



CELEBRATING TIGERTON GRADUATES

The Tigerton High School Class of 2020 is being honored with banners on Cedar Street. The banners of the nine graduates start at the high school and end at the corner of Ash and Cedar streets. SEE MORE ON PAGE 2.

MIRIAM NELSON | NEW MEDIA

A variety of jobs viewable outside your door

News editor Miriam Nelson marvels at the artistry of destruction through cutting down trees and other jobs she will not be a part of.

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Bids opened at board meeting

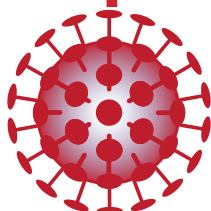
Wittenberg Village Board awarded bids for the repair of the firehouse roof and repaving of the parking lot at the Community Center.

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Groshek looks at loss of season

Wittenberg-Birnamwood senior Jacob Groshek won't get the thrill of enjoying a final season with his friends and teammates.

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Due to the many disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Wittenberg Enterprise and Birnamwood News is now published once a week, on Fridays. In it you'll find updates about the coronavirus and its impact on life in northeastern Wisconsin, and more local news. You'll also find regular updates at www.newmedia-wi.com. Thank you for your purchase, your subscription and your support.

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Tigerton seniors honored with banners

Donations were raised in 30 minutes

By **MIRIAM NELSON**
News Editor

TIGERTON — With the COVID-19 pandemic canceling school activities, sports and special events, it's been a difficult time for Wisconsin students, especially seniors. Wanda Tucker, senior class adviser at Tigerton High School, wanted to make sure the nine students in the Class of 2020 know they have not been forgotten.

Tucker, who is also a special education aide at the high school, said she'd been hearing about the seniors' challenges and frustrations from students and parents. "Everyone feels bad for them," she said. "I thought of doing something special for them to let them know how proud our community and school is of them, and the grace and dignity with which they are handling all of this."

"I saw on Facebook that different schools were having banners for their spring sport athletes," Tucker added. "I thought it was a good idea, but that we should do it for the whole class." In Marion, where Tucker lives, there are similar banners on the street lamps. So she contacted the company that produced them, and they said they could help out with this project.

"They sent me a quote of \$1,260 for the nine banners, and I started making phone calls," said Tucker, who started the project April 2 and sought funds from the school's spirit club, Premier Bank and First National Bank.

She was quickly joined by Amy Laatsch, another special education aide, and ag/health teacher Lori Rowe. They reached out to the Tigerton FFA, FFA Alumni and Parent Community Organization. Andrea Graham, president of the village of Tigerton and director of the Main Street program, secured funding from both groups and arranged to have a village employee hang the banners. Within half an hour, enough money was raised to fund the project, Tucker said. Donations ranged from \$50 to \$250.

"I think it's amazing. It's the best honor for them," said Graham. "They're missing out on so much."

"Next step was to send a copy of



Tigerton High School senior Nathaen Wanta's banner hangs at the corner of Ash and Cedar streets. The valedictorian received the \$10,000 Herb Kohl scholarship, plus a \$5,000 scholarship from UW-Green Bay, where he will study to become an actuary.

MIRIAM NELSON | NEW MEDIA

each senior's class picture," Tucker said. "By the end of the afternoon, mock ups were sent to me. The order was approved, and we only had to wait for them to get here." Installation of the banners, which were kept a secret from seniors and their parents, occurred April 21. When the banners are taken down, they will be given to the students.

Marilyn Janke, Tigerton High School's acting principal, is not surprised that Tucker just stepped up and got the job done. She noted that staff and students often turn to Tucker for help with extra events and activities. Janke added that the district has not yet decided how it will handle graduation, but a decision needs to be made by May 11 in order to get the issue in front of the school board. About half of the seniors are going on to higher

education, Janke said; two seniors are already working full-time jobs.

Nathaen Wanta, son of Mike and Carri Wanta, is valedictorian this year, and his banner is on the corner of Ash and Cedar streets. He will be a math major this fall at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

"It's kind of a bummer that this pandemic had to happen now," Wanta said. "But I understand that we have to take these measures for the safety of everyone."

