



Having fun for 50 years? Must be bowling

Dave Konkel is ready to start his 50th bowling season on the Thursday night league at Resch Lanes.

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Jakubek honored in recognition of a job well done

U.S. Rep. Mike Gallagher was in Wittenberg last week to honor an employee at Nueske's.

PAGE 20

Witt-Birn volleyball game plan to play to team's strengths

The Witt-Birn volleyball team is hoping to repeat as Central Wisconsin Conference-East Division champions.

PAGE 23

A NEW ROOM FOR A NEW WAY OF LEARNING

First-grade teacher Mary King prepares for school to start in a new classroom that was part of the addition to Wittenberg Elementary-Middle School. The Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District opened Sept. 1 with plans in place to keep students and staff safe during the pandemic. The addition was part of the \$13.1 million referendum package, which was completed this summer.

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2020 can be summed up by its 'High Anxiety'

"High Anxiety" was the name of a Mel Brooks movie and the title is probably what future historians will use to categorize the year known as 2020. Teachers and students head back to school this week, and I'm sure the words "unknown" and "new normal" will be describing every little hurdle that comes their way.

For many years, I've been contemplating about working as a substitute teacher one day a week, thinking the most asked for day off might be Fridays and that could fit into my schedule. I must confess, I have not even contemplated that this year.

I'm sure it's hard enough to find suitable substitutes in any given year, but with the threat of an infectious disease lurking in every classroom, I've got to believe there aren't a whole lot of people willing to take that risk if they don't have to take it. I'm not sure what tomorrow will bring, but it will have to make do without my skill sets invading the teaching profession.

People don't always give proper credit to the teachers or the farmers of the world, but they are truly the biggest gamblers in the day-to-day professions. I've always had a deep appreciation for their work. Whether it's gazing at a nicely phrased sentence or looking into my freezer filled with beef from my cousin's farm, I know



MIRIAM NELSON

the amount of work they do and how I'm a better person because of their efforts. While there are many people wondering about the security of their jobs or the chance to find a job to replace the one they no longer have, there are still people dealing with physical issues tipping the anxiety scale upwards. I think a lot of this anxiety is creeping into our daily behaviors.

I've been noticing a lot of borderline road rage as I travel down the road these days. I'm not sure if people are so distracted by their daily lives that they don't notice their aggressive driving habits or if they're just mad at the world and want to take it out on me. It's a little unnerving when you're driving down the road and seemingly out of nowhere comes a car or truck on your back bumper.

I can tell myself I need to take life one day at a time, but I'm beginning to feel that life is going by faster than I can process it. It could be I am at that age where life tends to go by faster, but it's a little unnerving all the same.

Fortunately, there is still a good

deal of humor to be said and shared. I'm forever grateful for a friend who constantly posts amusing jokes and pictures on the internet. So many of them remind me of Dad's sense of humor and that does a lot to calm my nerves when they're getting the best of me.

I'm trying to do my best not to add to the anxiety levels in this world, but am fully aware there are days when I fail miserably. To those I annoy or disappoint, I hope they think kindly of me anyway.

It would be nice if someone would write instructions on how to survive this year. It would have to be an ever-changing format, with alerts for updates and it would help if it could produce calming smells and sounds and offer hugs to replace the ones we can no longer safely give or accept. It's a nice thought but it's never gonna happen.

Since I probably won't get my wish to turn into an ostrich so I can hide my head in the sand, I might as well do what I can to make this year tolerable. I'm not sure what that is, but if I figure it out, you'll be the first to know.

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

Hot week for roofing



Wittenberg Elementary-Middle School got a new roof last week. Workers had hot humid weather to contend with but the job was finished before the start of school.

MIRIAM NELSON | NEW MEDIA

CORRECTIONS

Accuracy is important to the Enterprise & News, and it wants to correct mistakes promptly. Call errors to our attention by phone at 715-526-2121, ext. 7018.

Present day murder has Revolutionary War clues

This week, I indulged my love for Granny Smith apples by reading "Granny Smith is Dead" by Chelsea Thomas. This is book number five in her Apple Orchard Cozy Mystery series.

Chelsea Thomas grew up in the quaint village of Pine Grove. After her parents died, Chelsea was raised by her aunt, Miss May, at the Thomas Family Fruit and Fir Farm. After high school, Chelsea studied at Duke, then went to run her own design firm in New York. When things went bad, Chelsea returned to Pine Grove.



JAN JONES

Since she's been back, Miss May, Chelsea and Teeny have gotten very good at solving crimes before the local police. That upsets Police Chief Ferguson, but Deputy Wayne doesn't really mind because he's been trying to get Chelsea to agree to a date.

As this story opens, Chelsea is working in the orchard bakery when local "legend" Delores Granny Smith appears. After berating Chelsea, she gives her a stack of papers advertising the latest historic homes tour she will be conducting. Granny brags that she plans to reveal letters proving that the Brewster family had helped the British during the Revolutionary War. Then Bev Brewster arrives, and an argument begins. Granny's current husband, Ricardo, chimes in. Then he's joined by Wendall Smith, Granny's first husband. Before the things go further, Miss May tosses them all out of the bakery.

The next morning, Miss May takes Chelsea to make amends. They deliver fresh bakery to Bev, then move on to Granny's but hear Ricardo and Granny's son, Buster, arguing. Ricardo is demanding Buster move out.

