



ANOTHER WOW MURAL

The latest completed Walls of Wittenberg mural is displayed at 105 W. Vinal St. Emida Roller created the mural, and it was finished before being placed on the building May 14. SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 17

LUKE REIMER | NEW MEDIA

Birnamwood adjusts late dog fees

Village Board attempted to make the license fees more uniform during its meeting last week.

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Spring has arrived in all its glory

Columnist Rob Zimmer returns with a review of the season's floral splendor.

PAGE 12

Witt-Birn golfers first at Marion

All five Chargers carded rounds under 90 to win the Marion Invitational.

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ENTERPRISE
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(USPS 868-800)

Published Fridays

by **NEW Media Inc**

d/b/a The Wittenberg Enterprise

& Birnamwood News

PO Box 313 Wittenberg WI 54499

Periodicals postage paid at

Wittenberg WI 54499

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

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

Shawano WI 54166

Telephone

715-853-0515

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1464 E. Green Bay St., Shawano, WI 54166

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday-Friday

9 a.m. to noon Tuesday

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Subscription, delivery or payment question?

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9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday-Friday

9 a.m. to noon Tuesday

RATES

Print

Print single issue: \$1

Prepaid nonrefundable 12 months:

\$41 Mail - WI

\$52 Mail - outside WI

www.newmedia-wi.com

1-day, \$0.99

3-mo (90-day introductory offer) \$12

Month-to-month \$10

Prepaid 12 month, nonrefundable, \$99

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Withers retires as manager for SAFPARC

She helped organize smaller food banks into one large program in 2004

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

One local resident has called it a career in regards to managing the Shawano Area Food Pantry and Resource Center.

Gillett resident Flo Withers retired from her position as manager of the pantry on April 30. The pantry provides food to low-income families who live in Shawano County.

The food pantry started as a collection of smaller food pantries from churches within the Shawano community. In 2004, Withers helped to combine those smaller food pantries into one larger entity.

Withers said that, as the manager of the food pantry, her responsibilities were pretty basic.

"I did things like making sure the food was out before it expired and making sure everything ran smoothly," said Withers.

She said that a lasting memory of working at the food pantry will be working with all of the volunteers.

"One thing that I will remember is working with all of the volunteers," said Withers. "They are all essential."

During her tenure managing, Withers noticed that patrons of the food pantry were often amazed and thankful by the help of the community.

"When people would come in, I would often see their jaw drop," said Withers. "People were so grateful."

Withers explained that the food pantry was often busy and as people heard of its existence, more families would come. She also mentioned that, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the food pantry was set up for 30-40 families.

As the pandemic continued, she said that less people were coming to the food pantry due to financial help programs.

She said that all of the time that she spent volunteering at the food pantry was constructive.



Flo Withers stands next to food items that were donated to the Shawano Area Food Pantry in 2012. Withers has managed the food pantry since its inception in 2004 and recently retired. CONTRIBUTED

"Helping those in the community who need help really makes volunteering time worth it," said Withers.

In her retirement, Withers said that she has received cards and phone calls from people in the community and people who have worked with her at the pantry.

She said that she is just going to relax in her retirement.

"I don't have to have a goal now," said Withers.

Withers said that the passion for working with the food pantry came from her childhood, as she grew up in the great depression. She also not

only said that it helps the community but also herself.

"I grew up in the depression and saw that people need help," said Withers. "It not only helps the community, but it also helps me — it gives life a meaning and it gives you a reason to get up everyday."

She believes that having the public know about the pantry is important within the community.

"This is important because this is an instance where people can help their neighbor," said Withers. "This is a way to bring the community together."

CORRECTIONS

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

Birnamwood Village Board amends dog licensing fees

Amendment revolves around late fees, sending out notices

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

The Birnamwood Village Board amended its dog license late fee ordinance during its regular May 10 meeting.

The ordinance previously stated that the clerk will assess and collect a late fee of \$5 from every owner of a dog that is five months of age or over if the owner fails to obtain a license prior to April 1 of each year, within 30 days of acquiring ownership of a licenseable dog, or if the owner fails to obtain a license on or before the dog reaches a licenseable age. The late fee will be charged in addition to the required license fee.

Birnamwood Village Clerk Lauri

Klumpyan said that after April 1, she has to send the owner of the pets a first warning letter. Two weeks after that she has to send them a certified letter that says that they have seven days to act.

She also added that reminders are in place for this ordinance.

"They have had notification with their tax bill, I have put reminders in the newsletter, I have reminders at the bank and post office and at the community center, and it is posted on our website," Klumpyan said. "It is their responsibility to get their pet licensed."

Birnamwood Village Board President Mike Sprague suggested the monetary fees should be associated with those who are late in licensing

their pets.

"I think we should have standard fees and license fees on one line," said Sprague. "A late fee — you have from whenever you pay your taxes until the first of April. Say the original amount is \$5, the late fee is \$10 — paid after the April 1 warning, it is \$20. After the registered letter warning, it's \$40."

The first \$5 late fee cannot be assessed until after April 1.

"Five is already the late fee," said board trustee Jody Dombrowski. "When they get the certified letter, they should have to pay more."

After a discussion, the board decided on a solution revolving around the late fees.

"So we want a \$5 fee for the license and we want a \$5 late fee after April

1?" asked Dombrowski.

"Two weeks after that it will go \$10 more," said board trustee Ron Resch. "That is the only way to do — the only way that they will understand."

Klumpyan said that those fees applied per animal in an owner's household.

She also added the stipulation that if they have not paid by May 1, it is another \$10.

The final wording of the amendment was a \$5 fee, then a \$5 late fee, and an additional \$10 after the third notice.

If the fees aren't paid after the third notice, then the county is notified.

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COURT NEWS

- Ann C. Stelling, 45, Fond du Lac, pleaded no contest Sept. 14, 2020, to one count of possession of methamphetamine and one misdemeanor count of possession of THC. Two misdemeanor counts of possession of drug paraphernalia were dismissed but read into the record. On March 2, probation was revoked. On May 10, Judge Katherine Sloma sentenced Stelling to 18 months in state prison, two years of extended supervision and two years of probation.
- Corisa M. Corn, 29, Keshena, was charged May 10 with one count of possession of narcotic drugs, two misdemeanor counts of bail jumping and one misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge William F. Kussel Jr. set a cash bond of \$125 and a signature bond of \$1,000. He also scheduled a preliminary hearing for June 1.
- Mahwassa E. Olson, 42, Green Bay, was charged May 10 with one count of manufacturing/delivering heroin and two counts of bail jumping. Kussel set a cash bond of \$2,500. This case will continue at a later date.
- Mahwassa E. Olson, 42, Green Bay, was charged May 10 with one count of bail jumping. Kussel set a cash bond of \$500. This case will continue at a later date.
- Destiny M. Malone, 31, Bowler, was charged May 10 with one count of possession of methamphetamine, one count of possession of THC (second or subsequent offense) and six counts of bail jumping. Kussel set a cash bond of \$750 and scheduled a resumed initial appearance for May 25.
- Keenan J. Zhuckkahosee, 29, Keshena, was charged May 10 with one count of possession of methamphetamine, one count of possession of narcotic drugs, nine counts of bail jumping and two misdemeanor counts of resisting or obstructing an officer. Kussel set a cash bond of \$1,500. A preliminary hearing is set for May 20.
- Lars B. Gauthier, 55, Shawano, pleaded no contest May 11 to one count of battery by prisoners. One misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct was dismissed on prosecutor's motion. Sloma sentenced Gauthier to nine months in jail, consecutive to any other sentenced being served.
- Julian L. Webster, 26, Green Bay, was charged May 11 with one count of misappropriating identification information, two counts of possession of narcotic drugs, one misdemeanor count of resisting or obstructing an officer, four misdemeanor counts of

- bail jumping and one misdemeanor count of attempted retail theft, less than or equal to \$500. Kussel set a cash bond of \$1,000 and scheduled a preliminary hearing for May 19.
- Mickey J. Frank, 42, Green Bay, was charged May 12 with one count of bail jumping. Kussel set a signature bond of \$2,000 and scheduled a resumed initial appearance for June 23.
- Danielle J. Julius, 32, Keshena, was charged May 12 with one count of possession of narcotic drugs and one misdemeanor count of possessing/illegally obtaining a prescription. Kussel set a signature bond of \$1,500 and scheduled a preliminary hearing for July 22.
- Daniel Thunder, 48, Neopit, was charged May 13 with one count of possession of methamphetamine, one misdemeanor count of resisting/failing to stop, one misdemeanor count of possession of THC and one misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. Kussel set a \$100 cash bond and a \$5,000 signature bond. Kussel set a preliminary hearing for May 26.
- Gina L. M. Schneider, 59, Mattoon, pleaded no contest May 14 to one count of fleeing/eluding an officer in a vehicle. One misdemeanor count of resisting/obstructing an officer was dismissed on prosecutor's motion. Kussel sentenced Schneider to six months in jail and three years
- of probation.
- Gina L. M. Schneider, 59, Mattoon, pleaded no contest May 14 to one count of bail jumping. Kussel sentenced Schneider to six months in jail and two years of probation.
- Gina L. M. Schneider, 59, Mattoon, pleaded no contest May 14 to one count of bail jumping. Another count of bail jumping was dismissed, but read into the record. Kussel sentenced Schneider to six months of jail and two years of probation.
- Benito M. Del Bosque, 46, Bear Creek, pleaded guilty May 14 to one misdemeanor count of operating while revoked, one misdemeanor count of bail jumping and one misdemeanor count of resisting or obstructing an officer. One count of operating while intoxicated, one count of burglary and one count of operating with a prohibited alcohol concentration were dismissed on defendant's motion. Kussel sentenced Del Bosque to 90 days in jail and suspended his drivers license for 90 days.
- Benito M. Del Bosque, 46, Bear Creek, pleaded guilty May 14 to one count of operating with a prohibited alcohol concentration (fourth offense) and one misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct. One count of operating while intoxicated was dismissed on defendant's motion. Kussel sentenced Del Bosque to one year in jail.

Providers: Masks still required

- Area health care providers are still requiring patients to wear face coverings when they visit.
- "The CDC announced May 13 that people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 can go without masks indoors and outdoors," said a joint statement from Bellin Health, Advocate Aurora Health/Aurora BayCare Medical Center, Prevea Health and HSHS hospitals including St. Clare Memorial in Oconto Falls. "However, certain higher risk settings, such as health care facilities, are excluded from this guidance. In alignment with the CDC, masking and social distancing will continue to be required at all our health care facilities to protect the safety and well-being of our patients, visitors and communities."

TOWN OF WITTENBERG REQUEST FOR QUOTES FOR CRACK FILLING

The Town of Wittenberg is requesting quotes for crack filling on the Town roads for 2021. The quote should be made based on the price per pound. Any questions should be directed to Dick Beversdorf 715-253-2908 or 715-881-3998. Quotes should be in a sealed envelope and marked **2021/Crack Filling** and mailed to the Town of Wittenberg, PO Box 186, Wittenberg, WI 54499. Quotes should be received no later than Tuesday, May 18, 2021 by 6:00 p.m. They will be opened during the regular Town Board meeting. The Board reserves the right to accept/decline any/all quotes.

LINDA FLETCHER, CLERK
Town of Wittenberg

WNAXLP

TOWN OF WITTENBERG RESIDENTS

The Town of Wittenberg will be having a large item pick-up by Harter's on Thursday, June 3, 2021. See large items listed below that will be accepted for this event.

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Bike, Grill, Large Plastic Toy/Furniture	Toilet

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Trash Compactor	Water Heater

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The Town of Wittenberg is requesting quotes for chip sealing/slag sealing for the Town roads for 2021. The quote should be made based on the price per mile with a width of 20 feet. Any questions should be directed to Dick Beversdorf at 715-253-2908 or 715-881-3998. Quotes should be in a sealed envelope and marked **2021 Chip Sealing** and mailed to the Town of Wittenberg, PO Box 186, Wittenberg, WI 54499. Quotes should be received no later than Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. They will be opened during the regular Town Board meeting. The Board reserves the right to accept/decline any/all quotes.

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Geese roundup, euthanization gets green light

Resident geese numbers continue to grow while harassment efforts have limited effect

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

The Shawano Common Council signed off May 12 on a plan recommended by the city parks and recreation commission that could euthanize some of the geese that have clung to Smalley Park and Huckleberry Harbor and refused to let go.

