

Encompass, schools working on 4k partnership

Oconto Falls district may locate 4-year-old kindergarten class at new child care center

By WARREN BLUHM
News Editor

Oconto Falls School District officials are working on a proposal to collaborate with child-care provider Encompass on 4-year-old kindergarten programming that may take place at the nonprofit's new Oconto Falls center in addition to Abrams and Oconto Falls elementary schools.

Encompass is currently in the process of renovating the former Kaempfer and Associates building, 650 Jackson St. in Oconto Falls, to convert it into a child care center. It will be the organization's eighth center and its first in Oconto County.

Superintendent Dean Hess summarized the district's conversations with Encompass, to "give the board information to mull over" before bringing a proposal to the board's next regular meeting Feb. 12.

Hess estimated that administrators have been talking for around four years about collaborating with a child care organization on a 4k program, but it did not seem feasible until Encompass moved into the county.

"About 18 months, we started having more serious discussions and working on an action plan," Hess said.

Encompass told Oconto Falls administrators that in other districts where they have collaborated on 4-year-old kindergarten services, such as Pulaski and West De Pere, the district has seen an increase in the number of families who want to participate. School attendance is not mandatory in Wisconsin until 5-year-old kindergarten.

With an agreement with Encompass close, the district set up a kindergarten registration page on its website, www.ofpanthers.com, which was scheduled to go live Jan. 15.

"If you have a child that you're anticipating joining us next year, we're asking that you to get on there and get registered, so we can determine the number of stu-



Here is an artist's rendition of the new facade of the former Kaempfer and Associates building, which is slated to open as an Encompass Early Education and Care Center next June.

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dents we have, the better we can support those requests from families," Hess said, in part addressing parents who might be watching the school board meeting on YouTube.

"Rather than wait until the need presents itself, we're trying to do some of the work ahead of time, so if (the Encompass collaboration) comes to fruition, we're not totally building the plane while we're flying it," Hess told the board. "We're hoping to at least have some of that plane built."

One of the options, if the district does experience a need to increase the number of its 4-year-old kindergarten classrooms, is to locate a new section at the Encompass center in Oconto Falls. The district would hire the teacher who would work at the center.

Hess admitted the idea of collaborating with an outside agency has caused a measure of anxiety among existing staff.

"I mean, there's a lot of potential change here," he said. "With that in mind, we are thoughtful that we would recommend the model that we would be doing the hiring, because we would have a little bit more control over the process."

The teachers providing 4-year-old kindergarten classes at Abrams and Oconto Falls should be assured their jobs are safe, and next month's recommendation will probably include hiring a full-time-equivalent kindergarten teacher, Hess said.

"There's way more what-ifs than we have answers for right now," he said. "We're doing what we can to try to be thoughtful in our anticipation, and then over the next six to eight months, we're going to get that information and then adjust accordingly."

Hess said the district is confident it will be able to budget for any first-year startup costs involved with the Encompass

partnership, but getting a handle on parent interest is part of the planning process.

"The sooner they register, the faster we are able to start getting a better understanding of what our need's going to be," he said.

The bottom line is that Oconto Falls appreciates Encompass' plan to come to town, Hess said.

"We want to work with them in a collaborative way to help them to flourish in our community and also sustain in our community, because we know that child care has been a significant need for years," he said. "So we appreciate the effort they're involved in, and they're committed to this collaboration."

The goal is for the new child care center to open June 10, shortly after the school year ends, Hess said.

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Oconto Falls caps special education open enrollment

By WARREN BLUHM
News Editor

The Oconto Falls School Board on Jan. 8 accepted a recommendation to cap open enrollment for special education students, to focus on services for those who live in the district.

"We have never had caps on regular education spaces, so that's a continued recommendation that we continue to accept students if they don't have special education needs," said Terri Olson, director of special education and pupil services.

Olsen led the board through the numbers showing that special education services at all four district schools — Oconto

Falls High School, Washington Middle School, and Abrams and Oconto Falls elementary schools — are all at capacity or slightly over capacity based on the workload of district staff.

The recommendation, approved by the board unanimously, was to continue to cap enrollment for special education students from other districts.

"All of this is just for open-enrolled students. This has nothing to do with costs that might come up regarding students who are district residents for special-ed services," Olsen said. "We have lots of students who need ... services, and when we evaluate and determine what their needs are, we provide it as best we can in the district if they're district

residents."

By state law local districts are required to provide special education services to district residents, in some cases until they're 21 years old, Olsen noted.

"So you may see some students graduate — they may go through graduation — but they continue to receive services from us until age 21," she said.

The state does not reimburse districts for many of these services, so local tax dollars must support "a huge majority" of special-ed programming, Olsen said, and "it's a tough conversation" telling families the only way they can receive services is if they are residents of the Oconto Falls School District.

"I always try to explain to families,

move here and then you'll be included," she said. "As a district it's one mechanism that we have to try to control some of the costs that come along."

Board member Bryan Baumler made the motion to approve the recommendation.

"I think I say this every time you give this presentation, so I'm going to be like a broken record and say it again: I appreciate everything that you do, you and your team, in this area," Baumler told Olsen. "I appreciate all our educators in the district, but I do want to give you and your special education team just a big thank you, for many reasons. Keep up the good work."

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INSIDE

Menominee authorities seek help in identifying remains. **PAGE 2**



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Police still seeking clues into remains found on reservation

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-chief

Law enforcement officials are still seeking information about the remains of someone discovered on the Menominee Reservation nearly three months ago.

The Menominee Tribal

Police Department and Federal Bureau of Investigation are investigating human skeletal remains discovered Oct. 30, 2023.

That morning, the Menominee Tribal Police were notified that a hunter came across human skeletal remains in a rural wooded area on the

Menominee Indian Reservation. Forensic experts responded to the scene and determined the unidentified human skeletal remains belong to an adult male.

Based on characteristics of the skeleton, the individual is estimated to have been White and/or Native

American, between the ages of 23-33 at the time of his death and between 5-foot-7 and 6-foot-5 in height.

According to police, the condition of the remains suggests the individual has been dead for at least one year but possible up to 10 years.

To date, the individual remains unidentified.

Police said it is important to note the listed sex, age, race and stature for this unidentified individual are all estimates.

At this time there is no indication the remains match a known missing person from the Menomi-

nee Reservation or surrounding area.

Anyone who has any information to assist in this investigation is asked to call the Menominee Tribal Police Department tipline and leave a message at 715-799-5806.

kpasson@newmedia-wi.com

Oconto Falls High School drama team earns all-state awards for one-act

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

The Oconto Falls School Board on Jan. 8 recognized the accomplishment of the high school drama team for receiving all-state recognition from the Wisconsin Interscholastic Speech and Dramatic Arts Association.

Faculty adviser Gayle

Gander and several team members appeared before the board to report on the success of their fall one-act play production, “Andromeda’s Galaxy,” by Alan Haehnel.

Twenty-six students participated in the production, “one of our largest groups,” Gander said. Rehearsals began with the start of the new

school year, and the show advanced from regional competition Oct. 14 at Tomahawk, a home sectional competition Nov. 1-2 at Oconto Falls, and finally the Wisconsin Interscholastic Theatre Festival, held Nov. 16-18 at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

The troupe was given all-state rating, which

Gander described as “like a silver rating,” at the UW-Green Bay festival.

“The organization gives out extra little awards,” he added, “and this year we received every one that they offer — outstanding ensemble, outstanding technical theater, one of our performers got outstanding acting, and I even got

outstanding director.”

Several drama team members shared the value of their experiences with the board.

“I had a really great time student directing this year, working with everyone that was a part of the team this year,” said Addison Borst, who served as student director in addition to performing

in the play. “We worked really hard, and it all paid off as soon as we made it to state and we got all those awards and we had such a great time with everybody.”

Next up for the drama team is the all-school musical, “The Addams Family,” with performances scheduled March 14-17 at Oconto Falls High School.

OCONTO COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

Proceedings of Jan. 12

- A Jan. 17-19 jury trial was postponed to May 21-23 for Travis R. Bolsen, 47, an inmate at Stanley Correctional Institution, on a charge of the repeated sexual assault of the same child, in connection with incidents that allegedly occurred in 2020. Judge Michael Judge scheduled a final pre-trial conference for May 6.

Proceedings of Jan. 11

- Zachary Andrew Zastawniak, 23, Peshtigo, pleaded not guilty to three counts of child enticement for sexual contact, three counts of second-degree sexual assault of a child, four counts of felony bail jumping, two counts of soliciting a child for prostitution, two counts of using a computer to facilitate a sex crime, two counts of threats to communicate derogatory information and one count of trafficking of a child. Judge Jay Conley scheduled a pre-trial conference for March 14.
- A bench warrant was authorized for Allyson Faye Britten, 28, Cecil, after she failed to appear for a hearing on charges of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of bail jumping, disorderly conduct, and resisting or obstructing an officer, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Dec. 15.
- A bench warrant was issued for Paige B. Fox, 29, Peshtigo, after she failed to appear for a hearing on charges of misappropriating ID information to avoid penalty, possession of methamphetamine, driving or operating a vehicle without consent, and misdemeanor counts of resisting or obstructing and officer and possession of drug paraphernalia, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Jan. 3.

- A June 5-7 jury trial was scheduled for Kevin J. Verhagen, 48, Little Suamico, on four counts of second-degree sexual assault of a child, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred June 25, 2021. Judge scheduled a motion hearing for March 15.
- An April 23 jury trial was scheduled for Richard A. Bayer Sr., 63, Gillett, on a charge of second-degree recklessly endangering safety, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Sept. 4. Conley scheduled a final pre-trial conference for April 8.
- Peter J. VanHulle, 35, Oconto, pleaded not guilty to second-degree recklessly endangering safety, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred July 23. Judge scheduled a pre-trial conference for Feb. 15.
- Christopher A. Baier, 40, Oconto, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to possession of methamphetamine and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Nov. 4. Judge Jay Conley scheduled a preliminary hearing for Jan. 8. Judge scheduled a pre-trial conference for Feb. 15.
- Gregory J. Clementi, 69, Lakewood, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to fleeing an officer in a vehicle and felony bail jumping, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred July 14. Judge scheduled a pre-trial conference for April 11.
- Danielle Kristie Marcotte, 37, Oconto Falls, pleaded not guilty to three counts of child abuse intentionally causing harm, five misdemeanor counts of child neglect, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Sept. 7. Conley scheduled a pre-trial

conference for Feb. 15.

- Cody A. Pratt, 30, Oconto Falls, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect to child abuse intentionally causing harm and misdemeanor counts of battery, victim intimidation, criminal damage to property, disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Oct. 30. Conley scheduled a pre-trial conference for March 14.
- Tarah Lea Swope, 42, Appleton, pleaded not guilty to two counts of physical abuse of an elderly person and misdemeanor counts of criminal damage to property and disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Sept. 25, as well as felony bail jumping, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Sept. 29. Judge scheduled a pre-trial conference for March 14.
- Brianna Kay Pawlak, 23, pleaded not guilty to battery or threat to a law officer and misdemeanor disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred May 16. Judge scheduled a pre-trial conference for Feb. 20.

Proceedings of Jan. 10

- Michael P. Newberry, 45, Gillett, was sentenced to three years in prison, followed by three years of extended supervision, for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence (fifth or sixth offense), and misdemeanor counts of resisting or obstructing an officer and possession of THC, in connection with an incident that occurred Sept. 8. Judge gave him credit for 123 days already served and ruled that after two years he will be eligible for the Substance Abuse Program, which can lead to early release upon

successful completion.

- Julie A. Gerow, 59, Appleton, was sentenced to three years in prison, followed by three years of extended supervision, for possession with intent to deliver amphetamine or methamphetamine, in connection with an incident that occurred Aug. 7. Judge gave Gerow credit for 156 days already served and ruled that she is eligible for the Substance Abuse Program, which can lead to early release upon successful completion.
- A March 6-7 jury trial was scheduled for Joseph Arthur Andrus, 27, Oconto Falls, on charges of substantial battery intending bodily harm, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred July 31, 2022; and substantial battery, bail jumping, and misdemeanor disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Oct. 21, 2022. Conley scheduled a final pre-trial conference for March 5.
- A March 6-7 jury trial was scheduled for Landon Eli Linder, 30, Shawano, on a felony charge of receiving stolen property and misdemeanor charges of criminal damage to property and attempted theft, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Jan. 4, 2023. Conley scheduled a final pre-trial conference for March 5.
- Brandon Sean Ertel, 29, Oconto, was ruled competent to stand trial on charges of strangulation and suffocation and misdemeanor counts of criminal damage to property and disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred April 16, 2023. Ertel then pleaded not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect. Judge scheduled a pre-trial conference for Feb. 15.

- Judge Jeffrey Wisnicky set a \$20,000 signature bond for Frank M. Calvert, 61, Oconto, after he was charged with two counts of recklessly endangering safety, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Nov. 23. Wisnicky scheduled a preliminary hearing for Feb. 20.

Proceedings of Jan. 9

- Darrell John Brempell, 34, Green Bay, pleaded no contest to possession of methamphetamine and misdemeanor resisting or obstructing an officer, in connection with an incident that occurred Aug. 8, as well as possession of methamphetamine and felony bail jumping, in connection with an incident that occurred Nov. 29. Judge scheduled sentencing for Feb. 23 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.
- A June 5 jury trial was scheduled for Angela A. Roberts, 47, Suring, on a charge of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fourth offense), in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred July 1. Judge scheduled a final pre-trial conference for May 20.
- Bond was set at \$3,000 cash for Douglas James Van Boxtel, 59, Oconto, after he was charged with operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fifth offense), in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Jan. 6. Judge adjourned his initial appearance until Feb. 15.
- Bond was set at \$2,500 cash for Fernando Sifuentes Guerrero, 36, Krakow, after he was charged with first-degree recklessly endangering safety and misdemeanor counts of battery and disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Jan. 8. Judge adjourned his initial appearance until Feb. 15.

- Bond was set at \$2,000 cash for Douglas Arnold Brown, 62, Oconto, after he was charged with operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fourth offense) and misdemeanor counts of an ignition interlock violation and operating while revoked, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Jan. 5. Judge adjourned his initial appearance until Feb. 15.

Proceedings of Jan. 8

- Dennis D. Miller, Green Bay, 66, Green Bay, pleaded not guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence (fourth offense), in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Sept. 2. Conley scheduled a pre-trial conference for April 12.
- Greyson Gregory Sweval, 45, Marquette, Michigan, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and was bound over on a charge of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fourth offense), in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Feb. 17, 2023. Judge scheduled arraignment for Feb. 15.

Proceedings of Jan. 5

- Bond was set at \$5,000 cash for Ryan Christopher Mootz, 43, New Berlin, after he was charged with operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fifth or sixth offense) and felony bail jumping, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Jan. 4. Judge adjourned his initial appearance until Feb. 15.
- Bond was set at \$500 for Kyle Berg Piper, 34, Oconto Falls, after he was charged with battery or threat to a law officer and a misdemeanor count of resisting or obstructing an officer, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Jan. 2. Judge adjourned his initial appearance until Feb. 2.