After the banner project was already underway, Tucker said parents and other educators — including tech ed teacher Tim Schmidt — started tossing around the same idea.

"Now I can tell them to take a look at Cedar Street," said Tucker.

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The art of a job well done

Jobs, I've had a bunch. Too many here for me to mention...that opening line was my nod to Sinatra with my own spin on "My Way." I thought I'd lead with it as I've had the opportunity to observe several jobs this month right outside my door, and it's given me pause to know there are some jobs I will never experience in this lifetime.

As I write this, the excavators are outside my door, tearing up the asphalt that was once known as Webb Street. I have no idea when it was first paved over, but I do know my house was built for Rev. E.J. Homme in 1881. Now that the crew has made short work of ripping it out, the road must look similar to the road Homme traveled so many moons ago.

The man operating the scoopy thing appears to be working magic. How can a machine that huge smash the surface just hard enough



MIRIAM NELSON

to break up the road to just below the surface and not end up with a hole to China? He delicately scoops up the debris and lays it gently in layers in the awaiting dump truck (that vehicle I knew the name of).

I can see now why playtime is so important for kids as they learn to judge distances, weights and space. I'm secretly wishing my niece and my nephews were all 5 years old again and hanging out with me in the front yard, watching this miracle.

Last week, the trees on our street were felled by men who certainly know geometry and physics better than I ever will. Each limb was cut

at the exact place where it would be guaranteed to fall to the ground without tangling in a telephone wire or crashing into a house.

I marveled as they climbed to the treetops with ease, knowing full well I would have tested the laws of gravity several times before managing to cut a single limb. Let's be real, there's no way anyone would put a chainsaw in my hands and have me climb a tree. I'm pretty sure I'd be the one missing a limb or two.

We moved into this house when I was 8½ years old. When you're a kid, the "and a half" is a very important measure of time! It was the end of January in 1966 and — in my memory, confirmed by Mom — the coldest day of the year. It would be many long months before I would see the full beauty of our tree-lined street. Out of all the trees on our property, there was only one that

had a limb low enough for me to reach. I've always been afraid of heights, but I could manage to get to that limb and feel content to have it be the top of my world.

A little pang hit my chest as I watched the worker cut off the branch that represented my travel to a magical world. In no time at all, there was nothing left but the memory.

Before my friend Lois Smith left this earthly stage, she sponsored one last mural depicting scenes of the artistry involved in the work we do. She wanted people to know every kind of job has a creative and artistic element. I have a feeling she's been watching the art of road construction with me. I'm in good company.

Miriam Nelson is the news editor of the Wittenberg Enterprise & Birnamwood News. Readers can contact her at mnelson@newmedia-wi.com

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Up close and personal

The large equipment uses by Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC has made it seem effortless to remove trees, sidewalks and asphalt in a matter of days. The company, from Ironwood, Michigan, expects to have the project completed before the end of May.

MIRIAM NELSON | NEW MEDIA

Notice of Meeting to Adjourn the 2020 Board of Review to Later Date Due to the Public Health Crisis Related to Covid-19*

Board of Review Notice of Meeting

Village of Wittenberg, Shawano County

The Board of Review will meet on the 19th day of May, 2020 at 6:00p.m. at the Village of Wittenberg Community Center for the purpose of calling the Board of Review into session during the forty-five day period beginning the 4th Monday of April, pursuant to Sec. 70.47(1) of WI Statutes. Due to the fact the assessment roll is not completed at this time, and in consideration of the current public health crisis related to COVID-19, it is anticipated that the Board of Review will be adjourned "until a safer time".

Pursuant to Sec 70.45 of WI Statutes the assessment roll for the year 2020 assessment will be open for examination upon its completion at least 7 days prior to the reconvened board of review. Additional notice of the reconvened board of review, as required under Wis. Stat. § 70.47(2), will be provided at least 15 days in advance of the reconvened meeting.

