

Masks in school remain optional

The Oconto Falls School Board is sticking with its back-to-school plan to hold classes in person five days a week with face coverings optional, not mandatory.

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Tornado touches down in Pulaski

A tornado landed in Pulaski last week, knocking over trees, breaking power lines and causing damage in the community.

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Operation Christmas Child

Volunteers in Oconto County are getting together to provide supplies to those in need around the world during the giving season.

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USDA GRANT AIDS EFFORT TO REVIVE DOWNTOWN

The Oconto Falls City Council has accepted a USDA downtown revitalization planning grant for the city's business district. **SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 6.**

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA



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Masks remain optional for Oconto Falls students

District will continue to monitor public health numbers as needed

By **WARREN BLUHM**

Editor-in-chief

Masks will still be optional for Oconto Falls School District students when the new academic year begins Sept. 1.

The school board voted unanimously Aug. 9 to approve a 2021-22 return-to-school plan that keeps in place a May decision that students are not required to wear face coverings in class, although they are encouraged to wear them on school buses.

Classes will be held in person five days a week, with a school board meeting required to approve any change in that policy. Board President Ron Leja has the authority to act with administrators to close schools for a few days in an emergency if a board meeting can't be held in a timely manner.

Superintendent Dean Hess reported that Oconto County Public Health reports that positive tests for COVID-19 had steadily increased in the county over the previous three weeks, but he also noted that the number specifically for the Oconto Falls School District remained low.

As a result, administrators proposed keeping in place that face coverings are recommended but not mandatory, along with other measures intended to mitigate the threat

of infection, such as hand washing and "distancing within reason" in the school setting.

"Rather than starting out with all of the mitigation measures that we were involved in last year, the intent is to recognize the fact that as a school district right now the data still has us in a low setting, and that we implement a level of mitigation that will allow us to start school as much as possible in a pre-COVID setting."

Hess said with COVID numbers changing weekly, the district may need to consider further mitigation efforts, but that's not the case at this time.

The board also asked administrators to work with other school districts and the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) to ensure that local student athletes are eligible to compete.

Hess said, for example, the WIAA guidelines use the word "should" to describe wearing masks and other safety protocols during the regular season, but the word is that athletes "shall" wear masks, etc., during state tournaments.

The district will continue to monitor public health data for the county and school district and modify mitigation efforts as needed, Hess said.

Board member Clint Gardebrecht said it makes sense to leave masking as an optional decision.

"After being among 38,000 people at a Brewers game yesterday, with far less than 1% of people wearing masks, I think we should continue with optional as we stated before," Gardebrecht said.

During the public comment section of the meeting, two parents urged the board to leave the optional-mask policy in place.

"It's not your job to mitigate the potential infection of a virus that has a 99% survival rate, especially by using measures that are proven not to have a positive health impact, such as masking," said Allie McDonald. "I believe it's your job as a board and administration to provide good curriculum, well-trained quality teachers, hands-on well-rounded academic program with sports and arts ... My job is to make sure my child's eating healthy, staying active, practicing good hygiene, and those are practical measures that we can take to avoid sickness. It's part of individual responsibility."

Jason Wellner said following the WIAA mandatory-mask recommendation "makes zero sense."

Hess said the board can't make everybody happy.

"The intent is there to do the best we can, always keeping in mind not only the best interest of our students but also the feedback from members of the community," he said.

"... the intent is to recognize the fact that as a school district right now the data still has us in a low setting."

— SUPERINTENDENT DEAN HESS

Panthers football team lauded for storm cleanup help

By **NEW MEDIA STAFF**

Members of the Oconto Falls High School football team played a big role in cleaning up the city after severe thunderstorms rumbled through the area earlier this month.

City Administrator Vicki Roberts told the city council Aug. 10 that the football players and coaches stepped forward to help the street department clear brush.

"They hauled out over 30 loads of wood," Roberts said. "Thank you

notes will be going out to all the entities that helped the city with the brush cleanup. Thank you very much, Oconto Falls School District; that really meant a lot to help this community with all the fallen timber that we really couldn't keep up with."

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.

Tornado touches down, runs through Pulaski

Broken tree branches, downed power lines left behind after storm

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

Pulaski residents were in for a frightening afternoon on Aug. 11.

After clouds and rain had appeared in the area, a funnel cloud formed without warning and came through the village.

Abrams resident Orville Bonk said that he was in the area driving when he knew that this storm was different than a normal one.

"I noticed it when I was going up to Angelica," said Bonk. "It was just black — all the way on state Highway 160 the sky was black."

Bonk said that when he turned towards Seymour, the wind was strong enough to move his car off of the road for a minute.

Though the tornado, which the National Weather Service has yet to categorize, went through Pulaski, only a couple streets and blocks were the recipients of bad tree damage.

"Most of the damage occurred on Chicago Street," said Pulaski Police Chief Mark Hendzel.

At 2:10 p.m. a tornado formed at the north end of Main Street, according to Hendzel.

"I notified Brown County dispatch of my sighting," said Hendzel. "Within a couple of minutes the funnel cloud was upon us."

He added that although there was another storm in Angelica, this funnel cloud formed without warning.

Hendzel heard that there were storms in the area and in typical fashion he and another officer went out to patrol the area. That's when he noticed it may be something more than just rain.

"We didn't know that this was going to be something different than a normal storm," said Hendzel. "This storm just formed within minutes. There was not a lot of advanced notification."

Pulaski Police Officer Kyle Betzner was also out patrolling and found himself near the tornado.

"It was very eerie," said Betzner. "I was responding to a car that the wind had pushed into a ditch, luckily there was no one in the car."

Hendzel said that there was ample

time to get the sirens going to notify residents of the village.

Joel Van Lannen, director of public works and utilities in Pulaski, heard the tornado sirens and was able to prepare for it, as well as prepare to start cleaning the area.

With most of the damage coming from tree branches and power lines, employees of the Pulaski Public Works and Utilities, along with residents continued to clean the area of the storm through lunch time on Aug. 12.

"We are almost done cleaning the area," said Hendzel. "We did not have a lot of structural damage so there was not a real high dollar amount in damage. It was not high enough to declare an emergency."

With the branches and power lines coming during the storm, Hendzel noticed something out of the ordinary flying in the sky.

"I saw a trampoline well in the air, maybe 30, 40 or 50 feet up," said Hendzel.

He added that there were no reported deaths or even injuries from the storm.

Van Lannen, said that the tornado that came through did not cause as much damage as one that the village experienced previously.

"We did find quite a few trees down on Chicago Street, Pulaski Street and Main Street," said Van Lannen.

He said that with some of the trees and powerlines that came down, some residents houses were affected.

"There were some homes that had electrical service problems and some porches got damaged," said Van Lannen. "I haven't heard of anything real severe though."

Pulaski resident Francis Karchinski said that he was standing in his garage watching as the storm went by.

"I was just standing in the garage looking at the sky and all of a sudden the tornado sirens went off," said Karchinski. "Then a huge tree branch landed right in my driveway."

Bonk and Karchinski were working together to remove some of the debris from Karchinski's yard where branches from the neighbors blew into the yard and on to Karchinski's house.

"There was a little bit of damage on the corner of my roof," said Karchinski. "They pulled out a lot big trees and branches from the yard."

Employees of the Pulaski Public Works and Utilities continued cleaning the streets and parks of debris on Aug. 12.



A funnel cloud turned into a tornado towards the North end of Main Street at 2:10 p.m. on Aug. 11.

CONTRIBUTED



Abrams resident Orville Bonk saws branches to help clean Pulaski resident Francis Karchinski's yard on Aug. 12 after a tornado had come through the area the day before.

LUKE REIMER | NEW MEDIA

OCONTO COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

Proceedings of Aug. 13

Cheryl Lynn Jenkins, 50, Gillett, pleaded no contest to operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fifth offense), in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred April 11. Judge Michael T. Judge scheduled sentencing for Oct. 6 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

Proceedings of Aug. 12

A bench warrant was authorized for Jordan D. Hall, 34, Green Bay, after he failed to appear for a pre-trial conference on charges of felony possession of THC (second or subsequent offense) and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred April 25.

A bench warrant was authorized for Rafael Elroy Garay, 36, Milwaukee, after he failed to appear for a pre-trial conference on charges of strangulation-suffocation and misdemeanor charges of battery and disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred April 29.

A bench warrant was authorized for Jeffrey L. Bellamy, 26, Milwaukee, after he failed to appear on charges of strangulation-suffocation and misdemeanor battery and disorderly, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred July 17.

James R. Wilson, 38, Lena, pleaded not guilty to charges of first-degree sexual assault of a child under age 13 and child enticement for the purpose of sexual contact, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred May 27. A pre-trial conference was scheduled for Oct. 14.

Kelly Patrick Grzybowski, 26, Lena, pleaded not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect to a charge of battery by prisoners, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred April 20. Judge Jay N. Conley ordered a competency report

and scheduled a status conference for Oct. 14.

Kevin Lynn Ruhnke, 65, Hermantown, Minnesota, pleaded not guilty to second-degree reckless injury, hit and run causing injury, two misdemeanor counts of criminal damage to property and resisting or obstructing an officer in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred July 30, 2020. A pre-trial conference was scheduled for Oct. 4.

Brody J. Tappa, 35, Oconto, pleaded not guilty to two counts of victim intimidation, child abuse recklessly causing harm, false imprisonment, substantial battery, and misdemeanor counts of battery and theft of movable property, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred July 1, 2020. A pre-trial conference was scheduled for Sept. 16.

Jacob M. Samsa, 31, Oconto, pleaded not guilty to two counts second-degree recklessly endangering safety, two misdemeanor counts of battery and misdemeanor disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred May 22. A bail/bond hearing was scheduled for Aug. 26.

John Fusek, 49, Oconto, pleaded not guilty to charges of possession of methamphetamine (second and subsequent offense), fleeing an officer in a vehicle, and misdemeanor counts criminal trespass to a dwelling and disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred May 24. A pre-trial conference was scheduled for Oct. 14.

A Jan. 4 jury trial was scheduled for Joey E. Kingsley, 40, Oconto, who is charged with escape from criminal arrest, two misdemeanor counts of resisting or obstructing an officer, and misdemeanor disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred May 12. A final pre-trial conference was scheduled for Nov. 30.

Proceedings of Aug. 11

Christopher Alan Barstow, 37, Marinette, was placed on five years' probation after a prison sentence was imposed and stayed for bail jumping and possession of methamphetamine in connection with an incident that occurred May 6, and possession of methamphetamine, in connection with an incident that occurred July 29, 2020. The probationary term begins with nine months in the county jail. Judge James A. Morrison ruled that among other conditions, Barstow must maintain absolute sobriety, obtain and maintain full-time employment and pay all child support in full.

Nikki M. Beaber, 35, Appleton, waived her right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to bail jumping, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred May 16. A pre-trial conference was scheduled for Oct. 14.

After a preliminary hearing, Cindy M. Earley, 53, Oconto, was bound over to circuit court on a felony charge of child abuse intentionally causing harm and misdemeanor counts of bail jumping and disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred June 23. Arraignment was scheduled for Sept. 16.

Proceedings of Aug. 10

The case against John E. Fredenburgh, 36, Suring, has been placed on hold while the FBI investigates some of the charges, the prosecution stated during a status conference. Fredenburgh has pleaded not guilty to 24 state felony counts related to an alleged five-year sexual relationship with a child since she was 12, starting in 2016, and a charge of second-degree child sex assault in connection with an alleged incident with a 14-year-old girl in 2008. Another status conference was scheduled for

Nov. 8.

Jeremy J. Winter, 37, Gillett, was sentenced to two years in prison, followed by three years of extended supervision, for possession of a firearm by a person convicted of felonies, and two years' probation for possession of methamphetamine, in connection with an incident that occurred Sept. 1, 2020. Judge Michael T. Judge ruled that the sentence is consecutive to the Brown County prison term he is already serving at Redgranite Correctional Institution.

Cynthia M. Smith, 60, Lakewood, pleaded no contest to operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fourth offense), in connection with an incident that occurred May 12, 2020. Judge Michael T. Judge withheld sentencing and placed Smith on three years of probation, beginning with one year in the county jail with Huber work-release and good time privileges. During probation she must maintain absolute sobriety, and her driver's license is revoked for 36 months, among other conditions.

DaShawn Gene Walton, 19, Oconto, pleaded not guilty to child abuse recklessly causing harm, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred April 22. A pre-trial conference was scheduled for Oct. 6.

Bond was set at \$10,000 cash for Tyler J. Geurts, 33, Oconto, after he was charged with five counts of possession of child pornography, March 8. His initial appearance was adjourned to Sept. 16.

Proceedings of Aug. 9

Bond was set at \$5,000 cash for Brad A. Vickman, 48, Oconto, after he was charged with two counts of bail jumping and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Aug. 5. His initial appearance was adjourned until Sept. 16.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FRIDAY, AUG. 20

GILLETT: Oconto County Youth Fair, Zippel Park. Flea market and craft vendors 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Exhibition area open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Truck pull 7 p.m. Music by NashVegas 7-11 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUG. 21

GILLETT: Oconto County Youth Fair, Zippel Park. Flea market and craft vendors 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Exhibition area open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Horse pull, 9 a.m. Music by The Natural Talent 1-5 p.m. Farm tractor pull 6 p.m. Music by Revolution 7-11 p.m.

BREED: Music by Grand Union, 3-7 p.m., Arrowhead Saloon, 13486 County Road AA.

SUNDAY, AUG. 22

GILLETT: Oconto County Youth Fair, Zippel Park. Exhibition area open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sale of Champions noon. Music by Sugarbush Boys 1-5 p.m.

OCONTO FALLS: Oconto Falls Flea Market, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Memorial Field Park.

OCONTO: Culpepper and Merriweather Circus, 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., Copperfest Park.

TUESDAY, AUG. 24

OCONTO FALLS: Oconto County Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m., Highland Plaza, 323 E. Highland Drive. Produce, crafts, health and fitness vendors, live music, food, children's activities.

FRIDAY, AUG. 27

OCONTO FALLS: Summer Sunset Concert Series featuring Subject 2 Change Band, 6-9 p.m., East Side Beach. Pull up your lawn chair or dock your boat; no carry-ins, food and refreshments available on the grounds.

SATURDAY, AUG. 28

POUND: Brazeau Emergency Services Car Show, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Lee Lake Tavern, 9291 Lee Lake Road. Rescue vehicles also on display; food available from Brazeau Fire and Rescue. Live music by The Dowgs 1-5 p.m., trophies awarded 2 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUG. 29

OCONTO FALLS: Oconto Falls Flea Market, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Memorial Field Park.