They head to the first house on the tour but find only a small group waiting — and no Granny Smith. The group gives up and leaves, but Miss May senses something is very wrong and proceeds to search for

AT A GLANCE

BOOK: "Granny Smith is Dead"
AUTHOR: Chelsea Thomas
PUBLISHER: Independently published
PUBLISHED: July 23, 2019
PAGES: 282

the basement and the tunnels said to have been used by the Underground Railroad.

Once in the tunnels, they discover Granny. She's been stabbed with a vintage knife. Strangely, the tunnel walls are covered in graffiti. One side is dramatically artistic while the other is covered with childish smiley faces. When the police arrive, the two women pretend innocence, but no one believes them because they are well known for their investigations.

Deputy Wayne makes a wager with Chelsea that sounds very much like a date, but she's not ready to commit to dating now. They head for Grandma's Café where they discuss the "case" with Teeny. As they list the obvious suspects, they make a plan to interview them one at a time.

There is drama when the trio sneaks into Granny's house and comedy when lanky Germany Turtle tries to woo Chelsea with poetry and flowers. Little by little they cross suspects off their list, only to replace them with new ones.

The investigation becomes dangerous when the disagreeable Buster's body is found in the tunnels. Things clarify a bit when they realize that they have Granny Smith's car keys. With a little help from Big Dan the mechanic, they find it hidden in the quarry. All clues indicate Buster killed his mother and hid the car, but who killed Buster?

Once again, the women compile their suspect/motive list. This time, they look to both the future and the past for clues, and suddenly the killer is obvious. With Big Dan in tow, they decide to confront the killer. When confronted, he tries to escape. Chelsea's plan to disable him is thwarted when Deputy Wayne steps in and cuffs him. Back at the orchard, Wayne confidently makes dinner plans for him and Chelsea when she gives him a big surprise.

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE VILLAGE OF WITTENBERG 208 W. VINAL STREET TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND – 6:00 PM

The Village of Wittenberg will conduct a public hearing regarding the South Webb Street Reconstruction project funded in part by the Community Development Block Grant – Public Facilities Program (CDBG-PF). The public is invited to attend to learn about the progress of the CDBG project and to comment on the overall implementation of the CDBG project.

This meeting will occur at a virtual location accessed by computer or conference call. Board members and the public should use the following web link/call-in information:

Web Link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/908541733>
Call-In Number: +1 (786) 535-3211
Access Code: 908-541-733 #

The Village Hall will be open in limited capacity for members of the public who are unable to access this meeting via web or phone call. Social distancing of six feet and face masks will be required per state guidelines. The meeting space will be sanitized before and after the public hearing. Hand sanitizer will be available.

The agenda for the public hearing is:

1. Presentation of ongoing and completed activities for the South Webb Street Reconstruction project.
2. Citizen input regarding the South Webb Street Reconstruction project and close-out.

Residents of the Village of Wittenberg are encouraged to attend, especially residents with low to moderate incomes.

The meeting room is handicapped accessible.

Persons needing additional accommodations should contact Traci Matsche, Village Clerk via telephone at 715-253-6063, or via email: wittbrg@gmail.com.

PUBLIC RECORD

SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Aug. 31

Deputies logged 38 incidents, including a 33-year-old woman cited for operating after revocation on state Highway 22 in the Town of Belle Plaine; a drug complaint on Swamp Road in the Town of Grant; a domestic disturbance on Camp 14 Road in Bowler.

Aug. 30

Deputies logged 39 incidents, including a disturbance on Main Street in Gresham; a burglary on Redwood Lane in the Town of Richmond; fraud complaints on Church Drive in the Town of Angelica and Look Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; an assault on Cedar Street in Tigerton.

Aug. 29

Deputies logged 48 incidents, including a domestic disturbance on Prouty Street in Wittenberg; property theft complaints on Nass Lane in the Town of Green Valley and Lawn Road in the Town of Maple Grove; a drug complaint on County Road D in the Town of Herman; auto theft on Highview Road in the Town of Lessor; an assault on Church Road in the Town of Morris.

Aug. 28

Deputies logged 39 incidents, including criminal damage to property on Cedar Avenue in the Town of Wescott; an injury accident on state Highway 29 in the Town of Hartland; a trespassing complaint on County Road K in the Town of Waukechon.

Aug. 27

Deputies logged 30 incidents, including a property theft on Old 47 Road in the Town of Hartland; a fight in progress on Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; A burglary on Sycamore Road in the Town of Richmond.

Aug. 26

Deputies logged 30 incidents, including disturbances on U.S. Highway 45 in Tigerton and Larson Road in the Town of Germania; disorderly conduct on Hemlock Road in the Town of Wittenberg; a fraud complaint on Airport Road in the Town of Seneca.

Aug. 25

Deputies logged 39 incidents, including disorderly conduct Pleasant View Circle in Tigerton; criminal damage to property on Daffodil Lane in Tigerton and on County Road Z in the Town of Aniwa; a 23-year-old man arrested for operating while intoxicated on state Highway 22 in the

Town of Washington.

SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Aug. 31

Police logged 28 incidents, including a lewd and lascivious behavior complaint in the 1000 block of East Fifth Street; a 49-year-old man arrested on a warrant in the 700 block of Oak Drive; disorderly conduct at McDonald's, 1202 E. Green Bay St.; a 42-year-old man cited for operating after revocation at Lincoln and Schurz streets.

