

HOP ON THE TRAIN

'Polar Express' warms up St. Paul Christmas event

PAGE C2

Charlie Beardsley, 6, of Bonduel, watches as Aaron Landgrave, principal of St. Paul Lutheran School, punches his ticket Dec. 8 for the Christmas event at the school in Bonduel.

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KAY REMINGER, C6 • ROB ZIMMER, C7 • RYAN WINN, C9 • AROUND THE COMMUNITY, C10

St. Paul Christmas event makes kids believe

Principal brings 'Polar Express' experience from former school to turn holidays bright

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

Aaron Landgrave showed a very different side to himself Dec. 8 as students and their families arrived at St. Paul Lutheran School for a Christmas celebration.

Most with a connection to St. Paul are used to seeing the school principal with a beard and dressed more like he belongs in an educational institution. Many were surprised to see Landgrave dressed up like the conductor for the movie "The Polar Express" and reducing his facial hair to just a mustache.

However, the holiday movie persona helped add some flavor to an event that the St. Paul Parent Teacher League has held for years, as children came through and got their tickets punched to go down the makeshift railroad track in the school's hallway. In one classroom, the story of "The Polar Express" was being read. In another, Santa Claus was holding court and listening to what students wanted for Christmas. Then there was the lunch room, where the school's book fair was being held. Families got to enjoy hot cocoa and other baked goodies, and they also worked on craft projects.

Landgrave had previously done an experience with "The Polar Express" when he was at a parochial school in Chicago.

"He wanted to bring that over when he came here," said Emily Lohrentz, PTL president. "We put little bells in each of the kids' pockets, and we printed out some tickets for the kids and stuff."



Nichole LeClair, a volunteer with the St. Paul Lutheran School Parent Teacher League, reads "The Polar Express" to a group of students as the image of a lit fireplace appears behind her in a classroom during the school's Christmas event.

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The bells were a big hit with the children, many of them telling their friends and parents that they had no idea how the bells got there. At the beginning of the event, when they presented their tickets, Landgrave asked the prerequisite "Do you believe?" before punching those tickets and sending the children on their way.

The PTL has done a Christmas event for years where there would be crafts and Santa's workshop, according to Lohrentz. This year, the book fair was included in the holiday festivities, she said, and then Landgrave came up with the idea of the "train" experience to add to the event.

St. Paul's event was simply to herald in the Christmas season, but when Landgrave came up with the idea eight years ago in Chicago, the event had the dual purpose of enrolling students, as that time was an admission period.

"We thought, 'How can we get people here and enrolled for next year?' So we came up with this 'Polar Express' thing," Landgrave said.

He noted that families that participated in the event then got to register at half-price; by the end of the first event, almost all of the students were registered for that new year. Many of the students who registered came from other schools, enticed by the 'Polar Express' experience, with Landgrave noting that the school's enrollment increased by 27 students that year.

"It was a marketing tool, but since then, I've done it every year," Landgrave said. "Then last year, I did it at

a bookstore. I've done it with comfort dogs. My wife would read the story, and I would be the conductor."

Landgrave identifies with "The Polar Express" not only as a holiday story but also because of his grandfather's profession.

"My grandpa was born in 1892, and he was a conductor for like 30 or 40 years," Landgrave said, clarifying, "It was more about getting kids excited for Christmas. It wasn't anything about us."

Landgrave's persona as the conductor extends to the classic pocket watch he carries. He said he spent \$150 on the timepiece but noted the train's always running on time because he didn't wind up the pocket watch to actually tell the time.

"I just don't wind it because I don't want it to break," Landgrave said.

For Lohrentz, there's no better way to observe the holiday season.

"I hope they have fun with their families and their friends and they also remember the true meaning of Christmas," Lohrentz said. "Christmas is such a magical time for the kids, so we like to see that they all have fun and enjoy it. It's even better with their family and their friends."



Adelynn Ford, 7, of Shawano, tells Santa Claus what she wants for Christmas on Dec. 8 in a classroom at St. Paul Lutheran School.

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Local hero recognized at company party

Schmidt saved Paquette's life when Paquette was 4

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

During Cirrinity's Dec. 10 annual company party at Maple Hills Golf Course in Wittenberg, one employee was recognized for a life-saving scenario from 28 years ago.

Jeremy Paquette, who was invited to the party with his family, honored Dave Schmidt, because Schmidt helped to save Paquette's life when he was just 4 years old. According to Sylvia Nueske, Paquette's grandmother, she and her husband were watching Jeremy and his brother, when Jeremy wanted to ride on a big lawnmower.

As his brother was mowing the lawn, Nueske said, that he got to the end of the yard, when he started backing up, not realizing that Jeremy was running behind the mower, wanting to get a ride.

Nueske said she was chasing him and yelling for him to stop, but due to the noise of the mower, the brother couldn't hear her. At the same time, Nueske said, a telephone line repairman — Dave Schmidt — was on a pole working and heard the commotion. Schmidt started waving his hands frantically and got the attention of the lawnmower operator to stop the vehicle and in essence saved Paquette's life.

"That saved the day of our little grandson being very much injured or maybe having his life taken," said Nueske. "We have been so blessed. We are so thankful."

Paquette said that the Cirrinity company party was the first time that he had actually met Schmidt and while their relationship had not been developed, it started 28 years ago.

"I have never met him before today, but when I was 4 — that is when our relationship started," said Paquette. "It is nice to meet him. It is nice to know who it is that literally gave me the biggest blessings of my life."

Without Schmidt's actions that day, Paquette said, there would have been no opportunity for him to meet his wife and have children.



Dave Schmidt, far left in white, and Jeremy Paquette, middle in blue, stand next to a plaque recognizing Schmidt for his efforts in saving Paquette's life. Paquette said that the greatest result from his life being saved from Schmidt was that he was able to start a family and carry on to his next chapter in life.

