



**GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS** • Next up for the Green Bay Packers is a Sunday night date with the Bears.

**INSIDE**

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## DRESSED IN HOLIDAY STYLE

Visitors flock to the art park at the WOWSPACE in Wittenberg on Dec. 3 to take part in the tree lighting and Christmas caroling. SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 34.

LUKE REIMER | NEW MEDIA

## New signage for NTC

The Wittenberg Village Board approves new signs directing people to the Northcentral Technical College center.

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## A Christmas in Mattoon

Craft vendors and shoppers fill up the Mattoon Community Hall on Dec. 4 to mingle, eat lunch and buy crafts.

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## Hail to the Chargers

A review of the Wittenberg-Birnamwood football team's charge to the state semifinals.

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The Wittenberg campus of Northcentral Technical College is located at 402 N. Genesee St.

NTC

# NTC Wittenberg campus signs will be updated

## Board accepts proposal to fix signs for \$294

By **LUKE REIMER**  
Reporter

Signs in Wittenberg to direct traffic toward the local Northcentral Technical College campus will be replaced.

The signs that are displayed currently in the village point to the old campus location on Grand Avenue. The new location of the school is on Genesee Street, right next to Subway.

"Now some signs are pointing the wrong direction, and other signs shouldn't have NTC on them at all," said Wittenberg Village Clerk Traci Matsche.

The village board approved a motion to move forward with paying for the new signs during their meeting on Dec. 6.

After deliberating with Finishing Touch Signs, the board decided only three signs needed to be changed in the village.

"One of them is on the corner on Cherry Street and Grand Avenue," said Matsche. "There is another one that needs to be repaired when you are getting off of the off ramp from Highway 29; it points in the wrong direction. The only other one is the one — if you are coming down Genesee from McDonald's — that is the one needs to be changed or fixed."

The proposal from Finishing Touch Signs to fix the signs is \$98 apiece, for a total of \$294.

"That is all that we would be responsible for," Matsche said.

She added the company is also working with NTC officials to put their own signs around the village.

"They will put those around the village, like they have done for all of their other schools," Matsche said.

She said that she recently visited the school in Wausau, and there were signs all through the city directing traffic to the NTC campus.

"That is what they are going to do here in the spring probably," said Matsche.

## 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.





Craft vendors and shoppers fill up the Mattoon Community Hall on Dec. 4 to mingle, eat lunch and buy crafts.

LUKE REIMER | NEW MEDIA

# Mattoon hosts a Christmas craft fair



LEFT: Santa and Mrs. Claus make an appearance Dec. 4 at the Mattoon Community Hall to visit with families and collect children's wishlists.

ABOVE: Aaron Hose, front, and Quinten Hose traveled to Mattoon from the Northwoods to partake in the Christmas celebration. Here, the two carefully search the basket raffles.

LUKE REIMER | NEW MEDIA

# PUBLIC RECORD

## SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

### Dec. 6

Officers responded to 17 calls, including a disturbance on East Randall Street.

### Dec. 5

Officers responded to 17 calls, including a disturbance at Hensels Shawano Inn, 134 S. Washington St.; a disturbance on Olson Street; a hit-and-run on South Washington Street; a disturbance on East Richmond Street; a hit-and-run on South Lafayette Street; car property damage on West Danks Street.

### Dec. 4

Officers responded to 16 calls, including harassment on West Richmond Street; trespassing on West Picnic Street; trespassing on South Main Street; car property damage on East Green Bay Street.

### Dec. 3

Officers responded to 21 calls, including a domestic disturbance on South Smalley Street; a threat on South Union Street; property theft at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B; a disturbance at Walmart, 1244 E. Green Bay St.; car property damage at Pizza Hut, 816 E. Green Bay St.; harassment on South Main Street; trespassing on East Center Street.

### Dec. 2

Officers responded to 18 calls, including

trespassing on East Center Street; disorderly conduct on East Green Bay Street; a drug problem on South Sawyer Street; property theft on South Main Street; a threat on County Road B; a disturbance on South Bartlett Street; a fight in progress on East Division Street; a drug problem on South Lincoln Street.

### Dec. 1

Officers responded to 23 calls, including trespassing on South Park Street; car property damage on East Green Bay Street; property damage on Kleeman Court; car property damage on Waukechon Street; a disturbance on South Smalley Street; harassment on West Wescott Avenue.

### Nov. 30

Officers responded to 18 calls, including disorderly conduct at Hillcrest Primary School, 1410 Waukechon St.; property theft on South Sawyer Street; probation violation on South Union Street; car property damage at Tangles Salon, 1230 E. Green Bay St.; harassment on Teddington Lane; an automobile theft on Prospect Circle.

## SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

### Dec. 6

Deputies responded to 35 calls, including property theft on County Road MMM in the Town of Richmond; disorderly

conduct on Old Shawano Road in the Town of Pella; an assault on Hemlock Road in the Town of Wittenberg; a sexual assault on North Main Street in Shawano; nine crashes.

### Dec. 5

Deputies responded to 52 calls, including reckless driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Richmond; reckless driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Wittenberg; a disturbance on Richmond Street in Gresham; reckless driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Herman; a disturbance on County Road J in the Town of Morris; operating while intoxicated on state Highway 47-55 in the Town of Wescott; a domestic disturbance on Lily Road in the Town of Birnamwood; a domestic disturbance on Elm Street in the Town of Grant; 27 crashes.

### Dec. 4

Deputies responded to 37 calls, including operating while intoxicated on South Cecil Street in Bonduel; a threat on Forest Street in Birnamwood; a disturbance on Hickory Street in the Town of Red Springs; reckless driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Seneca; reckless driving on U.S. Highway 45 in Birnamwood; reckless driving on state Highway 47-55 in the Town of Wescott; bail jumping on Lake Drive in the Town of

Wescott; six crashes, one fatal.

### Dec. 3

Deputies responded to 35 calls, including harassment on Old Lake Road in the Town of Wescott; trespassing on Green Valley Road in the Town of Angelica; three crashes.

### Dec. 2

Deputies responded to 37 calls, including multiple disorderly conduct calls on West Green Bay Street in Bonduel; a drug problem on South Sawyer Street in Shawano; reckless driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Hartland; reckless driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Maple Grove; a weapons offense on County Road R in the Town of Washington; bail jumping on state Highway 29 in the Town of Morris; reckless driving on state Highway 22 in the Town of Belle Plaine; four crashes.

### Dec. 1

Deputies responded to 51 calls, including a domestic disturbance on South Cecil Street in Bonduel; 12 crashes.

### Nov. 30

Deputies responded to 43 calls, including harassment on County Road G in the Town of Seneca; reckless driving on state Highway 22 in the Town of Belle Plaine; trespassing on Primrose Lane in Tigerton; reckless driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Angelica; eight crashes.

# COURT NEWS

• William H. Nix, 49, Wausau, was charged Nov. 29 with one count of possession of methamphetamine. Judge William F. Kussel Jr. set a signature bond of \$2,500 and scheduled a resumed initial appearance for Jan. 4.

• Jeremy W. Waubanasum, 32, Keshena, was charged Nov. 29 with two counts of bail jumping, one misdemeanor count of operating while intoxicated (second offense) and one misdemeanor count of operating while revoked. Kussel set a cash bond of \$1,000 and scheduled a resumed initial appearance for Dec. 21.

• Dennis N. Vele, 68, Gresham, was charged Nov. 29 with one count of operating while intoxicated (seventh, eighth or ninth offense), one misdemeanor count of operating while revoked and one misdemeanor count of resisting or obstructing an officer. Kussel set a cash bond of \$10,000 and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Dec. 8.

• Keith A. Eades, 39, Shawano, was charged Nov. 29 with two counts of

battery or threat to a judge, prosecutor or law enforcement officer, 10 counts of bail jumping, one misdemeanor count of operating while intoxicated (third offense) and two counts of resisting or obstructing an officer. Kussel set a cash bond of \$10,000 and scheduled a status conference for Dec. 13.

• Charges against Samantha L. Salmon, 27, Fond du Lac, were dismissed Nov. 29 on prosecutor's motion. Those charges include one count of possession of THC (second or subsequent offense), one count of possession of methamphetamine and one count of bail jumping.

• Desma M. Wayka, 30, Neopit, was charged Dec. 1 with three counts of possession of narcotic drugs, one count of possession of amphetamines with intent to deliver, one misdemeanor count of possession of THC and one misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. Kussel set a cash bond of \$250 and a signature bond of \$4,750. He also scheduled a resumed initial appearance for

Dec. 29.

• Joseph L. Corn, 38, Keshena, was charged Dec. 1 with one count of bail jumping, two misdemeanor counts of bail jumping and one misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. Kussel set a cash bond of \$500 and scheduled a resumed initial appearance for Dec. 8.

• Bert F. Roehl, 59, Antigo, was charged Dec. 1 with 11 counts of bail jumping, four misdemeanor counts of bail jumping and two misdemeanor counts of theft of a movable property, less than or equal to \$2,500. Kussel set a cash bond of \$10,000 and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Dec. 8.

• Raymond A. Tourtillott, 41, Keshena, was charged Dec. 2 with one count of possession of narcotic drugs, one count of possession of THC (second or subsequent offense), one count of possession of amphetamines with intent to deliver, five counts of bail jumping, one misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia and 17 misdemeanor counts of bail jumping.

Judge James A. Habeck set a cash bond of \$3,000 and scheduled a scheduling conference for Dec. 6.

• Cody S. Patterson, 31, Stanley, pleaded no contest Dec. 2 to one count of burglary to a building or dwelling. Judge Katherine Sloma sentenced Patterson to seven years in prison, five years of extended supervision and seven years of probation.

• Charges against Robert F. Block, 34, Bonduel, were dismissed Dec. 2 on prosecutor's motion. Those charges include one count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and one count of bail jumping.

• Wendy Lou Mason, 45, Eland, was charged Dec. 3 with two counts of possession of narcotic drugs, one count of possession of methamphetamine, four counts of bail jumping, one misdemeanor count of possession of amphetamine/LSD/psilocin and five misdemeanor counts of bail jumping. Habeck set a cash bond of \$1,500 and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Dec. 13.

## Bids Requested

The Weatherization Program of NEWCAP, Inc., 1201 Main St., Oconto, WI 54153 is inviting vendors to submit bids to provide Fiberglass and Venting Components to NEWCAP's warehouse in Oconto for their contract year. Contact Lori Noonan for bid specifications at (920) 834-4621 ext. 1126. All bids are due by December 16th, 2021.

WNAXLP

# 1 dead, 1 hospitalized after crash

Shawano County authorities say a 33-year-old man died and a woman was taken to a hospital after a one-vehicle crash early Saturday morning, Dec. 4.

The Sheriff's Department said the rollover crash occurred on Mur-

phys Road in the Town of Bartelme around 1:37 a.m. The man was pronounced dead at the scene, while the woman was transported to a medical facility.

Further information was not immediately released.



# OBITUARIES

Betsy McCormick died Nov. 27, 2021. She was so much to so many people — an identical twin sister, a wife, a mom, a Greemie to her grandkids, a Packers fan, a stock market enthusiast and a nurturing and loyal friend.

She was a diligent researcher and a devoted reader of news and novels. She spent much of her adult life working as a passionate advocate for women and children, bringing a bright laugh, a strong opinion and a fierce fight and focus to her work. She shared her love of her family and the Green Bay Packers everywhere she went.

Though she fought a lifelong battle with disability, she spent years caring for others and worked to address injustice, call attention to unfairness and promote community involvement.

Betsy grew up in Bonduel. Her grandparents were instrumental in keeping the Acme Meat Packers football team in the city, as it was a publicly held company in the late 1940s. Her family secured season tickets on the 40-yard line and a love of the team. Watching the games at Lambeau Field was a highlight of Betsy's life, even naming her little Yorkie dog Curly Lambeau after the famed Packer.

Betsy obtained her undergraduate teaching and graduate degree in



library science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Upon graduation, she moved to Chicago. After starting as a school librarian in Evanston, Illinois, she moved on to the graduate Dental Library of Northwestern University and ultimately became the head librarian of the Joseph Brennemann Library at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

While at Children's, she was instrumental in developing the first medical library certification examination. At the dawn of the computer age, she helped develop the Medline system with Mini Alfano at the University of Chicago. This innovation transformed medical informatics from a time- and labor-intensive search of card catalogues and stacks of journals to the almost instantaneous searches we have today.

Betsy met her husband, Dr. Steven Lelyveld, at Children's Memorial Hospital when he was an intern in pediatrics. As he was dependent on the library for his education, he came

in frequent contact with Betsy and knew it was in his own self-interest to cultivate a close working relationship. They were married in 1976.

In addition to her work in the research library, Betsy was active throughout her life in the Chicago community. Through the Junior League, she helped organize Family Focus, a drop-in center to assist struggling women with small children.

As a member of the Woman's Board of Lincoln Park Zoo, she was active in the fundraising activities that help keep LPZ one of the last free zoos in the country. The board also supports a farm-in-the-zoo for urban children to experience farm life up close and such beloved activities as "Caroling to the Animals" at Christmastime. As a member of the board of the Woman's Athletic Club of Chicago, and its 626 Landmark Foundation, Betsy helped restore and maintain one of Michigan Avenue's architectural jewels while working closely with many treasured friends.

Through her fundraising as a member of the Guild of the Chicago History Museum, their collection of artifacts — from the bed President Abraham Lincoln died in, through the Great Chicago Fire and into the present — is

displayed for the education of all and is free to students in Chicago.

Betsy and Steve raised their daughter, Katie, in Chicago a few blocks from the zoo, and spent decades of summers together at their home in Fontana on Lake Geneva in Wisconsin.

Betsy spent her final years in White Sands of La Jolla near her family, who cared for her dutifully every day for the nearly three years she needed more intensive support. During the eight months of pandemic lockdown, her family could regularly be seen waving with balloons and signs from the beach, four floors down from her room so that she might see them, maintaining a lifelong commitment to making her happy.

She is survived by her husband, Steven Lelyveld; her daughter, Katie McCormick Lelyveld, and her family; her sister, Susan McCormick Hadley, and her family; her brother, David McCormick, and his family; and by cousins too numerous to count.

Interment was privately held.

In lieu of flowers, please support Family Focus Lawndale, a pioneering not-for-profit family support organization, in Betsy's honor. <https://www.family-focus.org/events-and-donations/donate>

## Leland C. Habeck



Richmond, where he served as an usher, trustee and an elder. He was a perfectionist when it came to caring for the lawn at church.

Lee enjoyed trout fishing, deer hunting, and in his earlier years he was an avid softball player. He was a Packer fan and enjoyed the occasional trip to the casino.

Lee always looked forward to the annual family trip to the Northwoods, and fishing trips with the boys. He treasured the weekly Sunday family dinners. While living at Madison Way, Lee enjoyed taking his scooter rides when weather permitted.

Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Sandra, of Shawano; five loving children, Patti (Greg) Samson, of Shawano, Brenda (fiancé Russ Zirbel) Stuber, of the Town of Richmond, Terri (Jeff) Schuettelpelz, of the Town

of Richmond, Lori (Ron) Bystol, of Shawano, and Scott (Stacy) Habeck of Bradenton, Florida; his former son-in-law, Gene Stuber; 11 grandchildren, Lena (Bruce) Johnson, Tony (Jenny) Stuber, Jay (Stephanie) Schuettelpelz, Jed (Brittney Cotter) Schuettelpelz, Nick (Amber) Bystol, Brea (Lee) Carroll, Alexandra Habeck, Jacob Habeck, Joey (Maddie) Custode, Amanda (fiancé Michael Woods) Custode and Nick Custode; eight great-grandchildren, Ella, Connor, Ian, Nora, Sawyer, Lucas, Ava and Olive; one brother, Dave Habeck, of the Town of Richmond; his brother-in-law, John Schultz, of Loyal; many nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

Lee was preceded in death by his grandson, Gregory; his sister, Elaine (Lloyd) Darling; two brothers, Roger (Esther) Habeck and Vernal (Shirley) Habeck; his brother-in-law, Edward (Bernice) Pahlow; and two sisters-in-law, Barb Habeck and

Shirley Schultz.

A memorial service for Lee will be held on Friday, Dec. 10, 2021, at 11 a.m. at St. Jakobi Lutheran Church in the Town of Richmond. Pastor Travis Kleinschmidt will officiate. Burial will take place in the parish cemetery in the spring. Visitation will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until the time of service.

In lieu of flowers and plants, the family prefers memorials in Lee's name to St. Jakobi Lutheran Church.

Mickelson Funeral and Cremation Service of Shawano is assisting the family with arrangements. Please share online condolences at [www.mickelsonfs.com](http://www.mickelsonfs.com).

The family thanks the staff at Oak Haven for the compassion and care Lee received while

he was a resident there, as well as ThedaCare at Home Hospice. They are also grateful to Dr. Yao, Molly Schumacher and their team for over nine years of caring for Lee.



## Joseph Boehm

Joseph "Joe" Boehm, 92, of Arbor Vitae, passed away at the Howard Young Medical Center in Woodruff on Nov. 26, 2021.

He is survived by his wife, Jeannine

"Jen" Boehm; six children; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

He was preceded in death by a granddaughter.

A memorial Mass will be held

Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021, at 11 a.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Lac du Flambeau. Inurnment will take place in spring 2022 at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Shawano.

In lieu of flowers, donations are suggested to your local food pantry.

Bolger Cremation and Funeral Services is assisting the family. [www.bolgerfuneral.com](http://www.bolgerfuneral.com)

# OBITUARIES

## Robert R. Genke

Robert Roland Genke, "Bob," 55, died Friday, Nov. 26, 2021, at his home, with his loving family by his side. He was born May 29, 1966, son of Roland and Diane (Neitzel) Genke in Shawano. Bob grew up in Bonduel and attended St. Paul Lutheran School through eighth grade and graduated from Bonduel High School in 1984.

After high school, Bob proudly served his country in the United States Army and served on active duty from August 1985 to May 1988. After that, Bob attended the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and earned his bachelor's degree in business administration. During that time, he also served in the National Guard until March 1993.

The career path Bob followed was an electrical technician with



his last place of employment being Suburban Technologies in Appleton. Bob married his forever love, Toni Lindal, on Aug. 24, 2019. They bought a house

in the Town of Neenah and worked together to make it their home.

Bob enjoyed anything outdoors — hunting, fishing, landscaping, gardening — and he was dubbed the "Grass Master" for his amazing ability to grow beautiful lawns. He was a hardworking, simple man who would do anything to help family and friends when needed. Bob was just a fun, happy and loving guy. He had a knack for repurposing "stuff" into awesome, useful items that he would fabricate and build.

He loved his wife unconditionally and was her best friend and forever partner. He loved his children beyond words and his whole family just the same. Bob was so proud of the young adults Zach and Riley have become. He was such an awesome grandpa, so patient and creative with all the littles. He had the best reading voice, and they all loved when he read to them.

