



Wittenberg resident Mindy Leeder confers with defense attorney Joseph Kaupie after a hearing Feb. 21 in Branch II of the Shawano County Courthouse.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

Wittenberg woman's reckless endangerment case still in flux

Judge approves Leeder's requests for two out-of-state trips

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

The case involving a woman facing charges for pointing a gun at children in Wittenberg is still in flux, but she received approval to leave the state twice in the next couple of months on pre-planned family trips.

Mindy S. Leeder, 35, was charged May 10, 2023, with one count of first-degree recklessly endangering safety and one misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct.

If convicted, Leeder faces \$25,000 in fines and 12 1/2 years in prison for the first-degree recklessly endangering safety count and \$1,000 in fines and 90 days in jail for the disorderly conduct count.

Joseph Kaupie, Leeder's attorney, said during a hearing Feb. 21 that he has been in discussions with Shawano-Menominee County District Attorney Gregory Parker, and while they're still in discussions about an offer to settle the case, Kaupie is expecting to receive that offer soon.

"I talked with him two weeks ago, so I'm expecting that offer shortly," Kaupie said.

Kaupie then told Circuit Court Judge William Kussel Jr. that Leeder and her family had planned two trips out of state prior to charges being filed, and because her bond requires no leaving the state without prior permission from the court, she was requesting permission.

"I've spoken to the district attorney's office," Kaupie said. "In this matter, the state has stated they have no objection to that."

The first trip, according to Kaupie, is to attend a historical reenactment in Mississippi beginning March 8 with a return to Wisconsin scheduled for March 18. He said the second trip was to go to Niagara Falls to observe the total solar eclipse,

leaving April 6 and returning April 10.

Leeder agreed to sign a waiver of extradition regarding the two trips and did so during the hearing.

According to the criminal complaint, deputies were dispatched May 9, 2023, to 401 S. Mill St. in Wittenberg for a report of a weapons offense. The caller claimed that a woman was at Pond Park and was pointing a firearm at multiple children. When arriving on scene, a deputy was shown a video of Leeder as she allegedly pulled a gun from her waistband and pointed it at one of the children, who was recording the video.

The deputies were informed of the house that Leeder entered, at 301 E. Front St. When police officers pulled up to the residence, Leeder walked out of the house with her hands in the air, complying with law enforcement officials' orders. The firearm that Leeder had allegedly pointed at the children was found inside the residence.

The children who were at the park at

ENDANGERMENT, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Question, persuade, refer

School students, staff taught how to recognize whether someone in crisis

By **KEVIN PASSON**
Editor-in-chief

The Tigerton School District is the first Shawano County school district to offer QPR suicide prevention training to all middle and high school students, as well as staff.

"Being located in an underserved area means that giving students, staff, and community impactful training is all the more vital," said Megan Suehring, 4-H positive youth development educator for University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension Shawano County.

QPR stands for Question, Persuade, Refer. It is a suicide prevention training that intends for participants to be able to recognize the warning signs of suicide and question, persuade, and refer people at risk for suicide for help. Mental health advocates created QPR, which uses evidence-based training to teach the everyday person how to recognize whether someone is in crisis.

"That strong evidence base is one of the reasons that we can facilitate this training as part of Extension," Suehring said.

Tigerton school counselor Tori Hoffa said the QPR training was accepted well among the middle school and high school students.

"Some students had a hard time understanding the seriousness of the information being presented, and some students had a

CRISIS, CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Between 22% and 38% of adolescents have thought about suicide at some point in their lives, with between 12% and 26% reporting that within the last year.

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INSIDE

Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School wrestler wins state meet.

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Crosswalk by high school concerning to village board

Members seeking lights, better visibility on Grand Avenue intersection

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

Concerns about children crossing Grand Avenue between Wittenberg Elementary and Middle School and Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School are prompting the village of Wittenberg to seek help from Shawano County.

There is a crosswalk on Grand Avenue, but the

village is looking at other measures to make it more visible, such as flashing lights on a crosswalk sign and a street light in the vicinity of the crossing.

“They put two signs on it, but now the school is wondering about a street light,” said village board member Paul Yeager. “If we could get a flashing yellow light, though.”

Yeager noted the signs that are posted are “very dark,” and that some students in the winter months are crossing the road early in the morning before the sun is up, which puts them at risk when vehicles are

driving on the road.

“There is one girl that walks there at six o’clock, and that crosswalk is just pitch black,” Yeager said.

Because Grand Avenue is part of County Road Q, the village is wondering if the county would be able to assist with lighting. Yeager said that County Highway Commissioner Grant Bystol has been accommodating with other requests, including moving the crosswalk signs so they’d be visible to drivers leaving WBHS.

“Our elementary kids are walking there. Sometimes they’re going to the pool,” Yeager said. “At 3:30, some

kids are walking home.”

Board member Marlene Wepner agreed that something needed to be done to avoid any crashes.

“Traffic goes fast,” Wepner said.

Board member David Timm noted that, even with all the precautions, it might not deter all speeders on Grand Avenue to slow down.

“There might be a certain few that just don’t stop,” Timm said.

Board member Tanya Lange recommended that brighter paint be used on the crosswalk to make it more visible, even at night.

“I would like to see yellow paint on the road,” Lange said. “With the signs, it might help.”

Board member Theresa Gatz recommended that the village also look at signs and lights on Grand Avenue at the intersection with Wittenberg Family Restaurant. She noted that’s a high pedestrian area, as well, and presents just as much risk of vehicles hitting someone crossing the street.

“That is also a very busy child area,” Gatz said. “Most school zones in the larger cities, they have (lights). It’s not like it’s foreign to them.”

Gatz added that the

village and the county shouldn’t wait until there is a crash at either intersection to do something about it.

“That doesn’t sit well with me,” Gatz said. “Just because there hasn’t been an incident doesn’t mean we shouldn’t be looking out for these kids that are crossing the road.”

The village planned to contact Bystol about the flashing lights. A street light would be the village’s responsibility, however, and the board is expected to take up the issue at its next meeting March 5.

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How does a Shawano County foreclosure sale work?

Reasons vary for those who buy homes and lots

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-chief

Every second Wednesday of the month, Shawano County Chief Deputy Ty Raddant or another high ranking official with the sheriff’s office presides over foreclosure sales in the lobby of the county courthouse.

In February, about a dozen people stood or sat quietly waiting for 9 a.m. to roll around and for the proceedings to begin.

It’s more laid back and quieter than a typical auction, and you won’t hear high-speed bid calling rolling off Raddant’s tongue.

The presiding officer begins by reading the court order for the foreclosure sale, and then asking the plaintiff or his or her representative for an opening bid.

That’s when the bidders can call out.

On Feb. 14, the first active sale was for W5863 North Beach Blvd., Shawano. The judgement was for \$76,964.97, and the plaintiff’s opening bid was a low \$31,480.41. Seconds later, a second bid for \$42,000 was made, and in less than a minute, the sale



Ryan Engel, center, and his wife, Ashley, talk with another attendee at the Feb. 14 sheriff’s sale at the Shawano County Courthouse. The Engels purchased a home on North Beach Boulevard on the north end of Shawano Lake they will repair before either selling it or renting it.

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was complete.

Things didn’t happen quite as fast for the second property, a home at 708 S. Lincoln St., Shawano, with a judgement of \$38,407.99. The plaintiff’s opening bid was higher than the judgement this time at \$44,342.83.

The next bid simply rounded the amount to

the next full dollar, followed by a handful of bids, each increasing by \$50, at which point the first bidder dropped out and a third bidder entered.

Sitting at a bid of \$44,650, the two bidders went back and forth 20 times, each adding \$50, sometimes \$100 or more, until the final bid

of \$47,000 was accepted.

Ryan and Ashley Engel, owners of Wolf River Holdings, purchased the North Beach Boulevard property.

“We haven’t bought a foreclosure before even though we’ve been here,” Ryan Engel said. “We’re not new to the game. We’ve been doing this for about

five years now.”

“We usually find them off market for dirt cheap,” Ashley Engel added.

Over the years, the couple has purchased about 20 properties.

“We own a dozen rental properties in the area,” Ryan Engel said. “We’re always looking to buy.

Either we find them and fix them and sell them ... or we keep them. We put renters in there.”

This latest property is close to home for them.

“It’s about a mile and half from our house, so getting back and forth is easy enough to fix it up,” Ryan Engel said.

He is a licensed and insured contractor. He brings in professional help when needed, including HVAC and electrical assistance.

Ashley Engel, who can also perform much of the repair work, handles the books for the company.

Immediately after the sheriff’s sale, the prospective buyer must make a down payment equal to at least 10% of the purchase price made in the form of cash, money order, cashier’s check or certified check.

Once the court confirms the sale, the remainder is due within 10 days. Failure to post the remaining balance due will result in the forfeiture of the down payment to the plaintiff.

All property is sold “as is” and subject to all real estate taxes, accrued and accruing, special assessments, if any, penalties and interest, and any existing first in time mortgages or leasehold interests. The buyer must also pay all transfer and recording fees and the cost of title evidence.

ENDANGERMENT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the time told law enforcement that Leeder came to the park to yell at them because they were allegedly bullying her children. The children said that they were not bullying. They stated that Leeder was pointing the gun at them and waving it around in the air.

The children reportedly told Leeder that they were going to call the police. From there, the criminal

complaint states that Leeder put the gun in her pocket and went to the Front Street residence, where law enforcement arrested her.

In an interview with Leeder, deputies claim she stated that she could hear her daughter yelling when the daughter was at Pond Park. Upon hearing the yelling, Leeder stated that she wanted to walk over to the park to see what was going

on. She also stated that it is common for her to take a concealed firearm with her when leaving the residence, as she has a valid concealed carry permit. She claimed the firearm was loaded.

Leeder told deputies that when she was leaving her residence, her daughter came home and reported the bullying, but did not specify what the bullying was, according to the criminal

complaint. Leeder told law enforcement that her children have experienced bullying at Pond Park in the past.

When addressing the group of children at Pond Park, Leeder said that the children became argumentative and began to form a semi-circle around her. She allegedly told the children that she had a firearm and, when asked if it was real,

she allegedly pulled the gun out of her pocket. She reportedly pointed the gun in the air without putting her finger on the trigger, saying that she did not point the gun at any of the children and was being situationally aware of her surroundings. She said that the children got scared and that she put the gun back into her pocket after holding it in the air.

When questioned by law enforcement whether presenting the firearm was necessary, Leeder reportedly said: “It probably wasn’t; I was probably just nervous and scared. I don’t like confrontation, to be honest.”

Another hearing was scheduled for 9 a.m. May 7 in Branch II of the Shawano County Courthouse.

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WITTENBERG

BIRNAMWOOD

ENTERPRISE & NEWS

(USPS 868-800)

Published weekly

by NEW Media Inc

d/b/a Wittenberg Enterprise & Birnamwood News

PO Box 313 Wittenberg WI 54499

Periodicals postage paid at Wittenberg WI 54499

Member, Wisconsin Newspaper Association

Office

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

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

Telephone

715-526-2121

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: NEW Media Inc, 1464 E. Green Bay St., Shawano WI 54166

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CRISIS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hard time emotionally handling the information,” she said. “As we see our mental health needs grow, especially in our youth, I think that the QPR program should be implemented in the majority of school districts, as hopefully having the training will lead our youth to make positive mental health choices more often.”

Extra help for rural areas

Suehring has worked with a variety of school districts in Shawano County, especially on the western end. Often, that area is not prioritized for services as it is rural, compared to Shawano, the county seat.

“We have an opportunity to connect rural residents with services and education,” Suehring said. “The embodiment of Extension is to take education to people who need it the most, and that means delivering programs in villages and towns throughout our 893 square miles.”

Low-income families and those living in poverty have higher risks of poor mental health than financially stable households. Food insecurity is closely intertwined, with clear impacts on children’s mental health.

“Among Wisconsin high school students who are food insecure, six in 10 report anxiety and depression, and four in 10 self-harm,” Suehring said. “Tigerton School District has a 56% free or reduced lunch rate. This is not indicative of mental health per se, but if we know that this is a potential indicator, why wouldn’t we look to give youths and their families more tools?”

Beyond the lack of mental health resources in Wisconsin as a whole, people living in rural areas face unique lifestyle barriers that play a role in determining whether they get the mental

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- Extension specifics on how to support youths: <https://extension.wisc.edu/supporting-youth>
- QPR: <https://qprinstitute.com/about-qpr>

health care they need.

“Stigma, that mark of ‘disgrace’ associated with a particular diagnosis, sign or symptom, often keeps people from asking for the help they may need,” Suehring said. “Folks often fear negative judgement from family, friends and members of their communities. As members of small, close-knit communities, many rural people also worry about being able to maintain confidentiality concerning a mental illness.”

Other rural challenges to mental health include too few mental health care providers close to home, lack of adequate insurance to cover the costs of mental health care costs and solitary lifestyles.

“There are nearly 37 million rural Americans — more than half of rural residents — who live in mental health professional shortage areas,” Suehring said. “All of Shawano County is considered a mental health professional shortage area.”

In addition to a lack of adequate insurance coverage, there may be a lack of understanding of treatment types, costs and accessibility. It can be intimidating to say “yes” to counseling or therapy services without knowing how long a person might be seeking services.

For a youth who needs a



The Tigerton School District is the first Shawano County school district to offer QPR suicide prevention training to all middle and high school students, as well as staff. The median number of years a child experiences symptoms of emotional distress before receiving treatment is 11.

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parent to drive him or her an hour in each direction for mental health care, that parent will need to miss work for up to three hours for each session, possible for months at a time.

“It can be difficult to find an employer that is going to be supportive of someone leaving for half a day, weekly, for a quarter of the year even if a person has the vacation or sick time to utilize,” Suehring said.

Rural residents often have limited access to affordable, reliable broadband internet, with nearly 30% of rural Americans lacking internet in their homes. This means that telehealth appointments are not an option.

“Internet connectivity and capacity is indeed a problem in Tigerton and outlying areas of the district,” Suehring said. “Tigerton School District has been offering a space for telehealth appointments.”

Hoffa said she doesn’t expect to see big changes overnight.

“I am hoping we will see the benefits of this program in the long run with

the mental health of our students at Tigerton and in the community,” she said. “Our telehealth program is a great resource for our students and it is an efficient way to have our students connect with someone on a more consistent basis.”

