



Lorraine Zehren, left, and Betty Lohrengel review the unofficial vote totals from the April 2 election during an April 4 Shawano County Board of Canvass meeting. In addition to the vote totals, the four board members reviewed all tally sheets, poll lists, inspector's statements and more, as received from municipal clerks. They then finalized all election materials to report vote totals to the Wisconsin Elections Commission.

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

2 incumbents lose seats on Shawano County Board

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

The new Shawano County Board has taken shape, following the April 2 voting results, according to the Shawano County Clerk's Office.

District 4 incumbent Kimberly Leffel defeated challenger Blake Hampton 91-56.

Redistricting put two incumbents against each other in the new District 7. Jeremy Gretzinger beat out Mike Stupecky 227-98.

In District 12, results show incumbent Kathy Luebke topping challenger Dustin Robaidek 217-77.

District 16's battle between registered write-ins Curth Korth and Lowel Hammett saw Hammett winning 35-25.

In District 17, challenger Al Kuhn defeated challenger Jesse Rankin 184-154.

Challenger Randy Mallmann defeated incumbent Devin Krizan in District 18 273-150.

Newcomer Lynn Tober-Steinke beat fellow newcomer Tyler Steenbock in District 19 221-174.

In another battle of newcomers, Raymond Rigsby topped Anne Smith in the District 22 race, 247-135.

Curtis Naja, an unopposed registered write-in for District 5, won with 10 votes.

Incumbents winning in unopposed races were Mike Wizner in D1, Annelies Hartwig in D2, Jacob Hartwig in D3, Randy Young in D6, Martin Elmer in D8, Ken Capelle in D9, Terry Tipton in D10, Jim Przybelski in D11, Kevin Conrath in D13, Matt Pleshek in D14, Russell Gehm in D15, Rick Giese in D20, Joe Miller in D21, Steven Natzke in D23, Bill Switalla in D24, Denny Knaak in D25, Tom Kautza in D26 and Tess Serrano in D27.

A referendum to raise the levy limit to pay for emergency medical services in Eland passed 54-11, while a similar one in Mattoon failed 85-22.

In the presidential primary, President

Joe Biden won the Democratic vote with 2,217 votes. Dean Phillips gathered 89 votes, with another 87 as unrestricted.

Former President Donald Trump led Republicans with 4,639 votes. Nikki Haley gathered 515 votes, Ron DeSantis collected 120, Chris Christie had 70, Vivek Ramaswamy had 32, and another 110 were unrestricted.

Shawano County voters supported both state referendum questions. First, to prohibit private donations and grants from being applied for, accepted, expended or used in connection with the conduct of any primary election, general election or referendum, voters said yes 5,108 times compared to 2,688 no votes. Second, to allow that only election officials designated by law may perform tasks in the conduct of primaries, general elections and referendums, voters approved the measure 5,203 to 2,276.

Judge William Kussel Jr., running unopposed, picked up 6,454 votes.

Mental health calls increasing for county

Deputies check on people who are suicidal, miss work, have dementia

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

For several years, the No. 1 call to Shawano County dispatchers has been reports of reckless drivers.

Last month, that changed to welfare checks, Sheriff George Lenzner told the Shawano County Public Safety Committee on April 3.

Welfare checks include calls for suicide, people not showing up for work, Alzheimer's and dementia cases or other mental health issues.

"They're really time consuming for our officers to check," he said. "The majority of them are just simple things — the person's fine."

He said calls about people with Alzheimer's or dementia come in more often than the public realizes. In many cases, all is OK, but in others, a call to the Department of Human Services or a visit to the local hospital is required.

Emergency medical detentions occur almost daily.

"That's hours to get them cleared at the hospital," Lenzner said. "We have to wait for someone from Human Services to come down or call, and then finding a bed for them nowadays is the toughest thing, because there's more of these people with these issues. There's less places to house them."

He said every county deals with these situations, but the farther north you go in the state, the worse it is because of fewer available nearby resources.

