



Dennis and Renee Fabry enjoy a bowl of bluegill chowder at the Wild Game Banquet. This spring will be their 25th year hunting turkeys together. Dennis calls Renee his “call girl” because she calls the birds into range for him.

NATHAN BIRR

Former chief apologizes to judge, community

Plea/sentencing hearing scheduled for March 3

BY WARREN BLUHM
News Editor

The case of the former Lakewood fire chief charged with embezzling thousands of dollars from the department’s nonprofit fund seems to be heading toward a quick resolution.

During an appearance in Oconto County Circuit Court on Jan. 16, Christopher E. Thomson, 42, Lakewood, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to 10 counts of identity theft, 10 counts of forgery-uttering, and single counts of theft in a business setting and fraud against a financial institution, in connection with incidents alleged to have occurred between 2020 and 2024.

Judge Jay Conley also scheduled a plea and sentencing hearing for 1:30 p.m.



CHRISTOPHER THOMSON

March 3 before Judge Michael Judge.

Thomson sent a letter from the county jail to Judge on Jan. 20 apologizing for his behavior and saying, “I’m willing to do anything for a chance to pay \$500 monthly payments.”

According to the criminal complaint,

Thomson was named treasurer of the Lakewood Fire Department Association in January 2020. The association is a separate entity from the department itself. Thomson became fire chief in 2022 upon the retirement of the former chief.

The Lakewood Town Board placed Thomson on unpaid administrative leave May 13, 2024, and he resigned as chief shortly thereafter, the complaint said.

An ensuing investigation by the Oconto County Sheriff’s Department concluded that over a four-year period, using the association’s checking account and debit card, Thomson had taken close to \$100,000 from the nonprofit organiza-

CHIEF, CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Bear-bites, faith found at wild game banquet

400-plus fill high school for animal sights, tales

BY NATHAN BIRR
Correspondent

Over 400 people attended the 29th annual Wild Game Banquet on Jan. 25 inside Oconto Falls High School, sponsored by Hillside Assembly.

“Originally (in 1996) we started doing this at the Gillett Gun Club,” said Paul Carlson, pastor emeritus of Hillside Assembly. “It was just a small group of guys from our church then.”

Banquet-goers feasted upon a potluck spread of over 75 wild game dishes, along with soups and desserts. Dozens of crock-pots and scores of baking sheets lined three long rows of tables. Dishes included bear-bites by Anncille Engel; venison pizza casserole by Jenna Tienor; Kansas pheasant by Perry Noffke; venison lasagna stuffed shells by Skhyler Shallow; taco venison pasta by Teri von Brevern; bear-Philly cheesesteak and buffalo stew.

Kelly Lake residents Dennis and Renee Fabry enjoyed a bowl of bluegill chowder



The feature speaker of the banquet was Dean Hulce, a syndicated hunting personality featured in national and regional magazines, newspapers, daily devotionals, and has appeared on hunting and outdoor television programs, videos and podcasts. His radio program “God’s Great Outdoors” can be heard on WRVM 102.7 on Saturdays at 7 a.m.

NATHAN BIRR

INSIDE

Suring Police Chief Kevin Schneider retires from duty.

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A collage of four images showing food: a plate of ribs, a plate of french fries, a burger, and a pie.

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Oconto County Board approves funding Commission on Aging audit for 2024

Services are now being handled by other contractors

By WARREN BLUHM
News Editor

The Oconto County Board has approved what county officials say is the last obligation to the Commission on Aging, which lost its longtime contract to serve the county's elderly population as of the first of the year.

Supervisors voted 25-2 on Jan. 23 to pay for the commission's 2024 audit. The board voted Oct. 31 to

have the county Health and Human Services Department take over services to elderly and disabled people after deciding to sever a 40-year relationship with the Oconto County Commission on Aging over ongoing financial issues.

The department contracted with the Menominee Tribe to run transportation services, Marinette Elderly Services to handle meal programs and Aging and Disability Resources of the Wolf River Region to provide an elderly benefits specialist.

Finance director Lisa Sherman told the board that it's in the county's interest to pay for that aspect of the annual county audit that pertains to the aging unit services.

"Even though Commission on Aging is no longer

running those programs, an audit still needs to be completed, because as we've said before, their audit is included in the county audit, and to avoid any loss of state funds, we need to have that audit completed as well," Sherman said. "They are still working through their closeout process, but there's no funds to pay for a 2024 audit."

The auditing firm, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, wants the \$20,000 payment for the 2024 audit up front, Sherman said.

"Because of the delay in payment from 2023, in order for them to do the 2024 audit, they're going to want payment in advance," she said.

The resolution passed by the board uses \$6,000 left over from \$15,000 set

aside in April 2024 to help the Commission on Aging resolve issues with the Internal Revenue Service, along with \$14,000 from the county's regular contingency fund.

In answer to questions from several supervisors, Sherman said a 2025 audit will not be required because the commission will not receive state funding and is no longer providing county services.

"This is technically their responsibility, but it's to the county's advantage to have this audit completed," she said.

Corporation counsel Beth Ellingson added that failure to conduct a full 2024 audit could also affect the county's bond rating.

Supervisor Char Meier, one of three board members on the Commission

on Aging board, said the commission's balance owed to the IRS is down to about \$30,000. At one point, the organization owed six fiscal quarters worth of tax payments.

"They're still hoping to pay everyone off so the commission doesn't have to declare bankruptcy," Meier said, adding that hiring a bankruptcy attorney could cost as much as \$20,000 in itself.

HHS director Scott Shackelford provided an update on the newly contracted services. The new transit program acquired what Shackelford described as the Commission on Aging bus that was in the best condition, and he got positive feedback about new bus service from a woman at the Oconto Falls meal site who

had used it for a medical appointment.

The county is providing 175 meals on wheels three times a week in the southern part of the county through an agreement with the Main Course restaurant in Oconto Falls. Another 70 meals are being prepared for the northern part of the county at the Marinette Elderly Services commercial kitchen in Crivitz for distribution through the Mountain meal site.

"I think things are going pretty well," Shackelford said. "We're going to do quarterly reports out to our HHS board. They requested that just to make sure we're keeping the foot on the pedal and making sure we're being responsive to the finances."

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County board endorses broadband applications

Bug Tussel reports first phase of fiber optic project is essentially completed

By WARREN BLUHM
News Editor

The Oconto County Board has approved letters of endorsement to five companies seeking federal funding to serve the county through the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program.

The board voted unanimously Jan. 23 on resolutions supporting the efforts of Bug Tussel, AT&T, Brightspeed, Charter Communications and Night Telservices.

Jayne Sellen, executive director of TEDCOR, the Tourism and Economic Development Corporation for the Oconto Region,

said with a county letter of endorsement, companies can receive up to seven points toward their minimum 40 points required to qualify for state Public Service Commissions grants.

"We've reached out to several towns to get that endorsement as well," Sellen said. "We're just trying to do our part to get as much money for broadband investment in Oconto County to make sure everybody's connected."

On Dec. 19, the county board authorized a \$360,000 fund for deployment of broadband infrastructure to provide high-speed internet for all, to provide a required 25% of matching funds for any

grants obtained through the BEAD Program.

The board also received an update Jan. 23 from Mitch Olson, chief development officer for Bug Tussel, regarding the company's \$16.5 million project to provide fiber optics to a large portion of the county — including local emergency services communications upgrades.

The first phase of the fiber project is essentially completed, Olson said, and fiber is ready to go for connections to all towers to facilitate next generation of law enforcement communications.

"We're going to continue to look to grow and expand our network in

Oconto County, ultimately soliciting the PSC to receive those BEAD awards," he said.

In addition to completing fiber network, Bug Tussel also has a couple of ongoing tower projects through a partnership with AT&T, Olson said.

"We're still going to remain pretty active in Oconto County," he said. "Optimistically, if we have a lot of success in the BEAD, there'll be a lot of fiber work, and then there will certainly be tower work as well as we continue to develop and deploy sites for AT&T to increase the cellular coverage throughout the county, as well."

Olson did caution that

one of President Donald Trump's executive orders could potentially slow down the BEAD program.

Trump's executive order titled "Unleashing American Energy," aimed at terminating the so-called "Green New Deal," includes a clause that pauses the disbursement of funds appropriated through the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 or the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021. The clause is directed at former President Joe Biden's electric vehicle mandate, but BEAD is a provision of the infrastructure act.

"How that impacts states that have been approved at this point and

do have their operating procedure established, which Wisconsin does, (is unknown)," Olson said. "So production theoretically might be surviving that executive order and might be surviving the process going forward, but obviously it remains to be seen given the significant shift in administrations."

Olson said he had yet to hear any guidance from the state about how the executive order affects the funds that have already been allocated to Wisconsin.

"As best we know, it's still full speed ahead," he said.

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Info meeting planned on 'Farewell, WMS' project

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

The Washington Middle School English Language Arts Department is making plans for the community to say goodbye to the old school as the school district prepares to open the new Oconto Falls Middle School this fall.

Teacher Ashley Maederer said the department is working on "a project-based learning opportunity for our students." An

informational meeting has been scheduled for 11 a.m. to noon Feb. 6 to gain support from local historians and retired WMS staff.

"We plan to have our community partners schedule time to visit our classrooms later in the spring to share their background and WMS stories with the students," Maederer said. "In May, we will host 'Farewell, WMS,' a presentation of learning event for the community

to see student work and have personal closure with WMS."

Parts of the old middle school were built more than a century ago when the building was Oconto Falls High School. The community passed a \$37.6 million referendum in November 2022 that included funding for the new structure, which is being built on County Road I across from the current high school.



Some parts of what is now Washington Middle School are more than a century old, dating to its past as Oconto Falls High School.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

OCONTO COUNTY

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Schneider steps down as Suring police chief

Mason
Wagner hired
as former
chief retires

By WARREN BLUHM
News Editor

Suring Police Chief Kevin Schneider signed off for the last time Jan. 17. He enters retirement after 33 years in law enforcement.

After a tour of duty as a U.S. Marine, Schneider spent much of his career as a Wisconsin state trooper before becoming a police officer for the city of Algoma and Gillett police chief before coming to Suring in 2021.

In his last radio message, seen in a video on the sheriff's department social media site, Schneider said it's been "a privilege to serve in law enforcement." He thanked the people he has worked with over the years for their support, including dispatchers, village staff and his fellow deputies "for always having my back."

The dispatcher read a prepared statement congratulating Schneider "for reaching this well-deserved finish line of your law enforcement career."

"May your retirement be filled with relaxation, joy and the knowledge you impacted your community," the dispatcher contin-



Oconto County Sheriff Todd Skarban, left, congratulates Suring Police Chief Kevin Schneider on his retirement after 33 years in law enforcement. OCONTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ued. "To a true hero in every sense: Your dedication to protecting and serving has left an indelible mark. On behalf of the village of Suring, village board and staff, we hope you enjoy your retirement and send many blessings to you on this new chapter."

Finally, Oconto County Sheriff Todd Skarban got on the radio to salute his old friend for his "unwavering commitment" and integrity.

"During his tenure, he not only enforced the law

but also inspired many of us through his leadership, guidance and steadfast dedication to public safety," Skarban said, his voice sometimes wavering and pausing. "Under Chief Schneider's leadership, our law enforcement teams have seen significant advancements in community engagement, crime reduction and officer training. His dedication has left a significant impact on our organizations and the communities we serve."

Skarban closed by wish-

ing Schneider the best and a good retirement.

"My friend, you will always be remembered as a pillar of strength and dedication in our community," Skarban said. "Thank you, Chief. Godspeed and God bless you. You're one of the best."

The village has hired Mason Wagner, formerly an officer with the Luxemburg Police Department, to serve as its new police chief.

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Mason Wagner, formerly an officer with the Luxemburg Police Department, is the new chief of police for the Village of Suring. LUXEMBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

Under new management



Licensed funeral director James Stephens has been announced as the new owner of Jones Funeral Service, 107 S. Franklin St., Oconto Falls, effective Jan. 1. The name, address and phone number (920-848-2222) remain the same. Greg Jones, who opened in 1985 after purchasing the business from Bud Soulek, remains on staff as he and his wife, Kathy, ease toward retirement. For information, contact james@jonesfuneral.com.

JONES FUNERAL SERVICE

Oconto County hires new finance director

Deputy HHS director to take over the position next week

By WARREN BLUHM
News Editor

Oconto County has promoted from within to find its new finance director.

Betty Bickel, deputy director and operations manager of the county health and human services (HHS) department, was introduced to the county board in her new role at its Jan. 23 meeting.

"It's a sad moment for me; I've worked with her for over three years," said Scott Shackelford, HHS director, while congratulating Bickel on her advancement.

Bickel, who said she was born and raised in Oconto County, has been a county employee since 2015, starting as an accountant in HHS.

"The last couple years with Scott have been great. We've had a great partnership," Bickel told the board. "We've had many challenges together, so I'm

looking forward to working together with him in my new role, looking forward to the next chapter and continuing with the county."

She succeeds Lisa Sherman, who announced in November that she was planning to retire after Feb. 3. Sherman served 35 years as a county employee, including as interim county administrator for about three months in 2024 between Erik Pritzl's departure and current Administrator Richard Heath's arrival.

