

*Wishing you a
Happy and Healthy
Holiday Season*

— From everyone at NEW Media Inc.



Pastor maintains ministry in difficult time

'We will do whatever it takes to administer God's gifts in this difficult time' - Rev. Matthew J. Christians.

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FFA delivers seasonal fruit

WBHS FFA packs, delivers over 6 tons of oranges, grapefruit, pineapples and the other treats.

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Brady enjoys last year on court

Tigerton senior Adrienne Brady is filling up the stat sheet for girls basketball team.

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IN THIS SEASON OF GIVING, PACKERS NEED RECEIVERS

**PACKERS NEED PLAYERS TO MATCH
RODGER'S GIFTS
GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS
INSIDE THIS ISSUE!**

WITTENBERG
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COVID-19 Journal

—NEW Media—

Pastor 'makes it work' at St. Paul's churches

Small changes are response to pandemic

By **DAVID WILHELMS**
Reporter

Rev. Matthew J. Christians proudly points out his twin parishes have never closed during the COVID-19 pandemic. "We're still preaching the word and administering the sacraments. We will do whatever it takes to administer God's gifts in this difficult time," he said.

"How do we make this work?" is the church's central question in

responding to the pandemic, Christians said, "The Lord gives us challenges. You can wring your hands and panic, or you can get to work."

He said his church members were complying with safety guidelines and



REV. MATTHEW J. CHRISTIANS

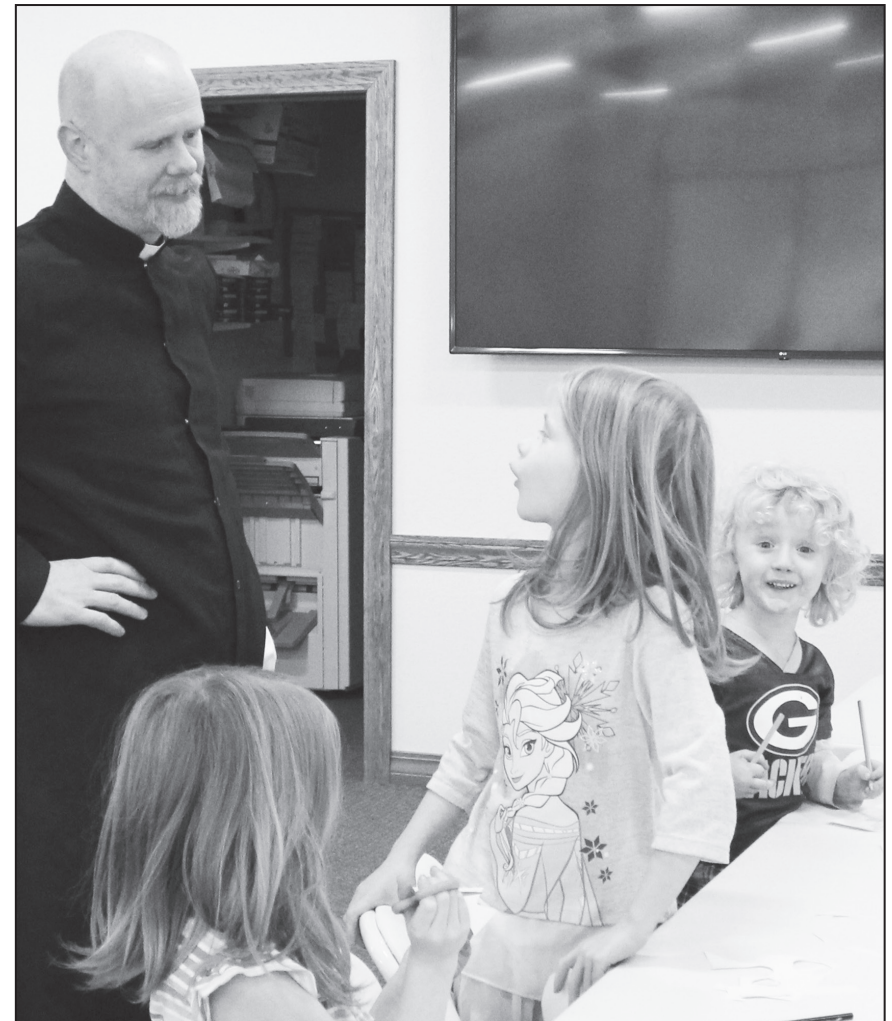
would continue to make all accommodations that don't go against their faith.

Christians bases some of his conviction on recalling "ecclesia," the Greek origin of the the word "ecclesiastical," meaning "gathering together." As he put it, "God designed us to be together," and that includes church services.

He came to Birnamwood's St. Paul's Church in 2013 from Oregon and added the pastorate of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Wittenberg two years ago when the two congregations united.

Church membership has held steady during the pandemic, Christians said, although only about 70% of the congregation attends services in person.

That so many parishioners have



Rev. Matthew Christians checks on three of the younger members of his flock at the St. Paul's Lutheran Church hall in Wittenberg. They also are his daughters — Genevieve, Naomi and Ambrose.

DAVID WILHELMS | NEW MEDIA

chosen to avoid in-person services has prompted him to offer monthly communion to people in their homes. Christians added all vestments and articles used in the sacrament are sanitized between uses.

When gatherings were limited to 10 people under the now-expired state mandate, Christians responded by conducting as many as 15 services in a day, he said.

Christians acknowledged that some might find that kind of repetition difficult, but he said he found it reaffirming of his faith and ministry.

He acknowledged there is a personal cost in ministry, even in the

best of times. "You can't just empty (yourself) all of the time." The pastor also noted higher rates of depression among the clergy than some other professional groups.

Christians finds that in repeating his sermons, he does "preach a little more to myself" to find additional meaning in the words. But he hasn't altered his style as he continues to employ a conversational tone to his services. "As long as you're faithful to the word, it doesn't really matter what your approach is."

He also finds renewal in his daily devotions, both personal and those shared with his wife and six children.

Another source of “spiritual filling” is a monthly gathering with fellow Missouri Synod Lutheran pastors, saying there are no Lone Rangers in terms of being able to sustain their jobs alone.

He paused when asked if requests for prayers have changed during the pandemic. “The spiritual needs haven’t really changed,” he observed. “The physical needs have changed.” He called the response of the church amazing in accommodating health restrictions while maintaining the ministry without interruption.

He added his churches remain a fallback for members in need and that is similar across Lutheran synod.

Christians said weddings and funerals have changed during the pandemic. Funerals are comparatively low-key and limited to families and perhaps a few friends.

He noted people are going to visitations but relatively few stay for the funeral service.

The pastor said 2020 was a quiet year for weddings as he presided over only two ceremonies, but both were “normal” in terms of size and format.

He said he has quite a few weddings scheduled for late summer of 2021.

wittenberg@newmedia-wi.com

Aspirus offers COVID-19 test options

Anxious that your kids brought home the virus from school? Concerned you may have been exposed? The Aspirus healthcare system has two options for finding out if you have COVID-19.

Take the COVID-19 Symptom Checker. Go to aspirus.org/coronavirus-covid19 or click the red button. The hospital and clinic system also offers the MyAspirusApp for your

phone.

The system said this is the quickest way to schedule a test or see results. Use this sentence or not. The web site also has the current testing schedule.