Children old enough to learn

The QPR training is aimed at middle school and high school students, and Suehring said that age range is not too young. She shared these numbers:

- The median number of years a child experiences symptoms of emotional distress before receiving treatment is 11. Fifty percent of mental health problems are established by age 14 and 75% by age 24.
- Youths are experiencing the signs and symptoms of mental health challenges. (Adults are too. The rate is about one in five.) Often, people (especially adolescents) lack the knowledge of how to describe what they’re experiencing.
- “We want youths to know what those signs, symptoms and phrases might sound or look like

so that if they hear a friend share something concerning, they have the confidence to connect to a caring and competent adult,” Suehring said.

• Between 22% and 38% of adolescents have thought about suicide at some point in their lives, with between 12% and 26% reporting that within the last year. More than 20 years of school-based prevention programs have failed to document any cases of stimulating suicidal behavior through the discussion of the topic.

Pebbles Peterson, principal in the Tigerton School District, said the QPR training is only the beginning of its newly established Mental Health Task Force, a collaborative effort with UW-Extension.

“In the upcoming months, we have a Youth Mental Health First Aid program scheduled for both students and staff,” she said. “This strategic initiative aims to equip our school community with the essential skills needed to address mental health challenges effectively. Further enhancing our commitment,

a dedicated team of teachers is actively coaching the Source of Strength program tailored to meet the complex needs of our students.”

Training program to expand

Suehring said the QPR training isn’t limited to Tigerton.

She has shared mental health education with several schools in the county the past few years. This year, Bowler School District also provided QPR training to staff, and teen Mental Health First Aid to the sophomore class. Working with the College of Menominee Nation, Suehring and others have provided training for college staff and the Boys and Girls Club staff.

“I have taken this type of education into local organizations, from the staff of Shawano County Jail Staff to SAM25,” Suehring said.

Suehring said the QPR training can be completed in about an hour and should be repeated about every two years.

“The goal with QPR training is to get as many people as possible well-versed in the signs and know how to take actionable steps,” Suehring said. “Suicide prevention is everybody’s business, and the QPR Gatekeeper Training works to make everyone feel confident that they can help out during a crisis.” Suehring believes your brain is just as important as your heart.

“We likely wouldn’t bat an eye if a friend experienced a heart attack and now had to seek some sort of therapy, medication, medical appointments, lifestyle changes or nutrition guidance,” she said. “Why should we treat our brains any differently? Everyone needs to be able to talk about their mental health just as easily as their physical health.”

Youth development educator drives positive change

Wisconsin Idea stipulates that education should influence people’s lives beyond the classroom walls

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-chief

Megan Suehring serves as the 4-H positive youth development educator for University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension Shawano County.

Her office is in the county courthouse, but she said her work is located along the many criss-crossed miles that make up Shawano County.

Suehring oversees the Shawano County 4-H program, which includes more than 700 enrolled youth members (grades kindergarten through the year after high school) and adult volunteers that span 19 4-H community clubs and two weekly after-school programs in Gresham and Marion school districts.

“4-H is a positive youth development program that focuses on helping young people build life



Youth and mental health is an identified concern that has surfaced repeatedly from Shawano County schools, youth-serving organizations, and coalitions such as the Thedacare Community Health Action Team and Healthy People Shawano and Menominee Counties.

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skills,” Suehring said. “4-H involves youths in project-based education where youths can explore their interests and master new

skills. 4-H projects are meant to be hands on to create a memorable learning experience.”

Since 4-H started in the

early 1900s, youths have learned by doing. This hands-on process allows youths to understand not only how to do something

but also why they are doing it. A part of Suehring’s time is also devoted to driving positive change in Wisconsin communities to promote health and well-being.

“Our research-based programs are focused on mental health promotion, substance use prevention and access to health care,” she said. “We’re working together to help solve the state’s most pressing well-being needs and to ensure that all Wisconsinites have the opportunity to live stronger, healthier lives.”

Youth and mental health is an identified concern that has surfaced repeatedly from Shawano County schools, youth-serving organizations, and coalitions such as the Thedacare Community Health Action Team and Healthy People Shawano and Menominee Counties.

Suehring has been able to access professional

development to serve as a local trainer in QPR (Question. Persuade. Refer), Mental Health First Aid (for teens, youth-serving adults and adults), COM-ET (Changing our Mental and Emotional Trajectory) and Learning to Breathe (for middle school and high school, mindfulness).

“Much of our area does not have access to this type of training for free or reasonable rates,” she said. “Through connections with UW-Madison and several grants (Rural Opioid Technical Assistance), I am able to do just that.”

UW-Extension embodies the Wisconsin Idea, which stipulates that education should influence people’s lives beyond the boundaries of the classroom. Extension brings the research of the university to the people of Wisconsin.

Recovery center needs helping hand in Shawano

Permanent setup needed as directors move their offices

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

The Shawano-Menominee Recovery Center exists to help people battle alcohol, drug and other issues, but the program is in need of a helping hand, as well.

Dozens of people gathered at the center Feb. 21 to discuss short- and long-term plans for its future, and it was revealed that the center was originally slated to close its current location at 710 E. Green Bay St. in Shawano on March 1 but will instead keep the current site open until the end of April.

For over a year, the center has had two operational directors who have been available at the center to assist those who are seeking help to fight back their addictions, according to Leann Gueths, the recovery center's board chairwoman. However, those coaches are moving their offices to the Shawano County Job Center in March, she said, leav-



The existing Shawano-Menominee Recovery Center at 710 E. Green Bay St. in Shawano will be closing at the end of April, and it's hoped another location will be found by then.

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ing the recovery center without people to work there and help someone who comes in off the streets seeking help.

"The center was not conducive to their new roles, and because of that, they're moving to the job center March 1," Gueths said.

After learning about the directors leaving in early February, the board met to look at what could be done next to transition the program, and that's when the initial decision

to close the center March 1 was made, Gueths said. However, that decision generated a lot of response, she said, which led the board to keep the center open for another couple of months.

In the interim, the center is hoping that volunteers will help to man the center in March and April, which prompted discussion on when to keep the center open. Normally, the help desk is manned from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays, but

attendees were concerned that later times would be more conducive to helping those in need, especially those who work during the day.

Meetings for Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous are already being relocated to Zion Lutheran Church and First Presbyterian Church, both in Shawano. However, the fate of the recovery center after April is still up in the air, although a committee was formed to look into the matter and see if there is another place that could be used.

"We will have to come up with a plan for the future," Gueths said, noting that the existing

facility requires paying \$1,900 monthly in rent and the group has not yet received its 501(c)(3) nonprofit status yet.

Community officials reiterated that the recovery center is needed. Pastor Uriah Williams with Peace United Church of Christ said the place is a resource for local people that wasn't here a couple of years ago, and it needed to continue to exist.

"It's been phenomenal having this place open, because we're one of the few churches that has a compassion fund," Williams said. "Since this place has opened, I've seen a lot fewer people coming to the church looking for resources, I think because they're coming here."

Williams pointed out he and the staff at his church aren't trained and certified to provide recovery assistance, so having the recovery center in Shawano provides a better chance that addicts who need help can get it.

"To have a central location to be able to refer people is phenomenal, from the clergy perspective and from the church perspective," Williams said.

Shannon Wilber, human services director for Menominee County, expressed how bad the situation could get without a local recovery program to help people who can't shake the pills or alcohol.

"I'm a Menominee tribal member, and I'm a

resident and community member here, and I know a lot of our community members come down (to Shawano) and utilize this facility," Wilber said. "It was important to me that we work through a process and that we come together and we don't drop this recovery support housing because it's needed."

Wilber knows from experience that help can be a slower process than getting drunk or high, but the process would slow down considerably without a local facility to help.

"It's always been known to me that a person can go out and get high or get drunk than to get into some recovery services," Wilber said. "That's very disheartening to me, but what I'm hearing is that there is some interest in keeping something going."

Wilber noted that the Menominee tribe has its Maehnowesekiyah Wellness Center on the reservation, but it is very difficult for tribal members to get into. That makes the local recovery center essential, she said, because it is community-based.

"We need it in our community, and we definitely know you need it here in your community," Wilber said. "I don't want to see you fail, and I'm willing to do what I can to help the process."

For information on the recovery center, call 715-201-0367 or email smrc72023@gmail.com.

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

OBITUARIES

Vardian A. James

Vardian A. James, 88, of Clintonville, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024.

Eberhardt-Stevenson Funeral Home and Crematory, Clintonville.

TYPE A NOTICE OF REFERENDUM ELECTION FOR THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

April 2, 2024

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the several towns, villages, cities, wards, and election districts of the State of Wisconsin, on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, the following questions will be submitted to a vote of the people pursuant to law:

QUESTION 1: "Use of private funds in election administration." Shall section 7 (1) of article III of the constitution be created to provide that private donations and grants may not be applied for, accepted, expended, or used in connection with the conduct of any primary, election, or referendum?"

QUESTION 2: "Election officials." Shall section 7 (2) of article III of the constitution be created to provide that only election officials designated by law may perform tasks in the conduct of primaries, elections, and referendums?"

This referendum ballot is a result of 2023 Enrolled Joint Resolution 78, a copy of which can be viewed or downloaded from the Wisconsin Elections Commission website at <https://elections.wi.gov/memo/certification-referendum-question-and-type-notice-referendum-april-2-2024-spring-election> and also on the Legislature's website at https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2023/proposals/reg/sen/joint_resolution.

A copy also can be obtained from the office of the county clerk, or the Legislative Documents Room at 1 East Main Street, Madison, Wisconsin.

DONE in the Clerk's Office of Shawano County this 1st day of March, 2024.
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Support available for businesses affected by lack of winter snow

Gov. Tony Evers and U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin) announced that many Wisconsin businesses may be eligible for a federal disaster loan program if they have suffered losses due to this year's unusually mild winter, which lacked Wisconsin's typical snowfall in many areas of the state.

Evers and Baldwin have been advocating for the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to confirm this disaster coverage extends to businesses impacted by Wisconsin's extraordinary winter conditions. SBA has since confirmed it will consider business loss from recent low snowfalls over the winter months to be related to the drought and eligible for assistance.

The lack of snow has impacted travel and recreation businesses that depend on it for activities such as downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling.

"The lack of snow we've experienced so far this winter has had serious economic impacts on folks and businesses, especially in

our northern counties, who rely on snow and winter weather to attract customers and be successful," said Evers. "I encourage all eligible businesses to apply for these loans as soon as possible, and in the meantime, I encourage Wisconsinites to plan a trip, visit local businesses and find other exciting ways to enjoy winter in Wisconsin in our beautiful northern and central communities."

Many counties in the state are already covered by a pre-existing disaster designation for drought from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This designation allows businesses in counties identified as drought disaster areas to be eligible for emergency loans to offset their business losses in those counties if their business loss is related to the drought.

The National Weather Service reports that snowfall statewide has been 20-30 inches below normal this winter. In the Lake Superior snowbelt, generally across Ashland, Iron, and Vilas counties, snowfall was 40-70 inches below normal.

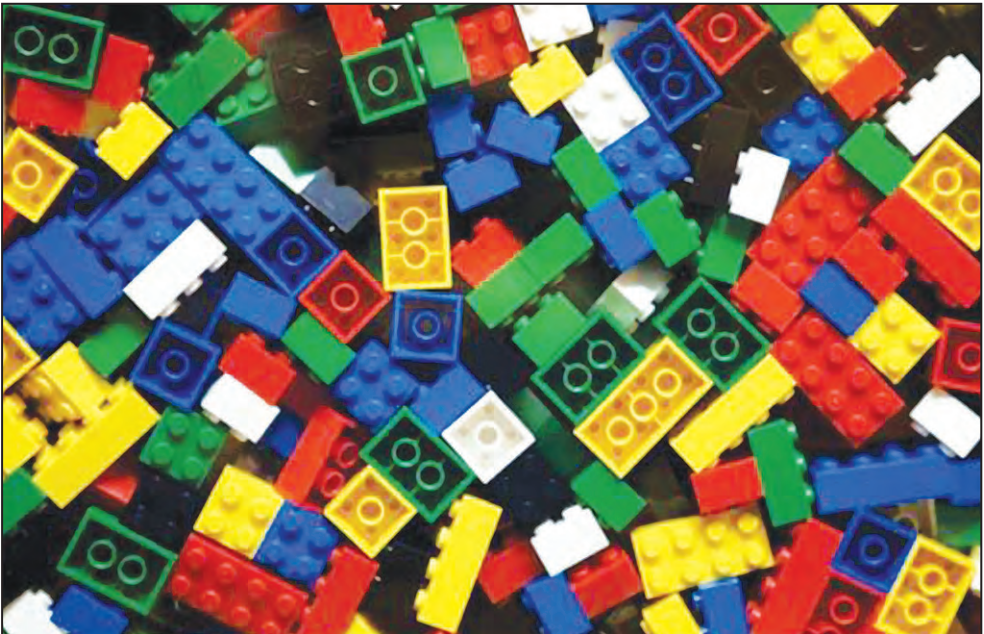
Impacted businesses in counties with a drought declaration can apply for the U.S. SBA Economic Impact Disaster Loans (EIDL). Under the EIDL program, businesses can borrow up to \$2 million to cover their actual losses. Businesses pay no interest on the loan for the first year and a maximum rate of 4% for the rest of the loan period.

To take advantage of the program, businesses must apply by the application deadline for their county.

May 13 is the application deadline for Ashland, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Menominee, Oconto, Shawano and Taylor counties.

Businesses may submit applications and find additional disaster assistance information at <https://lending.sba.gov>. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance.

Applicants may also contact the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation with their EIDL-related questions at EIDLInquiries@wedc.org



Youths 3-17 are encouraged to pull out their tub of Legos, build the best house out of Legos they can, snap a photo of the house and submit it to the Wolf River Builders Association for a chance to win prizes. CONTRIBUTED

Young Lego builders invited to enter contest

All children ages 3-17 are invited to enter a Lego home building contest sponsored by the Wolf River Builders Association.

Those selected as the winners will receive prizes donated by Bryan Nemetz Construction and Knope Heating and Air Conditioning.

Submissions are due March 22. Winners will be announced March 24.

Youths are encouraged to pull out their tub of Legos, build the best house out of Legos they can, snap a photo of the house and submit it by Facebook Message to www.facebook.com/

[WolfRiverBuildersAssociation](mailto:wolfriverbuilders@gmail.com) or by email to wolfriverbuilders@gmail.com.

