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Hanauer's Tree Farms workers harvest Christmas trees from their plantings in the Town of Richmond in Shawano County. The "cut your own" farm opens for the season Nov. 26.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Gillett grad date staying as is

The Gillett School District will keep its graduation date on the Sunday before Memorial Day, the board has decided.

PAGE 2

Lena centennial on the horizon

The village of Lena will be kicking off a year-long celebration of its centennial on Dec. 6.

PAGE 8

County board pay gets the OK

The new pay structure provides most supervisors with a \$200 monthly salary and a per diem of \$100 per meeting.

PAGE 26



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Gillett HS graduation date remains the same for 2022

Slightly more than half answered a survey



To the traditional strains of "Pomp and Circumstance," the Gillett High School Class of 2018 files into the gymnasium for their graduation exercises. The Gillett School Board has decided to leave this year's ceremony as scheduled for May 29, 2022.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

By **LUKE REIMER**

Reporter

Graduation for Gillett High School will be held on May 29 for the 2021-22 school year.

The Gillett School Board discussed the possibility of moving the graduation to May 27 after superintendent Todd Hencsik had sent out a survey to seniors and parents, asking about their preferred date for the ceremony.

"There were 44 responses out of a total of 80 who could have responded," Hencsik said. "The question on the survey was: What date and time do you prefer?"

The final vote was in favor of keeping the date as it is on a 3-2 vote, with board members Preston Peterson and Ron Lenz excused from the meeting.

Hencsik said that 43% of the respondents answered that they preferred Friday, May 27; 25% preferred Saturday, May 28; and 31% preferred Sunday, May 29. The ceremony has been held on Sundays for years and

has been on the calendar for May 29.

Hencsik also gave respondents an opportunity to leave comments on the survey.

"One respondent who chose Sunday would also be fine with moving it to Friday," he said. "Somebody said that the Friday would be good for weekend graduation parties and family and friends traveling."

Hencsik called the option of moving the graduation date an opportunity to try something new, because the data supports it.

"We can do it one year on Friday and see how it goes," said Hencsik.

Board member Jaime Heroux's concern was that not everyone answered the survey.

"Two-thirds of the respondents were in favor of moving the graduation to Friday, but only about half of the people responded," Heroux said. "If you look at the numbers, 19 were for Friday, 11 for Saturday and 14 for Sunday."

Board member Katie Daul said that she would be in support of moving the graduation to Friday.

"If people wanted to have a vacation afterwards, they can still do that," said Daul.

Heroux asked, out of the 44 responses, how many were parents and how many were students? Due to not having the capability of tracking who responded, that question could not be answered.

Hencsik reiterated that this was an opportunity for Gillett to try something new.

"No matter what we do, we won't be able to please everyone," said Hencsik.

Board treasurer Cliff Gerbers continued to show concern with the number of people who answered the survey.

"If we had, say, 40 students and four parents respond, maybe that's not really representative of our community," Gerbers said.

CORRECTIONS

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

5 school districts exceed state expectations

5 individual schools rank in highest category, with most area schools getting passing grade

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

Schools in northeast Wisconsin received their annual report cards from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction on Nov. 16. For the most part, the results were encouraging in spite of the pandemic altering school schedules at random points in the 2020-21 school year.

Almost all school districts received a passing grade, with the majority of them falling into the “meets expectations” category. However, five area school districts had scores that fell into the “exceeds expectations” group, which requires a score of 70 out of 100. Bowler School District had the highest score among Shawano, Oconto and Menominee counties with a score of 76.9, followed by Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District with a score of 75.6 and Pulaski School District with a score of 75.1. Suring School District achieved a score of 71.9, while Bonduel School District scored 70.8.

Only one school district in the area did not meet expectations. Menominee Indian School District had a score of 49, and school districts needed to score at least 58 to meet expectations.

Individually, most area schools also had passing grades, but several schools scored in the highest category, which means they significantly exceed the state’s expectations. Oconto School District’s Bayshore Academy scored an 89.5, while Bonduel Elementary School scored 86.7, Birnamwood Elementary-Middle School scored 86.6, Hillcrest Elementary School in Pulaski scored 85.6 and Lena Elementary School scored 84.3.

Pulaski Community School District was the only area school to have all of its schools scoring in the exceeding or significantly exceeding categories. Hillcrest was the highest-scoring school in the district, while Sunnyside Elementary School was at the lower end with a respectable 72.1.

“Through hard work and dedication from both students and staff, PCSD is encouraged by their state report card scores across the district during a global pandemic,” said Allison Space, Pulaski superintendent, via press release. “We realize this is only one measure of student achievement that is collected statewide, and we will continue to work with

“We have room for growth, like everybody else, but we were very pleased. We didn’t know, going into COVID, what it was going to look like.”

KELLY CASPER, Suring School District superintendent

students, families and staff to ensure that any unfinished learning during these times is regained.”

Bowler School District Superintendent Glenda Butterfield-Boldig was quick to point out she had nothing to do with her district’s outstanding work since she recently took the position, but she noted that student growth factored more in the high scores than the achievement scores.

“We’ve performed better than we have in years past,” Butterfield-Boldig said. “We’ve been working hard with UDL, which is Universal Design for Learning, a kind of proactive way that we think to teach and we can provide opportunities and access to students.”

Butterfield-Boldig pointed out that achievement is not where her district wants to be at, so that will be something the schools focus on this year to hopefully get even higher scores in the future. She noted the district is closing achievement gaps at higher than the state average, but there is still a long way to go.

“We’re about continuous improvement,” Butterfield-Boldig said. “We believe in continuous improvement, so the focus needs to be improving those achievement scores, particularly for our subgroups — students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged and American Indian. We still have some gaps we need to seriously address.”

The district has recently revamped its English curriculum for the younger grades, and it is working on adopting a new math curriculum for all grades, according to Butterfield-Boldig. She said it’s advantageous that her district is small, so it’s easier for staff to work with students one on one.

“Our students are growing at faster rates than other students in the state, and that means we are going

BY THE NUMBERS

District report card results

EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS: Bowler (76.9), Wittenberg-Birnamwood (75.6), Pulaski (75.1), Suring (71.9), Bonduel (70.8).

MEETS EXPECTATIONS: Oconto (69.2), Lena (67.1), Oconto Falls (66.9), Shawano (66.6), Tigerton (64.6), Marion (63.7), Gresham (58.6), Gillett (58.4).

MEETS FEW EXPECTATIONS: Menominee Indian (49).

School report card results

SIGNIFICANTLY EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS: Bayshore Academy (89.5), Bonduel Elementary School (86.7), Birnamwood Elementary-Middle School (86.6), Hillcrest Elementary School-Pulaski (85.6), Lena Elementary School (84.3).

EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS: Wittenberg Elementary-Middle School (80.5), Oconto Middle School (80.3), Oconto Elementary School (78.9), Suring High School (78.2), Lannoye Elementary School (78.2), Bowler High School (77.7), Gillett Middle School (76.7), Abrams Elementary School (75.1), Pulaski High School (74.1), Glenbrook Elementary School (73.6), Fairview Elementary School (73.2), Pulaski Community Middle School (72.8), Sunnyside Elementary School (72.1), Oconto Falls High School (70.2).

MEETS EXPECTATIONS: Bowler Elementary School (69.9), Tigerton High School (69.5), Shawano Community Middle School (68.3), Gillett Elementary School (67.6), Suring Elementary School (67.6), Olga Brener Intermediate School (66.4), Washington Middle School (65.3), Shawano Community High School (64.6), Marion High School (64.2), Gresham High School (63.7), Lena Middle School (63.5), Marion Elementary School (62.9), Bonduel High School (61.8), Bonduel Middle School (59.9), Menominee Indian High School (59.8).

MEETS FEW EXPECTATIONS: Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School (57.7), Lena High School (56.8), Tigerton Elementary School (51.8), Oconto High School (51.6), Gresham Elementary School (51.2), Menominee Indian Middle School (50.1), Keshena Primary School (49.7).

FAILS TO MEET EXPECTATIONS: Gillett High School (39.4).

to get there (closing the gaps) in the future,” she said. “We’re really looking at making sure we’re addressing the needs and meeting the needs of all of our demographics, not just the middle-of-the-road, average student.”

Suring School District Superintendent Kelly Casper said her district was “ecstatic and extremely excited” about the scores, especially considering the coronavirus pandemic disrupted learning institutions all over. School officials were able to look at the results prior to the information being released to the public, and Suring was eager to share its outstanding results with the public.

“We have room for growth, like everybody else, but we were very pleased,” Casper said. “We didn’t know, going into COVID, what it was going to look like.”

Michelle Pendl, Suring’s curriculum coordinator, said the district was trying to maintain as much of its programming as possible during the pandemic. There were cameras in all of the classrooms to accommodate students who were in virtual learning, she said, so those students were able to participate in classes the same as the students attending in person.

“We didn’t use much for alternative programming, like canned cur-

riculum,” Pendl said. “We didn’t go that route and decided to stick with what we’ve been doing here.”

According to the DPI, the scores this year are calculated in four areas — achievement, growth, target group outcomes and on-track to graduation.

Shawano School District’s report card looks different compared to previous years, according to Kurt Krizan, the district’s director of personalized learning, due to a number of changes made to the report card, so it’s not possible to do a comparison with previous years to look at improvement.

“It’s always difficult to compare district to district with the large numbers of some districts with non-participation and opting out of the testing,” Krizan said.

Despite that and despite being in virtual learning for a chunk of the last school year due to the pandemic, the district is pleased that its schools are meeting expectations.

“Anytime you can meet the expectations that are set by the state, that’s where you want to start off,” Krizan said. “We definitely know we have some work to do and some areas that we can celebrate where we’ve been successful.”

OCONTO COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

Proceedings of Nov. 17

After a preliminary hearing Mark A. Martin, 54, Gillett, was bound over to circuit court on charges of homicide by intoxicated use of a motor vehicle and misdemeanor counts of operating while revoked and obstructing an officer, in connection with the Oct. 3 crash that claimed the life of Christopher Wayne Matchopatow, 54, of Keshena. Arraignment was scheduled for Dec. 16.

Cory Lee Lohman, 39, Shawano, was placed on 18 months of probation after a prison sentence was imposed and stayed for possession of a firearm by a person convicted of a felony and a misdemeanor count of failure to obtain approval for deer hunting, in connection with an incident that occurred Nov. 7, 2020. Judge Jay N. Conley ruled that among other probation conditions Lohman may possess no firearms and any weapons he owns must be confiscated. Also, he must obtain and maintain full-time employment, seek at least 10 jobs a month if not employed and provide proof to his corrections agent, and complete all assessments deemed necessary by the agent.

James Christopher Knudsen, 20, Cecil, pleaded no contest to attempting to disarm a police officer and misdemeanor counts of resisting or obstructing an officer and disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that occurred Aug. 4. Conley approved a deferred judgment agreement for the felony count and placed Knudsen on 18 months probation for the misdemeanors after imposing and staying a six-month jail term. Expungement of charges may be granted if he successfully completes his probation.

Daniel L. McDermid, 40, Oconto Falls, pleaded no contest to misdemeanor reckless driving causing bodily harm, in connection with a domestic incident that occurred Oct. 4, 2019; and felony bail jumping, in connection with an incident that occurred Dec. 1, 2019. Judge Michael T. Judge scheduled sentencing for Jan. 18 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

After a preliminary hearing Dana Lawrence Long, 58, Green Bay, was bound over to circuit court on charges of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fifth or sixth offense), and misdemeanor charges of tampering with an ignition interlock device, possession of drug paraphernalia, and operating while revoked,

in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Oct. 2. Arraignment was scheduled for Dec. 16.

Proceedings of Nov. 16

Cheryl Lynn Beck, 46, Kenosha, pleaded no contest to possession of narcotic drugs, in connection with an incident that occurred March 29. Judge scheduled sentencing for Jan. 26 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

John Fusek, 49, Oconto, pleaded no contest to charges of possession of methamphetamine and misdemeanor criminal trespass to a dwelling, in connection with an incident that occurred May 24. Judge scheduled sentencing for Jan. 26 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

Jessica Leah Haumschild, 37, Oconto, waived her right to a preliminary hearing and was bound over to circuit court on charges of possession with intent to deliver amphetamine, manufacture and delivery of amphetamine, second-degree recklessly endangering safety, and maintaining a drug trafficking place, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Oct. 24. Arraignment was scheduled for Dec. 16.

Proceedings of Nov. 15

Taylor N. Nowinski, 19, Abrams, was placed on three years of probation after prison sentences were imposed and stayed for possession of methamphetamine, bail jumping and misdemeanor resisting or obstructing an officer, in connection with an incident that occurred Sept. 1, 2020. She was given credit for 100 days already served in the county jail. Among other conditions of probation Nowinski must refrain from the use of alcohol or other drugs without a prescription, follow through with any recommendations from an AODA assessment she has already completed, and comply with any assessment and any resulting recommendations made by the Department of Corrections. Conley ruled that she may apply to have the convictions expunged from her record upon successful completion of probation, and he scheduled a review for Nov. 15, 2024.

Shelly Lynn Swanson, 51, Lena, was placed on two years probation after a prison sentence was imposed and stayed for possession of narcotic drugs and misdemeanor possession of cocaine, in connection with an incident that occurred April 4. Conley ruled that among other

conditions of probation, Swanson must refrain from the use of alcohol or other drugs without a prescription, and complete any assessments, counseling or treatment deemed necessary by her corrections agent.

Shawn Bonitz, 35, Oconto, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and was bound over to circuit court on two counts of felony child neglect and two counts of misdemeanor child neglect, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred July 16. Arraignment was scheduled for Dec. 16.

Proceedings of Nov. 12

David R. Smith, 54, Oconto, was sentenced to three and a half years in state prison, followed by four years of extended supervision, for his fifth and sixth convictions for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated, and felony bail jumping, in connection with incidents that occurred Jan. 4, 2019 and May 16 of this year. He was given credit for 120 days already served in the county jail. Judge ruled that after serving two years Smith may be eligible for the Substance Abuse Program, which can allow for early release upon successful completion. During extended supervision Smith must maintain absolute sobriety and complete all assessments, counseling and treatment deemed necessary by his corrections agent.

Proceedings of Nov. 11

A June 1 jury trial was scheduled for William J. Neering, 46, Coleman, on charges of strangulation-suffocation and misdemeanor battery and disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Nov. 27, 2020; bail jumping in an alleged Jan. 13 incident; and two more counts of bail jumping, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Sept. 25. A motion hearing was scheduled for Jan. 18 with a final pre-trial conference set for May 16.

Shane Babe Sahm, 42, Altoona, pleaded not guilty to possession of methamphetamine and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred July 26, 2020. A pre-trial conference was scheduled for Dec. 16.

Trevin L. Dorner, 50, Green Bay, pleaded not guilty to operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fifth or sixth offense), operating with a prohibited alcohol content (fifth or sixth offense), two counts

of misdemeanor bail jumping, and misdemeanor charges of possession of THC and possession of drug paraphernalia, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred June 26. A plea hearing was scheduled for Dec. 8.

Jordan Beverly Clark, 21, Oconto Falls, pleaded not guilty to battery or threat to a law officer and misdemeanor resisting an officer and disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred July 12; felony bail jumping and misdemeanor criminal trespass to a building, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred July 19; and two additional counts of felony bail jumping, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred July 28. A pre-trial conference was scheduled for Dec. 16.

A bench warrant was issued for Richard J. Beauprey, 19, Denmark, after he failed to appear for a court hearing on a felony count of taking and driving a vehicle without the owner's consent and a misdemeanor charge of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (first offense), in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred July 23.

Bond was set at \$3,000 cash for Hunter Joseph Schaden, 20, Oconto Falls, after he was charged with two counts of first-degree sexual assault of a child under 13, causing a child to view or listen to a sex act, and child enticement for sexual contact, in connection with incidents that allegedly occurred in 2015. A preliminary hearing was scheduled for Dec. 28.

A bench warrant was issued for Carla Renee Cooper, 44, Mountain, after she failed to appear to face charges of burglary and misdemeanor theft of movable property, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred June 12, 2020.

Jeffrey S. Wenzel Jr., 21, Oconto, pleaded not guilty to charges of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor operating a motor vehicle without a valid license, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Aug. 28. A plea hearing was scheduled for Dec. 8.

Nicholas Michael Hill, 30, Oconto, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and was bound over to circuit court on charges of threatening a law enforcement officer and misdemeanor counts of criminal trespass and disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Oct. 19. A plea hearing was scheduled for Jan. 3.



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LIBRARY NOTES

Gillett Public Library

Gillett Public Library will host several events throughout December to help the community celebrate the holidays. Santa will be making an appearance at the Gillett Library Community Center. There will also be cookie decorating and movie night. For more information regarding Gillett Library programming, visit our website, www.gilpubliclibrary.org, or call 920-855-6224.

Sign up for Santa Calling by Dec. 3. Visit our website for the Santa Calling Slip and return it to library by Dec. 3. Santa will call your child at the time slot you choose from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20, through Thursday, Dec. 23.

Sign up for Cookie Decorating by Dec. 3. Cookie Decorating will take place at 1 p.m. Dec. 10 in the Library

Community Center to prevent scheduling conflict with a school event. Please call 920-855-6224 to sign up for cookie decorating and how many people will attend.

Dec. 10 at 5:30 p.m. in Library Community Center — Movie Night: Frozen (PG/2013): A princess sets off on a journey with a mountaineer, a reindeer, and a snowman to find her estranged sister whose powers have cursed their home with infinite winter.