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PUBLIC RECORD

SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Dec. 20

Deputies responded to 34 calls, including two reckless driving complaints on U.S. Highway 45 in the Town of Aniwa; an intoxication complaint on Main Street in Gresham; taking a 26-year-old man into custody on a warrant at the county line with Marathon County; four accidents, three involving deer.

Dec. 19

Deputies responded to 46 calls, including reckless driving complaints on County Road C in the Town of Green Valley, County Road C in the Town of Angelica and state Highway 117 in the Town of Hartland; a trespassing complaint on Hiawatha Court in the Town of Wescott; an ATV problem on School House Road in the Town of Morris; a child abuse complaint on Poplar Road in the Town of Richmond; a property damage complaint at Hanke's, 110 S. Mission St. in Wittenberg; seven accidents, one involving deer.

Dec. 18

Deputies responded to 49 calls, including reckless driving complaints on state Highway 29 in the Town of Wittenberg, state Highway 22 in the Town of Belle Plaine and at Doc's Harley-Davidson, W2709 State Highway 29 in the Town of Hartland; drug complaints at an undisclosed location in the Town of Wittenberg and on state Highway 160 in the Town of Maple Grove; a property theft

complaint on Oriole Road in the Town of Birnamwood; seven accidents, three involving deer.

Dec. 17

Deputies responded to 34 calls, including drug complaints at Park Avenue in the Town of Wescott, Main and Center streets in Shawano, Green Bay and Washington streets in Shawano and at the Ho-Chunk Casino, N7198 U.S. Highway 45 in the Town of Wittenberg; a harassment complaint on state Highway 22 in the Town of Washington; an automobile theft on Knoke Street in Gresham; a death investigation on Main Street in the Town of Angelica; a threatening complaint on Valley Road in the Town of Waukechon; a noise complaint on Maple Street in Birnamwood; five accidents, two involving deer.

Dec. 16

Deputies responded to 37 calls, including a trespassing complaint on Spruce Street in Eland; a drug complaint on U.S. Highway 45 in Tigerton; reckless driving complaints on state Highway 22 in the Town of Washington and Green Bay Street in Bonduel; a fraud complaint on state Highway 156 in the Town of Maple Grove; an elderly abuse complaint on state Highway 47-55 in the Town of Wescott; a fight in progress at the county work release center, 1240 Engel Drive in Shawano; five accidents, three involving deer.

Dec. 15

Deputies responded to 28 calls, including reckless driving complaints at County Road VV in the Town of Red

Springs and state Highway 47 in the Town of Hartland; a harassment complaint on Pine Street in Tigerton; a drug complaint on state Highway 47 in the Town of Lessor; a repossession on North Avenue in Mattoon; one accident involving a deer.

SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Dec. 20

Officers responded to 20 calls, including arresting a 39-year-old man on an OWI call at Lincoln and Randall streets; a fraud complaint in the 100 block of South Andrews Street; arresting a 53-year-old woman and a 32-year-old man on warrants at Maurer and Andrews streets; a report of Amazon-delivered packages being stolen from a front porch in the 900 block of South Franklin Street; a found wallet delivered to the police station, 125 S. Andrews St.; a purse stolen at Family Dollar, 413 S. Main St.

Dec. 19

Officers responded to 15 calls, including a car crashing into a house in the 500 block of West Green Bay Street; a property theft complaint at St. James Lutheran Church, 324 S. Andrews St.; a burglary complaint in the 300 block of South Sawyer Street; a found purse in the 200 block of East Center Street; a scam complaint in the 1200 block of Valley Lane; a noise complaint in the 500 block of Picnic Street; an accident at Richmond and Main streets.

Dec. 18

Officers responded to 34 calls, including an accident with no injuries at

Randall and Sawyer streets; a shoplifting complaint at Charlie's County Market, 521 S. Main St.; a reckless driving complaint at Main and Third streets; an intoxicated person complaint at Sharona's Bar, 111 S. Washington St.; a property theft complaint at St. James Lutheran Church, 324 S. Andrews St.; an accident at McDonald's, 1202 E. Green Bay St.; two threatening complaints in the 800 block of East Richmond Street; a noise complaint in the 100 block of South Smalley Street.

Dec. 17

Officers responded to 26 calls, including a sexual assault at an undisclosed location; a knapsack with CDs and other items turned in to the police station, 125 S. Sawyer St.; the arrest of two people on a drug call at Home Plate Cafe, 804 S. Main St.; a shoplifting complaint at The Store, 404 E. Green Bay St.; arresting a 25-year-old man for bail jumping at Kadletz and Elizabeth streets.

Dec. 16

Officers responded to 23 calls, including a domestic disturbance and a restraining order violation complaint in the 800 block of East Randall Street; an identity theft complaint in the 1700 block of Estates Lane; an attempted theft at Dunham's, 1211 E. Green Bay St.

Dec. 15

Officers responded to 15 calls, including assisting at fires in the 300 block of South Washington Street and the 800 block of East Richmond Street; a domestic disturbance at Humphrey Circle.

COURT NEWS

Recent proceedings in Shawano-Menominee County District Court include:

Geran D. Metko, 35, Green Bay, was charged Dec. 14 with possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine with a second or subsequent offense modifier; possession of a firearm after being convicted of a felony with a repeater modifier; possession of THC, second or subsequent offense, with a repeater modifier; four counts of felony bail jumping, all with repeater modifiers; two counts of possession of narcotic drugs and possession of an illegally obtained prescription. A search warrant was executed Dec. 15. A cash bond of \$7,000 was set and an initial appearance will resume Jan. 4, 2021.

Keilon A. Snipes Reed, Kenosha, 16, was charged Dec. 15 with using a vehicle to flee from an officer. An initial appearance was set for Dec. 28.

Brianna J. Stewart, 23, Little Chute, was charged Dec. 16 with possession of THC, second or subsequent offense and possession of drug paraphernalia. A signature bond of \$1,000 was signed Dec. 17. An initial appearance will resume Jan. 27, 2021.

Joseph L. Corn, 37, Keshena, was charged Dec. 16 with operating while revoked, two counts of misdemeanor bail jumping, possession of methamphetamine, possession of narcotic drugs, possession of drug paraphernalia and resisting/obstructing an officer. A cash bond of \$1,500 was set. No future court action was listed in the court record.

Arlin J. Cox, 42, Keshena, was charged Dec. 17 with one count of retail theft, four counts of felony bail jumping and possession of methamphetamine. A cash bond of \$3,000 was set and a preliminary hearing was scheduled for Dec. 21. Cox was also charged Dec. 17 with one count of retail theft and two counts of felony bail jumping. A cash bond of \$750 was set and a preliminary hearing was set for Dec. 21.

Joshua A. Crowell, 35, Mosinee, was charged Dec. 17 with possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine of more than 50 grams with a second or subsequent offense modifier; possession of methamphetamine with a repeater modifier; maintaining a drug trafficking place with a second

or subsequent offense modifier. A cash bond of \$10,000 was set and an initial appearance will resume Dec. 28.

Todd R. Warnick, 45, was charged Dec. 17 with possession of methamphetamine with a repeater modifier. A cash bond of \$3,000 was set and an initial appearance will resume Dec. 21.