Shackelford said the county is currently taking applications for the HHS deputy director and operations manager position through Jan. 31. The online posting describes the job as assisting the director "with the overall management, planning and coordination of the operations and activities of the Department, develop and implement policies, pro-

cedures, goals, objectives and priorities, and ensure that assigned activities within the Department are completed in a timely and efficient manner consistent with defined policies, regulations, Wisconsin State

Statutes and Administrative Rules."

The position is listed as having an annual salary range of \$85,839 to \$89,368.50.

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BANQUET, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on their fourth time attending the banquet.

“My favorite part of these banquets are the speakers,” said Renee Fabry. “This event grew like you would never believe.”

On display were trophy mounts of whitetail bucks, elk, bighorn sheep, and antelope. A full-size grizzly bear, mountain lion, wolf, coyote, and pair of dueling whitetail bucks drew much attention for onlookers. Trophies of Grace, an all-volunteer nonprofit ministry, provided the mounts.

Visitors took advantage of free antler scoring by an official Boone and Crocket scorer. Pat Gauthier scored about a dozen mounts which included elk, whitetail, blacktail and mule deer.

Attendee Robert Long brought in a whitetail rack that scored 105 1/8.

“You got to give him his due,” Long said.

Ed (the Diver) Bieber, who operates Bieber’s Underwater Recovery LLC, shared with attendees the positive impact that his business has by removing hazards from underwater wildlife.

“I do a lot of voluntary clean-up, but also people call me to find their phone or their keys or their expensive pair of Oakley sunglasses,” Bieber said.

Heaps of trays packed with golf balls and fishing lures were on display, representing only a fraction of what a year’s worth of diving will yield.

“I get about 600 pairs of glasses, about 9,000 golf balls, and about 14,000 to 16,000 lures per year,” Bieber said.

Bieber records his dives with an underwater camera and posts

them on YouTube. Featured there is a video of cleaning up the Oconto River by the Oconto Falls dam.

An extensive prize raffle took place, which included a luxurious quilt, gift certificates, outdoors equipment, and five firearms and a crossbow.

“The gun raffle is a huge draw for folks,” said Carlson. “It takes care of everything, it buys all our prizes, all our expenses for the event. Guys get excited about the drawing for the guns.”

Winners of the gun raffle were given a certificate to redeem their firearm at Meatski’s Meats and Sporting Goods in Pound.

New this year was a free drawing to give away a buck-hunt to a disabled veteran. The Pulaski VFW and Lena Swamp Archery helped to sponsor the hunt that will be at Butler Rock Ranch, Pound. Winning the hunt was Scott Longsine, who served in the United States Air Force from 1982-86.

“Our goal, our vision for this event is mainly to share Christ with people, with outdoorsmen. For guys who maybe wouldn’t go into church, it’s an opportunity,” said Carlson.

Before the raffle drawings took place, Dean Hulce gave the main presentation in the performing arts center. Hulce shared stories from his 35 years as a guide in Alaska, coastal Florida, Colorado and Texas. Including one from Kodiak Island, when a distressed deer call sent a grizzly bear charging toward his hunting party.

“The bear was coming full speed,” Hulce said. “I was screaming ‘bear!’ but the guy with

me thought I was joking around, and he pulled the trigger on his gun when he panicked and nearly shot me, right off the end of my toes. That shot stopped the bear, I didn’t have to kill the bear and the bear didn’t kill me, so it was a blessing.”

On the platform with Hulce, were the legendary antlers of the famously contested Johnny King Buck. Hulce told the story how those antlers missed out on being recognized as the world record because of one small deduction, and then he related it to life.

“It was found lacking for what it takes to be declared the world record,” Hulce said. “The Johnny King Buck is a fine example of all people. The Bible verse, Romans 3:23, tells us about the one deduction that we all have: For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”

“Johnny King’s buck can’t change, and unfortunately, will never take what many consider to be his rightful place in the record book, but you and I can change. You see, we have someone who stepped into our place and took the penalty for our sins, which makes it possible for our names to be found in God’s record book. To miss the record book is eternal death, but the gift of God, the Bible says, is eternal life through Jesus Christ.”

Hulce’s radio program, “God’s Great Outdoors,” can be heard on WRVM 102.7 on Saturdays at 7 a.m.



A camera-shy Evelyn Angus, 6, enjoys the banquet after a day of ice fishing with her dad, Andy Angus. She loves being outdoors and hunting with her dad for bear, deer, coyotes, and turkeys. Evelyn also shoots bow and arrow during the 5-week Oconto River Bowmen youth league.

NATHAN BIRR

CHIEF, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tion that holds donations and fundraising proceeds for the fire department.

He was arrested Nov. 15 and has been in custody at the Oconto County Jail since then in lieu of a \$10,000 cash bond.

In his letter to the judge, which is now part of the court file, Thomson said he was trying to make ends meet and support his family, but he “screwed up and totally did wrong” instead of asking for help.

“If I could go back in time, I would stop myself from making a really huge

mistake,” Thomson said. “Not only did this end me up in jail, I lost my wife and children because of it. Losing family is like losing oxygen.”

He said he would like a chance to get his life back on track and start making regular payments once he gets a new job and can go back to work.

“I’m sorry to everyone I affected, to the Oconto County Sheriff’s Department, Clerk of Courts, the Lakewood Fire Department, Fire Association, my friends and family, the

D.A.’s office, and the entire community of Lakewood and surrounding areas,” Thomson wrote.

Two months in the county jail has been an eye opener, he said.

“If there is any chance in making this right, I will do anything to start fresh,” Thomson said. “Again I’m deeply sorry and embarrassed on my stupid mistake. Thank you again for any chance to prove myself that I can be a true and honest man.”

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OBITUARIES

Stanley E. Olson



Stanley E. Olson, 93, of Gillett, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 23, 2025.

Stan was born in the Town of Maple Valley on July 18, 1931, to the late Stanley and Matilda (Miller) Olson. He served his country in the Korean War as a paratrooper and medic in the 187th airborne regiment combat team.

After his honorable discharge in 1954, Stan joined the Milwaukee Fire Department in 1954. After 32 years of service there, he retired in 1986. Thereafter, Stan served as a mail courier for the Suring Post Office for many years. In addition to his work, Stan served as town supervisor in Maple Valley for 12 years. He also served on the Trinity Church Board and was the treasurer and sexton for Maple Valley Lutheran Cemetery.

further survived by many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

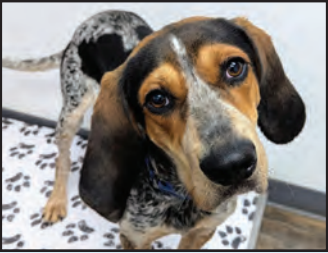
He was preceded in death by his sons, Michael and Jon Jay. Stan was the last surviving sibling of eight children. His four sisters were Leona, Esther, Mildred and Ilene. His brother were Clifford, Richard and Gilbert.

Per Stan’s wishes, no services will be held. Gruetzmacher Funeral Home in Suring is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences can be expressed at www.gruetzmacherfuneralhome.com.

Stan married Imaine Suzy Lanser on Sept. 15, 1956, in Milwaukee. They had two sons, Michael (Ellen) of West Bend and Jon Jay (Wendy) of Aloha, Oregon.

Stan is survived by his two granddaughters, Jennifer Lynn Olson Cogan of Portland, Oregon, and Summer Anne Olson of Redmond, Oregon. He is





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BUCKY
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OCONTO COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

Proceedings of Jan. 21

• After a preliminary hearing, Kurtis Lee Peters, 27, Keshena, was bound over on charges of armed robbery, first-degree recklessly endangering safety and false imprisonment, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Sept. 13. Judge Jay Conley scheduled arraignment for Feb. 13.

• Sapphire M. Otradovec, 22, Suring, waived her right to a preliminary hearing and was bound over on charges of possession of methamphetamine, escape from criminal arrest, misdemeanor criminal trespass to a dwelling and two misdemeanor counts of resisting or obstructing an officer, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred July 23. Conley scheduled arraignment for Feb. 13.

Proceedings of Jan. 22

• Lisa E. Christoff, 66, Crivitz, was sentenced to 60 days in county jail on charges of felony bail jumping in connection with an incident that occurred Aug. 4. Conley also levied fines and fees of

\$1,201.25.

• Jamar Rupert Daniels, 53, Calumet, Michigan, entered an Alford plea, meaning that he maintains his innocence but concedes the state has sufficient evidence to convict him of possession with intent to deliver 1 gram or less of cocaine (second or subsequent conviction), in connection with an incident that occurred June 21, 2024. Judge Michael T. Judge sentenced him to one year in county jail with Huber work-release and good time privileges. Daniels received credit for 210 days already served.

• Landon Eli Linder, 31, Shawano, pleaded no contest to misdemeanor charges of criminal damage to property and attempted theft, in connection with an incident that occurred Jan. 4, 2023. A felony charge was dismissed but read into the record. Conley withheld sentencing and placed him on two years of probation.

• Dontae Damario Combs-Bland, 36, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and was bound over on charges

of first-degree recklessly endangering safety, manufacture with intent to deliver THC, possession with intent to deliver THC, maintaining a drug trafficking place, and misdemeanor counts of battery and disorderly conduct, in connection with incidents that allegedly occurred Aug. 28 and Aug. 29. Judge scheduled arraignment for Feb. 13.

• A Jan. 23-24 jury trial was canceled for Joshua L. Dickinson, 46, Portage, on a charge of repeated sexual assault of the same child. Judge scheduled a plea hearing for Feb. 24.

Proceedings of Jan. 23

• Bond was set at \$250 cash for Tiffany L. Champagne, 30, Oconto Falls, after she was charged with possession of methamphetamine, misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia and three misdemeanor counts of possession of an illegally obtained prescription, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Jan. 21. Conley adjourned her initial appearance until Feb. 13.

OCONTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jan. 23

Deputies responded to 46 incidents, including sexual assault in the Town of Chase, property damage on Hip Hus Court in the Town of Underhill, a death investigation in the Town of How, suspicious activity on Erickson Road in the Town of Maple Valley, harassment on Janik Road in the Town of Spruce, fire on Sleeter Road in the Town of Bagley, a death investigation in Oconto, sexual assault in the Town of Riverview, two traffic stops, one traffic hazard, three traffic offenses, three citizen assists, three miscellaneous traffic incidents, four welfare checks; three 911 hangups and two open lines; two crashes, one involving deer.

Jan. 22

Deputies responded to 28 incidents, including fraud on Dogwood Lane in the Town of Abrams, an animal bite on County Road NN in the Town of Oconto, a disturbance on Konitzer Road in the Town of Oconto Falls, suspicious activity near U.S. Highway 41-141 and East Brown Road in the Town of Little Suamico, one traffic stop, two traffic offenses, two miscellaneous traffic incidents; one 911 hangup and four open lines; one ambulance call; one crash.

Jan. 21

Deputies responded to 27 incidents, including harassment on North Flat Rock Lane in the Town of Gillett,

threatening on West Highland Drive in the Town of Oconto Falls, property damage on Madeline Lane in the Town of Little Suamico, harassment on Maple Street in the Town of Abrams, two traffic stops, one traffic offense; one open-line call; one ambulance call; three crashes, one involving deer.

Jan. 20

Deputies responded to 28 incidents, including animal neglect on Cream City Road in the Town of Oconto, fraud on Riverwood Lane in the Town of Little Suamico, a death investigation in the Town of Stiles, harassment on Maple Street in the Town of Abrams, suspicious activity near West Frontier and Allen roads in the Town of Little Suamico, two traffic stops, one traffic hazard, four citizen assists, one welfare check; one ambulance call; three crashes, one involving deer, one involving a turkey.

Jan. 19

Deputies responded to 29 incidents, including a structure fire on state Highway 32 in the Town of Townsend, disorderly conduct on East Washington Street in Gillett, suspicious activity on County Road EE in the Town of Abrams, harassment on Janik Road in the Town of Spruce, suspicious activity on West Main Street in Lena, three traffic stops, one traffic hazard, one citizen assist, one miscellaneous traffic incident,

one welfare check; two 911 hangups; two ambulance calls.

Jan. 18

Deputies responded to 28 incidents, including a death investigation in the Town of Stiles, harassment on Pine Lane in Suring, stalking on East Main Street in Lena, suspicious activity on County Road M in the Town of Spruce, criminal damage on County Road Z in the Town of Maple Valley, one traffic stop, one traffic offense, one citizen assist, one miscellaneous traffic incident, one welfare check; four 911 hangups and two open lines; two ambulance calls; two crashes.

Jan. 17

Deputies responded to 63 incidents, including suspicious activity on state Highway 22-32 in the Town of Gillett, fire near U.S. Highway 41-141 and Allen Road in the Town of Little Suamico, fraud on Topper Lane in the Town of Townsend, a disturbance on North Farm Road in Oconto Falls, disorderly conduct on East Main Street in Suring, suspicious activity near Krakow Road and County Road C in the Town of Morgan, seven traffic stops, one traffic hazard, four traffic offenses, two citizen assists, four miscellaneous traffic incidents, two welfare checks; two 911 hangups and one open line; three ambulance calls; five crashes, three involving deer.