Police identify wounded officer

Blaskowski struggled with woman who shot her

By **NEW MEDIA STAFF**

Oconto Falls police say Officer Nicole Blaskowski was wounded in a shooting incident Aug. 6.

Blaskowski had not been named in the criminal complaint against suspect Alisha Kocken or in news releases about the incident.

The police department posted her photo and this message on social media Aug. 11:

“This special lady is Nicole Blas-

kowski. Nicole was violently assaulted and shot on Aug. 6, as you know. It was time to put a face and name to “the Officer shot” because she isn’t JUST an officer who signed up for the job. Nicole is a wife, and mother of three beautiful children. She’s a daughter, a sister, and a wonderful friend. Nicole is intelligent, kind, meticulous, organized, and a dozen other things that make her a good human and a good Officer.... And we are darn PROUD to call her one of

our own.”

Blaskowski was introduced to the Oconto Falls City Council in February as the newest member of the police department. She has about 10 years of law enforcement experience and graduated in 2017 from the Northeast Wisconsin Technical College emergency medical technician and nursing assistant programs.

Her husband is Shawano County Sheriff’s Department Lt. Jon Blaskowski.



NICOLE BLASKOWSKI

Accused shooter held in mental health center

Status hearing scheduled Aug. 20

By **WARREN BLUHM**

Editor-in-chief

The woman accused of shooting an Oconto Falls police officer Aug. 6 was taken to Winnebago Mental Health Institute (WMHI) not long after her arrival at the Oconto County Jail, court documents indicate.

Alisha M. Kocken, 29, faces charges including attempted first-degree intentional homicide in connection with the incident, in which she allegedly fired three shots at Officer Nicole Blaskowski, striking her in the

head and ballistic vest, after calling 911 to report someone had kidnapped her young son.

Blaskowski was treated overnight at a Green Bay hospital and released to recuperate at home. The criminal complaint says Kocken accused her boyfriend of kidnapping after he took the boy to a nearby park, and before the shots were fired she accused a neighbor of kidnapping after the boy went to a neighbor’s apartment as she talked with the officer.

Kocken remained combative while being arrested after the shoot-

ing, the complaint said.

Defense attorney John Miller Carroll wrote to Oconto County Circuit Judge Jay N. Conley on Aug. 11 to request that Kocken’s initial appearance be conducted via Zoom video-conferencing technology from the Oshkosh-area mental health facility.

“I have met with my client and I have reason to doubt her competency,” Carroll said, adding that he had been informed by District Attorney Edward Burke that Kocken was taken to WMHI because of concerns raised at the jail by sheriff’s deputies and

correctional officers.

Kocken reportedly refused to appear at an Aug. 12 hearing to take testimony on her mental state, and Conley scheduled a resumption of that hearing for Aug. 20.

An explanation of Kocken’s behavior is not revealed in the criminal complaint, but Oconto County Sheriff Todd Skarban and Oconto Falls Police Chief Brad Olsen both took time during an Aug. 8 candlelight vigil for Blaskowski to talk about the increasing drug abuse problem in the county.

Rummage Fest going strong after 35 years

The numbers may indicate the 35th annual Oconto Falls Rummage Fest had fewer participants than in years past, but the dozens of sale signs scattered around the city suggest otherwise. This colorful array is at the corner of North Main Street and North Maple Avenue on opening day, Aug. 12.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA



Oconto Falls accepts grant to revive downtown business district

USDA planning grant provided about half of the needed funds

By **WARREN BLUHM**
Editor-in-chief

The outgoing executive director of the Oconto County Economic Development Corp. used his last visit to the Oconto Falls City Council to “strongly urge” the panel to accept a USDA downtown revitalization planning grant to work on reviving the city’s business district.

The council took his advice and accepted the grant in a 6-0 vote.

Paul Ehrfurth, who is due to retire from OCEDC on Sept. 1, has been working with the city for more than two years to hire a consulting firm and apply for federal grants to fund a study of a number of downtown business properties.

A Community Development Block Grant fell through, but the USDA was willing to provide \$29,175 under its Downtown Revitalization Grant program — a little more than half of the estimated \$53,375 the city needs for the study, City Administrator Vicki Roberts said.

Ehrfurth said the city should take the money and fund the difference.

“I’m retiring in a couple of weeks, so I can be blunt,” he said. “Of all the downtowns that I’ve interacted with — Gillett, Oconto, Oconto Falls, Surging and so on and so forth — yours needs the most work.”

The city made a mistake in 1979 when it built East Highland Avenue to create a bypass for state Highway 22 traffic through Oconto Falls, Ehrfurth said, and the grant money gives the city an opportunity to correct that error and revive downtown.

He noted that a group of business owners is very interested in helping the effort.

“It would be foolish to not take advantage of their commitment and their level of interest,” Ehrfurth said. “You’ve needed to have the work done for many, many years, and now you have an opportunity to get it done.”

Roberts said the city’s advisory Main Street Committee unanimously recommended that the council accept the USDA grant and budget the



Murals, like this one at Main Street and Central Avenue, are seen as one possible way to spruce up downtown Oconto Falls. WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

remaining \$24,200 either from the city’s general fund balance or out of its American Rescue Plan Act fund allocation.

Oconto County Board Supervisor Stephanie Holman quoted fellow committee member Barb Salscheider as saying, “Your Main Street is what makes your town quaint.”

“She couldn’t have been more

right in saying that,” Holman said. “Ours needs to be brought up to some kind of quaintness.”

Roberts said the council can decide in the fall whether to take the money from the fund balance or ARPA. She plans to meet with department heads to develop a request for use of the federal dollars as they work on the 2022 city budget.

In her written monthly report to the council, Roberts said Jayme Sellen has been hired as the next executive director of OCEDC.

Sellen, who currently serves as vice president of economic development and government affairs at the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce, is scheduled to start in her new role Aug. 30, Roberts said.

CELEBRATION OF GIVING

Etten helps families in need through Safe Haven

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

(Editor's note: For more than a decade, the Shawano Area Community Foundation has taken the time to recognize people in the community for giving up their time to make the place where they live a better place for all. The Celebration of Giving, which took place Aug. 19, honored a new group of individuals for sacrificing their personal time to help organizations that benefit the community. The following five stories profile each of this year's award winners.)

Teens sometimes need guidance with their time. Not Anna Etten, though.

Etten, a sophomore at Shawano Community High School, has volunteered with Safe Haven for four years, during which time she helped to give the children's section a facelift.

Etten's urge to volunteer in her community helped her to earn the Shawano Area Community Foundation's Youth Service Award. The award is jointly sponsored by the Shawano Optimists and Shawano Rotary, and it is given to an area high school student who has learned from an early age to give back to the community.

Etten was nominated for the award by Karli Bunt with Safe Haven, who expressed appreciation for all that the teen did for Sexual Assault Awareness Month and beyond.

"Anna donated countless hours in April for Sexual Assault Awareness month helping us spread awareness," Bunt wrote in her nomination letter to SACF. "She baked and decorated cookies to give out to the community as a thank you for their services and assistance to Safe Haven."

Etten's work with Safe Haven didn't stop there, though. Bunt noted that she made bags out of donated T-shirts for the agency's family fun bags, filling them with items that families could use during the summer.

"She and her sister Emma loaded 24 backpacks with school supplies for children of all grade levels," Bunt wrote. "The backpacks were given out to our families with kids heading back to school."

Etten continues the effort to end domestic violence in the community through her school. She is part of



Combatting abuse in all of its forms is something Anna Etten does through Safe Haven and Shawano Community High School. The sophomore's tireless efforts to thwart violence have earned her the Youth Volunteer Award through the Shawano Area Community Foundation's Celebration of Giving. CURT KNOKE

FAAR, which stands for Fighting Against Abusive Relationships. The organization recently changed its name to LACES, and Etten played a key role in changing the name, according to Bunt.

Etten is the president for LACES, which stands for Leadership Awareness Community Engagement and Service. She said she felt the name change was needed because the school organization was no longer simply focusing on abusive relationships and instead was engaged in all forms of intimidation, regardless of whether a person is involved in an intimate relationship.

"It's to get people volunteering in the community and also to raise awareness of bullying and domestic abuse, violence, that sort of thing," Etten said. "FAAR had been there so long, and we felt that it wasn't up-to-date with what the club was standing for, which is why we renamed it and why we gave it a new face."

As a result, more students have gotten involved as they've seen the student club focus on a wider vari-

ety of concerns, Etten said.

At the children's library that Safe Haven has, Etten was responsible for taking inventory of the books, grouping them, labeling them and then reshelving them, according to Bunt. Etten continues her volunteer work today, organizing the library's crafts and supplies.

"When I was growing up, my parents taught me the importance of giving back to the community," Etten said. "I found a good place to do that with Safe Haven because they do a lot of good things, and they are always in need of help doing outdoor things and indoor things and family activities. I got a little into it and just kept doing it."

Etten believes in Safe Haven's mission and what the organization does for the community, which includes helping hundreds of people every year escape abusive relationships and learn how to take care of themselves in the world.

"I like it there," Etten said. "I've worked there so long that I just feel comfortable there, and there's

always projects for me to do. I really enjoy helping families in the community."

Domestic violence and sexual assault often goes unnoticed in the community, Etten said.

"It's important to realize the things that go on," Etten said. "People don't always see that those things are important and need to be stood up for and against."

Volunteering has always been a key value for Etten, even when she's not doing it at Safe Haven.

"I just believe that the community gives a lot to other people, so it's important to give back so they can keep doing that for other people," Etten said.

When she's not volunteering at Safe Haven or the library, she's involved with the high school tennis team and orchestra.

Etten plans to give her \$1,000 that comes with the award back to Safe Haven as another way to keep the organization going and thriving.

CELEBRATION OF GIVING

Feeding minds and bodies how Zelinger rolls

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

Dave Zelinger was a key part of starting a Boys and Girls Club in Shawano, and he continues to help the club in any way he can.

The dedication to the youth of the community and participating in other organizations is what helped Zelinger to become this year's Shawano Community Service Award recipient, paid for by an anonymous donor through the Shawano Area Community Foundation's Celebration of Giving.

Zelinger was nominated by several people, all of them singing his praises for his dedication. Kim Lodewegen, the executive director for the club, noted that he sits on the club's board, but his reach of giving extends more when he's in the trenches, giving his time to help children after school and during the summer months.

"Dave is a wealth of knowledge and such a positive role model for the youth that we serve," Lodewegen wrote in her nomination letter to the community foundation. "Dave's volunteerism is not just limited to the Boys and Girls Club. He has been such a blessing to the community because he supports many area organizations with his time and efforts."

Zelinger is also an integral part of the Shawano Area Food Center, something that really helped the Boys and Girls Club once the pandemic hit.

"Dave has been a link to connect services and resources between these organizations and help support efforts to meet the needs of the Shawano community," Lodewegen wrote. "Within Dave's work with the Shawano Area Food (Center), he has been able to support Boys and Girls Club efforts to provide Club Care bags to the our club families we serve during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dave was essential in providing additional food to fill the Club Care bags that provided our club families with potatoes, milk, rice, beans, apples, oranges and non-perishable goods."

Merrie Crawford also nominated Zelinger for the award, talking about his work with the food center. She noted that the food center helps many of the food pantries in Shawano County, and that it serves as a hub for Feeding America, the Emergency Food Assistance Program and the Hunger Relief Federation.

"As a director of SAFC, Dave has helped position SAFC to adapt and change to meet the needs of current situations in the fight against food insecurity," Crawford wrote in her nomination letter. "Dave is always willing to attend additional community meetings involving food insecurity, to learn and understand poverty issues within the community, and to help guide SAFC in making vital decisions all for the good of the community. I often refer to Dave as having good ears, meaning he is aware of needs of other organizations in the community that SAFC can help when we have excess food."

Another nomination letter from Wendy Crawford noted that, even though Zelinger is not native to Shawano, he has embraced it as his home and is willing to do whatever it takes to make that home a



Dave Zelinger feeds the bodies of his community through the Shawano Area Food Center, and he feeds the minds of young children through the Shawano Boys and Girls Club, which has earned him the Shawano Area Community Service Award.

CURT KNOKE

better place to live.

"His service to the community over the years serves as an example for why the Celebration of Giving Awards were created — to recognize those who quietly use their skills and talents for the betterment of our community," she wrote in her nomination letter. "Dave is the first to do the work, without any need for acknowledgment."

Zelinger came to Shawano in 2012 from the east coast of the United States, spending many years working for a pharmaceutical company. However, both he and his wife grew up in Wisconsin and knew they wanted to retire in the state.

"We lived on the lake, and I had plenty of time," Zelinger said. "I first got involved with SAWM (Shawano Area Waterways Management). Then I got involved with the food center, and then I got involved with the Boys and Girls Club."

Retirement is not a slow-down time for Zelinger at all. Besides his involvement with SAWM, SAFC and the Boys and Girls Club, Zelinger is on the board for the Watershed Association for Shawano and Menominee Counties and the Wisconsin Lakes Association.

Being involved with a number of water protection advocates is important to Zelinger.

"Our life depends on water," he said. "Shawano Lake, the water from this lake, a lot of people enjoy it, so we want to keep it clean. But the water from this lake flows into the Wolf River, which goes down to Lake Winnebago and ultimately to Lake Michigan and the Atlantic Ocean. What we put in this lake affects a lot of people."

Despite all the organizations Zelinger's involved in, the Boys and Girls Club is the one he feels is most vital. He chairs the advisory council, volunteers a minimum of two days per week and wrote a lot of the grants to help stabilize the club as a permanent fixture in the community. With the award comes \$1,000 to donate to an organization, and Zelinger plans to give it to the club.

"The existence of the Boys and Girls Club depends on donations and grants, really," Zelinger said. "We're part of the Green Bay Club, but we're responsible for our own finances. It's a neverending task, but it keeps me from sitting around the house. Volunteering at the club, you see the effect we're having on the kids."

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CELEBRATION OF GIVING

Strassburg protects past for those in present

By LEE PULASKI

City Editor

Many folks are looking to the future, but not Carla Strassburg. Her focus is on the past.

A love of history and a dedication to preserving that history has earned Strassburg the Shawano Area Community Foundation Wittenberg Service Award. The award, sponsored by Nueske's Applewood Smoked Meats, recognizes someone from the Wittenberg area who has made a positive impact on the community.

Laura Magee nominated Strassburg for the award, noting her dedication as president of the Wittenberg Area Historical Society, which runs a museum in the village.

