



Celebrating life in COVID-19 world brings challenges

Schmidt and Schulta Funeral Home explains how services have adapted to accommodate social gatherings for grieving loved ones.

PAGE 2

Baby-selling plot challenges new cop to solve mystery

Set in the Adirondack Mountains, the first in a three-book series throws newly arrived police chief Frank Bennet into a murder with plenty of suspects but no evidence.

PAGE 3

Boys cross-country ends the season at sectionals

Hard work pays off as the boys prove they can run fast enough to compete with other schools.

PAGE 45

GATHERING TOGETHER TO PRAY FOR AMERICA

Sally Korbisch leads worshipers in prayer at a service to heal America at Washington Park in Wittenberg on Saturday. **SEE THE STORY AND PHOTOS ON PAGE 5.**

CAROL RYCZEK | NEW MEDIA



**Packers are ready
to take on the
Vikings...Page 21**

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

tmurphy@newmedia-wi.com

Calendar items (free)

calendar@newmedia-wi.com

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Funerals are adapting to provide comfort in a pandemic age

Q&A with Schmidt & Schulta Funeral Home

By MIRIAM NELSON

News Editor

Editor's Note: *Husband and wife team David "Benji" and Jennifer Schmidt own Schmidt & Schulta Funeral Home with locations in Wittenberg and Birnamwood. They recently participated in this question and answer article to help explain how their business has changed due to the pandemic.*

Q: What were some of your first thoughts or concerns when the Safer at Home order came out in March?

A: Our first concern was to the families that we serve.

We see how important it is to honor your loved one and the impact on the living when the funeral service is taken away from them.

Not to mention how long grief will last when a service is not held.

Our main focus was how our staff would be able to provide funeral services within the guidelines of the mandate while also taking precautionary measures for our staff and all those attending the service.

We have made several changes and will continue to do so when needed.

Q: What are some of the ways you adapted your services?

A: Funerals have changed in the way of what you will see when you attend a visitation or service.

We have more staff at funerals as we now have someone opening the door and giving hand sanitizer upon entry.

The register book that you use to sign in on has now become a digital registry, which means that we have a staff member for that.

We also have a staff member at the exit, once again offering hand sanitizer.

Depending on the place of service

we have anywhere from one to three extra staff members that we didn't have previously.

Pews are roped off, social distancing is encouraged and people are wearing masks.

We now offer "live streaming" of the service through Facebook.

We also record the services with a camcorder as a backup, as live streaming is dependent on cellular service or Wi-Fi.

These are just some of the precautionary measures that are in place and may change in the coming months.

Q: Is cremation the only option during this time?

A: Not at all. Schmidt & Schulta Funeral Home has never restricted our families in regards to services being requested.

Q: How do the clergy work with you to provide services?

A: Our community is really fortunate to have such wonderful and caring ministers.

Each and every one has always wanted what was best for the family and community.

Our staff works with the ministers to be sure that we are compliant with the current mandates as well as the guidelines of each parish.

Q: Mourning generally involves hugging, crying and other displays of emotion that are hard to socially distance from. Are people still engaging in those behaviors, or how has it been modified?

A: This has been a the most difficult aspect of the pandemic because we are, by nature, social.

Our instinct is to show affection in good times and in bad.

We are all aware of the mandates and guidelines. Most often, people just don't know what to do. We see most people wave, smile or just have

conversations. There have been some families that have requested a barrier to let people know to keep a distance.

We have seen a decline in the attendance of visitations and funerals especially as the virus has made its way into our community.

More and more people are opting to mail a card to the family or phone them.

We strongly encourage the community to do what they feel is safe for them.

Q: Have people opted to have Celebration of Life services at a later time?

A: We haven't had many people that opted to delay the funeral.

We have had some families opt to have a private family service or even a visitation for family members only with scheduled time slots and then a graveside service.

Our staff will provide services that are most comfortable for our families.

Q: What are your hopes or concerns for the community?

A: We do hope that our community stays safe and healthy but still stays connected with their loved ones as that is so important.

We know and understand that one of the hardest parts is not being able to visit, touch or hug your loved one that is in a nursing home.

Seeing the impact this has made on our families is heartbreaking.

Now that the virus has really infiltrated our community and the nursing homes, it is hard for families not being able to visit their loved one before they pass away.

We continue to keep all of those who are suffering in our thoughts and prayers.

mnelson@newmedia-wi.com

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.

Small town secrets unravel in Adirondack mountains

My latest choice was "The Lure" by S.W. Hubbard. It is one of a three-book set in his Frank Bennett Adirondack Mountain Mysteries.

A few years ago, Frank Bennett thought his life was over. His beloved wife was dead. He was estranged from his only child, Caroline, and he'd lost his job with the Kansas City Police Department due to a hasty assumption.



JAN JONES

He's starting over as police chief in Trout

Run, New York. Frank isn't concerned when Debbie at the Stop 'N Buy calls, saying that Mary Pat Sheehan hasn't shown up for work. Mary Pat was 28 and very dependable.

A call from a citizen alerts Frank. Mary Pat has been found in her car out on Harkness Road. An autopsy shows she died from an infection caused by improper care following childbirth. Her parents insist that Mary Pat had never dated and could not have been pregnant.

Frank finds information indicating Mary Pat had given her baby to an adoption agency known as Sheltering Arms, but there's no trace of

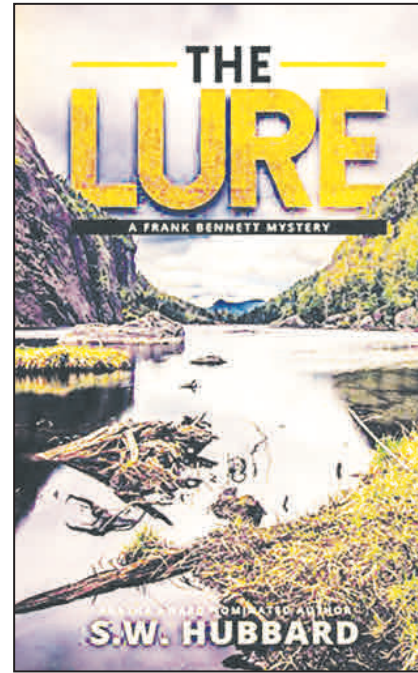
this agency in New York state. He concludes that this is a sham business luring desperate young women into selling their newborns to wealthy couples.