OCONTO COUNTY



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OBITUARIES

Patricia “Patty” Curran, 79, Green Bay, died Friday evening, Jan. 5, 2024.

Born March 17, 1944, in Green Bay, she was the eighth child of 12 born to Loy (Aloysius) and Agatha (Goggins) Zambrowicz. Patty grew up in De Pere where she graduated from Green Bay’s St. Joseph’s Academy.

Patty met the love of her life in October 1966 where she accepted Pat’s proposal on their second date just four days after their first blind date, and on June 24, 1967, she mar-



ried Patrick Curran at St. Boniface Catholic Church in De Pere beginning their adventure of 56 years together. Because of her husband’s military career in the U.S. Air Force, the world became her canvas/quilt. The couple lived in many places around the world, including North Carolina, Germany, Ohio

and Upper Michigan.

Patty’s spirit touched many, and she gained numerous lifelong friends, none more so than her “adopted sister” and best friend, Sylvia Everette. Oh, the stories that could be told. Following their military obligations, Pat and Patty returned to Green Bay where they belonged to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish.

Anyone who took the opportunity to get to know Patty knew her to be incredibly kind, generous and loving. As many know,

Patricia Curran

Patty was an avid quilter. To say that no matter where they were in their travels there was not a safe quilt shop within 100 miles to say it lightly.

Patty was a loving wife, mother, grandmother (“Grand Ma C”) and sister.

Her family includes her husband and best friend for 56 years, Patrick “Pat” Curran; their two children, Sheila and Mark Baeten and (Patrick) “Sean” and Kirsten Curran; three grandchildren, Annika (Cody) Baeten Comer, Emma and Ryan Curran;

her siblings, Larry (Sharon) Zambrowicz, Jack Zambrowicz, Jerry Paul (Rose Mary) Zambrowicz, Ann (Mark) Lampereur, Colleen Gerbers and Betty Rose (Denny) Aerts; sisters-in-law, Katheleijne and Mary Zambrowicz and Ruth Curran; brothers-in-law, Tom Pigeon, Ron (Joan) and Bill (Roseanne) Curran; many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; siblings, Sister Helen Zambrowicz, Loy and Dick Zambrowicz, Mary Sue (Bill) Massey, Kathleen Pi-

geon; and brothers-in-law Doug and Larry (Marie) Curran.

Visitation and funeral will be held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 2771 Oakwood Drive, Green Bay, on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024. Viewing will be from 9-11 a.m. with a Mass of Christian Burial with the Rev. Don Everts officiating at 11 a.m. Burial to take place later that day in St. Anthony Catholic Cemetery, Oconto Falls.

Jones Funeral Service in Oconto Falls is serving the Curran family.

Linda Delzer, 70, Morgan, died peacefully Sunday evening, Jan. 7, 2024, at Aurora Bay Care Medical Center in Green Bay following a good fight with cancer.

The daughter of Joyce (Hertwig) Reymont and the late Jerome Reymont was born Sept. 16, 1953, in Green Bay and grew up in Pulaski, where she graduated from high school in 1971. On July 10, 1971, she married Robert Delzer at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Morgan. The couple lived in the Pulaski area for a time and then made their home in Sampson for the past 42 years.

Linda had been employed at Carver Yacht for several years and then at Bay Tech until her retire-



ment.

Linda had a heart of gold and would give you the shirt off her back — after you got the scolding. Never one to bite her tongue, she spoke what was on her mind and you always knew where you stood. She worked hard and played hard, and she loved spending time with her family and friends.

Survivors include her husband and best friend, Bob; two daughters, Carmen (Shaun) Knight, Pulaski, and Janel (Shawn) VanOoyen, Appleton; two granddaughters, Marissa

Delzer (special friend Tyreek Bullock), Menasha, and Kyra VanOoyen, Appleton; one great-grandson, Royal Bullock; her mother, Joyce Reymont, Green Bay; two brothers, Dave (Kelli) Reymont, Pulaski, and Bob (Dian) Reymont, Sobieski; three sisters, Gayle (Mike) Czarapata, Pulaski, Debbie Stutzman, Green Bay, and Teri (Corey) Lambert, Kellnersville; one brother-in-law, Dennis (Kaye) Delzer, Pulaski; nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends.

In addition to her father, Jerome Reymont, Linda was preceded in death by an infant brother; a brother, Dean Reymont; a sister, Nancy Karcz; and her father-in-law and

mother-in-law, Harold and Beryl Delzer.

Friends are invited to gather with the family on Tuesday, Jan. 16, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. John’s Lutheran Church, 3374 County Road C, Morgan.

Linda Delzer

The funeral service will be celebrated at 1 p.m. at the church, the Rev. Katy Tomlanovich officiating. Burial will take place in the Town of Morgan Cemetery in the spring.

The family would like

to thank the Aurora Bay Care ICU nurses for their compassionate care.

Online Condolences may be expressed at www.marnochafuneralhome.com or on the funeral home Facebook page.

Florence Birr



Survivors are her five children, Edna “Sue” Schuettelpelz, Henry (Beth) Birr, Brainerd, Minnesota, Audrey Arneson, Krakow, Dick (Julie) Birr, New Berlin, and Debra (Ron) Carter, Hutchinson, Minnesota; two brothers, Byron “Bud” (Mae) Aprill, Pulaski, and Herbert (Connie) Aprill, Oconto Falls; three sisters, Evelyn (John) Cayo, Green Bay, Joanne Tinsler, Boise, Idaho, and Loretta “Lolly” Pleshek, Gresham; one sister-in-law, Velma Aprill, Morgan; 20 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren; many nieces, nephews and good friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one son, George Birr;

one grandson, David Schuettelpelz; two unnamed infant sisters; infant sister, Verneita; infant brother, Kenneth; and three brothers, Donald, Richard and Gwen “Butch” Aprill; and two brothers-in-law, Ronald Dinse and Edward “Pete” Pleshek.

Visitation will be held after 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2024, at St. John’s Lutheran Church in the Town of Morgan until the time of service. Funeral services will be held 1 p.m. Wednesday at the church with Pastor Katy Tomlanovich officiating. Burial will follow in the Town of Morgan Cemetery.

Jones Funeral Service in Oconto Falls is serving the Birr family.

The Birr family would like to thank Serenity Gardens, Unity Hospice, and Herb and Connie Aprill for their care and concern given Florence during their time together.

Lena Knights of Columbus plans seafood sale

The Lena Knights of Columbus are having a seafood sale to raise funds for its faith and community projects. The organization

is working with Blue Harbor Fish out of Green Bay.

Orders are being taken through Feb. 2 for a wide

variety of fish and shellfish items. Some items are single-serve portions, others are in 1- to 10-pound packages, and there are breaded and ready-to-cook choices, too.

Orders can be picked up at the St. Anne’s School (formerly St. Charles) in Lena from 1-6 p.m. Feb. 9 and 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 10.

The Knights sponsor a number of community events such as the Feed My Sheep Pantry, Coats for Kids within the Lena School District, scholarships, religious education, Knowledge and Free Throw Contests, and people in need.

Anyone interested can pre-order by contacting Mark Alden at stonemeadow3@gmail.com. The Blue Harbor truck is also scheduled to be on site from 1-5 p.m. Feb. 9 with a broader selection for purchase off the truck.

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New Wolf River Dental facility gets council approval

Project gets interest from Hillcrest 1st grade, which utilizes wooded area

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

Plans to build a new dental facility on Engel Drive are not only interesting for the city of Shawano, but local schoolchildren, as well.

The Shawano Common Council approved a development agreement Jan. 10 with Destiny Unbound LLC to build a new facility for Wolf River Dental, which currently operates out of Woodlawn Plaza. Destiny agrees to acquire 2.6 acres of land owned by the city to build the new dental clinic.

The property is located in the boundaries of Tax Increment Finance District 7. Under the terms of the agreement, city property is assigned a value of \$20,000 per acre, which means the total cost would be \$52,000. However, the city is providing a development incentive of \$40,000, based on the property's anticipated assessed value of \$2 million. The city is also providing a grant to cover the remaining \$12,000.

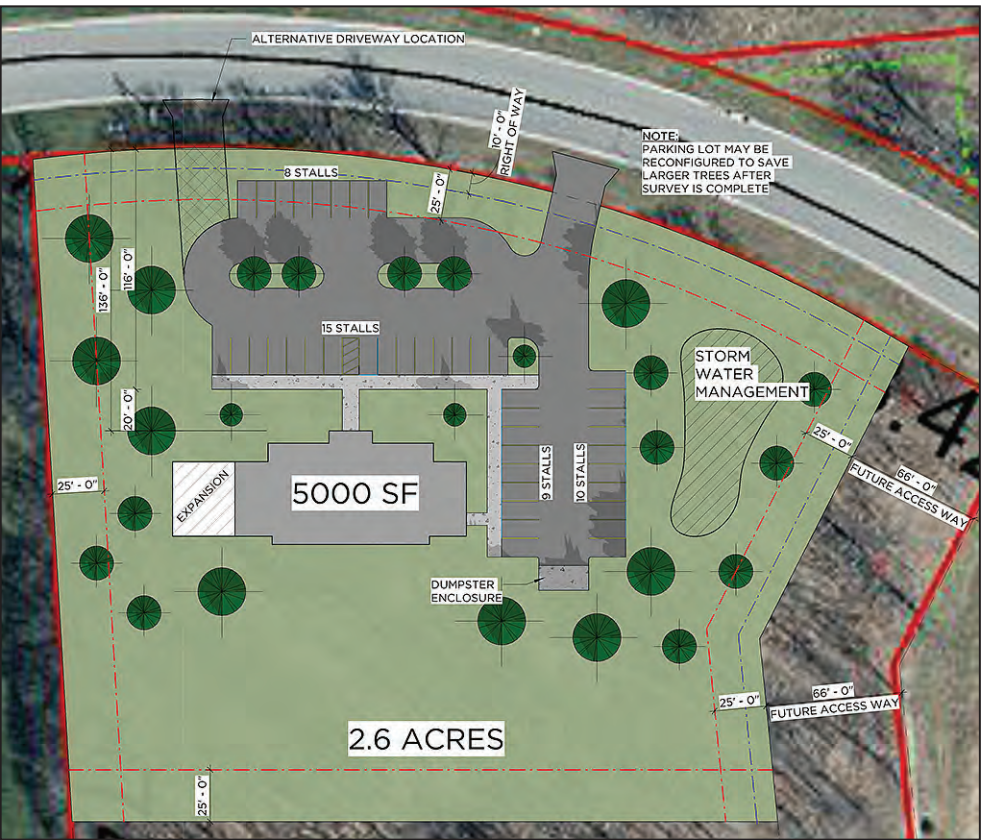
The agreement noted that Destiny is expected to invest about \$2.5 million into the property and construction of the building.

Destiny will be expected to begin construction by Sept. 30 to avoid quit claiming the property back to the city, and most of the work is expected to be completed by the end of 2024 to get an occupancy permit and be valued for tax purposes.

"Essentially, it's working out where we're providing the land, and they're agreeing to build the facility," said City Administrator Eddie Sheppard. "We are setting it up so it's not going to land lock the parcel. We've asked them to provide room — and they've done it in their site plan — so that if we ever wanted to put a road in there and put businesses behind there that wanted to be serviced, they could be reached. There are 4 1/2 acres left behind there on that parcel."

The new dental facility is being built adjacent to Hillcrest Primary School, which is where the children have an interest. Heather Schmidt, a first-grade teacher, wrote a letter to Sheppard urging him to make sure the wooded area across the street from Hillcrest is preserved.

"The woods have been



This architectural plan shows the basic design for the new Wolf River Dental facility on Engel Drive. CONTRIBUTED

a living classroom, providing hands-on experiences that go beyond traditional education," Schmidt wrote. "Our educators at Hillcrest/LEADS Primary School have seamlessly integrated this natural space into their teaching methods. This outdoor classroom has been an invaluable asset in cultivating a love for learning and a deep connection to the natural world."

Schmidt noted that

the woods have served as an "extraordinary playground" for the young children since Hillcrest opened its doors in 2010.

"The wooded area provides a unique environment that fosters creativity, imagination, and physical activity," she wrote. "Through unstructured play in nature, children develop essential skills such as problem-solving, teamwork and resilience, contributing to their over-

all well-being and growth."

Schmidt wrote that it's not just the children who benefit from the woods. It's of value to the entire community, she claimed.

"They are not merely a collection of trees; they are a sanctuary for children to escape into the wonders of nature, fostering a sense of wonder and curiosity that stays with them throughout their lives," Schmidt wrote. "Access to such green

spaces has been linked to improved physical and mental health, creating a lasting impact on the quality of life."

Sheppard noted that a couple of first-grade students attended a meeting of the Shawano Plan Commission where the dental facility was up for discussion, and they got their questions answered to realize the city did not plan to eliminate all of the trees.

"The goal is to keep that area as wooded as possible," Sheppard said. "(Destiny) is aware that some of it is currently in use by the first-graders for teaching moments. We were able to make a connection between the first-grade teacher and Dr. (Paul) Mantz, and they're really looking forward to working together to continue to let the kids use the woods and building some birdhouses and stuff like that."

Sheppard noted that Destiny is planning to move on site work shortly, which makes the end of 2024 deadline easily obtainable.

"They're very excited to get moving and get going," Sheppard said. "We expect to see some of their drawings and site building plans very soon."

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Shawano-born filmmaker brings comedy to town

'Hundreds of Beavers' combines silent films with slapstick comedy as it tells tale set in Wisconsin in 1800s

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

A film coming to Shawano Cinema on Jan. 29 is expected to bring about the nostalgia of black-and-white silent cinema, slapstick comedy and more as it focuses on Wisconsin life in the woods.

Produced by filmmaker Kurt Ravenwood, who grew up in Shawano as Kurt Raether, "Hundreds of Beavers" was made almost entirely in Wisconsin and focuses on drunken applejack salesman Jean Kayak, who has a thriving alcohol operation in the forest until it's sabotaged by some beavers.

"He's got to learn how to go from zero to hero and trap (the beavers) and live and survive in the wild," Ravenwood said. "Eventually he is successful, and then he's more successful, and the traps become more elaborate."

Kayak also falls in love with a woman from the local village and wants to marry her, according to Ravenwood, but her merchant father forbids it unless Kayak can bring 100 beaver furs.

"It's like Wile E. Coyote trying to catch the Road Runner," Ravenwood said, referencing a Looney Tunes cartoon series. "There's some twists and



Jean Kayak, played by Ryland Tews, finds himself surrounded by unhappy beavers in "Hundreds of Beavers," a film coming to Shawano Cinema on Jan. 29.

some surprises ... but it turns out that the beavers have some more things going on than meets the eye. They may have their own secret society, and they may be up to something."