Aug. 30

Police logged 20 incidents, including a lewd and lascivious behavior complaint in the 100 block of South Washington Street; theft from a vehicle in the 1100 block of Waukechon Street; a case of beer reported stolen at Charlie's County Market, 521 S. Main St.; an assault complaint in the 200 block of South Sawyer Street; a disturbance in the 400 block of South Bartlett Street; a domestic disturbance in the 200 block of West Fourth Street.

Aug. 29

Police logged 26 incidents, including disturbances in the 300 block of Division Street and at Cleveland and Randall streets; a domestic disturbance

in the 500 block of West Richmond Street.

Aug. 28

Police logged 27 incidents, including a reported fight in progress in the 1100 block of Waukechon Street; a disturbance in the 100 block of Aspen Court; a domestic disturbance in the 800 block of West Picnic Street; shoplifting at Charlie's County Market, 521 S. Main St.

Aug. 27

Police logged 17 incidents, including a minor two-vehicle accident at Walmart, 1244 E. Green Bay St.; a juvenile problem at Quality Inn and Suites, 104 N. Airport Drive.

Aug. 26

Police logged 29 incidents, including a disturbance in the 200 block of West Fourth Street; a theft complaint in the 500 block of East Lieg Avenue; a juvenile problem in the 200 block of North Riverside Drive.

Aug. 25

Police logged 18 incidents, including a property theft at the Wisconsin House, 216 E. Green Bay St.; a chapel window vandalized at Woodlawn Cemetery, 1115 E. Green Bay St.; disorderly conduct at Quality Inn and Suites, 104 N. Airport Drive.

COURT NEWS

Recent proceedings in Shawano-Menominee County Circuit Court:

- Frank W. Thomas, 49, of Shawano, was charged Aug. 31 with a felony count of fourth-offense operating while intoxicated. He could face a maximum six years in prison and \$10,000 fine if convicted. Thomas was ordered held on a \$2,500 cash bond set by Judge Thomas Grover and was scheduled for a preliminary hearing Sept. 9.

- Winona K. Pyawasit, 50, of Shawano, was charged Aug. 31 with a felony count of substantial battery with intent to cause bodily harm. She could face a maximum 3½ years in prison and \$10,000 fine if con-

victed. Pyawasit was ordered held on a \$1,000 cash bond set by Judge Thomas Grover and was scheduled for an adjourned initial appearance Sept. 21.

- Brandon M. Ball, 30, of Bon-duel, was charged Aug. 28 with a felony count of possession of methamphetamine and nine felony counts of bail jumping. He could face a maximum 3½ years and \$10,000 fine on the drug count and six years in prison and \$10,000 fine on each of the bail jumping counts if convicted. Ball was ordered held on a \$5,000 cash bond set by Family Court Commissioner Luanne Henk and was scheduled for an adjourned

initial appearance Sept. 8.

- Calvin D. Keyes, 35, of Shawano, was charged Aug. 27 with two felony counts of third-degree sexual assault and one felony count of false imprisonment. He could face a maximum 10 years in prison and \$25,000 fine on each of the sex assault charges if convicted and six years and a \$10,000 fine for false imprisonment. Keyes is scheduled for an initial court appearance Sept. 21.

- Thomas C. Maltbey, 49, of Shawano, was charged Aug. 26 with felony counts of aggravated battery of an elderly person and aggravated battery of a physically disabled

person. He could face a maximum six years in prison and \$10,000 fine on each count if convicted. Maltbey is free on a \$150 cash bond set by Judge Thomas Grover and is due in court for an adjourned initial appearance Oct. 5.

- Robert G. Wallace, 31, of Shawano, was charged Aug. 26 with a felony count of possession of methamphetamine. He could face a maximum 3½ years and \$10,000 fine on the drug count if convicted. Wallace was ordered held on a \$500 cash bond set by Judge Thomas Grover and was scheduled for an adjourned initial appearance Sept. 28.

KerberRose recognized among elite firms in nation

KerberRose was recently ranked in the Top 300 Firms in the nation by Inside Public Accounting for the fifth consecutive year.

The publishers of IPA, the award-winning newsletter for the public accounting profession, recently announced the release of its annual financial performance analysis and

ranking of the nation's top 400 largest firms. The September issue of the subscription-based IPA newsletter will include the 2020 Best of the Best firms, high-performing firms at the top of their game, along with the fastest-growing firms in the nation.

"We are pleased to announce, once again, KerberRose has been

recognized as one of the nation's top-performing and innovative firms, moving to No. 206 from No. 216 last year," said Michael Ruby, managing shareholder of KerberRose. "Given the uncertain and difficult circumstances of this past year, we are incredibly proud of our team members. We have shown an ability to adapt

quickly to the changing needs of our clients, while maintaining our duty of serving as trusted advisers."

KerberRose is a local certified public accounting and advisory firm that features more than 160 staff members and 10 locations throughout Wisconsin, including Shawano. For information, visit www.kerberrose.com.



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Let the good times roll

Konkel celebrates 50 years of bowling

By MIRIAM NELSON
News Editor

Reaching a 50-year mark is a big accomplishment for anything, but if you can have a lot of fun and a lot of laughs doing it, then life is pretty good.

Dave Konkel, Wittenberg, graduated in 1970 and started league bowling that fall and is ready to start his 50th season.

"I'm not that good," said Konkel. "When I quit having fun is when I'll quit bowling."