"Carla has logged countless hours over the years with the current museum revitalization process and preserving the history of the Wittenberg and surrounding areas," Magee wrote in her nomination letter to SACF. "From research to displaying artifacts and event planning, fundraising and newsletters, she does it all."

The revitalization of the museum likely would not have happened without Strassburg pushing to find others to help keep history alive, according to Magee. She noted that, without new members, the museum would likely have closed.

"So with her success in pulling in new members came new ideas, and the revitalization came to fruition," Magee wrote. "It is a neverending task, but Carla always is upbeat and optimistic — making the museum the best it can be."

Strassburg is eager to share how Wittenberg was 30, 50, 100 years ago and even further back.

"She honestly does have a vested interest in the past and enjoys sharing it with others," Magee wrote. "She is the first to volunteer at open houses at the museum and joyfully shares stories of the past with precise and accurate details. Her knowledge of local history is phenomenal, and she is an asset to the Wittenberg Area Historical Society and museum."

Strassburg is not originally from Wittenberg, describing herself as a "transplant," but she got involved



Carla Strassburg works tirelessly for the Wittenberg Area Historical Society, even pushing for more people to volunteer when it looked like the society might disband. Strassburg's love of the past and protection of it earned her the Wittenberg Volunteer Service Award through the Shawano Area Community Foundation's Celebration of Giving.

CURT KNOKE

with the historical society about 15 years ago, by her recollection.

"I started just because I was interested in Wittenberg history, being a transplant and not knowing anything," Strassburg said. "I got interested in the history of Wittenberg and decided I could volunteer there, and so I did."

Over the years, Strassburg has held a lot of positions within the historical society — sometimes more than one at once. Currently the president, Strassburg has been a simple board member, along with being secretary, treasurer and more.

About three years ago, the society really needed help from the community, as its ranks had dwindled significantly.

"We were down to, like, three board members, and so we got together with a few of the remaining (volunteers) and decided maybe we needed to do something drastic. So we put out a press release saying maybe we didn't want to keep being active or not because of lack of participation," Strassburg said.

"New people stepped up, and we created a new board."

Closing down the museum and all the history contained within would have been a sad day, in Strassburg's view.

"I like the old building," Strassburg said. "I just think it's a neat thing to preserve, and all the stuff within is worth preserving. Somebody needs to take care of it."

When she wasn't the guardian of local history, Strassburg participated in other organizations. She was president of the former Lioness Club in Wittenberg, as well as president of the Wittenberg Area Chamber of Commerce.

"I've always wanted to be needed, I guess, in some way or another," Strassburg said. "I like to meet new people. I like things to look nice. I like to take pride in my community, wherever I can in whatever way I can. Sometimes I come up with goofy projects and do them just because I can."

Strassburg has also taken time to spruce up some wooden figures of ice skaters at the village's out-

door ice rink.

"Way back when, the Lioness Club made them as a display in our local band shell," Strassburg said. "The Lioness Club eventually disbanded, but the wooden figurines were still floating around, so we gave them to the chamber, and they fell into disrepair. I've repainted them twice now."

Strassburg noted her parents had always encouraged her to participate in her community, no matter where it would be.

"I guess I feel like it's important because there are so many things that can't be done without volunteers," Strassburg said. "When you work for free, no one can really fire you."

Besides the accolades, Strassburg will receive a \$1,000 award to donate, and she is splitting it up among three organizations. The historical society will receive \$500, while the Wittenberg Food Pantry and the Wittenberg Lions Club will each receive \$250.

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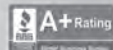
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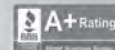
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CELEBRATION OF GIVING

When call comes in, Cairns ready to help

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

Saving lives is a way of life for Brian Cairns, who lives in Krakow.

Besides his job as a captain with the Green Bay Metro Fire Department, Cairns also dedicates a lot of time volunteering with the Bonduel Fire Department and EMS. That dedication has helped make Cairns this year's recipient of the Health Care Volunteer Award through the Shawano Area Community Foundation's Celebration of Giving.

Cairns was nominated for the award, which is sponsored by ThedaCare, by his wife, Kris. Kris Cairns noted that they have lived in the area for over 16 years, and that means a lot of interruption to life.

"I can recount many times that dinners or events have been interrupted by the sound of his pager going off," she wrote in her nomination letter. "He heads out the door at a moment's notice and returns with either a smile or a sadness that he has experienced. Many of those calls end in good things, but many do not."

Kris Cairns recalled one of those calls that made her family's Thanksgiving dinner taste just a little bit better.

"One very poignant moment, I was waiting for him to bring me an ingredient for Thanksgiving dinner I was making," she wrote. "He was late, and I was impatient to get things going. He returned and I asked what took him so long, and he said, 'I took a call for a gentleman having a heart attack.' What could I say to that? I was humbled by his actions. Someone got to have another Thanksgiving that day because Brian saved his life."

The loving wife also recalled the day years ago that Brian Cairns helped to save the life of a little boy in Bonduel. He had been volunteering at a baseball tournament when a girl ran up to her mother and said her brother had fallen off a fence reaching for a ball and that something was wrong.

"People around him said the child was fine, but Brian's second sense kicked in and he held the child's head and neck and told someone to call 911, (because) they needed an ambulance right away," Kris Cairns wrote. "It turned out the child had broken his neck, and if the people around him had tried to move him, his outcome probably would have been much worse than it was."

The mother encountered Brian Cairns years later at a basketball tournament and thanked him for helping her son, noting that he was playing basketball and living a normal life because of his actions that day.

For Brian Cairns, getting the volunteer award is almost embarrassing for him, only because helping other people is a way of life for him.

"I know it's all good intentions, and it's wonderful, but it's just humbling," he said. "I don't like this stuff. I just do it to do it and have fun."

He added that his wife has to put up with more of the inconvenience of him being gone on emergency calls than anything, so she should get some kind of award, as well.

"I just go. She's the one that has to deal with me



Brian Cairns dedicates a lot of time to the Bonduel community by volunteering for its emergency medical services program as a paramedic. That constant get-up-and-go when the emergency calls come in has earned him the Health Care Volunteer Award through the Shawano Area Community Foundation.

CURT KNOKE

leaving and coming back and interrupting stuff," Brian Cairns said.

He first got involved with emergency medical services when he was 18 or 19 in Amherst, he said. He helped to start a volunteer program there and then became a full-time employee in 1991 with the De Pere Fire Department. He then started with the Green Bay Fire Department a few years later, and when it opened up its residency requirements in 2005, that's when the Cairns family made the move to Shawano County.

"Eventually, I got to know the guys around here, and I just joined because we're lacking first responders out where I live," Cairns said. "It was kind of a good fit, and I like doing it."

He doesn't even looking at what he does as volunteering.

"It's just a duty to act," Cairns said. "Helping the community and helping my neighbors, that's the bottom line. Ambulance services, it takes a while to get there, and where I grew up, it could take 20 or 25 minutes to get to where you want to be. Being in the business for over 30 years, I want to continue it out here."

Cairns thinks the work he does in Bonduel has helped to save his career in Green Bay, noting that it's humbling to get the appreciation from people in need. He said it's more common in small communities than it is in cities.

"When they call, they need you," Cairns said.

He noted that many people are unaware that almost all of the fire and EMS programs in the county are run by volunteers. They don't get paid to go on calls, and they are not compensated for mileage, despite what some people think, he said.

"There are a lot of volunteers out here, but we're short," Cairns said. "Our communities are great. We cover Cecil, Bonduel, Hartland, part of Angelica and the Town of Washington. It's a lot of mileage and a lot of calls."

The \$1,000 that comes with Cairns' award is going toward the Juvenile Diabetes Association through ThedaCare. He explained that his father had diabetes since when he was 12 and died at the age of 70.

"He fought diabetes all his life and just died six years ago," Cairns said. "A lot of his friends (with diabetes) died in their 50s from it, and he made it to 70."

CELEBRATION OF GIVING

Educator helps garden, students' minds grow

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

“How does your garden grow?” is a question asked in a classic nursery rhyme, but for Kim Ihrcke, the answer is clear — it grows with children learning.

Using the students at Hillcrest Primary School to tend the garden and, at the same time, learn about the vegetables and other items within has earned Ihrcke the Bill Mielke Volunteer Educator Award through the Shawano Area Community Foundation's Celebration of Giving. Ihrcke helps with the garden through the FRESH Project, and the program's director, Barbara Mendoza, nominated her for the award.

“Kim volunteers to lead our education garden, teaching students from Hillcrest Primary School since 2017,” Mendoza wrote in her nomination letter. “Through Kim's guidance, the kids learn the importance of how fruits and vegetables grow.”

Mendoza noted that Ihrcke's knowledge and her gentle interaction with the students makes it easy for them to learn while having fun at the same time.

“She incorporates the basic STEM criteria to understand the roles of soil and water and how they are needed for the seeds to grow and become food,” Mendoza wrote. “She also teaches the kids how to make healthier snacks with the produce/fruits they harvested.”

The garden is actually located next to the school at the Church on the Hill, a United Methodist Church in Shawano. While watering the plants and taking out the weeds, the students take the time to learn about the plants, what types they are and how important they are to overall health, according to Ihrcke. While there are common vegetables like carrots and eggplants in the garden, there are also unusual ones like jicamas — crunchy roots that originate in Mexico.

“When the FRESH Project was in its infancy stage, we decided what we could do for education, and I had kind of taken that part of it,” Ihrcke said. “We wanted to emphasize healthy eating habits, understanding where your



Kim Ihrcke has caused student knowledge to take root along with the many plants that make up the garden at Hillcrest Primary School. This effort has helped Ihrcke to receive the Volunteer Educator Award through the Shawano Area Community Foundation's Celebration of Giving for 2021. CURT KNOKE

food comes from.”

Despite living in a rural community surrounded by farms, many of the children don't always know that food is produced by people whose lives are dedicated to raising animals and growing fruits and vegetables, according to Ihrcke. Having the garden near the school helps the young students learn early that there are steps to get that food into the hands of grocery stores.

“Many of our little children — and I call the Hillcrest Primary kids the

‘littles’ — they have no idea where their food comes from, even though they live in a rural community,” Ihrcke said. “We do eating your colors, and we have a color banquet so the kids are eating foods from every color. It's not just the kids being out in the garden. It's a whole curriculum about: ‘Let's get our children eating well, and let's get our children experienced about where our food comes from.’”

By working in the garden, the chil-

dren becomes volunteers themselves, Ihrcke said, and the food that is raised goes to the FRESH Project's Share the Bounty tables. By watering and weeding, the kids are helping the community, she noted.

“We do fun things, too,” Ihrcke said. “We build a scarecrow. We made little plant markers. There's crafty, fun things with it also, but it's about having children experience where their food comes from, what they're eating, what part of the plant they're eating, getting them to eat a lot of different colors.”

Ihrcke believes that working and learning in the garden has allowed Hillcrest students to experience foods they probably would not have otherwise tried.

“There was a little boy that would not stop eating spinach leaves,” she said with a laugh. “I told him, ‘OK, I think we need to move on to something else.’”

The garden at Hillcrest is just the latest volunteering effort for Ihrcke. She describes herself as a lifelong volunteer whose reward is seeing children's eyes light up about the garden.

Ihrcke recounted one time a student ran up to her and said he “ran 100 miles per hour” to get to the garden to learn. That showed her that she was changing lives and lifting them up.

In the end, Ihrcke hopes that she gives more than she takes from life.

“I would encourage anyone who is passionate about their community and the well-being of others, or if they have a talent, that they would just use it,” Ihrcke said. “Then our community would grow. Some people can give financially, and that's great, but all of us can give our time. I feel like, if you have a passion or a talent, the best way to use it is to volunteer because you'll be the one blessed in the end.”

The award, which is sponsored by the Shawano Optimists and Shawano Rotary, includes a \$1,000 award donated to the organization of the winner's choice. Ihrcke plans to give the money to the FRESH Project to continue education initiatives like the Hillcrest garden.

“That will help keep this program going,” Ihrcke said.

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“I would encourage anyone who is passionate about their community and the well-being of others, or if they have a talent, that they would just use it.”

KIM IHRCKE, Bill Mielke Volunteer Educator Award winner for 2021 for the Shawano Area Community Foundation Celebration of Giving

'Sovereign being of light' gets continuance

Retzlaff again appears in court without attorney in high-speed chase felony case

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

Gresham campground owner Ann Retzlaff, who introduced herself as "a sovereign being of light," received another continuance Aug. 13 in her Shawano-Menominee County Circuit Court case involving a high-speed chase and claims she was rescuing a sex trafficking victim.

Retzlaff appeared at the preliminary hearing without an attorney, just as she had in May, claiming she has not yet found an attorney who was "constitutionally sound" and "not actively involved in many cases." On May 25, Judge William Kussel Jr. pushed back the preliminary hearing by more than two months to give Retzlaff time to find an attorney, and Retzlaff had said August was better for her because June and July were busy months for her business, Annie's Campground.

Retzlaff is accused of a single count of fleeing an officer, two counts of second-degree recklessly endangering the safety of police officers and one count of resisting an officer in Shawano County. The resisting charge is a misdemeanor, while the others are felonies.

Retzlaff is also facing a misdemeanor or charge of resisting and failing to



ANN RETZLAFF

stop in Menominee County on the same chase.

"I would prefer to have somebody represent, but I can try to do it by myself," Retzlaff said to Kussel.

Kussel asked if Retzlaff needed

another couple of weeks to get an attorney, noting that "we gave you a lot of time." He said that, if Retzlaff opted to go on without an attorney, it would require them to go through a question-and-answer session to determine if she wanted to waive the right.

"I will not waive any of my rights," Retzlaff said, adding that Oct. 15 would be a better time for her for the preliminary hearing.

Shawano-Menominee County District Attorney Greg Parker suggested that a status conference be scheduled prior to scheduling a preliminary hearing, noting that the officers involved in the chase had come to court to speak at the hearing. Kussel scheduled the status conference for 1:30 p.m. Oct. 5 but warned that there would be no further continuances.

"Anyone who is licensed in the state of Wisconsin is allowed to practice law in this courtroom," Kussel

said. "There are thousands of attorneys in this state."

Retzlaff replied that she was having difficulty because the attorneys are part of the American Bar Association, which she claimed was unconstitutional. She also said the charges against her were "all false charges."

Retzlaff tried to announce something about two open human trafficking cases, but Kussel cut her off, saying that she should have an attorney deal with the matter because what she says in open court could potentially be used against her.

"They could also be used against the court," Retzlaff said.

To that, Kussel asked: "Did you make a threat?"

Retzlaff tried to cite a specific law regarding her statement, to which Kussel said the matter needed to be handled by an attorney.

