



SPRING HAS SPRUNG, THE SEASON HAS BEGUN

Schairer's Greenhouse in Birnamwood opened last weekend, but Saturday — the day before Mother's Day — is generally the biggest sales day of the month. Owner Karen Schairer prims the geraniums in preparation for what she hopes will be a good season. **SEE MORE ON PAGE 20.** MIRIAM NELSON | NEW MEDIA

Meet Rich Olson

WBSD has a new board member. Olson replaces Dennis Rew, who served on the board for 28 years.

PAGE 2

Timeline for the end of the school year

Superintendent Garrett Rogowski explains current plans for graduation, prom and summer school for WBSD.

PAGE 4

Bierman baseball season upended

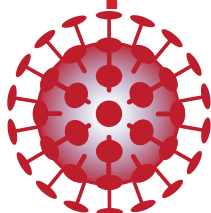
Senior goals go unrealized
Bowler senior baseball player Dylan Bierman can't achieve his dreams due to the coronavirus.

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Light mysteries for heavy times

Jan Jones reviews a light-hearted mystery about a newly dead man who can't move on to the afterlife until he finds out who murdered him.

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Due to the many disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Wittenberg Enterprise and Birnamwood News is now published 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.

WITTENBERG
ENTERPRISE
& BIRNAMWOOD NEWS

(USPS868-800)

Published Wednesdays

by **NEW Media Inc**

d/b/a The Wittenberg Enterprise

& Birnamwood News

Periodicals postage paid at

Wittenberg WI 54499

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

NEW Media Inc, 1464 E. Green Bay St.,

Shawano WI 54166

Editor

Miriam Nelson mnelson@newmedia-wi.com

Telephone

715-853-0515

Office

1464 E. Green Bay St., Shawano, WI 54166

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday

Publisher

Greg Mellis gmellis@newmedia-wi.com

Editor-In-Chief

Carol Ryczek cryczek@newmedia-wi.com

Sports Editor

Morgan Rode sports@newmedia-wi.com

Obituaries

obits@newmedia-wi.com

Classifieds/legal notices

classifieds@newmedia-wi.com

Retail advertising

pbahr@newmedia-wi.com

Calendar items (free)

calendar@newmedia-wi.com

Subscriptions

Subscription, delivery or payment question?

Call 715-526-2121

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday

circulation@newmedia-wi.com

RATES

Print

Print single issue: \$1

Prepaid nonrefundable 12 months:

\$41 Mail - WI

\$52 Mail - outside WI

www.newmedia-wi.com

1-day. \$0.99

3-mo (90-day introductory offer) \$12

Month-to-month \$10

Prepaid 12 month, nonrefundable, \$99

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Q&A WITH RICHARD OLSON JR.

New WBSD board member represents Birnamwood

By **MIRIAM NELSON**

News Editor

Q: What is your work/education background?

A: I work at Kolbe Windows and Doors in Wausau and have for the last 18 years. I hold a bachelor's degree in industrial management along with several information technology degrees and certificates. I am currently working in the information technology department at Kolbe. I am a proud graduate from Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School - Class of 1991.

Q: Where are you from?

A: I was born and raised in Birnamwood. I've been married to my wife, Megan, for five years. We met through online dating, which we like to joke about since we're both from Birnamwood. My oldest daughter, Marcianna, is currently attending University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point - Wausau and will be starting her third year at UWSP in the fall for education. My youngest daughter, Abigail, is a senior at Athens High School and then will be attending University of Wisconsin-Madison with an Army ROTC scholarship and will be focusing on business for her education. I enjoy being outdoors and hunt waterfowl and deer in the fall and am an umpire for baseball and softball in the spring. I got the inspiration to take on umpiring from my father-in-law, Jim Rew. You might see us umpiring together at Birnamwood BABA games.

Q: What's your basic philosophy for learning?

A: I'm a lifelong learner, having joined the military after high school, going into the workforce, working toward a degree and now pursuing classes to stay up to date. I believe that when it comes to quality education, it is a team effort between faculty, administration, the student and the parents/family to give each and every student the opportunity to succeed. I also believe that quality education includes a variety of coursework and extra-curricular opportunities, which are important to prepare young people for post-high school life — whether

that's additional education, the military or the workforce.

Q: What motivated you to join the school board?

A: I grew up in Birnamwood, left the community for a time, and moved back because I love what our small communities stand for when it comes to looking out for one another and wanting others to succeed. I am at a point in my life where my daughters are taking the next steps in their lives, and I wanted to be able to keep giving back to the communities where I grew up and offer what I can to be part of working to continue to be successful.