The idea for the 107-minute film had its origins in 2018, according to Ravenwood, after Ravenwood saw a movie at the Milwaukee Film Festival called "Lake Michigan Monster" that involved "Beavers" screenwriters Mike Cheslik and Ryland Tews.

"It was one of the funniest movies I'd ever seen," Ravenwood said. "I was like, I really need to meet these guys."

When they pitched "Bea-

vers," which Ravenwood described as a "fur-trapping comedy set in the 1800s," he was skeptical that such a film would succeed but agreed to help raise the money to put it together.

"I knew it would be good and that I would like it," Ravenwood said. "I didn't know that it would find an audience. As a producer, you're putting a lot of investment into it and wanting to not only pay your investors back but also make enough money to do another movie. We want this movie to be successful so we can keep making films."

Ravenwood believes in what he calls "challenging cinema" and let aspir-

ing filmmakers find their voices, and so he soon saw that the potential for "Beavers" appealing to other people besides himself was growing.

"It's not a Marvel film," Ravenwood said. "It's not built on any sort of intellectual property. I don't have \$10 million in marketing to tell people about it. It kind of had to spread through word-of-mouth. Sitting on the other side of it, I've been blown away by how people are picking up on the film."

He added the film has already played at over 50 film festivals around the world.

The allure in "Beavers" is the physical comedy, in Ravenwood's view. Trail-

ers for the film show Jean Kayak avoiding the sharp tip of a beaver-chomped stump only to fall through a hole in the snow, and another one showing him slipping and falling on the ice as he's fleeing a screen full of beavers.

"It's bringing back a lot of the type of humor that I think is missing in cinema these days," Ravenwood said. "The kind of humor that the Zucker brothers did with 'Airplane' and 'Naked Gun,' the kind of physical comedy that you saw in Looney Tunes but even way back in Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton — those kind of old-school film comedies. I still think they're hilarious today."

All of the larger animals are played in people in mascot costumes, Ravenwood said. Besides the titular beavers, there are larger-than-life bunnies and wolves, as well. Smaller animals like frogs and squirrels were portrayed through puppets.

"What you get is this interesting weird mix of old-school comedy with a more modern humor sensibility, like you would see on TikTok," Ravenwood said. "It was more popular than I thought it would be, because when you look at TikTok, a lot of it is physical comedy, and people just like to watch mascots fall-

ing down on their face." Although much of his attention is on promoting "Beavers" as it shows in select theaters around the Midwest, Ravenwood is already looking toward his next film project. It doesn't have a title yet, but he describes it as "Rush Hour" meets vampires.

"In the 1970s Chinese Hong Kong cinema, there were these series of films about these Chinese vampires that worked very differently from the kind of vampires you're used to like Dracula and things like that," Ravenwood said. "They were fine with stakes and mirrors and water and sun, but they had these different roles. We were really inspired by that and thought, 'Oh, that's funny.' What if we did something where a European vampire hunter, Van Helsing, has to team up with a Chinese vampire hunter, and they have to learn the ways of each other's culture to fight these vampires."

"Hundreds of Beavers" will play at 6:45 p.m. Jan. 29 at Shawano Cinema, 1494 E. Green Bay St., Shawano. After the film, there will be a question-and-answer session with cast and crew members. Tickets are available at www.shawanocinema.com.

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Council approves \$2.5M in street projects for 2024

Over \$1.6M in additional work made possible by CDBG funds

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

The Shawano Common Council signed off on bids Jan. 10 for over \$2.5 million in street reconstruction projects.

Dorner Inc. won the bid for the city's regular slate of street projects, working on South Lafayette Street from Sunset Avenue to West Lieg Avenue, East Fifth Street from North Main Street to North Hamlin Street, and another stretch of South Lafayette Street from West Lieg Avenue to West Wescott Avenue. All street projects will include new work on water mains and sanitary sewer infrastructure, but the Fifth Street project will also get storm sewer infrastructure. Dorner's bid was for \$891,977.50, beating out nine other bidders for the project, with the highest bid being over \$1.17 million.

The budget for the three roads was around \$925,000, according to City Administrator Eddie Sheppard.

Besides the regularly scheduled projects, the city is working on three more streets with the help of Community Development



Fifth Street from Main to Hamlin will be one of the roads in Shawano undergoing reconstruction in 2024. Six segments of road will be replacing asphalt and adding sewer and water infrastructure, but Fifth Street will also be getting infrastructure for the city's storm sewer system.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

Block Grant funds. David Tenor Corporation had the lowest bid at \$1.62 million, with six others companies bidding for the project, and the highest bid totaling over \$2.11 million. The CDBG funding will cover street and infrastructure work on South Franklin Street from West Stevens Avenue to West Lieg Avenue, South Lutz Street from East Zingler Avenue to East Lieg Avenue, and South Andrews Street from East Zingler Avenue to East Lieg Avenue.

"Of that, the city's portion is about \$640,000," Sheppard said, noting that the city received \$1 million in CDBG money for this

year. "We came in under budget by about \$5,000 — hit that one right on the head with the budget."

By getting the grant, the city is close to doubling what its usual street work is, according to Sheppard. He noted that the Lafayette and Fifth street projects were ineligible for the grant.

Sheppard noted that Tenor has worked with the city previously, and staff has been satisfied with the company's work.

"We're happy to work with those folks," he said. "They've always done a great job."

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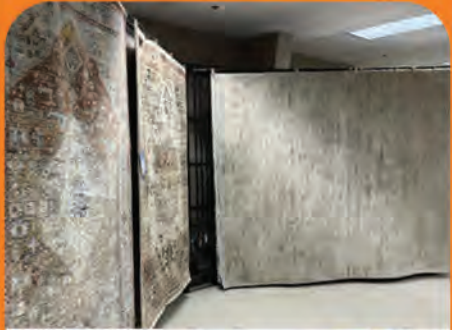
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Solutions for safe driving boil down to common sense

There's a common saying about small towns that states, "Blink and you'll miss it." However, that doesn't mean that vehicle operators should speed through a small town and be from one side to the other in the time it takes your eyes to close and open again.

Apparently, some folks cruising around Bon-duel didn't get the memo. That's why some careless driver hit a young child in the crosswalk on County Road BE. That's why a dump truck narrowly missed turning two more children into street pizza. That's why sheriff's deputies clocked one driver going 47 miles per hour near the crosswalk, more than 20 miles over the regularly posted speed limit and more than 30 miles over the limit when children are present.

Thankfully, no one has died crossing the road in that spot, but it shouldn't take near-misses and actual collisions for people to realize that speeding past schools is a stupid thing. It's prompted action from school officials, who have asked the Shawano County Sheriff's Department to do extra patrols and are looking at finding volunteers to be crossing guards, but there should be less need for those who obey the laws to step up and do something and more need for the leadfoots who don't pay attention to the speedometers to pay better attention to the vehicles they're operating.

While some might excuse an incident on a basic crosswalk, this one has flashing lights that come on when a pedestrian is ready to step off the sidewalk and into the road. Flashing lights were deemed a necessity in Shawano for the Mountain Bay Trail where it crosses at Green Bay Street and again at Main Street, not to mention the recent addition of lights at County Road B where it intersects Lincoln Street by Shawano Community High School. If the flashing lights couldn't prevent the collision in Bonduel, does this mean Shawano pedestrians are taking their lives into their hands? Sure looks like it.

What will it take to get people to slow down? The crossing guards are a good idea, although if drivers ignore flashing yellow lights, it's questionable if an adult in a yellow neon



Lee Pulaski
City editor

vest with a red stop sign will better catch their attention. It'll certainly reduce the risk, but it won't eliminate it.

We might need to take a cue from our friends in the railroad industry and consider some flashing red lights, not yellow, combined with gates going down. They certainly work when it comes to stopping traffic when trains are going by, as trying to mow down a crossing train is a one-way ticket to suicide. While there's not a 100% guarantee drivers will pay attention to the gates, they'll certainly do some spectacular damage to the vehicle.

The suggestion made by some about catching the license plates and reporting the incidents to law enforcement is a good one, too, but it will be dependent on deputies being able to track down the vehicles, obtain proof about who was driving the vehicle at the time, and getting the courts to prosecute. Courts are still playing catch-up since the coronavirus pandemic, so it might be months before justice is served, especially if someone is struck, so what do we do as an alternative?

Superintendent Joe Dawidziak has a good idea about educating students about proper things to do at a crosswalk as a pedestrian. Unfortunately, the students involved in the two incidents did everything right. It's the adults who need a refresher course, and finding a way to get them to come out for it would not be an easy task.

In the end, it all comes down to common sense. As drivers, we're always responsible for watching the road and making sure we drive at a safe speed. It shouldn't take flashing lights or deputies on patrol or barriers to make us realize that we should slow our roll when we approach schools. Sadly, there are too many people paying too little attention.

It'll be the children who pay the price.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Border crisis needs more than hope

To the editor:

Let's do more than hope 2024 will improve the crisis at the U.S. southern border. Let's get our Congress to actually do it.

For many, building "a big, beautiful wall" has long been the battle-cry for a quick, simple solution. Think again.

During the Trump administration, 458 miles of wall were completed — 52 new, the remaining 406 replaced existing sections with taller, hollow-steel bars. Unfortunately, an inexpensive power tool can easily cut through it, allowing smugglers to transport immigrants whenever the border patrol has their backs turned. As it stands, the Mexicans haven't paid a penny as Trump promised; U.S. taxpayers have — \$15 billion so far.

To protect his 1,200-mile Texas border, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott built a spare-no-expense 1,000-foot mid-river razor-wire

OPINION PAGE POLICY

NEW Media welcomes letters from its readers and wants to publish as many as possible. Letters should be no longer than 400 words and must be typed. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for accuracy, brevity and clarity. Please avoid personal attacks. Only one letter per writer will be published in a 14-day period, and letters from new writers will be considered first over more frequent participants. Longer pieces of up to 800 words will be considered for guest columns. All columns require a head shot of the author. All opinion pieces must be signed by the author, and an address and telephone number must be included for verification. Anonymous opinion pieces will not be published under any circumstances. Thank you letters will be considered for publication on community pages in the paper. The 400-word limit applies to thank you letters, as well. The best and most expedient way to send letters is by email to news@newmedia-wi.com. Put "letter to the editor" in the subject line and send the text in the body of the email. Letters can also be sent by mail or delivered in person to 1464 E. Green Bay St., Shawano.

floating-buoy barricade. After some drownings within the first week, it was recalled and outlawed by court order.

Abbott's newest stunt is transporting immigrants by the bus-load or plane-full to cities across the country that have Democratic mayors, such as Denver, Chicago and New York. Herded immigrants are literally dropped off unannounced in the middle of the night in sub-freezing temps in T-

shirts and sandals.

We need to better understand and work toward a genuine cure for this crisis. That requires looking 2,000-plus miles further south to Central and South America where the vast majority of these immigrants are coming from. In some places, inflation rates are 500 times that of our country. With rampant crime, overwhelming poverty, unemployment and political corruption, thousands leave their home-

land daily attempting an escape to a new and better life.

Better security at our border remains our problem. Fixing the ills of South and Central America is a bigger task that must involve all the nations of the Western Hemisphere and perhaps the world. That requires more than fiery bully-pulpit rally speeches — it requires leadership and diplomacy.

The border problem has been with us and growing worse for decades. Currently, Senate Democrats have a good-faith effort on the table, and the Biden administration is working with the Mexican government to spearhead remedies. Will Republicans work with, or just fight against it?

From a national security standpoint and to avoid a bigger humanitarian catastrophe than it already is, status quo politicking on this issue must stop. When our political parties brainstorm together, America does its best — for us and the world.

Steve Parks, Bowler

GUEST COLUMN

Enbridge won't decommission Line 5

This year, let's make and fulfill a New Year's resolution to save the Great Lakes and decommission Line 5.

Line 5, owned and operated by Canadian company Enbridge, carries crude oil across Wisconsin, Michigan, and through the Great Lakes. Despite the journey this oil takes on Wisconsin and Michigan's soil and waterways, there is little to no gain for Wisconsinites. Yet, we face an alarming environmental crisis because of Line 5. This crisis is not a matter of if. It is a matter of when. Yet, Enbridge refuses to decommission the line or cease trespassing on tribal land.

Built in 1953, Line 5 was constructed to operate for only 45 years. Seventy-one years post-construction, it runs 22 million gallons of oil daily through Wisconsin, Michigan, and the Great Lakes via the straits of Mackinac, where Lake Michigan and Huron meet. This eroding pipeline has spilled over 30 times since 1968, putting the Great Lakes at risk.

While Line 5 risks everyone relying on the Great Lakes, Wisconsinites must understand how Enbridge disrespects and disregards the tribal lands and waters that the pipeline crosses. With petroleum deposits originating in Alberta, the oil travels from the Alberta Clipper to Line 5 in Superior, Wisconsin.

This crosses into the Bad River Band of Lake Superior



Gracie Waukechon
Guest columnist

Chippewa's Reservation. However, the easements allowing Enbridge to use tribal land expired over a decade ago. The Band filed a lawsuit in 2019, and Judge William Conley ordered Enbridge to halt the oil passage on the reservation within three years. Enbridge has yet to leave tribal land. Following flooding in May 2023, the eroding pipeline became an even greater danger to the reservation.

Even after this lawsuit, Enbridge threatens Bad River's waterways. In 2020, Enbridge counter-proposed to reroute next to tribal land. However, this would continue to impact the tribe negatively, as it would operate on rivers flowing into the reservation. When the pipeline breaks, the oil will flow into the reservation, poisoning the water, wild rice beds, and biodiversity.

Yet, it is not only the Bad River Band whose sovereignty and stewardship of the land are violated by Enbridge. The Bay Mills Indian Community of Michigan holds a spiritual, historical, and cultural connection to the Straits of Mackinac, the birthplace of the Anishinaabe origin story. The inevitable oil spill will be detrimental to

the community's cultural, agricultural, economic, and spiritual survival.

Over 60 tribes across the Midwest and Canada, including the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, have united to protect treaty rights, sovereignty, and the Great Lakes. Survival as tribal people is interwoven with the water and land on which we have lived for thousands of years. Contamination of the Great Lakes will sever present and future tribal people from the water we have thrived on long before European contact.

The organization 350 Wisconsin, oceanographers, environmental scientists, tribal nations, Earthjustice, the Native American Rights Fund, and even Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel all agree that this will become the worst inland oil spill that North America has ever seen. It will devastate Wisconsin and Michigan's water, recreation, commerce, and biodiversity.

When profit is valued above clean water, safe biodiversity, and tribal sovereignty, it is morally reprehensible and an inevitable environmental crisis. Enbridge is already responsible for the worst inland oil spill in US history. One million gallons of oil from the ruptured 6B pipeline polluted Michigan's Kalamazoo River in 2010. This left residents unhoused, water polluted, and wildlife

decimated.

