlock Road, Town of Wittenberg; four 911 calls; seven traffic stops; four reckless driving incidents; two traffic hazards; two welfare checks; three crashes, one involving deer.

Nov. 7

Deputies responded to 44 incidents, including a disturbance on Chrissie Circle in the Town of Washington; a death investigation on East Park Street in Bonduel; a missing person at Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road, Town of Navarino; suspicious activity at Lakeside Citgo, 205 N. Warrington Ave., Cecil; three 911 calls; 19 traffic stops; one reckless driving incident; two traffic hazards; two welfare checks; four crashes, three involving deer.

Nov. 6

Deputies responded to 51 incidents, including a noise disturbance at Pulcifer Pub, W2319 State Highway 22, Town of Green Valley; a disturbance on River Road on Stockbridge-Munsee jurisdiction; suspicious activity on Pleasant Street in Gresham; one 911 call; 11 traffic stops; one reckless driving incident; three traffic hazards; two welfare checks; four crashes, one involving deer.

Nov. 5

Deputies responded to 44 incidents, including suspicious activity at Jen's Knaughty Pine, W1539 County Road S, Town of Maple Grove; intoxication at Hometown Cage, 112 State Highway 45, Tigerton; four 911 calls; seven traffic stops; three reckless driving incidents; two traffic hazards; three welfare checks; three crashes, one involving deer.

Nov. 4

Report not received by press time.

Nov. 3

Deputies responded to 51 incidents, including threatening on state Highway 22 in the Town of Green Valley; internet fraud on County Road N in the Town of Morris; trespassing on on state Highway 47-55 in the Town of Wescott; trespassing at Annie's Campground, W12505 Roosevelt Road, Town of Seneca; drugs at All-Stor Self Storage, N5857 State Highway 47-55, Town of Wescott; a disturbance on Lincoln Street in Birnamwood; trespassing on County Road J in the Town of Seneca; eight 911 calls; three traffic stops; three reckless driving incidents; one traffic hazard; two welfare checks; three crashes, one involving deer.

Nov. 2

Deputies responded to 43 incidents, including suspicious activity at Brothers Pub, N5867 Lake Drive, Town of Wescott; property theft on Lake Wagner Road in the Town of Belle Plaine; bail jumping on South Lincoln Street in Shawano; three 911 calls; 10 traffic stops; one traffic hazard; two welfare checks; two crashes, both involving deer.

SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Nov. 8

Officers responded to 15 incidents, including a noise disturbance on South Bartlett Street; a disturbance on South Weed Street; theft at Ole Town Tap, 115 N. Main St.; suspicious activity near South Lincoln Street and East Lieg Avenue; a disturbance on Northridge Drive; a noise disturbance on County Road B; two traffic stops; one reckless driving incident.

Nov. 7

Officers responded to 22 incidents, including a disturbance at Lakeshore Lanes, 210 N. Airport Drive; a disturbance at Haven Hotel, 104 N. Airport Drive; theft on Beauprey Road; a disturbance on County Road B; a disturbance outside Walmart, 1244 E. Green Bay St.; disorderly conduct on Lee Court; two 911 calls; one reckless driving incident; one welfare check.

Nov. 6

Officers responded to 25 incidents, including property damage on West Pine Street; a missing person on South Sawyer Street; a disturbance at Luigi's Pizza, 607 S. Main St.; suspicious activity on South Union Street; two traffic stops; one reckless driving incident; three welfare checks; one crash.

Nov. 5

Officers responded to 21 incidents, including disorderly conduct at Shawano Middle School, 1050 S. Union St.; disorderly conduct on South Sawyer Street; two 911 calls; one traffic stop; three welfare checks.

Nov. 4

Report not received by press time.

Nov. 3

Officers responded to 28 incidents, including a disturbance on North Franklin Street; a disturbance on South Humphrey Circle; a disturbance on East Lieg Avenue; theft on East Ridlington Avenue; harassment at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B; suspicious activity on South Sawyer Street; suspicious activity outside Walsh Dental, 657 N. Main St.; assault at AmeriVu Inn and Suites, 211 Waukechon St.; two 911 calls; one traffic stop; four welfare checks; two crashes.

Nov. 2

Officers responded to 17 incidents, including harassment on South Prospect Street; theft on East Green Bay Street; bail jumping on South Lincoln Street; child abuse or neglect at a redacted location; threatening at a redacted location; suspicious activity at SAM's House, 105 E. Richmond St.; two 911 calls; one welfare check.

OCONTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Nov. 8

Deputies responded to 38 incidents, including underage alcohol at a redacted location; a disturbance on South Lake Street in Gillett; a disturbance on Fourth Street in Oconto; suspicious activity near County Road J and Ball Park Road in the Town of Little Suamico; a structure fire on state Highway 32 in the Town of Chase; a disturbance on North Third Street in Lena; a disturbance on Hayes Road in the Town of How; an unwanted party on Sampson Road in the Town of Pensaukee; three traffic stops, one traffic hazard, one traffic offense, two citizen assists, three miscellaneous traffic incidents, two welfare checks; two open-line 911 calls; three ambulance calls; five crashes, four involving deer.

Nov. 7

Deputies responded to 37 incidents, including squad damage near state Highway 32-64 and South Green Lake Lane in the Town of Mountain; a structure fire on County Road H in the Town of Gillett; threatening on Bay Road in the Town of Little River; a disturbance on Mayflower Lane in the Town of Underhill; a noise disturbance on Garrity Road in the Town of Morgan; property damage on Becker Road in the Town of Breed; threatening on County Road H in the Town of Underhill; suspicious activity on Vermeiren Road in the Town of Pensaukee; three traffic stops, two citizen assists, one welfare check; one open-line 911 call; six ambulance calls; four crashes, two involving deer.

Nov. 6

Deputies responded to 45 incidents, including a disturbance on Nero Lane in the Town of Little Suamico; suspicious activity on East Main Street in Suring; criminal damage on County Road VV in the Town of Underhill; an animal bite on Highland Meadow Trail in the Town of Chase; suspicious activity near Carter Tower Lane and state Highway 32 in the Town of Townsend; child abuse at a redacted location; three traffic stops, one traffic offense, two citizen assists, one miscellaneous traffic incident, one welfare check; three open-line 911 calls; nine ambulance calls; four crashes, all involving deer.

Nov. 5

Deputies responded to 59 incidents, including attempted fraud on Old 41 Road in the Town of Little River; animal neglect on County Road B in the Town of Spruce; a fire control burn on Saint Mary's Road in the Town of Lakewood; a wanted person on Brazeau Avenue in Oconto; four traffic stops, one traffic hazard, four traffic offenses, two citizen assists, eight miscellaneous traffic incidents; one open-line 911 call; five ambulance calls; six crashes, all involving deer.

Nov. 4

Deputies responded to 60 incidents, including harassment on Ball Park Road in the Town of Little Suamico; criminal damage on County Road VV in the Town of Underhill; harassment on Dubbie Lane in the Town of Underhill; suspicious activity on County Road R in the Town of Underhill; suspicious activity near Jaworski Road and Pleasant View Drive in the Town of Chase; a disturbance on Central Road in the Town of Breed; a disturbance on Cedar Avenue in Oconto Falls, threatening at the county jail, 220 Arbutus Ave., Oconto; three traffic stops, one traffic hazard, one traffic offense, three citizen assists, three miscellaneous traffic incidents, one welfare check; three 911 hangups and three open lines; 10 ambulance calls; six crashes, three involving deer.

Nov. 3

Deputies responded to 49 incidents, including an internet crimes against children incident at a redacted location; suspicious activity on Cream City Road in the Town of Oconto; attempted fraud on County Road W in the Town of Mountain; suspicious activity on North Lake Street in Gillett; four traffic stops, two traffic offenses, one citizen assist, two miscellaneous traffic incidents, one welfare check; one open-line 911 call; six ambulance calls; three crashes, one involving deer.

COURT NEWS

SHAWANO-MENOMINEE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

• Sue A. Miller, 60, Shawano, pleaded no contest Nov. 3 to a misdemeanor charge of disorderly conduct. The charge was amended from a felony in a plea agreement. Judge William Kussel Jr. levied fines and court costs of $579.

• Emily Christine Balza, 47, Green Bay, pleaded no contest Nov. 4 to operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fourth offense). Kussel imposed and stayed a prison sentence, then placed her on probation for three years with conditions.

• RobertP. Dodge, 33, Green Bay, pleaded no contest Nov. 3 to nine counts of misdemeanor bail jumping and a misdemeanor charge of operating without a valid license. The charges were amended from felonies in a plea agreement. Kussel levied fines and court costs and sentenced him to 60 days in jail.

• David A. Kinney, 34, a Shawano man serving a sentence at Dodge Correctional Institution in Waupun, pleaded no contest Nov. 3 to two counts of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor charges of operating while revoked and violating an ignition interlock device order. Kussel withheld sentencing and placed him on three years of probation with conditions.

• Felicia D. Beaulieu-Morgan, 28, Menomonie, pleaded no contest Nov. 6 to possession with intent to distribute amphetamine, felony bail jumping and misdemeanor charges of resisting or obstructing an officer and possession of THC. Kussel withheld sentencing and placed her on two years of probation with conditions.

• Trace T. Littel, 27, Fond du Lac, pleaded no contest Nov. 5 to possession of cocaine (second or subsequent offense). Judge Katherine Sloma levied fines and court costs of $2,733.

• Zachary J. Fossum, 34, Shawano, was charged Nov. 2 with three counts of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of theft, resisting or obstructing an officer, and bail jumping. Sloma set a $5,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Nov. 9.

• Arron R. Gulickson, 39, Antigo, was charged Nov. 2 with taking and operating a vehicle without consent, fleeing an officer in a vehicle and misdemeanor counts of resisting or obstructing an officer, criminal trespass and criminal damage to property. Sloma set a $5,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Nov. 9.

• Raymond D. LeMieux, 44, Bowler, was charged Nov. 2 with operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fifth or sixth offense), six counts of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of operating while revoked and resisting or obstructing an officer. Sloma set a $5,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Nov. 6.

• Teena M. Piotrowski, 39, Bowler, was charged Nov. 2 with battery to certain individuals involved with a court or legal system, possession of THC (second or subsequent offense) and four counts of felony bail jumping. Sloma set a $1,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Nov. 6.

• Jay J. Hill, 42, Bowler, was charged Aug. 17 with forgery-uttering. Sloma set a $2,500 signature bond Nov. 3 and scheduled a status conference for Jan. 26.

• Brian L. Stevens, 59, Bowler, was charged Aug. 17 with forgery-uttering.Sloma authorized a bench warrant for his arrest Nov. 3 after he failed to make his initial court appearance.

• Adam Mays, 28, Shawano, was charged Aug. 17 with strangulation and suffocation and misdemeanor counts of battery and disorderly conduct. Sloma set a $1,500 signature bond Nov. 3 and scheduled a status conference for Jan. 26.

• Brenda Mae Behm, 62, Bowler, was charged Nov. 4 with two counts of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of battery and disorderly conduct. Sloma set a $500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Nov. 23.

