



ROB ZIMMER •
Monarch lovers await word from Mexico on progress of this year's migration.

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ART OF THE QUILTER

There's another weekend to enjoy the quilts on display during the annual Art of the Quilter show at WOWSPACE, 114 W. Vinal St., Wittenberg. The facility is open 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. SEE MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 32.

LUKE REIMER | NEW MEDIA

Tigerton preps April referendum

A five-year, non-recurring school referendum will be on the April ballot.

PAGE 2

COVID-19 cases dropping in county

Officials with Shawano County are reporting a sharp decline in COVID-19 cases from the first of the year.

PAGE 3

Update on Witt-Birn winter sports

A summary of the basketball teams and wrestlers' journeys so far.

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Tigerton asking voters to OK referendum

Operational budget override expected to last five years

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

The Tigerton School District plans to move forward with adopting a resolution for a five-year, non-recurring referendum.

The decision was made by the Tigerton School Board at its Jan. 17 board meeting.

Tigerton voters passed a similar referendum in 2015, which ceased after the 2019-2020 school year. That referendum was in place in order for the school district to ask permission to override the state-imposed revenue cap so it could collect more money in local taxes over five years. That money was then spent on operational costs to keep the school afloat.

Superintendent Kelley Strike said that the support for that referendum was overwhelmingly positive. If that referendum had failed, the school district may have had to explore the option of closing schools.

"We are in a position where we definitely need to go back to an operational referendum," said Strike.

The school district is asking for up to \$450,000 through the first year.

The amount that they are asking for increases every year by \$50,000, until the five years end in the 2026-27 school year, as they are asking for \$650,000.

With the non-recurring referendum, the projection for the mill rate in the school district is \$9.58 for the first year, \$10.43 for the second, \$11.17 for the third, \$12.41 for the fourth and \$13.40 for the fifth. If someone owns land valued at \$100,000, they would have to pay \$1,340 in school taxes in the fifth year.

"There are many factors that impact a mill rate on an annual basis," said Strike. "This is a projection, it is not set."

Strike said that officials within the school district created a five-year budget, where they forecasted what school operations may need to be looked into and improved.

"Things like replacing school buses, maintenance, technology — all of those kind of needs as well as operations," said Strike. "So, we just forecasted for the next five years."

The non-recurring referendum will be on the ballot in the upcoming April 5 election.

She said that the referendum will be used to exceed that state set revenue limit.

"That money will be from additional tax dollars," said Strike.

The five-year budget was developed with operational expenses, technology, transportation and building and grounds needs in mind. The assumptions of the five year budget include, replacing school buses in 2022-23, 2024-25 and 2026-27, maintaining a fund balance to avoid cash flow borrowing, annual salary increases and maintaining a stable mill rate.

Strike called this an optimal time for the school district to go to referendum, because they no longer need to levy for debt.

"Taxpayers won't feel as much because of the timeliness of paying off the debt," said Strike.

She hopes that the reaction to this non-recurring referendum will mirror the previous one.

"I would hope that the reaction is the same," said Strike. "I think we have done our work in projecting for five years."

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Winter challenge centered on books about racism

Shawano County Library is holding a community winter challenge as people read "Stamped from the Beginning" by Ibram X. Kendi during February.

The reading challenge will run Feb. 1-28. Participants can register for the challenge at <https://shawanolibrary.beanstack.org/reader365> or by using the Beanstack Tracker app. There are also several family-friendly companion books available

to read, including "Stamped" by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi; "Stamped (for Kids)" by Sonja Cherry-Paul, Jason Reynolds, and Ibram X. Kendi; and "Antiracist Baby" by Ibram X. Kendi.

A panel discussion about antiracism will be held on Feb. 24 at 6:30 p.m. at Shawano Public Library, 128 S. Sawyer St., Shawano. The discussion will be led by local experts Shannon Holsey, president of the

Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians, and Angel Saavedra Cisneros, Ph.D., assistant professor of political science at St. Norbert College.

The books and discussion center on the history of racism in the United States and how people can identify and quell those tendencies within themselves.

For information, contact the library at 715-526-3829.

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.

3 county board seats have competitive races

Number of school districts feature two or more candidates

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Elections in Shawano County will be a light affair over the next few months as only a few races in the county, municipalities and school districts are competitive.

The general election takes place April 5.

There are only three seats for the Shawano County Board of Supervisors that will feature two candidates. For District 11, which encompasses Wards 2 and 3 for the Town of Angelica, incumbent Richard Ferfecki will be facing off against James Przybylski. For District 11, which covers the Town of Hartland along with Ward 1 of the Town of Angelica and Ward 2 of the Town of Washington, incumbent Deb Noffke is facing Jeremy Gretzinger. For District 16, which covers Ward 1 of the Town of Waukechon and Ward 3 of the Town

of Belle Plaine, Dawn Bahr and David Heideman will vie for John Ainsworth's seat.

There are no competitive races in the city of Shawano for mayor and common council. Bruce Milavitz is unopposed and will likely serve a full term as mayor unless someone registers as a write-in candidate. Incumbents Lisa Hoffman and John Hoeffs are unopposed for Aldermanic Districts 4 and 6, respectively, while Jim Hauer is the lone candidate for District 2 after Rhonda Strebel opted not to run.

Three seats are up for grabs for the Pulaski Village Board, with incumbents Gordi Black and Bruce Brzezczkowski facing off against Tom Chartrand and Stephanie Rodgers.

With the Wittenberg Village Board, three seats are up for grabs, and incumbents Renee Switalla, Barbara Buchholz and Paul Yaeger will have to defend their seats from Devin Krueger.

There are a few more competitive races for school districts, with Pulaski School District having to hold a primary election Feb. 15. The village of Pulaski will have to whittle down

the three-candidate list of Jackie Huisman, Matt Rowland and Heidi Bukowiec to two.

In the Shawano School District, three seats for the city of Shawano are up for election. Incumbents Diane Hoffman, Mart Grams and Chris Gull will compete against Jeana Winslow.

The Bonduel School District has one competitive race for the towns of Navarino and Lessor. Incumbent Dennis Bergsbaken will compete against Kimberly Strayer for that seat.

In the Gresham School District, five will compete for three available board seats. Ethan Schmidt and Jerritt Lyons will face off against incumbents Joe Ejniak, Alpha Creapeau and Doug Huck.

The Marion School District has one competitive race for a seat representing the towns of Grant, Seneca, Pella and Herman for a one-year term. Tiffany Krueger and Jerry Ahlers are competing for the seat.

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District has three seats open, but only one competitive race as Greg Flak and Chuck Wendler vie for the Area 5 seat.

Northwestern Shawano County

voters will be voting for three candidates for the Antigo School Board. The candidates are Michael Boldig, Mary Neufeld, Angela Schreiber, Dave Bardo, Kristen Mattmiller and Wayne Gagnon.

The Clintonville School District has three seats up for election, and the five candidates running for those seats are Glen Lundt, Elizabeth Ruskosky, Laurie Vollrath, Lori Poppe and Mark Zachow.

The Seymour School District will be seeking southeastern Shawano County votes for three of its board seats. Two seats for the city of Seymour will see competition from Steve Kane, Paul Bucheger, Lindsey Kraft and Stacy Smith. The third seat, representing the village of Black Creek, will be sought by Tom Heins and Tony Kastning.

Two towns will also be looking at referendum questions. The Town of Washington will ask if the clerk and treasurer should be appointed by the town board. The Town of Red Springs will be asking for adoption of the "We the People" advisory resolution to stop the expansion of corporate person rights.

COVID-19 cases in Shawano County declining

Health Department still urging vaccinations

By LUKE REIMER
Reporter

COVID-19 cases have started to drop by about half after an uptick in recent weeks in Shawano County.

Shawano County Health Director Terri Harmala provided the Shawano County Board of Supervisors an update on the COVID-19 numbers in the county during its meeting on Jan. 26.

"We have been expecting these numbers to be up, as we just went through the holidays," said Harmala.

Harmala said that over the past week, the health department has seen improvement in the number of people with COVID-19.

"Two weeks ago, we were at 987

positive cases over a seven-day period," said Harmala. "We are currently down to 490. That is really exciting."

She said that trend stayed true in Menominee County as well.

"For Menominee County, that was at 216, and they are down to 101," said Harmala.

Due in part to the holidays, she mentioned that the health department was prepared to see an increase in the number of cases.

"Right now, the cases are going in the right direction," said Harmala.

In regards to the amount of people checking into the hospital, she said that the health care staff has been continuing to work hard.

"I don't know what the hospitals are experiencing this week, but we do know that they have been busting at the seams over the last month," said Harmala.

She also said that getting people vaccinated has been a point of emphasis for the health department



TERRI HARMALA

and hospitals.

"It really does make a difference," said Harmala. "Over 50% of their patients are not vaccinated."

Board member Marvin Klosterman asked how many of the 490 cases are children.

"I don't have the exact numbers," said Harmala. "Most of them are — from what I have seen — in that 20- to 50-year-old category."

She added that a lot of the people who have contracted COVID-19 are at home, taking care of their symptoms, rather than coming into the hospital.

"A couple of weeks ago, they did not have kids in there at that time," said Harmala. "That is good news."

Board member Joe Miller asked if the numbers that Harmala had outlined were counted through

testing.

"They are generated through the Wisconsin Department of Health Services," said Harmala. "So yes, that would be gathered through testing. Home testing could definitely skew the results."

Board member Jerry Erdmann asked if she has seen a connection between people being vaccinated and the severity of COVID-19 cases.

"With the science and everything else, it is the ones who are not vaccinated that are ending up in the hospital with more severe cases," said Harmala.

Erdmann said he has heard the same thing from friends and family who work in the health care field.

According to the health department's website, 44.9% of Shawano County residents have completed their vaccination series. In the whole state of Wisconsin, 63.3% of the population has completed their vaccination series, while 70.1% of the state's population has at least one dose of the vaccine.

PUBLIC RECORD

SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jan. 31

Officers responded to 11 calls, including shop lifting at Walmart, 1244 E. Green Bay St.; property theft on Madison Way.

Jan. 30

Officers responded to 12 calls, including a disturbance on Acorn Street; property theft on East Green Bay Street.

Jan. 29

Officers responded to 16 calls, including property theft on South Smalley Street; bail jumping on South Main Street; a domestic disturbance on South River Street; a controlled substance problem on South Main Street.

Jan. 28

Officers responded to 21 calls, including a controlled substance problem on East Richmond Street; disorderly conduct on South Smalley Street;

an assault on South Bartlett Street; harassment on South Main Street; a disturbance at The Store, 404 E. Green Bay St.; disorderly conduct on East Green Bay Street; car property damage on East Richmond Street.

Jan. 27

Officers responded to 25 calls, including harassment on South Union Street; child abuse on South Franklin Street; car personal injury on East Green Bay Street; trespassing on South Bartlett Street.

SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Jan. 31

Deputies responded to 32 calls, including a domestic disturbance on U.S. Highway 45 in the Town of Birnamwood; trespassing on Forest View Lane in the Town of Belle Plaine; harassment on South Warrington Avenue in Cecil; a

disturbance on North Cecil Street in Bonduel; one crash.

Jan. 30

Deputies responded to 15 calls, including disorderly conduct on Engel Drive in Shawano; two crashes, one involving deer.

Jan. 29

Deputies responded to 31 calls, including a disturbance on North Park Street in Bowler; operating while intoxicated on U.S. Highway 45 in the Town of Fairbanks; harassment on Menominee Drive in the Town of Wescott; a domestic disturbance on Northwestern Avenue in the Town of Angelica; five crashes.

Jan. 28

Deputies responded to 24 calls, including reckless driving on U.S Highway 45 in the Town of Aniwa; a domestic disturbance on School House Road in the

Town of Morris; reckless driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Herman; bail jumping on Rustic Drive in the Town of Belle Plaine; reckless driving on County Road A in the Town of Bartelme; reckless driving on U.S. Highway 45 in the Town of Fairbanks; two crashes.

Jan. 27

Deputies responded to 29 calls, including an overdose on Schabow Street in Gresham; disorderly conduct on West Green Bay Street in Bonduel; a threat on Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; reckless driving on U.S. Highway 45 in Birnamwood; a burglary on North Warrington Avenue in Cecil; reckless driving on state Highway 22 in the Town of Belle Plaine; a burglary on County Road MMM in the Town of Richmond; a drug problem on Cedar Street in Eland; reckless driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Hartland; one crash.

COURT NEWS

• Patrick A. Mays, 24, Shawano, was charged Jan. 24 with one count of bail jumping, one misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct and one misdemeanor count of bail jumping. Judge William Kussel Jr. set a signature bond of \$1,500 and scheduled a status conference for March 1.

• Riley T. Bosman, 19, Bonduel, was charged Jan. 24 with one count of possession of methamphetamine and one misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. Kussel set a signature bond of \$5,000 and scheduled a status conference for Feb. 23.

• Justyn J. Metoxen, 40, Shawano, was charged Jan. 24 with one count of bail jumping and one misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct. Kussel set a signature bond of \$1,500 and scheduled a status

conference for March 1.

• John J. Waubanasum, 49, Keshena, was charged Jan. 24 with one count of bail jumping and one misdemeanor count of bail jumping. Kussel set a cash bond of \$1,000 and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Feb. 3.

• Colton D. Brede, 27, Bonduel, was charged Jan. 24 with one count of bail jumping. Kussel set a signature bond of \$1,000 and scheduled a status conference for Feb. 22.

• Lee M. Block, 43, Shawano, was charged Jan. 25 with one count of bail jumping and one misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct. Kussel set a signature bond of \$1,000 and scheduled a status conference for Jan. 28.

• Daniel D. Celkis, 36, Genoa City,

pleaded no contest Jan. 25 to one count of possession of narcotic drugs. One misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia was dismissed, but read into the record. Judge Katherine Sloma sentenced Celkis to 120 days in jail and two years of probation.

• Skylar M. Beck, 22, Sun Prairie, pleaded no contest Jan. 25 to one count of taking and operating a vehicle without consent. Kussel sentenced Beck to 90 days in jail, which was deemed as served, and two years of probation.

• Perry J. Waupoose, 56, Gresham, was charged Jan. 25 with one count of bail jumping, two misdemeanor counts of bail jumping and one misdemeanor count of operating while revoked. Kussel set a signature bond of \$2,500 and scheduled a

scheduling conference for Jan. 27.

• Corey A. Drake, 44, Eland, was charged Jan. 28 with five counts of possession of a firearm by someone convicted of a felony, five misdemeanor counts of possession of THC and three misdemeanor counts of possession of drug paraphernalia. Kussel set a cash bond of \$5,000 and a signature bond of \$5,000. He also scheduled a preliminary hearing for Feb. 3.

• Jesse M. Martin, 39, Shawano, pleaded no contest Jan. 28 to one count of strangulation and suffocation and one misdemeanor count of battery. Two counts of strangulation and suffocation and one misdemeanor count of battery was dismissed, but read into the record. Kussel sentenced Martin to one year in jail and three years of probation.

OBITUARIES

Judith A. Egge

Judith Ann (Sumnicht) Egge was a caring mother, sister, aunt and friend. She passed away Jan. 26, 2022, at the age of 73, after a short stay with Evergreen Hospice.

Judy was a talented gardener and loved spending time in the kitchen, cooking, canning and baking, especially when she could share it. She never tired of helping others, especially her family. Children would gather around Judy as she was young at heart and loved to make them laugh. She was passionate about her ancestry, having tirelessly documented centuries of genealogy and family history.

Judy was born to Leonard and

Lois (Radtko) Sumnicht on Sept. 9, 1948. Judy graduated from Bonduel High School and spent her talents at a variety of careers while raising her beloved son, Todd.

Judy is survived by her son, Todd; her furbaby, Priscilla; sisters, Mary Marquette and Alice (Dave) Glatz; brothers, Jim (Kathy) Sumnicht and Peter (Rhonda) Sumnicht; and many nieces and nephews, whom she loved.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Joel and Willy Sumnicht; and sister, Diane Bohm.

A celebration of Judy's life will be held in the summer months.

The family extends its thanks to Evergreen Health Services.

Irene L. Koeller

Irene L. Koeller, 93, of the Town of Larrabee, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2022, at Greentree Health and Rehabilitation Center in Clintonville.

Arlene C. Schultz

Arlene C. Schultz, of Tigerton, formerly of Menomonee Falls, passed away peacefully on Jan. 25, 2022.

She was the beloved wife of the late LaVern for 70 years. Loving mother to Linda (Earl) Flaskrud, Danny (Mary), Dave (Renda), Kathy (David) Tarantino, and Dale. Grandmother to Sara (Elliott) Lunde, Michael (Margaret), Nicholas Steffen, Danielle (Adam) Klimas, Bethany and Andrew (Lauren). Great-grandmother to Addison and Natalie Lunde, Brooklyn Robinson, Rhett Klimas, and Madalyn Schultz. Sister to Patricia Cederwall, the late Thomas MacKay, and the late James MacKay, all of Kenora, Ontario.

Barbara E. Sawall

Barbara E. Sawall, 78, of New London, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 29, 2022, at Froedert Hospital in Milwaukee.

The Eberhardt-Stevenson Funeral Home and Crematory in Clintonville is assisting the family.

Further survived by other family and friends.

Arlene was very proud of her Canadian heritage and remained a Canadian citizen while residing in the United States for 70 years.

She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to Nancy Michaelis for her special friendship and the care she provided to our mother.

Per Arlene's wishes, no services will be held. Arlene will be cremated and a private family burial will take place in the spring at Sunnyside Cemetery in Lannon.

James A. Mueller

James "Jim" A. Mueller, 81, of Clintonville, passed away early Friday morning, Jan. 28, 2022, at Aster Assisted Living, Clintonville.

James "Jim" Arthur Mueller was born May 15, 1940, in Greenville, son to the late Roger and Almira (Thiele) Mueller. After graduating from Seymour High School with the class of 1958, Jim worked on the farm with his dad and assembled tractors with Kuehne Implement. He then served his country by joining the United States Air Force in 1960. He was first stationed at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii; from there he would travel to Vietnam during the war to bring supplies and set up military bases.

He was united in marriage to Alice Robley on Nov. 30, 1963, at Ascension Lutheran Church, Navarino. Later, Jim was stationed at Lackland Air Force Base near San Antonio, Texas; this was during the Cuban missile crisis. After



Green Bay.

In the 1970s, Jim and Alice managed Imago Dei Village Church Camp, near Cloverleaf Lakes, and other Crossways Camp Ministries. He finally worked in sales at K&K Equipment, later known as Caroline Implement, for 27 years retiring in 2005. Jim helped his brother-in-law run and maintain the Navarino Ski Hill, which he did for many years after his retirement, making snow and grooming the slopes.

As a longtime member of Ascension Lutheran Church, Jim served as president multiple times, taught Sunday school, confirmation, bible

his honorable discharge in 1964, Jim returned to the area and worked for FWD Segrave as a draftsman and started a family, later working as a draftsman at Paper Converting,

study, and served as a lay minister. He had a very strong faith, and that faith also took him and Alice to Latvia for a time to start mission work. He took pride in maintaining "Big Jim's Buck Farm" as the family lovingly called his property; many trees were planted as well as food plots. He was a bit of a hunter, but really loved to watch the wildlife on his land. He also served on the board as treasurer with the Shawano County Fairgrounds for many years.

Jim will be remembered for his way of not getting flustered when things didn't go quite right, and for his kind-hearted, hard-working way he approached life and interacted with people.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Alice; sons, Mark (Corina) Mueller, Omaha, Nebraska, and Paul (Jessie) Mueller Oconomowoc; grandchildren, Amanda (Jacob) Korth, Emily (Mike) Houdek, Caleb Mueller, Dylan Mueller, Ryan Mueller, Lydia Mueller,

Isaac Mueller, and Genevieve Mueller; great-grandchildren, Erik and Layla Houdek and Crew Korth; sister, Judy Miller, Seymour; many nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents and his sisters, Delores Kaphingst and Betty Jentz.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022, at Ascension Lutheran Church, Town of Navarino, with pastors Mark and Marcia Sabin officiating. Military honors will be conducted at the church by VFW Post 664, American Legion Post 63, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 63, and VFW Auxiliary Unit 664, all of Clintonville. Interment will follow at the parish cemetery. Visitation will start at 9 a.m. on Saturday at the church until the time of service.

The Eberhardt-Stevenson Funeral Home and Crematory in Clintonville is assisting the Mueller family.

An online guestbook is available at eberhardtstevenson.com.

Ellsworth G. Rasmussen

Ellsworth G. Rasmussen, 80, Colorado Springs, Colorado, passed away from various health issues Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2022, at Central Memorial Hospital, Colorado Springs, surrounded by his daughters, Connie and April. He was born July 14, 1941, in Moline, Illinois, son of the late Harold and LaVerne (Vaughan) Rasmussen.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, James Rasmussen; sister, Lois Brennan; nephews, Eric Rasmussen, Anthony Robinson and Orlando Gibbs; granddaughter, Tiffany Haney; and great-grandson, Peter Perez.

Ellsworth attended St. Joseph's Catholic School, Phlox, and Antigo High School, where he met Barbara Jean Miller. They married Oct. 15, 1960,



and had Deborah and Connie Rasmussen. They divorced a few years later. He then married Dorothy Jean Garret on Dec. 9, 1972, and had April Rasmussen.

