



ON THE AVENUE

A mother and her children check out the Oconto Falls Lioness Club's Avenue of Lights on opening night Nov. 29. The lights will shine on North Main Street throughout the Christmas season. **MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 3, AND FOR MORE ON GILLETT'S CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK OPENING SATURDAY, SEE PAGE 45.**

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

Medical staff puts in extra hours

Nurses and doctors with HSHS and other health agencies respond as COVID-19 cases continue to climb.

PAGE 2

Volunteers bring Thanksgiving via home delivery

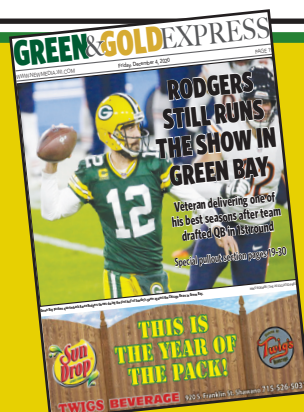
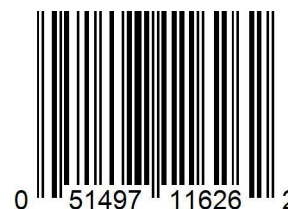
St. John Lutheran Church and Pulaski Area Community Education teamed up to deliver almost 300 Thanksgiving dinners.

PAGE 12

Oconto Falls senior ready for state run

Panthers wrestler Aidan Stary hopes to qualify for state again as he helps lead a talented returning team.

PAGE 41



In Rodgers' hands
Aaron Rodgers talks about the offensive line and coaching, but the fate of the Packers rests in his (capable) hands.

**GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS
PAGES 19-30**

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Hospitals respond to stresses on their staff

'Huge mental toll' on nurses cited during COVID-19

By **DAVID WILHELMS**

Correspondent

Ken Nelson, chief nursing officer for two of the hospitals in the system that includes St.



KEN NELSON

Clare Memorial Hospital in

Oconto Falls, spoke recently

of his staff's response as

the COVID-19 cases continue to

climb.

His nurses are

"putting in extra

hours. Work-

ing on their days off. They're tired,"

Nelson said of the staff at St. Vincent Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center, Green Bay.

Some nurses continue to volunteer for additional hours along with more assigned hours, he added.

Nelson said nurses are encouraged to talk about the emotional and psychological toll, especially those working in COVID-19 wards.

COVID-19 patients require intensive treatment. That includes many different medications and a very high contact, high touch demand from nurses, even as staff members adapt to new and evolving best practices, he explained.

Nelson said nurses in COVID-19 care are basically wearing a space suit for hours and the suits are very hot, wearing a person down over a shift's duration.

One example of the physical demands is turning over a patient in a bed, an effort that can take up to four people all hampered by the necessary protective gear, Nelson said.

Nurses have to deal with the very high mortality rate and the pain of seeing someone pass away after caring for them for several weeks, Nelson said.

There is also the huge mental toll of communicating with family of victims often only by phone or video, the nursing director said.

The impact of nurses missing work under CDC guidelines after being exposed or testing positive varies across departments, Nelson said. In a small department, one or two missing people makes a bigger difference than in services with higher staff counts.

One patient leaves and another immediately claims the bed in the ThedaCare health system, revealing some of the stresses on the ThedaCare system as the COVID-19 pandemic surges in Wisconsin.

"Bed availability has been as low as zero, which means we have had one patient discharged and then one patient come in. We are currently at 90% of capacity," Cassandra Wallace, the health system's public relations specialist, said in a Monday email.

The availability of beds and who's in them continues to take a toll on the nurses and personnel at the Shawano hospital.

Julie Chikowski, who leads ThedaCare Medical Center-Shawano, said employees have told her they feel safer at work than out in the community, adding her teams were rallying around each other and supporting each other.

Chikowski, vice president for critical access hospitals, said the hospital also now has "rejuvenation rooms" where, in a socially distant set-up, staff members can use massage chairs, read books or have some snacks.

"It gives them some down time when things are crazy," Chikowski said.

Nelson said his hospitals' directors and managers are shoulder-to-shoulder with staff, including assigning themselves to patients.

Directors and managers are also finding ways to integrate new staff as smoothly as possible, Nelson added.

Chikowski agreed managers are "rounding every day," making contact with staff members and making sure they have what they need. She said staff has adequate supplies of personal protective equipment, such as masks, gloves and shields.

Another measure of the strain

at a system level is the increase in patients transferred to and from area hospitals as they balance each facility's capabilities and capacity with patient needs.

Chikowski said the health system's management team meets three times each day to assess capacity across all of its services and other facilities such as nursing homes to "make sure we're on the right track. Our ER personnel have to be aware of who can stay and who can't."

She added that one of the Shawano hospital's goals in beating the pandemic is that "we want to get back to treating all of the community members here in the community."

Shawano hospital staffing has improved over September and October levels, Chikowski said. She said much of that is due to shorter response times and improved accuracy in COVID-19 testing. This means a potentially infected staff member doesn't have to wait long for results.

The Green Bay hospitals are attempting to add staff by contacting recent retirees and using people who have health-related degrees. The Shawano hospital has met needs through extensive cross-training of personnel and reassignment to other duties when elective surgeries were postponed, Nelson said.

Another resource that Nelson uses is a state registry of health professional volunteers willing to serve in an emergency more quickly and efficiently, he said.

Chikowski said the system has noted a trend in lower positivity rates in COVID-19 testing from a 50% positivity rate in September that dropped to 25% in October and is about 20% in November.

She added that's been a nice decline and, if the trend continues down, it'll help in lowering the current high hospitalization and high death rates, reducing demands on staff.

