



SPORTS • Wittenberg-Birnamwood high school sophomore Ben Wesolowski is third leading basketball scorer for the team.

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\$1



RIVER RUNS THROUGH WINTER

Homme Pond is frozen over, but the Embarrass River is swiftly flowing below the dam past Panic Park.

MIRIAM NELSON | NEW MEDIA

Backes building creates interest

If a new business doesn't move in soon, the next plan is to tear down the Backes building in Birnamwood. Norm Matsche has donated \$50K to help with the cost.

PAGE 2

Churches share pastoral services

Zion Lutheran of Tigerton and Redeemer Lutheran of Wittenberg sign a six-month contract to have Pastor Sharon Fox Bogen serve both congregations on a part-time basis.

PAGE 3

A father's sin leads to murder

Jan Jones reviews "Sins of the Father" offering mystery and murder with unknown family.

PAGE 4



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Interest grows in Backes site

Norm Matsche donates \$50K to future project

By **MIRIAM NELSON**
News Editor

BIRNAMWOOD — The village of Birnamwood has received \$50,000 from former resident Norm Matsche to be applied to a project to remove the vacant building that once housed the Backes Food Mart.

While in Birnamwood last summer, Matsche had a conversation with his friend and local resident Ed Resch, and he told him he would be interested in helping with the cost of tearing the building down.

Matsche has a long history of helping his hometown of Birnamwood. Two years ago, he donated \$500,000

to refurbish the grandstand and concession area for the baseball park. It was renamed Rivertronics Stadium, a nod to the business Matsche started in 1967 in Wood River, Illinois.

Matsche was instrumental in the construction of the Matsche Community Center in 2012. He also funded the demolition of the vacant downtown hotel, which opened up the opportunity for Aspirus Clinic to build a new facility in June 2017.

Backes Food Mart had been in business 40 years before closing in November 2017. The building has remained vacant.

"I would like to see a business go in there," said Resch, referring to the Backes building, "but if that doesn't happen, it's nice to have the help with the cost of tearing it down."

According to Resch, the price for the property and building is \$49,000. Before tearing down the building, there would need to be an inspection to check for asbestos or

other hazards, which would cost an additional \$2,451, said Resch. The teardown costs could easily double that amount, putting the project over \$100,000, Resch said.

At the Jan. 13 village board meeting, Resch stated that if the building is torn down, the owners of Chet and Emil's would be willing to purchase the property to use as a parking lot. They would also agree to sell back the property if, in the future, someone wanted to purchase the lot for a business.

Resch has been keeping Matsche and the board aware of the situation. He's been in contact with the bank that owns the building and the Realtor representing the building. Resch told the village board at its Jan. 27 meeting that it would be another two weeks before moving forward. According to Resch, there is now a business interested in purchasing the building.

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There's no time like the present

People often feel nostalgic about the past. People often feel fearful about the future. People should spend more time embracing the present.

I've had many conversations with family and friends about the way things used to be. They always seem to be more plentiful after the holidays when we all have taken some sort of trip down memory lane.

So many remember a simpler time when life didn't seem as rushed as it does now. There's a somewhat misguided belief that everything was purer years ago and bad things never happened. It's a nice thought, but it just isn't true. If you want to see how evil people could be, read a history book about the Holocaust or the Spanish Inquisition.

Each generation yearns for a simpler time, but that's not what we're here for. It's our job to embrace the advancements we've made and pave the way for future generations to do the same.

I am not about to give up my cell



MIRIAM NELSON

phone to go back to the telegraph system.

Although it's nice to take an occasional trip down memory lane, I have no desire to take up residence. I like to simply review the journey because it gives me hope for the future.

In the movie "Titanic," Rose — the old woman who survived — had the opportunity to board the ship that had found the wreckage. She brought with her pictures of herself showing the adventures she had made of the life afforded her by her survival.

I think the main reason so many people fear the future is because they haven't made enough good memories in the past to carry them through the unknown. They also fear it because there is so much gloom and doom being expressed by people

who want to affect your decision making. We all pay a price for the stress of that constant barrage of future fears.