Dec. 19 from noon-2 p.m. in Library Community Center — Santa's Winter Wonderland: Come to the Gillett Public Library to meet Santa and enjoy some holiday treats.

Dec. 30 from 4-5 p.m. — Changelings: A new teen program to encourage local youth to improve their community.

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Lena plans yearlong centennial celebration

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

On Dec. 6, 1921, the Oconto County settlement known as Maple Valley was incorporated as a village and adopted the name of Lena.

On Dec. 6, 2021, a yearlong centennial celebration is scheduled to begin with a 2 p.m. event at Lena High School, 304 E. Main St., Lena.

Supervisor Ken Linzmeyer told the Oconto County Board on Nov. 10 that the celebration will include a review of the village's history as pieced together by local researchers.

"There's been a group that's meeting at least once a month getting things together, and it's going to be bringing back the history of Lena to the best of everyone's ability," Linzmeyer said.

Centennial activities are being planned all year through the 2022 Dairy Fest, scheduled for Sept. 10, he added.

The county board passed a resolution congratulating the village on the big anniversary and proclaiming Dec. 6, 2021, as Village of Lena Day in Oconto County.

wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com

OBITUARIES

Jim Blazek

Jim Blazek, 69, Kelly Lake, died Wednesday evening, Nov. 17, 2021, at Bellin Hospital in Green Bay, after fighting a severe infection with a very broken heart since his beloved



wife, Carol, died 27 days ago. He was born June 5, 1952, to Earl and Ila (Sloup) Blazek of Kelly Lake. Jim grew up at the lake and attended Oak and Kelly Lake elementary schools before

going to Oconto Falls Middle School and graduating from Oconto Falls High School with the Class of 1971. As a young man, he served in the U.S. Army National Guard.

On Dec. 30, 1972, he married his high school sweetheart, his best friend, his true love, his whole world, Carol Umentum, at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Klondike, and the couple had two children together, Jason and Carrie. The couple lived at Kelly Lake all their married lives where they enjoyed lots of laughter and jokes with family and friends. Jim was employed by the Oconto Falls School District for over 30 years as a maintenance supervisor. He was well known for the old-fashioned he served as a bartender for many years at his longtime friends Romy's and Amy's Holiday Inn at Kelly Lake. In retirement, Jim enjoyed working and golfing with the gang at the Parkway Golf Course. Jim loved hunting and

fishing. He especially enjoyed ice fishing on Kelly Lake. Jim will be fondly remembered for his love of family and friends, making them laugh, telling great stories and passionately coaching the Brewers, Packers and Badgers from his chair in the living room. "To make a long story short," he was a devoted grandpa to Odin and Alec, of whom he was so proud.

Survivors are his two children, Jason Blazek, Carrie (Leon) Panske, all of Oconto Falls; two grandchildren, Odin and Alec Halvorsen; one sister, Janet Blazek, Green Bay; his sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Connie Anderson, Rhinelander; Terry (Bev) Umentum, Oconto Falls; Faye (Duane) Janik, Lena; Robert Umentum, California; Wendy (Gerry) Hickey, Abrams; Mark Umentum, Lena; many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother Donald, his in-laws Emanuel "Chick" and Fern Umentum, one brother-in-law Duane Anderson and nephew Patrick Umentum.

Visitation will be held 3-8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 22, 2021, at Jones Funeral Service in Oconto Falls. Visitation will continue after 9 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021, at the funeral home until the time of service at 11 a.m. Tuesday with Pastor Bill Kamke officiating. Burial will follow in Pine Hill Cemetery in Spruce.

Upon Jim's death, many Kelly Lake walleyes will be spared and "you can keep as many damn snakes as you want!"

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Joshua Francis Johnson and Merissa Ann Johnson, Lena.

Lehto Bradle Tejada and Mabelys Mayibeth Preston Cerezo, Oconto.

City of Gillett Notice of Newly Enacted Ordinance

Please take notice that the City of Gillett enacted Ordinances-Adoption of Code, on November 4, 2021. The ordinance provided for the adoption of a new Code of Ordinances, consisting of Chapters 1 through 25.

The full text of Ordinances/Resolution may be obtained from the City Clerk's office, 150 N. McKenzie Avenue, Gillett, WI. Phone: (920) 855-2255. A copy of the City Code is also on file at the City Clerk's office.

1. CITY OF GILLETT
COUNTY OF OCONTO, WISCONSIN

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A REVISION AND CODIFICATION OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE City of GILLETT, Wisconsin

2. The Common Council of the City of Gillett does hereby ordain as follows:

§ 1-11. Code adopted; existing ordinances continued.

3. City of Gillett
Code Adoption Ordinance

Schedule A
Specific Revisions at Time of Adoption of Code

4. **RESOLUTION # 5-2021**

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION, FILING, INSPECTION AND ADOPTION OF A CODE OF GENERAL ORDINANCES

WHEREAS a Code of General Ordinances titled "Code of the City of Gillett" has been prepared and tentatively approved by the Common Council;

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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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Abrams theater to present 'Guys and Dolls'

Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. invites the community to its performance of the Broadway musical "Guys and Dolls."

Tickets are on sale now for this entertaining love story, to be presented Dec. 2-5 and Dec. 9-12 at the Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St., Abrams. The show, directed by Abby Frank, is a classic Broadway musical that the whole family can enjoy.

"This is a large cast of about 25 actors, all doing so many different things — all for the same show," Frank said. "We have talent of all ages, plenty of veterans to ASPI, as well as several new faces. They've all been working exceptionally hard to pull together this big show in our two-month timeline."

"Guys and Dolls" is a story of two big-city gamblers and the women who love them. Set in Depression-era Times Square, the show features the overlapping stories of Sky Masterson, who falls in love with mission worker Sarah Brown, and Nathan Detroit, engaged for 14 years to Hot Box Club headliner Miss Adelaide.

"This show has several well-known songs the audience is sure to love, including 'A Bushel and a Peck' and 'Sit Down You're Rocking the Boat,'" Frank said. "I can't wait for our talented actors to show you what



A group of gamblers rehearse a scene for the musical "Guys and Dolls," to be presented Dec. 2-5 and Dec. 9-12 at the Nancy Byng Community Theater in Abrams. Performing are, from left, David Woosencraft, Nick Blaser, Bobby Buffington, Sydney Surber, and Will Knaapen. JOAN KOEHNE

they can do."

"Guys and Dolls" is based on the story and characters of Damon Run-

yon, with music and lyrics by Frank Loesser and book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrowsis.

To order tickets, visit abramsspotlightproductions.com or call the box office, 920-826-5852.

County Board OKs upgrades to emergency system

Existing radio system has been in service since 2006

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

A long-awaited upgrade of Oconto County's emergency radio system is being funded after a series of votes on Nov. 10 by the Oconto County Board of Supervisors.

"We have been working on this since I got here," Emergency Management Director Jon Spice told the board. "It's a long time a-coming."

The largest expenditure is a \$1.478 million contract to replace the current infrastructure equipment for the radio system that enables law enforcement, rescue and other emergency services to talk with each

other. The contract is with Motorola Solutions, with Baycom continuing to service the system.

"The last time this was upgraded was in 2006. When that stuff was installed, they gave us seven to 10 years of actual service, so we're past the useful service life of that equipment," Spice said. "It is still working OK, but I imagine it's just a matter of time before we have some sort of catastrophic failure. ... Being that this is life safety equipment, we want to make sure that we stay on top of it."

The funds were included in the 2022 county budget and will come from an established radio upgrade fund. Spice said the time is now to purchase the equipment, with a price increase expected early next year.

The board also authorized the purchase of portable radios for sher-

iff's department and other emergency services for \$182,312.97, to be funded out of the county's allocation under the federal American Rescue Plan Act.

Sheriff Todd Skarban said technology has advanced since the current radios and infrastructure were installed 15 years ago.

"These radios work really well in basements of houses, and we can get out in metal buildings and that type of thing," Skarban said. "That's the kind of safety that we need for our staff and my teammates when they're out there dealing with dangerous situations."

Finally, the board approved contracts for two new emergency radio towers that county officials said would improve communication between dispatchers and deputies on the road

in remote areas of the county.

Finish Tower, of Hiawatha, Iowa, was awarded the low-bid contract of \$652,472 to erect a 330-foot tower at the county highway shop in the Town of Mountain.

Daniels Construction, of Madison, received the contract of \$363,935 to build a 199-foot tower at the county courthouse in Oconto.

While the Mountain tower will be a traditional radio tower with guy wires, the courthouse tower will be a monopole, "so it'll kind of look like a gigantic flagpole," Spice said.

County Administrator Kevin Hamann said the current radio tower at the courthouse is 120 feet high, so the new tower is expected to greatly improve coverage.

wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com

"The last time this was upgraded was in 2006. When that stuff was installed, they gave us seven to 10 years of actual service, so we're past the useful service life of that equipment."

JON SPICE, Oconto County emergency management director

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Bazaar happenings at St. Michael's



Lots of goodies are available for perusal Nov. 20 during the holiday bazaar at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Keshena. Proceeds from the event will benefit the church's St. Kateri Prayer Circle, which offers up prayers to those in need.



Donna Smith helps Jaden Brown, 5, of Shawano, to select some books during the holiday bazaar Nov. 20 at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Keshena.



Kristi Kirk, right, points out where to pay for food while Carla Wilber prepares some soup on a tray Nov. 20 at the holiday bazaar at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Keshena.

PHOTOS BY LEE PULASKI • CITY EDITOR

WHY I GIVE THANKS

An annual collection of essays by community leaders in Northeast Wisconsin

Editor's note: For several years, NEW Media has asked community leaders to write a short essay on "Why I Give Thanks." These essays can be about the Thanksgiving holiday, what the writer is grateful for or just the concept of gratitude.

These are personal reflections,

but they also speak to issues and beliefs that many of us share. They are as interesting for how they are the same as for how they are different. Some of the authors find them easy to write, others struggle with the pressure of a blank screen, a blank piece of paper and a looming

deadline.

Knowing this, it is especially important for the editorial and advertising team at NEW Media to say "Thank you" to these writers. Thank you for sharing what is important to you. Thank you for being willing to make your feel-

ings public. Thank you for making time to have a portrait taken. Thank you for facing that blank screen or blank piece of paper and writing the first word.

Thank you for showing us, again, how gratitude connects us all.

Thankful for local heroes, friends, family

By JERRY MOYNIHAN

This opportunity to share with the community about what I am thankful for could not have come at a better time. I am currently reading John Maino's book "Fifty Strong," a collection of the personal stories about local veterans. Reading this book, during a time when we celebrate Veterans Day, has given me perspective and reminds me of the freedoms we have in America.

I am thankful for local veterans Chuck Wellens, Wilfred Cariveau, Hubert Robenhorst, Gerald Gerndt, and the thousands of other great American veterans I have not mentioned. These heroes were mere boys from Lena, Gillett, Surging, Stiles and Oconto Falls when they went to fight for our freedom in Vietnam, Korea and many other lands far away. They were boys who answered the call. They were boys who became men so that I could have my freedom.

Their stories make me especially grateful for my wonderful life in Oconto Falls. I am thankful because their sacrifice allows me to go to a job that is exciting, challenging and, most of all, incredibly rewarding. It is a job that I get to watch kids run, jump, shoot,



Jerry Moynihan is a familiar face at Oconto Falls High School, as athletic and activities director.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

throw, dance, laugh, cry and so much more! I am also thankful for their sacrifice because they allow me to live in a community that supports our red, white and blue, supports our black and blue, and supports all our first responders. All because of them, I can walk around our safe, beautiful city and travel throughout this amaz-

ing country to visit family and friends.

Seeing our local veterans at the recent Veterans Day assembly at Oconto Falls High School made me also think about the little things that I am thankful for. The most important things are not money, cars, houses or things. They are the good people from

this great community: friends who make booyah to share with the neighborhood; coaches who bring cookies to share with their team; parents who pick up pizza after work to bring to a parent meeting; my mail carrier, who is always pleasant every time I see her; and my assistant who has the same passion for her job as I do. Most importantly, I am thankful for my incredible family. I have a father I can visit on any given day, family and friends who are a call or text away, a daughter who goes to school in the same building that I work in so every day is "Take Your Daughter to Work Day," a son who has chosen to pursue a life of service as a firefighter/paramedic, and a wife who will let me work 60 hours per week and still allow me to go to the Packers game!

Finally, I am thankful for the person who asked me to write this letter. How often do we take time to reflect on our lives? I can truly say that being thankful can be interchanged with being blessed, being happy, being loved and being in a life that I would not change for anything!

Jerry Moynihan is athletic and activities director at Oconto Falls High School



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Home again to a loving and caring community

By **GLEND A BUTTERFIELD-BOLDIG**

I am truly thankful for so many things in my life that I cannot possibly list them all in such a short essay, but I've included those things that are most important and influential in my life. Thank you for allowing me to share them with you.

I am thankful for a loving and supportive family ...

My three siblings and I were raised by two hard-working parents. We certainly didn't have everything we wanted, but we definitely had everything we needed. Mostly, we had parents who instilled in us a strong work ethic, a belief that every person deserves dignity and respect, and that if someone was in need and we could help, then we should.

I am thankful for all the ways life doesn't go as planned ...

Twenty-four years ago, I came to the wonderful community of Bowler as a new teacher. I moved here because I had met someone in college from the area. Within a couple of years, our relationship had ended. But then I was introduced to the man who would become my husband.

I am thankful that I cannot predict the future ...

Dave Boldig is a Bowler boy through and through. His roots run deep in Bowler and when we were married in 2003, I knew my roots were forever connected here, too. Over the years, I taught in other districts, worked for CESA 8 and then was hired as the principal in White Lake in 2012. Dave retired in May 2017, and we moved from Bowler to Mountain. We enjoyed UTVing, fishing, vacationing, bonfires and cookouts with friends and family. We were looking forward to "post-COVID" so we could really start enjoying life again. Then on



Glenda Butterfield-Boldig holds a card "In Memory of David E. Boldig," her spouse who passed away in January 2021. David was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and died 13 days later. The Mountain Bay Trail was a favorite of David's; he was an avid snowmobile rider and member of the Bowler Bay Riders Snowmobile Club.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

New Year's Eve 2020, Dave started complaining of stomach pains. I lost him 13 days later to pancreatic cancer.

I am thankful that I get to do something I love every day ...

I believe that education is a calling, and I was called to serve students and families in this profession. I get the opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of others every day and I can't imagine a more fulfilling role.

I am thankful for my caring and loving friends ...

Through all the happiest events and deepest grief, I have been blessed to have friends to share those moments with me. I have

friends I've known since kindergarten, those with whom I've worked, and friends who entered my life through others. I love you all.

I am thankful that God has always provided for me ...

After my husband died, I had no reason to expect all of the things that followed to go smoothly: selling the house, changing jobs, moving. But I felt protected and provided for at every challenge. I can only attribute that to God's influence in my life and in the lives of others who stepped up to support me through the difficult times.

I am thankful for renewing old friendships ...

I have now returned to the

Bowler community, where I belong. Upon my return I realized that although I had left the community for a few years, it had never left me. I was welcomed back as the new superintendent at Bowler School and, more importantly, embraced by the community as a family member returning home. I am also deeply thankful that I reconnected with an exceptional man whom I have known for years. Joe has been my guiding light, leading me back from the darkness of grief. Because of his kindness and compassion, I am able to smile, laugh and love once again.

Glenda Butterfield-Boldig is superintendent of the Bowler School District.



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Emerging from pandemic season with gratitude

By **MATTY MATHISON**

The COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly impacted many of us in various ways. There have been times of great sorrow. But it has also provided me the opportunity to recognize who and what is important in my life. Despite the losses, I have much to be thankful for.

Nov. 19, 2020. The phone call I never wanted to receive. It was my 96-year-old-mother. "I have COVID. I can't taste or smell anything. My throat hurts, I ache all over and I can't stop coughing." I could tell from her voice she was scared — and so was I.

My eight siblings and I, along with Mom, had discussed previously what our options would be if Mom got COVID, so we had a general plan. Mom made it very clear she did not want to leave her apartment, and we would try to make that happen. Early the next morning, my EMT niece Katie and I were there with face shields, masks and gloves. "Grandma, if you can keep your temperature down and oximeter readings good, I think we can keep you out of the hospital. It's important that you rest, stay hydrated and eat, even though you can't taste."

Twice a day I did "window" visits and then reported out to my siblings. In between visits, I walked ... and walked ... and walked. Breathing fresh air and moving brought a sense of comfort and peace. I found myself being so thankful that my mom was alive and not getting worse.

After many days, Mom started to look and feel better, and she even seemed interested in a Thanksgiving dinner. It was 46 degrees, and I was sitting on a planter outside Mom's apartment window, eating cold turkey and watching my mother enjoying her meal, despite not being able to taste much. It was absolutely the best Thanksgiving I've ever had! As I write this and think back on those dark days,

I am so thankful for my family and friends. They provided support in so many ways — an apartment to stay in, food delivered to my door, listening to my fears, sharing my tears, providing wise medical advice, bringing me clothes, taking care of our home and the dogs, checking in with me and asking how they could help.

Many of you know, being quarantined is challenging and very lonely. I had support, but I needed something more, and my partner, Harlan, knew exactly what that was. A dog visit! We met halfway between Appleton and Shawano, and Magic, one of our curly-coated retrievers, was out of the car and in my arms almost immediately. Canine hugs and kisses! Just what I needed! I returned to the apartment rejuvenated.