Instructional material about the assessment process will be available at that time including information on how to file an objection and the Board of Review procedures under Wisconsin law. In addition, the *2020 Property Assessment Appeal Guide for Wisconsin Real Property Owners* is currently available on the Department of Revenue's website --> www.revenue.wi.gov. Please note the Village clerk must be notified of your intent to object to an assessment at least 48 hours prior to the reconvened meeting. You may contact the Village Assessor for further information.

Notice is hereby given this 1st day of May, 2020 by:

Traci Matsche
Village Clerk

WNAXLP

Facemasks required in Aspirus facilities

Aspirus has implemented precautionary measures to help prevent the transmission of COVID-19, including screening everyone who enters its facilities for symptoms of the virus.

The CDC's latest guidance focuses on promoting "source control" and recommends expanded use of facemasks in settings outside the home.

The CDC's guidance is intended to help prevent transmission from individuals who do not have or are

not yet exhibiting symptoms.

Effective immediately, everyone who enters an Aspirus facility is required to wear a facemask. Cloth facemasks are acceptable. Patients and visitors who have their own facemasks are asked to wear them. Those who do not have a facemask will be provided one.

Aspirus continues to accept and appreciate donations of homemade cloth facemasks. Masks labeled with the donor's contact information can be dropped at the loading dock or main entrance of Aspirus Langlade Hospital, 112 E. Fifth Ave., Antigo.

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Firehouse roof, parking lot improvements coming

Village board approves bids on 2 summer projects

By **MIRIAM NELSON**
News Editor

WITTENBERG — Bids for paving the front and back parking lots at the Wittenberg Community Center and repairs to the firehouse roof were opened April 21 and voted on by the Wittenberg Village Board.

Only two companies offered bids for the parking lot job; the bids were just \$80 apart.

The bid by RC Pavers, LLC, of Schofield, for the back parking lot

was \$62,725 and the front parking lot was \$9,000, for a total of \$71,725.

Northeast Asphalt, of Greenville, bid \$57,295 for the back parking lot and \$14,510 for the front, for a total of \$71,805.

According to Village Clerk Traci Matsche, the companies bid on the total project, not on just front or back parking lots.

"They're both reputable. I know their work," said Joel Yaeger, head of the maintenance department and sewer and water superintendent.

The board voted to accept the lower bid from RC Pavers, LLC, which is a division of Ron Christensen Trucking — a business that has been locally owned and operated for 35-plus years.

According to their website, the company monitors and produces

hot asphalt that can be customized based on project need.

No time was set for the project to begin, but the board members agreed the earlier the better in case summer brings a relaxation in the Safer at Home restrictions and people start booking events. According to Matsche, nothing is scheduled until June when there might be a Soup for Veterans events. She also noted the Wittenberg Community Days set for June 13-14 has been canceled.

The board had budgeted \$49,000 for a new roof for the firehouse. The only bid that came in, from Conklin, in Marion, was well below that figure.

Once the project starts, if it's determined the entire roof needs to be replaced, the bid for that portion of the project is \$12,806. The

cost would include tearing off the old roof and new steel to cover the 4,000-square-foot section that makes up the roof.

The roof would then be covered with insulation and EPDM covering with a warranty choice of 10 or 18 years. If the roof doesn't need to be replaced, the cost for just the insulation/covering is \$14,400 for the 18-year warranty and \$12,480 for the 10-year warranty.

The board voted to authorize up to \$28,000 for the project to include replacement of the roof, if needed, for \$12,806 and the roof insulation and covering with the 18-year warranty for \$14,400.

As part of its service, Conklin comes back once a year to check on the condition of the roof. The roof has been leaking for five years.

Aspirus to furlough some employees

Because of the organizational impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Aspirus has announced that it must

furlough or reduce hours for some employees, effective Friday. These changes will primarily impact employees who do not work in direct patient care.

"This is the most difficult deci-

sion our leadership team has ever made ... but COVID-19 is reducing our business volumes," said Matthew Heywood, Aspirus president and CEO. "We care deeply about our team members, and our goal

is to bring them back as soon as volumes allow us to do so."

