

Gillett school lunch prices to see modest increase

Program would eventually run into the red without a hike, school officials say

BY WARREN BLUHM
News Editor

The price of a student lunch at Gillett schools will increase in September for the first time in five years.

The school board Feb. 20 approved a recommendation to increase elementary school lunches from the current \$2.85 to \$2.95. Middle and high school students will go from \$2.95 to \$3.25. Breakfasts will remain at \$2.10.

Kristie Feffer, food services director, presented a review that compared lunch prices with what students are charged in Bonduel, Lena, Oconto Falls and Suring. Gillett's current rates are below all of the other districts except Suring Elementary School, which charges \$2.75. Suring secondary students already pay \$3.25, she said.

"I know that food service has had a surplus over the last few years, and we were able to carry that through," Feffer said. "Costs of food have obviously gone up ... it's just a recommendation that we keep the pace with everyone else."

Superintendent Nathan Hanson said budget numbers project that the surplus will turn into a deficit within the next five years.

"Basically when you look at our five-year projections, the first year is always the most accurate and the fifth year is the least accurate," Hanson said. "But when you look at those projections, if we don't do something about increasing the meals, we will run into the red at some point."

Feffer said the recommendation from the state Department of Public Instruction is to generate small annual increases rather than a big jump.

"DPI does not have a required amount that they expect you to charge for this; it's up to us," she said. "They do suggest that we try not to increase more than 10 cents per year so the burden doesn't fall on the families, but we have not increased in at least five years that I'm aware of."

Hanson said the increase does not affect summer school but would take effect with the new school year in the fall.



Ice shanties dot the surface of Finnegan Lake on Feb. 22 during the annual ice fishing derby hosted by the Finnegan Lake Walleye Club. WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

Ice fishing derby draws crowd

New Finnegan Lake aeration system aims to improve oxygen levels

BY WARREN BLUHM
News Editor

Ice shanties dotted Finnegan Lake on Gillett's west side Feb. 22 as the Finnegan Lake Walleye Club held its annual ice fishing derby fundraiser.

Anglers were vying for cash prizes in several categories. The weather cooperated with temperatures below freezing; a warming trend did not kick in until later in the weekend. Members of the Gillett High School fishing team helped by measuring the entries at derby headquarters at Zippel Park.

Inside the Exhibition Building, residents and club members enjoyed food and refreshments and raffle drawings along with a live auction. Bucket raffles offered prizes ranging from cases of adult beverage to a kayak, and the main raffle had \$6,000 in cash prizes including a \$1,000 grand prize.

Proceeds go to club activities including scholarships to students at Gillett, Suring



DERBY, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 Members of the Finnegan Lake Walleye Club erect a fence in January around the open water where a newly installed aerator is operating is improving the oxygen levels in the lake. CONTRIBUTED

INSIDE

County Board slows grant applications for park improvements.

PAGE 5

0 51497 11626 2



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Progress noted for senior meals, other services

Oconto County shifts contractors for 2025

By WARREN BLUHM
News Editor

The director of Oconto County Health and Human Services continues to report progress two months into the county contracted with new

vendors for services to the elderly.

The county cut ties to the nonprofit Oconto County Commission on Aging because of long-standing fiscal issues. HHS director Scott Shackelford told the Oconto County Board on Feb. 20 that he attended the Marinette Elderly Services board meeting Feb. 17 and heard positive feedback on the partnership with the Main Course restaurant in Oconto Falls, which is providing meals in the southern half of Oconto County.

“They really are liking the food that is being made out of the Oconto Falls area with the Main Course, getting real high grades on some of the soups and the freshness of the food,” Shackelford said. “They read a report out of a lady that was just talking about the good quality and she noticed that the packaging was changed, easily microwaved if it has to be reheated.”

In addition to home-delivered meals, Marinette Elderly Services is serving lunch at the Oconto Falls

Senior Center at noon Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and at the Mountain Community Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Shackelford said HHS is planning to begin offering foot clinics in Mountain and Oconto Falls and is working on adding clinics in Suring and Oconto.

“That is probably the top concern” among people who have contacted Shackelford directly, he said.

The county department continues to look for a

site to provide lunches in Oconto, Shackelford said. The sites offer a balanced meal for people 60 and older for a suggested donation of \$5.

“We just needed to get our feet on the ground and prioritizing getting the meals on wheels and a couple of congregate sites,” he said.

Bus ridership is up for Menominee Transit, which is offering medical transports and rides for seniors daily in Oconto, weekly in rural areas and by appointment.

The services of an elderly benefit specialist have been folded into the Oconto Falls office of the Aging and Disabilities Resource Center (ADRC) of the Wolf River Region.

“By embedding it in the ADRC, we’re able to do a federal drawdown, which costs the county a lot less money, probably several thousand dollars,” Shackelford said.

HHS continues to seek input from users about what they want, he said.

wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com

Gillett School Board sells strip of land to DOT

By WARREN BLUHM
News Editor

The Gillett School Board has authorized the sale of a narrow parcel to the state Department of Transportation for the reconstruction of state Highway 22.

The DOT is planning to

rebuild 1.08 miles of Highway 22 through the city in 2026 between Finnegan Lake Road and the intersection with state Highway 32. The agency offered \$6,900 to the school district.

“We got a proposal back from DOT on the purchase of the property that’s go-

ing to run along the edge of the school for the road project,” Superintendent Nathan Hanson told the board Feb. 20.

“We have to do a little bit more investigating, because the way the deed is written we’re not entirely sure, we may need to get

more people involved,” Hanson said.

The board authorized Hanson to sign off on the offer once the details are ironed out.

The road work includes new pavement, sidewalks, and curb and gutter, along with multiple intersection

improvements. A detour is planned using County Roads R and H and Highway 32, although access to property owners and businesses in the work zone will be maintained.

Final plans are expected to be completed this summer with the state work

done in the spring and summer of 2026. The city is planning preparatory utility work this year.

A webpage with details about the project can be found at <https://wisconsin-dot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/ne/22gillett/default.aspx>.

DERBY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and Oconto Falls high schools. The club awarded five scholarships in 2024.

Gary Hougas, past president, said the club recently completed the process of having an aerator installed, an effort that took about two and a half years. Department of Natural Resources studies indicated oxygen levels on the lake had been going down over a period of 10 years.

“It was beginning to get frustrating seeing \$5,000 worth of fish floating in the lake,” Hougas said.

The club restocks the lake yearly with walleye,

crappie, perch and bluegill.

The \$11,400 project was completed in the fall thanks to \$5,000 in grants from the Oconto County Lakes and Waterways Association and Oconto County Clear Lakes and Water, he said. He also credited guidance from Ken Dolata of the county Land and Water Conservation Department, as well as the Pickerel Chain Lake Association, which also recently installed aerators.

A resident granted a 99-year easement to the club to get electric power down to the shoreline, where

a pedestal was built for an on-shore compressor. Three lines were run to the aerators at the bottom of the lake, and they went into operation in January.

Club members posted signs and erected fencing to warn about the open water caused by the aerator at the west end of the lake. Maintaining the aerator and the fencing will be an annual project for the club now, but Hougas said at an estimate cost of \$1.40 a day for electric power, the tradeoff is worth it.

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A warning sign cautions people venturing onto the Finnegan Lake ice about the area where an operational aerator is causing open water.

CONTRIBUTED



A variety of items greets visitors who want to enter the bucket raffles Feb. 22 at Finnegan Lake Walleye Club Ice Fishing Derby headquarters.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

OCONTO COUNTY

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Published weekly

by NEW Media Inc.

d/b/a The Oconto County Times Herald

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County board honors former finance director

Sherman thanks county board, colleagues she worked with

By **WARREN BLUHM**
News Editor

Former Oconto County finance director Lisa Sherman was recognized Feb. 20 during the monthly meeting of the county board.

Herman retired Feb. 3 after 35 years with the county, including several years as Oconto County's top fiscal manager. County Board Chairman Al Sleeter presented her with a certificate of appreciation for her years of service.

"The friendships and the shared successes we have experienced together have made my career not just fulfilling but also truly rewarding," Sherman told her colleagues and the board. "Your dedication and hard work are commendable, and I have been fortunate to work along-

side all of you. I am very proud of all that we have accomplished together."

Sherman said she appreciated the opportunities for professional growth and development that the county afforded her over the years.

"Oconto County has not only allowed me to contribute my skills and expertise but has also challenged and inspired me to continue learning and growing. The experience and knowledge I have gained here have been invaluable and have shaped me both professionally and personally," she said. "It has been a privilege to be a part of this team, and I will cherish the memory and relationships that I have built here forever."

Sherman's retirement letter was read to supervi-

sors at the county board's regular monthly meeting Nov. 21. In addition to her work in the finance department, she was tabbed to serve as interim county administrator earlier this year after former administrator Erik Pritzl departed and before Richard Heath arrived at the end of April.

Betty Bickel, who previously served as deputy director and operations manager of the county health and human services (HHS) department, was introduced as the new county finance director at the board's Jan. 23 meeting.

Bickel's successor at HHS will be Brandon Dahl, who comes to the county after a stint as highway finance manager for Marinette County.

wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com



Oconto County finance director Lisa Sherman addresses the county board during its Oct. 31 budget meeting. FILE | NEW MEDIA

March 15 dinner marks American Legion anniversary

American Legion Post 74 and Auxiliary are planning a joint dinner for March 15 at Coppertown Bar and Grill, the former Crivellos at 818 Main St., Oconto.

March 15 marks the anniversary of the 1919 American Expeditionary Force

caucus convention in Paris that led to the Congressional Charter founding the American Legion.

The Oconto Post and Auxiliary plans to muster at 3 p.m. on that Saturday for social time; a broasted chicken dinner buffet is scheduled for 4 p.m. Enter-

tainment for the early evening is a planned performance by The Sapphires, and the event is expected to conclude around 6 p.m.

Post 74 and Auxiliary Members are eligible to purchase tickets for the event at a subsidized cost of \$10 per person for

themselves and a guest. The price includes two drink tickets for most any common item from the event bar.

While they may purchase a ticket for one guest, sales for the event are limited to members in good standing of Post 74

and the Post 74 Auxiliary. Tickets will be available at the March 6 Auxiliary meeting.

To pay by mail, make the check payable to American Legion Post 74 and mail by Feb. 28 to P.O. Box 533, Oconto, WI, 54153-0533. All tickets and drink

tickets are to be picked up as will call at the event.

For information, members may contact the Auxiliary President Pat Sherman at 920-419-7364.

Without prior reservation, tickets may be purchased at the door for \$30 per person.

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02/28/25

NOTICE OF HEARING

CITY OF OCONTO FALLS

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Council Chambers-Municipal Building

500 N. Chestnut Avenue Oconto Falls,

WI 54154

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025 –

12:00 PM

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City of

Oconto Falls Zoning Board of Appeals

will hold a hearing on the request of

Rapids Housing LLC to be granted a

variance from the Oconto Falls sideline

setback zoning requirements. This relates

to placing a trailer located at 249 Birch

Avenue Oconto Falls, WI. Keaton

Schultz, park owner wishes to place a

trailer on Lot 25 19 ½ feet from the lot

line. The zoning ordinance states that

such structures are to be a minimum of

30 feet from the lot line.

The hearing will be held at the Oconto

Falls City Council Chambers, 500 N.

Chestnut Ave., Oconto Falls, WI 54154.

The hearing is open to the public. The

date of the hearing is Wednesday March

12, 2025, at 12:00 P.M. City

Administrator Peter Wills

Legals

WNAXLP

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02/21/25, 02/28/25, 03/07/25

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT

COURT SHAWANO COUNTY

Case # 2023-CV-0139 U

US Bank Trust National Association,

as Trustee of the Igloo Series V Trust,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Susan B. Golding, et al.,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that by virtue of

a judgment of foreclosure entered on

02/19/2024, in the amount of \$94,637.43,

the Sheriff will sell the described

premises at public auction as follows:

TIME:

March 12, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

TERMS:

Pursuant to said judgment, 10% of the

successful bid must be paid to the sheriff

at the sale in cash, cashier's check or

certified funds, payable to the Shawano

County Clerk of Courts. (personal checks

cannot and will not be accepted). The

balance of the successful bid must be

paid to the clerk of courts in cash,

cashier's check or certified funds no later

than ten days after the court's

confirmation of the sale or else the 10%

down payment is forfeited to the plaintiff.

The property is sold "as is" and subject to

all liens and encumbrances.

PLACE:

Shawano County Courthouse 311 N.

Main St. Shawano, WI 54166

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TO THE CITY OF SHAWANO,

SHAWANO COUNTY, WISCONSIN.

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DATED: 1/30/2025

Attorney Bryan Ward LLC Attorneys for

Plaintiff 5555 N. Port Washington Rd.,

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4849 Attorney Bryan Ward LLC is

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02/21/25, 02/28/25

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Bids will be opened and discussed at the regular meeting of the Town of Oconto

Falls Board at its March meeting, March 10, 2025, 6pm. Any bids received after

March 7 will not be accepted. The Town has the right to accept or deny any bids

presented as per the specifications supplied by the Town. Any questions can be

emailed to the above email address or, Dave Alsteen, Town Chairman can be

reached at 920-373-7435

Welcome to our

World Day of Prayer 2025

Friday, March 7 • 10 a.m.

Location:

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Lutheran Church

11015 County Road M,

Suring

Hosted by:

Hickory United Methodist

Church

OBITUARIES

Terry Bengtson



Terry Bengtson, 81, of Suring, passed away on Friday, Feb. 14, 2025, after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer.

Terry was born Jan. 25, 1944, in Red Wing, Minnesota, to the late Wilbur and Maxine (Hager) Bengtson. He graduated from Suring High School in 1962. After high school, he attended River Falls State College for pre-mortuary science as he was going to follow in his father's footsteps.

Terry met Patricia Bignell while both were working at the Red Wing Shoe Factory. They were blessed with 59 years of marriage, having wed in Pierce County on April 24, 1965. While in college, Terry decided to change his career path and joined the law enforcement profession.

He began working for the Oconto County Sheriff's Department as a traffic officer. He then accepted a position with the Wisconsin State Patrol in 1966. He worked several areas of the state including Waukesha, Menomonie, Milwaukee area, Eau Claire and finally Wausau. While working for the Patrol, he worked as an inspector, trooper, trooper instructor at the Wisconsin State Patrol Academy, inspector/

trooper sergeant, deputy district commander and finally retiring as captain district commander at the Wausau District in 1998. Following his retirement, he was hired to develop the training curriculum for the Wisconsin Police Corp.

During Terry and Pat's time in Eau Claire, they owned and operated Eau Claire Lawn and Garden Equipment, selling when retirement neared. Terry finally worked at the local automobile dealership in Oconto Falls selling the best vehicles on the market — Ford, for those that didn't know Terry.

During retirement, Terry and Pat enjoyed snowbirding, mostly in Arizona. They made many friends while spending time south and as part of their local Newmar Kountry Club, The Wisconsin Northern

Aires during the summer. Terry served as president of the Wisconsin Chapter and was the Wisconsin state director for nearly 20 years.

Terry was currently on the Suring Village Board and a member of the Suring United Methodist Church.