Heidi, Winter, Lakota, Jasper, Magic, Morgan and Sister. I'm grateful for the lessons I've learned from each one of these rescue dogs. They're loyal, transparent, are always glad to see us and show unconditional love. They love to play, eat snacks, make us laugh and are always up for an adventure. They read our emotions and respond accordingly. They are good listeners and "stress-busters." Their only fault is they don't live long enough. I recognize that these characteristics also describe my friends and family. I hope they take that as the ultimate compliment!

The yearlong isolation was difficult for me at times; I thrive on in-person interactions. However, my energy channeled into endeavors that demanded creativity, planning and organization, hands-on physical activities and limited small group projects as well as learning new-to-me possibilities such as Zoom meetings. I'm thankful these challenges resulted in satisfying personal growth, group accomplishments and, often, community improvements.

It's snowing today, and my favorite season is coming. It's time to start the outdoor wood stove, and I smile



Matty Mathison has lived in a cabin on the Wolf River since 1976. Her yard represents "many of the things she loves." A wood carving serves as a memorial to her beloved curly-coated retrievers, adopted through the years as part of a rescue program.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

as I look at the wood I've stacked — plenty for 2022. Mom is back to baking, sewing, quilting, rosemary, walking, exercising and cheering for the Packers. I will take a hike with my faithful companion, Morgan. I will text pictures from the forest to my friends and family and give silent thanks for

the educators, health care workers, essential workers and volunteers who have worked so diligently to help us through these trying times.

"Matty" (Janis) Mathison
Nov. 15, 2021

Matty Mathison is a longtime Shawano County resident and a key member of Shawano Pathways.

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Early lessons led to a lifetime of service

By MIKE REIMER

There are numerous opportunities, blessings and gifts in life, and I try to focus my appreciation on them every day.

I, personally, am most appreciative of being raised in a home of faith. I wish that everyone could have this kind of upbringing. People of faith learn personal strength, independence, humility and kindness. Our community has many people of faith across many denominations. I believe it positively contributes to our cooperation and common sense approaches to our challenges.

I have had people in my life offer me prayer and guidance. Relationships with family, friends, colleagues, neighbors and others have been important to me. The opportunities created through people in my life have been more than I deserve, and I am indebted to all of them.

I am thankful that when growing up I was made to do my homework and chores. I am thankful that I was made to work from a very young age — mowing lawns, shoveling snow and many, many part-time jobs and much volunteer work. Through this, I was able to develop an appreciation for education and am forever grateful that I was somehow able to secure an education. The struggle to support oneself through an education can be very difficult yet very rewarding. There were many life lessons to be learned through that time. The experience of the struggle is something that I will always appreciate, and those life lessons continue to help me now.

I am thankful to be a citizen of our country. I hope that all of us recognize the significance of this gift. The understanding of the freedoms that we have need to be passed down to the younger people. This is our responsibility. I do not believe we can understate the importance of United States citizenship in our lives. I believe that our young

people can also understand the sacrifices made for them and future generations by patriotic Americans if we only tell them about our history, including the bad as well as the good. There are many young Americans who want to be patriotic and want to understand the privilege of their citizenship.

I appreciate the communities that I have been able to live and work in. I have a strong regard for the excellence and resiliency of all people, and especially those that continue to live with pain, trauma and challenges. I have a special sense of appreciation for those who are caregivers for their elderly family members, disabled family members, grandchildren and foster children. They are unsung heroes.

I appreciate all of those who work to provide for their families. The people who sacrifice for their children, work hard in their jobs, involve themselves in their children's lives, protect their families and help their neighbors are our strength. These are the folks who give our community the high quality of life that we enjoy. We need to help all of our younger people to take the responsibility to continue to preserve what we have, including all of those who have made mistakes and are working to improve. We need everybody.

I am blessed to have been able to serve the citizens of Oconto County for most of my career. The stories and life situations of our citizens have offered me a perspective that many do not see. I have great respect for the strength of those who remain kind to others despite their suffering. It is an honor to serve those who come to us. There are many amazing things that happen every day in our community. I am thankful for the things that I have been able to assist with or in some way support.

I give thanks for all of these reasons.

Mike Reimer retires in January as director of the Oconto County Health and Human Services Department, where he has served the county for three decades.



Mike Reimer says he is blessed to have served Oconto County citizens for most of his career.

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Seeking joy and miracles in every moment

By DAVE PASSEHL

Being thankful means being grateful and finding joy every day!

Have you ever been asked what you are thankful for? It's harder than you think; unfortunately it is far easier to talk about our problems, sadness or complaints in general. Our circumstances typically set the tone each day, but today and most days, I choose to be joyful. Many who know me know that I am an eternal optimist and try very hard to find joy in whatever situation I'm put in. I'm happy that I am able to create that perception of optimism, but you should know that I have daily struggles just like you ... but I choose to dig deep and find joy.

There are so many immediate things I think about when asked what I'm thankful for. Like my beautiful wife and children and our parents who have laid a foundation of integrity for us to build on. Our health and protection which we pray for each day. A great and supportive group of friends who share similar family values and interests. For an amazing community to live in with great schools for our kids to attend and a wonderful church to worship at freely. Our home to live in, and cars that work; the freedoms we enjoy because of those who fought for them. This short list can go on and on, but I'll simply expand on a few.

I am grateful for a family that loves and supports me and makes me feel that I matter to them. My wife, Leah, and I both have parents who care and lead by example, and we each have brothers and sisters who are not just family but are our friends, too. My wife has been my biggest fan since we met 24½ years ago, and I couldn't imagine life without her. I'm grateful that God put Leah in my life at literally just the right time that many years ago, and she has been my partner in life since. We've struggled and thrived, just like everyone else, but have learned that living to honor God and each other has created a life we were destined for. We



Dave Passehl, a longtime Ski Sharks volunteer and president for the organization, stands on the shores of the Wolf River, the site of the Ski Sharks shows.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

are blessed with four children who are smart, caring and talented and who certainly keep us on our toes. From age 9 to 17, I can say we seem to always have a sporting event, school event, a church event and of course another ski show to get to! But we wouldn't have it any other way. I'm proud of each of them and pray for a veil of protection over them every day. God has big plans for all of them, and we can't wait to see what's next.

I'm grateful to live in Shawano for what we feel is a small community with big opportunities. Traveling around our country, we often find nice places to visit, but Leah and I always look forward to coming home. Shawano provides a safe place to live, with so many resources and opportunities to enjoy life. We love the time we spend on the Wolf River and Shawano Lake with family and friends, our vibrant downtown and walking into a restaur-

ant and knowing most of the people in it. I love how our community rallies around the Shawano Ski Sharks, our family's summer pastime that we can all participate in together. I'm grateful that our city leaders continue working to make our city great ... including helping our ski team carry out our crazy visions of making Shawano a true water-ski destination.

I am grateful for the blessing of growing a business in our great little town. Our financial planning firm is built with an amazing team of advisers and the best administrative team anyone could hope for! Waking up every day and looking forward to working with our team, my business partner, Scott, and our incredible clients is a great feeling and makes my work not feel like work, but as a calling to serve.

As I close on the dialogue for what I'm thankful for, I wanted to share words of wisdom that my good friend

Manny reminds us of all the time: "No matter how bad we think we have it, there's a million other people that would trade their circumstances for ours in a heartbeat." This sits well with me, and I think it is the perfect summary to why I choose to be grateful in all circumstances — as hard as it can be sometimes. If you really think about it, your days are made up of hundreds of little victories — even miracles — that if you would notice them, I suspect that joy could be found even in the struggle. So, when you ask me how I'm doing, and I respond in one of my two classic ways, "never better" or "living the dream," please understand, not everything in my life is perfect, but I work very hard to live with joy in my life and I hope my response is encouraging to you.

Dave Passehl is president of the Shawano Ski Sharks water-ski team and a Thrivent financial representative in Shawano.

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Grateful for those special moments of clarity

By JENNIFER LAUDE BISTERFELDT

Every once in a while, you'll have one of those moments of clarity — when you see the world from a different perspective. Suddenly, the colors are a little brighter, and your happiness catches you off guard. I had one of those moments today. A split-second of pause when you think to yourself, "Everything is OK."

These moments can be few and far between, especially in the rush of daily life. We go to work, engage mindlessly in the monotony of daily exercise and regimen, run kids to swim practice or piano lessons. Before you know it, the day is over and there has been no time for reflection. Then, suddenly, it hits you ... through all the chaos and routine, for a moment, all is well with the world. You say to yourself, "Today was OK! I'm happy, healthy, have people to love and they love me. Overall, life is good." Those few seconds of pause are special. It's the final reflection on the constant of life. A true gift from some higher level of consciousness. I love those moments.

Often, these realizations come after a period of challenges. To have and to be thankful for contentment arises out of difficult times. I think I am always very conscious of this as my work in nonprofits (currently with Safe Haven and previously with SAM25) reminds me daily that life isn't always so easy. Devoting my days to organizations with missions that are centered around helping people during some of the darkest periods of their lives really provides you with a large dose of reality. This awareness is further deepened when the holiday season approaches. We try to lighten the holidays and provide all of the comforts possible, but it can still be a very lonesome time



Jennifer Laude Bisterfeldt had served as executive director for Shawano Area Matthew 25 until recently, when she took leadership over Safe Haven in Shawano.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

of year — especially for anyone living in shelter.

While the holidays tend to be a bit melancholy when you do this work, it all makes me incredibly grateful for the simple things in life ... the most essential things. Basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter; a warm, safe place where you can find refuge. I pray each night before I close my eyes, and the first thing I reflect upon is my gratefulness for a bed, a roof over my head and the comfort it all brings. I'm truly grateful for the most basic pieces of my well-being because I'm all too aware that many people go without

them. We should all take stock in the many things we have to be grateful for, as all of this will end one day. Nothing is forever, and good times will surely be replaced by hard times. However, if we hold on long enough, we can eventually have those "Everything is OK" moments again. We persevere through sadness, grief and life's challenges to come out on the other side with a thankfulness for simply being alive. That is a gift!

For this holiday, for this month, this year and all the rest of my days, I will never take the comfort of a warm bed, a full stomach and the refuge of a

home for granted. I treasure the safety and security of my family and a home to raise them in. It is a beautiful thing to have those moments of clarity. I'm especially thankful to understand that my experience is unique and that not everyone has these comforts. I pray for all who are suffering that they have those moments of peace, too. It is in our darkest days that we see the basic routine of life as the greatest gift. It means everything is OK.

Jennifer Laude Bisterfeldt is executive director of Safe Haven, which provides domestic abuse shelter services from its base in Shawano.



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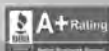
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Town of Menominee, WI Invitation for Bid for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and Accessories Solicitation Notice 22 November 2021

The Town of Menominee Fire Department, which is located in Menominee County, Wisconsin, is requesting sealed bids to provide: (a) 71 self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) equipment and accessories; (b) seven additional face pieces; (c) as an option, annual qualitative fit testing for five years for all face pieces; and (d) as an option, annual air flow testing for 71 self-contained breathing apparatus units.

Award of the bid is to be funded in part with federal funds through the FY2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). Funding is contingent upon compliance with all terms and conditions of funding award. All prospective bidders shall comply with all applicable federal laws, regulations, executive orders, Assistance to Firefighter grants (AFG)/FEMA requirements and the terms and conditions of the funding award. In addition, bidders providing submittals shall be responsible for complying with state law and local ordinances.

In order to be considered for award, all sealed bids must be submitted in writing and received no later than **4:00 p.m. on December 6, 2021**. Bidders mailing bid packages should allow delivery time to ensure timely receipt of their bid. The responsibility for getting the bid response to the Town of Menominee Clerk on or before the specified time and date is solely and strictly the responsibility of the submitting bidder. The Town of Menominee Fire Department and the Town of Menominee shall in no way be responsible for delays caused by any occurrence.

Sealed bids may be hand delivered or mailed to:
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Attn: Town Clerk
P.O. Box 279
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Keshena, WI 54135

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Monday through Friday
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Questions regarding the bid information may be directed to Fire Chief Pat Roberts, Town of Menominee Fire Department, at (715) 853-6213.

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Faith, family, friends and the beautiful Northwoods

By KEVIN HAMANN

Faith

Always be thankful for everything God has provided. God has provided family, friends and this beautiful place in northeast Wisconsin.

I am thankful for our church community, especially Father Nusi and the Knights of Columbus members, who support me spiritually as well as through fellowship. Giving thanks to God is something I need to do more often, not just once a year at Thanksgiving or just when life is going well.

Family

Thankful for my wife, Sheila, who passed away almost two years ago, but spent 35 years putting up with me. Thankful for our twins, Amanda and Steven, who turned out pretty darn good. Glad they listened to their mother. Thankful for my mom and dad. As I grow older, I realize how much they sacrificed and were much smarter and wiser than I ever thought growing up. I am thankful for my in-laws — yes, in-laws. They all live in the Crivitz area and seem to have a get-together for every type of event. Typical holiday gatherings are 40 to 50 people, with no shortage of food, drink and friendly ribbing. They also taught me the tradition of hunting camp. Thankful for my dog, Lacey. The tail-wagging greeting after work, the numerous walks a day and that face that can change your attitude from a frown to a smile. Thankful for the rituals that give security and meaning to daily life. For those who know me, I like routine and normal schedules. These past few years have really tested me, and those rituals have gotten me through some tough times.

Friends

Thankful for my close friends, especially my best friend from high school, Roger. Thankful for him to be alive, as he is a heart transplant recipient, now going on eight years. Thankful for my work friends for my 25 years at



Kevin Hamann has spent the past quarter-century working under the dome of the Oconto County Courthouse. He retires in January as county administrator. GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Oconto County. Staying that long in one place, especially in my position, is unusual. Friendly and supportive co-workers make those years enjoyable. Thankful also for a supportive county board, who took a chance on a young, unpolished kid. Glad they still accept the unpolished portion.

Sometimes it's the small things that I am thankful for. Neighbors waving hi, especially Mike who also gives Lacey the loving and dog treats. Also, Tom who rolls down his truck window just

to say "Good morning, Kevin," in a loud voice, to myself and Lacey, while we walk by early in the morning by the elementary school.

Northwoods

Peace and quiet in the woods, the fall colors, numerous places to fish, hunt and enjoy the outdoors. Sharp Park in Oconto has served as a peaceful and beautiful place to take a walk with Lacey after work to unwind and take all the stresses out of the day. A quiet

place on the bay or an inland lake to fish certainly is something to be thankful for. Thankful for the in-laws for the land to hunt in the Crivitz area. This time of the year to be out in the woods seem to soothe the soul and make me appreciate the wonders of nature.

I am truly grateful for faith, family, friends and the beautiful Northwoods. That is why I give thanks.

After serving Oconto County as administrative coordinator and now county administrator since 1996, Kevin Hamann is scheduled to retire Jan. 7.

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Grateful for non-negotiables: family, career, relationships

By CHRIS NIER

Recently I attended the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association Conference in Wisconsin Dells for three days, and one of the lectures I attended talked about non-negotiables in your life.

When I was asked to list what I was thankful for, I immediately went to those non-negotiables. When it comes right down to it, my family, my career and my relationships instantly come to mind.

On any given day, I spend most of my waking hours working as an athletic director, volleyball coach and dean of students at the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District. I am very thankful to have a career I enjoy and work with people that I truly care about. I am thankful for the opportunity to make a difference in students' lives, especially through coaching girls' volleyball and working with the students and athletes of the Witt-Birn School District. I am thankful for the elementary students who always wave to me in the hall, the middle schoolers who joke around with me and the high school kids who stop by my office and say hi, even if it is just to get a Jolly Rancher! I am thankful I get to know the volleyball team so well as they keep me young and make me laugh every single day! When things get hectic and it feels like I can't keep my head above water, I thankfully am surrounded by coworkers — including teachers, aides, custodians, secretaries, coaches, officials, administration and all the other staff who work for the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District — who always seem to step up and help when I most need it.

In my downtime, I spend my summers in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and I'm very thankful for God's gift of the U.P. and beautiful Lake Superior. I'm not sure what I did to deserve that opportunity to spend so much time in the woods and on the beach, but I feel very lucky and thank-



Chris Nier credits her many coworkers for helping her when things get hectic in her various roles at the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

ful I can. The summer months give me the chance to unwind and spend a lot of time with friends and family and my dog, Willow, too!

Above all, my family would be the No. 1 thing I am most thankful for. Now that my kids are grown and out of the house, living in De Pere, Texas and Waukesha, I realize what I want most is to spend time with them. I am so thankful for who they are, what they have achieved and what kind of people they have become. Having smart, hard-working, kind and funny kids is a blessing. Although I am thankful for the time I do get to spend with them, especially when we are rarely all to-

gether, what I am even more thankful for is that they are happy, healthy and successful.

In addition to my kids, I am thankful for my husband, Eric, and his great sense of humor. I'm the one who makes sure things get done in our family, but he's the one that makes sure we have fun doing it. Also I am thankful for my parents for their never-ending love and support and for being great role models to me, raising me in a way that I am proud of, even if I did make more than my share of mistakes along the way. They provided an example for me to follow when Eric and I raised our kids. I am also thankful to

my mother-in-law for giving me my husband and loving my children along with the rest of my extended family. Even though we are spread out all over the country, when we are together we have a fantastic time!

To sum it all up, in my opinion, the key to my life being happy, healthy and successful is maintaining positive relationships with family, friends, coworkers, students, athletes and God. I am thankful to have those relationships in my life and, because of that, I am truly blessed.

Chris Nier is athletic director, volleyball coach and dean of students for the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District.