• Forrest T. Beauprey, 27, Keshena, was charged Nov. 4 with four counts of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of battery, disorderly conduct, operating while revoked and violating an ignition interlock device order. Sloma set a $750 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Nov. 10.

• Kyle E. Bueschel, 28, Weyauwega, was charged Nov. 6 with possession of methamphetamine and felony bail jumping. Sloma set a $500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Nov. 16.

• James R. Cackovic, 28, Irma, was charged Nov. 6 with possession of methamphetamine, possession of narcotic drugs, maintaining a drug trafficking place, felony bail jumping, possession of a firearm by a person convicted of a felony and misdemeanor counts of possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of cocaine and possession of amphetamine/LSD/psilocin. Sloma set a $5,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary for Nov. 16.

• Stacy A. Valley, 45, Shawano, was charged Nov. 6 with possession of methamphetamine, four counts of felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. Sloma set a $20,000 signature bond and scheduled a status conference for Dec. 22.

OCONTO COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

• Shana Lynn Courchaine, 28, Oconto, had her probation revoked June 26 from a 2025 conviction for two counts of possession of methamphetamine, felony bail jumping, second-degree recklessly endangering safety and a misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Kent Hoffman sentenced her Nov. 3 to two years in prison followed by three years of extended supervision with conditions. She received credit for 374 days already served.

• Darrell John Brempell, 37, Oconto, was charged Nov. 2 with possession of THC (second or subsequent offense) and a misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Jay Conley set a $1,000 signature bond and adjourned his initial appearance until Dec. 17,

• Edward G. Schulze, 50, Sobieski, was charged Nov. 3 with operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fifth or sixth offense) and a misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct. Judge Hannah Schuchart set a $4,500 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until Nov. 19.

• Kent A. Kinlen, 64, Pulaski, was charged Nov. 4 with a sex offender registry violation and defrauding an innkeeper. Schuchart set a $2,500 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until Dec. 17.

Unbeaten streak alive, well in Bonduel

Bears to face 12-0 Lomira in Kimberly

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

Thirty high school football teams in Wisconsin still have a shot at winning a state championship.

One of them is the Bonduel Bears.

The Bears hosted Cedar Grove-Belgium on Nov. 6 in a WIAA Division 6 sectional final and handed the Rockets a 26-15 loss.

Bonduel will now head to Papermaker Stadium in Kimberly on Nov. 13 to face another 12-0 team, Lomira, a 16-12 winner over Edgar, last year's Division 6 state runner-up. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

The winner of that game will play for the Division 6 state championship at 1 p.m. Nov. 19 at Camp Randall Stadium in Madison.

Carter Moesch's final game at Rush Niles Memorial Field turned out to be a big one for the senior, as he scored all four of Bonduel's touchdowns, one of them a 91-yard kickoff return in the second half.

He also finished with 197 of the Bears' 307 rushing yards, three rushing touchdowns and a team-high nine tackles.

Malachi Gray added 104 rushing yards, and he and Moesch combined for 42 of the Bears' 46 rushing attempts.

Bonduel took a 20-0 lead after scoring once in the second quarter and adding two more touchdowns in the third.

Cedar Grove-Belgium scored both of its touchdowns in the fourth quarter, while Bonduel added a fourth trip to the end zone.

State semifinal matchups in all seven 11-player divisions set for 7 p.m. Nov. 13 are:

Division 1: No. 1 West De Pere vs. No. 2 Racine Case at Sun Prairie East High School; No. 1 Bay Port vs. No. 1 Hamilton at Titan Stadium, Oshkosh.

Division 2: No. 1 New Richmond vs. No. 1 Monona Grove at South Wood County Stadium, Wisconsin Rapids; No. 1 Notre Dame vs. No. 1 Union Grove at Slinger High School.

Division 3: No. 1 Pewaukee vs. No. 5 Catholic Memorial at Wauwatosa West High School; No. 1 Port Washington vs. No. 1 La Crosse Logan at DeForest High School.

Division 4: No. 1 Freedom vs. No. 1 Little Chute at Ashwaubenon High School; No. 1 Lake Mills vs. No. 1 Racine St. Catherine's at Stoughton High School.

Division 5: No. 2 Lake Country Lutheran vs. No. 1 New Glarus at Westosha Central High School; No. 1 Amherst vs. No. 1 Darlington at Horicon High School.

Division 6: No. 1 Bonduel vs. No. 2 Lomira at Papermaker Stadium, Kimberly; No. 1 Mondovi vs. No. 2 Kenosha St. Joseph Catholic at Waupaca High School.

Division 7: No. 2 River Ridge vs. No. 1 Glenwood City at Dorais Field, Chippewa Falls; No. 2 Iowa-Grant vs. No. 3 Hilbert at Oconomowoc High School.

8-player: No. 1 Gilman will face No. 1 Belmont in the 8-player state championship game at 2 p.m. on Nov. 14 at South Wood County Stadium in Wisconsin Rapids.

Pulaski's season ends with loss to Notre Dame

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

For a while, it looked like the Pulaski football team might be able to stand toe-to-toe with one of Wisconsin's top programs.

Eventually, however, it turned into the Kingston Allen show.

The senior running back and University of Wisconsin recruit ran for 284 yards and scored all five of Notre Dame's touchdowns Nov. 6 in a 35-7 win over the Red Raiders in a WIAA Division 2 Level 3 playoff game in Green Bay.

Allen's touchdowns included runs of 2, 3 and 2 yards in the second quarter that helped the Tritons build a 21-7 halftime lead.

After a scoreless first quarter, his first touchdown gave Notre Dame a 7-0 lead less than two minutes into the second quarter.

The lead didn't last long however, as Keaton Dauk's long kickoff return set the Red Raiders up at the Notre Dame 42-yard line. Bohdan Schmidt opened the drive with an 11-yard run, Anthony Ficarri scored from 31 yards out on the next play and Mason Borseth's extra point tied the game at 7-7 with 9:35 remaining in the opening half.

Allen capped 73- and 72-yard drives with his second and third touchdown runs later in the quarter, including his third with 18 seconds to go in the half.

He picked up where he left off on the Tritons' next drive, as his 60-yard touchdown run on the first play of the second half gave the home team a 28-7 advantage.

His fifth score came on a 24-yard run with 5:23 to go in the game.

"Our goal was to be able to take away the big play, and we really were for a good amount of time," coach Jerad Marsh said. "We got fatigued a little bit in the second quarter. We had a short offensive drive and had to come back out after a long defensive series. A team like that is going to be able to take advantage of you once you get fatigued a little."

Notre Dame turned the ball over on consecutive drives in the third quarter, but Pulaski couldn't take advantage of a short field.

Braun Wotruba set the Red Raiders up at the Pulaski 48-yard line after intercepting Jackson Bouthilet's pass, and Bouthilet fumbled on the Tritons' next drive to give Pulaski the ball at the Notre Dame 27-yard line. That drive ended after Quinn Blom intercepted Schmidt's pass attempt to Dauk in the end zone.

"That just shows the determination and passion that these guys have for each other," Marsh said. "They knew we had to get some extra possessions to be able to try and do anything."

Andre Burnett, the team's third-leading rusher this season behind Schmidt and Ficarri, injured his ankle on the second play of the game, didn't return and left the field after the game with crutches.

"You just have to have the next man up," Marsh said. "We were able to have some guys that stepped in there for a little bit and did exactly what we needed them to do. It's not something you plan for or hope for, especially for a talented young man like that."



Pulaski's Braun Wotruba comes up with a catch in front of Notre Dame's Marcus Sirmans. GREG SEUBERT

Notre Dame held Pulaski to 93 rushing yards. Ficarri led the Red Raiders with 55 on eight carries, but Schmidt, who left the game with an injury during Pulaski's first drive in the second half and later returned, finished with 7 yards on seven carries.

Schmidt also completed 4-of-7 passes for 31 yards in his final high school football game.

While Notre Dame will face another 12-0 team – Union Grove – in a state semifinal Nov. 13, the Red Raiders' season ended with a 9-3 mark. All three of Pulaski's losses came to teams still in the playoffs: Notre Dame, Bay Port and West De Pere.

"It was just a really neat group of young men," Marsh said. "They play for each other, care for their school and had really high goals from the time we started lifting (weights) in June to the last second that clicked off this clock."

Marsh expects his team to build off the momentum of a successful season and carry it into 2027.

"The seniors laid the groundwork and have for years in Pulaski," he said. "We put a lot of time and effort into what they want their season to look like."





Above, Mason Borseth punts for Pulaski during the Red Raiders' 35-7 loss to Notre Dame. At right, Keaton Dauk returns a kickoff for Pulaski in the second half of the Red Raiders' season-ending 35-7 loss to Notre Dame on Nov. 6 in the third round of the WIAA state football playoffs. Pulaski ended its season with a 9-3 record.
GREG SEUBERT

BABA Hall of Fame



The Badger Amateur Baseball Association inducted 12 members into its Hall of Fame on Oct. 17 at the association's annual Hall of Fame banquet in Marion. Front row, from left, are Jeff Ostrowski, Pat Peskie, Al Boyd, Sally Marquardt (Don Martzke Award winner), Larry Resch and Angie Brandenburg (accepting for Dan Brandenburg). Back row, from left, are John Boda, Rick Boda, Jay Grosskopf (accepting for Harvey Grosskopf), Tim Young, Bob Moe, Patsy Brandenburg and Kent Brandenburg (accepting for Lois Brandenburg). CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pulaski soccer season ends in state semifinals

The fourth-seeded Red Raiders (of Pulaski) fell to the top seed Red Raiders of Wauwatosa East 2-0 in the Division 2 state semifinal soccer game Nov. 5.

Tosa East midfielder Luke Gendrich opened the scoring with a goal in the 14th minute. Jackson Sadowski had the assist on a ball he crossed in from a free kick. Gendrich doubled the lead for Tosa East with his second goal in the 35th minute.

Freshman midfielder Max Mondloch came close to finding the net in the second half for Pulaski, but his shot was saved off the goal line moments before going in by East goalkeeper Andrew Metzger.

Metzger made four saves on goal for Wauwatosa East. Blake Batzer had three saves on goal for Pulaski.

Pulaski's season comes to an end one game short of the state final with an overall record of 15-7-2.

Pulaski previously appeared in the state tournament in 2014 and 2022 and dropped its opening match each time.

The Red Raiders shut out all four of their regional and sectional opponents and survived a sectional final shootout over Fox Valley Lutheran after a scoreless tie to qualify for this year's state tournament.

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GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

WWW.NEWMEDIA-WI.COM FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2026 WEEK 10: NOV. 15 VS. MINNESOTA

Clicking on all cylinders

Green Bay shows strength in running over New England

By LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

"Go Pack Go!" chants rained down as Green Bay set the record for most points ever scored by an opponent in New England's Gillette Stadium.

Every facet of the Packers was on point Nov. 8, as Green Bay took down the New England Patriots 45-27 in Foxborough.

Christian Watson and Matthew Golden kept their hot streaks alive, as the two receivers combined for 335 receiving yards and two touchdowns on 17 receptions. As a whole, the offense finished the game with 478 yards.