Wouldn't it be nice just to be able to enjoy the here and now? I'm not advocating that we forget the past; we need to remember it, or we'll be condemned to repeat it — as the saying goes. I'm not saying we should not be making plans for the future. I'm just saying we shouldn't make those plans based on fear. Embrace the changes that are coming and think about how they can make our lives better.

We need to make the most of our current relationships; sometimes that means investing more time and effort, but it also means letting go of those toxic relationships. We need to enjoy and make the most of each day so we can have good memories to look back and face the future with confidence.

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

CORRECTIONS

The hours of operation for Delightfully Dished with Emma Kait's Coffeehaus were listed incorrectly in the Jan. 29 issue of the Wittenberg Enterprise and Birnamwood News. The correct hours of operation are Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Also, owner Lisa Glapinski's stepson was listed as Justin Vargas; he is Justin Vargas. We apologize for the errors.

Local ELCA churches share pastoral services

Pastor Sharon Fox Bogen serves Zion and Redeemer churches

By **MIRIAM NELSON**
News Editor

WITTENBERG — The Lutheran congregations of Redeemer in Wittenberg and Zion in Tigerton have committed to a six-month contract to share the employment of Pastor Sharon Fox Bogen.

The two Evangelical Lutheran Church of America congregations have been in discussions since fall.

Redeemer has always had a full-time pastor and a parsonage, but last year changes were made when Pastor Amy Meyer Perron moved to Plover in June to accept another call.

Bishop Gerald Mansholt met with the Redeemer congregation in August to encourage them to share the expense of the pastoral position with another church or churches.

According to Mansholt, there just are not enough graduates coming out of the seminary to fill all of the empty positions, and small town and rural churches are harder to fill.

When he said the wait could be two years or longer for a full-time pastor, Redeemer made the decision to sell the parsonage.

Bogen became an ordained pastor in 2017 when she accepted the part-time position with Zion.

Bogen has been involved in many aspects of church work throughout her life. She served 25 years as a deacon. She's been the director at Pine Lake Lutheran Camp, a hospital chaplain, a Christian educator, a retirement community specialist, a confirmation teacher and a youth group leader. Bogen has managed a fundraiser for a malaria campaign and has served on the synod global

AT A GLANCE

Redeemer Lutheran, W18205 College Ave., Wittenberg. 8:30 a.m. Sunday. 715-253-2590

Zion Lutheran, 511 Spaulding St., Tigerton. 10:30 a.m. Sunday. 715-535-2313

missions committee.

"It has been a joy and a challenge to serve God's church — whether it is in a congregation, conference, synod or outdoor ministry," said Bogen.

The youngest of 13 children, she grew up in Milwaukee and attended a Missouri Synod Lutheran grade school. She credits her older siblings and mother for being influential faith leaders.

"Early on, I learned to speak up to be heard, to be responsible, to work hard and to wait my turn," said Bogen.

Bogen's husband, Phil, has been an ELCA pastor for 27 years, and they make their home in Wausau. They have two adult sons. Aaron lives in St. Paul, Minnesota, and Adam is a recent graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College and lives in Minneapolis.

Zion was established in 1891 and Redeemer in 1882. During the trial period, Redeemer will hold Sunday morning service at 8:30 a.m. with communion on the first and third Sundays, and Zion will hold Sunday morning service at 10:30 a.m. with communion every Sunday. After the six-month trial period, the churches have the option to sign another six-month contract or take steps to make a permanent shared position.

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Pastor Sharon Fox Bogen currently splits her pastoral duties between two ELCA churches, Zion Lutheran in Tigerton and Redeemer in Wittenberg.

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Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District 4 Year Old Kindergarten Registration for the 2020-2021 school year



If you have a child who will be 4 years old by September 1, 2020, you are welcome to come anytime during the schedule hours:

**Monday, March 2 at
Birnamwood Elementary School
3:30-5:00 P.M. - 4K Classroom**

**Tuesday, March 3 at
Wittenberg Elementary School
3:30-5:00 P.M. - Cafeteria**

*Un intérprete de español estará disponible del 3:30 al 5 P.M. el martes.