LUKE REIMER | NEW MEDIA

"That is the result of him saving my life," said Paquette. "It has been a dream come true to get married and have kids, and I realized that would have never happened without his quick actions."

Because it has been 28 years since the event and since the last time Paquette and Schmidt had any communication, Paquette said that he was overwhelmed with emotion.

"I have never really known who he was or if I would ever meet him," said Paquette. "I felt like I always knew him, though, because he was such a big part of my life."

At the event, along with his family, Paquette bought gifts for Schmidt and his wife, including shirts that say "Hero" and "Mrs. Hero" and a plaque honoring Schmidt and calling him a "Local Hero."

"I just want him to know that we have not forgotten about him," said Paquette. "My mom contacted him a couple years ago and he did not

remember, but it's just being in the right place at the right time and just doing what a good person would do. This is always a story that my family tells."

Paquette said that due in part to Schmidt and this story, his son has become interested in vehicles and what Paquette describes as "anything that moves." He said that he is using this story as a lesson for him and his son to be more careful around farming vehicles.

"It is even good for me to remember what happened and to keep a close eye on my son," said Paquette.

As for Schmidt, he was surprised to see the boy that he had saved 28 years ago show up with his family at Cirrinity's company party, something that Cirrinity CEO Scott Nyman has been working on for weeks.

"It is amazing that they reached out and that they are here," said Schmidt, noting that he doesn't

remember much of the incident. "He has been thinking about this on and off for years — it's great. It is also great to know that there are still good people out there."

Schmidt said that it is a great feeling to know that even after all of these years, the family is still thankful for his actions and that they haven't stopped thinking about him.

"It feels like I am appreciated," said Schmidt, pointing to the gifts and the kind words. "I wasn't looking for appreciation or anything when it happened. I was just doing my job."

He added that in general, he was just happy that a tragedy was avoided and that Paquette was able to start a family and live his life to the fullest.

"It is amazing and mind-boggling to see him with his own family now," said Schmidt.

FARM LIFE FROM A FARM WIFE

Christmas Eve was always a special time

Since I was a little girl growing up on a farm, I had always resonated with the Christmas story of the babe lying snug in a simple manger. I knew



KAY REMINGER

mangers. My first thought as a small child was: How did baby Jesus not get licked in the face by a cow? I knew cows. I had more than once been gobsmacked by a cow tongue. The sensation of a

wet, sandpaper tongue across an arm or a chubby cheek not easily forgotten.

We fed dry-hay wafers to our cows back in the day and, as a kid, that was a job I could handle. On Christmas Eve, I would always give a double wafer to the cows, whispering to each in turn.

"There you go, an extra present because tonight is a special night."

I giggled softly to myself, not wanting my sisters or brother to know that secretly, like Santa, I was delivering a special gift to each cow. If my dad realized one or two more bales were used than normal, he never said anything. Perhaps he knew and, smiling quietly, let his small daughter keep her secret.

Saturday nights were our usual weekly bath night. Yes, just one a week.

We'd all take turns in pretty much the same bathwater, sometimes one or two of us girls at once. While Mom pin-curled each girls' still-damp hair, we'd sit in front of the TV on an armless chair anticipating the champagne pop, along with the theme song signaling the start of "The Lawrence Welk Show." Enthralled with the beauty and ease of the people gliding across the stage, I gaped in awe at the elegant women with their flawless makeup and hair, their stylish dresses. Mesmerized, we didn't even fidget nor feel the tug of the bobby pins.

Christmas Eve felt even more special than a Saturday night with Lawrence Welk. We'd all get dressed in our finest, Dad and my brother in a suit with a tie and us girls in dresses. St. John's in Marion held candlelight Christmas Eve services. We always attended church on Sunday mornings; never ever was there a night service, except for Christmas Eve. This, then, added to the holy height of a very special time.

When the candles were lit, the big



The Christmas story is all laid out in a Nativity scene at the corner of Lieg Avenue and Lincoln Street in Shawano.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

overhead hanging lights were darkened and a reverent hush crept across all. The entire congregation sang "Silent Night" by the light of many singularly burning candles, handheld by young and old alike.

I was disappointed when the song ended and the lights came back on. Although a Lutheran church always sings every verse plus the chorus, I didn't want it to end! Curious as to the origins of this precious hymn, I did a bit of research and according to www.silent-night-museum.org, "The version of Silent Night as it is traditionally sung in English, has only three verses which are the first, second and last verse of the six original verses." I'm pretty sure if St. John's would have known the earliest "Silent Night" had six verses, we'd have sung all six.

One special Christmas Eve, Santa had left a burlap bag bulging full of presents leaning on our outside porch door. We came home from church and four pairs of eyes were round and unblinking as we caught sight of it.

That was the only Christmas Eve I can recall that Santa had not left presents under the tree, but in a burlap sack leaning on the door.

"Mom?" We chided together in wonderment. "Why did Santa leave our presents outside?"

"He must have been running behind tonight, I bet. No time to come down the chimney."

Much later, when I had children of my own, was I only able to completely appreciate the sheer cunning of my mom and dad, how clever of them. How much did it take for my mom to purchase, wrap and then tuck all of those presents in a burlap sack without any one of her very curious small children noticing? We were all joined at the hip working, playing, fighting, eating, going to church — always together.

We were taught Christmas wasn't just Santa. Oh, for sure he played a part in the presents, but we always knew Jesus was why we were celebrating. I felt sad when kids just talk-

ed about getting presents. Although I never said anything, I thought in my small mind, does Jesus get hurt feelings not getting invited to His own birthday party?

As an adult in this crazy, yet magnificent world in which we live, I get that same sad feeling, and want to shout it out loud: Jesus is why we celebrate! He is worth celebrating, coming to earth as a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a simple manger, bringing good tidings of great joy to one and all.

("For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, and this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:11-12)

Merry Christmas, everyone.

Kay Reminger was born and raised on a dairy farm, and she married her high school sweetheart, who happened to farm for a living in Leopold. Writing for quite a few years, she remains focused on the blessings of living the ups and downs of rural life from a farm wife's perspective.