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CLUB NOTES



Participating in the 75th anniversary celebration for Delta Kappa Gamma, Nu Chapter, on Nov. 6 were, from left, front row, Marge Wichmann, Chris VanHoof, Joan Huber and Mary Kovach; middle row, Deb Rades, State President Stephanie Malaney, Sig Shaw, Nancy Brewer, Jenny Hangartner and Lynn Aprill; back row, Sue Hlinak, Pat Osmuss, Elaine Schuler, Jodi Mallak, Peggy Nerby, Carol Gerlach, Wendy Dallman, Jan Mielke, Kathy Akey, Judy Kucksdorf and Mary Lou Donnelly.

CONTRIBUTED

Lena Lions

The Lena Lions Club honored Logan Shallow, son of Rich and Jenni Shallow, as student of the month for October. The award was presented by Lion Ben Pyteleski, district administrator and elementary principal of the Lena Public Schools.

Logan is a senior at Lena High School where he is a member of the National Honor Society and Lena High Band. Logan is an enthusiastic athlete and uses skills on the Lena High football, baseball, and basketball teams. His friends describe him as gentle, committed, and agreeable.



LOGAN SHALLOW

Logan's hobbies are hunting and weightlifting. His community activities include helping at the National Honor Society Food Drive, St. Anne's Food Pantry, helping with the religious education program at St. Annes Parish, and Love Begins Here community service.

Logan's work experience includes cutting grass at the St. Annes Cemetery and working at Lena Swamp Archery.

Logan plans on attending the University of Wisconsin-Platteville to earn a degree in electrical engineering and play college basketball.

Delta Kappa Gamma

Delta Kappa Gamma, Nu Chapter, celebrated its 75th anniversary during the Nov. 6 meeting held at Crystal Falls in New London. Wisconsin



DEB RADES

chapter history.

Fourteen Shawano County women were initiated into Delta Kappa Gamma in Milwaukee on Nov. 9, 1946. Olga Brener was the founding organizer and the chapter's first vice president. She was the principal at Lincoln School for 43 years and founded Girl Scouts in Shawano. The chapter president was Hulga Goergen, who taught at Franklin Middle School.

Deb Rades was initiated during the chapter's November meeting. She is a fourth grade teacher in the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District. Deb graduated from University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, earning a degree in elementary education, grades 1-6, and special education, preK-9.

Delta Kappa Gamma, Nu Chapter, includes 39 key women educators in Shawano and Waupaca counties. The chapter sponsors a scholarship for students enrolled in a school of education, distributes books for newborns to local hospitals and clinics, supports Educators Rising, and donates \$200 to each of two different school libraries each year.

State Organization President Stephanie Malaney, along with 20 chapter members, was present. Second Vice President Lynn Aprill gave a Slidesgo presentation about



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Club Notes can be submitted for publication by emailing them to news@newmedia-wi.com

County Board compensation plan revised

Supervisors approve pay plan, new district boundaries

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

The new Oconto County Board committee structure is still being tweaked, but the pay for the 2022-24 supervisors has been set.

That's because compensation needs to be established prior to Dec. 1, when nomination papers begin circulating for the next term, County Clerk Kim Pytleski told the board Nov. 10.

The new compensation plan passed 26-2, with supervisors Gregory Sekela and Kenneth Linzmeyer dissenting.

Currently supervisors are paid a per-diem fee for attending meetings of the full board and its 14 standing committees. That creates some disparity among the board members, who serve on as few as one committee or as many as five.

Under the system given tentative

approval in October, the number of standing committees will be reduced to six, and each supervisor will be given just one committee assignment.

The new pay structure provides most supervisors with a \$200 monthly salary and a per diem of \$100 per meeting, or about \$3,600 a year. They would get an additional \$60 per diem for meetings of non-standing committees, such as the Library Board, that don't necessarily meet every month.

Pytleski said on average that would give them approximately the same compensation as they receive now.

The chair and vice chair will each receive more compensation based on their extra duties. The chair is in line for a \$15,000 annual salary but will not receive additional pay for attending meetings. Current Chairman Paul Bednarek attends several committee meetings every month in addition to coming to the courthouse as often as three or four days a week.

The vice chair will receive a \$4,900 base salary with the same per-diem pay as other supervisors.

County Administrator Kevin Hamann acknowledged that having a

base salary could be seen as reducing the incentive to show up for meetings, but he said there's more to being a county board member than attending meetings.

"You have other duties other than going to the county board and committee," Hamann said. "People call you; you have to do other things. That's what the salary is for."

Pytleski added that sometimes supervisors get sick or otherwise just can't physically come to a meeting.

"That's what we've seen in the past, too. Somebody will fall ill the day before, and they've done all the work. They've read everything; they've answered for their constituents. They've let me know if they have any objections," she said.

The board also gave final approval to the new boundaries between the 31 supervisory districts, based on the results of the 2020 U.S. Census.

Supervisors had instructed Hamann to draft the plan without regard to where incumbents live. As a result, several of the new districts have no incumbent, and two or more incumbents live in several other districts and would have to run against each other.

Districts with more than one incumbent include District 6 in the Town of Chase, where Supervisors Dennis Kroll and Robert Pott reside; District 9 in Abrams and Morgan, home to Allan Stranz, Fran Wranosky and Leonard Wahl; District 11 in the Towns of Oconto and Pensaukee, home to Diane Nichols and Karl Ballestad; District 15 in the Town of Little River and City of Oconto, where John Matravers and Rose Stellmacher live; and District 22 in the towns of Brazeau and Spruce, where Bednarek and David Parmentier reside.

Districts with open seats include District 3 (parts of Little Suamico and Chase), District 7 (Chase Wards 4 and 5), District 8 (parts of Abrams and Morgan), District 12 (Oconto Wards 1 and 2), District 20 (parts of Stiles and the city of Oconto Falls), and District 28 (parts of How and Breed).

Nomination papers must be submitted by 5 p.m. Jan. 4. Incumbents who decide not to run for reelection are required to submit a notice of non-candidacy by Dec. 25.

wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com

Love Lights tree returns to St. Clare hospital

The Volunteer Partners for HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital in Oconto Falls are again inviting the community to participate in Love Lights, an annual Christmas fundraiser.

People can honor a loved one or a health care hero by having the individual's name placed next to the lighted Love Lights Christmas tree at the hospital. On Dec. 21 from 11 a.m. to noon, a blessing of these trees and all those being honored will take place virtually at all four HSHS hospital locations in Northeast Wisconsin. The trees will remain on display throughout the Christmas season.

Love Lights is a way to honor loved ones who may be receiving care at the hospitals, or who have passed and are dearly missed. Participants can also use this opportunity to honor their favorite health care hero. This annual fundraiser is way to help the hospitals, which are part of a not-for-profit, Catholic-based health care system, to continue to provide health, healing and hope to all they serve.

Participants can make their purchase online, or with a check via mail by Dec. 17. Information for the St. Clare Love Lights event can be found at www.hshs.org/stclare/lovelights.

Names of loved ones are interspersed with decorations on the Love Lights Christmas tree at HSHS St. Clare Hospital in Oconto Falls.

FILE | NEW MEDIA



NEW Media city editor publishes 20th novel

Story set in rural Arizona tries to fulfill 8-year-old boy's wish for a white Christmas

A new novel being put out by Wisconsin author Lee Pulaski will have you believing in Christmas miracles.

Pulaski, who resides in Shawano County and is the city editor for NEW Media, goes back to his hometown of Chino Valley, Arizona, in "White Christmas in the Desert," his 20th book. The story follows Meldrick Stazenski as he returns home to manage the family cattle ranch with his 8-year-old son, Evan, who tells Santa Claus that the only thing he wants this holiday season is to have a white Christmas.



LEE PULASKI

"Last year, around the holidays, it occurred to me that I've written most of my books with a Wisconsin backdrop, but not once did I tap into the place where I grew up for inspiration," Pulaski said. "It's not as though I don't like where I grew up — quite the opposite. That's why it was important for me to make this story take place in Arizona and bring up an interesting holiday dilemma."

In the story, Meldrick is determined to make sure Evan gets that white Christmas he's dreaming of, because he knows his son is feeling abandoned following the divorce of Meldrick and his husband and is slowly coming to grips with moving to a new town. However, fake snow to cover the ranch is cost prohibitive, and Meldrick can't control the weather, so he must figure out alternative means to pull off a big snowfall.

Meldrick meets a vegetable farmer named Jesse Turner, who is about to lose his livelihood after his family's gambling debts have put the farm too far into hock to be able to save it. Despite being on hard times, Jesse is intrigued by Meldrick's plans to give Evan a white Christmas and agrees to lend a hand. In the course of plotting a pleasant holiday, the two men soon discover that the boy's wish is not the only one that needs fulfilling.

"Meldrick is so busy trying to pick up the tat-



ONLINE

NEW Media City Editor Lee Pulaski was recently featured on the Written on the Edge podcast, where he talked about "White Christmas in the Desert" and some of the other books he has written. Listen to the podcast at www.wrotepodcast.com/lee-pulaski.

tered pieces of his son's life that he forgets that he's had to make major adjustments to his life, as well," Pulaski said. "Two lost souls finding each other is always so romantic, and having two good, strong men fall in love in a country atmosphere should warm even the coldest heart this holiday season."

Pulaski was able to tap into his memories from his younger years and incorporate them into "White Christmas in the Desert." In one chapter, Meldrick, Evan and Jesse go on a trail ride and chase hot-air balloons. Another chapter has Meldrick taking Evan to see the World's Largest Gingerbread Village in a neighboring community.

A key theme that Pulaski brings into "White Christmas in the Desert" is faith. Interwoven throughout Meldrick's return to the country is a Christian upbringing that he wants to pass on to his son.

"Meldrick goes to church every Sunday like a lot of other folks, and when things take a dark turn later in the book, Meldrick says some prayers in the hope that Christmas will turn out all right," Pulaski said. "It was important to me for readers to see that gay people can have as much faith in the Lord as anyone else, and that there are some churches that don't turn their backs on the LGBT community and actually embrace them."

"White Christmas in the Desert" is currently available on Amazon in ebook, hardcover or paperback. For information about this book or the other novels in Pulaski's catalog, visit www.leepulaski.com.

Oconto Falls 2022 budget hearing set for Nov. 30

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

The Oconto Falls City Council is scheduled to hold a public hearing Nov. 30 on a \$2.9 million budget for 2022.

The hearing is set for 6 p.m. in the

council chambers at City Hall, 500 N. Chestnut Ave., Oconto Falls. The council plans a special meeting after the hearing for a vote on approving the budget.

City officials have been working for several weeks, which represents a

4.4% increase over 2021. The proposed property tax levy of \$1.466 million is a 5.5% increase; the mill rate estimating the cost for individual taxpayers will be determined at the Nov. 30 meetings.

The budget is available for in-

spection at the city website, www.cityofocontofalls.com, with printed copies at City Hall, Oconto Falls Community Library, the U.S. Post Office in Oconto Falls, and Iverson's Piggly Wiggly.



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\$1M to pay for Shawano School District's iPads

The Shawano School District announced it has been awarded over \$1 million to be used to pay for the cost of the iPads distributed this September from the Emergency Connectivity Fund, part of the Federal Communication Commission's funding in support of schools providing equipment and broadband services for students and families.

This funding blends in directly to the investments already put into network and connectivity for students and staff, according to a school district press release.

"The award will free up regular technology budget dollars to accelerate the design and implementation of presentation technologies that

replace 10-year-old projectors and presentation boards to be used by staff and students to share ideas, demonstrate learning and experience the world through access to high-definition video and video conferencing capabilities," said Vicki Lyons, a consultant with the district's technology department.

The district held listening sessions with staff to look at how to best spend the money, according to Kurt Krizan, the district's director of instruction and personalized learning.

"Their insight into technology and instructional support needs will help drive the use of this funding, which ensures every student has the support and resources they need to be successful," Krizan said.

According to the FCC, the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program was established to provide funding for schools and libraries for the purchase, during the coronavirus pandemic, of connected devices and broadband connections for use by students, school staff and library patrons. One study estimates that, during the spring, more than 15 million public school students did not have home access to either an internet connection or a device adequate for distance learning, and approximately 9 million lived in households with neither an adequate connection or device.



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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

Thank a farmer for what's on the table this holiday

Happy Thanksgiving. With these words, you often hear a message of thanks. This holiday, I echo this message and share my immense gratitude to everyone from the farmer to the consumer. In 2021, however, I also want to share my tremendous pride this Thanksgiving, and I hope you, Wisconsin agriculture, are proud as well.

When you look at the Thanksgiving table, you see a bounty of products that are grown and raised in the state. From the poultry farms of western Wisconsin to the cranberry marshes of central Wisconsin to the green bean fields of southern Wisconsin, farmers are working hard each day to produce safe, quality and nutritious foods for families around the world. Farmers, I hope you are proud of the land you care for, crops you harvested and livestock you raised.

These products could not move off the farm without our milk haulers and truck drivers. Transportation is essential to ensure our raw goods make it from the field to the processors to their final point of sale. Drivers, be proud of your important contribution to our food supply. Because of long hours and hundreds of miles on the state's interstates, county highways and town roads, our food supply is secure to its destination.

In Wisconsin, we are lucky to be home to so many food processors who take the milk from the tank and crops from the farm and transform them into the value-added products we rely on for our dinner table. Our dairy, meat, vegetable and other food processors are dedi-



RANDY ROMANSKI

cated to innovation and food safety to meet the needs of consumers. Processors, I hope you are proud of your commitment to creating the products we rely on year after year for our holidays.

Many families visit their local grocery store or restaurant to fill their table for Thanksgiving Day. Employees work around the clock to fill the retail shelves with the products you are seeking, from fresh potatoes to canned corn. Chefs are working to create meals that are ready to carry out for families to enjoy. Grocery and restaurant staff, be proud of the important role you play to allow families to fill their tables.

While most are able to purchase the foods they need, others rely on food pantries during times of need to feed their families. Organizations, volunteers and donors work together to ensure families are able to have a happy holiday and feed their loved ones a nutritious meal. Food security networks, be proud of all you do to distribute food to those in need.

Consumers should also feel a great sense of pride this holiday. You are the ultimate customer for Wisconsin agriculture. You spend your hard-earned dollars on Wisconsin products and choose to purchase foods that are grown and raised in the state. You keep the food supply chain moving. Consum-



ers, when you look at your dinner table this Thanksgiving, be proud to be from such a plentiful agricultural state.

Here at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, I am proud that the department, its dedicated team and I can be a small part of Wisconsin agricultural products' journey to your dinner plate. Gov. Tony Evers understands the challenges Wisconsin farmers continue to face because of supply chain disruptions due to COVID-19. Because of that, he invested another \$50 million in the Farm Support Program to provide aid payments directly to farmers.

The governor also realizes the tremendous pressure on the state's food processors. Through his

2021-23 biennial state budget, he invested in a new meat processing grant program and included additional dollars for the dairy processor grants. These funds will ensure the agriculture industry is able to modernize its facilities, expand its products and grow its capacity for years to come.

Wisconsin agriculture, I am proud to be part of this industry, and on this holiday, I hope each of you take a moment to feel that pride of what you accomplish each harvest, growing season and milking. It is because of you, Wisconsin agriculture, that our tables are full. Happy Thanksgiving.

Randy Romanski is the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection secretary.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bank objects to proposed monitoring rules

To the editor:

We typically do not raise issues occurring in Washington with the public, but because the people in our community are important to us, we want to inform our neighbors of proposed legislation that could significantly impact millions of families and small businesses.

There is currently proposed legis-

lation that, if enacted, would require all financial institutions to report to the IRS the gross financial inflows and outflows of every business and personal customer account above \$10,000. The proposal would use banks as a third-party information source to find and report taxpayers' income.

As a bank, The Stephenson National Bank and Trust strongly believes in protecting our customers' private financial information. We only collect personal, financial data

for the purpose of serving consumers and businesses — and we do our utmost to safeguard their money and their privacy. The proposal would require financial institutions to transfer a large amount of personal data to the IRS, significantly more data than has been shared with the IRS before.

The IRS is already a common target for cyberattacks (approximately 1.4 billion attacks annually) due to the amount of personal data currently in its control. Therefore, adding a

new set of sensitive consumer data puts the privacy and financial data of millions of Americans at greater risk.

We felt it was important to share this information with the public so each individual can determine whether to take action. If a person would like to express their opinion, they may contact their member of Congress: aba.social/ContactCongress.

Daniel J. Peterson, president, Stephenson National Bank and Trust, Marinette

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Special Notices

A.A. Oconto Group: Mondays & Fridays at 7 p.m. Wednesdays at 10 a.m. (open meeting) at First American Lutheran Church, Oconto James 920-834-6276. TF

AA Group Meeting: 24 hour group every Wed. night. 8:00 p.m. at Masonic Lodge on corner of Washington St. and Caldwell, Oconto Falls TF

Co-Dependency Meeting Thursdays at noon. St. James Lutheran Church, 1402 Main St., Marinette TF

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Special Notices

GUN SHOW: December 3-5, Sunnyview Expo, 500 E. Cty Rd Y, Oshkosh, WI. Fri 3-8pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 9am-3pm. Admission: \$7 (14 & Under FREE) Buy/Sell/Trade 608-752-6677 www.bobandrocco.com.

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Shopping Event-Rocky Top 1710 Hill Rd Greenleaf WI. 1710 Hill Road, Greenleaf, WI. Sat. Dec. 4th, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.. Multiple vendors-4H Host Food. 920.619.7711.