4K Sessions will run either Mon/Wed/ or Tues/Thurs from 8:00-3:00. (Children enrolled at Head Start will go to school 4 days per week, Monday-Thursday. Two days will be "4K Days" at the Head Start building and two of the days will be Head Start programming days.) 4K sessions will be filled based on order of enrollment. Those that register on time will be given preference on days and/or location, but cannot be guaranteed.

Children must be 4 years old by September 1st in order to register for 4K. Sorry, no early admittance will be accepted. Please bring along proof of birth date (birth certificate, baptismal record, or passport - only to be verified, we do not need a copy) and immunization record.

More information about 4K programs will be available at registration. Children do not need to be present at registration, but are welcome to come.

For more information about 4K Registration, please call: Joan at 715-449-2576 or Brenda at 715-253-2221

BOOKS AND STUFF

Investigator's search could lead to unknown daughter

My book selection this week was "Sins of the Fathers" by J.A. Jance.



JAN JONES

She's become one of my favorite authors with her series featuring J.P. Beaumont, Ali Reynolds and Joanna Brady.

This book was set in Seattle, Washington. We got to know the area while our daughter lived in Shoreline, just north of the city. So I can relate when J.P. Beaumont complains about the horrible traffic and nearly nonexistent parking. After years as a Seattle Police Department homicide detective, Beau has retired, endured double knee replacement and is now a private detective. He and his wife, Mel Soames, have a home in Bellingham as well as the penthouse condo at Belltown Tower in downtown Seattle. While Mel works as Bellingham's chief of police, Beau spends his days doing crosswords and caring for Lucy, the massive Irish Wolfhound they are fostering.

Then Alan Dale shows up asking a big favor. He needs Beau to find his drug-addicted daughter, Naomi.

A few weeks ago, Naomi gave birth to Athena Dale and promptly walked away, leaving the drug-addicted infant behind. Alan needs to find Naomi so she can sign off on her parental rights to Athena.

As soon as Beau sees Naomi's picture, he flashes back to a time when he was a different man. Beau had helped solve a case that involved Alan Dale and a woman named Jasmine. Later, he had a drunken one-night stand with Jasmine. Soon after that, Alan and Jasmine left Seattle for Texas. Beau eventually sobered up and never gave Alan or Jasmine a thought.

Now he was staring at a picture that could have been his daughter, Kelly. He is certain that Naomi is his daughter and Athena his granddaughter, but he decides to get DNA tests before telling Alan or his two grown children.

One of the basic tenants of AA is making amends to those you have

AT A GLANCE

BOOK: "Sins of the Fathers"

AUTHOR: J.A. Jance

PUBLISHER: Harper Collins Publishers

PUBLISHED: Sept. 24, 2019

PAGES: 384

wronged, so Beau, who inherited a fortune from his late wife, decides to do everything he can to find Naomi

and make sure that Athena and Alan want for nothing.

It doesn't take long to locate Naomi, and she readily agrees to sign off, but tells him that Peter "Petey" May-

field, Athena's father, came home and told Naomi that he was going to be getting a lot of money soon. She thought he was back on drugs, they fought and he walked out and hasn't been seen since. This prompts Beau to look into Petey's family.

It appears that Petey's Aunt Lenora was trying to cheat him out of a substantial inheritance. She had put her mother in a nursing home where she died soon after, signing all property over to Lenora. Curiously, realtor Suzanne Nishikawa's mother died at the same nursing home, and Nishikawa bought the property from Lenora. Sadly, Petey's remains are found many miles away. He was shot and his body dumped.

Beau shares what he knows and then lets the police find a way to prove that Petey was killed. He discovered what Lenora and Suzanne were up to and that they colluded in Petey's death.