On May 15, a Shawano County deputy heard on Menominee County radio traffic about a high-speed chase involving a vehicle registered to Retzlaff for failing to stop at a traffic light, according to the criminal complaint. The chase, starting in Keshena on state Highway 47-55, continued through the towns of Wescott and Richmond, where deputies twice laid out spike strips, and ended on state Highway 29 just west of County Road MMM.

Deputies with Shawano and Menominee counties initiated a "high-risk stop," according to the complaint, and shut down traffic on the highway's westbound lanes. A lieutenant advised Retzlaff to get out of the vehicle, but she allegedly said she was a "sovereign citizen" and would not exit. A deputy used a slim jim to open the passenger door, which is when Retzlaff allegedly tried to drive off, nearly hitting two Shawano County officials.

Eventually, the vehicle was stopped again, and deputies pulled Retzlaff out of her vehicle. According to the complaint, as she was being handcuffed and searched, she claimed the deputies were involved with covering up sex trafficking and said she was rescuing one of her employees from a sex trafficking house on "Crow Territory" in Menominee County.

Retzlaff has had other cases in Shawano County. In April, she had restraining orders against her for harassing Shawano County Supervisor Joe Miller and his wife, Jackie Miller. In November 2020, a guilty verdict due to a no contest plea was entered against Retzlaff for a case where she made a phone call and claimed she was a sheriff's deputy.

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Parks, downtown bring in tourists this summer

Hendricks believes 'tens of thousands' visiting Shawano due to events

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

Shawano's park and recreation system is seeing a lot of activity and change this summer, according to director Matt Hendricks, and the city is seeing an uptick in tourist traffic as a result.

"We've had thousands of visitors, and I can even say tens of thousands of visitors to be honest, in the last month in the parks system," Hendricks said to the Shawano Common Council on Aug. 11.

The heavy visitor traffic is due to multiple activities, he said, noting that key among them were three Little League tournaments at Memorial Park, along with the national show ski tournament hosted by

the Shawano Ski Sharks at Smalley Park. There was also Shawanofest downtown, National Night Out on Elizabeth Street and the Thursdayz at Franklin concert series that have brought people out in droves.

"We've been busier than when I first got here," Hendricks said. "There are as many as 18 to 20 events happening in our park system. Some of them are ours. Many of them are not."

Adult sports leagues and flag football for the youth are coming up for the park and recreation department, so there will be more for the parks staff to do in the coming months, according to Hendricks.

Alderwoman Rhonda Strelbel noted that the Shawano Folk Music Festival was also an event occupying city park space in August. Previously,

the event had been held at Mielke County Park in the Town of Wescott.

"We've seen a lot of new organizations come to use Franklin Park as a performance area," Hendricks said. He noted that the Kids From Wisconsin performed at the park in July, moving outside after previously using the auditorium at Shawano Community High School.

Alderwoman Sandy Steinke said she has seen a variety of activities not handled by the city at the Shawano parks, as well. She told the council about seeing a couple using Franklin Park for wedding photographs.

"I thought it was really cool," Steinke said, with Hendricks noting that the city has received several requests to use the parks for photos.

There will be a ribbon-cutting

ceremony Aug. 23 for a new wooded trail totaling 3/4 mile at Arlington Park, Hendricks said. He noted that ThedaCare provided \$10,000 to form the trail, with private donors coming up with the rest of the funds.

As for the Shawano Recreation Center, the facility has a fresh coat of paint, Hendricks said, noting that the exterior needed attention after work had been done to upgrade the interior.

"We're trying to put a better reflection of what is on the outside with what is on the inside," Hendricks said.

The park and recreation department is also renovating the girls softball field at Martzke Park, something Hendricks said needs to be done every seven years.

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

Volunteers getting ready to help those in need

Operation Christmas Child looks to equip children with supplies

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

Volunteers in Oconto County are getting together to provide supplies to those in need around the world.

The Samaritan's Purse organization is running the Operation Christmas Child project, where volunteers put together shoe boxes full of hygiene items, school supplies, toys and clothes.

"A lot of kids never owned things like these," said Elaine Newlin, a volunteer with the Appleton Alliance Church in Appleton. "Kids can't go to school or do other things that we take for granted."

Newlin said that this international project began in 1993.

"This originally began as a request to fill shoe boxes for people in Bosnia," said Newlin.

Churches around the country are currently collecting donations from residents. Packing of these items will begin in November.

Ellen Pritzlaff is one of the local coordinators who is helping to move this project forward. She works with Grace Lutheran Church in Oconto Falls.

She said that the items that are packed are sent all over the world to children and families who are in need.

"We work with countries around the world to distribute these boxes," said Pritzlaff.

Pritzlaff said that by sending these boxes to those in need, the recipients may come closer to God.

"These children are receiving these gifts because God loves them," said

Pritzlaff. "These also serve as an invitation for gospel outreach."

Newlin also elaborated on the idea of gospel outreach.

"Children are invited back to the church," said Newlin.

She also added that children are given the opportunity to partake in a 12-session course where they learn about building a relationship with Jesus.

"Nineteen million children have graduated from this program," said Newlin. "They are given an Old Testament in their language to keep that relationship with Jesus, as well as teach others."

The items in these shoe boxes are basic necessities to survive not only in school, but at home.

"Children need these supplies to be able to go to school and also excel when they are at school," said Pritzlaff.

According to Newlin, volunteers help with this project for a variety of reasons.

"Most of these volunteers come together due to the love of Jesus," said Newlin. "Volunteers want to share that love with others. They also want to give back to those in need. A lot of people find this fun to do."

In Oconto Falls, Pritzlaff noted that around 350 boxes come from Grace Lutheran Church while northeast Wisconsin as a whole provides close to 1,000 boxes.

She believes that taking part in this project not only affects the children and families that are receiving the supplies, but also the volunteers who are taking their time to make the difference.

"This is a humanitarian offering," said Pritzlaff. "It affects everyone involved."

Pritzlaff also said that anyone is welcome to partake in the project, no

matter what religion they practice.

Newlin added that since the project started, 188 million shoe boxes have been sent around the world. When families and children receive their shoe boxes, she said that it is not uncommon to hear back from the children.

"Some volunteers do get letters back from children," said Newlin. "The letters that they get back are both heartbreaking and heartwarming."

Packing week for the shoe boxes takes place from Nov. 15-22. Donations can be dropped off anytime at Grace Lutheran Church, 501 S. Main St., Oconto Falls. Donations can also be made online at samaritanspurse.com/buildonline. Participants in the project also have the opportunity to follow where their box goes through the website.

lreimer@newmedia-wi.com



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9:00 -2:00	Learn to Fly - Intro Discovery Flights, with Pilotsmith, Inc. (Fee required)
9:30 -11:30	EAA Young Eagles (age 8-17)
12:30	Runway Re-dedication Ceremony

OBITUARIES

Larry D. Clark, 80, of Clintonville, formerly of Shawano, passed into the arms of Jesus surrounded by family at Shawano Health Services on Saturday morning, Aug. 14, 2021.

Larry was born Nov. 5, 1940, as the son of the late Frederick and Mildred (Roloff) Clark. He grew up on a farm west of Shawano and as a young man faithfully served his country in the United States Army. Larry served from 1957 to 1960, spending a fair amount of his time stationed in Korea. He later married Wyoma Jean Lorge on May 26, 1962. The couple had eight children and later divorced. Then on April 12, 1991, Larry was united in marriage to Betty Anderson in Clintonville.

Throughout the years, Larry worked as a mechanic, in maintenance, cut up railroad cars and later ran his own packaging company with Betty



and looked forward to a good game of Canasta or Rummy 500. Larry had a zest for life and battled serious medical issues for years, but he was a fighter until the end. His step-great-granddaughter, Reana, was a ray of sunshine that kept him going the last five years.

Survivors include his wife, Betty Clark; daughters, Sheila Clark-Maas, Tammy (Chuck) Buchert and Annette (Dick) Schreiber; sons, Dennis (Jolene) Clark, Larry (Carrie) Clark Jr. and Paul Clark; stepchildren, Diane (Dan) Grosskruetz, Catherine (Jeff) Blum, Richard "Dick" (Tracey) Anderson,

until their retirement. Larry was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting, fishing, boating, gardening and snowmobiling. In his earlier years, he enjoyed stock car racing

Cheryl (Tom) Sbonik, Doug (Brenda) Anderson and Mary (Barry) Rogers; grandchildren, Dustin (Amanda) Maas, Kammy (Guy Naumann Jr.) Maas, Amanda (Jason) Jach, Jamie Clark, Cassie Clark, Christie (Brandson Bentz) Clark, Sara (Jeff) Mallams, Elizabeth (Nick) Kaster, Joshua Nickodem, Jessica (Chad) Moesch, Jeramey Nickodem, Jayda Clark, Taylor (Jacob) Genke-Grosskopf and Kayla Genke; great-grandchildren, Kylee, Boe, Archer, Sullivan, Stryker, Asher, Ava, Dylan and Carter; step-grandchildren: Aaron Anderson and Christopher (Shawna) Anderson and others; step-great-granddaughter, Raena and others; siblings, Calvin (DeeDee) Clark, LeRoy (Brenda) Clark and Ron (Pat) Clark; and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Wayne (Carol) Oestereich, Bob (Linda) Oestereich and Norbert Kessen.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents; two infant children; a

grandson-in-law, Brian Stankevich; a stepson, Robert Anderson; step-grandsons, Uriah and Chad "C.J." Anderson; brothers, Marlyn (Gertha) Clark, Michael Clark and Dan Clark; and sisters Donna Jean Clark and Janet Kessen.

Larry's funeral service was held Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2021, at the Eberhardt-Stevenson Funeral Home and Crematory in Clintonville with the Rev. Timothy Shillcox, O. Praem, officiating. Interment followed the service at St. Rose Cemetery in Clintonville with military honors conducted by members of the Clintonville American Legion Post 63, VFW Post 664, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 63 and Disabled American Veterans Chapter 53.

Larry's family wishes to thank the staff at both The Pines in Embarrass and Shawano Health Services for their care and compassion during Larry's stay. God bless you all.

www.eberhardtstevenson.com

Rueben R. Riemer

Rueben R. Riemer, 84, passed away Saturday evening, Aug. 14, 2021, at his home from complications of prostate cancer.

Rueben was born Sept. 18, 1936, on the homestead farm in the Town of Pella. He attended Fairview Grade School and was a 1954 graduate of Marion High School. After high school, Rueben went on to Milwaukee School of Engineering where he earned his engineering degree. Rueben joined the Army National Guard while attending MSOE and served his country 8.5 years; attaining the rank of sergeant. He saw active duty with the 32nd Division at Ft. Lewis, Washington, during the Berlin Crisis.

Rueben met Alice Suehring at the Caroline Ballroom, and the couple were united in marriage on July 3, 1960. Rueben began his work-



ing career as a chore boy at Long Lake Bible Camp, moved to Milwaukee, got a job as a bagger at the A&P Store and then on to Allen-Bradley while going to school. After completing his education, he worked at FWD in Clintonville, Appleton Machine, Riverside Paper, Curwood Wartsila, Valmet and Metro.

He enjoyed the outdoors and loved being active. Rueben took flying lessons but found out boating was a way to be with more of his pals. They did a lot of water skiing, sometimes with the boat full of fellows. He enjoyed hunting and

ing career as a chore boy at Long Lake Bible Camp, moved to Milwaukee, got a job as a bagger at the A&P Store and then on to Allen-Bradley while going to



fishing and trips to "deer camp" in his later years. He was very good at grafting choice apple shoots on to scrub apple trees. Rueben also enjoyed dancing and going to musical concerts. He was very proud of his sons and his grandkids and loved to spend time with them.

Rueben is survived by his wife of 61 years, Alice (Suehring) Riemer; sons, Ronald (Nancy), Rueben (Sherry), Robert (Colette) and Jonathan (Stephanie) Riemer; 10 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; sister, Marilyn Blankschien; sister-in-law, Dawn Riemer; numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Reinhard and Linda Riemer; a sister, Dorothy (Gerald) Dieck; a brother, Donald Riemer; and a brother-in-law, Marlyn Blankschien.

A celebration of Rueben's life will be held Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021, at 11 a.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in the Town of Pella with Pastor Bidal Torrez officiating. Visitation will be held at the church on Saturday from 9 a.m. until the time of the service.

The Eberhardt-Stevenson Funeral Home and Crematory in Clintonville is assisting his family. www.eberhardtstevenson.com

Many thanks to Holly, Beth, Tina and all the other hospice staff members and Home Instead helpers, along with all the prayer warriors. We couldn't have kept going without you.

Mary Jane Bublitz

Mary Jane Bublitz, 91, Green Bay, passed away Saturday, Aug. 14, 2021. She was born June 26, 1930, in Kellnersville to Joseph and Evangeline (Wanish) Weber.

In 1948, Mary Jane graduated from Mishicot High School, and in 1952, she graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. On June 22, 1957, she married Charles Bublitz at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Kellnersville.

Mary Jane was a business teacher at Bonduel High School. After moving to Green Bay, she worked as a substitute teacher in the Green Bay



high schools. She also worked for 10 years at Humana Insurance Company. Mary Jane was a longtime member of St. Agnes Parish and was a parish eucharistic minister. She was also a member of the adult choir and the resurrection choir. Mary Jane was an active volunteer. She was a eucharistic minister at St. Mary's Hospital, a member of the Concerned Hearts Club and vol-

high schools. She also worked for 10 years at Humana Insurance Company.

unteered at Bellin Hospital. She also volunteered at the Green Bay Visitor and Convention Bureau, ushered at the Meyer Theater and was a member of the Brown County Community Women's Club.

Her family members include her children, Kathleen (Joe Vercellone) Bublitz and Lynn (Donald) Lechner; daughter-in-law, Ginny Bublitz; five grandchildren, Emily Bublitz, Joseph Bublitz, William Vercellone, Phillip Vercellone and Charlie Vercellone; two sisters, Joanne Delforge and Carol Krauth; nieces and nephews.

Members of her family who pre-

ceded her in death are her husband, Charles Bublitz, in 2000, and her son, Steven Bublitz, in 2018.

Visitation will be held at St. Agnes Catholic Church, 1484 Ninth St., from 9-11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 20, followed by the Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Patrick C. Beno officiating. Entombment will be in Allouez Catholic Mausoleum.

To send online condolences, please go to www.BlaneyFuneral-Home.com.

A memorial fund has been established in Mary Jane's name to benefit the Concerned Heart's Club.

Dennis R. Herzog

The world is a bit dimmer with the passing of Dennis Robert Herzog, who left his earthly home on July 28, 2021.