"It felt like a real fun game to be a part of," quarterback Jordan Love. said "When everything is flowing, we are putting up points, and everybody is making plays. It is definitely very fun to be a part of."

Like Watson and Golden, Love added to his stellar season, finishing the game completing 23-of-29 passes for 372 yards and three touchdowns. Savion Williams was the other recipient of Love's trifecta of touchdown passes, as he finished with 25 yards on three receptions.

"Flowing – that is what it feels like," said Love, on how it feels to make so many accurate deep throws. "It feels like you are just in that flow state."

More than just the pass game though, this game marked Green Bay's best rushing day of the season, as it totaled 129 yards and two touchdowns on the ground.

Josh Jacobs left the game early after totaling 5 yards with a hand injury. With MarShawn Lloyd inactive, it was Kaleb Johnson who led the Packers rushing attack, totaling 68 yards and a touchdown on 14 carries. Love added 13 yards and a touchdown on the ground as well.

As well as Green Bay's offense played in this game, the defense may have played better. The Packers defense forced New England into four turnovers, recorded nine quarterback hits, six passes defended, four tackles for loss and four sacks.

The defense set the tone right away. On the second play of the game, Xavier McKinney intercepted Patriots quarterback Drake Maye's pass that set up Love's rushing touchdown.

This was just the start of McKinney's big day, as the Alabama alum came away with two interceptions, two passes defended and four tackles. His partner in crime, Evan Williams, came close to matching McKinney, as he finished with one interceptions, one pass defended and five total tackles.

"All in all, our defense was flying around, making plays," coach Matt LaFleur said. "(I) can't say enough about (defensive coordinator Jonathan Gannon) just dialing up stuff and getting pressure on the quarterback. The guys up front wrecking havoc and getting to the quarterback – that was a big thing this game, and it allows our guys on the back end to make plays."

As a whole, Maye finished the game completing 21-of-38 passes for 299 yards, three touchdowns and three interceptions.

DeMario Douglas was the leading receiver for the Patriots, as he came away with 102 yards on five

PATRIOTS, continued on page 18







Jordan Love, top, had a season-high passer rating of 153.2 in Green Bay's dominant win over New England. He was 6-for-6 for 235 yards and one touchdown on passes of 20-plus yards Against the blitz, he was 11-for-11 for 170 yards and one TD. His top receivers were Christian Watson, left, and Matthew Golden. GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS



In Week 1 of the 2026 NFL season, Green Bay Packers safety Evan Williams recorded seven total tackles (6six solo, one assisted) against the Minnesota Vikings. GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

PACKERS MUCH IMPROVED THIS TIME AROUND

By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

Green Bay will host Minnesota in a Week 10 showdown at Lambeau Field on Nov. 15.

Packers offense vs. Vikings defense

Green Bay's offense is coming off what is arguably its best game of the season. They piled up 45 points and more than 400 yards against good New England defense.

This week, they'll face a great Vikings defense. Jordan Love threw for 372 yards and could have easily surpassed 400 if he did not have a seat on the bench with nine minutes left in the game due to the lopsided nature of the score.

Matthew Golden and Christian Watson were both able to get over the 100-yard receiving mark against New England. They lit up Christian Gonzalez and the rest of New England's secondary.

Watson and Golden are both on pace to surpass the 1,000 yard mark as a receivers. They'd be the first Green Bay duo to achieve that since Jordy Nelson and Randall Cobb did that in 2014. That offense was very good. This passing offense at least has a chance to be as good as that one.

The Packers run game finally showed some signs of life. Kaleb Johnson became the first running back to surpass 50 yards individually for the Packers. The Packers surpassed 100 yards as a team. It's not much, but it's a start.

There could be more shuffling on the offensive line this week. Aaron Banks bounced in and out of the lineup with a knee injury that has plagued him all season. When he was on the field, he was not playing well. Was that

VIKINGS, continued on page 18

Love playing at the top of his game this season

By LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

It is not often that the opposing team's quarterback gets MVP chants, but that is just what Jordan Love heard Sunday.

Love added 327 passing yards, three passing touchdowns and a rushing touchdown to his resume this past week, as the Green Bay quarterback looks like one of the front runners for the league's most prestigious award.

"It is definitely a very cool feeling to hear fans chanting that," said Love, on the MVP chatter. "It is a really cool feeling, and I appreciate all of the fans."

Throughout Love's career, Packers fans have wanted coach Matt LaFleur to hand the reins to the quarterback and use his elite passing ability. Now, without a strong run game so far this season, Green Bay has been forced to pass the ball more often than normal in the Love era. Sitting at 6-3 on the season, it appears that letting Love act as the main focus of the offense is the best strategy for the Packers.

In nine weeks, Love has totaled 2,573 passing yards and 19 passing touchdowns, while throwing just six interceptions.

"He is standing in there, he is taking hits and he is still dealing the ball," said LaFleur, confirming that Love is playing like an MVP candidate. "Those guys are making phenomenal plays. I am talking about (Matthew Golden), Christian (Watson) obviously – they had big nights. Savion Williams going in there and making big catches … all of those guys collectively are doing a great job."

While he did confirm that Love is playing like an MVP candidate, LaFleur makes a great point, by giving credit to Love's receiving weapons as well. It is really hard to win an MVP just by yourself. Golden and Watson are having great seasons, and combined with Love, have created one of the league's most devastating offensive trios.

With Watson staying healthy and Golden getting the opportunity to prove why the Packers selected him with its first round pick two years ago, as well as Love playing the best football of his career, the chemistry among the three continues to develop, which in turn will lead to great results for a Packers offense that has felt stagnant over the past couple of seasons.



Jordan Love leads the NFL in most pass attempts of 20-plus air yards, about 50% more than the runner-up CJ Stroud of the Texans.
GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

PATRIOTS, continued from page 17

receptions. Eli Rairdon added 52 yards on three receptions, while Efton Chism, Rhamondre Stevenson and Mack Hollins had a touchdown each.

In the run game, Corey Kiner led the way for New England, recording 55 yards and a touchdown on eight carries. Stevenson added 32 yards on six carries.

Finally, special teams had its best game of the season as well this past week.

Rookie kicker Trey Smack went 3-for-3 on his field goal attempts and made all four of his extra point attempts. Punter Daniel Whelan totaled 214 yards on four punts, while Bo Melton picked up 110 kick return yards.

"Its just a great win," said Love. "I think all around – all three phases. Great team win."

After starting the season 1-2, the Packers have won five out of the last six games to boost its record to 6-3. Green Bay will look to carry that momentum back to Lambeau Field on Sunday as it gets a shot at revenge against the Minnesota Vikings.

VIKINGS, continued from page 17

because of the injury, or is that just who he is now? If he cannot go, Laken Tomlinson will play left guard while Kevin Zeitler replaced Banks on the lineup Sunday.

They'll be facing a Minnesota defense that is one of the very best in football. Brian Flores is going to bring pressure early and often. He brought a ton of pressure against the Packers the first time these two teams met in the season opener. Green Bay was able to find some openings in their defense on the rare occasions that Love had time to throw.

That's the million dollar question this week. Can the Packers protect better against Flores' pressure packages? If they can, Love should be able to find some big plays in Minnesota's secondary with his top receivers.

If he can't, it'll be another long day.

Packers defense vs. Vikings offense

Green Bay's defense was excellent against Drake Maye and the New England passing game.

Xavier McKinney picked off Maye on his first pass of the game. He added another interception later in the game. Evan Williams had an acrobatic interception on the sideline that required some fancy footwork as well.

They sacked Maye four times with Karl Brooks getting two of them.

Yes, they gave up a lot of yards, but most of that came after they were already leading by two scores. The score of Sunday's game was 42-14 at one point as Green Bay's defense was juiced up against an undermanned New England offense.

Sunday, the Vikings will likely be starting Carson Wentz with Kyler Murray nursing a hamstring injury that kept him out of Monday's game against Buffalo.

Wentz played most of the game the last time the Packers played the Vikings with Murray exiting the game in the first half. Wentz was excellent against Green Bay, throwing three touchdown passes with two going to Justin Jefferson.

Jefferson caught eight balls for 92 yards and two touchdowns on opening day. One came on a free play when Lukas Van Ness jumped offsides. The Packers should be better disciplined this time around against Minnesota.

On the ground, the Vikings have sniffed around acquiring another running back but had not done so as of Sunday night. Assuming nothing changes, Minnesota's backfield will still be run by former Packer Aaron Jones and Jordan Mason.

They give Minnesota a passable run game to allow Kevin O'Connell to get into some of his play action concepts.

Despite the fanfare surrounding Minnesota's offense, they have struggled mightily this season.

Perhaps Wentz will give them a boost.

Special teams

Trey Smack was a man the Packers stuck with after his struggles through the month of October. He rewarded their faith in Sunday's win over the New England Patriots. Smack drilled all of his kicks including a 51-yard field goal. Furthermore, every kick essentially was center cut. Nothing looked like he was struggling, or that he hit the ball poorly.

Bo Melton also gave the Packers a boost in their return game with an explosive return.

Minnesota's special teams are a weapon with their kicking game. Will Reichard is in field goal range when the Vikings cross midfield. That's an exaggeration but not by much.

Minnesota's return game has been explosive with Myles Price at the controls. Kick coverage has been a mixed bag this season for Green Bay, but they'll need to be on their A game now.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS AT GREEN BAY PACKERS

Time and date: Noon, Sunday, Nov. 15

Location: Lambeau Field

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 6-3, Vikings 692 (excluding Week 9).

History: The Vikings and Packers have a rivalry that dates all the way back to 1961. The Packers lead the all-time series 67-62-3.

The last time these two teams met, it was the first game of the regular season. The Packers took an early lead thanks to an 81-yard-touchdown by Christian Watson early in the game. They led 22-10 in the fourth quarter when a controversial decision by Matt LaFleur to take a field goal off the board backfired. The Vikings would score 29 unanswered points from there as Jordan Love was snowed under by Minnesota's elite defense led by coordinator Brian Flores.

LaFleur has struggled a little more with the Vikings in his career. He is 3-6 against Kevin O'Connell in the meetings between the two coaches.

Coaches: Packers, Matt LaFleur, eighth season, 81-42-1. Vikings, Kevin O'Connell, fifth season, 49-26.

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, 3:25 p.m., L 20-17
Thursday, Oct. 29, vs. Carolina, W 27-19
Sunday, Nov. 8, at New England, W 45-27
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. 12
Washington at NY Giants, 7:15 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 15
New England at Detroit, 8:30 a.m. (Munich, Germany)
Carolina at New Orleans, noon
Miami at Indianapolis, noon
Houston at Cleveland, noon
Minnesota at Green Bay, noon
Jacksonville at Tennessee, noon
Buffalo at NY Jets, noon
Kansas City at Atlanta, noon
LA Rams at Arizona, 3:05 p.m.
Seattle at Las Vegas, 3:05 p.m.
San Francisco at Dallas, 3:25 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 7:20 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 16
LA Chargers at Baltimore, 7:15 p.m.