Through the years, the bowling alley ownership has changed a few times, but Konkel has been a fixture for Thursday night league. When Jason Resch, the current owner of what is now Resch Lanes, bought the business from Lyle Garton he was told if he had any questions just ask Dave — he's been here long enough.

Resch doesn't remember Konkel from when he bowled against him in his early 20s, but he's appreciated the help he got from him when he and his wife Jenny bought the bowling alley in 2008. He recalls that Konkel was president of the Thursday night league and Tim Lemke was the treasurer; they made him feel welcome.

"He's always been a good ambassador with new guys joining the league," said Resch. "He jokes with them and has a good time and goes out of his way to make them feel welcome."

Konkel doesn't know how many teams he's bowled for over the years or how many guys he's bowled with but he does remember the loudest team members. In the early years he bowled with Daryl Zblewski and Jim Schwartzkof, his best friend since fifth grade. The joking around and harassing each other was a lot of good-natured fun, according to Konkel.

Some of the nights out would get a little rowdier than others, which made getting up the next morning to milk cows a little challenging, Konkel said.

There was a time when he was bowling four nights week while dairy farming and raising two chil-



A few of the more humorous bowling shirts from a few of the many teams Dave Konkel has bowled for over the past 50 years.

CONTRIBUTED

dren with his wife, Sherri. When she suggested he give up at least one night a week, he offered to give up their Saturday night couples league; that didn't happen. He and Sherri stopped couples bowling three years ago and he's narrowed down his time to Thursday nights with occasional substituting duties for a Wednesday night team.

He's accumulated a lot of bowling shirts. A favorite of his had a design suggestion he and his team members made. The sponsor, North Star Farms was on the front, but the owner was persuaded to have a swayback horse, chewing on a blade of straw wearing a goofy hat with "Jodi's Studs" on the back.

Over the years he participated in state tournaments which were always a fun weekend to get away with their wives.

He currently bowls for Cherek Transport Services with Brad Davis, his son-in-law. Davis was the first bowler to hit a 300 at Resch Lanes. Konkel's average is 177 and his highest game since Resch took over was 201, which Konkel says is not bad for an old man.

There are 32 weeks in a season which runs from September through April and Resch is going to leave it up to the leagues to decide on how to make it all work taking social distancing precautions. Ac-



Dave Konkel has been bowling 50 years and has been president of the Thursday night league for 35 years.

MIRIAM NELSON | NEW MEDIA

cording to the current state guidelines as long as customers have a drink in front of them they don't have to wear a mask.

Resch offers a cornhole league in the summer time, but Konkel is busy with farming. He has cash

crops and gave up the dairy business eight years ago. Konkel also makes sure he has plenty of quality time to spend with his granddaughter, Kelsie.



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Gallagher honors Jakubek's excellent service

Nueske manager recognized for efforts during pandemic

By **MIRIAM NELSON**
News Editor

The call center and fulfillment manager for Nueske's Applewood Meats in Wittenberg received an award Aug. 25 from U.S. Rep. Mike Gallagher.

Janet Jakubek said she was honored to receive the visit and the Northeast Wisconsin Service Award, which Gallagher created to honor employees whose efforts went above and beyond during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under her management, the mail division boasts a 99% on-time full customer service experience, according to Nueske's tracking system. Gallagher, who represents Wisconsin's Eighth Congressional District, thanked Jakubek for her dedication to her work and for representing what's right about the locally owned business.

"I always enjoy visits here," said Gallagher. "I had a conversation with Nueske's early on to see how they're handling the pandemic."

According to Gallagher, the service award came about as a way to focus on success stories in Wisconsin work places and highlight how communities are coming together during this time of uncertainty.

Jakubek came to Nueske's in 2004 for a seasonal position in the call center. In 2005, she moved to a part-time permanent position. She soon became the assistant lead, then lead, then supervisor and now works as the call center and fulfillment manager.

"I've had quite a career here at Nueske's," said Jakubek. "Knowledge is power, and I've always wanted to learn everything I possibly could about the position."

Jakubek felt there were several others in the company who could have received the award. She credits her staff for helping to achieve such a high rating, noting that they did not miss work and worked hard to get the orders out the door.

"It takes a lot of coordination, and we do it nicely," said Jakubek.

The service award program started earlier this summer when Gallagher said he noticed that northeast Wisconsin businesses had kind of been punched in the gut, and he wanted a



At the Nueske's Applewood Smoked Meats corporate office in Wittenberg on Tuesday, call center and order fulfillment manager Janet Jakubek, center, is given the Northeast Wisconsin Service Award by U.S. Rep. Mike Gallagher as CEO Tanya Nueske looks on. Gallagher serves the Eighth District and plans to honor at least one person in each of the 11 counties he represents.

MIRIAM NELSON | NEW MEDIA



Nueske's iconic red truck waits to be loaded with products from the order fulfillment center at 203 Genesee St., Wittenberg. MIRIAM NELSON | NEW MEDIA

way to honor hardworking employees. He and his staff members talked with various community stakeholders to get a sense for who stepped up when morale was low during the pandemic. Gallagher plans to honor at least one individual in each of the 11 counties he represents.

"It's a great honor to be recognized," said Tanya Nueske, CEO. "I'm very proud of everyone who is part of

Nueske's, and I'm very proud of Janet for winning the award."

Nueske noted that business is picking up. Mail orders have been steady; now that travel restrictions are easing, the retail market is increasing. The restaurant business is also picking up faster than they thought, Nueske said.