Much of that decline "so very much depends on how people behave during the holidays to really send this in the right direction," Chikowski said.

CORRECTIONS

Accuracy is important to the Oconto County Times Herald, and it wants to correct mistakes promptly. Call errors to our attention by phone at 920-848-3427.

A SEASON OF LIGHT

Celebration is scaled back for COVID-19, but the show goes on

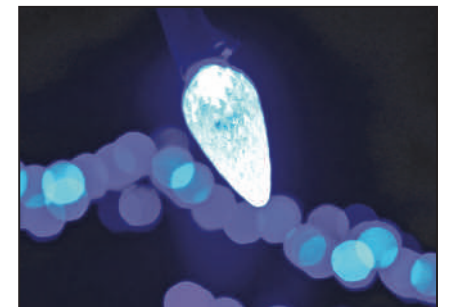


North Main Street lights up Nov. 29 on opening night of the annual Oconto Falls Lioness Club's Avenue of Lights. Santa, Mrs. Claus and carolers had to stay away over COVID-19 concerns, but the brilliant lights were lit the same as always.

PHOTOS BY WARREN BLUHM • NEWS EDITOR



Families enjoy a close-up look at the Christmas light trees at East Side Beach on the first night of the annual Oconto Falls Lioness Club's Avenue of Lights.



The Oconto Falls Avenue of Lights will be on display along North Main Street through the Christmas season.

Deputies logged 40 incidents, including the following:

Trespassing — reported in the 4000 block of Oakland Lane, Pensaukee, 7:52 a.m.

Fraud — reported in the 700 block of Lilac Road, Little Suamico, 9:37 a.m.

Theft — reported in the 7000 block of County Road I, Stiles, 11:32 a.m.

Disturbance — reported in the 1000 block of Sandalwood Road, Little Suamico, 2:57 p.m.

Utility problem — reported in the 1000 block of Collins Avenue, City of Oconto, 4:25 p.m.

Fire — reported along Makholm Lane, Maple Valley, 5:07 p.m.

Traffic — Deputies logged five traffic stops, three traffic offenses, one citizen assist and four miscellaneous traffic incidents.

911 — Two 911 hangups were investigated.

Accidents — Deputies responded to a personal-injury crash near County Road VV and Kalous Road, Underhill, 3:03 p.m.; a property-damage crash near Machickanee Lane and County Road I, Stiles, 3:32 p.m.; an accident in the 7000 block of County Road M, Spruce, 3:33 p.m.; a property-damage crash in the 8000 block of County Road A, Spruce, 5:07 p.m.; an accident in the 7000 block of Saindon Road, Chase, 5:22 p.m.; and a property-damage crash near County Road R and Balsam Lane, How, 8:21 p.m.; and logged four deer-related crashes.

Ambulance — Two ambulance calls were received.

Deputies logged 46 incidents, including the following:

Property damage — reported in the 9000 block of Anglers Way, Breed, 7:27 a.m.

Criminal damage — reported along U.S. 41-141 near County Road D, Abrams, 9:14 a.m.

Identity theft — reported in the 7000 block of Lone Pine Court, Chase, 9:30 a.m.

Harassment — reported in the 5000 block of Pine Avenue, Town of Oconto, 9:32 a.m.

Fraud — reported to the 4000 block of state Highway 32, Town of Gillett, 9:53 a.m.

Threatening — reported in the 5000 block of U.S. 141, Stiles, 11:17 a.m.

Disturbance — reported in the 100

block of North Farm Road, City of Oconto Falls, 3:40 p.m.

Suspicious — reported along County Road C north of County Road E, Chase, 4:18 p.m.

Structure fire — reported in the 8000 block of County Road CC, Town of Oconto Falls, 6:03 p.m.

Traffic — Deputies logged four traffic stops, three traffic hazards, four traffic offenses and three miscellaneous traffic incidents.

Welfare check — Officers conducted one welfare check.

911 — Seven 911 hangups and one open line were investigated.

Accidents — Deputies responded to a property-damage crash near U.S. 141 and Chicken Shack Road, Stiles, 6:38 a.m.; an accident in the 5000 block of U.S. 141, Stiles, 2:29 p.m.; a property-damage crash on Forest Hill Drive north of Partridge Trail Road, Townsend, 3:18 p.m.; and a property-damage crash in the 2000 block of state Highway 22, Town of Oconto, 4:48 p.m..

Deputies logged 43 incidents, including the following:

Wanted person — reported in the 15000 block of McCaslin Crossing Lane, Lakewood, 12:27 a.m.

Intoxication — reported in the 8100 block of County Road Z, Brazeau, 1:48 a.m.

Noise disturbance — reported in the 6000 block of Fredrickson Road, Stiles, 6:19 a.m.

Trespassing — reported in the 5000 block of Chicken Shack Road, Stiles, 10:17 a.m.

Disturbance — reported in the 200 block of Bitters Avenue, City of Oconto, 11:37 a.m.

Disturbance — reported in the 500 block of Quincy Street, City of Oconto Falls, 3:42 p.m.

Suspicious — reported in the Parkway Road and County Road Z, Brazeau, 4:10 p.m.

Traffic — Deputies logged two traffic stops, one traffic hazard, three traffic offenses, two citizen assists and three miscellaneous traffic incidents.

Welfare check — Officers conducted two welfare checks.

911 — Four 911 hangups and four open lines were investigated.

Accidents — Deputies responded to a personal-injury crash near U.S. 141 and Lemere Road, Stiles, 8:14 p.m.; and logged

two deer-related crashes.

Ambulance — One ambulance call was received.

Deputies logged 51 incidents, including the following:

Theft — reported in the 1000 block of County Road, Little Suamico, 12:15 a.m.