Ashley M. Sanapaw, 29, Keshena, was charged Dec. 18 with possession of methamphetamine with a party to a crime modifier; possession of drug paraphernalia with a party to a crime modifier and four counts of felony bail jumping. A cash bond of \$1,000 was set and an initial appearance will resume Dec. 28.

Brian K. Peters, 40, Keshena, was charged Dec. 18 with operating while revoked, possession of methamphetamine with a party to a crime modifier and possession of drug paraphernalia with a party to a crime modifier. A cash bond of \$500 was set and an initial appearance will resume Dec. 28.

Nicholas P. Ragen, 26, Green Bay, was sentenced Dec. 18 to nine months in jail with credit for 228 days served on an operating while revoked

conviction and other charges. He was charged in August 2018 with operating while intoxicated, third offense; operating while revoked, fourth offense; tampering/failure to install/violate court order for an ignition interlock device; possession of THC, second or subsequent offense; possession of drug paraphernalia and three counts of misdemeanor bail jumping.

Howard J. Hancock, 57, Cecil, was sentenced to 180 days in jail Dec. 17 for operating while intoxicated, fourth offense with Huber Law privileges and credit for "good time." The charge from August 2018 also requires Hancock to pay court costs of \$4,143.50, undergo alcohol assessment and install an ignition interlock.

Jeffrey M. Frechette, 46, Keshena, was sentenced Dec. 1 and a judgment of conviction entered Dec. 10 to 60 days in jail on a conviction for operating while intoxicated, third offense and possession of THC, second or subsequent offense. He was also ordered to pay \$2,570 in fines and costs, a \$42.50 blood draw fee, had a 26 month revocation imposed and alcohol and other drug abuse assessment.

OPINION

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

State must do more to promote openness

Last January, a person involved in local emergency management asked the Office of Open Government, part of the state Justice Department, whether emergency preparedness coalitions run by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) are subject to the state's open meetings and open records laws.

The answer to this question, it turns out, is yes. These laws apply to the state's seven Wisconsin Regional Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalitions, critical entities in the age of COVID-19, meaning their meetings must be noticed and open to the public.

Arriving at this answer took nearly a year, which should not have happened.

The Office of Open Government replied to that Jan. 9 query nearly nine months later, on Sept. 29. Its response letter, one of 19 issued during the third quarter of 2020, was posted online in late October.

These long waits for response let-



BILL LUEDERS

ters have been the norm for at least the last decade, even though they average only about two per week and consist largely of boilerplate used in previous letters. Eliminating this backlog has not been a priority under Attorney General Josh Kaul or his two predecessors, J.B. Van Hollen and Brad Schimel.

Moreover, these responses often fall short of providing clear answers. In the case at hand, the Office of Open Government laid out a complex analysis of operative court rulings, then said it "cannot make a definitive determination" as to whether the laws apply to these coalitions.

So, on Oct. 28, I emailed Jeff Phillips, director of DHS's Office of Preparedness and Emergency Health Care, asking whether the state's openness laws

applied to these coalitions. My subject line was "Quick question." If only.

Phillips contacted other DHS officials, prompting an exchange of emails that carefully avoided discussing the matter in any detail. This is an increasingly common strategy employed to keep useful information away from someone like me who might ask for email records (which I did). Rather, the officials arranged to meet online to arrive at a response.

After a number of these meetings took place without resolution, Phillips, who handled the matter with professionalism and cheer, emailed me on Nov. 25 to affirm that, yes, the state's openness laws do apply to these coalitions. He said the DHS's legal eagles will be providing the coalitions with "guidance as necessary."

That's good, because earlier that same day, the head of one of these coalitions responded to my request to attend its upcoming meeting by asking, "What health care preparedness orga-

nization are you with?" When I said I was just a member of the public hoping to observe a government meeting, there was no reply.

In my opinion, it should always have been clear that these meetings (where, truly, nothing nefarious happens) are open; public officials, in parsing these matters, should err on the side of openness, if they err at all.

That's the message that Kaul and Gov. Tony Evers should be sending to state and local officials. In truth, both of them could do better in terms of providing leadership on issues related to open government.

The state's openness laws should not be seen as a burden, but as a way for public officials to build trust with the people they represent. Wisconsin needs a stronger commitment to transparency, from the top on down.

Your Right to Know is a monthly column distributed by the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council (wisfoic.org), a group dedicated to open government. Bill Lueders, the editor of The Progressive, is the group's president.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Christmas nothing without spiritual context

To the editor:

As I grow stronger spiritually, I begin to see the spirit God present in all humankind, in every religion and in creation itself. I believe that the spirit God knocks on every person's heart wherever they are and whatever they happen to believe or not believe.

It is up to inspired people, including Christians of every kind, to give witness by word and example of a God who fathers and mothers us, who loves us, who suffers with us and who offers us the uniting spirit so strongly witnessed by Jesus of Nazareth, who was born in a stable and was laid in a manger.

Christmas is only a remembrance unless we allow the spirit to be born again in our hearts and souls this holy season. It means letting go of our feelings of racial, social, political, religious or sexual superiority. It means loving and welcoming all others with the spirit who flows in and through us.

Perhaps Christmas is like a light switch to help us refocus on our oneness with all creating and all living

things; refocusing on the Christ in whose transparency — and therefore in our own transparency — we learn and continue to learn to meet the living God, the spirit who walks with us in good times and bad; who offers harmony and hope to a troubled world.

May the seasonal decorations and multi-colored lights remind spiritual seekers everywhere to reflect the spirit presence, as Jesus so clearly did, for all to see.

If only we can learn to love as we are loved; if only we can learn to forgive as we are forgiven, to welcome as we are welcomed. What a difference it would make to those who have given up on church or on efforts, however small, for racial and social reconciliation, for equality, peace and brotherhood everywhere.

Merry Christmas to everyone.

Mike Murphy, Shawano

Returning to school recipe for disaster

To the editor:

I was surprised to hear that Shawano schools would go back to in-person education in January. Despite the claims by some, virtual schooling has

not been a total disaster. My children and many others have done fine with the current virtual learning plan. While it is correct that children are at lower risk for complications from COVID-19, infected students will bring it home to their family members who are at a greater risk for complications. Teachers and staff may be looking forward to again working with kids in person, but many also are fearful that without any plans for mitigation their health will be at risk.

Though COVID numbers are decreasing in our region, there is a very good chance that cases will begin to climb again if people are not careful over the upcoming holidays. If we want our schools to remain open, the entire community must do its part.

We need people to practice social distancing, avoid large gatherings, only order takeout from bars/restaurants, and we need everyone to wear a mask in indoor public places and when associating with those who do not live in their household. Just as we expect traffic laws to be enforced, we need enforcement of Wisconsin's mandatory mask mandate. This is a public safety measure that needs to be followed, not politicized.

There is nothing sacred about being in a school building all day five days a week; this is only our tradition. Students in many countries thrive in a variety of learning arrangements. It would be much safer to have only half of the students in the building at a time, either by having cohorts of students attending alternate days or attending just morning or afternoons. Sending everyone back five days a week full time, without any ability to provide social distancing in classes or in hallways, has a huge potential for disaster.