"We're not as bad off as other counties, but the state needs to make that better," he said.

It was also noted that more and more young residents are affected by mental health issues. And, with fewer counselors available to help, it takes longer to relieve a deputy from the call.

Lenzner also reported on the hundreds of calls the deputies and dispatchers handled the night of April 2, when six to 12 inches of snow fell across the area.

CALLS, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

INSIDE

Shawano County communication towers to get some repairs.

PAGE 2





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Repairs, updates planned for communication towers

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-chief

The Shawano County Public Safety Committee on April 3 favored the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to update the generators at two communication towers and a highway department shop.

The matter was expected to be approved by the Executive Committee at its April 10 meeting.

Chris Madle, emergency management director, reminded the committee of the failure of the Gresham tower generator to kick in during a storm in summer 2023, which left the county without communications in the central part of the county for a couple of hours.

He proposed new generators at the Bonduel and Marion towers as well as the highway department's shop on the eastern end of the county.

"These generators are upwards of 20 to 25 years old," he said. "We can't get the control system parts for them if they fail."

He specifically pointed to an analysis of the Marion setup.

"How long that generator is going to hang on is a guess for all of us," he said.

The estimated cost is \$41,670.

The generators at the towers supply power to the towers for 911 and sheriff department radio systems. The additional generator for the highway east shop would provide power to fuel system, door entries and brine pumps. If power is lost there, no one can fuel vehicles, open garage doors for plow trucks or pump or fill brine for road safety.

Jim Davel, administrative coordinator, said he asked that the highway department generator be discussed by the committee for emergency management reasons.

"If we lose the capability to pump fuel out on the east shop due to a storm, we're going to have significant issues," he said. "We put \$275,000 out there. It only makes good sense in my opinion that we have the capability to, in the event of a severe storm, that we can still fuel."

He said the fuel usage is better than expected and includes the highway department, sheriff's department and municipalities on the county's eastern end.



One of the next projects for Shawano County emergency management is to make the communication tower in Leopolis operational as an emergency backup. The county owns the tower, but there is no equipment on it yet. The Pella Fire Department is also interested in using the tower.

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

New generators at the towers is vital, Davel noted.

"I've said this before. We put a tremendous amount of money into this dispatch center, but that doesn't do anything unless those towers work," he said. "We need to focus on these things, because that is one of the key components of our 911 system, if not the key component."

Pending approval, the generators could be installed within a couple months.

Shawano County has about \$1.7 million remaining in ARPA funds that need to be allocated this year.

In a related matter, Madle said the planned improvements at the Wittenberg tower are taking longer than anticipated, as officials are having trouble finding a local contractor. And, contractors from farther away are reluctant to take the job as they see it as too small of a project.

"To try to find somebody in Wittenberg is tough," Davel said. "We're already in April, and we

need to get moving on that building quickly. It is in the budget. That doesn't mean it's going to be there next year, either. If you don't get that done, you're going to have to argue for it."

Madle said the next project would be make the tower in Leopolis operational as an emergency backup. The county owns the tower, but there is no equipment on it yet. The Pella Fire Department is also interested in using the tower, he said.

"We had that issue in Gresham last year. The generator didn't kick on," Madle said. "We didn't have any backup for our sheriff, fire, EMS in the central area of our county."

He said both antennas for the tower are already purchased; they just need to be installed.

At the Marion tower site, one of the walls of the building is ripping away from the structure, which will also require immediate attention.

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Storm wreaks havoc across area with snow, rain, winds

Power outages, downed trees, accidents keep officials busy

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-chief

Snowfall of more than six inches and up to a foot in some areas combined with 50 mph winds contributed to a white mess across the Shawano County area April 2-3.

Power outages were common.

"It was very widespread around the city, and most parts of the city were impacted," said Bruce Gomm, Shawano Municipal Utilities general manager. "It was a pretty significant event for power outages."