Disturbance — reported in the 8100 block of County Road Z, Brazeau, 3:55 a.m.

Unwanted party — reported in the 600 block of Collins Avenue, City of Oconto, 9:54 a.m.

Disturbance — reported in the 200 block of Bitters Avenue, City of Oconto, 10:38 a.m.

Wanted person — in the lobby of the Law Enforcement Center, 220 Arbutus Ave., City of Oconto, 10:48 a.m.

Disturbance — reported near County Road S and U.S. 41-141, Little Suamico, 11:08 a.m.

Burglary — reported in the 7100 block of state Highway 22, Stiles, 11:40 a.m.

Suspicious — reported in the 15000 block of McCaslin Crossing Lane, Lakewood, 11:58 a.m.

Trespassing — reported in the 9000 block of River Road, How, 12:55 p.m.

Threatening — reported in the 5000 block of North Gilbert Lane, Abrams, 3:31 p.m.

Unwanted party — reported in the 400 block of Brazeau Avenue, City of Oconto, 5:20 p.m.

Wanted person — reported in the 200 block of North Rosera Street, Village of Lena, 6:31 p.m.

Disturbance — reported in the 18000 block of North Road, Lakewood, 10:27 p.m.

Trespassing — reported in the 9000 block of County Road M, Spruce, 9 p.m.

Traffic — Deputies logged four traffic stops, two traffic hazards and four traffic offenses.

Welfare check — Officers conducted one welfare check.

911 — Five 911 hangups and two open lines were investigated.

Accidents — Deputies responded to a property-damage crash in the 7000 block of County Road Y, Little River, 8:34 a.m.; and an accident near Pecor Point Lane and County Road S, Pensaukee, 10:08 a.m.; and logged six deer-related crashes.

Ambulance — Three ambulance calls were received.

Deputies logged 38 incidents, including:

Wanted person — reported in the 16000 block of Forest Hill Drive, Townsend, 12:29 a.m.

Trespassing — reported in the 1000 block of Careful Lane, Little Suamico, 7:57 a.m.

Jail incident — at the Law Enforcement Center, 220 Arbutus Ave., City of Oconto, 9:16 a.m.

Fraud — reported in the 17000 block of Bridge Lane, Townsend, 9:39 a.m.

Attempted burglary — reported in the 16000 block of Elm Street, Townsend, 9:45 a.m.

Fraud — reported in the 17000 block of Horn Lake Road, Townsend, 1:27 p.m.

Jail incident — at the Law Enforcement Center, 220 Arbutus Ave., City of Oconto, 1:35 p.m.

Theft — reported in the 5000 block of Butterfly Lane, Town of Lena, 2 p.m.

Theft — reported in the 3000 block of Brehmer Road, Abrams, 5:56 p.m.

Overdose — reported at an address in the Town of Lena, 10:54 p.m.

Traffic — Deputies logged two traffic stops, one traffic hazard, three traffic offenses and one citizen assist.

Welfare check — Officers conducted two welfare checks.

911 — Two 911 hangups and one open line were investigated.

Accidents — Deputies responded to a fatal crash in the 5000 block of Deer Hill Road, Underhill, 5:14 a.m.; and a property-damage crash near state Highway 32 and County Road F, Lakewood, 10:28 a.m.; and logged two deer-related crashes.

Ambulance — One ambulance call was received.

Deputies logged 39 incidents, including the following:

Disturbance — reported in the 800 block of South Main Street, City of Oconto Falls, 2:36 a.m.

Trespassing — reported in the 2000 block of Sherman Road, Town of Oconto, 9:45 a.m.

Trespassing — reported in the 7000 block of Meadow Brook Road, Stiles, 11:03 a.m.

Disturbance — reported in the 100 block of Elm Avenue, City of Oconto Falls, 1:16 p.m.

Child abuse — reported at an address in Chase, 3:04 p.m.

Disturbance — reported in the 6000 block of Superior Avenue, Little River, 3:28 p.m.

Bond was set at \$3,500 cash for Patricia Jean Beyer, 47, Little Chute, after she was charged with operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (seventh, eighth or ninth offense), in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Nov. 19. Her initial appearance

was adjourned until Dec. 10.

Nicole M. Brewer, 36, Pulaski, pleaded not guilty to two counts of child neglect causing great bodily harm, three counts child neglect causing bodily harm, two counts child

neglect causing emotional damage and one count of child abuse intentionally causing harm, in connection with alleged incidents at her child care center from 2018 to 2020.

A status conference was scheduled for Feb. 26.

Jacob W. Oestreich, 31, Oconto

Falls, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to charges of attempted aggravated battery and misdemeanor disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred May 19.

A status conference was scheduled for Feb. 26.

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anyone's task. We'd talk to you on the phone each day.
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ATHLETE PROFILE: AIDAN STARY

Oconto Falls senior wrestler ready to make another run at state

The Oconto Falls High School wrestling team has high aspirations heading into the winter season behind a talented group of returning wrestlers. Senior Aidan Stary is among that group after he qualified for state last season.

To make it to state, Stary first earned a second-place finish in the 160-pound weight class at the Oconto Falls regional. He then won three matches during the Oconto Falls sectional to finish third in his weight class and qualify for state.

Stary dropped his lone decision at state and finished his junior season with a 28-19 record.

Q: When did your interest in wrestling begin?

A: My interest in wrestling began in first grade when my brother (Noah) joined wrestling. I started practicing in first grade but did not actually wrestle until second grade.

Q: What is your favorite part about the wrestling season?

A: My favorite part of wrestling season is competing in tournaments. I love the energy in the arena during tournaments like Bi-States and West Allis.