"Whether I'm in D.C. or traveling and I eat at a restaurant that serves Nueske's, I get excited," Gallagher

said. "It's such an honor to represent your company."

Jakubek is planning for the future and said the company will be doing some seasonal hiring. She figures that, between the call center and the fulfillment center, they will hire about 80 people now and hopefully add more in November.

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OPINION

Antifa and Black Lives Matter — America's friend or foe?

The First Amendment protects Americans' right to peacefully protest; every American supports that right. Two groups that the mainstream media claim are peacefully protesting are Black Lives Matter (BLM) and Anti-fascist (Antifa).

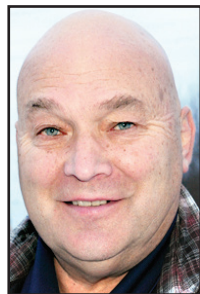
Antifa means anti-fascist which is made up of diverse groups that plan to achieve their motive through non-violent and violent direct action.

BLM started after the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin. The movement advocates non-violent civil disobedience with over 30 chapters in the United States.

Liberals have a knack for selecting innocent names we all agree with. Planned Parenthood sounds innocent but has more to do with killing babies than the name. Black Lives Matter, of course Black lives matter, but if you say all lives matter you are racist. Antifa, of course we are against fascism, but Antifa, as we see it acting in America, is fascism.

Hawk Newsome is a New York BLM leader. June 9, he told the Daily Mail that BLM is training a military arm to "lead war on police." Newsome claims to have former Special Forces officers' training and is advising BLM on how to challenge law enforcement. Newsome claims these groups are patterned after the Black Panthers and the Nation of Islam.

Patrisse Cullors was one of the 2013 founders and said on the June 2020 CNN Jake Tapper show that a primary goal is to separate black voters from Trump to get Trump out



RICHARD KUCKSDORF

of office. In a 2015 video, Cullors claimed that she and fellow organizers are proteges of Eric Mann, a former Weather Underground 1960s domestic terror organization member.

Cullors claims that BLM organizers have spent years absorbing Marxist-Leninist ideology. "Myself and Alicia in particular are trained organizers," she said, referring to BLM co-founder Alicia Garza, "we actually do have a Marxist ideology."

BLM is not just a military training to wage war on police; it's a political organization. June 2020, BLM made the rounds to several small Wisconsin communities to include Shawano. BLM marched in Shawano in June to promote the fact that they were peaceful, but I believe this was just a publicity stunt. We see BLM in action around the country and in Northeast Wisconsin.

One of the co-founders of BLM, Alicia Garza, claims that Joanne Chesimard, aka Assata Shakur, is an inspiration and hero; Assata Shakur is a convicted cop killer with a \$1 million FBI reward and a wanted domestic terrorist, per the Washington Examiner and Jerry Dunleavy. Susan Rosenberg is a member of the finance board of directors and was suspected of helping Shakur escape prison.

According to several sources, one

being Stephen Loiaconi, ABC 6 DC, contributions to BLM go through a front group called ActBlue Charities. Portions of all contributions to BLM are funneled to Democratic and progressive groups, but the fundraising group (ActBlue) takes a percentage of all contributions. Major corporations are scrambling to donate millions.

According to a poll by Monmouth University revealed by Campus Reform, Rep. Jody Hice of Georgia told Todd Starnes on June 3 the poll shows that 58% of college-educated people believe rioting is justified. Is this an example of the breakdown of our education system? College-educated liberals have told me they support Antifa because the group is anti-fascist, and these liberals believe Trump is fascist.

Antifa set up CHAZ (Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone) which changed to CHOP (Capitol Hill Organized Protest) on six blocks in Seattle. Antifa is against our form of government and is anti-capitalist. Janine Phakdeetham of The Sun quoted Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan that the CHOP zone saw a 525% increase in violent crime over the same time last year to include murders and rapes.

I have said for some time that Antifa is the equivalent of the 1930s Nazi Brown Shirts, and what is scary is they receive support from Democrats and the media. Austin, Texas, has an Antifa group known as the Red Guard. The Red Guard is self-described as an autonomous Marxist-Leninist-Maoist group. The

Red Guard Facebook page posted, "The war is not coming — it is here and now!"

Who remembers April and May 2020 when residents of Michigan went to the capitol at Lansing and openly carried weapons? The media and Democrats, to a person, was outraged at these Michiganders' outright show of force. We have seen Antifa occupy CHOPS and CHAZ, and rioting and looting across the United States. Antifa always carries weapons and frequently Communist flags. Do you ever see any outrage from the media, national or local Democrats?

Antifa and BLM rioters have injured or killed 711 police since the Floyd murder, according to the True North wire as of June 10. Portland has had rioting and looting every night since the Floyd murder

Antifa and BLM both want to defund police. If you have a candidate who supports either BLM or Antifa, know that they want to defund your police. Democratic governors and mayors hate President Trump so much that we see them marching with Antifa and BLM as these politicians physically and verbally support rioters, looters and arsonists.

"The moment the idea is admitted into society that property is not as sacred as the laws of God, and that there is not a force of law and public justice to protect it, anarchy and tyranny commence." — John Adams

Richard W. Kucksdorf is a retired U.S. Army colonel residing in Bonduel. Kucksdorf has other writings on his website, "Observations From Flyover Country," at rwkucksdorf.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fairness lacking in county justice system

To the editor:

A sense of fairness appears to be lacking in Shawano and Menominee County's criminal justice system, according to a report put together by the Wisconsin Examiner. In its examination of the six Wisconsin counties that have contested district attorney races, they interviewed more than a dozen defense attorneys, defendants, court workers and community members in and around Shawano. What they uncovered is alarming.