Terry is survived by his wife, Pat; two daughters, Jean Bengtson of Eau Claire and Jackie (Andy) Blodgett of Tomahawk; one son, Bill Bengtson of Rothschild; two grandsons, Jake Blodgett of Goose Creek, South Carolina, and Matt Blodgett of Tomahawk; sister, Nancy Bowman of Suring.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Wilbur and Maxine of Suring; father- and mother-in-law, Vernon and Wilma "Sis" Bignell of Pepin; brother-in-law, Norman Bignell of Wabasha, Minnesota; brother and sister-in-law, Morrie and Ada Schaller of Galesville, Wisconsin; brother-in-law, Kenny Bowman of Mountain; niece, Kendall Velie of Appleton; nephew, Scott Heitman of Nelson, Wisconsin.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at Gruetzmacher Funeral Home in Suring from noon

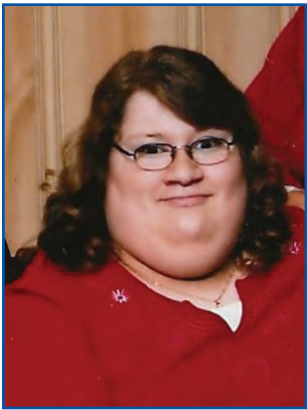
until the memorial service at 3 p.m. with Pastor Dominic Petit officiating. At Terry's request, a celebration of life will be held at Jean's residence (950 Daisy Lane, Eau Claire, WI 54703) on Saturday, March 8, 2025, from noon to 3 p.m. Internment will occur at a later date at Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Suring.

Gruetzmacher Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences can be expressed at www.gruetzmacherfuneralhome.com.

The family wishes to extend their deepest gratitude to neighbors, Mike and Renae Steffek, and friend, Lee Doepke of Menominee, Michigan, for all their assistance and compassion shown to Terry and Pat during this last chapter of his life. The family would also like to thank Gruetzmacher Funeral Home in Suring for the compassion offered to Terry and his family during their time of need.



Sara M. DeGreef



Sara M. DeGreef, 32, of Crooked Lake, passed away suddenly on Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025.

Sara was born Aug. 27, 1992, to Larry and Mary (Stein) DeGreef in Green Bay. She attended the Denmark School District before the family moved to Crooked Lake. Sara then graduated from Suring High School.

She enjoyed going out to eat, watching game shows, reading the Chicken Soup books and playing games on her iPhone. Throughout her life, Sara struggled with many health

issues due to spina bifida; now her suffering is over.

Sara is survived by her mother, Mary; brother, Duane DeGreef; nephew,

Trevor DeGreef; aunts and uncles, Tom and Sandy Stein, Mike and Cheryl Stein, Frank and Tina Stein; uncle and godfather, Bob Stein; beloved dog, Muffin. She is further survived by many cousins and friends.

She was preceded in death by her father, Larry; grandparents, Helen and Melvin Stein.

Visitation will be held on Friday, Feb. 21, 2025, at St. Mary's Crooked Lake Chapel from 10 a.m. until the Mass of Christian Burial at 11:30 a.m. with Father Praveen Pamiseti officiat-

ing. Sara will be interred at Saints Cyril and Methodius Catholic Cemetery.

Gruetzmacher Funeral Home in Suring is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences can be expressed at www.gruetzmacherfuneralhome.com.



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Notice of Oconto Falls

Cemetery Association

Annual Meeting – Oconto Falls

The Annual Meeting of the Oconto Falls

Cemetery Association (Woodlawn

Cemetery) will be held on Monday,

March 10, 2025 in Assisi Rooms A

and B of St. Clare Memorial Hospital

at 4:00 P.M. Those with vested interest

are encouraged to attend.

County board questions park improvement funding

Supervisors send grant applications for ATV trailhead back to committee

By **WARREN BLUHM**
News Editor

The Oconto County Board remains skeptical about putting an ATV trailhead in the Town of Riverview.

The board voted 16-13 in November to reject a \$280,000 bid to build a parking lot at the site on Torsci Lane in the Town of Riverview as the first phase in development of a campground and trailhead off the Nicolet State Trail.

The county land and water resources committee sent three resolutions to the board's Feb. 20 meeting that would authorize grant applications to fund the so-called

Armstrong Trailhead, but all three resolutions were sent back to committee on a unanimous vote.

There was little discussion on the resolutions themselves, but Brenda Carey-Mielke, a candidate for Mountain town chair, appeared to ask that the county consider the northwest corner of the town's Fireman's Park as a location for a trailhead.

"Our downtown area has existing businesses that are struggling right now, and this would benefit the community greatly in that area," Carey-Mielke said. "I know it was offered 10 years ago; I don't know why the powers that be at that time did not

move forward with this viable option for our community, but it wasn't done, and I'm just here to stand up and say this would help tremendously."

There was considerable discussion on a fourth resolution, which would authorize the county to proceed with applying to the state's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund for a grant to develop improvements to Pioneer Park in the Town of Stiles.

Monty Brink, head of the forestry/park/recreation department, said that Knowles-Nelson grants are available to offset 50% of the county's total project cost.

Supervisor Jolene

Barkhaus made a motion to return the resolution to the committee, because the plan apparently includes a design for a disc golf course. People who enjoy disc golf are concerned, because it appears the course would be split between either side of a proposed campground rather than allowing for continued play.

Supervisor Guy Gooding countered that the issue before the board was whether to apply for the state grant money before some other county gets it.

"The resolution is just to allow Monty to apply for the grant," Gooding said. "It would go back to committee anyway

once he gets the grant approved."

Corporation Counsel Beth Ellingson agreed, saying the resolution is simply the first step in the process of applying for the funds.

"This resolution ... basically allows Monty to submit the paperwork, sign the paperwork, and in the future if there is a project, he would be able to submit an invoice for reimbursement," Ellingson said. "It does not authorize work at this time."

Brink said the county's capital improvement plan for several years has included improvements to Pioneer Park in 2026.

County Administrator Richard Heath said he

understands supervisors' questions about the development plan, but the intent at this stage is simply to get on the list for access to the state funding.

"It's a very competitive, both pods of money are very competitive, so if some award comes to Oconto County it will certainly benefit the park," Heath said. "It may not even be funded, but this is just money for starting the process."

Barkhaus' motion to send the resolution back to committee failed on a 13-13 tie vote, and the resolution itself then passed 19-7.

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Gillett School Board discusses graduation logistics

Members question whether Memorial Day Sunday is the best option

By **WARREN BLUHM**
News Editor

A minor change in the Gillett School District calendar led to a more general discussion of graduation dates during the school board's Feb. 20 regular monthly meeting.

Superintendent Nathan Hanson told the board that the 2025-26 calendar they approved in January contained an error — the week he originally listed for spring break did not overlap with Good Friday, so the revised calendar makes that adjustment.

While they were discussing the calendar, board

member Jamie Heroux suggested the district consider whether the current practice of holding graduation on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend is best.

Over the years, teachers have said underclassmen seem to be less engaged during the approximately two weeks of class time after the seniors have left the building, Heroux said. He suggested either a study of ways to get those remaining students more engaged or changing the graduation date.

"We went back to having graduation as the last Sunday before the last day

of school, which it was for two years, and we went back to Memorial Day weekend because of the thought that it was always Memorial Day weekend, and we've been having this discussion ever since," he said.

He challenged administrators to come back in May with some options for the future.

Hanson said he reviewed some old parent surveys and found that opinions about the graduation date vary year to year.

Secondary school principal Shawn Limberg said graduation was held on the Sunday of Memo-

rial Day weekend 18 times in the last 26 years. Seven were the weekend after Memorial Day, and in 2020 a scaled-back ceremony was held in August due to COVID-related restrictions.

"Actually, in the 1970s, '80s and '90s, it looks like graduation was on the Friday of Memorial Day weekend," Limberg said.

Hanson said several area districts have gone to midweek a graduation ceremony.

"Ideologically, from my standpoint, the longer we have kids here, the more we can work with them," Hanson said. "It's just

whether the community wants that or not."

Board member Kimberly Schaal suggested that any study include a look at surrounding communities with a review of the impact on families who have students in multiple districts. Gillett's ceremony has been held at 1:30 p.m. Memorial Day Sunday and Oconto Falls starts at 2 p.m., for example.

"For some of our families, it's kind of hard to get to graduation in Gillett and Oconto Falls if you have relatives in both districts," Schaal said. "It's just something I've heard."

Heroux said the sole

purpose is to educate the students of the community, noting that every year districts seem to be moving to fewer student-contact days.

"Having two weeks where maybe some of our sophomores and juniors aren't as engaged because the seniors have left already, I think that becomes more of an impact than it may have in years past," Heroux said. "We should be always considering how are we making sure that we're educating the students that are successful after they leave here, first."

wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com

Carey-Mielke, Maletzke advance after Mountain primary

By **NEW MEDIA STAFF**

Mountain Town Chairman Lindor "Skip" Maletzke will face Brenda Carey-Mielke in the April 1 spring election.

Carey-Mielke was the

top vote-getter in the Feb. 18 primary, and Maletzke finished second. Another challenger, Tom Huff, was eliminated.

The unofficial tally showed Carey-Mielke with 104 votes, Maletzke

with 80 and Huff with 59.

The three-way race was the only local contest on the primary election ballot, which brought out only 2,640 or 8% of eligible county voters, according to the Oconto

County Clerk's Office.

In the statewide superintendent of public instruction race, challenger Brittany Kinser outpolled incumbent Jill Underly among Oconto County voters, with 1,208 votes to

Underly's 809 and 599 for the other challenger, Jeff Wright.

Across the state, Underly secured about 38% to Kinser's 34.5% and 27.5% for Wright. The position is ostensibly non-

partisan, but Underly and Wright identify as Democrats and Kinser, while calling herself a moderate, has the support of the state Republican Party.

news@newmedia-wi.com

OCONTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Feb. 20

Deputies responded to 43 incidents, including drug-endangered children cases in the towns of Abrams, Chase and Mountain, suspicious activity on state Highway 32 in the Town of Riverview, a disturbance on South Green Bay Avenue in Gillett, harassment on County Road S in the Town of Chase, three traffic stops, four traffic offenses, one citizen assist, one miscellaneous traffic incident, four welfare checks; one 911 hangup and one open line; three ambulance calls; four crashes, three involving deer.

Feb. 19

Deputies responded to 44 incidents, including a

disturbance on County Road B in the Town of Oconto Falls, four traffic stops, three traffic hazards, two traffic offenses, one citizen assist, three miscellaneous traffic incidents, two welfare checks; one 911 hangup and three open lines; one crash.

Feb. 18

Deputies responded to 45 incidents, including sexual assault in the Town of Abrams, a fire control burn near state Highway 64 and Twin Pine Road in the Town of Mountain, theft on Leos Road in the Town of Mountain, animal neglect on state Highway 32 in the Town of Chase and on County Road A in the Town of Little River, sexual

assault in the Town of Spruce, internet fraud on Pleasant View Drive in the Town of Chase, a disturbance on Park Avenue in Oconto Falls, five traffic stops, one traffic hazard, two traffic offenses, one citizen assist, three welfare checks; two open-line 911 calls; one crash.

Feb. 17

Deputies responded to 48 incidents, including animal neglect on Cream City Road in the Town of Oconto, an incident at the Oconto County Jail, 220 Arbutus Ave. in Oconto, suspicious activity on U.S. Highway 41 in the Town of Pensaukee, a death investigation in the Town of Little River, four traffic stops, two

traffic offenses, one citizen assist, three miscellaneous traffic incidents, four welfare checks; one 911 hangup; one ambulance call; one crash.

Feb. 16

Deputies responded to 22 incidents, including suspicious activity on North Chestnut Avenue in Oconto Falls, a disturbance on South Washington Street in Oconto Falls, theft on North Paya Lake Road in the Town of Riverview, one traffic hazard, one miscellaneous traffic incident; one 911 hangup and three open lines; one ambulance call; five crashes.

Feb. 15

Deputies responded to 36 incidents, including a

snowmobile accident near Mosquito Lake Road and Oak Ridge Lane in the Town of Townsend, fire near Hale and Bay roads in rural Peshtigo, a disturbance on Grosse Road in the Town of Little Suamico, property damage on County Road S in the Town of Little Suamico, a wanted person on Grindle Oak Drive in the Town of Riverview, four citizen assists, three miscellaneous traffic incidents, one welfare check; one open-line 911 call; four ambulance calls; nine crashes.

Feb. 14

Deputies responded to 33 incidents, including a disturbance on North Zippel Avenue in Gillett, a wanted person on

Sherrie Lane in the Town of Underhill, attempted fraud on Pine Ridge Road in the Town of Doty, a disturbance on East Railroad Street in Lena, squad damage near County Road A and Midway Road in the Town of Lena, a snowmobile accident near Bonita Road and County Road W in the Town of Mountain, fraud on County Road Y in the Town of Little River, suspicious activity on East Brook Street in Suring, one traffic stop, three traffic hazards, one traffic offense, one citizen assist, one miscellaneous traffic incident, one welfare check; one 911 hangup and two open lines; two ambulance calls; four crashes, one involving deer.

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Wisconsin cattle and calf numbers up slightly from 2024

All cattle and calves in Wisconsin as of Jan. 1 totaled 3.25 million head, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – Cattle report. This was up 50,000 head from Jan. 1, 2024.

Beef cows, at 275,000 head, were up 15,000 head from last year. Milk cow inventory was down 5,000 head at 1.27 million head.

All heifers 500 pounds and more were up 5% at 680,000 head. Heifers for beef cow replacement were up 18% from 2024 at 65,000 head; heifers for milk cow replacement, at 510,000 head, were up 2% from the previous year; and all other heifers were up 11% at 105,000 head.

Steers weighing 500 pounds and more were unchanged from last year at 360,000 head. Bulls weighing 500 pounds and more were unchanged at 30,000 head. Calves less than 500 pounds on Jan. 1 totaled 640,000 head, up 2% from last year.

The 2024 calf crop was estimated at 1.37 million head, unchanged from the 2023 calf crop. Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots on Jan. 1 totaled 230,000 head, up 5% from one year ago.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of Jan. 1 totaled 86.7 million head, 1% below the 87.2 million head on Jan. 1, 2024.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 37.2 million head, were slightly below the 37.4 million head on Jan. 1, 2024. Beef cows, at 27.9 million head, were down 1% from a year ago. Milk cows, at 9.35 million head, were up slightly from the previous year.

All heifers 500 pounds and more as of Jan. 1 totaled 18.2 million head, 1% below the 18.3 million head on Jan. 1, 2024. Beef replacement heifers, at 4.67 million head, were down 1% from a year ago. Milk replacement heifers, at 3.91 million head, were down 1% from the previous year. Other heifers, at 9.59 million head, were 1% below a year earlier.

Steers weighing 500 pounds and more as of Jan. 1 totaled 15.8 million head, down 1% from Jan. 1, 2024.

Bulls weighing 500 pounds and more as of Jan. 1 totaled 2.01 million head, down 1% from Jan. 1, 2024.

Calves less than 500 pounds as of Jan. 1 totaled 13.5 million head, down slightly from Jan. 1, 2024.