Thousands of area We Energies customers were also without power due to the storm.

Either the high winds blew trees and branches onto the power lines, or the heavy snow caused branches to break and fall onto the lines.

"The weight of the wet snow was more than the trees could bear, and they either fell on the high voltage line and caused the whole circuit to trip out, or

they fell on individual lines and ripped them out, causing problems with secondary services," Gomm said.

On the morning of April 4, more than 13,000 We Energies customers from Gillett to Waupaca to Appleton remained without power. That included nearly 2,000 in Seymour.

So many were still left without power the night of April 3 that the Shawano County Red Cross set up an overnight warming shelter at Shawano Community Middle School for those who needed a warm place to spend the night.

No one took advantage of the shelter, but the FACE Center in Keshena remained open.

Sheriff George Lenzner said his officers and dispatchers were kept very busy.

"Between the hours of 5 p.m. and midnight (April 2), dispatch received 206 inbound phone calls, had to make 87 outbound phone calls and started 136 total incidents for service," he said. "Every law

enforcement, fire or EMS call in our county goes through our dispatch center, and we cannot thank these four (dispatchers) enough for 'weathering the storm' behind the scenes."

The severe weather led to dozens of school, business and community events being postponed or canceled.

The family of Justin Dickenson, along with the Menominee Tribal Police Department, canceled a planned April 5 search for him.

Originally planned for March 29, it was postponed to April 5 due to the weather and has now been postponed again, this time with a new date yet to be determined.

Dickenson, 36, was last seen Feb. 11, 2022, in Bowler.

The Shawano Speedway Fan Fest, originally set for April 6, was canceled due to the parking lots being a mess from the snow and rain.

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Doctors urge those 45 and older to get regular colon cancer screenings

Prevea Health is reminding everyone 45 and older to receive regular screenings.

Colon cancer is now the leading cause of cancer death in men and the second leading cause of cancer death for women under the age of 50, according to the American Cancer Society's annual cancer statistics report. These new statistics are of concern as two decades ago colon cancer was the fourth leading cause of death for men and women in the United States.

Dr. Mohamed Azab, Prevea gastroenterologist, said by detecting potential precancerous polyps through a colonoscopy, doctors

and patients have a better chance of preventing and treating the disease before it spreads or grows.

"When precancerous polyps are discovered early during a screening, our team can utilize minimally invasive procedures and other approaches to remove the cancer," said Azab. "It's important for people to know that this disease is preventable, especially if the polyps are removed prior to them fully developing into cancer."

While many will not have to schedule their first colonoscopy until the age of 45, Azab urges those with a higher risk of developing

the disease, or those with a family history of colorectal cancer, to talk with their primary care physician about being screened earlier. For those who receive a colonoscopy with clean results, most will not to have to schedule another screening for several years.

"It's estimated that up to one-third of the people diagnosed with colon cancer, before the age of 50, have a family history of the disease," said Azab. "For this reason, I encourage those with family history of colon cancer to talk to their primary care provider about scheduling a colonoscopy even earlier."

CALLS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"They worked their butts off last night," he said of the staff. "They did a great job."

Also, in the first quarter of 2024, deputies have issued 288 citations for operating without a driver's license.

"That's still a huge problem that there's that many people driving around Shawano County without a license," he said.

"That's something the state needs to work on. You give them a fine; they don't pay it. They (officials) just suspend their license more and more, and there's really no consequences to them."

Speeding generates a lot of calls from residents, complaining of those driving past their homes at high rates of speed.

Deputies issued 287

speeding tickets so far this year.

"They're out there issuing them, but we can't get everybody," Lenzner said.

Another 152 citations were issued for failure to buckle up.

"We still have a lot of people that aren't wearing seat belts," he said.