Holiday plants make homes more festive

The holiday season is upon us, and giving the gift of wonderful indoor plants is a popular theme. Better yet, use holiday plants to decorate your own home during this festive time of year. There are many excellent choices that make gift giving and decorating fun.

Of course, when we think of Christmas, we think poinsettias. Classic in traditional red, as well as pink, white and streaked colors, poinsettias have come a long way. Now, it is common to find poinsettias in all colors of the rainbow, thanks to dyes and glitter. Whether you like the classic colors or want to experiment with holiday orange, copper, bronze and glitter, there is a poinsettia out there for you. I've even seen poinsettias dyed green and yellow for fun



ROB ZIMMER

Packer-themed décor.

Amaryllis bulbs are another classic holiday treasure. These fast-growing, winter-blooming bulbs are simple and fun, as well as elegant. Flowers can be as large as summer lilies, in a variety of shades of red, pink, white and maroon. Like poinsettias, growing amaryllis has come a long way. It is now common to see waxed amaryllis bulbs that come coated in a thick coat of wax that allows them to be placed anywhere in the home without need to water. Everything needed to sustain the bulbs is encased within its wax shell. Simply display on the stand that is normally included, and watch the magic happen.

Norfolk Island Pine is another old-fashioned holiday plant, featuring fern-like growth and the classic pine shape that adorns indoor rooms and settings. These can be displayed as they are or decorated like Christmas trees in whatever theme you enjoy.

It wouldn't be the holidays without a holiday cactus. Available in a number of shades of pink, magenta, white, red, lavender and orange, holiday



Colorful poinsettias come in more than just red. This white plant has been beautifully tie-dyed in alternative colors of the season.

ROB ZIMMER

cactus traditionally bloom about the same time each year with little care required, making them a festive holiday tradition.

Many indoor plant lovers enjoy giving and receiving colorful, exotic orchids during the holiday season. Orchids come in just about any color, and make excellent specimen plants in holiday settings. The perfect easy-to-grow and stunning gift for any plant lover, the orchids of modern times are much easier to grow than earlier hybrids. You will also find orchids that are dyed in holiday colors.

There are many other indoor plants that make great gifts for the gardener on your list, or can be used to decorate your own home. Traditional blooms in red, such as anthurium, kalanchoe, begonia, miniature rose and others are great choices. White is also popular during the holidays, and just about every indoor blooming plant selection has a variety that blooms in white.

Assemble a collection of indoor plants in a dish garden or terrarium and make the holidays even more merry and bright.



Elegant amaryllis bulbs and plants make wonderful indoor treasures during the holidays.

ROB ZIMMER



Holiday cacti are a traditional seasonal favorite.

ROB ZIMMER

BMO donates \$115,000 to Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement of Wisconsin (JA) recently announced that BMO donated \$115,000 to provide financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and career readiness learning experiences for students across Wisconsin.

The mission of Junior Achievement of Wisconsin is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed. JA teaches students how to begin building financial capability and career exploration early in elementary school by examin-

ing needs and wants, basic economic concepts, techniques for saving, basic budgeting, and the ways local businesses support their community.

"This donation exemplifies our commitment to providing Wisconsin students financial literacy opportunities that empower them to continue to grow the good in their communities," said Jon Schumacher, BMO commercial banking managing director. "Our partnership with Junior Achieve-

ment of Wisconsin highlights a key hallmark to BMO's culture, which is helping others make real financial progress."

The \$115,000 gift will support general operations, event sponsorships, and capacity building efforts in communities surrounding Shawano and other Wisconsin municipalities. Two specific beneficiaries of the BMO gift are the JA Titan Scholarship Competitions and the

new JA Technical Scholars program.

"We are grateful for the support from BMO as we expand our program reach in Wisconsin," said Michael Frohna, Junior Achievement of Wisconsin president. "Their continued commitment, both with donations and providing classroom volunteers, allows us to impact 100,000 Wisconsin students each year with lessons that will give them the skillset and the mindset for a successful future."

First grade works on landforms



Sacred Heart Catholic School first grade students Samson Gilling, front, Trell Raddant, back left, and Meah Bruncker get their hands dirty the week of Nov. 21 during a landforms creation project using cardboard and salt dough. Once the creations dried, the students had the opportunity to paint their projects to display their knowledge of mountains, rivers, lakes, plains and valleys. CONTRIBUTED

Knights give cold-weather armor



Russ Glime, left, grand knight for the Lena Knights of Columbus, presents Ben Pytleski, Lena School District superintendent, with coats, boots, gloves and snow pants for six students as part of the Knights' Coats for Kids program. These items will go to local children who are in need of warm winter clothing. CONTRIBUTED

BIRTHS

- Saylor Grace Neuman, a girl, born at 3:25 p.m. Oct. 6, 2022, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital to Casey and Rachel Neuman, of Wausau. She weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces and was 20 inches long.
- Jenny Lynn Wierzba, a girl, born at 7:11 a.m. Sept. 21, 2022, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital to Allen and Brooke Wierzba, of Shantytown. She weighed 8 pounds, 4.6 ounces and was 20 1/2

inches long.

- Samuel August Maedke, a boy, born Aug. 19, 2022, to William and Erica Maedke, of Lena. He weighed 8 pounds, 15 ounces. His siblings are Hannah, Eleanor, Angel Sarah and Will-E. His grandparents are William and JoAnn Maedke and Daniel and Marie Pagel. His great-grandparents are Jeanette Pagel, Geri Alsteen and Bea Gudex.

Wellness director refuses to give up

Poninitah. Translated into English, this Menominee word means “Don’t give up.” The College of Menominee Nation’s Indigenous wellness director, Beth Waukechon, makes this sentiment a mantra.

