



ATHLETE PROFILE •
Lane Schultz might not be a high scorer for the Panthers, but he's able to get those rebounds to help the team stay ahead.

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Wednesday, January 22, 2020

Volume 127, Issue 4 \$1



Ambulance given to Birnamwood

The city of Burlington has bestowed a 2009 ambulance on Birnamwood Ambulance Service after the city opted not to continue a contract with its rescue service.

PAGE 4

Chargers take out the Bears

Witt-Birn's wrestling team takes control of the Central Wisconsin Conference after a close win against Bonduel.

PAGE 21

Meet the newest village trustee

Marlene Wepner is the latest person to join the Wittenberg Village Board, and she talks about learning about government while juggling work and home life.

PAGE 39

WINTER WONDERLAND COVERS WITTENBERG STREETS

Saturday morning needed a lot of snow removal before Wittenberg could get back to business as usual. The crews from Hanson Sanitation and Excavating were busy removing the snow over the weekend. According to WAOW, about five inches of snow covered the area in a storm that passed through late Friday night. The Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District called off some elementary and middle school sporting events, and the guest speaker for the Walls of Wittenberg quilt show had to cancel.

MIRIAM NELSON | NEW MEDIA



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The lost art of letter writing needs a comeback



MIRIAM NELSON

Long before the internet, there was a way of communicating known as letter writing. People actually took the time to sit down, gather their thoughts and, putting pen to paper, would compose a document testifying to the joys and sorrows during a passage of time.

I loved those days. I suppose it appealed to the writer in me, but it also provided a range of emotions to experience. There was the hope that the person receiving your letter would appreciate the effort you poured into it. There was also the anticipation of waiting for a response being returned to you. There was the joy of receiving a response.

Part of the fun for me was the whole process — the right paper, the right pen, the right stamps. Picking everything out added to the thrill of it all. I remember reading an article that some celebrity had her own monogram embossed on a particular color paper — pretty classy. She was famous enough that people who received a handwritten note from her saved them and eventually sold them at auctions or to collectors after her passing.

I used to write letters all the time. Apparently, I had a lot to say and I thought that anyone on the receiving end would be glad to hear from me. As time went on, fewer and fewer of my family

and friends replied, and I quit writing letters. The thought of becoming that famous was intriguing, but it also put a little fear in me regarding a proper use of grammar, punctuation, spelling and content.

For some reason, I never latched on to the idea of having a pen pal. There was a time in my elementary years that a teacher had us try it as a class project, but I don't remember if the kids in my class ever got responses or not.

I write very few letters these days, and I don't send as many cards as I used to because it's so much easier to shoot off an email or a text. If I have the opportunity, I would much rather

communicate on a keyboard at my computer instead of using my phone. I haven't mastered the two-thumb typing, and the nerd in me struggles with my need to add in the correct punctuation.

There really are a lot of funny sayings and memes flying about on the internet, but I refuse to pass on the ones that don't use the correct form of your/you're or their/there/they're. I don't want to promote the humor of someone who can't be bothered to learn the basics of our language.

I'm not a fan of those guilt-inducing thoughts where the sender tries to shame you into forwarding a message. I'm also not a fan of having a valuable piece of wisdom being spoiled by attaching a political or religious party to the message.

My new year's resolution is to write more letters, and I'm sure I'll get right on that as soon as I find some paper and envelopes and a pen. Why can I never find a pen when I need one?

Miriam Nelson is the news editor of the Wittenberg Enterprise and Birnamwood News. Readers can contact her at mnelson@newmedia-wi.com

Words of inspiration are good for everyone



GARRETT ROGOWSKI

doing my best" statements are made by all of us, but in the end, I think this poem by Peter Dale Wimbrow Sr. says it best:

When you get what you want in your struggle for self,

And the world makes you king for a day,

Then go to the mirror and look at yourself,

And see what the man has to say.

For it isn't a man's father, mother or wife,

Whose judgment upon him must pass,

The fellow whose verdict counts most in life,

Is the man staring back from the glass.

He's the fellow to please, never mind all the rest,

For he's with you clear to the end, And you've passed your most dangerous, difficult test,

If the man in the glass is your friend.

You can fool the whole world down the pathway of years,

And get pats on the back as you pass,

But the final reward will be heartache and tears,

If you've cheated the man in the glass.

When we do our best, when we use the gifts we've been blessed with to the best of our ability, I truly believe that our efforts result in attainment and satisfaction that no one can take from us. Prefontaine and Emerson are right. We all have gifts. It's our job to make the most of them.

Wishing you a great start to the new year, success in 2020 and happiness in your journey.

Garrett Rogowski is the superintendent of the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District.