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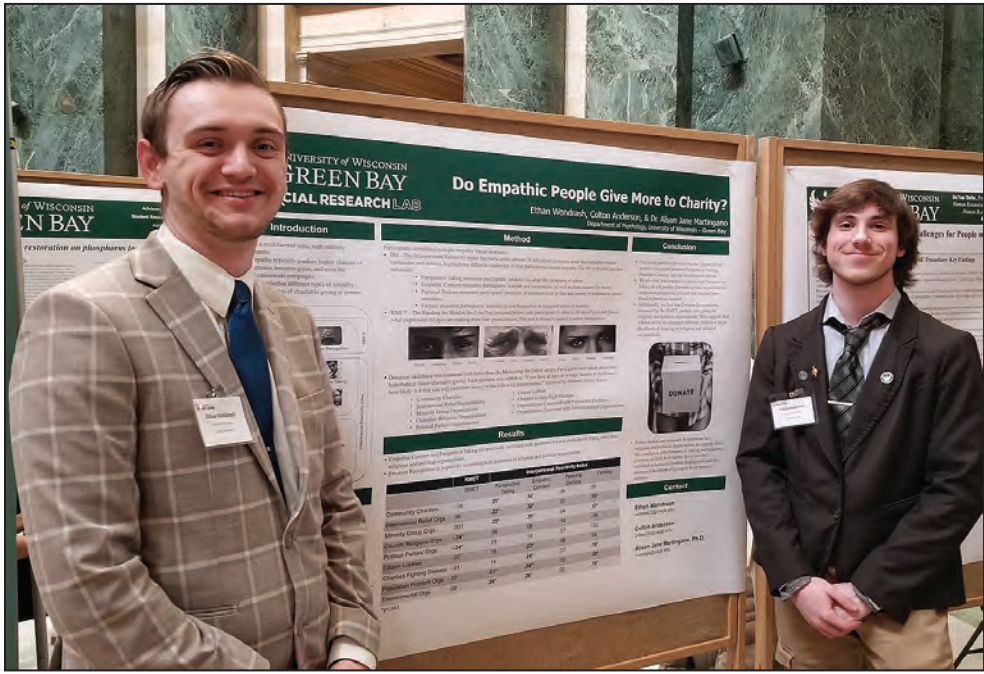
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Colton Anderson, right, a University of Wisconsin-Green Bay student from Bonduel, and Ethan Wondrash, who lives in Two Rivers, stand next to the poster highlighting their research during the Research in the Rotunda event held in February at the state capitol building in Madison.

CONTRIBUTED

Students link charitable giving to empathy

UW-Green Bay student from Bonduel finds empathic people give more to most benevolent organizations

BY LEE PULASKI
City Editor

If you're an empathic person, chances are that you'd be more willing to give to charity, according to a Bonduel resident attending University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

Colton Anderson, a psychology student at the university, teamed up with Ethan Wondrash to look at data from a recent survey and learned that the results that empathy can be a factor in more giving to various causes. Their research garnered enough attention to be part of the Research in the Rotunda event earlier this year in Madison.

"We ended up finding some different and interesting findings about the different aspects of empathy," Anderson said. "Empathy is pretty complex, and it's been debated what aspects there are to it. There's a cognitive and emotional side to empathy, so we basically used a couple of different measures to assess both of those, and we found out that emotional ones were pretty much significant for everything. It's a pretty long standing finding that emotional empathy predicts charitable giving behaviors."

Anderson pointed out that the project started out as a simple analysis of data, but then things grew from there.

"We found out that we had a lot of data about empathy, and we had a lot of data about charity, and we tried to connect the dots," Anderson said. "We wanted to see if there was something significant in those findings."

Anderson and Wondrash got their data from the Monitoring the Future survey, which asked participants, "If you have at least an average income in the future, how likely is it that you will contribute money to the following organizations?" People who claimed to be empathic showed favor to donating to community charities, citizen lobbies, international relief organizations, charities fighting diseases, minority groups, organizations concerned with population problems and organizations affiliate with environmental groups.