Just wanting the world to go back to pre-pandemic normal will not make it happen. We all have missed out on many things over the past nine months, and I understand that many kids are not as motivated as mine to excel in school — regardless of how the material is presented to them — but part of a parent's job is being a tutor, and making sure that their children keep up with their course work. Students who are behind now can in time catch up, but dead parents, grandparents or school staff cannot be replaced.

Dr. Joseph Guenther, Shawano



Members of the Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School FFA sort fruit into individual student orders at the high school's new ag center.

SUNSHINE BY THE BOXLOAD

Witt/Birn FFA students sort, stack and deliver fundraiser fruit

**Story and photos
by CAROL RYCZEK
Editor-in-chief**

There was a time when an orange at Christmas was such a rare thing, it was a much-anticipated holiday treat.

Today, oranges are still a treat, but not so rare. In fact, the Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School FFA packed and delivered more than 12,000 pounds of oranges, grapefruit, pineapples and other treats during their annual FFA fruit sale.

A team of students sorted the fruit and packaged up the orders Dec. 18 for fellow students to deliver. Matthew Christian, FFA adviser, said the 150 FFA members grossed \$23,000 in sales this year. To get the items ready for delivery, students worked in the new ag center at the high school, stacking boxes and checking off long lists of items per student.

The new center is working well for the project, Christian said, due to its large work space and overhead doors.

Students sold 12,010 pounds of citrus fruits, pears, apples and — thanks to a donation by J&J Potatoes — 1,000 pounds of potatoes, packed in 10 pound bags. Included in that number were 76 half-boxes of oranges. Pineapples were also popular this year. The sale also offers meat and cheese boxes and packaged nuts.

Most of the fruit is sold in the Wittenberg-Birnamwood area, Chris-



Lily Kolbe studies an order form before handing it off to other students to find the appropriate fruit boxes.

tian said.

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood FFA worked with a Merrill company called Crazy Fresh, Christian said. They brought in fruit from Florida, Minnesota and South Dakota. "It's high quality fruit," Christian said.

In the past, Christian said, the money raised helped to fund a fishing trip to Canada to celebrate high school graduation. This year, with travel still uncertain due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a different kind of trip will be planned with less travel, he said.



Abby Giddings catches a 10-pound bag of potatoes from Ryan Bushman as FFA students package fruit, nut and vegetable orders for the annual FFA sale.

OBITUARIES

Joan A. Pavlichek, 92, of Wittenberg passed away peacefully Dec. 14 in River Falls.

Joan was born June 26, 1928 in the Town of Rolling Stone, Langlade County, the daughter of David and Agnes (Zielinski) Pawlak.

Joan attended Sunnyside School in Rolling Stone and graduated from Antigo High School in 1945. She then went on to receive a degree in cosmetology in 1946.

On Aug. 26, 1950, she married the love of her life, Earl Pavlichek, Bryant, Wisconsin.

Motivated to own and operate her own beauty salon, they moved to Wittenberg where she and Earl built a home with an attached three-chair salon. In 1955, Joan opened Joan's Beauty Bar which she operated for the next 59 years. She loved helping her ladies look and feel their best. Her employees became close friends. We are not really sure when Joan



completely retired as she always found the time to do Anita Wruck's and Betty Anderson's hair.

Joan was a member of Holy Family-St. William Catholic Church in Wittenberg. She

was a past president and secretary of Catholic Christian Mothers and always looked forward to helping with the deer hunter's dinner. She was an officer for the Wittenberg Area Chamber of Commerce and was also a regular worker for many elections.

Joan loved to golf on women's night at Maple Hills. She enjoyed playing in her bridge league. Dancing with Earl was one of Joan's favorite pastimes. Polkas brought her great joy and she would tap her toes, even in her final days. During football

season, Joan would put on her Packer sweatshirt and Packer earrings and cheer on the Pack. She also loved spending time with family at her cabin on Lake Metonga. She was known for her sense of humor and for finding ways to make fun out of the ordinary.

Survivors include her daughter, Kathleen (Charles Elboim) Mott of Santa Rosa, California and her son Joe (Kim) Pavlichek of River Falls; three grandsons, Nathan (Sylvia) Mott, Zachary (Kassie Sican) Pavlichek and Jacob (Nicole Soley) Bukkila; two granddaughters, Kelsey (Nick) Miner and Kristin (Joe) Mahoney; three great granddaughters, Morgan and Eleanor Mott and Molly Miner.

Joan was preceded in death by her dear husband Earl on Feb. 12, 2006. She was also preceded in death by her three brothers, Harold, Andrew, Robert, sister Beth and her parents.

Due to the current pandemic con-

cerns, a graveside service was held at 1 p.m. Dec. 23 at Queen of Peace Cemetery, Antigo, with Deacon Michael Brandt officiating. A celebration of Joan's life will be held at a safer, later date. Schmidt & Schulta Funeral Home of Wittenberg assisted the family with funeral arrangements. Memories and messages of support may be shared at schmidtschulta.com.

Joan's family would like to thank the wonderful staff at Our House Senior Living and the staff of Allina Health Hospice and Palliative Care. They also appreciate the assistance of Schmidt-Schulta Funeral Home and Bakken-Young Funeral Home.

The family requests that memorials be sent to Holy Family Catholic Church, 106 North Elm Street, Wittenberg or to Allina Health Hospice and Palliative Care, 1055 Westgate Dr. #100, St. Paul, Mn., 55114, in honor of Joan Pavlichek.

Joan A. Pavlichek

Alan R. Draeger, 75, born and raised in the town of Norrie, passed away peacefully Dec. 17 at Aspirus Wausau Hospital, after a long battle with cancer, with his loving wife and daughter by his side.

Alan was born at home in Norrie Nov. 13, 1945, the son of Harold and Rose (Mehlberg) Draeger. He was blessed with two brothers, Don and Gary, along with an infant brother, Gerald (January 10, 1943 - January 20, 1943).

Alan went to a one room school in Norrie, then high school at Birnamwood, graduating in 1964.

Alan worked at Four Wheel Drive in Clintonville, Hatley Veneer Mill and Wausau Homes. He then worked as a lineman at GTE from 1968 - 1999.

He was drafted into the Army Nov. 9, 1965 and proudly served his country



in the Vietnam War. Alan was awarded a Purple Heart, combat infantry badge, good conduct medal and three badges from Republic of Vietnam. Being a part of an Army Weapon Squad as a machine gunner, he endured being shot in the leg in August 1966 by enemy fire and also a broken ankle in March 1967 during a mortar and ground fire attack. Alan was running to his bunker in the dark and fell into a pothole. After serving his country, he returned home Nov. 8, 1967. A highlight of Alan's life was going on the Never Forgotten Honor

Alan R. Draeger

Flight in 2017.

On Oct. 12, 1968, he was united in marriage to Judy Knaak from Antigo, who also went to Birnamwood High School with Alan. After marrying the love of his life, they had three beautiful children, Dave, Steve and Krista. Alan enjoyed polkas and the many trips he and Judy took with family and Polka Connection. Alan loved to tinker in the barn, especially on his tractor. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and enjoyed woodworking, cards, bowling and Milwaukee Brewer and Green Bay Packer games. Alan instilled excellent family spiritual values. He always looked forward to FFF (Forced Family Fun) and, despite the grandkids and kids always beating him in most games, he kept on playing. He was an active member of First English Church, Wausau. Alan will always be remembered for his contagious smile and kind-hearted gentleness.