With a bit of digging, he finds the couple who planned to adopt the baby. They are heartbroken and angry because the agency took the baby back and demanded more money — money they didn't have. Frank has several suspects in the medical field. He's sure that someone local must be involved.

Once again, he has suspects, but no proof linking them. Using a bit of blackmail, Frank is able to find the baby's father. Sanjiv Patel never knew that Mary Pat was pregnant and very much wants the baby.

While Frank is working on the baby-selling case, well-known environmental activist Nathan Golding is found shot to death. His arrival in Trout Run sparked a protest at the gates of Raging Rapids, a local tourist stop. They insist that it is damaging the environment.

Frank can't help wondering why they are protesting Raging Rapids and not the massive home being built further up the mountain. Frank's gut tells him that something is off. The more he learns, the more he is convinced that all three cases are connected.



While investigating Mary Pat's case, Frank encounters a strange family living off the grid. When a deputy's girlfriend decides to pretend to be pregnant and ends up at the encampment, Frank arrives to take her home. As she leaves the house, the family's guard dogs attack and nearly kill her.

Suddenly, a passing comment from a little girl from the compound gives Frank the clue he desperately needs. He focuses on a local woman who

AT A GLANCE

BOOK: "The Lure"

AUTHOR: S.W. Hubbard

PUBLISHER: Simon and Schuster

PUBLISHED: May 5, 2015

PAGES: 263

works as a nurse at the clinic used by Mary Pat. The expenses in her husband's Parkinson's care could lure her to seek out pregnant girls and convince them to turn their babies over to Sheltering Arms.

Frank is amazed at her calm insistence that she is innocent until faced with even a short jail term. The thought of putting her husband in a nursing home is too much, and she confesses. That confession turns Frank's attention back to the Goldings.

In the end they learn that Meredith Golding was behind the baby scheme. She used the money to fund the group's environmental causes. Nathan knew nothing about it but died when the man who wanted to adopt Mary Pat's baby confronted him on a hiking trail.

In Kansas City, Frank had always been able to keep his distance from the people he served, but he can't do that in Trout Run. Like it or not, he realizes that he must learn more about his neighbors than he wants to know.

Supper club hosting Halloween Hall-O-Treats

Lisa's at Lakeside will be hosting a Hall-O-Treats this year for Halloween. The banquet hall will be set up from 4-6 p.m. Oct. 31 for all the little goblins and ghouls to come on through. There will be "stations" set up to make a safe and comfortable environment to take little ones

for treats for Halloween.

Anyone interested in participating by decorating a table and passing out treats for all who come should call 715-446-3730.

Lisa's at Lakeside Supper Club and Banquet Hall is located at 214857 County Road Y, Hatley.

COLLEGE NOTES

Ripon College

Kyle Rutkowski, of Hatley, majored in business management and exercise science-sports management and graduated in the class of 2020 from Ripon College during the 2019-2020 academic year. Rutkowski's parents are David and

Katie Rutkowski, of Hatley.

Upper Iowa University

Dawn Chuilli, of Wittenberg, graduated Cum Laude Meritum with a Bachelor of Science in public administration from Upper Iowa University in August.

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GENEX is looking to fill the position of **HR and Payroll Generalist** position at our Shawano, WI location.

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PUBLIC RECORD

SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Oct. 26

Police logged 22 incidents, including disturbances on Prospect Circle, the 1000 block of River Street, 100 block of Aspen Court, 1000 block of South River Street and 300 block of South Main Street; a burglary in the 500 block of Prospect Circle.

Oct. 25

Police logged 10 incidents, including a domestic disturbance in the 500 block of Prospect Circle.

Oct. 24

Police logged 19 incidents, including drug complaints in the 200 block of South Union Street and 800 block of East Richmond Street; a property theft at Dairy Queen, 1005 E. Green Bay St.; criminal damage to property in the 600 block of East Maurer Street.

Oct. 23

Police logged 22 incidents, including a

shoplifting complaint at Family Dollar, 413 S. Main St.; property theft complaints on Channel Trace Street and 1300 block of East Lieg Avenue.

Oct. 22

Police logged 20 incidents, including a disturbance in the 500 block of Prospect Circle; a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Mountain Bay Trail Drive; a drug complaint in the 1000 block of East Richmond Street.

Oct. 21

Police logged 20 incidents, including disorderly conduct in the 200 block of East Green Bay Street; criminal damage to property in the 800 block of East Richmond Street; a counterfeit \$100 bill reported at Tom's Tap, 115 N. Main St.

Oct. 20

Police logged 20 incidents, including a property theft in the 800 block of South Kadletz Street; disorderly conduct at the Super 8 Motel, 211 Waukechon St.; a domestic disturbance in the 1000 block

of South River Street.

SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Oct. 26

Deputies logged 37 incidents, including a property theft on White Cedar Road in the Town of Red Springs; a citation for operating after revocation on U.S. Highway 45 in the Town of Wittenberg.

Oct. 25

Deputies logged 36 incidents, including a domestic disturbance on Mader Street in Gresham; disorderly conduct on Oak Avenue in the Town of Richmond.

Oct. 24

Deputies logged 39 incidents, including a fleeing/pursuit on Mielke Road in the Town of Grant; drug complaints of Ganshon Street in Bonduel, Eagles Nest Lane in the Town of Belle Plaine and County Road A in the Town of Richmond; a property thefts on Valley

Road in the Town of Waukechon and County Road A in the Town of Herman.

Oct. 23

Deputies logged 26 incidents, including a fight in progress on Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; an injury accident on state Highway 29 in the Town of Richmond.

Oct. 22

Deputies logged 37 incidents, including a citation for operating after revocation on Hiawatha Court in the Town of Wescott; a property theft on Bartlett Boulevard in the Town of Wescott; disorderly conduct on North Avenue in Mattoon.

Oct. 21

Deputies logged 38 incidents, including an arrest for operating while intoxicated on Oak Avenue in the Town of Richmond; a fire assist on Plum Lane in the Town of Richmond; criminal damage to property on Church Road in the Town of Morris.

