

## BOYS CLAIM REGIONAL TITLE

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School boys basketball team claimed its first regional title in 30 years. SEE HOW THEY DID IT, PAGE 22.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

## SCARY days ahead on snow machines

Young snowmobile enthusiasts are invited to join SCARY, a countywide organization.

**PAGE 3**

## Former teacher makes barn quilt coloring book

A retired teacher with ties to the Town of Norrie has published his fourth coloring book of Shawano County quilts.

**PAGE 12**

## Witt-Birn and Tigerton FFA move forward

The activities look different this year, but FFA groups continue to hold events and celebrate what they've accomplished.

**PAGE 18**



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## BOOKS & STUFF

# November winds roar through pact of silence

I was thrilled to find another book by Aaron Stander. His “Gales of November” really fit the weather we’ve been experiencing.

Elizabeth ‘Bitsy’ Morgan is a freshman at Leiston Academy. Her roommate is the talented and very popular Alex Bishop. Alex, Bitsy, Tony, Richard and four others with nowhere else to go over Thanksgiving break, were scheduled to do a wilderness camping trip in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula when their team leader is injured.



JAN JONES

Oddly, the headmaster puts the French teacher Etienne Falconet in charge and closes the school. By day two things go south. Richard hands out drug-laced snacks, then disappears into the woods only to reappear with two scruffy “Yoopers.” After drinking heavily, they attack Etienne, but the slender man bests them with ease.

Tony tries to help but ends up with a compound fracture of his leg. As a major winter storm begins, Etienne decides to go for help, leaving the campers to care for Tony as the storm rages. While waiting for rescue, the group makes a pact of silence about the booze and the Yoopers. No one knows that Bitsy has recorded everything in her journal.

After two harrowing days their bus driver, Mike Kniivala, arrives

## AT A GLANCE

**BOOK:** “Gales of November: A Ray Elkins Thriller”

**AUTHOR:** Aaron Stander

**PUBLISHER:** Writers & Editors, LLC

**PUBLISHED:** 2017

**PAGES:** 250

with help, but no one has seen Etienne.

Twenty-five years later Richard is very wealthy and manages to entice the entire group to what is now the Leiston Conference Center for a “reunion,” but his plans didn’t include a massive snowstorm. Sheriff Ray Elkins has declared a snow emergency closing all roads when Sgt. Sue Lawrence walks in. She was supposed to be spending a romantic weekend in Chicago with her boyfriend, but she left abruptly after finding a strange toothbrush in his bathroom.

Before they can discuss the situation, Ray gets a 911 call. The body of a 42-year-old woman has been found at the Conference Center. Ray and Sue grab their gear and head into the snow. The snow is so deep they get stuck and must snowshoe the last two miles. Gary Zatanski takes them to the body. It is Elizabeth “Bitsy” Morgan.

Since they can’t leave, Ray and Sue are assigned one of the cottages and move the body into another one next door. Then they go to the main lodge and meet the others. Most are nursing massive hangovers and not at all helpful, but eventually bits about the ill-fated camping trip come out.

As Ray and Sue dig, they recognize the rising tension among the



group. Most didn’t want to be there but came because Richard either pressured or bribed them. It appears that he has some unfinished business planned. When Alex wins the Saturday night

fencing tournament, Richard’s temper flairs and more tidbits come out. Later that night all hell breaks loose. By morning several people are injured, and Tony and Gordon are dead.

They eventually learn that the events of that camping trip were actually pre-planned and fueled by simmering jealousy, drugs, alcohol, inappropriate relationships between faculty and students and an attempt to set things right. Richard was angry that Alex had had a sexual relationship with Etienne, but Etienne was having affairs with several others at the same time. He had Mike hire the two Yoopers to rough up Etienne, but he was trained in martial arts and fought back.

Mike confesses that the two hired Yoopers probably caught Etienne before he reached the road. They probably didn’t kill him, but it is assumed he died in the woods as he was never seen again. When helicopters and snowmobiles are finally able to reach the Center Ray and Sue only want to finish the paperwork, get a hot shower and sleep a deep sleep in their own beds.

## Serve Wisconsin dealing with racial disparities

Serve Wisconsin is seeking to place 20 AmeriCorps VISTA members in nonprofits, schools and government agencies working to end poverty due to racial disparities.

VISTA members will help organizations led by Black, Indigenous, and people of color increase their capacity to provide the services that will end racial disparity and create a just Wisconsin.

VISTA Members can help organi-

zations with resource development, design or improve an organization’s programming, conduct a community asset and needs assessment, develop the support systems to recruit and manage volunteers, and more.

“According to the 2019 Race in the Heartland report, Wisconsin is ranked among the nation’s worst states for racial inequality. AmeriCorps VISTA members can provide crucial support to nonprofits and

government agencies working to address systemic inequality. Specifically, we are targeting historically underfunded BIPOC-lead organizations for this initiative,” said Jeanne Duffy, Executive Director of Serve Wisconsin.

For information, go to <https://www.servewisconsin.wi.gov/vista> and contact Jeanne Duffy at [jeanne.duffy@wisconsin.gov](mailto:jeanne.duffy@wisconsin.gov) or 608-692-4121.



# New youth snowmobile club forming in Shawano County

## SCARY reaches out to middle and high school age students

A new organization for student snowmobile enthusiasts is forming in Shawano County.

SCARY Snowmobile Club is an effort to grow the number of snowmobile enthusiasts in middle school and high school. SCARY is an acronym for Shawano County Area Riding Youth and is open to any student age 12-18 who resides in a school district that is at least partly in Shawano County. SCARY held its first event Feb. 18.

SCARY snowmobile club was initiated by a group of parents and the Shawano County Trail Association. Among the youth leaders is Michaela Gleason, who was recently appointed by the trail association to be the Shawano County representative for the statewide youth organization Kids and Adults on Snowmobiles (KAOS).

At the state level, KAOS is designed to recruit and develop future snowmobile club leaders. Gleason will represent Shawano County at a number of statewide events throughout the year and report back to the trail association about youth events and projects.

The countywide youth organization aims to have affiliate clubs at each high school in Shawano County. The affiliate clubs will be led and organized by students, with adult advisers when the school requires it. When asked what she looks forward to most about the new club, Gleason said, "It'll be fun to get together with other people my age and ride. I hope we get a lot of kids interested."

Youth and adults who are interested in starting an affiliate at their high school can contact club leadership at [scarysnowmobile@gmail.com](mailto:scarysnowmobile@gmail.com).

There are currently two affiliates started. Tigerton and Marion students have led the way and are anticipating more area clubs next year. When asked, "Why have a snowmobile club?" the students indicated a need for more people their age to ride with and a desire for youth-centered trail rides.

Another goal of the youth movement is to assure a pipeline of future leaders for area clubs.

Adult leaders for the organization aim to involve the students in the projects and events of existing area snowmobile clubs. Brian Gleason, Marion club adviser, said: "The youth clubs are not intended to take the place of adult and family-oriented clubs but rather to complement them. All of our youth members are encouraged to belong to their local trail club."



New SCARY members participating in Tigerton Ride to School are, from left, Evan Gleason and Michaela Gleason.

CONTRIBUTED



Marion Junior/Senior High School SCARY riders are, from left, Aidan Williamson, Kasey Roethle, Gary Spiegel, Ed Schoen, Gabby Olson and Bristol Miller.

CONTRIBUTED



The new SCARY logo

People interested in club activities can also follow the club on Facebook and Instagram @Scarysnowmobile.



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# PUBLIC RECORD

## SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

### Feb. 22

Deputies responded to 28 calls, including a harassment complaint on Maple Drive in the Town of Maple Grove; a threatening complaint on Lake Wagner Drive in the Town of Belle Plaine; an assault on Elm Street in Tigerton; a property damage complaint on Hazel Drive in the Town of Richmond; reckless driving complaints on state Highway 29 in the Town of Richmond and state Highway 29 in the Town of Maple Grove; two crashes.

### Feb. 21

Deputies responded to 38 calls, including three property damage complaints on Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; an operating without a license complaint on County Road N in the Town of Birnamwood; a reckless driving complaint on state Highway 29 in the Town of Morris; a juvenile alcohol complaint at Big Time Sports, W6014 Lake Drive; 14 crashes.

### Feb. 20

Deputies responded to 38 calls, including operating without a license calls on Cloverleaf Lake Road in the Town of Belle Plaine, state Highway 22 in the Town of Washington and state Highway 156 in the Town of Lessor; property theft complaints on Springbrook Road in the Town of Washington and County Road Q in the Town of Birnamwood; a reckless driving complaint on state Highway 29 in the Town of Herman; a harassment complaint on U.S. Highway 45 in Tigerton; seven crashes, two involving deer.

### Feb. 19

Deputies responded to 37 calls, including an operating while intoxicated call on County Road A in the Town of Bartelme; operating without a license complaints on Main Street in Bowler and state Highway 117 in Cecil; a trespassing complaint on Hofa Park Road in the Town of Lessor; a fraud complaint on U.S. Highway 45 in Tigerton; an assault at the Shawano County Jail, 405 N. Main St., Shawano; six crashes, one involving deer.

### Feb. 18

Deputies responded to 27 calls, including a repossession call on Vinal Street in Wittenberg; a property theft complaint on River Road in the Town of Bartelme; a drug complaint on County Road Q in the Town of Birnamwood; five crashes, one involving deer.

### Feb. 17

Deputies responded to 35 calls, including a juvenile alcohol complaint at Driftwood Inn, 714 Fourth St., Mattoon; a property theft complaint on Main Street in Birnamwood; an assault on North Warrington Avenue in Cecil; a burglary call on Cardinal Lane in the Town of Wittenberg; an intoxication complaint on Micks Road on the Stockbridge-Munsee Reservation; an operating without a license call on Hemlock Road in the Town of Wittenberg; 10 crashes, two involving deer.

### Feb. 16

Deputies responded to 33 calls, including drug complaints at the Shawano County Jail, 405 N. Main St., Shawano, and on state Highway 47 in the Town of Lessor; a bail jumping call on North Warrington Avenue in Cecil; a reckless driving complaint on state Highway 29 in the Town of Angelica; five crashes, one involving a snowmobile.

## SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

### Feb. 22

Officers responded to 23 calls, including a three-vehicle crash at state Highway 22 and County Road BE; a vehicle in a ditch at Airport Drive and East Green Bay Street; two found social security cards located at Kwik Trip, 1241 E. Green Bay St.; a fight in progress in the 600 block of West Picnic Street; a missing iPhone on Aspen Court; a shoplifting complaint at Qualheim's True Value, 1345 E. Green Bay St.; a reckless driving complaint at Main Street and Alpine Drive.

### Feb. 21

Officers responded to 12 calls, including a trespassing complaint at Goodwill Industries, 300 Lakeland Road; a debit card found in an ATM at Associated Bank, 129 E. Division St.; a fight in progress on Aspen Court; reckless driving complaints at Walmart, 1244 E. Green Bay St., and on Aspen Court.

### Feb. 20

Officers responded to 11 calls, including a property theft complaint on Humphrey Circle.

### Feb. 19

Officers responded to 21 calls, including a minor crash at Aldi's, 1253 E. Green Bay St.; a hit-and-run at Best Wash, 1348 E. Green Bay St.

### Feb. 18

Officers responded to 25 calls, including a crash with property damage at Waukechon Street and Birch Hill Lane; a juvenile returned home at an undisclosed location; a sexual assault on Union Street; a threatening complaint at ThedaCare Medical Center-Shawano, 100 County Road B; a gas drive-off at The Store, 404 E. Green Bay St.; a controlled substance problem at Walmart, 1244 E. Green Bay St.

### Feb. 17

Officers responded to 16 calls, including a non-injury crash at Lieg Avenue and Andrews Street; found property at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B.

### Feb. 16

Officers responded to 18 calls, including a crash with property damage at Walmart, 1244 E. Green Bay St.; an abandoned vehicle at Automotive Supply, 209 S. Main St.; a two-vehicle crash with injuries at Park and Elizabeth streets; a vehicle crash with deer at Green Bay and Waukechon streets; a medication theft at Little Caesar's, 1056 E. Green Bay St.

# COURT NEWS

Recent proceedings on Shawano-Menominee County District Court include:

- Ernest L. Wahsquonaikeshik, 26, Keshena, was charged Feb. 15 with operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (second offense), possession of THC (second offense or more), and possession with intent to deliver THC. Judge Katherine Sloma set a \$500 cash bond, and she will preside over a resumed initial appearance March 1.

- Jennifer Cloud, 35, Keshena, was charged Feb. 15 with driving or operating a vehicle without the owner's consent, possession of narcotic drugs, and misdemeanor counts of operating while revoked and bail jumping. Sloma set a \$500 cash bond, and Judge William F. Kussel Jr. was to preside over a resumed initial appearance Feb. 23.

- Colin D. Reissing, 34, Keshena, was charged Feb. 17 with felony bail jumping. Sloma set a \$2,500 signature bond, and Kussel will preside over a resumed initial appearance March 24.

- Matthew J. Chaplin, 38, Shawano, was charged Feb. 19 with aggravated battery intending bodily harm, four counts of felony bail jumping, and misdemeanor disorderly conduct. Sloma set a \$5,000 cash bond and will preside over a preliminary hearing Feb. 26.

- Nathan W. Pogrnt, 37, Shawano, was charged Feb. 19 with felony bail jumping and misdemeanor disorderly conduct. Kussel set a \$1,000 signature bond, and Sloma will preside over a preliminary hearing March 9.

- Ashley Bear, 32, Neopit, was charged Feb. 22 with possession of THC (second offense or more). Kussel set a \$1,500 signature bond and will preside over a preliminary hearing April 19.

- Rreece E. Nickol, 19, Shawano, was charged Feb. 22 with two counts of felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of resisting or obstructing an officer. Kussel set a \$500 cash bond and a \$1,500 signature bond, and a preliminary hearing was to be scheduled.

- Leslie A. Miller, 57, Neopit, was charged Feb. 22 with operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fifth or sixth offense), battery or threat to a law officer, and misdemeanor counts of operating while revoked, resisting or obstructing an officer, and bail jumping. Kussel set a \$7,500 cash bond, and a preliminary hearing was to be scheduled.