It is obvious to me that a new district attorney is needed in Shawano and Menominee counties. We don't want a justice system in which cases are dismissed due to unprepared prosecutors, long backlogs, and victims who don't feel they were treated fairly.

It appears that currently if someone is arrested for a misdemeanor, they might have to wait for 100 days or longer for charges to be filed. This is not normal and doesn't happen in other counties our size. One example is Waupaca County, where the average number of days is 30. Less than half of Shawano County's misde-

meanor cases are allegedly filed that quickly.

Delays can have harmful effects on people's lives. Defendants and victims may move on with their lives, get new jobs and forget about the incident. Then when they are finally charged, it can be distressing. It can also be very traumatic for youthful offenders.

As a defense attorney, Aaron Damrau has experienced those calls and emails, which go unanswered by the attorneys in the DA's office. He is frustrated when plea negotiations don't exist even when contradictory evidence comes up. He doesn't like it when the attorneys in the DA's office

routinely don't look at a case until the week of jury trial and don't prepare victims and witnesses for trial.

I personally spoke with a courtroom officer who believes that many jury trials are won by the defendant simply because one of the prosecutors is so sarcastic and makes snide remarks to the witnesses on the stand, which jury members find to be rude and inappropriate. Victims, defendants and ultimately the taxpayers are hurt by the practices of DA Gregory Parker's office.

It's time for change. I'm supporting Damrau for district attorney.

Carrie Pitt, Bonduel

GUEST COLUMN

Farmers and Wisconsin's changing climate

While we still have much to learn, and far more to do, about climate change, it's impact on natural resources and communities is becoming increasingly clear. Lake Superior, the largest single source of fresh water on the planet, seemed immune to algal blooms that trouble the more small and shallow Lake Erie, as well as smaller bodies of water throughout Wisconsin.

Superior was believed too vast to allow for the concentration of nutrients needed to fuel a bloom and too cold for the algae to multiply. Only a few surface blooms of cyanobacteria, occurring in the 1960s and linked to acute releases of mining byproducts into Superior, have been recorded through modern history. Unfortunately, the deepest of the Great Lakes started experiencing these blooms since 2012, with one bloom stretching about 50 miles along the shoreline in 2018.

The lake is getting warmer. Meanwhile, escalating average temperatures allow the atmosphere to hold more moisture, which results in more frequent and intense downpours. The increasing frequency and intensity of these storm events flush nutrients from overwhelmed municipal wastewater treatment plants and farm fields alike into vulnerable surface waters.

Trout streams and wild rice beds in Superior's watershed that have provided reliable sustenance to Native American communities in Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin through time



THOMAS DRISCOLL

immemorial are threatened by the increasing temperatures and potential for blooms, demonstrating that today's conditions are new to Lake Superior.

While changes in Lake Superior and other water bodies throughout Wisconsin are uniquely visible, climate change's impacts can be observed across Wisconsin's farming landscape. More intense spring rains and the resulting mud are keeping folks out of the field.

Rachel Bouressa, a Wisconsin Farmers Union member raising cows on grass from start to finish in New London, is also witnessing how the changing climate impacts farmers in her community. Rachel serves on the Farm Service Agency County Committee, where she participates in the execution of emergency farm support programs.

This is in stark contrast to the experience of Bouressa's parents, who manage a more conventional operation in Australia. While Wisconsin experiences more intense rain, the community where Bouressa's parents farm went nine months with no rainfall leading into the wildfires in late 2019 and early 2020. Their farm ultimately wasn't damaged by the fires, but the surrounding community was decimated.

The added risk from all the extreme

weather facing farmers across the globe, both drought and deluge, track with a July 2019 report issued by the USDA Economic Research Service, Climate Change and Agricultural Risk Management Into the 21st Century, that modeled farmers' likely utilization of the Federal Crop Insurance Program and determined that agricultural risk management programs are likely to become more expensive to manage as the climate continues to change.

Farmers place themselves in peril by ignoring the mounting evidence and need for action on climate change. The higher the cost of the farmers' safety net, the more difficult these programs become to justify to taxpayers. Fortunately, there is growing interest in supporting farmers to manage their operations in ways that reduce their own risk in a changing climate while also reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases that exacerbate climate challenges.

While witnessing neighbors struggle with mud, Bouressa said that the soil health practices she employs, like interseeding with legumes instead of chemical fertilizer and maintaining pasture for over twenty years, allow her ground to absorb more water and hold it against future dry spells while remaining traversable. Further, her grazing regime avoids the need for many passes with heavy equipment that may be prone to damaging or getting stuck in wet ground. Bouressa also points out that grazing is generally far less fossil fuel intensive than growing

crops for feed with a lot of chemical input.

Making the changes to more resilient farming is a big lift for any farm operation, but the investment in the stability of the food supply is worth it. Farmers can make several asks of government officials to help clear the way for climate resilient farming, including investing in diverse agriculture research, support for farm bill conservation programs, and reducing barriers to market for animals on pasture.

Climate change presents serious challenges to farmers, rural communities, and the stability of domestic and global food systems. Despite overwhelming scientific consensus that the phenomena is occurring, and that human activity is contributing to its severity, the issue has become politicized and often painfully difficult to discuss.