During summer months, geese have frequented the two recreational facilities and left behind their fecal matter. For the last couple of years, the city has attempted harassment techniques and other ideas to humanely get the geese to leave, but they have not.

The latest effort to control the geese started in July 2020, according to parks and recreation director Matt Hendricks. After communicating with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, the recommendation was to plan a roundup, where geese would be captured and euthanized, while keeping current efforts in place.

The financial aspect is minimal, according to Hendricks. The roundup itself is expected to cost the city about \$3,500 and would be handled by the USDA. As far as the continued harassment efforts, the park and recreation department plans to purchase a radio-controlled boat and a dozen green lasers to chase away geese will cost \$200, while adding 30 minutes every night for park staff to harass the geese every night for about 18 weeks will add \$750 to the cost.

With those low financial costs, the plan would not normally need council approval. Hendricks said the matter was going before the council because the plan required working with state and federal agencies.

"The park and recreation commission, in my opinion, did its due diligence and truly evaluated the situation," Hendricks said. "It keeps in things that are already in place. It allows us to continue the vegetative management and allows us to continue robust use of the park by everyone. We believe this is the best plan going forward."

Council members agreed, noting that the city has tried other methods but still failed to keep the geese away. Alderwoman Rhonda Strebel noted that the city has more geese in the area than what is healthy.

"We are way over the limit, and



A pair of Canadian geese, along with their goslings, roam around a grassy area in Smalley Park on May 13 looking for food. The geese have long been an issue for the city of Shawano at the park and Huckleberry Harbor, and after years of trying more humane methods, the Shawano Common Council approved asking the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services to round up and eradicate the geese.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA



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it's no wonder that we're having the problems and the issues that we're having," said Strebel, who noted that a city Shawano's size should have about 800 geese, but the current population was over 1,200. "I've heard from many, many constituents that, by the time they get down there at 10 o'clock with their kids and their families, all that work that was done was almost for naught."

Strebel noted that a goose leaves behind about three pounds of feces daily.

"That's a lot," she said. "When we have 800 geese, that's a lot, and we're well beyond that."

Alderman Kevin Barkow, who sat on the commission prior to being elected to the council, said that it's the resident geese that are the primary

issue. There are migratory geese that come through Shawano and other communities in northeast Wisconsin en route to other locations.

"We've tried the humane way of doing it, and it's not working," Barkow said. "You can harass them all you want. The bottom line is that they're going to come back. People can chase you out of your house, but eventually, you're going to come back home."

Alderman John Hoeft's noted that harassment efforts have prompted some of the geese to relocate to other parts of the community, making the issue more widespread.

"I've been out in the field quite a bit this year, and there are geese nesting in areas I've noticed they weren't there before, right off the field," Hoeft said. "Some of them might infiltrate the river system, too. There are a lot of geese nesting on the edge of the creeks and fields."

Alderman Brad Keuschel, who lives near Smalley Park and works with the Shawano Ski Sharks, noted that the Ski Sharks and others have tried to pitch in with chasing away the

geese, to no avail.

"I had a four-pack of lasers, and after practice, we'd go out there, but we no sooner leave the parking lot, and then they're back on shore," Keuschel said. "You can't be there 24 hours a day."

Alderwoman Lisa Hoffman noted that the city has put too much money into parks like Smalley and facilities like Huckleberry Harbor to allow the geese to ruin them for residents.

"I get people that say they try to go down there and they don't want to be there (because of the geese)," Hoffman said. "It's a protection of our investment that we've made."

Alderwoman Sandy Steinke said she advocates for animals, but she agreed that the city has done everything else to avoid killing the geese, but the problem has gotten too large.

"This is something that needs to be done, just for the city and also for the geese themselves," Steinke said. "If there's too much of something, you end up having troubles and diseases. I'd prefer not to see that happen."

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Parents unhappy with mask mandate communication

One parent cut off from speaking to board after blaming issue on superintendent

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

Parents expressed their displeasure about the Shawano School District's communication issues regarding the mask mandate at the May 17 Shawano School Board meeting, with one parent getting cut off when she directly criticized the superintendent.

Several parents had gathered at Memorial Park to speak on the issue remotely via Zoom, as the school district has not resumed in-person meetings yet.

Chelsea Gilling, who currently has two children attending Shawano public schools, told the board that she understood the district was "between a rock and a hard place" during the pandemic, but she was not happy about how parents and even staff were informed that the mask mandate had been lifted once the Wisconsin Supreme Court had overturned the Gov. Tony Evers' mask policy for the state.

"At the very least, prior to the first communication going to a parent about the mask mandate essentially ending with the Supreme Court ruling, I really, really, truly feel that a communication needed to be sent to all staff members notifying them of the situation at hand," Gilling said. "After the situation was brought to light via social media, which many parents and many staff members don't have social media, there was still no email or any correspondence to parents until the following day."

Gilling added that she felt the situation could have been handled differently. She said it raises concerns about whether the district is being transparent with the community.

Parent Sondra Guetschow also spoke out about the district's transparency, and she told the board that her concerns start at the top, with the administration.

"Being a Shawano High alum, a taxpayer and a parent of three students in the district, I'm very concerned about how things are being run within our district," Guetschow said. "There is very clearly a lack of leadership, and it is starting at the top."



Shawano School District parent Chelsea Gilling, left, makes her remarks on the district's communications on the mask mandate May 17 from a picnic bench at Memorial Park remotely to the school board as Sondra Guetschow listens. Both parents had issues with the way the district informed the community that wearing masks was no longer a requirement.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA



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Guetschow said she has heard from a number of district employees who are unhappy with the leadership of Superintendent Randi Anderson, only referring to her as the superintendent and not naming her by name. Guetschow said she listened as they vented, but after the number grew, she realized there was something to really be concerned about.

At that point, Guetschow was abruptly cut off from Zoom access, and school board president Michael Sleeper gave a stern admonishment.

"Okay, folks," Sleeper said. "I read the policy. We're going to adhere to the policy. This kind of direct personal commentary and attack is out of order."

The policy Sleeper referred to was the board's policy on public

comments at board meetings, which does not permit any criticism of specific employees. The parents at Memorial Park had not heard Sleeper reading the policy on the YouTube livestream, as they were on the Zoom waiting room for the district, waiting to make their comments.

Sleeper asked Gilling, who spoke after Guetschow, if she had heard the reading of the policy, to which she replied: "No, I was just let in right now."

Meanwhile, Guetschow was angry about the board not listening to her concerns and spoke further with local media on what she was going to say.

"What I was going to say before I was rudely cut off by our district was that there was clearly a lack of leadership within our district, and to me, the straw that broke the camel's back was the way our mask mandate was handled," Guetschow said.

Guetschow said she felt school staff had been left in the dark when the district finally communicated there was no longer a requirement to wear masks in the schools.

"If our superintendent had shown some leadership, called the board, immediately called the staff and teachers, set up (the change) for the following Monday to give some time to get a game plan in place as far as masks go, with or without, that was never done," Guetschow said. "There was no cooperation within the district at all."

Gilling told NEW Media after the public comments that she felt it wasn't right that the district didn't inform staff of the change on the mask mandate, leaving teachers and other school employees to fend for themselves when parents found out and inquired on what was going on.

"I was just disappointed with how the communication was handled," Gilling said.

Guetschow vowed her speaking out about leadership within the district was not going to end just because the board cut her off.

"I'm more mad now than I was before today," Guetschow said. "Besides going to our local media, we're going to do some (speaking out)."

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Find relief from *seasonal and environmental allergies*

If you don't have allergies, you likely know someone who does. The itchy, watery eyes and sneezing alone can make you miserable. We typically associate them with the seasons of spring, summer or fall; but what really are seasonal allergies?

Seasonal allergies are immune system responses triggered by exposure to allergens. The word "seasonal" implies that they occur at the same time of the year every year, if you remain in the same general location. The medical term for seasonal allergies is allergic rhinitis.

The classic symptoms of seasonal allergies include:

- Itchy, watery eyes
- Sneezing
- Runny, stuff or itchy nose
- Dark circles under the eyes
- Drainage from your nose down the back of your throat

Many people's allergy and asthma symptoms are triggered by pollen. The types of pollens that trigger symptoms vary from person to person and region to region. Here in Northeast Wisconsin, pollen is produced by most trees and weeds during the spring; grasses during summer; and ragweed in the fall.

Finding Relief

There are a few lifestyle changes that can help some individual's symptoms. When pollen levels are high, be sure to close your windows and doors and stay inside, preferably in air conditioning. Stay indoors in the morning and venture out in the afternoon as pollen counts are the highest between 5 and 10 a.m. Should you have problems with animals such as cats and dogs, be sure to avoid exposure to these pets as best as possible. If you should have issues, with dust mites, the most successful

non-medication way to relieve symptoms is by obtaining "dust mite covers" or "allergy covers" for your pillow and mattress.

Here are some other tips:

- Wear glasses or sunglasses when outdoors to minimize the amount of pollen getting into your eyes.
- Try not to rub your eyes; doing so will irritate them and could make your symptoms worse
- Do not dry your clothes on a clothesline, as the pollen in the air will stick to them.
- If you are outdoors during the day, shower at night and change your clothes.
- Wash your hands immediately after petting any animals; wash your clothes after visiting friends with pets
- To limit exposure to molds, keep humidity in your home low and clean the bathrooms, kitchen and basement regularly.

If avoiding the items that trigger your seasonal allergies is impossible, there are additional options that can help to reduce your seasonal allergy symptoms.

- **Antihistamines** – These medications counter the affects of histamine, a chemical which is released in the body during an allergic reaction. They can be found in eyedrops, nasal sprays and oral forms (tablets/syrups). Many of these medications are available over the counter.
- **Nasal sprays** – Many of these formerly prescription-only sprays have gone over the counter, but some forms are still prescription only. Sprays will reduce the swelling and mucus in the passageways. The time it takes for nasal sprays to take affect varies from person to person, but allow for a couple of weeks for the spray to reach maximum effectiveness.

- **Allergy shots** – This is a type of treatment referred to as immunotherapy. Each allergy shot contains a tiny amount of the item you are allergic to. You receive these shots regularly for three to five years. Over the course of the treatment, your allergist will gradually increase the amount of allergens in each shot to help your body become more and more desensitized to the allergens. As your immune system builds a tolerance to the allergens, your symptoms will decrease.
- **Sublingual tablets** – These are a dried form of the allergy extracts used in allergy shots. These tablets dissolve under your tongue. The first dose is taken in your allergist's office, but the rest are taken daily at home. Like allergy shots, the tablets involve teaching the immune system to tolerate the allergens. This type of therapy must begin four months before the season starts and continue until the end of the season. Right now, tablets are only available for grass pollen and ragweed pollen, and dust mite allergen.

If you are having issues finding the right form of relief for your seasonal allergy symptoms contact a Prevea Allergist.



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Spring has arrived in all of its glory

Although we've had several late frosts over the past few weeks, the glory of spring continues to unfold and grace our gardens and landscapes with bursts of vibrant color. The promise of another beautiful gardening season is upon us. We relish, as gardeners, these glorious days of May.



ROB ZIMMER

Each morning, it seems, there is something new to enjoy in the yard and garden. Even the first dandelions, dressed in vibrant yellow, bring a smile to my face as I see them thrust forth their sunny dispositions to take advantage of the first pollinators of the season.

The violets are bursting into bloom, as well, adorning our borders and beds with their rich blues, purples, yellows and white. Smart gardeners know to take advantage of this bounty and create enjoyable delicacies, such as candied violets, violet jelly, violet syrup and violet blossom cookies and scones. Find recipes for all of these and more online.

Magnolias are just about finished blooming for the season, and now the flowering crabapples are taking center stage. In colorful, feathery plumes of red, magenta, pink and white, the flowering crabapples put on a spectacular show during May. These are not only beautiful ornamental trees to have in the landscape, but important for songbirds later in the season and throughout the winter season. Robins, cedar waxwings, catbirds, bluebirds and others take advantage of their bountiful berries throughout fall and winter.

Some of the most spectacular blooms of this glorious May are the heirloom tulips, daffodils and other bulbs that adorn our garden beds. Classics, such as giant snow drops, double flowering tulips, colorful daffodils, hyacinths, fritillaria and other heirloom bulbs provide early-season color, texture and beauty when not much else is in bloom.