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for all feedlots totaled 14.3 million head on Jan. 1. The inventory is down 1% from the Jan. 1, 2024, total of 14.4 million head. Cattle on feed in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head accounted for 82.7% of the total cattle on feed on Jan. 1, up slightly from the previous year. The combined total of calves less than 500 pounds and other heifers and steers more than 500 pounds (outside of feedlots), at 24.6 million head, was slightly below Jan. 1, 2024.

The 2024 calf crop in the United States was estimated at 33.5 million head, down slightly from the previous year's calf crop. Calves born during the first half of 2024 were estimated at 24.6 million head, down slightly from the first half of 2023. Calves born during the second half of 2024 were estimated at 8.93 million head, 27% of the total 2024 calf crop.

All inventory and calf crop estimates for July 1, 2023, and Jan. 1, 2024, were reviewed using calf crop, official slaughter, import and export data and the relationship of new survey information to the prior surveys. Based on the findings of this review, July 1, 2023, all cows and heifers that have calved decreased by 0.3% and 2023 calf crop decreased by 0.1%. For Jan. 1, 2024, all cows and heifers that have calved decreased by 0.6%.

State-level estimates were reviewed and changes were made to reallocate inventory estimates to the United States total.

The complete report can be found on the USDA NASS website at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications.

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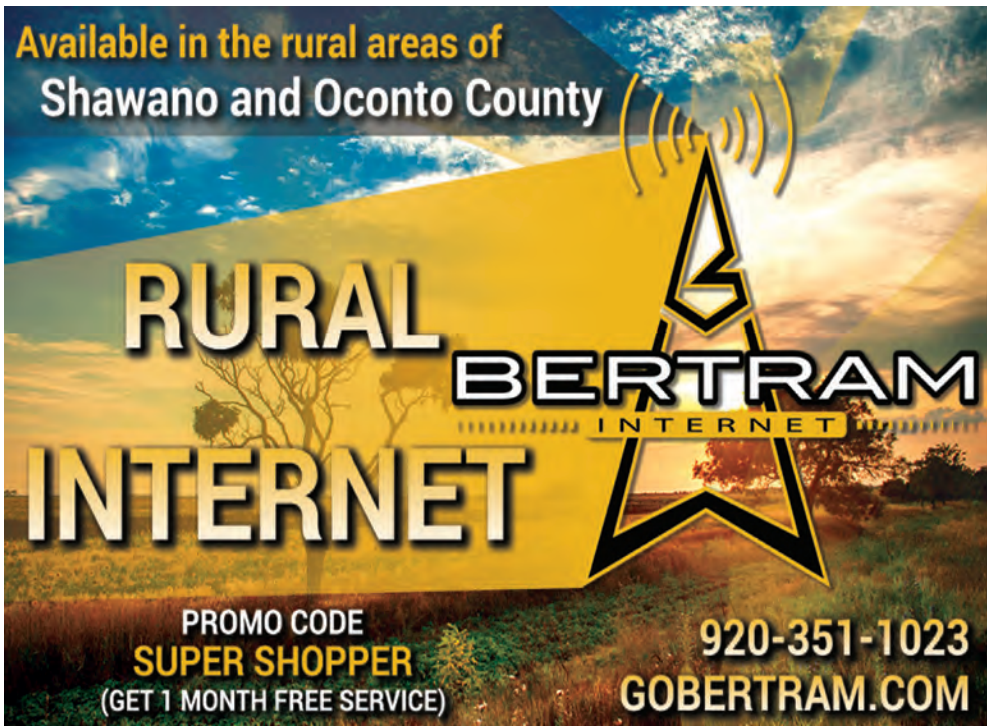
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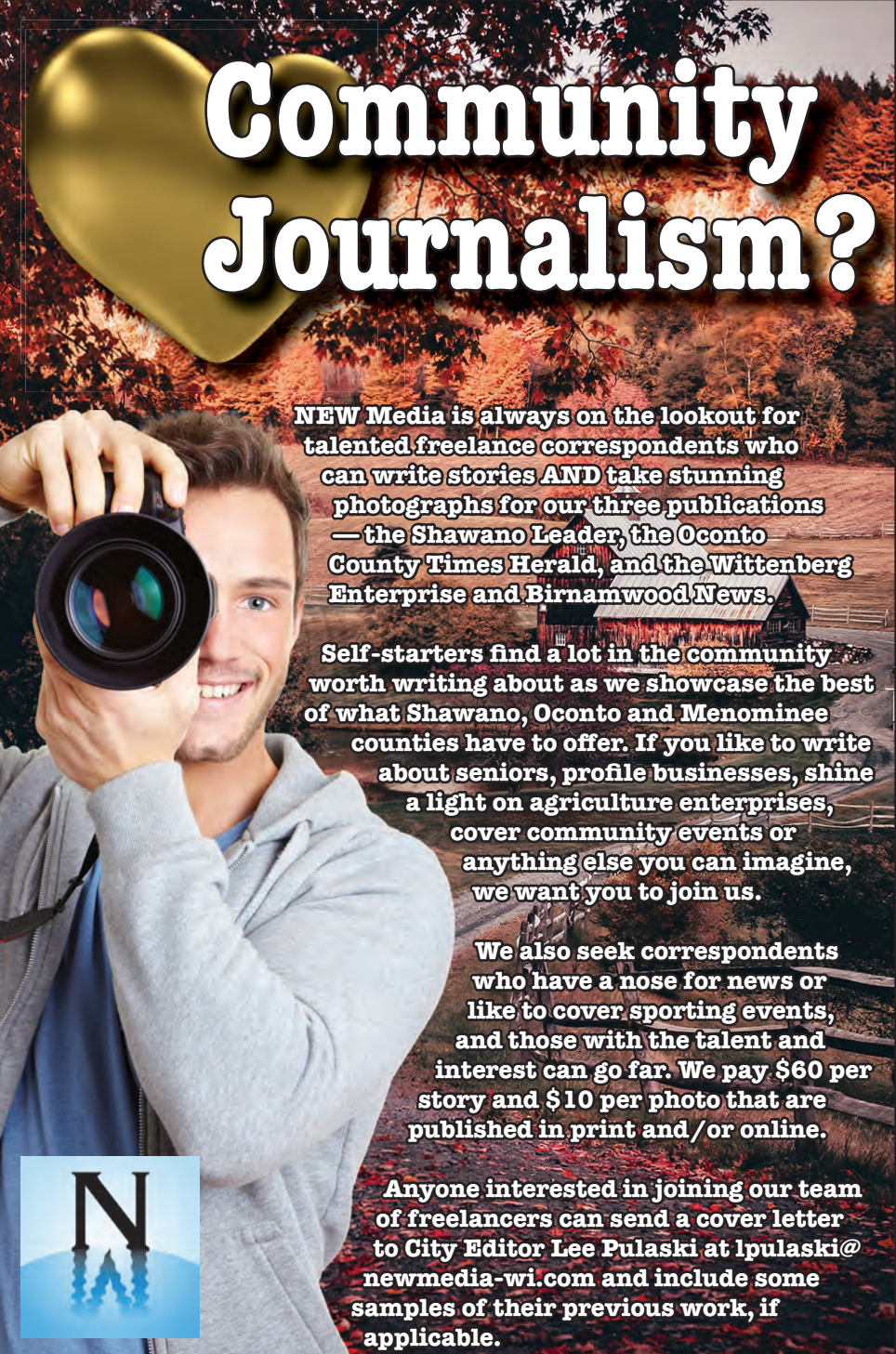


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We also seek correspondents who have a nose for news or like to cover sporting events, and those with the talent and interest can go far. We pay \$60 per story and \$10 per photo that are published in print and/or online.

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.



DNR conducting prescribed burns

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced that fire management crews will begin conducting prescribed burns on DNR properties throughout the state where local conditions can provide a safe and effective burn.

The recent, much-needed precipitation has created conditions that are ideal for burning in certain areas of the state.

Winter burns typically begin with cattail marshes, wetlands and wet prairies. Cattail wildfires can present a control challenge for suppression authorities during the warmer summer months when dead and live cattails are available to burn. By burning in winter, DNR staff take advantage of ideal ice and snow cover, which reduces the heat and intensity of cattail marsh and barrens burns.

Additional windows of opportunity for prescribed burning will continue through spring and open again in late summer and fall (mid-July through November).

Prescribed burns support healthy ecosystems for an abundance of plants and animals in Wisconsin. These burns mimic the benefits historic fire once provided but occur under a safer "prescription" range of weather and fuel conditions (compared to most



Current ice conditions provide greater access for crews to safely and efficiently conduct prescribed burns. WISCONSIN DNR

wildfires). Throughout history, many ecosystems in Wisconsin experienced either periodic natural fire or were managed with cultural fire by Indigenous people. These "fire-dependent" plant communities — such as prairies, wetlands and oak or pine barrens, savannas or woodlands — developed a tolerance and eventual dependence on periodic fire; they would not be sustained today without prescribed burning.

Winter burns remove dead vegetation buildup and open waterways for

migratory fowl and other wildlife. The dead vegetation is reduced to ash, transferring this natural fertilizer back into the soil.

Following the burn, hazardous fuels are reduced, foraging and nesting improve in the revitalized vegetation, and the stimulated growth of their root systems enhances their ability to store more carbon. Other benefits of prescribed burns include reducing non-native or invasive plant species and increasing regeneration of important native trees, like oak and pine.

When conducting prescribed burns near roads or recreational trails, the DNR will post signs to notify the public. For safety, avoid these areas while the burn is being conducted. The DNR also notifies local law enforcement and fire officials in advance about when and where DNR prescribed burns will take place.

Burns planned for the following day are displayed on the DNR Prescribed Burn Dashboard at <https://dnrmaps.wi.gov/prescribedburndashboard>.

USDA releases final 2024 crop production data

Corn for grain production in Wisconsin for 2024 was estimated at 515 million bushels, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – Crop Production 2024 Summary.

Current year production was down 7% from the previous year's 553 million bushels. Wisconsin's corn for grain yield was estimated at 174 bushels per acre. Area harvested for grain was estimated at 2.96 million acres, 180,000 acres below 2023.

Corn planted for all purposes in 2024 was estimated at 3.75 million acres.

Corn for silage production was estimated at 14.6 million tons, down 11% from 2023. The silage yield estimate of 20 tons per acre was down 1 ton per acre from 2023. Producers harvested 730,000 acres of corn for silage, down 6% from 2023.

Soybean production was estimated at 102 million bushels in 2024. This was down 3% from the previous year's 105 million bushels. The Wisconsin soybean crop yielded 48 bushels per acre in 2024. The harvested acreage of 2.12 million was up 60,000 acres from 2023. Soybean planted acreage, at 2.15 million, was up 40,000 acres from 2023.

All hay production for the state was estimated at 3.90 million tons, up 75% from the 2.24 million tons produced in 2023. Producers averaged 3.03 tons per acre, up 0.86 tons per acre from 2023. All hay harvested acres were estimated at 1.29 million acres, up 260,000 acres from 2023.

Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures for hay production was estimated at 3.03 million tons, up 75% from

2023. Producers averaged 3.65 tons per acre, up 0.95 tons per acre from 2023. Harvested acres were up 190,000 from the previous year, to 830,000 acres. Wisconsin producers seeded 240,000 acres of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures in 2024, up 14% from 2023.

Other hay production was estimated at 874,000 tons, up 72% from 2023. Producers averaged 1.90 tons per acre, up 0.60 tons from the 2023 yield. Harvested acres of other hay, at 460,000, were up 70,000 acres from 2023.

Potato production for 2024 was estimated at 26.1 million hundred-weight (cwt), down 8% from 2023. Producers averaged 395 cwt per acre, down 6% from the 2023 yield. Planted and harvested acres were estimated at 67,000 acres and 66,000 acres, respectively.

Nationally, corn for grain production in 2024 was estimated at 14.9 billion bushels, down 3% from the 2023 estimate.

The average yield in the United States was estimated at a record high 179.3 bushels per acre, 2 bushels above the 2023 yield of 177.3 bushels per acre. Area harvested for grain was estimated at 82.9 million acres, down 4% from the 2023 estimate.

Soybean production in 2024 totaled 4.37 billion bushels, up 5% from 2023. The average yield per acre was estimated at 50.7 bushels, up 0.1 bushel from 2023. Harvested area, at 86.1 million acres, was up 5% from the previous year.

The complete report can be found on the USDA NASS website at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications.



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ThedaCare initiative offers comfort to young patients

Pediatric patients at the ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah Emergency Department are finding comfort from an unlikely source, bears.

The bears — the cuddly stuffed animal kind — are being gifted to young patients in the hospital system's Neenah-based emergency department as a way to provide a comforting distraction from the stress and anxiety often associated with pediatric emergency visits.

"We understand that emergency situations can create anxiety and worry, especially for a child," said Danielle Fischenich, a registered nurse at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah. "For many years, we have been exploring innovative ways and resources to provide a better experience for our pediatric patients. Something as simple as a teddy bear can help ease a child's anxiety throughout their medical care."

Dubbed Bedside Buddies, the teddy bear gifts continue a gesture started a few years ago. That's when youngster Ella Bast, of Combined Locks, donated her birthday gifts to the emergency department after seeing how gifting her little sister something as small as a sippy cup helped calm and provide comfort during an emergency department visit.

"Gifting toys to better comfort our pediatric patients can often be a benefit to their care,"



ThedaCare is offering Bedside Buddies to children who are patients in its regional medical center in Neenah. CONTRIBUTED

Fischenich said. "The idea is to try to make a better experience for our younger patients and support a better association with health care in general. We hope something like the teddy bears can give children the opportunity to trust care teams for their health and well-being throughout their lifetime."

That's why the emergency department care team, in collaboration with the ThedaCare Family of Foundations, along with Ella's continued efforts, felt it was important to dedicate funds to purchasing teddy bears to gift pediatric patients.

The ThedaCare Foundation-Neenah, aided by team

member donations, awarded grants to help purchase the initial 200 teddy bears. In addition to Ella's ongoing efforts, Neenah Foundation Board Members, John and Tim Bergstrom, have made personal donations to support the Bedside Buddy program.

"We are so grateful for ThedaCare team members who continuously demonstrate care, empathy and professionalism in treating special patients," said Barbara Beuscher, ThedaCare chief philanthropy officer and senior vice president.

For information, visit www.thedacare.org/foundations or email foundations@thedacare.org

Behnke holding three listening sessions

State Rep. Elijah Behnke, R-Chase, will host three listening sessions in the 6th Assembly District to discuss the biennial budget process and current legislative session.

The listening sessions will all take place March 1, starting at 9 a.m. at Bonduel Village Hall, 117



ELIJAH BEHNKE

W. Green Bay St., Bonduel. Next up is an 11 a.m. session at Shawano City Hall, Community Room, 127 S. Sawyer St., Shawano. Behnke will

wrap up the sessions with a 4 p.m. session at Cecil Village Hall, 111 E. Hofman St., Cecil.

"The meetings provide an opportunity for me to hear directly from constituents about their interests and concerns," said Behnke in a press release.

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We seek talented journalists who can seize someone's attention by being a talented wordsmith and photographer in a fast-paced news environment where digital comes first. While the office is a base of operations, we want someone who'll be out in the community gathering the news.

All are welcome to apply, including recent or pending college graduates. 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.