Alan is survived by his wife, Judy Draeger; his two sons, Dave (Diane) and Steve (Sara) and his daughter, Krista (Andy) Michlig; seven grandchildren, Jared, Katelyn, Sydney, Kylie, Josie, Brittany and Hannah and one great-grandson on the way, Jacob James. Brothers, Donald Draeger and Gary (Barbara) Draeger and many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Gerald; sister-in-law, Ruth Draeger and parents-in-law, Reinhart and Dorothy Knaak.

A funeral service was held at 3 p.m. December 20 at Schmidt & Schulta Funeral Home in Birnamwood with military rites conducted by the Darling-Gunderson American Legion. Rev. Erik Olson officiated. Visitation was held from 1 p.m. until the time of service at the funeral home. Memories and messages of support may be shared at schmidtschulta.com.

Lee E. Meisner, 71, of Wittenberg, formerly of Tigerton, passed away Dec. 18 at Rose Mary Manor in Mattoon. Lee was born on April 10th, 1949, to Elmer and Erma (Arndt) Meisner in Shawano.

He attended classes from Kindergarten through 12th grade in Tigerton. Following high school, Lee worked on the family farm and then at Nolan Sales in Marion. He later attended North Central Technical School in Wausau where he studied to be an electromechanical technician. After tech school, he worked for Marion Ply-



wood Corporation for approximately 30 years until his retirement in 2015.

As Lee grew older, he became an avid movie collector and added to his firearm collection. He enjoyed hunt-

ing and gardening as well. He even planted watermelons on the roof of the garage. He always enjoyed putting his own twist in carpentry and enjoyed

reminiscing back to the days when he worked on the farm.

With him, it seemed there was a story around every corner, coming from his time working for Nolan Sales and his time at Marion Plywood. One of his favorite stories to tell was when he was coming back from an auction and he picked up a truck load of green beans for a cold six-pack of beer.

Lee is survived by his daughter, Elizabeth (Savanna) of Shawano; sisters, Yvonne (Loren) Watter and Patricia Johnson, both of Wittenberg; many nieces, nephews, other rela-

tives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Elmer and Erma; his brother, Danial and brothers-in-law, Duaine Klingbille and Reginald Johnson.

A funeral service was held at 10 a.m. Dec. 23 at Schmidt & Schulta Funeral Home, Wittenberg. Rev. Matthew Christians will officiate. Visitation began at 9 a.m. at the funeral home. Memories and messages of support may be shared at schmidtschulta.com.

Additional obituary on page 40

Lee E. Meisner

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SPORTS

ATHLETE PROFILE: ADRIENNE BRADY

Tigerton senior soaking up last year on court

The Tigerton High School girls basketball team came into the winter season looking to build upon last year's promising finish. Senior Adrienne Brady was a big part of the team's success a year ago, and she's helped form a competitive team so far this season.

In a tight loss to Port Edwards on Dec. 19, Brady posted 17 points and five steals. A day earlier, she scored 10 points in a six-point loss to Gresham.

The senior guard recorded 15 points, 10 steals and five assists in the team's win over Marion on Dec. 14.

Brady landed on the Central Wisconsin Conference-North Division honorable mention team in her junior season. She averaged 7.8 points, 3.0 rebounds, 2.0 assists and 2.3 steals per game.

Q: When did your interest in basketball begin?

A: My interest in basketball began in elementary school. In elementary school, our phy ed teacher (Judi Adamski) began teaching us basketball skills. I also participated in many youth basketball camps at our school. My mom (Michelle Brady) was the middle school girls basketball coach, and she has always encouraged me to practice my dribbling and shooting skills.

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

A: My favorite part of basketball is playing with my friends and achieving our team goals. It is also an excellent way to stay in shape.

Q: What has basketball taught you over the years?

A: Basketball has taught me many life lessons, such as perseverance, teamwork and confidence. Developing perseverance is required to get your head back in the game after a missed shot or turnover. Basketball is truly a team sport; we all need to work



Tigerton's Adrienne Brady, right, dribbles the ball down the court during a Central Wisconsin Conference-North Division matchup against Marion on Dec. 14 in Tigerton. CONTRIBUTED

together to achieve our common goals. Confidence allows us to reach our best performance in clutch situations, which is the key to victory.

Q: As a senior, how are you helping lead and guide your team this winter?

A: As a senior, I try to lead by example. I work hard during practices and give 100% during games. I cheer for each player when they do something good. I tell them to shake it off and keep trying when something doesn't go their way. If each player gives it their all, then the team together

will be even stronger.

Q: Do you have any individual goals for this season?

A: My personal goals are to drive the lane and shoot more. Most importantly, I want to make the most of my senior season in high school, and hopefully, we can complete our whole season.

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

A: Before each game, the team sings and dances to "I Want It That Way" by the Backstreet Boys. We love jamming out and pumping each other up before

AT A GLANCE

ATHLETE: Adrienne Brady

SPORT: Girls basketball

POSITIONS: Point guard/guard

SCHOOL: Tigerton High School

YEAR: Senior

each competition.

Q: What's your favorite memory of competing on the Tigerton girls basketball team?

A: One of my favorite memories was making a 3-pointer during the final seconds of our Lena game last year and putting our team in the lead for a last-second victory. It was so exciting!

Q: What are you going to miss most about high school basketball?

A: I'm going to miss my teammates and coaches. I'm going to miss our group chat and some of the funniest, most random and somewhat disturbing conversations ever.

Q: Favorite TV show, movie and musical artist?

A: TV show — "Vampire Diaries." Movie — "The Proposal." Musical artist — Luke Bryan.

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

A: Most people do not know that I am terrified of the dark.

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

A: The greatest piece of advice I have ever been told is "you'll never know unless you try."

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

A: After graduating from Tigerton, I plan to attend the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and double major in elementary and special education. I love volleyball, basketball and softball, so I plan on continuing playing and possibly coaching sports.

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BOWLING

Resch Lanes — Wednesday Night Handicap

Team	W	L
Liberty Potatoes	57	48
Slammers	54	51
Tavern Front	50	55
Resch Lanes (2)	47	58
Resch Lanes (1)	43	62
Mama's Place	40	65
Kemmer Electronics	37	68
Hanke's Sentry Foods	36	69

High team handicap games (top 3): Liberty Potatoes 1,290, Kemmer Electronics 1,265, Resch Lanes (1) 1,248.

High individual handicap games (top 7): Joe Bushman 292, Kurt Zeinert 289, Casey Mavis 289, Jason Harris 286, Kirk Elliott 286, Ryan Borgemoen 284, Jim Borchardt 283.

High team handicap series (top 3): Liberty Potatoes 3,643, Resch Lanes (1) 3,616, Kemmer Electronics 3,600.

High individual handicap series (top 7): Ryan

Borgemoen 808, Kirk Elliott 799, Jason Harris 780, Jamie Deruchowski 769, Jim Borchardt 766, Joe Bushman 751, Kurt Zeinert 736.