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The Battle of Buna during World War II had a big impact on northeast Wisconsin, with seven soldiers from Oconto and Marinette counties dying during the campaign.

OCONTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Historical society looks back at Battle of Buna

History comes alive in February as the Oconto County Historical Society invites the community to an evening honoring the bravery and sacrifice of local soldiers.

The Speaker Series event, “The Red Arrow Division at Buna,” begins at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 6 at the Beyer Home and Carriage Museum, 915 Park Ave., Oconto, and will delve into one of the most challenging and pivotal battles of World War II.

Capt. Florian Waitl, command historian of the Wisconsin National Guard,

will provide a richly detailed presentation recounting the heroism of Oconto’s Company C, 127th Infantry, 32nd Red Arrow Infantry Division, during the bloody Battle of Buna in New Guinea in 1942-43.

This engaging presentation will take people back in time through an immersive combination of photographs, aerial imagery, modern drone footage, virtual terrain maps, and firsthand soldier accounts. Waitl will also share insights from members of today’s Wisconsin National Guard who visited Buna in

September 2024, providing a unique connection between past and present.

The Battle of Buna was one of the most grueling campaigns of World War II, and its impact resonates deeply in northeast Wisconsin. Seven soldiers from Oconto and Marinette counties made the ultimate sacrifice in this campaign. This event offers a poignant opportunity to reflect on their courage and the enduring spirit of those who served.

The presentation is free, and light refreshments will be served.

Online series addresses caregivers

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is an educational series designed to provide caregivers with the tools needed to take care of themselves.

Classes will be hosted on Zoom on Tuesdays and begin March 11 from 1-2:30 p.m.

This program helps family caregivers reduce stress, improve self-confidence, improve communication, balance their lives, increase their ability to make tough decisions and

locate helpful resources.

The caregiver class consists of six sessions held once a week. Two experienced class leaders will conduct the series; many are experienced caregivers themselves who have successfully applied the techniques they teach. Interactive lessons, discussions and brainstorming will help you take the “tools” you choose and put them into action for your life.

Participants will re-

ceive a book, “The Caregiver Helpbook,” free of charge.

For information or to register, contact the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension at 920-834-6845 or email Katie.Daul@wisc.edu. Class size is limited, and pre-registration is required.

Visit <https://oconto.extension.wisc.edu/2025/01/20/powerful-tools-for-caregivers> to learn more.

Farm bureau offering six \$500 scholarships

The Shawano County Farm Bureau is open for applications for annual scholarships to be used at a university, college or technical program.

Applicants must be Shawano County residents or have attended a Shawano County high school, be pursuing an agriculture-related degree at a university or technical college, have

volunteered at one or more Shawano County Brunch on the Farm Events, provided evidence of academic achievement and demonstrated a record of active participation in extracurricular activities.

Up to six scholarships may be awarded. Each scholarship shall be up to \$500 to students pursuing a degree or certificate at a

university, college, or technical college.

The following items must be received by March 7: Completed scholarship application, copy of most recent transcripts (unofficial transcripts are acceptable), and two letters of recommendation.

Completed applications must be mailed to Ken Matsche, N9906 White Birch Road, Birnamwood, WI 54414. Application questions can be directed to kenmatsche@gmail.com.

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Machickanee Players plan annual meeting

The Machickanee Players will hold its 42nd annual meeting at 2:30 p.m. Feb. 23 at the Park Avenue Playhouse, 304 Park Ave., Oconto.

On the agenda will be the wrap of the 2024 year, the presentation of the annual budget and election of officers. All past and current Machickanee Players are invited to attend.

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ThedaCare offers tips to break free of tech

Technology is all around, and it is nearly impossible to escape. This might lead to a desire to reduce technology use. Regardless of what your reason is to limit technology, it's a worthwhile goal. Experts also say setting boundaries around technology can lead to improved well-being.

It helps to first understand that technology has some undeniable benefits. When used in moderation, it can be a great tool.

"Technology helps us learn new things and allows us to stay connected with family and friends worldwide," said Jessica Schnell, ThedaCare nurse practitioner. "It also provides convenience, such as paying our bills and managing our finances at our fingertips."

Social media can help you connect to and network with people with similar interests. It also can create a sense of community in difficult times, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, Schnell noted.

"It is important to remember it is possible to have too much of a good thing," Schnell said. "Spending too much time using technology or on social media can impact our physical and mental health."

On the physical side, too much screen time can lead to sleep deprivation,



JESSICA SCHNELL

eyestrain, headaches, neck pain and even hand and wrist discomfort. If it keeps you from physical activity, it also can lead to weight gain and other health issues that come with a sedentary lifestyle.

From a mental wellness standpoint, technology overuse may cause anxiety, dependence and even social isolation.

"Studies have shown that too much time on social media leads to decreased self-esteem and an increased risk in developing mental health conditions," Schnell said.

Beyond that, technology can support other harmful habits, such as striving for unattainable beauty standards and spending money on items not needed. It also can hamper true connection.

"Technology allows us to build connections with others without having to leave the comfort of our homes," Schnell said. "However, this can make it more difficult to develop the social skills needed to develop true connections with others in a face-to-face setting."

Fixating on technology can lead to distraction in situations that call for in-

person communications. In addition, becoming too immersed in social media can lead to a skewed sense of reality, Schnell said.

"A person's online persona may not reflect their true self," she said. "This can lead to misunderstandings of those we're connecting with. Social media is a highlight reel. People often don't share their problems or messes. They share their good and happy times, which can lead to others feeling inadequate."

Several signs can indicate a person may have a problem with over-dependence on technology. Some of these include:

- Neglecting responsibilities at home, work or school
- Feeling irritable or negative when you're away from your devices
- Struggling to take time away from devices for extended periods of time
- Losing your sense of time, such as realizing that you've lost an hour of your day scrolling
- Harming your relationships through distracted behavior while using technology
- Using technology as a way to avoid working through difficult feelings or addressing problems
- Becoming preoccupied with monitoring your social media presence
- Developing problematic habits, such as excessive online shopping

sive online shopping. "As with anything, it's a good idea to limit and set boundaries around time on devices – for you and your loved ones," Schnell said. "Experts recommend that adults spend two hours or less per day on technology outside of work."

There are some things than can be done to limit time with technology. Turn off non-essential notifications on phones and other devices. Set rules for the family like no screen time at the dinner table or within an hour before bedtime. Place the phone in another room. Set aside tech-free time periods throughout the day. Designate and stick to certain times of day to check email and social media. Consider an app to help become aware of and manage technology use.

For those struggling to break free of technology dependence on their own, it may be time to seek mental health help. Primary care providers can help connect people to care.

"Similar to drugs, alcohol, food, gambling and many other temptations, it's possible to become addicted to technology use," Schnell said. "A mental health professional can help you work through your concerns and identify solutions to help find a balance and well-being."

Pesticide training coming soon

Wisconsin farms that conduct their own pest management control practices need to be certified through the Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT) process to purchase or apply restricted-use-pesticides.

The process for ordering the PAT manual and registering for a training/test session has undergone significant changes. Anyone wanting to re-certify or become certified must visit the PAT website www.patstore.wisc.edu to get started in the process.

For most farms, the category will be 100/101 General Farming, but some will select Fruit Crops or Greenhouse/Nursery. This will allow farmers to order the manual (\$43), but they also need to register and pay (\$10) to attend one of the local training sessions if they want to certify.

Local training/testing sessions will be held Feb. 21 at Pound Town Hall, W8484 County Road B, Coleman; March 6 at the Shawano County Courthouse, 311 N. Main St., Sha-

wano; and March 25 at Lena Town Hall, 6087 Goatsville Road, Lena.

Training sessions begin at 9 a.m. and are completed by 1 p.m., with the test conducted after. Division of Extension crops and soils educator Scott Reuss will moderate the in-person sessions.

Onsite registration is not allowed. Anyone without computer access can request a paper order and registration form from the Marinette, Langlade or Shawano County Extension offices, but it must be done at least two full weeks ahead of the program date.

Farms are also able to become certified by self-studying the training materials and then coordinating with one of the three offices to take the exam, or utilize the online testing option if they have the appropriate equipment.

For information, contact Reuss at 715-732-7510, 715-701-0966, or scott.reuss@wisc.edu, or visit the PAT website to communicate directly with program personnel.



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Miguel, played by David Ezekiel Duran, right, becomes fascinated by the idea of ice fishing when Carl, played by New Auburn resident Ritchie Gordon, shows him how it's done in the film "February," which will be coming to Shawano Cinema and More on Feb. 12.

CONTRIBUTED

New film looks at joys of ice fishing in the Dairy State

Wisconsin native's 'February' gets special showing at Shawano Cinema

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

Ice fishing is synonymous with many who call Wisconsin home, but for those who don't, they'll get to find out all about it in the new film "February."

"February" will receive a special showing at 6 p.m. Feb. 12 at the Shawano Cinema and More, 1494 E. Green Bay St., Shawano. Following the film, which won the 2024 Golden Badger Award and the Audience Choice Award at the Wisconsin Film Festival, Nathan Deming will answer questions from audience members.

The film is part of what Deming hopes is a 12-part series focusing on each month of the year. The first film, "January," is a 24-minute piece about an elderly church volunteer struggling to keep up with a shotgun wedding planned at the last minute for an extremely pregnant teenage bride.

"Each movie is going to focus on a different aspect of our state," Deming, a Wisconsin native, said in a phone interview.

"February" is completely different from the previous film, with its only tie being Wisconsin. The movie follows Miguel, played by David Ezekiel Duran, who is a recent immigrant who travels to a small Wisconsin town and has difficulty fitting in. He stays with his sister, Rosa, played by Nayeli Michelle Hernandez, and her husband, Louie, played by Erick Inestroza, but still experiences difficulty until he meets Carl, played by Ritchie Gordon, who takes him out on the lake and shows him about ice fishing.

Deming's goal in filming "February" was to explore the things people have in common instead of what separates them.

"(The family) has been in Wisconsin longer and has become more acclimated, and he's struggling to fit in, since he came to the U.S. in the worst month of the year with the deep cold and all that," Deming said. "He's



Miguel, played by David Ezekiel Duran, left, is having difficulty adjusting to life in America, even with the help of Louie, played by Erick Inestroza, in the new film "February."

CONTRIBUTED

AT A GLANCE

WHAT: "February," a film by Nathan Deming

WHEN: 6 p.m. Feb. 12

WHERE: Shawano Cinema & More, 1494 E. Green Bay St., Shawano

TICKETS: \$9 adults, \$8 seniors, \$7 children

ONLINE: www.februaryfilm.com

struggling to fit in until he finds ice fishing." Even though Wisconsin has always been home, Deming has lived in California for the past 10 years, and when he talks with colleagues and friends about ice fishing, the concept is foreign to them.

"I think it's a really great part of our state and culture," Deming said. "It's completely different from fishing as an experience. I guess the thing that really attracted me to it for this story is, one, no matter what

else you're doing in your life or how much money you have or anything like that, ice fishing is one of those activities where suddenly you can get away and you're the king of your own domain. That's what a lot of people love about it. Two, there's this immediate camaraderie that seems to go along with ice fishing."

To clarify the second point, Deming noted that the people ice fishing on the lake where filming was taking place were extremely friendly, which he described as a "nice community aspect."

While filming was fun overall, Deming said there was a little fear during the scenes on the frozen lake.

"That was one of the more nerve-wracking parts of filming," Deming said. "The

FILM, CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

GARDENING WITH MELINDA MYERS

Gardeners can succeed by watching weather

Each gardening season seems to offer new growing challenges. Our gardens are exposed to more drastic and variable weather with changing weather patterns. Floods, droughts, wind, temperature extremes and unseasonable weather episodes can have immediate and long-term impacts on our plants.

Monitoring and noting these occurrences will help you diagnose immediate and



Melinda Myers
Columnist

future plant and garden problems. It also reminds us to adjust plant maintenance when these

stressors occur and watch for potential insect, disease and plant decline that may appear in the future.

Create your own weather station with a rain gauge, snow gauge and high-low thermometer. These gauges monitor the conditions in your backyard as opposed to those reported for nearby locations. Having information from your yard allows you to make any needed adjustments to watering and care to help your plants thrive.

Record significant weather extremes that can negatively impact plant health and longevity. Check with local nature centers, botanical gardens and extension services for gardening calendars. Many include information on significant weather events in your area. You can then add your observations for future reference. Refer to this information as needed in the future to help diagnose plant problems that may result from these extremes.

Large trees and other established plantings are often overlooked when weather extremes occur. Extended dry periods, temperature extremes and flooding can stress and weaken these plants, making them more susceptible to insect pests, diseases and decline in the coming years.

Always select plants suited to the growing conditions, and start watching for those that appear to be more tolerant of extremes. Visit local public gardens and consult with your University of Wisconsin-Extension

MYERS, CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



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- Christina, Life Enrichment Coordinator



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, JAN. 31

SHAWANO: Boost Your Brain and Memory, 9-10:30 a.m., Shawano County Human Services Complex, W7327 Anderson Ave. A holistic approach to improving brain health. Third week of eight-week class, enrollment limited to 12 people, register by calling Ericka at 715-526-4712.