Furloughed employees can continue their health insurance and benefits, and they may be recalled at any time to meet staffing needs.



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Tigerton upgrades street lights with energy grant

New LED lights brighter, more efficient

TIGERTON — With a grant provided through the USDA's Rural Energy for America Program, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative recently replaced approximately 100 street lights with LED lights in the village of Tigerton.

The energy program provides financial assistance to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to complete clean energy projects. Its direct project grants provide funding to purchase, install and construct a renewable energy or energy-efficiency project.

The CWEC became aware of potential funds for the Tigerton light project while working on a separate grant.

"I inquired to see if this (Tigerton project) would qualify, and it did," said Dennis Magee, line manager for CWEC. "They didn't think it was going to qualify because it wasn't as big of a project, but it actually did."

Magee said CWEC started the application process for the grant and informed village officials about the application.

"They were good with it," Magee said.

John Witter, Tigerton's director of public works, was the point of contact for the project.

CWEC received \$13,417 through the grant to replace the 150-watt high-pressure sodium light fixtures with energy efficient 82-watt LED light fixtures. The arms holding the lights were also replaced. The LED lights are approved by the Department of Transportation, which means the bulbs are designed to be used as street lights and reduce glare for drivers on the road.

"LED lighting is truly a win-win for the community and the cooperative," said Mike Wade, president and CEO of CWEC. "The light-emitting diodes have a longer life than traditional high-pressure sodium lamps and produce a better light pattern and color. They use less energy and will require less maintenance. We will continue to replace our older outdoor lights with LED until our entire system is LED."

John Bestul, the CWEC service foreman who removed the old lights and installed the new ones, said Tiger-



John Bestul, service foreman for Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative, installs a new LED light fixture to a light pole in the village of Tigerton.

CONTRIBUTED

ton residents he spoke with like the new lights. Some pointed out that the new LED lights are brighter than the old lights.

Magee said that one of the stipulations of the grant is that the energy savings must be documented.

The new LED lights also benefit CWEC because the lights will require less maintenance.

"The LEDs we have seem to be really working well and last well," Magee said. "We're not doing as much maintenance, so we're saving the co-op money and labor."

Bestul estimates he spent more than 80 hours working on the project.

"With the whole process, we were also able to find and fix a lot of little issues and clean some of the poles up and give them a cleaner look," Bestul said.

Magee added that it is important for CWEC to do projects like this in the communities it serves.

"We want to show that we want to be energy efficient too, just like everybody else," Magee said.

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SPORTS

ATHLETE PROFILE: JACOB GROSHEK

Witt-Birn senior will miss having fun with teammates

WITTENBERG — High school sports can mean a multitude of things to athletes. For Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School senior Jacob Groshek, the game of baseball was a way to enjoy time with friends while also competing at a high level.

A year ago, Groshek landed on the Central Wisconsin Conference-East Division honorable mention team.

Groshek will not get the chance to jump up to the second or first team after the WIAA officially canceled the spring sports season April 21.

Q: When did your interest in baseball begin?

A: During T-ball, so I was probably 5 years old.

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

A: Joking around with everyone on the team. That's usually the best part, and just spending time with everybody.

Q: Talk me through your emotions when the WIAA officially canceled the spring season.

A: I was pretty disappointed. I was kind of hoping that we'd get to play a couple games at least, so that was pretty disappointing.

Q: How disappointing is it not to be able to play your senior season?

A: Yeah, it kind of sucks. I was mostly looking forward to one last year with everybody together, with the other seniors — just being on a team and being around everybody.

Q: There's a lot of negatives that have circulated the past few weeks, and I'm wondering what positives you have tried to take away from this entire situation?



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Jacob Groshek runs to first base during a 2019 nonconference game against Wausau East in Wittenberg.

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A: I guess, don't take anything for granted, right? Because who would have thought that this would be the position everybody would be in a month ago, two months ago?

Q: What have the past several

weeks been like for you personally?