Q: What do you hope to bring to the board?

A: I want to continue the support that's needed for students, faculty and all staff to be successful. I hope to bring fresh ideas and a different perspective, drawing on my professional experience in technology.

Q: What do you hope to get from serving on the board?

A: I feel that the education I received when growing up in the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District made me ready to be successful in life. I want to continue that for all students and families. This is an unprecedented time in our communities and will take some "out-of-the-box" ideas to continue the success that this district has done to keep going forward. By serving on the board, I hope to get an opportunity to give back to the community that is my home and to be part of the solution for whatever may come our way.

Q: Which area do you serve and how should your constituents reach you?

A: I reside in and represent the village of Birnamwood on the school board. Constituents can reach me by email, rolson@wittbirn.k12.wi.us, or by calling me at 715-370-5370.

Q: You took over the position Dennis Rew held for 28 years, and he approached you; what did he say to encourage you to serve?

A: Dennis was asking me for a couple of years if I was interested in running for the school board.



Richard M. Olson Jr. was elected to the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School Board in April. He replaced Dennis Rew, who represented the village of Birnamwood for 28 years. CONTRIBUTED

I thought about it and with both of my daughters in high school, I wanted to be able to attend as many of their activities as I could. When Dennis asked me again this year and after talking it over with my wife, I decided the time was right as now I can devote the time needed to be a successful board member, since my daughters are not in high school anymore. Dennis said to me that he had confidence that I would bring a level head to the school board and would look at each issue and topic with the maturity and knowledge to make sure that each student had the opportunity to be successful during their time as a student. Getting that vote of confidence from Dennis was a great feeling and pushed me to say yes to running for school board.

Q: Do you serve in any other areas?

A: I am currently a council member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Birnamwood, an active member of the Darling-Gunderson American Legion Post No. 341 and the chairman for the Softball and Baseball Committees of the Central Wisconsin Officials Association.

mnelson@newmedia-wi.com

Paranoia or just bad luck?

I'm a procrastinator by nature, and I can tell you of many times when I had a feeling that even though I was late in doing something or going somewhere that it actually worked out to my advantage to having waited too long.

I'm also not a morning person but can, when necessary, get up early to get somewhere at a hour known only to God and the early birds who love those worms.

I'm not prone to conspiracy theories or burdened with bouts of paranoia. But this Webb Street project has tested my resolve enough to wonder if someone, somewhere is conspiring against me.

Being proactive is not in my nature, but knowing there would be a disruption to my normal street access during this project, I thought I could go against my nature and be a better citizen of the world.

Taking pictures to document this project is part of the historian, as well as the reporter, in me. I've been outside on a regular basis, talking to the workers in charge to keep tabs on the progress.

One day, I knew I would have



MIRIAM NELSON

that they would finish cutting the trees that same day, and that another company would be by to pick up the trunks and the branches.

I took a break late in the day and looked out my front door to find that not only had the tree choppers gone for the day, but they had also piled a huge stack of limbs in my driveway! I'm not sure why they chose that particular place to stack them; there were certainly other places they could have chosen, and I was glad I didn't need to be anywhere that night. The other company did manage to get the branches removed so I could leave by 7:30 a.m., but I'm not good in the morning, and anxious isn't a pretty color on me.

to be out of the house and heading to my destination by 7 a.m. the following morning, so I made sure the man in charge of chopping down the trees knew that information. I was assured

The next part of the project involved turning off my water and having them hook up an alternative water line. Again, I approached the one in charge and let him know I wasn't going to be around for this event, so he had one of his workers show me how to shut off the water main in my house.

I wrote myself two notes — one on my bathroom mirror and one on my back door — to remind myself to do that before leaving, again at an unnaturally early hour. Fortunately, my neighbor was outside that morning, and as we chatted I remembered that I had not done my water shut-off duty and trudged back in before hitting the road.

Having been told that there would be road access for us during this project, I didn't stop to think about the weather interfering with that access. The steady rains made it impossible for me to drive through the pond that once was my street. I'm lucky that my backyard has a small path that leads to the side road and managed to get my car on to the side road with minimal divine intervention.

Returning home from a weekend away, I decided to park my car on the side road and walk through the backyard. This proved to be a very wise decision, since I noticed piles and piles of gravel in my driveway. I know they have to put the raw materials somewhere, but I am getting a little paranoid that the best place always seems to be my driveway.

It was also a little disconcerting to have no water when I returned. Had I done something to offend the workers? Am I working off some crazed karmic debt? Who can say? Fortunately, my neighbor found a valve the workers had forgotten to open on the temporary line, and all was right with the world again.