TAKING A GAMBLE IN GILLETT

Let Me Be Frank's Vegas show fundraiser for FFA Ireland trip

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

Folks in and around Gillett won't need to buy plane tickets and make hotel accommodations to enjoy a Vegas-style show in March as Let Me Be Frank Productions brings "Frank's Tribute to Las Vegas" to town.

The show is a fundraiser for the Gillett FFA Alumni to send some of its FFA members to Ireland in 2026. Only 300 tickets are available for the event.

"Frank's Tribute to Las Vegas" is two hours of non-stop music and laughs where Let Me Be Frank founder Frank Hermans and members of his troupe transform into Reba McEntire, Neil Diamond, Cher, Adele, George Jones and others.

"One of the offshoots of what Let Me Be Frank does is the tribute show," Hermans said. "My wife (Amy Riemer) is probably the best Reba impersonator you will see in the nation. I traveled with this for a while with Let Me Be Frank."

Hermans said the show originated because many of the performers in his troupe look similar to some of the people who have done residencies at Las Vegas casinos. He noted it's a side gig, with the tribute show doing 20-30 performances per year.

In addition to those performances, Let Me Be Frank has performed in Las Vegas itself, specifically the Plaza Casino, for the last three years.

"The first time we went to the Plaza Casino, Adele had just canceled at the MGM Grand. So we got to advertise that, 'No, Adele is really here. She's at the Plaza Casino,'" Hermans said. "It's kind of a cool thing we can hang our hat on that our Adele impersonator was in Vegas when Adele canceled."

Hermans noted the performers act and sing like the people they're impersonating, but they also bring out the funny side of those people. Let Me Be Frank also has an award-winning house band that backs up the performers, something that's new compared with shows they've done to benefit FFA organizations around north-east Wisconsin.



Featured artists at "Frank's Tribute to Las Vegas" include, from left, Reba McEntire, portrayed by Amy Riemer; Neil Diamond, portrayed by Paul Evansen; Barbra Streisand, portrayed by Lisa Borley; Elvis Presley, portrayed by Frank Hermans; Karen Carpenter, portrayed by Kasey Schumacher; George Jones, portrayed by Mike Hermans; and Adele, portrayed by Sarah Galati.

CONTRIBUTED

So what is it about "Frank's Tribute to Las Vegas" that makes it a moneymaker for organizations?

"I think it's the iconic personalities," Hermans said. "Elvis will never die. People love Elvis."

Hermans can say that from experience, as he performs as Elvis in the tribute show. He noted that many of the iconic performers portrayed in the show are no longer alive, so the show helps to revive the touching musical moments of yesteryear.

"The demographic we're going after, 40-plus, that's who loves that sort of thing," Hermans said. "They still like the old Elvis, the '50s Elvis. We stick to the oldies but goodies."

There will be a lot of the "goodies," according to Hermans. It won't be a show where each performer only does one song and passes on the microphone. He said each performer does at least four or five songs in each show.

VEGAS, CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

AT A GLANCE

WHAT: "Frank's Tribute to Las Vegas"

WHEN: 7 p.m. March 15. Doors open at 4:15 p.m. with a baked chicken dinner being served at 4:30 p.m.

WHERE: Auditorium, Gillett Secondary School, 208 W. Main St., Gillett

TICKETS: \$50 each or two for \$90. Only 300 tickets available. Advanced sales only. To purchase, call 920-373-3799.

FYI: There will also be 50/50 and bucket raffles during the event. All proceeds go toward the Gillett FFA for a trip to Ireland in 2026.



The cast of "Godspell" rehearses a scene from the musical based on the Gospel of Matthew. Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. will present "Godspell" March 13-16 and March 20-23 at the Nancy Byng Community Theater in Abrams.

CONTRIBUTED

'Godspell' coming to Abrams in March

Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. will showcase the Gospel of Matthew in a new way.

The musical "Godspell" will be presented March 13-16 and March 20-23 at the Nancy Byng Community Theater in Abrams. This timeless tale of friendship and love is demonstrated by an eclectic group that teams up with Jesus. In this production, Jesus' message of kindness, tolerance and love shines through. Director Elizabeth Jolly-Haslitt said the audience will find the messages of "Godspell" relatable today.

"Godspell" is a vibrant musical that brings together a diverse group of individuals, showing how their shared experiences, even though they are from different backgrounds ... creates a strong sense of community," she said. "Through its songs

AT A GLANCE

WHAT: "Godspell"

WHEN: 7 p.m. March 13-15 and March 19-22. 1 p.m. March 16 and March 23.

WHERE: Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St., Abrams

TICKETS: \$19 for adults, \$17 for senior citizens, youth and veterans.

and storytelling, it highlights the transformative power of collaboration and cooperation, demonstrating that listening and love can lead to personal and spiritual growth and a better tomorrow."

"Godspell" is based on the original concept and book by John-Michael Tebelak. Stephen Schwartz wrote the music

GODSPELL, CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

GARDENING WITH MELINDA MYERS

Cultivate relationship with king of herbs

Fresh on your pizza, added to your favorite Italian and Southeastern Asian dishes or made into pesto, it's not surprising basil is often called the king of herbs.

Look for opportunities to include basil in gardens, containers and ornamental plantings. Purple varieties add color and combine nicely with other flowers and vegetables. Everleaf Emerald Towers is a very tall and productive plant that adds vertical interest to container and in-ground gardens.

Always wait for the air and soil to warm before moving basil into the garden. Cold air and soil can stunt or damage the plants and increase the risk of downy mildew. You may even see blackened leaves and other damage when temperatures drop to 50 degrees.

Protect tender plants in spring and extend the harvest in fall with the help of floating row covers. These spun fabrics trap heat around the plants while



allowing air, light and water through. Lightweight row covers can be used throughout the summer to protect the plants from Japanese beetles.

Keep plants healthy and help reduce the risk of downy mildew disease by growing basil in sunny locations with plenty of room to reach their mature size. The extra space allows sunlight to reach all parts of the plants, and the added air movement quickly dries the leaves.

Avoid overhead irrigation whenever possible. Instead, use soaker hoses, drip irrigation or a watering wand to apply the water directly to the soil.

Red leaf, Thai and lemon-flavored basil varieties are less susceptible to downy mildew. Relatively new sweet basil varieties



Purple basil varieties add color and interest to containers and gardens.

MELINDAMYERS.COM

such as Devotion DMR, Obsession DMR, Passion DMR, Thunderstruck DMR, Prospera Compact DMR and Prospera are downy mildew resistant.

Watch for slugs that feed at night, eating large, ragged holes in the leaves. Trap them with shallow containers of beer sunk

into the ground or use a slug beer trap with a built-in cover. The slugs are attracted to the fermenting yeast; they'll crawl inside and die.

Unlike slugs, the Japanese beetles feed and mate in broad daylight. They devour large portions of the leaves, leaving only the

veins behind.

If you see circular clear or black spots on the leaves, the four-lined plant bug is the culprit. The dead tissue may eventually fall out, resulting in small holes.

Manage Japanese beetles and plant bugs by knocking them into a can

of soapy water or treating the plants with an organic insecticide labeled for controlling these pests on basil. Always read and follow all label directions for safe and effective control.

Harvest basil as needed. Regular harvesting will increase productivity and ensure the best flavor. Remove flower buds as soon as they appear to maintain foliage flavor, but don't worry if a few blossoms appear; these are also edible and a favorite of beneficial insects.

Plan to grow and harvest extra basil to make pesto or flavored vinegar. Make plenty to enjoy throughout the year and share with family and friends.

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. Myers' website is www.melindamyers.com.

A fine kettle of fish as Lenten season approaches

We are quickly approaching the six-week vigil Christians call Lent. March 5 is Ash Wednesday. I fully appreciate this is a solemn and holy season, a time of penance and atonement. So, of course, I would never make light of Lent, but if, as the Bible says, we are made in God's image, He surely has a sense of humor and will forgive me for going a bit astray here.

In case you were wondering, the English word "Lent" originated from the old German "lencten," an ancient term for spring. Its roots come from a noun "length," not the verb "to lend." It denotes the lengthening of days as the earth moves to the Spring Equinox.

Unfortunately, the second definition is the one I mistakenly applied as a Catholic school second grader. I erroneously assumed it was called Lent because God had loaned



His son to mankind. Therefore, my developing brain simply could not wrap itself around the fact that when Jesus came to save the world, people rejected Him.

Like almost all children, I was not only given to huge misconceptions, I was ever so magnanimous. I big-heartedly forgave the Jewish people who demanded Jesus's execution because if he could, I could. In my teen years, a glorious time when I knew absolutely everything, I was more judgmental.

I was sure I would never have participated in the horrific act of putting Jesus to death. I even went so far as to wish God had waited 2,000 years

and sent His son to Sherwood instead of Nazareth, because we would have acted appropriately. After what's been happening in our country lately, I'm not all that sure anymore.

Perhaps I found the 40 days of Lent difficult in my formative years because the nuns preached that we must sacrifice during Lent; interpreted as "do without something." I always chose candy because it wasn't that hard. Candy was a treat, we didn't get it that often, and I was fussy. I ate only Snickers and peanut M&Ms, which meant I was giving up two things. I suppose I should have felt guilty instead of proud of myself, but there were so many things to feel guilty about that I made up for it easily.

A related sacrifice of living through Lent when I was growing up was the meal menus. It was bad enough that Catholics

couldn't eat meat on Friday, but during Lent the ban on meat in our household extended to Wednesdays. Since there were no Walleye Wednesdays or Friday Fish Frys in our dairy cow-centered world, we had two choices: tuna fish or salmon.

Mom made an edible tuna casserole. I politely ate a small helping so I could get to the good stuff: creamy cottage cheese, buttery baked potato, home-canned stewed tomatoes. Salmon casserole? Yuk. Just the smell of it when Mom opened the can turned my stomach. Then watching her pick out the bones before mixing the salmon with the other ingredients was disgusting. The worst part was the smell of it baking in the oven. The repercussions were deep and have lasted a lifetime. I have never bought a can of salmon, and I never will.

Fresh salmon? That's a

totally different kettle of fish. I am mad at myself that it took me over 50 years to discover grilled salmon. That happened in 1999 when Jon and I took an 11-week road trip to Alaska in a slide-in camper. We were on a small excursion boat out of Seward to see the glacier calve. Dinner was included in the ticket price, which was nice until I learned from the smell that the entrée was salmon. The waves were fierce, so I can't totally blame it on the salmon, but it was the only time in my life I got seasick.

Someone had told Jon that ginger warded off seasickness so he had brought along a box of ginger cookies. I passed; I hate ginger cookies almost as much as salmon. By the time dinner was served, I was too queasy to eat. Jon had eaten half the cookies and felt fine. However, he shared my distaste for

salmon, skipped it and ate both his and my side dishes.

The server felt sorry for me and wrapped the fish in a to-go box. I felt so much better when we got back to the camper that I was hungry. In desperation, I reheated the salmon. That's when I discovered that grilled fresh salmon can be a downright delicious delicacy, even reheated in a microwave.

Oh, dear. Old customs are calling. I feel compelled to sacrifice something during Lent. Observing meatless Wednesdays and Fridays will not qualify because I love seafood. What to do? I better think of something appropriate soon or I'll have to give up candy.

Kathleen Marsh is a lifelong educator, writer and community advocate. She has published eight books, four on the history of Townsend, where she and husband Jon are happily retired on the beautiful Townsend Flowage.

VEGAS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

The uniqueness of Let Me Be Frank shows is that all the writing and producing is done locally in Green Bay.

"We're producing and creating our own show," Hermans said. "It's unlike anything else in the nation. I support 13 singers and musicians. This is their full-time job, which is unheard of in a community as small as ours."

Let Me Be Frank is community oriented, Hermans said, which is why it tries to do as much as it can for orga-

nizations like the Gillett FFA Alumni. The organization has been in existence for 26 years, and it has been community support from Green Bay and beyond that has kept the shows coming.

"We have raised and donated over a half a million dollars to different organizations throughout the community," Hermans said. "That's one of the things we strive on in giving back to the community."

The FFA also holds a spe-

cial place in Hermans' heart, as he was part of the Denmark FFA in high school.

"It's pretty cool they're raising money for this (trip to Ireland), and we're glad to help out," Hermans said. "It's great for our players to perform for new people, too. For a lot of those folks, it's going to be the first time they ever saw us, which is weird, because we've been around for 26 years."

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

GODSPELL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

and lyrics; he also wrote music and lyrics for "Pippin," "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" and "Wicked." Memorable songs in the show include "All Good Gifts," sung by Glenn Sellen and the ensemble; "On the Willows," sung by Kari Moody and Carolyn Silverberg; and "Beautiful City," sung by Bobby Buffington.

"The vocals are really stunning," Jolly-Haslitt said. "We were lucky to have Leah Tomesek as our vocal director. She worked hard on making sure the blend was just right and has such a talent for

helping people achieve their best voice."

For this production, ASPI placed the stage in the heart of the audience.

"The audience almost will be part of the show," Jolly-Haslitt said. "This may throw some people off at first, but I think they will really enjoy it as the show progresses."

To order tickets, visit abrams-theater.com or call the box office, 920-826-5852. Anyone interested in helping behind the scenes can contact ASPI to volunteer.

Monitoring bluebird nest boxes helps birds thrive

“Yoo-hoo, anyone home?” I sing as I gently tap tap on the side of an Eastern bluebird nest box. I want to make my presence known before opening the door so any adults on the inside get a chance to fly out. They don’t mind me as long as I am gentle and move quickly. I’m getting ahead of myself; let me back up a little.

The Eastern bluebird is a cavity nester, meaning they use natural cavities, like old woodpecker holes in dead trees, for nesting. In the late 1960s, the Eastern bluebird population reached record lows. In 1978, the North American Bluebird Society (NABS) was founded to promote the recovery of bluebirds and other cavity nesters.

In 1986, Wisconsin created its own affiliate of NABS called the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin (BRAW). They estimated the Eastern bluebird population had declined by 90% during the preceding 50 years due to changes in agriculture practices, severe weather, invasive house sparrows and European starlings, as well as the loss of nesting sites.

BRAW’s mission is to



increase the Eastern bluebird population throughout Wisconsin in many ways including building, setting up and monitoring nest boxes and expanding public knowledge and enthusiasm for the Eastern bluebird so people will have the desire and know-how to aid these and other cavity nesters in their own communities.

Why do we care? The Eastern bluebird is important not only for its beauty and spiritual meaning of hope, joy and rebirth, but also because bluebirds play an important role in protecting crops from insects. Farmers put up bluebird boxes around agricultural fields so the birds can feed on insects that could otherwise destroy their crops.

When I learned about the opportunity to monitor 14 bluebird nest boxes, I quickly raised my hand. I wanted to be a part of the effort to help this beautiful bird’s population grow. Other cavity nesters that I



An Eastern bluebird poses on a nest box. The nest boxes have helped to restore the bluebird population under the watchful eyes of volunteers.

may encounter in my nest boxes are wrens, house sparrows, European starlings and tree swallows.

In a nutshell, this is what monitoring a nest box entails. Every week from March through August, I check the nest boxes. I record what I see, (i.e., the bird species, number of eggs, number of

chicks) and then identify and fix any problems such as removing ants or wasps from the boxes. At the end of the season, I send in my records through regular mail or online. This data is analyzed to find population trends.