SURING: Recovery Talking Circle, 6-8 p.m. South Branch Community Center, W1281 County Road M.

SATURDAY, FEB. 1

BONDUEL: Doubles Cribbage Tournament, noon to 7 p.m., Gehm's Club 117, 117 N. Cecil St. \$20 per team, 100% payout, registration 11 a.m. to noon. Play starts 12:30 p.m., must be 21 unless with parent or guardian. Call 715-758-2164 or stop in at Gehm's Club 117 to reserve a spot. First 24 teams only.

OCONTO FALLS: Taste of the Knights of Columbus, 5-7:30 p.m., St. Anthony School, 253 N. Franklin St. Enjoy dishes prepared by members of the Knights of Columbus, school parents and Chef JR, bucket raffles, 50/50. \$20 per person at the door.

SUNDAY, FEB. 2

ABRAMS: Machickanee Cross Country Ski Club Meet and Greet, noon to 3 p.m., 6625

Timberline Road.

MONDAY, FEB. 3

OCONTO FALLS: American Red Cross blood drive, 1-6 p.m., St. Anthony Parish, 253 N. Franklin St. Appointments at RedCrossBlood.org or 1-800-733-2767.

SHAWANO: Recovery talking circle, 6-8 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, Room 4, 100 W. Presbyterian St. Information: Dallas Gast, 715-701-5388 or dallasgast8@gmail.com.

TUESDAY, FEB. 4

OCONTO: Jacob's Well - Oconto All Community evening small group Bible study, 6 p.m. The Good Place Bowling Center, 1128 Main St. Information at jacobswellgb.org.

KESHENA: Recovery talking circle, 6-8 p.m. Omaeqnome-newak Wetohkatikamek Center, 2700 Mianaceqtawak Road. Information: Mindy Thunder at 715-799-3835 or mthunder@mitw.org.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5

SHAWANO: Chamber Coffee Connection, 8-9 a.m., SweetLife Eatery, 116 N. Main St.

SHAWANO: 100-Plus Women Who Care Shawano County, 5-7 p.m., Crescent Ballroom, Stubborn Brothers Brewery, 220 S. Main St.

KESHENA: Recovery talking circle, 6-8 p.m. Omaeqnome-newak Wetohkatikamek Cen-

ter, 2700 Mianaceqtawak Road. Information: Mindy Thunder at 715-799-3835 or mthunder@mitw.org.

POUND: North Country Kickers line dance lessons, 6:30-9 p.m., Equity Hall, W7403 State Highway 64. \$5 admission. Playing a variety of music. Everyone welcome. For more information, call Nancy 920-829-6316 or Charles 920-606-4370.

THURSDAY, FEB. 6

SHAWANO: God's Little Wonders: Parent/Tot Hour, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1254 S. Union St. Hands-on activities and crafts, songs and stories, faith nurturing.

OCONTO: Jacob's Well - Oconto All Community small group Bible study, 2:30 p.m. The Shop On Main (rear conference annex), 821 Main St. Information at jacobswellgb.org.

OCONTO: Speaker Series event, "The Red Arrow Division at Buna," 6:30 p.m., Beyer Home and Carriage Museum, 915 Park Ave. Historical Society presentation about one of the most challenging and pivotal battles of World War II.

BOWLER: Native American Talking Circle, 7-9 p.m., Mohican Family Center, N8605 Oak St. Information: Yvonne Burr, 715-326-0891.

FILM, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

winter we filmed, we had two feet of ice, which is more than enough for a vehicle. There were plenty of other vehicles out there, but still, when you're in charge of a film crew, we were still very white-knuckle the whole time being safe."

Wisconsin is very defined, according to Deming, and living in California has caused the filmmaker to miss the seasons changing. That's what prompted him to seek a mission to produce 12 films on the Dairy State. He's planned ideas out to the sixth film, "June," and he's getting ready to start production of "March."

"In Wisconsin, each month is pretty unique," he said. "It has its own personality, and to me, February has a very distinc-

tive personality. There's something about that fourth or fifth month of winter. It's different than December or November. You're not quite to March yet. You're not quite to the thaw."

Deming's notion of having a series of distinctive yet connected films is not a new one. He said he was inspired by the Dekalog, which was a series of Polish movies in 1989 and 1990 based on each of the Ten Commandments.

Deming estimated it will take over a decade to produce his remaining films.

"February" premiered at the Wisconsin Film Festival, and Deming received so much positive feedback that he decided to do the statewide tour of movie theaters, which recently started in Appleton.

"We thought it would be really fun to take it on the road like a traveling band," Deming said. "Being a person who is a storyteller and filmmaker, it's going to be so much fun to watch it with Wisconsin audiences, and hopefully, they're interested in 'March' when it comes around."

Deming knows the film will be familiar to Wisconsinites, especially those who partake in ice fishing, but he expects "February" to be a learning experience for those who don't call Wisconsin home.

"I think there's a lot going on here, and we're a beautiful state," Deming said. "We have interesting people, interesting culture. We have our own identity."

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

MYERS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

specialists and other plant experts when selecting new plants for your gardens.

Adapt your landscape maintenance and design to reduce the negative impact of flooding, drought and temperature extremes. Protect plant roots from temperature extremes with a layer of organic mulch. Incorporate organic matter into the soil to improve drainage and increase the water-holding ability of fast-draining soils. Cover the soil with plants and mulch to help protect the soil from compaction and erosion during heavy downpours. Healthy soil is the key to growing plants that are better able to tolerate environmental stresses.

Manage water that falls on your property. Check

with your local municipality for any restrictions or support for these efforts. Create rain gardens to capture, clean and direct rainfall to groundwater to help manage water where it falls. These also support pollinators and provide added beauty to your landscape. Enlist the help of rain barrels, if permitted, to capture rainwater to use on ornamental plantings and containers when needed.

Take this interest one step further and volunteer to be part of a network of volunteer weather watchers. The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network is a nonprofit community-based network of volunteers that provides daily measurements of rain, hail and snow that fall in

their backyards.

The goal of the network is to provide more localized weather information to scientists, researchers, resource managers, decision makers and more. The data is used for natural resource, educational and research applications.

Weather watching is a great project for the family or classroom. It helps boost gardening success while increasing our awareness and knowledge of what's happening around us.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including "Midwest Gardener's Handbook," "Revised Edition" and "Small Space Gardening." She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds and Blooms magazine.



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Anyone interested in joining our team of freelancers can send a cover letter to City Editor Lee Pulaski at lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com and include some samples of their previous work, if applicable.

Help Wanted

NEW Media is looking for a reporter to work out of our Shawano office. Most of the work would involve covering municipal, county board, school and community stories, as well as features on some of the people and groups that call Shawano County or Menominee County home.

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All are welcome to apply, including recent or pending college graduates. Preference is for the candidate to live in Shawano County or be willing to relocate there to be nearby when news takes places. Photography and copy editing skills are a must.

Send a resume, cover letter, and four to six samples of your work to Editor Kevin Passon at kpaddon@newmedia-wi.com. Put "Reporter — Shawano" in the subject header.



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GUEST COLUMN

No kid should be priced out of playing sports

Participating in youth sports has long been a cornerstone of the American experience — or at least it used to be. Fewer American kids are playing sports, and shifting trends are leaving countless kids on the sidelines.

The importance of reversing this trend cannot be overstated. Youth sports are not just games; they are a critical component of childhood development. Simply put, the well-being of our nation hinges, in part, on our investments in youth sports today.

The cost of participating in sports has become increasingly prohibitive. The rise of digital entertainment has captivated kids' attention, drawing them away from physical activities. These declining participation rates threaten young Americans' mental and physical health. Anxiety and depression in kids, which can be alleviated by exercise, are on the rise.

Youth sports are becoming steadily more privatized: Today, "pay-to-play" youth sports is a \$30-\$40 billion industry. American families spend an average of almost \$900 annually per child to participate in organized sports.

The growing socio-economic gap in sports participation is glaring. Today, while more than two in three kids from wealthier families are playing sports, only about one in three from the poorest families get the same opportunity.

Sports teach teamwork, discipline, perseverance and resilience — traits that are essential on and off the field. For many kids from challenging family situations, sports offer a sense of belonging and purpose and put them on the path to a more stable future.

Participation in sports has been linked to better academic performance, higher self-esteem and a greater likelihood of college attendance. In fact, studies show that 66% of students who earn all A's play organized sports compared to just 24% of students with



Hanna Skandera
Guest columnist

mostly D's and F's.

Kids who play sports have higher lifetime earnings. They have vastly lower rates of depression, obesity and other serious health conditions. The benefits are so stark that Americans would be a collective \$57 billion richer each year, thanks to reduced health care spending and increased productivity, if the youth sports participation rate increased by just about 10 percentage points, according to one recent study.

Investing in youth sports is a matter of public health — and national pride. The athletes who will represent us in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics and the 2034 Salt Lake City Olympics are today's young hopefuls in recreational leagues and school teams.

Without a robust pipeline of young talent, not only will our health suffer, but our ability to compete at the highest levels will be compromised.

Nonprofit organizations have a unique opportunity to cultivate that pipeline. My organization, the Daniels Fund, recently teamed up with the Aspen Institute to launch the first-ever Colorado Youth Sports Giving Day. With over \$3.7 million raised through overwhelming support from philanthropists and community members, this campaign demonstrates the deep belief in the importance of making sports accessible to all children.

As a society, we'll need to make big investments to ensure that every child has a chance to experience the benefits of sports. By doing so, we will build a healthier, more resilient generation of Americans.

Hanna Skandera is president and chief executive officers of the Daniels Fund, and she is a former track and field athlete and coach. This piece originally ran in Salon.



GUEST COLUMN

Challenged community can be rebuilt

Many years ago, I toured the Beloit Corporation when it led the world in manufacturing paper-making machines.

My guide was a true gentleman by the name of Thomas M. Jones. Tom had joined the firm in 1950 and had the unenviable task of babysitting a journalist because over the years he ascended to the company's director of advertising and public relations post.

Like many men in his day, Tom, who passed away in 2011, believed success in business required giving back through public service. He served on the Beloit City Council, chaired United Givers (now known as United Way), was an incorporator of Beloit Memorial Hospital and stepped up in many other community roles. He and his wife, Patricia, helped found Friends of the Riverfront, a gift that keeps on giving in the beautiful Rock River park.

I'm reminded of that tour — and how that dark, smelly, old foundry seemed like something out of a Dickens story — after joining my friend and former Beloit Daily News publisher Kent Eyman for beer and sandwiches at the new Henry Dorrbacker's entertainment venue on the site.

It's the latest addition to the Geronimo Hospitality Group's impressively long list of restaurants, pubs and meeting spaces. There are games to play, including duckpin bowling, which this non-



Bill Barth
Guest columnist

bowler would call miniature bowling. The space is huge, and during better weather includes fun outdoor activities along the lovely riverfront. The bar is large and welcoming. The menu is creative and unlike anything else in town. Great place to visit with friends or watch a ballgame.

At the turn of the century, the community was sad and fearful as the once mighty Beloit Corporation collapsed, leaving a giant hulking hole in the downtown. Some may remember that I used to write irreverent April Fool's Day stories and couldn't resist spoofing readers by claiming developers were planning to use the deserted site to build Beloit Corpse Theme Park. Many enjoyed that and other April Fool's yarns, but we also got an earful from people whose lives were disrupted by the company's closure.

Apologies, again, to those folks. The idea, with tongue in cheek, was to suggest opportunity often follows failure.

Enter Diane Hendricks and her late, visionary husband, Ken. It vastly over-simplifies things, but there's a frequent element to the Hendricks story about turning failed, discarded properties into opportunities and suc-

cesses. Ken and Diane acquired the old Beloit Corp property and turned it into a thriving multi-use complex where hundreds work and thousands play every day. Farther north along the riverfront they acquired vacant, dilapidated industrial buildings and converted the site into the headquarters for ABC Supply Co., one of America's fastest-growing firms.

Downtown Beloit is home to numerous other Hendricks improvements — two hotels, innovative restaurants, urban-living apartments and ABC Supply Stadium. Often, the work involves reclaiming declining buildings.

To my continuing astonishment there are always naysayers who find something to complain about every time a new venture (and big investment) takes off. Prices are too high. Apartments aren't affordable. Not enough parking.

Blah, blah, blah. Thank heaven the Negative Nellies of the social media sewer are just a loud, obnoxious minority. Most people see the transformation for what it really is and just think "thanks."

It could have turned out differently.

I came to Beloit in the second half of the 1970s in the early days of my journalism career. Here's why I came. In Beloit, there were opportunities to cover urban stories that otherwise required getting a job in a major American city. That's because Beloit was failing.

Industries were re-trenching and shedding jobs at a rapid pace. The downtown commercial district looked like a ghost town or, some said, a battle zone. Entire blocks were being torn down — and staying that way. Racial tensions were evident. Crime was bad and rising. Population was dropping. Hope was fading. For a young journalist just learning to deep-dive, call it a target rich environment. I expected to make a name for myself and move on.

Instead, I fell in love with this city of many challenges and its cast of characters determined to rebuild something big and beautiful from the ashes of the past. Any objective observer — especially those who remember decades past — cannot miss the fruits of those endeavors.