COURT NEWS

Recent proceedings in Shawano-Menominee County Circuit Court:

- Justin L. Busch, 32, of Shawano, was charged Oct. 23 with two felony counts of sex registry violation. He could face a maximum six years in prison and \$10,000 fine if convicted. An arrest warrant has been issued for Busch.

- Lydi V. Dodge, 27, of Shawano, was charged Oct. 23 with felony counts of driving a vehicle without owner's consent, theft and three felony counts of bail jumping. She could face a maximum 10 years in prison and \$10,000 for felony theft if convicted, 3½ years and \$10,000 fine for operating a vehicle without owner's consent and six years and a \$10,000 fine on each count of bail jumping. She was ordered held on a \$2,500 cash bond and was scheduled for an adjourned initial appearance Nov. 9.

- Jerame M. Perez, 32, of Appleton, was charged Oct. 21 with a felony count of fleeing an officer in a vehicle. He could face a maximum 3½ years in prison and \$10,000 fine if convicted. An arrest warrant has been issued for Perez.

- Joel L. Lehoullier, 37, of Wittenberg, was charged Oct. 21 with felony counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm, second or subsequent possession of marijuana and two counts of felony bail jumping. He could face a maximum 10 years in prison and \$25,000 fine if convicted of the weapon charge, six years and a \$10,000 fine on each of the bail jumping counts and 3½ years and a \$10,000 fine on the drug count. Lehoullier is scheduled for an initial appearance on Nov. 23.

- Aaron C. Miller, 32, of Antigo, was charged Oct. 20 with three felony counts of intimidating a victim with the use or attempt of force. He could face a maximum 10 years in prison and \$25,000 fine on each count if convicted. Miller was due in court for initial appearance Oct. 29.

Code-a-pillar cracks codes for kindergarten kids



Sacred Heart Catholic School student Dani Johnson shows what she has learned during a class on coding skills on Oct. 19. The 4-year-old kindergarten class began to learn coding skills with a code-a-pillar upon its return to in-person learning. Teacher Michelle Powers likes to use this particular classroom tool to support instruction because the code-a-pillar inspires her students to be thinkers by encouraging them to arrange and rearrange the toy's segments in endless combinations that send the caterpillar on his path.

CONTRIBUTED



A small group gathers at Washington Park in Wittenberg on Saturday to pray for healing in America.

CAROL RYCZEK | NEW MEDIA

Prayer service seeks to unify nation

Churches sponsor outdoor prayers, stories, songs

By **CAROL RYCZEK**
Editor-in-chief

Imagine a meeting about America, two weeks before an election, that didn't include a word about partisan politics.

A small group gathered at Washington Park in Wittenberg on Saturday to pray for America. The service asked for guidance and safety; worshipers heard stories that combined patriotism and prayerful guidance. Organizers talked about the need to heal.

The service, organized by the Healing Prayer Support Group, was one of three "Let Us Pray For Our Country" events held in Wittenberg, Tigerton and Marion. The prayers group is based at Holy Family/St. William Catholic Parish in Wittenberg, one of three parishes that make up the Three Parish Catholic Family. Other churches in that group are St. Anthony, Tigerton, and St. Mary, Marion.

Although the prayer group was based at a Catholic church, organizer Sally Korbisch said the event was emphatically for all believers. Korbisch led the event, as clergy who had planned to lead it were quarantined after being exposed to COVID-19.

"We as a group felt this country and community need healing," she



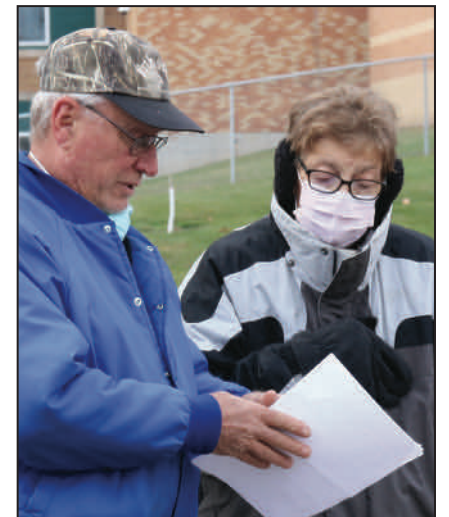
Joann Lawton reads a passage from the Bible as she holds the program for "Let Us Pray For Our Country." Sally Korbisch, who led the service, listens.

said. "When we organized this, we invited the other pastors to join us. We told them, 'It's not a mass.' We wanted a healing service for the whole community."

The message of inclusion seems

to have worked. During the event, one of the speakers read a story about a spiritual experience during the Korean War, while wearing a Lutheran Social Services jacket.

The service included readings



Dick Beversdorf reads a story about the Korean War as his wife, Mary Beversdorf, watches.

CAROL RYCZEK | NEW MEDIA

from the Bible, prayers for first responders and other health care professionals and a prayer for candidates to "walk in wisdom."

The service began with a masked singing of "America the Beautiful" and ended with "God Bless America."

Wittenberg resident Eloise Cappel, who attended the event, said she attended because, "I love God and love this country." She said she hoped the prayers would promote a unity of spirit.

OBITUARIES

Dorothy "Dee" Kay Gildseth died Oct. 21, 2020, at the age of 82 after a brief illness at Homme Home for the Aging in Wittenberg. She was born Jan. 4, 1938, to Jerrold and Emma (McMullen) Seaver and was baptized into the Lutheran faith by the late Rev. E.G. Burtness at Capron Lutheran Church, Capron, Illinois. Dee was raised on the family dairy farm near Capron and was the youngest of four children.

After graduating from North Boone High School, Dee attended Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, for two years where she sang in the acclaimed Nordic Choir while studying to be a teacher. She left college after her second year to marry the Rev. Richard "Dick" Gildseth and became a full-time pastor's wife and mother. They were united in marriage on Aug. 22, 1958, and served several parishes while raising their family of four children, Kim, John, Tom and Kris. In 1973, the family moved to Wittenberg, which



Dee and family came to call home.

Dee was a sensitive, loving person with a gregarious personality. She loved to tell stories from her past and share in lively conversations. She enjoyed

singing, especially around the family piano when visiting her parents and family in Illinois and also participating in The Pro-Music Ensemble at the direction of Carol Folsom in Wittenberg. She was very involved in the Sunnyside 4-H Club of Wittenberg and helped direct many plays for 4-H drama competitions.