Murder amongst friends plot of 'A Penny for Her Heart'

This week, I picked up "A Penny for Her Heart" by Alretha Thomas. I really liked it. It is listed as one of her Detective Rachel Storme novels, so I know there are more like it out there.

Vanessa Johnson Rossi has always dreamed big. Long ago, she and her best friend in college, Penny Newhouse, both vowed to become the chief of staff for the president of the United States.

Vanessa has worked in the Burderwood Hills, California, mayor's office for six years and was in line to become the assistant to his chief of staff, Anita Grey. Three months ago, Vanessa was shocked when Mayor Birdwell chose Penny instead. Penny had only worked at city hall for three years and lacks Vanessa's credentials, but she has an amazing body and knows how to use her looks to get what she wants.

Being passed over hurts, but Vanessa manages to handle the disappointment. With the mayoral election only a couple of months away, Vanessa often works overtime on Saturday mornings. She's surprised to see Penny's car in the lot.

On Friday, Penny said she was go-



JAN JONES

ing dancing with her fiancé, Stan, after work, but when Vanessa gets to Penny's office, she notices Penny's dress shoes and blazer on the floor. Vanessa decides to look for her in the restroom and makes a gruesome discovery.

Hundreds of pennies are strewn across the blood-covered floor. Penny has been brutally murdered, her body posed. The two women have been close friends for 17 years. This was like losing a sister.

Detectives Herb Jones and Rachel Storme are assigned the case. They have been partners a long time and have developed a strong bond. Together, they have a high case clearance rate, so they go into this case with high hopes.

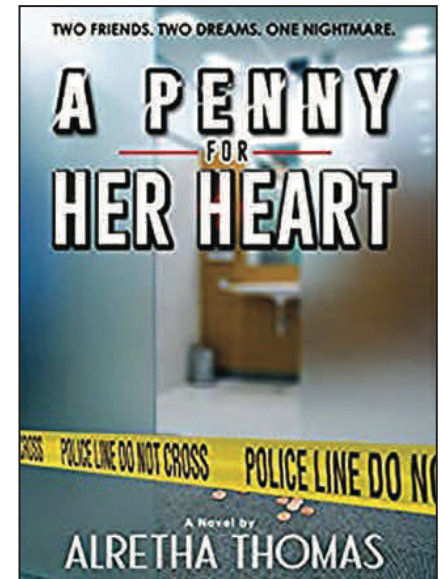
They can see that Penny has been stabbed, but shocked when the coroner tells them that she was drugged when her chest was cut open and her heart removed. This murder was

personal. As their team sorts through the histories of several "persons of interest," Herb and Rachel must also deal with life outside of the police department.

Herb's wife, Clarice, has just been given a cancer-free diagnosis, and the family is greatly relieved. Rachel's family isn't running as smoothly. Her mom's Alzheimer's comes and goes with good and bad days. Rachel's aunt Cassie has been clean and sober for almost a year now. Rachel trusts her enough to let her run one of her flower shops, hoping it will help her stay sober. Dreams of retirement are a few years off, but Rachel wonders what she'll do without the challenge of crimes to solve.

The suspect list is long, ranging from other candidates in the mayoral race to scorned lovers, to other city hall employees. Everyone is shocked when an anonymous person sends the media photos of Penny in intimate poses with her boss, Anita Grey.

What was Penny doing with a woman lover when she was happily engaged to Stan? When asked about Penny, Stan explains that they broke



AT A GLANCE

BOOK: "A Penny for Her Heart"

AUTHOR: Alretha Thomas

PUBLISHER: Amazon.com Services LLC

PUBLISHED: July 10, 2017

PAGES: 332

up over three months ago, and they were never engaged. Maybe it is time to think outside the box and shift that suspect list around.

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Birnamwood receives free ambulance from Burlington

Donation value comes to about \$300K

By **MIRIAM NELSON**
News Editor

BIRNAMWOOD — On Saturday, several EMS volunteers and community members were on hand to receive the generous donation of an ambulance from the recently disbanded Burlington EMS.

The Burlington Rescue Squad had been in service since 1945, sponsored by their local Rotatry club.

The Burlington Fire Department made the decision to add ambulance service to their department. The city of Burlington and the township decided not to renew the contract of the rescue squad. They made the decision to disband. They had a fully supplied 2009 ambulance and decided to donate it.

Brian Zwiebel is a retired EMT chief for Burlington, and his father-in-law, Richard Young, lives in Birnamwood. They had been discussing the situation, and Young mentioned Birnamwood could really benefit from the donation. Birnamwood EMS ended up being one of four service departments who made the request for the ambulance.