Include the first name, age and city of residence of the child who built the house.

A team of experts will select the winners. Depending on entries, winners will be broken into age categories, as well as a category for entries from outside the builders association's service area of Shawano, Menominee and Oconto counties.

All the homes and winners will be posted to the organizations's Facebook page.

Mosinee mayor announces Assembly run

Mosinee Mayor and Republican Brent Jacobson will run for the Wisconsin Assembly this fall in the newly created 87th District.

"As I talk to people in and around my community, they are looking for strong leadership and fiscal responsibility from our elected officials," he said. "While some communities have struggled to attract businesses and residents, we have gained them. I



BRENT JACOBSON

plan to use the same drive and determination to move our state and region forward if chosen by the people of central Wisconsin to be their next representative in the Legislature."

Jacobson, 39, is a husband and father, born and

raised in Mosinee where he has served as mayor since 2015. Jacobson is a practicing attorney and small business owner.

He has previously served on the Marathon County Board. He has chaired a multi-jurisdictional fire and EMS department, planning commission and tourism commission.

The new 87th Assembly District includes a portion of Shawano County.

Weight restrictions in place for county roads

The Shawano County Highway Department imposed seasonal weight restrictions on various county roads Feb. 26.

The weight restrictions are 6 tons gross load for single axle and 10 tons gross load for each tandem axle (any two axles under 8 feet apart). The maximum gross vehicle weight is 26 tons.

Seasonal weight restrictions are enforced annually in the spring during the time that the frost is coming out of the ground. This is necessary to protect the pavement, which is susceptible to damage by heavy loads during this time of year. The list of roadways with restrictions and additional informa-

tion can be found at www.co.shawano.wi.us/departments/highway-departments/general-information/forms_and_documents.

These weight restrictions are for county highways only. Any weight restrictions on state, city, village or town roads are handled by each individual entity.

NEWS CORRESPONDENT

On any given day, there are countless stories just waiting to be told. Our staff reporters can only cover so much, so we count on correspondents to help out when the need arises.

NEW Media is looking for help in covering meetings and events in Oconto County, Menominee County and western Shawano County. Anyone with a curious mind, a photographer's eye and the skill to turn a phrase can apply.

Send a resume with writing and photography samples to city editor Lee Pulaski at lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com.



REPORTER/NEWS EDITOR

NEW Media is seeking a bright and energetic reporter who has aspirations to be a news editor someday, as one of our staff members is pondering retirement. We seek talented journalists who can seize someone's attention with carefully developed words, eye-catching photographs and captivating videos in a fast-paced news environment where digital comes first.

The reporter/editor candidate would spend much of their time covering Oconto County, although occasionally a story could take them to Shawano County or Menominee County. Editors also work with freelancers to help out with stories when needed and seek out potential writers to add to the papers' richness.

NEW Media tells the local stories that are ignored by other media outlets and provide the facts that are covered up by the keyboard gossips on social media. We're seeking someone versatile in what they cover, can turn stories around quickly, and can sniff out stories on their own. While the office is a base of operations, we want someone who'll be out in the community gathering the news.

All are welcome to apply, including recent or pending college graduates. Photography and copy editing skills are a must, and experience with shooting and editing videos could bring you to the front of the line. Experience laying out pages is also helpful, but we can train in-house.

Send a resume, cover letter explaining why you want the job and four to six samples of your work to editor Kevin Passon at kpasson@newmedia-wi.com.



Abrams theater to present 'Oklahoma!'

Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. will perform the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "Oklahoma!" for two weekends in March.

Directed by Ali Carlson, "Oklahoma!" will be presented March 14-17 and March 21-24 at the Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St., Abrams.

"The audience will enjoy the recognizable songs, but more importantly, they will enjoy the dancing. The choreography is truly the gem of this production," Carlson said.

The musical "Oklahoma!" opened on Broadway for the first time in 1943, and the ASPI show incorporates some of the original choreography.

"Our fantastic dance corps is bringing the magic of Agnes de Mille's original choreography to life, and I just love it," Carlson said.

"Oklahoma!" tells the love story of Curly, a handsome cowboy portrayed by Bobby Buffington, and Laurey, a beautiful farm girl, portrayed by Julie Johannes-Frohlinger. Set in western Indian territory just after the turn of the 20th century, the spirited rivalry between the local farmers and cowboys provides the backdrop for the love story.

Some of the show's most memorable songs are "The Surrey with the Fringe on Top," "People Will Say We're in Love," and "Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'."

Carlson said cast members have inspired her with their talent and ambition from the start.

"I have never directed a show before where the engagement and the drive from the cast was felt right away, from day one," Carlson said. "When they all started to sing the title song, 'Oklahoma!' I got chills."

Carlson has been developing her vision for the show for the past five years.

"Seeing my vision come to life is truly one of the proudest things I have ever done," she said.

"Oklahoma!" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of The Rodgers and Hammerstein Organization, www.concordtheatricals.com. The music is written by Richard Rodgers, book and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein, and original choreography by de Mille. The musical is based on the play "Green Grow the Lilacs" by Lynn Riggs.

Tickets are on sale now, \$17 for adults, \$15 for senior citizens over 65 and children ages 5-17. Children ages 4 and younger are \$8. To order tickets, visit abramstheater.com or call the box office, 920-826-5852.



Bobby Buffington, as Curly, and Julie Johannes-Frohlinger, as Laurey, rehearse a scene from "Oklahoma!"
CONTRIBUTED



Coffee and food customers linger on the main floor of The Mill, a new boutique and coffee shop in Bonduel. The new shop opened in late 2023, in a century-old feed mill at 201 S. Cecil St. NiCole and Keith Fischer bought the landmark in 2020 and took three years to restore and repurpose it into a thriving local business.
LYNN ZAFFRANN

Old mill now happening hotspot for Bonduel

Fischers create coffee shop, boutique as village embraces new business

By **LYNN ZAFFRANN**
Correspondent

The century-old Bonduel landmark feed mill on South Cecil Street (state Highway 117) has an exciting new life after a three-year rehabilitation by NiCole and Keith Fischer.

The Mill, Bonduel opened in late 2023 as a boutique and coffee shop, with an homage to the history and community of the village of Bonduel.

The Fischers were looking for a site for NiCole's photography business in 2020 and asked the mill's owner to see the building. Three days later, according to Keith Fischer, they did a walk-through and immediately fell in love with the place.

"There was the great big grain bin on the top. It was wide open, right into this part of the building," he said, while looking out over the center of the coffee shop area from the balcony. "Rain was coming in and there was a lot of water damage."

Pointing to the clean and airy interior now, he said, "This was three years of ambition and hard work."

The current building was built in 1913. Two previous mills on the lot had burned down.

"Originally, in the 1850s, the first feed mill/grist mill was built in the same spot," Keith Fischer said. "It burned down in 1880; then they rebuilt it. It burned down again, in July 1913. A group of farmers came together and formed



Zack Olsen picks up his cup of coffee from barista Kaela Kroening at The Mill, a new coffee shop in Bonduel. Olsen works at KI in Bonduel and stops in daily for coffee.
LYNN ZAFFRANN

AT A GLANCE

WHAT: The Mill
WHERE: 201 S. Cecil St., Bonduel
WHEN: The coffee shop is open 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays and 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekends. The boutique is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays.
PHONE: 715-851-4400
WEBSITE: www.themillbonduel.com

a co-op, with the intention of it never being able to burn down again. So, that's why it's all brick, with a metal roof."

There are three thick layers of brick, according to Keith Fischer. He said that it's a solid, sturdy building, and as long

as it has some maintenance, it should last a long time.

"As we walked through, we saw so much more potential. This is way too big for a studio," NiCole Fischer said. "So, originally, our whole reason for this place was for a photography studio. Now, there isn't even a photography studio in here."

The coffee shop serves hand-crafted coffee and tea, and NiCole Fischer claims The Mill has the best coffee in Wisconsin. Originally, the Fischers weren't planning to serve food at all, but now they have a full-time cook making

Garden trends point to animal sanctuaries

Each year, a number of garden marketing groups and organizations predict and highlight trends among consumers and gardeners. This year, among the many trends being predicted are a number of tried-and-true projects and hobbies that gardeners have long been passionate about.

This week, here's a look at some of the gardening trends taking place locally and nationally.

Several home and garden organizations spot color trends among property owners, as well as home and garden art and projects. This year's hot color is cyber lime — a bright, almost neon lime green that has captured the attention of home and garden decor businesses and trendsetters.

Cyber lime shows itself in many forms. There are many plants that are decorated with lime-colored foliage, such as coleus varieties and coral bells and ninebarks, smoke-



bush and others. It is also displayed in garden art and accent pieces, as well as doors, window frames and a number of other garden elements.

Bumblebees are especially hot in 2024. Gardening for them has become all the rage. One species, especially, in Wisconsin, the rusty-patched bumblebee, is officially on the federal endangered species list.

Growing and gardening for bumblebees and other pollinators is a hot trend in 2024.

Of course, there are monarchs, and, as always, the trend in gardening is to provide more nectar sources for monarch butterflies, as well as their host plant, milkweed.



Gardening for bumblebees, as well as learning to identify the species of bumblebees found in Wisconsin, is a hot trend in 2024. ROB ZIMMER

Growing and providing nectar sources throughout the season — most notably late in summer and into fall, after Labor Day — is essential to rebuilding

monarch numbers. We will talk much more about the monarch situation throughout the year. Moving house plants outdoors into the sum-

mer garden is another hot garden trend. Growing and including house plants in our exterior gardens and landscapes is a fun trend and one that

I hope to see continue to rise here in our state.

Another trend among gardeners is transforming yards and gardens into foraging oases.

More than just a typical, traditional row garden filled with edibles, the new trend is expanding edible plants to fill the entire yard.

By combining nut trees, berry bushes, greens, fruits and vegetables, root crops, herbs and more throughout the entire yard, not just limiting them to a garden bed, is a growing trend.

Imagine being able to walk out into your garden and yard and forage edible plants and greens, nuts and berries throughout the seasons.

Much more to come on new plants for 2024 in my next column.

Rob Zimmer is a nature and garden author, public speaker and radio show host on WHBY. Readers can find him on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RobZimmerOutdoors.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

SURING: World Day of Prayer, 10:30 a.m., Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, 11005 County Road M. Theme Ephesians 4:1-7. Light lunch to follow.

KRAKOW: Lenten fish fry, 4:30-6:30 p.m., St. Casimir Catholic Church, W146 Park St. Dine in, carry out or delivery (within a short distance). \$22 per meal, kids grilled cheese option \$5. RSVP by texting or calling Julie at 920-676-3320.

WITTENBERG: "The Case of the Motorcoach Murders," doors open 5:30 p.m., WOW-SPACE, 114 Vinal St. Cross-roads Community Theatre dinner theater. \$40. Advance tickets only, available at Wittenberg Sentry or by calling 715-253-3525.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

SHAWANO: Zurko Indoor Flea Market, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Shawano Community Hall, 115 E. Division St.

TOWN OF RICHMOND: Maple Syrup Hike, 9:30 a.m., Sugar Shack Trails, N7061 Ash Road. Arrive 15 minutes early to get gear on and register. Option

of three guided hikes, and chance to buy maple syrup straight from the cooker. Hike is free, donations appreciated.

KELLY LAKE: Snake Fest, 1 p.m., The Little Bar, 9388 County Road G. Proceeds will be donated to Brazeau Dive Team. Five-person teams, \$125 per team, sign up by bar close March 1, fish on Kelly Lake only, 25-fish limit, winners based on total length of northern pike. Teams must be at the bar by 2:30 p.m. Meat raffle and 50/50 raffle.

WITTENBERG: "The Case of the Motorcoach Murders," doors open 5:30 p.m., WOW-SPACE, 114 Vinal St. Cross-roads Community Theatre dinner theater. \$40. Advance tickets only, available at Wittenberg Sentry or by calling 715-253-3525.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

PULASKI: Casimir Pulaski Days Polka Mass, 10:30 a.m., Assumption BVM Catholic Church, 124 E. Pulaski St. Featuring the Maroszek Brothers.

MONDAY, MARCH 4

LITTLE SUAMICO: American

Red Cross blood drive, noon to 5 p.m., St. John's Lutheran Church, 1253 County Road J. Appointments can be made by downloading the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 800-733-2767.

KESHENA: Running and walking program, 4:40-6:30 p.m., Omaeqnomenewak Wetohkatikamek Center, 2700 Mianaceqtawak Road, Keshena. Infused water provided during the week, and a family snack-making station is provided on Saturdays. Information: Chelsey Latender, 715-799-5431 or chelseyl@mtclinic.net.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

SHAWANO: Medicare Basics information session, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Shawano County Human Services, Room 115, W7327 Anderson Ave. RSVP by calling ADRC (Aging & Disability Resource Center) at 855-492-2372 or email adrc@adrcwolfriver.org

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

PULASKI: Polish Night, 5:30 p.m., American Legion

Hall, 135 N. St. Augustine St.. Casimir Pulaski Days event hosted by Promote Pulaski Inc. and Polish Heritage Society of Northeast Wisconsin. \$45. Social 5:30 p.m., dinner 6 p.m., movie "The Zookeeper's Wife" to follow.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

KESHENA: Running and walking program, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Omaeqnomenewak Wetohkatikamek Center, 2700 Mianaceqtawak Road, Keshena. Infused water provided during the week, and a family snack-making station is provided on Saturdays. Information: Chelsey Latender, 715-799-5431 or chelseyl@mtclinic.net.

OCONTO: Oconto County Historical Society Speaker Series, 6:30 p.m., Beyer Home and Carriage Museum meeting room, 915 Park Ave. David Retzlaff, military history exhibit team leader, to present on Oconto's Company C battle against Japanese forces in Buna, New Guinea, in 1942.

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

KESHENA: Winter Farm-

ers Market, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., College of Menominee Nation Cultural Learning Center, N188 State Highway 47-55. Artisan Native crafts, hot food, baked goods and more. Sponsored by the college's Sustainable Development Institute.

PULASKI: Casimir Pulaski Days Polka Jam, 2-6 p.m., Jen's Knaughty Pine, W1539 County Road S.

OCONTO: Knights of Columbus Fish Fry, 4-7 p.m., Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 716 Madison St. Raffle.