- Joseph E. Boyd, 31, Gillett, was charged Feb. 22 with nine counts of felony bail jumping, two misdemeanor counts of resisting or obstructing an officer, and one misdemeanor count of carrying a concealed knife. Kussel set a \$4,000 cash bond, and Sloma will preside over a resumed initial appearance March 1.

- Cruz Vasquez, 33, Bowler, was charged Feb. 22 with three counts of

felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor charge of operating with a revoked driver's license. Kussel set a \$500 cash bond, and Sloma will preside over a resumed initial appearance March 1.

- William V. Hanchett, 34, Shawano, was sentenced by Kussel on Feb. 15 to 30 months in state prison, followed by three years of extended supervision, for operating a motor vehicle and causing injury while intoxicated. He had been placed on three years of probation but violated conditions and was revoked Jan. 22. He was given credit for 288 days already served, and Kussel ruled him eligible for the challenge and substance abuse programs, which can lead to early release if successfully completed.

- Kenneth A. Burmeister, 43, Shawano, pleaded no contest Feb. 19 to possession of THC (second offense or more), felony bail jumping, and misdemeanor counts of possession of a controlled substance and possession of an illegally obtained prescription. Judge John B. Rohde withheld sentence and placed Burmeister on 30 months probation, with conditions including that he undergo an alcohol and other drug abuse assessment, maintain absolute sobriety, have no contact with known drug users or sellers, and obtain full-time employment with at least five job searches weekly. A 60-day jail sentence was imposed and stayed, and he was ordered to pay \$1,717.50 in fines and assessments.

- Cindy L. Reinke, 54, Bonduel, pleaded no contest Feb. 19 to operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fourth offense) and misdemeanor operating while revoked. Sloma sentenced her to 12 months in jail with Huber work-release and good time privileges and ordered her to pay \$5,221 in fines and assessments.

- Gavin S. Zernicke, 31, Shawano, pleaded no contest Feb. 19 to operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated. Kussel withheld sentence and placed him on three years probation, beginning with 60 days in the county jail with good time and work-release privileges, with another 120 days imposed but stayed for the Department of Corrections agent's use. He must undergo an alcohol and other drug abuse assessment, maintain absolute sobriety, and maintain full-time employment or at least five job searches weekly. His license is revoked for two years and he must install ignition interlock devices in any vehicles he owns.

- Sara A. Best, 42, Minocqua, pleaded no contest Feb. 18 to felony bail jumping and misdemeanor resisting or obstructing an officer. Five other bail jumping counts and a disorderly conduct charge were dismissed but read into the record. Kussel sentenced her to 136 days already served in jail and ordered her to pay \$806.20 in fines and assessments.



# OBITUARIES

Jeanne Waschbisch, 81, Oconto Falls, died suddenly Saturday morning, Feb. 20, 2021, of natural causes with family present. She was born Oct. 30, 1939, in Lena to Art and Leona (Luiser) Guelig. Jeanne grew up in rural Lena and attended public schools, graduating from high school with the Class of 1958. She went on to attend UW-Whitewater where she received a bachelor's degree in Business Education. She was later certified in Library Science.

On June 30, 1962, she married Frank Waschbisch at St. Charles Catholic Church in Lena. Following their marriage, the couple settled in Oconto Falls, and Jeanne taught for a time in Suring. Jeanne enjoyed helping others and asked nothing in return. Jeanne's real passion was reading, and she became a librarian at the Cook Memo-



rial Library in 1974 and retired in 2005 as head librarian in the Oconto Falls Library's new facility. Even after retirement, it wasn't unusual to see Jeanne in the library or volunteering in some capacity. Over the years she took part in Homemakers, Study Club, Oconto Falls Chamber of Commerce, Red Hatters and served as Secretary for Friends of the Library. Jeanne enjoyed square dancing with her husband, Frank, reading, going to and organizing rummage sales, puttering around in her flower garden, reading, spending time with family and friends and reading. Jeanne really enjoyed reading, learning new things

## Jeanne Waschbisch

Helen J. Goswitz, 88, of Manitowoc, passed away following a long illness on Thursday, Feb. 11, 2021, at the Sharon S. Richardson Community Hospice in Sheboygan Falls.

Helen was born May 20, 1932, in Shawano to the late Charles and Margaret Wood. She spent her youth growing up on a farm in Shawano and two years near Washington, D.C., during World War II. After graduating high school in Shawano, Helen attended Marquette University where she earned a degree in zoology along with her teaching certification. She taught high school biology at St. Joseph's Academy in Green Bay in the 1950s. While at Marquette, Helen met her ex-husband and father of her children, Dr. John T. Goswitz, of Manitowoc. Helen spent the early 1960s living in Germany

as an Army doctor's wife while raising her three children. After a short stay in Mankato, Minnesota, she moved to Manitowoc in 1966 where she resided until her death. In the 1970s, Helen was one of the first volunteers to sponsor a Laotian refugee family in Manitowoc County. She also began a multi-decade career working in the Manitowoc Public School District as a substitute teacher and library aide.

Helen loved corresponding with a lifetime of friends and relatives the world over. In the 2000s, she researched and compiled a family tree going back to the Revolutionary War that will be donated to the Shawano Historical Society. While compiling the family tree, Helen was so intrigued to learn about her cousin Orle Bergner, a World War II silver star decorated

and traveling to new places. Another favorite event was family night every Monday at the family residence where she would try out new recipes and make all the family's favorite meals.

Survivors are her husband of 59 years, Frank Waschbisch, Oconto Falls; their four children, Connie (Jeff Zeitler) Waschbisch, Pound; Ron Waschbisch, Oconto Falls; Marilyn (Scott Anderson) Waschbisch, Pulaski; Bob (Lisa) Waschbisch, Coleman; her honorary grandchildren, Scarlett, Hannah and Ella Olson; Charlee and Lucy Haws, Dirk and Millie Zeitler; one sister, Judy (Al Bachtell) Guelig, Whitefish Bay; three brothers, Bob Guelig, Lena; Gary (Denise) Guelig, Stiles; Mark (Trisha Martin) Guelig, Minnesota; nieces, nephews and numerous friends.

She was preceded in death by her father, birth mother and adoptive

mother Irene (Larue) Guelig, an infant son Jeffrey John Waschbisch and sister, Marilyn Guelig.

Visitation will be held after 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 26, 2021, at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Oconto Falls until the time of service. Mass of Christian burial will be held at 1 p.m. Friday at the church with the Rev. Greg Parent officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. Jones Funeral Service in Oconto Falls is serving the Waschbisch family.

The family would like to thank the emergency response team, as well as the St. Clare Hospital staff for their assistance in our time of need.

In lieu of other expressions of sympathy, memorials may be made to the Oconto Falls Library, 251 N. Main St., Oconto Falls, WI 54154, or read a book in her memory.

## Helen J. Goswitz

Marine, that she researched and wrote a second volume exclusively about him. She also loved reading, gardening, travel, playing cards, sewing and was a lifelong Catholic.

Helen carried herself with grace and dignity and met several other health issues with great resolve and perseverance. She will be missed by her friends and family.

Survivors include Helen's three children, Mark Goswitz, Sheboygan, Anne Douglas, Austin, Texas, and Paul Goswitz, Manitowoc; two granddaughters, Sandra Douglas, Austin, Texas, and Nicole Douglas, San Antonio, Texas; sister, Genevieve DeWilde, Green Bay; and niece, Denise Fonferek, Sobieski.

Memorial services will be held at noon on Wednesday, July 7, 2021, St. Francis of Assisi on Waldo, 1121 N. 14th

St., Manitowoc. Cremation has taken place at the Harrigan Parkside Crematory and Chapel with burial of Helen's cremated remains at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Shawano. The family will greet relatives and friends at St. Francis of Assisi on Waldo from 11 a.m. until the time of the memorial service at noon.

To submit online condolences to the family, please visit [www.harrigan-parksidefuneralhome.com](http://www.harrigan-parksidefuneralhome.com).

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate memorials in Helen's name to be sent to Roncalli High School, 2000 Mirro Drive, Manitowoc, WI 54220.

The Harrigan Parkside Funeral Home and Crematory, Manitowoc, is assisting the family with funeral arrangements.

Leona L. Vele, 82, passed away surrounded by family and loved ones on Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021, at the Christian Home in Waupun.

Leona was born on April 26, 1938 in Milwaukee, the daughter of Clifford and Evelyn (Ernisse) Owens. She was united in marriage to Allen Vele on June 14, 1958, in Chicago, where she lived for most of her life prior to moving to Beaver Dam in 1975. They then retired to the Stockbridge-Munsee Reservation in Bowler. She devoted her life to being a mother and wife, raising all 6 of her daughters. She was sassy and funny, and made friends no matter where she went. She loved her margaritas, doing



jigsaw puzzles and crafting, and always had her Ipad at hand. Living down the road from the casino, she enjoyed her time spent there with her friends.

Traveling with her family and going to the theater were also greatly treasured.

Leona is survived by her five daughters and "adopted daughter," Victoria (Joseph) Bruns, of Beaver Dam, Laura Malak, Tammy Vele and Lisa (Bill) Vele, all of Bowler, Lois (Chad) Cordes,

of Ashland, and Tina Weinheimer, of Beaver Dam; grandchildren, Casey, Kelsey (Aaron), Tavondre, Angela, Samantha, Felicia, Dustin, Stacy, Joseph (Adrienne), Alicia, Joshua (Diane), Jennifer, Danielle, Jacob, Hunter, Cheyenne, Samantha, Nathan (Samantha) and Bobbie Jo; great-grandchildren, Hayley, Jase, Liam, Brayden, Kade, Michael, Jamison, Nick, Taylor Lynn, Wyatt, Austin, Auburn, Hannah, Zane, Dakota, Jeffrey, Piper, Carlin, Camryn, Jocelyn, Sadie, Loggan and Alec; other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband in 2018; daughter, Deborah Corn, in 2017; son-in-law,

Robert Corn, in 2018; sisters, Lois Dornbach, Lorraine Haertel and Luella Royle; great-grandson, Gage Davidson; other relatives and friends.

A memorial gathering for Leona will be held on Friday, Feb. 26 at Cornerstone Funeral and Cremation Services, 135 Keller Blvd., Beaver Dam, from 3 p.m. until the time of the memorial service at 4 p.m. Inurnment will take place at Red Springs Cemetery at a later date.

Cornerstone Funeral and Cremation Services in Beaver Dam is honored to be serving the family. You may send private online condolences or sign the family's guest book at [www.cstonefs.com](http://www.cstonefs.com).

## Eugene Stuhr

Eugene "Gene" Stuhr, 75, of Marion, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2021, at his home.

Beil-Didier Funeral Home is assisting the family.

## Roger A. Jechorek

Roger A. Jechorek, 58, of New London, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021, at home.

Beil-Didier Funeral Home is assisting the family.



# OBITUARIES

## Evelyn Nelson

Evelyn Nelson passed away on Friday, Feb. 19, 2021. She was born Feb. 8, 1915, in the Town of Brazeau, the daughter of John and Augusta Kopatz. Evelyn married Fred Charles Nelson in July 1930. They farmed in Bagley until Fred started work at the Suring Co-Op in 1946. The couple celebrated 64 years of life together before Fred's passing in 1994. They had a winter home in Lehigh Acres, Florida, for 20 years, returning in summer months to be near family and friends. Evelyn continued to enjoy her Florida home and the beautiful yard until her eyesight failed. She returned to Suring in 2003, living in the Manor Apartments until she was 101 years old.

Evelyn was very creative, could sew anything, make her own patterns, and she cooked the tastiest comfort



foods. She made piece quilts and crocheted many afghans for family and friends. While in Florida, Evelyn gathered seashells from Sanibel Island beaches and made a treasure of wreathes; she won blue ribbons at the Lehigh Acres Shell Fair. Her cinnamon rolls were the best, and she made them into her 90s. So far, no one in the family has found her magic touch. Evelyn also made cottage cheese pierogies; we couldn't get enough of these.

Over the years, Evelyn and Fred had chances to travel. They traveled to Washington, D.C., California, Yellowstone Park, Seattle, Vancouver and

Toronto. They also took a trip to Denmark, France, Switzerland and Germany, with a day cruise on the Rhine. Fred was fascinated by the engines powering the boat, while Evelyn sat on the front deck enjoying the vineyards and the castles on the hills.

When asked for her secret to a long life, Evelyn stated, "Stay on the good side, and stay with the Lord."

Evelyn leaves behind four children: Jenevie Jensen of Milwaukee; Loretta Baxter of Franklin; Joan (Frank) Jones of Delavan; Charlette (Dave) Collins of Suring. She also leaves behind 14 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Augusta Kopatz; her husband, Fred; daughter and son-in-law, Marlene and Frank Wyskochil;

son and daughter-in-law, Neil and Lyn Nelson; sons-in-law, Bill Baxter and Russ Jensen; grandson, Chad Caughey; granddaughter, Wendy Sue Wyskochil.

A celebration of life will be held and announced at a later date due to COVID. Evelyn will be interred at Frostville Cemetery. Gruetzmacher Funeral Home in Suring is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences can be expressed at [www.gruetzmacherfuneralhome.com](http://www.gruetzmacherfuneralhome.com). Memorials may be sent to the Maple Valley Community Church.

Thank you to The Bay at Suring and the angels who cared for Evelyn the last five years and to the Southern Care Hospice Team including Kristin, Erin and Chaplain Judy. Special thank you to Dr. Gremban and Dr. Maltinski.

## Frederick 'Fritz' Charles Klevesahl

Frederick "Fritz" Charles Klevesahl, 89, of Bonduel, passed away on Monday, Feb. 15, 2021. Fred was born March 3, 1931, to the late Frederick and Hannah (Hinkel) Klevesahl Sr. and was baptized and confirmed at Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Fred graduated from Bonduel High School in May 1949. He enlisted in the United States Army on Oct. 10, 1951, and went on to proudly serve his country as a member of the 18th Ordinance MM Company. He was stationed in Germany and served during the Korean Conflict.

On Aug. 14, 1954, Fred was united



in marriage to Helen Kallies at Our Savior Lutheran Church in the Town of Lessor. Fred was a lifelong member of Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bonduel. He worked for FWD and the Shawano County Highway Department for over 20 years before retiring.