I'm not certain, but I think the combination of being proactive with informing workers of my plans and having some early morning departure times is working too much against my natural order of things. Or it could be they're really out to get me!

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

Muscha gets WICPA accounting scholarship

Amanda Muscha, a Birnamwood resident and Montana State University-Bozeman student, has received the 2020 LeRoy C. Schmidt 150-Hour Accounting Scholarship in the amount of \$2,500, awarded by the Wisconsin Institute of Certified Public Accountants Educational Foundation Inc.

The scholarship, named after former WICPA Executive Director LeRoy C. Schmidt, CPA, helps fund

the 150-hour education requirement to obtain a CPA license. Students must complete 150 hours of post-secondary education including an undergraduate degree, plus additional coursework or a master's degree. Muscha is one of 12 college students to receive the Schmidt scholarship this year. The foundation's scholarship selection committee chose the recipients based on their academic achievement, community service, personal statement and recommendation letters.



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LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK 

Tentative plans for the end of a non-traditional school year

I hope this letter finds all community members doing well as we close out the month of April and enter the final stage of this very non-traditional school year. I know there are many school-related questions that students and parents in particular may still have, and the intent of this letter is to clarify as much as possible regarding all school-related information that is available to us at this time.

- PK-12 instruction: We wish to thank all of you for your flexibility with this process and are very appreciative for the support our parents have provided in working to make the best of this virtual/at-home instructional format. We will continue to provide instruction in this manner through May 29, the official last day of the 2019-20 school year. Teachers will continue to reach out to students regarding weekly academic expectations.

- Graduation: At this time, we are planning for a traditional graduation ceremony at 6 p.m. Friday, July 24.



GARRETT ROGOWSKI

ceremony at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 23. More details will be shared in the coming weeks.

- Summer School: Currently, schools are not able to provide traditional summer school options prior to July 1. Beyond that date, we are still required to follow the group assembly restrictions set by the state. We will make a final determination on summer school programming and communicate that to all parents by mid-May. If we are able to provide summer school programming this year, it will start no earlier than July

This is certainly subject to change, but we want to plan for this and adjust as needed.

- Senior awards ceremony: At this time, we are planning on hosting the senior awards

6. It is important to note, however, that we have full intentions to provide drivers ed classroom instruction in either July or August — virtually or in-house, depending on what is allowable.

- Junior prom: We will have a Senior Ball for the rescheduled prom Oct. 17. This will give this year's junior class an opportunity to make up the event. All members of the Class of 2020 are invited to attend, as well.

- Eighth grade recognition: Both Birnamwood and Wittenberg are planning on providing some form of an eighth grade recognition program. Your building principals will be contacting you regarding the delivery format.

- PK-8 grade locker and classroom material pick-up: On May 5 and 6, parents will be able to pick up student materials left at both Wittenberg and Birnamwood elementary and middle schools. Curbside pick up times will be from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day. No appointment is needed.

- Food service breakfast and lunch distribution: The district will continue providing breakfast and lunch options for students on the Mondays, May 4, 11 and 18 and Tuesday, May 26.

Please know that everything listed above regarding graduation, senior awards and summer school is very subject to change and dependent on permissions granted to school districts concerning physical distancing and community gathering. If you have any questions regarding the plans and intentions listed above or anything else that we may not have clarified, do not hesitate to contact me at 715-253-2213 or your child's building principal. Again, thank you for the continued support you are providing your children during this time, and we look forward to getting back to normal operation as soon as possible.

Garrett Rogowski is the superintendent of the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District.

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The Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District does not discriminate in the employment of professional staff on the basis of the Protected Classes of race, color, national origin, age, sex, creed or religion, genetic information, handicap or disability, marital status, citizenship status, veteran status, or military service. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Megan Marcks, Pupil Services Director, 400 West Grand Ave, Wittenberg WI 54499, 715-253-2213 or mmarcks@wittbirn.k12.wi.us For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit <https://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm> for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481.

Aspirus to expand COVID-19 testing

WAUSAU — Aspirus now has the capability to provide COVID-19 testing for an increased number of patients.

Any patient who displays symptoms of the virus can be tested after being screened. Previously, tests were reserved for patients meeting specific

criteria.

"This is a big step forward in making our community a safer place," said Deakin Washatko, Aspirus System laboratory director. "This expanded testing will let symptomatic patients know if they are infected with COVID-19, as well as help Aspirus open

up more procedures."