WITTENBERG: "The Case of the Motorcoach Murders," doors open 5:30 p.m., WOW-SPACE, 114 Vinal St. Cross-roads Community Theatre dinner theater. \$40. Advance tickets only, available at Wittenberg Sentry or by calling 715-253-3525.

PULASKI: Casimir Pulaski Days Polka Dance with TNT, 7-11 p.m., Mountain Bay Bar and Grill, 104 S. Wisconsin St.

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

SHAWANO: Zurko Indoor Flea Market, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.,

Shawano Community Hall, 115 E. Division St.

NAVARINO: Winter Fungus Seminar, 9-11 a.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Tickets \$10. Register at 715-758-6999 or www.navarino.org.

SHAWANO: Cabin Fever Craft Fair, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Shawano Civic Center, 225 S. Main St.

PULASKI: Casimir Pulaski Days, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Pulaski Historical Museum, 129 W. Pulaski St.

SHAWANO: Pulaski Fire Department Nine-pin Bowling Tournament, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Lakeshore Lanes, 210 Airport Drive.

PULASKI: Concertina/Accordian Swap Meet, 2-5 p.m., Scolly's Hometown, 149 W. Pulaski St. Live instrument auction 3:30 p.m.

WITTENBERG: "The Case of the Motorcoach Murders," doors open 5:30 p.m., WOW-SPACE, 114 Vinal St. Cross-roads Community Theatre dinner theater. \$40. Advance tickets only, available at Wittenberg Sentry or by calling 715-253-3525.

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FARM LIFE FROM A FARM WIFE

Warm winter prompts jump on collecting sap

The old farmer adage “make hay while the sun shines” can apply to a myriad of situations. It just means git while the gittin’s good, whether it be out in the field or in our case just now, out to the woods to collect sap.

For two years, we only hung pails, which we found was a challenge to say the least, especially hauling five-gallon pails full of sap down a slippery slope. Our first year, we put up 60 pails. Last year we added 10, covering all with folded tin hats to avoid snow, rain, tree bark, etc., from getting into the pails.

This year, we’ve tried something new. We took advantage of the natural slope of our ridge and gravity the good Lord provides and purchased lines, as well as a 20-foot hose, taps, connectors, ends and splices in preparation to set up sap lines.

My husband, along with the help of a good buddy and our daughter when she was home for Christmas, strung six 3/16-inch lines, 3,500 feet in all. On a 60-foot incline, starting at the top, they wove the lines around hard wood trees for stability and around maples to be tapped later, all flowing downward toward two totes at the bottom. To keep lines



elevated lessening deer activity, using two-inch staples, he nailed the lines to a couple of ironwood trees.

He put in a boatload of work on this project. Sitting diligently at our kitchen table during off-weather late winter afternoons, my husband snipped 190 2-foot lines off the string, fashioning taps and splices at each end using a tool he borrowed from a friend. Also, it took him two weeks, trucking up into the woods for about two hours every day, attaching tap lines into the lines strung around the trees.

Heading to Denmark on a lead from Marketplace, we purchased two more totes. These my husband carted down to the ridge using our multi-purpose skid steer with the fork attachment instead of the bucket. Perching them on a 10-foot-high rim on our ridge, we’re able to drive alongside to empty them via gravity into our two totes that are kept on our trailer. A 2-inch, 20-foot hose drains sap from our

collecting totes to our transporting totes.

Before we got started in all of this, my husband gathered information. Hop-ping on our four-wheeler, we scouted others who had put up lines in their woods and picked their brain. Also, he’s a member of an online group called Maple Syrup Producers of Wisconsin, which has questions and answers given by seasoned sappers. Knowledge is power. We’re still learning. It’s a process.

Among questions and answers, members post victories and trials. One guy stated, “Feb. 13, 600 gallons so far. 2.75 test, keep ‘er going.” The test he mentioned is for sugar content. The higher the test, the better the payout.

The trees pour forth their bounty when the weather conditions are just right, never mind the calendar. Ideally, nights should freeze solid and days warm up to sunny 40s. First week of February, one sunny Sunday afternoon we set out to put taps in, 190 in all.

Meeting our friend in our yard, we headed up to the woods. Each man held a drill, I held a hammer and shadowing my husband, followed him around the woods switching out the hammer for the drill and



Stationary totes on the ridge are getting sap siphoned into transportation totes on a trailer via a 2-inch blue hose 20 feet in length. KAY REMINGER

the drill for the hammer. He’d stretch up as far as he could reach, drill a hole and patting the tap in place, go on to the next tree. By the time we got to the bottom, the sap was spurting out like a waterfall.

Along the edge of the ledge where maples are easily accessed, my husband hung 45 pails this year. I wasn’t on board as thinking our lines were supposed to be replacing pails. Just before dusk one early evening, he walked into the kitchen for supper, his blue eyes sparkling.

“What? You’re smiling like a cat that caught a mouse.”

“Just put up 45 taps and hung pails, and it’s already

running.”

How can I argue with this man? He acts like it’s the first day of deer hunting.

During the course of the early season we doubted ourselves countless number of times, even when we drove up to Charlie in Tilleda with the biggest daily harvest at that point, 410 gallons (hey, it adds up) and found him closed for lack of business. The larger sap collectors hadn’t even tapped yet. (This reminded us of small, no-clout, family-owned dairy farms being overshadowed by mega dairies.) Calling around, we contacted four people we thought perhaps would buy sap and finally, thankfully, we got a bingo on the last

guy tried.

Even though it’s a challenge, this project has created a deep sense of satisfaction as we work together out there in the woods. We are humbly grateful to be able to harvest not only venison and wood, but also the rich produce of sap from the land we have on loan from our Heavenly Father.

(“Yes, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.” Psalm 85:12)

Kay Reminger was born and raised on a dairy farm, and she married her high school sweetheart, who happened to farm for a living in Leopolis. Writing for quite a few years, she remains focused on the blessings of living the ups and downs of rural life from a farm wife’s perspective.

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Webster named CMN Student of the Year

Chenoa Webster has been chosen as the College of Menominee Nation's Student of the Year.

She received an associate degree in early childhood education from CMN in May 2023 and is continuing to work toward her bachelor's degree in elementary/middle school education.

Webster has always had a passion for working with children and youth development. She decided to return to college after being at the top level of her field that she could without having a degree, but feeling like she was not reaching her full potential.

She has been enrolled at CMN since fall 2020 and has fully immersed herself in the CMN community.

Webster's academic experiences are noteworthy,



CHENOA WEBSTER

including receiving the Indigenous Education Student internship at CMN's Sustainable Development Institute, leading her to several opportunities, including traveling to Alaska and Norway for cultural exchanges, presenting in Denver, Colorado, at the Falcon Conference, and her involvement in the Kenatamowonawak Early Childhood Educators Project in which she led talking circles with her peers.

"Tribal colleges like CMN offer a positive, safe and culturally responsive space to learn, grow and heal," Webster said. "CMN is that special place for me,

and I will be forever grateful for my experiences here that will continue to guide and inspire me for the rest of my life. I am honored and humbled to be selected as Student of the Year and will represent CMN well in all aspects and endeavors."

CMN's Student of the Year receives a \$1,200 scholarship and will join those from other accredited tribal colleges and universities honored annually through the American Indian Higher Education Consortium.

The College of Menominee Nation is an accredited Tribal College that offers a variety of programs from technical diplomas to baccalaureate degrees. CMN has two campuses with locations in Keshena and Green Bay, and is open to all.

Shoe box collection efforts for 2024 underway

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child shoe box collection is underway for 2024 at Grace Lutheran Church, 501 S. Main St., Oconto Falls.

Ellen Pritzlaff, local coordinator, said this year's goal is 600 shoe boxes filled with basic school sup-

plies, small stuffed animals, games, puzzles, washcloths, bar soap, combs, brushes, toothbrushes, anything suitable for young children ages 2-14. No candy or liquids will be allowed.

Monetary donations are welcome. Items can be placed in the blue tote

by the church office at any time. Questions can be directed to Pritzlaff at 920-362-5752.

This year-round shoe box project is an effective means of sharing the gospel with children and their families throughout the world.



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- Elaine, Golden Pond Tenant



If I could be back on my farm that's where I would be, but I cannot. I love going on the outings, making new friends and sharing stories

- Ambrose, Meadowlands Tenant



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MILL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

breakfast offerings, such as egg sandwiches.

On weekends, they have six employees, keeping the coffee shop busy. NiCole Fischer noted that people park down the street from The Mill just to enjoy what the business has to offer.

Everything is healthy and hand-crafted, not microwaved. The Fischers are pleased about the feedback and that people are coming specifically for the food.

The boutique offers mostly women's fashions in an area separated from the coffee shop by another room.

The Mill will have whiskey, bourbon and wine flights soon, acknowledging the growing popularity of bourbons and wines. They expect that vacationers heading north may be drawn in by the availability of specialty bourbons and wines.

"We're going to have coffee flights, with alcohol in them," NiCole Fischer said.

"Like bourbon creams, or mimosas," Keith Fischer added.

"We thought we should probably add alcohol to coffee, because it's Wisconsin," NiCole Fischer said with a laugh.

The alcohol will be in the middle room, between the coffee shop and the boutique.

"We still have landscaping to do," NiCole Fischer said. "Outdoor seating, a fenced-in area for dog, like if they're coming from a distance, they could stop and run their dogs."

She noted that The Mill has brought the community together and turned into a destination spot in Bonduel, with out-of-town visitors asking about other locations in Bonduel.

"I'll recommend the Rustic Shed, local bars, restaurants," NiCole Fischer said. "If people can start growing from this now, Bonduel would not be just a drive through to another place. We're hoping that eventually, this will be a reason to stay."

Keith Fischer is a coach for Bonduel youth sports, coaching about 25 teams over the last 10 years. He's very involved in the community and recently was named Bonduel's police chief.

"We love this community. We've totally invested everything in this community," NiCole Fischer said. "A local guy came in and talked about all of the vintage pictures we have on the walls. I wish this was my town. I appreciate all of pictures we have here, but it has to be really cool to see these pictures if you were born and raised in Bonduel to be able to see all of this."

The couple have five children. Four are in the Bonduel school system and one is in the Air Force.

"We always preach to our kids that you should do something for your community to make it better," Keith Fischer said. "Don't be the person complaining about things and not doing anything."

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Three area girls claim state wrestling titles

Whiting captures second straight crown

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Three area girls brought home first-place titles from the the 81st annual WIAA Individual Wrestling Tournament and the third Girls Individual Wrestling Tournament held in conjunction Feb. 22-24 at the Kohl Center on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Winning titles were Brooke Hoffman of Wittenberg-Birnamwood at 185 pounds, Harlow Skenandore of Pulaski at 145 pounds and Taylor Whiting of Lena at 107 pounds. It was Whiting's second consecutive title.

Hoffman's string of victories started with a pin of Sophie Walter of Holmen in 47 seconds. Next, she pinned Mercedes Kohlmann of New Holstein in 1:07.

Her semifinal match featured another pin, this time in 1:44 over Adrianna Logue of Richland Center.

For the championship, Hoffman notched a fourth straight pin, this one coming in 1:19 over Ella Creighton from Lake Geneva.

Skenandore opened the tournament with a 9-3 decision over Matilda Burns of Ashland, followed by a 12-6 decision over Madalyn Sokolski of Bonduel.

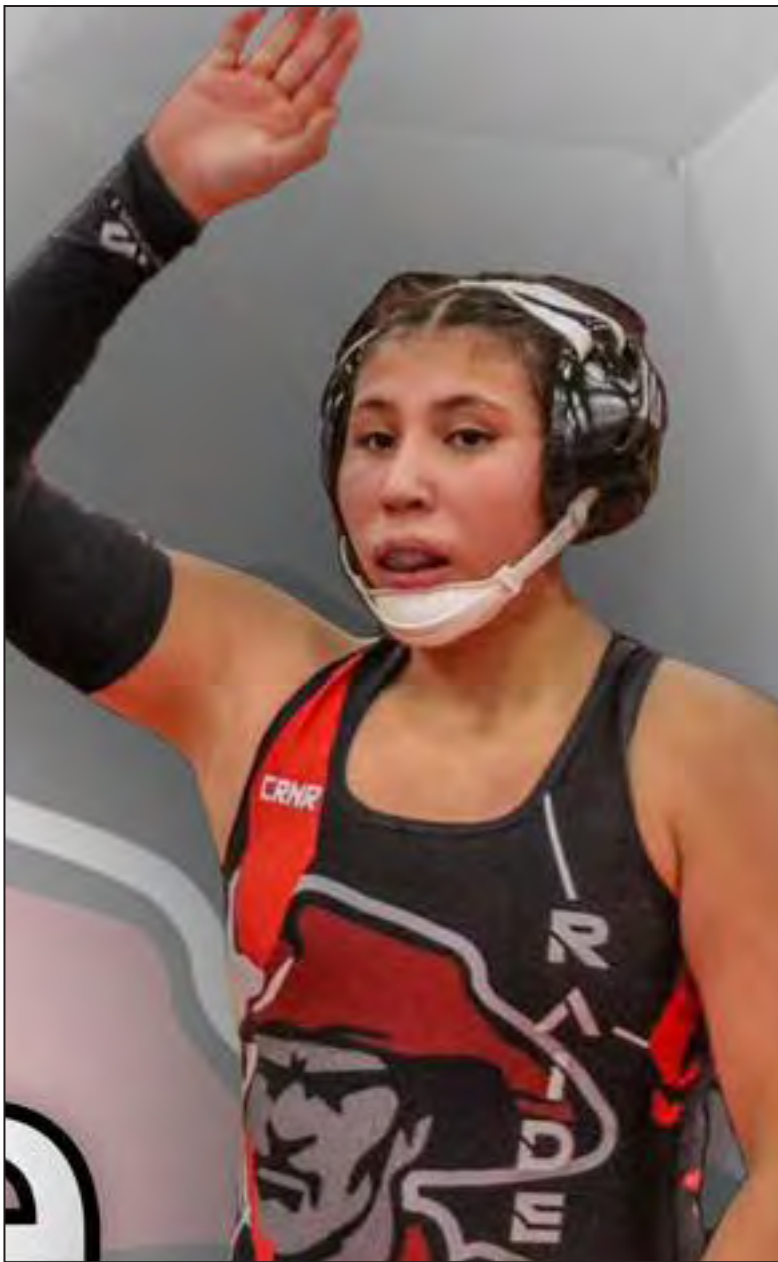
In her semifinal match, Skenandore pinned TaHonesty Donnell of Milwaukee Ronald Reagan/Salem in 43 seconds. She won the title on a 5-1 decision over Sydney Andrews of Beloit.