Friday Night Him and Hers

Team	W	L
Keglers	43	13
CDH	41	15
Brothers Pub	36	20
MW Auto Body	35	21
Buss Automotive	32	24
Brothers Pub Too	28	28
Humana	25	31
Lund's Corner Bar	21	35
Gingerly	21	35
The Farmers	20	36
Water Buffaloes	18	38
Just 4 Fun	16	40

High individual scratch games (top 7): Eric Schuh 279, Daniel Poels 251, Bobby Reiter Jr. 237, Bill Grosskreutz 235, Kyle VanDerLinden 231, Sharon Buss 228, Darcie O'Kimosh 224.

High individual scratch series (top 7): Bobby

Reiter Jr. 670, Daniel Poels 627, Bill Grosskreutz 621, Brad Weisnicht 611, Eric Schuh 608, Sharon Buss 607, Kevin Zuleger 596.

Resch Lanes — Monday Ladies Handicap

Team	W	L
Tavern Front	24	18
Lisa's Lakeside	23	19
Gulliver's Landing	22 1/2	19 1/2
Resch Lanes	22	20
Strike-a-pose	15	27
Kropf's Meats	10 1/2	31 1/2

High team handicap games (top 3): Lisa's Lakeside 873, Resch Lanes 839, Gulliver's Landing 817.

High individual handicap games (top 7): Shirley Petersen 250, Heather Giddings 246, Jordyn Krueger 242, Cassie Wierzba 238, Marlene Wepner 237, Sue Zeinert 237, Cheryl Zeinert 232.

High team handicap series (top 3): Lisa's Lakeside 2,532, Resch Lanes 2,431, Strike-a-Pose 2,371.

High individual handicap series (top 7): Cassie Wierzba 684, Cheryl Zeinert 651, Shirley Petersen 648, Sue Zeinert 639, Heather Giddings 634, Marlene

Wepner 614, Kristine Beran 614.

Resch Lanes — Thursday Men's League

Team	W	L
Resch Lanes	49	35
Legacy Seed Pro	48	36
Gutt'er Done	47	37
Melody Mill	46	38
Cherek Transport	46	38
Gullivers	43	41
RJ Auto Repair	39	45
Legacy Seed	18	66

High team scratch games (top 3): Resch Lanes 1,083, Gullivers 997, Melody Mill 984.

High individual scratch games (top 7): Jason Resch 288, Jeff Arndt 257, Greg Wolff 253, Danny Schrank 238, Taylor Arndt 237, Jeremy Schultz 236, Tom Berg 234.

High team scratch series (top 3): Resch Lanes 3,049, Melody Mill 2,930, Legacy Seed Pro 2,882.

High individual scratch series (top 7): Jason Resch 801, Jeff Arndt 655, Greg Wolff 648, Tom Berg 640, Jeremy Schultz 635, Joe Onesti 632, Danny Schrank 598.

HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

BOYS BASKETBALL

Wautoma 76

Witt-Birn 72

Witt-Birn's rally came up just short in a nonconference loss to Wautoma on Dec. 15 in Wautoma. The Chargers trailed 39-23 at half-time.

Jack Fraaza and Simon Schairer led Witt-Birn, scoring 22 and 20 points respectively. Ben Wesolowski added 15 points, while Ben Flak had 14.

The Chargers missed 15 free throws in the contest.

Tigerton 57

Tri-County 25

Tigerton rolled to a Central Wisconsin Conference crossover victory against Tri-County on Dec. 14 in Plainfield.

Kaeden Miller posted 15 points,

five rebounds and four steals to lead Tigerton to victory. Isaac Schoen added 12 points.

Colby Wanta finished with nine points, three assists and three steals for the Tigers. Ryder Graham had nine points and six rebounds.

Tigerton's Asher Michaelis grabbed 13 rebounds, while Justin Knaup had seven. Knaup also had three steals.

Witt-Birn 69

Wey-Fre 42

Witt-Birn dominated Weyauwega-Fremont in a CWC-East clash on Dec. 14 in Wittenberg.

Simon Schairer posted 19 points to pace Witt-Birn on the offensive end. Ben Wesolowski added 13 points.

Witt-Birn's Jack Fraaza chipped in 12 points, while Kaden Schmidt hit three 3-pointers and scored 11 points.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Witt-Birn 60

Abbotsford 40

Wittenberg-Birnamwood out-scored Abbotsford 34-18 in the second half to pull away and claim a nonconference victory Dec. 15 in Abbotsford.

Witt-Birn's Emma Herb finished the contest with 24 points, 18 rebounds and three steals. Reese Rogowski contributed 19 points, eight rebounds and four steals.

Jadalynn Davids grabbed six rebounds for the Chargers. Amara Schoepke led the team with three assists.

"We came out slow in the first half. We just looked sluggish and couldn't get anything to fall tonight," said Witt-Birn coach Nick Mechelke. "We played much better in the second half to open it up on both ends of the court."

Tigerton 45

Marion 21

Tigerton topped Marion in a

CWC-North matchup on Dec. 14 in Marion. The Tigers led by just two at halftime, 18-16.

Adrienne Brady finished with 15 points, 10 steals and five assists for Tigerton. Savannah Swartz added nine points and grabbed 14 rebounds, while Elizabeth Robbins also scored nine points.

Abby Swartz pulled down 11 rebounds for Tigerton, while Bethany Jobe had 10 boards.

Witt-Birn 57

Wey-Fre 15

Witt-Birn cruised to a CWC-East win over Weyauwega-Fremont on Dec. 14 in Weyauwega.

Emma Herb tallied 21 points, 12 rebounds and three steals for Witt-Birn, while Reese Rogowski had 19 points and four steals.

Amara Schoepke contributed nine points, six rebounds and three steals for the Chargers.



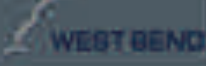
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HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Tigerton cannot slow Gresham's 3-point barrage

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The Tigerton High School boys basketball team couldn't slow Gresham's 3-point shooting during a Central Wisconsin Conference-North Division matchup on Dec. 18 in Gresham.

Gresham connected on 17 3-point shots in the contest and rolled to an 86-17 win.

It was Tigerton that scored the first five points of the contest — a 3-pointer from sophomore Colby Wanta and bucket from sophomore Ryder Graham — before Gresham used a 15-0 run to take control. The hosts hit two 3s during the run.

After another field goal from Graham, Gresham hit two more triples. After Tigerton junior Zeke Griepentrog hit a shot, Gresham went on a 13-0 run, including three more 3s.

Gresham then finished the first half on a 12-0 run, knocking down three more 3-pointers to cap a 46-point half that included 10 3-point makes.

"I've never seen anything like it, to be honest with you," said Tigerton coach Kent Wheelles of Gresham's 3-point shooting. "It feels like they shot at least 80%. That took us out of the game real early, there's really no adjustment we could make. They just made all the shots."

The second half started similar to

the first, with Graham hitting a pair of shots for Tigerton, but then Gresham's 3-point shooting heated up again.

The Wildcats hit three 3-pointers during an 11-0 run. Tigerton then knocked down a free throw with 9 minutes, 43 seconds left, but it turned out to be the team's final point.

While finishing the game on a 25-0 run, Gresham hit four more triples.