Ken and Diane Hendricks have been the leaders of the pack, no doubt. They had help, though. Lots of good people have put money, muscle and heart into the rebuilding project — a work that continues and, one hopes, will never stop. Every step forward creates other opportunities.

Henry Dorrbacker's — it's named after a Beloit bowling pioneer — may be the latest, but it won't be the last.

So long as there are believers.

Bill Barth is the former editor of the Beloit Daily News and a member of the Wisconsin Newspaper Hall of Fame. Readers can contact him at bbarth@beloitdailynews.com.

OPINION PAGE POLICY

Letters must be typed and no longer than 400 words. All opinion pieces must be signed by the author, and an address and telephone number must be included for verification. Anonymous opinion pieces will not be published under any circumstances. The newspaper reserves the right to edit letters for accuracy, brevity and clarity, without changing the meaning or intent of the letter. Avoid personal attacks.

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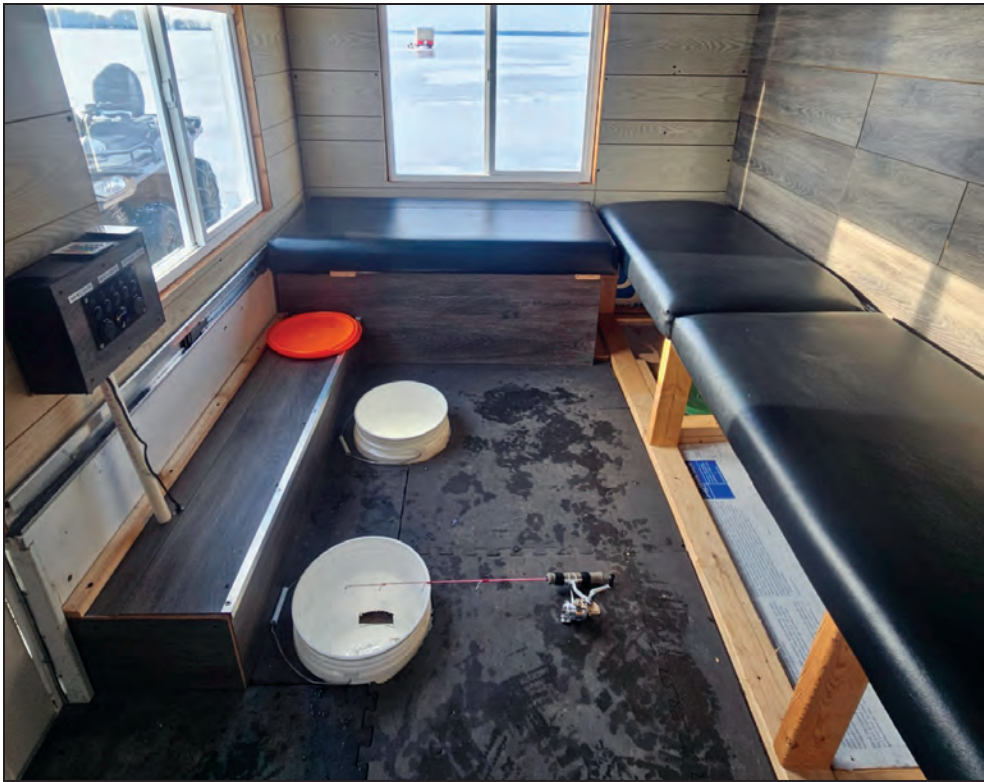
Scott Schmidt shows off a recent catch from Shawano Lake. The Lena man started his own business this year - renting ice shanties to fishermen on Shawano Lake. Business is booming so far, with the three shacks rented out most days each week.

CONTRIBUTED



Showing off some of the fish caught from inside the Walleye Shack are Green Bay fishermen, from left, Seth Reed, Jarod Zirbel and Nate Calawerts.

CONTRIBUTED



The interiors of the Walleye, Pike and Crappie shacks have ample room for seating and sleeping, a place to plug in your phone, LED lighting and propane heating.

CONTRIBUTED

Get out of the cold with rented ice shanty

New business offers three shacks from which to choose

BY KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

A bad day fishing is better than a good day at work, but that doesn't mean you have to sit outside on the ice. At least, not on Shawano Lake.

Scott Schmidt brings his Triple S Ice Shanty Rentals

to the rescue.

"I saw people on Facebook looking to rent ice shacks, so I thought it would be something to look into and possibly a good investment opportunity," said Schmidt, a Lena resident. "I built the shacks in 2023 with the intention of renting them, but the ice conditions didn't allow us to get them out."

Schmidt has three shanties available — the Pike, the Crappie and the Walleye. Size and amenities differ among them.

"I started with two of them and then added my personal shack (Pike Shack) with more amenities — TV, hot pot, hot

plate, refrigerator and a built-in furnace," he said.

The Walleye Shack seats four and sleeps two (bedding and pillows not provided). Inside are four ice holes with covers, a propane heater with one tank provided (more available as an add-on) and 12-volt LED lighting and a 12-volt, 100-watt power inverter charging station to charge electronics, drill batteries and multiple USB ports for phones. It also includes a gas grill for outdoor cooking.

The Crappie Shack seats three and sleeps one. Four or five holes can be drilled inside. The shack also includes a propane

heater and propane, and LED battery-operated lighting.

The Pike Shack seats four and sleeps two, with room for four ice holes. It has a propane furnace and propane tank, generator capability, a TV for camera hookup, a hot plate and LED battery-operated lighting.

"It's been a fairly good investment so far," Schmidt said. "The shacks are usually rented four to five days per week."

Schmidt said there is a mix of renters. He's had local fishermen from Shawano and the Green Bay area, but also several from outside the area, including

Illinois and Vermont.

As long as ice conditions are favorable, the shacks stay on the lake. Cecil Bay is a popular fishing spot, but it's not the only one on the lake.

"I move them based on the bite," Schmidt said. "Or if a customer requests a spot, I will accommodate them."

Schmidt doesn't provide poles, tip-ups, bait or other gear.

"All the shacks are heated," he said. "I do try to warm up the shacks and pre-drill the holes inside the shacks for the renters."

Rates vary per shack and whether they are used during the day or

overnight.

As for Schmidt, he usually fishes three days a week, weather permitting. His favorite to catch – and eat – is northern pike.

He was born and raised in Green Bay and has been fishing since he was a child. He also operates a lawn care business in the summer months.

For information or to reserve a shanty, contact Schmidt at 920-305-5902, iceshantyrentals@gmail.com, through the Triple S Ice Shanty Rentals Facebook page or the business website at www.iceshantyrentals.com.

kpasson@newmedia-wi.com

Red Robins beaten by Bulldogs, Hatchets

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Jan. 24 Cedarburg 9, Antigo 7

Owen Dickman scored four goals, including all three of Antigo's in the final period, but the Red Robins came up short in a 9-7 loss to Cedarburg.

The Bulldogs jumped out to a 2-0 lead before Parker Chaney put the Red Robins on the board at 9:49. Another Bulldog score made it 3-1 as the period ended.

Goals went back and forth in the second period.

Cedarburg scored just 28 seconds into the second period for a 4-1 lead. Eli Kaasler responded for Antigo at 7:00 with Dickman assisting. Another Cedarburg goal was followed by Kassler's second goal, this time at 8:28 with help from Chaney and Dickman. At 11:15, Dickman scored his first goal, making the score 5-4 in Cedarburg's favor.

Cedarburg put its stamp on the scoring in the third period, pounding in three scores in the first five minutes to lead 8-4.

Dickman scored at 13:36 with help from Kassler only to see the Bulldogs score within the next two minutes. Trailing 9-5, Dickman scored his hat trick at 15:32 with an assist from Kassler and then had a solo goal at 16:48 to end the scoring.

Antigo ended the night with 28 shots on goal. Cedarburg had 31 shots on goal, and Richie Veriha collected 22 saves.

The Bulldogs were penalized six times for 15 minutes. The Red Robins had nine infractions for 21 minutes.

Jan. 23 Tomahawk 11, Antigo 2

Antigo was smacked around in the first period and never recovered in an 11-2 loss to Tomahawk.

The Hatchets took 22 shots on goal and jumped out to a 7-0 lead to end the first period. They added another goal in the second period to lead 8-0 before Eli Kassler finally found the back of the net for the Red Robins. A pair of Tomahawk goals made the score 10-1 going into the final period.

Kassler scored a second goal with as assist from Ian Brittenham, and Tomahawk responded with one of their own to end the scoring.

Tomahawk had 44 shots on goal, and Richie Veriha had 33 saves. Antigo had 10 shots on goal.

The Red Robins did, however, lead in penalties, getting called for seven infractions for 14 minutes. The Hatchets were penalized twice for four minutes.

Shawano/Bonduel 5, Rhinelander 1



A pair of Shawano/Bonduel players make a sandwich out of a Rhinelander opponent in a Jan. 23 game at the Hodag Dome. The visitors returned home with a 5-1 victory.

ROBERT MAINHARDT



Shawano/Bonduel's Blake Knope (8) battles it out for control of the puck with Rhinelander's Riley Squires (10). Shawano/Bonduel won 5-1 over the Hodags in the Jan. 23 game.

ROBERT MAINHARDT

Bay Area Ice Bears collect two more hockey wins

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Jan. 25 Bay Area 3 ECA 1

Faye Brunke scored twice in the first period and Hannah Von Haden added a third in the second period as Bay Area topped the ECA (Eau Claire Area) Stars 3-1.

Both of Brunke's goals were solo shots. Von

Haden had assists from Tiana Stindt and Abby Mommaerts.

ECA scored its only goal at 1:35 in the third.

Bay Area had 32 shots on goals, forcing Stars goalie Amy Thul into 29 saves. ECA had 20 shots on goal, and Reese Spiering had 19 saves.

The Ice Bears had four penalties for eight min-

utes, and the Stars had there penalties for six minutes.

The Ice Bears return home for the final three games of the regular season. The Arrowhead Warhawks will visit for a 6 p.m. game Jan. 31.

Jan. 24 Bay Area 4, Chippewa Falls/Menomonie 1

The two girls hockey

teams combined for more than two dozen shots on goal in the first two periods, but none of them found the back of the net, as all the scoring was done in the third period in Bay Area's 4-1 win.

Hannah Von Haden broke the scoreless tie at 1:24 in the third period with an assist from Abby Mommaerts. Julianne

Bradford then scored twice, once at 1:52 with help from Faye Brunke and again at 7:23 with help from Emily Bill.

The Sabers scored at 11:06 to make it 3-1 but Brunke scored at 14:10 with a Bradford assist to end scoring.

Chippewa Falls was penalized twice for four minutes. Bay Area was

called for six infractions for 20 minutes, including a two-minute unsportsmanlike conduct and a 10-minute unsportsmanlike conduct against Bradford at 15:57 in the third period. Bay Area's Reese Spiering collected 12 saves against 13 shots on goal, while Chippewa Falls' Aubrie Dowd had 34 saves against 38 shots.

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Jan. 24 Bonduel Invite

Shawano's girls wrestling team placed third among several schools at the Bonduel Invitational.

Adalyn Barkley placed first, while pinning all of her opponents.

"She is really wrestling

well lately and looks to keep things going as we move closer to regionals," coach Mike Homan said.

Gwyn Hermann also wrestled well and took second in the 107-pound bracket. Jenna Moede took third place, wrestling well but dropping a close match in the semifinals.

"Jenna is doing a good

job, and we look for her to continue that going forward," Homan said.

Lilly Tomas also placed third. She lost 2-1 in the semifinals. Vivian Waldburger wrestled out of a tough situation in her fifth-place match; she worked for a pin taking fifth place. Jacey Cowden wrestled well and took fifth place as

well. Kendall Knope and Maddy Miller each placed sixth.

Shawano will host multiple schools at its Jan. 31 invitational.

Jan. 23 Shawano 48, New London 12

Shawano wrestled a depleted New London team

winning six matches by forfeit in a 48-12 victory.

Forfeits were recorded by Zenith Bosetski, Gwyn Hermann, Jenna Moede, Mazie Martin, Vivian Waldburger and Lily Tomas.

Adalyn Barkley pinned Berkley Reimer at 145 in 3:19.

"She has really been

wrestling well lately and looks to have a strong finish at the end of the season," coach Mike Homan said.

The Hawks lost matches at 132 and 152.

Lauren Seehafer and Jacey Cowden did a good job battling, but both fell in falls to Hayleigh Ritchie and Hailie Krueger.

Shawano girl wrestlers take third at Bonduel Invite



Coach Gerald “Pappy” Wayka gives some last-minute advice to Brycen Reiter before the 11-year-old competes for the Silver Gloves regional title in Minneapolis. Reiter won and will now box for a national title in Independence, Missouri.

CONTRIBUTED



Brycen Reiter is No. 1 after winning the Silver Gloves regional boxing title in the 106-pound class. He will compete for a national title Jan. 28 to Feb. 1.

CONTRIBUTED

Reiter, 11, to box for national title

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Brycen Reiter recently won the Silver Gloves regional boxing title in Minneapolis and is set to compete for the national title in the 106-pound class in Independence, Missouri, from Jan. 28 to Feb. 1.