MOMENTS

GREEN BAY 45, NEW ENGLAND 27



GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

LEAGUE-LEADING RECEIVER

Green Bay wide receiver Christian Watson pulled down an 81-yard touchdown pass from Jordan Love in Week at Minnesota. It was the longest scoring play for either player. Watson and Matthew Golden sit near the top of major receiving categories, ranking third (879 yards) and fourth (783 yards), respectively, in receiving yards. Watson leads the NFL with 17 catches of 20-plus yards, while both players lead the league with five 40-plus yard receptions.

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MOMENT

GREEN BAY 45, NEW ENGLAND 27



GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT

When cornerback Brandon Cissee was drafted by Packers in 2026, the position was considered the top need going into the 2026 season. The second-round pick has started in every game for the Packers this season. He has 26 solo tackles on the season and one interception against the Cowboys. He has been unusually effective as a defensive back blitzer, tallying 1.5 sacks and multiple quarterback pressures. According to Sports Illustrated, it didn't take long for him to emerge as a no-doubt-about-it starter.

HO-CHUNK GAMING
WITTENBERG

ARE YOU READY TO RACE?

R/C, gaming store opens in Shawano strip mall

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Karen Wassenberg has a solid foundation in the party market in Shawano.

From flower and balloon sculptures for bridal showers to large-scale inflatables for children's birthday parties, she has it covered. Now, she's adding even more.

Full Throttle R/C & Gaming recently opened in Fairview Plaza at 738 E. Green Bay St., Shawano.

There are several types of radio-controlled vehicles at various prices available at the store.

"You can start them at 5 or 6 probably. We have the starter classes," Wassenberg said. "They're smaller for the beginners, and then they go all the way up to the adults."

The beginner level cars start around $80-$100 and go as high as $600 or more.

"They're more of an investment, like it's a hobby, so once you get into it, you put money into it," she said.

The cars hit regular speeds of 40-50 miles per hour, but some go as fast as 70.

In addition to selling the cars, Full Throttle also offers space to race and perform jumps with the cars. Practice nights are Tuesday and Thursday.

Starting this month, there will be Friday night racing in different classes and leagues in the building next door to Full Throttle.

Wassenberg also owns Full Bloom Events in the same strip mall.

"I also do events planning, decorating with balloons and flowers," she said. "When I get phone calls for bridal showers, baby showers, people are like, 'Do you have anywhere that we can do this that's not at a bar?' So, I was like, "We need a venue for that kinds of stuff."

That's where Fairview Commons comes in.

When Full Throttle's second storefront isn't being used for racing or practices, Wassenberg can transform the space into an area for parties, corporate events or other gatherings.

The teardown and setup is relatively quick, she said, from as little as 45 minutes to four hours for a more complicated setup. Its location is convenient for her to transfer materials back and forth from Full Bloom Events.

Wassenberg also rents inflatables, an obstacle course, popcorn-making machines, slushie machines, cotton candy machines and more through her other business, DK Premier Party Rentals.

Back at Full Throttle, she expects to expand inventory to include drones, airplanes and boats.

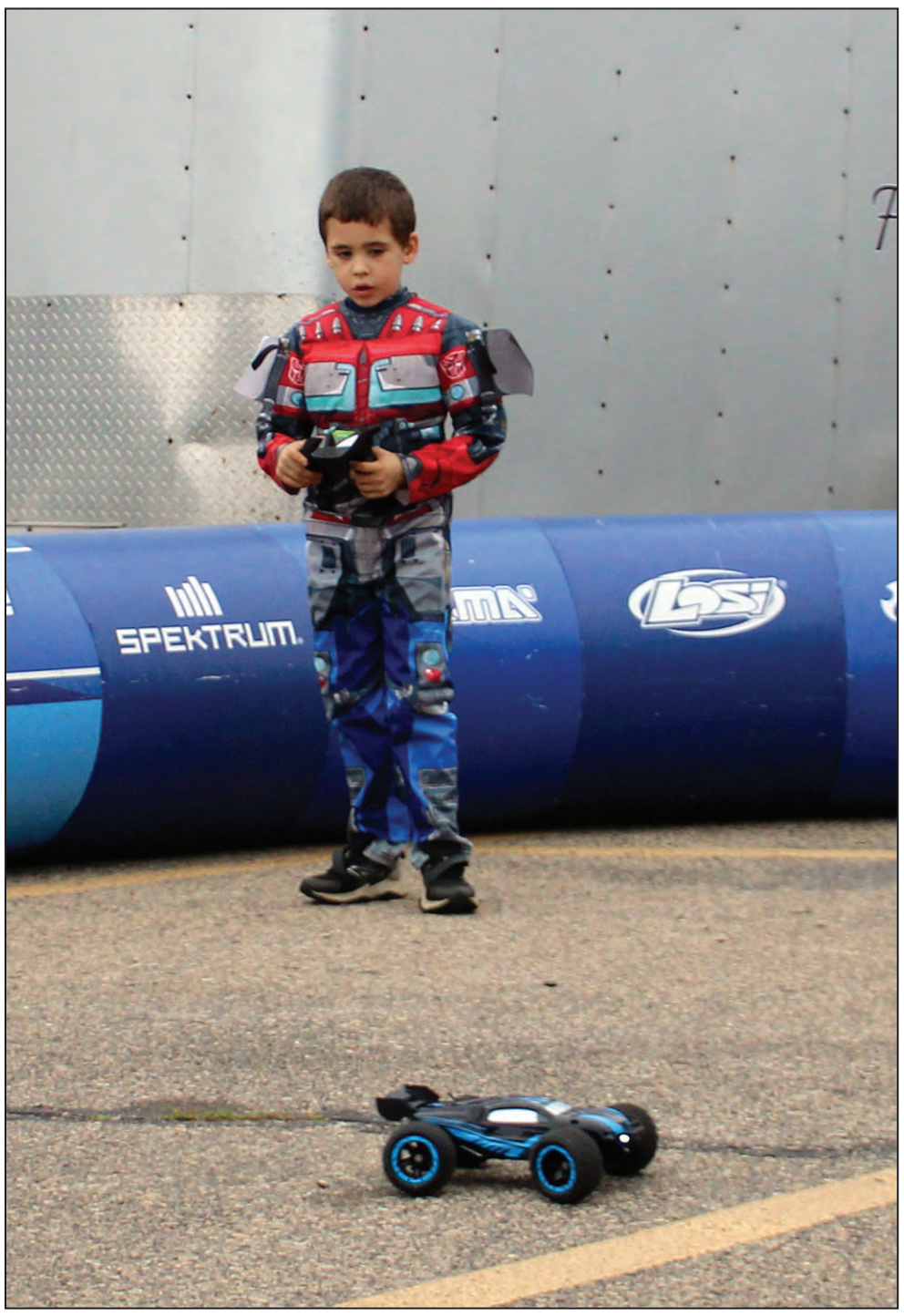
"We're also going to rent out the cars," she said. "We have about 12 of them that we can rent out … for birthday parties, team-building exercises."

As sturdy as the R/C vehicles are these days, some parts will break. Repairs are handled on site by Wassenberg's boyfriend, D.J. White.

"I had an uncle that was lightly into the hobby, and he gave me my first

RACE, continued on page 23

AT A GLANCE
WHAT: Full Throttle R/C & Gaming
WHERE: 738 E. Green Bay St., Shawano
WHERE: 4-8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday
CONTACT: 715-701-0195 or info@full-bloomeventsdecor.com



A boy tests out one of the remote-control cars at Full Throttle R/C & Gaming's open house Oct. 31. The store is operated by Karen Wassenberg and D.J. White.
KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA



Karen Wassenberg shows off one of the many remote-control vehicles for sale at Full Throttle R/C & Gaming in Shawano. The story rents and sells the vehicles and offers a racing league Friday nights.
KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

Herbal centerpieces provide fun and flavor

Try something different this year when planning dinner parties. Dress up the table with a centerpiece of fresh herbs. Family and guests will enjoy snipping a few fresh sprigs of herbs to season meals to their taste.

Purchase plants so they will be ready to harvest in time. Check local garden centers, the grocery store produce department or online.

GARDENING WITH MELINDA MYERS



MELINDA MYERS
COLUMNIST

Include favorite herbs and those that complement the menu. Grow plants in individual containers or plant several in one larger decorative pot. Select a container with drainage holes that will also complement the table setting.

Double pot plants when using a decorative container that lacks drainage holes. Plant herbs in a smaller pot with drainage holes. Set the potted herb on a layer of pebbles or any item that elevates the pot above excess water that collects in the bottom of the decorative container. This reduces the risk of root rot and eliminates the need to pour off excess water. As the water evaporates, it increases humidity around the plant. It's less work and better for the plants.

Use a quality, well-drained potting mix when moving herbs into another container. Be sure to place a saucer or tray under the pot to protect furniture. Set it on a decorative place mat for added protection and add a few seasonal items to complete the display.

Include some basil to dress up pizzas, salads or soups with just a few leaves. Add some oregano for seasoning any tomato-based dishes, such as pizza and pasta. Use fresh thyme to add flavor to cheeses, eggs, tomatoes and lentils. Lemon thyme makes a great and tasty tea.

Chives' mild onion flavor is great on potatoes, but consider adding it to soups, dips, seafood dishes and omelets. Just snip a few leaves and cut them into smaller pieces before adding them to the meal.

Parsley is high in vitamin C and often added to soups, pastas, salads and dressings. It makes a nice garnish and breath freshener.

Start or end gatherings with some fresh mint. Have guests add a leaf or two to their favorite cocktails or mocktails as they gather. Use a few leaves to garnish a favorite dessert, or serve tea along with a pot of peppermint or

CENTERPIECES, continued on page 23



Sprigs of Sweet Dani lemon basil can help to spruce up the look of any dining table.
ALL-AMERICA SELECTIONS

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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.

SHAWANO: Crescent Ballroom Wedding and Event Showcase, 4-7 p.m., Stubborn Brothers Brewery, 220 S. Main St. Menu and beer samples, wedding team, preferred vendors.

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

SATURDAY, NOV. 14

SHAWANO: Handmade Holiday Marketplace and Kidpreneur Event, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1254 S. Union St. Unique handmade items from local artisans and young crafters.

LITTLE SUAMICO: Fall Bazaar, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. John's Lutheran Church, 1253 County Road J. Vintage Christmas, crafts, vendors, bake sale, cookie walk and more.

TOWNSEND: Widows Weekend Wine and Wreaths, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Lakehouse Winery, 17745 County Road T. Proceeds benefit Vets for Vets. $50 per person includes wreath-making crafts and a glass of wine. RSVP at 715-276-2645 or text 715-573-4433.

NAVARINO: Princess Ball 2026, 2-4 p.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Geared for ages 3-11. Meet and dance with your favorite princesses. Dainty finger food, beverages and entertainment. Admission $20 children, $10 adults, tickets required; gowns, suits and fairy tale costumes strongly encouraged.

TUESDAY, NOV. 17

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. 18

NAVARINO: Navarino at Noon, noon, Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Topic: Wisconsin bats. $5.

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. 19

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

SHAWANO: God's Little Wonders: Parent/Tot Hour, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1254 S. Union St. Hands-on activities and crafts, songs and stories, faith nurturing.