Days before, Enbridge assured the public that the pipeline was secure. Enbridge believes we benefit from Line 5, yet it is merely a hazardous shortcut for another nation's profit. Is this worth the risk of another catastrophic spill? Shouldn't clean water prioritize fossil fuels, a dwindling energy source?

More importantly, do we want to risk this with our Great Lakes — 20% of the world's freshwater source?

I urge all Wisconsinites to stand with the Bad River Band, the Bay Mills Indian Community, 350 Wisconsin, the Native American Rights Fund, and all other Midwestern and Canadian individuals, native and non-native, that rely on the Great Lakes and hold a respect for the natural world that fossil fuel profits cannot replace. Line 5 puts every living creature relying on the Great Lakes in danger. So, as we move forward into 2024, let's all follow through on a New Year's resolution to protect our water. If we cannot care for our waterways, we cannot care for Netaenawemakanak — all of our relations.

For more information on what you can do to save the Great Lakes and stop Line 5, visit 350wisconsin.org or oilandwaterdontmix.org.

Gracie Waukechon, who lives in Bonduel, is a member of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and a descendant of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin.

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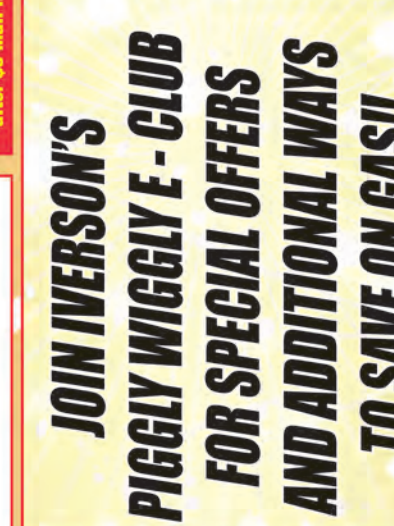
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

SATURDAY, JAN. 20
WITTENBERG: "The Art of the Quilter X — Sew Bee It," 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal St. More than 40 quilts on display; People's Choice awards and Award of Excellence to be given.

SUNDAY, JAN. 21
WITTENBERG: "The Art of the Quilter X — Sew Bee It," 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal St. More than 40 quilts on display; People's Choice awards and Award of Excellence to be given.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 24
GILLET: Veterans Breakfast, 8:30-10 a.m., Spirits of Gillett LLC, 145 N. McKenzie St.

SURING: Veterans Breakfast, 8:30 a.m., Randy's Place Bar and Bowl, 235 Peshtigo Brook Road.

NAVARINO: Wednesday Winter Walks Series, 9-10 a.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Slow-paced exploration of one of the center's trails. Weekly through January. Cost: One hike \$5 members, \$10 non-members; entire series: \$15 members, \$30 non-members. Register at navarino.org or 715-758-6999.

FRIDAY, JAN. 26
NAVARINO: Light Up the Night - Torchlight Ski/Snowshoe, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Free with nonperishable food item. Does not include rentals. Without food donation, \$5 members, \$10 non-members, \$20 family. Register by calling 715-758-6999 or visit www.navarino.org.

SATURDAY, JAN. 27
GRESHAM: Lions Club 64th

annual Fishing Derby, W10821 Upper Red Lake Road. \$600 in cash prizes; fish must be entered by 4:30 p.m. Fish Cash Prizes presented at 5 p.m. Cash raffle drawing at 6 p.m., \$500 first prize. Food, music, beverages available in heated shelter. Giant show kites on the ice. Music by Drive West 4 p.m.

SHAWANO: Walleye and Bass Tournament, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bamboo Bar, W5884 Cedar Court. Complete rules at Bamboo Bar Facebook page or call 715-201-1158.

WITTENBERG: The Art of the Quilter X - Sew Bee It, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal St. More than 40 quilts on display; People's Choice awards and Award of Excellence to be given.

LAKEWOOD: Paul Bunyan Snow Fun Day, 2-7 p.m., Waubee Lake Lodge, 18398 Waubee Park Lane. Paul Bunyan Snowmobile Club hosts meat and prize raffles, 50-50 raffles throughout the day, fisheree and kids' fishing derby (7 a.m. to 4 p.m.; fish any lake), and a poker run.

OCONTO FALLS: Wild Game Banquet, 4-8 p.m., Oconto Falls High School, 210 N. Farm Road. Potluck dinner 5:30 p.m., seminar speaker James "Bear Man" VanSteenhouse 6:30 p.m. Wildlife replica displays, youth Nerf gun range 4-5:30 p.m. with prizes. Sponsored by Hillside Assembly.

SUNDAY, JAN. 28
WITTENBERG: The Art of the Quilter X - Sew Bee It, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal St. More than 40 quilts on display; People's Choice awards and Award of Excellence to be given.

Gardeners need to make resolutions

The New Year has arrived, and what a better time than now to begin dreaming of gardening in 2024. It is time for some New Year's resolutions to help make your garden dreams come true.

Each year, as new plant and seed catalogs begin to arrive in January, I love to make a list of gardening goals for the new year. So many new plants to try. So many new ways to grow. So many additions. So many changes. It's all part of the ever-changing world of gardening. It's a joy to create these lists and come up with garden dreams in the middle of the coldest season.

Need help coming up with some gardening goals for this year? Here are some of my suggestions.

It's easy to be captivated by regal monarch butterflies now, in the heart of winter. It's a great time to make a resolution to bring more nectar and host plants to your property to give them a helping hand.

Of course, the various native milkweeds are must-haves in the garden as they provide a host for monarch caterpillars.

Swamp milkweed is by far my favorite, as it is not as aggressive as common milkweed yet still grows tall and showy. Orange milkweed, often called butterfly weed, is



Extend the growing season and provide a great source of pollen and nectar for bumblebees and butterflies by including annuals that bloom late in the season, such as this purple heliotrope.

ROB ZIMMER



Rob Zimmer
Columnist

another excellent choice for our area, especially for properties that are dry and sandy.

Great nectar plants for monarchs include perennials that are native to our area such as blazing stars, aster, Joe-pye weed, black-eyed Susan, goldenrod and others. Many annuals also offer a great nectar source

for monarchs, especially Mexican sunflower, zinnia, cosmos and purple heliotrope.

Another goal for many gardeners is to provide nectar and pollen sources for our many species of native bees, including the bumblebees. One species of bumblebee, the rusty-patched bumblebee is actually considered endangered in Wisconsin and gardeners are thrilled to find them dancing among their blossoms.

For pollinators, including the bumblebees, native plants are always the best. Just about any native wildflower will do. Bumblebees also love many annuals, such as zinnias, heliotrope, sunflower, salvia and many others.

Growing edible plants is another resolution many gardeners make each year. Growing edible plants has never been easier. It's possible to grow delicious greens, root crops, fruits and vegetables even without a garden plot.

More and more gardeners are discovering the joys of growing in containers. Explore growing edible plants in containers by doing an online search or visiting your local garden center to see what they provide for herbs,

tomatoes, root crops, even bush crops such as blueberries, raspberries and more.

Another New Year's resolution for gardeners is to extend the growing season beyond the traditional Labor Day timeframe. Adding perennials, annuals and shrubs that bloom well into October, even into November is a rewarding and satisfying gardening journey.

In addition to the beauty and ornamental value, plants that bloom until Halloween or beyond are also excellent sources of food, nectar and pollen for birds, butterflies, bees and more. In fact, this is the time of year that many of these species need this precious resource the most.

Include berry-producing shrubs, annuals and perennials that bloom throughout October into November and extend your growing season by months.

These are just a few gardening goals for the New Year. Enjoy creating resolutions of your own to expand on your beloved hobby.

Rob Zimmer is a nature and garden author, public speaker and radio show host on WHBY. Readers can find him on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RobZimmerOutdoors.

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FARM LIFE FROM A FARM WIFE

It's the little helps that make a big difference

When Molly, our yellow lab, was still with us, she and I would take daily walks down our road. Unless it was snowing or raining or bitter cold, we'd be out there at daybreak. She enjoyed the walks, and intuitively knew when it was time to hit the road.

Sadly, we lost her just before Christmas 2021. I haven't felt comfortable on the road since. She, while not being a watchdog so to speak, nevertheless watched out for me. If she paused, growling, or quickly turned her head, distracted from her mission of leading me straight down the road, I knew I had to take notice; something was up.

One day when I was out in the cow yard helping my husband separate animals, they were getting feisty, and Molly sensed I was in danger. She bolted through a spot in the gate and nipped at their heels. Presently, a swift kick toward her shoulder sent her squealing back toward the house in a fright. Checking her over thoroughly, we discovered no wound. She just got a good scare. I felt wonderment at her bravery, though. She'd stuck up for me.

So without her comforting companionship, I resigned myself to our treadmill, a dreadful boring task. That spring, because my husband knew I missed my outdoor walks and wanting to bless me, had mowed a stretch, making a path next to our old Black Angus pasture, going all the



way down the hill to the bottom field. Serene and quiet, it's just perfect for a solo walk. Appreciating his help, I've established a habit of going out just after breakfast, even on chilly winter mornings.

One morning, just as I was rounding the barn heading toward my path, I heard, "Hey. Can you watch the gate for me?"

Throughout our farming years I was forever on-call to lend a helping hand. I think that should have been included in the wedding vows: "To have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, and you, Kay, flexible and trustworthy for every farm task that will most definitely arrive, till death do you part."

Kidding aside, he does stuff for me, I do stuff for him, those little helps. It's the way we roll after 44 years of marriage.

So that day, while he drove the skidder up the barn hill to get a big round cornstalk bale, I unlatched the gate to the heifer barn. Usually he does this while the girls are out for recess, locked up in a partition just behind their barn. Despite having the same animals



Heifers move outside the barn prior to receiving fresh bedding.

KAY REMINGER

for only a time, they learn quickly to scurry through one gate and hang around while their main barn is getting a thorough cleaning. I imagine the ones that are here longer help the newbies learn and in turn, as time goes on, those help the next group coming in.

This day, my husband was in a rush and noticing they needed bedding. With me so close by, he took advantage. Guarding the gate, I watched him approach. The bale was precariously perched on the skidder bucket. He was taking care and slowly driving it toward the barn but the road was bumpy and that thing was teetering. I thought, if that big bale would flip off and

land on me I'd be squashed flatter than a bug under a shoe.

It didn't. I wasn't, but it crossed my mind.

Driving the bale over to the back end of the barn, he used the edge of the skidder bucket to break through the netting holding the whole thing together. The heifers, in anticipation of a fresh bed, were kicking up their heels and running around and around, tails flying. Laughing to myself, I thought, such a simple act made them so giddy. Oh, how they love fresh bedding.

Getting out of the skidder, my husband undid the rest of the netting and,

crawling back in, used the skidder to spread the bale out over the entire back end of the barn. Their feeding area was full of fragrant silage, just fed out. The girls are well cared for.

Using the skidder, my husband then went on to finish bedding the cows. In their barn, they get a sand bed, which is there to help them lie down and get up easier. These cows are all pregnant, awaiting delivery of a new calf in due season and they need extra pampering.

Our skidder is a very helpful piece of equipment on the farm. By conveniently switching out buckets, my husband can easily finish farm chores. We have

one bucket for cleaning and bedding, and one bucket solely for feeding.

Helping each other with tasks, taking the time to forge a path to walk after my faithful companion left us, laying down fresh sand or cornstalk bedding for the animals entrusted to our care, it's the little helps that are so appreciated, by both man and beast.

("Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8)

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

Rotary Club marks 100th anniversary

A century of "Service Above Self," the Rotary International motto, was recently celebrated by the Shawano Rotary Club.

Rotary is known for its local and international goals.

Locally, club projects have included improvement of Shawano recreation with projects at Kuckuk, Franklin and

Sturgeon parks, along with support of school projects and student scholarships.

Internationally, the local club has helped eliminate polio, provide clean water and shelter to areas hit by natural disasters and actively support local physician Dick Stoughton during his years in Zimbabwe.

The club is currently

led by President Cap Wallrich, a fourth generation of his family to be a member. His son, Aaron, served as president a couple years ago. The current treasurer is Paula Wegner, while the secretary is J.R. Habeck.

The club has provided three or four scholarships to graduating high school seniors for more than two decades. At least

six of those recipients have become physicians, according to information provided by their families.

The current Rotary District governor, Julia Wallace, attended the local event held at the Curt and Martha Knoke home and urged the club to work on improving mental health resources in the area.



Some of those attending the 100th birthday party of the Shawano Rotary Club include, from left, William Kussel, Paula Wegner, Todd Dobberstein, Colleen Dobberstein, J.R. Habeck, Caspar Wallrich, District Governor Julia Wallace, Dennis Pillsbury, Alysia Pillsbury and Aaron Wallrich.

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Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Owen Dickman scored both goals against Tomahawk, but it wasn't enough as the Antigo/Wittenberg-Birnamwood co-op hockey team lost 5-2.

CONTRIBUTED

Shawano, Antigo hockey teams each come up short

A disastrous five-goal second period spelled defeat for Shawano/Bonduel as they ended up losing 9-3 to Northland Pines on Jan. 11.

The teams battled to a 2-2 tie after the first period with Shawano's goals coming from Karson Stoss and Gavin Hundt (with an assist from Stoss).

Trailing 8-2 halfway through the third period, Blake Knope scored a third goal for the Hawks. A final ninth goal by the Eagles came at 10:59 in the third period.

Tyson Lyons worked

the entire game between the pipes and made 14 saves 23 shots on goal. Shawano/Bonduel had 25 shots on goal.

Both teams were penalized 12 minutes, with Shawano called for five infractions and Northland Pines for six.

Tomahawk 5, Antigo 2

The Antigo and Wittenberg-Birnamwood co-op boys hockey team lost 5-2 to Tomahawk, thanks to a three-goal second period by the Hatchets.

Tomahawk took a 1-0 lead early in the first

period. But, toward the end of the period, Wittenberg-Birnamwood's trusty Owen Dickman scored on a power play to even the score.

Antigo trailed 4-1 going into the third period when Dickman scored again, with help from Eli Kassler.

Tomahawk, leading 4-2, added a final goal at 16:57.

Antigo was penalized five times for 10 minutes, while Tomahawk served 12 minutes on six infractions.

Antigo only managed 11 shots on goal, while Tomahawk had 65 shots.

SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Sports is one of the first sections that readers dive into as they are eager to find out how their favorite teams are doing during the season. While we strive to cover as much sports as possible across three counties, helping hands with writing and photography skills are always welcome.

NEW Media seeks correspondents to cover sports in Shawano, Oconto and Menominee counties. We cover more than a dozen high schools in the area, and writers who can report a game fairly and accurately while producing jaw-dropping action photos can go far with us.

Send a resume, writing and photography samples to editor Kevin Passon at kpasson@newmedia-wi.com.