She was a coordinator for Vacation Bible School at Redeemer Lutheran in Wittenberg. She was also involved in Redeemer's youth choir program. Dee loved camping, nature, wildlife and

spending time at the family log cabin. She loved holidays and birthdays and always made them into memorable experiences. She was also a big fan of Wisconsin sports, especially her beloved Green Bay Packers.

A lifetime highlight was a trip she took to Ireland with her sister Roma, son John and nephew Kirk for a family tree research adventure. She was very proud of her Irish and Norwegian heritage. Dee will be greatly missed by many.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her husband, Richard; parents, Jerrold and Emma Seaver; and brother, Ronald Seaver.

She is survived by her sister, Roma Thompson; brother, Robert Seaver; her four children, Kimberly (Mike) Gilbertson, of Wittenberg, John Gildseth, of Baldwin, Thomas (Sam) Gildseth, of Minocqua, and Kristina (Jacki) Gildseth, of Minneapolis; five grandchildren, Carrie (Dan) Nueske,

Eric (Jessica) Gilbertson, Callie (Jared) Johnson, Caleb Lingel and Killian Lingel; seven great-grandchildren: Miranda (Tony) Morrell, Jocelyn Nueske, Brayden Nueske, Mila Gilbertson, Lola Gilbertson, Beckett Johnson and Ruby Johnson; one great-great-granddaughter, Holly Morrell, with one great-great-grandson on the way; and many loving nieces and nephews.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the family has decided to have a small, immediate family only, graveside service. Thank you for your kind thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Stay safe.

Schmidt and Schulta Funeral Home in Wittenberg is assisting the family with funeral arrangements. Memories and messages of support may be shared at schmidtschulta.com or mailed to the family of Dorothy in care of Kimberly Gilbertson, 403 W. Vinal St., Wittenberg, WI 54499.

Robert August Roth, 93, of Eland, went home to be with Jesus on Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2020, at the Homme Home of Wittenberg, where he had been a resident since 2016.

Bob was born March 3, 1927, in the Town of Birnamwood to August and Elizabeth (Freitag) Roth. He grew up on the family farm in the Eland area.

Bob was united in marriage to LaVerne Pingel on April 28, 1946, in Clintonville. Together they shared 69 years of marriage. LaVerne preceded him in death on Oct. 12, 2015.

The couple farmed for 31 years in the Eland area and raised five boys. After moving off the farm, Bob drove school bus for the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District for over 20 years and worked part time for the Shawano Sheriff's Department.

He was a longtime member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Wittenberg where he once served as an elder. He also served as a town board



supervisor and, later, town chairman for the Town of Birnamwood. Bob loved to hunt and could tell you all about his many, many years of hunting. He also enjoyed playing cards, raising Ger-

man Shepherd puppies, camping and gardening.

His faith, love of family and spirit of always putting others first is what he will always be remembered for.

Bob is survived by four sons, Larry (Deb), Dennis (Mary), Milan (Brenda) and Robert; his grandchildren, Cheri (Chris) Dieringer, David Roth, Leslie (Doug) Brei, Bobby (Nicole) Roth, Terri (Mark Herman) Roth, Laura (fiancé Tommy) and Michelle Roth; great-grandchildren, Alex and Julia Dieringer, Koy and

Jay Brei; step-grandchildren Melissa (Ron) Hall, Brittany (fiancé Jim) Kessel and Parker (Trina) Kessel; step-great-grandchildren, Eve and Owen Hall and Adam and Kassie Swenson. He is further survived by his brother Jackie Roth; brothers- and sisters-in-law, Carolee Roth, Arlyn Pingel, Marlyn (Merry) Pingel and Walley (Debbie) Pingel; a daughter-in-law, Kathy (Don) Pfalz and many nieces and nephews.

Robert was preceded in death by his parents; wife LaVerne; a son, Harvey; his brother Herbie; brother-in-law John and sisters-in-law Leisla Surprise, Irene Roth and Joyce Pingel.

A Christian funeral was held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, 2020, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wittenberg. Rev. Clifford Kessen officiated. Visitation was held from 9 a.m. until the time of service at the church. Social distancing was practiced, and guests

adhered to the state of Wisconsin mandate and wore masks.

The funeral service was streamed on Schmidt & Schulta Funeral Home's Facebook page and made available for future viewing at www.schmidtschulta.com.

The family would like to thank the staff at Homme Home of Wittenberg for the exceptional and compassionate care of their father over the past years. They would also like to thank the entire team of Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services for their compassionate and loving care over the last several months.

Schmidt & Schulta Funeral Home, Wittenberg, is assisting the family. Memories and messages of support may be shared at www.schmidtschulta.com.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials in Bob's name to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wittenberg, or Homme Home of Wittenberg.

Patricia M. Steckbauer

Patricia "Pat" Mae Steckbauer died peacefully in her sleep on Oct. 15, 2020. Born July 20, 1932, to Dr. Orville and Mrs. Donna Damp, Pat was the oldest of four children.

Pat was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Craig, and is survived by her sisters, Bonnie Skodinski and Susan Knight; and sons, William and Robert Nauta; daughter, Carmel Peterson; three grandchildren; two great-



grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Pat had four marriages — to Harold Nauta (divorced), Earl Peterson, Oscar Meyer and Kenneth Steckbauer

(all deceased). With that, Pat mas-

tered the skill of blended families, with all new family members welcomed.

In life, Pat was very creative with sewing and knitting and enjoyed travel, visiting numerous countries and most of the states. For many years, Pat wintered in Naples, and later Lakeland, Florida, while maintaining a home in Wisconsin, as well.

A private graveside ceremony

will be held in late spring or early summer 2021. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Dementia Society of America, at www.dementiasociety.org.

Schmidt and Schulta Funeral Home in Birnamwood is assisting the family with funeral arrangements. Memories and messages of support may be shared at schmidtschulta.com.

Sally A. Johnson

Sally A. Johnson, 84, of Wittenberg, died Thursday, Oct. 22, 2020, at home, surrounded by her loving family while under the care of Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services.

Sally was born May 17, 1936, in Mattoon, the daughter of Marion "MP" and Elizabeth (Swan) White.