Fred was a member of the Bonduel American Legion, Zernicke-Wegner Post 217, where he served for 68 years and held various offices. In his free time, he enjoyed playing sheephead,

bowling, fishing, working on cars, attending car shows and watching "The Three Stooges" and old movies.

Fred is survived by his wife of 66 years, Helen; children, Cindy (Mike) Winkler, of Shawano, Randy (Wendy) Klevesahl, of Peshtigo, and Shelby Lance, of Bonduel; grandchildren, Stephen (Nikki) Browning, Scott Browning, Kevin Schultz and Jason Schultz; great-grandchildren, Casey and Jenna; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Milo and Darlene Kallies; nieces and nephew, Kathy (Orlen) Grunewald, Christine Zellmer, Susan (Jim) Jensen, Diane (Mike) Lambie and John (Michelle) Klevesahl. He is further survived by other

relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Vilas (Ardyce) Klevesahl.

A memorial service was held for Fred at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021, at Swedberg-Wendt Funeral Home in Bonduel with the Rev. Virgil Hanson officiating. Military honors were conducted by Bonduel American Legion Post 217 at the funeral home following the service. Inurnment will be in Friedens Cemetery at a later date.

"An old soldier never dies; his legacy lives on through generations of family members."

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

## Carl L. Loving

Carl L. Loving, 84, of Cecil, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021, in Appleton. Carl was born Jan. 3, 1937, in Springfield, Illinois, to the late James and Marian (Allen) Loving. Carl enlisted in the United States National Guard and later served in the United States Air Force. Carl was united in marriage to Patricia Turban on July 17, 1957, in Illinois. The couple originally lived in Milwaukee before moving to Elcho and, most recently, Cecil. Carl enjoyed tooling leather and bowling. He was also an active member of the Masonic Lodge.

Carl is survived by his wife, Patricia; children, Sharon (Michael) Mach, of Antigo, Connie (special friend Phillip Teffs) Loving, of Antigo, Mark Loving, of Racine, and Dale Loving, of Elcho; grand-



children, David (Olivia) Mach, Stefanie Mach and Katie (Steph Jacobs) Mach; great-grandchildren, Emily Schafer, Myla Schafer, Kellan Mach, Declan

Mach and Elias Mach; siblings, Wayne (Donna) Loving, of Montana, and Mary (William) Tunnickliff, of Wyoming; and special friends, Hugo and Lu Petters and David and Marie Langkamp.

Carl is further survived by numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Marian; and one brother, Jim Loving.

A memorial service is being planned for Carl in the spring.

Gerald "Jerry" Kuehl, 88, of Suring, passed away peacefully on Monday, Feb. 15, 2021. Gerald was born in Kaukauna on Sept. 26, 1932, to the late Rueben and Sophie Rose (Kraes) Kuehl. Jerry worked at Thilmany Paper Company in Kaukauna for many years until retiring and moving to Suring. He always enjoyed a good laugh with his friends. Jerry enjoyed many trips to Florida and going to Packers games with his special friend Jean. He served his country in the United States Army and was very proud of his service. A special thank you to Bob Peterson at the Iron Mountain VA Hospital.

Gerald is survived by his brother, Kenneth "Kinker" Kuehl. He was preceded in death by his beloved son, Keith, and his brother, Eugene Kuehl.

A memorial Mass will be held at a later date.

Gruetzmacher Funeral Home in Suring is assisting the family with



arrangements. Online condolences can be expressed at [www.gruetzmacherfuneralhome.com](http://www.gruetzmacherfuneralhome.com)

A special thank you to his friends, Vern and Dee, and his neighbors,

Andy and Becky. To the Gallivanter, "We will miss you, Sonny. Please leave the light on, so we know you are home." Love, Andy "Gramps"



## Gaynor Mae Stephenson

Gaynor Mae Stephenson, 79, of Shawano, passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021. Gaynor was born May 15, 1941, to the late Arnold and Lydia (Huntington) Miller in Red Springs. She graduated from Sturgeon Bay High School in 1959. On April 23, 1960, Gaynor was united in marriage to Guy Stephenson in Sturgeon Bay. Guy preceded her in death in 1984. She lived in Sheboygan for several years before returning to the Shawano area.

Gaynor worked at the North Star Mohican Casino until her retirement. She was a member of St. James Lutheran Church in Shawano. Gaynor enjoyed exploring garage sales and collecting pig memorabilia. She loved her family dearly and will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Gaynor is survived by her sons, Glenn Stephenson, of Sheboygan, Gary Stephenson, of Sheboygan Falls, and Greg Stephenson, of Sun Prairie; siblings, Claudette Weiterman, of Gresham, Andrea Smith, of Sturgeon



Bay, Marsha Toohey, of Bowler, and Patti (Nubs) Exferd, of Oconto; an aunt, Delores Ziemer, of Oshkosh; an uncle, Bert (Carol) Huntington, of Shawano; and

good friend, Pat Gruetzmacher. She is further survived by nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents and a brother, Bruce Miller.

Private family services will be held. Inurnment will be held in Bay-side Cemetery in Sturgeon Bay.

The family would like to give a special thanks to the staff of the Ella Besaw Center, Shawano Health Services and the staff at ThedaCare Medical Center of Shawano for helping Gaynor.

www.swedbergfuneralhome.com

## Darrell J. Earley Sr.

Darrell J. Earley Sr., 83, of Lena, passed away peacefully at home with his family by his side on Friday, Feb. 19, 2021. He was born to Lena Earley on Aug. 10, 1937, in Oconto. He married the love of his life, Marjorie Sagen, on Feb. 4, 1956, at St. Charles Catholic Church in Lena. Darrell enjoyed doing carpentry and mason work, playing cards and spending time with his grandchildren.

Survivors include his loving wife of 65 years, Marjorie; 11 children, Gary (Carol) Earley, Cindy (Mark) Richter, Linda (Lloyd) Johnson, Sharon Earley, Terry (Annette) Earley, Annette (Robert) Renquin, Perry (Laura) Earley, Patrick Earley, John (Tina) Earley, Troy Earley, Pam (Doug) Stoll. Further survivors include 20 grandchildren, many great-grandchildren



and his brother, Dale (Patti) Hatton.

Darrell was preceded in death by his mother, Lena Earley; an infant son, Darrell Jr. and a brother, Robert Hatton.

A private family service was held at St. Anne Catholic Church, 221 E. Main St., Lena on Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021, at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Felix Abano officiating. Burial was at St. Charles Cemetery, Lena. Rhodes-Charapata Funeral Home-Lena is assisting the family.

Online condolences may be expressed at www.RhodesCharapata.com.

## James W. Harris

James W. Harris, 85, of the Town of Franzen, died unexpectedly on Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2021, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital.

Jim was born Jan. 3, 1936, in the Town of Franzen. The son of Abe and Ina (Day) Harris.

Jim worked as a parts manager at John Deere in Caroline for many years. He loved John Deere and has a vast collection. Jim later moved to Florida, where he was a part owner of the A&W Tropicals. Jim loved genealogy, peonies and was an avid science fiction reader.

Jim is survived by one brother-in-law, Ernest Delikowski; one sister-in-law, Donna Harris; and many nieces and nephews.



Jim was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, Lloyd (Sylvia) Harris, Ruby (Herman) Weller, Ila Delikowski, John Harris, Alice (Warren) Savidge,

Lucille (Florian) Buhl, Dorothy Harris and Walter Harris.

A private family gathering will be held at a later date.

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

## Robert L. Bubolz

Robert L. "Bob" Bubolz, born May 15, 1943, in Shawano, to the late Arnold and Lillian (Schuettpehl) Bubolz. Bob died as expected. Bob graduated from Suring High School on May 25, 1961, and then subsequently graduated from UW-Madison, January 1968, with a degree in civil engineering after a hiatus to save enough money to finish school.

On June 19, 1971, he married Barb Zellmer of Suring at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, making it just shy of 50 years. They lived in Green Bay and were blessed with two daughters. Following graduation from college, he spent 34 years working for Wisconsin Public Service in Green Bay until he retired in 2005. Despite Barb saying that she would never again live in a house during remodeling, they moved to Shawano in 2003 so Barb could work with their son-in-law. His love of old tractors, spending time in the woods and deer hunting was surpassed only by his devotion to his family and grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife; daughters, Jennifer Bubolz Miller (Jay) and Carey Grieves (Brian); grandchildren, Joe, Julianna, Jacinda Miller and Jack and Charlie Grieves; special adopted family, Jeff and Wendy Fritz (Sam and Hatty) and good friends Curt and



Jean Suring. He is also survived by one brother, Arnie (Shirley); one sister-in-law, Erna; nephew and godson, Barry Bubolz; numerous nieces and nephews.

Bob was preceded in death his parents; three brothers, Richard, Ronald and James; two brothers-in-law, Marvin Zellmer (Bette) and Leroy Zellmer (Mitzi); and one sister-in-law, Shirley.

Memorial services for Bob will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 27, 2021, at St. Jakobi Lutheran Church with the Rev. Travis Kleinschmidt officiating. Inurnment will be in the church cemetery. Visitation will be Saturday at the church from 9 a.m. until the time of service. For those who wish, services will be announced over the loudspeaker in the parking lot on radio station 104.5 FM. COVID-19 virus precautions are requested by wearing a face covering and distancing, please. In lieu of a lunch, we will share Bob's favorite candy bar with you.

Memorials can be directed to the St. Jakobi Building Fund.

www.swedbergfuneralhome.com

## Sharon L. Gueths

Sharon L. Gueths, 77, of Shawano, passed away peacefully on Monday, Feb. 15, 2021, surrounded by her loving family. She was born Sept. 22, 1943, in Wausau to the late Alfred and Alice (Steffen) Mielke. Sharon attended school in Wausau.

On Dec. 28, 1991, Sharon was united in marriage to James Gueths in Oshkosh. This year, the couple would have celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary. She was a member of Peace United Church of Christ. Sharon loved surrounding herself with family and friends. Her weeks were filled with her cherished friends from bridge clubs and Friday night cards.

Sharon's infectious laugh, happiness and smile always brought joy and life wherever she was. Once a year, you knew you could find her in the kitchen, baking her famous grand champion cheesecakes and bakery items galore for the Shawano County Fair. Sharon's life was filled with joy and many special moments with her dedicated and loving husband.

Survivors include her husband, James Gueths, of Shawano; her children, Greg (Pam) Jaenke and Stephanie (Mark) Ziebell; her stepchildren, Jeff (Ellen) Gueths, Jennifer (Tra-



vis) Thede and Michelle (Scott) Harenburg; her grandchildren, Logan Gueths, Caleb Gueths, Beau Riley Gueths, Hannah Thede, Lauren Thede, Rachel Thede,

Romey Harenburg, Emily Jaenke, Allie Ziebell and Austin Ziebell; her brother, Jim (Joan) Mielke; and nephews.

A memorial service for Sharon was held Friday, Feb. 19, 2021, at 11 a.m. at Mickelson Funeral Service in Shawano. Richard Menning officiated.

In lieu of flowers and plants, memorials are preferred to the Shawano County Humane Society in Sharon's name.

Mickelson Funeral and Cremation Service of Shawano is assisting the family with arrangements. Please share online condolences at www.mickelsons.com.





# OBITUARIES

## Eleonora M. Schroeder

Eleonora M. Schroeder, 93, Shawano, passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021. Eleonora was born July 31, 1927, in the Town of Hartland to the late William and Eleanor (Drage) Schulz.

On Aug. 17, 1968, Eleonora married Wilfred "Will" Schroeder at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Bonduel, the Rev. Virgil Joss officiating. The couple lived and farmed in Underhill township until Will retired in 2002. Eleonora was previously a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church and Faith United Lutheran Church in Gillett. She is a current member of St. Paul Lutheran Church. Eleonora greatly enjoyed flowers and watching old movies and "M.A.S.H."

Eleonora is survived by her brother-in-law, Ray Schroeder. She is further survived by many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Will, in 2005; infant daughter, Lori Ann, in 1969; and brother, William Schulz, in 2020.

A funeral service was held Friday, Feb. 19, 2021, at St. Paul



Lutheran Church in Bonduel at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Mark R. Palmer officiating. Eleonora was interred at Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery beside Will.

Gruetzmacher Funeral Home in Suring is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences can be expressed at [www.gruetzmacherfuneralhome.com](http://www.gruetzmacherfuneralhome.com).

The family would like to thank the staffs of ThedaCare at Home Hospice and Evergreen Care Center for the care and compassion offered to Eleonora and her family during their time of need.



## Raymond A. 'Buzz' Kandler

Raymond A. "Buzz" Kandler, 73, of New Baden, Illinois, born Sept. 22, 1947, in Milwaukee, died Monday, Feb. 1, 2021 at his home.

Buzz was a retired lieutenant colonel from the United States Air Force. He was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Mascoutah, Illinois, and a mentor of the Robo Raiders FTC 7129 in Mascoutah. Buzz was part of many horseshoe leagues and was an avid St. Louis Cardinals and Green Bay Packers fan.



He was extremely proud to attend the Ice Bowl at Lambeau Field in 1967.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Raymond H. and Edith (nee Fossum) Kandler.

He is survived by his wife, Susan (nee Reisner) Kandler, whom he married in Cecil on June 15, 1969; a son, Kyle (Josephine) Kan-

Grace Vissers peacefully entered eternal life on Jan. 23, 2021, surrounded by family. Grace was born on Jan. 19, 1932, the daughter of Eugene and Minnie Tellock (Schenk). Grace met her beloved husband, Bob, in high school. They were happily married for 66 years and together raised their four children, Valerie Scarpace (Salvatore), Steven (Renata), Susan Holiday (Bob) and Dawn Marietti (Ron).

Grace was a fabulous homemaker who also held a variety of positions in the private sector. Grace and Bob raised their children in New Berlin, later retiring to Wittenberg. They subsequently moved to Dublin, Ohio, to be closer to their daughter, Dawn, and her family. Grace and Bob shared many wonderful life adventures together.

Grace was an extrovert who loved spending time with her family, hosting many holiday celebrations, and informal gatherings. Their home was often filled with laughter — especially at Christmas, with the "decking of the halls," the making of egg nog and sharing of gifts.