By the way, Brycen Reiter is 11 years old.

The son of Jay Reiter Sr., Brycen is in sixth grade and an honor roll student in the Gresham School District.

An enrolled member of the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin, he boxes for the Menominee Indian Boxing Club. Brycen has been boxing for almost two years.

“Boxing is a great interest and always has been in our community,” Reiter Sr. said. “As a single father, that is our main sport. We watch it, live it — just like football would be.”

Brycen comes from a long line of fighters. Both grandfathers knew their

way around the ring. His older brother, Jay Reiter Jr., was also a Silver Gloves winner, and many other Menominee Indian Boxing Club members have won various titles.

Much of the reservation community is part of the boxing community.

“All my friends and people around him have boxed,” Reiter Sr. said. “It’s just a sport we love and live. Even my 4-year-old son goes to the gym with him every day.”

Safety is a concern, but it’s not a deterrent to participating.

“For the safety part, there is always a concern, but it’s no different from football,” Reiter Sr. said.

Brycen’s coaches include Gerald “Pappy” Wayka, a former professional fighter who once trained for the Olympics with Gene Newton and Dean Peters Jr.

Current boxer Jason Komanekin also coaches him.

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Gillett slips past Niagara

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Jan. 24
Gillett 63, Niagara 60
Behind the dominating shooting of Jesse DeBauch, Gillett jumped out to a 28-22 halftime lead and held on for a slim 63-60 win over Niagara.

DeBauch had a double-double with 33 points and 11 rebounds. He also had five assists and two steals. Jed Herzog scored 11 points, pulled down seven rebounds and had one steal.

Ryan Pensis also had a double-double, scoring 10 points and leading the Tigers with 12 rebounds. He had one assist and one steal.

Brody Halla led Gillett with three steals.

Wittenberg-Birnhamwood 64, Menominee Nation 59

It was the tale of two halves at Menominee Nation when the Eagles fell 64-59 to Wittenberg-Birnhamwood.

The Eagles held 34-27 halftime lead, but the Chargers reversed that in the second half with a 37-25 advantage to give them the win.

Xavier 78, Shawano 61

Three Shawano players scored in double digits, but it was Hawks from Xavier that ended up on the winning side of a 78-61 Bay Conference game.

Xavier held a slim 39-37 edge at halftime, but opened up the contest with a 39-24 second half performance.

Logan Sipple led Shawano with 18 points, followed by Will Verkuilen with 14 and Crew Weisnicht with 13.

Crivitz 61, Suring 39
St. Thomas Aquinas Academy 51, Lena 40
Sheboygan North 74, Pulaski 58

Bowler 47, Marion 44
Northland Lutheran 81, Gresham 62

Jan. 23
Bonduel 61, Iola-Scandinavia 58

Race Anvelink hit a half-court shot as time expired as Bonduel beat Iola-Scandinavia 61-58.

Bonduel remains unbeaten at 15-0 overall this season.

Ryan Westrich led the Bears with 18 points. Anvelink scored 13, while Cade Johnson and Quinn Wesenberg had 12 each.

The team was 11-of-15 in free throws with Johnson



Members of the Menominee Nation High School boys basketball team take to the court in a recent game. The Eagles were defeated by Wittenberg-Birnhamwood 64-59 on Jan. 24, which dropped them to 4-4 in the Central Wisconsin East Conference (the Chargers are 6-1) and 8-5 overall.

MIHS EAGLES FACEBOOK PAGE

make all four of his attempts, Anvelink scoring in all three of his tries and Carter Moesch making 2-of-2. Westrich was 2-for-4.

Fox Valley Lutheran 79, Oconto Falls 47

The Panthers are in the middle of the pack in the North Eastern Conference

after a 79-47 loss to Fox Valley Lutheran.

Oconto Falls is 5-5 in the NEC and 8-6 overall.

Jameson Beaman scored 16 points, and J.J. Pytleski added 12.

Pytleski led the team with five rebounds and four assists, while Beaman recorded two steals.

Wittenberg-Birnhamwood 61, Antigo 50

Wittenberg-Birnhamwood advanced to 9-2 overall with a 61-50 non-conference win over Antigo.

The Red Robins led 28-21 at halftime, but the Chargers battled back in the second half with a

40-22 advantage that propelled them to victory.

Zandyr Barke led the Chargers with 23 points including a pair of 3-pointers and seven free throws. Jett Rogowski scored 17 points including eight free throws.

Tigerton 66, Greenwood 38

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Hodkiewicz leads Shawano wrestlers at Sheboygan North

**Jan. 25
Sheboygan North
Invite**
Dane Hodkiewicz had the best finish for Shawano's boys wrestling team when they competed at Sheboygan North. Hodkiewicz placed fourth and wrestled well throughout the day, taking out the number 1 and 2 seeds in this tournament. Marcus Brezgel placed eighth. Drew Chelberg also took eighth place. Austin Stickney was a consolation bracket champion. He went 4-1 on the backside of the bracket.

**Jan. 23
Shawano 39, New London 38**

Shawano boys wrestling coach Mike Homan told his team New London would be a tough opponent as the Bulldogs have some heavy hitters. The night was going to be a constant uphill battle before Shawano pulled off a 39-38 victory to remain unbeaten at 5-0 in conference action. Shawano started the night with a major decision at 150 by Kody Popelka. He wrestled a back-and-forth match until taking control in the third period. At 157, Kian Morstad was down late in the third period, but he scored a takedown as time was running out to lose by a 12-6 decision instead of a 12-3 major decision. Marcus Brezgel came up huge in his match at 165. Both wrestlers were scoreless in the first period and Marcus chose neutral in the second. "He got into a double undertook tie, jacked it up and threw his opponent to his back," coach Mike Homan said. "He transitioned to headlock and earned the fall in 2:48. That was a big match for Marcus. We really needed that match. He has been wrestling so much better during this second half of the year. He is really coming into his own, and it is exciting to watch." Then, at 175, Drew

Chelberg wrestled a tough match that found him down 3-1 going into the third period. Chelberg earned an escape, and then with less than a minute left, he worked in on a takedown and moved his opponent onto his back and secured a fall in 5:57. "Drew securing that pin with only three seconds to spare really set us up for a chance at a team win," Homan said. "Those were big points we needed as we moved into the upper weights." Shawano had to forfeit 190 and 215 due to injuries. At 285, Brayen Boivin wrestled well until the third period where he was

reversed to his back and pinned by his opponent. Going into the light-weight matches, Shawano picked up some points by taking forfeits with Teagon Gerrits, Dylan Gartner, and Dane Hodkiewicz at 106, 113 and 120, respectively. At 126, Nicholas Wausau competed in his first varsity match. "Nicholas has been doing a good job for us this year, and he earned a technical fall in 3:07 over Henry Auer," Homan said. In the next match, at 132 Austin Stickney was pinned in 2:28. At 138, Dominick Thorson wrestled against William Christopher, one of New London's best wrestlers. Thorson knew if he could stay out of bonus points that Shawano would win the dual. He survived a great effort by Christopher, and in the last 30 seconds fought off of his back hard to give up a victory by technical fall. Even though Thorson lost his match and gave up five team points, the one point he saved proved to be the difference in the dual. "Dominick did a great job understanding what his job was, and he executed it perfectly," Homan said. In the last match of the night, Braxton Beyersdorf was pinned in 1:27.

Chargers, Wildcats notch basketball wins

**Jan. 24
Wrightstown 46,
Oconto Falls 40**
**Jan. 23
Wittenberg-Birnamwood 63, Menominee Nation 45**
Slow and sure wins the race is the old adage, and Wittenberg-Birnamwood showed that to be true in its 63-45 win over Menominee Nation. "We got off to a slow start tonight and Menominee Nation took advantage of it," Chargers coach Nick Mechelke said. "We got almost down 10 in the first half, but we just chipped

away and took the lead into halftime. This was a game that we just found a way." At halftime, Wittenberg-Birnamwood worked its way to a 34-25 lead. A 29-20 second half cemented the win. The Chargers were led by Rory Salvesen with 24 points and Melaina Granquist with 22. Salvesen had three 3-pointers, and Granquist connected on two. Harper Rogowski had the only two assists. Granquist pulled down nine rebounds, and Salvesen had seven steals. The Chargers are 8-0 in the Central Wisconsin East Conference and 14-0 overall. **Lena 48, Green Bay NEW Lutheran/Providence Academy 39** A dominating second half by Lena pushed them over the top to defeat Green Bay NEW Lutheran/Providence Academy 48-39. Trailing 27-25 at halftime, Lena outscored their guests 23-12 in the second half. Eva Brooks led the Wildcats with 15 points,

followed by Kali Fischer with 14 and Madilyn Thomson with 13. Hannah Thomson led the team with 12 rebounds. Madelyn Thomson had five assists, and each of the Thomson girls had three steals. **Bonduel 72, Iola-Scandinavia 38** **Northland Lutheran 45, Gresham 42** **Marion/Tigerton 69, Bowler 48** **Sheboygan North 45, Pulaski 35** **Oneida Nation 60, Suring 55** **Gillett 48, Crivitz 29**



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The Newsday Crossword

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

GOTCHA: A collection of catches

by Billie Truitt

- ACROSS**

1 Tart-tasting fruits

7 ___ Lee cakes

11 Recedes gradually

15 Dog show org.

18 Just slightly

19 Nile queen, for short

20 Author Émile

21 Group of sled dogs

23 Barrie bad guy

25 Bona fide

26 Supermodel Banks

27 New Haven student

28 "Forward!" in Florence

29 Something taken to the curb

31 Road reversals, informally

33 Bucks

35 Test-drive vehicle

36 Have some

39 Raise a glass to

43 Aussie exports

46 Sugarcane, for instance

47 "Not another word!"

49 Bottom line

52 Guileful

53 Cetacean vocalization

54 Corp. alias

55 Upper level of execs

57 Coop group

58 B'way purchase

59 Whispered summons

60 Health insurance giant

61 From way back

63 Common polar surface

65 Spoil your manicure

67 Genealogy record

71 Stairway posts

72 Quake

73 Squeaky sound

74 To be: Lat.

77 Leather punch

78 As compared to

79 Quick look

80 Cut (off)

81 Most like meadows

83 Garden product syllable

84 What the TSA is part of

85 Did some web browsing

87 Archaeologist's interest

89 *Middlemarch* author

90 Tenth president

91 Parts of paragraphs

95 Swamp hopper

97 Personal resources

99 Bedside light

100 Nook for nestling

105 Vessel vacation

108 Grp. of cops or keggers

109 Sony co-founder Morita

110 Food plan

111 What a tee hasn't

113 Home of St. Paul

114 Class rank nos.

115 Symbolic warning

116 Riles up

117 With 86-Down, Chinese dinner

118 Catch sight of

119 Supervisor

120 Dangerous fly

DOWN

1 Prepare to skate

2 Footnote phrase

3 More pouty

4 Sound asleep

5 ESPN media partner

6 Makeshift knife

7 Patsy

8 Many, many

9 Add more lubricant to

10 NASA affirmative

11 Poet Pound

12 Dutch South African

13 Spill a secret

14 Course of greens

15 Have a go at

16 Typists' targets

17 Italian endearment

22 Waiting-room reading

24 "To be specific..."