Bob is survived by his loving wife, Toni Lindal; son, Zach Genke (fiancé Cassie Bougie); daughter, Riley Genke; stepdaughter, Sarah (Nick) Sura; stepson, Earl (Makayla) School; five grandchildren, Easton School, Austin Sura, Addison School, Haven School and Ryker Sura; mother, Diane Genke; sister, Maureen Genke; brother, Mark (Tanya) Genke; four nephews, Carter Genke, Mason Genke, Kevin (Gabby) Bloom and Jeff Bloom; aunts and uncles, Mary

(Allen) Schultz, Rozanne (Delmer) Zernicke and Marvin Neitzel; in-laws: Linda (Mike) Beranek, Tim Lindal Sr., Kelly (Lenny) Roy, Tim (Kelly) Lindal Jr. and Nicole Bowman.

Bob is further survived by many cousins and friends.

Bob was preceded in death by his father, Roland Genke Jr.; grandparents: Roland and Cecelia Genke, and Walter and Myrtle Neitzel; aunt, Joann Neitzel; and a cousin, Dustin Zernicke.

Memorial service for Bob was held Thursday, Dec. 9, 2021, at Westgor Funeral Home, Neenah, with Bob's cousin, the Rev. Adam Shultz, officiating. Full military honors followed. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established.

Bob was loved by so many and will be missed by anyone who knew him. Rest peacefully, my love.

## Mary B. Hawpetoss

Mary B. "Totty" Hawpetoss, 79, of Keshena, began her journey to the spirit world on Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021, in Shawano.

Mary was born in Keshena on March 18, 1942, to the late John Anthony "Duffy" Pema-Hawpetoss "Mayahwasick" and Catherine (Wychesit) Hawpetoss "Kotanee." Mary held several jobs throughout her life. She began in Manitowoc spending her early years working for Mirro Corp., then at Aitken Reed as a supervisor. She moved back home to the reservation and worked at the casino as a slot technician.

Mary then attended Fox Valley and began her career as a correction officer. She quickly became everyone's favorite tribal jailor. Mary



loved turtles and was known to her grandchildren as "Grandma Turtle." She loved the Packers, reading, rummaging, puzzles and trips to Goodwill.

Survivors include her fur baby, Paquito; her three sons, John (Mikie) Hawpetoss, Ronald (Viola) Hawpetoss and Donald "Mouse" Hawpetoss; her siblings, Laura Brzezinski, Henry "Moose" (Rose Schanandore) Hawpetoss and Nell-Lee Hawpetoss-Tiedemann; a special brother-in-law, Huston Wheelock; and special friends, Gwen Shawano,

Andrea "Angie" White and Barb Hawpetoss-Lyons.

Also included are her eight grandchildren, Brenna Hawpetoss, Derek Hawpetoss, Kateri (Richard) Hawpetoss, Brittany Hawpetoss, Hunter Hawpetoss, Shane (Zoie) Hawpetoss, Cory Hawpetoss and Juan Acosta; many great-grandchildren; and numerous special nieces and nephews, all of whom she loved very much.

Mary was preceded in death by her beloved parents, Duffy Hawpetoss and Catherine Hawpetoss; her first fur baby, Pepper; and her siblings, John "Hoppy" Hawpetoss, Eugene "Gilly" Hawpetoss, Charlene

"Muggs" Hawpetoss-Wheelock, Louis Hawpetoss, Neil Hawpetoss and Leonard "Hooley" Teabeau.

Private family funeral services will be held at Mickelson Funeral and Cremation Service of Shawano. Interment will take place at St. Anthony's Catholic Cemetery in the spring.

Mickelson Funeral and Cremation Service of Shawano is assisting the family with arrangements.

Please share online condolences at [www.mickelsonfs.com](http://www.mickelsonfs.com).

Mary's family would like to extend a special thank you to the staff at Shawano Health Services for the loving care they provided.



## Margaret P. Escalante

Margaret P. "Marge" Escalante, 65, of Shawano, passed away peacefully at her home on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021, surrounded by her loving family.

Marge was born Jan. 27, 1956, in Ironwood, Michigan, a daughter of the late Edward G. and Patricia M. (Cox) Matuszewic. She moved to South Branch when she was 16 years old. Marge worked for the Menominee Indian School District as a custodian for several years.

On July 4, 2009, Marge was united in marriage to Robert



Escalante in Shawano. She is a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Keshena. Marge enjoyed playing bingo, visiting the casino, and cheering for the

Minnesota Vikings.

Survivors include her husband, Robert, of Shawano; three children, James Waupoose, of Shawano, Amy (David) Hernandez, of

Shawano, and Kristy Wilber Waupoose, of Green Bay; 14 grandchildren; her special granddaughter, Tasheena; 10 great-grandchildren; her brother, Joe Matuszewic of Ironwood, Michigan; her sister, Mary (Jerry) Matson of Iron Belt; her best friend, Tory Gladue; her fur babies, Puddles, Bubbles, Emily, and Awaehsaeh; and several nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Angie Waupoose

Merino; three sisters; two brothers; and her special fur baby, Poopers the dog.

A funeral Mass for Margaret was celebrated on Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Keshena. The Rev. Nonito Barra was the celebrant.

Mickelson Funeral and Cremation Service of Shawano is assisting the family with arrangements.

Please share online condolences at [www.mickelsonfs.com](http://www.mickelsonfs.com).





## Kristin Moderson

She's gone like the wind and at peace. Kristin "Kris" Moderson passed away Monday, Nov. 22, 2021, following a battle with kidney cancer.

Kris was born in Appleton on July 27, 1955, daughter of Chuck and Audrey Thiel. She graduated from Kaukauna High School in 1973. Kris was a dental assistant for Dr. Gerald Groth for many years, followed by assisting at Dr. Hornseth's office. She and Mike relocated permanently to Shawano in 2008. Kris had a lifelong love for dogs, and as a result opened Kris the Critter Sitter, her pet-sitting business.

Those who knew Kris will remember her as kind, thoughtful, somewhat creative, witty and fun-loving. However, being artsy, a skillful seamstress and cook, not so much. She enjoyed reading, music, savoring good desserts, fun in the sun — boating, being on a beach or at the lake. Spending time with friends and family was a highly valued activity — entertaining, happy hours and always sharing laughs.

Kris is survived by her husband of 39 years, Mike; sister, Pam (Lee) Harder; brothers, Charlie (Cindy) Thiel and Greg (Jean) Thiel; nephew Chuck (Melinda Benoit) Thiel; niece, Melissa (Mike) Kempka; in-laws Mark and Karen Moderson,



and Mory Moderson; nephews, Mark (Carmen) Moderson, Todd Moderson and Jay (Megan) Moderson; niece Kim (Ben) Lee; several special aunts and uncles; and her cherished and everlasting friends. "All of you brought me immense joy and pleasure sharing the extra 'bonus time' with you."

Kris was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Kurt Thiel; and in-laws, Merl and Margaret Moderson.

A celebration of life will be held on Sunday, Dec. 12, 2021, from 1-4 p.m. at Pullman's Restaurant in Appleton, with a brief service at 2 p.m.

Memorial donations may be made to your local humane society or the American Cancer Society.

Mickelson Funeral and Cremation Service of Shawano is assisting with arrangements. Please share online condolences at [www.mickelsonfs.com](http://www.mickelsonfs.com).

Kris and her family would like to send a heartfelt thank you to Dr. Yao and the entire Oncology staff at Theda Care.

So long ... it's been an interesting and wonderful journey.



## Isaac Britzke

It is with great sadness Isaac Britzke, 20, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday Nov. 27, 2021. Isaac Thomas was born Jan. 1, 2001, and lived in Appleton with his sister, DeAhndra. He graduated from Kaukauna High School in 2019. He was baptized and confirmed at Bethany Lutheran Church. He recently left his job at ProAmpac and took a job working for Orkin. He was expressing interest in becoming an electrician.

Isaac was such a kind, loving person who valued and loved his family and friends. His presence lit up the room when he entered. Isaac always found the good in everyone he met. He loved being outdoors. He spent many days hunting and fishing with his dad. He loved playing games and spending time with his mom, siblings, his best friend and girlfriend, Toni. He loved to wrestle and take goofy pictures with his cousins. He was an avid sports fan and supported all Wisconsin teams. Isaac had a deep passion for music.

He will be forever remembered by his mother, Jenna Kleinke (Matt); his father, Tom Britzke (Angela); sisters, Dezirae and DeAhndra Parish (fiancée Randy); brothers, Darien Parish and



Brock Kleinke; stepbrother, Jordan McBride; his niece, Amaiya; his aunts, Mindy Hoefts (Brad, cousin Kylie) and Kayla (Jim) Merten; his uncles, Wesley Marohl (cousin Morgan), Tyler Marohl and Scott Marohl (Tracy, cousins Wyatt and Carter); his uncle/godfather Jeremy Britzke (Kelly, cousins Tessa, Aidan, Ethan, Liam); grandparents Patsy Schaller (Heath), Steve Marohl (Deb), Susie Wetzel, Thomas Kledzik (Diana), and John and Julie Berndt; godparents, Shawn Gocke and Stacy Claussen; and his girlfriend, Toni Verhagen.

Preceded in death by his aunts, Shanin Marohl and Trisha Britzke (godmother); and cousins Ryan Pethke, Matthew Alf, Keelyn Schachtschneider, Quentin and Robert Bartels.

The funeral service for Isaac was held on Friday, Dec. 3, 2021, at Bethany Lutheran Church, 124 W. 10th St., Kaukauna.

For online condolences, please visit [www.verkuilenfh.com](http://www.verkuilenfh.com).

and Mory Moderson; nephews, Mark (Carmen) Moderson, Todd Moderson and Jay (Megan) Moderson; niece Kim (Ben) Lee; several special aunts and uncles; and her

## Carole A. Doxtator

Carole Ann Doxtator, 69, began her journey home on Tuesday Nov. 30, 2021, at the Marshfield Medical Center surrounded by her children.

Carole was born Jan. 21, 1952, in Shawano to the late Harvey and Eleanor Martin. She was an enrolled member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans.

Carole spent her early adult years raising her children and living her life to the fullest. Carole has made multiple northeast Wisconsin and southeast Minnesota towns her home throughout her life.

She spent her later years being one with nature, adopting any stray animals she could. She loved knitting and watching a movie from her extensive movie collection.

Carole was preceded in death by her son, Gregory Doxtator; her parents, Harvey and Eleanor Martin; and many other family and close friends she considered family.

Carole is survived by her children, Schyler (Tambi) Martin, of Plain-



view, Minnesota, Sophrona (Tim) Fuller, of Plainview, Minnesota, Shane Doxtator, of Rochester, Minnesota, and Syd (Erin) Doxtator, of Rochester, Minnesota; nine

grandchildren; and several family members and close friends. A private celebration of life will be held at a later time in Minnesota. In lieu of flowers or gifts, the family asks you make a donation to your local food shelf in her honor.

Carole's family would like to extend their appreciation to the Marshfield Medical Center in Weston and all of the staff for their excellent care that they gave Carole and her family. A heartfelt thank you to the Fairfield Inn and Suites Marriott Wausau for taking care of a Carole's family during her stay at the hospital.

## Donna M. Bushy

Donna M. Bushy, 57, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021. She was born May 20, 1964, in West Allis.

Donna worked as a CNA throughout Wisconsin for over 20 years. On April 25, 2003, she married Jimmy Bushy in Shawano. Donna liked to play darts and was in a dart league for 35 years. She loved Christmas-time. She especially loved watching Hallmark movies and decorating her home during the holidays. Donna also loved watching Brandon's baseball games and cheering him on. One of her greatest passions was being a grandmother and spending time with her two grandchildren, Brooklynn and Garrett.

Donna is survived by her husband, Jim; her children, Elizabeth (Dakota) Knapp and Brandon Bushy; her



grandchildren, Brooklynn and Garrett; her siblings, Sandra (Ed) Jasken, Kathy (Dave) Deulery, Brenda Erickson, Paula Yonker, Laura (Wayne) Grosskopf, Wil-

liam (Christine) Fletcher, Thomas Fletcher, Mark Fletcher and Donald Fletcher; her uncle, Larry Polak; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Archie and Beverly Fletcher; her son, Eric Fletcher; and her in-laws, Glenn and Theresa Bushy. A celebration of life will be held for Donna at the American Legion, 850 S. Lincoln St., Shawano, on Saturday, Dec. 18 from 1-5 p.m.

## John F. Goodreau

John F. Goodreau, 67, of Shawano, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021. He was born Jan. 14, 1954, to the late John M. and Lorraine (Scholar) Goodreau. He graduated from Shawano High School in 1973. John worked with his dad at Industrial Boiler and then farmed in the Pella area. He worked at Montoure, Inc. for 18 years, followed by Knope Heating and Cooling for 10 years until retirement. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and camping.

He is survived by LaVerne Burmeister, his longtime companion; the son they raised, Cruz (Erin) Johnson; stepdaughter, Kery (Brandon) Vertane; grandchildren, Charlotte, Brantley,



Maya and Natasha; brother and sisters: Kathy (Tim) Gast Sr., Carol Walter and William Scholar.

John was preceded in death by his brother, Thomas, and his

parents.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021, at Swedberg Funeral Home in Shawano with Scott Ludford officiating. Inurnment was in Woodlawn Cemetery in Shawano.

[www.swedbergfuneralhome.com](http://www.swedbergfuneralhome.com)



# CHRISTMAS in HIS PRESENCE

A Christmas Cantata



The Timeless Story of His Coming

**St. John's Lutheran Church  
"The Clock Church"**

**101 W. Main St. Gillett, WI**

**Friday, December 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, December 29, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, January 2, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.**

featuring

**Nathaniel Byars, Micki Carlson, Brenda Danielson,  
John Darga, Judy Darga, Anita Graziano, Kurt Hicks,  
Maddy Holmes, Darlene Kapelke, Patti Konkle,  
Bobbie Olshesky, Joe Quade, Heidi Schindel,  
Patty Stabbe, Wayne Strei, Claudette Tipton,  
Chique Tousey-Tabar, Mark Vorpahl, Wendy Vorpahl,  
Cathy Wocking, Daniel Wright, Sandy Wright,  
Doug Yahnke, Alex Young & Rick Zill**

There is no charge for admission but a free-will offering will be accepted. A dessert reception will follow each performance.  
St. John's Lutheran Church is handicapped-accessible to all.

## OBITUARIES

### Elizabeth Jane Groh



Elizabeth Jane Groh, 91, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2021. She was born July 26, 1930, to the late John and Frieda (Welch) Doxtator in Stockbridge. Elizabeth was a proud member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe. She graduated from Stockbridge High School in 1949. Elizabeth went to Fond du Lac College in Fond du Lac. In 1952, she was united in marriage to Marvin Gerber until his passing. In 1997, Elizabeth found love again with Robert Groh and was married until his passing.

She is survived by her children, Leland Gerber, Nancy Lausted, Sharon (Terrence) Ow, Daniel Gerber and Rick Gerber; grandchildren, Kyle Hendrickson, Ricky Gerber, Ed Gerber and Grace Ow; and sister, Lulu Mattson.

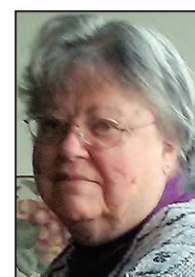
Elizabeth was preceded in death by both her husbands, Marvin Gerber and Robert Groh; daughter, Christine Phelps; and brother and sisters, Jerome Doxtator, Elaine Raddatz, Lorraine VanDeraa and one sister in infancy.

A funeral service for Elizabeth was held at the Swedberg Funeral Home on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021, with Deacon Todd Raether officiating. Burial took place at the Stockbridge Indian Burial Grounds in Stockbridge.

Swedberg Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements.

[www.swedbergfuneralhome.com](http://www.swedbergfuneralhome.com)

### Elaine C. Thomas



Elaine C. Thomas, 86, passed away Saturday, Nov. 27, 2021, at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah. She was born July 1, 1935, in the Town of Waukechon, daughter of the late Henry and Esther (Bendickson) Pluedeman.

Elaine married Richard Thomas on April 26, 1958. He preceded her in death on Oct. 28, 2013. She dedicated her life to being a wife and mother. Elaine enjoyed her family get-togethers, reading knitting and crocheting, and polka music. She was a longtime member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Neenah.

Survivors include her three daughters, Ann (Bryan) Danke, Carol Thomas and Lynn (Jon) Tyczkowski; six grandchildren, Rebecca Danke, Eric Kempen, Alicia Kempen, Timothy Kempen, Nick Tyczkowski and Kaylin Tyczkowski; two great-grandchildren, Serena Kempen Lee and Nadalyn Steenis; a sister, Janet Peotter; a brother,

Leon Pluedeman; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Elaine was preceded in death by her son, Peter; and a sister, Mary Kupsky.

A memorial service was held on Friday, Dec. 3, 2021, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Neenah, with the Rev. Jon Strasman officiating.

The family would like to thank the fifth floor nurses at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah and the nurses from ThedaCare at Hospice, for all their wonderful care of Elaine.

Westgor Funeral Home, 1140 Appleton Road, Menasha. 920-720-0314. Condolences: [www.westgorfuneralhomes.com](http://www.westgorfuneralhomes.com)

### Aaron Christopher Miller



Aaron Christopher Miller, 33, went to meet Jesus after passing away in a car accident in the early hours of Dec. 4, 2021. Aaron was born Jan. 25, 1988, to Wayne Miller and Leslie (Hawrylkiw) Miller. Aaron grew up in Bowler and later Phoenix, Arizona. After high school, he attended Arizona State University. He worked as a computer network technician, which was his passion all his life since childhood.

Aaron also had a passion for music, philosophy and religion. He loved his children and did his best to be a good father. Family was always important to him, and he is loved by all his family, his aunts, uncles and cousins alike. He will be deeply missed.

Aaron is survived by his four children; Madeline, Olivia, Jack and Christopher; his parents, Wayne Miller, of Green Bay, and Leslie Miller of Phoenix; stepmother, Ivete Miller, of Green

Bay; his sister, Natalia Souza, of Brazil; his brother, William Miller of Green Bay; and his grandmothers, Bernice Miller and Brenda Hawrylkiw, of Phoenix.

He was preceded in death by both of his grandfathers, Willis Hawrylkiw and Myron Miller Jr.

A funeral Mass will be held for Aaron at 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 10, 2021, at St. Francis Solanus Catholic Church in Gresham with the Rev. Nonito Barra officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery. Visitation will be held on Friday, Dec. 10, 2021, at the church, from 10 a.m. until time of services.

[www.swedbergfuneralhome.com](http://www.swedbergfuneralhome.com)



# NOTICE

## Early Christmas Deadlines

Our Shawano and Oconto Falls offices

**WILL BE CLOSED**  
**Friday, December 24th**

Regular business hours will resume Monday.

### Special Holiday Advertising Deadlines for:

| Product               | Publication Date | Advertising Deadline |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Times Herald          | Fri., Dec. 24    | Wed., Dec. 15        |
| Shawano Leader        | Fri., Dec. 24    | Wed., Dec. 15        |
| Wittenberg Enterprise | Fri., Dec. 24    | Wed., Dec. 15        |



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safe and  
Merry Christmas!