Q: What has wrestling taught you over the years?

A: Over the years, wrestling has taught me mental toughness and the thought of you can do anything you put your mind to.

Q: Talk a bit about how you prepare for the wrestling season.

A: This year I ran cross-country. This helped in my preparation of the conditioning needed in wrestling and has proven to have help me through these first few practices so far. I feel like it's helped my endurance.



Oconto Falls' Aidan Stary, top, wrestles during the Division 2 Oconto Falls sectional Feb. 22 in Oconto Falls.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

Q: As a senior, what are you most looking forward to this winter?

A: With this being my last year to compete, I am most looking forward to regionals, sectionals and state this coming year as well as putting a good team out on the mat on dual nights.

ONLINE

This week's high school highlights and recreation scoreboard can be found online at www.newmedia-wi.com.

Q: Do you have any rituals you go through to get ready for a match?

A: I do not have any rituals, but

AT A GLANCE

ATHLETE: Aidan Stary

SPORT: Wrestling

WEIGHT CLASS: 170

SCHOOL: Oconto Falls High School

YEAR: Senior

typically I will jump rope, listen to music and stretch out.

Q: What's your favorite memory of competing on the Oconto Falls wrestling team?

A: My favorite memory from high school wrestling was last year when I made it to state. With thousands of fans looking over you on the mat, it was a truly indescribable experience.

Q: What are you going to miss most about high school wrestling?

A: I am going to miss my teammates and my coaching staff the most. We all are one big family, and I am going to miss that bond I have between these guys.

Q: Favorite TV show, movie, and musical artist?

A: TV show — "Brooklyn Nine-Nine." Movie — "Fury." Musical artist — Dierks Bentley.

Q: Name one thing about yourself that not many people know.

A: I am big in hunting and the outdoors.

Q: What's the greatest piece of advice you have ever been told?

A: Pain is temporary, memories are forever.

Q: What are some things you hope to accomplish after graduating high school?

A: I am looking forward to going to Stevens Point next year and going into their pre-PT program.

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OBITUARIES

Betty Birr, 86, Krakow, died Saturday morning, Nov. 21, 2020, at Bellin Hospital. She was born April 18, 1934, in Pound to Leland and Emma (Pecha) Casper. Betty grew up on the family farm in rural Pound and attended Coleman schools, graduating with the Class of 1952.

On May 8, 1954, she married Otis Birr. Following their marriage, the couple lived in Oconto Falls for a short time until moving to Oconomowoc, where they started a family construction business and she worked side by side with her husband. In 1980, they moved to Kra-



kow where they made their family home ever since. She was a member of St. Casimir Catholic Church in Krakow. Betty will be lovingly remembered as a loving and caring mother and grandmother who enjoyed making meals for family and their friends from her large vegetable garden. This past year, Betty cared for her son Tom until he died on July 22, 2020.

Betty Birr

Survivors are her four children: Al (Paula) Birr, Krakow; Larry Birr, Plover; Shirley (Joe) Sutrick and Donny (Tina) Birr, all of Oconto Falls; one daughter-in-law, Karen Birr, Krakow; 22 grandchildren, 41 great-grandchildren; two brothers, Kenneth (Phyllis) Casper, Pound; Gerald (Sharon) Casper, Milwaukee; two sisters, Pat McNutt, Brazeau; Carol (Chuck) McNutt, Green Bay; one sister-in-law, Judy Casper, Pound; many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Otis in 2003, two sons, Tom and Gary (Beth)

Birr, one brother, Glen Casper and son in-law, Kim Arneson.

Visitation was held after 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 30, 2020, at St. Casimir Catholic Church in Krakow until the Mass of Christian Burial at noon with the Rev. Fr. Jim Esser, OFM officiating. Burial followed in Town of Morgan Cemetery.

Due to COVID concerns, the funeral Mass will be taped and available through the church website at a later date. For those wishing to send Betty's family condolence wishes, they can be sent to: Jones Funeral Service, P.O. Box 124, Oconto Falls, WI 54154.

Richard L. Olson, 84, of Oconto Falls (formerly of Suring), passed away Friday, Nov. 20, 2020. Richard was born Jan. 22, 1936, as Donald Knaab and was adopted by the late Oscar and Meryle Olson and renamed Richard L. Olson.

Richard served his country in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Diamond Head from 1959-1961. On July 8, 1961, Richard married Marlene Christensen. The couple resided in Suring and raised two children. Richard worked at Gillett Plywood for a time and then at Memline/Nu-Line in Suring for many years until his retirement. Richard's hobbies



included wood-working, fishing and hunting.

Richard is survived by his two children, Sandra (Benny) Stuewer of Fond du Lac and Daniel Olson of Seattle; three grandchildren, William (Katie) Stuewer and Eric Stuewer; four great-grandchildren, Maddyson, Tayden, William Jr. and Katniss. He is further survived by other relatives and friends.

Thomas Stuewer, William (Katie) Stuewer and Eric Stuewer; four great-grandchildren, Maddyson, Tayden, William Jr. and Katniss. He is further survived by other relatives and friends.

Richard L. Olson

Richard was preceded in death by his adoptive parents; his wife, Marlene; an infant son, Michael; two brothers, Keith and Kenneth.

Visitation was held Friday, Nov. 27, 2020, at Gruetzmacher Funeral Home in Suring from 11 a.m. until the funeral service at noon. Richard was interred at Frostville Cemetery. Gruetzmacher Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences can be expressed at www.gruetzmacherfuneralhome.com.

The family would like to thank the nurses and staff of Meadowbrook at Oconto Falls (formerly

Atrium Post Acute Care Center) for the care and compassion offered during his residence.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Gruetzmacher Funeral Home, P.O. Box 223, Suring, WI 54174.