Dennis was born in Pound on Dec. 10, 1940, the youngest of nine children to Ewald and Jennie Herzog. A veteran of Vietnam, he returned to marry Durham Hernden on Feb. 6, 1966, and together they built a life and family on their farm in Gillett.

Dennis believed in living a life of faith, humility, integrity, hard work, love and laughter. Even in retirement, he enjoyed helping on the farm, cheering his grandkids at sporting events, golfing in his "Old Farts" league (where he learned and shared many of his hilarious jokes), taking on friends and family in a round of croquet or traveling to gospel music conventions. He also played a lot of water volleyball in Puerto Vallarta, a place he and Durham considered a second home and wintered for the past few decades.

Dennis never met a stranger. People gravitated to his positive attitude, quick humor, words of wisdom and sometimes groan-worthy jokes. Always ready with praise for your success or words of wisdom when needed, many often reached out to him for advice and perspective. Above all, Dennis was a man of strong Christian faith and at-



tributed all of his accomplishments to the grace of God, many times being heard to say, "I am glad God didn't give me what I deserved, because I've been blessed so much more than anyone deserves."

Dennis is lovingly remembered by his wife of 55 years, Durham Herzog, and their children, Julie Montieth (Rick), Jon Herzog (Mary), Kristin Pettit (Dave) and David Herzog (Deb). He will also be fondly remembered by his 14 grandchildren, Stephen, Taylor (Marina), Mark (Lexi), Jenna (Nick), Amelia (Brad), Noah, Sam, Lauren, Bryce, Isaac, Aidan, Alaina, Cale and Keegan, along with one great-grandchild, Beckham. He also leaves behind two sisters, Lorraine Yerxa and Adelin Deering.

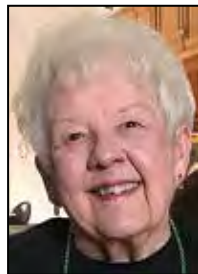
Dennis believed that funerals are for the living and preferred to celebrate a wonderful life in memory of those he loved. In keeping with that philosophy, a celebration of his life will be held on Sept. 3, 2021, at 11 a.m. at Hope Community Church in Shawano. Receiving will begin at 9 a.m., and lunch will be served afterward at noon.

Karen A. Reinke

Karen A. Reinke, 81, of Grafton, passed away on Aug. 13, 2021. She was born in Shawano on Oct. 2, 1939, to Harry and Vivian (nee Feldt) Katzenmeyer. On Nov. 9, 1957, Karen was united in marriage to William L. Reinke. Her 56 years of marriage to Bill were filled with raising their family, traveling and living in Alaska, Seattle and Wisconsin.

Karen was a homemaker who loved taking care of her family. She made family gatherings extra special, filled with loving family traditions. From elaborate fondue dinners, pickle prizes at Christmas and lottery scratch-offs, we will hold these memories close to our heart and carry them on in her honor. She enjoyed the Packers, golfing, Oneida Casino and making countless framed cross-stitches for each family member. She cherished her lifelong group of girlfriends and their annual get-togethers. Her "Shawano bunch" kept her going over the years, sharing life events and family milestones.

Karen is survived by her chil-



dren, Vicki (Charles) Linzmeyer and Bradley (Claire) Reinke; grandchildren: Jessica (Joe), Ryan (Katrina), Carly (Nathan) and Julia; four great-

granddaughters; and other relatives and dear friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband and parents.

A private service is being held at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Grafton.

In lieu of flowers, memorials to Meals on Wheels of ADRC of Ozaukee County are appreciated. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.muellerfuneralhome.com.

Bia, your presence lit up the room. We will miss the shrug of your shoulders as you laughed, your big heart, stories and great smile. It is comforting to know you and Bumpa are jitterbugging in heaven together again. We will continue to love and remember you every day.

Glenda M. Tahmahkera

Glenda M. Tahmahkera, 86, of Keshena, passed away early Monday morning, Aug. 9, 2021, at Shawano Health Services.

Glenda was born Oct. 28, 1934, in Keshena, a daughter of Henry M. and Josephine (Wishecoby) Dodge. She attended St. Joseph School for eight years then attended Shawano High School, graduating with the Class of 1953. Following high school, Glenda attended Moraine Community College in Palos Hills, Illinois, where she earned her associate's degree in business management and administration. She put her degree to use by working in business management in various casinos throughout the country.

Glenda volunteered with the Girl Scouts of America for over 18 years. Her hobbies included arts and crafts.

Survivors include her son, Marvin "Wolf" Tahmahkera Jr., of Mesa, Arizona; her daughter, Susan Tahmahkera, of Orland Park, Florida; two brothers, Richard A. Dodge and Sidney



C. Dodge, both of Keshena; three sisters, Carol Dodge, Faye (Tony Sr.) Waupchik and Kathy (James) Kaquatosh, all of Keshena; and several nieces, nephews and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her stepmother, Josephine Duquain; two brothers, Melvin and Roger Dodge; three sisters, Gwen Washinawtok, Sandra King and Constance Goetz; two sisters in infancy; her cousin, Joseph Melotte; and her

stepbrother, Arthur Chapman.

In keeping with Glenda's wishes, no public services will be held. In-

terment will take place at St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery in Keshena.

Mickelson Funeral and Cremation Service of Shawano is assisting the family with arrangements. Please share online condolences at www.mickelsonfs.com.



Brian J. Krueger Sr.

Brian J. Krueger Sr., 59, of Shawano, passed away on Monday, Aug. 9, 2021, in Shawano. Brian was born in Shawano on Dec. 31, 1961, son of the late Fred and Lenora (Laude) Krueger. Following high school, Brian served his country honorably in the United States military. He was a true outdoorsman who felt at peace in the woods. He loved fishing and watching the eagles soar up and down the river.

Brian is survived by his significant other of over 12 years, Becky Tischauser; his children, Brian Jr. (significant other Shelby), Lenora, Brianna, Megan and Morgan; grandchildren, Dantae, Shay, Sadie, Carter, Lillin, Kobe and Adley; siblings,



Diane (Art) Mulock, Allan (significant other Deb) Krueger, Rojene (Mark) Ziolkowski and Audrey Gretzon. He is further survived by nieces, nephews, other

relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Gary Krueger; and three sisters, Bonna Verbruggen, Vicki Marquardt and Kim Marie in infancy.

A celebration of life will be held for Brian at a later date. Inurnment will be in Lake Drive Cemetery in the Town of Wescott.

www.swedbergfuneralhome.com

Sharon C. Becker

Sharon C. Becker, 76, passed away recently at Kindred Hearts in Quincy, Illinois. She was born June 30, 1945, in Chicago to Charles and Ethel Cole.

She was raised in Chicago but moved to Wisconsin in November 2020. She attended Victory Fellowship Church. She loved to go to church and was very devoted to her friends, Sue, Tess and Linda.

Sharon was one feisty, loving and giving woman. She loved her children to her core.

She was very well liked with

everyone she met, except when she was angry. She has one long history in Chicago about her struggles with being a single mom and taking care of three children. Now she is in glory with her grandma, Lois, who raised her and loved her as a little girl.

Survivors include her children, Lisa, Brian and Jerry (Nancy); two sisters, Peggy and Denise; and her grandchildren, Jaqueline, Lee, Joseph, Shannon Higgins, Lily Becker, Ryan and Andrew.

A memorial will be held at the end of August or in early September.

SPORTS

AUTO RACING

Yarie dominates Modifieds, Hacker continues winning

Anvelink, Schmidt, Van Straten also earn wins

By **DAVE BUSS**

Special to NEW Media

With Mother Nature finally agreeing that it was time to race again at the Shawano Speedway on Aug. 14, the difference between jubilation and heartbreak was just a matter of inches.

One driver stated if you can't win the show, be the show. Another driver said when you have a driver like Nick Anvelink that you're battling, your margin for error is very slim.

The IMCA Modifieds took to the track to lead off feature action. Marcus Yarie jumped to the top spot early in the event and looked to cruise to yet another feature win. Yarie built up a commanding lead of nearly half the track as Jerry Wilinski moved into the second spot and began to give chase. Lucas Lamberies joined the battle moving into the third spot.

A caution flew with eight laps to go, setting up a three-car battle for the win. Yarie executed the restart perfectly and again drove to a dominating lead en route to another future win. Wilinski was second, Lamberies finished third, with Kevin Feck rounding out the top four.

The IMCA Stock Cars saw Kyle Frederick on the pole to start their future event. Frederick, a consistent front-runner in the division, starting out front looked like a daunting task for the rest of the field. Frederick took the top spot with Chucky Forstner and Dan Michonski battling

for that lead.

Trent Nolan grabbed the fourth spot and began to work on the Forstner and Michonski cars for position. Nolan saw his motor expire, bringing out the caution flag and ending his night.

When the race resumed, Travis Van Straten was the car to watch as he made his way forward and slid to the inside of Frederick for the lead. Once out front, Van Straten went on to grab the checkered flag.

Frederick was second with Forstner third and Michonski fourth. Sean Wagner finished fifth after starting 13th and Darren Otto grabbed sixth after starting 19th.

The father-son duo of Todd and Gunner Frank provided the early excitement in the Late Model feature as the two battled it out for the top spot. Todd Frank eventually outdueling his son and began to build an advantage over the rest of the field.

Ron Berna got by the younger Frank and assumed the second position a few laps later. Meanwhile, Anvelink made his way into the battle, moving into the third spot. Berna and Anvelink began to cut into Frank's advantage. It soon became a three-way battle for the top spot.

Frank held the top spot while Berna and Anvelink put on an exciting fight for the runner-up spot. Berna jumped the berm and opened the door just enough for Anvelink to grab the second spot and go after Frank.

Frank maintained his top spot as



Travis Van Straten earned the feature win in the IMCA Stock Car division Aug. 14 at the Shawano Speedway. TURN 2 PHOTOS AND DESIGN

Anvelink looked for an opportunity to get by. Just a slight bobble in corner four by Frank was all Anvelink needed to grab the top spot and go on to pick up the win. Todd Frank held off Berna for second, with Tom Naeyaert fourth.

The Sport Mods took the track and saw Hollie Welch and Bryce Clements jumping to the early lead from their front row starting spots.

Welch paced the field with Clements working the very high side of the track trying to track her down. Jayden Schmidt began to move through the field as he moved from his fourth-row starting spot to third in a matter of two laps.

With Schmidt giving chase, Welch continued to hold off Clements. Five laps in, Clements got too close to the outside wall and brought out the caution flag. Clements' night ended on the hook of

the tow truck.

When racing resumed, Schmidt made his way past Welch and grabbed the lead. Jeffery Teske got to the second spot and began to challenge Schmidt for the lead, but Schmidt was too strong and picked up the feature win. Teske was second with Tyler Sobiesczyk third, Max Oreskovich fourth and Welch rounded out the top five.

The Mighty 4s rounded out action with Lucas Hacker grabbing feature win No. 5 on the season. A lap two caution took out pole sitter Jody Cornelius and perennial front-runner William Hoefs as the Cornelius machine suffered a mechanical issue.

Allison VanOudenhoven grabbed the top spot on the restart but Hacker was quick to grab that spot. Tanner Westphal worked to second with Brad Wedde third, Carl King fourth and VanOudenhoven fifth.



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BABA PLAYOFF HIGHLIGHTS

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

East-West Division

Gresham 11

Neopit 10

Second-seeded Gresham edged third-seeded Neopit in a playoff matchup Aug. 15 in Gresham.

Gresham trailed 10-8 entering the bottom of the ninth. Anthony Leaman drove in two runs on a double in the frame.

Paul Murphy picked up the win for Gresham, which will travel to take on top-seeded Clintonville on Aug. 22. Jordan Stichman and Tom Nietzer each belted a home run for Gresham.

Walker Miller was dealt the loss for Neopit. Lowell Chevalier homered to lead the team at the plate.

Clintonville 15

Marion 6

Brock Smejkal pitched seven no-hit innings in top-seeded Clintonville's playoff victory over fourth-seeded

ONLINE

For more stats and news on the BABA, visit <https://www.bababaseball.com/index.html>.

Marion on Aug. 15 in Clintonville.

Hunter Vollmer and Jared Cartwright posted three hits each for Clintonville, while Mitch Ebben and Turner Doornink had two hits each. Ebben hit a three-run homer during a four-RBI day.

Marion's Jared Sonnenberg was tagged with the loss.

Caroline 11

Tilleda 2

Second-seeded Caroline had little trouble taking down third-seeded Tilleda on Aug. 15 in Caroline.

Bryson Bernarde struck out five batters over six innings and earned the win for Caroline. He also had two hits at the plate.

Phil Duffek had three hits for Caroline, while Neil Hoffman, Aaron Hoffman, Austin Hoffman and Eric

FYI

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

Kroening had two hits each. Neil Hoffman hit a homer.

Zach Fehrman was the losing pitcher but had a pair of hits at the plate. Adam Strassburg also had two hits.

Little Falls 21

Tigerton 0

Top-seeded Little Falls routed fourth-seeded Tigerton in another playoff matchup Aug. 15 in Little Falls.

Little Falls will host Caroline in the next round of the playoffs Aug. 22.

Carter Kurki earned the win after striking out six batters over five innings. Hayden Harris took the loss for Tigerton, which had just one hit.

Kal Fischer drove in five runs on three hits for Little Falls, while Cam Gruenwald drove in three on four hits. Kurki recorded four RBIs on two hits and Kasey Morgan drove in three

on just one hit. Hunter Gruenwald chipped in three hits and Scott Aasen two. Jenner Gullixon homered among his two hits.

Northern Division

Eland 2

Elderon 0

Top-seeded Eland topped fourth-seeded Elderon behind a strong pitching outing for Tyler Nelson to earn a playoff win Aug. 15 in Eland.

Nelson pitched all nine innings to earn the win on the mound. Shane Larson and Ryan Richter posted two hits each for Eland.

Casey Kerstner was the losing pitcher.

Antigo/Polar 6

Birnamwood 0

Second-seeded Antigo/Polar blanked third-seeded Birnamwood in a playoff clash Aug. 15 in Antigo.

Antigo/Polar will travel to face Eland on Aug. 22.

DAIRYLAND LEAGUE PLAYOFF HIGHLIGHTS

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Hortonville 8

Cecil 1

Hortonville hit three home runs in a home playoff win over Cecil on Aug. 15. Hortonville will host Hofa Park on Aug. 22 in a playoff semifinal matchup.

Tommy Dugandzic belted a three-run homer in the second to make it a 5-0 game. He hit another homer in the fourth before Will Salaman hit a homer in the seventh.