The limited number of tests in the area led to the postponement of many medical procedures. Aspirus can now begin to evaluate some cases and potentially bring those patients in for appropriate care.

"This testing will also help area

businesses get back to work," said Washatko.

Anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should first call their primary care provider. If that provider is unavailable, patients can call the Aspirus COVID-19 call center at 844-568-0701.

Two-headed goat dies



WITTENBERG — Janus, the two-headed goat, died Monday, according to owners at Nueske Farms LLC.

The unusual goat was born April 5. While there was no expectation of a long life, the goat had seemed to be making progress, according to updates on the Nueske Farms Facebook page.

They named the goat Janus after the Roman mythological god that is usually represented with two faces — one to look to the future, and one to look to the past.

Janus could not walk on his own, but the staff made an exercise machine for him out of a baby jumper, and he was being bottle fed daily.

His arrival had generated world-wide interest.

Two Bowler seniors receive scholarships

A \$10,000 Herb Kohl Educational Foundation 2020 Excellence Scholarship has been awarded to each of two Bowler High School seniors by Herb Kohl, Wisconsin philanthropist and businessman.

Recipient Alyssa Strassburg is the

daughter of Jeffrey and Jennifer Strassburg, and Saige Corso is the daughter of Bryan and Theresa Corso.

The Herb Kohl Initiative Scholarship recognizes students who have demonstrated a high level of motivation, have shown strong promise for achieving success in college and beyond and have overcome significant personal obstacles or adversity.

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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

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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.

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Open for business and ready for the season

Schairer's Greenhouse follows COVID-19 safety guidelines

By **MIRIAM NELSON**
News Editor

BIRNAMWOOD — The work to get Schairer's Greenhouse ready for its May 2 opening started months ago, according to owner Karen Schairer. Due to the pandemic, this year's preparations included extra steps to get the oh-so beautiful Birnamwood greenhouse ready for social distancing and a new way of doing business.

"Traditionally, the Saturday before Mother's Day is our busiest day," Schairer said. "But who knows what it will be like this year?"

Signs encourage greenhouse customers to stay 6 feet apart. Her checkout counter has been moved outside to a tent that she utilizes at farmers markets. Hanging baskets are outside on racks, and potted bowls of succulents and flowers are scattered across the yard.

The closure of schools back in March has helped lighten the workload somewhat for Schairer, whose children are ages 17, 15, 13 and 9.

"With the kids home to help me move plants inside the greenhouse at night, it will be easier to do this," she said.

The pandemic has also shifted her planning for the summer growing season, she said. "I've doubled the amount of vegetables and tomato plants for the greenhouse this year," said Schairer. "I'm thinking more people will be home now and have more time to spend gardening."

Her other greenhouse carries a huge selection of annuals and succulents. According to Schairer, succulents have gained in popularity in the past couple of years because they have a unique look and are easy to maintain.

Fairy gardens are fun for the young gardeners, and the example her 9-year-old daughter created is on display to inspire others, said Schairer.

"We sell the fairies, hedgehogs, button flowers, bridges, and all sorts of miniatures to help create a fairy garden," said Schairer. "I also like to encourage kids to decorate with bits of jewelry and other decorative items to help put their own stamp on their gardens."

Her daughter found bits of moss in the forest to create green landscaping.



Popular fairy garden projects allow kids to be creative while learning to garden. Schairer's Greenhouse in Birnamwood has several fairies, accessories and succulent plants available.

MIRIAM NELSON | NEW MEDIA

AT A GLANCE

WHAT: Schairer's Autumn Acres & Greenhouse

WHERE: 17908 Ranch Road, Birnamwood

WHEN: closed Mondays; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesdays; 1-5 p.m. Wednesdays; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays

FYI: 715-573-8397, www.schairersautumnacres.com or find them on Facebook

Schairer noted that there are lots of ideas on the internet that she utilizes to give her customers ideas on how to customize their own gardens and pots of flowers and succulents.

Even with social distancing guidelines in place, Schairer said it isn't clear how the pandemic will affect her business this year. Older customers or those who are at risk due to chronic medical conditions are encouraged to call the greenhouse and schedule an after-hours appointment, or make arrangements with Schairer to shop on Mondays when the greenhouse is closed to the public.

People can call or text Schairer or send a message on their Facebook page if they have concerns about shopping, are looking for specific items or would like to place an order for pickup, she said.

Schairer, who has had a stand at the Antigo farmers market in summer,



One of several hedgehogs is on display in the fairy garden at Schairer's Greenhouse in Birnamwood.