Upon entering her role at the college in summer 2022, Waukechon saw her work as “carrying out the college’s mission to build more access and education for overall wellness opportunities.” She noted that her goal is “normalizing mental health awareness and support,” adding that “Coming out of COVID, we cannot live with the illusion that mental health struggles do not exist.”

A graduate of Shawano High School, the Menominee tribal member received her bachelor’s degree in elementary education from UW-Oshkosh and her master’s degree in education leadership from Concordia University in Portland, Oregon. Waukechon taught in the Menominee Indian School District and Menominee Tribal School for seventeen years before moving to CMN. She was part of a team who “worked with the whole child on trauma responsive care.”

“We met the children where they were at, in every aspect, looking at their educational services as a reflection of their health,” Waukechon explained. “We were advocates for the interaction between the student, their family, the teachers, support staff, and services.”

Waukechon took the position at CMN to enable her own growth while supporting the college community.

“I enjoy helping others, and so many students are under stress because of so many variables,” she said. “When you alleviate stress, you see a major shift in a person’s focus. Offering resources through higher education can be a game changer for communities.”

Yet, the path to wellness is not always easy.

“Healing is not linear,” Waukechon said, “but when someone is honest with their own story, then healing can begin to occur. Some people try to run and hide from it, but hurt comes from things not being in balance. Mental, physical, emotional, or spiritual trauma can lead to all kinds of illnesses that affect our biology. All humans want to belong,



RYAN WINN

sweet tooth.

Alternatively, she said the intangible gifts come from “holding a forum to reflect on what positive mental health looks like, putting those thoughts into a room, and becoming comfortable in that healing environment. Collaboration with other departments is also very important to help deliver opportunities for growth, wellness, and overall hope for the future.”

As a liaison for support at CMN, Waukechon has created spaces on the college’s Keshena and Green Bay campuses for sharing Indigenous foods, brewing natural teas, creating therapeutic art, and harvesting traditional medicines such as sage and cedar. Her additional initiatives include hosting cultural events such as moccasin games and a “Rock Your Mocs” campaign.

“It takes all of us to build a community around self-care,” Waukechon said. “CMN is working diligently to ensure that wellness is a top priority and we’re developing a system of care to respond to our current health needs.”

Waukechon also noted that “In the last 10 years, brain science has recognized the phenomenal impact healing can have on how we function. Workshops, self-reflection, seeking support, and creating wellness plans can really help us each understand what is going on in our being. When we’re aware of what tools can help us, we can use them to be in the moment and attuned to what’s going on around us.”

Waukechon conveyed that “Our perspective as Indigenous people has a deeper connection to our

to be seen, to be heard, to be honored in a way that’s respectful. When we feel fully supported, we can dive in and own our health.”

Much of what Waukechon offers to the CMN campus builds community through gift-giving. The physical gifts she shares are locally-made, natural soaps, as well as bags of candies that feed one’s



Beth Waukechon is the Indigenous wellness director for the College of Menominee Nation.

COLLEGE OF MENOMINEE NATION

relatives who have passed on. We’re relying on those who came before us to guide us. We learn from the teachings of the grandmothers and grandfathers. The natural world is our first classroom.”

College offers students a chance to earn a higher education, but gaining that knowledge while focusing on wellness creates a well-rounded individual.

“We each have to find our purpose in life,” Waukechon said. “Everyone has a gift to offer, and figuring out what that is will help us each thrive.”

Of course, thriving comes through persistence, no matter the obstacle, or, to put it another way, poninitah.

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

MARRIAGES

SHAWANO COUNTY

Robert James Bowman and Sue Ann Marie Milanowski, both of Bowler, Nov. 22, 2022.

Patrick Michael Brokiewicz, of the Town of Green Valley, and Christi Jo Tryon, of the Town of Washington, Dec. 9, 2022.

Jimmy Coliadis, of the Town of Wescott, and Doris Rochelle Rottenegger, of Germany, Dec. 3, 2022.

Gregory Paul Gallese and Sahara Lee Ann Burr, both of Shawano, Dec. 10, 2022.

Derek Thomas Hoffman and Riley Ann Worzalla, both of Aniwa, Nov. 12, 2022.

Cooper Michael Jacobs and Eva Paye Thomas, both of the Town of Morgan, Dec. 16, 2022.

Kyle Lee Kaufert, of Milwaukee, and Reanne Eleanor Strauss, of the Town of Wescott, Jan. 11, 2023.

Dylan James Konitzer and Lea Marie Katzenmeyer, both of the Town of Belle Plaine, Dec. 11, 2022.

Peter George Lenss and Annette Clarice Zernicke, both of the Town of Waukechon, Nov. 12, 2022.

Michael Jay Magee and Jessica Lynn Tipton, both of Bonduel, Nov. 12, 2022.

Rick Arthur Shadick and Lynette Beatrice Roff, both of Shawano, Dec. 17, 2022.

Hays Gene Skalitzy, of the Town of Wescott, and Diana Marie Hancock, of Cecil, Dec. 5, 2022.

Adam Joseph Werner and Crystal Lynn Smet, both of the Town of Underhill,

Dec. 8, 2022.

OCONTO COUNTY

Timothy Raymond Klug and Amy Jo Magee, both of the Town of Lakewood, Nov. 14, 2022.

Randall Robert Kellogg and Allyson Faye Britten, both of Suring, Nov. 15, 2022.

James William Anderson and Sarah Jane Hopkins, both of the Town of Pensaukee, Nov. 20, 2022.

Nicholas Lee Campbell and Theresa Aurelia Schulte, both of Oconto, Nov. 21, 2022.

Geff Charles Galbari and Kimberly Sue Galuska, both of the Town of Little Suamico, Dec. 6, 2022.

Cory Richard Ashbeck and Abigail Barbara Ostrowski, both of the Town of

Lakewood, Dec. 9, 2022.

Guy Lee Frantz and Cathy Jean Gibson, both of the Town of Brazeau, Nov. 22, 2022.