Colan Trembl earned the win after striking out eight batters over six innings. Mason Thiel worked two innings before Scott Gorsuch worked the final frame.

Tucker Bouche took the loss for Cecil, with Isaac Boldt finishing the

ONLINE

For more details on the Dairyland League, visit the teams' Facebook pages.

contest on the hill. Braden Uelmen hit a homer in the sixth for Cecil's only run, while Kenny Casper led the team with two hits.

Bonduel 17

Nichols 3

Bonduel routed Nichols in a playoff game Aug. 15 in Bonduel. The Broncos will travel to take on Waupaca on Aug. 22 in the next round of the playoffs.

Barrett Bohm, Adam Frost and Eric Gruenwald all homered for Bonduel, which finished with 19 hits. Frost drove in four runs, while Bohm, Gruenwald, Chase Reinke and Jack Reinke all

drove in three.

Chase Reinke struck out seven batters over six innings to also pick up the win. Bohm, Jack Reinke and Wyatt Reinke worked an inning each.

Justin Krull suffered the loss.

Hofa Park 4

Navarino 0

Hofa Park earned a road playoff win over Navarino on Aug. 15.

Gavin Rusch and Eli Frank combined to pitch the shutout for Hofa Park. Rusch worked the first seven innings before Rusch worked the last two frames to earn the save.

Rob Schuettelz drove in two runs for Hofa Park, while Will Sullivan and Cole Wilcox added an RBI each. Wilcox, Schuettelz, Sullivan and James Bornick all had two hits.

Ben Prodel had two hits for Navarino. Paul Sellner was the losing pitcher.

Waupaca 11

Pulaski 1

Waupaca eased past Pulaski in a playoff clash Aug. 15 in Waupaca.

Jacob Popham had four hits and two RBIs to lead Waupaca at the plate, while Brenden Canterbury had three RBIs on two hits. Jake Pankratz homered, while Johnny Popham recorded three hits.

Cam Seidl earned the win after striking out 14 batters over seven innings. Jason Ellie and Jim Nighbor worked an inning each to seal the win.

Jason Infusino and Tyler Wichmann had two hits each for Pulaski. Cody Pangrazzi suffered the loss.



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Stelson replaces Dale as Bonduel athletic director

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

Ron Stelson replaced Matt Dale as Bonduel's athletic director and started in the position back in July.

"I've always been interested in opportunities and challenges," said Stelson. "I've also always been interested in athletics and helping student-athletes reach their full potential in both the classroom and on the field/court. When this position opened up, I was very interested in it because it was being 'coupled' with the Dean of Students role. I have many years of experience in coaching and one year in the dean position, so I thought I would be a good fit."

Stelson has been involved with high school athletics in some fashion for 21 years.

Before joining the Bonduel district in 2015, he helped coach football, basketball and track teams in the Spencer, Columbus and Green Bay areas. Six years ago, he took a middle school teaching job in Bonduel and has been involved with the high school football and girls basketball and middle school track and girls basketball teams since.



RON STELSON



MATT DALE

"I think now is an excellent time to take over as the Bonduel AD because we have great student-athletes that want to not only excel in the classroom, but they want to be challenged in athletics as well," said Stelson. "We have great leadership in Bonduel with students, athletes, staff and administration. Bonduel is a great place to be right now with many exciting changes happening in the future."

Stelson said Dale did a "great job" in helping him get used to some of the responsibilities of an athletic director.

He's been focused on getting things set for the fall sports season and says "every day is a new learning experience."

"I hope to bring a consistent and constant effort, clarity to the rules

and expectations, clear and transparent communication to all the invested stakeholders, and sense of pride in everything that Bonduel has to offer in both athletics and academics," said Stelson. "I hope on the athletic side we are competitive in every contest we engage in and show the sportsmanship that our coaches preach at all levels daily. We are a great school with many opportunities and a great community that backs all our students' efforts."

Dale served as the Bonduel AD for the past two years.

While a majority of his time as the athletic director was greatly affected by the coronavirus pandemic, he enjoyed the experience.

"The greatest accomplishment of the last two years as athletic director was just the opportunity we were able to provide our student athletes," said Dale. "With the cancellation of spring sports at the end of my first year and the uncertainty that COVID provided during year two, I'm just grateful we were able to provide as much competition as possible throughout the year."

"I give all the credit to the coaches for adhering to state and local guidelines and keeping their athletes healthy

and safe during a time when we didn't know what was going to happen day to day."

Dale moved on from Bonduel to serve as an alternative educational teacher in Kaukauna High School's At Risk program. He and his family, which includes three young children, live in Kaukauna.

"It is important for me as a parent to be there at their events and help get them to and from practices and events," said Dale of his children. "I love athletics and if it was just about the coaches, athletes, and community in Bonduel, I could have continued to stay in this position. The coaches and student-athletes work extremely hard to be competitive in one of the best small-school conferences in the state. However, I didn't want to miss out on my own kids' competitions and events on account of working."

Dale added that Stelson will "do an outstanding job as athletic director," adding he has the background and experience necessary. "I'm very confident he will continue the strong tradition at Bonduel."

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OPINION

Why isn't there a Christmas city in Wisconsin?

The other day, I was reading the news back home and came across an item about a \$160,000 earmark for Arizona's Christmas City, Prescott.

The coronavirus pandemic put a lot of things in limbo last year, including funding for community events. The Christmas city program was no exception, and if you've ever been there, Prescott definitely puts on a show. The county courthouse and most of the trees on the plaza are wrapped up in lights. There are two holiday parades, one at night and one during the day, as well as the self-proclaimed "World's Largest Gingerbread Village" and much more.

Normally, the city council there contributes \$35,000 annually for the event, which brings thousands of visitors during the holiday season. But the city's tourism committee is asking for the \$160,000 one time due to the loss of donations and contributions during 2020.

While the large monetary request caught my attention for the story, it also raised another question for me, specifically whether there was an official Christmas city for Wisconsin. I did some checking. There isn't. I tried looking to see if maybe there was a Christmas village or even a Christmas county. No dice, which raised a new question — why isn't there a Christmas city in Wisconsin? Think about it for a second.



LEE PULASKI

Wisconsin has an abundance of Christmas tree farms where folks can go to chop down their own tree or get one that's already cut (just in case your family has a bad history with

axes). We also have a lot more snow than Arizona, so we definitely look more Christmas-y.

Many communities in Shawano and Oconto counties have tree-lighting ceremonies and holiday parades. In Tigerton, there's a display of Christmas trees in the old village hall. In Oconto Falls, there's the Avenue of Lights. In Shawano, there is a plethora of Nativity scenes at the First Presbyterian Church. Holiday theater productions are common in Shawano, Abrams and Clintonville.

You might expect one of the larger cities in Wisconsin to be vying for such a title, but there's not. I saw websites for top 10 Christmas activities in Wisconsin and that sort of thing, but not one community trying to be the headquarters of all things jolly and bright in December.

So why couldn't one of our communities become "Wisconsin's Christmas City"? We certainly do our fair share of holiday celebrations in

northeast Wisconsin, but in terms of big shindigs that bring people in from all over the state, not so much. Various organizations do their own things, sometimes one or two things, but what would happen if we were to coordinate under one umbrella in Shawano, Oconto Falls, Wittenberg, Gresham, Lena or one of the other communities? Think of the holiday goodwill it could generate.

I've often wondered what a gingerbread village might look like in Shawano. The one in Prescott gets entries from schools, families and corporations. Even the television stations down in Phoenix participate by partnering with restaurant chefs to make huge productions. Of course, we can't expect a local gingerbread village to rival Arizona's edible delights, but even the Prescott gingerbread village had small and humble beginnings.

Oconto County might have better luck with a courthouse lighting event, as that building is grand, luxurious and historic, whereas the courthouse in Shawano County is not as shapely. Of course, Shawano has been trying to light up Franklin Park with uniquely decorated trees, so that might be a preferable option to trying to put lights and decorations on a cinderblock.

There's certainly potential in many of our communities to pool

available resources and change them from dimly lit beacons in the night to bright and dazzling cities (or villages) that would rival the lighthouses on Lake Michigan. While I'm not suggesting a community plunk down \$160,000 to bring something like this into creation, it would be an impressive project to be taken on by chambers of commerce, businesses, nonprofits and other do-gooders.

Prescott, Arizona, only officially became a Christmas city in 1989, about 32 years ago, by a governor's proclamation, so it would definitely take time to build a reputation, but imagine what a reputation there could be. We could bring in more visitors at a time when things are pretty quiet, which would encourage them to stop at businesses, dine in restaurants, stay in hotels and thus bring in more revenue to community coffers. The possibilities are staggering.

It would take a lot of people and a lot of planning, but having one of our communities become a Christmas city could go a long way to bringing extended holiday cheer to the area. After the depressing, extended pandemic we've gone through, it would be good to have something positive that would last a lot longer than the coronavirus.

Lee Pulaski is the city editor for the Shawano Leader. Readers can contact him at lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shawano Ski Sharks hosted event well

To the editor:

A note of congratulations to the Shawano Ski Sharks for a great weekend event. What a super way to show off Shawano and the beautiful site provided in partnership with the city of Shawano. You should all be proud.

Gary D. DeFere, Shawano

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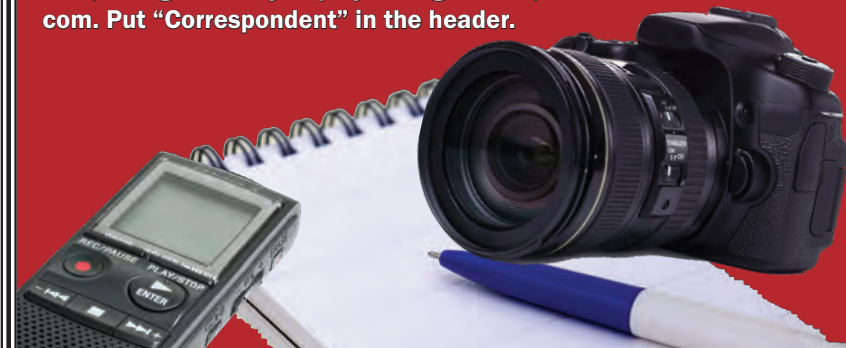
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Noriega-Avila hearing pushed back to Sept. 27

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

A preliminary hearing for Pedro Noriega-Avila was pushed back to September after no one from the public defender's office came forward to represent him on Aug. 13.

Shawano-Menominee County Circuit Court Judge William Kussel Jr. set a status conference for 1:30 p.m. Sept. 27 after confirming that Noriega-Avila wanted an attorney to represent him.

Noriega-Avila faces one count of first-degree child sexual assault of a child under age 13, two counts of sexual assault with someone under age 16 and two counts of incest with a child by a stepparent. The case is from 2016, but he was a fugitive until he was caught earlier this year by the U.S. Border Patrol trying to go to Mexico.

The criminal complaint states that Noriega-Avila allegedly went into his stepdaughter's room between

September 2009 and June 2010 and assaulted her. It goes on to say that additional incidents occurred in 2014 and 2015. Noriega-Avila married the victim's mother on July 9, 2010.

Noriega-Avila faces a maximum of 40 years in prison and \$100,000 fine for each of the incest and the latter two sexual assault counts. For the child sexual assault in 2010, he faces up to 60 years in prison.

Noriega-Avila remains in jail on a \$500,000 cash bond.

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Familiar faces at folk festival



Folk singer Matt Watroba performs a medley of songs on the afternoon of Aug. 14 at Franklin Park during the Shawano Folk Music Festival. Watroba has performed at the festival several times prior, but some of this year's acts were brand new. Watroba commented that it was nice to perform again after 18 months of live venues being canceled.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

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It's the season to savor the grace of grasses

During late summer and autumn, native and ornamental grasses put on their best show. Biding their time all summer long, the grasses really begin to reach for the skies, beginning to show their true colors and true form.

Ornamental grasses are a staple of the garden and should be included to provide an element of texture, architecture and graceful beauty that can be incorporated into the garden to provide four seasons of interest.

In addition to their architecture and graceful presence, elegant ornamental grasses flower during late summer and fall, many featuring extravagant, feathery plumes that dance in the wind.

There are ornamental grasses for every part of the landscape and garden. Many prefer full sun; however, there are a number of excellent and beautiful choices for shady areas, as well. There are also many grasses that grow well in wet areas and can be used in rain gardens, as well as along the borders of streams, ponds and lakes.

Many of my favorite ornamental grasses are native to our area and provide color, texture and beauty.

Prairie dropseed is an elegant, feathery, perfectly round clump with extremely thin blades that provide a wonderful texture in the sunny garden. As a bonus, this grass transforms into a stunning lemon yellow during the fall season.

Little bluestem is a compact and colorful native grass that can be used just about anywhere. Versatile, compact and colorful, little bluestem is a must-have for every landscape. As its name implies, little bluestem is a dwarf version of big blue stem. It reaches about 2 feet high and wide and transforms into a stunning combination of purple, red and orange by fall.

For sun or shade, northern sea oats is a breathtaking specimen grass that features large, dangling spangles in a beautiful, round clump of relatively thick bladed grass. While the native version is rich green in color, there are garden hybrids that are variegated

of the garden and should be included to provide an element of texture, architecture and graceful beauty that can be incorporated into the garden to provide four



ROB ZIMMER



Northern bottlebrush is an excellent and elegant native grass for shade.

ROB ZIMMER

green and white that are just as beautiful.

In addition to native grasses, there are many wonderful ornamental grasses that can be used in the garden and landscape.

The popular blue fescues are a stunning addition, with compact, round shape and sky blue color that fit in just about anywhere in the garden and landscape. The color alone makes them worth the investment as their stunning powder blue can be seen throughout the landscape.

Of course, during the late summer and fall season, the maiden grasses, or miscanthus, put on their spectacular showcase of tall, feathery, quivering plumes that dance in the summer wind. There are many varieties of maiden grasses to choose from in all sizes. There are dwarf versions that may only be 2 to 3 feet in height, as well as giant specimen plants that can reach 7 to 8 feet or higher.

Another hybrid grass that is wonderful, especially for shady

areas, is Japanese forest grass. In green and gold, or solid gold, this grass does well in shadier locations, where it tumbles over itself like a waterfall, creating a stunning and breathtaking effect.

Of course, in addition to all of these perennial grasses, there are a number of stunning annual grasses that can be incorporated into the garden, as well as container plantings for all seasons.

The popular purple fountain grass is a staple in containers and landscapes, turning a rich, bronze purple with massive, purple flower heads that decorate the plant like feathery plumes.