Survivors include his brother, Paul Rasmussen, Colorado; sister Bonita (Bonnie) Gibbs, Antigo; three daughters, Deborah (Raymond) Sanapaw, Keshena, Connie Rasmussen, Keshena, and April Rasmussen, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Ell is also survived by nephews Ernie (Amy) Rasmussen, Washington, Seth Rasmussen and Nathan Rasmus-

sen, Colorado, Mark (Pat) Robinson, William Brennan, Shane Gibbs (Cari), and James Gibbs of Wisconsin; nieces Robin (Greg) Verhasselt and DiAnn Robinson, of Wisconsin, and Sarah (Brian) Austad, of Massachusetts; grandchildren, Mark Haney, Dawn Haney, Andrea Wescott, Randall (Millie) Wescott, Melissa (Ruben) Wescott, Harlan (Heather) Peters Jr. and Nicole Peters-Corn (Vance); great-grandchildren, Daniel Webster Jr., Adrianna Alvarado, Aurelia Valencia, Darius Wilber, Mya Torres, Shaniah Torres, Ruben Torres Jr., Ketamiew Perez, Taylesia Haney, Chance Boivin, Chelcie Boivin, Jaxon Wescott, Carter Corn and Marcel Corn.

Ell was employed at various jobs throughout his life, but he particularly

loved his job as an elephant keeper at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Colorado Springs. He was a professional semi-truck driver and later retired. He enjoyed being outdoors, fishing and hunting. He also loved growing plants, especially cacti.

Cremation will be performed by Alternative Cremation, Colorado Springs. A celebration of life with picnic will be held Saturday, July 16, 2022 at 11 a.m. at Eleven Mile State Park, Colorado. Site #275 North Shore E Loop. RSVP to: araswolf72@gmail.com

The family would like to express its sincere appreciation to the staff at Central Memorial Hospital for taking such good care of Ellsworth.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to your favorite zoo.

Barbara M. Zabel

Barbara M. Zabel, 87, Cecil, died suddenly of natural causes Tuesday morning, Jan. 25, 2022 at home with her beloved husband and her dog, Sadie, by her side. The youngest child of 13 children was born Aug. 24, 1934, to Robert and Helen (Helm) Roehl in Lake Mills.

In 1950, she married the love of her life Robert "Bob" Zabel in Watertown where they enjoyed a life of farming. In 1964, they moved to Oconto Falls and raised their three sons and two



daughters. Barbara was employed at Community Memorial Hospital in Oconto Falls for 12 years. In 1993, they built their retirement lake home in Cecil, where many great memories were made. She had a strong love for her family, crocheting, reading, playing

musical instruments, especially the humstrum and cooking for her family and friends, making certain no one left hungry.

She is survived by her loving husband of 71 years, Bob Zabel; five children, James (Sue) Zabel, Terry (Bev) Zabel, Steven (Debbie) Zabel, Gina (Gaylin) Greetan and Sandy (Dan) Schroeder; five grandchildren, Tracy, Corina, Kyle, Zac and Hannah; seven great-grandchildren; one sister,

Florence Nass; special friends, Scott and Cindy Jansen; her sweet dog, Sadie.

She was preceded in death by her parents, 11 siblings and two cherished granddaughters, Terra Zabel and Taylor Tisch.

Visitation with the urn present was held Saturday, Jan. 29, 2022, at Jones Funeral Service in Oconto Falls.

Barbara will be greatly missed by her family and friends but stay in our hearts forever.

Barbara Ann Laux (Hertz)



On Monday, Jan. 24, 2022, we said goodbye to the best wife, mother and grandmother anyone could ask for, much too soon. Our beautiful Barbie passed away as peaceful as a flower, cuddled up with her adoring girls, Annie, Nicki and Peri, son-in-law Ben, and the love of her life, her husband Scott.

Barbara Ann was born on July 7, 1957, in Clintonville to Howard and Shirley Hertz. She attended Clintonville High School and

UW-Eau Claire, married her high school sweetheart and made our lives brighter for 64 years.

"Scooter and Babs" worked side-by-side at Laux Chiropractic Office for 40 years. Barbie was the heart and soul of the office and could handle anything with a smile. Barb "Flower," as the girls affectionately called her, had it all and will be greatly missed.

Life's simplest pleasures brought joy to

Barbie. You could find her lost in her flowers on a sunny day, camping with her Scottie, or all smiles hosting a sunset dinner for family and friends, a glass of wine in hand. For the past three years, Barbie's absolute pride and joy was her grandson, Archie, who lit up her life.

We plan to honor and celebrate her life every single day, though a celebration will take place when her flowers are in bloom.

2 arrested after drug seizure in Keshena

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

A traffic stop in Keshena on Jan. 29 led to the arrest of at least two adults and seizure of a number of illegal drugs.

According to a news release from the Menominee Tribal Police Department, tribal and county Native American Drug and Gang Initiative (NADGI) officers were conducting

extra patrol in an area of Keshena that had been identified as having a potential drug house. Officers were able to conduct a lawful stop on a vehicle that had been observed at this residence.

Menominee County K-9 Ruger conducted a sniff of the vehicle and gave a positive alert for illicit drugs being inside of the vehicle. Officers conducted a search of the vehicle

and located illegal drugs and drug paraphernalia.

The NADGI officers were then able to obtain and execute a search warrant on the suspected drug residence in the School View Addition area of Keshena.

In addition to the adults in the residence, seven juveniles were identified as being at the house. In accordance with the tribe's Drug Endan-

gered Children Program, Menominee Tribal Family Services was called to assist with the juveniles.

Based on items seized on the traffic stop and in the residence charges will be forwarded to the tribal prosecutors for delivery of a controlled substance (methamphetamine and fentanyl), possession of a controlled substance and maintaining a drug dwelling.

Dozens travel to Gresham for ice fishing derby



Visitors pack the bar at the Gresham Lions Club building on Jan. 29 for the annual ice fishing derby.
LUKE REIMER | NEW MEDIA



Charlie Nietzer drops a fishing line into the water in hopes of winning the annual Gresham Lions Club ice fishing derby on Jan. 29.
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12/4/21

Menominee Indian seeks \$35M referendum

School district plans to build new high school, expand elementary school, move middle school to Keshena

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

The Menominee Indian School District plans to ask voters April 5 to approve \$35 million in bonds to build a new high school, expand its elementary school and turn the existing high school into a middle school.

Facility issues have been a key topic of discussion for district officials and the Menominee Indian School Board for the last four or five years, according to Superintendent Wendell Waukau. One of those issues has been seeing enrollment increase — at a time when neighboring school districts are seeing its student population drop — and seeing Keshena Primary School get really crowded.

“Enrollment is going up, especially at the elementary school, which has created limited space,” Waukau said, noting that expanding the school is needed whether it’s attached to a referendum or not. “We started looking at remodeling options.”

From there, he said, the district looked at what to do regarding Menominee Indian Middle School. The school is in good condition, according to Waukau, but it’s an island unto itself in Neopit, while the primary school, district office and Menominee Indian High School are all in close proximity in Keshena.

“We started looking at all of these different scenarios and options,” Waukau said. “The building is in great condition, but the problem we run into trying to renovate at Menominee Indian Middle School is that we’re landlocked. We’ve got no place to go.”

Moving facilities around is already in progress, as the district office building next to Keshena Primary will be turning into an immersion school facility, where students are being taught in their native Menominee language. As a result, the district office is moving into its student health center temporarily.

“It added to that whole equation,” Waukau said. “It’s great to have a language immersion school right here in our community.”

The high school, built in 1983, has seen a number of improvements over the years and won’t need a



The current Menominee Indian High School could become the new middle school, if voters on April 5 approve a \$35 million referendum. The new high school would be located on 40 acres of land behind Save-A-Lot, which the school district is trying to get from the tribe.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

lot of work to be ready for use as a middle school. However, it lacks adequate restroom space, according to Waukau, and the gymnasium doesn’t have adequate seating for the various events it hosts.

“The conversation with the high school is, how can we redesign our schools to better meet the teaching and learning that our kids would benefit from?” Waukau said. “We talk about project-based learning or open classrooms and looking to find a better way for teachers to teach and kids to learn.”

Waukau noted that it was looking like it would require about \$30 million to renovate the existing high school to meet the needs, so it made more fiscal sense to build a new facility and have the current school be the new middle school.

The district is currently in talks with the Menominee Tribal Legislature to get 40 acres of land behind the Save-a-Lot grocery store, which

is adjacent to the existing schools in Keshena, to build the new high school, if voters give the green light. The legislature is expected to take final action later in February to approve having the high school on the land.

In exchange, the school district will provide the tribe with the current middle school building, valued at about \$11 million, according to Waukau. The tribe can then use the facility for its Menominee Tribal School, which is right now located further along state Highway 47 in Neopit.

“That would meet their school needs,” Waukau said. “It’s almost like a win-win, but we’re still in the process. It’s not an absolute yes. The tribe still has to sign off on it, but they’ve given their tentative approval that they want to do it.”

Once the final deal is signed on the 40 acres of land, the district plans to hold community meetings to discuss what the new high school will have, along with the renovation plans and

impact on the tax base.

“We’ve got to talk to folks in Keshena, talk to folks in Neopit and all of our community areas, along with our taxpayers,” Waukau said. “We need to talk to the kids. We need to talk to the parents.”

As for the expansion work for the primary school, Waukau estimates the district will need to add at least six more classrooms and a new gym area to cover potential growth over the next 10-20 years. He said the district is also considering having the fifth grade join the middle school students to help alleviate the growing pains, but that decision has not been finalized yet.

Waukau noted that the school district has under levied for a number of years, trying to be fiscally responsible, so now is the time to move forward with turning the schools into something that will benefit all students in the future.

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

“The building is in great condition, but the problem we run into trying to renovate at Menominee Indian Middle School is that we’re landlocked. We’ve got no place to go.”

WENDELL WAUKAU, Menominee Indian School District superintendent, explaining one of the reasons for a \$35 million referendum

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- ▶ If you plan to watch the live-stream video, you will need a PC or mobile device with internet access. To call in to the phone conference, all you need is a landline or cellphone.
- ▶ On Monday, February 21, you will receive instructions on how to join the meeting.
- ▶ The meeting will be shorter than our typical in-person meeting and cover only those agenda items required by CoVantage Credit Union Bylaws.
- ▶ Throughout the meeting, we will have our traditional cash drawing and give away thirty \$100 door prizes as a thank you for participating.

Even though we cannot be together this year, we hope you will join us for our virtual meeting. You will hear progress reports and exciting plans for 2022.

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NEW MEDIA INC.



Parochial schools in the pink for cancer event

Sacred Heart, St. Paul, St. James youth play basketball while raising money, awareness

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

Sacred Heart Catholic School and its neighboring parochials, St. James and St. Paul Lutheran schools, pushed aside COVID-19 as the big health headline and played basketball Jan. 29 to raise awareness of another deadly illness — cancer.