A: It's been a lot harder to make sure that I got everything in order for school, but I'm starting to figure it out now. I think I actually get

AT A GLANCE

ATHLETE: Jacob Groshek

SPORT: Baseball

POSITIONS: Third base, first base, catcher, pitcher

SCHOOL: Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School

YEAR: Senior

quite a bit more work done out of school than actually being in school. But I still don't get to see everybody, and it's not the same as being there.

Q: What's your favorite memory of competing on the Wittenberg-Birnamwood baseball team?

A: So it was JV yet, and we were taking infield-outfield. Our first baseman at the time caught the ball, and he was supposed to throw it to home. He tried, but he ended up throwing it into the first base dugout. One of the coaches (John Heinrich) laughed for about five minutes. We got a pretty good laugh out of that one.

Q: Favorite TV show, movie and musical artist?

A: TV show — Maybe "MeatEater." That would probably be my favorite one. Movie — "Tommy Boy." Musical artist — Morgan Wallen.

Q: Do you have a favorite athlete, and why?

A: Probably Walter Payton. I just watch all the old film of him, and I just liked how he played — just tough, and he wasn't that big. He would never shy away from contact, let me put it that way.

Q: What is your favorite thing to do when you are not in school or competing in a high school sport?

A: Probably fishing. Hunting or fishing.



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APARTMENTS/DUPLEX

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1st Month Free
Beautiful
Fully Remodeled
1 or 2 Bedroom
Convenient location
Garage Available
Starting at \$520
\$199 Deposit
Tom
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Bid Notice Town of Elderon

The Town of Elderon is requesting bids for crackfilling on various Town Roads. Bid is for approximately 3,200 pounds. Priced per pound. Bids can be mailed to Don Aanonsen, Chairman 218368 County Rd. OO Eland, WI. 54427 or emailed to aanonsendon@gmail.com Bids will be opened at meeting to be held on Tuesday May 5, 2020 at 6:00pm at the Town of Elderon Community Center. Any question contact Chairman Aanonsen at 715-881-0536. The Town of Elderon reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

Mary Ostrowski, Clerk

WNAXLP

TOWN OF WITTENBERG REQUEST FOR QUOTES FOR CHIP SEALING

The Town of Wittenberg is requesting quotes for chip sealing/slag sealing for the Town roads for 2020. The quote should be made based on the price per mile with a width of 20 feet. Any questions should be directed to Dick Beversdorf at 715-253-2908 or 715-881-3998. Quotes should be in a sealed envelope and marked **2020 Chip Sealing** and mailed to the Town of Wittenberg, PO Box 186, Wittenberg, WI 54499. Quotes should be received no later than Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. They will be opened during the regular Town Board meeting. The Board reserves the right to accept/decline any/all quotes.

LINDA FLETCHER, CLERK
Town of Wittenberg

WNAXLP

TOWN OF WITTENBERG REQUEST FOR QUOTES FOR CRACK FILLING

The Town of Wittenberg is requesting quotes for crack filling on the Town roads for 2020. The quote should be made based on the price per pound. Any questions should be directed to Dick Beversdorf 715-253-2908 or 715-881-3998. Quotes should be in a sealed envelope and marked 2020/Crack Filling and mailed to the Town of Wittenberg, PO Box 186, Wittenberg, WI 54499. Quotes should be received no later than Tuesday, May 19, 2020 by 6:00 p.m. They will be opened during the regular Town Board meeting. The Board reserves the right to accept/decline any/all quotes.

LINDA FLETCHER, CLERK
Town of Wittenberg

WNAXLP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC TEST AND CANVASS

Notice is hereby given the public testing of the DS-200 Precinct Tabulating Equipment and the AutoMARK marking device being used in municipalities within Marathon County—Special Election, Tuesday, May 12, 2020 is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 4, 2020. Municipalities within Marathon County will be publicly testing the DS-200 Tabulating Equipment and AutoMARK at the Municipal Clerk's Office in conjunction with the County Clerk's Office. Contact the Municipal Clerk for their scheduled time for testing.

The Marathon County Canvass Board will be canvassing election materials from the Tuesday, May 12, 2020 Spring Primary Election on Thursday, May 14, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. at Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau, Assembly Room and Tuesday, May 19, 2020 to complete the canvass, including any rehabilitated Provisional Ballots.