## Classified Ads & Obituaries Early Holiday Deadlines

EDITION

EARLY DEADLINE

### Thanksgiving

Normal Friday Deadline

### Christmas

Fri., Dec. 24

Thurs., Dec. 16, NOON

### New Year's

Fri., Dec. 31

Thurs., Dec. 23 NOON



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# Jones making world better through music

Gresham folk singer helps differently abled kids, veterans, elderly by performing

By LYNN ZAFFRANN  
Correspondent

To put it simply, Skip Jones, of Gresham, is a folk singer.

In a greater sense, Skip Jones is a supporter of justice for all, a champion of veterans suffering from PTSD, a storyteller with a moral purpose and commitment to protecting the environment.

Jones moved to Shawano County 45 years ago, built a home on the Stockbridge-Munsee Reservation and decided to become a folk singer.

"I'm retired for 45 years," Jones said. "I work when I want and for whom I want."

Boy, does he work.

Being a folk singer seems to be the central core of who he is and what he sees his purpose in life to be. Jones takes his songs, guitar, banjo and Native American flute to nursing homes, schools, festivals, cultural events and any opportunity to use singing as a way to build relationships. He said: "Having a guitar in front of me opens up people" to talk and discuss their feelings and needs.

He's done programs at the same nursing home in Madison for years and works with differently abled children through associations he's forged with St. Norbert College in Green Bay.

His Be a HERO (Help Everyone Respect Others) Program is popular in schools. Jones' pre-kindergarten through grade 12 presentations are tailored specifically to each age level. He uses the program as a way to teach children the Golden Rule "Treat others the way you want to be treated." He has had students, now adults, come up to him years after one of his presentations to tell him how much they enjoyed and learned from his program.

In the past 45 years, he has visited more than 4,000 nursing homes, senior centers, memory care facilities and assisted living centers. He said that when he first started out "I did programs in up to three nursing homes each day" just to start making some money.

When someone asked how long he has sung for the elderly, Jones replied: "Long enough to become one."



Skip Jones performs during a water benefit concert in Keshena in 2019. Jones takes his songs, guitar, banjo and Native American flute to nursing homes, schools, festivals, cultural events and any opportunity to use singing as a way to build relationships.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

**"I'm retired for 45 years. I work when I want and for whom I want."**

SKIP JONES

The elderly programs are planned to inspire nursing home residents to sing along with him to songs from their past. His storytelling draws out their life experiences and the programs become interactive.

After Jones moved to the area, he found Mary's Music store in Shawano, which later became Makin' Music. Dave Habeck, a songwriter, owned Makin' Music and he became a lifelong friend of Jones until his death.

"He taught me a lot about music," Jones said.

Jones has a recording studio in his house and recorded Habeck's first album. The two played together with the Burnt Toast and Jam band, which is still performing in the area, although without Jones

and Habeck.

A 14-year veteran of the U.S. Navy, Jones has a special connection with other veterans. He sees his folk singing as a way to connect to veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder. He feels the nature of folk music is bonding with people and sharing common ground. Jones said he believes in finding those parts in people that allow him to explore and build relationships, providing healing through music.

Jones has worked through Warrior Songs ([www.warriorsongs.org](http://www.warriorsongs.org)), a group that helps veterans heal from the wounds of their service experiences through music and the creative arts.

"It's not about me," he said. "It's about the vets."

He noted that at one time in recent history, the United States was losing 21 veterans a day to suicide. This statistic made him start to look at the big picture and he realized that the country had asked servicemen and women to do things that weren't normal for them. Kill-

ing, or witnessing killing, wore on those people.

Jones noted that veterans discharged since the Vietnam War didn't have the chance to return to the United States in one group with support from one another, like they did after World War II when they were shipped back on large troop transport ships. For some, this resulted in feeling that they just didn't fit back into society, or be able to reconcile being back home one day after being on the front line. Jones tries to remediate these feelings when he sings for veterans.

Warrior Songs hold annual retreats for veterans with PTSD. A 2022 event for Vietnam War era veterans with PTSD at the Siena Center in Racine is scheduled, according to the organization's website.

Jones said that he is living his dreams in his house in the woods, but the connections he has made through his singing throughout the state, the Midwest and beyond go far beyond those woods.





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## NOTICE



### Early New Year's Deadlines

Our Shawano and Oconto Falls Offices

**WE WILL BE CLOSED**

**Friday, December 31st**

Regular business hours will resume Monday.

### Special Holiday Advertising Deadlines for:

| Product               | Publication Date | Advertising Deadline |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Times Herald          | Fri., Dec. 31    | Noon Wed., Dec. 22   |
| Shawano Leader        | Fri., Dec. 31    | Noon Wed., Dec. 22   |
| Wittenberg Enterprise | Fri., Dec. 31    | Noon Wed., Dec. 22   |
| Times Herald          | Fri., Jan. 7     | Noon Wed., Dec. 22   |
| Shawano Leader        | Fri., Jan. 7     | Noon Wed., Dec. 22   |
| Wittenberg Enterprise | Fri., Jan. 7     | Noon Wed., Dec. 22   |

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## SPORTS

## HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

# 2nd-half surge powers Witt-Birn to win

## Rogowski, Schram combine for 30 points

By **MORGAN RODE**  
Sports Editor

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School girls basketball team used a big second-half run to pull away from Gillett in a nonconference clash on Nov. 30 in Wittenberg. The Chargers went on to win 47-27.

Witt-Birn had a comfortable eight-point lead at halftime, but Gillett was able to cut it to a two-point game after the hosts were unable to convert a field goal in the first seven-plus minutes of the half. The Chargers' only three points over that span came from junior Reese Rogowski at the free-throw line.

Rogowski had the team's first field goal in the second half with just over 12 minutes to play before senior Kaylee Schram grabbed an offensive rebound and scored another bucket to make it 27-21.

It was Rogowski and Schram who carried Witt-Birn to the final buzzer, combining to score 17 of the team's last 24 points.

"We realized in the second half what we needed to work on, like covering on the screens," said Rogowski. "So, we came out stronger and more aggressive in the second half."

"I feel like we just had to play more team basketball. Before we were playing as individuals, not focusing on the team. Once we started talking and everything, it turned out a lot better," said Schram.

Schram hit a shot before Rogowski converted another to make it a 31-23 game and force a Gillett timeout with 9:21 to play.

Gillett scored four of the next six points to trim Witt-Birn's lead to six, but the Chargers' defense buckled down and didn't surrender another point the rest of the way.

Rogowski got the game-ending 14-0 run started with a free throw. Schram then pulled down an offensive rebound on a missed free throw and scored another bucket.

### ONLINE

This week's high school highlights and recreation scoreboard can be found at [www.newmedia-wi.com](http://www.newmedia-wi.com).

Junior Jami Wendler made it a 12-point lead after hitting the team's only 3-pointer of the contest, and Schram bumped the lead to 14 after another field goal.

The Chargers continued to pull away in the waning minutes, with Rogowski adding two more buckets and Wendler scoring on a fastbreak opportunity.

Rogowski finished with 16 points to lead the Chargers, with 12 of those points coming in the second half.

"I had to focus more on what I was doing and take it to the hoop stronger," said Rogowski of her final half.

Rogowski also tallied seven rebounds and three steals in the contest.

Schram finished with 14 points and seven rebounds. Four of the boards came on the offensive end of the floor.

Wendler chipped in seven points, while freshman Faith Resch tallied six points. Resch also had six rebounds.

Junior Kiara Deruchowski dished out four assists and had three steals for Witt-Birn, which improved to 3-1 on the young season.

"We've been fixing all our mistakes. Like, we make a mistake and we fix it right away," said Schram. "We've been pretty good team wise, like working together. We just need to talk more."

Witt-Birn got off to a strong start in the game, scoring the first eight points and soon leading 12-2. Four Chargers scored among the first 12 points, with Schram tallying half of them.

The Chargers' offense slowed after that, but the hosts kept the lead with strong defense.

**Gillett 12 15 — 27**

**Witt-Birn 20 27 — 47**

**Witt-Birn (47):** Kiara Deruchowski 0-0 2, Reese Rogowski 4-6 16, Jami Wendler 0-0 7, Jadalyne Davids 0-0 2, Faith Resch 0-0 6, Kaylee Schram 0-2 14.

**Gillett (27):** Alaina Herzog 0-0 12, Carleigh Kaczmarek 0-0 7, Macy Franti 0-0 6, Cheyenne Krueger 0-0 2.



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Faith Resch (32) takes a jumpshot during the team's nonconference game against Gillett on Nov. 30 in Wittenberg.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA



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The Wittenberg-Birnamwood football team earned an 11-3 record this fall, including a run to the state semifinals.

CONTRIBUTED

# 2021 Witt-Birn football year in review

By **MORGAN RODE**  
Sports Editor

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School football team put together a special season this fall, with plenty of big moments and games along the way.

For the season, Witt-Birn had an 11-3 record, including a 6-1 mark in the Central Wisconsin Conference-Large Division.

The season started with the Chargers routing Northland Pines 53-0. Ben Wesolowski accounted for five touchdowns in the win.

Witt-Birn opened conference play on the road against Iola-Scandinavia in week two, and the team eased to a 47-14 win. Wesolowski threw five touchdowns, Jack Fraaza ran for two scores and Luke Muscha and Kaden Schmidt hauled in three and two touchdown receptions, respectively.

Witt-Birn's defense had four sacks and an interception in the lopsided win.

Witt-Birn kept things rolling in week three with a 40-0 conference win over Spencer/Columbus Catholic.

Ben Flak and David Gauderman led a strong defensive showing, while Wesolowski accounted for four total scores on offense.

Witt-Birn's only conference setback came in week four at Amherst, losing 26-19. The Chargers also lost in week five to nonconference foe Mosinee, but the team did get a forfeit conference win over Manawa that week.

Witt-Birn got back on track in week six with an 8-6 win over Stratford in Stratford. Wesolowski scored the team's lone touchdown and also had the two-point conversion. Flak and Gauderman each had 10 total tackles in the contest.

The Chargers routed Shiocton 51-19 in week seven, with Wesolowski accounting for four total scores to lead the way again. Schmidt caught two touchdown passes, Flak tallied four of the team's five sacks and Jordan Landowski picked off a pass.

Witt-Birn's offense kept humming in week eight, as the team eased to a 55-0 win over Weyauwega-Fremont. Wesolowski tallied three touchdowns,

while Gauderman rushed for two scores. Flak had three more sacks and forced a fumble, and Fraaza and Schmidt picked off passes to lead to the shutout win.

The final week of the regular season saw Wesolowski and Schmidt break state records in a 79-8 win over Nekoosa. Wesolowski threw for 522 yards and a new state record of nine touchdowns, with Schmidt tallying 301 receiving yards and a new record of seven touchdown receptions.

Fraaza led the team's defense with 17 total tackles and a forced fumble. Johnny Stewart had 10 total tackles.

To open the playoffs, Witt-Birn cruised to a 54-12 win over Tomahawk. Wesolowski accounted for four total scores and picked off a pass.

The second postseason matchup was a stiffer test, but the Chargers topped Brillion 27-18. Wesolowski scored three times, and he and Schmidt ran for more than 100 yards each.

The win set up a rematch with Amherst in level three of the postseason. This time, Witt-Birn prevailed 29-28.

The Chargers scored first but trailed 14-7 at halftime. Witt-Birn pulled ahead twice in the second half, only to have Amherst answer and reclaim the lead.

After Amherst took the lead with just over three minutes to play, Witt-Birn put together a quick touchdown drive, jumpstarted by big plays to Fraaza and capped by a Wesolowski touchdown run. Wesolowski then found Fraaza on the two-point conversion pass to give the Chargers the lead.

The Chargers' defense prevailed when needed, with Flak registering a sack on fourth down to seal up the team's thrilling win.

Witt-Birn's magical season came to a close after a 28-18 loss to Aquinas in a state semifinal matchup.

After the season wrapped up, nine Witt-Birn players were named to an all-conference team. Wesolowski was named the conference's Offensive Player of the Year, and then he joined Schmidt on an all-region team put out by the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association.



## ATHLETE PROFILE: SIMON SCHAIRER

## Senior hoping to guide team to big season

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School boys basketball put together a memorable season in 2020-21 and now are hoping to create some more memories this winter. Senior Simon Schairer will help lead the way for the Chargers this season.

Witt-Birn finished the 2020-21 season with an 8-4 mark in the Central Wisconsin Conference-East Division. Schairer led the team with 15.4 points per game to nab a spot on the all-conference second team. He also averaged 7.4 rebounds, 2.1 steals and 1.3 assists per game.

The Chargers then went on to win a regional title before eventually falling to Wrightstown in a sectional semifinal contest.

Witt-Birn is off to a 2-2 start this season through Dec. 5.

Schairer led the team with 16 points in a season-opening win in overtime over Auburndale on Nov. 23.

The senior tallied 10 points in a tournament loss to Mosinee on Nov. 26 and then scored a team-leading 21 points to lead the Chargers to a tournament win over Lakeland Union on Nov. 27.

Schairer posted a team-high 19 points in the team's road loss to Pulaski on Dec. 3.

**Q: When did your interest in basketball begin?**

A: When I first started playing basketball in fifth grade.

**Q: What is your favorite part about the basketball season?**

A: The playoff games at the end of the season.

**Q: What has the sport of basketball taught you over the years?**

A: To work hard.

**Q: Being a senior, how do you try and lead the rest of the team?**

A: I push my teammates to get better and to work hard in practice.

**Q: Do you have any individual**

## AT A GLANCE

**ATHLETE:** Simon Schairer

**SPORT:** Basketball

**POSITIONS:** Forward

**SCHOOL:** Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School

**YEAR:** Senior

**goals you hope to accomplish by the end of the season?**

A: I hope to make first team all-conference by the end of the season

**Q: What are some of the team's goals this winter, and what needs to happen in order to achieve the goals?**

A: Our team goal is to try to win the conference and make it far in the playoffs. To achieve that, we need to just play as a team and work hard in practice.

**Q: Do you have any rituals you go through before a basketball game starts?**

A: I do not.

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

A: Last year when we won regionals.

**Q: Favorite movie, TV show and music artist?**

A: TV show — "Gold Rush."

Movie — "Billy Madison." Music artist — Morgan Wallen.

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

A: I have three siblings. I have a older brother, Marcus, and a younger brother, Boone, and younger sister, Delilah.

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

A: To work hard and don't give up.

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

A: To get a good job in the trades.



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Simon Schairer, left, rises up for a layup in the team's overtime win over Auburndale on Nov. 23 in Wittenberg.

TINA BACON



## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# 4 area players play in Indigenous Bowl

## Menominee Indian's Corn named offensive MVP

By **MORGAN RODE**  
Sports Editor

Four area high school football players spent a couple days in Minnesota last week before playing in the 2021 Indigenous Bowl on Dec. 5 at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

Menominee Indian's Andre Corn, Bryce Dixon and Tate Zhuckkahosee and Wittenberg-Birnamwood's FireEagle WhiteWing were part of two rosters.

Dixon was on the Gold Team, while WhiteWing, Corn and Zhuckkahosee were on the Purple Team.

The Gold Team earned an 18-14 win.

Corn was named the offensive MVP of the contest, while also playing defensive back and on special teams.

"Man, it was an amazing experience," said Corn. "Like I told the press, I worked my butt off to be where I am today, and I glad I was able to play for my brother and represent for him. It was an amazing experience and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Dixon enjoyed every second of the opportunity, which began Dec. 3.

"It was mind-blowing. There wasn't one moment where I felt like

it was really happening because honestly, I couldn't believe it," said Dixon. "To be there playing in the game under the big lights, the big dome, the big time opportunities — it really opened my mind.

"I'm glad I was here to play with some great athletes and coaching staff as they helped me perfect my DB and WR game."

Zhuckkahosee played safety and also was a long snapper.

"It was very special, and I was honored to play in the game, let alone being picked," said Zhuckkahosee.

WhiteWing played defensive tackle during the game.

"It was a golden opportunity to showcase my skills and to play with other Natives," said WhiteWing.

"I learned more about football and made some great friends along the way."

WhiteWing enjoyed getting to play in an NFL stadium (where the Minnesota Vikings play) and felt that, "we Natives made history and opened opportunities for the ones that played and the ones that are gonna play in the future."

"Overall this was the best experience of my life, and I wouldn't have traded it for the world."

For a full schedule from this year and for information on the Indigenous Bowl, visit <https://www.indigenousbowl.com> or <https://www.facebook.com/IndigenousBowl>.

[sports@newmedia-wi.com](mailto:sports@newmedia-wi.com)

## HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

# Bonduel goes 5-0 to win dual invitational in Seymour

By **NEW MEDIA STAFF**

The Bonduel High School wrestling team posted a 5-0 record to win the Seymour Dual Invitational on Dec. 4 in Seymour.

Bonduel topped Lena (48-30), Seymour (42-39), Waupun (42-41), Mishicot (48-27) and Peshtigo (48-36) on the day.

Lena finished 1-4, with a win over Peshtigo (34-30) and losses to Mishicot (48-18), Seymour (54-24) and Waupun (54-21).

Jaxon Bogacz and Donovan Vigue each posted perfect records for Bonduel, while Dylan Comins, Luke Misco and Sam Marquardt all had perfect records for Lena.

Hailey Berg, Tyson Bogacz and Parker Perry all went 4-1 for Bonduel.

### John Roberts Scramble

Menominee Indian competed in the John Roberts Scramble on Dec. 4 in Antigo.

Asenex Turney (285) led the Eagles on the day with a third-place finish. He went 4-1 on the day, with

three wins by pin.

Nakadin Boyd (106) and Gregory Turney (152) each placed seventh in their weight classes.

In the girls portion of the scramble, Emma Komanekin (138) turned in a second-place finish.

Menominee Indian earned 66 team points for a 14th-place finish.

## COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

By **NEW MEDIA STAFF**

### Wisconsin Lutheran

Pulaski High School graduate Trevor Stiede played in both of the Wisconsin Lutheran College men's basketball team's games last week.

Stiede played eight minutes and scored two points in the team's win over Concordia on Dec. 2. He grabbed a defensive rebound in a loss to Edgewood on Dec. 4.

Bonduel grad Kara Troxel scored two points, grabbed two rebounds, dished out an assist, had a steal and blocked a shot in five minutes of action in the WLC women's basketball team's win over Edgewood on Dec. 4.

### Rockhurst

Shawano grad Averi Vomastic and the Rockhurst volleyball team saw its

### ONLINE

More college highlights can be found at [www.newmedia-wi.com](http://www.newmedia-wi.com).

season come to a close after a loss to Ferris State in the first round of the NCAA Midwest Regional on Dec. 2.

Vomastic led Rockhurst with 14 attack kills, while also posting six digs and a block assist.

The senior hitter led the team with 380 attack kills this season and started in 32 of the team's matches.

### Minnesota Crookston

Wittenberg-Birnamwood graduate Abi Fraaza continued her big freshman season for the Minnesota Crookston women's basketball team last week.

Fraaza posted six points and five rebounds in 15 minutes of play in a loss to St. Cloud State on Dec. 2.

She tallied 15 points, eight rebounds and a block in 24 minutes against Minnesota Duluth on Dec. 4.

### Cardinal Stritch

Gillett graduate Aubrey DeBauch played 20-plus minutes in each of the Cardinal Stritch University women's basketball team's games last week.