Robert J. Trevor, 94, of Suring, passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2020. Bob was born May 22, 1926, to the late Raymond and Ardis (Saunders) Trevercq. He served his country in the United States Army during World War II. On Oct. 11, 1952, Bob married Dorothy Krueger in Mountain. The couple spent 67 wonderful years together and raised their five children. Bob started working with the Oconto County Highway Department and eventually left to work in road construction.



He was a part of Local 139. Bob greatly enjoyed his retired years for over 30 years. He also enjoyed fly fishing, ice fishing and hunting. Bob liked to hunt fox, coyote and bear. He was

also an avid gardener, known for his perfectly straight rows and weed-free garden.

Robert J. Trevor

Bob is survived by his four children, Mike (Sue) Trevor, Pat (Ellayne) Trevor, Terry Trevor and Lynne Trevor; eight grandchildren, Kevin, Keith, Alexis, Ryan, Rylee, Rachael, Travis and Amber; numerous great-grandchildren; siblings, Joe Trever, Lilian Krueger, June Janousky, and Melvin Trever. He is further survived by many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Dorothy; son, Ronnie; siblings, Gilbert Trever, Dorothy

Thompson and Ray Trever.

A private graveside service will be held for Bob at Hickory Cemetery, where he will be interred beside Dorothy. Gruetzmacher Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences can be expressed at www.gruetzmacherfuneralhome.com.

The family would like to thank the staff of St. Vincent Hospital's fourth-floor IMCU for the care and compassion offered to Bob and his family during their time of need.

Gaylord Zippel, 83, Gillett, passed away Nov. 19, 2020, at home in his favorite recliner.

He was born Nov. 5, 1937, in the Town of Oconto Falls to the late Carl and Evelyn (Nass) Zippel. Gaylord went to the South Branch School in the Town of Oconto Falls. As a young boy he and his brothers, Everett and Phillip, and sister Lois enjoyed riding horses and going to the family cabin

in Silver Cliff. Gay worked on the family farm and then started working for their earth-moving business (Zippel Construction) at age 16.

Gay operated the loader and hauled all types of dirt with "his" dump trucks. Vacation for Gay was doing field work on the family farm. He did the majority of the care for his parents' beef herd as well. Gay will be fondly remembered for his quietness,

Gaylord Zippel

and his happy side — even receiving the nickname "Happy" from some. He was the last of the "Zippel boys" who operated the company until its closing in 2017 — 72 years in business.

Gaylord was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, Everett, and wife Donna, Philip, and wife LaVerne; sister, Lois; other family and a large number of friends. Survived by close nieces and nephews.

Per Gaylord's wishes, there will be no public service. The family will have a private graveside service at a later date. The family would like to thank Unity Hospice, especially Leah, Cheryl, Tammy and pastor Nicole for their kindness, help, and compassion during this time.

Kuehl Funeral Home is honored to assist the family during this difficult time.

Gerald E. Schultz



Gerald E. Schultz, 73, Little Suamico, passed away peacefully in the early morning hours of Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2020, following a short illness. The son of the late Elmer A. and Rose (Kozlowski) Schultz was born May 5, 1947, in Green Bay and grew up in Abrams. Jerry was a 1965 graduate of Oconto Falls High School. He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving from 1966-1968 in Korea. Jerry met the love of his life, Sharon (Matuszewski) Revolinski, at the local gas station in 1978. The couple dated for many years and finally tied the knot on May 1, 2010.

Schultz was a dump truck driver for Peters Concrete for 43 years and retired in November 2013. Jerry liked

taking care of his yard, feeding the birds and going on long rides in his pickup truck. He enjoyed going to car shows with his 1982 red Buick Riviera and drinking an occasional brown shorty with

his friends. Jerry especially enjoyed going out to dinner at supper clubs up north and knew where to find the best dinners.

Survivors include his wife, Sharon; his step-daughter, Tamra Lea Revolinski, Williamstown, Kentucky; his

step-grandchildren: Donald John Revolinski III and Marie Rose Revolinski; two brothers: Larry (Betty) Schultz, Little Suamico, and David (Betsy) Schultz, Sobieski; one sister, Darlene (Dan) Busch, Suamico; his mother-in-law, Arlene Matuszewski; Sharon's siblings: Buster (Berta) Matuszewski, Sobieski, Pat Bastian, Brookside, Terri (Mike) VanDomelen, Sherwood; nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; an infant brother, Roger Schultz; father-in-law, Leo Matuszewski; stepson, Donald (Chief) Revolinski II; brother-in-law, Howard Bastian; and best friend, Ed Borzych.

Private family services were held at Marnocha Funeral Home. A public Celebration of Life will be held in 2021.

Since it was not possible to be with the family in person, you are welcome to send any cards of condolence to the funeral home (make sure you put the family's name on the outside envelope and your return address) and we will forward your cards and messages to the Schultz family.

Marnocha Funeral Home, P.O. Box 356, Pulaski, WI 54162

Online condolences may be expressed at www.marnochafuneral-home.com.

Robert Metzner



Robert "Bob" Metzner, 93½, Phoenix, Arizona, formerly Oconto Falls, died Wednesday morning, Nov. 18, 2020, at the home he shared with his daughter. He was born March 20, 1927, in Lena to Henry and Lena (Beschta) Metzner. Bob grew up on the family farm in rural Lena where he attended school. As a young man, he served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps during the Korean War.

On June 18, 1955, he married Leocadia "Katie" Maslanka in Bessemer, Michigan. The couple lived in Oconto

Falls all their married lives, where Bob was employed by the Scott Paper Co. for 38 years, retiring in 1988.