Whiting began her return to the title spot with a pin over Sarah Mrazek of Oshkosh West in 48 seconds. That was followed by a 12-7 decision over Megan Schuenemann of Plymouth and then a 10-0 major decision over Cailyn Whittier from Waukesha.

In the title match, she defeated Pulaski's Ava Peters 3-2.

As for Peters, she first pinned Cathy Zhang of Arrowhead in 20 seconds, then pinned Kaytlynn Lambries of Holmen in 1:50. Her third match ended in her pinning Brooklyn Lull of Fennimore in 1:49.

Sokolski advanced to the championship final in each of the



Wisconsin state wrestling champions include Harlow Skenandore of Pulaski, above at left, Taylor Whiting, above at right, and Brooke Hoffman, below at right. FACEBOOK

past two tournaments, winning the title at 138 in 2023 and finishing runner-up at 132 in 2022.

This year, she initially pinned Adaimee Lemus of Waukesha West in 46 seconds, then lost a 12-6 decision to Harlow Skenandore of Pulaski.

In her quest for third place, she pinned Burns of Ashland in 4:02, then pinned Tessa Felter of Muskego in 2:08, followed by another pin at 1:42 against Shelly Bullman of Eau Claire North.

In her final match, she won 6-4 over TaHonesty Donnell of Milwaukee Ronald Reagan/Salem.

At 138 pounds, Bonduel's Hailey Berg finished in third place.

She opened with a pin of Myia Cobbs of Whitewater in 4:43.

That was followed by a 7-0 deci-

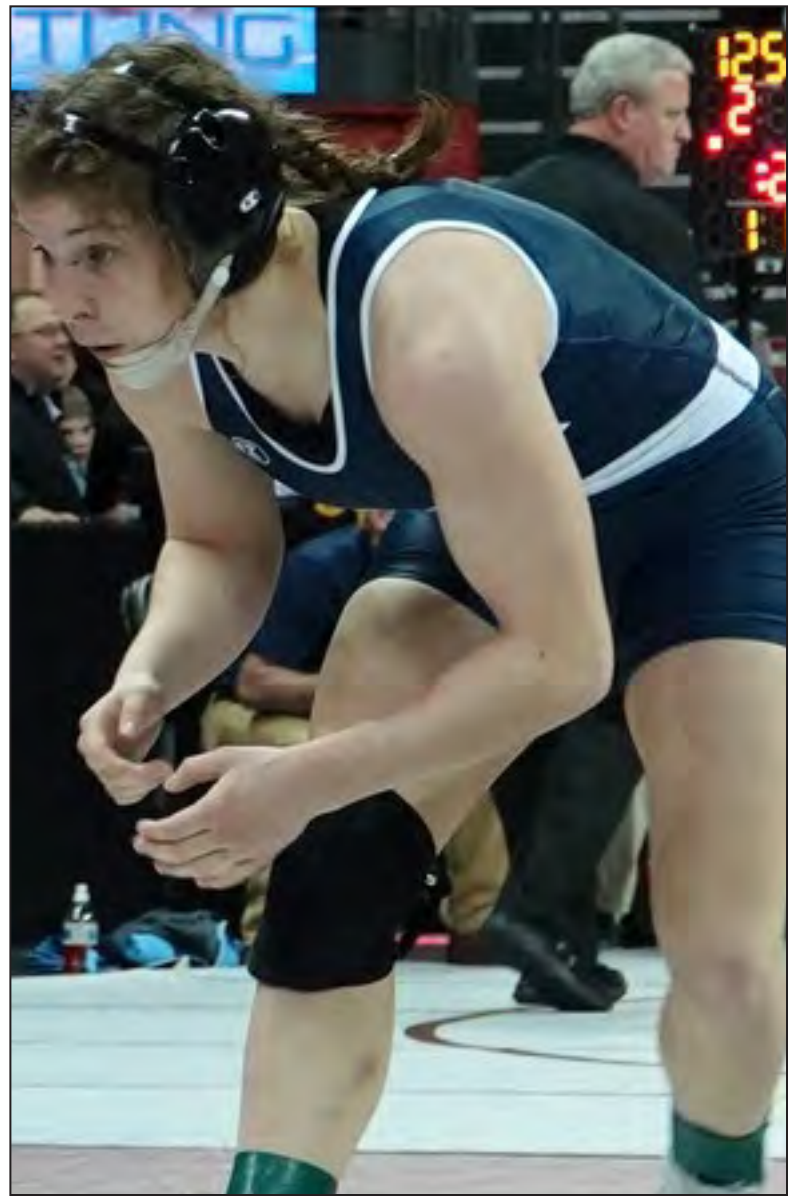
sion over Leah Kapla of Pulaski. She was pinned in 40 seconds by Tiani LeMieux of Sturgeon Bay.

Wrestling in the consolation bracket, Berg won 11-3 over Emily Anderson of Bangor. For the third-place finish, she pinned Macki Kaz of Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau/Melrose-Mindoro.

Alisha Berg of Bonduel, wrestling at 165, placed fourth.

Berg opened with a pin of Lauryn Robert of Menasha in 1:15, then pinned Gwen Breckheimer of Chilton/Herbert in 1:08. Getting pinned by Katie Davis of Belmont/Platteville in 5:59 sent her to the consolation bracket.

She defeated Amerrah Kayon of Shoreland Lutheran 9-8, then lost the third-place match when she was pinned in 24 seconds by



Sophia Bassino of Sun Prairie.

Kapla pinned Hailey Firari of Hustisford in 2:53 before losing to Bonduel's Hailey Berg. She would go on to pin Whitewater's Cobbs in 3:41, then lost 3-0 to Natalia Poplawski of New Berlin.

At 100 pounds, Bonduel's Kaitlyn Kroening pinned Daisy Altmann of Nicolet in 5:16. Next, against Kylie Klum of Westby, she was pinned in 2:45. In her final match, she was pinned in 2:58 by Clara Jauch of Milton.

Oconto Falls' Bozile takes second place

Pulaski's Woosenkraft finishes in fourth place in Division 1 competition

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

For the Bonduel boys, wrestling at 113 pounds in Division 3, it was Jaxon Bogacz, and at 150, it was Colin Fischer.

Bogacz lost his first match of the state wrestling tournament 10-2 to Kaleb Lodahl of Cadott. He then lost 11-2 to Lukas Orloff of Pecatonica/Argyle.

Fischer was defeated 5-2 by Logan Peterson of Cumberland.

Lena was represented by Sam Peterson at 113 pounds in D3. He lost 12-0 to Colin Cournoyer of

Stratford.

Oconto Falls wrestlers were in D2. Garrett Ganter wrestled at 106, Cole Bozile wrestled at 138, and Nick Trepanier was at 190.

Ganter opened his tournament play with an 11-0 win over Nick Lara of Jefferson, then a 16-1 loss to Shane Rochon of Dodgeville. In the consolation bracket, he lost 2-1 to Jake Jan-drin of Luxemburg-Casco.

Bozile ended up in second place. He started with a 4-2 decision over Stanley-Boyd's Breckin Burzynski, followed by a 12-2

decision over Marcus McIntyre of Brodhead/Juda. For the title, he lost 3-2 to Caleb Delebreaux of Luxemburg-Casco.

Lake Mills' Owen Burling defeated Trepanier 7-1.

For Wittenberg-Birnamwood, wrestling in Division 2, Andres Sanchez wrestled at 144, Bryson Schmid was at 165, and Owen Schultz wrestled at 285.

Sanchez started with a 12-3 win over Trig White of Chetek-Weyerhaeuser/Prairie Farm, followed by a 16-4 loss to Braedon Dorshorst of Lodi. In

the consolation bracket, Sanchez lost 4-3 to Drew Hird of Prairie du Chien.

Schmid beat Whitewater's Sebastian Cuellar 5-0 but then lost 15-0 to Owen Wasley of St. Croix Central. In his first consolation match, he lost 10-3 to Nic Deheck of Kewaskum.

Schultz battled to a 2-2 score against Willy Graham of Stanley-Boyd, but Graham moved on in the bracket.

Chase Woosenkraft wrestled at 190 for D1 Pulaski. He opened with a 9-1 win over Nate Behrndt

of Hamilton, and he followed that up with a 6-2 decision over Brayden Albee of Regis/Altoona.

Unfortunately, his next match ended with a 25-10 loss to Connor Mirasola of West Bend West.

In the consolation matches, Woosenkraft beat Reed Falk of Middleton 9-2. He finished in fourth place with a 5-2 loss to Watertown's Owen Sjoberg.

Drake Herm wrestled at 138 for D1 Shawano. He was shut out 6-0 by Edwyn Schroeder of Oshkosh West.

Boys basketball regular season ends

Friday, Feb. 23
Bowler's regular season came to an end with a 72-26 non-conference loss to Florence.

Thursday, Feb. 22
Bonduel beats Menominee Indian

Eleven players scored for Bonduel, which finished the regular season at 14-0 in the Central Wisconsin East Conference and 23-1 overall after its 91-58 victory over Menominee Indian.

The Eagles ended the year at 2-12 in conference action and 3-20 overall.

Noah Weier led the Bears with 20 points, including four 3-pointers. Also scoring in double digits were Race Anvelink with 19 (including five 3-pointers), Ryan Westrich with 16 and Cade Johnson with 12 (including a pair of triples).

Leading the Eagles were Maech Corn with 15 points, and Kenew Awonohopay and Anikohsaeh Corn each with 12.

Bonduel led 48-30 at halftime and continued its high-scoring ways with a 43-28 second half.

Marion tops Bowler
Marion wrapped up the regular season with a 67-41 Central Wisconsin North Conference win over Bowler.

The Mustangs ended the regular season at 7-3 in the conference and 25-9 overall. The Panthers dropped to 1-9 in league play.

Gillett
Gillett (14-2, 17-7) finished the regular season with a 77-45 win over Marinette & Oconto Conference foe St. Thomas Aquinas Academy.

The Tigers held a comfortable 37-19 lead at the half and was just as comfortable in the 40-26 second half.

Aydin Franti led Gillett with 18 points, while Jesse DeBauch added 14 and Nathan Powell contributed 12.

DeBauch leads the team with an average 22.3 points per game, as well

as 8.9 rebounds per game. Franti scored an average 17 points per game, while Ben Matczak scored an average 14.5 points per game and pulled down an average of 3.6 rebounds per game.

Crivitz won the conference crown with a 15-1 record, followed by Gillett, Niagara at 11-5, Oneida Nation at 10-6 and Coleman at 9-7. Finishing below .500 were Wausaukee at 5-11, St. Thomas at 4-12, and Lena and Suring at 2-14 each.

Gresham
Gresham ended its 2023-24 regular season campaign with a 66-37 loss at Northland Lutheran.

The Central Wisconsin North Conference loss dropped the Wildcats to 1-9 in the conference and 1-22 overall.

Lena beats Suring
Lena squeaked out a 42-39 win over Suring and managed to tie at 2-14 in the Marinette & Oconto Conference rather than being alone in last place.

Trailing 20-17 at the half, Lena outscored their guests 25-19 in the second half to earn the three-point win.

Lena's points came from Mason Spice with 17, Tyler Shallow with eight, Caleb Schlosser with seven, Mason Belongia and Anthony Seefeldt with four each, and Logan Graef with two.

For Suring, Michael Bailey scored 12, Taylor Booth Stoffregen and Trent VanDenElzen each contributed nine, Jacob Cornell added five and Quinn Thomson pitched in four.

Lena finished 5-19 overall, and Suring was 4-19.

Oconto Falls
Oconto Falls's regular season ended with a 76-34 loss to Freedom.

Freedom won both halves by similar scores, 37-19 before the break and 39-15 after the break.

None of the Panthers scored in double digits. Alex Haines led the team with seven points, and Conner Wilquet and Easton Engel each had six.

Haines also led the team with six rebounds, six players each had one assist, and three players each recorded a steal.

For the final conference standings, it was Fox Valley Lutheran 18-0, Freedom 15-3, Clintonville 13-5, Little Chute 11-7, Waupaca 10-8, Wrightstown 9-9, Denmark 7-11, Marinette 3-15, Luxemburg-Casco 2-16 and Oconto Falls 2-16.

Pulaski
Pulaski edged Sheboygan South 74-66 to finish in a four-way tie for fourth place in the Fox River Classic Conference.

The Red Raiders finished 9-9 in the conference, as did Manitowoc Lincoln, Sheboygan South and Bay Port.

De Pere took the conference title at 18-0, followed by Ashwaubenon at 15-2 and Sheboygan North at 10-8. At the bottom of the conference were Notre Dame at 8-9, Green Bay Preble at 2-16 and Green Bay Southwest at 0-18.

Shawano
Victory in the final game of the regular season was going to be a long shot for Shawano when they went up against Bay Conference champion Xavier. And the long shot came up short, as Shawano lost 91-52.

Logan Sipple led Shawano with 14 points. He also leads the team with an average of 20 points per game.

Anderson Schmidt scored 11 points, and Warner Beyer added 10.

Xavier finished the season at 14-0, with New London and West De Pere tied at 10-4. Seymour finished 9-5 as the fourth team to finish above .500. Menasha was next at 6-8, followed by Shawano at 5-9 (8-16 overall), Green Bay West at 2-12 and Green Bay East at 0-14.

Tigerton
The Tigers ended their regular season on an 11-game winning streak, the latest victory being a

69-18 win over Wolf River Lutheran.

James Brady and Gavin Kielblock led the Tigers with 12 points each, and Cameron Carlson scored 11. Caleb Dahlstrom's six points came from a pair of 3-pointers.

Brady led his teammates with six rebounds, Carlson and Sam Anheuser each recorded three assists, and Carlson had seven steals.

Tigerton led 43-3 at halftime and outscored Wolf River Lutheran 26-15 in the second half.

Tigerton won a conference title with an 8-2 mark and was 20-4 overall.

Witt-Birn
A huge second half propelled Wittenberg-Birnamwood to a 63-56 win over Shiocton to end the regular season.

Trailing 34-24 at halftime, the Chargers stormed back with a dominating 39-22 second-half performance to capture the win.