Grace is survived by her four chil-



dren and grandchildren, Angi (Matt) Mulcahy, Melonie Marietti, Jason (Janel) Vissers, Michelle (Joe) Hoell, Jon (fiancee Jenna) Vissers, Matt Vissers, Whitney Marietti,

and Robbie Marietti. Additionally, Grace leaves behind great-grandchildren Logan, Dominic, Marisa, J.T., Landon, Ella, Jocelyn, Vance, Veronica, Gabrielle, Noah and Jenni; sisters-in-law Verna Tellock (Edward) and MaryAnn Vissers (Donald); and many nieces and nephews.

Grace was preceded in death by her loving husband Bob; her parents; grandchildren Becky and Timmy Heaton; brothers and sisters.

The family wishes to thank The Sanctuary staff members in Dublin, Ohio, for their care and support.

A celebration of life service for immediate family will be held at a future date.

Schoedinger Dublin, 5980 Perimeter Drive, Dublin, Ohio, is assisting the family with arrangements.

nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to Zion Lutheran Church, 101 S. Railway St., Mascoutah, IL 62258. Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting [mollfuneralhome.com](http://mollfuneralhome.com).

A funeral service was held at 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 22, 2021, at Zion Lutheran Church with Pastor Kirk Clayton officiating. Burial with military honors followed in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis, Missouri.

Moll Funeral Home, Mascoutah, Illinois



## 3-vehicle crash yields injuries

A three-vehicle crash was reported to the Shawano County Sheriff's Office on Feb. 22. The sheriff's office said the accident resulted in injuries and road blockage on state Highway 22 at Ash Lane, in the Town of Wescott. Ash Lane is just east of Shawano. Initial investigation showed that a full-size pickup truck with trailer traveling westbound on state Highway 22 was waiting for an eastbound vehicle to pass in order to turn south onto Ash Lane. The full-sized pickup truck turned southbound and struck the rear corner of the next oncoming eastbound vehicle which was a compact pickup truck, causing it to lose control. The compact pickup truck entered the eastbound lane of travel and was then struck on the passenger side by a sedan. Shawano Ambulance transported two individuals to ThedaCare Medical Center-Shawano with unknown injuries. Shawano Area Fire Department and Shawano Police Department assisted on the scene. The crash remains under investigation. No names have been released.

CAROL RYCZEK | NEW MEDIA

# SENIOR LIVING

## SAVVY SENIOR

# A Social Security perk for older parents

## Plus, how to handle Medicare if you're still working

By **JIM MILLER**

Special to NEW Media

Dear Savvy Senior,

*I've been told that my two children, ages 14 and 16, may be eligible for Social Security when I file for my retirement benefits. Is this true? What can you tell me?*

— *Viagra Daddy*

Dear Viagra,

It's true. If you're age 62 or older and are still raising young children, there's a Social Security benefit strategy that can put some extra money in your family coffers.

Here's how it works. When you file for Social Security retirement benefits, your minor children can get money on your work record equaling half of what you would receive at full retirement age, now gradually rising from 66 to 67. Even if you were to take a smaller benefit by claiming earlier, your kids will still get half of your full-retirement age amount.

To qualify, your daughter — whether she's biological, adopted or a stepdaughter — must be unmarried and under age 18. Kids that are over 18 but still in high school, can collect too until they graduate or turn 19, whichever comes first. (Other rules apply to kids that are disabled.)

Because one of your children is only 14, your wife (if you're married)

can collect Social Security benefits on your work record too, and it doesn't matter if she's just 40 years old. The minimum age requirements to collect retirement benefits (62) or survivor benefits (60) does not apply when it comes to collecting benefits as the caregiver of a young child. The spouse's benefit, which is also worth up to half of your benefit, will stop when your daughter turns 16.

Note that there are limits to the amount of money that can be paid to a family. The Social Security "family maximum payment" is determined by a complex formula and can range from 150% to 180% of your full retirement benefit amount. If the total exceeds that, each person's benefit, except yours, is cut proportionately until it equals the maximum.

Minor children can collect up to half of a disabled parent's Social Security disability benefit. And if the parent dies, they will get a survivor's benefit, which is up to 75% of the deceased parent's basic Sbenefit.

To learn more, see the SSA publication (No. 05-10085) "Benefits for Children" at [SSA.gov/pubs/EN-05-10085.pdf](http://SSA.gov/pubs/EN-05-10085.pdf).

Social Security benefits for your kids may not be available before full retirement age if you are still working. If you lose your benefits, your dependents also lose theirs.

You can recoup those payments

later, but your kids can't.

Dear Savvy Senior,

*I will turn 65 in a few months and plan to keep working for several more years. I have good health insurance from my employer now. Do I have to sign up for Medicare when I reach 65?*

— *Looking Ahead*

Dear Looking,

Whether you need to enroll in Medicare at 65 if you continue to work and have health insurance through your job depends on how large your employer is. The same rules apply if your health insurance comes from your spouse's job.

First, let's review the basics. Remember that original Medicare has two parts: Part A, which provides hospital coverage and is free for most people, and Part B, which covers doctor's bills, lab tests and outpatient care. Part B also has a monthly premium.

If you're already receiving Social Security, you'll automatically be enrolled in parts A and B when you turn 65, and you'll receive your Medicare card in the mail. It will include instructions to return it if you have work coverage that qualifies you for late enrollment. If you aren't yet receiving Social Security, you will have to apply, which you can do online at [SSA.gov/medicare](http://SSA.gov/medicare).

If you plan to continue working past the age of 65 and have health insurance from your job, your first step is to ask your benefits manager or human resources department how

your employer insurance works with Medicare. In most cases, you should at least take Medicare Part A because it's free. To decide whether to take Part B or not will depend on the size of your employer.

If your current employer has fewer than 20 employees, Medicare will be your primary insurer and you should enroll in Medicare Part B during your initial enrollment period. If you miss the seven-month sign-up window, you'll have to wait until the next general enrollment period, which runs from Jan. 1 to March 31 with benefits beginning July 1.

If your employer has 20 or more employees, your employer's group health plan will be your primary insurer as long as you remain an active employee. Once your employment or group health coverage ends, you will then have eight months to sign up for Part B without a penalty.

You also need to verify your prescription drug coverage. Call your benefits manager or insurance company to find out if your employer's prescription drug coverage is considered "creditable."

If you have more questions or need help, contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see [ShiptaCenter.org](http://ShiptaCenter.org)), which offers free Medicare counseling, or call the Medicare Rights Center helpline at 800-333-4114.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](http://SavvySenior.org). Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

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# Book brings barn quilts home

## Shawano barn quilts featured in 4th coloring book

By **CAROL RYCZEK**  
Reporter

John Lettau's love of geometric design and skill with graph paper is bringing him home to Wisconsin — while happily remaining a California resident.

Lettau, 93, of Santa Maria, California, has published his fourth coloring book of the barn quilts of Shawano County. Each of the 50 quilts in the book has information about its location, a large quilt block and a dozen smaller blocks, printed in black and white and ready to color.

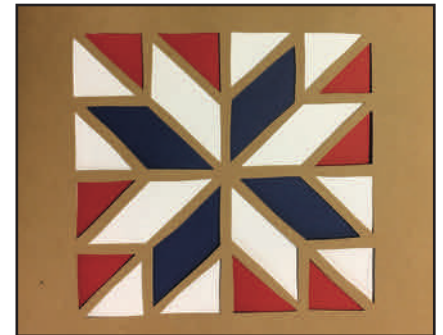
"I have been into geometric design creations since the early 1960s. I actually put together a book called, 'Graph Paper Design,' where I used graph paper just to recreate and create my own designs," Lettau said. "While teaching school, I taught first through sixth grade. One of the first things I did — even with first graders — how to do a basic design with graph paper."

Lettau's brother, who lives in Larsen, Wisconsin, had a barn quilt put on his barn called "Sara's Star," and asked Lettau for a smaller version of it. Lettau found a book, "The Barn Quilts of Shawano County, Wisconsin," by Jim Leuenberger, who initially brought the barn quilt project to Shawano, and found the pattern on the Shawano Chamber of Commerce website (<https://www.shawanocountry.com>).

"At that point, Jim had roughly 300 quilts in his book, so I did my brother's and I thought, with all these other designs on the website, I can do a book. I met Jim Leuenberger about three years when I came back for a football game," Lettau said.

He pitched the idea of a barn quilt coloring book and Leuenberger said he was on board with it.

One book led to two, two to three, and now the fourth edition, "Wisconsin Barn Quilt Coloring Book Four" is in print and for sale at Amazon.com. The newest Shawano County version joins barn quilt coloring books Kansas, Tennessee, and other states with the colorful boards attached to



**The Wisconsin Barn Quilt Coloring Book Four features 50 Shawano County barn quilts.**

CAROL RYCZEK | NEW MEDIA

the top of barns.

"I've been very happy doing this. I do it as a hobby, not as a business. I get a very small royalty. It's not the money part, it's promoting the hobby and these barn quilt projects. The royalty is used for paint, and cut pictures, layers of construction paper that create the barn quilt pattern."

In addition to the coloring books, Lettau also makes small painted versions of the quilts and layered, cut-paper versions.

To adapt patterns for quilt, he makes one large version — using graph paper — for the first of the books two pages per quilt. The first page is a big page of design.

"Second page, with 12 smaller versions — some are pretty intricate. It's an interesting process with graph paper — I can duplicate any pattern I see," he said.

Although Lettau is a fan and promoted of barn quilts throughout the country, one has special meaning for him.

"Number 315 is one I sponsored for \$200 in memory of my Lettau grandparents who came from West Prussia in 1892 and when they got to the United States they settled in the little town of Herman in Shawano for



about a year, then they got 400 acres in (the Town of) Norrie," he said. "That's where I bought the quilt, to honor where they came to the country."

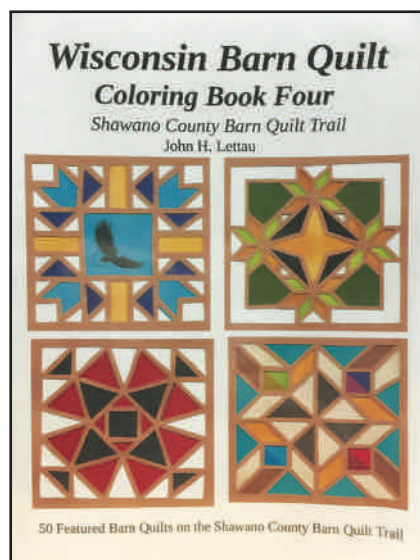
Lettau spends a lot of his time making the small wooden quilt plaques and cut paper quilt squares. He gives them away or offers them to barn quilt sponsors as fundraisers.

"The 19th of February is the date my wife died, nine years ago," Lettau said. "I took care of her for four or five years, 24 hours a day. When she passed away I had to keep going. So I was spending six, seven, maybe even eight hours a day working on coloring books and cutting these pictures. That kept me going all the while."

As he did so much work with quilt patterns, Lettau considered joining a quilt guild near his home in Santa Maria, California.

"I thought, 'I've been thinking about this for 50, 60 years, I'm going to do it.' I joined their group and when I went ... I looked in the window. I was expecting maybe 25, 30 gals. I looked in there and there had to be at least 95 women. I thought 'What in the hell did I get myself into?' but I couldn't back out. I had to go in, and obviously you introduce yourself as a new member," he said.

When asked what kind of quilting he did, Lettau said, "I do exactly the same thing you do, but not with ma-



John Lettau uses cut and stacked construction paper to make quilt designs, which he gives away to help promote the concept of barn quilts and geometric design. CONTRIBUTED

chines and material and threads. I do mine with paint and brushes."

Lettau offered to show the needle-and thread quilters how he makes his construction paper and painted versions, and eventually held workshops for the cloth-based crafters.

Although he prefers to work in construction paper or wood, Lettau said he does enjoy coloring the patterns as well.



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# AARP grant program accepting applications

AARP Wisconsin is inviting community organizations and local governments across the state to apply for the 2021 AARP Community Challenge grant program, now through April 14. These grants will fund "quick-action" projects that spark change across Wisconsin and the entire country.

Now in its fifth year, the program is part of AARP's nationwide Livable Communities initiative, which supports the efforts of cities, towns,

neighborhoods and rural areas to become great places to live for people of all ages. Grants can range from several hundred dollars for small, short-term activities to several thousand, or tens of thousands for larger projects.

Since 2017, AARP has awarded 560 grants through the Community Challenge to nonprofit organizations and government entities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The program provides direct support to all community types, with nearly 40% of past projects benefiting rural communities, 20% going to suburban locations and 40% improving urban places. Granted projects have demonstrated an ability to garner additional funds or support from public and private funders, encourage replication, overcome local policy barriers, and receive greater overall awareness and engagement.

The application deadline is 7 p.m. Central Time on April 14. All projects must be completed by Nov. 10. To submit an application and view past grantees, visit [www.AARP.org/](http://www.AARP.org/)

CommunityChallenge.

AARP will prioritize proposals that are inclusive, directly engage volunteers and aim to achieve one or more of the following outcomes: Ensure a focus on diversity and inclusion while improving the built and social environment of a community; support local recovery from the coronavirus pandemic with an emphasis on economic development, improvements to public spaces, and transportation services; create vibrant public places that improve open spaces, parks and access to other amenities; deliver a range of transportation and mobility options that increase connectivity, walkability, bike-ability, wayfinding, access to transportation options and roadway improvements; support a range of housing options that increase the availability of accessible and affordable choices; increase civic engagement and demonstrate the tangible value of "Smart Cities" with innovative and tangible projects that bring residents and local leaders together to address challenges and facilitate a greater sense of inclusion.

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# FFA celebrates an active year at WBHS

## Community outreach, agriculture promotion in mix



Wittenberg/Birnamwood High School FFA students celebrated Drive Your Tractor to School Day in October. Participating are, from left, Skylar Knapp, Adrian Meverden, Reed Quade, John Hoffman, Owen Boggs, Keagan Nousen, Saul Hanke, Leland Heinrich, Hunter Matsche, Marcus Schairer, and Ashton Boggs. CONTRIBUTED

### By NEW MEDIA STAFF

As National FFA Week wraps up, Matthew Christian, Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School FFA advisor, reflected on the ways that the organization has adapted over the past year.

"We have been striving to do fun activities and having snacks at meetings, but this year we have been limited to what we want to do, to keep our students safe. For activities we have done small groups with masks being required and snacks have been pre-packaged," Christian said.