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Shawano boys defeat New London 42-31

Shawano's boys wrestling team improved to 10-4 following its 42-31 win at New London on Jan. 11.

The dual started with the 150-pound match. Shawano lost that one but gained points back when Carsen Herm pinned Owen Ross. Shawano then earned a decision at 165 pounds when Drew Chel-

berg defeated Phoenix Fletcher 9-3.

Unfortunately, the Hawks found themselves in a 21-9 deficit after dropping matches at 175, 190 and 215.

"At 285, Kia Waukau came up with a big win 1-0," coach Mike Homan said. "He earned an escape in the second period and had a tough ride during

the third period to earn the win."

Shawano received forfeits at 106 and 113 to bring the score to 24-21; however, after losing matches at 120 and 126, Shawano was behind again, 31-24.

"We had three weights left to go, and we knew we needed to wrestle well to earn a victory," Homan said.

Owen Montour wasted no time in his match. He had a quick takedown and near fall to start the match. In the second period, he secured a pin in 2:19.

After that, Cody Popelka received a forfeit at 138 that allowed Shawano to take the lead 36-31.

Drake Herm was up last at 144. He wasted no

time in getting a lead and ultimately scoring a fall in 39 seconds. That secured the dual win.

"We had many kids step up tonight and wrestle well," Homan said. "Kia (Waukau) had a big match at heavyweight that stopped the momentum for New London and got it back in our favor. Carsen (Herm) and Drew

(Chelberg) did what they needed to earn us some needed points.

"Owen (Montour) is a great young wrestler and has a bright future. Drake (Herm) just continues to be dominant and helps to rally the group around him."

Shawano improved its record to 3-0 in conference duals.

Shawano girls beat New London 18-9

Shawano's girl wrestlers are back at, winning 18-9 in a dual meet at New London on Jan. 11.

"We started with an exhibition match at 132 that had Breleigh Thornock earning a fall in 5:29," coach Mike Homan said. "It was a back-and-forth match, and Breleigh did a

great job securing the pin at the end."

The next match was Jenna Moede at 114. She wrestled Sophia Hull-Riggs and earned a fall in 1:42.

The next match was at 120 when Onna Hermann took on Thessa Voight.

"The match was close

in the first minute as both girls battled for position," Homan said. "Onna scored a takedown in the first period and chose to go neutral in the second period. Just into the second period, she scored a takedown and finished the match with a fall in 3:12."

Caitlyn Moede wres-

tled Berkley Reimer at 126 during the next match. Caitlyn scored 3 takedowns in the first period. Shortly into the second period, she secured a fall in 2:20.

Next up was Adalyn Barkley vs. Eve Hedtke at 138.

"It was a great match

going back and forth," Homan said. "Adalyn built up a three-point lead going into the third period but was defeated by fall in 4:38."

The last match of the night was Courtney Schenk taking on 2023 state champion Hailie Krueger.

"Courtney wrestled a great match and fought hard the whole time," Homan said. "She lost the match by final score of 11-1 but did some really good things in her match."

"It is great to see all of the girls work hard and continue to do good things on the mat."

Snowmobilers: Sled safe this winter season

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is reminding snowmobilers to operate within their limits, stay sober and ride only on designated trails this season.

In the early months of 2023, there were 16 fatal snowmobile crashes, with 10 involving alcohol. Alco-

hol affects your risk perception and reaction time. If you choose to consume alcohol, wait until after you've safely returned home.

"Excessive speed, alcohol use and inexperience contribute to snowmobile crashes. Remember to ride responsibly and look out

for yourself and others. Sober riding is always the best policy," said Lt. Jake Holsclaw, DNR off-highway vehicle administrator. "Snowmobiles and drinking don't mix. Making the smart choice and abstaining from alcohol can save your life. Impairment of any kind, either by drugs

or alcohol, can have tragic consequences."

Remember that ice is never completely safe to be on under any conditions.

The DNR does not monitor ice conditions. Contact local sport shops to ask about conditions locally on the lake or river

you want to cross.

Wear proper clothing and equipment, including a life jacket or float coat should you fall through the ice and to help retain body heat.

Do not travel in unfamiliar areas.

Slow down when traveling at night.

Know if the lake has inlets, outlets or narrows that have currents that can thin the ice.

Watch for pressure ridges or ice buckling.

Check trail conditions ahead of time by contacting your county forestry or parks department, or local snowmobile clubs.

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BOYS BASKETBALL

Gillett easily defeats Coleman, Suring

Gillett dispensed with Coleman 81-56 on Jan. 13 in a game originally scheduled for Jan. 9. Gillett led 5-34 at the half and cruised to victory from there.

Jesse DeBauch led with 26 points, followed by Ben Matczak with 20 and Aydin Franti with 18.

Bonduel

Noah Weier scored 12 points, including two free throws with 10.2 seconds remaining, to lead Bonduel as the Bears downed Iola-Scandinavia 50-49.

Iola-Scandinavia led 28-19 at the break, but Bonduel fought back to win the second half 31-21 and the game.

Bonduel remains atop

the Central Wisconsin East Conference with a 6-0 mark. The team is 11-1 overall.

Gillett crushes Suring

Gillett rolled over Suring 67-36 and mood into a three-way tie for first place in the Marinette & Oconto Conference. Gillett, Coleman and Crivitz are 5-1.

Gillett had control of the game from the beginning, leading 38-22 at the half and outscoring their guests 29-14 in the second half.

Jesse DeBauch led the Tigers with 29 points. Aydin Franti scored 15, and Ben Matczak added another 14.

For the Eagles, Michael Bailey was the top scorer with 10 points.

Lena

Lena was no match for Coleman, losing 64-37. Lena dropped to 1-5 in Marinette & Oconto Conference standings and 4-6 overall.

Menominee Indian

Menominee Indian fell to 1-4 in the Central Wisconsin East Conference standings with its 71-45 loss to Shiocton.

The Eagles have a record of 1-5 in league play and 2-10 overall.

Tigerton defeats Marion

Tigerton handed

Marion its first Central Wisconsin North Conference loss of the season with a 62-46 win.

The Tigers are 3-2 in conference action and 7-3 overall. The Mustangs are 3-1 and 9-5, respectively.

Oconto Falls

Oconto Falls remains winless in the North Eastern Conference after its 87-41 defeat at the hands of Freedom.

Freedom's first half total of 51 was enough for the win, as they led 51-20 at the break. A 36-21 second half piled on to the margin of victory.

Alex Haines and Jameson Beaman each scored 10 points for Oconto Falls.

Beaman led the team with seven rebounds, Brady Bruska had three assists, and Emerich Skarban had a pair of steals.

Oconto Falls is 0-8 in league play and 2-10 overall.

Pulaski

The Red Raiders barely challenged De Pere, losing 80-44 in a Fox River Classic Conference game. Pulaski is 3-4 in conference action and 6-5 overall.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood

Wittenberg-Birnamwood lost 67-41 to Weyauwega-Fremont in Central Wisconsin East Conference action. Both teams,

along with Shiocton, are 4-2 in league play.

Marion

A strong sound half by Manawa powered them over Marion 61-40.

Manawa held a 22-20 edge at the half, but a 39-20 second half proved too much for the Mustangs.

Ryan Malueg led Marion with 12 points, including three triples, with Parker Miller adding 11 and Enea Turrini scoring 10.

Miller led the team with 14 rebounds, and Malueg had 11. Turrini had four assists, and grabbing two steals each were Jackson Krohn, Sam Gueths, Malueg and Miller.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lena stays perfect in conference play

Snow and high winds cancelled most games Jan. 9 and Jan. 12, with most of them rescheduled.

Bonduel

Bonduel improved to 13-2 overall with a 52-23 win over Manawa on Jan. 11.

Gillett

Gillett is even at 4-4 in

the Marinette & Oconto Conference after its 63-26 thrashing of St. Thomas Aquinas Academy.

Pulaski

The Red Raiders fell to 5-3 in the Fox River Classic Conference with a 64-36 loss to De Pere.

Ellie Mangold led Pulaski with 12 points.

Pulaski was behind by 13 points at the break and was behind by another 15 in the second half.

Bonduel beats Oconto Falls

Four Bears scored in double digits as Bonduel defeated Oconto Falls 76-47 in a non-conference game.

Elisa Huschke led with

17 points. Audrey Weierand Hailey Zernicke each scored 15, and Hailee Thompson added 10.

Lena crushes Suring

Suring did not score in double digits in each half as they were crushed by Lena 56-16.

The Wildcats pounced on Suring 21-9 in the first

half and extended their lead with a bruising 35-7 second half.

Eva Brooks led the team with 16 points, while Madilyn Thomson added 10.

Brooks also set the pace with seven rebounds, and she and Thomson each had four assists. Brooks also had five steals.

Lena stayed perfect at 8-0 in the Marinette & Oconto Conference standings and is 13-0 overall. Suring dropped to 2-6 and 4-11, respectively.

Marion

Marion was destroyed 56-16 by Manawa in a non-conference game.

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- ACROSS
- 1 Electronic examination

5 Home to 4+ billion

9 Campfire fare

15 Periodical, in brief

18 Italian car, informally

19 November honorees

20 Northern Italian

21 Baja resort city

22 Enters by trickery

25 Spot for sledding

26 Impassive philosophy

27 Shining examples

28 Held back, as breath

29 Commanded

30 Compass point

31 Dress down

32 Vocal groups

35 Weasels out of responding

40 Mirthful sounds

41 Shirt feature

42 Drops dramatically

43 Suffix indicating approximation

44 Smirnoff rival

46 Be patient

48 Nova broadcaster

51 Declined due to fear

54 Responses

56 Bratty talk

57 Golf course measure

58 Supply with gear

60 OPEC charter member

61 Jo's Boys author

64 Ultimately reach

66 Barn nestlings

68 Orner

69 Put in the lineup

70 Steps up to the plate

71 Apple offering

72 Entered carefully

75 Played boisterously

80 Former surname indicator

81 Source of malevolence

84 Well ventilated

85 Memoir, in brief

86 Vietnamese neighbor

87 \$, in exchange rate tables

88 Religious offshoot

89 Saved for the future

94 Smug expressions

96 Three straight strikes, in bowling

97 Notice

98 Arduous activity

99 Light-colored brew

100 Boots out

103 Some germs

107 Banjo cousins

108 Overdo it in cross-examination

111 Number-picking game

112 Rocky's first film foe

113 Humerus neighbor

114 Pacific state, slangily

115 Summer hrs. in DC

116 Traditionally rainy times

117 Texter's signoff

118 Biblical paradise

DOWN

1 Workshop tools

2 Clump together

3 Big hair

4 Angola neighbor

5 Steers clear of

6 Logical thinking

7 Short news piece

8 Stubborn beast

9 Oscar winner as Loretta Lynn

10 Bread spread

11 Thor's dad

12 Makes haste

13 Feast on

14 Wintry white, in brand names

15 Rum cocktail

16 ___ move (motile)

17 Especially valuable references

21 Navigator's

23 Lingering mark

24 Green Bay's st.

28 Assaults

30 Total amount

31 Kick off

32 Stylish

33 Breakfast side dish

34 Distracted greeting

35 Rarity at tearjerkers

36 Rotisserie rod

37 Hgt.

38 Sine ___ non

39 Put away, as groceries

41 Rand of fiction

44 Short parody

45 Held onto

46 Dictionary look-up

47 Eminent ornithologist/artist

48 French father

49 Unruly kid

50 IRS form data

52 High-tech replica

53 Lego inventor, by birth

55 As you wish, in radio lingo

58 *Peanuts* exclamation

59 "You can do it!"

61 Congregation affirmation

62 News story intro

63 Hamster's home

65 Cowpoke's pal

66 Actor Epps or Sharif

67 On guard

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91 Needing immediate attention

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95 Oven glove

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BEST OF
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County fair ambassador sought

The Oconto County Youth Fair Board has begun taking applications for the 2024 Fairest of the Fair/Fair Ambassador, residents of Oconto County who are interested in serving as representatives for the 2024 Fair.

Through the competition, either a Fairest of the Fair or a Fair Ambassador (female or male representative) and an Attendant (first runner-up) will be

named. These two individuals will represent the fair at a variety of events throughout the year.

A \$1,000 scholarship/stipend and \$300 expense allowance will be awarded to the individual named Fairest of the Fair/Fair Ambassador. A \$500 scholarship/stipend and \$300 expense allowance will be awarded to the attendant. The competition will take place in May.

Candidates must be

18 years of age by Jan. 1, 2025, to apply. Interested individuals need to apply by April 1 by submitting a completed application and sponsor fee. Detailed contest rules and application can be found on the Oconto County Fair website at ocontocountyfair.org or its Facebook page at Oconto County Youth Fair. Questions can be directed to ocontocountyfairest-committee@gmail.com.

Oconto Falls School Board accepts private donations

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

The Oconto Falls School Board accepted four private donations during its Jan. 8 regular meeting.

A \$1,500 anonymous donation was made to the Oconto Falls High School wrestling program.

Tim and Krista Solarek contributed \$1,000 to the Oconto Falls High School girls basketball program.

Jerry and Terry Moynihan donated \$250 to the girls basketball program and \$250 to the high school athletic department for Dig Pink, a program

that allows volleyball teams to host events and raise funds for cancer research and treatments.

Steel Moose Bar and Grill donated \$325 in unclaimed football pool prizes to be used to pay delinquent students lunch accounts.

Best of Oconto County Region TIMES HERALD 2023 Readers Poll

Deadline: January 22, 2024

BALLOT #1

Best Goods:

- ☐ Flower Shop
- ☐ Grocery Store
- ☐ Hardware Store

Best Services:

- ☐ A/C & Heating
- ☐ Child Care
- ☐ Chiropractor
- ☐ Credit Union
- ☐ Dentist
- ☐ Electrician
- ☐ Insurance Agency
- ☐ Gas Station/C-Store
- ☐ Hair Salon/Barber
- ☐ Pharmacy
- ☐ Plumber
- ☐ Real Estate Company
- ☐ Retirement Community
- ☐ Tax Service
- ☐ Veterinarian

Best of Oconto County Region TIMES HERALD

ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Clip & Mail Your Ballots To: **Shawano Leader**
Attn: Best Of
1464 E. Green Bay St., Shawano WI 54166
e-mail: advertising@newmedia-wi.com

Deadline: January 22, 2024

A minimum of 10 categories on ballot must be completed in order for your vote to count to be eligible to win prizes. No purchase necessary to win.



Bella- Meet Bella. She is a 5 year old cat looking for a calm home. Bella loves burrowing under her blankets and napping whenever she can. If you would like to meet Bella, contact the shelter to set up an appointment.



Cash- Meet Cash. He is a 3 year old pit mix who is looking for his forever home. He has settled in well and has been good for staff. He can be very sweet and goofy. Cash would do best in a home by himself without any other animals.