Graham finished with nine points to pace Tigerton on the offensive end of the floor.

No other Tiger had over four points.

"I give major respect to Gresham's team," said Tigerton senior Kaeden Miller. "I've never seen a high school team shoot that well from beyond the arc."

"You can never just flush a game away, there's always something a team can learn from wins and losses. We have to do a better job executing against the press and calming down around the arc, make them force the ball down low, avoid 3s at all costs."

Tigerton 11 6 — 17

Gresham 46 40 — 86

Gresham (86): Belasaire Vele 0-0 16, Will Jensen 3-3 15, Lukas Pecore 0-0 23, Austin Sperberg 0-0 12, Weston Schick 0-0 8, Jonah Surprise 0-2 4, Jake Hoffman 2-5 8.

Tigerton (17): Colby Wanta 1-2 4, Justin Knaup 0-0 2, Ryder Graham 0-0 9, Zeke Griepentrog 0-2 2.

sports@newmedia-wi.com



Tigerton's Zeke Griepentrog, left, takes a shot during a Central Wisconsin Conference-North Division matchup against Gresham on Dec. 18 in Gresham.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

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- ☐ Happy Hour _____
- ☐ Live Music _____
- ☐ Meat Market _____
- ☐ Night Spot _____

Best Outdoor Activities:

- ☐ Bait/Tackle Shop _____
- ☐ Golf Course _____
- ☐ Lawn/Garden _____

Best Vehicle Services:

- ☐ Auto Body Repair _____
- ☐ Auto Parts Supply Store _____
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- ☐ Dessert _____
- ☐ Dinner _____
- ☐ Family Restaurant _____
- ☐ Fish Fry _____
- ☐ Lunch _____
- ☐ Pizza _____
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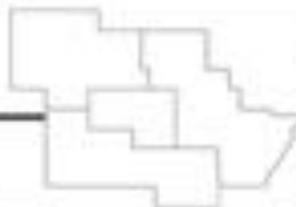
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Single PI uncovers why four are murdered

In Nancy Skopin's "Murder on the Menu," Nicoli (Nikki) Hunter makes the most of living as a private investigator, drinking and dining for free because her clients happily pay her to secretly evaluate their establishments. It's more fun than doing insurance investigations or following cheating spouses, and she often takes her best friend and neighbor Elizabeth along for company.



JAN JONES

Both women are in their mid-30s, single and live aboard their boats at the marina in Redwood City, California. Nikki is happy with her simple life, so she is hesitant to take the case Kate Howard offers. Kate wants Nikki to investigate the murder of her daughter, Laura. Kate fears that the police aren't working hard enough to find Laura's killer.

Nikki contacts detective Bill Anderson. She's surprised when the handsome detective agrees to show her the files if she will share anything she discovers about the case.

Laura's body was found near a dumpster with a plastic bag over her head, a nasty bruise on her face and residue from a Trojan Supra condom on the body. Three vicious stab wounds to the chest occurred after

death.

There was no sign of a struggle and no DNA evidence to process. Nikki soon learns that Laura was a college-educated child of privilege who still lived at home and worked as an exotic dancer at the Fanny Pack. She was also an easily bored risk-taker who sought out dangerous situations and had no relationship with her parents, Derrick and Kate Howard.

As she digs, Nikki finds that Laura was engaged to Charles Spencer during college, recently dated the handsome and arrogant Fred Wulf and spent some time with Fanny Pack bartender Frank. Things turn ugly when a hairdresser and a librarian, both possible witnesses, are killed in the same manner as Laura. Everything points to Fred as the killer, but all the evidence Nikki has uncovered was collected illegally.

Laura's \$5 million trust fund would be split between her parents and a half-brother. They need the money, but would Derrick kill his own daughter? Then there's the former fiancé who has been seen lurking at the Fanny Pack when Laura danced, but would he kill her because she rejected him?

Nikki knows she is in real danger when someone hires another PI to follow her, and he is murdered soon after she confronts him. A break-in at her office pushes Nikki to make additional copies of her files and keep her Glock pistol in her purse. After discussing the case with Elizabeth, Nikki returns to

her boat. It is dark and she knows she left all the lights on. She knows she's made a huge mistake by leaving her purse and Glock on her bunk.

Unarmed, Nikki foolishly boards the boat and turns on the light to find Derrick Howard holding her gun. She is stunned as he arrogantly tells Nikki about what led to him killing Laura and the three others. Laura had recently informed him that she was about to expose him from molesting her as a child, so he killed her. The others were killed in order to implicate Fred Wulf. He'd even planted evidence in Wulf's car. Nikki's investigation had helped his cause, but now she was getting too close to the truth, so she had to go, too.

Nikki always has treats for her canine neighbors, so when Bill senses she was in trouble, he goes into action. He

AT A GLANCE

TITLE: "Murder on the Menu"

AUTHOR: Nancy Skopin

PUBLISHER: Self

PUBLISHED: 2015

PAGES: 302

saves Nikki and holds Derrick Howard until additional police arrive. With the trial over and Nikki has recovered, she and Bill can explore their budding relationship. It sounds like a good start to a second book.

It's funny how one thing in our lives can unexpectedly lead us to another thing. All we have to do is stay open to what comes our way. Making a visit to your public library is one of those opportunities. Drop by soon and check it out.

WBHS FFA exceeds goal for gift tree

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood FFA members collected a total of 170 items Dec. 2 for their FFA Bulk Items Giving Tree and will combine the total with Nancy Nueske's Giving Tree for her participants.

Mary Lewandowski, FFA advisor, said the group exceeded its goal of 100 items. The Wittenberg-Birnamwood Giving Tree is an annual charitable event in the west side of Shawano County. Community members are encouraged to make donations for area people in need. The tree is on display at Esker's Town & Country Hardware Store in Wittenberg. Nueske is in charge of the event and can be reached at 715-253-2365.

"Thank you to all of the FFA and community members that donated towards the Giving Tree. You have helped with making the holiday season brighter for others during



FFA members show off some of the items donated Dec. 2 for their bulk giving tree. They collected 170 items, exceeding their goal of 100. They plan to do the project again next year. CONTRIBUTED

this challenging time in the world," Lewandowski said. "With your showed generosity, we have decided to hold the FFA Giving Tree drive next year."

Lewandowski recapped the FFA's activities for the year — including its annual candy sale, Adopt-a-Highway cleanup, bags of goodies given in appreciation to local farmers, deer hunters' breakfast and annual fruit sale.

COMMUNITY CENTER BATHROOM RENOVATION ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS WITTENBERG, WISCONSIN 54499

The Village of Wittenberg will receive sealed Bids until 5:00 pm, on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at the Community Center, 208 W. Vinal Street, Wittenberg, WI, 54499.