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SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING



Oconto Falls senior wrestler Clayton Whiting makes his commitment to the University of Missouri official as his parents Shane, left, and Sarah look on Nov. 16 at Oconto Falls High School.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

Whiting makes Missouri commitment official

Oconto Falls star ready to make statement in senior high school season

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

Oconto Falls wrestling standout Clayton Whiting took the next step in his career when he made his commitment to the University of Missouri official.

He signed his National Letter of Intent to Missouri last week before holding a signing ceremony in front of family, friends, teammates, coaches and fans on Nov. 16 inside the Oconto Falls High School Performing Arts Center.

"It's a lot of stress taken off my shoulders — not worrying about signing and all that, or other people looking at me anymore. As well as, I feel successful with over the years how much time, blood, sweat and tears I've put on the mat and off the mat to get to this point," said Whiting. "I'm so thankful for my family (parents Shane and Sarah) giving me the opportunity to get to this place and now I just keep

going and try to be the best in the world now."

With three state titles already to his name and a 113-4 record in his first three high school seasons, the recruiting process was a lengthy one for the wrestler.

Whiting said he had over 15 offers from Division I schools and added there were a lot of choices and sacrifices he had to make during the process.

Whiting named off several wrestlers — some that went to Missouri, and others who wrestle at other Division I schools — that offered up positive reviews of Missouri.

"Missouri came out on top just because of the coaching I was with and friends that went there, and I have always heard positive outcomes with them," said Whiting. "It just made me decide that this is where I'm going to get better and succeed more."

Whiting later mentioned some of the hard work it's taken to reach this point, from taking part in camps all

over the country to going through several workouts a day.

"During the summer and offseason, I would lift more than I usually do — I'd lift twice a day, morning and night," said Whiting. "I'd wake up at 5 a.m. and workout for an hour-and-a-half and then workout another two hours in the evening, as well as conditioning to get my body better and more prepared than other athletes, because I know other athletes aren't doing what I'm doing at certain times."

"I'm breaking myself and pushing myself more so that it becomes harder and harder for myself to break so then I'm better and better as the days go on and matches come easier and easier for me."

Whiting was the WIAA Division 2 champion at 152 pounds as a freshman with a 48-3 record before posting a 48-1 mark and winning another state title at the 170-pound class as a sophomore.

Like everyone else's season in 2020-

21, Whiting's matches were limited, but he made the most of his opportunities. He finished 17-0 and won a state title at the 182-pound weight class.

A big goal for his senior season is to win another state title. He knows he has a big target on his back, but is welcoming the challenge.

"For my final year, I just want to make a big statement to the state of Wisconsin that I'm No. 1 and I'm the best coming out of this state," said Whiting. "I'm gonna have the mindset of pinning everyone this year and (getting) those team points for my team."

"I'm going to be on a mission and you better be ready for me because I'm coming for you all."

Whiting stated he plans on wrestling at the 182 class again.

"I want everyone to know that because I want them to know that I'm coming for that fourth state title and they better be scared," he said.

sports@newmedia-wi.com

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL



Oconto Falls' Hailey Peitersen serves during the team's North Eastern Conference match against Marinette on Sept. 16 in Marinette. Peitersen made the all-conference first team this fall.

MICHELLE KONOP

3 senior Panthers honored for conference play

Peitersen earns 1st-team spot

By **MORGAN RODE**

Sports Editor

Three Oconto Falls High School volleyball senior players were named to all-conference team by the North Eastern Conference after strong fall seasons.

Hailey Peitersen made the all-conference first team for the Panthers. Emmie Magnin was on the second team, while Grace Oninski was an honorable mention.

Peitersen finished the season with 738 assists, which averages out to nearly seven a game.

She was second on the team with 213 service points and 306 digs. She had the third-most attack kills (165) and total blocks (50). She also served 20 aces.

"Making first team all-conference is a huge honor for me," said Peitersen. "It is super rewarding to see the years of hard work pay off. I can not thank my teammates and coaches enough for helping me get this far in my volleyball career, and I will miss them all endlessly next year."

Magnin was the team leader with 343 attack kills and 65 total blocks.

She accumulated 182 service points and led the team with 46 aces. Magnin also tallied 87 digs.

"Earning an all-conference award is the icing on the cake to complete my senior season," said Magnin. "Our conference is extremely competitive and to receive an award such as this is a huge honor. I worked hard all season and it is extremely rewarding!"

Oninski was second on the team with 171 attack kills and 54 total blocks.

"Being able to earn an all-conference honor as a senior means that all the hard work, time, and dedication to the sport I love over the past four years has all paid off," said Oninski. "Being honored as a



Oconto Falls' Emmie Magnin, top, hits the ball during the team's regional title match against Winneconne on Oct. 23 in Winneconne. Magnin landed on the all-conference second team.

MICHELLE KONOP

senior is one of the most rewarding things I have accomplished in my life because I left everything I had on the court my senior year."

Oconto Falls capped the regular season with a 26-16 overall record, including a 5-4 mark in NEC play.

The Panthers won two playoff games, including an upset over Merrill, before being eliminated in a regional title match.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

Pulaski has 7 players make all-conference lists

4 Shawano and Gresham/Bowler players also recognized

By **MORGAN RODE**

Sports Editor

Boys soccer players from the Pulaski, Shawano and Gresham/Bowler co-op were recognized for their play this fall with spots on all-conference teams.

Seven Pulaski players made the Fox River Classic Conference lists. Four Shawano players made the Bay Conference lists, while four Gresham/Bowler players were honored by the Central Wisconsin Conference.

Pulaski

Senior midfielder Will Steeno represented Pulaski on the all-conference first team.

Steenno scored seven goals and was credited with an assist this fall.

"First team all conference was a great accomplishment and has always been a goal of mine," said Steeno. "I've been working towards it my whole high school career, and I'm very thankful for the reward."

Senior forward Oscar Aronsen and senior defender Trentin Dauk were second-team selections for the Red Raiders.

Aronsen recorded four goals and four assists this season. Dauk had four goals and an assist.

Senior midfielder Noah Jaime, junior defender Austin Lipsey, senior forward Joe Wacholz and senior defender Peyton Winkelman all made the honorable mention list.

Jaime finished the year with five goals and four assists, while Lipsey scored one goal.

Wacholz led Pulaski with 11 goals and seven assists. Winkelman scored three goals and added an assist.

Shawano

Senior forward Ethan Schwitzer and junior Julian Perez made the all-conference second team for Shawano.

Schwitzer led Shawano with 12 goals this fall.

"Going from playing offense since I started playing soccer at 6 years old, then to being a freshman in high school and being moved to defense and earning honorable mention as a sophomore and second team as a junior, then moved back to offense and earning second team in a completely different position during my senior year means a lot," said Schwitzer.



Pulaski's Will Steeno, front, handles the ball as teammate Noah Jaime looks on during the team's playoff match against Merrill on Oct. 19 in Pulaski. Steeno made the all-conference first team, while Jaime landed on the honorable mention list.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

"I'm just mostly glad I was able to go back to playing offense.

"I always knew I was an offensive threat, and I think it means even more that other coaches also see me as that as well. The best part was that it all happened so fast. I had no plans of moving up; it just was a quick switch that us as a team decided to make and I'm glad that it all worked out in the end, and I was able to do what I did put on the field during my

final year."

Perez finished the season with four goals and a team-leading six assists.

Junior defenders Chad Norton and Andrew Herrmann were honorable mentions picks.

Norton chipped in three goals and an assist this fall.

Gresham/Bowler

Junior defender and midfielder

Blade Hoffman landed on the second team for Gresham/Bowler.

Senior defender Jack Haffner, junior goalie James Davids Jr. and senior forward and midfielder Diego Martinez all made the honorable mention list.

Martinez had a team-leading five assists. Davids Jr. had 173 saves on the season.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Allen carries Wisconsin to win over Nebraska

Badgers within win of Big Ten title berth

By **STEVE MEGARGEE**
The Associated Press

Braelon Allen continued a tradition of Wisconsin running backs steamrolling Nebraska defenses. Allen rushed for 228 yards and three touchdowns — including a tiebreaking 53-yarder with 3:50 remaining — to help No. 19 Wisconsin outlast Nebraska 35-28 for its seventh consecutive victory on Nov. 20. Wisconsin has beaten Nebraska eight straight times and typically has done it with dominant rushing performances, starting with the night when Melvin Gordon and Montee Ball each ran for over 200 yards

in the 2012 Big Ten championship game. Gordon rushed for a school-record 408 yards against Nebraska in 2014. Jonathan Taylor exceeded 200 yards against Nebraska three separate times. “All week I heard about the yards and touchdowns that we have put up on Nebraska every year,” Allen said. “It’s cool to kind of continue the tradition.” The Badgers (8-3, 6-2 Big Ten) handed Nebraska (3-8, 1-7) its fifth straight loss and moved a step closer to playing for a conference title. Wisconsin will clinch its fourth Big Ten championship game appearance in the last six years if it wins its regular-season finale at Minnesota. Wisconsin is tied with No. 18 Iowa for first place in the West but owns the tiebreaker advantage because it beat the Hawkeyes 27-7 on Oct. 30.

The Badgers kept their winning streak alive Saturday because Allen was spectacular on a day when their top-ranked defense wasn’t as effective as usual. Allen’s performance came with Gordon watching as an honorary captain. Allen, who considers the Denver Broncos running back an idol and an inspiration, said it was surreal to shake his hand and talk to him before the game. “It started with the 408 against Nebraska,” Allen said. “At the time, I was just finishing up my fifth-grade season. I honestly didn’t know if I even liked football at that point. I saw that game and that’s kind of what sparked it all for me, trying to be like him one day.” Allen, who had 22 carries, has rushed for over 100 yards in each of Wisconsin’s last seven games. The 17-year-old had totaled 12 carries during Wisconsin’s 1-3 start.

He has rushed for a total of 401 yards and six touchdowns in the two games since fellow running back Chez Mellusi suffered a season-ending knee injury. Mellusi was Wisconsin’s leading rusher at the time he got hurt. “He wants to do it for the guy next to him,” offensive tackle Tyler Beach said. “I think that’s where his maturity is right now. It’s on a whole different level for a guy as young as he is.” He had a career-long 71-yard touchdown in the first quarter and a 3-yard score late in the third quarter. After Nebraska tied the game with 6:27 left in the game on Marvin Scott’s 3-yard touchdown, Allen put Wisconsin ahead again with one more breakaway. Allen went through the right side of the line, headed toward the sideline and easily shed safety Myles Farmer’s tackle attempt inside the 30.

Notice of Rate Increase
Water Customers of the Oconto Falls Water And Light Commission
This is to give you notice that the Oconto Falls Water And Light Commission will file an application on November 24, 2021, with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC), for authority to increase water rates. Rates for general service will increase 3.0 percent. The increase is necessary to reduce the existing deficiency in present rates. The request is being made under Wis. Stat. 196.193. Rate increases granted under this statute do not require a public hearing. The effect of the increase for some selected customers is shown below. Public Fire Protection and Wholesale rates (if applicable) will also increase 3.0 percent.

Customer Classification	Meter Size	Cubic Feet	Existing Monthly Rate	Revised Monthly Rate
Average Residential	3/4	500	\$26.27	\$27.05
Multifamily	2	4,100	\$161.32	\$166.17
Public Authority	1 1/2	6,900	\$233.34	\$240.40
Commercial	1	2,600	\$98.68	\$101.62
Industrial	4	38,300	\$1,044.67	\$1,075.21

This rate increase will go into effect on February 1, 2022. If you have any questions about the rate increase request, call the Oconto Falls Water And Light Commission at (920) 846-4507.

WNAXLP

Administrative Assistant III
The Oconto County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for an Administrative Assistant III who reports directly to the Sheriff. This person will be responsible to maintain official County records, execute administrative policies, and organize, transcribe and maintain various confidential, employee and investigative reports. They will work regularly with the DEA, DCI, Drug & Narcotic Enforcement, and FBI.
Knowledge of department terminology and policies, computer networking, bookkeeping, typing, scheduling, computer skills, grant writing, civil procedures are necessary. An Associate's Degree in Business Administration, or related field, and at least 2 years' experience as an executive assistant required. Spillman software experience a plus. A detailed background check will be required.
Starting wage is \$23.64 per hour with full County fringe benefits. Must apply online at www.co.oconto.wi.us (where a full job description can be found) by Dec 1st at noon.
Oconto County is an AA/EOE.

ENFORCEMENT TECHNICIAN
The Oconto County Planning, Zoning & Solid Waste Dept is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Enforcement Technician. This position is responsible for enforcing zoning, sanitary, recycling/solid waste, animal waste, and mining ordinances by investigating potential violations and taking appropriate corrective action.
Requirements include an Associate's degree or equivalent from two year college or technical school or six months to one year related experience and/or training, or equivalent combination of education and experience in land use, regulatory issues, planning and zoning, real estate or related field. **Position also requires possession of a POWTS Inspector Certification, or the ability to obtain the certification within six (6) months of hire date.**
This is a full-time position with excellent benefits. Starting wage is \$23.64 per hour.
For a full job description and to apply, go to:
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Application deadline is Friday, December 10th at noon.
Oconto County is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

DEPUTY SHERIFF
Oconto County Sheriff's Office currently accepting applications to establish a full-time eligibility list for the position of Deputy Sheriff. Applications will be accepted until 12:00 p.m., Friday, December 10, 2021. Starting wage per contract is \$27.82/hour plus increases at 6 and 18 months. Apply on-line at the Oconto County website: <http://www.co.oconto.wi.us/>. Job description also available at this web address.
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NOTICE OF UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDIT MONEY

The following members or former members of Oconto Electric Cooperative, 7479 REA Road, Oconto Falls, WI 54154, have unclaimed capital credit money at the cooperative. If this money is not claimed by January 31, 2022, the money shall be forfeited to the Oconto Electric Education Fund and will be used for scholarships or other charitable purposes as designated by the cooperative board of directors. This listing of names with last known addresses can be seen on the cooperative website. Go to www.ocontoelectric.com and click on OEC News. To claim this money, call Oconto Electric Cooperative at 800-472-8410 during regular business hours. The co-op will require some form of identity verification.

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COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Minnesota Duluth

Pulaski High School graduate Logan Kobus punted seven times for the Minnesota Duluth football team in its playoff loss to Angelo State on Nov. 20.

Kobus averaged 44.6 yards per punt, including a long punt of 53

yards. He booted three punts over 50 yards.

Marian

Oconto Falls grad McKayla Goebel played 13 minutes in the Marian women's basketball team's win over Mount Mary on Nov. 18.

Goebel hit a 3-pointer, grabbed an offensive rebound and had a steal in her time on the floor.

Cardinal Stritch

Gillett graduate Aubrey DeBauch started and played 32 minutes in the Cardinal Stritch University women's basketball team's loss to Indiana Northwest on Nov. 20.

DeBauch scored 10 points and made four of her six shot attempts

ONLINE

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in the game. She also had six rebounds, four of which were offensive board. DeBauch also tallied three assists and a steal.

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PRO BASEBALL

Brewers pitcher Corbin Burnes named 2021 NL Cy Young

Milwaukee Brewers ace Corbin Burnes was named the 2021 National League Cy Young Award winner Nov. 18 after a historic year on the mound.

The righty dominated hitters all season, leading all pitchers in a wide variety of stats, including ERA (2.43), WAR (7.5), strikeouts per nine innings (12.6), strikeout rate (35.6%), ERA+ (176), and fielding independent pitching (1.63).

On top of his impressive numbers, Burnes also pitched eight innings of a combined no-hitter on Sept. 11 and set two MLB records with 58 strikeouts without a walk — both to begin a season and overall.

Burnes is the third Brewers pitcher to take home the Cy Young Award, joining Pete Vuckovich (1982) and Rollie Fingers (1981) in the exclusive club.



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THE OFFENSE HAS STILL GOT IT

Rodgers, Packers' offense
finds life vs. Vikings

PAGE 2

Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers looks on during the team's game against the Minnesota Vikings on Nov. 21 in Minneapolis.

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QB, offense prove they can still carry team

While he hasn't played poorly so far this season, Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers hadn't carried the team on his back like in previous seasons.



MORGAN RODE

Despite a road loss to the Minnesota Vikings on Nov. 20, Rodgers still showed he could carry the team should the defense or special teams struggle — which they both did Sunday.

Rodgers completed 23 of his 33 attempts on the day for 385 yards and four touchdowns for a nearly perfect 148.4 quarterback rating.

What made the 37-year-old quarterback's big day even more impressive was that he did it on a banged up toe.

"I was in a lot of pain," said Rodgers. "Went in at halftime early to get it checked out, but it's very, very painful. Got stepped on in the first half and that kind of activated all the symptoms I was having."

He also said that his practice

time might continue to be limited until the bye week, when he hopes some time off the injured toe might help him get closer to 100%.

The offense's 31-point showing was its second largest output of the season, but Rodgers thought the team left points on the field.

"We just started a little bit too slow," said Rodgers. "(We) Didn't score enough points."

Green Bay scored first on a field goal from Mason Crosby before Minnesota scored the next 16 points. The Packers played catch up for most of the rest of the contest.

Rodgers connected with second-year tight end Josiah Deguara to make it a one-score game by halftime.

After the Vikings scored to open the second half, Rodgers and the Packers' offense responded with a touchdown drive capped with Rodgers connecting with star wideout Davante Adams.

After the defense made one of its few stops of the contest, Rodgers led a third-straight touchdown drive, hitting Adams for another touchdown to cap it.

After Minnesota scored and went back up seven, Rodgers went

deep to Marquez Valdes-Scantling to tie it up in a hurry.

Unfortunately for the Packers' offense, that was their final play in the game, as the Vikings ran out the clock before kicking the game-winning field goal.