It is the fourth year that the schools have come together for the Hoopin' for Hope Pink Out Cancer Awareness Event, back from a hiatus after the pandemic forced the cancellation of the 2021 event. Besides getting the schools' girls and boys basketball teams together for some fun and healthy competition, the event also reminded locals about the impact cancer has on communities and the need to raise money to help local organizations battling the disease.

According to Scott Marohl, athletic director at Sacred Heart, over 120 baskets were donated, a 30% increase from the last event, and at least 140 families and sponsors donated items to be sold or raffled off.

"This community comes together when you have events like this, so it's not surprising that so many gave," Marohl said. "I still had baskets coming in this morning from businesses. It was a very busy time but a very successful event."

All of the proceeds went to Peace and Love for Alex Inc., an organization formed by Mary Brennan in 2013 after she lost her son, Alex, to cancer. Although the organization is based in the Fox Valley, Marohl noted that Peace and Love for Alex has helped two families at Sacred Heart and another family from St. Paul in Bonduel.

"For families looking for help, Peace and Love for Alex is amazing," Marohl said, noting that Brennan attended the event. "It's not very often you can find a local organization like this that keeps everything in north-east Wisconsin."

The event started five years ago when a family approached Marohl about a member who had won the fight against cancer and was looking to start something that promoted breast cancer awareness. The month dedicated to education on breast cancer is usually in October, so Marohl wanted to do something that would get the schools' athletic programs involved and focus on the many different types of cancer people endure.



St. James' Nolan Kleinschmidt (14) races toward the basket followed by teammate Quin Harkey (22) as Sacred Heart's Braylon Rusch moves to try and cut him off during a basketball game Jan. 29 at Sacred Heart.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA



Scott Marohl, athletic director for Sacred Heart Catholic School, talks about community giving during a ceremony for the fourth Hoopin' for Hope cancer awareness event held Jan. 29 at the school as a number of students listen while wearing pink shirts for the "Pink Out."

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"It started with just two schools. The first year, it was just St. James and Sacred Heart on a normal game night, and it was really successful," Marohl said. "The next year, we came through and thought, we could make this bigger."

That's what led to a Saturday tournament, and it wasn't long before St. Paul became involved. Marohl said, the first year, there were only 30 baskets donated, so the giving has quadrupled since then.

"It's just been successful all

around," Marohl said.

The only downside is that the event is becoming so big that it can't be contained within Sacred Heart anymore, with the gift baskets and other activities filling the halls of the school. Marohl said it's likely that future Hoopin' for Hope events will need to be moved to one of the public schools, which have more square footage.

"With over 120 baskets, we're starting to run out of room," Marohl said. "At the same time, it's nice to be here in our building, sharing our school and everything that we put into this event."

In a prayer during the ceremony recognizing cancer survivors, Marohl beseeched the Lord to provide comfort to those who are dealing with cancer and the family members that are giving support.

"Give all cancer fighters comfort when they are in pain," Marohl said. "Lay your healing hand and remove every cancer cell so they may be healed. Be with those families who have lost a family member or friend due to a fight with cancer."

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

SCHS taking classic lit from page to stage

Students performing
'Little Women' for local
audiences this weekend

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

Shawano Community High School is taking a classic piece of literature and bringing it to musical-loving audiences this weekend as it performs "Little Women," the show that hit Broadway in 2005.

The musical takes the two-volume semi-autobiographical novel written in the 1860s by Louisa May Alcott and turns it into a two-hour tale that focuses on four sisters and their unfolding lives during and after the Civil War. There's Jo, the character that is based on Alcott, an aspiring writer who dreams of being a published author. Intertwined with Jo's tale are the lives of her three sisters, the traditional Meg, shy Beth and romantic Amy.

For director Alex Konen, the story is expected to bring out local residents to see the show and bring back the tradition of an annual winter musical, something that had to be halted last year as the coronavirus pandemic caused a lot of school events to go on hiatus. Konen credited Matthew Fons, the new choir director for SCHS, with coming up with the idea of the classic novel as the school's return to a stage that had an in-person audience attached.

"Mr. Fons said, based on the talent pool we have, this would be a really good option," Konen said. "We looked at a lot of other shows, but looking at this, I had to agree that this is, number one, a great story, but then, number two, it's got everything we need in terms of an ability for (the group we have)."

Konen added that COVID-19 caused a lot of the students who had enjoyed performing in musicals during the winter and plays in the fall and spring to take a step back, but performing "Little Women" has brought many of those students back to the stage to tell a charming story to their parents and the community at large.

Konen said the local performance stays more true to Alcott's novel than it does the original Broadway musical.

"It's really first what is this play about, and then developing ideas from that," Konen said. "Jo is a storyteller; that's kind of her passion and dream



Jo March, played by Grace Stuewer, right, tells an animated story she's written, which is shown in silhouette in the background, while Mrs. Kirk, played by Katie Weiland, looks on.

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John Brooke, played by Gabriel Bohm, and Meg March, played by Leslie Lemerond, decorate an arch for a wedding during the second act of "Little Women."

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

in life. We're trying to highlight that by showing bits of the story that either she's telling us or (in a way) that maybe you wouldn't see in the musical itself necessarily."

SCHS brings some of Jo's tales to life via a screen that shows action in silhouette, with witches and warriors doing what they do best as Jo narrates.

Being able to welcome students

into the high school auditorium is a big plus for Konen.

"This year, just being able to come back and have live audiences has been thrilling for me," he said, noting that the fall play was actually the first one since the pandemic started where he could have an audience. "Musicals are always just a bigger draw in general."

A number of parents were in at-

AT A GLANCE

WHAT: "Little Women"

WHEN: 7 p.m. Feb. 3-5, 2 p.m. Feb. 6

WHERE: Auditorium, Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B, Shawano

TICKETS: Adults \$12, seniors \$9, children \$6. Tickets can be purchased online at shawanotheater.ludus.com.

tendance for a dress rehearsal held on Jan. 29, and their reactions indicated to Konen that broader audiences will thoroughly enjoy "Little Women."

"Their laughter, their clapping, it's definitely added more energy to it," Konen said. "We've been working on this since the beginning of November, so seeing it all come to life and knowing there's going to be a live audience out there, and experiencing some of the emotions that I have watching some of the scenes now, I can just imagine how they'll (the audience) respond. I picture it something that people will walk away enjoying."

The novel "Little Women" is not a standard part of the SCHS English curriculum, according to Konen, but the school has a book club and has taken up reading the book this winter in conjunction with the musical.

"They put it on their reading list to get a feel for it," Konen said.

OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

Ballot drop boxes saved, but for how long?

Recently, a panel of judges stood behind Wisconsinites and decided that every one of us deserves the freedom to safely cast a ballot. Three judges representing the 4th District Circuit Court of Appeals blocked a prior ruling out of Waukesha that would have banned the use of ballot drop boxes ahead of the Feb. 15 primary election.

The now-halted Waukesha decision, made by conservative Circuit Court Judge Michael Bohren in early January, would have allowed voters to cast their ballot via drop box only if the box was located inside a clerk's office, which might be a slight inconvenience for some, but severely disruptive for thousands of other voters.

COVID-19 is still rapidly spreading across our communities. We're in the midst of a freezing, icy Wisconsin winter. For voters whose health is at risk and those with mobility challenges, this means that casting their vote in



CHRIS WALLOCH

a drop box close to home could be their safest — and sometimes only — option.

Thankfully, the Court of Appeals ruling will make sure they have that option this February.

As representatives from Disability Rights Wisconsin said in a statement, many Wisconsinites with disabilities rely on voting absentee, whether in the mail or via drop box, due to ableist barriers that restrict their ability to vote in-person. Some might even rely on a caretaker or loved one to deliver the ballot on their behalf.

In a time filled with so much uncertainty as is, Bohren's ruling would have made the voting process that much more difficult to navigate, in turn disenfranchising thousands of Wisconsin

voters in next month's primary.

Voter suppression is an issue not unique to the Badger State. Here in Wisconsin, some right-wing politicians have proven eager to perpetuate rulings — like Bohren's — that threaten our fundamental freedom to vote.

Like Rebecca Kleefisch, former lieutenant governor under Scott Walker and current gubernatorial candidate, who voted absentee in 2020 by marking herself indefinitely confined, but now wants to remove that option for other Wisconsin voters.

So, while the Court of Appeals' decision this week is a step in the right direction, the road to end voter disenfranchisement — and ensure that every Wisconsinite can freely and safely cast a ballot that counts — still stretches on.

The Court of Appeals ruling will protect drop box access through the February primary, but it's still possible

that our access to drop boxes could be gutted ahead of the election in April.

Politicians like Kleefisch, with the help of judges like Bohren, are attacking our freedom to vote and working to sabotage our elections. This is our time to show up to vote, and to show we won't be silenced.

Making sure that options like easily accessible drop boxes, online registration, and early and absentee voting are there for us will help make sure all of us are heard.

This election cycle, we deserve leaders who will fight to ensure that all voters have an equal voice. It's time to stop the distractions and start investing in our well-being.

Together, we must ensure that every Wisconsinite can cast a ballot that counts.

Chris Walloch is the executive director at A Better Wisconsin Together, which describes itself as a state-based research and communications hub for progressives.

"It's time to stop the distractions and start investing in our well-being."

CHRIS WALLOCH, A Better Wisconsin Together executive director

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Yes vote helps get money out of politics

To the editor:

Residents of the Town of Red Springs have an opportunity to voice their opposition to the huge amounts of money that are in our politics. In the April 5 election, a yes vote on the ballot referendum would help to change that.

American citizens do not have a "government by the people and for the people." American citizens now have "government by corporations for corporations." The reason is the Supreme Court and Citizens United. The 2010 Supreme Court, in the case of Citizens United, the court ruled that money equaled free speech. This idea has been broadened to allow corporations to give unlimited campaign contributions in amounts vastly superior to what individual citizens can afford to give.

The Wisconsin United to Amend group has been working for a U.S.

Constitutional amendment stating that corporations are not people, do not have the inalienable rights of human beings, and money is not speech and therefore can be regulated in political campaigns.

Gathering dust in the Wisconsin Legislature are 166 resolutions and referenda that have already been passed in jurisdictions around the state. Over 57% of Wisconsinites have passed this resolution. Some of the area towns that have passed this resolution are: Shawano, Town of Wescott, Wittenberg, Green Bay, Appleton, Neenah, Menasha, Merrill, Wausau, and New London.

Wisconsin should join the other 21 state legislatures which have voted to say "Money does not equal speech" and "Corporations are not equal to people." The Wisconsin Legislature should listen to the citizens of Wisconsin as they express their voices so that we can make one large step forward to actual representative democracy.