Heirloom daffodils are some of my favorites, and there are many to choose from. The glistening, snowy white Thalia daffodil is a classic, dainty favorite. Others include the



Bleeding hearts, here in gold, are among the glories of the May garden.

ROB ZIMMER



Flowering crabapples are beginning to burst into bloom beneath the May sunshine.

ROB ZIMMER

double flowering, multiple blooming Cheerfulness and Yellow Cheerfulness, as well as the unique pincushion bloom of Rip van Winkle. Many gardeners still haven't learned that

daffodils come in many other colors than yellow. Some of the most beautiful varieties bloom in shades of pink.

The crown imperials are members

of the fritillaria family and feature massive "crowns" of colorful blooms in yellow and orange. These may reach 3-4 feet tall, looking like palm trees or pineapples in the spring garden. They have a distinct, skunk-like odor — perfect for keeping deer and rabbits out of the garden beds.

Native wildflowers also put on quite a show in the spring garden. Virginia bluebells dance in the spring winds, their long, tubular blue, bell-like blooms attracting the first hummingbirds of the year, as well as bumblebees and other pollinators. Trilliums bloom in showy white, while jack-in-the-pulpits bloom in exotic maroon, striped silvery green.

As the glory of May continues, we will see more and more garden flowers burst into bloom. Bearded iris, lilacs, columbine, oriental poppies, allium and late tulips will all grace our garden beds and set the stage for the coming growing season.

Find Rob Zimmer on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RobZimmerOutdoors.

Greater yellowlegs spied at Oconto Marsh

The high-stepping quick strides and rapid head bobs of the greater yellowlegs as it waded through the shallows caught our eye on a recent visit to the Oconto Marsh.

A relatively tall shorebird, its yellow legs and a long black bill that is slightly upturned distinguish this sandpiper from others. Now in its breeding plumage, the head, neck and breast are heavily streaked in black, and its back sports an intricately embroidered mosaic of blacks, browns and white.



CATHY CARNES

We also hear its distinctive call, a loud string of three or more slightly descending “tew” notes, aptly described by National Geographic’s Field Guide to the Birds of N.A. (Fifth Edition).

According to TheCornellLabs “All About Birds” website, the greater yellowlegs is often called a “marshpiper” because it wades through deeper water than other sandpipers — its long legs allowing it to easily navigate its watery world. It is heavier and longer-billed than its lookalike, the lesser yellowlegs, which we also caught a glimpse of at the marsh. Its diet, like other sandpipers, includes small invertebrates (snails, worms) picked from the mud, as well as small fish and frogs.

It is a relatively solitary bird. You may see them migrating with other sandpipers, but they rarely interact with them beyond traveling together.

It’s amazing to think of the breadth of the migratory flight of this sandpiper pulled by its biological clock, changing weather, and day length to journey north. It’s only here at the marsh for a stopover, to fuel up and rest so it can continue that journey. According to

“All About Birds,” the greater yellowlegs winters along the marshy coastal areas of the U.S., Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean and parts of South America. The journey ends at its breeding ground hundreds if not thousands of miles north in the boreal wetlands of Canada and Alaska.

Once on the breeding grounds, no time is lost; the males energetically court the females, diving and calling and running in circles around her, then pausing to pose with upraised wings before her. How can she turn down such an attentive, flashy suitor? Their nests are often located at the base of short, evergreen trees. The chicks, amazingly, leave the nest a few hours after hatching and feed themselves. A very successful strategy for survival!

According to “All About Birds,” the population of the greater yellowlegs appears stable. Like many birds that were hunted in great numbers, sometimes with hundreds lost in one season, these birds are now protected by The Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Although hunting is not a problem in mainland North America, it still is in the Caribbean where thousands of migrating shorebirds are shot every year, including greater yellowlegs.

Loss of wetland habitat on the wintering grounds is also a threat, but difficult to measure. Head down to the Oconto Marsh or other wetland areas to get a glimpse of the greater yellowlegs before it resumes its migratory journey north.

May is a great time to bird watch with so many migratory birds passing through. Also look for ducks, grebes, sandhill cranes, woodpeckers, yellow-rumped warblers and other bird species, all the while being serenaded by the boisterous konk-la-reee of the red-winged blackbirds.

Cathy Carnes of Oconto is a retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist who volunteers with Bird City Oconto.



The greater yellowlegs, a tall sandpiper, is seen at Oconto Marsh on May 5.

CATHY CARNES

Shawano County libraries offer summer reading program

Public libraries across Wisconsin are gearing up to offer summer reading programs for all ages.

At Shawano County Library, the program begins June 1 and runs through Aug. 7. The children’s program is from birth through fifth grade. The teen program is for grades 6-12,

and the adult program for those ages 18 and older. To register for the program, stop at any library, participate online at shawanolibrary.beanstack.org or use the Beanstack Tracker app.

In addition to the reading portion, many great programs, crafts and activities are planned at the libraries

this summer. In all, over 135 programs are scheduled throughout the county’s libraries during June, July and August. From children’s performers to petting zoos, from local tours to photography, from story times to do-it-yourself projects, there will be something for everyone. Program

times and locations are located on the library’s Facebook page and online at shawanolibrary.org. Full program brochures are available to pick up at the main and branch libraries.

For information, contact the library at sha@shawanolibrary.org or 715-526-3829.

DNR finds 'no impact' from higher water levels

Long-term resolution of Shawano area water level controversy sought

By **DAVID WILHELM**
Reporter

"Biologically, we've come to terms with the year-round water level and there is no impact at all," Jean Romback-Bartels, secretary's director for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, said May 12.

Romback-Bartels' comment referred to the proposal to maintain the water level at the Shawano paper mill dam at 802.9 feet above mean sea level year-round. She is the agency administrator with water issue responsibilities for northeastern counties.

David Fox said there has not been any negative impact from the higher water level and the dam's operation. Fox is director of regulatory process for Eagle Creek Renewable Energy, the dam's operator. The dam's electric's output goes exclusively to power the adjacent Little Rapids Paper Mill, Fox added.

The DNR, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Shawano Area Waterways Management and other local organizations are seeking a permanent solution to the ongoing controversy for levels in Shawano Lake, the channel and the Wolf River pool above the Shawano paper mill dam.

Fox said ECRE wants to pursue a two-year temporary amendment before addressing the permanent change from the Federal Energy Resources Commission. FERC is the national agency with jurisdiction over dams.

An additional year "will buy us adequate time to get the permitting process done," Fox added.

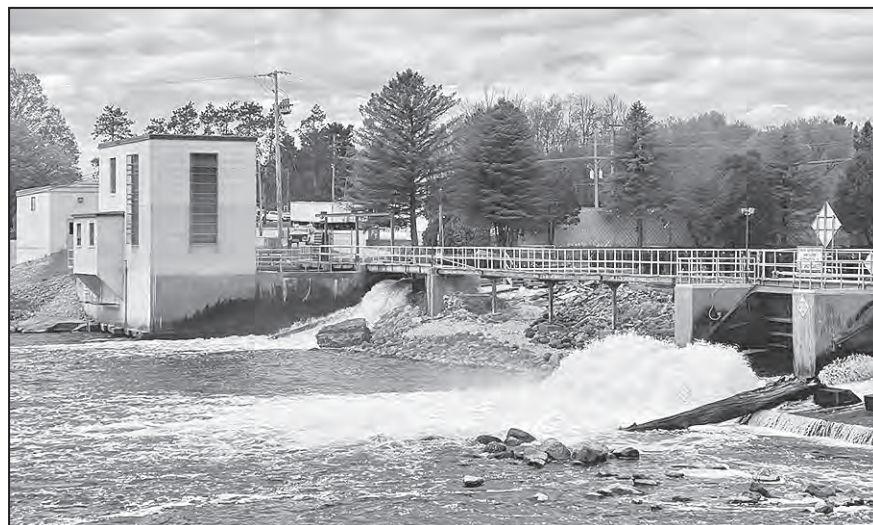
Romback-Bartels agrees with ECRE's plan to apply for a two-year amendment to its current operating permit.

"It affords us the opportunity, meaning all groups affected, to take a look at the one outstanding issue of impacts of going year-round," she said.

That "one outstanding issue" is the potential flood impact above the paper mill dam, requiring a hydrologic and hydraulic study, she said.

Romback-Bartels said she would consult her staff in coming days to confirm the need for the study and gather suggestions for funding.

She said, although there is adequate internal staffing, the DNR would have to contract additional resources for the



The spillway of the dam at the Shawano Paper Mill regulates the water level of the Wolf River at a level regulated by the Federal Energy Resources Commission.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

FYI

The Federal Emergency Management Agency provides guidance for conduct of hydrologic and hydraulic studies. FEMA develops flood data and publishes flood hazard maps to support the National Flood Insurance Plan (NFIP). According to FEMA, there are normally three major phases to a flood study of a stream or river:

- Assess the flows (usually involving a hydrologic study)
- Flood elevations and the floodway (via a hydraulic analysis)
- Map the floodplain and floodway

study and does not have readily available funds.

Romback-Bartels explained her agency now has five years of data on the seasonal water level changes and noted there were some impacts.

As opposed to the potential hazards of seasonal changes, "critters that need to burrow into the mud" to survive the winter won't have to contend with the possibility of water that is too low, Romback-Bartels continued.

Those "critters" include frogs, turtles and salamanders, the agency director said. They are important parts of the food chain, including for desirable game fish such as walleyes, she added.

In spring, the watershed, especially below the paper mill dam, needs to have enough water long enough to support spawning.

"The interesting thing about the system is that when they start to fill up the lake, the sturgeon have already spawned as well as walleye, red horse and white bass" but the need is to keep eggs wet and oxygenated, the DNR director explained.

Noting fish in Shawano Lake have the same need, Romback-Bartels concluded, "A year-round level avoids all

of those possible impacts."

The DNR's next steps will be to get in its comments into the FERC in a timely fashion during the regulatory process, Romback-Bartels said. It will also "absolutely be reaching out" to ECRE, SAWM and other organizations, probably including help on funding for the study, she said.

Bill Monfre, a SAWM board member involved in the water level resolution, said he was hopeful that FERC would act on the temporary amendment by June. He said he is hopeful that the area waters will return to the higher water levels by the Fourth of July weekend and will continue to attract boaters to the area.

Romback-Bartels added the agency will continue to balance all of the needs of stakeholders throughout the Wolf River watershed. Fox said the dam operator is also "interested in balancing all of the interest of all stakeholders."

FERC initially concurred with Shawano resident Brian Knapp's May 2015 complaint of high water and ice damage to his riverside residence and ordered a drawdown of the water at the paper mill dam from 802.9 feet msl to 802.5 feet msl. The 802.9 foot level had been the norm since at least 1985.

Knapp politely but firmly declined on May 10 to comment on the efforts this year to permanently resolve the issue. Manager of Shawano Municipal Utilities and a riverside resident, Knapp said he didn't have anything to offer beyond the contents of his original letter to FERC. In it, he complained of high water levels and damage from ice to his property.

ECRE acknowledged in a letter to FERC that the dam exceeded autho-

DID YOU KNOW?

What does "msl" mean? Put simply, according to the National Geographic Society, "Sea level is the base level for measuring elevation and depth on Earth." Mean sea level, the measurement at the heart of the ongoing controversy over water levels in the Shawano Lake area, is calculated from the average of hourly measurements of sea levels over a period of 19 years at various locations, according to the National Geographic web site.

However, "Gauging average global sea level is trickier than sticking a ruler in the depths and noting the day-to-day or year-to-year changes," according to climate.gov, a service of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

rized water levels on three occasions in 2013 and 2014 due to above-average amounts of precipitation. Dam operations were automated in 2016, resulting in more consistent water levels.

Since that initial order, there has been pushback from boating groups, waterfront landowners, fishing groups and other organizations representing interests above and below the paper mill dam.

One effort has been a yearly request from local groups, spearheaded by SAWM, to make a seasonal adjustment back to the 802.9 level, a level believed to enhance safety of boating but also protect fisheries. Fishing groups, such as Walleyes for Tomorrow and Sturgeon for Tomorrow, have contended the lower water levels endangered spawning and other habitat.

The controversy has also spawned rumors ranging from the low water levels hosting blastomycosis, a deadly bacterial disease, to numbers of injured boaters being treated at local emergency rooms and urgent care facilities.

Typical of the results in the past five years was the FERC order of June 2020. The regulatory body accepted the ECRE proposal to keep the level at a target normal elevation of 802.9 feet msl between May 15 and Nov. 15, or 0.4 foot above the authorized normal impoundment elevation of 802.5 feet msl.