While Beau untangles the layers of criminal relationships, Alan navigates the legal system to become Athena's legal guardian, and Lucy decides her place is with Athena in Texas. Beau will miss her but knows that Lucy will guard the child with her life, because he's seen her do it before.

This is just a thumbnail sketch of an excellent novel filled with interesting place, people and situations. I hope you'll take the time to enjoy it as much as I did.



YOUTH SWIM

Crick, Dickman and Resch lead WASP at invitational

STEVENS POINT — The Wittenberg Area Swim Program earned 443.5 points to place seventh at the nine-team Stevens Point Underdog Invitational on Jan. 25-26.

Rylee Crick earned five second-place finishes and claimed third place overall in the 8-9 age class with 99 total points to lead WASP.

Reese Dickman finished first in two events, while Faith Resch added one first-place finish.

STEVENS POINT INVITATIONAL

8-9 CLASS

Rylee Crick: second, 100 freestyle (1:18.61), 50 breaststroke (45.77), 50 backstroke (41.08), 100 breaststroke (1:35.16) and 100 IM (1:26.12); fifth, 50 freestyle (34.65).

Megan Fischer: 27th, 100 freestyle (1:46.96); 33rd, 100 freestyle (2:00.84) and 50 backstroke (56.75);

46th, 50 backstroke (1:04).

Grace Hegewald: 29th, 50 breaststroke (1:03.06); 36th, 100 freestyle (2:05.65); 41st, 50 backstroke (1:00.22).
Millie Hegewald: 19th, 50 backstroke (50.47); 20th, 50 butterfly (58.53); 25th, 50 breaststroke (1:01.43).

10-11 CLASS

Brooklyn Beran: 19th, 100 breaststroke (1:45.09); 22nd, 50 breaststroke (49.94); 28th, 100 IM (1:33.75) and 50 butterfly (50.06); 40th, 50 freestyle (38.63).
Reese Dickman: first, 50 breaststroke (37.27) and 100 breaststroke (1:21.99); seventh, 100 freestyle (1:09.18) and 50 freestyle (30.61); eighth, 100 IM (1:19.32); 12th, 50 butterfly (37.53).

Megan Gilmeister: 16th, 100 breaststroke (1:43.45); 17th, 100 backstroke (1:36.10); 19th, 100 freestyle (1:17.85); 20th, 50 butterfly (42.68); 21st, 50 breaststroke (48.67); 24th, 50 freestyle (34.96).
Gabby Timm: 21st, 100 backstroke (1:38.97); 28th, 100 freestyle (1:29.33); 31st, 50 backstroke (49.87); 37th, 50 breaststroke (56.25); 43th, 50 freestyle (39.69).

Reese Dickman, Brooklyn Beran, Rylee Crick, Megan

Gilmeister: eighth, 200 freestyle relay (2:21.33).
Gabby Timm, Brooklyn Beran, Millie Hegewald, Grace Hegewald: 13th, 200 freestyle relay (3:22.22).

12-13 CLASS

Olivia Bessette: 16th, 100 breaststroke (1:30.45); 23rd, 100 backstroke (1:20.28); 26th, 100 freestyle (1:09.16).
Ava Hegewald: seventh, 100 breaststroke (1:21.11); 15th, 100 freestyle (1:06.39); 21st, 100 backstroke (1:19.45).

Amelia Majernik: 33rd, 100 backstroke (1:31.28); 40th, 50 freestyle (37.28) and 100 freestyle (1:18.22).
Andrea Powell: ninth, 500 freestyle (8:04.57); 35th, 100 backstroke (1:39.60); 42nd, 100 freestyle (1:20.92).

Faith Resch: first, 50 freestyle (26.46); seventh, 100 freestyle (1:00.73) and 200 IM (2:38.8); 11th, 100 breaststroke (1:26.36); 12th, 200 breaststroke (3:09.69).

Claire Timm: ninth, 200 backstroke (3:21.53); 17th, 100 butterfly (1:35.16); 21st, 200 breaststroke (3:43.87); 100 breaststroke (1:46.65); 32nd, 50

freestyle (33.53); 34th, 100 freestyle (1:14.53).