Abelardo Garza Estavillo and Jennifer Jiyu Anzures, both of Oconto Falls, Nov. 25, 2022.

Aaron Charles Nearman and Terri Marie Baugnet, both of Oconto Falls, Dec. 4, 2022.

John Paul Kummerer and Tamara Elizabeth Bougie, both of Suring, Dec. 9, 2022.

Steven Gerard Strojny and Sierra Rae Demmith, both of Lena, Dec. 9, 2022.

Norman Moises Aguilar-Amaya and Ashley Jorleny Garay-Campos, both of Peshtigo, Dec. 10, 2022.

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

NOCTA raises trout for Wisconsin waterways

Northern Oconto County Trout Alliance (NOCTA) has reported another successful season of raising trout.

NOCTA operates in conjunction with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, using 100% volunteer efforts to raise brook and brown trout from fingerlings received from the DNR in late June to an average of 8 inches by planting time in late October. The labor of feeding the fish twice a day, weekly cleaning of tanks and testing water for five months was provided by 38 volunteers. Actual stocking by the DNR occurred Oct. 26-27.

This was NOCTA's seventh year in operation. Since starting in 2015, the organization has raised more than 140,000 trout for planting in Northeastern Wisconsin streams. This year, 15,000 brown trout and 7,200 brook trout were raised. DNR fish biologists determine how many and where they are planted.

Funding for the \$4,000 cost of fish food and necessary equipment each year is by donations from various organizations and individuals. For information, contact NOCTA at P.O. Box 87, Lakewood, WI 54138, or call Dave Kalous at 715-850-1944.

ASPI looking for good 'Gypsy,' supporting cast

Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. will hold auditions Dec. 27-28 for its spring musical, "Gypsy," to be presented March 16-19 and March 23-26.

This musical, directed by Ali Carlson, calls for male and female roles, age 8 and older. No experience is necessary, and all are welcome to audition.

"Gypsy" is the tale of an ambitious stage mother fighting for her daughters' success, while secretly yearning for her own. Set all across America in the 1920s and 1930s, when Vaudeville was dying and burlesque was born, Arthur Laurents' landmark show explores the world of two-bit show business with brass, humor, heart, and sophistication.

The score by Jule Styne and Stephen Sondheim includes songs like "Everything's Coming Up Roses," "Let Me Entertain You," "Some



More than a dozen trout are being removed from a rearing tank to be placed in a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources fish stocking truck. CONTRIBUTED

People," "If Momma Was Married," "You Gotta Get A Gimmick," and "Together Wherever We Go."

Individuals will have two opportunities to audition: 6-8:30 p.m. Dec. 27 or Dec. 28, at the Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St., Abrams. Individuals who audition should come prepared to sing 24-32 bars of a song, preferably from a musical. They can sing a cappella or play music on their phone. The auditions will also include a reading from the script and a group choreography number. Comfortable clothing and shoes are recommended.

Rehearsals will start the first week in January and will be mainly on Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings.

Tickets for "Gypsy" go on sale Jan. 16. However, season ticket holders and Spotlight Sponsors can purchase tickets before the general

public. To purchase season tickets or become a Spotlight Sponsor, visit www.abramstheater.com or call the box office, 920-826-5852.

Exit Elite Realty rep receives bronze award

Josh Brokiewicz, sales representative with Exit Elite Realty in Shawano, was honored with the Bronze Award by Exit Realty Corp. International recently at the Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort near Jacksonville, Florida.

The award was given in recognition of closing between 25 and 49 real estate transaction sides during the production year July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022.

"The real estate professionals who put the needs of their clients first and who can pivot to meet those needs in a changing economy will always succeed," said Tami

Bonnell, co-chairwoman of Exit Realty Corp. International. "It's because of the hard work and dedication of our agents and brokerage owners that Exit has continued to thrive and expand across the U.S. and Canada. We are proud of their accomplishments, and we extend our best wishes for their continued success."

United Way hires Hummel for community care post

The Tri-County United Way announced recently it has hired Allison Hummel as a new community care specialist.

Hummel has more than 10 years of experience in website management and record-keeping and will provide a wide range of support to the organization.

"I am excited to have Allison join the team, as she brings a tremendous passion for helping people to this role," said Kevin Malnor, Tri-County United Way executive director.

The Tri-County United Way serves Oconto County, along with Marinette County and Menominee County, Michigan.

For information, contact Malnor at kevin@tcunitedway.org.

Lions name December Student of the Month

The Lena Lions Club honored Quinlan Earley, son of Kimberly and Jamie Earley, as the December Student of the Month.

Earley is a senior at Lena High School, where his friends describe him as a solid unit, unique, caring and smart. His hobbies include fishing, working out and hanging out with friends.

Earley's community activity is helping at the Lena Lions Dairyfest. His work experience is working at the A&W Restaurant in the Town of Stiles as a team leader.

Earley plans to attend college in the future.