MIRIAM NELSON | NEW MEDIA

said she is interested to see how that will be handled this year. According to Schairer, she heard the Wausau farmers market is already open using drive-up and pre-placed orders to accommodate social distancing practices.

Looking to the future, Schairer said she is currently planning to open Autumn Acres, her fall farm destination, and is proceeding with the pumpkin

farm as scheduled. The corn maze and weekend themes make it a popular place for families to enjoy, and live music is a highlight.

"I'm going to plan for us to have a full season, but it will be interesting to see what happens over the next few months," said Schairer.

COURT NEWS

Editor's note: You have the right to read court and public record information. This information is available to anyone from the agencies involved. The summaries on this page are protected by copyright and may not be republished or posted digitally without permission.

Recent proceedings in Shawano-Menominee County Circuit Court:

- Bryan M. Wendler, 37, of Bowler, was charged May 4 with felony counts of burglary, arson second-degree recklessly endangering safety and six felony counts of bail jumping. He could face a maximum 40 years in prison and a \$100,000 fine if convicted of arson. Wendler was ordered held on a \$35,000 cash bond set by Judge William Kussel Jr.

- Rebecca A. Lusiak, 30, of Tigerton, was charged May 4 with eight felony counts of bail jumping, as well as misdemeanor counts of domestic abuse-related battery and disorderly

conduct. Lusiak could face a maximum six years in prison and \$10,000 fine on each of the felony counts if convicted. Lusiak was ordered held on a \$1,500 cash bond set by Judge William Kussel Jr. She was scheduled for a preliminary hearing on May 7.

- Leslie A. Sleeter, 32, homeless, was charged May 4 with felony counts of burglary-armed with a dangerous weapon and possession of methamphetamine. She could face a maximum 15 years in prison and \$50,000 fine if convicted. Sleeter was ordered held on a \$1,000 cash bond and scheduled for an adjourned initial court appearance on May 1.

- Jerome R. Waubanasum, 19, of Shawano, was charged April 30 with felony counts of armed robbery, robbery with the use of force, burglary-commit battery on a person, burglary-armed with a dangerous weapon, second-degree recklessly endangering safety and theft. He

could face a maximum 40 years in prison and a \$100,000 fine if convicted of armed robbery. Waubanasum is scheduled for an initial court appearance on June 22. The incident took place in August of 2018, according to the criminal complaint.

- Jesse J. Flessert, 31, of Shawano, was charged April 30 with felony counts of possession of methamphetamine, second or subsequent possession of marijuana and six felony counts of bail jumping. He could face a maximum six years in prison and \$10,000 fine on each of the bail jumping counts if found guilty. Flessert was ordered held on a \$2,500 cash bond set by Judge William Kussel Jr. and was scheduled for a preliminary hearing May 14.

- Devon L. Church, 26, of Bowler, was charged April 30 with felony counts of harboring or aiding a fugitive, possession of methamphetamine and maintaining a drug trafficking

place. He could face a maximum 3 1/2 years in prison and \$10,000 fine on each of the felony counts if convicted. Church was ordered held on a \$25,000 bond and scheduled for a preliminary hearing on May 13.

- Stephanie A. Jones, 39, of Clintonville, was charged April 29 with felony counts of possession of an electric weapon and bail jumping. She could face a maximum six years in prison and \$10,000 fine on each of the felony counts if found guilty. She is scheduled for an initial court appearance on June 29.

- Thomas J. Koslowski, 43, of Bonduel, was charged April 29 with felony counts of second-degree recklessly endangering safety and child abuse-intentionally causing harm. He could face a maximum 10 years in prison and \$25,000 fine if convicted of reckless endangerment. He is scheduled for an initial court appearance on June 29.

PUBLIC RECORD

SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

May 4

Police logged 18 incidents, including: Drug complaints at the Super 8 Motel, 211 Waukechon St., and in the 400 block of Humphrey Circle; and a threatening complaint in the 1000 block of South Lutz Street.

May 3

Police logged 23 incidents, including: A vehicle theft reported in the 500 block of Prospect Circle; intoxicated person complaints at Huckleberry Harbor, 222 N. Sawyer St., and at Waukechon and Green Bay streets; a domestic disturbance reported in the 500 block of Prospect Circle.

May 2

Police logged 28 incidents, including: Disturbances reported in the 100 block of Acorn Street, 200 block of North Airport Drive, 100 block of South Lafayette Street, 200 block of Eberlein Drive, 300 block of Mountain Bay Trail Drive and 200 block of South Sawyer Street; a fraud complaint in the 500 block of Humphrey Circle; a shoplifting complaint at Family Dollar, 413 S. Main St.