Greater empathy tended to predict higher chances of donating, greater amounts donated and potentially the success of nationwide campaigns, Anderson and Wondrash showed in their research.

The research showed that empathic people were less likely to break out their wallets when it came to religious organizations or political parties, according to Anderson. He noted that this is not a result that was found in previous research.

"It basically said that, if you're better at emotional recognition, you're less likely to give to religious or political charities specifically," Anderson said.

Wondrash said that a lot of time has been spent trying to determine why empathic people shy away from religious or political giving. It's believed that those two types of giving are considered affiliative, while the other types are humanitarian in nature.

Anderson and Wondrash said they want to

find out if their discovery is just a single finding in the survey of 289 UW-Green Bay students done last year or if there's a trend that can be permanently assessed. They are conducting more research now, but it's questionable if it will be completed by the time both students graduate this spring.

"This is something we'll have to replicate again, because this is just our initial findings," Wondrash said, noting that the UW-Green Bay campus is mostly female and that the survey focused on students ages 18-20. "We're still trying to make sense of what we've found."

Being able to participate in the Research in the Rotunda was an honor for both students. Anderson noted presenting his findings outside the school setting was a first for him.

"It was really interesting to interact with all the different politicians and researchers and things like that," Anderson said. "We had a couple of different people who stopped over that were senators and a couple that were professors and even a couple of students who wanted to check us out."

"A lot of people were really curious about this question," Wondrash added. "This is something that has already been found, but the specifics of these questions, what types of charities and what kinds of people are more willing to give, when we get into that, people have more questions because it's more interesting because it's a more specific question."

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REPORTER/NEWS EDITOR

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

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

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

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

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



SPORTS EDITOR

NEW Media is looking for a sports editor to immediately manage its three publications in northeast Wisconsin — the Shawano Leader, the Oconto County Times Herald and the Wittenberg Enterprise and Birnamwood News. We need someone with a love of sports who knows where to take our coverage in the future.

The sports editor will determine which games out of over a dozen school districts in three counties will be covered. During the school year, the editor will find local athletes to profile. The editor will also cover the local water ski team, the Shawano Ski Sharks, as well as coordinate coverage for the Shawano Speedway. Another duty for the editor will be to oversee and edit the layout of sports pages each week and make sure stories get on our website in a timely manner in accordance with our mantra of digital first. The sports editor will also oversee our Green & Gold Express, a seasonal publication covering the Green Bay Packers, along with hunting sections in the fall.

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

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Busy spring means juggling bus schedules

Technically, spring is here, but as I write this, it sure doesn't feel like it. This month, I would like to extend a few reminders that might be helpful as we approach the end of the school year and prepare for 2024-25. Spring sports schedules will be taking off here in extremely busy fashion. Between many field trips and daily games and meets scheduled up until the end of the school



year, busing availability becomes tricky to plan everything out logistically with available drivers. Parents will likely need to expect some concessions with route times fluctuating periodically. Our transportation team does a great job of accommodating all requests, and we are fortunate for their planning and flexibility with scheduling.

Speaking of schedules, I would like to remind all residents that our 2024-25 school calendar has been posted on our district website. For those advanced planners, this will afford you the opportunity to get things in place well ahead of time.

So as we begin to close out one school year and prepare for another, I'd just like to highlight a couple of items that will be important for you to know. With less than two months left in the school year, I would encourage all parents to check Skyward Access and make sure they are informed as to how their children are academically concluding the school year. It is important to finish on a great note. Also, please do not hesitate to contact your children's teachers and keep yourself informed throughout.

Graduation is scheduled for Friday, May 24. All obligations and expectations regarding registration fees, coursework, attendance, etc., must be met in order for students to participate in the graduation ceremony. These last two months of the school year will go by fast. It is important to make the most of each and every day.

Let's keep encouraging our students to strive for their very best and finish strong. I hope you all have a productive and enjoyable spring.

Garrett Rogowski is superintendent for the Wittenberg-Birnawood School District.