It is important to support this

referendum on Tuesday, April 5. Vote yes.

Deanna Bisley, Town of Red Springs

Behnke's comments are not very Christian

To the editor:

Turn the other cheek?

As the founder and director of a ministry, I found myself astonished by what a fellow ministry leader recently said to his fellow citizens, including those he represents in the 89th Assembly District.

Cheat like the Democrats or bend the rules? Punch our governor in the face? Continuously refuse to accept facts as facts despite overwhelming evidence of a clean and fair election? All this by state Rep. Elijah Behnke, who attended Bible college?

I am amazed how Republicans wrap themselves in the American flag while creating God in their own image — and are now attempting to force Christian nationalism onto the rest of us while our embattled,

feeble democracy dies in darkness. Throughout this whole destructive process, every one of the Ten Commandments is continually broken, from the first to the 10th.

Many Republicans don't seem to realize there is a New Testament, a Sermon on the Mount, or a Golden Rule. This delusional madness occurs under the control and guidance of a maniacal, dictatorial ex-president who mirrors the anti-Christ more than the Second Coming we might all wish for.

Gov. Tony Evers is a kind, gentle, deeply-spiritual man with a reasonably-sized ego, unlike so many politicians. Anything he has ever done is in Wisconsin's best interests — and done through love.

I strongly recommend Elijah Behnke seek forgiveness from our governor and every one of his constituents in the 89th Assembly District for his abhorrent behavior — and start practicing love as taught by his religion.

Mark Smith, Oconto Falls

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SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Witt-Birn boys drop home conference game



Chargers unable to jumpstart offense in loss to Thunderbirds

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School boys basketball team was never able to get in an offensive rhythm in a battle of the top two teams in the Central Wisconsin Conference-East Division on Jan. 27 in Wittenberg. The visiting Thunderbirds handed the Chargers a 41-27 loss.

Witt-Birn matched Iola-Scandinavia for the first 12 minutes of the showdown before the Chargers got into some serious foul trouble. Already down junior Michael Miller in a rotation that usually runs eight players deep, the Chargers could never get back on track, only scoring 15 points across the final 25 minutes of game action.

“Putting guys in foul trouble didn’t help, so we couldn’t be as aggressive. And we’re down a guy so if people get in foul trouble, we don’t have people to sub, so that kind of affected us,” said Witt-Birn senior Kaden Schmidt. “And then on the offensive side of the floor, we just couldn’t execute the way we wanted to.”

Coach Garrett Rogowski took the blame for the low scoring output, saying he didn’t have the team prepared offensively. He did however say that playing talented teams like Iola-Scandinavia should only help the team as it tries to duplicate its deep postseason run from last year.

Rogowski was also pleased with the defensive effort his team showed. The 41 points allowed was tied for the third-lowest points allowed this season for the Chargers. Witt-Birn forced a number of turnovers, especially in the second half, to keep the visitors from blowing the game wide open.

“That’s been our strength too,

we’re a pretty solid defensive team. Fundamentally, we do a lot of things well defensively,” said Rogowski.

Defense isn’t the issue for the Chargers at this time though.

“But offensively, we have got to simply shoot better against good teams in order to be more impactful and give ourselves a chance,” said Rogowski. “If we don’t, the results will be pretty similar to what you see tonight. We’ve had a few of those games this year.”

While teams love to rack up wins and blow teams out, losing games can also prove beneficial in the long run. Senior Jack Fraaza believes that could happen after this loss.

“Losses suck but it’s not as fun getting wins against teams that wouldn’t be as good or teams that you wouldn’t really be competing against in the playoffs,” said Fraaza. “It’s almost good for your season if you play some good teams and you lose.”

The loss to Iola-Scandinavia also likely ended any chance of the Chargers’ winning a conference title, as the Thunderbirds are now at least three games better than every other team.

Even though that team goal won’t be checked off this winter, it won’t slow Witt-Birn.

Fraaza said the goal is to still win every game the team competes in, while Schmidt said the Chargers will play like the conference title is still in reach.

It was senior Simon Schairer who led Witt-Birn offensively against Iola-Scandinavia, scoring 11 points. Junior Max Fraaza and senior Ben Wesolowski each chipped in six points.

Witt-Birn converted just one of its eight free-throw attempts on the night, including five misses in the second half, where the hosts were outscored by a point.

Iola-Scandinavia 27 14 — 41

Witt-Birn 14 13 — 27

Iola-Scandinavia (41): Isaiah Hoyord 7-8 7, Parker Pahl 1-3 10, Kaden Jueds 2-2 8, Brock Wester 2-4 8, Will Tappa 0-0 8.

Witt-Birn (27): Ben Wesolowski 0-4 6, Ben Flak 0-2 0, Jack Fraaza 0-0 4, Simon Schairer 1-2 11, Max Fraaza 0-0 6.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood’s Simon Schairer, front, takes a contested layup during the team’s CWC-East loss to Iola-Scandinavia on Jan. 27 in Wittenberg.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

sports@newmedia-wi.com

ATHLETE PROFILE: ISAAC SZEWS

Charger senior a positive influence for team



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Isaac Szews settles in on defense during the team's conference game against Iola-Scandinavia on Jan. 27 in Wittenberg.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

Every high school athlete hopes to have an enjoyable and memorable season in their senior year.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School's Isaac Szews is soaking up the memories as a senior on the boys basketball team that hopes to create plenty of memorable moments over the next several weeks.

After making a deep postseason run last winter, the team is building toward another deep playoff push again this year. While the team hasn't performed as well as it would have liked in the conference, Szews has remained a positive influence for the team.

"Isaac brings a positive attitude and energy to every practice and game," said Witt-Birn boys varsity coach Garrett Rogowski. "He works extremely hard at improving his game and is a pleasure to coach."

Szews' biggest game of the year came against Menominee Indian on Dec. 17. He scored six points in that contest, tallying four points at the free-throw line. Szews also grabbed an offensive rebound in that game.

Q: When did your interest in basketball begin?

A: My interest in basketball began at a young age, I started playing Great Northwest basketball in third grade.

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

A: Spending time with my teammates, since it's my senior year and our last time on the court together.

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

A: Basketball has taught me many things, such as teamwork and how to work together.

Q: As the season begins to wind down, what are some things the team is hoping to improve on?

A: Some things we need to work on are taking care of the ball on every possession, and free throw

AT A GLANCE

ATHLETE: Isaac Szews

SPORT: Basketball

POSITION: Power forward

SCHOOL: Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School

YEAR: Senior

shooting.

Q: After a deep postseason run last winter, what needs to happen this year to find similar success?

A: We need to take advantage of every opportunity and fixing all our mistakes come playoffs.

Q: When you step on the court, what is your mindset?

A: My mindset is to give as much energy as I can.

Q: Do you or the team have any pregame rituals?

A: Our ritual is to go into the locker room and listen to music and get hyped up for the game.

Q: On a team with several seniors, how do you personally try and help lead or provide a spark for the team?

A: I just try to hype my teammates up and provide a spark.

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

A: My favorite memory of basketball is going to state in fifth grade for Great Northwest.

Q: Favorite movie, TV show and musical artist?

A: Movie — "Grumpy Old Men." TV show — "The Office." Musical artist — Lil Uzi Vert.

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

A: My favorite basketball player is Kyrie Irving.

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

A: Become a master electrician and start my own business.

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WITT-BIRN GIRLS HOOPS



The Wittenberg-Birnamwood girls basketball team held a 12-6 record through Jan. 31. CONTRIBUTED

Strong play of late has helped the Wittenberg-Birnamwood girls basketball team move into the top half of the Central Wisconsin Conference-East Division standings. Through Jan. 31, the Chargers were 5-4 in conference play.

Witt-Birn has six scheduled games left in the regular season. The Chargers will play at home on Feb. 8 and Feb. 17.

The team will then learn its postseason fate and begin playoff games in late February.

WITT-BIRN BOYS HOOPS



The Wittenberg-Birnamwood boys basketball team held an 8-8 record through Jan. 31. CONTRIBUTED

The Witt-Birn boys basketball teams sits in second place in the CWC-East standings. The team was 5-3 in conference play at the start of February.

Witt-Birn has eight regular season games remaining, with home games

on Feb. 7, 10, 14, 15 and 24 before the playoffs begin.

The Chargers will open up postseason play in early March, trying to replicate a deep playoff run from a year ago. The team made it to sectionals last winter.

WITT-BIRN WRESTLING



The Wittenberg-Birnamwood wrestling team had 16 dual wins through Jan. 31. CONTRIBUTED

The Witt-Birn wrestling team is getting close to the end of its winter season. The Chargers will compete in the Central Wisconsin Conference Tournament on Feb. 5 before embarking on postseason action.

Witt-Birn will compete in the Division 3 Lena Regional on Feb. 12 and Bonduel Sectional on Feb. 19 in Shawano. Individual state qualifiers will take part in the state tournament from Feb. 24-26 in Madison.

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COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Winona State College

Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School grad Maddy Pietz competed in a pair of events for the Winona State women's track and field team at the Mark Shuck Open on Jan. 28 and 29. She claimed seventh individually

in the 200 after posting a time of 26.01 seconds. Pietz was on the fourth-place finish 4x400 relay team that had a time of 4:00.36.

Oakland City University

Bowler graduate Reanne Kietlinski played 15 minutes in the Oakland City University women's basketball team's

loss to Indiana East on Jan. 25. Kietlinski hit a 3-pointer and two free throws to score five points. She also had three rebounds and two assists.

Ripon College

Witt-Birn grad Lauren Bahr took part in four events for the Ripon

College women's swim team at the Wisconsin Private College Championships on Jan. 28 and 29. Individually, she placed fifth in the 100 backstroke (1:05.95) and was sixth in the 100 freestyle (58.61). Bahr was on the fifth-place finishing 200 medley relay (1:58.8) and 200 freestyle relay (1:50.08).

HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Witt-Birn 41

Iola-Scandinavia 33

Wittenberg-Birnamwood rallied past Iola-Scandinavia in a Central Wisconsin Conference-East Division clash on Jan. 28 in Iola. Reese Rogowski recorded 18 points and four assists to lead Witt-Birn. Kaylee Schram tallied 12 points.

The Chargers outscored the Thundersbirds by 13 in the second half.

