



Accident claims Birnamwood boy

Family, friends and classmates at Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School are coping with the loss of a classmate in a county road accident on Thursday.

PAGE 2

Chargers blank Eagles in dual

Witt-Birn scores 10 pins in 81-0 win over Menominee Indian High School.

PAGE 29

Deer hunters make donations

The Wisconsin Deerhunters Inc. Witt-Birn chapter, hold one fundraiser use the money raised to promote ecology and ensure a sustainable deer population, as well as donating to local organizations.

PAGE 39

CHRISTMAS IS ALMOST HERE

Shop With A Cop is a new tradition at the Wittenberg Elementary to help children see police officers in a positive light. For the past 20 years vendors have been bringing items for the students to buy Christmas presents. All items are \$5 or less and suitable for moms, dads or siblings. Shawano County Sheriff's Department patrol officers were on hand Friday. From left, are Deputy Bill Beaumier, Will Marek, Kaden Yaeger and Deputy Jon Blaskowski.

MIRIAM NELSON | NEW MEDIA



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Deer hunters group hosts youth hunts, donates to charities

By **MIRIAM NELSON**
News Editor

WITTENBERG — Donations to local charities is just one part of the business behind the Wisconsin Deerhunters Inc. Witt-Birn chapter.

The group of about 270 hunters holds just one fundraiser a year. They spend the rest of the time using the money raised to promote ecology and help to ensure a sustainable deer population and donating to organizations that support the communities.

This year, the hunters gave \$1,500 each to the Wittenberg Food Pantry and the St. Florian Food Pantry in Hatley to help with their operations.

Past donations have included \$2,000 to purchase a drone for the Birnamwood Fire Department and \$12,000 to the Wittenberg Fire Department to purchase an ATV.

The Witt-Birn chapter, which started in 1991, has given about \$100,000 over the years to the Witt-Birn Hi-wood Nature Center, according to Denny Brahmer, a longtime member of the Deerhunt-



The Wisconsin Deerhunters Inc. Witt-Birn Chapter recently sponsored two youth pheasant hunts for local students at Sugar Bush Pheasant Ranch in Birnamwood. Besides having a chance to bag a pheasant or two, youth hunters also were able to shoot a round of trap to sharpen their shooting skills.

CONTRIBUTED

ers. Brahmer was one of the high school teachers who helped get the center started for the school district. Over the years, they have also donated 3D targets, bows and arrows, pellet guns and snowshoes to the nature center.

Brahmer noted that each year, the group gives three \$1,000 scholarships to Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School graduating seniors.

A few years ago, there was interest in adding an archery program at the high school. Brahmer said

they donated the bows, arrows and targets for the physical education department.

Another main focus is promoting an appreciation for outdoor activities, which also includes a youth pheasant hunt. This past fall they sponsored two youth hunts at the Sugar Bush Pheasant Ranch just north of Birnamwood.

Students who had completed the hunter safety training they offered had the opportunity to try hunting. The group provided the guns and ammunition, safety glasses, ear protection, vests, the dogs and the pheasants.

"The cost to hunt can be significant, and we want to give students the chance to see if they enjoy the sport before committing to that kind of investment," said Brahmer.

The Witt-Birn chapter is one of eight chapters in the state. Anyone is welcome to join the organization or attend the annual banquet, which will be held April 4 at Chet and Emil's in Birnamwood.

For information, call Brahmer at 715-454-6637 or Dan Kapitz 715-253-2054.

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BOOKS AND STUFF

'Hijinks' looks at solving murders in a ghostly way

A nasty stomach bug left me with little energy so I mostly napped and read. I love to read, but just couldn't seem to focus well so I selected something light, fluffy and fun.

The e-book "Agnes Barton Paranormal Mysteries Series" by Madison Johns was just right. It's actually a three book set, but I've only read "Haunted Hijinks" so far.



JAN JONES

Agnes Barton and her best friend Eleanor have quite a reputation around the small city of Tawas, Michigan. The two have become well known for finding dead bodies and then finding the killer(s). Agnes is 72. She has a 40-something daughter, Martha who lives in a motorhome parked on the beach and a son, Stuart, who finished college and pretty much disappeared. He says he travels for historical research, but who really knows.

AT A GLANCE

BOOK: "Haunted Hijinks"

AUTHOR: Madison Johns

PUBLISHER: Outrageous Books

PUBLISHED: Aug. 11, 2014

PAGES: 172

She also has a handsome fiancé named Andrew who adores her and encourages her investigations.

She had no intentions of changing anything in her life until a car accident had her out cold for three days. She awoke to see Andrew standing near her bed, Stuart sitting in a chair, and a ghostly presence hovering nearby. She chalks it up to the concussion, but the ghostly young woman continues to appear.