KESHENA: Winter Walking Program, 4:30-6 p.m., Menominee Tribal Clinic, W3275 Wolf River Road. For all ages. Helps in weight loss, improves heart health, lowers blood pressure, decreases diabetes risk, increases lung capacity, boosts immunity.

FRIDAY, NOV. 20

CECIL: Soup, Craft and Bake Sale, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., St. Martin of Tours Catholic Parish, 407 S. Warrington Ave.

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

SHAWANO: Sacred Heart Fundraising Days, 1-6 p.m., Sacred Heart Catholic Church Gathering Space, 302 S. Main St. Shopping event benefiting Sacred Heart School hosted by Cathedral Book and Gift. Catholic books, gifts, and faith-based merchandise.

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

SATURDAY, NOV. 21

CECIL: Soup, Craft and Bake Sale, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., St. Martin of Tours Catholic Parish, 407 S. Warrington Ave.

SHAWANO: Sacred Heart Fundraising Days, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sacred Heart Catholic Church Gathering Space, 302 S. Main St. Shopping event benefiting Sacred Heart School hosted by Cathedral Book and Gift. Catholic books, gifts, and faith-based merchandise.

TOWNSEND: Widows Weekend Wine and Wreaths, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Lakehouse Winery, 17745 County Road T. Proceeds benefit Vets for Vets. $50 per person includes wreath-making crafts and a glass of wine. RSVP at 715-276-2645 or text 715-573-4433.

SUNDAY, NOV. 22

SHAWANO: Sacred Heart Fundraising Days, 6:30 a.m. to noon except during Mass, Sacred Heart Catholic Church Gathering Space, 302 S. Main St. Shopping event benefiting Sacred Heart School hosted by Cathedral Book and Gift. Catholic books, gifts, and faith-based merchandise.

THEME: THANKSGIVING

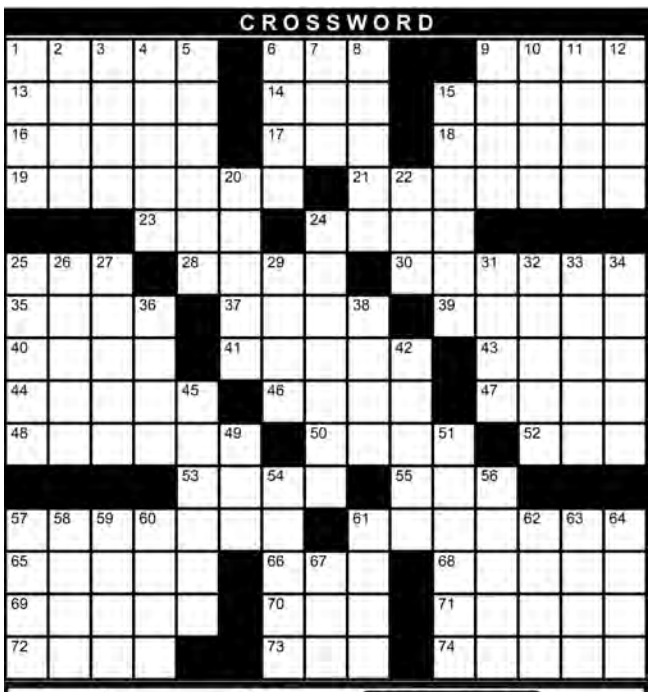
ACROSS

1. Chevy of "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation"
6. Broadcast breaks
9. Electrical current unit, pl.
13. Mineral veins
14. Neighbor of Ger.
15. Gem state
16. 1960s abstractionism
17. "I" mania
18. *The only First Lady to issue official Thanksgiving Day proclamation
19. *First department store to host Thanksgiving parade
21. *Keeping turkey juicy
23. Use one's eyes
24. Same as island
25. Chasing game
28. 4th planet from sun
30. Milk-related
35. 1952 Olympic site
37. *Brad who starred in a Friends Thanksgiving episode
39. Remus Lupin's nickname
40. Continent
41. Most common vowel in English language
43. Try
44. Ascetic holy Hindu
46. Fail to mention
47. Ditty
48. Interruptions
50. "Do ____ others..."
52. P in m.p.g.
53. Partiality
55. Pie ____ ____ mode
57. *Gizzard, heart, liver, neck
61. *Soaking turkey
65. Heart chambers
66. Polite form of address
68. Outspoken
69. Behave like a coquette
70. "But I heard him exclaim, ____ he drove out of sight..."
71. Allergic reaction to bee sting
72. Bloodsucking hopper
73. "Ideas worth spreading" talk
74. Counseled

DOWN

1. Heidi's shoe
2. Kachina doll maker
3. *"The Thanksgiving Song" performer
4. Some Slavs
5. Put on a pedestal
6. Gorillas and orangutans
7. *National ____ Show
8. Pigsty dwellers
9. Mine passage
10. Neither mini nor midi
11. What phonics and cacophony have in common
12. Playlist item
15. Trouser measurement
20. Bounds' partners
22. Opposite of nothing
24. Isthmi, sing.
25. *Charlie Brown's meal: ____, popcorn, pretzels, jelly beans
26. Allegro ____, in music
27. Move like on ice
29. Organized crime-related ____ Act, acr.
31. Selling price minus profit
32. Add (2 words)
33. Absurd
34. *____ Monday after Thanksgiving
36. Hawaiian island
38. "The Parent Trap" child
42. Rose oil
45. Cheerful
49. Dog command
51. Dickens' Twist
54. Opposite of liability
56. Positive electrode
57. Gamecock's spur
58. It will
59. French hors d'oeuvre staple
60. Turkish money
61. Raised
62. Like some cakes
63. ID info
64. Happy
67. Ill temper

CROSSWORD





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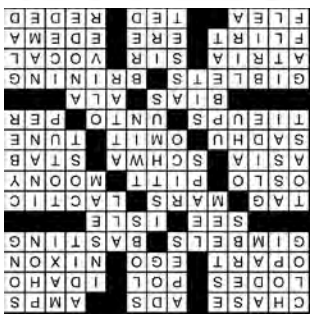
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CMN holds summit the land will remember

A parcel of land has a long memory. It has witnessed a past whose story was known to those who walked before us, and it has a future that will endure long after we all are gone.

As September turned to October, the College of Menominee Nation hosted the three-day 2026 Seven Generations Inter-Tribal Leadership Summit. An annual partnership with Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University and the Universities of Wisconsin, CMN's first time coordinating the event in Keshena bore the theme "The Land Remembers Us."

CMN President Christopher Caldwell told the hundreds assembled that "Names tell a story of connection to place." Referencing the conference subtitle of "Āwenew kanāwehtōkon mawaw-new kāēhkōh eneq kayēs-mēnekosiyah," which means "We must care for the things we were given" when translated to English, Caldwell added, "Us coming together builds healthier, stronger communities."



Enjoying a lighthearted moment at the 2026 Seven Generations Inter-Tribal Leadership Summit are, from left, Sasanehsaeh Jennings, tribal liaison at the University of Wisconsin System; Renée Wachter, interim president of the Universities of Wisconsin; Karen Breit, Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University president; Megan Smith, College of Menominee Nation student; and CMN President Christopher Caldwell. COLLEGE OF MENOMINEE NATION

Menominee Tribal Chairman Joey Awonohopay concurred.

"Truly an honor to see all of you here who share our commitment to community and those who come after us," Awonohopay said. "Our decisions are not just for today but for our children and grandchildren."



RYAN WINN
COLUMNIST

LCOOU President Karen Breit echoed the sentiments, stating, "The name Seven Generations reminds us of the responsibility carried by our people. In that spirit, this summit is more than a conference."

UW Systems Interim President Renée Wachter recognized the influence attendees had on their respective campuses, asserting, "Higher education has the potential to change lives and I don't just mean a person. It's throwing that pebble and watching it ripple out onto others."

Some of the pebbles thrown at the conference came in breakout sessions that focused on four umbrella categories — economic and workforce development, education, environment, and health and safety.

In a session on Indigenous approaches to artificial intelligence, Ho-Chunk tribal member Marcus Lewis noted the role technology plays in connecting language teachers to instructional curriculum.

"AI has the ability to take us forward, but not at the expense of our past or who we are," Lewis said. "It can enhance, not replace elders, teachers, or Indigenous knowledge keepers."

Menominee tribal member Annie Jones noted that rushing to action is the antithesis of Indigenous educational philosophy at UW-Madison.

"She kills," Jones said. "Very, very slowly."

CMN student Gracie Waukechon, member of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, delivered a keynote titled, "Strengthening Our Relationship with the Planet Through Community Organizing."

"Extractionist companies rely on the public to remain silent, but when our individual voices become a collective roar for justice, the threat of destruction falters," Waukechon said.

The Woodland Bowl amphitheater celebrated its 90th anniversary this year, and I had the privilege of speaking about this storied place's history of hosting fairs, pageants and powwows. Yet, it was the Bowl itself that took the literal spotlight on the second night of the gathering.

That evening, MenominiyoU hosted an exhibition powwow that showcased an exhibition of dances that included hand-drum contests, Woodland and Appliques exhibitions, and a night filled with revelry.

From his place at the emcee stand, tribal member John Teller Jr. regaled the powwow's guests with Menominee cultural knowledge.

About his people's teachings, Teller said, "It wasn't a fairy tale. It wasn't a lullaby. It was very real to tell our young people to listen to their parents and follow our ways."

Tribal member Marci Hawpetoss elaborated upon how those ways are applicable. In her keynote, she compared using generative artificial intelligence to the cautionary maple sugar story shared by Menominee and Ojibwe people. The story explains how things that are "too easy" are not appreciated.

"We are thinking about stories in a global context," Hawpetoss said. "The land is reactive and we all have relational accountability."

Caldwell closed the summit by acknowledging that its success was another step in the journey of elevating Native ways of knowing.

"Over the past few days, I saw different people coming together, sharing their ideas, and shaping our perspectives. I think the things you will carry with you are the important part. By being here, you are becoming leaders in your community," Caldwell said.

As the assemblage departed from CMN, I reflected upon the themes shared by the speakers. Their words took a foothold in Keshena, adding to the enduring story of wisdom shared on Menominee soil.

A parcel of land has a long memory, and the 2026 Seven Generations Inter-Tribal Leadership Summit in Keshena created recollections that will reverberate.

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



College of Menominee Nation student Gracie Waukechon delivers a keynote presentation at the 2026 Seven Generations Inter-Tribal Leadership Summit. COLLEGE OF MENOMINEE NATION

"Extractionist companies rely on the public to remain silent, but when our individual voices become a collective roar for justice, the threat of destruction falters,"

GRACIE WAUKECHON, CMN student and member of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

CENTERPIECES, continued from page 21

spearmint to help everyone settle their stomachs after enjoying the meal.

Always water plants thoroughly when the top inch of soil starts to dry. Basil likes slightly moist but not soggy wet soil. Pour off excess water that collects in the saucer, if needed.

Don't forget the snips to allow everyone to add their own favorite herbal seasonings to their meals. Encourage guests to make the cut above a set of leaves. This keeps the plant looking good and the wound will close quickly. Don't be timid; regular harvesting encourages new growth for future harvests.