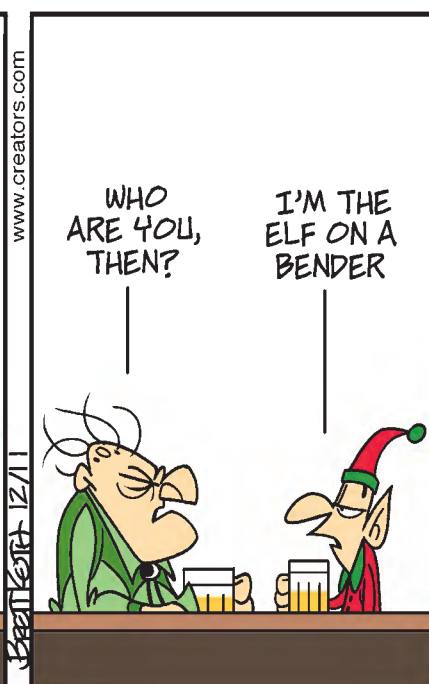
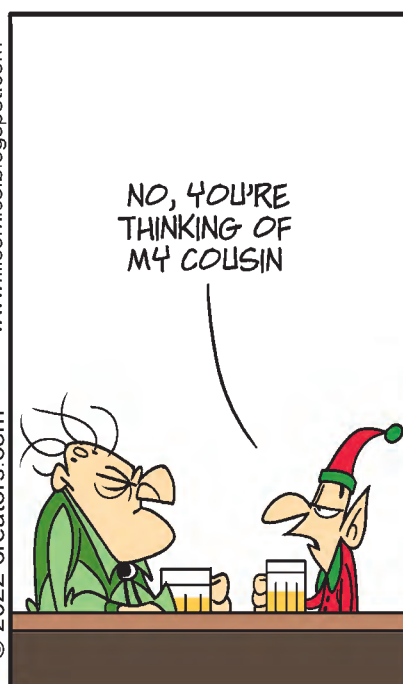
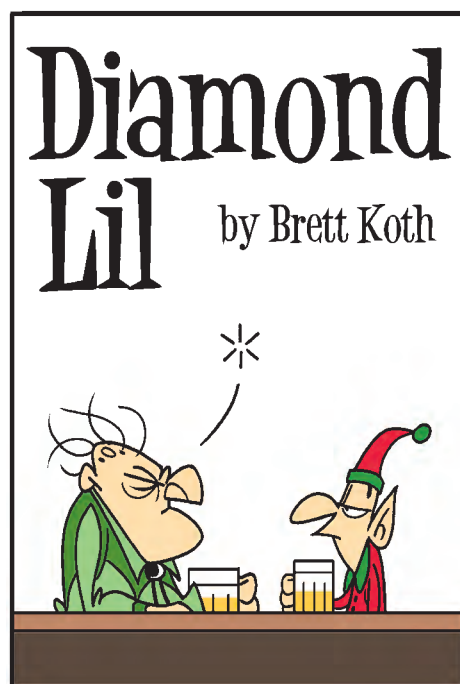
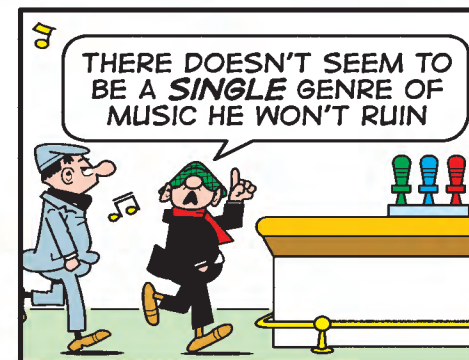
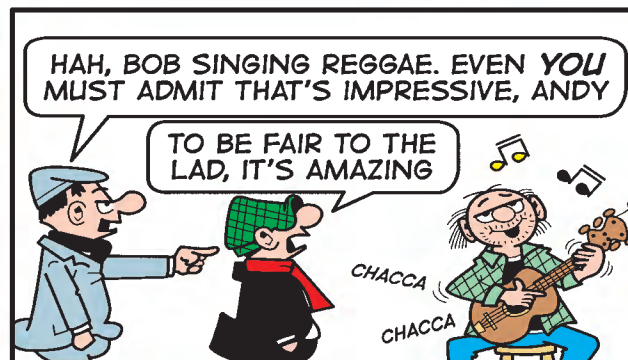
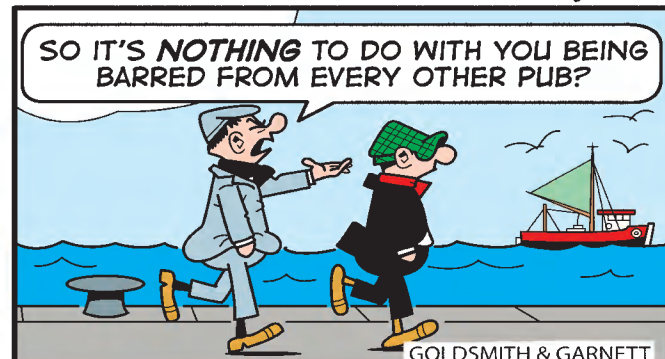
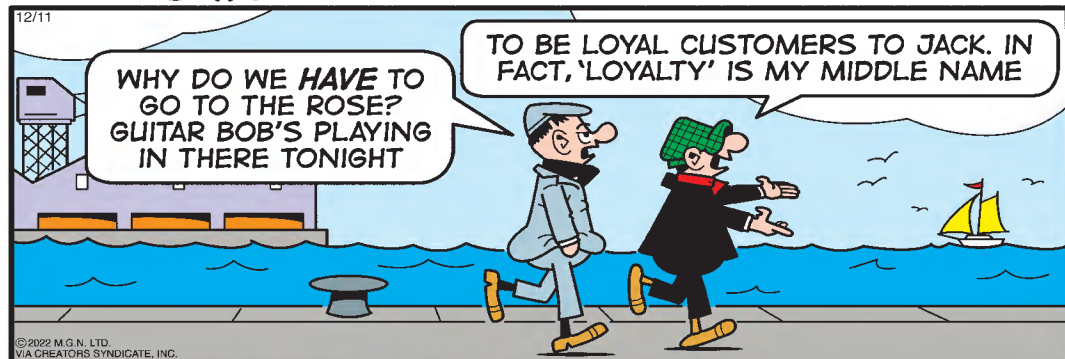