There's little time to think about the ghost because she and Eleanor are hired to oversee the opening of the Butler Mansion as a bed and breakfast. The beautiful old mansion has a long history of deaths and scandals and is rumored to be haunted, so working there is exciting.

When they arrive the front door is

lock. Strangely, the ghost leads them to the back door and into the house where they find a body at the bottom of the steps. They assume it must be Katherine Clark, the woman hired by the owner Sara Knoxville to get the mansion ready. They also note that she has no visible injuries. Somehow they must divide their time between getting mansion cleaned and finding out who Katherine Clark was and why she died.

Meanwhile Agnes learns that her ghost is named Caroline and is somehow connected to Butler Mansion. She explains that she wants to help Agnes and Eleanor solve crimes. But how does Agnes tell Eleanor that they have a ghostly assistant? Sara asks them to stay at the mansion and they encounter other ghostly creatures, but that's not the only one in residence.

Dashing between the mansion and investigating they discover that her "real" name was Barbara Beasley and she had a shady history. That leads them to question some of their older friends where they learn that Katherine was bilking seniors with a phony

investment scheme, but did one of them kill her?

Before they can dig deeper Agnes stumbles into an FBI undercover operation in which Stuart and his wife are key players. With their scam exposed he sneaks into the mansion during the grand opening hoping to force Agnes to help them find the money Katherine hid there, but are thwarted thanks to Caroline and the mansion's very disagreeable ghosts.

Stuart and the FBI take over the crime scene, leaving Agnes alone to follow a ghostly figure up to the third floor. There she discovers the "cleaning crew" taking bricks out of the fireplace. One is Katherine's brother and insists he only wants to find the money. Once again, the long dead residents of the room make themselves known and set things right. I'd say it was a pretty good mystery with plenty of fun tidbits.

The list of things we don't know is far longer than what we do know. Keep your mind open and let your public library help you explore.

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Cannibal sandwiches are a thing

A polarizing and misunderstood Wisconsin tradition

By **MARY KATE MCCOY**
Wisconsin Public Radio

Imagine. It's the holidays and to quiet your pre-dinner hunger, someone hands you a slice of rye bread, preferably the cocktail variety, topped with a thick spread of fresh raw beef, chopped onion and a sprinkle of salt and pepper.

It's called a "cannibal sandwich." Sounds great, right?

"At first you look at it like, excuse me? I'm supposed to do what with that?" said Jeff Zupan, operations manager of Bunzel's Meat Market in Milwaukee, and a lifelong cannibal sandwich enthusiast.

Cannibal sandwiches are a longtime Milwaukee tradition. Come Christmastime, Bunzel's goes through over 1,000 pounds of raw



The quintessential cannibal sandwich, Wisconsin style: ground beef, preferably high quality, on cocktail rye bread and garnished with a white onion and salt and pepper.

MARY KATE MCCOY | WISCONSIN PUBLIC RADIO

beef and about 250 pounds of raw onions, exclusively for cannibal sandwiches.

While southeastern Wisconsinites may be the more eager cannibal sandwich consumers, the snack has been spotted across the Upper Midwest. Some may also know it by the name tiger meat or wildcat.

Chef Justin Carlisle of Ardent, Milwaukee, remembers it from growing up on his family farm in Sparta, Wisconsin — which he described as an initially terrifying ordeal.

Not wanting to get made fun of by his older brothers, Carlisle would do his best to disguise the raw meat.

"Being the youngest of three boys and completely terrified of this raw beef sitting on the counter ... I would take the ground beef and put it on my grandmother's deviled eggs, and then eat it really fast," he said.

But Carlisle, a James Beard Award finalist, has since come around. He even serves a dish at Ardent that was inspired by his unique way of eating cannibal sandwiches as a kid.

Both Carlisle and Zupan say not to knock it till you've tried it — though the inexperienced are often shocked

by what they witness, Zupan said.

"With all of our new customers ... they watch somebody buy it and they're like, 'What are you going to do with it?' We're going to eat it raw. And they gasp," he said.

"If you like food, you have to try it," Zupan insisted.

Yet, try it with precaution. Not all cannibal sandwiches are created equal, and the USDA would prefer that no one participated in the holiday treat.

Dr. Zorba Paster — a longtime cannibal sandwich fan and public radio host — said that while there will always be a risk with eating cannibal sandwiches, there are steps you can take to lower it.

"The best cannibal sandwich with the lowest risk is if you take steak, or something like steak, and you grind it up," he said. "The worst cannibal sandwich is if you simply eat ground beef out of a package because then the risk of E. coli is greater."