Despite the end result being a team loss, there was plenty of positives, especially in the second half for the offense.

"We just found a flow at that point," said Adams of the unit in the second half. "We were hurting ourselves in the first half (with) a lot with penalties, putting ourselves in first-and-long, second-and-really long situations. It becomes tough when you play a team like that with a really good defense at home. We shot ourselves in the foot a little bit with some self-infliction early, and then we just started gelling and figuring it out."

Adams later added, "We still could have done a lot more, and I would have liked to start faster than we did. Once we look at the film, we can analyze it and see what led to the second half production."

While the Packers' offense had some success running it against the Vikings and averaged five yards a

ONLINE

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carry, it was the team's passing that really stood out.

Adams and MVS each had over 100 receiving yards, with running back A.J. Dillon, wide receiver Equanimeous St. Brown and Deguara all over 35 yards.

Typical starting wideout Allen Lazard missed the game with an injury, and starting running back Aaron Jones was also out, so the 467 yards of total offense and 8.6-yard average are positive signs for an offense that still hasn't put together a complete game.

The Packers have also yet to play a well-rounded game on both sides of the ball, and the team's special teams continues to struggle.

While there's things to clean up in multiple facets of the game, there's at least a glimmer of hope that Green Bay could be a well-rounded team. It's just a matter of putting it all together at the biggest moments of the season.

Morgan Rode is the sports editor for NEW Media. Readers can contact him at sports@newmedia-wi.com.



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers (12) throws a pass as offensive linemen Billy Turner (77) and Royce Newman (70) block during the team's loss to the Minnesota Vikings on Nov. 21 in Minneapolis. Despite the setback, the Packers' offense showed promising signs.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Packers fall to Vikings on game-ending FG

Green Bay's defense unable to slow Minnesota

By **DAVE CAMPBELL**
The Associated Press

Greg Joseph made a 29-yard field goal as time expired to give the Minnesota Vikings a 34-31 victory over the Green Bay Packers on Nov. 21, finishing a classic back-and-forth with Aaron Rodgers by making sure the three-time NFL MVP didn't get to touch the ball last.

Kirk Cousins passed for 341 yards and three touchdowns for the Vikings (5-5), who watched yet another game come down to the final play after Rodgers threw three of his four touchdown passes in the second half.

Unable to practice much at all this week because of a toe injury, after missing much of the first half of the month with COVID-19, Rodgers finished 23 for 33 for a season-high 385 yards.

Justin Jefferson had eight receptions for 169 yards and two scores, including a third-down catch against rookie Eric Stokes that Cousins delivered for a 23-yard touchdown while being decked on a blitz by Darnell Savage. Dalvin Cook ran in the 2-point conversion to make up for an earlier missed extra point by Joseph.

Then on the next play from scrimmage, Rodgers threw a rainbow to Marquez Valdes-Scantling streaking past safety Xavier Woods for a 75-yard score to tie the game just before the two-minute warning.

When the Vikings regained the ball, Cousins nearly cost himself the comeback by slightly underthrowing Jefferson, whom Savage darted in front of to intercept the ball. He bobbled it on the way down, though, and a replay review overturned the call.

Cousins then went 3 for 3 for 51 yards on the next three snaps, Cook ran for one more first down, and then the Vikings knelt down to set up the final kick by Joseph. They posted the highest score against the Packers since their 38-3 loss to New Orleans in the season opener.

Green Bay (8-3) gave up just 34 points over the previous three games. Preston Smith had two sacks, but the Packers didn't have the same pass rush with outside linebacker Rashan



Green Bay Packers T.J. Slaton, left, pressures Minnesota Vikings quarterback Kirk Cousins during a game on Nov. 21 in Minneapolis.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Gary (elbow) sidelined. Za'Darius Smith and Whitney Mercilus are also out with long-term injuries.

Dangerous duo

Rodgers threw to Davante Adams twice for touchdowns, including an 18-yard strike on third-and-6 midway through the fourth quarter when he was trying to call timeout before the shotgun snap.

Adams has 12 scoring receptions against the Vikings, the most by any opposing player.

Strong start

The Vikings lost their way on offense in recent losses to Dallas and Baltimore by failing to consistently deliver the ball to Jefferson and Thielen, but Cousins picked up where he left off in last week's win

over the Los Angeles Chargers by continuing to target his star tandem.

Jefferson became the first player in the league this season to top 100 receiving yards in the first quarter. He drew a 37-yard pass interference penalty on Savage in the second quarter, a big boost on a drive that ended with a 10-yard touchdown pass from Cousins to Thielen on third-and-goal for a 16-3 lead.

Kingsley Keke's helmet-to-helmet hit on Cousins triggered a roughing-the-passer penalty and erased an interception by Savage on that eventful possession.

For all the success that was fueled by aggressiveness, the Vikings swung the momentum to the visitors when a toss sweep to fullback C.J. Ham on third-and-1 at their 29 was stopped

for no gain late in the second quarter.

The Packers went the other way for the first of four straight touchdown drives, excluding a one-play kneel-down at the end of the first half, that covered 74 yards or more. Josiah Deguara had his first career scoring catch to cap that possession and cut the lead to 16-10.

Injury report

Packers' offensive lineman Elgton Jenkins went down in the fourth quarter with an apparent injury to his left knee and was carted to the locker room.

After a Pro Bowl selection in 2020 at LG, Jenkins has replaced David Bakhtiari at LT this season. Bakhtiari has yet to return from a torn ACL suffered last year.

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HARMAN
The first name in fireplace

HEAT-N-GLO
The first name in fireplace

PACKERS ROSTER

Active

#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
2	Mason Crosby	K	6-1	207	37	15	Colorado
7	Corey Bojorquez	P	6-0	217	25	4	New Mexico
8	Amari Rodgers	WR	5-9	212	22	R	Clemson
10	Jordan Love	QB	6-4	219	23	2	Utah State
12	Aaron Rodgers	QB	6-2	225	37	17	California
13	Allen Lazard	WR	6-5	227	25	3	Iowa State
17	Davante Adams	WR	6-1	215	28	8	Fresno State
18	Randall Cobb	WR	5-10	195	31	11	Kentucky
19	Equanimeous St. Brown	WR	6-5	214	25	4	Notre Dame
20	Kevin King	CB	6-3	200	26	5	Washington
21	Eric Stokes	CB	6-0	194	22	R	Georgia
22	Shemar Jean-Charles	CB	5-10	184	23	R	Appalachian State
24	Isaac Yiadom	CB	6-1	190	25	4	Boston College
26	Darnell Savage	S	5-11	198	24	3	Maryland
27	Patrick Taylor	RB	6-2	217	23	1	Memphis
28	AJ Dillon	RB	6-0	247	23	2	Boston College
29	Rasul Douglas	CB	6-2	209	26	5	West Virginia
31	Adrian Amos	S	6-0	214	28	7	Penn State
33	Aaron Jones	RB	5-9	208	26	5	Texas-El Paso
36	Vernon Scott	S	6-2	202	24	2	TCU
39	Chandon Sullivan	CB	5-11	189	25	4	Georgia State
40	Tipa Galeai	LB	6-5	229	24	1	Utah State
41	Henry Black	S	6-0	204	24	2	Baylor
42	Oren Burks	LB	6-3	233	26	4	Vanderbilt
44	Ty Summers	LB	6-1	241	25	3	TCU
46	Steven Wirtel	LS	6-4	228	24	1	Iowa State
49	Dominique Dafney	TE	6-2	243	24	1	Indiana State
51	Krys Barnes	LB	6-2	229	23	2	UCLA
52	Rashan Gary	LB	6-5	277	23	3	Michigan
53	Jonathan Garvin	LB	6-4	257	22	2	Miami
58	Isaiah McDuffie	LB	6-1	227	22	R	Boston College
59	De'Vondre Campbell	LB	6-3	232	28	6	Minnesota
62	Lucas Patrick	G	6-3	313	28	5	Duke
67	Jake Hanson	C	6-4	296	24	1	Oregon
69	David Bakhtiari	T	6-4	310	30	9	Colorado
70	Royce Newman	T/G	6-5	310	24	R	Mississippi
73	Yosh Nijman	T	6-7	314	25	2	Virginia Tech
74	Elgton Jenkins	G	6-5	311	25	3	Mississippi State
76	Jon Runyan	G	6-4	307	24	2	Michigan
77	Billy Turner	G/T	6-5	310	30	8	North Dakota State
79	Dennis Kelly	T	6-8	321	31	10	Purdue
81	Josiah Deguara	TE	6-2	238	24	2	Cincinnati
83	Marquez Valdes-Scantling	WR	6-4	206	27	4	South Florida
84	Tyler Davis	TE	6-4	252	24	2	Georgia Tech
86	Malik Taylor	WR	6-1	220	25	2	Ferris State
89	Mercedes Lewis	TE	6-6	267	37	16	UCLA
90	Jack Heflin	DL	6-3	304	23	R	Iowa
91	Preston Smith	LB	6-5	265	29	7	Mississippi State
93	T.J. Slaton	DL	6-4	330	24	R	Florida
94	Dean Lowry	DL	6-6	296	27	6	Northwestern
95	Tyler Lancaster	DL	6-3	313	27	4	Northwestern
96	Kingsley Keke	DL	6-3	288	25	3	Texas A&M
97	Kenny Clark	DL	6-3	314	26	6	UCLA

Reserve/Injured

23	Jaire Alexander	CB	5-10	196	24	4	Louisville
25	Will Redmond	S	5-11	186	27	6	Mississippi State
32	Kylin Hill	RB	5-10	214	23	R	Mississippi State
47	Chauncey Rivers	LB	6-2	259	24	1	Mississippi State
50	Whitney Mercilus	LB	6-4	261	31	10	Illinois
55	Za'Darius Smith	LB	6-4	272	29	7	Kentucky
56	Randy Ramsey	LB	6-3	238	26	2	Arkansas
71	Josh Myers	C/G	6-5	310	23	R	Ohio State
85	Robert Tonyan	TE	6-5	237	27	4	Indiana State

Practice Squad

6	Kurt Benkert	QB	6-3	218	26	2	Virginia
11	J.J. Molson	K	5-11	180	24	1	UCLA
16	Chris Blair	WR	6-2	198	24	R	Alcorn State
30	Shawn Davis	S	5-11	202	23	R	Florida
35	Ryquell Armstead	RB	5-11	220	25	3	Temple
38	Innis Gaines	S	6-1	202	23	R	TCU
45	Bronson Kaufusi	TE	6-6	270	30	3	Brigham Young
48	Kabion Ento	CB	6-1	187	25	2	Colorado
54	La'Darius Hamilton	LB	6-2	261	23	1	North Texas
57	Ray Wilborn	LB	6-3	230	24	1	Ball State
64	Ben Braden	G	6-6	329	27	2	Michigan
78	Cole Van Lanen	T/G	6-4	305	23	R	Wisconsin
88	Juwann Winfree	WR	6-1	210	25	2	Colorado
98	Abdullah Anderson	DL	6-3	303	25	2	Bucknell
99	R.J. McIntosh	DL	6-5	286	25	4	Miami



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RAMS ROSTER

Active

#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
2	Robert Woods	WR	6-0	195	29	9	USC
3	Odell Beckham Jr.	WR	5-11	198	29	8	LSU
4	Jordan Fuller	S	6-2	203	23	2	Ohio State
5	Jalen Ramsey	CB	6-1	208	27	6	Florida State
6	Johnny Hekker	P	6-5	241	31	10	Oregon State
8	Matt Gay	K	6-0	232	27	3	Utah
9	Matthew Stafford	QB	6-3	220	33	13	Georgia
10	Cooper Kupp	WR	6-2	208	28	5	Eastern Washington
11	Darius Williams	CB	5-9	187	28	4	Alabama-Birmingham
12	Van Jefferson	WR	6-1	200	25	2	Florida
13	John Wolford	QB	6-1	200	26	2	Wake Forest
16	Bryce Perkins	QB	6-3	214	24	1	Virginia
17	J.J. Koski	WR	6-1	195	24	1	Cal Poly
18	Ben Skowronek	WR	6-3	224	24	R	Notre Dame
21	Dont'e Deayon	CB	5-9	159	27	4	Boise State
22	David Long Jr.	CB	5-11	196	23	3	Michigan
23	Julu Hughes	S	5-11	188	23	2	Fresno State
24	Taylor Rapp	S	6-0	208	23	3	Washington
25	Sony Michel	RB	5-11	215	26	4	Georgia
26	Terrell Burgess	S	5-11	202	23	2	Utah
27	Darrell Henderson Jr.	RB	5-8	208	24	3	Memphis
31	Robert Rochell	DB	6-2	195	23	R	Central Arkansas
33	Nick Scott	S	5-11	201	26	3	Penn State
37	Tyler Hall	DB	5-10	190	23	2	Wyoming
38	Buddy Howell	RB	6-1	225	25	4	Florida Atlantic
39	Antoine Brooks Jr.	LB	5-11	210	24	2	Maryland
40	Von Miller	OLB	6-3	245	32	11	Texas A&M
42	Matthew Orzech	LS	6-3	245	26	2	Azusa Pacific
44	Jamir Jones	LB	6-3	255	23	1	Notre Dame
45	Ogbonnia Okoronkwo	OLB	6-2	253	26	4	Oklahoma
48	Chris Garrett	OLB	6-4	245	23	R	Concordia College St. Paul
50	Ernest Jones	LB	6-2	230	22	R	South Carolina
51	Troy Reeder	ILB	6-3	245	27	3	Delaware
52	Terrell Lewis	OLB	6-5	262	23	2	Alabama
54	Leonard Floyd	OLB	6-5	240	29	6	Georgia
55	Brian Allen	OL	6-2	303	26	4	Michigan State
56	Christian Rozeboom	LB	6-2	230	24	1	South Dakota State
63	Austin Corbett	OL	6-4	306	26	4	Nevada
65	Coleman Shelton	OL	6-4	299	26	3	Washington
68	AJ Jackson	OL	6-7	285	23	R	Iowa
70	Joe Noteboom	OL	6-5	321	26	4	TCU
71	Bobby Evans	OL	6-4	312	24	3	Oklahoma
72	Tremayne Anchrum Jr.	OL	6-2	314	23	2	Clemson
73	David Edwards	OL	6-6	308	24	3	Wisconsin
77	Andrew Whitworth	OL	6-7	330	39	16	LSU
79	Rob Havenstein	OL	6-8	330	29	7	Wisconsin
86	Kendall Blanton	TE	6-6	262	26	1	Missouri
88	Brycen Hopkins	TE	6-4	245	24	2	Purdue
89	Tyler Higbee	TE	6-6	255	28	6	Western Kentucky
91	Greg Gaines	DL	6-1	312	25	3	Washington
94	A'Shawn Robinson	DL	6-4	330	26	6	Alabama
95	Bobby Brown III	DL	6-4	235	21	R	Texas A&M
96	Michael Hoecht	DL	6-4	310	24	1	Brown
99	Aaron Donald	DL	6-1	280	30	8	Pittsburgh

Reserve/Injured

15	Tutu Atwell	WR	5-9	165	22	R	Louisville
32	Travin Howard	ILB	6-1	219	25	3	TCU
34	Jake Funk	RB	5-10	205	23	R	Maryland
58	Justin Hollins	LB	6-5	248	25	3	Oregon
64	Jamil Demby	OL	6-5	321	25	2	Maine
69	Sebastian Joseph-Day	DL	6-4	310	26	4	Rutgers
82	Johnny Mundt	TE	6-4	233	26	4	Oregon
87	Jacob Harris	TE	6-5	211	24	R	UCF

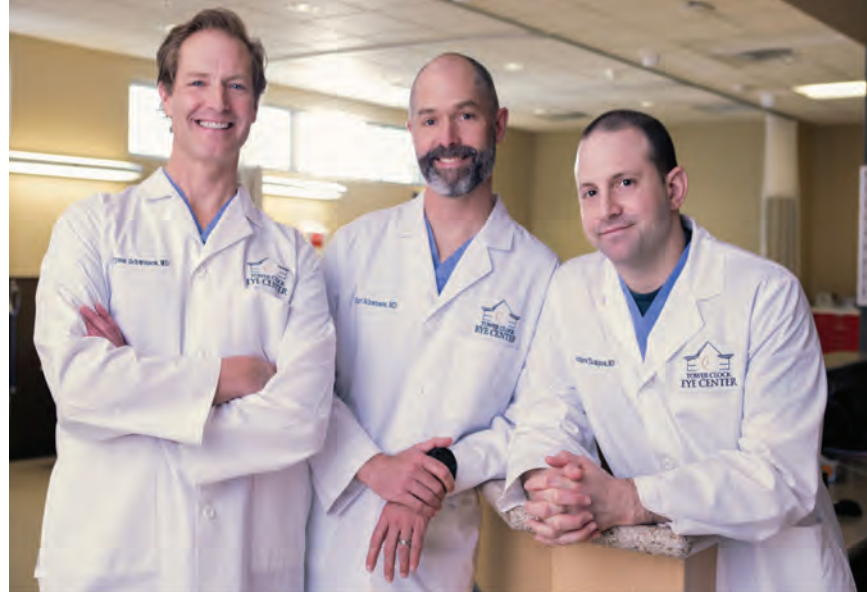
Reserve/Non-Football Injury

23	Cam Akers	RB	5-10	217	22	2	Florida State
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Practice Squad

14	Javian Hawkins	RB	5-9	196	22	R	Louisville
19	Brandon Powell	WR	5-8	181	26	4	Florida
35	Kareem Orr	DB	5-11	195	24	2	Tennessee-Chattanooga
36	Mekhi Sargent	RB	5-8	208	24	R	Iowa
39	Jake Gervase	S	6-1	212	26	2	Iowa
46	Grant Haley	DB	5-9	190	25	3	Penn State
53	Justin Lawler	OLB	6-4	265	26	4	Southern Methodist
60	Jeremiah Kolone	OL	6-3	316	27	1	San Jose State
66	Max Pircher	OL	6-7	300	22	R	Italy
67	Chandler Brewer	OL	6-6	320	24	2	Middle Tennessee State
81	Jared Pinkney	TE	6-4	257	24	1	Vanderbilt
83	Warren Jackson	WR	6-6	219	22	R	Colorado State
84	Landen Akers	WR	6-0	191	24	R	Iowa State
90	Earnest Brown IV	DL	6-5	270	22	R	Northwestern
92	Jonah Williams	DL	6-5	275	26	1	Weber State
93	Marquise Copeland	DL	6-2	287	24	1	Cincinnati

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GAME VITALS PACKERS DEPTH CHART

GREEN BAY PACKERS (8-3)
vs. LOS ANGELES RAMS (7-3)
WHEN: 3:25 p.m., Sunday
WHERE: Lambeau Field
TV: FOX
RADIO: 620 AM (WTMJ), Sirius
Satellite Radio (WTMJ feed)

THE SERIES

Packers vs. Rams
All-time, regular season: 45-46-2
All-time, postseason: 2-1
All-time, at Packers: 30-19
Streaks: The Green Bay Packers have won six of the last seven contests against the Rams, dating back to 2007, when it was the St. Louis Rams. The Packers have won their last three home games against the Rams.
Last meeting, regular season: Jan. 16, 2021, Packers won 32-18 at Lambeau Field in the NFC Divisional Playoff Round. Aaron Rodgers threw for two touchdowns and rushed for another score. Aaron Jones also rushed for a score.