He was a longtime and active member of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Oconto Falls

and Knights of Columbus, volunteering for many church, school and KC causes. He was also a member of the

Oconto Falls American Legion Post #302. Bob enjoyed hunting, fishing trips to Canada and working in the hardwoods. After the death of his beloved wife Katie in 2018, he moved to his daughter Diane's home in Phoenix, where he totally embraced living life to the fullest.

Survivors are his loving and devoted daughter, Diane Flanagan, Phoenix; two sisters, Veronica Pauze, Fond du Lac, and Germaine Piper, Florida; and his many nieces and nephews.

Besides his parents and wife, he

was also preceded in death by one brother, Sylvester Metzner.

Visitation will be held after 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 4, 2020, at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Oconto Falls until the time of service. Mass of Christian Burial will be 11 a.m. Friday at the church with the Rev. Greg Parent officiating. Burial, with military honors, will follow at St. Charles Catholic Cemetery, Lena.

In lieu of other expressions of sympathy, a memorial may be made to St. Anthony Church or School.

30 graduate from snowmobile safety class

Thirty students successfully completed a DNR Snowmobile Safety Course on Nov. 14, sponsored by the Paul Bunyan Riders Snowmobile Club and the Red Arrow Snowmobile ATV Club.

The class, held at the Red Arrow Clubhouse/Groomer Building in Townsend, attracted students of all ages.

Lead instructor was Brian Fitzpatrick, and instructors Diane Fitzpatrick, Jim Wisneski, Larry Westphal and John Brantmeier led the one-day course. Training materials had been sent to the students two weeks in advance of the class.

Instructors said they were extremely pleased with the students' preparation prior to attending the classroom session. Oconto County Deputy Sheriff Daniel Woodke provided insight into relevant information as identified in Wisconsin snowmobile laws.

Class participants included: Timothy Barthel, Trace Brehmer, Allie Brehmer, Zachary Buck, Kris-



Students observing social-distancing guidelines during the snowmobile safety class held Nov. 14 at the Red Arrow Clubhouse/Groomer Building in Townsend.

CONTRIBUTED

tin Comerford, Quinn Comerford, Birdee Cramer, Bunny Cramer, Gregory Dallaire, Matthew Dallaire,

Carson Delaruelle, Easton Engel, Collin George, Brody Goble, Adison Goble, Matthew Haefke, Hunter

Kuchenbecker, Michael Malueg, Delaney McNichols, Anna Metzler, Ronald Schmocker, Alysah Schulz, Taner Schulz, Emerich Skarban, April Smits, Braylon Stegall, Sawyer Streblow, Aiden Tanner, Chase Verboomen and Sandra Wagner.

Individuals born after Jan. 1, 1985, must complete the course to legally drive a snowmobile in Wisconsin. Currently that means that anyone 35 years old or younger must have completed the course. An online version is available through the DNR, but younger students are highly encouraged to take the classroom version for maximum effect.

The Paul Bunyan Riders Snowmobile Club has been active in the Lakewood community for over 50 years. The Red Arrow Snowmobile ATV Club has been serving the Townsend area since 1968. For information, visit paulbunyanriders.com or redarrowtownsend.com or either of the group's Facebook pages.

Safe Haven copes with uptick in domestic violence

Shelter numbers down as incidents increase

By **CAROL RYCZEK**
Editor-in-chief

For many families, the COVID-19 pandemic has meant that members are spending more time together.

Unfortunately, for some families this enforced togetherness has meant a greater likelihood of domestic violence, reports Stacey Cicero, director of Safe Haven, the Shawano-based shelter for domestic violence and sexual assault victims.

"In 2017, we started tracking the domestic violence calls that law enforcement goes out on," Cicero said. "It's called that 'lethality assessment program.' When officers go on a call, they speak to the victim and do an 11-question assessment of the situation. The science behind the assessment is to assess the dangerousness of the situation."

In 2017, she said, law enforcement was averaging 12-13 calls a month.

"That was pretty consistent all the way up until May of 2020. This May, I don't know what happened, but May through October, domestic violence/domestic partner calls have doubled. We are averaging about 24 calls per month, and August had 27," she said.

Nationally, only half of domestic violence incidents are reported, so Cicero said it is reasonable to double the number of calls to understand the actual scope of the problem locally.

"When I saw 27 in August, I thought, 'That is just crazy.'" Cicero said.

"We know that our crisis lines are busy and our outreach participants numbers are high, so people are seeking services, but not in exactly the same way as before COVID," she said.

Cicero said the pandemic — and, along with it, the need to avoid large gatherings — has had an impact.

"People are cooped up in their houses together. Kids aren't going to school. We've got everybody underfoot all the time. There's no relief. There's no going to work, to Grandma's house. You can't go to a movie. Your friends might not want to come over, so you don't have any of those natural releases," she said.

One option for families is for the victim or victims to leave the home, including a stay at Safe Haven. The shelter shut down from March 20 to June 1, but it's now open and currently



Sue Dionne, shelter supervisor, cleans the kitchen area at Safe Haven, a temporary home for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Dionne explained that during the COVID-19 pandemic, individual families use the kitchen space, and it is cleaned before the next family uses it.

CAROL RYCZEK | NEW MEDIA

AT A GLANCE

WHAT: 24/7 help for domestic violence and sexual assault victims

WHERE: Safe Haven, 380 Lakeland Road, Shawano

SERVES: Primarily residents of Shawano and Menominee counties, but open to all

COST: Free

CONTACT: 715-526-3421 or text only, 715-584-1258

hosting two families.