To help identify the bird species, the BRAW website has pictures to

show what each bird’s nest is composed of, how it is structured and what each bird’s eggs look like. Bluebird nests are cup shaped and woven with fine grass or pine needles. Their eggs are pale blue or white with no spots.

Eastern bluebirds have one to two broods, sometimes three, each summer. I pay attention to when the chicks have fledged (left the nest), so I can clean it out before the female looks for a place to build her next nest. Bluebirds do not clean out their own boxes but are more likely to choose a nest box that is clean, whereas house sparrows and wrens prefer them not cleaned out. So it helps my chances of getting a bluebird to use a box if I clean it out when it is vacated.

Learning about the other cavity nesters is a side benefit. The tree swallows include soft, fluffy feathers in their nests. The territorial wrens will put a small stack of sticks, called a “dummy nest,” in boxes near their own to make them appear to be occupied. The aggressive house sparrows will build their nest on top of another bird’s nest, even with eggs

and chicks inside. Although it may seem that there are many things to learn about monitoring nest boxes, it isn’t hard. It is fun and rewarding. Imagine the joy of opening the box and seeing a nest, then eggs, then babies and then watching them grow. My heart grows along with them. Best of all, it is working. Due to thousands of bluebird nest boxes being installed across the country and volunteers monitoring them, bluebirds have made an incredible comeback.

If you are interested in helping bluebirds, please visit the BRAW website at <https://www.braw.org>. It will include everything you need to know to get started and provides contacts, real people, to support you along the way. Even better, ask a friend to join you or pair up with someone already monitoring.

Perhaps in the near future, it will be you tap tapping on the side of a nest box, singing: “Yoo-hoo, anyone home?”

Lisa Jansen is a Wisconsin master naturalist, nature writer and award-winning photographer. She specializes in raising awareness of birds and butterflies of the Midwest.

“When I learned about the opportunity to monitor 14 bluebird nest boxes, I quickly raised my hand. I wanted to be a part of the effort to help this beautiful bird’s population grow.”

LISA JANSEN, NEW Media columnist



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Historical society turns to the dark side

The Oconto County Historical Society will present an evening of mystery, intrigue and forgotten stories at its upcoming Speaker Series event, “The Dark Side of Oconto History.”

The presentation, led by local historian Jay Merline, will take place at 6:30 p.m. March 6 in the meeting room of the Beyer Home and Carriage Museum, 915 Park Ave., Oconto.

Merline, a dedicated researcher and member of the society’s board of directors, has spent years uncovering fascinating and often bizarre stories buried in old newspapers.

His PowerPoint presentation will spotlight true but little-known events from Oconto’s past — some tragic, some unbelievable and some just plain strange.

The tales include the following:

- A stolen suit that found its way back to the tailor’s shop — from an unexpected source.
- A band of Native Americans who suffered a brutal assault.
- The strangest hiding place ever used to evade the police.
- A high school field trip gone horribly wrong.

• The eerie legend of the Shaggy Phantom Hermit.

Merline’s love for history began as a teenager while working with the late George E. “Jimmie” Hall and has since grown into a lifelong passion. Over the years, he has rescued countless historical artifacts and now manages several local history Facebook pages dedicated to preserving the rich heritage of Oconto and Marinette counties.

Admission is free. Light refreshments will be served, and the museum gift shop will be open.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, FEB. 28

SHAWANO: Boost Your Brain and Memory, 9-10:30 a.m., ADRC of the Wolf River Region, W7327 Anderson Ave. A holistic approach to improving brain health. Seventh week of eight-week class, enrollment limited to 12 people; register by calling Ericka at 715-526-4712.

LENA: Knights of Columbus fish sale, 1-5 p.m., St. Anne School (formerly St. Charles), 221 E. Main St.

NAVARINO: Light Up the Night Snowshoe Hike or Ski, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Navarino Nature Center, N5646 Linsden Road. One-mile trail lighted by Tiki torches. \$5 donation, also accepting nonperishable food donations for Loaves and Fishes pantry. Registration required at navarino.org should the event be canceled due to extreme cold or weather conditions.

WITTENBERG: “Trouble at the Tropicabana,” a murder mystery dinner theater production by Crossroads Community Theatre. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m., WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal Street. Tickets \$45 per person, available at Sentry Foods or by calling 715-253-3525. Choice of chicken or fish for plated dinner service.

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

SHAWANO: Vintage Show, noon to 5 p.m., Brothers Pub, N5867 Lake Drive. Culmination of ninth annual Shawano Lake Sno-Blasters Poker Run. Bucket, meat and booze raffles and drawings begin at noon, cash raffle drawing at 4 p.m.

SHAWANO: Bingo Night, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Sacred Heart Catholic School, 124 E. Center St. 50 cents per card with 50% payout. Refreshments and snacks available for purchase. Doors open 5:15 p.m. Park in the Sacred Heart parking lot, and enter door #1 under the carport (302 S. Main St. entrance).

WITTENBERG: “Trouble at the Tropicabana,” a murder mystery dinner theater production by Crossroads Community Theatre. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6

p.m., WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal Street. Tickets \$45 per person, available at Sentry Foods or by calling 715-253-3525. Choice of chicken or fish for plated dinner service.

MONDAY, MARCH 3

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, MARCH 4

SHAWANO: saYPRO presents Mastering Your Calendar, 5:30-8 p.m., The Boulevard, 744 E. Green Bay St. Time Management and Goal Setting for Young Professionals. \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members, includes dinner.

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

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

KESHENA: Recovery talking circle, 6-8 p.m. Omaeqnomenewak Wetohkatikamek Center, 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 information, call Nancy 920-829-6316 or Charles 920-606-4370.

THURSDAY, MARCH 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.

OCOnton: 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.

BOWLER: Native American Talking Circle, 7-9 p.m., Mohi-

can Family Center, N8605 Oak St. Information: Yvonne Burr, 715-326-0891.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

SHAWANO: Boost Your Brain and Memory, 9-10:30 a.m., ADRC of the Wolf River Region, W7327 Anderson Ave. A holistic approach to improving brain health. Final week of eight-week class, enrollment limited to 12 people; register by calling Ericka at 715-526-4712.

SURING: World Day of Prayer, 10 a.m., Our Redeemer’s Lutheran Church, 11015 County Road M. Hosted by Hickory United Methodist Church.

PULASKI: Wicka’s Jam Session, 2-6 p.m., Wicka’s Bar, 137 S. St. Augustine St. Casimir Pulaski Days event.

SHAWANO: Lenten Fish Fry, 4-7 p.m., Sacred Heart Catholic Parish and School, 124 E. Center St. Cod, fries, bread, beverages, non-fish food options available. \$20 adults, \$8 age 12 and under.

WITTENBERG: “Trouble at the Tropicabana,” a murder mystery dinner theater production by Crossroads Community Theatre. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m., WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal Street. Tickets \$45 per person, available at Sentry Foods or by calling 715-253-3525. Choice of chicken or fish for plated dinner service.

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

PULASKI: Friday Night Polka Delight, 7-11 p.m., Mountain Bay Bar and Grill, 104 S. Wisconsin St. Casimir Pulaski Days event.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

SHAWANO: Cabin Fever Craft Fair, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Shawano Civic Center, 225 S. Main St. Handmade craft items and free admission.

SHAWANO: Maple Syrup Snowshoe Hike, 9:30 a.m. to noon, Sugar Shack Trails, N7061 Ash Road. Hosted by Shawano Pathways. Arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of the hike to register, get gear on and meet the guide. All hikes are free, but donations are appreciated.

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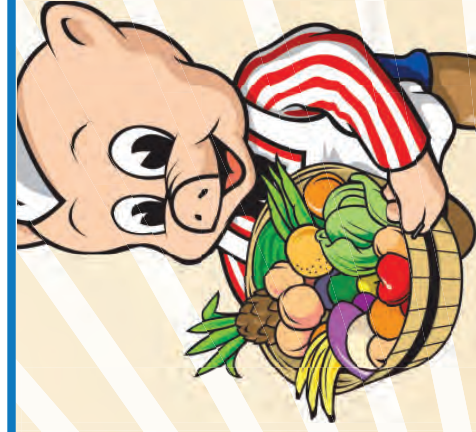
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Chargers end regular season with 24-0 mark

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Feb. 22
Bonduel 55, Laona/
Wabeno 35

Feb. 21
Bowler 51, Port Ed-
wards 48

Natalie Richert scored 25 points and grabbed 18 rebounds as Bowler snuck past Port Edwards 51-48.

Paige Treptow also scored 12 points. She and Madison Piotrowski each had two assists. Treptow also led with two steals.

Lena 74, Suring 43
Lena's 74-43 win over Suring gave the Wildcats a 15-1 M&O Conference record and 22-2 overall mark.

Madilyn Thomson led Lena with 23 points and 14 rebounds. Kali Fischer dropped in another 21 points, and Eva Brooks chipped in another 18.

Hannah Thomson led the team with four assists, and Madilyn Thomson notched five steals.

Feb. 20
Wittenberg-Birnam-
wood 61, Iola-Scandina-
via 19

The Chargers finished the 2024-25 regular season with a perfect record after thrashing Iola-Scandinavia 61-19.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood is 14-0 in the Central Wisconsin East Conference and 24-1 overall.

"Tonight was great night to celebrate our seniors. They deserve the recognition," coach Nick Mechelke said. "I thought we played really well tonight and shared the ball well. Tonight was a great way to finish the regular season."

Melaina Granquist led the team with 23 points. Rory Salvesen contributed another 15, and Harper Rogowski scored 10.

Granquist and Faith



Junior Mariah Wondra (20) plays defense against Amherst on Feb. 20. Bonduel beat Amherst 63-16.

BELLA ROBERTS

Resch each pulled down seven rebounds. Salvesen dished out 10 assists, and Resch had nine steals.

Shawano 54, Menasha 33

Leah Nordin's 22 first-half points and the Hawks' pressure defense led to a 32-10 halftime lead en route to a 54-33 win over Menasha.

In the second half, the Hawks dominated the boards and secured the victory to clinch second place in the Bay Conference with a 10-2 record (18-5 overall).

Nordin finished with 32 points, and Anna Dreier added 10.

Nordin also led the team with 15 rebounds. Trinity Popelka had three assists, and Nordin, Marissa Tomashek and Ella Stuber each nabbed four steals.

Menominee Nation 55, Weyauwega-Fremont 32

Urijih Reevis scored 25 points and Aaliyah Corn added 10 as Menominee Nation beat Weyauwega-Fremont 55-32.

The Eagles finished the regular season at 7-7 in the Central Wisconsin East Conference and 12-11 overall.

Gillett 54, Gibraltar 27
Gillett jumped out to a 35-13 halftime lead as they doubled up on Gibraltar 54-27.

Audrey Pate led the Tigers with 22 points. Hope Soper scored another 12.

Lena 55, Gresham 17
Madilyn Thomson scored 18 points and Eva Brooks had 13 in Lena's 55-17 win over Gresham.

Madilyn Thomson also led with seven rebounds

and five steals, while Hannah Thomson collected five assists.

Bonduel 63, Amherst 16

Oconto Falls 59, Little Chute 14

Pulaski 65, Green Bay Southwest 15

Feb. 18
Wittenberg-Birnam-
wood 62, Laona/Wabeno 28

The Chargers dominated the Rebels right out of the gate, leading 44-7 at halftime and 62-28 at the final buzzer.

"Again, defense was the name of the game. We provided a lot of pressure in the first half, which allowed us to sub in everyone in and out," coach Nick Mechelke said. "It's nice to get our girls some rest with playing six games in two weeks and just be-

fore playoffs."

On offense, Melaina Granquist led Wittenberg-Birnamwood with 28 points. Rory Salvesen connected on 13, and Harper Rogowski added 12. Rogowski was 3-of-6 from behind the arc.

Granquist also led the team with eight rebounds. Rogowski and Salvesen each had two assists, and Salvesen led with six steals.

Lena 72, Coleman 42

The Wildcats held a seven-point lead at halftime and blew the game open with a huge second half as they defeated Coleman 72-42 in the M&O Conference matchup.

Lena improved to 14-1 in league play and 20-2 overall.

Madilyn Thomson led Lena with 29 points and 10

rebounds. Kali Fischer and Eva Brooks each scored 11 points and pulled down six rebounds.

Thomson also set the pace with eight assists. Fischer and Thomson each had four steals.

Lakeland 58, Shawano 44

In a non-conference matchup, the Thunderbirds extended their lead right before halftime and didn't look back in a 58-44 win over the Hawks.

Coach Ryan Koenig said the Hawks played great defense, but a few costly turnovers and Lakeland second chance points were too much for Shawano.

Gillett 52, Suring 44
Oconto Falls 54,
Luxemburg-Casco 38
Pulaski 35, Freedom 31
Feb. 17
Wittenberg-Birnam-
wood 58, Northland
Pines 17

Wittenberg-Birnamwood dispatched Northland Pines with ease, holding the Eagles to single digits in each half and winning 58-17.

"We got off to a good start tonight, which allowed us to play everyone good minutes in the first half," coach Nick Mechelke said.

Melaina Granquist scored 30 points, more than all the Northland Pines players combined. Of those 30 points were five 3-pointers. Rory Salvesen added another 14.

Granquist also led the Chargers with 11 rebounds. Salvesen led with seven steals.

Sophia Lemieux and Faith Resch each had one assist.

Marion/Tigerton 51,
Faith Christian Academy 24

Northland Lutheran 74, Bowler 25



Audrey Weier (11) shoots against Amherst on Feb. 20. She led the Bears with 14 points in their 63-16 victory.

BELLA ROBERTS



Faith Resch was among the Wittenberg-Birnamwood seniors honored toward the end of the regular season. The Chargers began playoff action this week.

TINA BACON

Four local girls win sectional crowns

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

**Feb. 21
Sectional B**
Four girls from Pulaski, Lena, Bonduel and Wittenberg-Birnamwood won at the Shawano sectionals to advance to the state tournament. Weight class winners and second-place finishers advance to the state meet on Feb. 27-March 1.