Thor- Meet Thor. He is a 1 year old Husky Shepherd mix. He is still young and full of energy. He really likes the outdoors and playing ball. Thor does well with other dogs and would like a buddy in his future home.



Maple and Oliver - Meet Oliver and Maple. They are an 11 month old duo looking for a home together. Oliver and Maple are a sweet pair of cats, they enjoy greeting the staff and exploring the shelter. They are both front declawed.



Phone: 920-846-0430
535 Locust Ave.,
Oconto Falls
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Monday-Friday

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Chris
Walters Jr.**

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Oconto Area Humane Society and Animal Shelter • 920-835-1738

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Hours: Mon. & Fri. 1-4pm | Wed. 3-6pm | Sat. & Sun. 11am-3pm | CLOSED TUES. & THURS. | CLOSED on all Holidays
Please see all adoptable pets at www.ocontoareahumane.org. Supporting homeless pets is one of the best acts of kindness.

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OCONTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Jan. 11 Deputies responded to 56 incidents, including a disturbance on McDermid Drive in the Town of Oconto Falls, harassment on Circle Hill Lane in the Town of Chase, a death investigation in Oconto Falls, fire neat Belgian Road and Alsteen Lane in the Town of Lena, suspicious activity on Warrington Lake Drive in the Town of Underhill, 15 traffic stops, one traffic hazard, one traffic offense, four motorist assists, three miscellaneous traffic incidents, one welfare check; one open-line 911 call; 10 crashes, one involving deer.

Jan. 10 Deputies responded to 40 incidents, including a jail incident on Arbutus Avenue in Oconto, fire on state Highway 32 in the Town of Townsend, attempted fraud on Van Hulle Lane in the Town of Oconto, a wanted person on Lake John Road in the Town of Lakewood, threatening on Sherrie Lane in the Town of Underhill, a death investigation in the Town of Little River, sexual assault at an undisclosed location, drugs in the Town of Townsend, a disturbance on Bonk Lane in the Town of Little Suamico, one traffic stop, two traffic hazards, two traffic offenses, two miscellaneous traffic incidents; two 911 hangups; two crashes.

Jan. 9 Deputies responded to 40 incidents, including suspicious activity on McDonald Street in Oconto, sexual assault in Suring, a carbon monoxide incident in the Town of Oconto, property damage on state Highway 32-64 in the Town of Mountain, suspicious activity on Big Bear Lane in the Town of Lakewood, four traffic stops; one ambulance call; seven crashes.

Jan. 8 Deputies responded to 40 incidents, including trespassing on Shadow Lake Road in the Town of Doty, criminal damage on West Park Street in Gillett, fire near state Highway 22 and Van Hulle Lane in the Town of Oconto, suspicious activity on Jackson Street in Oconto Falls, suspicious activity near state Highway 32 and County Road S in the Town of Chase, three citizen assists, three miscellaneous traffic incidents, one welfare check; three open-line 911 calls; one ambulance call; four crashes, three involving deer.

Jan. 7 Deputies responded to 33 incidents, including suspicious activity on Parkway Road in the Town of Brazeau, a disturbance on West Main Street in Gillett, trespassing on Grosse Road in the Town of Little Suamico, illegal burning near Northern Drive and Wintergreen Trail in the Town of Little Suamico, death investigations in the Town of Riverview and the Town of Little Suamico, four traffic offenses, one citizen assist, three miscellaneous traffic incidents, one welfare check; seven 911 hangups and one open line; five crashes, two involving deer.

Jan. 6 Deputies responded to 30 incidents, including a noise disturbance on Jameson Way in the Town of Little Suamico, suspicious activity near state Highway 22 and Rea Road in the Town of Oconto Falls, a disturbance on Lake Street in the Town of Little Suamico, harassment on Horseshoe Drive in the Town of Brazeau, illegal burning on Coffey Lane in the Town of Oconto Falls, two traffic stops, three citizen assists, one miscellaneous traffic incident, one welfare check; three 911 hangups and two open lines; two ambulance calls; nine crashes, one involving deer.

Jan. 5 Deputies responded to 39 incidents, including a disturbance on North Mill Street in Suring, a death investigation in the Town of Gillett, trespassing on Peninsula Lane in the Town of Townsend, an animal bite on East Shore Drive in the Town of Mountain, a disturbance on Harris Lane in the Town of Breed, 10 traffic stops, five traffic offenses, one welfare check; one 911 hangup and three open lines.

Jan. 4 Deputies responded to 49 incidents, including threatening on Einberger Lane in the Town of Lakewood, an animal bite on East Rost Lake Road in the Town of Brazeau, 10 traffic stops, two traffic hazards, one traffic offense, one citizen assist, three miscellaneous traffic incidents, one welfare check; three 911 hangups and one open line; one crash involving deer.

Find the latest local news and sports 24/7 at newmedia-wi.com

Best of Oconto County Region

OCONTO COUNTY
TIMES HERALD
2023

BEST OF
TIMES HERALD
2023

Readers Poll

Deadline: January 22, 2024

BALLOT #2

Best Thing To Do:

☐ Bowling Alley

☐ Campground

☐ Cheese Factory

☐ Happy Hour

☐ Live Music

☐ Meat Market

☐ Night Spot

Best Outdoor Activities:

☐ Bait/Tackle Shop

☐ Golf Course

☐ Lawn/Garden

Best Vehicle Services:

☐ Auto Body Repair

☐ Auto Parts Supply Store

☐ Car Dealer

☐ Vehicle Service Centert

☐ Tire Store -

Best of Oconto County Region

OCONTO COUNTY
TIMES HERALD

ENTRY FORM

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email

Clip & Mail Your Ballots To: Shawano Leader
Attn: Best Of
1464 E. Green Bay St., Shawano WI 54166
e-mail: advertising@newmedia-wi.com

Deadline: January 22, 2024

A minimum of 10 categories on ballot must be completed in order for your vote to count to be eligible to win prizes.

No purchase necessary to win.

Best of Oconto County Region

OCONTO COUNTY
TIMES HERALD
2023

BEST OF
TIMES HERALD
2023

Readers Poll

Deadline: January 22, 2024

BALLOT #3

Food/Dining:

☐ Bar

☐ Breakfast

☐ Burger

☐ Coffee House

☐ Dessert

☐ Dinner

☐ Family Restaurant

☐ Fish Fry

☐ Lunch

☐ Pizza

☐ Sandwich

Best of Oconto County Region

OCONTO COUNTY
TIMES HERALD

ENTRY FORM

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email

Clip & Mail Your Ballots To: Shawano Leader
Attn: Best Of
1464 E. Green Bay St., Shawano WI 54166
e-mail: advertising@newmedia-wi.com

Deadline: January 22, 2024

A minimum of 10 categories on ballot must be completed in order for your vote to count to be eligible to win prizes.

No purchase necessary to win.

Pat's Market

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STORE HOURS: Mon-Fri 7:00am - 7:00pm

Deli Closing at 5:00 pm**

Sat 8:00am-5:30pm Sun 8:00am - 1:00pm

HSBS PHARMACY HOURS:

MON-FRI 9:00AM - 5:30PM

These prices good Jan. 22nd thru Jan. 28th

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2/\$8

Asst Variety
7.25-13oz

Jack's Original Pizza



3/\$9.99

Asst Variety
12"

Assorted Family Pack Pork Chops



\$1.99
lb

Farmland Bacon Applewood and Thick Sliced

\$5.79 16 oz

USDA Choice T-Bone Steaks



\$10.59
lb

Food Club IQF Boneless Skinless Frying Chicken Breasts

\$4.99 each 2.5lb Bag

USDA Choice Boneless Center-Cut Chuck Steaks or Roasts



\$5.59
lb

Bear Creek Soup Mixes

\$3.59 Asst Variety 8-11.5oz

Kraft Macaroni & Cheese

\$1.09 Asst Variety 5.25-7.25oz

Cotton Candy Grapes



\$4.29
lb

Beefsteak Tomatoes



\$1.99
lb

Green Haas Avocados



99¢ each

Super Select Cucumbers



59¢ each

Orange Red or Yellow Bell Peppers



\$3.29
lb

Brew Pub Deep Dish or Stuffed Crust Pizza



\$5.99

Asst Variety
25.10-33.75oz

Prairie Farms Chocolate Milk



\$2.49

1/2 gallon
1% or Whole

Pasta or Rice A-Roni



2/\$3

Asst Variety
4.3-7.2oz

Nabisco Ritz Crackers



\$3.49

Asst Variety
11.6-13.7oz

Ore Ida Frozen Potatoes



\$3.99

Asst Variety
22-32oz

Food Club Cheese Cubes



2/\$3

Asst Variety
6.4oz

Pretzel Crisps



\$4.99

Asst Variety
14oz

Food Club Apple Juice or Cider



\$1.99

64oz

Wide Awake Cold Brew Coffee



\$3.99

Asst Variety
48oz

Kellogg's Assorted Cereal



2/\$6

9.6-15.9oz

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OCONTO COUNTY
TIMES HERALD

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HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital
and Prevea Health

WHY EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE A PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER



Stacey Goedtel Birr, DO
Family Medicine Physician

Nearly one third of Americans, or 100 million people, do not have a primary care provider. These are the health care providers who see their patients on at least a yearly basis to discuss health concerns, conduct yearly exams, help diagnose and treat diseases in their early stages, and aid patients in creating healthy lifestyle choices.

At HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital Prevea Health Centers across Oconto County, located in Lena, Oconto Falls, Gillett, Mountain, and Suring, and at the Prevea Oconto Health Center, primary care providers are prepared to help ensure everyone meets their health goals.

Dr. Stacey Goedtel Birr, a Prevea Health family medicine physician at HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital Prevea Oconto Falls Health Center, knows the importance of scheduling annual health exams. Dr. Goedtel Birr and her fellow physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants all provide primary care services to patients across Oconto County.

“Establishing who your primary care provider is and seeing them on at least a yearly basis is important for people of all ages, not just those who are beginning to experience health concerns,” said Dr. Goedtel Birr. “Having a primary care provider who knows their patient’s health history, means they can offer the timeliest solutions for countless health concerns.”

Primary care providers offer patients routine checkups that can help diagnose diseases early, identify unhealthy lifestyle choices and detect indicators of obesity. Most importantly, establishing an ongoing relationship with a trusted primary care provider can help patients avoid health concerns when identified early.

“When conditions like high blood pressure, prediabetes, and high cholesterol are identified early, patients have a much better chance of preventing permanent health concerns which can worsen over time,” said Dr. Goedtel Birr. “An early diagnosis helps ensure a patient has access to the most appropriate

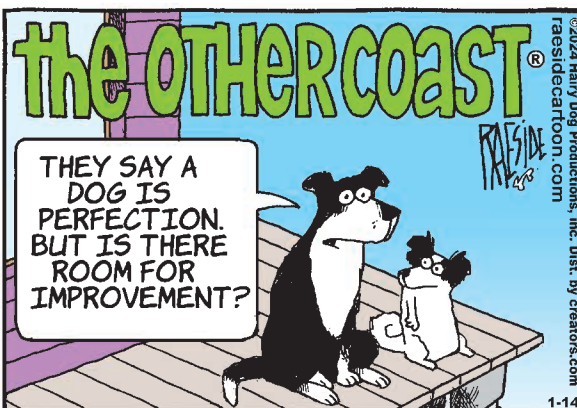
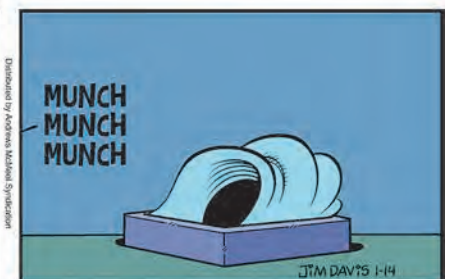
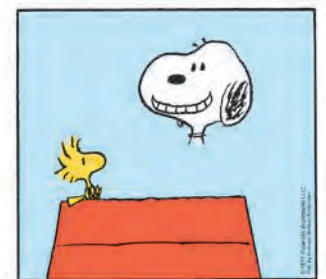
tests in a time sensitive manner. If there is an immediate concern, our team of providers can quickly refer a patient to a specialist to determine the best treatment options available.”