There are plenty of options for empowering farmers to adapt to and mitigate climate change, but denying the challenge prevents us from coordinating efforts and maximizing results from farming practices with climate benefits. Hopefully, developments like algae blooms in Lake Superior and USDA's predictions on the rising expense of crop insurance programs will provide the motivation needed to address climate change in farming communities.

Thomas Driscoll is helping to elevate key rural issues through Wisconsin Farmers Union's Rural Voices project. He also is a consultant, advising farmers and communities on collaborating with consumers to realize more societal benefits from agriculture.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

You have plenty to lose with Trump staying in office

To the editor:

Donald Trump made grand campaign promises to Wisconsin, yet his administration and failed leadership have failed to deliver for Wisconsin's working families and manufacturing sector. Trump's chaotic trade wars, tax giveaway to billionaires and incentives for corporations to offshore American jobs devastated Badger State communities.

Now, in the midst of a global pandemic, Trump's failed leadership is putting Wisconsin in an even more dire economic bind.

Donald Trump's trickle-down economics approach to manufacturing has undermined Wisconsin's unions and its blue-collar workers. He has looked to restrict the role of unions in the federal workplace and undermined workers' ability to

collectively bargain for good wages and essential benefits. Yet, during this pandemic unions have played an essential role, fighting hard on behalf of their members for essential personal protective equipment, paid leave and workplace safety.

Several Wisconsin manufacturing companies have filed for bankruptcy or laid-off workers, primarily due to Trump's trade policies and failed response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Last month, Harley-Davidson announced 700 layoffs. Additionally, small engine manufacturer Briggs and Stratton filed for bankruptcy and plans to sell its assets.

As Trump himself said in his speech in Chicago in 2016: "What do 'you' have to lose?" Well, it's been tried; it has failed. It's time for America — for Wisconsin — to Build Back Better. We have to put Joe Biden and Kamala Harris in the White House, and vote for Amanda Stuck for Congress if we want to win again.

Traci Hutchcraft, Shawano

OPINION PAGE POLICY

The Shawano Leader 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. No handwritten letters will be accepted. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for accuracy, brevity and clarity. Please avoid personal attacks. 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. No anonymous opinion pieces will be published under any circumstances. Thank you letters will be considered for publication in the community section. The 400-word limit applies to thank you letters, as well. The best and most expedient way to send letters is by e-mail to news@newmedia-wi.com. Put "letter to the editor" in the subject line and send the text in the body of the e-mail. Letters can also be sent by mail or delivered in person to 1464 E. Green Bay St., Shawano.

SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

Witt-Birn trying to repeat as conference champs

Chargers will need to blend experienced core with some newcomers

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

Despite losing some big-time players from last year's conference championship team, the Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School volleyball squad remains confident that it can compete for another title this fall.

The Chargers will be down four all-conference athletes from last year, but coach Becky Rew will still have plenty of experience and talent on the roster.

Senior Abi Fraaza made the Central Wisconsin Conference-East Division first team unanimously last year, and will be the team's go-to hitter this fall. Reese Rogowski is the other all-conference player back after making the honorable mention list as a hitter in her freshman season.

Seniors Emma Herb and McKenna Foster also return with starting experience for the Chargers. Foster is a defensive specialist, while Herb is another hitter.

"To win conference, we need to learn how to play together fast and push each other hard in practice to get better everyday," said Fraaza.

"We need to also learn how to play to each other's strengths and put together full games to succeed," she added.

Senior Amara Schoepke (defensive specialist), junior Jadalynn Davids (right side) and sophomore Lilly Betry (setter) have varsity experience and will try and fill some of the voids on the floor. Sophomore Payton Foster (setter) and freshman London Metropulos (middle) are other options.

Without having the benefit of some of its typical nonconference tournaments and matches, Rew knows she has to change her approach as a coach if the team hopes to post another undefeated mark in the CWC-East.

"My job is to make sure the girls are ready to compete for conference at our first dual," said Rew.

After winning over 20 regular-season games and claiming its conference title last fall, Witt-Birn was awarded a No. 5 seed for the postseason. The Chargers swept 12th-seeded Coleman before falling to fourth-seeded St. Mary Catholic.

sports@newmedia-wi.com



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Reese Rogowski, right, spikes the ball during a 2019 Central Wisconsin Conference-East Division match against Weyauwega-Fremont in Wittenberg. Rogowski is one of two all-conference players back for the Chargers this fall.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

PRO BASEBALL

Brewers trade David Phelps to Phillies for prospects

By **ROB MAADDI**
The Associated Press

The Philadelphia Phillies acquired right-hander David Phelps from the Milwaukee Brewers before Monday's trade deadline for three players to be named.

The 33-year-old Phelps is 2-3 with a 2.77 ERA in 12 games this season. He has struck out 20 and allowed only seven hits, four earned runs and two walks in 13 innings.

Phelps sensed there was a chance he could get traded. He's been moved near the trade deadline twice before, going from Miami to Seattle in 2017 and from Toronto to the Chicago

Cubs in 2019.

"You look around that (Brewers) clubhouse, you see the controllable arms they have, especially in the bullpen, and they dealt from a place of strength, for sure," Phelps said. "It caught me off-guard in the sense that it was as close that I've ever been traded to the deadline, but it's always a possibility. It's a team that's looking at more than just this year, they like what they have in the bullpen currently, even minus me, and (are) looking at ways they can improve their farm system, so from a business standpoint, it makes sense."