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time	TV
Sept. 12	at New Orleans	Loss 38-3	
Sept. 20	vs. Detroit	Win 35-17	
Sept. 26	at San Francisco	Win 30-28	
Oct. 3	vs. Pittsburgh	Win 27-17	
Oct. 10	at Cincinnati	Win 25-22	
Oct. 17	at Chicago	Win 24-14	
Oct. 24	vs. Washington	Win 24-10	
Oct. 28	at Arizona	Win 24-21	
Nov. 7	at Kansas City	Loss 13-7	
Nov. 14	vs. Seattle	Win 17-0	
Nov. 21	at Minnesota	Loss 34-31	
Nov. 28	vs. L.A. Rams	3:25 p.m.	FOX
BYE WEEK			
Dec. 12	vs. Chicago	7:20 p.m.	NBC
Dec. 19	at Baltimore	noon	FOX
Dec. 25	vs. Cleveland	3:30 p.m.	FOX
Jan. 2	vs. Minnesota	7:20 p.m.	NBC
Jan. 9	at Detroit	noon	FOX

OFFENSE

RB
Aaron Jones
A.J. Dillon



QB
Aaron Rodgers
Jordan Love



WR
Davante Adams
Randall Cobb



TE
Josiah Deguara
Tyler Davis



RT
Billy Turner
Dennis Kelly



RG
Royce Newman
Lucas Patrick



C
Lucas Patrick
Jake Hanson



LG
Jon Runyan
Lucas Patrick



LT
Elgton Jenkins
Yosh Nijman



TE
Mercedes Lewis
Dominique Dafney



WR
Marquez Valdes-Scantling
Allen Lazard



DEFENSE

CB
Kevin King
Chandon Sullivan



DE
Dean Lowry
Tyler Lancaster



NT
Kenny Clark
T.J. Slaton



DE
Kingsley Keke
Jack Heflin



CB
Eric Stokes
Rasul Douglas



OLB
Preston Smith



ILB
Krys Barnes
Oren Burks



ILB
De'Vondre Campbell
Ty Summers



OLB
Rashan Gary
Jonathan Garvin



S
Adrian Amos
Vernon Scott



S
Darnell Savage
Henry Black



FYI

Rosters and depth charts are accurate as of Nov. 21, 2:30 p.m.



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RAMS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

FYI

The Giants, Buccaneers game from Nov. 22 is not reflected in the standings.



WR
Cooper Kupp
Ben Skowronek



TE
Tyler Higbee
Johnny Mundt



RT
Rob Havenstein
AJ Jackson



RG
Austin Corbett
Bobby Evans



C
Brian Allen
Coleman Shelton



LG
David Edwards



LT
Andrew Whitworth
Joe Noteboom



WR
Van Jefferson



WR
Odell Beckham Jr.
J.J. Koski



RB
Darrell Henderson Jr.
Xavier Jones



QB
Matthew Stafford
John Wolford

DEFENSE



CB
Jalen Ramsey
David Long Jr.



DT
Aaron Donald
Michael Hoecht



NT
Sebastian Joseph-Day
Greg Gaines



DE
A'Shawn Robinson
Jonah Williams



CB
Darius Williams
Robert Rochell



OLB
Von Miller
Chris Garrett



ILB
Troy Reeder
Travin Howard



ILB
Ernest Jones
Chistian Rozeboom



OLB
Leonard Floy
Terrell Lewis



S
Jordan Fuller
Nick Scott



S
Taylor Rapp
Terrell Burgess

SCHEDULE

Thursday's Games

Chicago at Detroit, 11:30 a.m.
Las Vegas at Dallas, 3:30 p.m.
Buffalo at New Orleans, 7:20 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Tampa Bay at Indianapolis, noon
N.Y. Jets at Houston, noon
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants, noon
Carolina at Miami, noon
Tennessee at New England, noon
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, noon
Atlanta at Jacksonville, noon
L.A. Chargers at Denver, 3:05 p.m.
L.A. Rams at Green Bay, 3:25 p.m.
Minnesota at San Francisco, 3:25 p.m.
Cleveland at Baltimore, 7:20 p.m.

Monday's Game

Seattle at Washington, 7:15 p.m.

Teams on bye: Arizona, Kansas City

Thursday's Game

Dallas at New Orleans, 7:20 p.m.

STANDINGS

NFC					AFC				
East					East				
Team	W	L	T		Team	W	L	T	
Dallas	7	3	0		New England	7	4	0	
Philadelphia	5	6	0		Buffalo	6	4	0	
Washington	4	6	0		Miami	4	7	0	
N.Y. Giants	3	6	0		N.Y. Jets	2	8	0	
North					North				
Team	W	L	T		Team	W	L	T	
Green Bay	8	3	0		Baltimore	7	3	0	
Minnesota	5	5	0		Cincinnati	6	4	0	
Chicago	3	7	0		Pittsburgh	5	4	1	
Detroit	0	9	1		Cleveland	6	5	0	
South					South				
Team	W	L	T		Team	W	L	T	
Tampa Bay	6	3	0		Tennessee	8	3	0	
New Orleans	5	5	0		Indianapolis	6	5	0	
Carolina	5	6	0		Houston	2	8	0	
Atlanta	4	6	0		Jacksonville	2	8	0	
West					West				
Team	W	L	T		Team	W	L	T	
Arizona	9	2	0		Kansas City	7	4	0	
L.A. Rams	7	3	0		L.A. Chargers	6	4	0	
San Francisco	5	5	0		Las Vegas	5	5	0	
Seattle	3	7	0		Denver	5	5	0	

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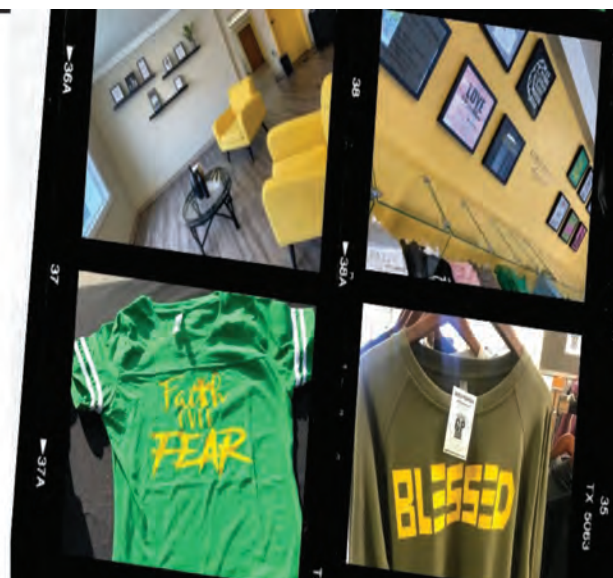
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Leroy Butler's Leap Vodka \$20⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

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Grande Amber Paul Masson Brandy \$14⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Seagram's VO Canadian Whiskey \$19⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Fireball Cinnamon Whiskey \$19⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Bailey's Irish Cream \$45⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Maker's Mark Bourbon Whiskey \$20⁹⁹ 750 ml.



Canadian, Caramel or Apple
Black Velvet Whiskey \$7⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

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Captain Morgan Spiced Rum 2 FOR \$37⁹⁸ 1.75 ltr.

After \$12.00 rebate on 2



Windsor Canadian Whiskey 3 FOR \$26⁹⁷ 1.75 ltr.

After \$15.00 rebate on 3



Tito's Handmade Vodka \$28⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Bacardi Rum \$19⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Jose Cuervo Tequila \$29⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Jameson Irish Whiskey \$39⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Tito's Handmade Vodka \$28⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Bacardi Rum \$19⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Jose Cuervo Tequila \$29⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Jameson Irish Whiskey \$39⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.



Regular or Light Kessler Whiskey 2 FOR \$25⁹⁸ 1.75 ltr.

After \$4.00 mail in rebate on 2

Spiced, Coconut or Cherry Spiced Admiral Nelson Rum \$6⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

After \$5.00 mail in rebate

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Original, Fire or Honey Jack Daniel's Whiskey \$34⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.



Canadian Club Whiskey 2 FOR \$25⁹⁸ 1.75 ltr.

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Light, Light Rye or Light Cherry Mount Royal Whiskey \$19⁷⁹ 1.75 ltr.

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Southern Comfort Whiskey \$22⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Christian Brother's Brandy 2 FOR \$26⁹⁸ 1.75 ltr.

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DeWar's White Label Scotch Whiskey \$29⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.



Beefeater London Dry Gin \$29⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Grey Goose Vodka \$46⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.

Patron Silver Tequila \$39⁹⁹ 750 ml.

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Sauvignon Blanc
Wine **\$6.99**
750 ml.

Cabernet or Pinot Noir
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Buttery Chardonnay or Sauvignon Blanc
Edna Valley
Wine **\$8.99**
750 ml.

The Original
Dark Horse
Wines **\$5.99**
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Risata Moscato
D'Asti
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Ghost Pines
Cabernet
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BEAT The Expert



Morgan Rode
NEW Media Sports Editor

Week 12 Games: Sunday, Nov. 28

Teams on bye: Arizona & Kansas City

Las Vegas @ Dallas Thurs., Nov. 25
Buffalo @ New Orleans Thurs., Nov. 25
Pittsburgh @ Cincinnati
NY Jets @ Houston
Tampa Bay @ Indianapolis
Atlanta @ Jacksonville
Carolina @ Miami
Tennessee @ New England
Philadelphia @ NY Giants
LA Chargers @ Denver
LA Rams @ Green Bay
Minnesota @ San Francisco
Cleveland @ Baltimore
Seattle @ Washington Mon., Nov. 29

Tie Breaker Game:
Chicago @ Detroit Thursday, November 25

Weekly Standings

	Weekly Record	Overall Record
God's Purpose Apparel	8-5-1	100-49-1
Tower Clock Eye Center	7-6-1	96-53-1
Shawano Seasons Restaurant	6-7-1	95-54-1
22 Shell	6-7-1	93-56-1
Buss Automotive	5-8-1	93-56-1
Tim Murphy	5-8-1	93-56-1
Morgan Rode	6-7-1	92-57-1
Dennis Brei	6-7-1	91-58-1
Hawkeyes	5-8-1	90-59-1

Weekly Standings

	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Shawano Place Assisted Living	6-7-1	90-59-1
State Farm-Idell Johnston	6-7-1	90-59-1
P & D Sale and Service	6-7-1	88-61-1
Smokey Joes	7-6-1	88-61-1
B & C Auto Recycling	5-8-1	86-63-1
Gehm's Club 117	5-8-1	83-66-1
Iverson's Piggly Wiggly	8-5-1	79-70-1
Cirrinity/Wittenberg Telephone	4-9-1	78-71-1
Senn Insurance	6-7-1	78-71-1



Due to holiday time constraints and press schedules, the standings will be updated in next week's Green & Gold issue. Winners for each of the 2 weeks will also be listed at that time. Thank you, and have a great Thanksgiving!



Morgan Rode
Shawano
Leader

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Carolina	Baltimore
Buffalo	New England	Seattle
Cincinnati	NY Giants	
NY Jets	LA Chargers	
Indianapolis	LA Rams	
Atlanta	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score : Chicago 23 @ Detroit 21



Tim Murphy
Shawano
Leader

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Miami	Baltimore
Buffalo	New England	Seattle
Cincinnati	Philadelphia	
Houston	LA Chargers	
Tampa Bay	Green Bay	
Atlanta	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 23 @ Detroit 20



Dennis Brei
Oconto County
Times Herald

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Carolina	Baltimore
Buffalo	New England	Seattle
Pittsburgh	NY Giants	
NY Jets	Denver	
Tampa Bay	Green Bay	
Atlanta	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 21 @ Detroit 13

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Toby
B&C Auto
Recycling

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Carolina	Baltimore
Buffalo	Tennessee	Washington
Cincinnati	NY Giants	
Houston	LA Chargers	
Tampa Bay	Green Bay	
Atlanta	Minnesota	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 23 @ Detroit 21



Iverson's Staff
Iverson's
Piggly Wiggly

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Carolina	Baltimore
Buffalo	Tennessee	Seattle
Cincinnati	Philadelphia	
NY Jets	LA Chargers	
Tampa Bay	Green Bay	
Jacksonville	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 23 @ Detroit 17



Amber
Smokey Joe's
& JDoggs

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Miami	Baltimore
Buffalo	New England	Seattle
Cincinnati	Philadelphia	
Houston	LA Chargers	
Tampa Bay	Green Bay	
Atlanta	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 23 @ Detroit 20



Robert Buss
Buss
Automotive

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Carolina	Baltimore
Buffalo	New England	Seattle
Pittsburgh	NY Giants	
NY Jets	Denver	
Indianapolis	Green Bay	
Atlanta	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 21 @ Detroit 17



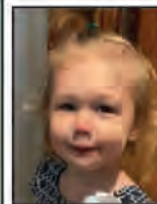
Dena
P&D Sales
& Service

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Carolina	Baltimore
Buffalo	New England	Seattle
Cincinnati	Philadelphia	
Houston	LA Chargers	
Tampa Bay	Green Bay	
Jacksonville	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 20 @ Detroit 17



Caroline
Idell Johnston
State Farm Agent

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Carolina	Baltimore
Buffalo	Tennessee	Seattle
Cincinnati	Philadelphia	
Houston	LA Chargers	
Tampa Bay	Green Bay	
Atlanta	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 23 @ Detroit 21



Scott Nyman
Cirinity

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Miami	Baltimore
Buffalo	New England	Seattle
Cincinnati	Philadelphia	
Houston	LA Chargers	
Tampa Bay	Green Bay	
Atlanta	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 23 @ Detroit 20



In Memory of
Patty Lasher
Shawano Seasons
Restaurant

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Miami	Baltimore
Buffalo	New England	Seattle
Cincinnati	Philadelphia	
Houston	LA Chargers	
Indianapolis	Green Bay	
Atlanta	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 28 @ Detroit 21



Jim Wiegand
Tower Clock
Eye Center

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Carolina	Baltimore
Buffalo	Tennessee	Seattle
Cincinnati	Philadelphia	
NY Jets	LA Chargers	
Tampa Bay	LA Rams	
Atlanta	Minnesota	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 14 @ Detroit 13



Russ
Gehm's
Club 117

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Carolina	Cleveland
New Orleans	New England	Seattle
Cincinnati	Philadelphia	
NY Jets	LA Chargers	
Tampa Bay	Green Bay	
Atlanta	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 24 @ Detroit 14



Shane Senn
Senn
Insurance

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Carolina	Cleveland
Buffalo	New England	Seattle
Cincinnati	Philadelphia	
Houston	LA Chargers	
Indianapolis	Green Bay	
Jacksonville	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 14 @ Detroit 17



Brenda
22 Shell

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Carolina	Baltimore
Buffalo	New England	Washington
Cincinnati	Philadelphia	
Houston	LA Chargers	
Tampa Bay	Green Bay	
Atlanta	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 24 @ Detroit 17



Chris
God's Purpose
Apparel

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Carolina	Baltimore
Buffalo	Tennessee	Seattle
Cincinnati	NY Giants	
Houston	LA Chargers	
Indianapolis	Green Bay	
Atlanta	Minnesota	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 23 @ Detroit 10



Aaron
Shawano
Place

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Miami	Cleveland
Buffalo	Tennessee	Seattle
Cincinnati	NY Giants	
NY Jets	LA Chargers	
Tampa Bay	LA Rams	
Atlanta	Minnesota	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 24 @ Detroit 17



Dale
Hawkeye
Hearth & Home

This Week's Picks:

Dallas	Carolina	Baltimore
Buffalo	Tennessee	Washington
Cincinnati	NY Giants	
Houston	LA Chargers	
Tampa Bay	Green Bay	
Jacksonville	San Francisco	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Chicago 21 @ Detroit 10

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Green Bay Football 2021 Season

SEPTEMBER - REGULAR SEASON

Sunday, September 12	3:25 pm	@ New Orleans Saints	FOX
Monday, September 20	7:15 pm	DETROIT LIONS	ESPN
Sunday, September 26	12:20 pm	@ San Francisco 49ers	NBC

OCTOBER

Sunday, October 03	3:25 pm	Pittsburgh Steelers (GOLD)	CBS
Sunday, October 10	NOON*	@ Cincinnati Bengals	FOX
Sunday, October 17	NOON*	@ Chicago Bears	FOX
Sunday, October 24	NOON*	WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM	FOX
Thursday, October 28	7:20 pm	@ Arizona Cardinals	FOX

NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 07	3:25 pm*	@ Kansas City Chiefs	FOX
Sunday, November 14	3:25 pm*	SEATTLE SEAHAWKS	CBS
Sunday, November 21	NOON*	@ Minnesota Vikings	FOX
Sunday, November 28	3:25 pm*	LOS ANGELES DOLPHINS (GOLD)	FOX

DECEMBER

BYE WEEK			
Sunday, December 12	7:20 pm*	INDIANAPOLIS COLTS	NBC
Sunday, December 19	NOON*	@ Baltimore Ravens	FOX
Saturday, December 25	3:30 pm	CLEVELAND BROWNS	FOX

JANUARY

Sunday, January 02	7:20 pm*	MINNESOTA VIKINGS	NBC
Sunday, January 09	NOON*	@ PHOENIX PACKERS	FOX

Lewis willing to do it all for Packers

He hopes to become longest-tenured tight end ever

By **BILL HUBER**
Correspondent

What do you give a guy who presumably has everything?