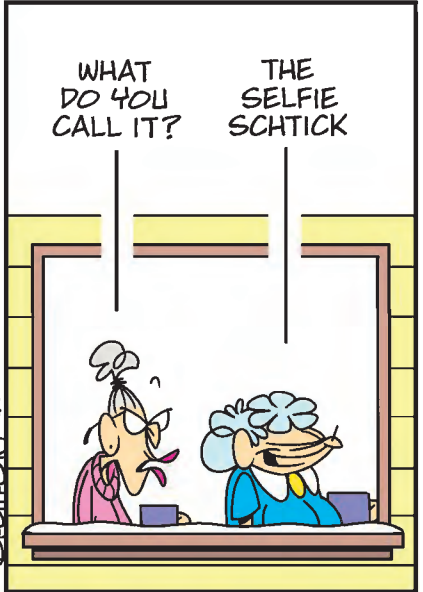
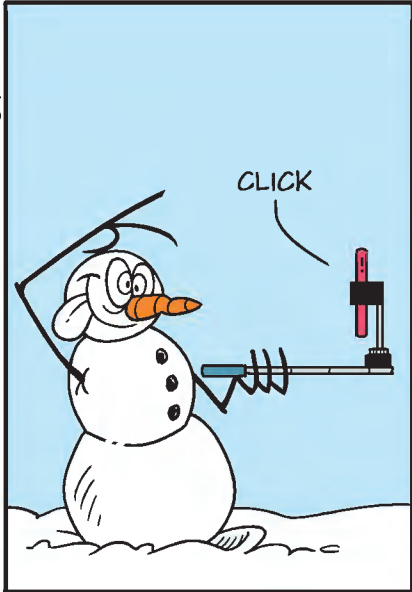
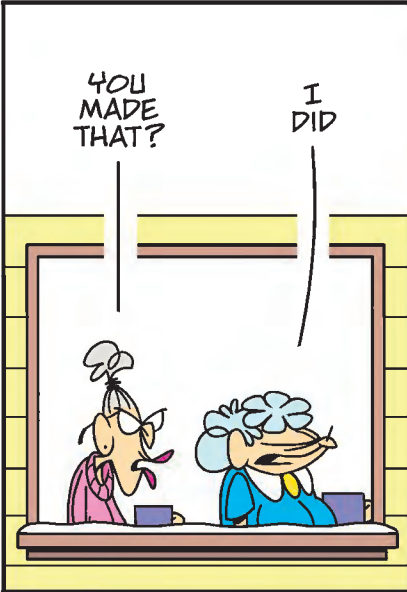
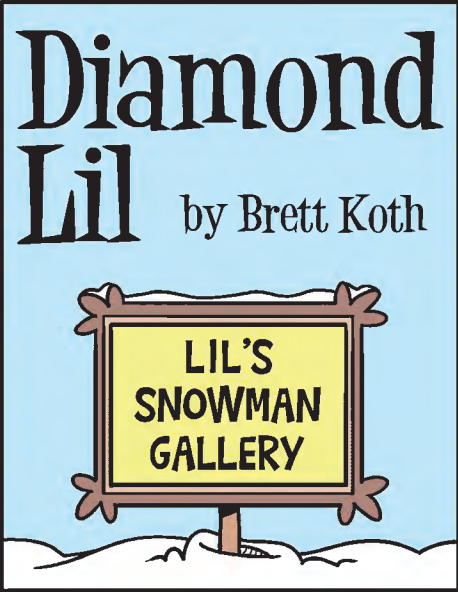
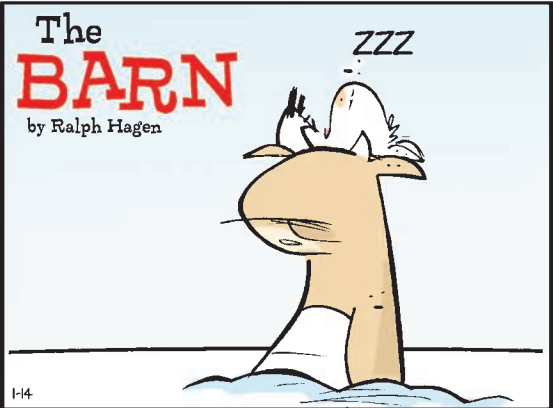
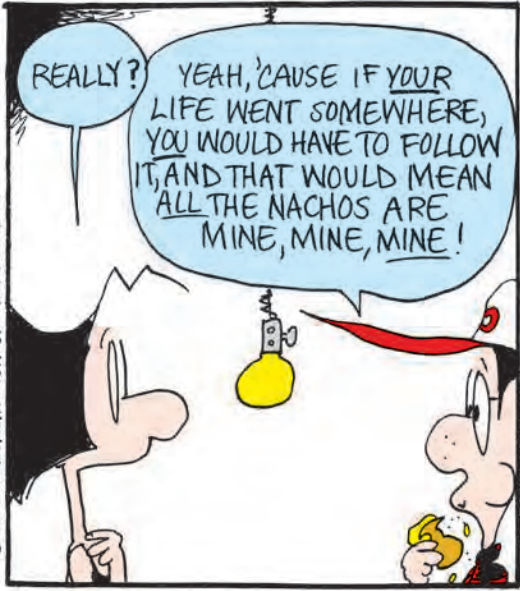
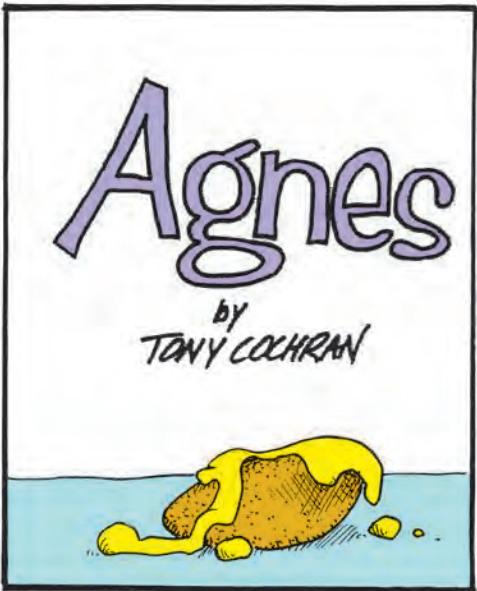
Having a primary care provider can also be key to helping patients create a blueprint for long-term optimal health. The primary care teams at HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital Prevea Health Centers locations in Oconto County routinely help patients understand what lifestyle choices they should alter to reach their health goals. Through regularly scheduled yearly exams, these providers can better tailor a plan for each individual’s specific health concerns.

“From drinking more water, to taking multi-vitamins, exercising and eating more vegetables, an annual visit with a primary care provider can help patients live their best lives,” said Dr. Birr. “We can help patients gauge their successes and shortcomings and lay out a roadmap to help them reach their health goals.”

To take your first step toward achieving your overall health and wellness goals, schedule an appointment with a primary care provider today at a HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital Prevea Health Center in Oconto County or the Prevea Health Center in Oconto. With multiple health centers across the county, great medical care is closer than you think.

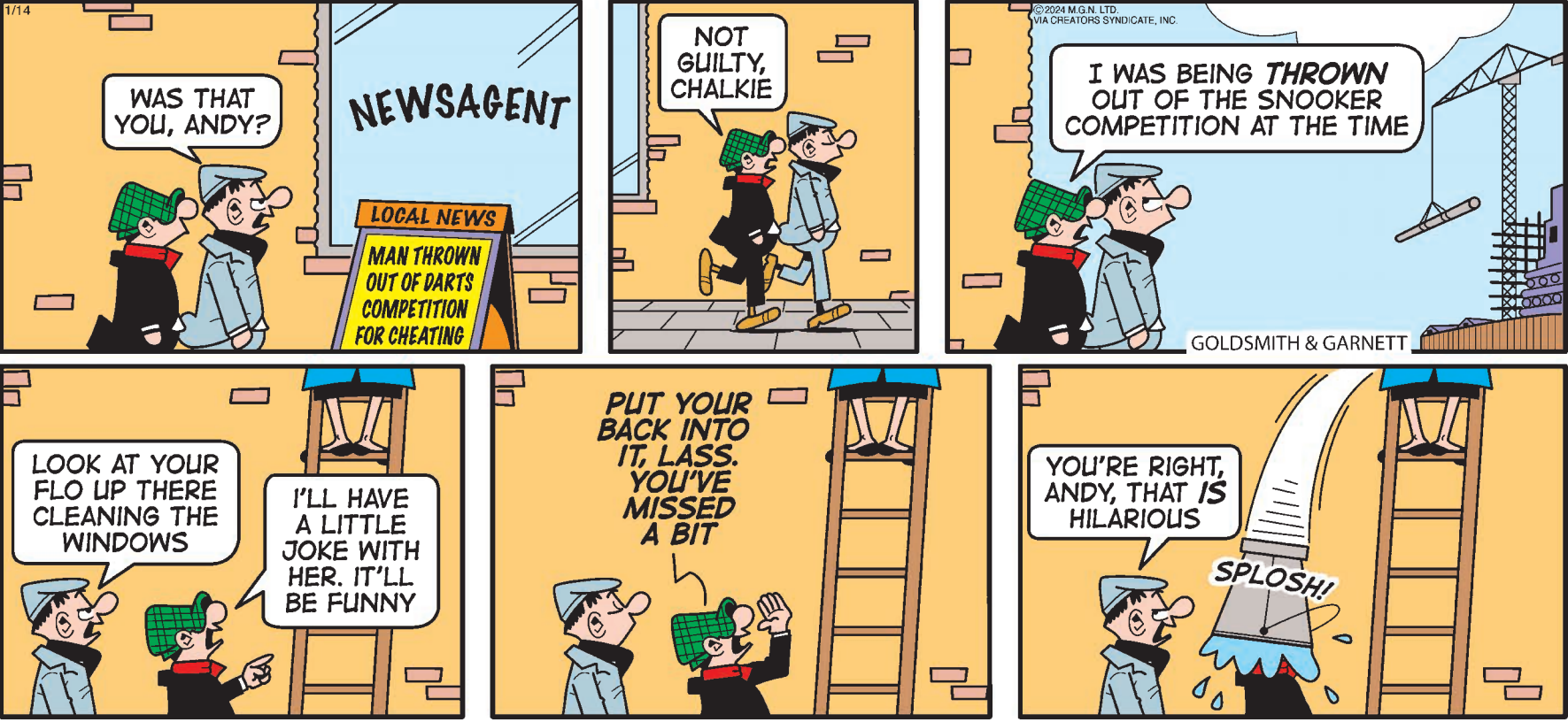
To schedule an appointment in Lena, Oconto, Oconto Falls, Suring, Gillett, or Mountain call (920) 846-8187 or visit prevea.com/closer.



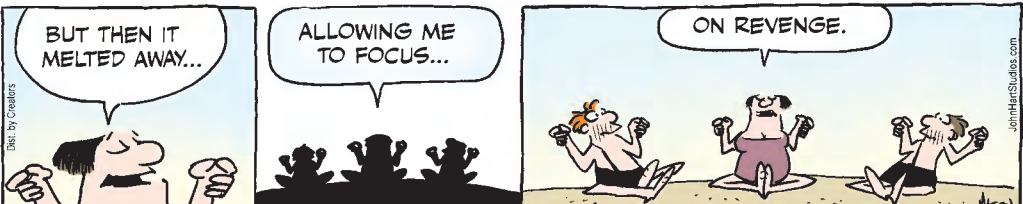
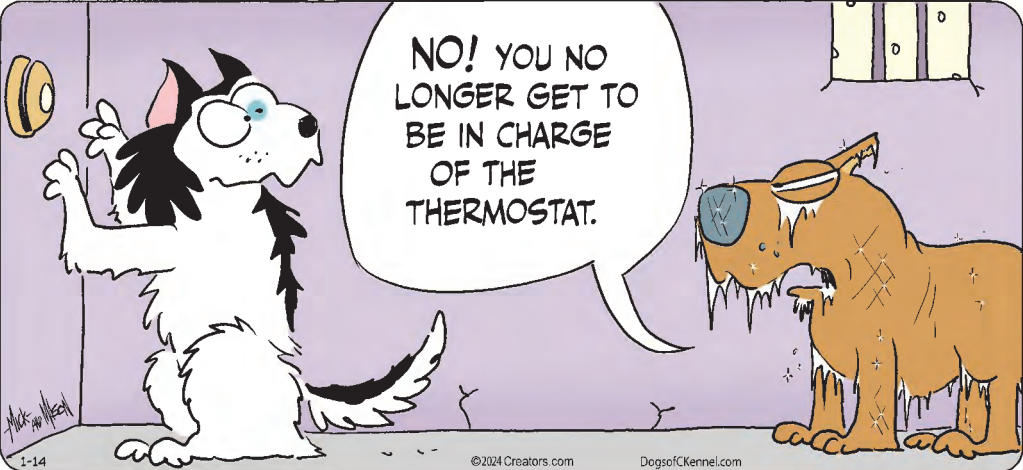


ANDY CAPP

by Smythe



DOGS OF C-KENNEL BY MICK MASTROIANNI AND MASON MASTROIANNI





At left, Jordan Love signals the completion of his second of three touchdown passes against the Dallas Cowboys during Wild Card Weekend. He completed 16 of 21 passes for 272 yards. He was not intercepted, did not fumble and was not sacked in the 48-32 win that sends the Packers to San Francisco for the Divisional Round game. Above, Before Sunday's playoff game in Dallas, Green Bay Packers running back Aaron Jones got to talk to one of his football idols, legendary Cowboys running back Emmitt Smith. Jones proceeded to have one of those vintage Smith games. Jones carried 21 times for 118 yards and three touchdowns. If Aaron Rodgers owned Chicago, Jones owns Dallas. In four career games against the Cowboys, he's rushed for 488 yards and nine touchdowns.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

Green Bay stuns Dallas to move on in playoffs

Packers tie franchise records for points in a playoff game

By LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

Jordan Love and Aaron Jones combined for six touchdowns, as the Green Bay Packers tied a franchise record for points in a postseason game with its 48-32 victory over the Dallas Cowboys in Dallas on Jan. 14.

"It feels fine, to be in that locker room, it is a great environment to be in," said Love, after the victory. "I can't say enough about how proud I am of everyone in the locker room. It has been a long season. We have been counted out a lot of the season – just the way everybody keeps battling, keeps competing, keeps getting better and putting on great performances like tonight. It is a great feeling."

Love certainly looked the part of a franchise quarterback in his first playoff start, as the fourth-year pro completed 16-of-21 passes for 272 yards and three touchdowns. In total, Love finished with a 157.2 passer rating.

As has been the case for most of his career, Jones continued to gash the Cowboys defense on the ground. Jones finished the game recording 21 carries for 118



Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott is hit again by Green Bay defenders in the Wild Card Weekend game Sunday. The No.7 seed Packers defeated the No. 2 seed Cowboys 48-32.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

yards and three touchdowns. Those three rushing touchdowns tied Ryan Grant's mark for most rushing touchdowns in a playoff game in Green Bay history.

"I think that was the key for us coming into this game was to run the ball well.

and I think we did that," said Love. "Getting started, the O-Line, like I said, played great and Aaron Jones had an awesome night. I think the run game – the way we were running the ball – opened up everything else, and I think it was able to keep the pass rush down a little bit. It was a great game by the O-Line and the running backs."

As for the receiving game, Romeo Doubs was the main benefactor of Love's big day, as the Nevada alum recorded 151 yards and one touchdown on six receptions. In another historic performance for Green Bay, this was Doubs' first career 100-yard game.

Rookies Luke Musgrave and Dontayvion Wicks rounded out Love's three touchdown passes.

"We are playing all together as one," said Jones, on his success against Dallas and the past few weeks. "The blocking unit – they are doing their thing up front making it easy for me to pick and choose what hole I want to run through."

Aside from 16 points from the Cowboys in garbage time, the Green Bay Packers defense once again was at the top of

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

its game. The vaunted Dallas offense was held to just seven points in the first half, as there seemed to be a major disconnect between quarterback Dak Prescott and star wide receiver CeeDee Lamb.

Lamb, who led the NFL receptions, was held to just 18 yards on two receptions. The Oklahoma alum was able to get back to that All-Pro form in the second half though, as he finished the game with 110 yards on nine receptions.

As for Prescott, he totaled 403 yards on 41-of-60 passes, adding three touchdowns. Unfortunately for the Cowboys though, two of Prescott's passes were intercepted.

Up 7-0 late in the first quarter, Prescott dropped back and threw a pass intended for Brandin Cooks. Packers defensive back Jaire Alexander, who was battling an ankle injury late in the week, made an incredible play on the ball and came up with a diving interception. Three plays later, Jones scored his second touchdown of the day.

The Packers' second interception of the day came late in the second quarter, as during Dallas' march, Prescott threw a pass intended for Lamb. Packers defensive back Darnell Savage made a great break on the ball, jumped in front of Lamb and intercepted the pass. With an open field in front of him, Savage returned the interception all the way back for a touchdown.

"I was just watching the play develop and he obviously jumped the route, so I don't know if he knew what was coming," said head coach Matt LaFleur, on the interception. "It was obviously a critical play in this game. That just kind of allowed us to pile it on at that point."

Dallas' only first half touchdown came late in the half, as Prescott connected with tight end and former Wisconsin Badger Jake Ferguson for the first of his three touchdown receptions.

The Cowboys opened the second half with a field goal, but as was the story for the entire game, anytime Dallas showed any momentum, Green Bay immediately responded. In this case, after Dallas made its field goal, Green Bay faced a first-and-10 from its own 37-yard line. Love dropped back to pass and connected with Doubs, who after a catch and run, picked up 46 yards. Two plays later, Jones capped off his trifecta of touchdowns with a 9-yard rush.