Witt-Birn 46

Shiocton 42

Wittenberg-Birnamwood squeaked out a CWC-East win over Shiocton on

Jan. 25 in Wittenberg. Reese Rogowski tallied 16 points, seven assists and seven rebounds to lead Witt-Birn. Kaylee Schram provided 14 points and blocked three shots for the Chargers. Jami Wendler grabbed five rebounds. WRESTLING Potrykus, Sanchez lead Chargers at classic Pierson Potrykus and Andres Sanchez each placed first in their respective weight classes to help Wittenberg-Birnamwood to a third-place finish at the Dick Sorenson Door County Classic on Jan. 29 in Sturgeon Bay. Potrykus took first in the 126

ONLINE

A video recap of the Wittenberg-Birnamwood boys basketball team's win over Bonduel can be found at www.newmedia-wi.com.

weight class, going 3-0 on the day. He won a 26-11 technical fall to start the day before a pin in 1 minute, 48 seconds in the semifinals. Potrykus earned a 24-8 technical fall win in the first-place match. Sanchez also finished 3-0 to take first in the 132 weight class. He pinned his first opponent in 2:20 before picking up a 16-0 technical fall win in the semifinals. Sanchez pinned his first-place match opponent in 51 seconds. Easton Davis (120) and Max Kersten (138) each placed third on the day

for the Chargers. Braeden Groshek (160), Nathan Waupekenay (182) and Dominic Weso (220) all placed fourth for Witt-Birn. BOYS BASKETBALL Witt-Birn 65 Bonduel 48 Wittenberg-Birnamwood topped Bonduel in a CWC-East clash on Jan. 24 in Bonduel. The Chargers were able to avenge a five-point loss to the Bears from just three days earlier. Simon Schairer hit 10 shots and three free throws to score 23 points for Witt-Birn. Ben Wesolowski added 15 points for the Chargers. Ben Flak contributed 11 points.

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White Insurance	7	8
Clark Construction	6	9
High team scratch games: Clark Construction 1,099, Chet and Emil's 1,082, Kautza Excavating 1,033.		
High individual scratch games: Jeremy Praslowicz 285, Dan Rew 257, Tim Lemke 254.		
High team scratch series: Chet and Emil's 3,097, Clark Construction 2,965, Kautza Excavating 2,882.		
High individual scratch series: Jeremy Praslowicz 738, Tim Lemke 702, Eric Clark 640.		
Chet and Emil's Wednesday Business		
Team	W	L
Melody Mill	10	5
S and M Tool	9	6
Chet and Emil's	9	6
Rew Motors Inc.	9	6
TLC Auto Body	6	9
CWAA	6	9
Kessen Auto Body	6	9
Kropf's Meat Pro	5	10
High team scratch games: Melody Mill 1,071, S and M Tool 1,026, CWAA 1,012.		
High individual scratch games: Shawn Walkush 300, Doug Kunst 236, Dave Schultz 229.		
High team scratch series: Melody Mill 2,979, S and M Tool 2,869, CWAA 2,694.		
High individual scratch series: Stephan Miller 663,		

Jeremy Praslowicz 656, Tyler Krull 646.		
Resch Lanes — Monday Ladies Handicap		
Team	W	L
Lisa's Lakeside	8	4
Fandrey Construction	7	5
Resch Lanes	6	6
Fantastic Sams	6	6
Strike-a-pose	5	7
Tavern Front	4	8
High team handicap games: Lisa's Lakeside 848, Resch Lanes 819, Fandrey Construction 807.		
High individual handicap games (top 7): Heather Schultz 250, Heather Giddings 247, Tara Milanwoski 247, Mary Krause 239, Shirley Petersen 238, Kristine Beran 231, Jean Kriehn 227.		
High team handicap series: Lisa's Lakeside 2,517, Resch Lanes 2,411, Fandrey Construction 2,389.		
High individual handicap series (top 7): Heather Schultz 670, Heather Giddings 668, Tara Milanwoski 667, Kristine Beran 641, Miranda Borgemoen 634, Shirley Petersen 628, Mary Krause 610.		
Chet and Emil's Thursday Early Birds		
Team	W	L
Rightway Propane	35	21
Schairer Farms	27	29
M and J Harvesting	27	29
Stadler Farms	23	33
High team scratch games: Rightway Propane 615, Stadler Farms 609, Schairer Farms 586.		
High individual scratch games: Susan Zeinert 197, Darcy Hille 193, Lisa Zywicki 187, Kristine Beran 182.		
High team scratch series: Rightway Propane 1,831, Stadler Farms 1,673, Schairer Farms 1,668.		

High individual scratch series: Susan Zeinert 558, Darcy Hille 534, Kristine Beran 520, Amanda Roth 471.		
Resch Lanes — Thursday's Men's League		
Team	W	L
Resch Lanes	50	20
Melody Mill	47	23
Cherek Transport	35	35
RJ Auto Repair	34	36
Legacy Seed	32	38
Legacy Seed Pro	30	40
Gutt er Done	29	41
Golden Eagle Res.	23	47
High team scratch games (top 3): Cherek Transport 1,084, Resch Lanes 1,063, Legacy Seed Pro 1,037.		
High individual scratch games (top 6): Tim Lemke 258, Jeff Arndt 258, Jason Resch 247, Jeremy Falkowski 245, Austin Wolff 244, Greg Wolff 243, Jacob Juedes 243.		
High team scratch series (top 3): Cherek Transport 3,038, Resch Lanes 3,014, Melody Mill 2,917.		
High individual scratch series (top 6): Jason Resch 703, Brad Davis 683, Tim Lemke 682, Jeff Arndt 675, Greg Wolff 674, Austin Wolff 636.		
Chet and Emil's Monday Women's League		
Team	W	L
Banner Banks	16	4
Star Campsite	12	8
Cady Home	10	10
Chet and Emil's	2	18
High team handicap games: Cady Home 740, Banner Banks 737, Star Campsite 718.		
High individual handicap games: Sandy Meverden		

223, Kim Zeller 223, Tanya Rekow 220, Tracy Anderson 208, Courtney Tryba 197, Jen Duranceau 189, Christy Clark 189.		
High team handicap series: Cady Home 2,141, Banner Banks 2,065, Star Campsite 2,024.		
High individual handicap series: Sandy Meverden 589, Tracy Anderson 576, Kim Zeller 567, Tanya Rekow 566, Jen Duranceau 536, Christy Clark 514, Alicia Schinzel 514.		
Resch Lanes — Wednesday Night Handicap		
Team	W	L
Liberty Potatoes	36	6
Mama's Place	32	10
Tavern Front	23	19
Rachel's Roadside	22	20
Kemmer Electronics	21	21
Resch Lanes	14	28
Slammers	14	28
Hanke's Sentry Foods	6	36
High team handicap games (top 3): Kemmer Electronics 1,286, Liberty Potatoes 1,222, Rachel's Roadside 1,192.		
High individual handicap games (top 7): Dave Hasse 298, Jason Harris 296, Jenny Schrank 289, Jimmy Hohensee 286, Will Kubeny 281, Jeff Arndt 279, Larry Emmel 273.		
High team handicap series (top 3): Kemmer Electronics 3,620, Liberty Potatoes 3,610, Rachel's Roadside 3,494.		
High individual handicap series (top 7): Jenny Schrank 769, Dave Hasse 763, Greg Rosenow 756, Joe Bushman 755, Will Kubeny 749, Jeff Arndt 749, Jimmy Hohensee 738.		

Monarch watchers wait for word from Mexico

For dedicated monarch lovers all across our area, even though it is the middle of winter and the butterflies have long since departed, all eyes are on Mexico as we anxiously await overwintering surveys in the cool, high mountains to get an idea of population trends.

Now that all of the monarchs have arrived in their breathtaking winter colonies in the mountains of central Mexico, we wait breathlessly as surveyors in the region enter these colonies and measure the number of acres of coverage and do their best to estimate monarch numbers that have made it safely to their winter destination.



ROB ZIMMER

The past decade or so has not been good. Each year, numbers of overwintering monarchs in Mexico have drastically declined. Yet monarch lovers and gardeners throughout our area are optimistic, as this past summer saw quite a large monarch presence here in Wisconsin and the fall migration seemed like a strong one.

Many gardeners here in our area grow plants specifically to help boost summer monarch populations locally. Whatever we can do here in Wisconsin gives a boost to the number of monarch butterflies that make it safely to Mexico. A larger summer and fall population increases the number of monarchs making the journey and, thus, a larger number that successfully migrates — despite a number of man-made and natural threats.

What can you do to help monarch numbers grow?

First, provide the monarch's preferred host plant, milkweed. This is sometimes a challenge for some gardeners as they are hesitant to grow aggressive common milkweed, which can command quite a presence in the yard and garden. Thankfully, there are many smaller, less aggressive and more compact milkweed species that can be grown that are just as good for monarchs.

Orange milkweed, often sold at garden centers as butterfly weed, is a perfect choice for our area as it loves dry, sandy soil and hot sun. It is also tolerant of clay soils once established. Orange milkweed is compact,



Monarch lovers wait for news each winter about the overwintering census in Mexico.

ROB ZIMMER

colorful and beneficial not only to monarchs but just about every species of butterfly and bee in our area, as well as hummingbirds. It is long-lasting, blooming from late May or early June all the way through September.

in elegant white.

In addition to milkweeds as host plants for the monarch caterpillars, it is important to provide many sources of nectar for the adult butterflies. This is especially important late in spring when monarchs first return

sunflowers, zinnias, cosmos, verbena, lantana, heliotrope, purple coneflowers and black-eyed susans are ideal.

Soon, we will know an estimate of the number of monarchs currently overwintering in the mountains of Mexico.

The news over the past month or so has been positive for western monarchs here in the United States. However, this is often misleading as the monarchs that overwinter in the western states are of a completely different population than our eastern monarchs. The number of western monarchs has no relation to the number of monarchs in the eastern states. Let's all hope for an increase in monarch numbers like we have seen this fall and winter in the western population that migrates to California.

“Whatever we can do here in Wisconsin gives a boost to the number of monarch butterflies that make it safely to Mexico.”

ROB ZIMMER

For those with heavier soils and wetter areas, swamp milkweed is ideal. This species may grow 3-5 feet tall, but is compact in size and produces flattened clusters of gorgeous two-toned flowers at the tips of the stems. Swamp milkweed, despite its name, will also grow in drier areas once it is established.

A beautiful miniature milkweed that is common in our area, but often goes unnoticed is whorled milkweed. This milkweed features dainty, fern-like foliage and blooms

and again late in summer and into fall, when the monarchs begin their journey south.

In May, not much is in bloom yet, so plants such as lupine, lilacs, columbine and others are important. Dandelions are an extremely important early season nectar source for monarchs, so considering letting them bloom.

After Labor Day, when monarch migration is in full swing, plants such as New England aster, goldenrod, joe-pye weed, ironweed,

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CLUB NOTES

Lena Lions

Julie Aubry was presented the Lena Lions Educator Award at the Lena Lions annual Christmas party Dec. 8 at the Holiday Inn in Kelly Lake by Lion Mary Koslowsky. The award is in appreciation for her dedication to education for more than 33 years.

Julie attended the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay on a basketball scholarship, where she earned a bachelor's degree in education. After graduation, Julie taught for one year at Holy Trinity in Oconto. In 1988, she started teaching fifth grade at Lena Elementary School in Lena. Thirty-three years later, she is still teaching fifth grade in Lena.