OBITUARIES

Ruth A. TenHaken

Ruth Anna Herrema TenHaken, born Sept. 17, 1928, in the Town of Ringle, daughter of Richard Herrema and Anna Hettinga Herrema, passed into the hands of our Lord Jesus Christ on March 20, 2024.

She was married to Victor W. TenHaken for 70 years, until his death in 2017.

She is survived by her children, Randall K. Ten Haken (Babette), Ann Arbor, Michigan, Vicki Ruth TenHaken (John Meshkin), Holland, Michigan, John W. Ten Haken (Marcia), Green Bay, and Ronald D. Ten Haken (Terri), Hatley. She enjoyed 12 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.



She is also survived by her brother, Calvin Herrema, St. Petersburg, Florida.

Her sisters, Gretchen and Betty Jane, and brother, Richard, preceded her in death.

Ruth attended Carpenter Grade School,

Ringle, and graduated from Birnamwood High School. She was an office secretary prior to her marriage and lived in Birnamwood for 34 years. She was a member of New Hope Community Church for over 65 years, during which time she sang in the choir, was Circle secretary and treasurer, catechism and Sunday School teacher, Friendship Bible Coffee Guide and spiritual leader.

Ruth was a Cub Scout den mother with the Boy Scouts of America for 12 years. She was a member and past secretary of Maple Hills Ladies Golf Club in Wittenberg and an 11-year trustee of Langlade Memorial Hospital in

Antigo, serving as secretary and treasurer to the board and the executive committee.

Upon moving to Florida in the 1990s, Ruth joined the First Presbyterian Church of Leesburg and later was a founding member of Solid Rock Evangelical Presbyterian Fellowship and later Grace Evangelical Presbyterian Church. In Florida, Ruth continued singing in the church choir and the Highland Lakes chorus and was a volunteer for Angel Flight for several years.

Always singing (or humming), Ruth first began singing in church at the age of 4 with her sisters. She enjoyed bowl-

ing, square-dancing, knitting, sewing (at one time Ruth sewed clothes for the entire family, including suits for the boys), reading, playing cards, and, especially, traveling. Ruth moved back to the Wausau area in the fall of 2019, where she once again was able to have an address on the road she grew up on and continue to worship with her church family at New Hope.

The family is grateful for the fantastic care and support of staff at the Wausau Primrose Retirement Community, the Wausau Aspirus Hospice staff, and the prayers and support of the members of New Hope Community Church.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2024, at New Hope Community Church, 229375 County Road J, Wausau. Visitation will take place from 9-11 a.m. at the church, followed by a memorial service at 11 a.m. The Rev. Tony Lombardo will officiate. Burial will be in Forestville Cemetery in the town of Easton.

Ruth requested that in lieu of flowers, any memorials or gifts be given to New Hope Community Church.

Schmidt and Schulta Funeral Home in Birnamwood is assisting the family with arrangements. Memories and messages of support may be shared at schmidtschulta.com.

Richard T. Wegner

Richard Timothy Wegner, 76, was called to his eternal home with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on April 1, 2024, at 7:05 a.m. at Birch Hill Nursing home in Shawano.

He was born on Sept. 9, 1947, in Sheboygan, to his parents, the Rev. Mark and Gladys (Koepp) Wegner. He was the third oldest of four children, Jaqueline, Lois and John. He confirmed his Christian faith at Christ Memorial Lutheran in Milwaukee and had Romans 1:16 as his confirmation verse. He graduated from Milwaukee Lutheran High School and from Concor-



dia Teachers College in River Forest, Illinois.

His first call was to be principal and teacher of grades 4-6 at Emanuel Lutheran Church and School in Tipton, Indiana.

It was here where he met his wife, Carol (Leininger) and was married by his father at Emanuel on Feb. 14, 1970.