When Matt LaFleur turned 41 last year, his coaches bought him a Mercedes Lewis jersey.

It's easy to see why.

"Mercedes embodies everything that I think we're all about here," LaFleur explained last season. "Everything he does is so selfless. It's for the team."

At age 37, Lewis is the NFL's oldest tight end. After each of the past three seasons, general manager Brian Gutekunst has coaxed Lewis back for one more season. To heck with one year. Tight ends coach Justin Outten wants Lewis to play through his 45th birthday.

"Woo," Lewis said with a laugh early this season. "I think realistically at this level that I'm playing, I have at least three. At least three. I can see to three playing at a high level. When I feel like I can't play at this level, I don't think I can be a guy just chilling with a jersey on. That's not me."

"I respect JO so much and I appreciate him saying that. I take that as a compliment. I don't know, man. It's just special being here. The fact that I'm able to go do my thing on the field and come back and get in the meeting room where just positive vibration flowing all through that room, it makes it worth it."

The feeling is as mutual as the math is simple. By playing through 2023, Lewis would be the most-tenured tight end in NFL history. Hall of Famer Tony Gonzalez holds that honor with 17 seasons.

"That's my goal," Lewis said. "For me, I'm pretty hard on myself. My expectations for myself are heavier than what a coach could ever put on me, a family member or a critic. So, if I couldn't do it, I would be honest with myself and back out. I dictate the physicality. I'm not getting whipped. You can turn my film on. I'm not the one getting thrown on the ground and all that. Because of that, I'm able to play a little longer."

Lewis is straddling two eras. He is a throwback tough guy who has thrived in a kinder, gentler NFL. One of the best blockers at his posi-



Green Bay Packers tight end Marcedes Lewis, right, runs a route during the team's game against the Minnesota Vikings on Nov. 21 in Minneapolis.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

tion in the NFL, Lewis is as physical as they come. He trains in mixed-martial arts during the offseason to stay in tip-top shape. But the modern NFL, with the elimination of two-a-day practices during training camp and the change to less-taxing practices during the season, has allowed Lewis to stay on top of his game.

"As far as the game and how much it's evolved, it's less Oklahoma drill mind-set, beating each other up, and it's more taking care of each other and learning how to work as a pro," Lewis said. We're all professionals. We're all big, strong and fast.

"We know we could hurt each other on any given play. Why do that against each other when we've got 17 games to do that? I think for the most part, for me, that's been the biggest difference is in camp and practices. Practice is where you get more tested and get ready for the season. It's just not like it used to be, and I'm grateful for that. I think there's a lot less concussions during practice because of that. From a humanity side, I just think we're all human beings first."

Once the regular season begins, teams are allowed to practice in pads only 14 times, with a maximum of once per week. The Packers typi-

cally hold their padded practice on Thursdays. Because of his value to the team, Lewis typically gets that day off.

Lewis appreciates the ability to step away from the field to get in an extra lift while keeping his legs fresh.

"We started it last year," he said of the no-practice Thursdays. "I never got a day off. I was in Jacksonville getting run into the ground. I'd take the No. 1 reps and then they wanted another look for the 2s and be like, 'Cedes, can you get out there?' just because they didn't trust who was behind me. Me, being who I am, I'm like, 'All

right, cool.' But after a while, I'm like, 'Bro, I won't last long doing this.' So, the fact that I'm able to come here and put in my work and get my work in on days that I'm working and then have a day off has helped put plays and reps back on my body."

So, when Lewis was asked to play a season-high 42 snaps against Seattle in Week 10, his blocking was as strong on the final series as it was on the first. When Lewis – aka "Big Dog" – started the Week 11 game at Minnesota, it extended his starts streak to 23 games – the third-longest current streak among tight ends.

"It's hard to keep him off the field with his production and his consistency and what he brings to the table and allows us to do on offense," Outten said. "He probably didn't feel it [the playing time vs. Seattle] just because when the crowd started barking, it electrified not only him but the sideline. It was pretty cool when he caught the ball and just hear the crowd start to bark. It was a cool atmosphere to hear that and the appreciation they have for him. He puts it in every single day. He's just a cornerstone that we lean on."

Lewis' game has evolved as the NFL has evolved, though it's sort of been in the opposite direction. When Lewis entered the league in 2006 as a first-round pick by Jacksonville, the game wasn't so pass-centric. That made Lewis a rare breed as a two-way tight end, capable of factoring as a blocker and receiver. In 2010, he caught 58 passes for 700 yards and 10 touchdowns. He added 52 receptions in 2012.

Over the years, the position has evolved in such a way that tight ends are often nothing more than oversized receivers. His teammate, Robert Tonyan, is a prime example of that. Lewis isn't that kind of play-



Green Bay Packers tight end Marcedes Lewis looks on during the team's game against the Minnesota Vikings on Nov. 21 in Minneapolis.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

er anymore. Age has taken a couple steps in his game. But there's value in doing the dirty work, and Lewis excels in that phase.

Not that the big guy is nothing more than an extra offensive lineman. He made two huge catches in the overtime victory over Cincinnati, for instance. Through 11 games, he's caught 12-of-14 targets for 117 yards. Of the 59 tight ends who have been targeted at least a dozen times, he's ninth with 6.9 yards after the catch per catch.

"I feel like I'm a secret weapon, just in case," Lewis said. "It's team-first for me. If I have to put a guy on his neck so '33' can score a touchdown, then I'm going to put that dude on his neck so Aaron Jones can get in the end zone. If they need me to catch a fade in the

back of the end zone, I'll do that. Whatever it is, I think that's my role and I own that and I'll be the best at that."

For Lewis, the pride, determination and dedication started at an early age. Before blossoming into a Parade All-American while at Long Beach Polytechnic High School and a college All-American at UCLA, Lewis was a poor, inner-city kid born to – and inspired by – his 15-year-old mom.

"We didn't have nothing. Everything is a profit for me," he said. "All the positive energy that I share with my teammates and my coaches and people around this building is an enhancement of my life. I look at it like just taking advantage of my opportunities and not wasting a gift. I was born with a certain skill-set. It's all about the energy and my love for the game. That hasn't gone anywhere. For me, it's just a blessing to be on a team where my skill-set is still respected, and I don't take that for granted."

While the NFL has changed, and Lewis' game has adapted with it, his mentality hasn't changed one bit. He is a revered leader and team captain. He leads by word and deed. His wisdom hits home with every player on the team, whether it's 37-year-old quarterback Aaron Rodgers, the up-and-coming Tonyan, or an undrafted free agent such as fellow tight end Dominique Dafney.

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A collage of food items including meat, herbs, and spices, positioned in the top right and center of the advertisement.

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SMOKER AND LOCAL SOURCES HELP TACKLE WORKER SHORTAGE

Nate and Kayla Knaack have operated Pigeon River Brewing Company for over a decade with relative success, even when the pandemic hit. But when they couldn't fill a couple of vacancies on staff, something needed to be done. That's when they realized they could save time featuring smoked meats on their menu, allowing them to best utilize the staff they have. **SEE STORY. PAGE 4**

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Employment problems go up in smoke

Simplified menu helps accommodate for staffing shortfalls at Pigeon River Brewing Co.

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

Many businesses dealing with a shortfall in employees have been reducing their hours to keep from running their current workers ragged.

For Pigeon River Brewing Company, the solution was as simple as changing the menu.

Kayla Knaack, who owns the Marion business with her husband, Nate, said that they'd been able to keep employment numbers in check until the end of the summer, but then they found they had a couple of vacancies they couldn't find anyone to fill.

"My husband and I were both splitting up our days. He was working here part of the day, and I was working another part of the day," Knaack said. "All of our staff that were working here were really getting stretched thin as well, and not getting the work-life balance that we'd like to be able to offer."

She added that having five children at home did not make it easy for her and her husband to be in the trenches with the cooks, servers and bartenders.

"We got to the point where we were like, something needs to change," Knaack said. "We couldn't do this anymore."

That's when Knaack and her husband realized there was a way to streamline the process, and it all had to do with something Nate was already doing — smoking meats. Knaack said it's something he's been doing for years at home, but they hadn't done anything as far as implementing that smoked meat into the menu at the brewing company.

The Knaacks simplified their menu, taking off burgers and other items that took a lot of time to cook from raw meat, and instead introduced smoked meat sandwiches and other goodies. With smoked brisket, pork and chicken available, Pigeon River is offering sandwiches like the mac attack brisket, pork tacos, smoked Gouda chicken sandwich and more.

"It was a way of dealing with a bad situation, but it was also an opportunity to become more true to ourselves," Knaack said. "He's really passionate about (smoking meat). He loves it. He's getting to the point where he enjoys smoking meat



Pigeon River Brewing Company co-owner Kayla Knaack holds up the mac attack brisket sandwich, with the restaurant's signature fries. The brisket sandwich is one of several streamlined menu items using meat smoked by her husband, Nate, to alleviate the pressures of food prep at times when there are fewer employees available to work.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

almost as much as he enjoys brewing beer."

The mac attack brisket, which combines smoked brisket with macaroni and cheese, caramelized onions and beer cheese, has been the favorite among all the new dishes, according to Knaack. Following up close behind is the brandy old-fashioned pork sandwich, which includes Monterey Jack cheese and brandy old-fashioned flavored bacon and cherry jam.

"It's a bacon jam made with Gary's Old Fashioned Mix and brandy and sweetened, dried cherries, so that old-fashioned flavor goes well with the pulled pork," Knaack said.

By putting the skill at the front end of the process, smoking the meats, Knaack said time is drastically cut in preparing the food, which means orders do not get backed up and thus, employees are not stressed out during the busy times of the day.

"It's a lot more manageable and efficient for the staff that we have, and they feel like they can breathe

a little bit more during the shift and not feel quite so burned out," Knaack said. "They're able to put food out a lot faster."

Having a menu with smoked meats is also helping Pigeon River deal with supply chain issues, as well, according to Knaack.

"If we're ordering fresh ingredients like fresh brisket or fresh pork, it's a lot easier to source those ingredients locally versus some of the other pre-made stuff that you just can't get your hands on these days," she said. "Everyone's having a hard time finding chicken wings. Fish is kind of getting in short supply, and we've been lucky enough that we can get a good supply of haddock, because we have a very popular fish fry."

The simplified menu has helped in light of the brewing company hiring some new cooks. The easier items catch on more quickly to those being trained, according to Knaack, and it makes it easier if Pigeon River has to hire any cooks in the future.

Even though patrons enjoyed the

burgers, wraps and pizzas offered, streamlining the menu made a difference in time management.

"When you've got 20 burgers on a char grill, there's a lot of pressure in being able to time them all right," Knaack said. "If you're off by a minute or two, people's burgers are going to be overcooked or undercooked. It's really hard to keep consistency in something like that, whereas with this product it's not quite as timing specific, and we're able to put out a consistent product without having that pressure on everybody."

Knaack noted their consistent patrons have expressed sadness as losing some of Pigeon River's mainstays, but the new items on the menu work to fill the gaps.

"Everybody who's willing to try it out has liked it," Knaack said. "We're just trying to do whatever we can to support our family, support our staff and support our community. We're really hopeful that they're going to support us in return."



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The right candidate must have an associates degree and be willing to obtain a Grade 3 Wisconsin Library Certification.

Please send your letter of interest and resume to:

Ben Pytleski, 304 E. Main St., Lena, WI 54139.

Deadline December 8, 2021 4 P.M.

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Must be able to work well with the public, have good oral and written skills, and the ability to maintain a high level of confidentiality. Position involves statutory duties of Clerk/Treasurer, payroll, WI Retirement System, accounts payable and receivable, licensing, election administration, utility administration for sewer and water utilities, collection of delinquent accounts, budgets, monthly financial reconciliation, real and personal property tax administration, records management, municipal court and coordinating efforts of the Village Board and various Committees. Should be proficient in computer programs Excel, Word, Power Point, Publisher and will also be required to learn accounting and utility billing software.

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Small Business Season has arrived

Plenty of opportunities to Shop Local this weekend and next

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

For the Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Saturday is just a start.

Small Business Saturday — held this year on Nov. 27 — was first celebrated by American Express in 2010 as a way to encourage shoppers to support their local businesses, sandwiching the “Shop Small Saturday” observance between Black Friday and Cyber Monday during the weekend after Thanksgiving.

The Shawano business group has been distributing “Small Business Season” merchandise to its members this month, with the slogan “Shop Small With Us This Season,” not just on a single day.

Festivities are planned throughout the area this weekend as the Christmas season gets underway a few minutes after most folks push themselves away from the Thanksgiving dinner table.

The Oconto Falls Lioness Club returns to its traditional Avenue of Lights lighting ceremony at 6 p.m. Nov. 27 at East Side Beach, a year after pandemic concerns limited the event. Members of the Oconto Falls High School choir will entertain with songs of the season, followed by the lighting and a visit from Santa Claus.

Shawano’s annual Holiday Stroll and Tree Lighting includes downtown businesses offering special in-store promotions from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and a variety of holiday events at Franklin Park from 3-5 p.m., concluding with the lighting of a 65-foot decorated Christmas tree.

This event is the kick-off to holiday shopping downtown, coinciding with Shop Small Saturday. Downtown businesses will have special promotions and features to inspire shoppers to focus their Christmas shopping in local stores.

The second weekend of the holiday season begins Dec. 2, in Oconto Falls, with the annual Christmas Open House from 3-7 p.m. downtown. Activities include wagon rides around town from the Antique Bar, a selfie station at the Oconto Falls Community Library, cookie decorating at Stay at HomeCare, and a gingerbread house contest at the Flower Shoppe.

Christmas in Bonduel starts with the Santa Dash run/walk at Village



Mrs. Claus stops her stroll around Franklin Park in Shawano to look at some of the trees decorated for the holiday season during a recent Holiday Stroll. The evening gives hundreds of local residents to wander around the park and examine the trees decorated by local organizations. The tradition returns Nov. 27.

FILE | NEW MEDIA



Wagon rides through downtown Oconto Falls are part of the Christmas Open House events planned for Dec. 2.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

Park at 10 a.m. Dec. 4, and family activities continue throughout the community culminating in the lighting of the park at 5 p.m.

Gillett businesses and organizations will be busy at Zippel Park pre-

paring light displays to be unveiled during the annual Christmas in the Park festivities on Dec. 4. Family activities are planned 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Expo Hall, with horse-drawn wagon rides around town, and

the annual craft and vendor fair at St. John’s Lutheran Church is scheduled for 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The day concludes with the lighting of the Christmas lights at 5 p.m. followed by fireworks over the park.

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SEPTEMBER - REGULAR SEASON			
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Monday, September 20	7:15 pm	DETROIT LIONS	ESPN
Sunday, September 26	2:20 pm	@ San Francisco 49ers	NBC
OCTOBER			
Sunday, October 03	3:25 pm	Pittsburgh Steelers (GOLD)	CBS
Sunday, October 10	NOON*	@ Cincinnati Bengals	FOX
Sunday, October 17	NOON*	@ Chicago Bears	FOX
Sunday, October 24	NOON*	WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM	FOX
Thursday, October 28	8:20 pm	@ Arizona Cardinals	FOX
NOVEMBER			
Sunday, November 07	3:25 pm*	@ Kansas City Chiefs	FOX
Sunday, November 14	3:25 pm*	SEATTLE SEAHAWKS	CBS
Sunday, November 21	NOON*	@ Minnesota Vikings	FOX
Sunday, November 28	3:25 pm*	LOS ANGELES RAMS (GOLD)	FOX
DECEMBER			
BYE WEEK			
Sunday, December 12	2:20 pm*	INDIANAPOLIS COLTS	NBC
Sunday, December 19	NOON*	@ Baltimore Ravens	FOX
Saturday, December 25	3:30 pm	CLEVELAND BROWNS	FOX
JANUARY			
Sunday, January 02	2:20 pm*	MINNESOTA VIKINGS	NBC
Sunday, January 09	NOON*	@ Detroit Lions	FOX

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