There are many varieties of annual fountain grasses that are available, in addition to the solid purple. Fireworks is a variegated variety, as is cherry sparkler, and shades of pink and red.

Remember, however, all of these fountain grasses are annuals and will not survive a Wisconsin winter outdoors.

There are also a number of com-

pact annual grasses that are perfect for containers and borders. Toffee twist sedge is one of my favorites, in a beautiful caramel/toffee color. Black Mondo grass is a beautiful grass in jet black. Fiber-optic grass is an unusual and beautiful grass with tiny flower heads that resemble fiber optic lights on each blade. Twisted sedge is a wiry, thick-stemmed grass that curls and twists, offering a unique and desirable effect in containers and borders.

It's not too late to add ornamental grasses to your containers, garden and landscape as many garden centers and retail stores sell perennial and annual grasses well into the fall gardening season.

Throughout the winter season, allow your beautiful ornamental grasses to remain standing as their stunning flowerheads provide grace and beauty and elegance when tufted with winter snow.

Find Rob Zimmer on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RobZimmerOutdoors.



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JOEY

Meet Joey. He is an 8 month old bully breed mix looking for a fun home. He is a young doggo with lots of energy to exert. Overall he is a happy dog that gets along well with everyone he meets.



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Meet Marshmallow & Smores. They are an adorable duo looking for a home together. They are both fun and curious Guinea Pigs. Smores enjoys eating treats while Marshmallow enjoys running around in her hut.



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CHURCHES ARE BACK... So is the Worship Directory!

When the coronavirus pandemic hit, churches and other places of worship had to close, which meant NEW Media's worship directory had to go away. Now that the faithful are returning to their houses of worship, we're in the process of rebuilding our worship directory on our website

WWW.NEWMEDIA-WI.COM

Houses of worship can send their vital information, including physical addresses, days and times of services, names of leaders and contact information, to
EDITOR@NEWMEDIA-WI.COM. Be sure to have "WORSHIP DIRECTORY" in the subject line.



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Allen Albert Sokol and Colleen May Waranka, Oconto Falls.

Ryan Rollard Tappa and Tara Lynn Sandberg, Oconto.

Brett Michael Allard and Ashley Ann Eastman, Oconto.

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#1355
August 13, 20 & 27, 2021
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
OCONTO COUNTY
Case No. 20-CV-132

Plaintiff:
STATE BANK OF CHILTON
-v.s-
Defendants:

DAN F. FLYNN and LUANNA E. FLYNN a/k/a LUANN E. FLYNN, LAONA STATE BANK, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, COUNTY OF OCONTO and WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.,
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that by virtue of a judgment of foreclosure entered on February 22, 2021, the Sheriff will sell the described premises at public auction as follows:
TIME: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.

TERMS: 10% of the successful bid must be paid to the sheriff at the sale in cash, money order or certified funds payable to Clerk of Courts. The balance of the successful bid must be paid to the Clerk of Courts in cash, cashier's check or certified funds no later than ten days after the Court's confirmation of the sale, failure to pay balance due will result in forfeit of deposit to the plaintiff Property to be sold as a whole "as is, where is" and subject to all legal liens

Legals WNAXLP

encumbrances, tenant rights and leases, outstanding and accruing real estate taxes, special assessments, penalties and interest, if any, Purchaser to pay Wisconsin real estate transfer tax, costs of recording and all costs of sale.

PLACE: Oconto County Courthouse, Building A, Lobby of the Treasurer's office, 301 Washington Street, in the City of Oconto and Oconto County

DESCRIPTION: Lots Eleven (11) and Twelve (12), Block Two, Village of Upham Plat, being part of the Government Lot 1, Section 13, Township 29 North, Range 17 East, Village of Suring, Oconto County, Wisconsin.

ADDRESS: 216 East Groninger Street, Suring, Wisconsin
TAX KEY NO.: 18I-0313073I242(Parcel I) and 18I-030721241 (Parcel 2)

Dated this 2 day of August, 2021.

TODD SKARBAN

Oconto County Sheriff

BURNETT, McDERMOTT, JAHN, KING & DesROCHERS, LLP

Attorneys for Plaintiff

50 East Main Street

P.O. Box 146

Chilton, WI 53014

(920) 849-9323

This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for those purposes.

WNAXLP

REQUESTS FOR BIDS SNOW PLOWING & REMOVAL

The Gillett School District is accepting bids for snow plowing and snow removal for school property for the 2021-22 & 2022-23 school years. The bid is for two years and rates should be bid on an hourly basis. For specifics please direct questions to Todd Hencsik at 920-855-2137.

Bids must be marked: "Snow Plowing".

Returned to: Gillett School District, P.O. Box 227, 208 W Main Street, Gillett, WI 54124 and returned by 12:00 p.m. Friday, September 3, 2021.

The Gillett School Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

WNAXLP

CITY OF OCONTO FALLS NOTICE OF ORDINANCE APPROVAL

The following Ordinances have been passed by the Common Council for the City of Oconto Falls on August 10, 2021. A full text of said Ordinances may be obtained from the Oconto Falls Clerk's Office located at 500 N. Chestnut, Oconto Falls, WI 54154. Phone: 920-846-4505.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-001; An ordinance amending Chapter 348; Nuisances

ORDINANCE NO. 21-002; An ordinance amending Chapter 405; Vehicles, All-Terrain and Utility Terrain

ORDINANCE NO. 21-003; An ordinance creating Chapter 406; Golf Carts

Nancy Brye - Deputy Clerk

WNAXLP

Notice of the City of Gillett to Adjourn Open Book & Board of Review to a later date

NOTICE OF OPEN BOOK FOR ASSESSMENT ROLL EXAMINATION

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to s. 70.45, Wis. Stats., the assessment roll for the Year 2021 assessment will be open for examination on Monday, August 23, 2021 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and Tuesday, August 24, 2021 from 9:00am to 4:00pm at the City Municipal Building, 150 North McKenzie Avenue, Gillett WI 54124.

Open Book by Appointment ONLY

If property owners have questions regarding the valuation of their real estate or personal property and are unable to attend Open Book examination date, you are encouraged to contact R & R Assessing, 307 N Chestnut Avenue, Oconto Falls, Wisconsin (920-846-4250) prior to this date to discuss any concerns.

NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Review (from here on referred to as BOR or board) for the City of Gillett shall meet on Thursday, September 23, 2021 from 4:00 pm until 6:00 pm at the City Municipal Building, 150 North McKenzie Avenue, Gillett WI 54124 to hear objections from property owners who follow requirements pursuant to s.70.47(7), Wis. Stats.

Please be advised of the following requirements:

- **Sec.70.47(7)(aa), Wis.Stats.,** provides that the BOR may deny a hearing to a property owner who does not allow the assessor to complete an exterior view.
- After the first BOR meeting and before the BOR's final adjournment, no person who is scheduled to appear before the BOR may contact, or provide information to, a member of the BOR about that person's objection except at a BOR session.
- No person may appear before the BOR, testify to the BOR by phone or contest the amount of any assessment unless, at least 48 hours before the first meeting of the BOR or at least 48 hours before the objection is heard if the objection is allowed under sub.(3) (a), that person provides to the BOR clerk a notice as to whether the person will ask for removal under sub.(6m) and if so which member will be removed and the person's reasonable estimate of the length of time that the hearing will take.
- When appearing before the BOR, the person must specify in writing, his or her estimate of the land value and improvements that he or she is objecting and the person must specify the information that he or she used to arrive at that estimate.
- No person may appear before the BOR, testify to the BOR by phone or object to a valuation; if the assessor or objector made the valuation using the income method; unless the person supplies the assessor with all the information about income and expenses, as specified in the manual under state law (sec.73.03(2a), Wis.Stats.), that the assessor requests. The municipality or county must provide by ordinance for the confidentiality of information about income and expenses provided to the assessor under this paragraph and provide exceptions for persons using the information in the discharge of duties imposed by law or of the duties of their office or by order of a court. The information that is provided under this paragraph, unless a court determines that it is inaccurate, is not subject to the right of inspection and copying under state law (sec.19.35(1), Wis.Stats.). The Board shall hear upon oath, by telephone, all ill or disabled persons who present to the Board a letter from a physician, surgeon or osteopath that confirms their illness or disability. No other persons may testify by telephone.

Respectfully submitted, City of Gillett Clerk Chelsea Anderson
Published as a Class 1 Notice

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Tickets on sale for Oconto Cemetery Walk

The Oconto County Historical Society will sponsor its 11th Annual Cemetery Walk, "If Tombstones Could Talk," on Sept. 13, 14 and 15.

The evening of Sept. 13 will find the walk being staged outdoors at the Evergreen Cemetery, 325 Cook Ave., Oconto, at 6 p.m.

On the evenings of September 14 and 15, the walk will be presented at 6 p.m. in the John B. LeMay Auditorium at Oconto Senior High School,

1717 Superior Ave., Oconto.

The individuals who will be portrayed this year and have their family stories told include: Gen. Wilbur Lee, war hero and civic leader; Caroline Zippel, Oconto business owner; George Beyer, self-made man and community leader; Josie Carlson, lifetime Oconto resident and helped anyone in need; Apphia "Effie" Couillard Leigh, first white child born along the Oconto River; and Dr.

Herman Aageson, longtime Oconto physician.

Tour-goers will be led in groups through the cemetery by lantern-carrying guides for the outdoor walk. Those attending the outdoor performance are urged to wear comfortable shoes as the tour requires an amount of walking, sometimes on uneven ground. You may also wish to bring a flashlight and insect repellent. The indoor performances are designed for people who may find it difficult to walk in the cemetery, but they are open to everyone.

Tickets are \$10 per person and will be sold at the Beyer Home and Carriage Museum through Sept. 3. The Museum is closed on Tuesdays. If any tickets remain unsold after Sept. 3, they will be available for sale

at Roberts Hometown Hardware, 919 Main St., Oconto. In addition, remaining unsold tickets will be available for sale just prior to each evening's performance.

There are a limited number of tickets for the performances and tickets sell out fast. Complimentary refreshments will be served to tour-goers at the cemetery on the evening of Sept. 13, and in the cafeteria of the Oconto High School following the performances on Sept. 14 and 15. In the event of inclement weather on Sept. 13, the performance will be moved indoors to the Oconto High School auditorium.

For more information, contact Lynn Exferd at 920-835-4619 or lyn-nexferd@hotmail.com.



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REDEDICATION CELEBRATION AT SHAWANO AIRPORT



A special event Saturday at Shawano Municipal Airport celebrates completion and reopening of Runway 1230 with a fly-in, displays, discovery flights and a rededication ceremony. **SEE COMPLETE COVERAGE ON PAGES 3-11.**

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



The Central Wisconsin Military Show returns Friday and Saturday to the Motorama Auto Museum Event Grounds in Aniwa. See listings below.

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FRIDAY, AUG. 20

GILLETT: Oconto County Youth Fair, Zippel Park. Flea market and craft vendors 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Exhibition area open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Truck pull 7 p.m. Music by NashVegas 7-11 p.m.

ANIWA: Central Wisconsin Military Show, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Motorama Auto Museum, 4381 Stradale Lane. Historic vehicles and memorabilia, swap meet, reenactor encampment, live music. \$10, 12 and under free, supports veterans service groups.

SATURDAY, AUG. 21

GILLETT: Oconto County Youth Fair, Zippel Park. Flea market and craft vendors 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Exhibition area open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Horse pull, 9 a.m. Music by The Natural Talent 1-5 p.m. Farm tractor pull 6 p.m. Music by

Revolution 7-11 p.m.

ANIWA: Central Wisconsin Military Show, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Motorama Auto Museum, 4381 Stradale Lane. Historic vehicles and memorabilia, swap meet, reenactor encampment, live music. \$10, 12 and under free, supports veterans service groups.

SHAWANO: Airport Reopening and Runway Rededication, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Shawano Municipal Airport, 248 Airport Drive. Wheels & Wings Displays, car show, EAA Young Eagles Discovery Flights (Fee) 9:30-11:30 a.m., rededication ceremony 12:30 p.m.

BREED: Music by Grand Union, 3-7 p.m., Arrowhead Saloon, 13486 County Road AA.

SUNDAY, AUG. 22

SHAWANO: Zurko Promotions flea

market, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Shawano County Fairgrounds, 990 E. Green Bay St.

GILLETT: Oconto County Youth Fair, Zippel Park. Exhibition area open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sale of Champions noon. Music by Sugarbush Boys 1-5 p.m.

OCONTO FALLS: Oconto Falls Flea Market, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Memorial Field.

SHAWANO: Music in the Park featuring Blue Notes, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Memorial Park, 909 S. Lincoln St. Bring a lawn chair.

TUESDAY, AUG. 24

OCONTO FALLS: Oconto County Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m., Highland Plaza, 323 E. Highland Drive.

FRIDAY, AUG. 27

TIGERTON: Lumberjack Days, Community Park, 236 Pine St. Bean bag tournament 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUG. 28

BOWLER: "Stars, Cars and Handlebars," 9 a.m.-4 p.m., North Star Mohican Casino Resort, W12180 County Road A. Car and motorcycle show, food trucks, DJ.

TIGERTON: Lumberjack Days, Community Park, 236 Pine St. Bean bag tournament 10 a.m., kids activities and bike giveaways, strongman/woman contest 2 p.m., free corn roast 4:30 p.m., live music with Starfire 2 p.m. and Bad News 7 p.m., crowning of Lumberjack Princess between bands around 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUG. 29

TIGERTON: Lumberjack Days, Community Park, 236 Pine St. Parade 1 p.m., face painting and balloon artist 1:30-4:30 p.m., lumberjack competition 2 p.m., live music with the Drovers 2-6 p.m.

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SHAWANO AIRPORT TO REDEDICATE RUNWAY



Suring pilot Mike Dootson takes off from the newly rebuilt Runway 1230 at Shawano Municipal Airport.

CAROL RYCZEK | NEW MEDIA

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Runway rehab smooths a bumpy ride



Tony Crawford, Grafton, follows a carefully plotted pattern as he sprays the informational markings on the rebuilt Runway 1230 at Shawano Municipal Airport. CrowleyConstruction, Wauwatosa, was hired to place the markings.

CAROL RYCZEK | NEW MEDIA

Pilots can tell the difference.

Completion of a \$1.8 million upgrade of Runway 1230 at the Shawano Municipal Airport, 248 Airport Road, Shawano, was immediately noticeable, said Mike Dootson, a Suring pilot who experienced the surface before and after the upgrade.

Cracks in the asphalt and its sealcoating on the 3,900-foot surface felt bumpy to pilots, he said. As the cracks opened, he said pilots feared that loose stones from the surface below would bounce up and damage their planes' propellers.