"(We) played well offensively tonight, moved the ball well and hit open shots," coach Garrett Rogowski said. "A great way to end the conference and regular season."

Jett Rogowski led the way with 22 points, while Oliver Fraaza scored 18. Also scoring for Wittenberg-Birnamwood were Zander Barke and Hayden Miller with seven points

each, Marshall Fraaza with six and Jaden Clark with three.

The Chargers finished with a 9-5 mark in the Central Wisconsin East Conference, good enough for second-place tie with Weyauwega-Fremont. Overall, the team was 12-12.

Monday, Feb. 19
Gillett beats Suring
Gillett improved to 13-2 in the Marinette & Oconto Conference, while Suring dropped to 3-13 after Gillett defeated Suring 64-33.

Gillett posted a 20-point lead at the half and added another 11 points to their cushion in the second half.

Jesse DeBauch set the pace for Gillett with 19 points, including one 3-pointer and two free throws. Aydin Franti scored 14 points that included two 3-pointers, and Thomas Carmody added 10, which also included two triples. Ben Matczak sunk two 3-pointers as part of his eight points.

Taylor Booth Stoffregen led Suring with 10 points, including a pair of triples and a pair of free throws. Seven others scored the other 23 points.

Lena
Mason Spice and Caleb Schlosser each scored 15 points, but Lena came up short in a 63-46 loss to Coleman in the Marinette & Oconto Conference.

Scoring the other 16 points for Lena were Anthony Seefeldt, Mason Belongia, Logan Graef, Zander Thomson and Tyler Shallow.

Coleman led 28-16 at halftime and outscored the Wildcats 35-30 in the second half to widen their margin of victory.

Lena dropped to 1-14 in the conference and 4-19 overall.

Marion
Marion is 14-9 overall after a 69-45 non-conference win over Stockbridge.

Shawano
The Hawks picked off the Red Robins in an 82-56 non-conference victory. Shawano improved to 8-15 overall.

Tigerton
Tigerton won its 10th consecutive game with a 72-54 non-conference victory over Tri-County. The Tigers are 19-4 overall.

Witt-Birn
Wittenberg-Birnamwood fell a game below .500 with a 66-44 loss at Wausau West. The Chargers are 11-12 overall.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood led until the final two minutes of the first half, at which they were trailing 31-21. Coach Garrett Rogowski attributed the loss to too many turnovers against the Wausau West press.

Hayden Miler led the Chargers with nine points.

Ice Bears move on to state

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Bay Area 3, USM 2
A successful goal at 10:56 in the third period was just enough to seal the victory for the Bay Area Ice Bears as they defeated the University School of Milwaukee Wildcats at The Ponds of Brookfield Ice Arena on Feb. 23.

The Ice Bears jumped out to a 2-0 first-period lead. USM fought back, scoring one goal in the second period and the tying goal at 1:01 in the third period.

The Ice Bears had 38 shots on goal, while the Wildcats had 20.

Bay Area was called for seven penalties for 14 minutes, while USM was called five times for 10 minutes.

The Ice Bears were scheduled to take on the St. Croix Valley Fusion in Middleton on Feb. 29 in round 1 of the state tournament, with the winner playing March 2.

Bay Area 4
Fox Cities 3

The Bay Area Ice Bears girls co-op hockey team, which features players from Pulaski, advanced to the second round of playoff action with a 4-3 win over the Fox Cities Stars on Feb. 20.

The Stars took a 1-0 first period lead only to have the Ice Bears tie it on a goal by Julianne Bradford with assists by Faye Brunke (Pulaski) and Ava McDonald. However, Fox Cities held a 2-1 lead at the end of the period.

Again, Bay Area tied the game at 2-2 in the second period on a Tiana Schmidt goal with assists by McDonald and Briana Anundsen (Pulaski).

In the third period, the Ice Bears went up 4-2. The first goal was scored by Kristina Kruse with assists by Claire Gerarden and Addison Dahl. The next was scored by Sophie Gemigani with assists by Rachael Beeck and Brynn Osbahr. Fox Cities scored one final goal at 13:24.

The Ice Bears were called for four penalties for eight minutes, while Fox Cities was called for five infractions for 10 minutes.

Bay Area players had 25 shots on goal compared to 14 for Fox Cities.

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Lena, Witt-Birn claim regional crowns

Five other area teams lose in their quests to win first-round championship titles

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

**Saturday, Feb. 21
Bonduel**
Bonduel's red hot season came to an abrupt end with a 47-30 loss to Laco-

Lena
Lena was crowned regional champs as they upended Florence 48-29. The Wildcats carried both halves, 18-13 before the break and 30-16 after the break.

Madilyn Thomson led Lena with 17 points, while Eva Brooks added 13. The two girls flipped in the rebounds category, with Brooks leading with 14 and Thomson pulling down 10. Brooks had three assists, while she and Kali Fischer each had four steals.

Oconto Falls
A second half comeback fell short, as No. 3 seed Oconto Falls lost 49-43 to No. 2 seed Freedom for the regional title.

Freedom led 28-18 at the break. Oconto Falls fought back and won the second half 25-21, but it wasn't enough to pull out the victory.

Maddy Maloney led the Panthers with 14 points, while Rylie Shallow and Amber Otto each scored 10. Kati Raddatz scored three, and Brynn Hodkie-



Senior Alexis Roe played one last time for the Marion girls basketball team in the Mustangs' loss to Athens in the opening round of regional action Feb. 20.

CARRIE AUS

wicz, Kendra Staidl and Morgan Moynihan each had two.

Pulaski
Pulaski faced off against Fox River Classic Conference foe Green Bay Southwest for the regional final

and saw their season end with a 55-36 loss.

Shawano
Shawano failed to carry the momentum from the previous night and lost the regional final 88-37 to Notre Dame.



Freshman Adyson Hull looks for a teammate to pass the ball to in the opening round of regional action against Athens. Marion lost and ended its 2023-24 season.

CARRIE AUS

Shawano was behind 50-25 at the break and was then outscored 38-12 in the second half.

Leah Nordin led the Hawks with 15 points. Also scoring were Abby Bystol with seven, Ella Stuber with five, Brynlie Boyles with four, Trinity Popelka with three, Natalie Bystol with two and Marissa Tomashek with one.

Nordin set the pace with six rebounds, Tomashek and Boyles each

had two assists, and Nordin and Braylyn Babino each had two steals.

Witt-Birn wins regional title
Wittenberg-Birnhamwood defeated Menominee Indian to capture the regional championship. The final score was 66-36.

**Friday, Feb. 20
Pulaski**
Pulaski, the No. 7 seed in its Division 2 playoff bracket, upset No. 2 seed Marinette 46-45 in a nail-

biter. Pulaski led 26-22 at half-time, but Marinette battled back with a 23-20 second half, but it was still one point short of sending the game into overtime.

Olivia Sprangers led the Red Raiders with 17 points, and Ellie Mangold chipped in 13.

Lena
The No. 1 seed Lena girls basketball team showed why they are No. 1 as they rolled over No. 8 Oneida Nation 71-55 in the Division 5 Sectional 2 playoff game.

Eva Brooks' 31 points and Madilyn Thomson's 26 were enough to surpass the entire Oneida Nation team. Kali Fischer added another eight, and Whitney Potter scored six.

Brooks pulled down 14 boards and Thomson had another 10. Fischer led the team with four assists, and Brooks led with four steals.

Lena led 39-33 before the break, and won the second half as well, 32-22.

Gillett
Gillett lost 54-27 to No. 3 seed Wabeno/Laona in the second round of regional playoff action.

Oconto Falls
Oconto Falls, seeded at No. 3, had little trouble disposing of No. 11 seed Clintonville to advance to the regional finals.

The Panthers controlled the game from the start, leading 24-13 at halftime and extending their lead with a 26-10 second half.

Bonduel
Number 3 seed Bonduel

GIRLS, CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

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VILLAGE OF SURING
PROPOSED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION
VILLAGE HALL
604 E. MAIN STREET
SURING, WISCONSIN
MARCH 20, 2024 AT 3:00 PM

The Village Board of Village of Suring will conduct a public hearing regarding its proposed application for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Planning program funds. The public is invited to attend to learn about the CDBG program, provide input on community development and housing needs, and comment on the activities proposed to be included in the CDBG application.

Agenda for the public hearing:

1. Identification of total potential funding available
2. Eligible CDBG activities
3. Presentation of identified community development and housing needs
4. Presentation of activities proposed for CDBG application
5. Review of any potential residential and non-residential displacement
6. Resident input regarding community development and housing needs, the proposed CDBG project, and other CDBG activities

Residents of the Village of Suring, including residents with low and moderate incomes that may be impacted by the project, are encouraged to attend.

The meeting room is ADA accessible.
Persons needing additional accommodations should contact Municipal Clerk at telephone number 920-842-2333 or email: krguert-zmacher@ci.suring.wi.us.
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GIRLS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

trampled No. 6 Oconto 70-23 to advance to the regional final in the Division 4 Sectional 2 postseason bracket.

Leading 40-9 at the break, the Bears added 16 points to their margin of victory with a 30-14 second-half performance.

Shawano
Shawano's Leah Nordin scored 17 points as she surpassed the 1,000-point mark of her high school career in the Hawks' Division 1 regional win over New London. The No. 5 Hawks defeated No. 4 New London 59-34.

Nordin entered the game with 999 points, and left it with 1,016. Abby Bystol scored 11 points, including three 3-pointers

Nordin led her team with 15 rebounds, and Bystol pulled down 13. Nordin, Bystol and Trinity Popelka each recorded four assists.

Witt-Birn
Wittenberg-Birnamwood controlled the tempo of the Division 3 Sectional 2 regional game against Waupaca and won 59-26. Waupaca was seeded No. 8, while the Chargers were No. 1.

Menominee Indian
Menominee Indian, the No. 4 seed in the Division 3 Sectional 2 bracket, defeated No. 5 seed Amherst 46-43 to advance to the regional championship game.

Tuesday, Feb. 20
Pulaski
Pulaski opened its postseason play with a 54-38 win over No. 10 seed Antigo in a Division 2 Sectional 1 regional game.

Maggie Lardinois led the No. 7 seed Red Raiders with 19 points, with Ellie Mangold pitching in 11. Lily Urban and Olivia Sprangers each scored nine, while Lydia Gwidt, Alissa Nischke and Ella Hasser each added two.

Marion

Marion's season ended with a 75-15 loss to Athens. The Mustangs were seeded 13th, while Athens was fourth in the Division 5 Sectional 2.

Lena
Number one seed Lena strutted their stuff in the opening round of the Division 5 Sectional 2 playoff game.

The Wildcats pummeled No. 16 White Lake 86-2.

Madilyn Thomson led Lena with 16 points, as Kali Fischer and Eva Brooks each chipped in 12.

Hannah Thomson pulled down seven rebounds, Haley Van Ark had five assists, and Whitney Potter led with five steals.

Bowler
Isabella Stevens scored 28 points, but even that performance couldn't bring the No. 9 seed Panthers back from a 35-12 deficit after the first half against No. 8 seed Oneida Nation.

By the time the final buzzer sounded to end Bowler's season, they were on the losing end of a 70-50 final score.

Gresham
The season came to a surprising end for No. 5 seed Gresham as they were upset 54-46 by No. 12 seed Green Bay NEW Lutheran in the opening round of the Division 5 Sectional 2 bracket.

Suring
Suring found itself trailing Florence throughout the Division 5 Sectional 2 playoff game. Down 27-16 at the half, the No. 13 Suring team lost 59-41 to No. 4 seed Florence.

Gillett
The No. 5 seed Gillett Tigers jumped all over No. 11 Wausaukee in the opening round of the Division 5 Sectional 2 regional game. Gillett won 67-14 and moved on to play at No. 3 Wabeno/Laona after they defeated No. 14 Goodman/Pembin 68-10.

Ice shanty removal dates announced

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reminds anglers that ice shanty removal deadlines are approaching.

Permanent ice shanties, or those not removed daily, must be removed from all state waters by specific dates. Although mild winter conditions may have hindered the ability to fish from ice shanties on some waterbodies, anglers who were able to get a shanty out on the ice are reminded to remove them by the following dates:

- Wisconsin-Iowa boundary waters; the deadline was Feb. 20.
- Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters on or before March 1.
- * Inland waters south of Highway 64 by March 3.
- Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters on or before March 15.
- Lake Michigan, Green Bay, Lake Superior and inland waters north of Highway 64 by March 17.

One exception to this rule is on the Fox River downstream from the De Pere dam in Brown County, where ice fishing shelters must always be removed from the ice daily and when not in use.

Anglers can continue to use portable ice shanties after these dates so long as they are removed from the ice when they are not actively in use and at the end of each day.

Nno ice is ever 100% safe.



Deadlines to remove permanent ice shanties from state waters are coming up. DAVID SMITH

The DNR does not monitor ice conditions and encourages anglers to check with local fishing clubs and bait shops for current ice conditions.

Owners having difficulties removing their shanty should seek help from their local fishing club, vendors and other anglers.

The removal deadlines are to ensure shanties are removed and to avoid the additional costs and hazards of shanties breaking through the ice.

The public should report any shanty owners not taking responsibility for removing their shanty to the DNR Violation Hotline by calling or texting 800-847-9367.

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43 Lipton competitor

45 ___ culpa

46 Cherry seed

47 Sketch something

48 Sofa section

49 Eroded

52 Sir ___ McKellen

53 Brief quarrel

54 Bright Crayola color

56 Overplayed a role

59 "Help needed" signal

60 Network "across"

61 ATM inputs

64 Web programming language

65 Network "across"

67 School near Windsor Castle

68 What real estate is worth

71 Real estate measure
- 74 Leisurely run

76 Princess' voice in *Shrek*

77 Court VIPs

78 Fiery heaps

79 "What ___, a mind reader?"