May 1

Police logged 20 incidents, including: A shoplifting complaint at Walmart, 1244

E. Green Bay St.; money reported stolen from an ATM at Kwik Trip, 1241 E. Green Bay St.; a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Aspen Court.

April 30

Police logged 12 incidents, including: A disorderly conduct complaint reported at the Super 8 Motel, 211 Waukechon St.; a fight in progress reported at Walgreen's, 401 E. Green Bay St.

April 29

Police logged 16 incidents, including: Drug complaints in the 200 block of East Center Street and 1000 block of East Fifth Street.

April 28

Police logged 18 incidents, including: A purse reported stolen in the 1200 block of East Elizabeth Street; a theft from a vehicle in the 900 block of East Elizabeth Street; a disturbance in the 300 block of South Washington Street.

SHAWANO COUNTY

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

May 4

Deputies logged 31 incidents, including: Disorderly conduct reported on Moh He Con Nuck Road in Bowler; a disturbance on U.S. Highway 45 in the town of Birnamwood; a burglary reported on Maple Leaf Road in the town of Belle Plaine; a drug offense on state Highway 47 in the town of Hartland.

May 3

Deputies logged 33 incidents, including: Arrests for operating while intoxicated on state Highway 156 in the town of Navarino and state Highway 29 in the town of Richmond; an injury accident on Nabor Road in Cecil; a domestic disturbance on Strauss Road in the town of Wescott; disorderly conduct on Country Lane in the town of Washington.

May 2

Deputies logged 35 incidents, including: Disturbances on Julius Street in the town of Angelica and Westgor Avenue in Wittenberg; a fraud complaint on Lake View Drive in Aniwa.

May 1

Deputies logged 38 incidents, including: A burglary reported on Cedar Street in Eland; a drug complaint on state Highway 29 in the town of Maple Grove; a

disturbance on County Road MMM in the town of Richmond; a property damage hit-and-run on County Road M in the town of Fairbanks.

April 30

Deputies logged 38 incidents, including: A domestic disturbance on Round Lake Drive in the town of Belle Plaine; a vehicle fire on state Highway 29 in the town of Richmond.

April 29

Deputies logged 20 incidents, including: Drug complaints on state Highway 47-55 in the town of Wescott and South Main Street in Shawano.

April 28

Deputies logged 24 incidents, including: An identity theft complaint on Lake View Drive in Aniwa; a fraud complaint on County Road F in the town of Angelica.

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SPORTS

ATHLETE PROFILE: DYLAN BIERMAN

Bowler senior won't get chance to achieve goals

BOWLER — While some high school seniors will get the chance to play sports again at the collegiate level, others are preparing to focus solely on their college degrees or work. Bowler senior Dylan Bierman falls under the second category, and it disappoints him that his time playing baseball in high school has come to a close.

Bierman was coming off a junior season in which he landed on the Central Wisconsin Conference-North Division honorable mention team. He drove in nine runs and stole five bases in conference play, helping the Panthers to second place in the conference.

Q: When did your interest in baseball begin?

A: In all honesty, it started probably when I was just a little thing, probably around 6 (years old). I was raised in a baseball family. My dad (Jesse) played baseball his whole life — he was basically an original sandlot kid. It passed down from my older brothers (Wesley, Cole) to me. We all just play baseball.

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

A: The thrill you get of just playing the game and the enjoyment of it. It's just something I've always loved. I love being around people and just playing the game.

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

A: In all honesty, it didn't bother me right away, because I was like, "I played a lot of baseball in my life." But after a couple days of not playing it, it started to get to me, I'm not going to lie. It started bothering me because all I looked forward to in



Bowler's Dylan Bierman swings at a pitch during a 2019 Central Wisconsin Conference-North Division game against Manawa in Bowler.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

the spring was baseball.

I work out. I make sure I get nice and strong and in shape for this season, and then all of a sudden, it's just ended because of a virus.

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

A: Since it was my last year, I was really looking forward to it. I've really been improving in my game. This last year, I was going to try and achieve a lot of my goals.

I feel that high school is the only time they actually pay attention to the things you do. I play BABA, and when you do something for BABA, it's not recorded. It's not in a little history book or the news. You do it, and then that's it.

But high school, once you do it, people will remember it and it will be passed down as stories. Basically,

that got cut short and that really sucked.

Q: Knowing what it feels like to have a season erased, what kind of advice would you give to younger athletes as they prepare for future seasons?