When the herbal centerpiece is not decorating the table, move it to a sunny window or under artificial lights. Avoid drafts of hot and cold air and continue watering it thoroughly as needed.

Everyone will appreciate sharing the fun and fresh flavor of seasoning their own entrees and desserts right at the table.

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

RACE, continued from page 21

hobby-grade R/C car, and it started from there," he said.

White broke enough parts on his cars he still remembers his mother's credit card number that he used to order new parts.

"They were not near as durable as they are now," he said. "The funny part is that prices of these things have stayed the same."

A car selling for $250 for 20 years ago is still sold for about the same price.

"It's kind of like televisions," White said. "They used to be stupid expensive, and now they're not."

Some repairs are done in as little as 15 minutes. Others need parts to be ordered and may take a week to get it and repair. The repair time is minimal.

The remote-control car and gaming business took off as a means to keep children entertained without looking at their phones or a computer screen.

"It's something great for the kids to do," Wassenberg said. "It keeps them off the electronics."

kpasson@newmedia-wi.com

Brewers win World Series with forest products



Kathleen Marsh's son, Jeremy, uses a wooden bat while on a Little League team in 1987. Baseball bats, including the ones used by the Brewers come from forest products.

KATHLEEN MARSH

As a Northwoods resident and tree lover, I think it was a wonderful coincidence that Forest Products Week ended with the Milwaukee Brewers appearing in the World Series. Not surprisingly, millions of new Brewers fans joined those of us who had loved our Brew Crew for decades. What a ride. I'm still pinching myself to make sure this isn't all a pipe dream.

Baseball fans or not, we all use forest products daily – toilet paper, tissues, cups, wrappers, copier paper, newspapers, shipping boxes, pencils, furniture, books, puzzles, board games and so much more. Rarely ever mentioned is an essential baseball item made from forest products.



KATHLEEN MARSH
COLUMNIST

When Jon and I bought Otter Run in Townsend in 1993, I literally did not see the forest for the trees. It hurt my heart to cut a tree unless it was in danger of falling on our cabin or blocking the access road. Knowing nothing about sustainable forestry practices, my philosophy was to let nature take its course.

Then our neighbor, Lee Stehula, told us we could get a break on property taxes if we consigned 40 acres of our woods into the Managed Forest Woodland program. We looked into it and in 1997 signed a 30-year renewable agreement with the State of Wisconsin.

The first step was to find a certified forester to create a long-term plan to ensure the forest was kept healthy and productive. We did that but had no idea what logging company to hire. Jon was concerned that a logger would high grade. Thankfully, Richard Pintsch, then-owner of the Townsend hardware store, recommended McCauslin Logging.

On his first visit, co-owner Dave Christianson walked the property with us. He said our woods needed attention because most of the birch and popple trees were close to climax stage. We hired him on the spot.

Dave kept us in the loop the entire time. I was delighted when he said the birch would be used for baby furniture or made into popsicle sticks. The popple, a less desirable species, would become pulp for paper. I learned a lot from Dave, including that in Townsend logging is second only to tourism as an economic engine.

Faithfully following the MFL agreement, we cut again in 2013 and then in 2019 to clean up after the derecho. Each time, the trees were harvested to provide forest products that ended up in a myriad of consumer goods.

That brings us back to the aforementioned Forest Products Week.

Each year, Wisconsin dedicates a week to celebrating the fruits of the forest. This year, it happened to coincide with the Brewers appearance in the World Series. Why so special? Name an essential baseball item made in the USA that comes from forest products. You guessed it, the American baseball bat.

Some interesting history. The baseball bat business was established in a woodworking shop in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1856 by J. Frederick Hillerich, a German immigrant whose son John (Bud) played amateur baseball. Not happy with the bats available, Bud made his own. It didn't take long for his teammates to request he make bats for them, but it was only a side gig.

In 1884, Bud was approached by Pete Browning, a superstar for the Eclipse, Louisville's major league baseball team. Pete, whose nickname was the "Louisville Slugger," was mired in a slump. He had heard of Bud's special skill and begged him to make him a new bat. Using that bat, Pete had three hits in the next game.

You can guess the rest of the story, though it took a while to convince J. Frederick that producing baseball bats was the future of his company. Bud continued to work on refining them anyway. Good call.

In 1894, Bud joined his father as a business partner and registered the trademark, Louisville Slugger. Later, the business was purchased by Wilson, a company name familiar to anyone who knows anything about sports.

White ash was once the most popular wood used for professional bats. Now 75% are sugar maple or yellow birch. Each species has a different feel and energy reaction based on density, grain pattern, and flexibility.

Though custom made for each player, Major League Baseball requires bats be made from a single piece of solid wood, no more than 42 inches long, with a 2.61-inch diameter at the thickest point. For example, Hank Aaron's bat was a 35-inch Louisville Slugger that weighed 33 ounces.

Some say too much is being made of the Brewers winning a World Series. Really? I believe the Brewers are the personification of Northwoods Wisconsinites. Tough, resilient, proud, hard-working, loyal, fun-loving hospitable folks who work as a team. We care for each other because we have to. Winter is bearing down on us.

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

Gillett Thanksgiving dinner to be held day before holiday

Hillside Assembly of God Church will host the 36th annual Gillett Community Thanksgiving Dinner, consisting of turkey and ham with all the trimmings from 3:30-6 p.m. Nov. 25.

This dinner is offered to anyone who would enjoy the feeling of being a part of a large family. There is no charge for the dinner. The church is located at 5890 State Highway 22 in Gillett.

Anyone who is homebound and lives in Gillett, Suring, Cecil or Oconto Falls can have a meal delivered.

For reservations or to volunteer, call 920-855-2962 by noon or go to www.hillsideassembly.com/thanks. Anyone leaving a message should include a phone number to confirm.

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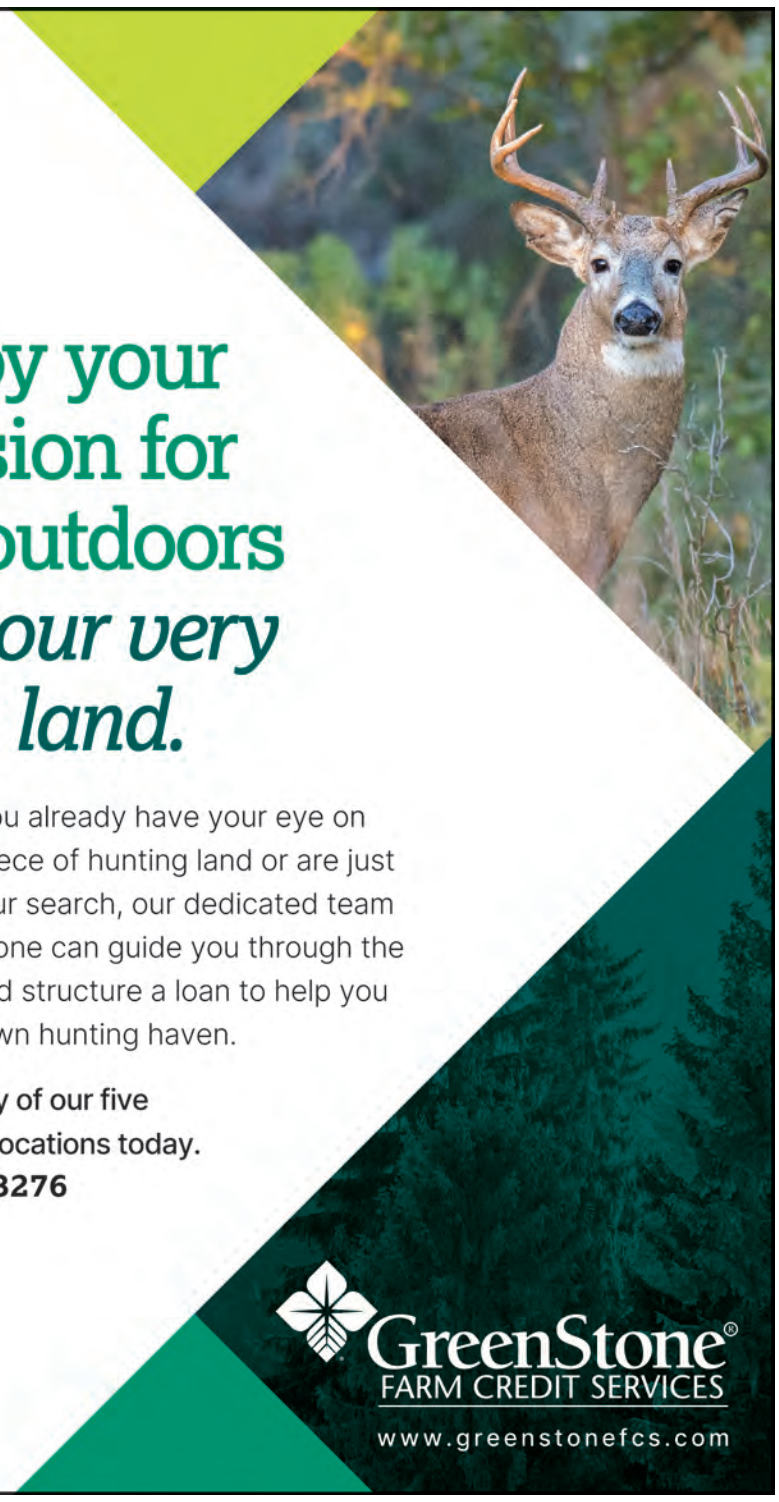
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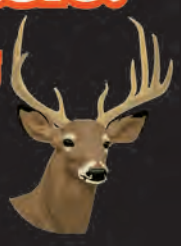
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DEER HUNTING SEASON
Plan • Hunt • Enjoy

Deer hunting means big bucks for sporting goods business

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

For Tom Schaal, this is the calm before the storm.

It was relatively quiet in his store – Northwoods Sporting Goods – on a Thursday afternoon in late September, but that won't be the case in late November before and during Wisconsin's gun deer season, which kicks off Nov. 21 and runs through Nov. 29.

Schaal has owned the Lena store, located at 410 E. Main St., for 12 years and is prepared for what is easily his busiest time of the year, as the gun deer season is important for his bottom line.

"It's the best week or two weeks that we get," he said. "It's our bread and butter. You'd be surprised how many licenses we sell the Friday before (the season begins). People wait until the last minute. It picks up with (the archery season), but Wisconsin's rifle season is almost a religion."

The day before the season begins is typically one of the busiest of the day at Schaal's store.

"I've got to have one extra person just at the license machine," he said. "It runs nonstop, and sometimes, it's a dozen deep. The only ones that get upset are the ones that are buying a gun that day and it gets delayed or something. They get mad at me, but it's not our fault. The government tells me whether I can give you the gun."

Schaal is looking for a deer season in 2026 comparable to the last five years.

"It stays pretty steady," he said. "I'd say it's down from 12 years ago. COVID changed a lot of things and trained people to shop online. You can buy your license online from home and that changed license sales."

While some wait until the last minute, serious hunters are prepared for the season well before it arrives, Schaal said.

"They've been prepared for a month or two," he said. "The ones that are leaving in late October or November for out West for elk, mule deer or whatever, they've been shooting awhile already."