81 Footwear preserver

84 Toward the rising sun

86 LuPone or LaBelle

88 Had been

89 Makes lovable

92 Coat of a cat

93 Poet Khayyám

94 Gibson or Brooks

95 Saucepan topper

96 Holder for hot sauce

98 Grilled sandwiches

100 Atlanta suburb

104 Spanish compass point

105 Poker prize

106 Least experienced

107 Statistics specialist

109 Emerson's author friend

112 Pass into law

113 French wine valley

114 Wild duck

116 Hem and haw

121 Barbecue residue

122 Sore feeling

123 NASA spacewalks

124 Type of tooth

125 Speak out against

126 As compared to

127 Pond film

128 Astound
- DOWN
- 1 Yodeler's perch

2 Sort of snake

3 NL West team

4 Little League locale

5 Crowd scene actor

6 Remove grain from husks
- 7 Part of FYI

8 Network "across"

9 Show awe

10 Tennis great Boris

11 By mouth

12 Horses' fathers

13 Network "across"

14 Electronic transfer

15 Agree exactly

16 Norwegian kingly name

17 High Court count

18 Middlesome

24 What some port authorities are

26 Showy display

29 Maiden name

31 Atonement

32 Highest peak

33 At home anywhere

34 Had no doubt about

38 Thurman of filmdom

39 Citrus cover

40 Pretentiously creative

41 Alliance acronym

42 Couples

44 Be entitled to

46 Jambalaya cousin

50 Author Buchanan

51 Game with five dice

52 "Grr!"

53 Intel gatherer

55 "Billionth" prefix

57 Network "across"

58 Deploy

62 Trying time

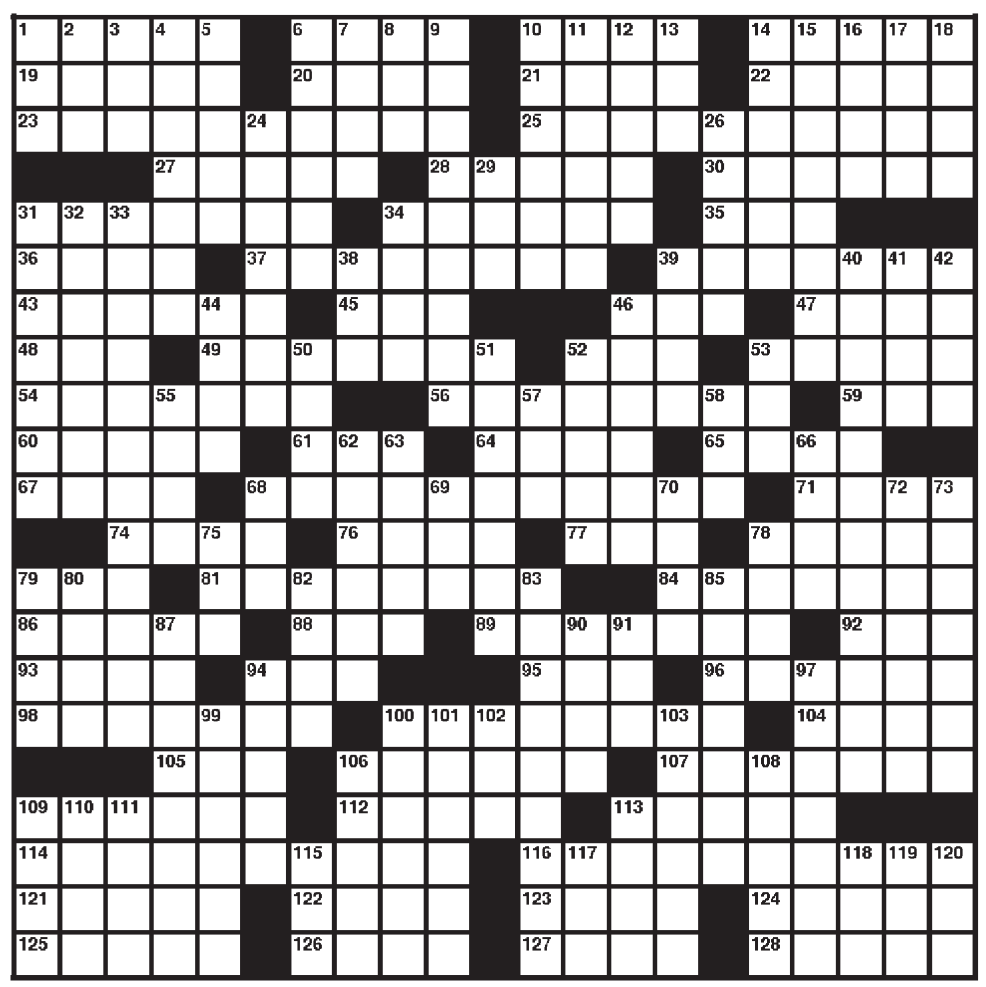
63 Satirical sketches

66 Novelist Kellerman

68 Verbal shrug

69 Mr. Potato Head part

70 Egg-grading agcy.



- 72 Tough manager's only interest

73 Springsteen's ___ Band

75 Frat letter

78 Mexican money

79 Each, informally

80 One of the Three Bears

82 Hasn't paid

83 Military volunteers

85 13th-century pope

87 Stumble on

90 Food plan
- 91 Summer hours in St. Pete

94 Some baseball gloves

97 Cellphone industry

99 Document certifier

100 La ___ (region of Spain)

101 Get up

102 Camcorder button

103 Religion of China

106 Attain

108 Sweet smell

109 Completed with ease
- 110 Flimsy, as excuses

111 Network "across"

114 Across

113 Hawaiian banquet

115 Cave dweller

117 Network "across"

116 Across

118 Menu phrase

119 Bugs Bunny's whirling foe

120 Before, in odes

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Hip replacements increase, but recovery process unknown

More people than ever are getting their hip replaced.

An estimated 572,000 hip replacement surgeries are performed each year now, according to the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. The demand has been increasing significantly since 2005, and it is expected to continue at least until 2030.

What is driving the demand? A growing aging population — as well as adults under age 55 — faced with the degenerative disease osteoarthritis. An improving surgical success rate also is playing a part.

With the increase of surgeries taking place, more people are asking, how long does it take to recovery from hip replace-

ment surgery?

“With hip replacement surgery, many people have the opportunity to recover quicker than other joint replacement surgeries,” said Dr. Michael Ziegele, an orthopedic surgeon specializing in total hip and knee replacement at with ThedaCare Orthopedic Care. “Hip replacement aims to restore what you lost — the ability to move without pain.”

Before diving into recovery, it helps to understand more about hip replacement in general. Also known as total hip arthroplasty, the procedure involves the surgeon removing the diseased (arthritic) portions of the hip joint and replacing them with prosthetic components.

Doctors often recommend that people begin with non-operative measures to treat their hip pain. These may include physical therapy, medications and injections. When those no longer work, hip replacement surgery may become an option.

“People who experience daily functional pain, decreasing quality of life and mobility issues may be good candidates for hip replacement,” said Ziegele.

Through the procedure, the surgeon inserts a metal cup into the socket in the pelvic bone and implants a new ball that affixes to a stem. The stem goes down into the leg (femur) bone. The procedure also addresses any leg length discrepancy and allows for eventual pain-free

weightbearing and range of motion.

When it comes to hip replacement, there are two main surgical approaches: posterior, the traditional method, and anterior, the newer, more innovative method.

Both Ziegele and his colleague, Dr. David Liebelt, an orthopedic surgeon, use the anterior approach because of the many advantages it offers. The intra-operative, X-ray-guided procedure allows the surgeon to confirm the implant position. The anterior approach is muscle-sparing versus muscle-splitting and has a decreased recovery time and reduced dislocation risk.

“Across all of medicine, not just orthopedics, hip replacements are one of the

most successful surgeries in terms of patient satisfaction and complication rate,” Ziegele said.

According to a study in The Lancet Journal, about 75% of hip replacements last between 15 and 20 years, and a little more than half serve their purpose for 25 years or longer.

Care teams will help explain the process for hip surgery. They will also provide additional information about recovery times and activity expectations based on individual circumstances.

According to Ziegele, most people who undergo hip replacement return home the same night. At the beginning of the recovery process, people often use a cane or walker for stability but can soon

stop using assistive devices altogether. They’ll also complete an exercise program either at home or through physical therapy at the surgery center or hospital.

“The first two weeks following surgery, you likely will still feel some pain as your surgical wound heals and you work through your physical therapy exercises,” Ziegele said. “At two weeks post-surgery, people often feel like they are turning the corner. At six weeks, most people feel good, and by week 12, they often feel great,” Ziegele said.

Full recovery can take up to a year. Following surgery, patients typically have physician follow-up visits at two weeks, six weeks, 12 weeks, and one year, or as needed.

Health professionals, advocates collaborate against human trafficking

Human trafficking is a pervasive issue that extends beyond big cities, reaching even the smallest communities. In close-knit towns, economic challenges, social isolation and limited access to help can

render individuals vulnerable to exploitation.

“Human trafficking involves force, fraud or coercion, robbing individuals of their choice and dignity,” said Brenda Bayer, anti-human trafficking advocate with The Women’s Community in Wausau. “It’s an invisible crime that is challenging to identify, making awareness our first line of defense. Anyone who may come in contact with victims, from law enforcement to health care

workers, needs to recognize the signs.”

A recent study revealed that of 173 U.S. victims of human trafficking surveyed, 68% had sought medical care at least once while being trafficked, with emergency or urgent care facilities being the most frequently visited.

At Aspirus emergency departments, registered nurse and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) coordinator Amy Riegert spearheads efforts to iden-

tify potential trafficking victims.

“Each patient is screened for abuse, including trafficking indicators,” she said. “Once identified, our job is to ensure patient safety and provide necessary resources tailored to the unique needs of each individual. Our goal is to create a safe space for them, so when they are ready to report, they can come to Aspirus for the help they need.”

While red flags and

signs exist, the crime may not always be easily recognizable without a deeper understanding of an individual’s situation and general knowledge of power dynamics, the impacts of violence and the loss of choice or freedom. Bayer suggests that being alert to changes in behavior, demeanor or attendance can be telltale signs that someone may be a victim.

The Women’s Community stands ready with trained advocates offering

services and information referrals through their 24/7 confidential hotline at 715-842-7323 or 888-665-1234.

Additionally, the National Human Trafficking Hotline is available at 888-373-7888, through text at 233733 or via live chat at <https://humantrafficking-hotline.org/en>. In case of immediate danger, call 911.

For information on combating human trafficking and supporting those affected by it, visit <https://healtrafficking.org>.

Legals

WNAXLP

390fc216

03/01/24

RECYCLING ORDINANCE

Ordinance No.: 2-20-2024-1

State of Wisconsin

Town of Wittenberg

Shawano County

Purpose and Intent

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish a straightforward and effective recycling program within the Town of Wittenberg, promoting waste reduction, resource conservation, and compliance with environmental regulations.

Definitions

a. Recyclables: Materials that can be collected, processed, and re-manufactured into new products.

b. Waste Hauler: Any person or entity responsible for collecting and transporting waste and recyclables within the Town of Wittenberg.

Recycling Requirements

a. All residents, businesses, and institutions within the Town of Wittenberg are required to participate in the town's recycling program.

b. Recyclables shall be separated from regular waste at the source of generation.

c. The Waste Hauler will provide recycling containers to residents and businesses upon request, or residents may use their own clearly marked containers.

Accepted Recyclables

a. The following materials shall be accepted for recycling:

• Paper (newspapers, magazines, cardboard)

• Glass (bottles and jars)

• Metal (aluminum and steel cans)

• Plastic containers (labeled #1-#7)

• Other materials as designated by the Town of Wittenberg

b. Recyclables shall be clean and free from contamination.

Collection Schedule

The Town of Wittenberg's regular collection schedule for recyclables is once a week, on Thursdays. Residents and businesses shall place recyclables at the curbside or in designated areas on the designated collection day.

Waste Hauler Responsibilities

a. Waste haulers operating within the Town of Wittenberg must comply with recycling regulations and provide recycling services to their customers.

b. Waste haulers shall report annually to the Town of Wittenberg on the amount of recyclables collected and disposed of.

Enforcement and Penalties

a. Violation of this ordinance may result in warnings, fines, or other penalties as determined by the Town of Wittenberg.

b. The Town of Wittenberg may collaborate with waste haulers to ensure compliance.

Educational Material

The Town of Wittenberg will implement educational material to inform residents and businesses about the recycling program, including proper sorting practices and the environmental benefits of recycling.

Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect 30 days after adoption.

Adopted this 20th day of February, 2024.

Signed: Richard Beversdorf

Town Chairman

Attest: Maria F Donat, Town Clerk

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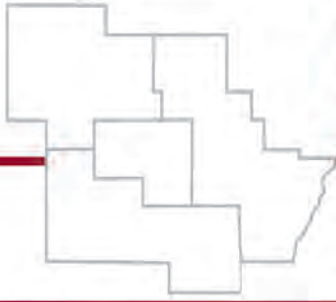


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Mystery lurks in Alan Lee's 'Hollow Girl'

I don't know what I was expecting when I selected "Hollow Girl" by Alan Lee, but I got a hard-to-put-down tale about the potential repercussions of child abuse.

It takes many chapters to reveal the demons that haunt Roanoke, Virginia, rookie Andie Stackhouse, but I'll tell you up front. Andie's ex-military father had a breakdown, and her stunningly beautiful mother supported the family by modeling until she succumbed to cancer. Her father was unable to give her the comfort and support she needed, so she left home at 16.

She stayed with various friends, worked her way through college and landed a job as a D.C. lobbyist. Soon she was living the good life and seriously dating. Andie was expecting a marriage proposal when she caught the man with another woman. Ashamed and furious, Andie immediately quit her job and enrolled in the police academy.

Now, almost 30, she works her shifts and takes online courses in law with hopes of joining the FBI before the age deadline of 35. Andie shares an apartment with her good friend Katy, a therapist. They get



Jan Jones
Columnist

along well, but Andie hates to be idle and accepts a call to check on a teenage girl in a secluded area known as "Creepy Hollow."

Three houses sit on the remote chunk of land. The Roanoke River forms a border between the hollow and an apartment complex. Her destination is the large house at the end of the road.

She is greeted by several young girls before the owner, Jane Newton, appears. She is attractive, fit and surprised to see a female officer at her door. The girls are all foster children in Jane's care. Jane seems eager to share her feelings about how to survive and thrive in an abusive world.

One of the girls, April Fuller, has been truant and Andie needs to speak with her, but April isn't there. Andie assumes she has run away. The officer in charge of child welfare shows little interest, which infuriates Andie. As a former runaway she has a special affinity for the girl. It isn't her job, but Andie is determined to find

AT A GLANCE

BOOK: "Hollow Girl" (Stackhouse Police Procedurals, Book 1)

AUTHOR: Alan Lee

PUBLISHER: Alan Lee

YEAR PUBLISHED: 2023

NUMBER OF PAGES: 360

the girl and begins digging.