Paster said aim for the leanest cut of beef you can get, let your butcher know you're using the meat for cannibal sandwiches and ask for it to be freshly ground with a clean grinder.

And don't dawdle. Eat the meat the same day you buy it, and preferably before the end of the party.

So, where did cannibal sandwich-

es come from? The snack's history in Wisconsin is a little murky, but Carlisle said its story is likely one of practicality and tradition, going back to the northern Europeans who settled in the state.

It's kind of like making cheese in Wisconsin, like you always had dairy and you always had meat.

"Being an extremely agricultural state, it is one of the necessities that you always had," he said. "It's kind of like making cheese in Wisconsin, like you always had dairy and you always had meat."

Despite its history, cannibal sandwiches' popularity has plummeted. The dynamic of life changed, Carlisle said. Fewer people lived on farms, health concerns were raised and processed, convenience foods took over.

Carlisle tied cannibal sandwich popularity to other traditional Wisconsin fare which has seen similar fates — pickled herring and liver sausage, which often sat side by side on the snack table at family gatherings.

"A lot of the ways people prepared things and did things were lost for so many years, and everybody wants to blame it on the millennials, but it was long before that where it died off," Zupan said.

Though Carlisle and Zupan say tastes are changing — and they're seeing signs of a cannibal sandwich comeback.

"People now are like, 'Oh gee, I remember when Grandma made this, and how'd you do it?'" Zupan said. "The inspiration for cooking again is coming back, I think people are starting to decide that they want something better."

"I'm very proud of our area," Carlisle said. "All these items that we grew up with as staples ... have borderline disappeared. And now to have this come back, or at least to the people that are reinforcing and holding onto it, to me it means a lot."

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WNAXLP

Sometimes you just need a good nap to enjoy Christmas

I decided to slow down for Christmas this year. I didn't want to break myself by trying to cram in all the festivities available. I can see how



MIRIAM NELSON

down and cherish fewer moments with deeper meaning, I know in my heart that I'm a top-notch procrastinator. I didn't really slow down for

some people get overwhelmed this time of year. When there are so many options of things to see and do, time just seems to fly by.

Although I'd like to think I'm on some noble quest to slow

Christmas so much as I just didn't get around to it.

Some people get their tree up the day after Thanksgiving, and I admit I did start thinking about doing it at that time. Unfortunately, thinking and doing don't intersect that often in my world.

I waited until the next weekend, but I was busy — really busy — with events to attend and even managed to miss a show on that Sunday because I was going to put up my tree. I was going to get right to it after a refreshing little nap. Well, the nap went a little longer than I thought, and I didn't feel all that refreshed when I woke up. So, you see, I just couldn't put my tree up that weekend.

Some people manage to put up

their tree in the evening during the week. That's just not me. I'm sticking with the story that it was really cold that week, and I didn't want to spend any time in the cold attic at night. I'm pretty sure it was cold that weekend as well, because that kind of an excuse would keep me out of a cold, drafty attic.

So now I'm at the final weekend before Christmas. There is no tree — it's still in a box in the attic where it is still cold. There are no decorations throughout the house. That's not entirely true; I have a small gathering of candles shaped like young choir members. Mom used to bring them out every Christmas. It's such a fond childhood memory that I keep them out all year long. Those of you who

know me well know that I lost the box, and they will no doubt remain as a permanent display on the buffet.

Because of the early deadline, I'm writing this long before the paper comes out. I still have a few days to get that tree up and decorated. I still have time to set up the nativity. I still have time to get a wreath on the door and the stockings hung in the hallway — we have no fireplace. I still have time fill the house with the smells of Christmas cookies and pumpkin bread.

By the time you read this I could have transformed Nelson Manor into an explosion of all things Christmas. Then again, I did promise myself to slow down for Christmas this year, and I'm due for another nap or two.

Van purchase approved by Wittenberg-Birnamwood School Board

By MIRIAM NELSON
News Editor

WITTENBERG — The Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District board approved the purchase of a vehicle at its Dec. 16 meeting.

The 2013 Chevrolet Tahoe is a seven-passenger van with an odom-

eter reading of 55,000. The van is at the GM Auto Center in Rhinelander and was brought to Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School the week before to be checked out. Josh Beversdorf of Beversdorf Garage has inspected the vehicle and said he found it to be in good condition. There is no history of damage and has been

maintained on a regular basis.

According to Superintendent Garrett Rogowski, the vehicle can be used for field trips or competitions or events where there are just a few students participating. It can also be used for staff attending offsite training or educational sessions.

The special education depart-

ment has \$12,000 in grant money that could be used to purchase the vehicle but that would restrict the use of it to only that department. The board decided to use the money from the Fund 10 account which is budgeted for capital purchases.