This year, records from the Shawano paper mill dam operator show the water is being maintained at the level required by FERC despite local observations of the water being too low.

FERC noted its awareness of the need for additional environmental analysis of raising the water level and a clear definition of the "ice-free months" during which the dam would operate at the higher level, according to a June 2018 article in the Shawano Leader.

Shawano school teachers get pay hike

Grams feels proposal is 'slap in the face,' advocates for more

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

The Shawano School District will be giving its teachers a pay hike after the Shawano School Board approved the measure May 17, but one board member feels the increase isn't high enough.

The pay increase was split into two parts, something that board member Chuck Dallas described as a "goodwill system." The first part was based on a point system established by the district where teachers earn one to 49 points and get additional money depending on the number of points earned. That increase is expected to cost the district \$131,855.

"We feel that it's a good gesture to pay off the points that have been earned by those teachers," Dallas said, noting that the first part would permanently be added to teachers' wages instead of being a one-time bonus.

The second part was a base increase for all teachers, expected to cost the district an additional \$163,269. The increase would give teachers a 1.23% increase, based on the consumer price index (CPI) from January 2020.

The pay hike had the recommendation of the district's executive and finance committees.

"From our perspective, it's really been a tough year," Dallas said. "The teachers have gone through a lot — all the employees have gone through a lot, and they've worked awfully hard during this time period. We look at it as a goodwill gesture to

show our appreciation."

Board member Mart Grams felt increasing salaries only by just over 1% was a slap in the face to the teachers, in light of the unusual school year.

"We gave more than 2% to the administrators, and we keep hiring administrators," Grams said. "I don't think we should give them (the teachers) anything less than 2%, which I still think is crappy."

Grams tried to amend the measure to allow for a 4.6% increase for all teachers to reflect the CPI as of April 2020, but the effort failed because no one would second his motion. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the index increased 4.2% before seasonal adjustment, the largest 12-month increase since September 2008, when the CPI jumped up 4.9%.

Dallas noted that the current plan was an interim move until the district could complete its review on teacher salaries and compensation.

"We are comparing like-size (districts) to our neighbors," Dallas said. "It helps compare what our teacher compensation is to others."

Grams noted that the Ashwaubenton School District gave its teachers a 2% hike plus a \$1,000 bonus, which prompted Superintendent Randi Anderson to point out that the points and the base increase give teachers a 4.3% increase total.

Grams said not all of the teachers are getting the maximum points, however.

"It's a select group," he said.

Board member Jamie Beyer said the increase was good for now but hoped more would come soon.

"I know we can't do it all at once," Beyer said, agreeing with the pay hike, "as long as you're looking forward to giving a more percentage later on."

Board member Chris Gull, who voted against the base increase with Grams, also felt the 1.23% increase was not satisfactory.

"I'm a big proponent of paying our teachers more, but we have to have the money to pay them," Gull said. "In my mind, it's better than nothing, but I just don't think it's good enough yet to retain teachers."

Board member James Davel brought his own experience as Sha-

wano County's interim administrative coordinator into the discussion, noting that pay increases can only come when the school district has the money to provide them.

"As much as you want to pay people more and you want to do it right away, it's a little bit like biting an elephant," Davel said. "You got to chomp what you can chomp and work your way at it to get to what you're trying to do. This, at least, gets us moving in the right direction."

Grams recalled a board conversation years ago where the matter on instilling trust with the teachers was brought up. He felt the packaged pay increase did not accomplish that.

"This is a good way to cut the ladder out from underneath them," Grams said. "They think we disdain them again."

The board voted 7-1 to approve the first part of the pay increase, with only Grams opposing, and 6-2 for the 1.23% base increase. Board president Michael Sleeper abstained from both votes.

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BACK TO BACK WINNER

SAM25 receives bronze seal of excellence

Group given award due to work associated with shelter, upcoming health clinic

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

A bronze seal of excellence has been awarded to a local health clinic that will provide care to the uninsured when it opens in late summer.

Shawano Area Matthew 25 was presented with the award April 29 from the Wisconsin Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (WAFCC).

"They have been helping us get organized with our clinic and policies," said SAM25 Board President Muffy Culhane.

The award was given to SAM25 because of its staffing, the planning, policies and procedures that are going into creating its health clinic.

Culhane said that WAFCC is giving SAM25 three years to continue to grow and continue to progress to reach the next level, a silver designation. She also said that WAFCC has a number of standards that need to be met to continue to progress into the silver and gold designations.

"We will keep working towards those standards," said Culhane. "They have actually really helped to start because we kind of know what we need to be focusing on."

She said that the award stands for a number of factors.

"I think it is important because it shows that we want to provide the best care as possible for our patients," said Culhane. "It also tells the community that we are trying to set up something reputable."

As work is continued on building the health clinic, Culhane looks forward to opening its doors to the less fortunate in our area.

"This clinic will be for the un-



A free health care clinic is in the process of being built at the SAM25 shelter on 105 E. Richmond St. in Shawano. The health care clinic will service those who cannot afford health insurance.

LUKE REIMER | NEW MEDIA

insured in our area that are living around the poverty level," said Culhane.

According to Culhane, there are a lot of people who are either uninsured or under-insured and are not seeking health care. This is a reason why the decision was made to build the health clinic.

"There are about 8% of people in Shawano County and Menominee County that are uninsured," said Culhane. "We just think that everyone deserves good, basic health care — so we want to provide that and plug them into other health systems."

Culhane said that the community plays a major role in the success of the shelter and the clinic.

"I have to say that I think we live

in one of the most supportive communities that I have ever lived in," said Culhane. "For the shelter and the clinic, the community surrounds us with support, donations, volunteers and supplies."

SAM25 Executive Director Jennifer Bisterfeldt said that poverty and homelessness affects everyone in the community.

"We should all care about everyone," said Bisterfeldt. "Whether you are rich, poor or middle class, it is an issue for all of us."

"There are always instances where you will be going through a tough time, and that is what we are trying to do here — help folks who are struggling," Culhane added.

Started in 2014, SAM25 is a

nonprofit organization that aims to help community members who are struggling with poverty. According to Culhane, the goals of SAM25 are to provide those in need with a meal, a safe space to sleep, accessible health care and access to resources to get back on the right track.

In 2015, the shelter was located at 213 E. Green Bay St. After five years, the shelter was moved to 105 E. Richmond St.

The shelter is open during winter months from Nov. 1 through April 30, what Bisterfeldt calls "shelter season."

Bisterfeldt estimated that 30-40% of shelter guests leave SAM25 to permanent housing destinations. She also said that the other 60% don't necessarily go back to homelessness, but rather they find homes with families or other friends.

"The goal is to try to get people connected to a permanent situation where they are not going to enter back into homelessness," said Bisterfeldt.

She also said that on the last night of the 2020-21 shelter season, there were only two guests in the shelter. Both of them had plans for when the shelter season ended.

In a normal year, Bisterfeldt said about 100 people come in to use the facilities at the shelter.

As the health clinic is being built, Culhane and Bisterfeldt have plans to keep continuing to grow both the clinic and the shelter.

"We will start out small and do baby steps, but the goal is to keep improving the organization and the care we give to eventually end up with a gold standard," said Culhane.

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New mural unveiled in Wittenberg



The completed mural is displayed at 105 W. Vinal St. Emida Roller created the mural, and it was finished before being placed on the building May 14.

LUKE REIMER | NEW MEDIA



Steve Vera, on ground, and Dan Wisotzke, above, prepare to add artist Emida Roller's mural to the Down to Earth Healing and Massage building in Wittenberg on May 14. Down to Earth is located next to the post office at 105 W. Vinal St.

LUKE REIMER | NEW MEDIA



Emida Roller's mural features a monarch butterfly. The mural will be on display at Down to Earth Massages. Roller is a mural artist based in Madison.

LUKE REIMER | NEW MEDIA

OBITUARIES

Arvin Block

Arvin A. Block, 85, of Eagle, passed away on Sunday, May 9, 2021, in Waukesha. He was born Dec. 14, 1935, in Birnamwood, to the late Charles and Frieda (Fandrey) Block. Arvin served his country honorably in the United States Army. He was united in marriage to Karen L. Marquette on Feb. 14, 1987, in West Allis.

Arvin was an extremely hard worker and loved his jobs as a roofer and a driver, then station clerk for Milwaukee County Transit. Arvin was a caring, generous and kind man, with a gentle spirit who would never hesitate to help someone. He had a strong faith and



was a member of Poplar Creek Church. In his free time, he enjoyed hunting. Arvin was a devoted husband and a loving father; he will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Arvin is survived by his wife, Karen; his daughter, Deborah Block; his brothers Norman (Shirley) Block, Ralph Block, Roger (Donna) Block; his sisters, Carol Szczech and Lucille (Alan) Nousen; his aunts, Stella Fandrey, Adeline Fandrey and Ruby Fandrey; his uncles, Mar-

vin (Evelyn) Fandrey and Herbert (Noreen) Fandrey; his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Beverly Marquette, Harry "Pete" (Lynn) Marquette, Larry Marquette, Jim Marquette, Donna Lampinen, Joe Marquette, Vicki (Thomas) Wegner, Randy Marquette, Robert "Bobby" (Kim) Marquette, Jana Marquette and Rosie Marquette.

He is further survived by nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Frieda; two children in infancy; his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Harry and Margaret Marquette, and Carol Conklin; brothers-in-law, Jerome

Szczech, Douglas Marquette, Michael Marquette and Ron Lampinen; sisters-in-law, Norma Block, Margie Marquette, Barbara (Dave) Sherman, Glenda Marquette, Barbara Marquette and Carol Conklin; niece, Kari Block; and a nephew in infancy.

A funeral service for Arvin will be held at Swedberg Funeral Home in Shawano on Saturday, June 5, 2021, at 11 a.m. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery. Military honors will be conducted by the Shawano AMVETS. Visitation will be held at the funeral home on Friday, June 4, 2021, from 4-7 p.m. and again on Saturday from 9 a.m. until the time of service.

www.swedbergfuneralhome.com

Gerald L. Temple

Gerald Louis "Jerry" Temple, 77, of Cecil, passed away Sunday, May 16, 2021. Jerry was born on Nov. 1, 1943, to the late Ray and Ruth (Nass) Temple in the Town of Green Valley. He was a graduate of Gillett High School. Jerry was united in marriage to Karen Giese on Dec. 12, 1964, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Pulcifer, Karen preceded him in death in 1996.

Jerry worked as a plumber, first for Zeitler Plumbing in Cecil and then Schroeder Hansen Plumbing in Appleton. He was a volunteer fireman in Cecil for many years. Jerry could fix anything that needed to be fixed and would always fix some-

thing before buying new. He enjoyed NASCAR, the Brewers, the Packers and the Badgers. He loved attending Hodag and Porterfield Festivals. He also enjoyed snowmobiling, mud running, cutting firewood, shooting pool, bowling, playing softball and darts.

Jerry wanted the best for his children and made sure he was able to be involved in anything and everything they were doing. He was a genuine, old-fashioned and humble soul who would help anyone, if he was unable to help he would make sure to get you to the person who could. Jerry touched more people in his lifetime

than most people could in three lifetimes. He would leave people either laughing or smarter than they were before meeting him.

Jerry is survived by his significant other, Shelby Bahr; two sons, Troy Temple, of Cecil, and Todd (Tami) Temple, of Gillett; grandchildren, Tristan, Travis and Chase; great-grandson, Bryce; siblings, Shirley Rank, Nancy Yeager, Ron (Pat) Temple and Yvonne (Fred) Christiansen; and his beloved black lab, Jack. He is further survived by nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Karen; his parents; and a

brother, Alfred.

Funeral services for Jerry will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 22, 2021, at Faith United Lutheran Church in Gillett with the Rev. John Laatsch officiating. Burial will be in St. John's Cemetery in Pulcifer. Visitation will be held at the church on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until time of service. In lieu of flowers, memorials are appreciated.

A special thank you to his significant other Shelby Bahr, who deserves more gratitude and recognition than anyone could possibly give for all the years of happiness she gave to Jerry.

www.swedbergfuneralhome.com

Alice A. Barnes

Alice A. Barnes, 73, of St. Francis, passed away May 11, 2021, at Ignite Medical Resort in Oak Creek. She was born Sept. 5, 1947, in Shawano to Emma (maiden name Kleeman) Paiser and Arlie Paiser. Alice was an antiques associate at Travis Auction Galleries and caretaker of many.