Before going to Creepy Hollow, Andie learns that 15 years ago a man's beheaded body was set on fire. He was a resident of the Hollow and a police officer. The case was still unsolved.

Within days, Andie is summoned to Creepy Hollow again. Residents insist that they heard something by the river. When she checks it out, she accidentally steps on a decomposing body. Suddenly, Andie is in the spotlight.

The autopsy shows he was shot with the same gun as the beheaded officer. Since Andie is only a patrol officer, she is told to leave the case to the detectives, but events keep pulling her into both April's case and the murders. When Andie's rage boils over during an arrest, she beats a man until her hand breaks. She is put on paid leave but can't resist the search for April.

This is the first in Lee's "Stackhouse" series. I'm sure the next books will be just as compelling.

Tribe launches recovery coaching program

Seven specially trained and certified recovery coaches are now available to assist those seeking recovery from substance use as well as those in active recovery.

The program is an initiative of Menominee's Drug Addiction Intervention Team (DAIT) and the Menominee Indian Tribe Community Addiction Assistance Program (MITCAAP).

"A recovery coach is a partner in the path to recovery," said MITCAAP coordinator and recovery

coach Lydi Vele. "Recovery coaches have experienced recovery themselves and will share their knowledge as they guide others who want to overcome their addiction."

Coaches focus on removing barriers and obstacles and making sure individuals can access resources available to them during their recovery journey.

"For many battling addictions, they feel there isn't anyone who can relate or understand what they are going through," said

Addie Caldwell, DAIT co-chair. "A recovery coach understands, because they went through it themselves."

The recovery coaches are available over the phone or in person, depending on the situation.

The mission of the DAIT is to reduce and mitigate the impacts of drug use in the community through education, cultural integration, collaboration and integration of service provisions between all tribal, county, private, state and federal partners.

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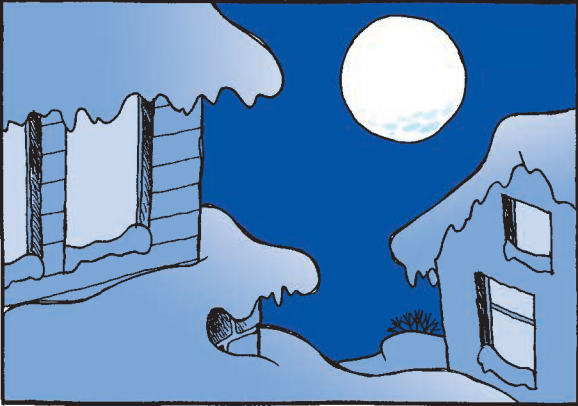
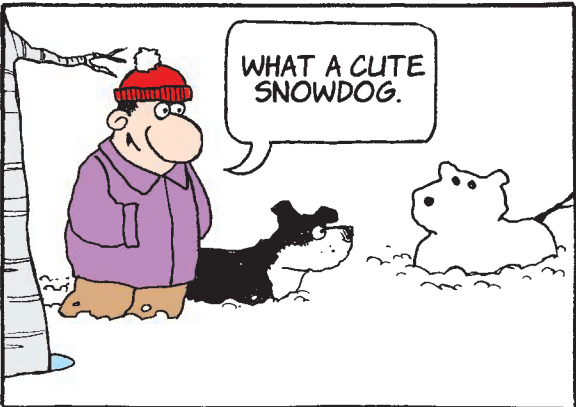
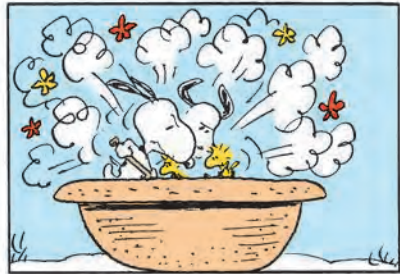


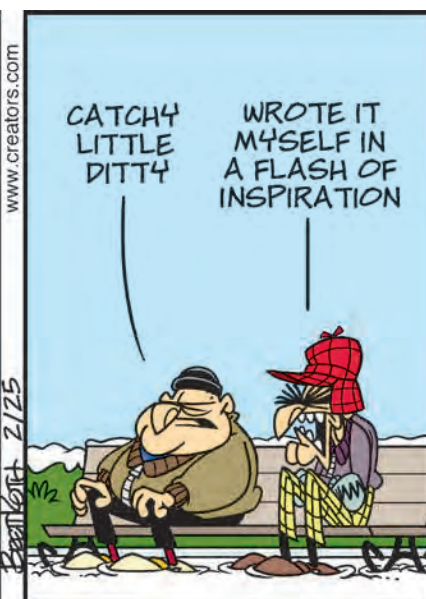
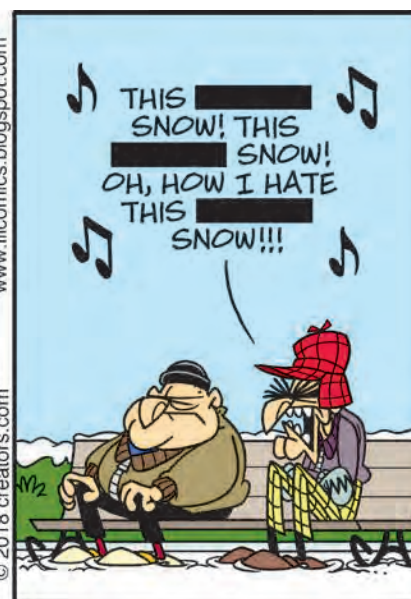
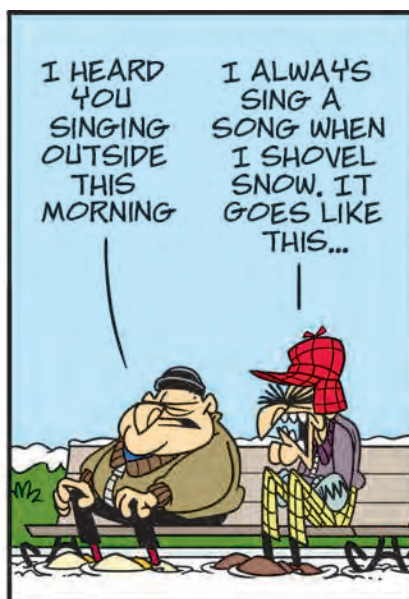
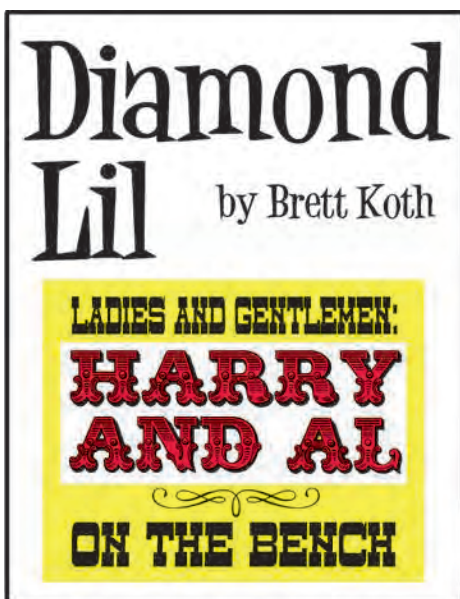
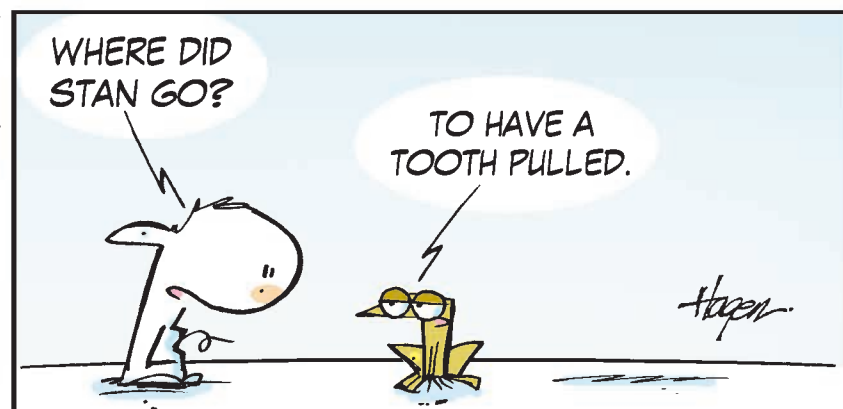
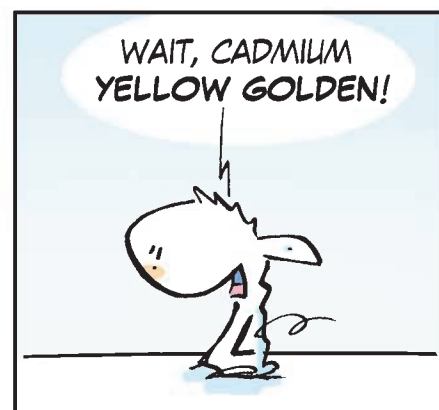
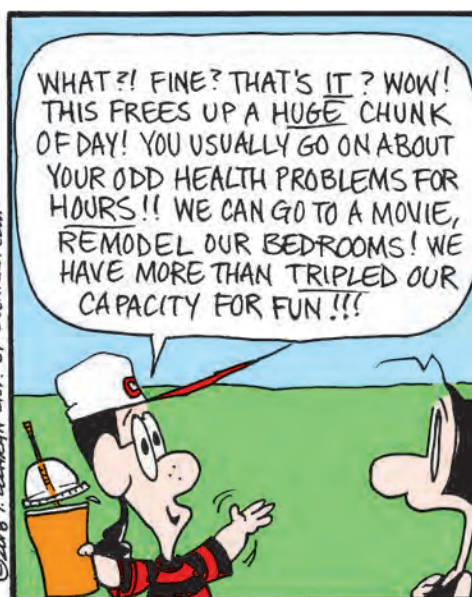
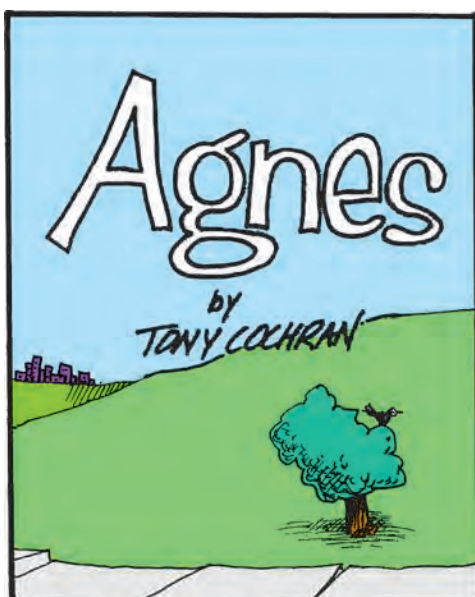
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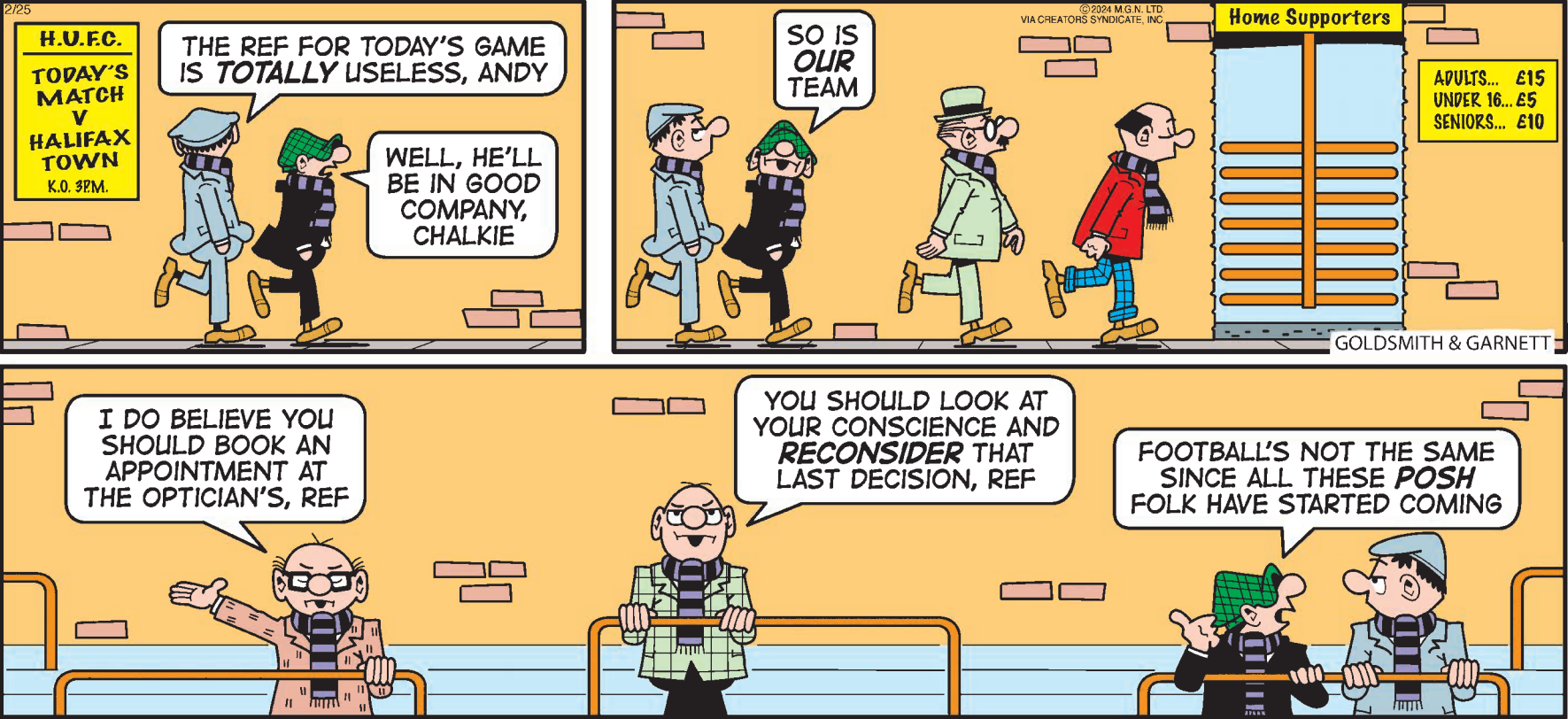
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