DeBauch started and played 25 minutes in the team's loss to Judson on Dec. 1. She tallied eight points, six rebounds and an assist.

DeBauch posted five points, a rebound, an assist and a block in 21 minutes off the bench in a setback to St. Xavier on Dec. 4.

### Ripon

Witt-Birn graduate Lauren Bahr took part in seven events for the Ripon College women's swim team during the Pioneer Classic on Dec. 3 and 4.

Bahr was on the 11th-place finishing 400-yard freestyle relay team that posted a time of 3 minutes, 57.22 seconds. She was on the 13th-place finishing 200 medley relay (2:00.25) and 14th-place finishing 200 freestyle relay (1:48.12). The 400 medley relay Bahr was on placed 26th in 4:50.25.

Individually, Bahr placed 18th in the 100 backstroke (1:05.44), 23rd in the 200 backstroke (2:30.47) and 37th in the 50 freestyle (27.13).

### Winona State

Witt-Birn grad Maddy Pietz and the Winona State University women's track and field team opened the season competing at the Chuck Peterson Open on Dec. 4.

Pietz posted a time of 1:00.49 in the 400-meter dash to take fifth. She claimed 16th in the 200 (27.03).



## HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

# Rieck named new Witt-Birn head coach

## He was assistant past 5 years

By **MORGAN RODE**  
Sports Editor

Jason Rieck was named the new varsity baseball coach for Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School, replacing Dan Kapitz.

Rieck is plenty familiar with the program, as he's spent the past five years as an assistant under Kapitz for the varsity team.

"I'm extremely excited about the opportunity," said Rieck. "It is something I hoped and dreamed for for a long time. I've had aspirations to lead a baseball program, and am very grateful for the opportunity to come back to the school where I graduated from and to take over from a coach who I have a ton of respect for and who coached me in high school."

Along with serving on the coaching staff for the high school team, Rieck was an assistant for the Witt-Birn Legion team for four years and then took over the head coaching role this past summer.

He's also coached two years for the Wittenberg Little League, three years as the head coach of the P.J.



Jason Rieck, right, talks with Wittenberg-Birnamwood baseball players during a game against Amherst on May 24 in Wittenberg. Rieck is the new varsity coach for Witt-Birn.

TINA BACON

Jacobs (Stevens Point Area Senior High district) team, three years as the SPASH JV coach and three years as the Stevens Point Legion team.

His involvement with Witt-Birn's teams over the past several years is something that Rieck believes will help in his move to the head coach.

"Yeah, I think it will be a very smooth transition," Rieck said. "Dan allowed me to incorporate a lot

of things the last couple of years. He also included me in a lot of the behind-the-scenes with running a program, showing me the ins and outs of a lot of things people don't realize has to get done. Plus with being around the players and coaching them in Legion, they know my expectations."

Rieck says some things will carry over from the Kapitz era, while some others may change.

"Our teams are going to hustle, and work hard, we will compete on each pitch."

Along with his baseball coaching experience, he's also coached basketball and football in Stevens Point and Wittenberg.

He's been a football assistant on the Witt-Birn coaching staff the past five years.

sports@newmedia-wi.com

# Gun deer registration totals, license sales down

By **NEW MEDIA STAFF**

Preliminary license sales and registration totals for the nine-day gun deer season in Wisconsin both were down from a year ago.

A total of 175,667 deer — 90,715 antlerless and 84,952 antlered — were registered statewide during the 2021 season. In 2020, 190,646 deer — 104,564 antlerless and 86,082 antlered — were harvested.

In Shawano County, which falls under the Central Farmland Zone, 5,446 deer — 2,968 antlerless and 2,478 antlered — were harvested during the nine-day season this year. That's a 8.3% decrease from 2020, when 5,937 deer — 3,598 antlerless and 2,339 antlered — were harvested.

Oconto's Central Farmland Zone saw just a 3% decrease in harvests.

This year, 3,669 deer — 1,797 antlerless and 1,872 antlered — were taken, while 3,783 deer — 2,058 antlerless and 1,725 antlered — were harvested in 2020.

In the Oconto County Northern Forest Zone, harvest totals jumped 48.9%. This year, 679 deer — 146 antlerless and 533 antlered — were harvested, in comparison to 456 deer — 63 antlerless and 363 antlered — a year ago.

A full rundown on the harvest numbers across the state can be found at [https://widnr.widen.net/s/jwqd6w2xtg/2020\\_2021\\_gun\\_season\\_comparison](https://widnr.widen.net/s/jwqd6w2xtg/2020_2021_gun_season_comparison).

As of 11:59 p.m., Nov. 28, sales for gun, bow, crossbow, sports and patron licenses reached 808,224. Of that total, 564,440 were for gun privileges, including gun, patron

and sports licenses.

The year-to-date sales for all deer licenses are down 1.5% from the same time last year.

Of the licenses sold to date, 60% of licenses were purchased online. The remaining 40% were sold in-person through transactions at DNR license agents locations. Deer hunting license and harvest authorization sales will continue throughout the remaining deer hunting seasons.

There is still time for hunters to get out and fill tags this deer season.

A four-day statewide antlerless-only hunt runs Dec. 9-12. A nine-day antlerless-only holiday hunt in select Farmland Zone counties runs Dec. 24 to Jan. 1.

The archery and crossbow season continues through Jan. 9 for the entire state. In select Farmland Zone

counties, an extended archery and crossbow season runs through Jan. 31.

Hunters may use any unfilled antlerless harvest authorization during any of these hunts, but they must be used in the zone, county and land type designated on the harvest authorization. Information regarding hunts offered in each county and an interactive deer map is available on the DNR website at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/hunt/dmu.html>.

The DNR Bureau of Law Enforcement reported five firearm-involved injuries and one fatality during the nine-day gun season. Two incidents took place in Door County, with one incident each in Waukesha, Juneau and Marathon county. The fatality took place in Iron County.



# Inspired to create sustainable comic book plotlines

Justin Gauthier offers validation for future artists enamored with pop culture. On Nov. 17, the Menominee tribal member visited the College of Menominee Nation's Keshena campus to deliver a presentation titled,



**RYAN WINN**

“Writing Comics: What Happens Between the Panels.” Yet, before he explained the hallmarks of comic book writing, Gauthier led his audience on a journey through the four decades of media that shaped him as an artist.

Balancing wisdom with wit, Gauthier discussed both the tangible and cerebral effect that video games systems and VCRs had on his generation. A self-described “centennial baby,” Gauthier conveyed how the Atari 2600 and John Hughes’ films each made indelible marks on his psyche. Gauthier spent little time explaining the finer points of the technology, preferring instead to capture how he shared the media with his father. Explaining the allure of his sentimentality, Gauthier contended that: “Using former technology is like drawing back an era of time.”

It’s understandable that Gauthier would want to return to the 1980s, as that was the decade that sparked his interest in creating media stories. He recalled how visiting family in Milwaukee resulted in his seeing “Blade Runner” in theaters, which made him wonder, “How do I become a storyteller like this?”

Gauthier’s earliest stories were typed on a portable Speak and Spell toy, which he saw as an early version of the computer tablets that are ubiquitous deliverers of media content today. While the latter is primitive compared to the dexterous applications enjoyed by today’s budding scribes, Gauthier credits it as the device that enabled him to learn how to write.

Gauthier’s post-secondary education began at CMN, which inspired him to write. Thanking his host, he highlighted that the school “really nurtured” his voice as a writer. After earning his associate’s degree in liberal studies at CMN, Gauthier completed his bachelor’s at the University of Wisconsin. He then earned a Master’s of Fine



Justin Gauthier offers some insight on comic book writing Nov. 17 while speaking on “Writing Comics: What Happens Between the Panels” at the College of Menominee Nation in Keshena.

RYAN WINN

## “Using former technology is like drawing back an era of time.”

JUSTIN GAUTHIER

Arts from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He saw the last degree as a “marriage of two ideas” that shaped his life — media content and the written word.

CMN’s Sustainable Development Institute is working with Gauthier to create comic books that promote the Menominee Theoretical Model of Sustainability. Gauthier explained that the appeal of comics lies within three areas — compelling stories with reliable characters, a catalyst to set the story in motion and arresting, captivating visuals. Gauthier noted that using visual art to capture tribal teachings is hardly a new idea, as Native nations have

been creating visual art, such as the Lakota tribe’s winter counts or his own peoples’ regalia, to chronicle important events and ideas since time immemorial.

Working with Menominee artist Nicholas Schwitzer, Gauthier relayed how the collaboration between the writer and artist both strengthened the work and kept it on track. Gauthier revealed that being a screenwriter is “super lonely,” while his time spent with Schwitzer has enabled them both to discover shared connections and “mine their own stories” for inspiration in creating the group of kids the books will focus upon. Adding later, “We can support one another through the collaborative method.” Part of their joint art is to inspire readers to furnish the action between the panels in their minds.

While Gauthier and Schwitzer are keeping the plot of their joint venture under wraps, they do hope

to expand their work in the future to include Menominee language, stating, “Language is an umbilical cord to our past.”

Gauthier, being the nostalgic soul he is, admitted that if he could time travel anywhere or anytime, he’d travel to the Menominee Reservation just after the Industrial Revolution to glean some wisdom from his ancestors.

When asked what advice he’d give to his younger self, Gauthier’s response seemed directed more to those who saw themselves as fellow aficionados of pop culture. “All things you feel are wasting time are prologue to something.” Then added, “Don’t take things too seriously.” He joked that the wrinkles on his face were caused by his “laughing too much.”

Ryan Winn teaches communication, English and theater at College of Menominee Nation. For information about the school, visit [www.menominee.edu](http://www.menominee.edu).



# Parade brings holiday spirit to Shawano



**ABOVE:** Carolers sing some uplifting songs in front of the St. James Child Center on Main Street in Shawano as part of the Santa Parade festivities on Dec. 3.

**RIGHT TOP:** The Sacred Heart Catholic Parish float travels through the parade route near the intersections of Main and Green Bay Streets on Dec. 3.

**RIGHT MIDDLE:** Kids attending the Santa Parade on Dec. 3 in downtown Shawano look to fill their bags with Christmas candy.

**RIGHT BOTTOM:** Children scoop up candy tossed along the parade route Dec. 3 on South Main Street in downtown Shawano.

**PHOTOS BY GREG MELLIS • PUBLISHER**





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# Snow, cold temps blanket Shawano



Seasonal weather hit Shawano and northeast Wisconsin, with snow, high winds and dropping temperatures. Below 0 weather hit on Dec. 7 with temperatures being the coldest in the past 10 months. The state also got hit with significant snowfall on Dec. 5, with Shawano getting 5.5 inches of snow, while Tigerton received 7.1 inches and Birnamwood and Oconto Falls each got 8.5 inches as the snow fell for most of the day.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

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# Pandemic aid available to organic producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will provide pandemic assistance to cover certification and education expenses to agricultural producers who are certified organic or transitioning to organic.

USDA will make \$20 million available through the new Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program (OTECP) as part of USDA's broader Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative, which provides new, broader and more equitable opportunities for farmers, ranchers and producers.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, certified organic and transitional operations faced challenges due to loss of markets, and increased costs and labor shortages, in addition to costs related to obtaining or renewing their organic certification, which producers and handlers of conventionally grown commodities do not incur. Transitional operations also faced the financial challenge of implementing practices required to obtain organic certification without being able to obtain the premium prices normally received for certified organic commodities.

"Producers and handlers of organic commodities incur significant costs to obtain or renew organic certification each year," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "The economic challenges that arose due to the pandemic made obtaining and renewing organic certification financially challenging for many operations. This is one more instance of USDA continuing to provide support for those who need it most, invest in the food supply chain and Build Back Better."

OTECP funding is provided through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act. Certified operations and transitional operations may apply for OTECP for eligible expenses paid during the 2020, 2021 and 2022 fiscal years. For each year, OTECP covers 25% of a certified operation's eligible certification expenses, up to \$250 per certification category (crop, livestock, wild crop, handling and State Organic Program fee). This includes application fees, inspection fees, USDA organic certification costs, state organic program fees and more.

Crop and livestock operations

transitioning to organic production may be eligible for 75% of a transitional operation's eligible expenses, up to \$750, for each year. This includes fees charged by a certifying agent or consultant for pre-certification inspections and development of an organic system plan.

For both certified operations and transitional operations, OTECP covers 75% of the registration fees, up to \$200 per year, for educational events that include content related to organic production and handling in order to assist operations in increasing their knowledge of production and marketing practices that can improve their operations, increase resilience and expand available marketing opportunities. Additionally, both certified and transitional operations may be eligible for 75% of the expense of soil testing required under the National Organic Program (NOP) to document micronutrient deficiency, not to exceed \$100 per year.

Sign-up for 2020 and 2021 OTECP will be through Jan. 7, 2022. Producers apply through their local Farm Service Agency office and can also obtain one-on-one support with ap-

plications by calling 877-508-8364. Visit [farmers.gov/otecp](https://farmers.gov/otecp) to learn more.

OTECP builds upon USDA's Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP), which provides cost share assistance of 50% — up to a maximum of \$500 per scope — to producers and handlers of agricultural products who are obtaining or renewing their certification under the NOP. This year's application period for OCCSP ended Nov. 1.

Additionally, USDA's Risk Management Agency announced improvements to the Whole-Farm Revenue Program including increasing expansion limits for organic producers to the higher of \$500,000 or 35%. Previously, small and medium-size organic operations were held to the same 35% limit to expansion as conventional practice producers. Also, producers can now report acreage as certified organic, or as acreage in transition to organic, when the producer has requested an organic certification by the acreage reporting date.

To learn about USDA's assistance for organic producers, visit [usda.gov/organic](https://usda.gov/organic).

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# OPINION

## Politics has always drawn the political map

Back when I was fool enough to run for the state Assembly, this quarter-century ago now, I found myself wandering a stray street in Ashwaubenon, which was weird because I was running for a seat that represented the northwest side of Green Bay and the village of Howard.

Still, the district also included this little string of parcels dipping into Ashwaubenon. When I asked why the map was drawn that way, I learned that the incumbent Democrat state senator lived on that street, and when they redrew the lines after the previous census, they didn't want to make him move out of "his" district to run for reelection.

That, folks, is a textbook example of gerrymandering, which the Democrats have spent the last decade decrying. The reason they have not been able to get traction with the issue is that everyone who pays attention knows that if Democrats were in power, they would be redrawing the lines with approximately the same guiding principles the Republicans have used.



WARREN BLUHM

Republican, and Wisconsin is more of a rural state than an urban one?

The difficulty of drawing "fair" lines was illustrated this fall when the redistricting plan submitted by Gov. Tony Evers' "People's Maps Commission" was soundly rejected by a bipartisan vote, in part because it managed to reduce the likelihood that Blacks or Hispanics could get elected to the state Legislature.

That's a no-no under the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which prohibits plans that intentionally or inadvertently discriminate on the basis of race, which could dilute the minority vote. Otherwise, the only requirement is that districts be relatively

Is it gerrymandering or simply a matter that people who live in densely packed urban areas tend to vote Democratic, while people who live in more rural areas tend to vote

equal in population.

It's possible to draw lines without regard to politics or personalities; in fact, that's just what Oconto County did this fall when it adjusted its district borders in accordance with the 2020 census. The county board instructed County Administrator Kevin Hamann to create more or less equally populated districts and to ignore where the incumbent county supervisors live.

The maps Hamann submitted, and the board approved, resulted in five districts with two or more incumbent supervisors and five districts where no incumbent currently lives at all. Bad news for the supervisors who have to decide whether to run against each other, but good news if you like the idea of bringing fresh faces into the process of governing.

Partisans of both major parties have spent entirely too much time accusing the other side of undermining the election process. If the Democrats weren't complaining about imagined gerrymandering for the last 10 years, they were advancing

the conspiracy theory that Russian agents and Donald Trump worked in tandem to steal the 2016 election. Not to be outdone, many Republicans are now advancing the notion that the 2020 election was rigged to steal Trump's reelection out from under him.

Do they realize how dangerous it is that large numbers of people on both sides of the spectrum don't trust the published results of the election any more? If we're all convinced that the election process is that corrupt, how then shall we choose our leaders? I'm not partial to military coups or monarchies, for example.

People in power need to spend less time arguing about boundary lines and counting votes and more time making a case why we should vote for them. The best leaders are those who manage to attract a majority of voters with their ideas, regardless of the perceived party preferences of their constituents.

Warren Bluhm is the editor-in-chief for NEW Media. Readers can contact him at [wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com](mailto:wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com).

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Political division has reached worst levels

#### To the editor:

We haven't had such division in our country since United States Sen. Joseph McCarthy made false accusations of treason among left-wing individuals in the 1950s. His campaign spread fear of alleged communist and socialist influence on American institutions and espionage by Soviet Agents. He lost credibility after several of his accusations were found to be false.

Unfortunately, history is repeating itself. Now we have the "big lie" which alleges Donald Trump won the 2020 election due to voter fraud. At this time, there has been no evidence that points to illegal votes as the reason Trump lost. The movement has, however, caused our country to be more and more divided as time goes on.

McCarthy was not the only Wisconsinite to divide our state. Former Gov. Scott Walker used his "divide and conquer" strategy when it came to the state's budgeting process.

He pitted public employee unions against those who wished to take down organized labor. In reality, it was less about budget-cutting and more about his personal campaign to weaken worker's power.

Fox News has only fueled the divide in our country. If you tune in (which I do only occasionally), you will hear daily rhetoric about how bad President Joe Biden's policies are and how the Democrats are destroying our country.

If you go off Fox News, which I would recommend, and listen to other cable stations such as CNBC, you will get less opinions and more "hard news." By tuning into "The News with Shepard Smith" at 6 p.m., you will get a non-political leaning on the true news.

By the way, Shep used to be a host on Fox but left because he didn't like how they were using a false premise — disinformation about election fraud — to lead people astray. He could see how this behavior was spreading seeds of division and thus doing harm to us as a nation. He couldn't take it anymore. He sleeps well at night knowing that his broad-

casting of the news gives people the truth.

Keep in mind that division has been used as a path to power worldwide for centuries. This holiday season should be the start of our effort to put aside politics and love our neighbor as ourselves as the Second Commandment suggests. We can each be the catalyst that makes the world a better place for all.

Jan Koch, Shawano

### Legislative districts should be drawn fairly

#### To the editor:

A recent article reminisced about the former positive political climate and reputation for effective, clean government in Wisconsin. It argued that reputation resulted from priorities expected of those we elected to serve us. Top was serving interests of the Assembly or Senate district, followed by that of the institution of the legislative body to which they were elected, and third, the interests of a political party.

Today's climate is appallingly the opposite. The interests of an As-

sembly or Senate district are often ignored, even to voting against the interests of their district when the party demands it. The expressed interests of district constituents can be safely ignored because gerrymandered districts guarantee to preserve their seats while they kowtow to political parties.

I don't disagree with the argument by various courts that redistricting is a political process that should be decided by the legislative process but only if that process begins with transparently and fairly drawn districts, a situation we clearly do not enjoy today.