Ronald Bauch, Birnamwood EMS director since 2013, wrote the Burlington service a letter listing some of the reasons why they would appreciate the donation. According to Bauch, they could no longer get parts for the 1995 vehicle they have, and Birnamwood is a small community with limited finances.

"We're very fortunate to be the recipient; we were to the point where something needed to be done," said Village Board President Mike Sprague.

Birnamwood has about 32 EMS volunteers on the roster, but only about eight to 10 are active, said Bauch. He also noted that many of the people work out of town, making it hard to have daytime coverage. The crew is dedicated, and Bauch said they train for an hour each month before their regular



Former Chief Jeff Koenen and 2nd Lt. Gina Swanson, of the recently disbanded Burlington Rescue Squad, go over supplies with Birnamwood EMT Diane Lemke. Burlington donated the 2009 Medtech ambulance and supplies Saturday.

MIRIAM NELSON | NEW MEDIA



Birnamwood Village Board President Mike Sprague and Trustee Jody Dombrowski check out the ambulance donated by the disbanded Burlington EMS to the Birnamwood Fire Department on Saturday.

MIRIAM NELSON | NEW MEDIA

business meetings.

According to Zwiebel, the donated vehicle is a 2009 Medtech

with less than 40,000 miles on it.

He noted the mileage is so low because they were stationed just five

minutes from the nearest hospital. Included in the donation were monitors, splints and a powerlift cot. The total donation was estimated to be about \$300,000, said Zwiebel.

No decision has been made as to what to do with the old ambulance. Bauch mentioned it could be used as storage for additional supplies or donated to another municipality. It could also be used by the Langlade County Chiefs Association as a truck to haul extra air tanks for firefighters. Birnamwood is a part of that organization, and that would be a benefit to them, said Bauch.

The team members from Burlington gave some training for the Birnamwood members on the equipment. Lunch was served to the volunteers and local residents who came to see the new ambulance.

mnelson@newmedia-wi.com

Booster Bash to benefit Witt-Birn students

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood Booster Club's annual Booster Bash will take place from 7-11 p.m. on Feb. 15 at Maple Hills Golf Course, N6621 Cardinal Lane, Wittenberg.

Tickets are \$100 and admit two people. Free beer and soda, hors d'oeuvres, music and entry into the

\$2,500 cash drawing are included in the price of the ticket. There will also be additional raffles and drawings with prizes like a pair of heated vests, a picnic table, a new Apple watch or an inflatable party island.

The Booster Bash raises money each year for equipment and items that

support high school students and their extracurricular activities. The club has contributed to range finders for the golf team, a state of the art scoreboard in the aquatic center, football travel bags and a shelter/tent for the track team. The Booster Club also helps with junior prom, sponsors up to five

scholarships for Wittenberg-Birnamwood graduating seniors annually and sponsors Grad Bash for seniors after the commencement ceremony.

A limited number of tickets are sold for this event. Tickets are available the high school office at 400 W. Grand Ave., Wittenberg.

CELEBRATIONS

College Notes

• The following students were named to the 2019 fall semester dean's list at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Illinois: Grace Knowles, Birnamwood; Kaitlyn McAuly, Birnamwood.

• The following students were named to the fall semester dean's list for the University of Wisconsin-Madison: Jurnee Beilke, Aniwa, dean's honor list; Cody Montez, Bowler, dean's honor list; Alex Nelson, Eland, dean's honor list; Michael Nelson, Eland, dean's honor list; Maverick Bushman, Hatley, dean's list; Nathan Jacobson, Hatley, dean's honor list; Chloe King, Hatley, dean's list; Emily Strehlow, Hatley, dean's list.

• The following students were named to the 2019 fall semester dean's list for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point: Beth Lee, Aniwa, high honors; Brenna Behreandt, Birnamwood, high honors;

Macey Fischer, Birnamwood, honors; Alissa Rickert, Birnamwood, highest honors; Corriisa Konkol, Eland, highest honors; Aidan Koon, Eland, honors; Kendra Stoltz, Eland, highest honors; Claire Allen, Hatley, highest honors; Jesse Brinkman, Hatley, honors; Dylan Sprague,

Hatley, honors; Emily Stanislawski, Hatley, highest honors; Kendall Walkush, Hatley, honors; Paige Menge, Tigerton, honors; Anna Watters, Tigerton, high honors; Hannah Block, Wittenberg, highest

honors; Anna Hartman, Wittenberg, highest honors; Kaitlynn Lehman, Wittenberg, highest honors; Jennifer Schrank, Wittenberg, high honors; Kaszandra Walker-Daniels, Wittenberg, honors.