Sally met the man of her dreams at a dance doing the circle two step. He then asked her to dance to "The Blueskirt Waltz" and that was it – it was love at first sight.

On May 14, 1955, Sally was united in marriage to Harold "Bill" Johnson at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Wittenberg. He preceded her in death on May 7, 2006. Even though his Alzheimer's was quite advanced, at their 50th wedding anniversary, Bill took her in his arms and danced to that waltz. We are sure they are dancing it once again.

Sally loved with her whole heart



– her husband, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and many friends. She treated anyone she met like family. She loved life.

Sally worked hard her whole life raising four little girls and working side by side with Bill. Sally proudly worked for Nueske Meats for over 30 years. She started at the original plant, worked at the new store and, to her delight, worked at the antique store until her retirement.

Sally loved to bake. Her house always smelled wonderful, and the freezer was always full of molasses, chocolate chip and peanut butter cookies. She loved to sew and found that sewing clothes for her little girls was

both rewarding and relaxing.

Sally is survived by her children, Betsy (Darrell) Juedes of Tomahawk, Patti Teske of Wittenberg, Connie (Carl) Kakes of Antigo and Jan (Mark) Wormuth of Wittenberg; 13 grandchildren, Casey (Lisa) Hersant, Elizabeth Hersant, Andra (Alberto Casas) Teske, Brett (Becca) Teske, Jerry Buck, Erin (Dan) Wick, Sam (Bobbi) Wilson, Katie (Benny) Rickun, Paul Kakes, Kailley Alfhiem, Katie Wormuth, Karlyn (Skyler Rindt) Wormuth and Kendal Wormuth; 13 great-grandchildren, Philip and Brienne Wick, Isla and Ivan Hersant, Adaline, Evelyn and Levi Juedes, Bailey Bruce, Owen Teske, Zander Buck, Jack Rickun, Addison Griffin and Lennon Rindt; siblings, Sandy (Dale) Goeman and Richard (Mary Lu) White, both of Antigo and sisters-in-law, Pat White of Antigo and Dorothy White of Cloverleaf Lake,

as well as many other relatives and friends and her loyal companion, Lulu.

Sally was preceded in death by her parents; husband Bill; a daughter, Larae; a son, Edward; two brothers, Karl and Dale and a son-in-law, Michael Hersant.

A funeral service was held at 11 a.m. Monday, Oct. 26, 2020, at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Wittenberg. Rev. Sharon Fox Bogen officiated. Burial was in the parish cemetery. Visitation was held from 5-7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25, 2020, at Schmidt & Schulta Funeral Home in Wittenberg and again Monday from 10 a.m. until the time of service at the church. Social distancing was practiced, and guests adhered to the state of Wisconsin mandate to wear masks.

Memories and messages of support may be shared at www.schmidtschulta.com.

Ruth A. Draeger

Ruth A. Draeger, 79, of Mosinee, died on Saturday, Oct. 24, 2020, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital.

Ruth was born on Nov. 20, 1940, in Birnamwood, the daughter of Erick and Dorothy (Zimmerman) Jaeck.

On Aug. 29, 1964, Ruth was united in marriage to Donald Draeger at Trinity Lutheran Church, Birnamwood.

Ruth was employed by Hatley Veneer, as well as Employer's Insurance for some time. She then provided



home daycare for many area children for over 30 years. Ruth enjoyed polka dancing, knitting and was known as a great baker and cook. Both Ruth and Donald

enjoyed traveling together, visiting many countries and several parts of the United States.

Survivors include her husband, Donald; three children, Barbara (Raymond Lundquist) Draeger, of Weston, Karen Draeger of Chandler, Arizona, and Lora (David) Zebro, of Mosinee; two grandchildren, Alex (Meredith) Zebro and Erin Zebro; one great-granddaughter, Olivia Zebro; siblings, Dale (Andrea) Jaeck, of Mission, Texas, Robert (Darlene) Jaeck, of Weston, and Randy Jaeck, of Wausau; brothers-in-law, Richard Stroik, of Hatley, Gary (Barbara) Draeger, of

Hatley and Alan (Judy) Draeger, of Wausau; and many other relatives and friends.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents and one sister, Carol Stroik.

A public visitation will be held on Monday, Nov. 9, 2020 from 9-11 a.m. at Schmidt and Schulta Funeral Home in Birnamwood. A private family funeral service will be held at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Rothschild.

Memories and condolences may be shared at schmidtschulta.com.

By golly, I think I need a little Christmas

To say it's been a long year is certainly the biggest understatement of the year. Last year about this time, I hit a little bump in the road but truly thought it would all get better by Christmas. Well, well, well, Christmas came and went last year and things didn't get better, and I wasn't in the mood to celebrate "the most wonderful time of the year." In fact, the only Christmas decorations I managed were putting Christmas cards and pictures on a wire photo stand and putting up a table top tree.

I don't know if I should be happy or sad sharing this, but the wire photo stand with last year's cards and photos is still on my buffet.

No one could comprehend the breadth of the pandemic and the fatigue we are all facing right now at this time last year. So rather than dwell on the little hiccups I've faced recently — the need for four new tires and a new hot water heater — I'm going to take a



MIRIAM NELSON

season here at Nelson Manor starting this week.

The Christmas decorations will be appropriately adorning every smooth surface, the large tree will go up in the front room, the little tree will go up in the living room, and every tree decoration will be brought down from the inner reaches of the attic. My goal is to treasure each decoration as I find the perfect spot for it and then enjoy the feeling of the season for the next two months.

positive approach and snap myself out of the "life kind of sucks right now" blues.

I definitely "need a little Christmas, right this very minute" so I'm declaring the beginning of the Christmas

I have a large stack of CDs of Christmas music and will play at least one per day as I make my way to the day that should be, as Scrooge eventually realized, "celebrated in our hearts all year long." Full confession, I have more than enough CDs to get me through from now until probably Valentine's Day. Hmm, I just remembered some wooden red heart decorations that haven't seen the light of day in many years. Perhaps this will be the year I will actually find them in the attic.

I'm also going to go through Mom's recipe boxes and will pull out anything that makes me think of Christmas. Mind you, I'm not making any promises to bake any of the items on said recipe cards, but I'm going to gather them for inspiration. The last thing I need during a pandemic is a freezer full of Christmas cookies tantalizing me.