I call on my representatives, Rep. Jeff Mursau and Sen. Mary Felzkowski, to serve their constituencies by first voting against any effort to override Gov. Tony Evers' veto of the gerrymandered redistricting maps should it occur, and second to support adopting a redistricting process that largely takes politicians out and puts the people in charge of designing maps. I urge you to contact your representatives with the same demand.

Ken Harter, Oconto Falls





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# Bonduel gets into the Christmas spirit



**TOP:** Visitors to Village Park in Bonduel huddle around a campfire as they try to keep warm during the Christmas celebration on Dec. 4.

**ABOVE:** Tim, left, and Jace Boland, who traveled to Bonduel from Green Bay, getset up for their minnow race at Village Park during the Bonduel Christmas celebration Dec. 4.

**RIGHT:** The Grinch makes an appearance at Village Park in Bonduel on Dec. 4. He talked to children and families during the Bonduel Christmas celebration.

**PHOTOS BY LUKE REIMER • REPORTER**





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| Monday, September 20       | 7:15 pm  | DETROIT LIONS              | ESPN |
| Sunday, September 26       | 7:20 pm  | @ San Francisco 49ers      | NBC  |
| OCTOBER                    |          |                            |      |
| Sunday, October 18         | 3:25 pm  | Pittsburgh Steelers (GOLD) | CBS  |
| Sunday, October 25         | NOON*    | @ Cincinnati Bengals       | FOX  |
| Sunday, October 31         | NOON*    | @ Chicago Bears            | FOX  |
| Sunday, October 31         | NOON*    | WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM   | FOX  |
| Thursday, October 28       | 8:20 pm  | @ Arizona Cardinals        | FOX  |
| NOVEMBER                   |          |                            |      |
| Sunday, November 07        | 3:25 pm* | @ Kansas City Chiefs       | FOX  |
| Sunday, November 14        | 3:25 pm* | SEATTLE SEAHAWKS           | CBS  |
| Sunday, November 21        | NOON*    | @ Minnesota Vikings        | FOX  |
| Sunday, November 28        | 3:25 pm* | LOS ANGELES RAMS (GOLD)    | FOX  |
| DECEMBER                   |          |                            |      |
| BYE WEEK                   |          |                            |      |
| Sunday, December 12        | 2:26 pm* | INDIANAPOLIS COLTS         | NBC  |
| Sunday, December 19        | NOON*    | @ Baltimore Ravens         | FOX  |
| Saturday, December 25      | 3:30 pm  | CLEVELAND BROWNS           | FOX  |
| JANUARY                    |          |                            |      |
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## BOOKS AND STUFF

# Latest Eve Dallas mystery delivers

This week I found one of J.D. Robb's Eve Dallas books. "Faithless In Death" was full of "this could happen" scenarios and kept me engaged to very last page.

The call came in before 8 a.m.: a homicide in the artsy part of Soho. Lt. Eve Dallas and her partner, Det. Delia Peabody, responded. Ariel Byrd had been a talented, openly gay, young artist. Now she lay dead of a massive head wound.

She'd been found by Gwen Huffman, a sleekly fashionable young woman from the upper levels of society. She explained she arrived with coffee and pastries for a sitting and found Ariel's body. She panicked and went back to her apartment to calm down before calling 9-1-1.

After the interview, both Dallas and Peabody are certain that her story is nothing but lies. So they do some digging and in no time learn that Gwen has a "past." She is engaged to marry into one of the area's wealthy families and must keep certain appearances.

Further digging tells them that Gwen's family is part of a group called Natural Order. Her parents have stipulated she follow the rules of the Order. She must get married to a pure race Caucasian, bear his children and live a subservient life. If Gwen fails, she loses the large financial trust and inheritance.

She's complied by getting en-



JAN JONES

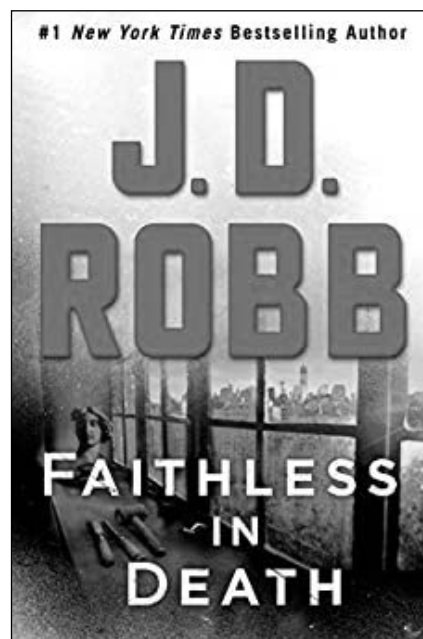
gaged but still manages to have secret affairs with women. Ariel was the latest. That puts Gwen in the suspect bullseye. She is greedy, self-centered and calculating, but just doesn't

fit the profile of a killer. Her plan was to marry, have a child and then accuse her husband of some sort of abuse that allows her to divorce. Then she could get a big settlement and wait for her inheritance.

While searching for Ariel's killer, they stumble onto a thread connecting Gwen and Natural Order. So Dallas begins investigating there.

It would take too long to do the dot-to-dot and all the people entangled in the web of Natural Order, so I'll give a thumbnail sketch. Stanton Wilke created the group after a terrible childhood. It was just after the Urban Wars, and everything seemed to be chaos. Willy longed for order, so he set up strict rules about how members must live. No caffeine, no tobacco, no education outside approved schools, no medical care outside of approved facilities. All decisions will be made by the men in the family, and women were not allowed any autonomy.

With a bit of "utopia preaching,"



he managed to establish several chapters across the nation. When he began offering bonus money to those who brought recruits and the promise of steady employment, the Order began to grow. Most would quickly see that this was a cult where Willy made big profits and exercised strict control. But the true believers would do almost anything to protect the Order and their leader.

Using the old adage of "fol-

## AT A GLANCE

**BOOK:** "Faithless in Death"

**AUTHOR:** J.D. Robb (Nora Roberts)

**PUBLISHER:** St. Martin's Press

**YEAR PUBLISHED:** 2021

**NUMBER OF PAGES:** 382

low the money," they begin to find cracks in the Order's iron hold. First, a young woman slips Eve a tiny note with her name, birthday and former address. Eve had interviewed several women in the Tribeca neighborhood. When Zoe heard sounds of a beating then saw someone removing what looked like a body bag, she panicked and called Eve begging for help. This was the lead that they'd been hoping for.

With high-tech help and her savvy team pulling out all the stops, they combine forces throughout the city and storm the Order's compound. When the siege ends, they are horrified to learn the extent of the horrors perpetrated in the name of the Order. They can't undo that, but will rest better knowing this snake pit has been destroyed.

We wish this stuff was just scary books but know it really happens. If you like sometimes grisly whodunits, your public library has lots of books to choose from. Stop by soon and check it out.

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Got a news tip? Email it to [news@newmedia-wi.com](mailto:news@newmedia-wi.com)!



# Christmas celebrations begin in Wittenberg



A grand tree is decorated with lights and ornaments by community members at the WOWSPACE in Wittenberg on Dec. 3.

LUKE REIMER | NEW MEDIA



Wittenberg resident Isaac Sells helps to decorate the tree in the WOWSPACE as he places a candy cane on Dec. 3.

LUKE REIMER | NEW MEDIA



Students from Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School sang Christmas carols at the WOWSPACE Art Park in Wittenberg during the tree lighting on Dec. 3.

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The WOWSPACE in Wittenberg is filled with different vendors as visitors were welcomed to stop in for a craft fair on Dec 3 and 4.

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Green Bay Packers running back A.J. Dillon, center, carries several Los Angeles Rams defenders with him during a Nov. 28 game at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

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# Pack closes in on division title, eyes top seed

The Green Bay Packers bye week has come and gone, and now the team's attention turns to the stretch run.



MORGAN RODE

Despite the late bye week, there's still plenty to play for in the final five weeks of the season.

After the Minnesota Vikings' shocking loss to the then-winless Detroit Lions, Green

Bay has a whopping four-game lead in the NFC North race. The Packers could clinch the division as early as this Sunday should Minnesota lose on Thursday and Green Bay defeats the Chicago Bears on Sunday.

Even if that doesn't happen, it's hard to imagine the Packers not winning the division.

Once the Packers are able to lock up their first goal of a division title, earning as many home playoff games as possible is the next goal. Ideally, that means locking up the NFC's top seed.

Currently, the No. 1 seed is held by the Arizona Cardinals with a 10-2 mark. Green Bay and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers are each at 9-3, while the Dallas Cowboys and Los Angeles Rams both sit at 8-4. The Pack owns the head-to-head tiebreaker over the Cardinals and Rams.

While many Packer fans will be scoreboard-watching over the next several weeks, head coach Matt LaFleur said if coaches and players get hung up on other games, that's when problems can arise within their own team.

"We just have to take care of our



Green Bay Packers receiver Davante Adams, right, talks with Los Angeles Rams receiver Odell Beckham Jr. after the team's game Nov. 28 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. The Packers own the head-to-head tiebreaker over a couple NFC contenders, including the Rams, but are still chasing the Arizona Cardinals for the No. 1 seed.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

business and whatever happens in those other games, that's the way it rolls," said LaFleur.

"You can only control what you can control in terms of how you prepare each and every week."

While the Packers don't have a particularly challenging set of opponents over the final five weeks, it's the familiarity of three opponents and unfamiliarity of the other two that could present some challenges.

Along with the team's second showdown with the Bears, the Packers also have their second games against the Vikings and Lions, with those coming in weeks 17 and 18.

LaFleur noted that playing a team for a second time always adds to the challenge of preparing for a game, as both teams are adjusting to what worked or didn't in the first matchup.

While the Lions will almost certainly be eliminated from the postseason by the last week of the season, the Vikings could be fighting for their playoff lives. The same might be true for the Christmas Day game against the Cleveland Browns. The Bears' playoff chances are fading fast, with the result of this week either pushing the team to the brink of elimination or keeping a slim glimmer of playoff hope alive.

The Baltimore Ravens — like the Browns — are an unfamiliar AFC team, which always makes for a challenging contest. Baltimore is in the thick of the race for the top seed in the conference, and the winner of the Packers/Ravens game will certainly see their chances of earning a No. 1 seed increase, while the loser will have an uphill road to climb.

One thing that's working to the Packers' advantage is that the team

is starting to get back some of its injured players, while most other teams are seeing star players go down with injuries.

LaFleur said the team could have cornerback Jaire Alexander, offensive lineman David Bakhtiari and outside linebacker Za'Darius Smith back at practice this week. Even if they don't hit the practice field, the fact the coach mentioned they could be back bodes well for the trio's return before the playoffs roll around.

While the Packers have found ways to win without them — and several other players — throughout the year, LaFleur is certainly not against getting those guys back.

"You can never have enough great players," said LaFleur.

Morgan Rode is the sports editor for NEW Media. Readers can contact him at [sports@newmedia-wi.com](mailto:sports@newmedia-wi.com).



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# KEYS TO THE GAME

By **BILL HUBER**  
Correspondent

The Green Bay Packers (9-3) will host the Chicago Bears (4-8) at 7:20 p.m. Sunday at Lambeau Field. NBC will televise the game.

## History

The Packers lead the series 101-94-6. Plus, they've split two playoff games.

Green Bay has won five in a row, 10 of the last 11 and 20 of the last 23 dating to its 10-3 victory on Jan. 2, 2011.

## Coaches

Green Bay – Matt LaFleur, 35-9, third season. Chicago — Matt Nagy, 32-28, fourth season.

## When the Packers have the ball

Beginning with a 24-14 verdict when the teams met in week six, Chicago has dropped six of its last seven games. It allowed at least 29 points in four of those games.

In the first game between the teams, Chicago limited Green Bay to 323 yards and 2-of-8 on third down. But the Bears are down two key cogs, with outside linebacker Khalil Mack (foot) and inside linebacker Danny Trevathan (knee) done for the season.

Chicago is 22nd in points allowed (23.9 per game). It ranks ninth in total defense (327.9 yards per game), first in sack percentage (9.27), 18th on third down (40.7%), 11th in the red zone (55.8%) and a rugged fourth in goal-to-go (60%).

It's a talented bunch, even without the indomitable Mack and the hard-hitting Trevathan, which is why they've allowed less than 300 yards in four consecutive games.

Up front, nose tackle Eddie Goldman is flanked by ends Akiem Hicks and Bilal Nichols. Hicks, a former All-Pro, and Goldman, a former second-round pick, are the big names, but Nichols is the best player. He leads the unit with 33 tackles, two sacks and five tackles for losses.

Outside linebacker Robert Quinn, who is sixth in the NFL with 11 sacks, is the star of the defense. Without Mack, Trevis Gipson is the other starter. A second-year player, he has one sack in his six starts and three overall.

Roquan Smith and Alex Oglethorpe are the inside linebackers. Smith is an elite player. He's got 121 tackles, three sacks, nine tackles for losses and one interception. Of the 20 players with 90 tackles, Smith is first in TFLs and second in sacks.

In the secondary, up-and-coming Jaylon Johnson is the team's best cornerback. He's joined by Artie Burns at



**Green Bay Packers cornerback Chandon Sullivan, right, falls to the ground as Los Angeles Rams receiver Van Jefferson catches a pass that turned into a touchdown in a game on Nov. 28 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. The Packers' defense will be tasked Sunday will not allowing big plays to a Bears' offense that has struggled of late.**

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

the other corner and Xavier Crawford in the slot. Johnson has one interception and eight passes defended – four more than any Bears defender.

Eddie Jackson and Tashaun Gipson are the safeties. Jackson was an All-Pro in 2018, when he had six interceptions and scored three defensive touchdowns, but he hasn't even broken up a pass this season.

## When the Bears have the ball

Chicago's offense ranks 30th with 16.8 points per game while Green Bay's defense ranks fifth with 20.2 points allowed per game. The Bears are 30th in total offense (298.8 yards per game), 32nd in sack rate (11.4%) and 23rd in turnovers (19). So, on paper, anyway, it's a huge advantage for the Packers.

There's uncertainty at quarterback for the Bears. Talented rookie Justin Fields has missed two consecutive games with cracked ribs. Veteran Andy Dalton started and threw four interceptions in last week's home loss to Arizona.

"I really felt like his confidence was

starting to get good out there," Nagy said of Fields, who is next-to-last in the NFL in passer rating.

Because their skill-sets are so different, the uncertainty will provide a for defensive coordinator Joe Barry.

"Those guys I think are really high-quality quarterbacks," LaFleur said. "I think Andy's played in this league for a long time, so it's hard to really fool a guy like that. I think he's done some really nice things. And then Justin brings a different dynamic in terms of just his ability to create off-schedule and make some plays, and certainly he did that the first time we played them."

Regardless of the quarterback, the offense runs through hard-charging running back David Montgomery, who was inactive for the first matchup. In eight games, he's rushed for 566 yards and four touchdowns. He had 141 total yards and one touchdown vs. Arizona.

The Bears have three legit targets in the passing game. Receiver Darnell Mooney leads the way with 51 receptions for 721 yards and three touchdowns. He scored in the first matchup

vs. Green Bay.

Tight end Cole Kmet has 40 receptions for 402 yards. Former Pro Bowl receiver Allen Robinson, who is coming off back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons, has only 30 catches for 339 yards and one score. He's missed the last three games with a hamstring injury and will be questionable to open this week.

The offensive line consists of 39-year-old left tackle Jason Peters, left guard Cody Whitehair, center Sam Mustipher, right guard James Daniels and right tackle Larry Borom.

Mustipher is the weak link. He'll have his hands full with Kenny Clark, who had two sacks in the first meeting.

## Special teams

Chicago has a big-time weapon in Jakeem Grant. Acquired from Miami earlier this season, he's averaging 24.4 yards per kickoff return and 9.4 yards per punt return. In his sixth season, he's got five career touchdowns on returns (three on punts, two on kickoffs). He'll be a big test for the Packers.

While punter Corey Bojorquez ranks fourth with a 43.8-yard net average, Green Bay is 26th in kickoff coverage.

Chicago punter Pat O'Donnell ranks 26th in net average, so there are opportunities for Green Bay's feeble and mistake-prone punt return. Chicago's Cairo Santos is 16-of-19 on field goals (84.2%), including 15-of-16 from inside of 50 yards.

The Packers can only hope the bye week allowed kicker Mason Crosby to regroup. He's 18-of-27 on field goals, his 66.7 percent rate being second-worst in the NFL.

Poor snaps, bad holds and shoddy protection all factored earlier in the season, but those problems seemed to be largely squared away before the bye. He's missed at least one field goal in four consecutive games.