History, math, and science are her favorite subjects to teach. She is known for the awesome projects, plays, and activities she does with her students to make the subject matter more interesting. The annual fifth grade three-day trip to Camp U-Nah-Li-Yah is a highlight of her year. Julie created and organizes the bridging ceremony for her students completing fifth grade and moving on to junior high.

Over the years, Julie has coached track and volleyball. She is still a referee for junior high volleyball home games and tournaments.

Outside the classroom, she is the chairperson for the annual spaghetti supper, which raises money for scholarships, sponsored by the Lena Public School staff. She is also the social director at school where she plans the Christmas parties, retirement parties, and other social gatherings.

Julie, her husband, Doug, and their two girls, Alison and Carissa, love to camp and fish. They often host parties for the Packers or Badgers games. She also enjoys reading, playing cards, and spending time with family and friends.

Also at the party, Paul Huberty was presented with the Lena Lions Club Service Award by Lion Russ Glime. The award was in recognition of all that Paul has done for the club over the years. The club is especially appreciative for Paul's leadership in handling the big money raffle that is a part of the Lena Lions fish fry fundraiser.

Wabeno American Legion Sylvan Post 44

The Wabeno American Legion Sylvan Post 44 donated to many veteran homes and organizations such as Camp American Legion,



Paul Huberty, left, receives the Lena Lions Club service award from Russ Glime on Dec. 8.

CONTRIBUTED

King Veterans Home, Iron Mountain Veteran Hospital, Milwaukee VA, Team Rubicon, American Legion Auxiliary (who also donates to many veteran and community organizations), High Ground Veteran's Camp, Vets for Vets, Vets Roll, Veteran Golf Outing (honoring World War II Veterans), the Community Health Fund Christian Food Pantry, and the Old Glory and Never Forgotten honor flights.

The post also runs many fundraisers such as Trump Lake Fish-o-Ree, Ribfest, Wienerfest, many gunless poultry shoots and the annual rifle raffle.

Post 44 is passionate about its community schools and gave out four \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors, donated to the high school music department, conducted a sixth-grade flag essay contest, held an elementary ice cream social and sent two individuals to Boys' State. It also held a flag presentation and a Veterans Day ceremony at the Wabeno elementary and high schools.

Post 44 served at many funerals (13 in 2020 and 12 in 2021). They marched in six parades, held a flag disposal ceremony and a Memorial Day ceremony at the Legion Veterans Memorial Park.

Post 44 is thankful for all its supporters and many businesses throughout all the surrounding communities. The post values its veteran and auxiliary members for the countless hours they volunteer to make all this happen. Let us never forget our veterans and always remember to help one another. Here's to a happy and healthy 2022.

Paul Bunyan Riders Snowmobile Club
Kurt and Pam Butler, of Lake-



Julie Aubry, left, received the Lena Lions Educator Award from Mary Koslowsky on Dec. 8.

CONTRIBUTED

wood, recently retired from leadership positions in the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs after many years of service as director (11 years) and representative (15 years) representing Oconto County. Pam was also involved with Kids and Adults On Snow, a youth branch of the AWSC. The couple were also board members of the Oconto County Snowmobile Alliance, where Kurt has served as president and Pam as secretary.

Kurt and Pam were presented

with a gift of appreciation from the club at the Paul Bunyan Riders Christmas Party on Dec. 14 at Halfway Bar. During their 34 years with Paul Bunyan Riders, Kurt served as trail boss (10 years) and Pam served as a longtime club secretary. Both have been an inspiration of service to the sport of snowmobiling.

Club Notes are a service provided by NEW Media to keep the community informed on what local organizations are doing. Organizations interested in sending news about their activities can contact NEW Media at news@newmedia-wi.com.



Paul Bunyan Riders Snowmobile President Dennis Pommering presents a gift to Kurt and Pam Butler for over 34 years of service to the club and the sport of snowmobiling.

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Toys for Tots comes through for local children

The Shawano County Toys For Tots campaign collected 4,329 toys and books in the area for its 2021 campaign.

Of those, 3,444 were gathered from the organization's collection boxes. The Bullpen Bar in Pulcifer raised funds and purchased 596 toys, and Half Price Books donated 289 books, which advanced the organiza-

tion's local focus on literacy.

In 2021, the Toys for Tots program provided new toys to more than 1,000 children in Shawano County.

An additional campaign was launched this year by coordinator Michael Johnston on behalf of the children located in five communities on the Menominee Reservation. This Toys for Tots program was made

possible through the relationship with the United States Marine Corps and its Native American program.

Because there was no primary source to support a traditional toy program, the program was supported in its entirety by the Marine Corps and their national supporters through the Toys for Tots Foundation. Over 3,230 toys were received

and distributed, of which 854 were in-kind donations received from national sponsors.

For information about Toys for Tots or to get involved, contact Johnston at 715-280-0991 or shawano.wi@toysfortots.org, or visit <http://shawano-wi.toysfortots.org> or <https://www.facebook.com/ShawanoAreaToysforTots>.

COLLEGE NOTES

UW-Madison

The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized students named to the dean's list for the fall semester of the 2021-2022 academic year.

- Birnamwood: Halle Pietz, College of Letters and Science, dean's list; Cole Schairer, College of Agricultural and Life Science, dean's list; Marcus Schroepfer, College of Agricultural and Life Science, dean's list; Mitchell Schroepfer, College of Agricultural and Life Science, dean's list

- Gresham: Aurora Arce, School of Human Ecology, dean's honor list

- Shawano: Erin Cerveney, College of Letters and Science, dean's list; Avery Dreier, College of Letters and Science, dean's list; Brandi Gueths, School of Education, dean's list; Alice Hoffmann, College of Agricultural and Life Science, dean's list

- Wittenberg: Lindsey Schwalbach, School of Nursing, dean's honor list; Maya Thiex, College of Letters and Science, dean's list

- Abrams: Kaelyn Allen, College of Letters and Science, dean's list; Haley Bell, College of Letters and Science, dean's list; Scott Russell, College of Engineering, dean's honor list; Michael VerVelde, College of Engineering, dean's honor list

- Lena: Noah Kokko-Ludemann, College of Letters and Science, dean's list; Dylan Nelson, College of Letters and Science, dean's list

- Mountain: Ellen Stojak, College of Letters and Science, dean's list

- Oconto: Balin Welch, School of Business, dean's list; Alayna Westenberg, College of Letters and Science, dean's list

- Oconto Falls: Saffron Mears, College of Letters and Science, dean's list; Bethy Olson, School of Human Ecology, dean's high honors; Autumn Payette, College of Letters and Science, dean's list; Emily Tomesek, College of Agricultural and Life Science, dean's list; Ethan Winkler, School of Education, dean's list

- Sobieski: Erica Peters, College of Engineering, dean's honor list

- Eland: Alex Nelson, College of Engineering, dean's honor list; Brian Nelson, College of Engineering, dean's honor list; Michael Nelson, College of Engineering, dean's honor list; Stetson Potrykus, School of Pharmacy, honor roll

Students who achieve at a high level academically are recognized by the dean at the close of each semester. To be eligible for the dean's list, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester.

UW-River Falls

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls fall semester dean's list honoring 1,670 students has been released. The following students made the list:

- Gillett: Hunter Poffinbarger, biology; Gabby Wellnitz, animal science

- Suring: Jada Janiak, animal science; Kylee Stelzer, animal science

- Birnamwood: Rikki Jo Koplitz, marketing communications

- Bonduel: Kayla Ann Wagester, elementary education

- Mattoon: Chastidy Hayek, early childhood

- Shawano: Mallory Busch, elementary education; Emma Etten, animal science; Alexsis Montour, biomedical and health science

- Tigerton: Bridget Bazile, animal science

- Tilleda: Noah Bestul, agricultural education

To be named to the dean's list, a full-time undergraduate must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 on a scale of 4.0, or midway between an A and B average.

Northern Illinois University

Northern Illinois University announces its fall 2021 Dean's List students.

Students from Oconto Falls who achieved this honor include Hailey Kofoid, College of Business Dean's List; Hannah Kofoid, College of Business Dean's List.

To earn this distinction, students must meet a minimum semester grade

point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology or a minimum of 3.75 on a 4.0 scale in the colleges of Business, Education, Health and Human Sciences, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Visual and Performing Arts.

St. Mary's University of Minnesota

The following undergraduate students were named to the first semester 2021 dean's list at St. Mary's University of Minnesota:

- Bonduel: Emma Toellner

- Shawano: Peyton Buerman

The list includes 417 undergraduate students who earned a grade point average of 3.6 or better on a 4.0 scale.

Marquette University

Local students have been named to the dean's list for the fall 2021 semester at Marquette University in Milwaukee:

- Bonduel: Christian Wilber, Bachelor of Science, accounting

- Cecil: Jared Wondra, Bachelor of Science, finance

- Shawano: Autumn Gull, Bachelor of Science, biomedical sciences

To make the dean's list, students must have earned at least 12 credits for the fall 2021 semester and have no disqualifying grades.

Knox College

Caitlin Johnson, of Little Suamico, has been named to the Knox College dean's list of distinguished students for the 2021 fall term.

To be named to the dean's list, a student must have earned at least 2.5 credits in the term, with a grade point average of 3.6 or better (on a 4.0 scale).

Carthage College

More than 600 students have been named to the Carthage College dean's list for the fall 2021 semester.

The following area students earned the achievement:

- Pulaski: Geovanni Virella-Torres

- Bonduel: Jayson Toellner

- Shawano: Claire Guenther

- Oconto: Aubree Bucheger

Dean's list honors are accorded to Carthage students who achieve a minimum 3.5 grade-point average while carrying at least 14 credit hours during a semester.

Western Technical College

Chase Reinke, of Pulaski, and Elizabeth Ausloos, of Oconto Falls, were named to the Western Technical College President's List of High Distinction for the Fall 2021 term. To be included on the president's list, students must achieve a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher and carry six or more credits in an associate's degree or technical diploma program.

Northern Michigan University

The following students have been named to the dean's list at Northern Michigan University for the fall 2021 semester.

Qualifying with a 4.0 grade-point average were:

- Abrams: Morgan Helmle

- Coleman: Kailey Klimek

- Crivitz: Nathan Graetz

- Pulaski: Madeline Stencil

Qualifying with a grade point average of 3.50-3.99:

- Crivitz: Kody Richlen

- Pulaski: Chase Olson

- Sobieski: Claire Kintop

UW-Milwaukee

The following individuals have been named to the dean's list at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for the fall 2021 semester.