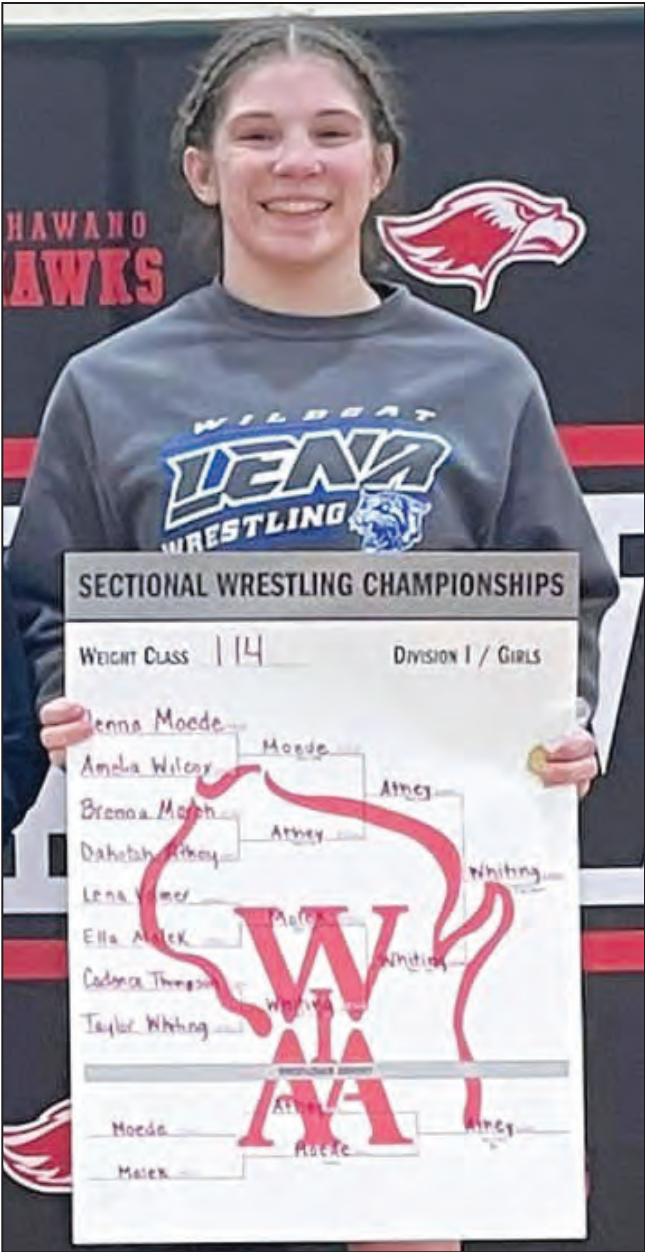
At 185, Brooke Huffman of Wittenberg-Birnamwood pinned Madelyn Hert of Bonduel in 1:11 for the title.

Hert had pinned a Tomahawk opponent in the third-place match, then pinned a Bay Port wrestler in the second-place wrestleback.

At 114 pounds, Lena's Taylor Whiting won the title, defeating Bay Port's Dakota Athey. Jenna Moede of Shawano placed third. She initially pinned Peshtigo's Ella Malek in 3:19, then lost the second-place wrestleback to Athey.

"Jenna has been wrestling great the last few weeks of the season," Shawano coach Mike Homan said. "She really has done a nice job of continuing to improve. She is a junior this year, so we look for her to have a great off-season and put some good work in to take another step next season."

Harlow Skenandore of Pulaski won the 145 weight class, beating Antigo's

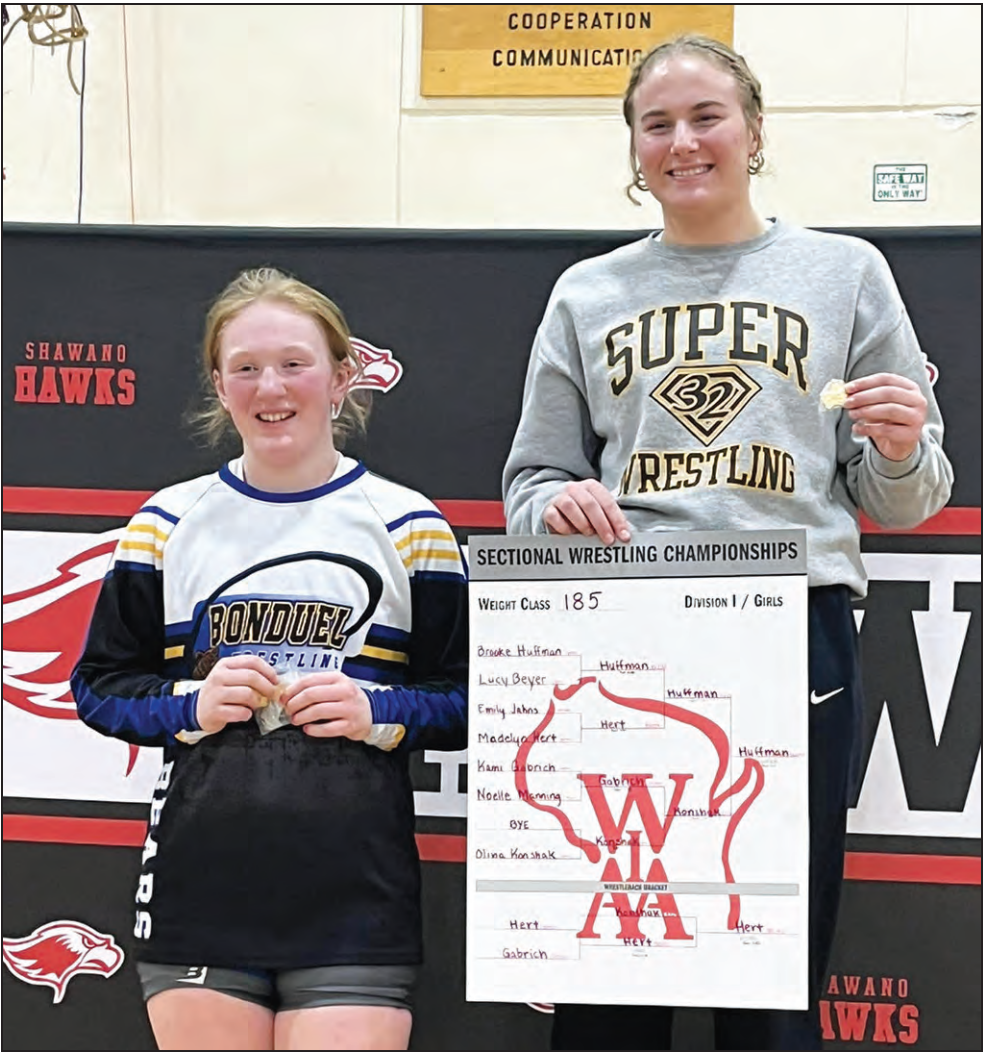


At 114 pounds, Lena's Taylor Whiting won the sectional title, defeating Bay Port's Dakota Athey. Jenna Moede of Shawano placed third.

CONTRIBUTED

Olivia Hofrichter 13-1.
Wrestling at 165, Alisha Berg of Bonduel pinned

Wausau West's Christiana Nordstrom in 53 seconds to win the sectional title. Ellie



Brooke Huffman of Wittenberg-Birnamwood, right, pinned Madelyn Hert of Bonduel in 1:11 for the sectional title in the 185-pound weight class at Shawano Community High School on Feb. 21. Both girls advance to the state tournament Feb. 27-March 1.

CONTRIBUTED

Neosh of Pulaski placed fourth after losing to a Hortonville wrestler in the third-place match.

Finishing in second at 138 was Leah Kapla of Pulaski. In the second-place wrestleback, she won 14-8 over Fox Valley Lutheran's Sophie Wunderlich but then lost 1-0 in the ultimate tiebreaker scoring mechanism.

At 152, Madalyn Sokolski of Bonduel finished second.

After defeating Wausau West in the second-place

wrestleback round, she was pinned by New London's Hailie Krueger in 1:22 in the title match.

Kaitlyn Kroening of Bonduel finished third at 100 pounds. She pinned Evelyn Hurley of Peshtigo in 1:30 in the third-place match, then lost 9-4 to Green Bay Preble's Jackie Zuniga in the second-place wrestleback round.

Hailey Berg of Bonduel was also third. At 126, she pinned her Wausau West opponent in 2:22, then lost to Peshtigo's Addison

Olson.

Elliana Maroszek of Pulaski also missed out on a trip to state when she placed fourth at 132.

Several Shawano wrestlers ended their seasons with losses in the early rounds. They were Zennah Bosetski, Gwyn Hermann, Madelyn Moesch, Lauren Seehafer, Brynn Hannes, Adalyn Barkley, Jacey Cowden and Lily Tomas.

It was also the end of their high school careers for seniors Barkley, Hannes and Tomas.

Pair of Panthers win sectional wrestling titles

State tournament will be held Feb. 27-March 1 at Kohl Center in Madison

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

**Feb. 22
Division 2, Sectional B**

A pair of Oconto Falls wrestlers won their weight classes as sectionals and will join five other area wrestlers at the state meet this weekend.

At the Division 2 Sectional B meet at Seymour, Isaiah Holtz captured first at 113 pounds. A sophomore, he pinned sophomore Easton Felchlin of Wrightstown in 35 seconds to win the title.

At 138, senior Cole Bozile pinned Seymour senior Connor Steffens in 1:29 for the title.

At 144, Ben Miller of Wittenberg-Birnamwood placed second.

In the second-place match, the junior won 11-1 over Freedom senior Trent Nabbefeld. In the match for first place, he lost 5-4 to Wrightstown senior Louis Hock.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood sophomore Dalton

Fletcher placed second at 120, and Shawano junior Dane Hodkiewicz won third.

In the battle for first, Fletcher lost to Keil's Logan Schad.

Hodkiewicz received a bye in his first-round match when the Denmark wrestler was unable to participate. That placed him into the semifinals where he wrestled Fletcher. He lost that match 5-2 and moved to the wrestleback side of the bracket.

His next match was against Jayden Cornell of Freedom. In that match, Hodkiewicz found a quick shot and was finishing up the middle when he sat through. His opponent held on as Hodkiewicz rocked onto his butt putting the Freedom wrestler flat on his back. It was a scramble situation but just enough control for Hodkiewicz to earn the fall in 1:18.

This win placed him into the third-place match, and a win would send him

to state. His match was against Logan Boehnlein of Seymour. Hodkiewicz was 1-1 again Boehnlein this season, winning a tight match in a dual and losing a close match at regionals.

The first period was back and forth when Hodkiewicz secured a takedown late in the first period. He was in on a double leg and finished up the middle and secured the takedown. He rode out the rest of the first period for a 3-0 lead.

In the second period, Hodkiewicz chose neutral and they wrestled through many positions but no points were scored.

In the third period, Boehnlein chose down. Hodkiewicz controlled much of the period, but there was a scramble late and Hodkiewicz gave up a 2-point reversal. In the last 30 seconds, Hodkiewicz was working to his feet and was near an escape as the time expired, but it didn't matter as he

won 3-2.

"It was a hard fought win that earned him a trip to the state tournament," coach Mike Homan said.

Junior Devin Wudtke of Wittenberg-Birnamwood earned third place at 138. He defeated Drayk Nolan of Chilton/Hilbert but then was pinned by Stefens, who would go on to lose to Bozile.

Also placing third and advancing to state was Oconto Falls senior Nick Trepaneir. He defeated Denmark's Quinn Kaminiski but lost to Freedom's Vincent Cook.

Shawano started the day with three sectional qualifiers. Drew Chelberg was called up when another was unable to wrestle.

Kian Morstad and Chelberg each had No. 1 seeds in their first matches. After both taking losses in the first round, they entered the wrestleback side of the bracket.

Morstad lost to Cole Berth of Coleman by fall

in 3:42.

"Kian has had a great freshman season," coach Mike Homan said. "He will do great things in the next three years. It was great for him to experience sectionals and the feel of the matches here."

Chelberg won his next match over Wyatt Bieber 12-5, which placed him in the third-place match against Austin Kufner of Fox Valley Lutheran.

"It was great to go from a fifth-place regional finish to the match to qualify for the state tournament," Homan said. "In that match, Drew wrestled well but just came up a few moves short and lost the match 14-8."

"Drew did a great job for us this season. He grew as a wrestler and was always improving. Today was a great experience for him, and we look forward to his senior season."

Also placing fourth were Brandon Romo of Oconto Falls at 126, Easton

Davis of Wittenberg-Birnamwood at 132 and George Seegmiller of Wittenberg-Birnamwood at 285.

Division 2, Sectional B

At the Valders sectional meet, one Lena wrestler finished in second and a Bonduel wrestler was third to advance to state.

At 150, Lena junior Max Peterson was pinned by Weyauwega-Fremont freshman Collin Hamm in 3:48 in the battle for first place.

Bonduel senior Colin Fischer placed third at 165. He defeated Southern Door's Lance Veaser, then lost to Brillion's Weston Schmidt in the second-place match.

Placing fourth and missing out on the state tournament were Isaac Peterson of Lena at 106, Jaxon Bogacz of Bonduel at 132 and Evan Wilcox of Bonduel at 215.

The state tournament will be held Feb. 27-March 1.

Hockey season ends for Hawks, Red Robins

By NEW Media Staff

Feb. 20 Lakeland 9, Shawano/Bonduel 2
Shawano/Bonduel could not find its rhythm in the Division 2 Sectional 2 WIAA regional finals playoff game against Lakeland. The Hawks lost 9-2 to end their season.

The Thunderbirds were up 3-0 in the first period before Gavin Hundt scored for Shawano/Bonduel at 11:26. Michael Dillenburgh had the assist.

Lakeland scored four more times in the second period to lead 7-1 before Kielian Armbuster scored with a Blake Knope assist at 8:03 to make it 7-2.

The Thunderbirds scored once more in the second period and sealed the win a goal in the third period.

Shawano/Bonduel, which was seeded No. 6, had 15 shots on goal. Lakeland, seeded No. 3, had 33 shots on goal. Kaiden Thornborrow had 14 saves, and Tyson Lyons had 10.

Each team was penalized seven times, the Hawks for 14 minutes and the Thunderbirds for 20.

Northland Pines 6, Antigo 5
The Antigo and Wittenberg-Birnhamwood co-op hockey team held a 4-2 lead after two periods, but Northland Pines knocked in four goals in the final period to earn the 6-5 win in the WIAA Division 2 Sectional regional finals game.

Down 1-0 in the first period, Owen Dickman tied the game at 8:35 with assists from Carson Rhode and Eli Kassler.

Antigo took the lead at 9:02 in the second period when Kassler scored. The Red Robins went up 3-1 at 11:47 on an Ethan Novy goal with Kassler and Liam Burt



Shawano/Bonduel's Teagan Harkey picked up another assist in the Hawks' 7-2 win over Manitowoc United on Feb. 11. Harkey is a freshman at Shawano Community High School. The Hawks' season ended Feb. 20 with a 9-2 loss to Lakeland in the regional finals.

SAM'S PHOTOGRAPHY LLC

assisting.

The Eagles scored less than a minute later, but Collin Tiedemann put Antigo back up 4-2 with a goal at 14:11. Dickman had the assist.

But the third period belonged to the Eagles. From two goals down, they worked their way to two goals up, 6-4, before Kassler assisted Dickman to scored at 12:31 to bring the score to 6-5.

The Red Robins, a No. 5 seed, had 25 shots on goals. The Eagles, seeded No. 4, had 40 shots on goal, while Richie Veriha had 34 saves.

Each team was penalized four times for eight minutes.



Goalie Tyson Lyons tallied 16 saves on 18 shots on goal by Manitowoc United in the Hawks' 7-2 win on Feb. 11. Wisconsin Prep Hockey reports Lyons has 150 saves on the season against 169 shots on goal in 15 games. In the Feb. 20 regional finals against Lakeland, Lyons had 10 saves.

SAM'S PHOTOGRAPHY LLC

Bonduel boys clinch conference title

BY NEW MEDIA STAFF

Feb. 22 St. Thomas Aquinas Academy 74, Suring 54
Feb. 21 Bonduel 79, Amherst 39

Bonduel clinched the Central Wisconsin East Conference championship and improved to 13-0 in the conference with a 79-39 clubbing of Amherst.