Survivors include her beloved daughter, Shawnee Barnes; granddaughter, Scarlett Reyes; son-in-law, Randy Reyes; sister, Katherine Schultz; brother, Paul Paiser; sister-in-law, Loretta Paiser; dear friend, Nancy Miller; nieces, April Schultz Marzion, Wendy (John) Marzion and Tuesday Heesacker; great-nephews Anthony, Nathan and Trevor; great-nieces Alexa (Alex)



Troyer, Jenna and Emmy, Annette Paiser, Julie (Chris) Lancelle, Hali and Hannah, Jolene Lemerond, Teona, Larissa, Autumn and Katalina, Dawn Paiser, Mark

Berth and Sidney. She was preceded in death by her parents, Emma and Arlie Paiser; aunts; uncles; and dear friends Marty Wine, Byron Schwamp, Gina Webster and Virgil Barnes.

Cremation and celebration of life with family and friends to be announced at a later date.

Wesley Curtis Stuewer, newborn son of Erik and Samantha (Roll) Stuewer, was born on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, and passed away on Thursday, May 13, 2021, in Milwaukee.

Wesley is survived by his parents; his brother, Mason; grandparents, Charles and Cathy Roll and Tony and Amy Stuewer; great-grandparents, Geraldine Mutchler and Leon and Donna Stuewer; two aunts, Katie (fiancé Tylor Busch) Roll and Erin (Michael Zernicke) Stuewer; and



a cousin, Riley Zernicke. He is further survived by other relatives and friends of the family.

He is preceded in death by great-grandparents, Clarence Mutchler, Jack and Iva Roll, and Gerald "Zeke" and Helen Jahnke.

Private family services were held. www.swedbergfuneralhome.com

Susan A. Adams

Susan A. Adams, 64, of the Town of Belle Plaine, passed away on Friday, May 14, 2021, at home.

The Eberhardt-Stevenson Funeral Home and Crematory in Clintonville is handling the arrangements.

DATCP waiving surcharge for chemical cleanup program

For the fourth consecutive year, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is waiving the usual surcharge for the Agricultural Chemical

Cleanup Program (ACCP).

Fertilizer and pesticide businesses normally pay this surcharge when renewing their licenses, and the resulting fund helps pay to clean up

agrichemical spills. DATCP waives the surcharge when the fund balance remains above \$1.5 million, allowing fertilizer dealers, commercial pesticide applicators and pesticide

manufacturers to pass these savings on to their customers.

For information, visit https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/ACCPFundSurcharges.aspx.

Shawano plaza design concepts unveiled

Final design expected to be approved in June

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

The Shawano Common Council got to see what the planned downtown plaza's design is expected to be on May 12.

Approval of the final design is not planned until at least June, but representatives from Strand Associates and Parkitecture, the engineering and design firms that are being used to put together the downtown plaza, showed the council a look that incorporates the city's identity of being a Wolf River community. The design includes some aspects of Menominee culture in a segment, incorporates a lot of the look of Franklin Park, which is connected with the plaza, and shows some fire and water features that will make the plaza feel like a comfortable place to be.

"This is an unveiling of the initial concepts," said City Administrator Eddie Sheppard. "Nothing is locked in stone, but everyone I've shown this to in our plaza working group and staff are really excited about this."

The large, noticeable feature is a riverway, a curving path colored blue that connects the two segments of the plaza and mimics the movement of the Wolf River, according to Blake Theisen, Parkitecture designer. There will also be an undulating open truss system with the roof panels that mimics waves while allowing shady spots in parts of the plaza where people can keep cool in summer months.

"You can see this blue ribbon of concrete that's representative of



This view, shown looking to the east from Franklin Park, shows how parts of the main portion of the plaza will look.

PARKITECTURE

the riverway," Theisen said. "That echoes through a lot of our design vernacular. We'll be using a lot of natural stone."

There will be plenty of space for casual seating, according to Theisen, along with bicycle parking at the corner of Washington and Division streets. The plaza will continue some of the ideas implemented at Franklin Park, such as the hanging swing benches.

There will be a raised tabletop area on Washington Street that will help provide a safe crosswalk from Franklin Park to the plaza itself, according to Theisen. There will also be what Theisen called a "bump out" on Main Street where the parking spaces are replaced with a decorative sidewalk area that will allow the crossing to be thinner and easier for pedestrians to traverse safely.

"We're trying to protect our pedestrians and also give it a sense of screening and safety through that space," Theisen said.

The plaza will also have a raised concrete stage for music and other performances. There will be a couple of fire pits installed on the plaza, along with a water feature that includes color lighting that can form messages for the public.

"You can program in words and phrases and shapes, and the water will cascade down with those shapes," Theisen said. "It's an interactive water element. There are also ground-spray features where we'd have water coming from above and water coming from below. Both of those features would include integrated lighting so that, at night, you'd have a glow space along your main street."

Theisen added the lighting would still be usable without the water during the colder months.

Another planned feature in the plaza is an homage to the Menominee tribe, which centuries ago lived on the land that makes up Shawano today. There is a nook that will include

artwork of the five sacred clans of the Menominee, along with a bronze sculpture of a sturgeon, which is also culturally important to the tribe.

"The concept was to create a space that honors the history of the community; that was very important in our discussions with the steering committee," Theisen said. "Our strategy is to introduce the graphical depictions of some of these symbols. This area becomes quiet and a bit secluded, meant for contemplation and reflection and more casual conversation — out of the main dynamic for the plaza space, which we think is going to be vibrant and full of action."

According to Sheppard, the final design will be coming back to the council in June for formal approval, allowing the city to potentially get started on construction work in the fall and have it open in summer 2022. The city is planning to distribute public information at some of Shawano's summer events.

"We don't typically do very well when we do open houses," Sheppard said. "They tend to be not very well attended, so maybe we'll do one of those. But we want to do this (public information) in a way that's going to reach a lot of people kind of quickly. We'll have to get creative on how we want to do that."

Mayor Bruce Milavitz pointed out that requests to change some of the proposals by city staff have been honored.

"I think the water feature is a little bit better with the pillars this time," Milavitz said.

Alderwoman Sandy Steinke, who was seeing the renderings for the first time, said she was impressed with the design.

"I'm excited," Steinke said. "I want it out this year."

Charges dropped against former Gillett mayor

By **NEW MEDIA STAFF**

An Oconto County judge has dismissed the theft charges filed last year against former Gillett Mayor James Beaton.

"The state cannot meet its burden of proof," District Attorney Edward D. Burke Jr. said in a two-sentence motion filed May 13 in Oconto County Circuit Court.

Judge Michael T. Judge granted the motion May 18 and ordered the case dismissed without prejudice, meaning the charges could be filed



JAMES BEATON

again in the future.

A jury trial had been scheduled for June 23-25 until Burke moved to dismiss the charges last week.

Beaton, 40, now of Appleton, was charged in February 2020 with 13

counts of theft in a business setting over allegations he misappropriated funds for his own use while manag-

ing Legacy Funeral Chapels, now known by its original name of Kuehl Funeral Home.

The criminal charges had been filed a few weeks after Beaton filed a breach of contract suit against the former owners of the funeral home. That case remains unresolved, with a scheduling conference currently on the court calendar for Aug. 4.

Beaton was mayor of Gillett from April 2018 until October 2019, three weeks after the funeral home was sold and the new owners terminated

him and evicted him from the attached living quarters.

Because he moved in with a friend outside the city limits, City Council members privately asked for his resignation and negotiated a "release and separation agreement" in a secretive process that was not made public until after it was approved. Beaton received a lump-sum payment representing his salary for the last six months of his term (\$2,762.50) in exchange for his resignation.

SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL GOLF

Witt-Birn boys earn 1st at Marion Invite

Each Charger
posts round under 90

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School boys golf team had all five varsity golfers post rounds under 90 shots during the May 13 Marion Invite at Glen Cairn Golf Course in Ogdensburg.

The strong team effort helped the Chargers place first with a score of 338. Wisconsin Valley Lutheran (351) came in second and Wabeno/Laona (365) third.

"There are a lot of good things that happened today," said Witt-Birn coach Chris Bartletti. "First off, it was great to have all five players in the 80s, and second we are getting closer to scoring at a level that could make us very competitive in the WIAA tournament."

Ian Resch and Maverick Beran led the way for Witt-Birn, posting 18-hole rounds of 82 and 83, respectively.

Resch and Beran each needed just 40 shots to complete the back nine.

"Today I putted well. I wasn't striking it as good as I would like but my putting really helped pick me up," said Resch, who tied for second as an individual.

"My round started off very rough, going six-over par early in the first few holes," said Beran, who was fifth as an individual. "I turned it around with a par streak and a birdie or two through the rest of the round. Not my best performance, but solid nonetheless."

Nolan Fraaza fired a round of 84 for Witt-Birn, while Calvin Scheurer and Brian Nelson each shot 89s.

Fraaza was consistent during his round, needing 42 shots on the front and back nine. Nelson was three shots better on the back nine, while Scheurer was three shots better on the front nine.

"Our team is in a very good groove right now," said Beran. "Everyone is finding their problems, and working through them and swinging the club good. We are looking to



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Calvin Scheurer putts the ball during the May 13 Marion Invite at Glen Cairn Golf Course in Ogdensburg.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

improve our short game and consistency throughout the year."

"We just need to all shoot well on the same day. If we can do that, I think we have a good chance at winning the conference and possibly going to state," said Resch. **Team scores:** 1. Wittenberg-Birnamwood 338; 2. Wisconsin Valley Lutheran 351; 3. Wabeno/Laona 365; 4. Amherst 395; 5. Bonduel 404; 6. Pacelli 407; 7. Marion 426; 8. Manawa 429; 9.

Iola-Scandinavia 477; 10. Port Edwards 483; 11. Weyauwega-Fremont 501; 12. Menominee Indian/Gresham 512.

Chargers also 1st at CWC meet

Witt-Birn also placed first at a Central Wisconsin Conference meet at Bullseye Country Club on May 10 in Wisconsin Rapids.

Witt-Birn posted a team score of 347, well ahead of second-place finish-

ing Wisconsin Valley Lutheran (373).

All five of Witt-Birn's varsity golfers finished within five shots of each other. Scheurer led the way with an 18-hole round of 85.

Nelson and Resch each shot 87s for the Chargers. Fraaza carded an 88, while Beran shot a 90.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Dickman, Metropulos to swim at D1 colleges

Dickman headed to Arizona, while Metropulos stays in state

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School seniors Wyatt Dickman and McKenna Metropulos each signed letters of intent to Division I colleges during a signing celebration May 10 at the Woodson YMCA in Weston.

Dickman will head to Arizona to compete for the Grand Canyon University men's swimming team. Metropulos will stay close to home, competing for the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay women's team.

"Swimming Division I has always been a huge goal of mine," said Dickman. "Finally achieving this means so much to me, because it recognizes the hard work I put in."

"Swimming in college was not something I thought I would be able to do up until senior year," said Metropulos. "Being able to sign and compete at a higher level just makes me more determined and dedicated. Now I have four more years to keep doing what I love and making more life long friendships through my favorite sport."

The Witt-Birn duo signed alongside six other members of the Woodson YMCA Northern Swimmers (WYNS) team.

Dickman was noticed primarily through WYNS competitions, with Witt-Birn not having a boys swim team to compete on.

"I would like to thank the WYNS swim team, without their guidance and support they gave me, I would not be swimming at the level I am now," said Dickman, who also thanked Metropulos.

"A huge thank you to my best friend and teammate, McKenna Metropulos, for showing me how to work for your goals."

Dickman said that GCU has "amazing coaches and swimmers"



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Wyatt Dickman, left, and McKenna Metropulos hold up flags for the colleges they will be swimming at during a signing event May 10 at the Woodson YMCA in Weston.

ANDREA METROPULOS

and is hoping to contribute to the team moving forward.

Grand Canyon competes in the Western Athletic Conference and is coached by Steve Schaffer.

A big part of the reason Metropulos chose UW-Green Bay was so she could remain close to family. She has a 3-year-old brother, Maverick, and says she'll now be able to watch him grow up without having to miss nearly as much of his life as she would have had she attended college

further away.

Metropulos noted how Green Bay's coaches, Eddie Gillie and Gianna Boburka, kept in contact with her and were always ready to answer any questions she had.