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## PACKERS ROSTER

### Active

| #  | NAME                     | POS. | HT.  | WT. | AGE | EXP. | COLLEGE            |
|----|--------------------------|------|------|-----|-----|------|--------------------|
| 2  | Mason Crosby             | K    | 6-1  | 207 | 37  | 15   | Colorado           |
| 7  | Corey Bojorquez          | P    | 6-0  | 217 | 25  | 4    | New Mexico         |
| 8  | Amari Rodgers            | WR   | 5-9  | 212 | 22  | R    | Clemson            |
| 10 | Jordan Love              | QB   | 6-4  | 219 | 23  | 2    | Utah State         |
| 12 | Aaron Rodgers            | QB   | 6-2  | 225 | 38  | 17   | California         |
| 13 | Allen Lazard             | WR   | 6-5  | 227 | 25  | 3    | Iowa State         |
| 17 | Davante Adams            | WR   | 6-1  | 215 | 28  | 8    | Fresno State       |
| 18 | Randall Cobb             | WR   | 5-10 | 195 | 31  | 11   | Kentucky           |
| 19 | Equanimeous St. Brown    | WR   | 6-5  | 214 | 25  | 4    | Notre Dame         |
| 20 | Kevin King               | CB   | 6-3  | 200 | 26  | 5    | Washington         |
| 21 | Eric Stokes              | CB   | 6-0  | 194 | 22  | R    | Georgia            |
| 22 | Shemar Jean-Charles      | CB   | 5-10 | 184 | 23  | R    | Appalachian State  |
| 24 | Isaac Yiadom             | CB   | 6-1  | 190 | 25  | 4    | Boston College     |
| 26 | Darnell Savage           | S    | 5-11 | 198 | 24  | 3    | Maryland           |
| 27 | Patrick Taylor           | RB   | 6-2  | 217 | 23  | 1    | Memphis            |
| 28 | AJ Dillon                | RB   | 6-0  | 247 | 23  | 2    | Boston College     |
| 29 | Rasul Douglas            | CB   | 6-2  | 209 | 26  | 5    | West Virginia      |
| 31 | Adrian Amos              | S    | 6-0  | 214 | 28  | 7    | Penn State         |
| 33 | Aaron Jones              | RB   | 5-9  | 208 | 27  | 5    | Texas-El Paso      |
| 36 | Vernon Scott             | S    | 6-2  | 202 | 24  | 2    | TCU                |
| 39 | Chandon Sullivan         | CB   | 5-11 | 189 | 25  | 4    | Georgia State      |
| 40 | Tipa Galeai              | LB   | 6-5  | 229 | 24  | 1    | Utah State         |
| 41 | Henry Black              | S    | 6-0  | 204 | 24  | 2    | Baylor             |
| 42 | Oren Burks               | LB   | 6-3  | 233 | 26  | 4    | Vanderbilt         |
| 44 | Ty Summers               | LB   | 6-1  | 241 | 25  | 3    | TCU                |
| 46 | Steven Wirtel            | LS   | 6-4  | 228 | 24  | 1    | Iowa State         |
| 49 | Dominique Dafney         | TE   | 6-2  | 243 | 24  | 1    | Indiana State      |
| 51 | Krys Barnes              | LB   | 6-2  | 229 | 23  | 2    | UCLA               |
| 52 | Rashan Gary              | LB   | 6-5  | 277 | 24  | 3    | Michigan           |
| 53 | Jonathan Garvin          | LB   | 6-4  | 257 | 22  | 2    | Miami              |
| 58 | Isaiah McDuffie          | LB   | 6-1  | 227 | 22  | R    | Boston College     |
| 62 | Lucas Patrick            | G    | 6-3  | 313 | 28  | 5    | Duke               |
| 64 | Ben Braden               | G    | 6-6  | 329 | 27  | 2    | Michigan           |
| 67 | Jake Hanson              | C    | 6-4  | 296 | 24  | 1    | Oregon             |
| 69 | David Bakhtiari          | T    | 6-4  | 310 | 30  | 9    | Colorado           |
| 70 | Royce Newman             | T/G  | 6-5  | 310 | 24  | R    | Mississippi        |
| 73 | Yosh Nijman              | T    | 6-7  | 314 | 25  | 2    | Virginia Tech      |
| 76 | Jon Runyan               | G    | 6-4  | 307 | 24  | 2    | Michigan           |
| 77 | Billy Turner             | G/T  | 6-5  | 310 | 30  | 8    | North Dakota State |
| 79 | Dennis Kelly             | T    | 6-8  | 321 | 31  | 10   | Purdue             |
| 81 | Josiah Deguara           | TE   | 6-2  | 238 | 24  | 2    | Cincinnati         |
| 83 | Marquez Valdes-Scantling | WR   | 6-4  | 206 | 27  | 4    | South Florida      |
| 84 | Tyler Davis              | TE   | 6-4  | 252 | 24  | 2    | Georgia Tech       |
| 86 | Malik Taylor             | WR   | 6-1  | 220 | 25  | 2    | Ferris State       |
| 89 | Mercedes Lewis           | TE   | 6-6  | 267 | 37  | 16   | UCLA               |
| 90 | Jack Heflin              | DL   | 6-3  | 304 | 23  | R    | Iowa               |
| 91 | Preston Smith            | LB   | 6-5  | 265 | 29  | 7    | Mississippi State  |
| 93 | T.J. Slaton              | DL   | 6-4  | 330 | 24  | R    | Florida            |
| 94 | Dean Lowry               | DL   | 6-6  | 296 | 27  | 6    | Northwestern       |
| 95 | Tyler Lancaster          | DL   | 6-3  | 313 | 27  | 4    | Northwestern       |
| 96 | Kingsley Keke            | DL   | 6-3  | 288 | 25  | 3    | Texas A&M          |
| 97 | Kenny Clark              | DL   | 6-3  | 314 | 26  | 6    | UCLA               |

### Reserve/Injured

|    |                  |     |      |     |    |    |                   |
|----|------------------|-----|------|-----|----|----|-------------------|
| 23 | Jaire Alexander  | CB  | 5-10 | 196 | 24 | 4  | Louisville        |
| 32 | Kylin Hill       | RB  | 5-10 | 214 | 23 | R  | Mississippi State |
| 47 | Chauncey Rivers  | LB  | 6-2  | 259 | 24 | 1  | Mississippi State |
| 50 | Whitney Mercilus | LB  | 6-4  | 261 | 31 | 10 | Illinois          |
| 55 | Za'Darius Smith  | LB  | 6-4  | 272 | 29 | 7  | Kentucky          |
| 56 | Randy Ramsey     | LB  | 6-3  | 238 | 26 | 2  | Arkansas          |
| 71 | Josh Myers       | C/G | 6-5  | 310 | 23 | R  | Ohio State        |
| 74 | Elgton Jenkins   | G   | 6-5  | 311 | 25 | 3  | Mississippi State |
| 85 | Robert Tonyan    | TE  | 6-5  | 237 | 27 | 4  | Indiana State     |

### Practice Squad

|    |                    |     |      |     |    |   |               |
|----|--------------------|-----|------|-----|----|---|---------------|
| 6  | Kurt Benkert       | QB  | 6-3  | 218 | 26 | 2 | Virginia      |
| 11 | J.J. Molson        | K   | 5-11 | 180 | 24 | 1 | UCLA          |
| 16 | Chris Blair        | WR  | 6-2  | 198 | 24 | R | Alcorn State  |
| 30 | Shawn Davis        | S   | 5-11 | 202 | 23 | R | Florida       |
| 35 | Ryquell Armstead   | RB  | 5-11 | 220 | 25 | 3 | Temple        |
| 38 | Innis Gaines       | S   | 6-1  | 202 | 23 | R | TCU           |
| 43 | Nate Orchard       | OLB | 6-3  | 255 | 28 | 6 | Utah          |
| 45 | Bronson Kaufusi    | TE  | 6-6  | 270 | 30 | 3 | Brigham Young |
| 48 | Kabion Ento        | CB  | 6-1  | 187 | 25 | 2 | Colorado      |
| 54 | La'Darius Hamilton | LB  | 6-2  | 261 | 23 | 1 | North Texas   |
| 57 | Ray Wilborn        | LB  | 6-3  | 230 | 24 | 1 | Ball State    |
| 61 | Jon Dietzen        | G/T | 6-5  | 312 | 24 | R | Wisconsin     |
| 78 | Cole Van Lanen     | T/G | 6-4  | 305 | 23 | R | Wisconsin     |
| 88 | Juwann Winfree     | WR  | 6-1  | 210 | 25 | 2 | Colorado      |
| 98 | Abdullah Anderson  | DL  | 6-3  | 303 | 25 | 2 | Bucknell      |
| 99 | R.J. McIntosh      | DL  | 6-5  | 286 | 25 | 4 | Miami         |

### Reserve/COVID-19

|    |                    |    |     |     |    |   |           |
|----|--------------------|----|-----|-----|----|---|-----------|
| 59 | De'Vondre Campbell | LB | 6-3 | 232 | 28 | 6 | Minnesota |
|----|--------------------|----|-----|-----|----|---|-----------|



# BEARS ROSTER

## Active

| #  | NAME                   | POS. | HT.  | WT. | AGE | EXP. | COLLEGE                    |
|----|------------------------|------|------|-----|-----|------|----------------------------|
| 1  | Justin Fields          | QB   | 6-3  | 228 | 22  | R    | Ohio State                 |
| 2  | Cairo Santos           | K    | 5-8  | 175 | 30  | 8    | Tulane                     |
| 4  | Eddie Jackson          | DB   | 6-0  | 206 | 27  | 5    | Alabama                    |
| 8  | Damien Williams        | RB   | 5-11 | 225 | 29  | 7    | Oklahoma                   |
| 9  | Nick Foles             | QB   | 6-6  | 262 | 32  | 10   | Arizona                    |
| 10 | Damiere Byrd           | WR   | 5-9  | 175 | 28  | 6    | South Carolina             |
| 11 | Darnell Mooney         | WR   | 5-11 | 173 | 24  | 2    | Tulane                     |
| 12 | Allen Robinson II      | WR   | 6-2  | 220 | 28  | 8    | Penn State                 |
| 14 | Andy Dalton            | QB   | 6-2  | 219 | 34  | 11   | TCU                        |
| 16 | Pat O'Donnell          | P    | 6-4  | 223 | 30  | 8    | Miami (Fla.)               |
| 17 | Jakeem Grant Sr.       | WR   | 5-7  | 172 | 29  | 6    | Texas Tech                 |
| 18 | Jesse James            | TE   | 6-7  | 251 | 27  | 7    | Penn State                 |
| 21 | Xavier Crawford        | DB   | 5-11 | 185 | 25  | 3    | Central Michigan           |
| 22 | Kindle Vildor          | DB   | 5-11 | 189 | 23  | 2    | Georgia Southern           |
| 23 | Marqui Christian       | DB   | 5-11 | 195 | 27  | 5    | Midwestern State           |
| 24 | Khalil Herbert         | RB   | 5-9  | 212 | 23  | R    | Virginia Tech              |
| 25 | Artie Burns            | DB   | 6-0  | 187 | 26  | 4    | Miami (Fla.)               |
| 26 | Deon Bush              | DB   | 6-0  | 198 | 28  | 6    | Miami (Fla.)               |
| 32 | David Montgomery       | RB   | 5-11 | 224 | 24  | 3    | Iowa State                 |
| 33 | Jaylon Johnson         | DB   | 6-0  | 196 | 22  | 2    | Utah                       |
| 35 | Ryan Nall              | RB   | 6-2  | 240 | 25  | 3    | Oregon State               |
| 36 | DeAndre Houston-Carson | DB   | 6-0  | 202 | 28  | 6    | William & Mary             |
| 37 | Teez Tabor             | DB   | 6-0  | 193 | 25  | 3    | Florida                    |
| 38 | Tashaun Gipson Sr.     | DB   | 6-1  | 207 | 31  | 8    | Wyoming                    |
| 44 | Alec Ogletree          | LB   | 6-3  | 250 | 30  | 9    | Georgia                    |
| 45 | Joel Iyiegbuniwe       | LB   | 6-1  | 235 | 26  | 4    | Western Kentucky           |
| 48 | Patrick Scales         | LS   | 6-3  | 226 | 33  | 6    | Utah State                 |
| 57 | Christian Jones        | LB   | 6-3  | 245 | 30  | 8    | Florida State              |
| 58 | Roquan Smith           | LB   | 6-1  | 232 | 24  | 4    | Georgia                    |
| 59 | Cassius Marsh Sr.      | LB   | 6-4  | 254 | 29  | 8    | UCLA                       |
| 64 | Alex Bars              | OL   | 6-5  | 334 | 26  | 3    | Notre Dame                 |
| 65 | Cody Whitehair         | OL   | 6-3  | 316 | 29  | 6    | Kansas State               |
| 67 | Sam Mustipher          | OL   | 6-2  | 332 | 25  | 2    | Notre Dame                 |
| 68 | James Daniels          | OL   | 6-4  | 327 | 24  | 4    | Iowa                       |
| 71 | Jason Peters           | OL   | 6-4  | 328 | 39  | 18   | Arkansas                   |
| 73 | Lachavious Simmons     | OL   | 6-5  | 319 | 25  | 2    | Tennessee State            |
| 75 | Larry Borom            | OL   | 6-5  | 333 | 22  | R    | Missouri                   |
| 76 | Teven Jenkins          | OL   | 6-6  | 321 | 23  | R    | Oklahoma State             |
| 80 | Jimmy Graham           | TE   | 6-7  | 259 | 35  | 12   | Miami (Fla.)               |
| 81 | J.P. Holtz             | TE   | 6-3  | 246 | 28  | 3    | Pittsburgh                 |
| 84 | Marquise Goodwin       | WR   | 5-9  | 180 | 31  | 8    | Texas                      |
| 85 | Cole Kmet              | TE   | 6-6  | 260 | 22  | 2    | Notre Dame                 |
| 87 | Jesper Horsted         | TE   | 6-4  | 241 | 24  | 2    | Princeton                  |
| 90 | Angelo Blackson        | DL   | 6-4  | 315 | 29  | 7    | Auburn                     |
| 91 | Eddie Goldman          | DL   | 6-3  | 325 | 27  | 6    | Florida State              |
| 92 | Caleb Johnson          | LB   | 6-2  | 227 | 23  | R    | Houston Baptist University |
| 93 | Margus Hunt            | DL   | 6-8  | 295 | 34  | 9    | SMU                        |
| 94 | Robert Quinn           | LB   | 6-4  | 245 | 31  | 11   | North Carolina             |
| 95 | Khyiris Tonga          | DL   | 6-4  | 338 | 25  | R    | BYU                        |
| 96 | Akiem Hicks            | DL   | 6-4  | 335 | 32  | 10   | Regina (Canada)            |
| 97 | Mario Edwards Jr.      | DL   | 6-3  | 277 | 27  | 7    | Florida State              |
| 98 | Bilal Nichols          | DL   | 6-4  | 302 | 25  | 4    | Delaware                   |
| 99 | Trevis Gipson          | LB   | 6-4  | 263 | 24  | 2    | Tulsa                      |

## Active/Physically Unable to Perform

|    |             |    |     |     |    |   |                    |
|----|-------------|----|-----|-----|----|---|--------------------|
| 29 | Tarik Cohen | RB | 5-6 | 196 | 26 | 5 | North Carolina A&T |
|----|-------------|----|-----|-----|----|---|--------------------|

## Reserve/Injured

|    |                   |    |     |     |    |    |              |
|----|-------------------|----|-----|-----|----|----|--------------|
| 6  | Danny Trevathan   | LB | 6-0 | 234 | 31 | 10 | Kentucky     |
| 20 | Duke Shelley      | DB | 5-9 | 176 | 25 | 3  | Kansas State |
| 50 | Jeremiah Attaochu | LB | 6-3 | 262 | 28 | 8  | Georgia Tech |
| 52 | Khalil Mack       | LB | 6-3 | 267 | 30 | 8  | Buffalo      |
| 74 | Germain Ifedi     | OL | 6-5 | 344 | 27 | 6  | Texas A&M    |

## Practice Squad

|    |                     |    |      |     |    |    |                    |
|----|---------------------|----|------|-----|----|----|--------------------|
| 13 | Rodney Adams        | WR | 6-1  | 188 | 27 | 2  | South Florida      |
| 15 | Nsimba Webster      | WR | 5-10 | 180 | 25 | 3  | Eastern Washington |
| 27 | Thomas Graham Jr.   | DB | 5-11 | 197 | 22 | R  | Oregon             |
| 30 | Dee Virgin          | DB | 5-9  | 194 | 28 | 3  | West Alabama       |
| 31 | Artavis Pierce      | RB | 5-11 | 208 | 25 | 2  | Oregon State       |
| 43 | Ledarius Mack       | LB | 6-1  | 237 | 25 | 1  | Buffalo            |
| 46 | Sam Kamara          | LB | 6-2  | 288 | 23 | R  | Stony Brook        |
| 47 | Rashad Smith        | LB | 6-1  | 220 | 24 | 2  | Florida Atlantic   |
| 49 | Charles Snowden     | LB | 6-7  | 245 | 23 | R  | Virginia           |
| 53 | Arlington Hambrick  | OL | 6-5  | 309 | 25 | 2  | Colorado           |
| 55 | Bruce Irvin         | LB | 6-3  | 248 | 34 | 10 | West Virginia      |
| 60 | Dieter Eiselen      | OL | 6-4  | 320 | 25 | 1  | Yale               |
| 63 | LaCale London       | DL | 6-5  | 316 | 24 | 1  | Western Illinois   |
| 72 | Tyrone Wheatley Jr. | OL | 6-6  | 326 | 24 | R  | Stony Brook        |
| 82 | Isaiah Coulter      | WR | 6-2  | 198 | 23 | 2  | Rhode Island       |
| 83 | Dazz Newsome        | WR | 5-10 | 184 | 22 | R  | North Carolina     |

## Reserve/COVID-19

|    |                  |    |     |     |    |   |               |
|----|------------------|----|-----|-----|----|---|---------------|
| 70 | Elijah Wilkinson | OL | 6-6 | 322 | 26 | 5 | Massachusetts |
|----|------------------|----|-----|-----|----|---|---------------|

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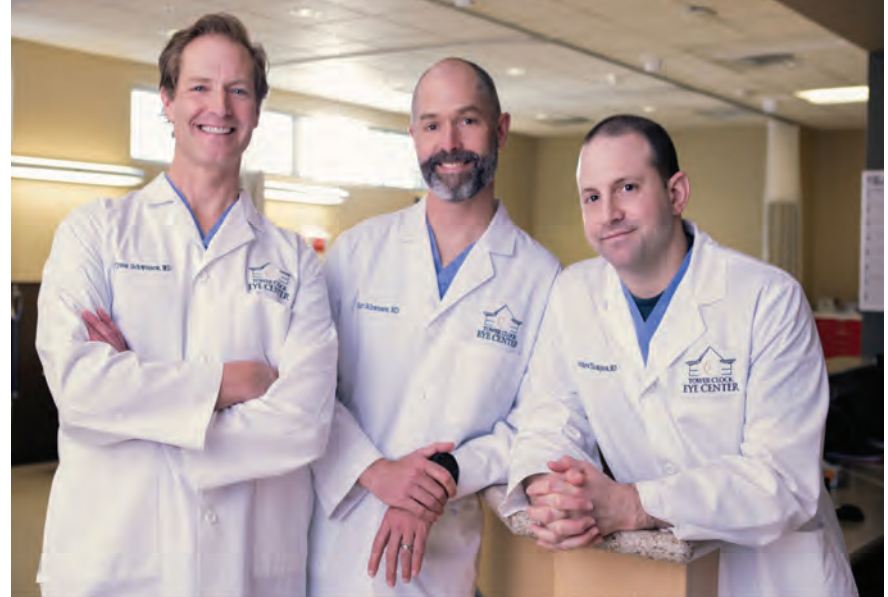
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# GAME VITALS PACKERS DEPTH CHART

**GREEN BAY PACKERS (9-3)**  
**vs. CHICAGO BEARS (4-8)**  
**WHEN:** 7:20 p.m., Sunday  
**WHERE:** Lambeau Field  
**TV:** NBC  
**RADIO:** 620 AM (WTMJ), Sirius  
Satellite Radio (WTMJ feed)

## THE SERIES

**Packers vs. Bears**  
**All-time, regular season:** 101-94-6  
**All-time, postseason:** 1-1  
**All-time, at Packers:** 50-42-4  
**Streaks:** The Green Bay Packers have dominated the series against the Chicago Bears, winning 10 of the last 11 matchups. Green Bay hasn't lost a home game to Chicago since 2015.  
**Last meeting, regular season:** Oct. 17, 2021, Packers won 24-14 at Solider Field in Chicago. Aaron Rodgers threw touchdown passes to Allen Lazard, and Aaron Jones and ran for another score. Mason Crosby added a field goal.