Those issues are no longer a problem, Dootson said.

The project meant removing all of the material from the old runway and replacing the blacktop, said Bruce Milavitz, airport commissioner and City of Shawano mayor.

According to Stephanie Senst, project engineer with Westwood Infrastructure, a civil engineering firm, the runway's condition made it eligible for federal funding.

"Asphalt has a certain service life," Senst said.

According to Senst, this project

cost of just over \$1.8 million. That money paid for the runway, the taxiway and the runway lighting. She also said that the project fell under the umbrella of coronavirus funding. She added that traditionally, funding is 90% federal, 5% state and 5% local.

Repaving, rather than resurfacing, the runways allows for a smoother ride for planes that land and take off from the airport, Senst said.

"Before we had repaved this runway, they do some minor rehabilitation work to try and extend the pavement life," she said. "They had done a slurry seal on this runway. They did some crack sealing on this runway, and it was to the point where if you put your shoe down on the crack, the crack was longer than the length of your shoe."

This was a real concern to those who use the airport to fly and caused, in part, the project to be expedited and brought to the forefront.

Senst said that projects like these are often put into the forefront of work that needs to be done because of the importance of making sure primary runways are safe and usable.

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“The way that the Federal Aviation Administration views this project, is that they highly prioritize primary runways,” said Senst. “This project, specifically being a runway project, ranked very high on their priority list. So this project was funded through discretionary funding.”

Northeast Asphalt is the general contractor on the project. The grading contractor is Relyco Inc. The electrical subcontractor is Merkel Company, and Wisconsin Interstate is doing the restoration and landscaping.

After resurfacing, the runway was opened, but Clarence Schampers, airport manager, said painting meant at least a day of closure to make sure that the striping pilot information had plenty of time to dry.

While the main runway was being repaired, a secondary, 2,200-foot runway was available, but traffic was down at the airport, he said.

Updated from a story by Luke Reimer, NEW Media reporter



Expansion of hangars, such as this one at Shawano Municipal Airport, is on the long-range plans for the airport. In this hangar, Mike Dootson checks over his small plane before venturing out.

CAROL RYCZEK | NEW MEDIA

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Airport commission salutes history, plans for the future

City-county facility has been developing since the 1940s

By **DOUG ENGEL**
Special to NEW Media

Editor's note: This brief history of the Shawano Municipal Airport was written by airport commission secretary Doug Engel on behalf of the airport commission.

Area aviation enthusiasts and the Shawano Airport Commission are looking forward to the airport's Aug. 21 re-dedication celebration.

The event marks the completion of its most recent primary runway and taxiway rehabilitation project.

This \$2.3 million project, following closely on the heels of the \$850,000 new terminal construction project, represents another milestone in the continued development and investment in this significant community asset.

These investments have taken place through partnerships with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and general aviation funding grants, along with funds from the Wisconsin Bureau of Aeronautics — making the project possible with minimal local funding.

This funding mechanism puts aviation fuel tax money back into infrastructure projects, such as those at Shawano. Other projects funded over the years include the security fencing, fuel storage and vending system, as well as earlier runway projects. This enables small community general aviation airports a meaningful and highly leveraged source of funds for eligible projects with strong community impact.

Later this summer, the airport will undertake yet another project to refresh its airport layout and long-term development plan. This was last done nearly 20 years ago and lays the foundation for future projects — including a runway extension, development of additional hangar space, addition of visual landing aids, reno-



Twenty-one vintage planes were on site at the Shawano Municipal Airport in July. Planners hope to encourage more clubs and individuals to see the airport as a recreational destination.

CAROL RYCZEK | NEW MEDIA

vation of other infrastructure such as the seaplane base and resurfacing of the cross-wind runway, among other things. Shawano is among the first Wisconsin general aviation airports to undertake this generation of long-term planning projects.

Shawano has a long history of aviation dating back to the 1930s and the early days of flying. Local businessmen and women understood the need for an aviation connection. Aviators were regularly paying visits to local fields to avail of the recreational amenities in Shawano, as well as the presence of a viable airport in nearby Clintonville. It was used for flying parts out of the Four Wheel Drive during the buildup to World War II, later to become North Central Airlines.

It was time for Shawano to have a “real” airport. In 1940, sufficient land was secured on the Gumaer farm east of town on the lake. Within months, a charter was signed with the National Aeronautics Association (a precursor to today's Federal Aviation Administration) and land cleared to establish the airport.

Shortly thereafter, a site was cleared on the shores of the Gumaer property for the establishment of a seaplane base. The grand opening of the airport in 1940 drew a crowd estimated between 3,000 and 4,000 people and included presentations by



Shawano Municipal Airport Commission secretary Doug Engel watches as the last steps of painting and landscaping are completed on the runway.

CAROL RYCZEK | NEW MEDIA

Steve Whitman (already an aviation legend and pioneer, whose planes hang in the Smithsonian). The director of the National Aeronautic Association stated that “Shawano had the potential to be one of the finest general aviation landing areas in the upper Midwest, and the gateway to the north.”

Additional land was subsequently

secured from the Lemhouse family farm to the south. Over the years, parcels were acquired to the east as well as along what is now the Mountain Bay Trail to comprise today's 300 acres of airport property.

Following WWII, the airport was named after Wilmer Zeuske. A WWII aviator from Shawano, Zeuske died from enemy fighter aircraft fire



Availability of fuel is an important draw to Shawano Municipal Airport, according to Clarence Schampers, airport manager. Schampers is helping pilot Craig Kramer, of Dyersville, Iowa, refuel his Ercoupe 415-C during an Ercoupe Owners Club visit in July.

CAROL RYCZEK | NEW MEDIA



The terminal at Shawano Municipal Airport, "Gateway of the North," includes a pilot's lounge and weather information. Pictured here is the terminal's dedication on Oct. 15, 2019.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

during a bombing mission over Burma while en route to Kunming, China, as part of a Flying Tigers contingent of B25s.

Shawano was also home to Fritz Wolf, who, at that time, was already a member of the Flying Tigers. He subsequently went on to become a WWII ace, having downed five enemy aircraft over the course of his Air Corps duty.

Over the years, many others have

left a mark at the Shawano Airport or have benefited from having learned to fly — or having caught the "bug" — watching planes fly in Shawano. Shawano was one of about 60 high schools in the United States with an aviation program initiated in 1965 with a federal grant to stimulate interest in aviation careers. This program continued over many years and was initially lead by Fred Davel, a longtime educator in Shawano.

REDEDICATION SCHEDULE

WHAT: Grand Reopening and Runway Rededication

WHERE: Shawano Municipal Airport grounds, 248 Airport Road, Shawano

WHEN: Aug. 21, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rain date, Aug. 22.

COST: Admission to the grounds, free

ACTIVITIES:

Aviation display, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Car show, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Learn to Fly—Intro Discovery Flights with PilotSmith Inc. (Fee required)

EAA Young Eagles for youth age 8-17: 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Runway re-dedication ceremony: 12:30 p.m.

For information, go to www.shawanoairport.com

Today, quite a few folks owe their initial flying instruction to elements of this program. A number of operators have run flight schools, charter flights, plane rentals, scenic flights and aviation fuel sales at the airport over the years.

This role today has been assumed by Shawano Flying Service, which continues to function as airport manager with Clarence Schampers, owner. The airport commission recently announced the addition of PilotSmith Inc. as the new provider of flight instruction in Shawano and is excited about the capabilities they bring to our community. Plans are underway to further expand the service capabilities of the airport in the near future.

Shawano Municipal Airport is home to about 30 aircraft of all sizes, shapes and models, including one he-

licopter. These aircraft are stored in 13 privately owned and two airport-owned hangar buildings, with the privately owned buildings subject to land leases from the airport commission.

The primary runway is 3,900 feet by 75 feet, generally east/west, with pilot-controlled lighting, and further supported by an IFR (Instrument Flight Rules) approach from both east and west. This makes the primary runway an all-weather facility under most weather conditions. The secondary runway is primarily north/south and is 2,400 feet by 75 feet, also with pilot-controlled lighting.

Adjacent grass areas provide space for small aircraft to land, at pilot's discretion, and with other conditions permitting. Shawano's seaplane base, adjacent to the airport on Shawano Lake, is one of only a couple in the state with this sort of proximity, and is a very unique asset. The recent addition of a fuel cart enables fueling of seaplanes at the dock, increasing the utility of the airport for those non-amphibious seaplanes needing water-based service.

Airplanes of all sizes and types use the airport. While most of the aircraft currently based in Shawano are single-engine and small twin-engine aircraft, runway capabilities enable small corporate or private jets to use Shawano as a destination airport.

The airport commission is currently working on a variety of initiatives to enhance activity at the airport, increase the visibility of it within the flying community and partner with business to enhance the value of this important community asset. Where possible, federal, state and local funds will be leveraged to take advantage of funding sources and other support tools intended for general aviation airports such as Shawano.

In the meantime ... stop in and see the airport. Ask for a tour. Talk to a pilot. Ask for a ride. Renew your thoughts about getting started in flying. Think about taking a Discovery Flight with PilotSmith Inc. Look into an EAA Young Eagles flight for the 8- to 17-year-olds in your family. It just might launch a career. Check out our website, ShawanoAirport.com. Encourage your flying friends to visit our airport, our new terminal and our newly refurbished runway.

Written on behalf of the Shawano Airport Commission:
John Seidel, chairman; Doug Engel, secretary; Bruce Milavitz, treasurer; Kevin Barkow, city representative; Dick Olson, county representative; Al Timmerman; Mike Bloedorn

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Leaders hope airport will help local economy take off

By **CAROL RYCZEK**
NEW Media

What can a 3,900-foot strip of asphalt do? In the right place, with the right kind of maintenance, it can do a lot, according to Shawano Mayor Bruce Milavitz.

"As a pilot, it opens up a lot of destinations. As a community member, it means a lot of excitement and growth. And as an official, it gives the city the opportunity for future development and growth," said Milavitz, a who pilots his own plane and serves as treasurer for the Shawano Municipal Airport.

The airport is celebrating the completion of the reconstruction of Runway 1230, a 3,900-foot asphalt entry and exit to the 13,000 to 19,000 private and commercial planes and helicopters that use the airport every year. A re-dedication will be held at the airport Aug. 21.

Shawano Municipal Airport is a joint project of the City of Shawano and Shawano County, with a board of commissioners who do the oversight and planning.

The runway improvement, as well as the construction of a new terminal in 2019, are part of an effort to make the airport a focus of economic development, said Peter Thillman, chief economic development officer at Shawano County Economic Progress, Inc.

"We have a real special airport

here," Thillman said. "It's one of the few in the country that has an airport and a seaplane port. There is tremendous opportunity there — a unique asset for the community."

"We want to attract people from all over," Milavitz said. "We have restaurants, hotels with walking distance, a courtesy car. There is a marina within walking distance. They can fly in, get a courtesy vehicle, rent a boat to go to a restaurant," he said.

He added that the recently remodeled terminal makes it attractive for businesses to bring in investors or clients.

The impact of the airport reaches beyond its chain-link boundary, Thillman said.

As more industries and retail stores count on "just-in-time inventory," where items are delivered as needed and not stored, a local airport becomes even more valuable, Thillman said.

The airport in Little Chute, near Appleton, already hosts aircraft maintenance facilities. Amazon located a large distribution center in nearby Greenville to take advantage of the airport's resources. Other airports can expect a growing interest from shipping companies, and Shawano could be one of those, he said.

From a convenience standpoint, he said, having an upgraded, modern airport in Shawano will help businesses bring in potential employees or schedule face-to-face meetings.

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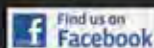
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Because tourism is such a strong part of Shawano's economy, a long-range plan for the airport needs to spotlight the ways the airport can be a tourist asset, he said. One option might be reaching out to seaplane owners. Although many seaplanes can also land at a conventional airport, the combination of airport and seaplane base is so unusual that it can be a focus for new tourism venture, Thillman said.

Even the airport itself can be an attraction, Milavitz said.

"Flight school, scenic flights — fly around the lake," he said. Tourists can see the airport as a place with family activities. An airport doesn't automatically mean tourists leave the area, he said, but that local people and tourists have an attraction right here.

"I'm passionate about the fact that our community has this airport," Milavitz said.

Future plans are being developed, Milavitz said, and will emphasize the opportunities to expand businesses near the airport as well as the convenience of a having a general aviation airport.

At Shawano, pilots can land for

free. They have access to specialized fuel 24 hours a day; they have access to the terminal with wireless internet, a lounge, a conference room and a courtesy car.

Future development plans call for an extension of 1,000 more feet to Runway 1230, he said. The additional length would make the runway more accessible for corporate jets but still under the 5,000-foot threshold that would require more regulation.

Although some small jets can land at Shawano now, the runway addition will open up the airport to many more commercial aircraft, he said.

"People want to be able to bring a corporate jet in," Milavitz said. "We can do that for a few, but only a few, now."

He said he would also like to see more hangar development and construction of "condo" hangars, where a small residence is built above or next to the hangar.

That concept is something that Thillman supports.

"If you have your airplane here, you aren't going to want to park it outside. And you're going to be spending your money here," he said.

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Future development depends on new pilots

Programs hope to inspire interest in aviation careers

A program to inspire young people to consider aviation as a career will be coming to Shawano for the Shawano Municipal Airport re-dedication Aug. 21.

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) will bring the Young Eagles program to the event with the hope of inspiring young people to develop an interest in aviation, said Peter Thillman, chief economic development officer for the Shawano Economic Development Inc.

Through Young Eagles, youth ages 8-17 can take a free ride-along in a plane, as long as a parent is present on the grounds.

The EAA provides the liability insurance, Thillman said, and pilots volunteer their time.

Information supplied by the Shawano airport reports that to date, more than 2 million young people have become EAA Young Eagles.

The program is free, but partici-

pants need to fill out a registration form in advance of the flight.

Information on the EAA Young Eagles program and event registration are available on the EAA Young Eagles website at www.eaa.org/ea/youth/free-ye-flights or through event coordinator Alan Timmerman, at 920-494-2669.

Young Eagles flights will be provided as time and available aircraft permit and only during the hours indicated. Sign-up is encouraged. Young Eagles flight registration will be available on site, but availability may be limited.

In addition to Young Eagles, Thillman said he hopes to see anyone with an interest in an aviation career come to the event to talk to pilots and others in the aviation industry. As with many industries, there is a need for workers, and jobs can cover everything from sales to engine maintenance, he said.



The Ercoupe Owners Club brought 21 vintage planes to the Shawano Municipal Airport in July.

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