The Bears used a dominating 48-19 first half to cruise to the win.

Quinn Wesenberg led Bonduel with 19 points. Sam Roberts added 13 and led the team with 17 rebounds. Cade Johnson and Ryan Westrich each scored 10 pints.

Johnson offered up a team-leading five assists, and Race Anvelink had three steals.

Oconto Falls 78, Clintonville 71

Oconto Falls put up a well-rounded effort in its 78-71 win over Clintonville.

Jameson Beaman and Evan Yuma each scored 19 points, while JJ Pytleski contributed 14 and Chase Carriveau added another 13.

Pytleski and Yuma each pulled down seven rebounds. Brady Bursa led the team by dishing out six

six assists, and with two steals each were Bursa, Yuma, Emerich Skarban and Jameson Beaman.

Three Lakes 69, Lena 45

Mason Spice's 13 points led Lena on the scoreboard, but the team came up short against Three Lakes, losing 69-45.

White Lake 65, Gresham 54

Thomas Kaquatosh scored 15 points and pulled down 19 rebounds, but Gresham came up short in its 65-54 loss to White Lake.

Wanbli Spotted Bear Bonnett added another 13 pints for the Wildcats, and Nolan Pecore scored 10.

Pecore led Gresham with four assists and two steals.

Tigerton 70, Marion 23

Tigerton had little difficulty in dispatching Marion 70-23.

The Tigers held a comfortable halftime lead of 37-12 and had a nearly identical 33-11 second half.

Joey Zimdars led Tigerton with 16 points, as James Brady added 15, Sam Anheuser scored 13 and Caleb Dahlstrom had 10.

Brady led the team with seven rebounds, and Gavin Kielblock had six. Anheuser

er had three assists.
Pulaski 81, Green Bay Southwest 36

As if a 17-point lead at halftime wasn't big enough, Pulaski added another 28 points to their advantage in the second half as the Red Raiders trounced Green Bay Southwest 81-36.

Colin Schultz led Pulaski with 21 points. Also scoring in double digits were Joseph Mijal with 13, Ethan Schmidt with 12 and Bryce Wotruba with 10.

Schultz, Schmidt and Benjamin Barry each had five rebounds. Wotruba led with six assists, and Wotruba and Mijal each had two steals.

Shawano 57, Green Bay East 50

Logan Simple's 29 points paced the Hawks in their 57-50 win at Green Bay East.

Will Verkuilen scored 12, and Anderson Schmidt added another 11 for Shawano.

Iola-Scandinavia 55, Wittenberg-Birnhamwood 48

The Chargers dropped into a tie for second place in the Central Wisconsin East Conference after

BASKETBALL,
CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

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

**BASKETBALL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18**

losing 55-48 to Iola-Scandinavia. Both teams are 10-3, behind Bonduel's 13-0 first-place record.

**Port Edwards 88,
Bowler 43**

**Weyauwega-Fremont
62, Menominee Nation 60
Feb. 20**

Coleman 70, Gillett 68
Jesse DeBauch 42 points and a strong second half wasn't enough for Gillett as the Tigers fell to Coleman 70-68.

Wausaukee 62, Lena 56
Mason Spice scored 25 points for Lena as the Wildcats lost 62-56 to Wausaukee.

Feb. 19
Roncalli 70, Bonduel
48

Junior Ryan Westrich reached the 1,000-point threshold in Bonduel's first loss of the season, a 70-48 defeat at the hands of visiting Roncalli.

Roncalli held a six-point lead at halftime and then blew the game open with a 34-18 second half.

Quinn Wesenberg led the Bears with 15 points, and Race Anvelink scored another 14. Westrich dropped in 11 points.

The non-conference loss dropped Bonduel to 20-1 overall. Roncalli is also 20-1.

Tigerton 59, White Lake 43

James Brady scored 26 points and pulled down 15 rebounds in Tigerton's 59-43 Central Wisconsin North Conference win over White Lake. The Tigers improved

to 8-0 in conference and 19-1 overall.

Caleb Dahlstrom and Joey Zimdars each knocked in 10 points.

Dahlstrom led the team with three assists, while Brody Miller had four steals.

Feb. 18
Lakeland Union 47,
Shawano 46

Marathon 53, Wittenberg-Birnamwood 49

**Rosholt 75, Bowler 48
Gresham 67, Suring 58
Pulaski 82, Seymour 70
Feb. 17**

Gillett 73, Manawa 60
Jesse DeBauch was a one-man wrecking machine as he scored 45 points in Gillett's 73-60 win over Manawa.

DeBauch sank 12 2-pointers, a pair of 3-pointers and 15-of-17 free throws.

Ryan Pensis added another 14 points for the Tigers.

Lena 70, Carney-Nadeau (Michigan) 47

Mason Spice poured in 32 points, Mason Belognia added 10 and eight other players also scored as Lena topped Michigan's Carney-Nadeau 70-47.

The Wildcats held a comfortable 33-14 lead at halftime and cruised to the victory from there.

Oconto Falls 75, Green Bay West 72

Oconto Falls hung on long enough to escape with a 75-72 win over Green Bay West.

Leading 38-35 at halftime, the Panthers played an even

second half with each team scoring 37 points.

Jameson Beaman led Oconto Falls with 28 points, and JJ Pytleski added 15. Beaman connected on five 3-pointers, Pytleski had two, and Emerich Skarban had two for six of his nine points.

Skarban led the team with seven rebounds, followed by Evan Yuma and Pyleski with five each. Yuma had five assists. With two steals each were Chase Carrievau, Skarban and Pyleski.

A surge by the Blue Jays lifted them to an 82-68 win over the Hawks.

The Hawks kept the game close until that second-half surge put the win out of reach.

The Hawks were led by Logan Sipple's 28 points.

Tigerton 53, Wild Rose

James Brady scored 16 points and Sam Anheuser added 13 as Tigerton topped Wild Rose 53-32.

Anheuser's points came from three 3-pointers and a 4-for-4 effort from the free throw line. Brady also connected on all four of his free throw attempts.

Caleb Dahlstrom led the Tigers with eight rebounds, Brady had three assists, and Brody Miller and Anheuser each had four steals.

Northland Lutheran
88, Bowler 64

Marion 58, Faith Christian Academy 55



Bay Area Ice Bear Faye Brunke (8) looks for an opening against the Madison Metro Lynx on Feb. 13. The Pulaski High School student was named to the Eastern Shores first team all-conference. Several of her teammates were also honored.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Ice Bears earn all-conference honors

Several members of the Bay Area Ice Bears girls hockey team earned Eastern Shores all-conference honors, the team announced.

Julianne Bradford and Emily Bill were named to

the first team and were also honored as scholar athletes.

Faye Brunke and Addison Dahl were named to the first team.

Ava McDonald was named to the second team.

Honorable mention status was earned by Reese Spiering.

Named as scholar athletes were Tiana Stindt, Briana Anundsen, Olympia Simons, Addison Gady and Claire Gerarden.





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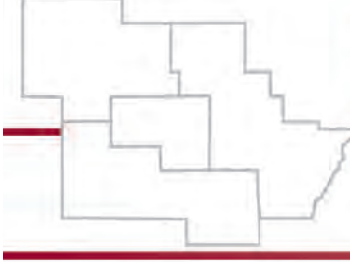
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Services

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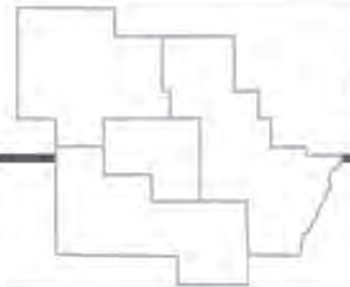
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Melinda Myers

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18.70	18.90	19.10	19.30	19.50
19.70	19.90	20.10	20.30	20.50
20.70	20.90	21.10	21.30	21.50
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22.70	22.90	23.10	23.30	23.50

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OCONTO COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

Proceedings of Feb. 14

▪ Bond was set at \$20,000 cash for Jimmy Joe Stewart, 58, Oconto County Jail, after he was charged with operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (seventh, eighth or ninth offense), battery to a law officer, and a misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Feb. 13. Judge Jay Conley adjourned his initial appearance until March 13.

▪ Bond was set at \$2,000 cash for Douglas Andrew Delveaux, 52, Oconto, after he was charged with strangulation and suffocation and misdemeanor counts of battery and disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Feb. 11. Conley adjourned his initial appearance until March 13.

Proceedings of Feb. 17

▪ Judge Michael Judge withheld sentencing and placed George E. Gernon, 41, Little Suamico, on two years of probation with conditions for possession of methamphetamine, in connection with an incident that occurred June 6, 2022. He received credit for 203 days already served in the county jail.

▪ Judge withheld sentencing and placed Bruce D. Taylor, 32, Oconto, on two years of probation for fleeing an officer in his vehicle, in connection with an incident that occurred March 4, 2024. Conditions of probation include 30 days in county jail.

▪ Javier Lashun Dixon, 31, Sobieski, pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor charge of disorderly conduct in connection with an incident that occurred Sept. 16. A felony charge was dismissed in a plea agreement. Dixon's probation had been revoked in two other cases involving

misdemeanor charge of bail jumping, in connection with an incident that occurred Sept. 20, 2023, as well as two counts of misdemeanor disorderly conduct in connection with incidents that occurred June 15 and 20, 2023. Judge levied fines and other costs and sentenced him to 155 days already served in the county jail.

▪ A May 6 jury trial was scheduled for Weldon Jerome Dillard, 29, Chicago, on charges of driving or operating a motor vehicle without the owner's consent and a misdemeanor count of resisting or obstructing an officer, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred May 30, 2023. Conley set a final pre-trial conference for April 8.

▪ Alex V. Koebach, 34, Oconto Falls, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to battery or threat to a law officer, throwing or discharging bodily fluids at a public safety worker, and misdemeanor charges of criminal damage to property, two counts of disorderly conduct, and two counts of resisting or obstructing an officer, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Dec. 28. Judge scheduled a pre-trial conference for March 12.

▪ Bond was set at \$10,000 cash for Cody James Meyer, 37, Oconto Falls, after he was charged with two counts of burglary to a building or dwelling, two counts of taking and driving a vehicle without consent, two counts of felony bail jumping, two misdemeanor counts of theft and two misdemeanor counts of receiving stolen property, in connection with incidents that allegedly occurred Aug. 23, 2024, and Jan. 12, 2025. Judge adjourned his initial appearance until March 13.

▪ Bond was set at \$500 cash for James P. Linz, 42, Oconto, after he was charged with possession of THC (second and subsequent offense), in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Feb. 12, and a misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Jan. 9. Judge adjourned his initial appearance until March 13.

Proceedings of Feb. 18

▪ Tyler Adam Ralph, 30, Mountain, was sentenced to two years and six months in prison, followed by two years of extended supervision with conditions, for attempted escape from criminal arrest, and misdemeanor counts of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (second offense), resisting or obstructing an officer, criminal damage to property\ and disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that occurred June 20. Judge ruled that he is eligible for the Substance Abuse Program, which can lead to early release upon successful completion..

▪ Ryan Christopher Mootz, 45, New Berlin, pleaded guilty to operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (seventh, eighth or ninth offense) in connection with an incident that occurred Jan. 4, 2024. Judge scheduled sentencing for April 17 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

▪ Fred J. Masten, 76, Appleton, pleaded no contest to theft of movable property and criminal damage to property, in connection with an incident that occurred May 25. Conley scheduled sentencing for April 25 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

▪ Harley Dean Stands, 30, Crandon, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to posses-

sion of cocaine (second or subsequent offense), three counts of felony bail jumping, and misdemeanor counts of operating while revoked and possession of drug paraphernalia, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred July 22. Conley scheduled a pre-trial conference for March 13.

Proceedings of Feb. 19

▪ Miranda M. Kuik, 33, Lena, pleaded no contest to child neglect in connection with an incident that occurred Sept. 1. Judge withheld sentencing and placed her on one year of probation with conditions.

▪ After a preliminary hearing Timothy Ronald Harwood, 34, De Pere, was bound over and pleaded not guilty to first-degree recklessly endangering safety, false imprisonment and a misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Nov. 11. Judge scheduled a pre-trial conference for March 12.

▪ Zachary James Lipp, 32, Gillett, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to burglary and misdemeanor counts of criminal damage to property, theft, resisting or obstructing an officer and three counts of retail theft, in connection with incidents that allegedly occurred Aug. 1, 2 and 3. Judge scheduled a pre-trial conference for March 13.

▪ Brandon M. Lewis, 35, Gillett, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to possession of methamphetamine and misdemeanor counts of resisting or obstructing an officer and possession of drug paraphernalia, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Dec. 28. Judge scheduled a status conference and bail/bond hearing for Feb. 25.

▪ Praise Mugisha, 22, Oconto, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to felony bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of bail jumping, operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (second offense), resisting or obstructing an officer, possession of THC and possession of drug paraphernalia, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Jan. 26. Judge scheduled a pre-trial conference for March 13.

Proceedings of Feb. 20

▪ John F. Benser, 60, Gillett, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded

not guilty to possession of a firearm by a person convicted of a felony and misdemeanor counts of possession of THC and possession of drug paraphernalia, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Aug. 14. Judge scheduled a pre-trial conference for March 13.

▪ Adam K. Couzzo, 42, Green Bay, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to felony bail jumping and misdemeanor or theft, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Sept. 30. Conley scheduled a pre-trial conference for March 13.

▪ Anthony Funk, 64, Krakow, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to taking and driving a vehicle without consent and a misdemeanor count of lewd and lascivious behavior, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Oct. 23. Judge scheduled a pre-trial conference for April 24.

▪ Kimberly Ann Alm, 54, Chicago, waived her right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to battery or threat to a law officer and a misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Jan. 30. Judge scheduled a pre-trial conference for March 13.

▪ Kayla Lynn Harris, 29, Oconto, waived her right to a preliminary hearing and was bound over on charges of battery or threat to a law officer and misdemeanor counts of resisting or obstructing an officer, criminal damage to property and disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Jan. 1, as well as felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Jan. 28. Conley scheduled arraignment for March 13.

▪ Bond was set at \$5,000 cash for Brady Lee Boucher, 30, Oconto, after he was charged with possession of methamphetamine, two counts of felony bail jumping, and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Feb. 20. Judge adjourned his initial appearance until March 19.

Proceedings of Feb. 21

▪ Keith D Lasnoski, 59, Pulaski, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and was

bound over on charges of possession of methamphetamine and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Jan. 12. Conley scheduled arraignment for March 13.

▪ Hailey Ann Johnson, 21, Green Bay, waived her right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to fleeing an officer in a vehicle, resisting an officer and causing great bodily harm or a soft tissue injury and three counts of second-degree reckless endangering safety, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Jan. 29. Judge scheduled a pre-trial conference for April 24.

▪ Bond was set at \$10,000 cash for Paul R. Lavassor, 51, Abrams, after he was charged with third-degree sexual assault, two counts of failure to update information in the sex offender registry and misdemeanor counts of battery and disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Feb. 18. Conley adjourned his initial appearance until March 13.