- Birnamwood: Lya Wendel, pathway advising

- Bonduel: Sydney Steinbach, letters and science

- Shawano: Jenifer Peralta Martinez, information studies

- Gillett: Camryn Long, business

- Lakewood: Haruki Toben, business

- Mountain: Anna Wood, education

- Oconto: Lauryn Nerenhausen, nursing

- Oconto Falls: Natalie Brauer, pathway advising; Taylor Tousey, business

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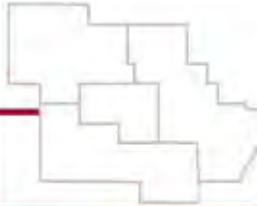
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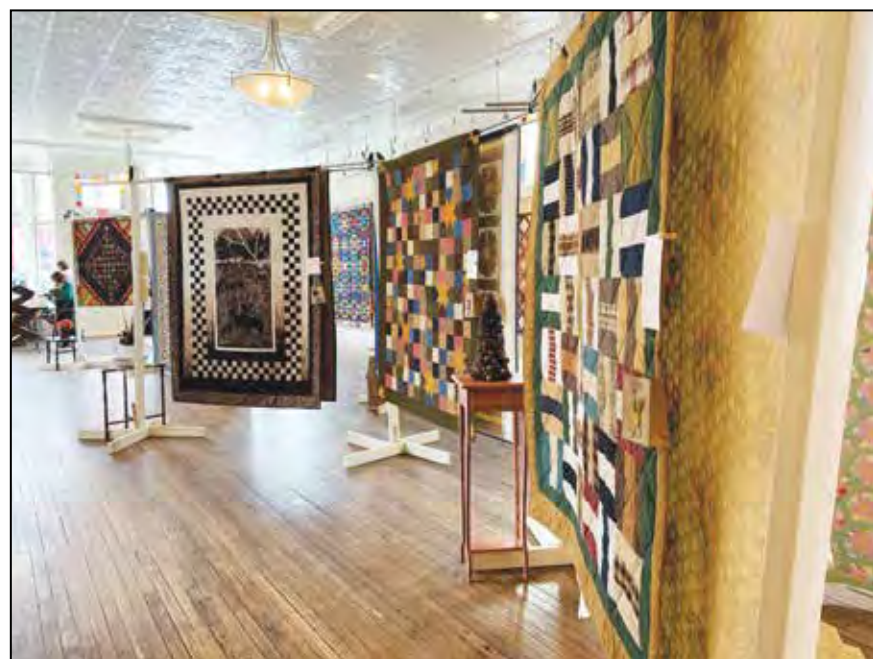
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ECWRPC director provides county annual update

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

Melissa Kraemer-Badtke, executive director of the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, provided her annual report to the Shawano County Board of Supervisors on Jan. 26.

"Over the past two years, we have been working at the commission to leverage in state federal funding for our core program areas," said Kraemer-Badtke. "Those core program areas include regional coverage of planning, economic development, transportation and our water quality management program."

Kraemer-Badtke said that in addition to these, ECWRPC also administers the NR135 non-metallic mining program for Shawano County.

"We recently received word from Calumet County that they would also like us to administer their program again," said Kraemer-Badtke. "There will be a contract that we are currently in the process of updating."

She said that the commission has been working with local communities in Shawano County, including

Shawano.

"We recently completed their comprehensive plan and a bicycle-pedestrian plan for the community," said Kraemer-Badtke.

She added that the ECWRPC is working within the Town of Lessor, helping to update its comprehensive plan, which should be completed in the next couple of months.

The ECWRPC is working on implementing a reorganization plan. According to Kraemer-Badtke, during this process it reduced the levy funds for each of their member counties.

"We currently have eight member counties, and here in Shawano County, the levy in 2020 was approximately \$49,452," said Kraemer-Badtke. "We have reduced that in 2022 to \$29,919, which is a difference of approximately \$20,000."

She said that even though ECWRPC has reduced its levy, it received additional federal funding for some of its program areas.

"The CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act is one grant that we received in Economic Development Administration," said Kraemer-Badtke. "We work with

communities on implementing economic development initiatives to receive funding from the Economic Development Administration."

She said that the CARES Act funding is \$400,000 over two years. ECWRPC received this in 2020.

"This is for developing a resiliency plan for the region," said Kraemer-Badtke. "Recently we conducted a technical assistance program, where we worked with communities that applied for assistance."

Kraemer-Badtke said that it hired a consultant, Ayers Associates.

"They came out and did a one day visit with the communities to talk about areas where they wanted to implement additional economic development activity," said Kraemer-Badtke.

She added that it is doing another round of technical assistance and asked that if there are communities in Shawano County who would be interested, for the board to reach out to her.

In addition to the technical assistance program, she said that the ECWRPC is doing a continuity plan.

"With COVID-19, there are a num-

ber of things that we have to change and modify based on our policy and procedures," said Kraemer-Badtke. "We are taking a look at some of those pieces and including cyber security."

Kraemer-Badtke added that they are also receiving funding for the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation Main Street Bounce Back program.

"The region received \$3 million to provide \$10,000 grants to small businesses that moved into recently vacant locations," said Kraemer-Badtke. "Those go to new or existing businesses or nonprofits."

She said that in Shawano County, ECWRPC has awarded 18 grants. It has approved over 200 grant applications throughout the region.

"Initially the program was for \$3 million, but recently we received a contract amendment for an additional \$3 million, which will give the region a total of \$6 million," said Kraemer-Badtke.

She said that these small business can use this money for mortgage payments and improvements.

ireimer@newmedia-wi.com



THANK YOU!

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood Youth Boys Basketball program would like to thank the 1954 Championship Basketball team for their generous donation of 100 reversible jerseys and shorts to our program! Pictured is our 7th grade team in their new uniforms at a recent tournament at WBHS.



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JAN JONES

The tiny seaside town of Garber was once a popular destination, but times and tastes have changed. It still gets a fair share of visitors, but some residents are eager to move into the modern age. One of them is willing to kill to make it happen.

Suzie Allen has lived in Burlington for most of her 50-plus years. She had a successful career as an investigative journalist but left that to work in interior decorating, but now she's restless for something new. Suzie loves digging into the history of old houses. Shewishes she could afford to buy one and restore it, but that's a dream.

Our story opens when Suzie's long-time best friend, Mary, arrives with news that her jerk of a husband is divorcing her and taking everything. The women have been friends since high school. Mary went on to raise a family and Suzie stayed single and built a career, but they stayed close.

While the two are commiserating, Suzie receives a call from a lawyer who says that she has inherited her uncle Harry's house in Garber. Suzie hardly knew Uncle Harry and Aunt Beverly, yet he has given her the grand old mansion known as Dune House. It doesn't take much to convince Mary to join her and head for Garber.

Harry and Beverly had run Dune House as a bed-and-breakfast, but when Bev died, Harry closed it up and became a recluse. They are greeted by Harry's son, Officer Jason Allen, but he isn't very welcoming and urges Suzie to sell the property so it can be demolished.

Suzie and Mary look past the layers of dust and outdated décor to envision a welcoming B&B. They immediately dive into clean-

AT A GLANCE

BOOK: "Seaside Secrets" (First in "Dune House Cozy Mysteries Box Set")

AUTHOR: Cindy Bell

PUBLISHER: Cindy Bell

YEAR PUBLISHED: 2014

NUMBER OF PAGES: 165

ing. Jason may have had a poor relationship with his father, but he soon warms to his cousin, Suzie, and she'll need his support.

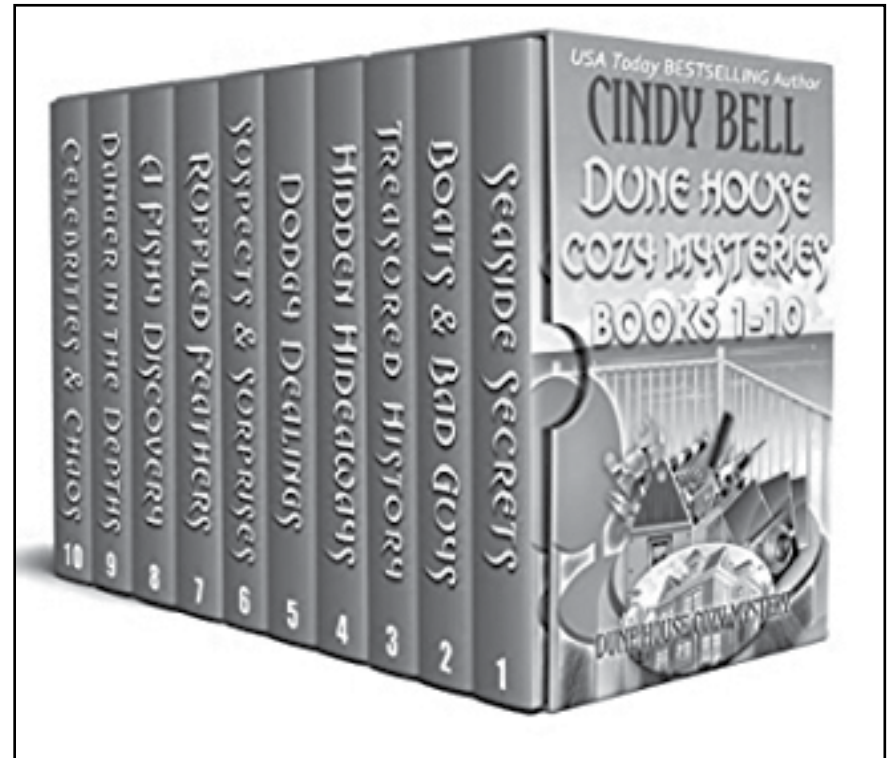
Both women are uncomfortable when they meet Mayor Thomas. Jason has warned them that the mayor was used to getting his way and Suzie senses he's dangerous. When he pushes hard for her to sell, Suzie is even more determined to keep Dune House.

Removing an old carpet reveals a hidden safe that leads them to a safety deposit box. It holds only a thumb drive and photos of a man and woman who appear to be arguing. They learn that the man is Mayor Thomas and the woman is his wife. He claims she ran off weeks ago, but Suzie doubts that since the man is wearing cufflinks that match the one they found in the house. Thomas also drinks the same exotic beer left in the refrigerator at Dune House.

Suzie begins to put the puzzle together. Over the years Mayor Thomas had created a corrupt network making him wealthy and powerful. No one dares go against him. On the night the pictures were taken, his wife told him she was going to turn him in, so he hit her with a wine bottle and threw her body into the ocean, then claimed she'd run away. Harry was an excellent photographer and captured the whole thing on his digital camera.

Harry knew all about Mayor Thomas and resigned himself to the fact that one day the mayor would find a way to get the property from Jason. So, Harry left everything to Suzie. He knew she loved old houses and hoped that she would find the hidden pictures and bring Mayor Thomas to justice.

That's just what Suzie did with a little help from Mary and Jason. With that mystery solved, Suzie and Mary are even more eager to get the B&B open and ready for more adventures.



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