## SCHEDULE

| Date     | Opponent         | Time       | TV  |
|----------|------------------|------------|-----|
| Sept. 12 | at New Orleans   | Loss 38-3  |     |
| Sept. 20 | vs. Detroit      | Win 35-17  |     |
| Sept. 26 | at San Francisco | Win 30-28  |     |
| Oct. 3   | vs. Pittsburgh   | Win 27-17  |     |
| Oct. 10  | at Cincinnati    | Win 25-22  |     |
| Oct. 17  | at Chicago       | Win 24-14  |     |
| Oct. 24  | vs. Washington   | Win 24-10  |     |
| Oct. 28  | at Arizona       | Win 24-21  |     |
| Nov. 7   | at Kansas City   | Loss 13-7  |     |
| Nov. 14  | vs. Seattle      | Win 17-0   |     |
| Nov. 21  | at Minnesota     | Loss 34-31 |     |
| Nov. 28  | vs. L.A. Rams    | 36-28      |     |
| BYE WEEK |                  |            |     |
| Dec. 12  | vs. Chicago      | 7:20 p.m.  | NBC |
| Dec. 19  | at Baltimore     | 3:25 p.m.  | FOX |
| Dec. 25  | vs. Cleveland    | 3:30 p.m.  | FOX |
| Jan. 2   | vs. Minnesota    | 7:20 p.m.  | NBC |
| Jan. 9   | at Detroit       | noon       | FOX |

### OFFENSE

RB  
Aaron Jones  
A.J. Dillon



QB  
Aaron Rodgers  
Jordan Love



WR  
Davante Adams  
Randall Cobb



TE  
Josiah Deguara  
Tyler Davis



RT  
Billy Turner  
Dennis Kelly



RG  
Royce Newman  
Ben Braden



C  
Lucas Patrick  
Jake Hanson



LG  
Jon Runyan  
Ben Braden



LT  
Yosh Nijman  
Dennis Kelly



TE  
Mercedes Lewis  
Dominique Dafney



WR  
Marquez Valdes-Scantling  
Allen Lazard



### DEFENSE

CB  
Kevin King  
Chandon Sullivan



DE  
Dean Lowry  
Tyler Lancaster



NT  
Kenny Clark  
T.J. Slaton



DE  
Kingsley Keke  
Jack Heflin



CB  
Eric Stokes  
Rasul Douglas



OLB  
Preston Smith  
Tipa Galeai



ILB  
Krys Barnes  
Oren Burks



ILB  
De'Vondre Campbell  
Ty Summers



OLB  
Rashan Gary  
Jonathan Garvin



S  
Adrian Amos  
Vernon Scott



S  
Darnell Savage  
Henry Black



### FYI

Rosters and depth charts are accurate as of Dec. 6, 12:15 p.m.

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# BEARS DEPTH CHART

## OFFENSE



## DEFENSE



# SCHEDULE

## Sunday's Games

Dallas at Washington, noon  
Jacksonville at Tennessee, noon  
Seattle at Houston, noon  
Las Vegas at Kansas City, noon  
New Orleans at N.Y. Jets, noon  
Atlanta at Carolina, noon  
Baltimore at Cleveland, noon  
N.Y. Giants at L.A. Chargers, 3:05 p.m.  
Detroit at Denver, 3:05 p.m.  
San Francisco at Cincinnati, 3:25 p.m.  
Buffalo at Tampa Bay, 3:25 p.m.  
Chicago at Green Bay, 7:20 p.m.

## Monday's Game

L.A. Rams at Arizona, 7:15 p.m.

**Teams on bye:** Indianapolis, Miami, New England, Philadelphia

## Thursday's Game

Kansas City at L.A. Chargers, 7:20 p.m.

# STANDINGS

## NFC East

| Team         | W | L | T |
|--------------|---|---|---|
| Dallas       | 8 | 4 | 0 |
| Washington   | 6 | 6 | 0 |
| Philadelphia | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| N.Y. Giants  | 4 | 8 | 0 |

## North

| Team      | W | L  | T |
|-----------|---|----|---|
| Green Bay | 9 | 3  | 0 |
| Minnesota | 5 | 7  | 0 |
| Chicago   | 4 | 8  | 0 |
| Detroit   | 1 | 10 | 1 |

## South

| Team        | W | L | T |
|-------------|---|---|---|
| Tampa Bay   | 9 | 3 | 0 |
| Carolina    | 5 | 7 | 0 |
| Atlanta     | 5 | 7 | 0 |
| New Orleans | 5 | 7 | 0 |

## West

| Team          | W  | L | T |
|---------------|----|---|---|
| Arizona       | 10 | 2 | 0 |
| L.A. Rams     | 8  | 4 | 0 |
| San Francisco | 6  | 6 | 0 |
| Seattle       | 4  | 8 | 0 |

## AFC East

| Team        | W | L | T |
|-------------|---|---|---|
| New England | 9 | 4 | 0 |
| Buffalo     | 7 | 5 | 0 |
| Miami       | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| N.Y. Jets   | 3 | 9 | 0 |

## North

| Team       | W | L | T |
|------------|---|---|---|
| Baltimore  | 8 | 4 | 0 |
| Cincinnati | 7 | 5 | 0 |
| Pittsburgh | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| Cleveland  | 6 | 6 | 0 |

## South

| Team         | W | L  | T |
|--------------|---|----|---|
| Tennessee    | 8 | 4  | 0 |
| Indianapolis | 7 | 6  | 0 |
| Houston      | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| Jacksonville | 2 | 10 | 0 |

## West

| Team          | W | L | T |
|---------------|---|---|---|
| Kansas City   | 8 | 4 | 0 |
| L.A. Chargers | 7 | 5 | 0 |
| Las Vegas     | 6 | 6 | 0 |
| Denver        | 6 | 6 | 0 |

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**Woodford Reserve Bourbon or Rye Whiskey** \$24<sup>99</sup> 750 ml.

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**DeWar's White Label Scotch Whiskey** \$29<sup>99</sup> 1.75 ltr.

**Ole Smoky Specialty Whiskeys** \$16<sup>99</sup> 750 ml.

**Grey Goose Vodka** \$46<sup>99</sup> 1.75 ltr.

**New Amsterdam Pink Whitney Vodka** \$8<sup>99</sup> 750 ml.

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**Windsor Black Cherry or Canadian Whiskey** 3 FOR \$26<sup>97</sup> 1.75 ltr. After \$15.00 mail in rebate on 3

**Black Velvet Canadian Whiskey** \$7<sup>99</sup> 1.75 ltr. After \$5.00 rebate

**Jack Daniel's Winter Jack Tennessee Cider** \$15<sup>99</sup> 750 ml.

**Leroy Butler Leap Vodka** \$20<sup>99</sup> 1.75 ltr.

**7x Distilled Platinum Vodka** \$6<sup>99</sup> 1.75 ltr. After \$5.00 rebate

**10x Filtered Smirnoff Vodka** 2 FOR \$23<sup>98</sup> 1.75 ltr. After \$12.00 rebate on 2

**Canadian Mist Whiskey** \$13<sup>99</sup> 1.75 ltr.

**Original, Fire, Honey or Apple Jack Daniel's Whiskey** \$34<sup>99</sup> 1.75 ltr.

**Skyy Premium Vodka** \$19<sup>99</sup> 1.75 ltr.

**Captain Morgan Spiced Rum** 2 FOR \$37<sup>98</sup> 1.75 ltr. After \$12.00 rebate on 2

**Mount Royal Light, Light Rye or Light Cherry Whiskey** \$19<sup>79</sup> 1.75 ltr.

**Rich & Mellow Korbel Brandy** \$18<sup>99</sup> 1.75 ltr.

**Southern Comfort Whiskey** \$22<sup>99</sup> 1.75 ltr.

**Seagram's VO Canadian Whiskey** \$19<sup>99</sup> 1.75 ltr.

**Corona Regular or Light Beer** \$13<sup>99</sup> 12 pk. 12 oz. NR

**Heineken Regular or Light Beer** \$13<sup>99</sup> 12 pk. 12 oz. NR

**Stella Artois Belgium Beer** \$13<sup>49</sup> 12 pk. 11.2 oz. NR

**Leinenkugel Craft Beers** \$12<sup>99</sup> 12 pk. 12 oz. NR

**Leinenkugel Craft Beers** \$12<sup>99</sup> 12 pk. 12 oz. cans

**Blue Moon Specialty Beers** \$13<sup>99</sup> 15 pk. 12 oz. cans

**Bud, Bud Light or Bud Select 55 Beer** \$15<sup>99</sup> 24 pk. 12 oz. cans

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**Miller High Life Beer** \$18<sup>59</sup> 30 pk. 12 oz. cans

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**Sutter Home  
California  
Wines**  
**\$6.99**  
1.5 ltr.



**All Varieties  
Apothic  
Wines** **\$7.49** 750 ml.

**14 Hands  
Wines** **\$7.99** 750 ml.

**Chateau St. Michelle  
Sweet  
Wines** **\$7.99** 750 ml.

**Meiomi Cabernet or  
Pinot Noir  
Wines** **\$16.99** 750 ml.

**Peter Vella White, Blush, Red or  
Sangria Boxed  
Wines** **\$11.49** 5 ltr.

**All Flavors  
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Champagnes** **\$3.99** 750 ml.

**Risata Moscato D'asti  
Sparkling  
Wines** **\$11.49** 750 ml.



**LaMarca  
Prosecco  
Wine** **\$13.99** 750 ml.

**Joel Gott  
815 Cabernet  
Wine** **\$11.99** 750 ml.

**Kendall Jackson Vinters Reserve  
Chardonnay  
Wine** **\$9.99** 750 ml.

**Roscato  
Sweet  
Wines** **\$7.99** 750 ml.



**Menage A Trois  
California  
Wines** **\$6.99** 750 ml.

**William  
Hill  
Wines** **\$9.49** 750 ml.

**Von Stiehl  
Holiday & Winter  
Wines** **\$7.99** 750 ml.

**Louis M. Martini  
Cabernet  
Wine** **\$13.99** 750 ml.



**Door Peninsula  
Christmas  
Wines** **\$7.99** 750 ml.



**White Haven  
Sauvignon Blanc  
Wine** **\$11.49** 750 ml.

**Cabernet or Pinot Noir  
Edna Valley  
Wine** **\$9.69** 750 ml.

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Merlot, Sauvignon Blanc or Pinot Grigio  
Edna Valley  
Wine** **\$8.99** 750 ml.

**Mirassou  
California  
Wines** **\$6.99** 750 ml.



**All Flavors  
White Claw Hard  
Seltzers** **\$16.29** 12 pk. 12 oz. cans

**All Flavors  
Vizzy Hard  
Seltzers** **\$16.29** 12 pk. 12 oz. cans

**All Flavors  
Truly Hard  
Seltzers** **\$16.29** 12 pk. 12 oz. cans



**Regular or Light  
Busch  
Beer** **\$18.59** 30 pk. 12 oz. cans

**Pabst  
Blue Ribbon  
Beer** **\$17.49** 30 pk. 12 oz. cans

**Light  
Keystone  
Beer** **\$15.49** 30 pk. 12 oz. cans



**Miller Lite, Genuine Draft or  
Miller 64  
Beer** **\$15.99** 24 pk. 12 oz. cans/NR

**LIQUOR  
DEPT.  
OPEN  
7AM-9PM**



**Regular or Light  
Coors  
Beer** **\$15.99** 24 pk. 12 oz. cans/NR



# BEAT The Expert



**Morgan Rode**  
NEW Media Sports Editor

## Week 14 Games: Sunday, Dec. 12

Teams on bye:  
Indianapolis, Miami, New England & Philadelphia

Pittsburgh @ Minnesota ..... Thurs., Dec. 9  
Atlanta @ Carolina  
San Francisco @ Cincinnati  
Seattle @ Houston  
Las Vegas @ Kansas City  
New Orleans @ NY Jets  
Jacksonville @ Tennessee  
Dallas @ Washington  
Detroit @ Denver  
NY Giants @ LA Chargers  
Buffalo @ Tampa Bay  
Chicago @ Green Bay  
LA Rams @ Arizona ..... Mon., Dec. 13

Tie Breaker Game:  
Baltimore @ Cleveland

### Weekly Standings

|                                     | Weekly<br>Record | Overall<br>Record |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| God's Purpose Apparel .....         | 10-4             | 129-64-1          |
| Shawano Seasons Restaurant .....    | 10-4             | 121-72-1          |
| Tim Murphy .....                    | 8-6              | 121-72-1          |
| Dennis Brei .....                   | 9-5              | 120-73-1          |
| 22 Shell .....                      | 9-5              | 119-74-1          |
| Buss Automotive .....               | 8-6              | 119-74-1          |
| Tower Clock Eye Center .....        | 9-5              | 119-74-1          |
| Hawkeye Hearth & Home .....         | 8-6              | 117-76-1          |
| Shawano Place Assisted Living ..... | 9-5              | 117-76-1          |

### Weekly Standings

|                                                 | Weekly<br>Record | Overall<br>Record |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Smokey Joe's .....                              | 9-5              | 117-76-1          |
| Morgan Rode .....                               | 8-6              | 116-77-1          |
| Idell Johnston State Farm Insurance Agent ..... | 8-6              | 116-77-1          |
| B & C Auto Recycling .....                      | 10-4             | 115-78-1          |
| Gehm's Club 117 .....                           | 10-4             | 112-81-1          |
| P & D Sales & Service .....                     | 9-5              | 112-81-1          |
| Cirrinity/Wittenberg Telephone .....            | 8-6              | 104-89-1          |
| Iverson's Piggly Wiggly .....                   | 9-5              | 103-90-1          |
| Senn Insurance .....                            | 9-5              | 99-94-1           |



## This Week's Winner: Gehm's Club 117



Morgan Rode  
Shawano  
Leader

### This Week's Picks:

|             |             |         |
|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Minnesota   | Tennessee   | Arizona |
| Carolina    | Dallas      |         |
| Cincinnati  | Denver      |         |
| Seattle     | LA Chargers |         |
| Kansas City | Tampa Bay   |         |
| New Orleans | Green Bay   |         |

### Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score : Baltimore 27 @ Cleveland 24



Tim Murphy  
Shawano  
Leader

### This Week's Picks:

|             |             |         |
|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Minnesota   | Tennessee   | Arizona |
| Carolina    | Dallas      |         |
| Cincinnati  | Denver      |         |
| Seattle     | LA Chargers |         |
| Kansas City | Tampa Bay   |         |
| New Orleans | Green Bay   |         |

### Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 16 @ Cleveland 13



Dennis Brei  
Oconto County  
Times Herald

### This Week's Picks:

|             |             |         |
|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Pittsburgh  | Tennessee   | Arizona |
| Carolina    | Dallas      |         |
| Cincinnati  | Denver      |         |
| Seattle     | LA Chargers |         |
| Kansas City | Tampa Bay   |         |
| New Orleans | Green Bay   |         |

### Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 21 @ Cleveland 17



# FOLLOW YOUR FAVORITES!



Toby  
B&C Auto  
Recycling

## This Week's Picks:

|               |             |         |
|---------------|-------------|---------|
| Minnesota     | Tennessee   | Arizona |
| Carolina      | Dallas      |         |
| San Francisco | Denver      |         |
| Seattle       | LA Chargers |         |
| Kansas City   | Tampa Bay   |         |
| NY Jets       | Green Bay   |         |

### Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 27 @ Cleveland 24



Iverson's Staff  
Iverson's  
Piggly Wiggly

## This Week's Picks:

|             |             |         |
|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Minnesota   | Tennessee   | LA Rams |
| Atlanta     | Dallas      |         |
| Cincinnati  | Denver      |         |
| Houston     | LA Chargers |         |
| Kansas City | Tampa Bay   |         |
| New Orleans | Green Bay   |         |

### Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 24 @ Cleveland 17



Amber  
Smokey Joe's  
& JDoggs

## This Week's Picks:

|             |             |         |
|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Minnesota   | Tennessee   | Arizona |
| Carolina    | Dallas      |         |
| Cincinnati  | Denver      |         |
| Seattle     | LA Chargers |         |
| Kansas City | Tampa Bay   |         |
| New Orleans | Green Bay   |         |

### Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 17 @ Cleveland 21



Robert Buss  
Buss  
Automotive

## This Week's Picks:

|             |             |         |
|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Pittsburgh  | Tennessee   | Arizona |
| Carolina    | Washington  |         |
| Cincinnati  | Denver      |         |
| Seattle     | LA Chargers |         |
| Kansas City | Buffalo     |         |
| New Orleans | Green Bay   |         |

### Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 21 @ Cleveland 24



Dena  
P&D Sales  
& Service

## This Week's Picks:

|             |             |         |
|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Pittsburgh  | Tennessee   | Arizona |
| Carolina    | Dallas      |         |
| Cincinnati  | Denver      |         |
| Seattle     | LA Chargers |         |
| Kansas City | Tampa Bay   |         |
| New Orleans | Green Bay   |         |

### Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 20 @ Cleveland 17



Caroline  
Idell Johnston  
State Farm Agent

## This Week's Picks:

|             |             |         |
|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Minnesota   | Tennessee   | LA Rams |
| Carolina    | Dallas      |         |
| Cincinnati  | Denver      |         |
| Seattle     | LA Chargers |         |
| Kansas City | Tampa Bay   |         |
| New Orleans | Green Bay   |         |

### Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 30 @ Cleveland 13



Scott Nyman  
Cirinity

## This Week's Picks:

|             |             |         |
|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Pittsburgh  | Tennessee   | Arizona |
| Atlanta     | Dallas      |         |
| Cincinnati  | Detroit     |         |
| Seattle     | LA Chargers |         |
| Kansas City | Tampa Bay   |         |
| New Orleans | Green Bay   |         |

### Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 28 @ Cleveland 31



In Memory of  
Patty Lasher  
Shawano Seasons  
Restaurant

## This Week's Picks:

|             |             |         |
|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Minnesota   | Tennessee   | Arizona |
| Atlanta     | Dallas      |         |
| Cincinnati  | Denver      |         |
| Seattle     | LA Chargers |         |
| Kansas City | Tampa Bay   |         |
| NY Jets     | Green Bay   |         |

### Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 31 @ Cleveland 24



Jim Wiegand  
Tower Clock  
Eye Center

## This Week's Picks:

|             |             |         |
|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Pittsburgh  | Tennessee   | Arizona |
| Atlanta     | Dallas      |         |
| Cincinnati  | Denver      |         |
| Seattle     | LA Chargers |         |
| Kansas City | Tampa Bay   |         |
| New Orleans | Green Bay   |         |

### Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 27 @ Cleveland 21



Russ  
Gehm's  
Club 117

## This Week's Picks:

|             |             |         |
|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Minnesota   | Tennessee   | Arizona |
| Carolina    | Dallas      |         |
| Cincinnati  | Denver      |         |
| Seattle     | LA Chargers |         |
| Kansas City | Tampa Bay   |         |
| New Orleans | Green Bay   |         |

### Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 20 @ Cleveland 35



Shane Senn  
Senn  
Insurance

## This Week's Picks:

|               |             |         |
|---------------|-------------|---------|
| Minnesota     | Tennessee   | Arizona |
| Carolina      | Washington  |         |
| San Francisco | Denver      |         |
| Seattle       | LA Chargers |         |
| Kansas City   | Tampa Bay   |         |
| NY Jets       | Green Bay   |         |

### Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 21 @ Cleveland 23



Brenda  
22 Shell

## This Week's Picks:

|             |             |         |
|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Minnesota   | Tennessee   | Arizona |
| Carolina    | Dallas      |         |
| Cincinnati  | Denver      |         |
| Seattle     | LA Chargers |         |
| Kansas City | Tampa Bay   |         |
| New Orleans | Green Bay   |         |

### Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 17 @ Cleveland 16



Chris  
God's Purpose  
Apparel

## This Week's Picks:

|             |           |         |
|-------------|-----------|---------|
| Minnesota   | Tennessee | Arizona |
| Atlanta     | Dallas    |         |
| Cincinnati  | Denver    |         |
| Seattle     | NY Giants |         |
| Kansas City | Buffalo   |         |
| New Orleans | Green Bay |         |

### Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 21 @ Cleveland 24



Aaron  
Shawano  
Place

## This Week's Picks:

|               |             |         |
|---------------|-------------|---------|
| Minnesota     | Tennessee   | LA Rams |
| Atlanta       | Washington  |         |
| San Francisco | Detroit     |         |
| Seattle       | LA Chargers |         |
| Kansas City   | Tampa Bay   |         |
| New Orleans   | Green Bay   |         |

### Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 30 @ Cleveland 34



Dale  
Hawkeye  
Hearth & Home

## This Week's Picks:

|               |             |         |
|---------------|-------------|---------|
| Pittsburgh    | Tennessee   | LA Rams |
| Carolina      | Dallas      |         |
| San Francisco | Denver      |         |
| Seattle       | LA Chargers |         |
| Las Vegas     | Tampa Bay   |         |
| New Orleans   | Green Bay   |         |

### Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Baltimore 21 @ Cleveland 7

## Follow The Pack With Us!

| Green Bay Football<br>2021 Season |          |                            |      |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------------------------|------|
| SEPTEMBER - REGULAR SEASON        |          |                            |      |
| Sunday, September 12              | 3:25 pm  | @ New Orleans Saints       | FOX  |
| Monday, September 20              | 7:35 pm  | DETROIT LIONS              | ESPN |
| Sunday, September 26              | 7:30 pm  | @ San Francisco 49ers      | NBC  |
| OCTOBER                           |          |                            |      |
| Sunday, October 03                | 3:25 pm  | Pittsburgh Steelers (GOLD) | CBS  |
| Thursday, October 10              | NOON*    | @ Cincinnati Bengals       | FOX  |
| Sunday, October 17                | NOON*    | @ Chicago Bears            | FOX  |
| Sunday, October 24                | NOON*    | WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM   | FOX  |
| Thursday, October 28              | 7:30 pm  | @ Arizona Cardinals        | FOX  |
| NOVEMBER                          |          |                            |      |
| Sunday, November 07               | 3:25 pm* | @ Kansas City Chiefs       | FOX  |
| Sunday, November 14               | 3:25 pm* | SEATTLE SEAHAWKS           | CBS  |
| Sunday, November 21               | NOON*    | @ Minnesota Vikings        | FOX  |
| Sunday, November 28               | 5:25 pm* | LOS ANGELES RAMS (GOLD)    | FOX  |
| DECEMBER                          |          |                            |      |
| BYE WEEK                          |          |                            |      |
| Sunday, December 12               | 7:20 pm* | INDIANAPOLIS COLTS         | NBC  |
| Sunday, December 19               | NOON*    | @ Baltimore Ravens         | FOX  |
| Saturday, December 25             | 3:30 pm  | CLEVELAND BROWNS           | FOX  |
| JANUARY                           |          |                            |      |
| Sunday, January 02                | 7:20 pm* | MINNESOTA VIKINGS          | NBC  |
| Sunday, January 09                | NOON*    | @ Detroit Lions            | FOX  |



# NOTEBOOK

By **BILL HUBER**  
Correspondent

## Post bye struggles

Coming off a bye should be a tremendous advantage. Oddly, it's not.

Under coach Matt LaFleur, the Green Bay Packers lost 37-8 at San Francisco following their week 11 bye in 2019 and 38-10 at Tampa Bay following their week five bye in 2020. It's also worth recalling the Packers hosted the Seahawks and the Rams after their byes this season and won both games.

League-wide, teams coming off their bye this season are 12-11-1. Teams coming off their bye and playing at home, like Green Bay will be on Sunday night against the Chicago Bears, are 5-4.

Regardless, it was a badly needed break for LaFleur's crew. By injury impact, they've been the most-injured team in the NFL, according to ManGamesLost.com.

LaFleur was optimistic that three star players who've barely played this season, All-Pro left tackle David Bakhtiari (knee), All-Pro cornerback Jaire Alexander (shoulder) and Pro Bowl outside linebacker Za'Darius Smith (back), could return to practice this week.

Running back Aaron Jones (knee) and quarterback Aaron Rodgers (toe) should be a week healthier. After a long 12-week grind, the team should be refreshed for the pivotal stretch run.

"I think that's always the hope when you have such a late bye," said LaFleur, whose team took advantage of last year's playoff bye to beat the Rams 32-18 in the divisional round. "It breaks your season in terms of we've got five games left in the regular season and then, hopefully, some games after that. But I hope it gets the guys rejuvenated for the final push that we're about to encounter."

For LaFleur, the week off was about recharging batteries and studying his team's tendencies. With a dozen games behind him, there's a lot to digest. He also got a sneak peak at the next two opponents. As a happy coincidence, the Bears hosted Arizona in the noon time slot and Baltimore was at Pittsburgh in the afternoon window. Those are the next opponents on the docket.

"I would say the primary focus is on yourself but, yeah, you're definitely taking notice when you're sitting there watching the Bears game



**Green Bay Packers coach Matt LaFleur looks on during the team's game against the Minnesota Vikings on Nov. 21 in Minneapolis. LaFleur is looking to pick up his first win after the team's bye week, after having lost in his first two years.**

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

vs. Arizona, and the Baltimore, Pittsburgh game," LaFleur said. "You're always kind of taking in just observations as you're watching it, but as far as really dissecting it the way we do when we watch our coaches' copies, I would say it's at a totally different level."

## Race for homefield advantage

With five games remaining, the top three teams in the NFC are separated by one game. Arizona leads the way with a 10-2 record. Last year's NFC title game participants, Green Bay and Tampa Bay, are one game back at 9-3.

While all three teams face cumulative schedules of below .500, the Cardinals have by far the toughest remaining slate. Their five remaining opponents are a combined 28-32-1, but that changes to 27-22 once woeful Detroit is taken out of the equation.



In the case of a three-team tie, Green Bay as it stands today would be the No. 1 seed. The first tiebreaker is head-to-head, which wouldn't apply in this case because the three teams did not play each other.

The next tiebreaker is conference record. Green Bay and Arizona have two losses and Tampa Bay has three. That would eliminate the Buccaneers.

The tiebreaker then goes back to the top with head-to-head, which Green Bay won on Rasul Douglas' end-zone interception.

The No. 1 seed is huge because it provides the only bye into the divisional round. Playing at Lambeau Field is an obvious advantage, but Arizona is 7-0 at home this season and Tampa Bay, of course, won at Green Bay in last year's NFC Championship Game.

Here are the remaining schedules:

Arizona: home vs. the Rams (8-4), at Detroit (1-10-1), home vs. Indianapolis (7-6), at Dallas (8-4), home vs. Seattle (4-8). Total: 28-32-1. Home-away: 3-2. Winning record: 3.

Green Bay: home vs. Chicago (4-8), at Baltimore (8-4), home vs. Cleveland (6-6), home vs. Minnesota (5-7), at Detroit (1-10-1). Total:

24-35-1. Home-away: 3-2. Winning record: 1.

Tampa Bay: home vs. Buffalo (7-4), home vs. New Orleans (5-7), at Carolina (5-7), at N.Y. Jets (3-9), home vs. Carolina (5-7). Total: 25-34. Home-away: 3-2. Winning record: 1.

### Jones nominated for major honor

Jones is the Packers' nominee for the NFL's Walter Payton Man of the Year.

A Pro Bowl running back on the field, Jones has been active in the Green Bay community and his hometown of El Paso, Texas. He and his brother, Alvin Jr., founded the A&A All the Way Foundation. Jones also started the Yards for Shoes campaign in which he donates one pair of shoes for every rushing yard.

"It means everything to me," Jones told Packers.com. "Me and my family have always been big on giving back to the community and different things like that. Just to be mentioned in the same sentence as some of these guys who are nominated or some of these guys who have won before is a huge honor."

All 32 nominees will receive up to a \$40,000 donation in their name to their charity of choice. The win-

ner, which will be announced during NFL Honors on the eve of the Super Bowl, will receive a \$250,000 donation.

"The Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award is the league's most prestigious honor, and these 32 men represent their many teammates who do incredible things in their communities," Commissioner Roger Goodell said. "Their unwavering commitment to their hometowns and team communities embodies Walter's spirit of giving back in a way that makes us all incredibly proud of the work they are doing every day."

### Packers-Bears, round 2

For the second and final time this season, it's Packers vs. Bears.

Green Bay won round one, 24-14, on Oct. 17. Rodgers' 6-yard touchdown run with 4:30 remaining, in which he declared to all the world that he owned the Bears, was the clinching score.

"I always think the second time you play somebody, it's challenging for both teams because you're going to rely on a lot that went right and/or wrong the first time you played," LaFleur said, "and you're going to try to play that chess game in terms of how are you going to adjust? Ev-

ery time you play the Chicago Bears, you know it's going to be a physical, four-quarter battle and that was what it was like the first time around and I would expect nothing different the second time around."

This is Green Bay's third full decade of overwhelming dominance in the series. Over the past 30 seasons, the Packers own a commanding 45-15 advantage, including a victory in the 2010 NFC Championship Game. Why? Quarterbacks, of course. During those 60 matchups:

Passer rating: Packers, 93.8; Bears, 66.8.

Completion percentage: Packers, 63.7; Bears, 57.1.

Touchdowns/interceptions: Packers, 113/52; Bears, 58/91.

For his career, Rodgers is 22-5 against Chicago. One of those losses came in 2013, when he suffered a broken collarbone on the opening series. In 26 regular-season starts, he's thrown 57 touchdowns vs. 10 interceptions, good for a 107.7 passer rating. He's 13-0 when he tops a 100 passer rating.

Green Bay has won five in a row in the series. Rodgers has 12 touchdowns vs. zero interceptions during those games compared to five touchdowns vs. seven interceptions for Chicago's quarterbacks.

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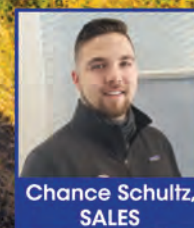


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## SERENDIPITY BY SAMI OPENS IN OCONTO FALLS

Samantha Messersmith wraps a package at her new Serendipity by Sami retail store in Oconto Falls. A ribbon-cutting ceremony Dec. 2 came just in time for Christmas shopping. **SEE STORY ON PAGE 6-7**

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA



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# 5 ways to protect your holiday budget

It may be the season of cheer, but for many, the holidays are rife with anxiety about expenses. A recent survey shows that staying on budget is Americans' top concern this holiday season, followed by incurring long-term debt, shipping costs and being charged late or hidden fees.

Here are five tips to protect your holiday budget:

- Set a spending cap with friends and family. Americans plan to spend \$998 on gifts this holiday season, according to the National Retail Federation. 'Tis the season for giving, but make sure you don't overspend. Know your budget up front and communicate that with loved ones. Another idea to limit spending is to put everyone's name into a hat. Each person draws one name and buys a gift for just the person they selected. You can add a bit of intrigue by keeping the identity of your recipient a secret until you open gifts!
- Take advantage of deal days. Timing is everything for getting the best prices. Do your homework in advance to pay significantly less. The



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typical big sales days include Super Saturday before Christmas, which is great for last-minute gifts.

- Purchase gift cards with peace of mind. Gift cards are a popular, convenient gift, but some would-be buyers may hesitate to purchase them out of fear that the business may end up closing, especially

those still struggling during the ongoing pandemic. Erie Insurance is taking away that concern with gift card reimbursement coverage, which is provided to certain eligible homeowners at no additional charge. The coverage provides reimbursement for up to \$250 per gift card at local businesses within 100

miles of a customer's home if the business permanently closes within a year after purchase. Reimbursement coverage is limited to \$500 per policy period.

- Track when products are discounted with a browser extension. Do you want the best deals but don't have the time to spend searching for them? There are extensions you can download on web browsers that will compare prices and even apply the best coupon codes at checkout.

- Use credit card rewards. You've earned those points throughout the year and now is a great time to cash them in. The simplest way to use points is for gift cards, as it's one of the top requested gifts and there are many categories to choose from, including restaurants, clothing and grocery stores. Another option is to take advantage of the money saved from a statement credit to cover the expense of holiday gifts.

Being mindful of your spending now can help you have a low-stress holiday season and start the new year off on the right foot.



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# Protect kids by steering clear of knock-off toys this holiday season

(StatePoint) In the scramble to get your hands on the toys your children want this holiday season, experts warn that you should prioritize safety by sticking to age-appropriate toys and by avoiding counterfeit alternatives at all costs.

“Illicit sellers of counterfeit toys may dupe parents into thinking they’re buying the real thing, or entice them with lower prices or the promise of getting the ‘hot toy’ of the holiday season,” says Joan Lawrence, The Toy Association’s “Toy Safety Mom” and senior vice president of standards and regulatory affairs. “What’s scary is that these illegitimate sellers are actually peddling fake and unsafe products that oftentimes don’t comply with product safety laws. That’s why we always urge parents to shop from reputable brands and sellers whose toys have been tested for compliance with over 100 different safety standards and tests required by law.”

With the shipping crisis predicted to have widespread impacts on the availability of this holiday season’s most popular toys, counterfeits are likely to be even more enticing. And new research conducted by OnePoll



on behalf of The Toy Association suggests that consumers are not always as vigilant as they should be, with 65% of parents saying they would purchase knock-off/counterfeit toys if they couldn’t get their hands on the original item and 63% indicating they would buy counterfeits if they were cheaper. Indeed one in 10 parents are not even aware that counterfeit toys can be dangerous for kids to play with.

As you go about looking to snag a hot toy this holiday season, steer clear of counterfeit toys that are not safe or appropriate for your child by following these tips from PlaySafe.org:

1. Shop only from reputable brands and sellers. Their toys have been tested for compliance with over 100 different safety standards and tests required by law.

2. Make sure the brand you’re purchasing from has a professional-looking website. Can’t find a website? That may be a red flag that you are dealing with an illicit seller.

3. If a product’s reviews are negative, or if there aren’t many, it’s a clue the product could be a fake.

4. Poorly photoshopped pictures, typos, or spelling mistakes in the online description or packaging are other clues that the product could be illegitimate, and therefore unsafe.

5. Can’t find a toy on your child’s wish list? Wait for a trusted retailer to restock the product. Buying fake or cheaper alternatives is just not worth the risk.

In addition to avoiding knockoff toys, helping ensure your child’s safety during the gift-giving season also means shopping for toys only appropriate for their age. According to The Toy Association survey, 76% of parents read age recommendations on toy packaging before purchasing. However, 40% admitted they view age labels on toys as suggestions instead of a warning, and 68% would give their child a toy recommended for older children. Be sure to follow age recommendations on toy packaging, which are not mere suggestions but firm recommendations made by safety experts that are based on childhood developmental stages.

For more safe shopping tips, visit [www.PlaySafe.org](http://www.PlaySafe.org), a premier toy safety resource site.

“With your vigilance, you can keep the merriest time of year happy, healthy and joyful by ensuring your child doesn’t unwrap a potential safety hazard,” says Lawrence.

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# Serendipity by Sami gets a brick-and-mortar home

Homemade crafts business created at home has grown since 2018

By **WARREN BLUHM**  
Editor-in-chief

Like many entrepreneurs, Samantha Messersmith's success story starts on one of the worst days of her career.

Not long after completing her master's degree in business in 2018, Messersmith came into work at her job as marketing director and discovered her workplace's entire senior staff was being laid off.

It didn't stop her for long. Shortly thereafter, Messersmith launched Serendipity by Sami out of her home in Suamico. Earlier this year, she moved the business into its own production and retail space at 223 Van Buren St. in Oconto Falls.

"I've always been the crafty type," she said Dec. 2 after the Oconto Falls Area Chamber of Commerce staged a ribbon-cutting in honor of the store. The business features gifts of all shapes, sizes and colors, almost all of them handcrafted by "Sami" herself.

She also offers a limited number of products by other folks, including wooden Santas and evergreens crafted by Laney's Let Us and soaps by Pineview Homemade Soaps — the keywords being "crafted" and "homemade." All of the offerings are one-of-a-kind.

That dark day in 2018 was the worst moment in an otherwise momentous year. In addition to starting her own business ("I don't have to report to anyone anymore"), her husband, Jordan, came home from a stint with the Marines, and she gave birth to her daughter, Rowan.

Serendipity by Sami has flexible hours: Messersmith aims to be open from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, but she generally doesn't turn people away if they drop by while she's working.

For information, visit the Serendipity by Sami page on Facebook.



Oconto Falls Area Chamber of Commerce representatives cheer after Samantha Messersmith, center, cuts the ceremonial ribbon at her Serendipity by Sami store and workspace at 223 Van Buren St., Oconto Falls. From left are Sue Laskowski, Danielle Kline, City Administrator Vicki Roberts, Messersmith with scissors, Chamber President Gail Yatso and Debbie Arndt.



Samantha Messersmith started her Serendipity by Sami business out of her home in Suamico but recently moved to a storefront on Van Buren Street in Oconto Falls.





**CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE:** Yarn gnomes and plastic critters are among the handmade Christmas ornaments available at Serendipity by Sami; Everything at Serendipity by Sami is handmade and one-of-a-kind; Shoppers peruse the handmade merchandise at Serendipity by Sami after a ribbon-cutting on Dec. 2; Tumblers rotate as they slowly dry in various stages of completion at Serendipity by Sami in Oconto Falls. Owner/creator Samantha Messersmith says the stainless steel tumblers undergo a transformation that may involve paint, sand, glitter or other colorful materials, and every step needs a layer of epoxy.



**PHOTOS BY WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA**





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## US jobless claims rise by 28,000, but still considered low

**By PAUL WISEMAN**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits rose last week even though the U.S. job market has been rebounding from last year's coronavirus recession.

Jobless claims climbed by 28,000 to 222,000 from the previous week's 52-year low 194,000, the Labor Department reported Thursday. The four-week average of claims, which smooths out week-to-week ups and downs, fell below 239,000, a pandemic low.

Since topping 900,000 in early January, the weekly applications — a proxy for layoffs — have been falling more or less steadily.

Overall, 2 million Americans were receiving traditional jobless benefits the week that ended Nov. 20, down by 107,000 from the week before.

Until Sept. 6, the federal government had supplemented state unemployment insurance programs by paying an extra payment of \$300 a week and extending benefits to gig workers and to those who were out of work for six months or more. Including the federal programs, the number of Americans receiving some

form of jobless aid peaked at more than 33 million in June 2020.

The job market has rebounded strongly since the spring of 2020 when the coronavirus pandemic forced businesses to close or cut hours and kept many Americans at home as a health precaution. In March and April last year, employers slashed more than 22 million jobs.

But government relief checks, super-low interest rates and the rollout of vaccines combined to give consumers the confidence and financial wherewithal to start spending again. Employers, scrambling to meet an unexpected surge in demand, have

made 18 million new hires since April 2020, and the jobs report out Friday is expected to show that they added another 535,000 in November. Still, the United States remains 4 million short of the jobs it had in February 2020.

Companies now complain that they can't find workers to fill job openings, a near-record 10.4 million in September. Workers, finding themselves with bargaining clout for the first time in decades, are becoming choosier about jobs; a record 4.4 million quit in September, a sign they have confidence in their ability to find something better.

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