WNAXLP

This is the Friday-only COVID-19 Journal version of NEW Media's Shawano Leader, Wittenberg Enterprise & Birnamwood News and Oconto County Times Herald. Find us online at www.newmedia-wi.com

IT'S TAKEOUT TIME!

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Sat 4pm-930pm
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Witchcraft and matchmaking unravels a mystery

This week, I returned to a fun read by selecting “A Match Made in Spell” by Regina Welling and Erin Lynn. It is one of her Lexie Balefire series.

Lexie Balefire is fast approaching her 25th birthday. For Lexie, it will determine her future as a Balefire witch and Keeper of the Flame. Lexie grew up under the care of her faerie godmothers — Evian, faerie of water; Soleil, faerie of fire; and Terra, faerie of earth. The lovely faeries have done their best to raise Lexie but never told her the facts behind her orphan status.

When a wicked witch kills another witch, she is instantly turned to stone. Lexie knows this is true because she must pass the scorched spot where her mother died and the location of her grandmother's stone statue every day. At age 14, witches are capable of Awakening, or achieving their full witch powers. But for 10 years, Lexie has attempted to awaken her powers to no avail. Her 25th birthday will be her last chance.

If she fails, any nearby witch can claim Keeper of the Flame honors. With that on her mind, it is difficult



JAN JONES

for Lexie to concentrate on her day job. She runs FootSwept Matching using her amazing intuition (witchcraft) to feel the presence of her client's true love. Business is steady with high success rates. Sadly, Lexie has had vibes concerning her own true love, but she doesn't have to time to dwell on that now.

A fourth faerie godmother, Vaeta, has recently returned from a nasty sojourn in the dark places, and her presence tends to spark horrific arguments — complete with lightning, flooding and plenty of other-worldly things.

Lexie was walking home, remembering the pleasure of matching Harry Tart to his soulmate, Lemon — yes, she knew she'd have the name Lemon Tart, and that was OK — and how well things had gone with her newest client. Lexie's friend and partner Flix, the half faerie, had

AT A GLANCE

BOOK: “A Match Made in Spell”

AUTHOR: Regina Welling and Erin Lynn

PUBLISHER: Amazon.com Services LLC

PUBLISHED: Dec. 21, 2016

PAGES: 250

given her a new look, and it transformed her into a confident young woman ready to find true love, when she noted another faerie fight. Even worse, her normally homebody black cat Salem has been found by a new neighbor.

Mackintosh Clark is utterly handsome and seems really nice. He's also a musician at one of her favorite spots. She takes her friend Mona to a performance and is stunned at the way women are reacting to Kin's playing. When she see Lemon nearly throwing herself at the stage, she questions her matchmaking skills. Each time Kin plays, the women get more aggressive and possessive.

When Harry calls, saying Lemon is planning to run off with Kin, Lexie must get to the bottom of the situation. Whenever she's with Harry, Lemon is deeply in love, but when

Kin plays the guitar, she goes off the deep end. Lexie's witch sense tells her that something or someone is controlling what comes out of the guitar.

With Lexie's confrontation with a rival and her desperate attempt at Awakening, she witnesses Salem's transformation from cat into human form at will. But Lexie still has a lot to learn about controlling her new powers. As she and the faeries learn more about the spell on the guitar and how its wicked bewitching could affect Kin, they realize they have to take drastic action to break the spell.

That's when she learns that she has a half-brother. What he says about her mother and father shakes Lexie to the core, but it steels her resolve to deal with him in love instead of hate. Her first priority is protecting those she cares about. She'll deal with him when the time comes. Until then, she'll explore the possibility that Kin could be “the one” for her.

I prefer matching my love for reading with a nice selection of books. You can count on your public library to have what you need. Just stop and check it out.

Everything changes



The trees are down, the asphalt being removed and life on Webb Street will be interesting for those who live there. The project is expected to be finished before the end of May. MIRIAM NELSON | NEW MEDIA

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