Olivia Bessette, Ava Hegewald, Faith Resch, Claire Timm: fourth, 200 medley relay (2:17.17).

Amelia Majernik, Reese Dickman, Andrea Powell, Megan Gilmeister: ninth, 200 medley relay (2:38.89).

14-AND-OVER CLASS

Kalee Gilmeister: fifth, 200 breaststroke (3:12.05); 11th, 50 freestyle (27.99) and 100 butterfly (1:15.19); 12th, 100 backstroke (1:13.79); 13th, 200 backstroke (2:43.41); 20th, 100 freestyle (1:03.08).

Laura Gilmeister: 11th, 200 backstroke (2:39.51); 17th, 50 freestyle (28.38); 19th, 200 IM (2:44.64); 23rd, 100 freestyle (1:03.54); 24th, 100 breaststroke (1:34.81).

Bella Hegewald: 10th, 100 breaststroke (1:18.86); 16th, 100 butterfly (1:21.44); 27th, 100 freestyle (1:05.92).

Jessica Storlie: 15th, 100 backstroke (1:15.35); 25th, 100 breaststroke (1:36.81); 31st, 100 freestyle (1:06.97).

Jessica Storlie, Bella Hegewald, Kalee Gilmeister, Laura Gilmeister: eighth, 200 medley relay (2:10.13).

Witt-Birn forensics team competes at Winneconne

On Saturday Feb. 1, members of the Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School forensics team traveled to Winneconne High School to compete in their first Wisconsin Forensics Coaches' Association Tournament of the season.

Lauren Bahr earned a first-place trophy in farrago, and Taylor Bergner took home a medal with a fourth-place finish in prose.

Also attending the match were senior Onnica Long, who competed in prose; juniors Braden Helgeson and Tyler Tautges, both competing in the radio speaking category; and freshman Jessica Storlie, who competed in prose.



Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School forensics team members are, from left, Braden Helgeson, Tyler Tautges, Zahra Syafinattunnajah, Lauren Bahr, Jessica Storlie, Taylor Bergner and Onnica Long.

CONTRIBUTED

In order to see what forensics competition is all about, Zahra Syafinattunnajah, from Indonesia, went along so she could better prepare her speech for a future tournament and to cheer on her teammates.

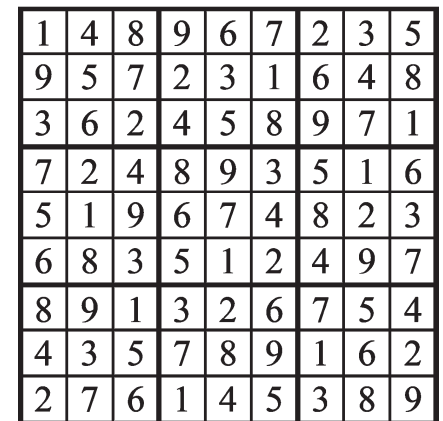
Slow going for the vertically challenged



A miniature horse and two goats make their way back to the barn through the deep snow at a farm north of Wittenberg.

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Wednesday's Cryptoquote: A MAN IS NOT PAID FOR HAVING A HEAD AND HANDS, BUT FOR USING THEM. — ELBERT HUBBARD



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HONOR ROLLS

WITTENBERG MIDDLE SCHOOL

First Semester HIGH HONORS

Eighth Grade: Zoey A. Baumgartner, Jayden M. Chaney, Gwyneth L. Esker, Logan T. Hanson, Codie A. Hecox, Layla N. Huffman, Casey A. Kielman, Sawyer R. Malueg, London L. Metropulos, Camryn J. Miller, Ella L. Norrbom, Charlie P. Nowinsky, Savannah R. Robbins, Matea K. Romualdo, Ian R. Salvesen, Keegan P. Schmid, Owen J. Schultz, Joseph T. Seegmiller, Katherine A. Stewart, Nathan M. Waupekenay, Nash D. Wojnowiak.