A: To go at it as hard as you can. You gotta keep pushing for it and enjoy the season as much as possible. Enjoy every game like it's your last, because a virus could come along and knock out your whole season like it happened to me.

Q: The WIAA left some summertime playing options out there. Is that something you would be interested in, even if it means you only get to play a few games?

A: I would love to try, but in all honesty, I'm going to be working a lot. When you graduate, life starts.

AT A GLANCE

ATHLETE: Dylan Bierman

SPORT: Baseball

POSITIONS: Pitcher, left field

SCHOOL: Bowler High School

YEAR: Senior

You got to be an adult. You got to get a job and start paying for things.

But if I could, you're damn right I would. I would give anything just to play a couple more games with my teammates.

Q: What have the past several weeks been like for you personally?

A: Pretty crappy, honestly. Just being stuck in a house all day. I get out and ride horse and work with my horses, but that gets redundant after a while, and it just starts to get to your head. You get in this slump where you're just doing the same thing every day.

Q: What's your favorite memory of competing on the Bowler baseball team?

A: I'm a starting pitcher — so it was my first year playing, and Brad Brei brought me in to relieve for Riley Mohawk. I pitched the rest of the innings, and I struck out eight in a row. Sat 'em all down on strikes.

Q: Favorite TV show, movie and musical artist?

A: TV show — "Yellowstone." Movie — "Tombstone." Musical artist — Oh, that's a tough one. Ryan Bingham.

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

A: Working with my horses; I love it. It was more of a hobby before, and then it just started growing into a passion. Just like baseball.

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WisDOT offers new ways to obtain driver licenses without visiting DMV

MADISON — The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) announced on May 5 that there will be two pilot programs that will safely address a backlog of demand.

The first pilot program is for eligible persons with a Wisconsin driver license will be able to renew it online.

The second pilot program will allow individuals under age 18, who successfully complete their required training and have the endorsement of a parent or guardian will be able to get their probationary driver license without completing a road test.

The pilot programs begin May 11. Each program eliminates the need for in-person visits to a Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) service center by enabling drivers to complete the tasks online. The pilots allow the public to get service more quickly while maintaining safety.

Online driver license renewal

Due to COVID-19, approximately 80,000 people whose driver license expired have received an extension to renew. Those extensions, with late fees waived, expire July 25, 2020. This pilot program allows many customers who have delayed visiting a DMV to renew their driver license quickly and easily online at wisconsindmv.gov/renewDL.

To be eligible for this program, drivers must meet all the following:

- Must be a U.S. citizen with a regular (Class D) driver license (Commercial Driver Licenses do not qualify).
- Must be 64 years of age or under.
- No new medical restrictions.
- Has not had a negative change to their vision since the last renewal.

Customers who renew online will receive a confirmation email they can print and use until their new card arrives by mail within 10 days. The \$34 renewal fee remains the same. After the next normal renewal cycle of eight years, customers will need to visit a DMV for a new photo to complete the renewal.

Renewing online may not be an option for everyone. While the deadline for a REAL ID has been extended one year to Oct. 1, 2021, customers wanting a driver license that is REAL ID-compliant will need to visit a DMV Customer Service Center. Without a REAL

ID designation on a driver license or ID, travelers will need another form of identification, like a passport, for domestic air travel.

Road test waivers

DMV typically conducts approximately 2,100 road tests per week. Nearly 65 percent of these tests are for people under the age of 18, with 98 percent passing their road test on their first or second attempt. Wisconsin also has a Graduated Driver License (GDL) law that places strict expectations on drivers under 18. The GDL requirements have improved safety and will remain in place.

Beginning May 11, road tests may be waived for 16- and 17-year-olds who complete the required training and have their parent or guardian sign the road test waiver. The criteria these drivers must meet to be granted a probationary driver license in Wisconsin include:

- They must hold an Instruction Permit, also known as a Learners Permit, violation free for at least six months prior to testing
- They must have completed driver education classes
- They have completed behind-the-wheel training with a licensed instructor
- They have completed at least 30 hours of driving with their parent/sponsor and their sponsor signs the road test waiver

The restrictions of a probationary graduated driver license still apply for at least nine months.

Parents or guardians are vital to ensuring novice drivers are equipped to safely drive. The waiver is not mandatory. Parents who opt to have their young driver take a road test at a DMV may schedule that appointment online beginning May 8.

DMV estimates a backlog of 16,000 road test requests; 10,000 of those will be eligible for the road test waiver.

Road test appointments can be made online beginning, May 8. Testing, by appointment only, begins May 26. DMV stopped doing road tests in mid-March due to COVID-19. After the exam, novice drivers will order their license online from home and the card will be sent within 10 business days.