"I knew that I wanted a coach who could see the potential in me and not just rely solely on the times I swam and that's exactly the kind of coaches they are," said Metropulos.

"The swim team is just as welcoming as the coaches. I have talked

to many upperclassmen and they all are super nice and are doing their best to make me feel welcomed even before I swim my first practice on the team."

Metropulos thanked her parents, John and Andrea, club coach Mike McQueen and all of her teammates for helping her along the way.

Green Bay is a member of the Horizon League.

sports@newmedia-wi.com

This is the Friday-only COVID-19 Journal version of NEW Media's Shawano Leader, Wittenberg Enterprise & Birnamwood News and Oconto County Times Herald. Find us online at www.newmedia-wi.com

HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

By **NEW MEDIA STAFF**

TRACK AND FIELD

Witt-Birn girls 2nd at CWC meet

Wittenberg-Birnamwood finished second at the Central Wisconsin Conference-Large Division Pre-Conference Meet on May 14 in Rosholt. The girls accumulated 212 points, while the boys scored 124 to place seventh.

The Witt-Birn girls posted five top finishes, led by Reese Rogowski. She won the 100-meter dash (12.82 seconds), 200 (26.01), 400 (59.73) and long jump (14 feet, 8.75 inches). Jalynn Horacek had the other first-place finish in the triple jump (32-11.5).

Witt-Birn's Tommy Bruski claimed the top times in the boys 800 (2:10.95) and 1,600 (5:01.95).

Full results from the meet can be found at <https://www.athletic.net/TrackAndField/meet/425265/results>.

Gresham/Bowler girls 5th at CWC meet

The Gresham/Bowler girls placed fifth during the May 13 CWC-Small Division Pre-Conference Meet in Plainfield. The boys co-op claimed sixth. The Tigerton girls placed sixth.

The Gresham/Bowler boys saw Emmitt Kietlinski win the high jump (6-3) and long jump (18-10.5). He placed second in the triple jump (38-7). Hannah Cerveney placed second in the 100 hurdles (19.35) for the Gresham/Bowler girls. Ireland Jensen took second in the high jump (4-8).

Mary Kreklow had Tigerton's top finish, placing second in the 1,600

(6:58.19). Kreklow was third in the 3,200 (15:31.48).

For full results from the meet, visit <https://www.athletic.net/TrackAndField/meet/423291/results>.

BASEBALL

Bowler 23

White Lake 0 (5 inn.)

Logan Thiex threw a no-hitter during Bowler's nonconference rout of White Lake on May 14 in Bowler.

Thiex struck out 11 of the 17 batters he faced in the contest. The only two baserunners for White Lake reached on walks.

Thiex also scored four runs while posting three hits and five runs batted in to lead the Panthers at the plate. Lane Schultz scored five runs, tallied four hits and drove in a pair, while Adin Brei totaled four hits, three RBIs and four runs scored.

Brock Strassburg and Beau Brunner each drove in two runs for Bowler, which scored nine runs in the third inning before adding 12 more in the fourth. Strassburg and Sterling Schreiber III each scored two runs.

Bowler 6

Tigerton 3

Bowler doubled up Tigerton in a CWC-North clash May 13 in Bowler. The hosts scored five runs in the opening two innings to build a comfortable lead.

Logan Thiex and Ashwuut Mohawk each drove in two runs for Bowler, which walked eight times in the con-

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For more high school highlights, visit www.newmedia-wi.com.

test. Adin Brei and Lane Schultz each scored two runs.

Schultz picked up the win after striking out 10 batters over six innings. Thiex pitched a scoreless seventh to earn the save.

Colby Wanta, Isaac Schoen and Asher Michaelis drove in Tigerton's runs. Kaeden Miller had two hits. Wanta took the loss after getting the first four outs before Mitch Zimdars finished the game.

Witt-Birn 13

Menominee Indian 0 (5 inn.)

Wittenberg-Birnamwood eased to a CWC-East victory over Menominee Indian on May 10 in Wittenberg. The Chargers scored four runs in the first inning and seven more in the second to build a comfortable lead.

Austin Rekow had three hits, four RBIs and two runs scored for Witt-Birn, while Ian Salvesen and Austin Worzalla drove in two runs each. Salvesen scored three runs, while Bryce Zorowski crossed the plate twice.

Rekow earned the win on the mound, striking out nine batters over five innings. He allowed four walks and just one hit.

SOFTBALL

Witt-Birn 5

Wey-Fre 4

Witt-Birn scored three runs in the

seventh inning to rally past Weyauwega-Fremont in a CWC-East clash May 14 in Weyauwega. The hosts had scored three times in the sixth to grab a two-run cushion.

Emma Herb belted a two-run home run to tie the game in the seventh. Abi Fraaza later tripled to plate Kiara Deruchowski and give the Chargers the lead.

Herb finished with three RBIs in the contest. McKenna Metropulos had the team's other RBI. Fraaza had three of the team's five hits.

Jasmin Duranceau pitched all seven innings to earn the win. She struck out four batters while walking none.

Tigerton 14

Bowler 4

Tigerton rallied from a four-run deficit during a CWC-North game against Bowler on May 13 in Bowler. Tigerton scored four runs in the third inning to tie the game before scoring three runs in the sixth and seven more in the seventh.

Savannah Swartz hit an inside-the-park home run and drove in five runs to lead Tigerton at the plate. Skyler Hauser drove in two runs on two hits, while McKenzie Hoffman and Bethany Jobe also had a RBI each.

Adrienne Brady earned the win in the circle, pitching all seven innings.

Bertina Dodge and Madison Klemman each drove in runs for Bowler. Tynea Johnson had three hits. McKayla Putnam was dealt the loss after pitching all seven innings.

PRO FOOTBALL

LaFleur on Rodgers: 'We want him back in the worst way'

By **STEVE MEGARGEE**

The Associated Press

Green Bay Packers coach Matt LaFleur reiterated his hope that he'd get to continue working with Aaron Rodgers this season while offering no news on the quarterback's status.

"I've got nothing new to update, and we still obviously feel the same way," LaFleur said May 14 after the opening workout of the Packers' rookie minicamp.

"We want him back in the worst way. I know he knows that and, you know, we'll continue to work at it each and every day."

After ESPN reported just before the NFL draft that Rodgers doesn't want to return to Green Bay, Packers CEO Mark Murphy posted a column on the

ONLINE

The full story can be read at www.newmedia-wi.com.

team's website in which he said "this is an issue that we've been working on for several months." Murphy acknowledged that he, general manager Brian Gutekunst and coach Matt LaFleur had met with Rodgers "on a number of occasions" during the offseason.

Gutekunst has indicated he doesn't plan to trade Rodgers, who has three years remaining on his contract. LaFleur said after the draft that he "can't fathom" Rodgers not being in Green Bay.

The Packers addressed their quarterback depth by signing Blake Bortles, the No. 3 overall pick in the 2014 draft.

Packers offensive coordinator Nathaniel Hackett held the same posi-

tion with Jacksonville during Bortles' tenure as the Jaguars' starting quarterback. Bortles spent the 2019 season and portions of 2020 with the Los Angeles Rams.

Until the Packers signed Bortles, the only quarterbacks on their roster were Rodgers and 2020 first-round draft pick Jordan Love.

Two more quarterbacks — Kurt Benkert and Chad Kelly — were at the rookie minicamp as tryout candidates.

Benkert signed with the Atlanta Falcons as an undrafted free agent out of Virginia in 2018 but hasn't played in an NFL game.

LaFleur was asked whether he'd have to go into offseason workouts preparing Love for the possibility of being the starter just in case the Rodgers' situation doesn't get rectified. Love

didn't play a single down during his rookie year as the Packers went 13-3 and lost in the NFC Championship Game for a second straight season.

"I'm not going to make any assumptions about anything at this point," LaFleur said. "We're just going to take it day by day. But I think every player on our roster has got to have the mentality that they're going to be the guy. If not, when you do get your opportunity, you will not be prepared for it. So that is always what we stress to every player on this football team.

"In football, unfortunately, there's some uncontrolled circumstances that can happen, and you might be one play away from getting your opportunity. And in this league, you might only get one opportunity, so you better prepared for that."

ATHLETE PROFILE: BROCK STRASSBURG

Bowler senior producing at the plate for baseball team

The Bowler High School baseball team is hoping to put together a memorable spring season, with a number of upperclassmen leading the charge. Brock Strassburg is one of the seniors on the team, and he's produced at the plate for the Panthers.

Batting from the leadoff spot in the lineup, Strassburg walked three times, drove in two runs and scored twice during Bowler's 23-0 rout of White Lake on May 14. He walked and scored in the team's 6-3 win over Tigerton on May 13.

In Bowler's 8-2 loss to the Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas Academy co-op on May 4, Strassburg doubled in a run and also walked once. The senior also drove in a run and scored in the team's 11-1 win over Marion on April 29.

Strassburg opened the season by walking twice, driving in a run and scoring once in a 17-7 loss to Manawa on April 27.

Q: When did your interest in baseball begin?

A: I was first interested in baseball when I was very young, probably around the age of 6 or so. I remember watching the Brewers playing on TV, and think I wanted to play baseball with the Brewers some day.

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

A: The best part about baseball season is hanging out with all of my friends. Whether we're in a game or just at practice, there's never a dull moment with the boys!

Q: What has baseball taught you over the years?

A: The biggest thing baseball has taught me is it's not about winning or losing. It's about enjoying the game and having fun with your friends in the short high school career you're given.

Q: What's your favorite mem-



Bowler's Brock Strassburg looks on after hitting the ball during a May 4 nonconference game against the Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas Academy co-op in Bowler.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

ory of competing on the Bowler baseball team?

A: The favorite memory I have was when we played at Tigerton (in 2019), and Zach Fehrman pitched a no-hitter! The whole team played good to keep them from having any hits.

Q: Do you have any individual goals set for your senior season?

A: A few goals for this season for

me are to be first team all-conference, as well as have a good batting and on-base percentage.

Q: The team is off to a bit of a slow start. What is the key to turning the season around and picking up more wins?

A: As a ball club, we just need to pick it up at the plate. Everyone is struggling to hit, but we have to be patient in the box and wait for our

AT A GLANCE

ATHLETE: Brock Strassburg

SPORT: Baseball

POSITIONS: First base, third base

SCHOOL: Bowler High School

YEAR: Senior

pitch. I guarantee we aren't going to win scoring zero runs in a game. And we always have to keep a positive attitude!

Q: Being a senior, and with the season going much later into summer than usual, how do you plan to stay engaged and focused as the postseason nears?

A: It's hard that the season goes later, but I am still going to be at practices and games putting all my effort in.

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

A: Before every game starts, we always have a radio playing with upbeat music to get us into game mode.

Q: Favorite TV show, movie and musical artist?

A: TV show — "Yellowstone," "Big Sky." Movie — "Top Gun." Musical artist — Guns N' Roses.

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

A: I have a huge obsession with Milwaukee tools.

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

A: "Tomorrow is another day."

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

A: After high school, I am going to attend Fox Valley Technical College under an electrical apprenticeship program. After I receive my degree as a journeyman electrician, I want to go back to school and receive my degree as a journeyman plumber.



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HIGH SCHOOL TRACK

Witt-Birn girls edge Manawa to win home invite

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School girls track and field team topped Manawa by one point to win the May 10 Wittenberg-Birnamwood Invite in Wittenberg.

The Witt-Birn girls scored 161 points to Manawa's 160. Gresham/Bowler (42) took fourth, while Tigerton (39) was fifth.

On the boys side, Manawa won with 181 points. Witt-Birn (110.5) came in second, with Gresham/Bowler (14) in fifth.

Reese Rogowski won all four of her individual events to lead the Witt-Birn girls team.

She placed first in the 100-yard dash with a time of 13.18 and was the top long jumper with a mark of 16 feet, 8 inches. She also won the 200 (27.42) and 400 (1:01.65).

Witt-Birn's Jalynn Horacek was the top finisher in the girls 100 hurdles (18.43), while teammate Allison Linke won the 300 hurdle race in 53.55.

Linke, Emma Herb, Ruby Nowinsky and London Metropulos claimed the

top time in the 4x400 relay (4:36.27).

Herb won the shot put (33-8) and discus (117-5) competitions.

Leading the Witt-Birn boys was Simon Schairer, who won the 400 (55.5), 800 (2:14.67) and triple jump (40-5).