Even during the shutdown, Cicero said, the shelter provided outreach services and support groups. Those groups are now held remotely, she said. The impact of COVID-19 can be seen throughout the shelter and its programs.

"We have what we call our COVID policy," she said. "There is one family per room, so there is no sharing rooms, and if we go over capacity, we have been using hotel vouchers. Families have assigned kitchen times; they have to wear masks when they are anywhere but their bedrooms."

Common areas are cleaned after use, and the lobby and community areas sanitized on a schedule. Staff wear masks, and visitors have their temperatures taken before entering the building. A Plexiglas barrier helps protect the staff and victims from the virus, but it also has an impact on the work itself.

It is a very hands-off approach in a situation where personal interaction is often an important part of the transition process, Cicero said. Both clients and staff struggle to make it work.

"They miss the interaction, and our staff misses the interaction. It's really hard to do crisis work and not hug somebody. It's tough. It's been tough. It's been a tough way to go. Sometimes when you do crisis work, you touch an arm or you give them a hug," Cicero said. "You need to get close to them, and you can't do any of that right now."

Cicero said they won't know the impact of the changes for a while. Families are spending less time in the shelter, which also matches a state-wide trend, she said. The average stay at the shelter is now 14 days and is normally closer to 30.

"That equates to people being fearful of leaving their home and coming into a residential environmental, where they are not sure who they will be living with and what that all entails," she said. "That makes me really nervous for our victims out there, because we know domestic violence is increasing."

One elderly woman who uses Safe Haven services now comes to the shelter but sits in her car in the parking lot.

"She wants to have some close proximity. That's really sad, but people are doing what they can to make it work," Cicero said.

In addition to shelter services, Safe Haven works with families to alleviate some of the financial and interpersonal stresses that can lead to violence, Cicero said.

"We have delivered a ton of food

boxes, hygiene bags and diapers, gas cards, and family fun bags — family activities that they can do, with crafts or games or art projects. We are continuing our support groups so we have three support groups a week that people can Zoom into and have those connections," she said.

Economics can be a big driver in violence, she said, which is why there is often an uptick in violence around the holidays. People are stressed about buying gifts or attending family gatherings.

Financial stress is also a concern of the shelter itself, Cicero said.

"Between canceled fundraisers in 2020 and the ones we are looking at canceling in 2021, we're looking at \$50,000 deficit," she said, adding quickly that the shelter is not in danger of closing.

Obviously fundraisers are a very important part of their budget, "not only financially but for community awareness that we are open and the services we offer," she said.

Cicero is asking the community to support the shelter with donations of paper towels, toilet paper, coffee, disinfectant sprays, \$10 gas cards and grocery store cards.

She also said that this year, Safe Haven will be the recipient of donations from CoVantage Cares, a seasonal fundraiser which matches donations made at Shawano CoVantage location.

ryczek@newmedia-wi.com

Santa comes to Gillett Saturday

Socially distanced visit is part of Christmas in the Park

It may be the busiest time of the year for old St. Nick, but that isn't stopping him from spending some time in one of his favorite places away from the North Pole: Gillett, Wisconsin.

Santa is scheduled to arrive at Zippel Park, on North McKenzie Street, from 3-5 p.m. Saturday.

This will be a safe and socially distanced Santa visit for families. Due to the pandemic, guests will not sit on Santa's lap during their interaction this year, but they will have the opportunity to engage and

wave as they drive by. Kids will receive a free treat bag and have the chance to submit a letter to Santa, who will choose two lucky kids to receive an early Christmas present delivered by Santa's helpers on Dec. 12. The lighting of the park will take place at 5 p.m., with fireworks to follow.

Fireworks this year are provided by the Boom Boom Boys, KS Plumbing, Wolfe Endeavors, Tri County Pumpers, Arndt Trucking, Joe Arndt Trucking and First Rate Driving School.

Flagstar mitten tree returns

Flagstar Bank will again have a mitten tree in the vestibule at its Oconto Falls branch, 225 E. Central Ave., to collect hats, mittens and scarves for children who may need these items to keep warm this winter.

The clothing will be hung on the tree from Thanksgiving to Christmas. Then Flagstar employees will bring all of the donated items to the Oconto

Falls schools for children who have lost their hat and mittens or don't have any.

To donate these items, simply hang them on the Christmas tree at the bank. Although the lobby is closed, the vestibule will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. For information, call 920-846-3454.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) TOWN OF UNDERHILL TOWN OF UNDERHILL FIRE STATION

The Town of Underhill, Oconto County, Wisconsin is seeking Statement of Qualifications submissions for architectural/engineering services for the Town of Underhill Fire Station Project.

Proposals must be marked as "RFQ for Professional services for Town of Underhill Fire Station" and must be received prior to 5:00 p.m. CDT, Wednesday, December 16, 2020.

RFQs should be mailed to:

Tracy Winkler
Town of Underhill Clerk
5597 Cardinal Road
Gillett, WI 54124

To obtain a copy of the RFQ, go to the Town website at www.townofunderhill.com or contact:

Miles Winkler
Town Treasurer
5597 Cardinal Road
Gillett, WI 54124
(920) 590-2991

WNAXLP

AMENDMENT OF ORDINANCE 01-2020 TOWN OF SPRUCE CLERK AND TREASURER APPOINTMENT

Town Clerk and Town Treasurer positions:

The offices of Town Clerk and Town Treasurer are elected positions per s. 60.30(1) and 60.305(1) Wis. Stats, and both serve a two (2) year term.

Whereas, the town electors, via a referendum question on November 3, 2020 General Election authorized the Town of Spruce Board to take action to appoint both the Town Clerk and the Town Treasurer upon elected Town Clerk and Town Treasurer terms expiring on April 19, 2021 at 11:59 pm.