Seventh Grade: Olivia A. Bessette, Quinlyn M. Buchkowski, Annie J. Czerwonka, Easton N. Davis, Makenna L. Dombeck, Ella C. Eichman, Evelyn L. Fletcher, Michael W. Gunter, Owen W. Gunter, Ava E. Hegewald, Abby P. Jackan, Makayla J. Meronk, Hayden J. Miller, Hudson D. Miller, NeRae K. Oshkeshequoam, Vivian M. Resch, Jett D. Rogowski, Ethan H. Schmidt, Landen S. Schmidt, Kalvin J. Schoenrock, Justin D. Valenzuela.

Sixth Grade: Jonas J. Bushman, Kimberly M. Crews, Grant V. Hanson, Chekotey

A. Horacek, Eddie J. Nowinsky, Sadie M. Ostrowski, Rory K. Salvesen, Bryson D. Schmid, Alyssa L. Schultz, George E. Seegmiller, Kaden J. Yaeger.

HONORS

Eighth Grade: Wyatt D. Buhr, Seth E. Fisher, Simon R. Flees, Braeden J.Groshek, McKenize A. Krause, Ashley M. Kurszewski, Megan M. Lohff, Morgan A. Milanowski, Miya A. Pawlowski, William H. Peters III, Andres R. Sanchez-Decorah, Jaydenn R. Struck.

Seventh Grade: Treyton L. Bierman, Lewis I. Cornelius Jr., Madilyn R. Forschen,

Patricio Galan, Nathan B. Johnson, Brayden D. Nueske, Kylie F. Ostrowski, Brianna R. Peters, Abigail K. Rasmussen, Jasmaine A. Roehl, Aliana T. Sanchez-Decorah, Juan L. Vazquez, Charlie J. Waupekenay, Carson M. Wilde.

Sixth Grade: Emil Baleski, Adrienne D. Brenic, Jamie L. Buchkowski, Corrine E. Dehnke, Nicholas G. Flak, Melaina A. Granquist, Owen J. Hanke, Robert J. Jensen, Benjamin D. Miller, Grayson W. Niswander, Hadlee J. Pruess, Alexander E. Robbins, Isabella D. Stegall, Kaydenca Wanta, Joseph T. Wilson, Devin L. Wudtke.

BIRNAMWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

First Semester A HONOR ROLL

Eighth Grade: August Barke, Amelia J. Bessert, Isabelle M. Cieslewicz, Marshall Fraaza, Olivvyah Johnson, Jordis M. Long, Allie M. Olligney, Mikenna L. Radtke

Seventh Grade: Owen Dickman, Ava N. Medo, Andrea E. Powell, Faith Resch, Danyka R. Suess, Claire Timm, Logan Tuskowski, Gracyn Uttecht

Sixth Grade: Zandyr T. Barke, Cordell O. Carlson, Reese Dickman, Jacob T. Fischer, Lillian A. Fischer, Carson Fredrick, Aubrie L. Jehn, Carson Meverden, Connor Meverden,

Alexis V. Traut, Corryn G. Wamboldt
B HONOR ROLL

Eighth Grade: Payton J. Berger, Madalyn A. Fischer, Connor Groshek, Michaela E. Heidenreich, Lillian Lemieux, Joaquin Lopez, Evan Meverden, Addisym Meydam, Matthew Nousen

Seventh Grade: Kaden Arrowood,

Matthew P. Bahr, Kylee Beversdorf, Ella Gagnon, Sophia Lemieux, Marli M. Novy, Boone Schairer

Sixth Grade: Lillian Bernarde, Ella Boggs, Carter M. Cieslewicz, Henry P. Egging, Evan L. Fuller, Lily G. Holbach, Kendyl M. Kessen, Katelyn Nousen, Lexis Scheurer, Natalie Uttecht

BONDUEL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Second Quarter A HONOR ROLL