The club has about 150 students in FFA, but meeting attendance has been impacted by COVID-19.

"Our officer team has really stepped up during these times to really consider the safety of our members and try to plan activities, since a majority of FFA events have been shut down this year or switched to virtual," Christian said.

In October, the FFA sponsored Drive Your Tractor to School Day and a highway clean up. They also built a homecoming float, which carried a limited number of members but that was well received by the students. As a fruit sale incentive, the club took a sledding trip instead to Sylvan Hill in Wausau.

Most of the events have been done with smaller numbers than in other years, but the group is trying to stay involved in the community as much as possible, Christian said. Eight students delivered treat bags to the farms in the

district for a farmer appreciation day.

The club also made a donation for the food pantry after its annual fruit sale. Wittenberg Food Pantry received 350 pounds of fresh produce. Over 30 students donated to a chapter-wide giving tree during the holiday season where over 30 students donated roughly 200 household items for the community.

Other activities this year include a virtual leadership development contest and career development events.

Christian is optimistic about the future of the organization.

"We have many plans for the upcoming year and the future in general. We have had the ability to really build on our chapter by having so much community support for our program with the passing of the referendum that has granted us a brand new state

of the art agriculture building. Here we have animals right at school and a high tech greenhouse that give the students so many opportunities to get their hands dirty and experience new things," Christian said.

The club plans to increase its membership to 200 by the next school year and to get more students involved with the three goats, three steers and six pigs that call the WBHS ag facility home.

"We plan to continue to be active in the community that supports us and advocate for the agriculture industry," Christian said. "Our goal here at WBHS is to give students opportuni-

ties to experience things that they might not otherwise be exposed to and also all in all create better educated consumers in the future, so everyone knows where their food comes from."

Student chapter leaders for the 2020-21 school year are Lily Kolbe, president; Abby Giddings, vice president; Mary Lewandowski, vice president of public relations; Keagan Nousen, treasurer; Hunter Matsche, secretary; Reed Quade, reporter; John Hoffman, sentinel; and Sarabeth Brenarde, parliamentarian.

In addition to the FFA Week celebration, a banquet is scheduled for March 18.



Lily Kolbe delivers an appreciation bag to Ken Matsche for Farmer Appreciation Day. CONTRIBUTED

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# Tower gardens come to the Tigerton Ag Department

## Aeroponic system grows salad greens for school, food pantry

By **LORI ROWE**

Tigerton High School FFA Adviser

Maybe you've driven past Tigerton High School and wondered why there are such bright lights on for such a long time during the day and evening in the agriculture classroom.

The Tigerton FFA applied for a National FFA Living to Serve Grant and received about \$2,800 to purchase three Tower Garden Home Flex Growing Systems.

Tower Gardens are an earth-friendly approach to gardening that uses much less water and space than soil gardens because the plants grow vertically and grow in air rather than soil. The sides of the tower have pockets called net pots for holding the seedlings that have germinated in Rockwool cubes.

The base of the tower holds a water-nutrient mixture. An electric pump in the base reservoir sends water upward inside the tower. Then the water drips down onto the roots of the plants. This is called aeroponics. Along with water, the plants also need consistent light to grow well. An LED system is connected to the Tower Gardens and runs on an automatic timer 15 hours per day.

The Tower Garden system allows students to grow plants year-round. The plan this year is to grow differ-

ent types of lettuces, salad greens and microgreens to use for the school lunch program. Currently, Bibb lettuce, gourmet salad greens, kale, rainbow chard and a micro-green salad mix are growing in the systems. We hope to also try growing Black-Seeded Simpson lettuce and spinach in the next round of germinating the Rockwool cubes.

We started growing plants in two of the three tower systems in late January and have harvested 37 cups of salad greens, which equals about four pounds of greens for the school lunch program. The plants germinated for the third system are almost ready to be planted in the tower and will be up and running next week, as soon as we find another location in school. In the future, we would also like to supply some salad greens to the Tigerton Food Pantry.

The students are very interested in the project. They like checking the progress of the plant growth and don't mind listening to the running water when the tower goes through its cycle. Students in the horticulture, food science and agricultural productions classes have had experience in planting the cubes and harvesting the salad greens.

**RIGHT: Salad greens grow in a controlled water and light setting at Tigerton High School, thanks to a grant from the national FFA.** CONTRIBUTED



# Tigerton FFA honors individual achievements

The Tigerton High School FFA turned to virtual participation for many of its regular activities this year, according to adviser Lori Rowe.

The group missed their in-person interactions with district fourth graders during the Adventures in Dairyland Program last March, the youth safety fair and annual awards program; Molly Brehm was selected to be a part of the FFA Honors Chorus, but was unable to participate last summer when the in-person convention and Wisconsin State Fair were canceled.

The virtual nature of the National FFA Convention meant that all of Tigerton's agriculture students could "attend" the convention for \$100, instead of the usual \$400 per



**MICHAELA GLEASON**

FFA member.

All state FFA leadership conferences have been virtual this fall, and the district leadership development events are scheduled to be held virtually in March in Antigo.

Antigo.

Several members earned FFA degrees or participated in leadership activities through the year.

Michaela Gleason earned her Greenhand FFA degree in 2020; Samantha Suehring and Elizabeth Steuck earned their Discovery FFA degrees; Bethany Jobe and Mary



**Jessica Burayi (left), RaeAnn Strehlow**

Kreklow earned their Chapter FFA degrees in 2020; and middle school members Jessica Burayi and RaeAnn Strehlow participated in the 2020 Wisconsin FIRE Conference, held virtually in December.



**Bethany Jobe (left), Mary Kreklow**



**Samantha Suehring (left), Elizabeth Steuck**



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# Marathon County one of four new vaccination clinics

## Clinics aim to fill gaps in access to COVID-19 immunizations

Marathon County will host one of four new community-based COVID-19 vaccination clinics, Gov. Tony Evers, with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has announced.

The other locations will be in La Crosse County, Racine County, with the last clinic split between Douglas and Barron County. Locations will open within the next two months. All individuals currently eligible for the vaccine, regardless of where they live, will be able to schedule an appointment.

The new clinics — which are made possible through collaboration with AMI Expeditionary Healthcare, the University of Wisconsin system, local public health departments, and other local partners — were selected to address gaps in vaccine access and support vaccination efforts. Various factors including population demographics, local health capacity, operations, and concentration of other vaccine providers are taken into consideration when planning for these vaccination clinics.

Wisconsin currently has over 1,800 vaccine providers to help get available vaccine to those who are eligible. This

includes the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program, where select Walgreens continue to expand their vaccination capacity. This week, 178 Walgreens locations in Wisconsin will be receiving a total of 35,350 vaccine doses which is double the amount from last week. If you are currently eligible for vaccine, call 800-Walgreens or visit the Walgreens online registration website to schedule an appointment.

Supply will be limited. Individuals can also find vaccination options by contacting your healthcare provider, visiting your local public health department's website, or beginning March 1, registering through the Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccine Registry to find a vaccinator who has opted into the registry.

"Our biggest priority is to get shots in arms equitably, quickly, and safely. That is why we will continue adopting strategies and engaging in partnerships that will reduce barriers for individuals currently eligible for vaccine," said interim DHS Secretary Karen Timberlake. "We are expanding our capacity to deliver COVID-19 vaccines as more vaccine becomes available and as more people are eligible to be vaccinated."

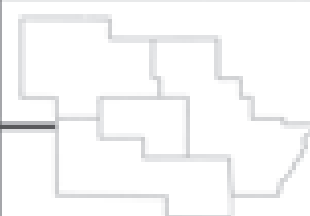
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## SPORTS

## HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

# Wittenberg-Birnamwood boys claim first regional title in 30 years

## Bowler, Tigerton seasons ended by Gresham

By **MORGAN RODE**  
Sports Editor

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School boys basketball team used a 25-5 run at the start the second half to take control of a Division 3 regional title game against Northland Pines on Feb. 20 in Wittenberg. The Chargers hung on for a 58-45 victory to claim their first regional title in 30 years.

Leading 20-19 coming into the second half, top-seeded Witt-Birn used a 7-0 run over the first five minutes to create a bit of a cushion. Simon Schairer knocked down a pair of shots, and Kaden Schmidt buried a 3-pointer for the team's points during that stretch.

After second-seeded Northland Pines scored the next three points, Ben Flak hit a shot in the paint for the Chargers, but the visitors came back with a field goal of their own to keep their deficit at five, 29-24.

Witt-Birn seized complete control with a 16-0 run. Schairer got the run started with a bucket before Schmidt converted a shot after a steal, and then Schmidt hit a 3-pointer.

The next two Witt-Birn baskets also came after steals, with Jack Fraaza and Schmidt converting the shots. Ben Wesolowski hit a 3-pointer before Schairer capped the big run with another field goal, making it 45-24 with under seven minutes to play.

"We talked about the first four or five minutes of the half being integral in trying to set the tone — get up on top, win possession by possession, value every possession. They did that," said Witt-Birn coach Garrett Rogowski of the team's second-half run. "Then when we got up by double figures, I thought we executed really well. I thought we got the ball to the rim, whether it was with the pass or off the bounce. That was the difference-maker for us."

"Defense was definitely big, espe-

### FYI

Wittenberg-Birnamwood was scheduled to play its sectional semifinal on Feb. 25. For results from that game, visit [www.newmedia-wi.com](http://www.newmedia-wi.com).

cially when we switched to a zone," said Schmidt. "It was an adjustment that (Northland Pines) couldn't make, and we capitalized off it and were able to score some easy buckets and keep building and gaining a bigger lead as the game kept going."

Trailing by 21, Northland Pines didn't go down without a fight. The visitors hit back-to-back 3-pointers before ramping up their defensive pressure and stifling the Chargers' offense.

Aside from the two triples, Witt-Birn's own defense was able to keep Northland Pines off the scoreboard to retain the double-digit lead. The Chargers had the chance to put the game away at the free-throw line, but made just two of five attempts during a minute span.

Northland Pines hit a 3-pointer and pair of free throws to cut its deficit to 12, 47-35, before Witt-Birn missed two more free throws. Pines then converted two free throws and another 3-pointer to make it a seven-point contest.

Flak knocked down a free throw with just over two minutes to play before the teams traded four quick baskets. Both of Witt-Birn's makes were on breakaways, but Northland Pines hit a layup and 3-pointer to make it a seven-point game again.

The Chargers were finally able to seal up the win by hitting six free throws in the final minute.

Schairer led the hosts with 28 points. He carried the team in the first half, scoring 17 of the team's 20 points.

"We just moved the ball more and worked as a team," said Schairer on how he got into a rhythm early on.

Schmidt scored all 12 of his points in the second half. Wesolows-



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Jack Fraaza, right, defends during a Division 3 regional final playoff game against Northland Pines on Feb. 20 in Wittenberg.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

ki chipped in eight points for the Chargers.

Witt-Birn advanced to the regional title after downing fifth-seeded Menominee Indian 79-60 in a regional semifinal on Feb. 19 in Wittenberg.

Schairer and Wesolowski each scored 18 points for Witt-Birn. Schmidt and Fraaza each added 15 points. The Chargers took 33 free throw attempts in the contest, making 17 of them.

### Bowler, Tigerton

Bowler and Tigerton each competed in Division 5, and each team won at least one playoff game before being eliminated.

Bowler, a No. 3 seed, topped sixth-seeded White Lake and second-seeded Marion before losing to top-seeded Gresham in the regional final.

Bowler was outscored 45-17 in the second half during its 76-47 regional title loss to Gresham on Feb. 20 in Gresham. Ashwut Mohawk was Bowler's top scorer with eight points. Beau Brunner tallied seven points.

### ONLINE

For the full game story from the Wittenberg-Birnamwood, Northland Pines regional final, visit [www.newmedia-wi.com](http://www.newmedia-wi.com).

In a 62-57 regional semifinal upset win over Marion on Feb. 19 in Marion, Logan Thieck tallied 21 points to lead Bowler on the offensive end.

Mohawk added 12 points, while Lane Schultz had 10. Adin Brei contributed nine points to the balanced offensive attack.

Bowler eased to a 85-68 win over White Lake in a regional quarterfinal on Feb. 16 in Bowler.

Fourth-seeded Tigerton won 39-30 against fifth-seeded Northland Lutheran in a regional quarterfinal matchup on Feb. 16 in Tigerton.

Tigerton's season was ended by Gresham after a 81-60 loss in a regional semifinal on Feb. 19 in Gresham. Tigerton's Kaeden Miller led all scorers with 21 points. Colby Wanta added 13 points.



# Bill to protect sports officials gains renewed legislative sponsorship

Legislation would make it Class A misdemeanor to harass or intimidate a sports official

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association is expressing its support of a reintroduced bill in the legislature that would make it a Class A misdemeanor to harass or intimidate a sports official in response to action taken or with intent to influence a referee, umpire, judge or anyone serving similar functions.

Bills LRB 1335/1 and LRB 1606/1, to create a state statute, has received support in the assembly from Rep. Todd Novak and Rep. Alex Dallman, and in the senate from Sen. Joan Ballweg and Sen. Andre Jacque.

An identical bill was introduced near the end of last session as 2019 AB 735/SB 657 and has been reintro-

duced at the request of the WIAA, National Association of Sport Officials and the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. The proposal is also supported by the Wisconsin Amateur Athletic Union, the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association and the Wisconsin Soccer Referee Development Program.

Currently, it is a Class B forfeiture if an individual harasses, intimidates, strikes, shoves or kicks another individual, or if the individual engages in a course of conduct or repeatedly commits harassing or intimidating behavior with no legitimate purpose. Bills LRB-1335/1 and LRB-1606/1 create a new crime for harassment and intimidation

of a sports official and revises the existing penalty. Statistics from the NASO Legislation Scorecard indicate 13% of sport officials have been assaulted by either a fan, coach or player.

The bill proposes a penalty as a Class A misdemeanor, which can carry a fine up to \$10,000, up to nine months in prison or both. The bill also allows judges to impose up to 40 hours of community service work or counseling, including anger management or abusive behavior intervention at the violator's expense.

There are 24 states that have assault legislation, civil statutes or supportive resolutions protecting sport officials. Nearly 48% of male

officials and 45% of female officials have responded in a survey that they have felt unsafe or feared for their safety in connection with involvement in officiating.