Tommy Bruski was the top finisher in the 3,200 (10:56.55).

The Gresham/Bowler girls were led by Hannah Cerveney, who placed second in the 100 hurdles (19.38) and third in the 300 hurdles (57.48). Isabella Stevens placed third in the shot put (26-4.5).

ONLINE

Full results from the invite can be found at <https://crm.pttimg.com/uploads/projects/358/tfmm6results2col.pdf>.

Zach Ziemer had a second-place finish in the discus (100-5) for the Gresham/Bowler boys.

Tigerton's Elizabeth Robbins placed third in the 100 (14.08) and 200 (29.67).

Mary Kreklow claimed third in the 3,200 (15:18.32), while Ladia Block was third in discus (75-8).

BABA HIGHLIGHTS

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Northern Division
Birnamwood 4
Wittenberg 1

Birnamwood knocked off Wittenberg in a May 16 contest in Birnamwood.

Erik Steigerwald and Simon Stewart pitched Birnamwood to the win. Steigerwald struck out six batters and didn't allow a run over four innings to earn the win. Stewart struck out eight over five innings.

Brady Erickson had two hits for Birnamwood, which had eight hits.

Wittenberg finished with four hits, with Keegan Miller tallying half of them. Dominic Anderson suffered the loss.

Elderon 15
Antigo/Polar 7

Elderon earned a road win over Antigo/Polar on May 16 in Antigo. Elderon had 15 hits in the win.

Troy Leiskau led the way for Elderon with four hits, while Brandon Groshek and Marv Meronk had three each. Justin Meronk finished with two hits, and Matt Meronk homered.

Adam Janikowski picked up the win on the mound.

Cole Kuenzli was the losing pitcher for Antigo/Polar, which tallied 13 hits at the plate. Dylan Schielke and Neil Bretl Jr. had three hits each, with Jed Weix, Logan Doering and Reed Kuenzli having two hits each.

**Aniwa 5
Hatley 1**

Aniwa defeated Hatley on May 16 in Aniwa.

Kody Szezs picked up the win on the mound for Aniwa. Ryan Govek led the team at the plate with two hits. Cory Mortenson and Kaleb Jaje each doubled.

Sam Neilsen posted two hits for Hatley, while Kodie Kocher and Josh Matushak each doubled. Neilsen was the losing pitcher.

East-West Division
Caroline 18
Gresham 13

Caroline won a high-scoring slugfest against Gresham on May 16 in Caroline.

Phil Duffek led Caroline at the plate with three hits, while Eric Kroening, Neal Hoffman and Presley

Rosenow all added two hits. Kroening's hits were a home run and a double.

Bryson Bernarde picked up the win on the hill.

Cody Riemer, Brett Nelson, Tom Nietzer and Paul Murphy all posted two hits for Gresham. Murphy also took the loss on the mound.

**Neopit 10
Tigerton 4**

Neopit took down Tigerton in a May 14 contest in Neopit.

Walker Miller posted two hits, including a home run, to lead Neopit at the plate. He also earned the win on the mound. Mequan Corn Jr. also posted two hits.

Shawn Much tallied two hits for Tigerton, while Patrick Bailey was dealt the loss.

**Tilleda 7
Shawano 6**

Tilleda edged Shawano on May 16 in Shawano.

Zach Fehrman picked up the win for Tilleda. Landon Kroening drove in a pair of runs.

Brandon Estep had a pair of hits for Shawano. Jacob Springborn was

dealt the loss.

**Little Falls 15
Leopolis 0 (7 inn.)**

Little Falls rolled to a victory over Leopolis on May 16 in Little Falls.

Drew Radies doubled twice among his four hits, while Scotty Aasen homered among his two hits. Cam Gruenwald, Carter Kurki and Sawyer Strebe each chipped in two hits. Kurki was the winning pitcher in the contest.

Kyler Deruchowski suffered the loss for Leopolis. Nick Schoen, Josh Kristof and Kasey Kristof had two hits each.

**Clintonville 7
Marion 6**

Clintonville downed Marion in a tight May 16 contest in Clintonville.

Matt Seefeldt had three hits for Clintonville, while Jordan Koeppen added two hits. Hunter Vollmer was the winning pitcher.

Bryce Huettner suffered the loss for Marion.

For more statistics from the South Central Division and BABA, visit <https://www.bababaseball.com/index.html>.

COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Winona State

Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School graduate Maddy Pietz helped the Winona State University women's 4x400 relay team to a first-place finish at the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Championship,

which took place May 13-15. Pietz and the 4x400 relay team took first in 3 minutes, 46.19 seconds to earn 10 points for the team.

The Witt-Birn grad was also on the second-place finishing 4x100 relay team, which posted a time of 46.21.

As an individual, Pietz qualified

for the 200 dash finals, where she posted a mark of 24.68 to claim sixth place. She took 10th in the 100 dash (12.21).

UW-Madison

Shawano graduate Brandi Gueths helped the Wisconsin women's varsity eight rowing team to a

fourth-place finish at the Big Ten Rowing Championships on May 16 in Indianapolis.

The varsity eight team earned a time of 6:40.34, with Michigan (6:25.744) taking first.

Gueths, who serves as the varsity eight's fifth seat, was also named to the All-Big Ten second team.

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tools, antiques, and more. 229 N. Maple
Ave., Oconto Falls. Friday May 21st 8-5,
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Family Sale:

5126 Elm Lawn, Oconto Falls. May 20-
22, 8-4. Tools, Furniture, Books,
Puzzles, Cookie Jars, Lamps, Afghans,
Jewelry, Pictures, Clocks & Fishing
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Four Family Rummage Sale:
Friday May 21st 8AM-5PM &
Saturday May 22nd 8AM-?

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Too much to list!

Garage sale numerous items May 27,
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Rummage Sale:

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May 28th, 29th & 30th (8-4)

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County health department discontinuing vaccine clinic

The Shawano-Menominee Counties Health Department is discontinuing its mass COVID-19 vaccine clinic, according to health director Theresa Harmala.

On Feb. 25, the health department launched its first vaccine clinic, and since then, just under 2,000 people were vaccinated.

The intent of the clinic was to bridge the gap of the limited COVID-19 vaccine providers in the area, according to Harmala. Due to the opening of

even more providers in our community, this clinic has ended, she said. The health department has partnered with the Shawano County Jail, Rural Health Initiative and ThedaCare to reach out to vulnerable populations and rural community members.

Anyone wanting to receive a vaccine in Shawano County can check out <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/How-Do-I-Get-a-COVID-19-Vaccine.html>.

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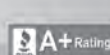
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OPINION

Time to let the public back into meetings

Things are getting back to normal as the threat of the coronavirus has gone from a deafening roar to almost a faint whisper. Events are coming back in at least a partial form, if not at full strength. The requirements that we hide from anyone not living in our homes and avoid public places like the plague — pardon the poor comparison — have been scaled way back. Not only that, it was just announced that those who are vaccinated can shed the masks and show their pearly whites again.

With precautions becoming less necessary, the city of Shawano has even returned to having meetings in the council chambers again. Previously, meetings were held in the larger community room at City Hall to allow the necessary social distancing. While that was happening, the city renovated the council chambers with a fresh coat of paint, new desks for the council members and state-of-the-art equipment to allow livestreaming for those who can't make it to the meetings.

The increased efforts by the city to increase public transparency are commendable. Then there's the Shawano School District.

I looked in the email the other day and saw that the next meeting for the school board was once again a virtual meeting. In other words, the board was meeting together, but no one else from the public is allowed to go in.

It's rather ironic that the district is continuing to stick with virtual



LEE PULASKI

meetings instead of allowing them to happen face to face. Several months before the pandemic, a proposal by a local resident to allow livestreaming of the school board meetings was being met with awkward glances and a large dose of skepticism.

"Sometimes that stymies the conversation." "The dialogue isn't as real." Those were statements in a committee meeting in January 2020 by school board members who questioned whether the effort to expand public access to the board meetings was prudent or even necessary. Despite resident Shelby Kaveinga saying that other school districts were doing it successfully, the collective opinion was that it didn't seem like a good idea.

Then the pandemic hit, and with it edicts from the governor to close down the schools and avoid having any type of gathering where there was more than 10 people. That left the district with little choice but to get with the times and start livestreaming the board meetings so as to avoid violating the open meetings law.

That's the way it has been ever since with the school board. Since then, other school boards and government entities have reopened their doors, allowing anyone who has wished to attend meetings in person to

do so while still providing livestreaming options for those not yet ready to face the world again. Not so with the Shawano School District. The livestream option allows the board to continue its work but keep members of the public 600 feet or more away.

I've heard of social distancing, but that seems a little ridiculous at this point in time.

It's not the first time the district has dragged its feet on getting back to normalcy. After months of being in full virtual learning mode, the board approved a plan that brought students back into school, but only after parents expressed their frustration at having to deal with virtual learning in an area where internet infrastructure is poor or nonexistent.

Interestingly, that raises the question on whether livestreaming only really allows for public meetings to be truly public. There was one instance where my home internet went kerflop right in the middle of a school board meeting, so I had to drive back to the office — where the internet was working fine — to view the rest of the meeting. I was lucky to have another option; many folks in our rural areas don't have that choice.

Recently, the Bonduel School Board made the decision to lift its mask mandate, and it did so with members of the public in attendance and advocating for it. When news spread about the decision, Shawano residents were taking to social media and asking if our schools would follow suit. Then

came word that the district's mandate went away when the Supreme Court overturned Gov. Tony Evers' extended public health emergency more than a month prior.

That left some people scratching their heads and others taking to social media asking why no one in the public knew about it when it supposedly happened. Communications with the school district are clearly in need of improvement. Allowing in-person access to school board meetings would be a good step in fixing those lines of communication.

The district winced at the idea of livestreaming public meetings, treating it like an unwanted mistress. Now it's fine shacking up with the livestreaming concept and doesn't want to go back to public meetings, the metaphorical wife. That's not right. While the district is in keeping with the letter of the law with virtual meetings, the spirit of the law seems to be getting stomped on.

In-person and virtual instruction is taking place in harmony at Shawano's public schools. It should be the same way with the board meetings. To not do so indicates the school district has something to hide, and if that's the case, the public needs a way to confront its elected representatives face to face. If the Shawano School District refuses to accommodate this, then we, the public, should demand it.

Lee Pulaski is the city editor for the Shawano Leader. Readers can contact him at lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Not all minority issues linked to racism

To the editor:

In a March 19 letter, Ken Kroenke posed the question: "Can White people claim they're not racist?" Lumping people together as racist is incorrect. He continues that "racism is deeply ingrained in our society. I have come to agree that racism is systemic." Is racism systemic? The question is too broad. Is the free enterprise system racist? Still too broad.

Despite problematic times and places like the Jim Crow South, Black people have made significant socioeconomic gains since the Civil War. Black

people own 2.6 million businesses (10% of the total, or close to the Black percentage of the U.S. population) and are starting ever-increasing numbers of businesses (especially Black women, who are now the most-educated and most prolific entrepreneurs in the U.S.).

Two most pressing needs of business startups — mentors and capital — are lacking in Black communities, 70% of which lack a branch bank. This might not be due to racism. Implicit effects of taxation and regulation hit middle class minorities and small businesses especially hard and stymie the best kinds of help — self-help and person-to-person help. How about beating the system by allowing tax

credits for helping small businesses (81% of Black startups need less than \$100) or allowing certain small businesses, like barbershops, to operate without a license?

Society, per se, is not racist; but the legacy of Jim Crow exists in government institutions and policies, which reveal an ingrained pattern of destructive politicization. The welfare system creates a dependent class of destroyed, poor White and Black families. Public education systems comprise a virtual monopoly which, due to tax-based funding, offers inferior education to students in poor, segregated districts.

Perhaps the most advantageous change for Black people to hope for is universal expansion of school choice.

The Democrat Party is still "standing in the schoolhouse door." Why not allow every poor, struggling student, Black or White, a chance at a better-performing (as shown by report cards on schools) private school?

Kroenke claims that authorities reacted more aggressively toward the "Summer of Love" protesters across the country in 2020 than they did toward the rioters at the U.S. Capitol. Not quite. On Jan. 6, police at the U.S. Capitol were overwhelmed by hundreds of protesters, including dozens of violent, organized White supremacists and neo-Nazis, but acted very aggressively — using tear gas and making 82 forceful arrests.