Last year, I used up the last of my

smells-like-Christmas candles so I may need to go buy a new one on one of my limited trips to the stores. Fortunately, my sister gave me one of those sticks in the oil air fresheners that smells like balsam fir a couple of years ago and buys me oil to refill it, so I still have that going for me until I get some cinamony candles to help switch up the scent sensations.

I was actually going to put up Christmas in July this year after it was clear my brother and his family were not going to be able to make their annual trip home. Fortunately, my natural propensity for procrastination won out and I can now look forward to just two months of celebrating rather than six. Oh, who am I kidding, these decorations will probably be up until Easter.

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

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At the Shawano County Board of Supervisors meeting held on October 28, 2020, the following ordinances were adopted.

Ordinance No. 5-20 adopting the Town of Wittenberg Comprehensive Plan Amendment changing one parcel of land from the Open Lands and Residential to the General Commercial future land use category and;

Ordinance No. 6-20 adopting the Town of Angelica Comprehensive Plan Amendment changing one parcel of land from the Open Lands and Residential to the General Commercial future land use category.

The amendments can be viewed at the Planning and Development Office at the Shawano County Courthouse, 311 N Main Street, Shawano, WI or on the County website at <http://www.co.shawano.wi.us>

WNAXLP

**This is the Friday-only COVID-19 Journal version of NEW Media's Shawano
Leader, Wittenberg Enterprise & Birnamwood News and
Oconto County Times Herald.
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RECREATION SCOREBOARD

BOWLING

Lakeshore Lanes — Tuesday Afternoon Ladies

Team	W	L
Lisa's Floral	22 1/2	13 1/2
Tim's Harvest Queens	20	16
Mike's Plumbing	20	16
Lakeshore Lanes	19	17
Mike's Girls	19	17
Lake Drive Solutions	18	18
Spinning Wheel	14	22
Boettcher Tax Service	11 1/2	24 1/2

High individual games: Nancy Mitchell 222, Connie Babino 202, Hilda Schultz 174.

High individual series: Connie Babino 522, Helen Heimerl 497, Penny Heimerman 494.

Lakeshore Lanes — Lakeshore Masters

Team	W	L
Golfside	98 1/2	29 1/2
Farmall Fanatics	90	38
Brother's	77	51
Launching Pad	75 1/2	52 1/2
Meyer Insurance	68	60
Dearco Distributors	61	67
Torborg	57	71
Lakeshore Lanes	54	74
Curb Impressions	53	75
Full Service Tents	47 1/2	80 1/2
Pin Pricks	43 1/2	84 1/2
Shawano Auto Sales	43	85

High team scratch games (top 3): Farmall Fanatics 733, Meyer Insurance 685, Golfside 662.

High individual scratch games (top 7): Sterling Richards 279, Bill Grosskreutz 269, Landon Braatz

268, Brad Weisnicht 256, Brian Schultz 247, Jeff Arndt 246, Mark Schachtschneide 246, Bryant Rankin 246.

High team scratch series (top 3): Farmall Fanatics 2,012, Golfside 1,947, Launching Pad 1,876.

High individual scratch series (top 7): Bill Grosskreutz 780, Brian Schultz 693, Landon Braatz 691, Carson Malueg 686, Bryant Rankin 672, Jeff Arndt 661, Scott Nelson 659.

Lakeshore Lanes — Guys and Dolls

Team	W	L
9 Pin Tappers	34	15
A Team	33	16
Happy Old Farts	32	17
Slingers	26 1/2	22 1/2
4 Masked Bowlers	25 1/2	23 1/2
SSI's	25	24
Good Times	23	26
The Aces	20	29
Hilly's Helpers	16	33

High individual games (women): Patricia Nathan 232.

High individual games (men): Clark Radatz 213, Jim Schwaller 209, Jim Schwaller 202.

High individual series (men): Jim Schwaller 610.

Resch Lanes Wednesday Night Handicap

Team	W	L
Slammers	26	23
Tavern Front	20	29
Resch Lanes (1)	19	30
Mama's Place	17	32
Resch Lanes (2)	16	33

ONLINE

For this week's high school highlights, visit www.newmedia-wi.com.

Kemmer Electronics	15	34
Liberty Potatoes	14	35
Hanke's Sentry Foods	13	36

High team handicap games (top 3): Liberty Potatoes 1,265, Slammers 1,240, Resch Lanes (2) 1,219.

High individual handicap games (top 7):

Randall Skaggs 286, Jason Harris 286, Paul Giddings 283, Jamie Deruchowski 279, Mark Giddings 278, Greg Rosenow 277, Paul Dahms 269.

High team handicap series (top 3): Liberty Potatoes 3,474, Slammers 3,421, Hanke's Sentry Foods 3,411.

High individual handicap series (top 7):

Jason Harris 767, Paul Giddings 748, Darin Stuhr 744, Greg Rosenow 728, Randall Skaggs 722, Jason Hanson 720, Jason Resch 720.

Resch Lanes Thursday Men's League

Team	W	L
Legacy Seed Pro	24	11
RJ Auto Repair	19	16
Melody Mill	18	17
Gutt'er Done	18	17
Cherek Transport	16	19
Gullivers	16	19
Legacy Seed	16	19
Resch Lanes	13	22

High team scratch games (top 3): Legacy Seed

Pro 1,058, Melody Mill 1,028, Gullivers 1,018.

High individual scratch games (top 7): Jason Resch 258, Puttz Miller 258, Danny Schrank 245, Jeremy Falkowski 245, Paul Giddings 241, Allard Meverden 235, Jim Schultz 233.

High team scratch series (top 3): Legacy Seed Pro 2,981, Melody Mill 2,971, Gullivers 2,759.

High individual scratch series (top 7): Jason Resch 745, Puttz Miller 668, Paul Giddings 666, Jim Schultz 639, Jeff Arndt 638, Jeremy Falkowski 636, Danny Schrank 629.

Resch Lanes Monday Ladies Handicap

Team	W	L
Gulliver's Landing	10	8
Lisa's Lakeside	10	8
Tavern Front	10	8
Resch Lanes	7	11
Strike-a-pose	5	13
Kropf's Meats	3	15

High team handicap games (top 3): Gulliver's Landing 935, Lisa's Lakeside 846, Tavern Front 834.