The decline in the numbers of high school sports officials continues at a concerning rate, and the recruiting and retaining of officials is made more difficult by the lack of sportsmanship at interscholastic and youth events. Fifty-seven percent of officials believe sportsmanship is getting worse, and they identify parents, coaches and fans as the cause of most sportsmanship issues. Surveys also indicate 43% of officials state that most new officials quit within the first one to three years.

## YOUTH SWIM

# WASP swimmers compete at regional meet

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

The Wittenberg Area Swim Program sent Rylee Crick, Reese Dickman and Ava Hegewald into competition during a regional meet at Waukesha South High School over the weekend.

Crick competed in the 10-and-under division. She placed first in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1 minute, 30.84 seconds. She claimed second in the 50 breaststroke (42.42).

Crick earned three other top-10



**RYLEE CRICK**

in the 50 freestyle (33.78).

Dickman took part in the 11-12 division. She claimed fourth in the

finishes. She was sixth in the 100 backstroke (1:23.51), seventh in the 50 backstroke (38.3) and ninth in the 100 IM (1:23.06). Crick also placed 15th in the 100 freestyle (1:16.16) and 19th



**REESE DICKMAN**

backstroke (35.47) and 50 freestyle (29.25).

Hegewald participated in the

50 breaststroke (35.8) and sixth in the 100 breaststroke (1:16.49).

Dickman also placed 15th in the 100 IM (1:14.99), 26th in the 100 freestyle (1:06.59) and 27th in the 50

13-14 division. She finished 10th in the 200 breaststroke (2:55.85), 16th in the 100 breaststroke (1:21.24) and 44th in the 50 freestyle (28.59).

WASP will wrap up its winter season this weekend. Dickman and Crick will represent the team at the state meet at the Walter Schroeder Aquatic Center in Brown Deer.

Dickman will compete in the 50 and 100 breaststrokes, while Crick takes part in the 50 and 100 breaststrokes and 50 backstroke.

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## PRO BASEBALL

# Counsell counting on Brewers hitters to bounce back

## Yelich returning to MVP could prove big for Milwaukee

By **STEVE MEGARGE**  
The Associated Press

Milwaukee Brewers manager Craig Counsell has a pretty simple formula for boosting a lineup that struggled throughout the abbreviated 2020 season.

His hitters just need to produce the way they typically have throughout their careers.

"We had guys that just didn't perform last year offensively," Counsell said Feb. 18 in his first media session since Brewers pitchers and catchers reported to spring training in Phoenix. "It was puzzling. It was out of the norm."

The most notable case involved 2018 NL MVP Christian Yelich, who hit just .205 last year after winning batting titles in 2018 and 2019.

He wasn't the only Brewers hitter who failed to perform up to expectations.

The Brewers scored 4.1 runs per game to rank 27th out of 30 MLB teams last year as they slipped into the playoffs with a 29-31 record. Their .223 team batting average placed them 26th. Their 582 strikeouts were the second-highest total of any MLB team, behind only the Tampa Bay Rays.

Keston Hiura batted .212 and had an NL-high 85 strikeouts last year after posting a .938 OPS as a rookie in 2019. Omar Narváez batted .176 with a .562 OPS last year after hitting .278 with 22 homers and an .813 OPS in 2019 with the Seattle Mariners. Avisail García batted .238 with a .659 OPS last year after hitting .282 with a .796 OPS in 2019 with Tampa Bay.

"We had some tough seasons and some of the most down seasons that some established players have had," Counsell said. "You're hoping, you're planning on them getting back to norm, and that's going to create a pretty big improvement



Milwaukee Brewers manager Craig Counsell watches his players take batting practice before a game against the Washington Nationals on Sept. 30, 2019, in Washington. Counsell is hoping several individual Brewers can bounce back after down seasons last year. PATRICK SEMANSKY | THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

in our offense. That's a big part of this."

That starts with getting Yelich back to his usual form.

Yelich had a respectable .356 on-base percentage last year thanks to his 46 walks in 247 plate appearances. But he struck out 76 times. His .786 OPS was his lowest since 2014, a dramatic fall for someone who led the NL in that category in 2018 (1.000) and 2019 (1.100).

His .205 batting average was the first time he'd ever hit below .282 in a season.

"I think we're going to see a very motivated player," Counsell said. "He was disappointed in the results last year, disappointed in his performance. He wants to be better, and he's going to be better. I think (from our) offseason conversations, I've found Christian has been in just an incredibly optimistic place. That's kind of the thing that's

struck me about him. Eager and optimistic, I guess would be the best way to say it."

The Brewers should get a boost from the return of center fielder Lorenzo Cain, who played just five games before opting out of the 2020 season. Newly acquired Gold Glove second baseman Kolten Wong has posted an on-base percentage of at least .350 each of the last two

seasons.

The biggest key to improving the offense is getting better performances from the guys who slumped last year.

Any improvement from the lineup could go a long way toward helping the Brewers earn a fourth straight playoff berth because their pitching should rank among the best in the NL Central.

## COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

By **NEW MEDIA STAFF**

### Winona State

Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School graduate Maddy Pietz competed in the 200 dash for the Winona State University (Minnesota) women's track and field team at the President Davenport Classic on Feb. 20. The Winona State women claimed second out of the three teams competing.

Pietz ran to a fifth-place finish after posting a time of 25.42 seconds.

### Oakland City

Bowler graduate Reanne Kietlinski stuffed the stat sheet during the Oakland City University (Indiana) women's basketball team's 78-38 victory over St. Mary-of-the-Woods College (Indiana) on Feb. 18.

Kietlinski came off the bench and scored 10 points in 22 minutes of action. She hit four field goals, one of which was a 3-pointer.

Kietlinski also recorded four rebounds, four steals and three assists.



## PRO FOOTBALL

## Packers release LB Christian Kirksey, OT Rick Wagner

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Green Bay Packers released linebacker Christian Kirksey and offensive tackle Rick Wagner, two of their main veteran free-agent additions from a year ago, on Feb. 19.

Releasing both players opens about \$10 million in cap space.

Kirksey, 28, started all 11 regular-season games he played this season for the Packers, and he started one of their two playoff contests. He missed five games with a chest injury in 2020 after injuries limited him to seven games in 2018 and only two in 2019.

His 78 tackles for the Packers tied for second place on the team.

Kirksey had signed with Green Bay in March after he was released by the Cleveland Browns, who selected him out of Iowa in the third round of the 2014 draft.

Wagner, 31, played all 16 regular-season games for the Packers and made nine starts at right tackle. He also started each of Green Bay's two playoff games.

He helped Green Bay allow no more than one sack in 13 of its 16 regular-season games. Wagner also was part of a line that didn't allow any sacks in an NFC divisional playoff victory over the Los Angeles Rams. But he struggled in the NFC championship game in which the Packers gave up five sacks and fell 31-26 to the eventual Super Bowl champion Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Wagner also signed with the Packers in March after his release by the Detroit Lions. The 2013 fifth-round draft pick from Wisconsin has made 96 career regular-season starts with Baltimore (2013-16), Detroit (2017-19) and Green Bay (2020).



Green Bay Packers offensive tackle Rick Wagner, left, blocks Houston Texans defensive end J.J. Watt during a game on Oct. 25 in Houston. The Packers released Wagner and linebacker Christian Kirksey on Feb. 19.

SAM CRAFT | THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## RECREATION SCOREBOARD

## BOWLING

## Resch Lanes — Wednesday Night Handicap

| Team                 | W      | L      |
|----------------------|--------|--------|
| Liberty Potatoes     | 98     | 70     |
| Resch Lanes (1)      | 81 1/2 | 86 1/2 |
| Mama's Place         | 81     | 87     |
| Hanke's Sentry Foods | 77     | 91     |
| Resch Lanes (2)      | 73 1/2 | 94 1/2 |
| Tavern Front         | 73     | 95     |
| Slammers             | 69     | 99     |
| Kemmer Electronics   | 63     | 105    |

**High team handicap games (top 3):** Resch Lanes (1) 1,209, Kemmer Electronics 1,190, Resch Lanes (2) 1,190.

**High individual handicap games (top 7):** Tom Schrank 313, Jim Borchardt 289, Randall Skaggs 286, Kris Poehnelt 280, Kirk Elliott 280, Chris Gunderson 271, Paul Bahr 271.

**High team handicap series (top 3):** Hanke's Sentry Foods 3,485, Resch Lanes (1) 3,447, Resch Lanes (2) 3,437.

**High individual handicap series (top 7):** Tom Schrank

764, Chris Gunderson 757, Jim Borchardt 747, Joe Bushman 742, Jeff Arndt 740, Randall Skaggs 738, Chris Grigg 734.

## Resch Lanes — Thursday Men's League

| Team             | W  | L   |
|------------------|----|-----|
| Resch Lanes      | 90 | 43  |
| Melody Mill      | 76 | 57  |
| Legacy Seed Pro  | 72 | 61  |
| Gutt'er Done     | 70 | 63  |
| Gullivers        | 68 | 65  |
| Cherek Transport | 63 | 70  |
| RJ Auto Repair   | 60 | 73  |
| Legacy Seed      | 33 | 100 |

**High team scratch games (top 3):** Melody Mill 1,133, Legacy Seed Pro 1,089, Resch Lanes 1,083.

**High individual scratch games (top 6):** Jason Resch 300, Caleb Zblewski 298, Joe Onesti 249, Randall Skaggs 244, Danny Schrank 243, Doug Koeller 241.

**High team scratch series (top 3):** Melody Mill 3,100, Legacy Seed Pro 3,091, Resch Lanes 3,041.

**High individual scratch series (top 6):** Jason Resch

847, Caleb Zblewski 779, Randall Skaggs 708, Jeremy Falkowski 672, Brad Davis 657, Allard Meverden 648.

## Resch Lanes — Monday Ladies Handicap

| Team               | W      | L      |
|--------------------|--------|--------|
| Resch Lanes        | 37 1/2 | 31 1/2 |
| Gulliver's Landing | 37 1/2 | 31 1/2 |
| Lisa's Lakeside    | 37     | 32     |
| Tavern Front       | 35     | 34     |
| Strike-a-pose      | 28     | 41     |
| Kropf's Meats      | 23     | 46     |

**High team handicap games (top 3):** Lisa's Lakeside 910, Strike-a-pose 881, Tavern Front 860.

**High individual handicap games (top 7):** Greg Wolff 289, Nikki Nievinski 248, Mary Krause 245, Jean Kriehn 245, Jordyn Krueger 243, Cheryl Zeinert 242, Tara Milanowski 241.

**High team handicap series (top 3):** Lisa's Lakeside 2,539, Strike-a-pose 2,475, Tavern Front 2,421.

**High individual handicap series (top 7):** Greg Wolff 702, Jean Kriehn 694, Cheryl Zeinert 675, Mary Krause 653, Sue Zeinert 646, Nikki Nievinski 645, Tara

Milanowski 641.

## Lakeshore Lanes — Lakeshore Masters

| Team                | W      | L      |
|---------------------|--------|--------|
| Lakeshore Lanes     | 37     | 11     |
| Golfside            | 33 1/2 | 14 1/2 |
| Meyer Insurance     | 31     | 17     |
| Torborg             | 29     | 19     |
| Launching Pad       | 26     | 22     |
| Dearco Distributors | 25 1/2 | 22 1/2 |
| Brother's           | 24 1/2 | 23 1/2 |
| Full Service Tents  | 24     | 24     |
| Farmall Fanatics    | 16 1/2 | 31 1/2 |
| Pin Pricks          | 15     | 33     |
| Shawano Auto Sales  | 15     | 33     |
| Curb Impressions    | 11     | 37     |

**High team scratch games (top 3):** Lakeshore Lanes 714, Golfside 703, Meyer Insurance 701.

**High individual scratch games (top 7):** Don Pedersen 275, Bill Meyer 268, Jeremy Pederson 257, Ed Brusky 254, Jeff Arndt 249, Steve Marotz 246, Bryant Rankin 245.

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# Leader staffers nab three Better Newspapers awards

By **NEW MEDIA STAFF**

The Shawano Leader received  
 three awards last week in the annual  
 Wisconsin Newspapers Association  
 Better Newspapers Contest.

Tim Ryan, reporter and columnist,  
 took second place in the Best Column  
 category for weekly newspapers.

The columns submitted for the  
 award were "How America would  
 have lost World War II," a tongue-  
 in-cheek look at how World War II  
 would have gone if Donald Trump  
 had been president then; "Coronavi-  
 rus creating new business opportuni-  
 ties," a take on the then-shortage of  
 toilet paper and other necessities at  
 the start of the coronavirus pandemic;  
 and "Conspiracy theories another vi-  
 rus we need to beware," which looked  
 at the rampant rumors and gossip  
 spreading when news of the coronavi-  
 rus first broke.

"Brilliant and spot on" was among  
 the judge's comments for Ryan's  
 work. "Smart, funny and heartbreak-  
 ingly cynical. Ryan perfectly sums up  
 the age of alternative facts. Is it over  
 yet?"

Lee Pulaski, city editor, took third  
 place in the Reporting on Local  
 Education category in the weekly  
 division, a drop from his first-place  
 honors in the daily division last year.

The articles for the award were  
 "Virtual ceremony brings grads  
 together in spirit," which covered  
 how Marion High School was prepar-  
 ing its graduation ceremony in May  
 2020 when the coronavirus was in  
 full swing; "A purple purpose," a  
 story that covered a Menominee  
 Indian High School campaign that  
 highlighted dementia issues on  
 the reservation; and "School panel  
 hesitant about livestreaming board  
 meetings," covering a meeting of  
 the Shawano School District prior  
 to the pandemic that questioned the  
 need for livestreaming the Shawano  
 School Board's meetings.

"The virtual graduation story is  
 great with multiple sources, and I was  
 especially glad to see the reporter  
 included quotes from students," the  
 judge wrote in commenting on Pulas-  
 ki's work. "The story about the school  
 board's resistance to live-streaming is  
 important bringing to light a lack of  
 transparency. The story on dementia  
 awareness is a bit rough around the  
 edges. There are a couple of typos,  
 and word choice is not exact."