Nick Theisen, Oconto Falls



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Council discusses alternative uses for hospital land

Some concerned about letting property just sit

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

After years of sitting dormant, much of the old Shawano Medical Center land is still undeveloped, despite multiple efforts to transform the land into residential dwellings.

As a result, some members of the Shawano Common Council are questioning whether the city should continue to push for housing on the land or instead focus on other land uses. When the council met May 12, Alderman John Hoefts broached the subject and suggested that maybe the council's focus shouldn't be so narrow.

"It's a pristine piece of land, and the way that Shawano's growing, I think it should be left open for other projects besides housing," Hoefts said. "I think we should be open to other ideas."

Alderman Brad Keuschel, whose district includes the former hospital land, suggested looking at turning the land into a green space or consider other uses.

"Some of the people I've talked to in that area, they don't feel that housing in there would be the best use as a community-helping area," Keuschel said. "We're building a lot of houses in some different areas, and I feel like that land be more utilized for something that benefits the entire community."

Alderman Lisa Hoffman felt changing course now would be un-



The site of where the former Shawano Medical Center sat is still vacant today as various housing proposals have fallen through. Some members of the Shawano Common Council have suggested the city look at other uses for the property or to sell it for other uses.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

wise, as there have been committees looking at the land, previous council discussions, and developers currently looking at the land for possible housing use.

"Our little community is in desperate need of housing," Hoffman said. "I guess I'm a little confused about why this is coming back when the discussion has been had many times."

Hoefts pointed out that there has been no commitment to develop the site.

City Administrator Eddie Sheppard said that, in order to change course, there would need to be a specific plan or recommendation, like a community center. He noted that there have been efforts in the past to push for senior care facilities, elder use apartments, multi-family residences, community

centers and more.

"The charge has been to find single-family (housing)," Sheppard said. "That's been the direction the council has placed on city staff. There isn't a proposal for it right now, but there are two people who are looking at it."

Keuschel suggested renting out the space for events, noting its riverfront view would make the land valuable to those who want to use it.

"Right now, there are two churches that do at least one service down there a year, bringing in about 1,000 people to do their stuff," Keuschel said. "We use that area, and that has more impact to the community than packing it full of houses because you can sell it right here and now. There are plenty of opportunities to use that area, like wedding venues. The Ski

Sharks are bringing in four tournaments this year and looking to draw over 5,000 people over the summer."

Hoffman was quick to point out that there were plenty of other parks in the community to be used for the activities Keuschel described.

"I think that's all beside the point," Hoffman said. "We don't have anybody looking at it right now."

Sheppard clarified there are developers looking, but there are no proposals yet.

Alderman Rhonda Strebel said she would rather the city stick with trying to find a developer willing to put single-family housing. She felt it was essential to grow Shawano.

"We do need housing," Strebel said. "I am on the SCEPI (Shawano County Economic Progress Inc.) board, and it's something we talk about over and over and over again. If we want economic development, and if we want to draw people to the community, we want houses for people who can live and work here and not have people drive to Appleton, Wausau, Green Bay for their work. We would rather see people live and build here and stay here so they're spending money here."

Sheppard noted the city has spent about \$700,000 already into developing and marketing the land, so finding a way to recoup the costs, like selling for a housing development, should be the top priority.

"You can't just let it sit forever," Sheppard said. "You've got to put something on there that generates a tax base to pay for the costs that you've already put into it."

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"You've got to put something on there that generates a tax base to pay for the costs that you've already put into it."

EDDIE SHEPPARD, Shawano city administrator



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This book is a little too muddled and confusing

This week I'm afraid that this week's book fall into the "don't bother" category.

"Clean Kill" by Adam Nicholls is book one in his Bloodline series. I



JAN JONES

selected it with high hopes but it didn't take many pages to make me frustrated and confused.

Blake Salinger is 37 and a successful salesman working for a big firm. He's just about to close a very important business deal when the police arrive. He is roughly handcuffed and hauled to an interrogation room.

As he enters the room, Blake notices a silver-haired man staring at him intently. They tell him that he is under arrest for the murder of Jay Salinger. Blake can't believe his ears. Jay Salinger is his father! Blake and his father weren't close but he wouldn't hurt him.

They proceed to show him the gun and bullet that was used in the murder and insist that his fingerprints are on them. Blake begs them to call Marcy, his stepmom and powerful defense lawyer, but they only laugh.

Suddenly the silver-haired man slips into the room. In seconds he has disabled both officers and tells Blake to follow him. Nothing makes any sense, but Blake sees no options.

Soon they are in a terrifying car chase through busy streets. Suddenly Silver-hair drops Blake off with instructions to go to a safe place and wait. There he meets Greg, who explains that Jay is actually alive and he will help them both escape. Along the way Blake will have to learn how to use a gun, fight dirty and never let his guard down. Blake realizes that, if he survives, his life will never be the same.

Their first stop is Blake's childhood home. How could his quiet father have been a secret assassin calmly killing the targets "the Agency" assigned? They watch Marcy leave then enter to retrieve Jay's locked box. They've just started when Marcy returns. Greg kills her saying that she was the one who

AT A GLANCE

BOOK: "Clean Kill" (Book 1 of the Bloodline Series)

AUTHOR: Adam Nicholls

PUBLISHER: Independently published

PUBLISHED: 2021

PAGES: 284

framed Blake. Now Blake is utterly confused. Is there anyone he can trust?

At the same time a man named Charlie is getting the news that Blake Salinger has escaped. Charlie is a small man with vicious temper and love for torture. As head of the Agency, Charlie calls the shots on all kinds of covert activities.

Framing Blake for his father's death should have been a piece of cake. Now Charlie is furious and determined to make the fumbling of officers pay for their mistakes. Charlie knows that Jay Salinger faked his death in an attempt to "retire" from the Agency. The only way out of the Agency is death – real, not faked. Now Charlie needs his operatives to hunt down and kill both Blake and Jay.

As leverage, Charlie has his henchman pay a visit to Blake's coworker/girlfriend Robin. She is told to tell them when Blake contacts her or die. Robin is smart enough to know that this is no idle threat and does as instructed.

This begins a cat-and-mouse game as Greg and Blake work their way toward Jay. At first Blake is stunned by the level of violence he must be part of, but eventually comes to accept that it is his only hope for survival.

Along the way they receive help and betrayal from unexpected sources. All Blake wants to do is find his father, go someplace safe and ask him a thousand questions.

When they finally reach Jay's yacht, Greg's behavior changes. In the ensuing struggle he shoots Blake and demands the combination to Jay's secret box. The box explodes, sinking the yacht, and Jay manages to pull Blake to shore where his cop friend stitches up the wound and takes them away before the authorities arrive.

The book ends with Greg climbing out of the water and Charlie vowing to use him to kill Jay and Blake Salinger.

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COLLEGE NOTES

University of Mississippi

Emily Katherine Klein, of Clintonville, is among the more than 5,000 candidates for graduation in the Class of 2021 who was celebrated during the university's 168th commencement exercises April 29 through May 2.

Klein, who is a dietetics and nutrition major, received a Bachelor of Science from the School of Applied Sciences.

Ripon College

Logan Zeinert, of Wittenberg, class of 2022, directed "They Fell" (male version) in Ripon College's virtual production of "Almost, Maine." The parents of Zeinert are Kurt and Susan Zeinert, of Wittenberg.

The student directors of the Ripon College theatre program presented a unique streaming event of the play "Almost, Maine" April 30 and May 1.

"Almost, Maine" is a comic, warm-hearted view of one night in the very small town of Almost. It examines loss and love. The play is one of the most highly produced contemporary American plays. Each of the 10 directors presented one scene from the play, and the scenes were linked together to form the full play. This was presented as a Zoom reader's theatre and featured a wide array of student performers.

UW-Madison

McKenzie Trinko, of Shawano, is among the Wisconsin Agricultural and Life Sciences Alumni Association's outstanding sophomore recipients at the University of Madison.

Awards were presented on April 9 at the WALSAA Virtual Awards Ceremony that can also be viewed online

at WALSAA.org/walsaa-scholarships.

Ripon College

Shane Nelson, of Pulaski, is a part of the class of 2021 and will be graduating in May. Nelson is majoring in biology with a minor in strength and conditioning. The parents of Nelson are Ken and Cheryl Nelson, of Pulaski.

Nelson plans to work before studying for a master's degree in athletic training.

Ripon College

Ripon College held its annual awards convocation April 21. As one of Ripon's most prestigious events, the event honored outstanding students, faculty, and staff.

Cassie Behreandt, of Wittenberg, majoring in psychology with a minor in educational studies, joined the Ripon College Laurels honor society.

Shane Nelson, of Pulaski, majoring in biology with a minor in Strength and Conditioning, joined the Beta Beta Beta honor society.

Molly Waggoner, of Pulaski, majoring in educational studies with a minor in studio art, joined the Ripon College Laurels honor society and the Pi Lambda Theta honor society.

Logan Zeinert, of Wittenberg, majoring in psychobiology and theater, joined the Ripon College Laurels honor society and the Psi Chi honor society.

Western Technical College

The following local residents were named to the Western Technical College President's List of High Distinction for the spring 2021 term: Chase Reinke, Pulaski; Seth Sousek, Shawano; and Devin Vincent, Pulaski.

STREET REPAIR ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS WITTENBERG, WISCONSIN 54499 SHAWANO COUNTRY, WISCONSIN

The Village of Wittenberg will receive sealed Bids until **5:00 pm, on Tuesday, June 1, 2021** at the Community Center, 208 W. Vinal Street, Wittenberg, WI, 54499.

Please bid for each street individually **AND** for total project. The work for which Bids are asked includes:

3 Sections of Cherry St. – 340' x 37', 244' x 24' and 262' x 36'

1 Section of E. Vinal – 160' x 30'

1 Section of College Ave. – 284' x 23'

Proposal price will include the following:
Pulverizing the asphalt
Fine grading of pulverized material
Paving 2" thick asphalt

Please contact **Joel Yaeger – 253-2684** for information.

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

BID OPENING DATE: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 6:00 pm at the Community Center.

Place break out for each street, and total project cost, in an envelope addressed to William Switalla, Village President, and mark it Street Proposal.

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.

WNAXLP

Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District Board of Education Meeting May 2021

May 24, 2021

5:40 P.M. - Budget & Finance Committee Meeting

6:00 P.M. – Regular Board Meeting Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School

AGENDA

- I. Meeting called to order, pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.84(1).
- II. Roll Call of the Board - Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Motion to Approve the Minutes of April 26, 2021, Regular Meeting as circulated.
- IV. Communications and Delegations
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Board Concerns or Reports
- VII. Student Representative
- VIII. Financial Report
- IX. Approve the Agenda
- X.
 - I. The Board may adjourn to Closed Session at the close of the meeting pursuant to WI.STATS.19.85(1) for Personnel Matters, and 19.85 (1)(g) for Legal Matters and 19.85(1)(e) for Negotiations.
 - II. The Board will reconvene to Open Session to ratify any decisions made in Closed Session.
- Administrative Reports
- XI. Old Business
- XII. New Business
 - A. PBIS/Rtl/Assessment Update
 - B. Approve Student Handbooks
 - C. Approve Hire of Literacy Coordinator
 - D. Approve 2021-2022 Paper Bids
 - E. Approve Open Enrollment Applications for 2021-2022
- XIII. Adjournment

WNAXLP

Legals WNAXLP

#3031

May 21, 2021

Class 1 Legal/classified

May 13, 2021

Notice is hereby given that the following individuals have made application for a license to deal in intoxicating liquors in the Village of Wittenberg, granting of which is pending:

Class A Beer & Liquor:
Wittenberg Shell LLC
d/b/a Wittenberg Shell LLC
Howard Wagner, Agent
413 N. Genesee

Howard L. Wagner
d/b/a Wagner Shell Food Mart

Howard Wagner, Agent
504 Grand Avenue

Dolencorp LLC
d/b/a Dollar General Store #13790
John Greene, Agent
309 Genesee St.

Legals WNAXLP

Gary Hanke
d/b/a Hanke's Sentry Foods
Gary Hanke, Agent
110 S. Mission Street

Class B Beer & Liquor:

Wittenberg Bowling Center, LLC
d/b/a Resch Lanes
Jason Resch, Agent
407 S. Howard

Big Mac Media, LLC
d/b/a Tavern Front
Hugh McAloon, Agent
207 W. Vinal Street

Traci Matsche
Village Clerk/Treasurer
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