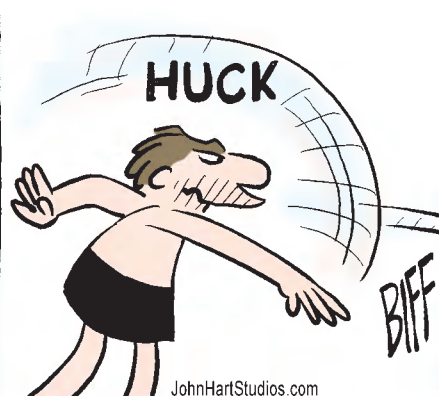
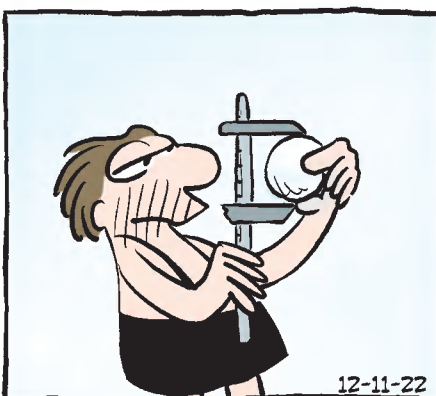
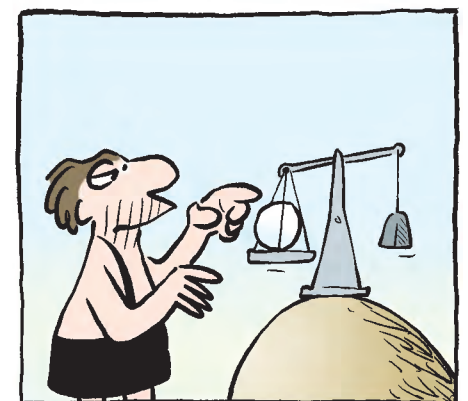
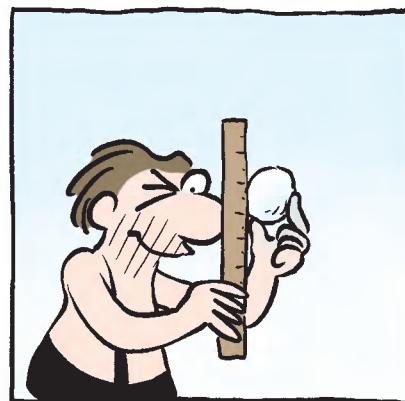
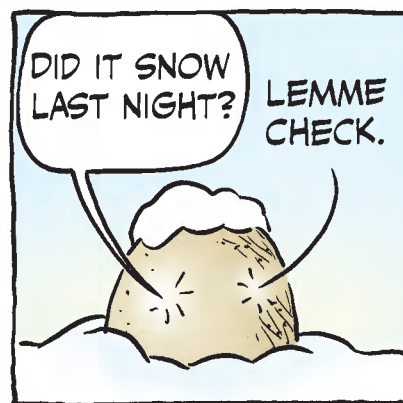
QUINLAN EARLEY

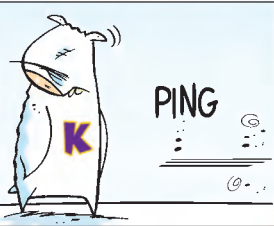
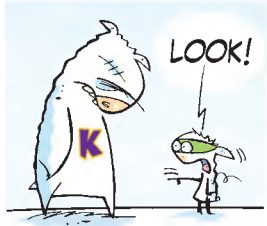
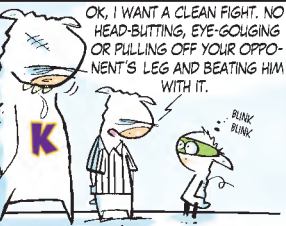
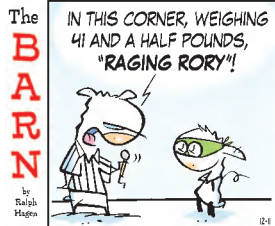
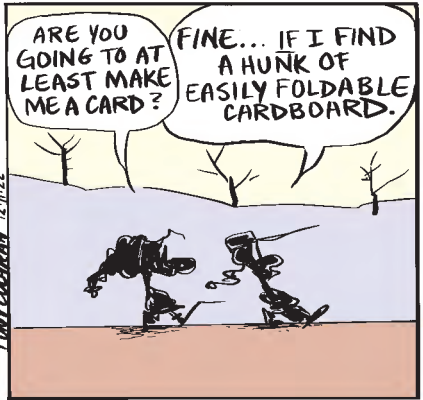
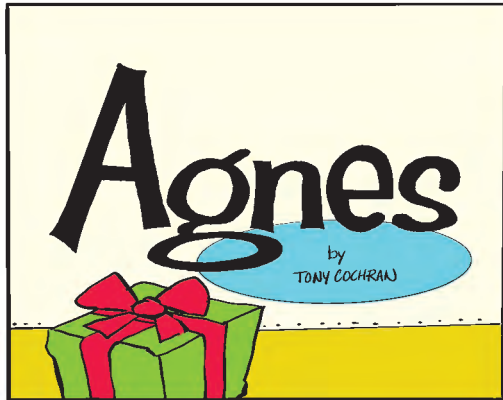
Around the Community is a roundup on local events, honors, awards and more. Organizations interested in sending news about what they're involved with can contact NEW Media at news@newmedia-wi.com. Items with a specific date like an event should be sent at least two weeks before it takes place.

ANDY CAPP

by Smythe

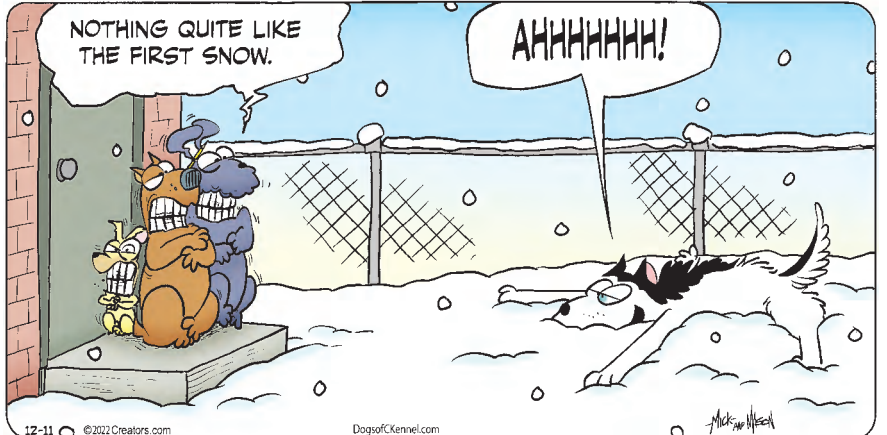






DOGS OF C-KENNEL

BY MICK MASTROIANNI AND MASON MASTROIANNI



Puzzle Answers

5	7	6	9	8	2	4	1	3
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8	1	3	5	9	7	2	6	4
9	5	1	4	7	6	8	3	2
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7	2	8	3	5	9	1	4	6