Schaal said deer hunters head to the Lena area from southern Wisconsin and Illinois.

"We have one of the cheapest nonresident licenses in the country," he said. "We get some from Indiana, Missouri."

Most deer hunters in the Lena area hunt private land, Schaal said.

"There is a lot of public land, it's just not hunted as much," he said. "You don't get the privacy you get on private land. On opening morning, you could have a guy 50 yards from you. On public land, the further in you go, the less people you'll see. Most people don't go far from the road."

Area hunters on private land will find plenty of deer, Schaal said.

"We have a lot of deer on private land, almost too many," he said. "We had a huge herd in the early or mid '80s. It went down and was growing again through the late '90s. Mother Nature takes care of itself, and we have a really strong herd right now."

That's not always good news for hunters, Schaal said.

"In some spots, the does aren't getting bred," he said. "We have fawns with spots on them this time of year. That means that the does aren't getting bred until the second or third heat. There aren't enough bucks to breed them all. On our home property where I hunt, we've never shot a doe, but recently, we started letting people in to shoot, because we have that problem."

Trail cameras have become a popular tool for hunters, according to Schaal.

"The last study I read said only about 5% of deer get their picture taken, so you can't live by it," he said. "It's hard to believe. I quit running cameras 25 years ago, but it's a tool that is helpful, especially if you're on public ground."

Schaal's advice to hunters is to be prepared and not wait until the last minute.

"Be proactive, that's about the best advice I can give," he said. "Stands should be ready. Scouting, absolutely. Put some cameras out if you want. You should be sighting their rifles in and making sure they're ready for that. Make sure that's done ahead of time because you have to find the ammo that works for you.

"I can't stress enough how important it is to shoot your gun and shoot it a lot. Time behind the gun is key, especially if you're shooting from a distance. The average kill shot in Wisconsin – rifle and archery – is 17 yards. Most people don't shoot that far, but if you're hunting private land, you have to know what your gun shoots at."



Tom Schaal stocks boxes of ammunition at Northwoods Sporting Goods in Lena. GREG SEUBERT



Several hunters are expected to show up at Northwoods Sporting Goods in Lena to purchase a license for the upcoming gun deer season, which runs Nov. 21-29. GREG SEUBERT

Hunters rely on Meatski's for venison processing

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

Wisconsin hunters harvested just over 182,000 white-tailed deer during last year's gun deer season.

Those deer needed to be processed into meat and businesses like Meatski's Quality Meats help provide that service.

Chad Soletske and his wife, Tashina, own and operate the meat processor, butcher shop, convenience store and gas station at W11124 State Highway 64, on the Oconto and Marinette county line between Mountain and Pound.

The Soletskes and their staff are gearing up for what is expected to be a busy nine-day season, which this year will be held Nov. 21-29.

Chad Soletske said there are things hunters can do to make processing their deer into venison easier.

"The first thing they should do is remove all the innards – the internal organs – as soon as possible after harvesting the animal," he said. "It's called field dressing. You remove all the genitalia. People forget to do that a lot of times and they bring it to me. I make them do it anyway. The way I explain it is you don't want that tainting your meat, and what that's doing is tainting your meat.

"After the animal is field-dressed, you bring it to me as soon as you can. Come into the store, and somebody here will help you fill out your cutting sheet for how you want your animal processed. We take it in back and hang it up in our cooler. I skin twice a week and try to cut every deer I get each week."



April Herzog weighs an order of ground beef for a customer at Meatski's Quality Meats. The business, located on state Highway 64 between Mountain and Pound, has been processing venison for deer hunters for years. GREG SEUBERT

Meatski's customers have plenty of options for turning their deer into venison, according to Soletske.

"It's all over the board, anything from fresh sausage like breakfast links to summer sausage," he said. "Then, there's the fresh steaks, roasts, stew meat."

Business at Meatski's started to pick up in mid-September with the opening of the state's bowhunting deer season, Soletske said.

"Opening weekend is usually pretty busy," he said. "After that, it dies off until the end of October, when the deer really start moving, the weather gets cool and people like to go out into the woods and sit."

Things really pick up once the gun season opens.

"It gets pretty hectic," Soletske said. "Generally, we skin them, quarter them and cut them up as fast as we can. On a really good day, we can do 60 deer. I generally have five guys on a table with four guys cutting. If it's straight cut with no sausage, it's generally a week until gun season. Once gun season rolls around, it's longer. We try to accommodate everybody, but we can only take so many deer at a time."

Soletske said venison has advantages over other meat, including beef and pork.

"Venison's very lean, and there are no additives to it," he said. "You don't have to worry about all the steroids in beef and pork. It's all natural, about as natural as you're going to find. You get to take what you want to take home."

DEER HUNTING SEASON
Plan • Hunt • Enjoy

Deer hunting legend shares public-land secrets

By ROSS BIELEMA
Correspondent

The best place you never hunted is yours for the asking.

The reason you probably never went there is because the stories about public hunting probably scared you away.

"There are too many crazies out there," the story goes. "You'll run into squirrel hunters, hikers and maybe even anti-hunters who will scream at you."

I've shot many deer on public land, including my best buck, a symmetrical 8-pointer that wouldn't make any record book but mine. I've run into squirrel hunters and hikers, but never anti-hunters.

Wisconsin deer hunting legend Greg Miller never worried about these things. The man who made a living writing about and filming his trophy deer hunting adventures throughout the 1980s, 1990s and early 2000s estimates he killed 75% of his record book animals on public land.

Most of those deer came from forests in Burnett and Douglas counties forests, not the national forests as many suspected. He's traveled to 22 states and killed deer in 19 of them. At one time, he held the record for the fourth largest non-typical buck in Wisconsin, a 17-pointer he shot with his bow in December 1990.

He has authored five books on deer hunting (all of them published through Krause Publications in Iola), and co-authored many others. His hunting articles have appeared in "Outdoor Life," "Deer and Deer Hunting" and many other leading magazines. He also produced years of hunting videos for television.

Miller's success is impressive, especially considering he did it before cellular trail cameras, GPS, mapping phone apps and the other technology that most hunters now take for granted.

"It's a little easier now," he said. "It's developed a generation of lazy hunters, and I don't mean that in a bad way."

Public hunting lands offer "hundreds or thousands of acres to yourself," but you have to be willing to scout and just walk.

"You've got to get adjusted to what the deer are doing," he said.

Miller, his son, Jake, and others in his hunting posse would begin their scouting forays in early spring, just after the snow melts. All the rubs, scrapes and trails were clearly visible, providing clues on where to place tree stands or ground blinds. They'd walk miles to find the best spots.

"You better know every square inch," he said. "Just walk it."

Miller and other pros talk frequently about pinch points, sometimes also called funnels. He'd put marked topographic maps on his cabin walls south of Danbury in northwest Wisconsin, but today, phone apps like OnX Hunt make it much easier to find these areas where multiple trails or valleys come together, increasing the chances of a shot with bow, crossbow or gun.

Knowing where deer are traveling, feeding and bedding add up to success. Just as important is eliminating the vast acreages where deer seldom travel. If there's no deer sign or tracks in an area, move on. If the area you currently hunt has few deer or sign, it's probably time to find new hunting spots, he said. That's the beauty of public land. There are dozens of places to explore and eventually hunt.

As the seasons change, deer behavior changes, too. We are all familiar with the rut, those precious few days in late October and early November when bucks throw caution to the wind in pursuit of does for breeding.

In the Northwoods, deer will yard up in circles as the snow piles up, and although fawns may starve first (they can't reach the browse line in deep snow), rut-exhausted bucks can also die in these conditions, he said. There is a second minor rut period from about Dec. 1-15 that is triggered by does missing their first cycle.

Although Miller relied heavily on treestands in his younger days, he later discovered the effectiveness of ground blinds.

Some Wisconsin residents who don't hunt but may enjoy hiking on public land may be oblivious to hunters. And public areas can get crowded during the gun season (not so much during the bow season). If you are willing to walk far from the parking lots, you may find paradise.

A couple that walked past me during gun season (I was on a stool with just a scrap of camo fabric for a blind) smiled and apologized. It was near sunset and I watched them walk to the parking lot west of Waupaca.

A few minutes later, a fat doe that was still looking toward the parking lot wandered within range of my 7-30 Waters Contender pistol. It was just like a mini deer drive, although the couple never knew they helped me take a deer.

Today, Miller says he no longer hunts deer, mostly blaming the growing wolf population.

"They literally wiped out the deer," he said.

Timber cutting and an influx of out-of-state hunters have also affected his beloved haunts in northwestern Wisconsin near Danbury, as well as Chippewa County.

He believes the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources needs to get the wolf population under control.

"It is costing us millions," he said. "There's no return on that."

He's referring to the money spent by deer hunters to pursue their beloved whitetails.

Another famous Wisconsin trophy deer hunter, Myles Keller, took dozens of bruiser record-book bucks on public land.



Trophy whitetail hunting legend Greg Miller of Wisconsin was a master at killing big bucks on private and public land, but he estimates that 75% of his deer were harvested on public land. Miller shot his best-ever archery buck, a 17-point non-typical that gross-scored 202 5/8 points in December 1990 on snowy private land in Eau Claire County. It ranked as the fourth-largest non-typical in Wisconsin for many years. COURTESY OF GREG MILLER



Whitetail hunting legend Greg Miller shot this 217-pound field-dressed, hog-bodied 8-pointer in November 1980 on Burnett County public land. COURTESY OF GREG MILLER

DID YOU KNOW?

Wisconsin trophy deer hunter Greg Miller authored dozens of hunting articles in leading outdoor magazines. He also produced videos used in TV hunting shows.

Krause Publications in Iola published five of his hunting books, which are still available online and in used book stores. Any deer hunter can benefit from his vast expertise, whether you hunt on public or private land.

- "Aggressive Whitetail Hunting (with Jeff Miller)," January 1995. 208 pages
- "Proven Whitetail Tactics," January 1997. 218 pages
- "Rub-Line Secrets:," September 1999. 208 pages
- "Greg Miller's Greatest Whitetail Adventures," January 2002. 207 pages
- "Bowhunting Forests and Deep Woods," March 2006. 240 pages

DEER HUNTING SEASON
Plan • Hunt • Enjoy



The traditional nine-day gun season opens Nov. 21 and runs through Nov. 29. Other hunting dates to note are gun in metro subunits only, Nov. 21 through Dec. 9; muzzleloader season, Nov. 30 through Dec. 9, statewide antlerless-only: Dec. 10-13; and antlerless-only holiday hunt: Dec. 24, 2026, through Jan. 1, 2027 (select counties). WISCONSIN DNR

This deer season, think safety first



RENEE THOK
WISCONSIN DNR

If you've lived in this state for any amount of time, you're already aware of what a big deal Wisconsin's deer season is. Perhaps the only thing I hear more about from people in Wisconsin during the fall months is predictions on the Packers. Though both are rooted in our state's history, you can only directly help the outcome of safe hunting.

As a warden, the fall hunting season is one of my favorite times of year, too, and getting to be a part of it was one of the things that drew me to this profession.