Please bid for the total project. The work for which Bids are asked includes:

Furnish and Install the Following:

- Remove Toilets, Urinals (reuse fixture), Lavatories, Partitions, Mirrors, Faucets and install the following:

MENS

- 1 – ADA Water Closet, Power Flush
- 2 – Urinal Valves, Hand Free
- 1 – Double Bowl Lavatory, Integral
- Sinks
- 2 – Lavatory Faucets, Hands Free
- 1 – Wall Mounted Sink Base
- 1 – Exhaust Fan
- Light Fixtures in Suspended Ceiling
- Partitions (Metal Powder Coated)
- 1 – Hands Free Paper Dispenser
- 1 – Toilet Paper Dispenser
- 2 – Mirrors, ADA
- 1 – Soap Dispenser
- 1 – Install Existing Baby Changing

Station

Tile on all four walls up to 60"

WOMENS

- 1 – ADA Water Closet, Power Flush
- 2 – Elongated Water Closet, Power Flush
- 1 – Double Bowl Lavatory, Integral
- Sinks
- 2 – Lavatory Faucets, Hands Free
- 1 – Wall Mounted Sink Base
- 1 – Exhaust Fan
- Light Fixtures in Suspended Ceiling
- Partitions (Metal Powder Coated)
- (Widen 1st Stall)
- 1 – Hands Free Paper Dispenser
- 1 – Toilet Paper Dispenser
- 2 – Mirrors, ADA
- 1 – Soap Dispenser
- 1 – Install Existing Baby Changing

Station

- 3 – Sanitary Napkin Disposal
- Tile on all four walls up to 60"

OPTIONS

Replace tile floor

Substitute solid plastic partitions

Note: All power wiring by others, if required.

Please contact Joel Yaeger – 253-2684 for any additional information.

Proof of insurance must be on file before project is started.

BID OPENING DATE: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 6:00 pm at the Community Center.

Give total for main project and additional totals for options. Place the bid in an envelope addressed to William Switalla, Village President, and mark it Bathroom Renovation bid.

The Village Board of Trustees reserves the right to accept the full bid, or any part thereof. The Village Board of Trustees reserves the right to waive any informalities or reject any and all bids.

Ho-Chunk Museum seeks to recover after fire

With community support, virtually all of the Native American museum's archives will be preserved

By **ROB MENTZER**

Wisconsin Public Radio

Within hours of the fire that destroyed two historic buildings in downtown Tomah, Josie Lee and more than two dozen other members of the Ho-Chunk Nation had gathered in front of the building.

The fire that broke out in the early morning of Nov. 29 started in an apartment above a downtown bar. But the efforts to contain the blaze had led to severe water damage to the Ho-Chunk Museum and Cultural Center next door.

Lee, who is the museum's director, found boxes of archived documents, photographs and historical items floating in a flooded basement. As soon as the fire department gave them the OK, she and the team of volunteers who had assembled began the work of retrieving the museum's collection — and Lee, drawing on training from her master's degree in museology, began to make decisions about how they would set about preserving whatever they could.

"My biggest fear is I'm going to lose something that is not just important to me as an individual, but to an entire family and to our entire tribe," Lee said.

Two weeks later, she has taken account of the damage to the museum's collection — including its more than 500 photographs; thousands of pages of archival documents; baskets; tex-



The director of the Ho-Chunk Museum and Cultural Center is working to save its collections after a fire gutted two downtown buildings and water damaged the museum in Tomah.

JOSIE LEE

tiles; plus tools and objects made of bone, shell, hide, wood and glass.

Lee and the volunteers laid out documents to dry on mats in the gymnasium of the Ho-Chunk Youth Center, which is closed due to the pandemic. They've gotten help from archivists and preservation specialists from Chicago's Field Museum, the Milwaukee Public Museum and an array of Wisconsin historical societies and public agencies.

The news is better than Lee could have imagined on that first day. Of all the items that could have been de-

stroyed, Lee said it looks like a single photograph from the collection is too far damaged to be recovered — and that photo, like the rest of the collection, had been digitized. It's sad to lose even a single object, Lee said, but the damage could have been much, much worse.

"I'm extremely relieved that we were able to get everything out," she said. "Nothing was so completely damaged that it's lost. That feels really good to know."

The work of recovering and accounting for the entire collection will

take months. Some of the water-damaged photographs are in the custody of the Field Museum, where specialists will lead restoration efforts that take into account the complexities of sometimes century-old photo papers and chemicals. Volunteers are carefully bagging and matching other items, records and photos with museum records.

Investigators with the Tomah Fire Department found no safe way to access the building where the fire started, so they used drone footage and witness interviews to try to identify the cause of the fire. They weren't able to pin down the cause and ruled it "undetermined," but said in a release that they are "confident that the fire was not intentionally set."

"I sat there basically the whole morning, transfixed to the video with tears in my eyes," said Suzanne Baker-Young, a member of Tomah's Historical Society, about livestream video of the blaze. "This is my hometown. I grew up walking past these buildings."

The fire destroyed the bar, Dimensions, and the city's Artisan Market, which was using the other storefront space.

The water damage to the museum's building is extensive, and Lee said she doesn't know yet when or if it will be fit for them again.

The Ho-Chunk Museum's building is the former home of the city's daily newspaper, the Tomah Journal.

OBITUARIES

Martin A. Burgess, 95, of Birnamwood, died Dec. 15 at Cloverleaf Terrace CBRF under the care of Ascension at Home Hospice.

Martin was born Aug. 3, 1925 in Casper, Wyoming, the son of Glenn Sr. and Evangeline (LeVeque) Burgess. When Martin was a young boy, Clyde Ice entered his life and became a mentor that would mold him into the man he became. Clyde taught Martin how to fly an airplane at the age of 12. You could say that Martin was Clyde's shadow. Martin loved everything about aviation.

Martin graduated from Spearfish High School where he excelled at track. He and his brother won many



state titles. After graduation, Martin entered the U.S. Navy April 30, 1943 where he was a navigator on an LST in the Pacific Theater. He was honorably discharged Feb. 5, 1946. On Feb. 14,

1947, Martin was united in marriage to Bonnie Lang in Lisbon, Iowa. She preceded him in death Oct. 6, 2007.

Martin was a building contractor and had a talent for engineering. He built many beautiful homes across the U.S., including Iowa, California, Colorado and Arkansas. Martin loved the outdoors whether it was in the air, on the ranch near Medicine Bow,

Martin A. Burgess

Wyoming or in a river fly fishing. He treasured his many trips with family and friends and was devoted to his family. Martin was an optimist no matter what came his way. The Never Forgotten Honor Flight was a true joy for Martin and in 2019, Martin was able to take a Dream Flight in Stevens Point.

Martin is survived by his four children, Leslye (Neil) Thompson of Tampa, Florida, Mark (Elizabeth) Burgess of Wausau, Roslyn (Brad) McKay of Wittenberg and Dan (Jennifer) Burgess of Boulder City, Nevada; 12 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; sister, Annette Schultz of Chicago and many other nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Martin was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Bonnie; a daughter,

Gail Jo; two brothers, Glenn Jr and Joseph and a sister, Beatrice Trople.

A Celebration Gathering of family and friends will take place at a later date in Lisbon, Iowa. Schmidt & Schulta Funeral Home of Wittenberg assisted the family with arrangements. Memories and messages of support may be shared at schmidtschulta.com. Memorials in honor of Martin to Ascension at Home Hospice would be greatly appreciated.

In the words of Martin, keep your powder dry, your line wet and enjoy everything in moderation.

Martin's family wishes to offer their gratitude and thanks to the excellent care given to Martin by Jaime and the entire staff at Cloverleaf Terrace and the wonderful nurses and caregivers from Ascension at Home.