High individual handicap games (top 7): Lynn Brown 258, Cassandra Eckes 250, Jordyn Krueger 249, Heather Giddings 247, Jenny Schrank 244, Sue Zeinert 235, Shirley Petersen 227.

High team handicap series (top 3): Gulliver's Landing 2,595, Lisa's Lakeside 2,456, Tavern Front 2,435.

High individual handicap series (top 7):

Cassandra Eckes 690, Lynn Brown 679, Shirley Petersen 646, Jenny Schrank 645, Heather Schultz 643, Heather Giddings 634, Jordyn Krueger 617.

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OPINION

When force of nature becomes force for change

It is not a gentle process, making wood.

“Making wood” is technically not the right term. Trees make wood, and we make firewood, taking chunks of what used to be a forest and converting them into pieces that fit in a stove.

The process involves a loud motor pushing a heavy, hydraulic-powered blade through 2-foot sections of oak or maple or, if you are very unlucky, cottonwood.

We were reminded of the satisfaction of making wood when we rented a splitter this weekend and converted a large pile of logs, each roughly the size of a Volkswagen Beetle, to pieces that can be grabbed with one hand.

The splitter works by making a heavy blade, the irresistible force, meet the log. The log, which had felt like a nearly unmovable object, moves catastrophically and splits into pieces.

The pieces often do not break gracefully.

They groan and shift, splintering, shattering, releasing a shower of sawdust or bits of bark or lumps of insect nests. They force of the blade yields patterns and colors you'll never see if the tree is alive. Some logs split in beautiful straight columns. Some break into layered pieces as beautiful as smooth layers of sandstone.



CAROL RYCZEK

The logs also hide secrets of the tree's past life. Small holes indicate bugs; larger holes, woodpeckers chasing them. Straight, even logs that split easily have few hidden surprises. Even these can

have tendrils that connect them even after being subjected to the splitter. Pieces of pliable wood fiber hang on, as if they were trying to hold the log together.

The splitter has physics on its side, and eventually every piece can be torn apart. After decades of growth and strength, we reduced trees to firewood by lifting logs and pressing a lever. Splitting, it seems, is easy.

There are exceptions. Some of the logs had hidden branches. These are branches that are completely contained within the log, invisible from the outside. After they formed — sometimes at 90 degree angles to the trunk, the tree grew around them.

They are a nightmare to split.

It occurred to me, right around log 477 (perhaps that is a slight exaggeration) that the unexpected branches,

the whorls and burls and unexpected shapes were what kept the logs from splitting easily.

Wood cutting was supposed to be a respite from the daily deluge of political discussion. And yet, out in the yard, we could see the entire system playing out in each piece we cut.

Splitting is easy. Anyone armed with the right tools can tear the country apart as easily as we split oak. No community is so perfect, so impenetrable, that it can hold off the right combination of forces. You don't have to be bigger or stronger to break things up. You just have to have the tools and the desire.

The tools can be words. The blade can be insinuations, or mockery. The power can be disenfranchisement. The tools can be words. The blade can be insinuations, or mockery.

The power can be disenfranchisement. For four years, the division has started at the top and spilled into every corner of life. Splitting is easy when you have the right tools.

What we don't expect is the resistance from within the very pieces we are trying to divide.

The curve, the branch that doesn't belong, the scar that healed over — these make it hard for the splitter to do its work. They make the wood shift

in unexpected angles. The things that choke the splitter in our communities are often hidden, but they are there. These are diverse ideas, respectful disagreements or a humble question that one asks without knowing the answer in advance.

A respect for diverse points of view clogs up the community splitters the same way that the 90-degree branch slowed down our wood-making. We may not even notice how the impact until it gets in the way of the ones who want to divide us. Like the unexpected hidden branch, the things that make us different are also the things that keep us together.

An election is coming, and we are a national community that has discovered how easy it is to be split. We can also remember that each of us has the opportunity to be the one stray branch, the one unexpected obstacle in the process to divide.

We have an opportunity to be — if only for a moment in time — the immovable object that keeps all of us from splitting apart.

Stay warm, and vote.

Carol Ryczek is editor-in-chief of the Shawano Leader, Wittenberg Enterprise & Birnamwood News and Oconto County Times Herald. Readers can contact her at cryczek@newmedia-wi.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The end does not justify the means

To the editor:

The Republican Party has been transformed from the Grand Old Party of Abraham Lincoln to the Party Without A Soul of Donald Trump and Mike Pence. Don't let Pence's syrupy brand of fake Christianity fool you. He is as much an instrument of evil as Trump — just a more insidious form.

As particular evidence of the GOP's demise into gaslighting-based assertions, I direct you to the recent opinion piece by Shawano County's Republican chairman — “Who is your dictator?” (Shawano Leader, Wittenberg Enterprise & Birnamwood News, Oct. 2).

In it, he contends that folks who stand for the health of our populous and in effect try to enforce such beneficent efforts are somehow advocating authoritarianism. This

from one of the many local and state sycophants who continue to stand by a person that brags about exchanging “love letters” with Kim Jong-Un and has cozy private conversations with Vladimir Putin on a regular basis.

To all you Sunday-pew occupants out there, when did it become OK to remain silent amidst the constant destruction of reputations, the daily name-calling, and the implicit support of domestic terroristic groups at least on an implicit level? When did it become OK to sanctify life before birth and denigrating it after birth? When did it become OK to include the personification of Satan on placards with guns and God? Frankly, my God is pretty ticked off at her inclusion on such placards.

To all Republicans who choose to remain silent against the ongoing attacks on our democracy, history will not be kind to you, and to you intransigent “pro-lifers,” you are the embodiment of Machiavelli's “The end justifies the means” principle.

Shame on you all.

Ken Kroenke, Shawano

DA should follow Supreme Court orders

To the editor:

When COVID-19 first became a problem, I was unable to visit with my grandchildren. I had talked with them using Skype in the past but decided to try Zoom. Zoom is easy to set up and use. It is used by company employees, doctors, federal employees and many others to communicate during this pandemic. This apparently is not the case with District Attorney Greg Parker.