At the same time, it's also one of the seasons we worry about the most. Overall, deer hunting in Wisconsin is a safe and rewarding activity enjoyed by people across our state. Further, the sport is only getting safer, thanks to our state's mandatory hunter education program, the hard work of dedicated volunteer instructors, regulatory changes and media outreach efforts.

With that said, even one hunting incident is too many. These incidents do still happen, and that means we have more work to do.

Thankfully, hunting incidents are preventable, and that begins with you.

At the end of the day, safe hunting happens due to safe hunters, and safe hunters start with hunter education. Anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1973, must have a hunter education certification to purchase a hunting license unless hunting under the Mentored Hunting Law.

While afield, help ensure the safety of yourself, your party and the public by knowing and practicing the four primary rules of firearm safety, otherwise known as the TAB-K formula:

• Treat every firearm as if it was loaded.

• Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.

• Be certain of your target, what is before and beyond it.

• Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot.

Hunters are also reminded of the blaze orange or fluorescent pink requirement that applies during any open statewide firearm season, including the nine-day gun deer season, muzzleloader, Holiday Hunts and any other season where firearms may be used.

You must be wearing at least 50% blaze orange or fluorescent pink from the waist up. Any hats or hoodies worn must also be at least 50% blaze orange or fluorescent pink.

Even if you aren't hunting, the DNR still encourages the non-hunting public and their pets to wear blaze orange or fluorescent pink while enjoying the outdoors during the gun deer season. If you plan to be on either public land that allows hunting or private land that potentially could have hunters on a neighboring property, please consider wearing a high visibility color. Although this is not required, it's always better to play it safe.

Although rare, hunting incidents can happen, even to experienced hunters.

Should you ever find yourself involved in a hunting incident, remember that state law requires any person who injures or kills another person while hunting, fishing or trapping to do the following:

• Render aid: Provide basic first aid, call 911 (if necessary) and assist the person out of the woods.

• Exchange information: Give and get name and address of the parties involved.

• Obtain immediate medical or hospital care.

• Report the accident without delay to law enforcement officials.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions – I'm always happy to help.

Wishing you and yours a happy, successful and safe deer season.

Lt. Renee Thok is the hunter education administrator with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Deer shot in Menominee County should be tested for CWD

A deer harvested on the Menominee Reservation in 2024 tested positive for chronic wasting disease, and the Environmental Services Department is asking hunters to let it conduct CWD testing of their harvested white-tailed deer.

Environmental Services needs to remove two lymph nodes in the neck area of the white-tailed deer. They will send the lymph nodes into the National Wildlife Lab in Madison for testing.

On Nov. 25, 2024, an enrolled Menominee member harvested a buck deer and tested positive for CWD. The Menominee Tribe wants to be proactive and continue to test white-tailed deer for the CWD virus. Langlade, Oconto and Shawano all have CWD positives.

CWD testing will be available during office hours at the College of Menominee Nation Culture Building.

The tribe will place three CWD kiosks for deer head submittal. They will be placed in:

• Neopit, at the College of Menominee Nation building.

• Neopit, at the Menominee Tribal Enterprises building.

• South Branch Community Center (west side of building).

These freezers are for hunters to place their deer heads and fill out their paperwork. The ESD department will check daily.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the World Health Organization all recommend against consuming meat from deer that tests positive for CWD.

To date, there have been no reported cases of CWD infection in humans.

For questions, contact Don Reiter at 715-799-4938.

Take care of your body while you're hunting

Hunting season is a cherished tradition for many, but the physical demands of the sport are often underestimated.

Long before a hunter fires a shot, the body is already hard at work – hiking miles over uneven terrain, hauling gear in and out of the woods and standing or sitting motionless for hours in cold conditions. All of that activity can put serious pressure on the body, particularly the heart and the joints.

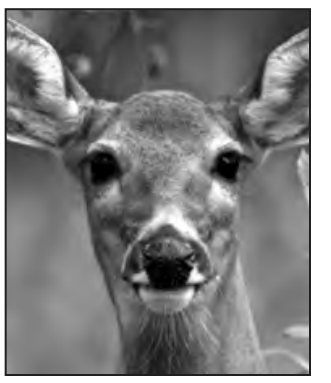
While hunting and gun safety are a major priority, experts at Emplify Health say it's just as important to consider your physical health before heading into the field.

"Hunting is far more physically demanding than people realize," said Jared Kiernicki, Emplify Health orthopedic surgery physician assistant. "All that hiking, hauling and straining puts real stress on your knees, hips, back and shoulders. We commonly see hunters come in with sprains, strains, joint pain and even tears after the season – injuries that often could have been prevented with a little preparation and conditioning ahead of time."

These aches and pains aren't the only concern. Hunting can take a toll on the cardiovascular system as well, especially for hunters who aren't regularly active.

"Dragging a deer through the woods or hauling heavy gear is an intense burst of exertion, and for someone who hasn't been physically active, that sudden strain can be dangerous," said Dr. Sumit Ringwala, Emplify Health cardiologist. "When you combine strenuous activity with cold temperatures, adrenaline and underlying risk factors like high blood pressure or heart disease, the heart is under significant stress. That's why it's so important to know your numbers and understand your risk before the next hunting trip."

The good news is that many of these risks can be addressed with a little planning. Emplify Health recommends the following tips to help hunters protect their health:



Hunting season is here. From deer and bear to turkey and waterfowl, there is something for every hunter. U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

• Get a checkup before the season. Schedule an appointment with your primary care provider for an evaluation ahead of your next hunting trip. Knowing your baseline health can help identify any concerns before you're miles from help.

• Ease into activity. Start a walking or light exercise routine in the weeks leading up to the season to build endurance and strengthen muscles and joints you'll rely on in the woods.

• Pace yourself. Take breaks while hiking, hauling and dragging. Don't push through chest pain, shortness of breath or dizziness – those are warning signs that warrant immediate attention.

• Hunt with a buddy. Having someone nearby means help is close at hand if an injury or medical emergency occurs, especially in remote areas where cell phone service may be spotty.

If you experience an injury while hunting, don't wait to have it evaluated.

"Too often, hunters try to tough it out and wait until the off-season to address an injury," said Kiernicki. "The sooner you get it look at, the sooner we can get you back on your feet – and back in the woods."

Before you head out this season, take a moment to make sure your body is as ready as your gear. Connect with your primary care provider ahead of your next hunting trip for an evaluation and understand your unique risks.

DEER HUNTING SEASON
Plan • Hunt • Enjoy

Do the homework before buying hunting land

Shawano County property prime for hunting deer

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

Purchasing land for hunting – whether it's a 40-acre property or a multimillion-dollar parcel – is a major investment.

Companies like Whitetail Properties Real Estate can help make that purchase easier for buyers and sellers.

Luke Gliniecki, an agent for Whitetail Properties who specializes in land in Shawano, Waupaca, Marathon, Langlade and Lincoln counties, said potential buyers should do their homework before taking the first step.

"You should lay out what your objectives are in purchasing a property and prioritize the features that are important to you," he said. "Everyone has different motivations for buying land, so going into the process with a clear set of criteria will certainly help to focus your search on properties that would be the best fit. Also, I highly recommend establishing a budget and talk with a few different lenders to see what kind of loan programs they have to offer and get preapproved so you know what price range you're working within."

Whitetail Properties assists buyers and sellers of rural properties, including land for hunting, farming and timber.

"We assist buyers and sellers in successfully navigating a real estate transaction," Gliniecki said. "We're all avid outdoorsmen who are knowledgeable regarding land and can help folks make the best of their buying or selling experience."

Gliniecki's five-county area includes prime hunting land, especially for deer.

"Shawano, Waupaca and Marathon counties are definitely highly sought after, especially for hunting with robust deer herds and strong deer numbers, as well as trophy class potential," he said.

Gliniecki's current Shawano County listings include one near Bowler that includes more than 220 acres of prime whitetail habitat.

"It's a really nice piece of land with a variety of hardwoods with oaks, secluded food plots, cedar swamp, great trail system," he said. "There's a nice cabin there with well and septic. That's definitely a nice piece of property there, and they have a good history of quality whitetails.

"I also just listed an 80-acre tract near Tigerton that has had a really solid track record of producing trophy-class whitetails and routinely producing bucks that meet Boone and Crockett standards. For somebody looking for a proven trophy producer, that's definitely worth a strong look."



This 220-acre parcel of land near Bowler in Shawano County is listed with Whitetail Properties Real Estate for nearly $1.4 million.
WHITETAIL PROPERTIES REAL ESTATE



LUKE GLINIECKI

The Bowler property lists for $1.39 million and the Tigerton property has a $795,000 price tag.

"When you get into the higher-priced properties, the pool of potential buyers starts to shrink," Gliniecki said. "It can take longer to find the right buyer."

Buyers have a wide range of ideas for purchasing rural land, Gliniecki said.

"It could be just for a building site in the country for a home," he said. "Others might be looking for a prime hunting tract or general recreational piece where they can camp or ride ATVs on the weekend."

There are advantages of owning land, he said.

"When you own your own land, you get the certainty of having your own hunting spot year after year where you don't have to compete with public land hunters or worry about losing a lease from one year to the next," he said. "You can also make habitat improvements and set up the property the way you want and implement your own land management strategy, which is really an enjoyable aspect of land ownership. It depends on your comfort level."

State and federal programs can help with habitat management, including Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law program for woodland owners.

"It gives you guidance on how to properly manage for a healthy, productive forest and also create better wildlife habitat," Gliniecki said. "As an added bonus, you save money on your property taxes. It's a matter of personal preference. Some people see the benefits in the program, but others don't like to have any restrictions or have the government tell them what they can do on their land."

Should potential land owners look for properties near their home? That depends, Gliniecki said.

"It's certainly convenient to have land close to home so that you can utilize it fully," he said. "Land located within a short drive of population centers will typically be more expensive compared to properties located further up north. You have to weigh that convenience vs. the cost.

"If you're looking to consistently shoot big, trophy-class whitetails, you really want to focus your search on not only counties that have a history of producing high-quality bucks, but narrow it down in terms of specific areas where you find like-minded neighbors that are managing to similar objectives."

Land prices have increased in recent years, but Gliniecki said it's still possible to find parcels for $100,000 or less.

"You're probably looking at a smaller tract of land or having to travel further up north to get something in that price range," he said. "Areas that have a reputation for producing trophy-class whitetails are highly sought after and therefore, the demand for that area causes the prices to rise above your average piece of land."

He said there's never a bad time of the year to start looking for land.

"Getting boots on the ground and seeing a variety of properties firsthand, you know what you can get for your money," he said.

The process of purchasing land also takes time, according to Gliniecki.

"From the time of an accepted offer if there's bank financing involved, it can take up to 45 days to close," he said. "If it's a cash purchase, it can close much sooner."

Gliniecki said there's something special about owning a parcel of hunting land.

"There's nothing like having your own piece of ground that you can hunt and manage the way you want and not have to worry about competing with public land hunters," he said. "All the effort that goes into habitat management efforts on your own property just makes it more enjoyable when you harvest a deer and reap the rewards of all that hard work."



White-tail deer adult bucks generally weigh between 100 to 300 pounds, while does weigh between 90 to 200 pounds.
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