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6	8	7	4	2	9	5	3	1
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9	2	8	6	4	5	7	1	3
7	1	6	2	9	3	8	4	5
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OCEANIA	SET	TEST	ALLAY
DEN	SOLD	STE	
ERMINE	PATIO	SOLARMAP	
MOOD	RESOLUTELY	ERE	
MIND	BEST	RID	MATS
ALT	REORGANIZE	BATIK	
SHROUD	EMOTE	SURREY	
LEVIS	UNITE	ATRIA	
CAYMAN	AROSE	REPAVE	
RURAL	AMBASSADOR	ILS	
ADEN	CPA	ROAN	COLA
SIN	CHANCELLOR	NILES	
HOTWIRES	AXIOM	CANINE	
AFT	IRAQ	HUN	
DEALS	TAR	MUG	SARALEE
ANGLOSAXON	INSTRUMENT		
RYES	ARENA	DABAT	ONTO
EAST	MOSSY	SWATS	NOON

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wiggly**

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Puzzles

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THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

LET'S PLAY: And make some noise

by Fred Piscop

ACROSS

- 1 Sales agents, for short
- 5 "Gotta do it"
- 10 Vital sign
- 15 Pull up stakes
- 19 Remove typos from
- 20 Extreme enthusiasm
- 21 How some popcorn is popped
- 22 Some primates
- 23 Whom a state was named for
- 25 Much-honored choreographer
- 27 Polynesia's region
- 28 Harden over time
- 30 Superlative suffix
- 31 Ease, as fears
- 32 Family room
- 33 "I'm convinced!"
- 35 ___ Jeanne d'Arc
- 36 Weasel family member
- 39 Place for a cookout
- 41 Cartography showing sunlight received
- 46 Complained, as cattle
- 47 With determination
- 49 Bard's "before"
- 50 Be bothered by
- 51 Unsurpassable
- 52 Free (of)
- 53 Yoga accessories
- 54 "Offshoot" music prefix
- 55 Overhaul
- 59 Cloth-dyeing craft
- 60 Veil in mystery
- 63 Act too broadly
- 64 Old-style two-seater
- 65 Denim designation
- 66 Amalgamate
- 67 Sunny lobbies
- 68 Caribbean's Grand ___ island
- 70 Cropped up
- 71 Fix, as potholes

DOWN

- 73 Rustic
- 74 Embassy boss
- 77 They: Fr.
- 79 Port of Yemen
- 80 E-file expert
- 81 Reddish brown horse
- 82 Root beer alternative
- 83 Bad deed
- 84 University official
- 88 Frasier's sitcom brother
- 89 Starts a car without a key
- 92 Self-evident truth
- 93 Fox or wolf
- 94 Toward the 64 Down
- 95 Neighbor of Turkey
- 96 Follower of Attila
- 97 Starts a hand
- 100 Driveway sealer
- 102 Coffee holder
- 104 Big name in frozen desserts
- 108 Old English
- 111 What nine long answers contain
- 113 Diner loaves
- 114 Pro wrestling venue
- 115 Blot with a tissue
- 116 Not snowed by
- 117 Toward sunrise
- 118 Overgrown, as tree trunks
- 119 Sharp blows
- 120 When a.m. ends

11 Single

- 12 Sets, as a trap
- 13 Delta deposit
- 14 Named time period
- 15 Austrian symphonic composer
- 16 Gem from Australia
- 17 Fashion designer Wang
- 18 Catch a glimpse of
- 24 Without a break
- 26 Parting word
- 29 Arduous labor
- 34 The ___ (arch city nickname)
- 35 Guileful
- 36 #2 baby girl name for 2021
- 37 Muddies up
- 38 Mall tenant's expense
- 39 Mexican money
- 40 Celestial prefix
- 41 Take forcibly
- 42 Venerable, quaintly
- 43 Filled pasta
- 44 Nickname that sounds like two letters
- 45 Bothersome
- 47 Swamp grasses
- 48 Humdrum
- 51 UCLA athlete
- 53 "Ave ___"
- 56 Port northeast of Nice
- 57 Out of whack
- 58 Memory joggers, perhaps
- 59 Tupperware sound
- 61 Supply with a new crew
- 62 Brooch shape
- 64 Back of a boat
- 66 Opposite of 73 Across
- 67 Loud, as a crowd
- 68 Computer mishap
- 69 Sound from a speaker
- 70 Oscars org.
- 72 Pompeo of *Grey's Anatomy*
- 74 Strong yearning
- 75 Singer Guthrie
- 76 Adverse fate
- 78 What's often sent with an RSVP
- 82 Topping for French toast
- 84 Early PC screen
- 85 One's wheels
- 86 End-of-term hurdle
- 87 They may be potable
- 88 South Pacific microstate
- 90 NYSE address
- 91 "In that case . . ."
- 93 Presentation' graphics
- 95 Fairway clubs
- 97 Take a big chance
- 98 Celtic music superstar
- 99 Refines, as wine
- 100 Source for leaves in a luau stew
- 101 Firefighters' implements
- 103 Chew (on)
- 104 TDs or HRs
- 105 Fallon's *Tonight* predecessor
- 106 It means "within"
- 107 Prince William alma mater
- 109 Recruiting poster guy
- 110 No vote
- 112 Startup-loan agcy.

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