On March 22, the Wisconsin Supreme Court suspended all in-person proceedings in the circuit courts because of COVID-19 to protect the safety and security of the court system. Judges were ordered to implement video and telephone conferencing and the Supreme Court ordered that nobody could appear in

person in the courtroom.

Over the course of the next few months, Judge William Kussel repeatedly tried to convince the DA that he must follow the Supreme Court order and appear remotely. Parker continually refused to download Zoom and work with Kussel to follow the law.

The policy of the Wisconsin District Attorney's Association has been to embrace this type of remote technology. Every other DA in the state is following the Supreme Court's order. Parker has been unwilling to adapt and learn something new. He continued to violate the Supreme Court order for months by appearing for hearings in-person in the courtroom against the wishes of Judge Kussel.

Kussel should be extremely frustrated with DA Parker's willingness to blatantly ignore the Wisconsin Supreme Court and his court orders. As Shawano-Menominee County's elected district attorney, his job is to enforce the law. He should not be above it.

Lynn Ackley, Shawano

College of Natural Resources recognizes conservation leader

The College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point has recognized an area resident for his contributions to conservation and natural resources.

Al Koeppel, of Wittenberg, a 1980 graduate of UW-Stevens Point, is the recipient of the 2020 Outstanding CNR Alumnus Award, bestowed annually to honor individuals who have excelled in their

professional activities.

Koeppel spent most of his working career as the chief forester for Kretz Lumber Co. in Antigo, providing educational resources at the Ray Kretz Industrial Forest including an interpretive hiking trail.

He also provided learning opportunities for students at UW-Stevens Point and UW-Madison.

He influenced forest policy in Wisconsin as a key member of the

advisory group that set the priorities for the initial and subsequent processes of the Wisconsin Forest Practice Study.

In addition, he was an original member of the strategic guidance team that finalized the modification in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry's Silvicultural Handbook.

Koeppel was inducted into the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame on Oct. 2, 2019, at the Society of American Foresters annual meeting in Stevens Point.



Al Koeppel, of Wittenberg, received an outstanding alumnus award from College of Natural Resources at the UW-Stevens Point. CONTRIBUTED

NOTICE OF WINTER PARKING VILLAGE OF WITTENBERG

MUNICIPAL CODE 7.04 PARKING RESTRICTIONS. (1) WINTER OVERNIGHT PARKING. No person shall park or leave standing any motor vehicle between the hours of 2:00 A.M. and 7:00 A.M. from the first day of November to the first day of May. By Order of the Village of Wittenberg

WNAXLP

Village of Wittenberg SNOW REMOVAL

No person shall deposit, or cause to be deposited, any snow or ice taken and removed from his premises or elsewhere upon any sidewalk, alley, parkway, public place or street in the Village.

The Village of Wittenberg has also adopted State Traffic laws which prohibit depositing snow in the street or plowing snow across any roadway. If you contract for this service, be sure to notify them of these rules.

Please refrain from depositing snow in the streets, making it even more difficult for our snow removal company to keep the roads clear for traffic.

Any damage done to the right of way, on another person's property, will be the responsibility of the person plowing the snow.

We appreciate your cooperation with this matter.

WNAXLP

Notice of Public Hearing

Date: November 11, 2020

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: LEC Conference Room – North and South
220 Arbutus Ave. Oconto, WI 54153

A public hearing will be held for the purpose of receiving comment on Oconto County's proposed plan and budget for the 2021 Section 85.21 of the Wisconsin Statutes to implement elderly and disabled transportation programs.

The Specialized Transportation Assistance Grant Application for 2021 is scheduled for a public hearing on: November 11, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Those persons unable to attend the hearing and wishing to submit comments in advance may do so by mailing their comments prior to the hearing to:

Michael G. Reimer, Health & Human Services Director
Oconto County Health and Human Services
501 Park Ave. Oconto, WI 54153

The draft application will be available for public review, prior to the hearing at the above address. The location of the hearing is accessible to persons with disabilities. For more information or if transportation is needed, please contact Michael Reimer at 920-834-7000.

If you are an individual who needs a special accommodation while attending this meeting as required by the "Americans with Disabilities Act", please notify the County Clerk, Oconto County Courthouse (920-834-6805) at least 24 hours prior to the meeting in order to make suitable arrangements. Thank you.

WNAXLP

2021 PROPOSED BUDGET VILLAGE OF WITTENBERG

On Thursday, November 12, 2020 the Village Board of Wittenberg will meet at the Wittenberg Community Center at 6:00 pm for the purpose of hearing any citizen or taxpayer on the proposed budget for the Village of Wittenberg for the year 2021.

A detailed proposed budget is open for inspection at the Community Center during regular office hours of the clerk.

SUBJECT:	2020 Budget	2021 Proposed	Reason for Change
REVENUE			
General Property Taxes	\$255,237.00	\$254,849.00	
Taxes	10,024.00	10,428.00	
Intergovernmental	664,915.00	371,515.00	2020 Grant \$5 for Webb Street
Licenses & Permits	5,960.00	6,010.00	
Fines/Penalties	300.00	300.00	
Public Charges for Services	17,815.00	17,836.00	
Misc. Revenues	10,762.00	7,637.00	
Unrestricted Funds	294,086.00	333,470.00	Used for Village projects in 2020
	\$1,259,099.00	\$1,002,045.00	

EXPENSES			
General Government	\$302,760.00	\$340,982.00	
Public Safety	50,000.00	22,500.00	
Public Works	281,485.00	183,810.00	Village projects in 2020
Health/Human Services	300.00	300.00	
Conservation & Development	500.00	-	
Culture/Recreation	14,098.00	14,453.00	
Capital Outlay	609,976.00	440,000.00	2020 Grant \$5 for Webb Street
Debt Service			
	\$1,259,099.00	\$1,002,045.00	

	WATER	SEWER	
Expenses	\$222,955.00	\$828,435.00	
Revenues	\$222,955.00	\$548,435.00	
IND. PARK/TID	TID #1	TID #2	TID #3
Expenses	\$133,324.00	\$-	\$88,815.00
Revenues	\$157,883.00	\$25,000.00	\$145,000.00
	REVOLVING LOAN		
Expenses	0		
Revenues	31,997		

WNAXLP

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