Pulaski and Carol Ryczek, editor-  
 in-chief, shared a third-place award  
 in the Best Headlines category. The  
 headlines they submitted were "Make  
 America Grape Again," which head-  
 lined a photo of a Baltimore oriole  
 going after some grape jelly in a bird  
 feeder; "What cheese curd would Je-  
 sus try?" for a feature on Sacred Heart  
 Catholic School administrators doing  
 videos to keep students' spirits up  
 during the pandemic; and "A moment  
 in the slimglight," which headlined a  
 photo where Sacred Heart principal  
 Gary Cumberland was doused in  
 slime.

"There have been a lot of takes on  
 'Make America Great Again' over the  
 last four years, but this was a new one  
 for me," the judge commented. "Very  
 clever!"

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# World records set at snowmobile ice drags



A crowd lines the snow fence as racers take off at the start of the 660 foot drag race course in Oconto Falls on Feb. 20. The racers are timed at the start, at 70 feet and at the finish line. They use the times to help improve their performance.

## Battle on the Bay finds home in Oconto Falls

Two world records were set when 80 drivers from all over the U.S. converged on an icy stretch of the Oconto River on Feb. 20 for a day of snowmobile drag racing.

The event was noisy, crowded, and world-record-setting fast. In short, a success.

“Originally, the Battle of the Bay was a fundraiser,” said organizer Chris Garrity. “It grew into something bigger, and I started a business, ‘Cold Speed Racing.’ We have one winter event a year — Battle

on the Bay — but the last two years we had to cancel because of the weather.”

Lentzkow/Ingval Motorsports set two world records in the Open Mod 400 class, 5.738 seconds to cover the 660 foot track at 105.68 mph; in Open Mod 700, 5.313 seconds at 120.62 miles per hour.

Garrity estimated that a couple of thousand spectators watched throughout the day. Although happy to have a venue with reliable ice, Garrity guessed that the event could outgrow its Oconto Falls location.

The original Battle of the Bay was held on Green Bay, in colder, more ice-friendly times. This year, he brought the event to Oconto Falls, at West Side Beach on the Oconto River. The event included tents for

refreshments, an electronic start and finish line, and four 660’ lanes of ice.

Snowmobile drag racing is done on ice — the snow is cleared from four ice lanes with a long swath of snow-covered river for slowing down after the finish line.

Racers compete against each other and are timed at the start, at 70 feet and at the finish line. These numbers are posted after each heat so drivers can assess how, and when, to improve.

“They come back for the print-out, so they know what to do next time,” Garrity said. For example, a driver with a slow starting time might check their clutching or gearing — or the driver’s reaction time, he said.

Each snowmobile is outfitted

with “ice picks,” spikes in the tracks that keep them from spinning on the ice. Each driver is also required to wear a tether. This device stops the machine if the driver falls off, preventing it from roaring into the crowd if there is an accident.

Winners share a \$10,000 purse. Garrity said many of the drivers have a regular summer, when races are held on grass or hay, and about a half dozen winter races.

In addition to the competitive races, the event ends with a bikini run, where women with a high tolerance for cold run the course in bikinis. The spectator crowd is reliably large for that event, he said.

Winners will be posted at the Cold Speed Racing website, <https://www.thebattleonthebay.com>.



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Oconto Falls residents Charlie Verbruggen, left, takes aim at Bow Huget as their families watched the races.



Racers can approach the finish line at speeds of over 100 miles per hour.

## STORY AND PHOTOS BY CAROL RYCZEK



At the starting line, Ron Umland, Oconto Falls, talks about the upcoming race with his wife, Melissa Gunderson-Umland, at the Battle of the Bay snowmobile ice drag race.



Spectators line the snow fence barrier as they watch racers return to the pit after a race. Race drivers are outfitted with a device that stops the snowmobile's engine should they fall off — preventing the machine from careening into the crowd.

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# OPINION

## Badger Bounce Back Budget one that says 'yes'

Early on in his speech introducing his Badger Bounce Back Budget plan Feb. 16, Gov. Tony Evers said something critically important: "Don't let anyone tell you we can't spend within our means while still supporting Wisconsinites who need help to recover."

Evers has it exactly right. We can fix what has been broken during the struggles of the past year and build on the pre-pandemic normal to make life better for all Wisconsinites than it was before the pandemic. We can bounce back from this deadly virus and move forward toward a better future.

Some politicians have tried to force false choices on Wisconsinites. They have told us we need to choose between supporting the elderly and the young and those who, for whatever reason, need a little help or, alternatively, supporting our businesses and growing the economy. The past year has revealed that there was never a tension between those goals.

Our economic well-being as a community is tied to our schools, our public health departments, our hospitals and so much more. The Badger Bounce Back Budget is saying "yes" to public health, "yes" to well-funded schools where all our children can



**NICOLE SAFAR**

thrive, "yes" to supporting local businesses and innovation and "yes" to being fiscally responsible and thinking long-term for the next generation.

This budget is future-facing

at its heart. Wisconsinites will surely hear a lot about some of the big-ticket items like Medicaid expansion, historic investments in public schools and economic support for our agricultural economy, innovation and small businesses. These measures are important, and they'll make a difference in the lives of so many Wisconsin families, but I want to focus on a couple of the changes that might fly under the radar in the public debate and politics. It's these policies that build for the future of our families and exemplify the long-term thinking in this budget.

Evers' budget would expand the Family Medical Leave Act, which would make more workers eligible for family medical leave and permit leave to care for a grandparent, grandchild or sibling, and allow FMLA for medi-

cal quarantine. We know that not all families look the same, but we all want to make sure our loved ones are cared for when they're ill.

No Wisconsinite should have to leave a family member who needs care at home alone for fear of losing their job. This isn't revolutionary, but it does permit working families the flexibility and stability to hold onto a job and care for a loved one in need.

The Evers budget also includes tax savings for low- and middle-income families, many of whom haven't recovered the way that wealthy individuals and corporations have from the economic fallout of the pandemic. It provides \$450 in tax relief to low and moderate income Wisconsinites, creates a nonrefundable credit for family caregivers, increases the Earned Income Tax Credit for working families, and provides credits for rent, property taxes and childcare for low-income families.

A lot of families have struggled to balance virtual schooling, caring for an elderly family member and health costs during this pandemic. This budget recognizes and helps compensate the important and thankless work of raising children or caring for seniors.

The Badger Bounce Back Budget is full of thoughtful provisions that will ease some of the burdens that Wisconsin families and communities face. Fundamentally, the Evers budget is a budget of compassion, a budget that prioritizes equity, a budget that will care for our communities, a budget for a better future. It's a budget of "yes."

The people of the state of Wisconsin have already joined the governor in his emphatic "yes" to a better future and rejecting the divisive and scarcity politics of the past. Many of us already support the policies that Evers is proposing. As the governor said, change won't happen without us. The Badger Bounce Back Budget invests in us, and it can become a reality if we show our support.

We've shown time and time again that a chorus of "yes" from all over Wisconsin, united across race and place, can overcome the handful of politicians who put corporations and the wealthy ahead of families. If Wisconsinites stand together, we can make not just this budget, but a better future for us and our children, a reality.

**Nicole Safar is the executive director of A Better Wisconsin Together.**

## Transportation budget fixing what Wisconsin has

Gov. Tony Evers ran on a promise to repair our deteriorating roads, bridges and other transportation infrastructure. The governor made good on that promise by investing the greatest amount of new transportation spending in a generation. That funding is being put to good use, helping the state, counties, municipalities and towns repair bridges and resurface roads from Marinette County in the northeast to Grant County in the southwest, and everywhere in between.

In 2020, we completed 375 projects in all corners of the state, staying on schedule during the pandemic. In fact, due to decreased traffic, we were able to finish many of these projects ahead of schedule and under budget.

While our commitment to bringing Wisconsin's transportation system into the 21st century hasn't changed, conditions have. Wisconsin is only now beginning to emerge from the pandemic, and our social and economic future is clouded in uncertainty.



**CRAIG THOMPSON**

While reduced traffic led to significant reductions in transportation revenues, we at the Wisconsin Department of Transportation acted early to tighten our belt and realize significant program savings. Those measures, along with the "backstop" funding state DOTs received this past month from the federal government, have allowed us to weather this crisis.

Consequently, most spending in the proposed transportation budget is maintained at current levels. However, that doesn't mean we are standing still. Wisconsinites will continue to depend on our transportation system more than ever before — not only to perform the daily activities of life, but to provide the springboard for our economic recovery.

For the second straight budget, Evers' administration prioritizes fixing what we have. The State Highway Rehabilitation Program, which provides funding for the state to repair our two-lane state highways and bridges, receives an increase of approximately \$19 million in the biennium, and general transportation aid is up 2% in both 2022 and 2023.

In 2020, counties, towns and cities expressed high praise for the Multimodal Local Supplement program for its flexibility and lack of red tape, which helped more communities fund vital local projects. That's why we're glad to see Evers propose \$75 million for this program in his budget.

The governor's proposed budget also responds to the transportation needs of people and businesses that depend on mobility options other than roads and private vehicles. It increases funding for local transit systems, creates a \$10 million fund for replacement of buses and makes it easier for transit

systems to expand their boundaries and serve more people. There is no greater barrier to employment than not being able to get to work reliably.

We will do the vital work of modernizing the arterial highways that carry the bulk of the state's people and goods, by enumerating the I-94 East West Corridor project near American Family Park. Just as local roads are the first and last mile of every trip, our interstate and state highways connect businesses and people — all over the state — with the nation and the world.

The pandemic has changed our lives in many ways. What hasn't changed is our reliance on a safe, efficient and accessible transportation system. The proposed 2021-2023 budget makes smart spending decisions while continuing to repair the transportation system that will move our Wisconsin economy forward.

**Craig Thompson is the secretary-designee for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.**



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## PUZZLES

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## THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

THE GAME IS A FOOT: Ten FOOTs, to be precise

by S.N.

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2/28/21

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| 107 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 108 |    |    |    |    |    | 109 |     |    |    | 110 |    |    |    |

## ACROSS

- 1 Power for Robert Fulton  
6 Bedside appliance  
10 Webcam app  
15 Narrow board  
19 Letter measure  
20 Techie's client  
21 A way to sauté  
22 Pitchfork point  
23 FOOT the bill for, as a scholarship  
25 FOOT IDs in delivery rooms  
27 Dessert cart display  
28 Words often on a logo  
30 Annoying noise  
31 Isn't oneself  
32 Garfield cartoonist  
33 Flat-headed fastener  
34 Covered, as with armor  
37 Actor Quinn  
38 Skillfully avoid  
42 More atypical  
43 Certain FOOT pedal  
45 Modeled after  
46 Basic facts  
47 Affable  
48 Half-rectangle shape  
49 Sticky situation  
50 Homer's lament  
51 UnderFOOT  
55 Hoops star Curry  
56 Impressive supplies  
58 Power problem  
59 Actor Ving  
60 Merge  
61 Name: Lat.  
62 Caterpillar competitor  
63 Comedy genre, for short  
65 Eastern European capital  
66 Stand for
- 69 Place quickly, as a hat  
70 FOOT soldier fellow  
72 Nautical alert  
73 Olay alternative  
74 Female rabbit  
75 Top spot  
76 Tupperware sound  
77 Round Table address  
78 Made FOOT "ft." for instance  
83 *Back to the Future* teen  
84 Lets go  
86 Lots of land  
87 Break time  
88 Varnish layer  
89 Latches (onto)  
90 Stop trying  
91 On a necklace, say  
94 The Forum, today  
95 Beats at retail  
99 Three-pointers propelled by a FOOT  
101 One traveling on FOOT  
103 Planning, briefly  
104 Postal Service symbol  
105 All those in favor  
106 Kiddie song conclusion  
107 Skillfully done  
108 Get ready to dine  
109 Duck's dwelling  
110 BB King's music
- 10 Eminent adjective at St. Peter's  
11 Sailor's creations, or speed measure  
12 "Why not," in texts  
13 Budget chart  
14 Madrid museum  
15 Accumulates, as snow  
16 Web-page convenience  
17 Pay for a hand  
18 Trial balloon  
24 Tempestuous  
26 One in a rush  
29 Running track  
32 Cutter of cubes  
33 Royal bestowal  
34 Competitor of Coach  
35 Cabinet department  
36 Strain reliever for FOOT muscles  
37 S&L customers  
38 Soothing application  
39 Device with FOOT markings  
40 Emulate Romeo and Juliet  
41 Walking routes  
43 Walking route  
44 Time on the throne  
47 Ainer of Lakers games  
49 Onetime McCartney partner  
51 Omelet ingredient  
52 "Good old" land  
53 Herb in curry  
54 Special pleasure  
55 Lustrous look  
57 Ill-fated energy giant  
59 Kick back  
61 Without a service charge

## DOWN

- 1 Salad alternative  
2 Cat food flavor  
3 Remnants  
4 Overhead transparencies  
5 More jolly  
6 Entices  
7 Retail disclaimer  
8 Came upon  
9 Created in advance

- 62 With a rounded roof  
63 "No, thanks"  
64 Studio release  
65 Something boring, so to speak  
66 Varieties  
67 Law school course  
68 TV sports awards  
70 "More than likely . . ."  
71 Assesses  
76 Pasteur's study  
78 Bid \_\_ farewell  
79 Was boastful  
80 Hand luggage  
81 Desktop picture  
82 Distance between outstretched hands  
83 Expert, informally  
85 Emulate Rodin  
87 Same old things  
89 Coastal fliers  
90 Adventurous journey  
91 Dirty Harry's employer: Abbr.  
92 Need a break  
93 Sailing hazard  
94 Latest fad  
95 Poetic tributes  
96 Legal claim  
97 Detailed, with "out"  
98 Smug expert  
100 Kayak propeller  
102 Needle hole



# LIGHTS, CAMERA, LANGUAGE

## PBS teams with Sacred Heart to teach writing through video composition

By **LEE PULASKI**  
City Editor

They say that one of the tenets of good writing is the ability to show instead of tell.

The seventh and eighth grade students at Sacred Heart Catholic School are learning new ways to do that with the help of Wisconsin's Public Broadcasting System.

The students are learning all about video composition and the writing that's necessary to work in that field. The students met with PBS producers via Zoom to learn the basics, like setting up microphones, preparing lighting and more.