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Birnamwood area boy mourned by high school classmates

Teen struck while dragging deer off road

By **NEW MEDIA STAFF**

BIRNAMWOOD — Students at Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School are mourning the loss of a classmate.

Samuel Edward Egging, son of Michael and Ginger and brother to Andrew and Henry, was the victim of an accident on County Road N in the town of Birnamwood on Dec. 19.

"We grieve for the loss of our student, teammate, and friend of our WB family," said Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District Superintendent Garrett Rogowski. "The student will be remembered for his genuine kindness, friendly and approachable personality; he was a friend to so many students."

The accident is still under investigation, according to the Shawano County Sheriff's Department.

A press release from sheriff's Lt. Nick Prey said deputies were called about 5:15 p.m. to a vehicle versus pedestrian accident. The release said

the driver of the vehicle, identified as a 45-year-old male from Bowler, reported the accident and that he was unable to see the youth due to headlights being on bright on a vehicle stopped by the side of the road.

"When deputies arrived on scene, they observed a male lying in the ditch and another male performing chest compressions," according to the release.

Members of the Mattoon Ambulance Service were unable to get a pulse and requested the Shawano County coroner be paged. The coroner pronounced the boy dead at the scene.

Investigation of the crash showed that the boy struck a deer while driving, stopped in the lane of travel, left his vehicle and went to drag the deer out of the roadway when he was struck by the oncoming vehicle, the release said.

Also assisting were the Birnamwood Fire Department and the Wisconsin State Patrol.

According to Rogowski, crisis staff were available all day Friday for students. Counseling and school psychology resources can be utilized at any point in time. He noted that the balcony and

library were a designated space for students to gather to grieve with fellow students or speak with counselors.

Dan Weisensel, liaison officer for WBSD, got the call from the sheriff's department regarding the accident Thursday and immediately contacted Rogowski to prepare a grief counseling plan for the students and staff. He said the school held an assembly for the high school students on Friday.

"I think it was extremely important to be able to help them separate fact from fiction. Social media has a way of distorting the facts," said Weisensel. "And I was able to help answer questions regarding the accident for them."

Rogowski noted that there are family and friends attending Birnamwood Elementary/Middle School and counselors are available there as well.

Weisensel noted crisis counselors needed to be mindful of the students' needs in the weeks to come as the reality of the loss settles in.

A visitation is set for Dec. 26, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a service at 1 p.m. at Schmidt and Schulta Funeral Home, 445 Main St., Birnamwood. Details can be found at <https://www.schmidtschulta.com>.

Diemel brothers' family files a wrongful death suit against Nelson

By **NEW MEDIA STAFF**

KINGSTON, MO. — The family of Nick and Justin Diemel, who disappeared during a trip to Missouri for their livestock business in July, filed a wrongful death lawsuit last month against Garland "Joey" Nelson.

Nelson remains jailed without bond on two counts of first-degree murder and other charges, including a felon in possession of a firearm, in the deaths. His next court appearance is in January 2020. Nelson was arrested July 25 and the murder and other charges were filed in October.

The suit, filed in northwest Missouri's Caldwell County, also names Nelson's mother, Tomme Feil, and the family cattle company, J4S Farm Enterprises, KSHB-TV reported. No attorney is listed for Nelson, Feil or

J4S in online court records in the civil case. Nelson's attorney in the criminal case didn't immediately return a phone message to the Associated Press.

Their mother, Pamela Diemel, and Nicholas Diemel's wife, Lisa Diemel, allege in the suit that J4S "failed to exercise reasonable care to supervise the activities of Nelson."

Nelson violated the terms of his parole in his business dealings with the Diemel brothers and by possessing a firearm, according to the lawsuit. Investigators have stated they believe Nelson used a .30-30 rifle to shoot the brothers.

Nelson was convicted in October 2016 of cattle and insurance fraud and served 13 months in federal prison. The suit says J4S failed to disclose that to the Diemel brothers when agreeing to

care for Diemel Livestock's cattle, putting them at risk, according to the AP.

Court documents also indicated that the J4S Farm Enterprises owed the Diemel brothers \$250,000 for cattle, some of which Nelson sold without paying for and others of which died in his care.

The brothers were killed when they went to Braymer, Missouri, to receive the \$250,000 payment for the cattle, prompting a missing persons search.

"Due to their knowledge of Nelson's dangerous propensities, prior fraudulent cattle transactions, and his possession of a firearm, Defendants J4S and Feil knew or should have known that allowing Nelson to return to the cattle business created an unreasonable risk of harm to others, including" the Diemel brothers, the lawsuit contended.