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- Work directly and indirectly with the general public in a courteous and informative manner.
- Assist with Village street and sidewalk repairs.
- Assist with maintenance on any Village buildings or structures.
- Assist with routine maintenance for Water and Sewer Department.

KNOWLEDGE/ABILITIES and AVAILABILITY:

- Must be available on a flexible basis.
- Valid WI driver license.
- Must be able to operate Village equipment (zero-turn mowers, backhoe, sweeper, trucks)
- Able to work off ladders or scaffolding.
- Must be able to work independently without supervision.
- Ability to communicate well with the general public, fellow workers and board members

Interested applicants may pick up an application at 208 W. Vinal St., Wittenberg, or the form can be accessed on our Village website, using the Village Forms and Permits link at the bottom of the page.

Applications and resumes can be sent to the Village office at PO Box 331, Wittenberg, WI 54499. Review of applications will begin immediately. Wages will be determined by the Village Board at the time of hire.

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BID NOTICE

The proposed 5-year Agency Plan for 2020 to 2024 for the Shawano City Housing Authority is available for public review and comment at the main office located At Elizabeth Manor, 951 Elizabeth Street, Shawano, WI 54166 during regular business hours. Public Hearing will be held March 6, 2020 at 9:00 AM to review this plan.



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Q&A WITH MARLENE WEPNER

Wepner joins Wittenberg Village Board

By MIRIAM NELSON
News Editor

The Wittenberg Enterprise and Birnamwood News recently chatted with Marlene Wepner about her new position as Wittenberg village trustee.

Q: What is your background?

A: I've lived in the area all my life, mostly in Shepley. I graduated from Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School. My children are Payton, 27, Tyler, 18, and Ava, 15.

Q: Where do you work?

A: I've been employed at the North Star Casino for the past 26 years. I'm the supervisor of the count team, in charge of taking the money from the casino floor and bringing it into the vault. I also work as a shift manager at the McDonald's in Wittenberg. That's my fun job. I like seeing all the familiar faces.

Q: When did you join the village of Wittenberg as a trustee?

A: I started in November of 2019; the term ends in April of 2021. This fall, Samantha Nevienski moved outside the village limits, and her position needed to be filled. I've known Billy Switalla (village board president) for several years and worked with his dad when he worked at the casino. Billy asked me to finish out Sam's term, and it's been very interesting to be a part of the board.

Q: What have you learned so far?

A: I'll admit it was a bit of a learning curve, as I've never served on a government board before. Wittenberg has a lot of ordinances to be familiar with, but everyone on the board and on staff is friendly and helpful. I feel we have a really good board, and we all get



MARLENE WEPNER

along. Not many people know I've joined the board, so I'm sure in time people will feel free to express their thoughts or concerns.

Q: What is your impression of the board?

A: The village is being well run; there seems to be enough money to cover expenses and plan for the future. We have enough money to tackle different projects as needed.

Q: Any special projects?

A: I'm amazed at all the things going on in the village. Webb Street will be getting fixed this summer. We might be putting in sidewalks on Grand Avenue across from the Shell station down to Beversdorf's Garage. There's been so much traffic in that area. Part of Robin Road will be repaired from Highway Q to the power plant. It's a unique road because part is owned by the village, part by the town of Wittenberg and part is Ho-Chunk.

Q: Do you see the village growing in the next few years?

A: Shops on Grand opened last fall, and in the building where Mia's Bar used to be there is a health food type store going in that space. They have other stores in Shawano and Marion, so it's nice to see local businesses expanding in our area. Beversdorf recently purchased the A&W property, and that will give more space for his garage business and possibly another form of expansion. It will be interesting to see things progress, and I'm happy to be a part of it.

Wednesday's Cryptoquote: AN OLD DOG CAN LEARN NEW TRICKS. IF YOUR ENTHUSIASM HAS LOST ITS VITALITY, DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO REVIVE IT. — DON MCART

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RSVP Appreciated

Agency Tables – 5:00pm-6:45pm

Come meet with various agencies that serve a variety of people with disabilities and find out what services they provide, who they serve, and how to receive services. Enjoy a complimentary light meal, as well.

Presentation • Guest Speaker: Dakota Maynard – 7:00pm

*** Door Prize Drawings after Presentation! ***

Autism: Seeing the World from a Different Perspective



Dakota is 22-year-old young man with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). One of his passions is educating people in the community about ASD. Dakota provides a detailed presentation with his experiences, including the obstacles he has faced, the goals he has reached and the dreams he hopes to achieve. Dakota will walk guests through his experiences from learning of his diagnosis to how he navigates daily life, providing a colorful picture of his experiences with ASD.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact
1-855-492-2372 or adrc@adrcwolfriver.org

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