Overall, Phelps is 34-37 with a 3.83

ERA in 281 career appearances with the Yankees, Marlins, Mariners, Blue Jays, Cubs and Brewers.

Phelps had been filling a setup role in the Brewers' pen, which has been the team's biggest strength thus far.

"It became very clear early on that David was an attractive player to a number of teams," Brewers general manager David Stearns said. "We did our due diligence, as we always do, and listened and ultimately we found a deal that we thought was important for us to make. We also think we have some depth in our bullpen and we're dealing from an area of strength."



Milwaukee Brewers relief pitcher David Phelps throws during the seventh inning of a game against the Pittsburgh Pirates on Aug. 28 in Milwaukee. Phelps was traded to the Phillies before the trade deadline. MORRY GASH | THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATHLETE PROFILE: TOMMY BRUSKI

Wittenberg-Birnamwood runner hoping for big senior season

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School boys cross-country team came into the season needing to replace some talented runners if it hoped to finish the season near the top of the Central Wisconsin Conference again, and senior Tommy Bruski is among the runners ready for the challenge.

Bruski opened the fall season as the team's top finisher at the Pitts-ville Invite on Aug. 27. He crossed the finish line in 11th place after completing the course in 20 minutes, 29.7 seconds.

Bruski's finish helped the boys take second as a team.

The runner came in 18th at the 2019 CWC Meet to help the team finish second. He is hoping for an even higher finish for himself and the team as a whole this fall.

Q: When did your interest in cross-country begin?

A: My freshman year. After running long distance in track, my coach (Cathy Easker) suggested I should join cross-country.

Q: What is your favorite part about the cross-country season?

A: The bus rides are always fun. The team would always bond and just have a good time all around.

Q: What kind of individual goals have you set for yourself this fall?

A: After every meet that we run, I want to keep improving, lowering my time again and again.

Q: As a senior, how will you help serve as a leader for the rest of the team?

A: Probably encouraging my

AT A GLANCE

ATHLETE: Tommy Bruski

SPORT: Cross-country

SCHOOL: Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School

YEAR: Senior

teammates to give it their all at a race. They won't be disappointed after they see their time.

Q: Talk about your preparation for the cross-country season.

A: At first I was running two to three days a week this summer. Before I knew it, I was running five to six days a week.

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

A: My junior year when we ran at Marion. I loved this meet because everyone was eager to win conference. Everyone gave it their all.

Q: What are you going to miss most about high school cross-country?

A: Most of all, my teammates. The team felt more like a family more than anything.

Q: Favorite TV show, movie and musical artist?

A: Favorite TV show — "King of the Hill." Movie — "Without Limits." Musical artist — John Mellencamp.

Q: Name one thing about yourself that not many people know.

A: A former teammate of mine (Cole Schairer) inspired me to run over the summer. He's the reason I



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Tommy Bruski rounds a final turn during the 2019 Central Wisconsin Conference Meet in Marion.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

want to do the best that I can this year.

Q: What's the greatest piece of advice you have ever been told?

A: A referee said this to me once: "Keep your eyes straight ahead, and you'll start to gain on runners. But if you keep looking back, everyone

else will gain on you."

Q: What are some things you hope to accomplish after graduating high school?

A: I was always curious of what my dad (Scot) does for a living. Possibly going to college to become an electrician.

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New book details top Wisconsin fall color hikes

A new travel guidebook describes more than 100 day hiking trails to enjoy fall colors in Wisconsin, including those near the Wittenberg-Birnamwood area.

"Wisconsin's Best Autumn Hikes," by hiking guidebook author Rob Bignell, covers trails from Door County to the Driftless Area and from the Northwoods to the Kettle Moraine State Forest, as well as border counties in neighboring states. It was released Aug. 28.

"When it comes to fall colors, Wisconsin is almost beyond compare," Bignell said. "You can hike to vistas nearly 70 stories above orange and red woodlands. You can head along amber-leafed river valleys and to waterfalls. You can walk amid yellow- and crimson-colored forests that stretch for miles around you."

The guidebook explores trails in every county and many of the state's major geographic features. It describes trees that can be seen at each sight, from the sugar maple's rainbow of harvest colors to the various oaks' orange, crimson and tan leaves.

For the Wittenberg-Birnamwood area, the guidebooks lists several nearby trails, including those in Wausau, Shawano, Stevens Point and Antigo.

The book provides a plethora of information about each featured trail, including driving directions to the trail, where to park and find the trailhead, course the trail takes, scenic points to look for on the trail, autumn leaves and wildlife you might spot, and interesting tidbits about regional geology and history.

"Many of these trails are perfect for families with children," Bignell said. The trails run from a tenth of a mile to seven miles in length, with most only one to three miles long. His son Kieran hiked many of the trails with him.

Wisconsin's Best Autumn Hikes is the latest in several bestselling hiking guidebooks Bignell has authored. Several of his books about Wisconsin hiking trails, including "Headin' to the Cabin: Day Hiking Trails of Northwest Wisconsin" and "Day Hiking the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway" have hit No. 1 on Amazon lists during the past eight years.

An avid backpacker and longtime editor, Bignell is uniquely qualified to write about hiking, especially for families.

This is Bignell's 27th hiking guidebook and his 13th about Wisconsin. He lives with his son in western Wisconsin.

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