The salary, hours and any other benefits of the appointed Town Clerk and Town Treasurer shall be set by the Town Board and reviewed by the Town Board each year.

Adopted on 17 day of November, 2020
Town of Spruce, Oconto County, Wisconsin.
Terry Brazeau, Chairperson
Attestation: Lisa Peitersen, Clerk
Published/Posted: November 18, 2020

WNAXLP

Administrative Assistant I

Oconto County is accepting applications for an Administrative Assistant I position within our Register of Deeds Office. Performs various clerical duties including answering telephone and assisting customers; documenting, reception, indexing and retrieval for both vital records and real estate; typing, filing, data entry, accounting, and locating and photocopying records. Gives instruction with usage of online land records program-LandShark. High school diploma required with 1 to 3 years of related experience in real estate documents.

Beginning wage range is \$17.87 per hour. Finalists may be required to undergo a detailed, background investigation and may be required to take a skills test.

Interested applicants must apply on-line at www.co.oconto.wi.us and include cover letter, resume and references. Application deadline is **Monday, December 7, 2020 by 4:00 pm.**

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Lena Public Library expands Wi-Fi outside its building

In a response to the challenges of COVID-19, Lena Public Library has recently expanded its Wi-Fi access to extend the range outside of the library building.

The new upgrade is designed to help keep the community connected to the internet even when entrance to the building is limited. The Wi-Fi is free and activated 24 hours a day, seven days a week. No password is required to connect.

"We are excited to be able to expand Wi-Fi access to our patrons

and members of the community," said Amy Peterson, library director. "This will allow anyone to safely connect to the internet from their cars and stay socially distant from others during this time. The internet is a very important tool to staying connected, and it is crucial that we are able to offer this free service to everyone."

The newly installed Wi-Fi access points were provided to the library in part by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library

Services and facilitated by the Outagamie Waupaca Library System.

The Outagamie Waupaca system is a federation of 16 public libraries in Outagamie and Waupaca counties. Each member library is autonomous and funded and governed locally, but contracts with OWLS for the purpose of coordinating and strengthening services. For information, visit www.owlsweb.org.

The Lena library, 200 E. Main St., is a joint library between the

Village and Town of Lena. For information, call 920-829-5335 or visit www.lenalibrary.org.

The Nicolet Federated Library System is a state-funded organization assisting its member public libraries, including Lena, in providing better services to the people of northeastern Wisconsin since 1976. NFLS public libraries span eight counties: Brown, Door, Florence, Kewaunee, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto and Shawano. For information, visit nfls.lib.wi.us.

Extension hosts webinar on farm taxes, tough conversations

Effectively communicating in times of stress is critically important for any business, but especially for farm businesses. This year has added additional possibly difficult topics to the list of topics which farm families may need to have on the discussion docket.

A free webinar is being offered 1-2:30 p.m. Thursday Dec. 10 by the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Division of Extension, to assist farm families and their agribusiness partners think about and discuss 2020

taxes, COVID-19, and Tough Conversation Topics, in general.

Scheduled topics and speakers for this virtual meeting are:

- "Tax and Spending Conversations: How Do We Handle Government Payments and Income?" presented by Jonathan Shepherd, farm management specialist, University of Kentucky.

- Combatting COVID-19 in Rural Communities, presented by Cindy Kinnard, Kewaunee County director of Public Health.

- Reframing Tough Conversations for Success, presented by Tina Kohlman, Extension Fond du Lac County dairy & livestock agent, and Stephanie Plaster, Extension Ozaukee & Washington County agriculture educator.

There is no registration fee, but participants must pre-register online by 5 p.m. Wednesday Dec. 9 at <https://go.wisc.edu/2rcpis>. After submitting the online form, they will receive further details about how to connect to the webinar.

For more information about the content of this webinar, or to have the registration link emailed, contact Scott Reuss, Marinette County agriculture agent, at 715-732-7510 or scott.reuss@wisc.edu.

This program is being sponsored by these UW-Madison Division of Extension offices: Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Oconto, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Shawano, Sheboygan, Washington, Waupaca, and Winnebago.



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\$1.29 lb

Boneless Pork Sirloin Chops or Roasts

\$1.99 lb

USDA Choice Boneless Top Round Steaks or Roasts


\$3.69 lb

Whole Beef Tenderloins

\$4.99 lb

USDA Choice Boneless Tenderized Swiss Steak


\$3.99 lb

Aunt Jemima Pancake Mix

2/\$5 Asst Variety
32oz

Aunt Jemima Pancake Syrup

\$2.79 Asst Variety
24oz

Wisconsin Red Potatoes


\$2.29 5 lb Bag

Green Giant Carrots


59¢ 1 lb Bag

XL Green Bell Peppers


69¢ each

Large Red Seedless Grapes


\$1.79 lb

Gala or Granny Smith Apples


\$3.69 5 lb Bag

Kretschmar Roast Beef


\$8.99 lb

Shaved or Sliced

LoftHouse Frosted Sugar Cookies


2/\$6

 Asst Variety
10oz

Campbell's Chunky Soup


\$1.99

 Asst Variety
18.5-19oz

Oreida Frozen Potatoes


2/\$5

 Asst Variety
24-32oz

Kraft Singles


\$3.29

12oz

Colortex Big Mopper Paper Toweling


\$4.99

6 Rolls

Betty Crocker Brownie Mix


99¢

 Asst Variety
18.3-20.5oz

Post Assorted Cereal


2/\$5

11-14.75oz

General Mills Assorted Chex Cereal


2/\$5

12-16oz

Dean's Trumoo Chocolate Milk


\$1.89

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