"There's a program through PBS where we're able to use a lot of their professional equipment," said Mallory Kruszynski, who teaches middle school English. "We have lights, camera, microphones, and we're doing media and video composition. We're learning language arts."

Now, the students are working on a class podcast, where they will have to create a question that is answered in the community. After that, there will be a research project where students will put together a news story about how the coronavirus has affected the community. Once that is done, they will be making creative films with students writing scripts and acting them out on the screen.

"This goes hand in hand with the writing process," Kruszynski said. "The planning, the producing, the editing — we're learning all those steps through podcasts. We're going to do some documentaries. We're going to do some creative writing and short films and that kind of stuff."

The students will be deciding many of the topics that they will tackle through video composition, according to Kruszynski. They spent a couple of afternoons recently brainstorming what they want to talk about for the podcast, which will be submitted to National Public Radio's Podcast Challenge for middle and high school students.

The documentary regarding the coronavirus is expected to take a little more work.

"We talked about the coronavirus, and how that's affecting the people closest to us and the community," Kruszynski said. "They're going to



Sacred Heart Catholic School students Jack Dietz, left, and Swede Corn set up one of the lights to practice for when their English class produces a podcast.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

be involved in writing all the scripts, and then they're going to take from the scripts to record everything, and then they'll be in charge of the editing, as well."

Kruszynski first learned of the PBS video composition program two years of ago at a conference in Madison.

"They gave us the rundown on audio and video and all that stuff, and then we got a day to go out in Madison with their equipment and practice and put together some little videos," Kruszynski said. "We got the hands-on experience that we could take back to our classrooms."

The lending of the video equipment by PBS is something new this year, she noted. It's a chance for students to learn hands-on and to find a way to make writing fun.

"The goal is to have students excited about the learning process, and it teaches them a lot more than just how to use a camera or how to set up a tripod," Kruszynski said. "They learn how to collaborate and how to work with each other."

Even though the projects are still

in the formative stages, Kruszynski is seeing the excitement in the students as they figure out where to go next.

"We've already had to do some troubleshooting. We had a microphone that didn't work," Kruszynski said. "That's always a good thing for them to learn. Sometimes technology doesn't want to work, and we have to figure out the next option. It's good for them to work through those kinds of problems, too."

For Swede Corn, a seventh grade student at Sacred Heart, he's excited at the prospects of not only the fun that can come from video composition, but how it can help him become a better writer.

"We're learning about how to communicate and about how to use equipment that is used by other television programs or any type of program that uses microphones and cameras," Corn said.

Video production has a lot more allure for Corn than being asked to simply write about something.

"This helps us take more of our experience and more intelligence and help us take our time," he said. "It'll

help our brains exercise and keep our brains moving."

Despite the allure of the cameras and the other equipment, Corn acknowledged there's still a writing element that's necessary to make things work, and that's fine with him.

"We might need scripts for what we're going to do," Corn said. "When we make a podcast, we need to know what we're going to say."

Kruszynski said she is confident that, given the choice between writing a report and producing a video, they'd pick the latter.

"A lot of times with traditional language arts, they're sitting at their desk. They're filling out a worksheet. They're typing on a Chromebook, and then they hit 'submit' and that's it," Kruszynski said. "In the video process, they're working in small groups all the time, and they're talking and exchanging ideas a lot more. They're getting to use technology and equipment that they otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity to use. They get to be a little more creative."



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We would like to thank all of our readers and subscribers for your participation in our “Wittenberg Enterprise & Birnamwood News 2020” promotion. You filled out the ballots and choose your favorite businesses. It is always exciting for us to be able to contact our customers and inform them that they have been chosen “Best Of” by you. It is a reward well deserved.

Our local businesses rely heavily on your support throughout the year and strive to give you the great products and the professional service you expect, with their own personal touch.

We urge you to continue to patronize these and all of the other local businesses in the Wittenberg Enterprise & Birnamwood News 2020 Region.

## WITTENBERG ENTERPRISE & BIRNAMWOOD NEWS



NEW MEDIA INC.

## WITTENBERG ENTERPRISE & BIRNAMWOOD NEWS



# 2020 RESULTS - BALLOT #1

### Best Goods:

- ☐ Flower Shop - Wittenberg Floral
- ☐ Grocery Store - Hanke's Sentry Foods
- ☐ Hardware Store - True Value Hardware, Wittenberg
- ☐ Tile/Flooring - Resch Tile Inc.

### Best Services:

- ☐ A/C & Heating - Bauer Plumbing & Heating
- ☐ Bank - Associated Bank
- ☐ Chiropractor - Dr. Long
- ☐ Credit Union - CoVantage
- ☐ Dentist - Dr. Szmanda Dental Center
- ☐ Insurance Agency - Central Wisconsin Insurance Associates Inc.
- ☐ Optometrist - Dr. Ken Martell, Family Vision Center
- ☐ Pharmacy - Gwidt Pharmacy
- ☐ Real Estate - River's Edge Real Estate
- ☐ Veterinarian Clinic - Wittenberg Veterinary Clinic

## WITTENBERG ENTERPRISE & BIRNAMWOOD NEWS



# 2020 RESULTS - BALLOT #2

### Best Thing To Do:

- ☐ Bowling Alley - Resch Lanes
- ☐ Casino - Ho-Chunk Gaming
- ☐ Happy Hour - Rachel's Roadside Bar & Grill
- ☐ Live Music - Rachel's Roadside Bar & Grill
- ☐ Meat Market - Nueske's Applewood Meats
- ☐ Night Spot - Resch Lanes

### Best Outdoor Activities:

- ☐ Bait/Tackle Shop - BP Antigo
- ☐ Golf Course - Maple Hills Golf Course
- ☐ Lawn/Garden - True Value Hardware, Wittenberg

### Best Vehicle Services:

- ☐ Auto Body Repair - Beversdorf's Garage
- ☐ Auto Parts Supply Store - NAPA
- ☐ Car Dealer - Langlade Ford of Antigo
- ☐ Vehicle Service Center - Beversdorf's Garage
- ☐ Tire Store - Langlade Ford of Antigo

## WITTENBERG ENTERPRISE & BIRNAMWOOD NEWS



# 2020 RESULTS - BALLOT #3

### Food/Dining:

- ☐ Bar - Rachel's Roadside Bar & Grill
- ☐ Breakfast - The Harvest Restaurant
- ☐ Burger - Straight Home Bar & Grill
- ☐ Dessert - Linda's Bakery
- ☐ Dinner - Maple Hills Golf Club
- ☐ Family Restaurant - Wittenberg Family Restaurant
- ☐ Fish Fry - Rachel's Roadside Bar & Grill
- ☐ Lunch - Rachael's Roadside Bar & Grill
- ☐ Pizza - Resch Lanes
- ☐ Sandwich - Subway



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## NTC earns designation as 'military friendly'

Northcentral Technical College (NTC) has earned the 2021-2022 Military Friendly School designation.

Institutions earning the designation were evaluated using both public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey. Over 1,200 schools participated in the 2021-2022 survey, with 747 earning the designation.

The 2021-2022 Military Friendly Schools list will be published in the May issue of G.I. Jobs magazine and can be found at [www.militaryfriendly.com](http://www.militaryfriendly.com).

Methodology, criteria, and weightings were determined by Vqictory, service-disabled, veteran-owned

small business, with input from the Military Friendly Advisory Council of independent leaders in the higher education and military recruitment community.

Final ratings were determined by combining the institution's survey response set and government/agency public data sources, within a logic-based scoring assessment. It measures the institution's ability to meet thresholds for student retention, graduation, job placement, loan repayment, persistence (degree advancement or transfer) and loan default rates for all students and, specifically, for student veterans.

### NOTICE TO ALL DOG OWNERS WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF WITTENBERG

#### IT'S TIME TO LICENSE YOUR DOG FOR 2021

**All dogs 5 months or older require a dog license.** Presentation of a valid Certificate of Rabies Vaccination from a veterinarian is **required** in order to obtain a dog license. Landlords, please notify your renters that Dog Licenses are due.

Dog licenses are good for one year, beginning January 1, 2021 and can be obtained from the Clerk/Treasurer – 208 W. Vinal Street, 715-253-6063. If you no longer have a dog that was licensed in 2020, please let the Clerk/Treasurer know. If you become a dog owner, **at any point during the year**, you must register the dog and obtain a dog tag. If your dog is not 5 months old, during the licensing period, you **must license them when they become 5 months old.**

License fees are \$10.00 for neutered or spayed dogs, \$15.00 for dogs not neutered or spayed, and must be obtained **Before April 1, 2021.**

**\*\*Dog payments must either be paid in cash or with a separate check made out to the Village of Wittenberg.**

WNAXLP

### Wittenberg-Biramwood School District Official Minutes of the Board of Education January 18, 2021

Meeting called to order by President Chuck Wendler, Pursuant to WI.STATS.1984 (1). Superintendent Rogowski verified that this meeting was posted and published as required by law.

**Roll Call of the Board:** Eight members present Meredith, absent

**Approve the Minutes:** (Pestka - Schmidt) moved to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2020 regular meeting as circulated. Motion carried.

**Delegations & Communications:** In attendance along with Board members were: Garrett Rogowski, Joy Hartleben, Randy Berndt, Megan Marcks, Vicky Haas, Bill Hass, John Rudeen, Nikki Steigenwald, Jolene Lex, Tyler Tauges, and Waylon Resch.

The Board received numerous thank yous from staff for the Christmas gift they received this year: Donna Lehman, Chris Nier, Linda Pontefract, Tammy Parker, Ashley Hedtke, Joan Andraschko, Julie Hoffman, Jill Resch, Sherlyn Krull, Joanna Fradrich, Annette Block, Deb Rades, Gene & Peggy Gretzlock, Christine Clark, Robin Pukall, Deanna Jensen, Mikayla King, Colleen Wesolowski, Nikki Steigenwald, Joanie Mortenson, Cindy Yaeger, Mary King, Tracy Keeney, Marrie Osterbrink, Ann Smith, Julayne Stadler, Joy Hartleben and Shannon Carpenter-Seegmiller.

Waylon Resch presented the Board with a Hot/Cold mug engraved by his students as a thank you for their support and gift this year.

**Student Senate:** Tyler stated that at Christmas time they had movies and gave out presents to students right before break. They are planning some upcoming events for Spring.

**Financial Report:** (Magee - Stewart) Motion to pay the following as of January 18, 2021: Budgetary checks numbering 103355-103504 in the amount of \$177,112.67, payroll checks numbering 142035-142059 in the amount of \$198,332.85, direct deposit advices in the amount of \$378,295.62, ACH payments in the amount of \$275,910.35 and credit card payments in the amount of \$16,626.86. I make a motion to approve all journal entries made for the month of December. Roll call vote: 9 yes Meredith absent. Motion carried.

Superintendent Rogowski reported a cash on deposit as of December 31, 2020 of \$2,360,138.56 and LGIP.

Account balance as of December 31, 2020 of \$77,957.99.

**Approve Agenda:** (Olson - Pestka) moved to approve the agenda moving New Business C to the February meeting with no closed sessions. Motion carried.

#### Administrative Reports:

Vicky Haas, Wittenberg Elementary/Middle School Principal stated that Fastbridge testing is wrapping up. ACCESS testing has been postponed by the state until Feb-March. She wanted to thank Michelle Martinez, our ELL para for her hard work in scheduling and proctoring and holding individual sessions with students on the importance and relevance of assessments. There is an upcoming professional development day this Friday the 22nd with knowledge base learning and other training for staff.

Randy Berndt, Biramwood Elementary/Middle School Principal stated that they are in the middle of Fastbridge testing. He is working on formal observations as part of Educator Effectiveness. Important dates were shared along with pictures of Mrs. Bauch's 6th grade Social Studies project.

Megan Marcks, Pupil Services Director stated that the District would like to provide an environment to test for our virtual students. Elementary Guidance counselors are working with Stephanie Gruber to assist 6th graders with high school scheduling. Gretchen Leadu from CESA 2 has started some one on one coaching sessions with our primary teaching staff. Gabby Behrke started an internship at the High School, her major being special education, she will be working with us for the remainder of the school year.

Bill Hass, High School Principal, shared that FFA Week will be February 20-27. The grade range has been adjusted to match the standard. Finals will be January 20th and 21 with an open campus.

John Rudeen, Aquatic Center Director, would like to thank all those who have participated in the Aquatic Center Meat Raffle Fundraiser. Events have pretty much been postponed due to Covid. A big thanks to the maintenance team for tackling the pool filters project. HVAC systems have been mostly replaced with some ongoing work with smaller parts of the system.

Garrett Rogowski, Superintendent, stated he would like to meet with the Building & Grounds Committee on January 27th at 5:30 p.m. Working with a couple families with a hockey co-op, with the family being responsible for any costs. The responsibility the teachers have had of doing virtual and in person instruction has been a struggle. We would like to start the next school year not requiring the teachers to do both. This will be a discussion. Just beginning the discussion of possibly providing a daycare - only a thought at this time.

Old Business A: (Schmidt - Pestka) moved to approve the Policy Updates as presented. Motion carried.

New Business A: (Olson - T. Wendler) moved to approve the High School Trimester Schedule for 2021-2022 as presented. Motion carried.

New Business B: (Magee - Pestka) moved to approve the High School Scheduling Handbook for 2021-2022 as presented. Motion carried.

New Business C: moved to February Agenda

New Business D: (Stewart - Olson) moved to approve the quotes from American Fence Company for a privacy fence and gate at the High School in the amount of \$7566.00. Motion carried.

New Business E: (Schmidt - Pestka) moved to approve the hire of Emily Knowles at the Biramwood Cafeteria and Shari Walrath at the Wittenberg Cafeteria. Motion carried.

New Business F: (Stewart - Magee) moved to approve the open enrollment numbers for the 2021-2022 school year. No more than 25 students per class grades 4K-5, no more than 30 students grades 6-8 and no more than 500 total for the High School. For Special Education, due to case load formulas, there are no available seats for Speech/Language, Early Childhood, Vision, Occupational Therapy, Hearing/Audiology, Physical Therapy, Cross Categorical grades K-5 and Emotional Behavior Disability. There are three seats available for Cross Categorical Grades 6-8. Motion carried.

Adjournment: (Stewart - Pestka) moved to adjourn, 7:10 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Joy A Hartleben

School Board Secretary

WNAXLP



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