The Cowboys responded with an 11-play drive that ended in a 1-yard touchdown rush from running back Tony Pollard. More than just giving up the touchdown, Green Bay lost Alexander for the game as early in



Above, With Jayden Reed (11) throwing a block, Romeo Doubs (87) runs down the field after catching a Jodran Love pass. Below, Doubs was pushed down and out of bounds, with quarterback Alex McGough cheering him on. Double caught six catches for 158 yards and a touchdown. Doubs was the main benefactor of Love's big day, as the Nevada alum recorded 151 yards and one touchdown on six receptions. In another historic performance for Green Bay, this was Doubs' first career 100-yard game.

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the drive, he went down with what appeared to be an injury to his already injured ankle. On Green Bay's next drive, Jones continued to dismantle the Cowboys' defense, picking up 37 yards on the first two plays. With the strong run game, Green Bay dialed up a play action pass that

saw Musgrave wide open down the right side of the field. When he caught the pass, the closest defender to Musgrave was 16 yards away. With the lack of the defense near him, Musgrave had a straight shot to the end zone.

"Like I said, when you are able to run the ball, it opens everything else up," said Jones. "I think we were able to set them up pretty nice on Luke's (Musgrave) touchdown, you know, they have been seeing a lot of outside zone all game, and we hit them with that."

After turning Dallas over on downs, Green Bay's final touchdown and dagger in the game came as Love and company were faced with a fourth-and-two from the Cowboys' 3-yard line. Love took the snap, rolled to his right and threw a dart to Doubs, which after a made extra point, put the Packers up 48-16.

"Guys are out there making plays," said Love, on his receivers being open all game. "The one to Luke (Musgrave) was a great one dialed up by Matt (LaFleur) to get him wide open. The one to Wicks - just go back and look at his route - it was a great route all around, and then he was able to finish the play. I mean, guys are making plays, the O-Line is giving me time to get the ball off, so all around, a team effort."

With 10:23 left in the game, the game was not completely over, as Dallas ripped off 16 straight points and was in position to make the contest a one-score game with 2:06 remaining.

Prescott and company marched down to the Packers 29-yard line. From there, the drive stalled, as on third down Packers linebacker Preston Smith sacked Prescott to set up fourth down.

On the ensuing play, Prescott threw up a prayer, which landed incomplete, allowing the Packers to take back over and kneel the clock out.

The season ended sour again for the Dallas Cowboys, as it now marks 28 years since the Cowboys have made it past the Divisional Round in the NFC playoffs. In fact, since AT&T Stadium in Dallas was completed after the 2009 season, the Packers and Cowboys both have two playoff victories there.

As for Green Bay, it became the first seven seed in NFL history to win a playoff game. With the victory, Green Bay will now take a flight over to Santa Clara to take on the San Francisco 49ers.

The Packers have struggled in the Aaron Rodgers era playing at San Francisco, but with a new quarterback at the helm and a multitude of offensive weapons, can Green Bay exercise its demons on the West Coast?

Young Packers look like a force in NFC

Love has 21 touchdowns, one interception in last nine games

By LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

After Green Bay's offense dismantled the Dallas Cowboys' number one ranked regular season defense, the young Packers team proved that it has to be taken seriously as a contender for the Super Bowl.

After defeating the Carolina Panthers on Christmas Eve, Green Bay's playoff chances sat at just 28%. Since then, the Packers have ripped off three consecutive victories and find themselves two games away from a Super Bowl appearance. It seemed unlikely that even if Green Bay snuck into the playoffs, it would not have a chance to beat the Dallas Cowboys in Dallas.

Jordan Love and company didn't heed that message though. Part of the reason why Green Bay has made what many would think as a miraculous run, lands on the efforts of Love and the offense.

Since Green Bay's Week 9 loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers, Love has been near perfect. Over the past nine games, Love has thrown for 21 touchdown passes, while throwing just one interception. With Love's success as of recent, those young weapons around him have been just as good. Players like Bo Melton, Tucker Kraft and Jayden Reed have gone from unknown to household names.

"I am just so proud and happy

for (Love)," said head coach Matt LaFleur. "He is a dude, he is a real dude."

Even with Green Bay becoming the youngest offense in NFL history to appear in the playoffs, and subsequently the youngest offense to win a playoff game, it seems that the improved play of the team's veteran offensive leader has been the catalyst. Over the past four weeks, Aaron Jones has recorded four straight 100-plus rushing yard games. Jones' emergence has really opened the offense to expose the opposing team's passing defenses.

"We believe in each other. We have faith in each other, and we know that we have all of the weapons in that building and in the room," said Jones, on why he believes in this young Packers team. "However you want to put it, we have all of the weapons that we need on this team. People can continue to doubt us, but that is fine. We love the underdog mentality and love the underdog approach. What are people going to say next?"

With the rushing game getting going and, in turn, the passing game excelling, the Green Bay Packers' offensive line has to be credited. Over the last four weeks, Love has been sacked just twice. The culmination of the exceptional play from the offensive line, run game and Love has turned Green Bay's offense into one of, if not the best offense currently in the league.



Luke Musgrave (88) and Bo Melton (80) celebrate after Musgrave's touchdown against the Cowboys. Since Green Bay's Week 9 loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers, quarterback Jordan Love has been near perfect. Over the past nine games, Love has thrown for 21 touchdown passes, while throwing just one interception. With Love's success as of recent, those young weapons around him have been just as good. Players like Musgrave, Melton, Tucker Kraft and Jayden Reed have gone from unknown to household names.

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What also seems to be helping Green Bay is the lack of expectations. As had been stated before, this was supposed to be a "see-what-we-have" season. Now it certainly seems like the Packers are playing with house money. It already accomplished what

the season goal was. The rest of it is extra.

Similar to the Cincinnati Bengals team that went to the Super Bowl a few years back, it has become very apparent that this Packers team is playing fast and playing loose. All in all though, without a true "superstar" on this team, Green Bay is really playing together as a complete team.

"It is all 11 across the board that have to be on the same page, and I think you see that happening now - we are all on the same page," said Jones. "We knew it would take time throughout the season ... and we have been able to get over that hump."

Playing as a complete team is what fueled Green Bay's victory over the Dallas Cowboys, as five different players scored touchdowns.

While Dallas is a good team and the victory needs to be celebrated, the Packers will face a different kind of beast next week. With the exception of a few weeks, the San Francisco 49ers have looked like one of the two best teams in the NFL all season long. It is obvious, but this will be the Packers' biggest test all season long and it is of course the biggest game of Love's career.

With that being said, after seeing the Packers annihilate the Dallas Cowboys, there is no reason why Green Bay can't go to California and beat the San Francisco 49ers on Saturday.



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Divisional Round will challenge Packers' offense against 49ers' defense

By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

The Green Bay Packers are in the playoffs, and they're not just here to participate.

Less than a year after making seismic changes to their organization, and less than three months after falling to 2-5, the Packers are now 10-8 and in the postseason for the first time since 2021.

That was all well and good, but the season was going to be a relative footnote if the Packers laid an egg in Dallas.

They didn't. Jordan Love was flawless, throwing three touchdowns to three different receivers en route to what was a perfect passer rating before his final pass of the game.

Aaron Jones was dominant again, rolling for more than 100 yards on the ground.

Darnell Savage and Jaire Alexander had big plays on defense, and the Packers built a lead that got as high as 48-16.

Winning in Dallas has become the norm for this franchise. The Packers are 6-0 at AT&T Stadium, including Super Bowl XLV. They're 2-0 against the Cowboys in postseason play as well.

The San Francisco 49ers? That's a different story.

After dominating the 49ers for much of the 1990s, the clear turning point in this rivalry is Terrell Owens' catch in the 1999 Wild Card game where Jerry Rice appeared to get away with a fumble the Packers recovered.

Since that time, the Packers are 1-4 against the 49ers in the playoffs. They've been beaten by at least two scores every



Luke Musgrave scored a touchdown in the third quarter to make the score 41-16 in favor of the Packers. Leading up the TD, Aaron Jones ran right for 10 yards. Then, Jones ran right for 27 yards. Then, Jordan Love faked the handoff to Jones and Musgrave, who motioned across the formation to the left, ran wide open through the Dallas secondary. Love's pass hung in the air forever. Musgrave caught the ball around the 13 and ran through a tackle attempt at the 2 for a 38-yard touchdown.

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time they've had to play in San Francisco. If the Packers are going to reverse that trend, here are their keys to victory.

Packers' offensive line vs. 49ers pass rush
When you rank the 49ers roster, there aren't many, if any names, that come up

before star pass rusher Nick Bosa. Bosa is one of the league's best at getting opposing quarterbacks to the ground.

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Packers have their work cut out for them

By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

Packers's offense vs. 49ers' defense

All eyes are going to be on Jordan Love as he looks for an encore performance of his sparkling playoff debut. Aaron Rodgers' playoff debut was a game for the ages, where the Packers lost 51- 45, but Rodgers was brilliant.

Love's offense scored more points and was able to get a win, something that eluded Rodgers in his first go-round of the postseason.

We're running out of superlatives for Love at this point. Since the calendar turned to December he's thrown 21 touchdowns to just one interception.

When the lights were the brightest on Sunday in Dallas, Love shined the brightest.

He was facing an MVP candidate and an offense that railroaded everyone en route to the NFC's second seed.

In addition, Dallas boasted a top-10 defense on the season.

None of that mattered. Love eviscerated Dallas' defense. He threw three touchdown passes to three different receivers, using three different arm angles.

At this point, if we were ranking offenses going into the playoffs, Green Bay has an argument for the best offense remaining. That's how well they've played.

They've done that despite having receivers in and out of the lineup. Christian Watson returned Sunday but was limited to one catch. Romeo Doubs is coming off the best game of his career, going for 151 yards on six catches, including the final nail in Dallas' coffin. Dontayvion Wicks and Jayden Reed may have been Green Bay's best receivers down the stretch of the season. They were held to two catches, and the Packers still threw up 48 points against Dallas' defense.

Luke Musgrave found the end zone,



Two completions to tight end Tucker Kraft moved Green Bay into goal-to-go in the first quarter against the Cowboys. On third-and-goal, Aaron Jones plowed through for a 3-yard touchdown to put the Packers ahead 7-0 with 7 minutes, 8 seconds left in the first quarter. Kraft's two catches totaled 15 yards.

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and Tucker Kraft was happy to join him. The Packers used a lot of 12 personnel to try and keep Dallas off balance, and they were able to do that.

Rasheed Walker has shaken off some early struggles and been really consistent since the calendar turned to November.

Walker was splitting time with Yosh Njiman at times during the season. That competition appears to be over, with Walker winning.

Whether he's the team's tackle of the future remains to be seen, but he's one of the biggest reason's for Green Bay's improvement.

Zach Tom won the right tackle position early in the year and has been rock

solid all season long.

He's one of the team's best players. He bounced out of the lineup for a brief minute against Chicago but was able to finish the game.

The run game has found its stride. Aaron Jones has run for more than 100 yards each of the last four weeks. Despite all of the factors working against Jones, he remains their best player.

San Francisco's defense is run by one of the best in the sport with Steve Wilks running the show.

Nick Bosa and Chase Young used to dream of terrorizing opposing offenses when they were at Ohio State, but were never able to do so. Now, they're reunited

and chasing down opposing quarterbacks with a vengeance.

Javon Hargrave was a free agent addition from Philadelphia and gives them some punch on the interior as well.

Behind their front, the 49ers have one of the best linebackers in football. When Aaron Rodgers was in Green Bay he used to rave about Fred Warner's ability as a linebacker.

Warner has not slowed down and is one of the leaders of a 49ers' defense that is near the top of the league once again.

Packer' defense vs. 49ers' offense

Green Bay's final numbers on defense are not going to be indicative

of how good they were in Sunday's 48-32 win over the Dallas Cowboys.

Yes, 32 points sounds like a lot. Dak Prescott even piled up more than 400 yards through the air.

That being said, Green Bay's defense had the Dallas offense in a vice grip for most of the game while it was still hanging in the balance.

Darnell Savage had a splash play, returning an interception for a touchdown to give them a 27-0 lead in the first half, that ended the game for all intents and purposes.

Jaire Alexander returned to the lineup after being questionable for most of the week and had an interception of his own.

All-world receiver CeeDee Lamb was limited to nine catches for 110 yards, most of which came after the Packers built a 48-16 lead.

They'll need to be better on Sunday, but that was a good performance against an offense that performed well against just about everyone throughout the season.

Preston Smith, Lukas Van Ness, Keisean Nixon and De'Vondre Campbell all had a sack of Dak Prescott as well. The front four wasn't as good as they had been in previous weeks but was able to affect Prescott enough in the pocket to make him uncomfortable.

This week is a different story.

Everything, as it usually

does, starts with the quarterback. Brock Purdy had arguably the best season of any player at his position.

He'll finish in the top-5 of MVP voting this year.

He's not the only MVP candidate in San Francisco. Christian McCaffery has been resurgent since being traded to San Francisco a season ago. McCaffery, of all their weapons, is the most dangerous one, and a touchdown machine. McCaffery finished the year with 14 touchdowns and may have had more if they had not limited his usage after clinching the NFC's top seed in the postseason.

The 49ers identity surrounds McCaffery, and the Packers will need to slow down San Francisco's ground game to have any chance.

Brandon Aiyuk, Deebo Samuel, and George Kittle are all capable of hurting the Packers through the passing game as well.

Green Bay's defensive line might be peaking at the right time, having held each of the last four teams they've faced to less than 100 yards rushing.

This line of scrimmage battle is one to keep an eye on.

Special teams

Green Bay's special teams is not as bad as it was in 2021 when they were one of the laughingstocks of the NFL.

Despite the investment both in their special teams' coordinator and roster spots used on special-

ists, the Packers have not improved nearly enough to meet the investment that they've made in their special teams.

They are the most penalized unit in football and seem to make at least one major miscue per week.

Anders Carlson missed an extra point on Sunday. He has missed at least one kick in every game of the Packers' current four game winning streak.

The Packers gave up a big kick return to Kavontae Turpin of 47 yards that set up Dallas' first touchdown of the game.

In addition, one of their attempted onside kick recoveries was more eventual than it likely should have been.

Rich Bisaccia is unlikely to be on the hot seat after receiving a promotion for 2023, but this unit should be under a microscope, and even further as the intensity of the games ramp up.

The San Francisco 49ers targeted Green Bay's special teams as a massive point of weakness in their upset victory at Lambeau Field two seasons ago. They are well coached on special teams but have taken a small step back since that game in 2022.

Jake Moody is not as good as Robbie Gould was, and Ray-Ray McCloud is no longer in San Francisco, either.

Despite that, San Francisco has a decided advantage in this phase of the game.

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