Eighth Grade: Keaton Bahr, Gabriella Basten, Anna Beaumier, Joselyn Bohm, Dylan Brooks, Colette DeVeau, Savannah Elgin, London Faulkender, Makayla Gray, Emma Inman, Ashlyn Kurey, Tyanna Liesner, Colin Margelofsky, Benjamin O'Brien, Hannah Richmond, Rose Sievert, Karson

Stoss, Daniel Strzelecki, Zackary Zuleger
Seventh Grade: Hailey Berg, Jaxon Bogacz, Aspen Brunner, Teagan Engel, Colin Fischer, Adrian Ford, Laura Frea, Isiah Genz, Dylan Hillsberg, Rachyl Hutter, Lila Melchoir, Valerie Paholke, Isabella Roberts, Samuel Roberts, Dalton Schmidt, Talia Tonn, Cole Westphal, Evan Wilcox

B HONOR ROLL

Eighth Grade: Terry Bosman, Nataly

Dominguez, Macelyn Engel, Olivia Giese, Samuel Hyzer, Chase Kaquatosh, Cody Koeller, Ticeon Olson, Vance Paholke, Emma Riehl, Johnny Rodefer, Tala Rosenthal, Haley Ruehle, David Santana Lagunes, Adam Smith, Kailea Vanderlinden, Johanna Vanderzanden, Samuel Wolf

Seventh Grade: Alexander Allen, Riana Bahr, Tucker Bosman, Hunter Bougie, Lauren Brovold, Landon

Dejardin, Dillon Delcore, Jeffrey Dendler Jr., Baylie Diemel, Cadence Giese, Kenedi Gondeck, Annika Bianca Hinay, Sera Hyzer, Cade Johnson, Jurnie Klotzbuecher, Levi Rausch, Hunter Reitz, Erica Schmetzman, Madalyn Sokolski, Nicholas Tebo, Desiree Vigue, Matthew Walenta, Conner Weckler, Ryan Wege, Caleb Wondra, Sophia Zeeman, Mason Zuleger

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Valentine's Day Land & Sea Buffet

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The Woodland

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Community gives to baby shower

More than 100 items were donated Jan. 24 to a community baby shower. Hanke's Sentry Foods in Wittenberg hosts the annual event and uses the store as a drop-off point for donations.

Some of the donated items included homemade blankets, sweaters, hats and burp cloths. Some outfits and sweaters had been purchased. People donated snacks, diapers of various sizes and diaper wipes. Sandy Hanke, store owner and baby shower orga-

nizer, noted that one family donated a portable crib.

All of the items were donated to the Wittenberg Food Pantry, which serves the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District. The items will be donated to mothers who need these supplies for their babies.

Hanke noted that it takes a lot of people working together to make this event a success and to help fill a need in the community.

"A strong community takes people working together, and that is what we did as a community," said Hanke.

Dueling pianos set for Friday

NEW Piano Guys will perform at the WOWSPACE on Friday at 7:30 p.m. for the annual fundraiser for the Art Park. The NEW Piano Guys cover music from the 1950s to today. Every show is different and dependent on audience requests.

For the past four years, Walls of Wittenberg has hosted dueling piano performances to raise money to cover costs such as mulching, weeding and other seasonal maintenance at the Art Park, which is adjacent to the WOWSPACE gallery.

"This year, we plan to do updating of the landscaping," WOW President Elaine Knab said. "One year, we used the money to build a permanent outdoor stage."

According to organizer Tarrie Beran, the popularity of the local event has increased each year.

Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$35 at the door. Tickets are available online at ticketbud.com or at Tavern Front, 207 W Vinal St., Wittenberg.

Guests must be at least 21 years old to attend the show. A cash bar will be available. The WOWSPACE is located at 114 Vinal St., Wittenberg.

Theater event seeks musicians

Crossroads Community Theatre is performing "My Fatal Valentine" by Eileen Moushey for the annual murder mystery dinner theater.

The play takes place at an award show for romance novelists. Within the play is the opportunity for singers or instrumentalists to perform.

Performances of the show are Feb. 28-29 and March 6-7. It is a flexible schedule where someone can participate in any or all of the performance dates.

If interested, call 715-253-3525.

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