29 Evil spirits

30 Physicist Ohm

32 Frequent ave. crossers

34 Within reach

37 Being bet

38 Possible 14-Down ingredient

40 Devoured

41 Bodies of methods

42 Readied a bow

44 Research rooms

45 Minor squabble

47 Taco's exterior

48 Up to

49 Sign of healing

50 Library patron

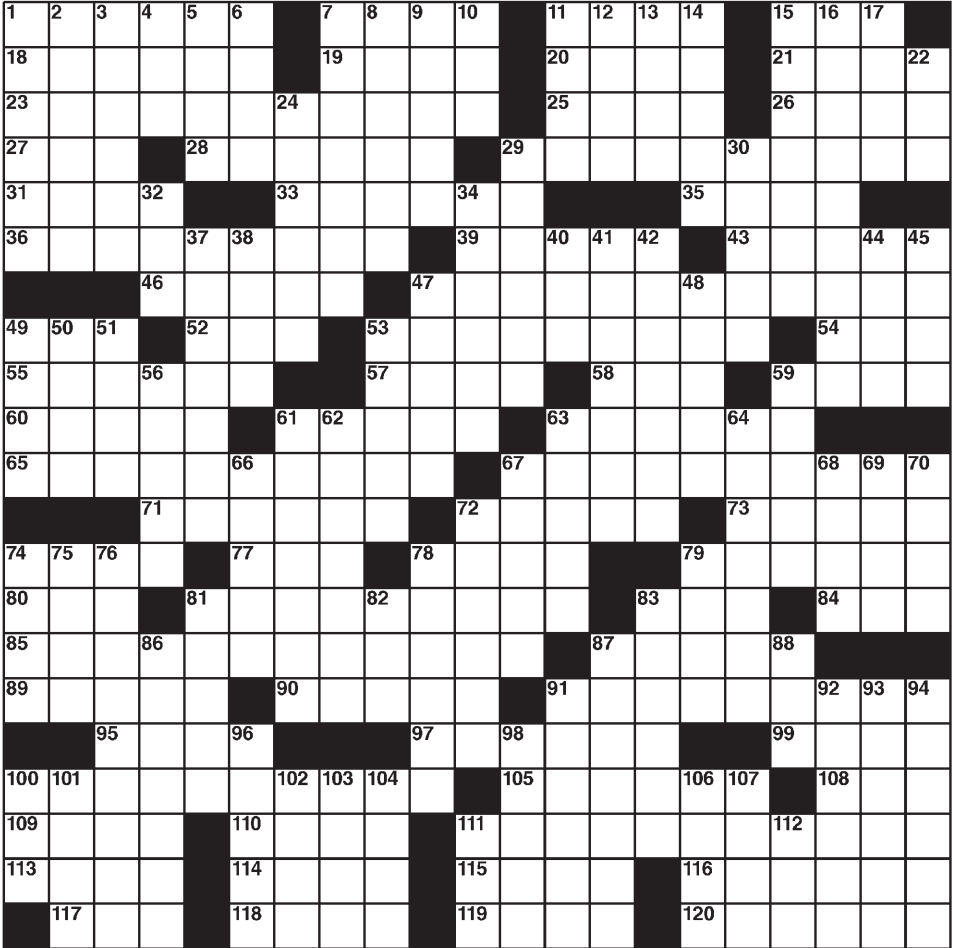
51 Remote button

53 *Jeopardy!* answer starter

56 Ludicrous

59 Historic city of Jordan

61 Very little power



- 62 Come up short

63 Virtuous person

64 *Wizard of Oz* transportation

66 Bestow

67 Abundant meal

68 Tear to pieces

69 Per item

70 Just manages, with "out"

72 Thin curtains

74 Otherwise

75 Pop music category

76 Spraying lightly
- 78 Musical liability

79 Sandy stuff

81 Do so-so on an exam

82 Parisian salt

83 Puts the pedal to the metal

86 See 117-Across

87 Takes back

88 NBC 91-Down since '75

91 Weekly program

92 Oval pill

93 Hinders

94 Thinly scattered
- 96 Sidestep

98 Hard-to-like person

100 Video recorder, for short

101 Sooner Stater

102 What patches cover

103 Tide table term

104 Artisans' website

106 "Amscray!"

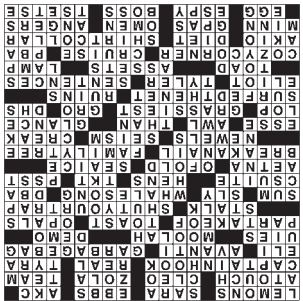
107 Very long time

111 Sound unhappy

112 Sweater size, for short

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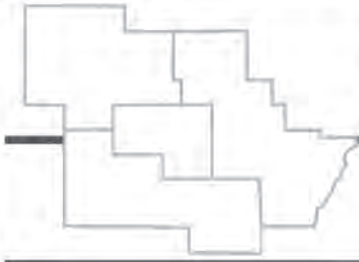
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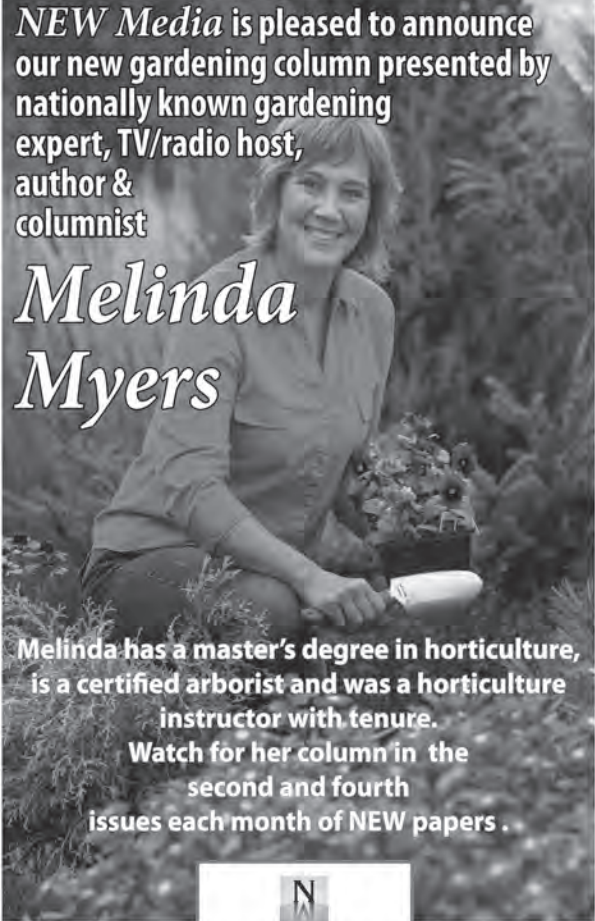

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Melinda Myers

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Sealed bids for the above project will be received by the Village of Lena until the Bid Deadline. Bids shall be submitted in electronic format through Quest vBid. Immediately after the Bid Deadline, bids will be publicly opened and read aloud, through electronic means.

The bid opening for this project will be conducted using Microsoft Teams. Bidders and other interested parties may call the teleconference number: (715)-318-5006, 727623003 #, on the day of the bid opening to hear bid results announced. The teleconference line will be open 15 minutes before bids are due. Bids will be opened after the bid deadline.

In general, the project consists of the replacement of aeration blowers and air piping; chemical feed pumps and piping; diffused air systems within the package plant's aeration tank, aerobic digester, and sludge storage tank; the package plant dome cover; a sludge transfer pump, piping, and valves, and a natural gas standby power generator. The project also includes a new ultraviolet disinfection system and the replacement of the influent screen. The work also includes the replacement of the existing clarifier mechanism, and temporary removal of the bridge, scum collector, and sludge collector, as well as demolition of existing equipment and systems, site improvements, HVAC, instrumentation and controls, electrical, plumbing, and other ancillary work required to accomplish the modifications.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting to examine the project site will be held on Tuesday, February 11th at 9:00 a.m. Meet at the Village Hall, 117 E. Main St., Lena, WI 54139. Tours of the wastewater treatment plant will follow the meeting.

A single prime bid will be received for the work.

BID SECURITY

Bids must be accompanied by bid security in the amount of 5% of the maximum bid amount. Bid and bid security may not be withdrawn for a period of 45 days after the Bid Deadline.

PROJECT FUNDING

The contract awarded under this bid advertisement will be funded in part by financial assistance from the Wisconsin Clean Water Fund Loan Program and will be subject to regulations contained in Wis. Adm. Code, s. NR 166.12, and appropriate state statutes. Bidders agree to abide by Executive Order 11246, as amended, and the provisions for civil rights, equal employment opportunity, and affirmative action set forth in the Bidding Documents. This procurement is subject to regulations contained in NR 166.12(4) for solicitation of disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs). We encourage DBEs, including MBEs and WBEs, to submit bids.

WAGE RATES

Minimum salaries and fringes to be paid on the project shall be in accordance with the prevailing wage rate scales established by the Federal Department of Labor. Attention is called to the fact that not less than the minimum salaries and fringes set forth in the Contract Documents must be paid on this project, and that the Contractor must ensure that employees and applications for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or other protected class. Federal Labor standards program laws, including, but not limited to the Davis Bacon Act, the Copeland Anti-Kickback Act, and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act apply to all work.

QUALIFICATIONS

A Bidder's Proof of Responsibility (pre-qualification) form, available with the bid documents for this contract must be filed at Ayres Associates no later than February 20, 2025, and shall show sufficient ability, equipment, and experience to properly perform work required in the contract. The Village's decision as to qualifications shall be final. Pre-qualifications may be emailed in PDF format to SchuhC@AyresAssociates.com and FanR@AyresAssociates.com.

RIGHTS RESERVED

Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities in any bid.

BIDDING DOCUMENTS

Bidding documents may be obtained in PDF electronic format by download from the Quest Construction Data Network website, accessible via www.AyresAssociates.com by clicking on the "Bidding" link, for a non-refundable fee of \$64.00.

Published by authority of: Village of Lena.
WNAXLP

Pulaski man pardoned for Jan. 6 crimes

Kasper pleaded guilty to assaulting officer

By KEVIN MURPHY
Correspondent

A former Pulaski man sentenced to 37 months in prison for assaulting a police officer during the riot that took place Jan. 6, 2021, at the U.S. Capitol was pardoned and released Jan. 21 from a federal prison.

Riley Kasper, 26, was one of the about 1,500 Jan. 6 defendants pardoned or had their sentences commuted by President Donald Trump after he took office Jan. 20.

Trump campaigned on pardoning those prosecuted for storming the Capitol and interrupting the Senate's certifying the electoral count for the 2020 election.

On Jan. 21, Kasper was released from Federal Correctional Institution in Milan, Michigan, according of Bureau of Prisons online records.

He was arrested in Ashland in March 2022 and subsequently charged with assaulting a police officer.

According to court

documents and the U.S. Attorney's Office in Washington, D.C., Kasper sprayed what is believed to be a chemical bear spray toward Metropolitan Police officers attempting to secure the Capitol building and grounds.

Also on Jan. 6, Kasper stated in a message to another person on social media: "I pepper sprayed 3 cops so bad they got undressed and went home, gently brazed [sic] many others several times. I basically organized my own little militia and we f—ing took over Congress." He also wrote, "I mean the rest of the crowd gave support, but as you can see in that video it was my group that busted the first gate and kept chasing the cops down and pushing them back into the capital [sic]."

Kasper continued the next day: "You charge that line and start spraying they start running for cover like you're coming at them with an ak" and "there is definitely something satisfying about pepper spray-

ing cops in riot gear ..."

His actions were also reordered on a police body camera.

Kasper pleaded guilty in federal court in the District of Columbia in September 2023 to felony assault of an officer. He was sentenced in December 2023 by District Judge Royce Lamberth, who also ordered Kasper to serve two years of supervised release and to pay restitution of \$2,000.

Ten other Wisconsin residents were charged in connection with the Jan. 6 insurrection and by some, Kasper's conduct was believed to be the most egregious.

Pardons generally assume the offender is guilty of the charged offense and has been rehabilitated.

Pardons symbolize forgiveness for the crime, but don't erase a conviction and can remain as a notation on an individual's federal criminal record, according to Nolo, a website that provides legal information to the public.

Legals WNAXLP

b3699b73
01/24/25, 01/31/25, 02/07/25
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, OCONTO COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF FRANK J. POMPROWITZ, JR.
DOD: 12/28/2024
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 2025 IN 04
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 03/24/1944 and date of death 12/28/2024, was domiciled in Oconto County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 5973 County Road S, Sobieski, WI 54171.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is April 22, 2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Oconto County Courthouse, 301 Washington Street, Oconto, Wisconsin, Room 1173. Form completed by Attorney Warren M. Wanezek 417 S. Adams Street Green Bay, WI 54301 920-437-8191 Bar Number 1004756
WNAXLP

Legals WNAXLP

97a91d89
01/31/25
CITY OF OCONTO FALLS
NOTICE OF ORDINANCE APPROVAL
The following Ordinances were passed by the Common Council for the City of Oconto Falls on December 10, 2024. A full text of said Ordinances may be obtained from the Oconto Falls Clerk's Office located at 500 N. Chestnut, Oconto Falls, WI 54154. Phone: 920-846-4505. ORDINANCE NO. 24-011;
ANNEXATION OF OCONTO FALLS MUNICIPAL UTILITIES SUBSTATION DRIVEWAY FROM THE TOWN OF STILES
Jenny Friedman Deputy Clerk
WNAXLP

dea63874
01/31/25
CITY OF OCONTO FALLS NOTICE OF PUBLIC TEST In accordance to Wis Stats 5.84(1), Notice is hereby given that a Public Test for the voting machine to be used at the Spring Primary Election on February 18, 2025 will be conducted for the City of Oconto Falls on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 9:00 AM at the City Municipal Building, 500 N Chestnut Avenue. The Public Test is open to the general public. Jenny Friedman Deputy Clerk

Legals WNAXLP

098e3e0d
01/31/25
The Town of Spruce is looking for a bid to cut lawn and brush maintenance from May until October
This position will require lawn and brush maintenance for Kadlec Cemetery, Kelly Brook Cemetery, Spruce Town Hall and other various locations as directed by the Spruce Town Board for roughly a six month period beginning in May and ending in October. This person/company must provide all lawn equipment and will be required to provide a certificate of insurance and submit a completed W-9 form upon hire. If interested, please send, preferably, a bid for a 6 month period to: Town of Spruce, PO Box 52, Oconto Falls, WI, 54154 or sprucetownclerk@gmail.com. The position will be open until filled.


NEW MEDIA INC.

da304e98 01/24/25, 01/31/25 Notice of Rate Increase

Sewer Customers of the Oconto Falls Water and Light Commission

This is to give you notice that a rate increase for Sewer will be going into effect on April 1, 2025. Sewer rates were last increased May 2018. Rates for general service will increase 6.56 percent. The increase is necessary to reduce the existing deficiency in present rates. The effect of the increase for some selected customers is shown below.