▪ Bond was set at \$4,000 cash for Andrew J. Lemirande, 43, Oconto Falls, after he was charged with possession of methamphetamine, maintaining a drug trafficking place, and misdemeanor counts of possession of an illegally obtained prescription and possession of drug paraphernalia, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Feb. 18. Conley adjourned his initial appearance until March 13.

▪ Bond was set at \$3,500 cash for Tiffany L. Champagne, 30, Pound, after she was charged with possession of methamphetamine, maintaining a drug trafficking place, two counts of felony bail jumping, and misdemeanor counts of possession of an illegally obtained prescription and possession of drug paraphernalia, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Jan. 21. Conley adjourned her initial appearance in both cases until March 13.

02/28/2025
EXHIBIT A
(Type A Notice)
NOTICE OF REFERENDUM ELECTION
NOTICE TO ELECTORS OF
SURING PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
RELATING TO A REFERENDUM ELECTION

TAKE NOTICE that a referendum election shall be held on April 1, 2025 in the Suring Public School District for the purpose of approving or rejecting a Revenue Cap Resolution adopted by the School Board of said School District on January 8, 2025.

The Revenue Cap Resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION TO EXCEED REVENUE CAP
COMMENCING WITH
THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR
BY AN AMOUNT OF \$1,500,000

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the Suring Public School District, Oconto County, Wisconsin, that the final school district budget shall include an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 in excess of the revenue limits imposed by Section 121.91 of the Wisconsin Statutes each year for a period of five years on a non-recurring basis, beginning with the 2025-26 school year and ending with the 2029-30 school year, for the purpose of paying District operation and maintenance costs including upgrades to elementary classroom heating and cooling systems.

Said resolution authorizes the School Board of the District to exceed the so-called "revenue cap" imposed on the District's school budget beginning with the 2025-26 school year through the 2029-30 school year under Section 121.91 of the Wisconsin Statutes by an amount of \$1,500,000 on a non-recurring basis for the purpose of paying District operation and maintenance costs including upgrades to elementary classroom heating and cooling systems.

The question to be submitted to District electors will be "Shall the School Board of the Suring Public School District be authorized to exceed the revenue limit under Section 121.91 of the Wisconsin Statutes beginning with the 2025-26 school year through the 2029-30 school year on a non-recurring basis by an amount of \$1,500,000 each year for the purpose of paying District operation and maintenance costs including upgrades to elementary classroom heating and cooling systems as provided in the foregoing resolution?"

A copy of the resolution directing submission of the question set forth above to the electorate and information concerning district boundaries may be obtained at the District offices located at 411 E. Algoma Street, Suring, Wisconsin 54174.

Persons with questions regarding the referendum election should contact Laurie Asher, Superintendent.

Suring Public School District
Cathy Lundgren, District Clerk

WNAXLP

Advertisement for Bids
Project: Standby Generator for Sanitary Lift Station #1 at Kelly Lake Bid Deadline: March 18, 2025 at 4:00 pm
Bid Opening: March 18, 2025 at 6:00 pm
Opening will be at Kelly Lake
Sanitary Board meeting located at 9535 Green Acres Street, Kelly Lake
Project details and bid documents can be requested by Emailing: kellylakesanitary@gmail.com or by phone 920-842-4527
81555
2/21,2/28 WNAXLP

TYPE A NOTICE
OF
REFERENDUM ELECTION
April 1, 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the several towns, villages, cities, wards, and election districts of the State of Wisconsin, on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, the following questions will be submitted to a vote of the people pursuant to law:
Question 1: "Photographic identification for voting. Shall section 1m of article III of the constitution be created to require that voters present valid photographic identification verifying their identity in order to vote in any election, subject to exceptions which may be established by law?"

This referendum ballot is a result of 2025 Senate Joint Resolution 2, a copy of which can be viewed or downloaded on the Legislature's website at https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/proposals/reg/sen/joint_resolution/sjr2. A copy also can be obtained from the office of the county clerk, or the Legislative Documents Room at 1 East Main Street, Madison, Wisconsin.

DONE in the County of Oconto, this 19th day of February, 2025.
Kim Pytleski, Oconto County Clerk
OCT 2/28 WNAXLP

71036

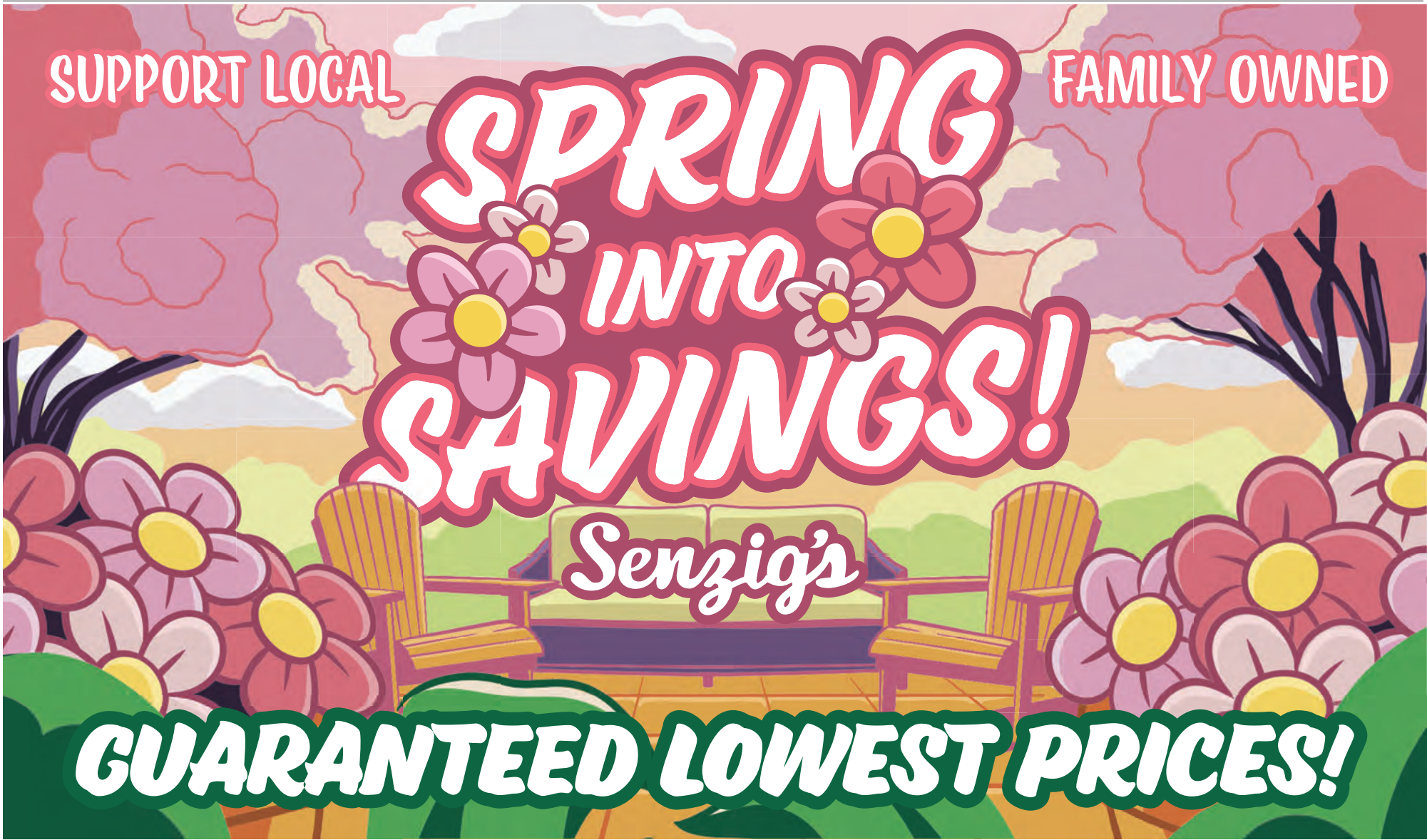
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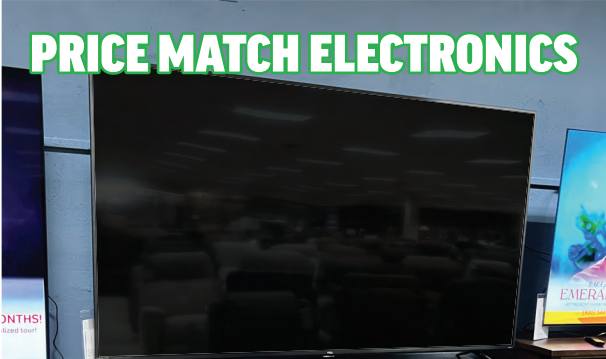
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Free **INTERIOR DESIGN**
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ENJOY FREE, PERSONALIZED INTERIOR DESIGN SERVICES
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Free **OF INTEREST**
FINANCE YOUR PURCHASE**
60 MONTHS ON FURNITURE & MATTRESSES
18 MONTHS ON ELECTRONICS & APPLIANCES

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

HSBS PHARMACY HOURS:

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2/\$8

Asst Variety
7.25-13oz

Brew Pub Lotzza Motzza Pizza



\$5.99

Asst Variety
20.29-26.82oz

Pollock Fillets
2-4oz



\$3.29
lb

**Klement's Smoked
Ring Sausages**
Regular, Andouille, or Kielbasa

\$4.39 ea
14oz

**USDA Choice
Boneless Ribeye
Steaks**



\$14.29
lb

**Gerber Amish
Whole Frying Chickens**

\$2.49 lb

**Boneless
Center-Cut
Pork Chops or Roasts**



\$2.49
lb

**Food Club
Macaroni & Cheese**

79¢ Asst Variety
5.5-7.25oz

Pringles

2/\$4 Asst Variety
4.9-5.57oz

**XLG Green or Red
Seedless Grapes**



\$1.99
lb

Blood Oranges



\$2.69
2lb Bag

**Cosmic Crisp
Apples**



\$1.29
lb

Red Radishes



\$1.99
1lb Bag

**Fresh
Asparagus**



\$2.99
lb

**Kretschmar
Off-the-Bone
Rotisserie
Chicken Breast**



\$6.49
lb

Shaved or Sliced

**Sweet P's
Donut Bites**



2/\$6

Asst Variety
12-14oz

**McCain
Frozen Potatoes**



\$3.49

Asst Variety
19-32oz

**Van de Kamp
Frozen Fish
Fillets or Sticks**



\$4.99

Asst Variety
18-24.6oz

**Daisy
Sour Cream**



\$3.29

24oz

**Food Club
Shredded
Cheese**



2/\$7

Asst Variety
16oz

**Puffs
Family Pack
Facial Tissue**



\$5.49

3pk

**Food Club
Instant Oatmeal**



\$2.29

Asst Variety
10pk

**Pillsbury
Toaster Strudels**



2/\$6

Asst Variety
7.2-9oz

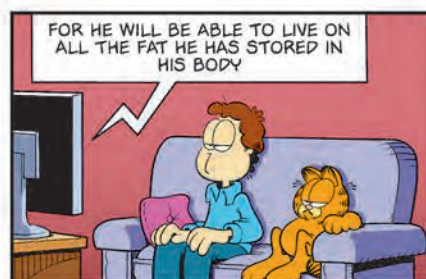
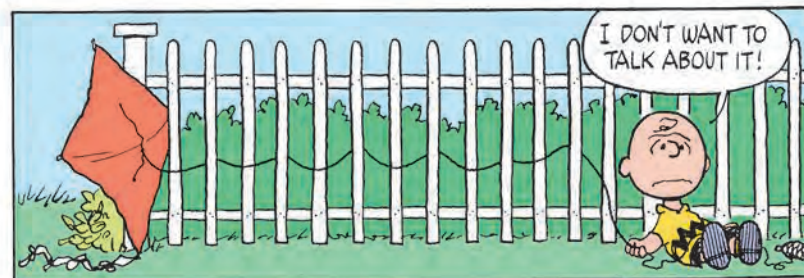
**Wide Awake
Ground Coffee**

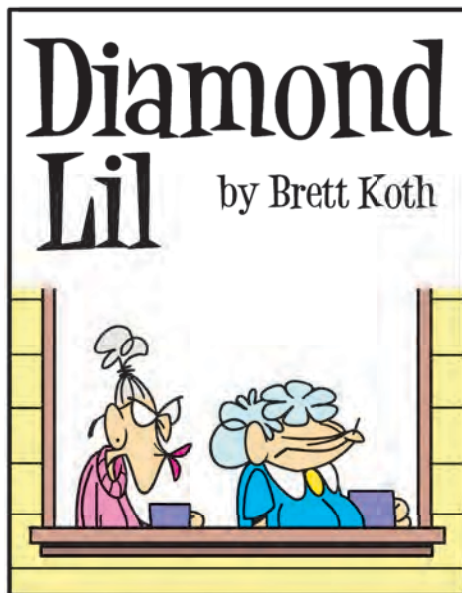
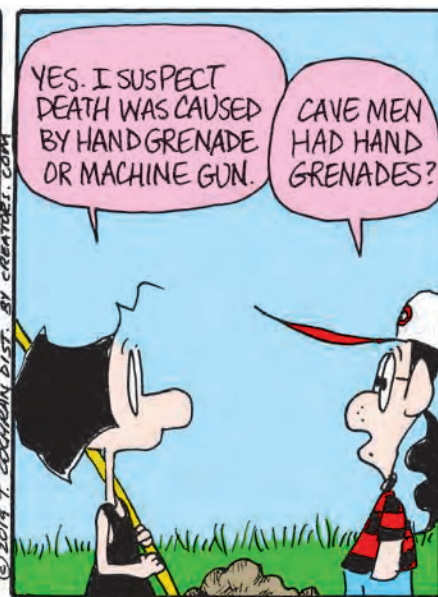
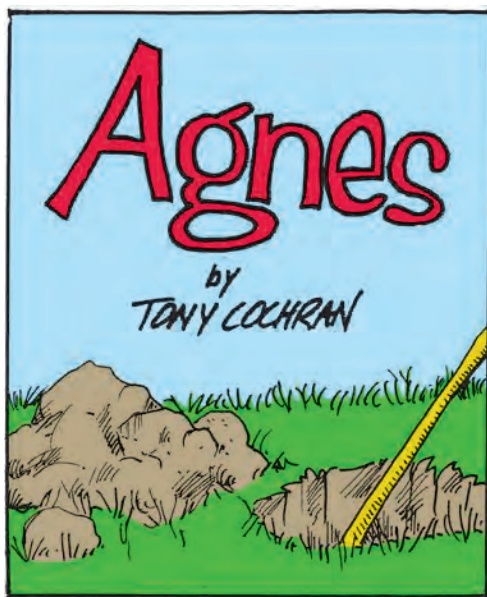
\$4.99

Asst Variety 11-12oz

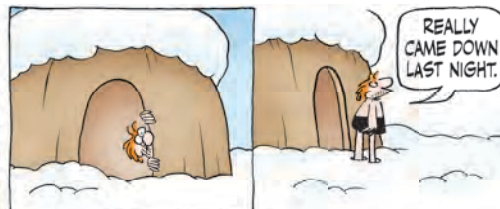
Coffee Pods
\$3.99

Asst Variety 10ct





ANDY CAPP



DOGS OF C-KENNEL BY MICK MASTROIANNI AND MASON MASTROIANNI