No rest for the newly dead or for the psychic who sees him

This “sheltering in place” has me choosing light-hearted books. This week, I selected Pamela DuMond’s “Cupcakes, Lies and Dead Guys” from her Annie Graceland Mysteries series.

Annie Rose Graceland Piccolino grew up in Wisconsin and probably would have stayed there, but her handsome husband, Mike, convinced her to move to Los Angeles so he could pursue his modeling/acting career. Annie’s skills as a pastry chef allowed her to work anywhere, and her Piccolino’s Pastries were featured in several eateries. Annie’s other skill is one she’d rather not have; she inherited her grandmother’s mildly psychic abilities. Once in a while, she’ll touch someone and get an “other-worldly” vibe about them.

As the story opens, it is Valentine’s Day. Mike is out of town, and Annie is rushing to a doctor appointment. It is a visit that will rock her world in ways she could never imagine.

First, she gets the news that she’s unlikely to ever conceive. Then she receives an envelope filled with pictures of her husband and another man, Derrick Fuller, in compromising positions. Annie immediately notifies Mike that she’s filing for di-



JAN JONES

the author of “I Promise” books, in which he offers advice on everything from weight loss to career success. His popularity has waned, but he’s convinced he can get back on top with a new manager.

While Annie is packing, Derrick is in the middle of a poorly attended lecture when he is shot in butt by the angry father of a client. Later that evening, he is lounging by his pool wearing only a purple thong. Not long after eating one of his favorite Piccolino’s cupcakes, Derrick Fuller dies, but he doesn’t realize it until his body is taken to the morgue. To his shock, he learns that he died from cyanide poison in the cupcake, making Annie Piccolino the prime suspect.

Apparently, Derrick can’t move on to the afterlife until he finds out who killed him. A series of events

voice, summons her best friends Grady and Julia and makes plans to move into a tiny bungalow in a seedy part of town.

Derrick Fuller is well known. He built a lucrative career as

AT A GLANCE

BOOK: “Cupcakes, Lies and Dead Guys”

AUTHOR: Pamela Sue DuMond

PUBLISHER: Pamela DuMond Media

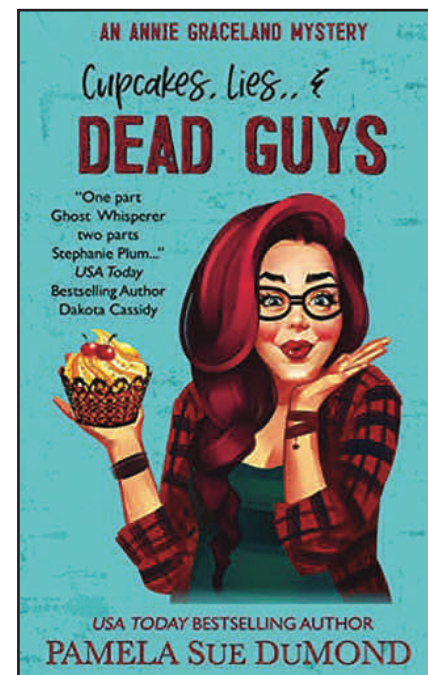
PUBLISHED: Jan. 7, 2014

PAGES: 303

connects him with Annie, and she is not happy about having a thong-clad ghost hanging around — especially a ghost that had an affair with her husband. When she tries to use a spell to get rid of Derrick, she messes up and the two are bonded until Derrick’s killer is found.

Sadly, the list of people who disliked him is long. Thus, begins an often-hilarious investigation into Derrick’s life where Annie learns things she’d rather not know. Eventually, she discovers that several others have received compromising photos with Derrick, and they’ve all been photo-shopped.

Someone is trying to widen the list of suspects. Annie is desperate to get rid of Derrick, so she doggedly follows the leads until she finds the culprit. The confrontation answers all her questions but puts her in mortal danger. As expected, Annie is saved by the two officers who first questioned her as a suspect. The story ends while Annie is examining a relationship with one



of the cops when Derrick suddenly reappears.

Apparently, he has work to do before he can move into the afterlife. That leads us to book No. 2 in the series.

Books that stand alone or are part of a series offer great reading choices. Your public library has them all. For now, you can go online and check them out.

Wet work on pipe project

Into each life a little rain must fall. The rainy weather the last week in April did little to discourage the crew in charge of laying down the water and sewer pipes on the Webb Street project. Water is being piped in to each house through temporary lines until work on the new pipes is completed. The entire project which includes new sidewalks and road should be completed in May.

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