Customer Classification	Meter Size	Cubic Feet	Existing Monthly Rate	Revised Monthly Rate
Average Residential	3/4	411	\$60.04	\$63.98
Multifamily	2	4,100	\$524.76	\$564.04
Commercial	1	2,600	\$236.28	\$261.19
Public Authority	1 1/2	6,900	\$565.76	\$631.86

The effective date of this increase is April 1, 2025. If you have any questions about the rate increase request, call the Oconto Falls Water and Light Commission at (920) 846-4507.

Find the latest local news at newmedia-wi.com



5 WAYS TO SAVE!

- 1 \$250 OFF** FOR EVERY \$999 YOU SPEND
ON FURNITURE, MATTRESSES AND ACCESSORIES (EXCLUDES TEMPUR-PEDIC)
- 2 OR 60 MONTHS** INTEREST-FREE FINANCING
ON FURNITURE & MATTRESSES
- 3 WE PAY SALES TAX** ON PURCHASES UNDER 1000⁰⁰
- 4 PRICE MATCH** ON APPLIANCES & ELECTRONICS
- 5 FREE DELIVERY** IN 3 DAYS OR LESS

SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY. SEE STORE FOR DETAILS

**BEFORE HEADING OUT,
REMEMBER TO PACK
SOME JUICE.**

i45 model
as shown in photo

INVERTER GENERATORS

3 Models:
120-2000w
130-3000w
145-4500w

**1-YEAR
MANUFACTURER'S
WARRANTY**

Few things come in as handy as a portable generator. Power up your RV, campsite or hunting shack. Or bring it along to that remote work site on the back forty. Jobs like these are perfect for a compact-sized inverter generator from CFMOTO. Our three models are easy to handle and run at low noise levels. But the best part about these amazing little power sources is you can get one now at your CFMOTO dealer.

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C-Force 500

C-Force 1000 Overland

C-Force 400

C-Force 600 Touring

C-Force 800XC

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CFORCE® 110

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MSRP

*Plus freight and setup.

The CFORCE 110 is an easy-to-ride ATV built for riders aged ten and up—a smart solution for helping first-time riders build skills at their own pace. App-based guidance technology and a speed limiter help keep kids within a safe distance when they're beyond your direct eyesight. It's also equipped with a double A-arm independent front suspension, disc brakes, automatic transmission, and electric start. Teach your kids to ride right, right from the start. See us at our store today.

CFMOTO®
empowering people together

WARNING: CFMOTO recreational vehicles are intended for off-road use only and can be hazardous to operate. Read Owner's Manual and all product labels before operating. Never operate on paved roads. Operation and passengers must wear a helmet, eye protection and protective clothing. Operation must be at least 16 years old with a valid driver's license. Passengers, if permitted, must be at least 12 years old. Always use seat belts, roll-over and doors if equipped. Never operate under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Avoid excessive speed and sharp turns, and never engage in stunt driving. Check state and local laws before operating on trails. Take a safety training course before operating. Contact your CFMOTO dealer for more information, call the ATV Safety Institute at 1-800-486-5862 or go to www.atvsafety.org. ©2023 Zhejiang CFMOTO Power Co., Ltd.

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TALK IS CHEAP. LOCAL NEWS IS VALUABLE.

We know. There's a flood of news coverage out there, some of it good and some not so good. But none of those talking heads, cable pundits or national websites can deliver the local news and information that makes this a more vibrant and successful community.

That's where we come in. Like you, we live and work here, and we're invested in our community's successes and challenges. That means fully and fairly reporting on the events in our backyard, but also providing an overall news report with a hometown perspective.

At a time of polarization and pandering, we stay out of the fray. We're committed to the local coverage that matters most: Education. The economy. Health care. Public safety. Sports and the arts. And above all else, government accountability.

Support local news. It's the good stuff.

SHAWANO LEADER

OCONTO COUNTY
TIMES HERALD

WITTENBERG
ENTERPRISE
& BIRNAMWOOD NEWS



Pat's Market

GILNETT (920) 855-6040

STORE HOURS: Mon-Fri 7:00am - 7:00pm

Deli Closing at 6:00 pm**

Sat 8:00am-5:30pm Sun 8:00am - 1:00pm

HSBS PHARMACY HOURS:

MON-FRI 9:00AM - 5:30PM

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While Supplies Last!

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We reserve the right to limit quantities.



Blue Bunny Premium Ice Cream



\$3.99

Asst Variety
46-48oz

Doritos



Buy One Get One
FREE

Asst Variety
7.25-10.75oz

Farmland Pork Sausage Rolls Bacon, Original



\$1.99
ea
12oz

Vollwerth Brats and Wieners Cheddarwurst, Brats, Polish sausage

\$5.29 each
18-22oz

U.S.D.A Choice T-Bone Steaks



\$11.89
lb

Vollwerth Old Fashion Summer Sausage Jalapeno cheddar, original

\$4.59 each
16oz

Picnic Pork Shoulder Steaks or Roasts



\$2.09
lb

Sweet Baby Rays
Sauces
2/\$5 Asst Variety
16-28oz

Pace Picante or
Thick & Chunky Salsa
2/\$5 Asst Variety
16oz

Blood Oranges



\$2.49
2lb Bag

Strawberries



\$3.39
1lb ea

Mini Hydro Cucumbers



\$2.89
ea
6 ct

Red, Yellow, Orange Bell Peppers



\$2.89
lb

Roma Run XL Tomato's



\$1.49
lb

Kretschmar Off-the-Bone Rotisserie Chicken Breast



\$6.49
lb
Shaved or Sliced

King's Hawaiian Dinner Rolls



\$2.99
1 Dozen
Original or Butter

Old El Paso Taco Shells, Refried Beans or Spanish Rice



2/\$3
Asst Variety
4.6-16oz

Cheez-Its, Club, Town House, Toasteds, or Zesta Crackers



2/\$6
Asst Variety
9-16oz

Prairie Farms Sour Cream



\$2.29
16oz

Tombstone Original Pizza



2/\$8
Asst Variety
17.2-21.3oz

Pillsbury Brownie or Cakes Mixes



\$1.29
Asst Variety
15.25-18.4oz

General Mills Cereal



2/\$6
Asst Variety
8.9-11.7oz

V8 Juice or Fusions

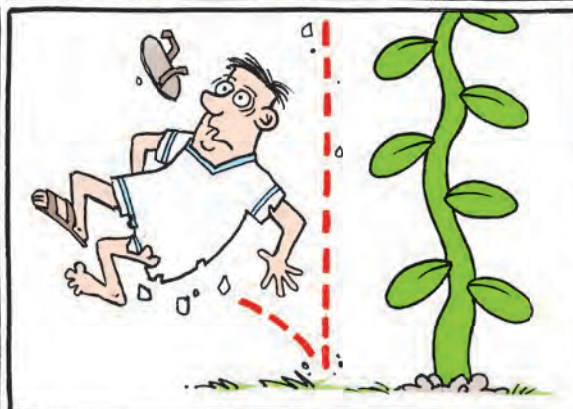
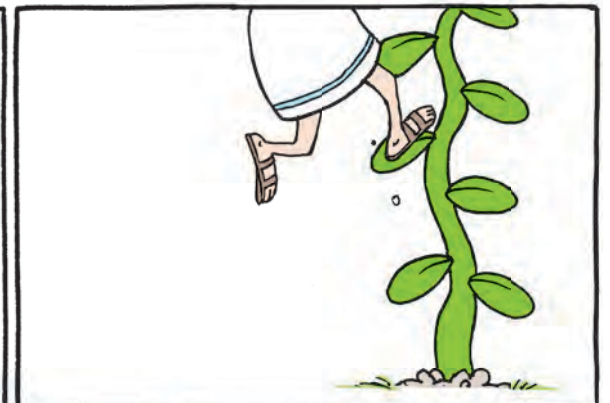


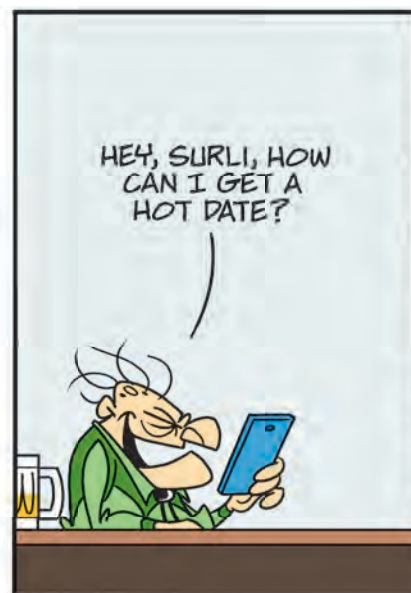
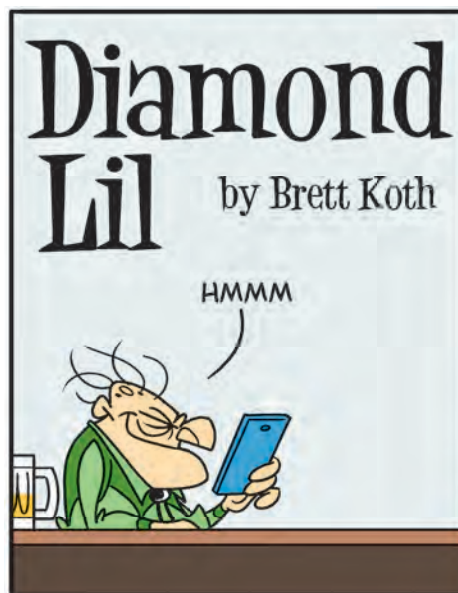
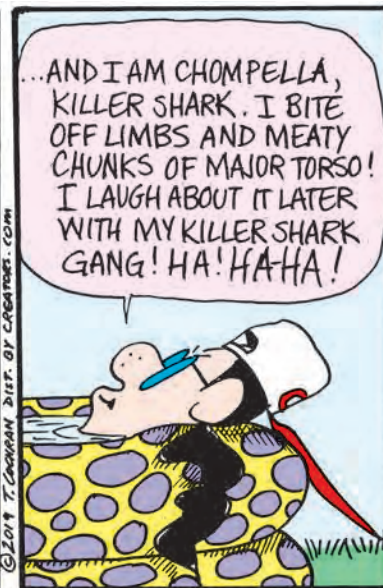
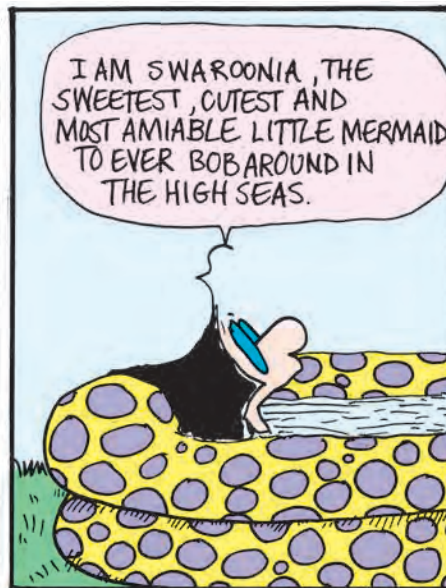
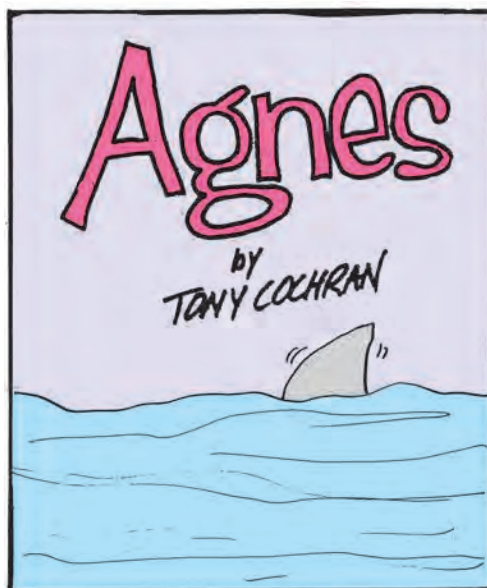
2/\$6
Asst Variety
46oz

Food Club 12 Pack Soda



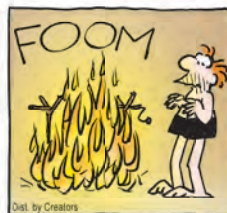
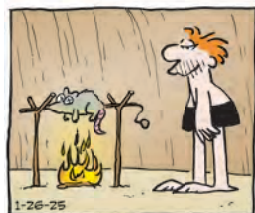
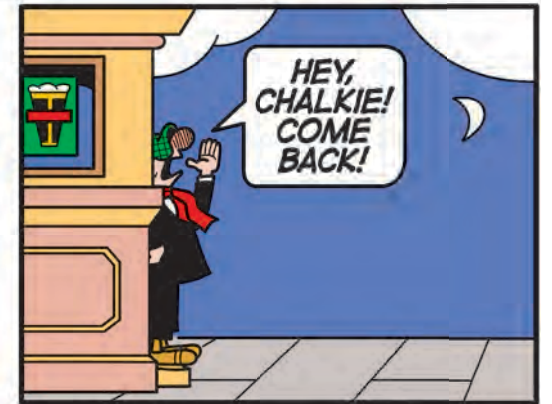
\$3.99
Asst Variety





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by Smythe



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BY MICK MASTROIANNI AND MASON MASTROIANNI