Richard went on to faithfully serve in Lutheran schools throughout his 43 years in ministry. From Emanuel, he went on to teach and be athletic director at St. Martini Lutheran School in Milwaukee; taught grades three and four and was principal at Holy Cross Lutheran School in Austin, Minnesota; and taught middle school level grades and was principal at St. John Lutheran School (Sherman Center) in Random Lake.

He also served on the superintendent's cabinet of the South Wisconsin District for several years.

Richard is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Carol, and three grateful children, James (Jennifer) Wegner, of Stevens Point, Jeffrey "Jeff" (Ann) Wegner, of Cedar Grove, and Janette (Troy) Thompson, of Bonduel. All three of his children pursued careers in Lutheran education. Richard is also survived by seven adoring grandchildren, Tyler, Evan, Cylee, McKenna, Hailee, Emery and Braedy.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Richard loved a wide array of music, and you would often hear him whistling some tune. He enjoyed dogs, fishing, playing horseshoes, feeding and watching his birds, overseeing the activities and sunsets on Shawano Lake from his front porch, mowing lawn on his riding tractor, cheering on his Wisconsin sports teams and spending time with family.

Funeral services were held at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Bonduel on Saturday, April 6. Interment

was at St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery.

In honor of Richard's ministry in Lutheran education, memorials may be directed to the North Wisconsin District's Labor of Love Million Dollar campaign. This is a fund to help relieve church worker debt. The website to give is at nwdlcm.org (click the campaign button).

The family would like to thank all the nursing home and health care workers at Birch Hill for their care for Richard these last few months.

www.swedbergfuneralhome.com

Robert J. Herrmann



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Robert James Herrmann died on April 2, 2024, under the care of his family and LeRoy Hospice. He was 89 years old.

He was born on June 3, 1934, in Red Springs, a son of the late Charles and Minnie (Loehrl) Herrmann. He married Judy Terrio on Oct. 12, 1957, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Bowler. She preceded him in death in December of 2017.

Robert graduated from Mattoon High School in 1952.

He was a dairy farmer and logger in the Town of Aniwa until 1979. His passion for hunting and fishing led him to move out West. Robert lived in White Hall, Montana,



where he owned the Rice Motel for eight years and worked as a carpenter building homes. While in White Hall, he coached baseball and was proud to win the American Legion Baseball State Championship.

Robert's passion in life was hunting with hounds. He went on many hunting trips, and many fellow hunters made trips to Montana to hunt with him. He enjoyed fishing, taking an annual family fishing trip to the boundary waters in Northern Minnesota, Canada and the Dakotas. He also enjoyed spending time at the log cabin he built in the mountains.

In 2008, he moved to Elcho where he continued to hunt and fish. Robert also enjoyed card games with family.

Survivors include three sons, John (Deana Jensen) Herrmann of Antigo, Doug (Linda) Herrmann of Bismarck, North Dakota,

and Thomas Herrmann of Antigo; a daughter, Kay (Edwin) Ruckdaschel of Douglas, Wyoming; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and a sister, Margaret Zoern of Aniwa.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by a grandson, Josh Ruckdaschel; brother, Charles (Alice) Herrmann; brother-in-law, James Zoern; sister-in-law, Carol (LeRoy) Beirman; and brother-in-law, Bill Terrio.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, April 17, at the Bradley Funeral Home in Antigo. Burial followed at Aniwa Union Cemetery.

Online condolences at www.bradleyfh.com.

COURT NEWS

• Danielle J. Julius, 34, Neopit, had her probation revoked for possession of narcotic drugs and two counts of felony bail jumping. Judge Katherine Sloma sentenced her April 1 to one year in county jail on each count but granted credit for a total of 1,041 days already served.

• Kimberly U. Tejada, 49, Green Bay, pleaded no contest April 4 to four misdemeanor counts of credit fraud. A related felony charge was dismissed but read into the record. Judge William Kussel Jr. withheld sentencing and placed her on three years of probation with conditions.

• Christopher E. Kilgore, a Shawano man serving time at Oshkosh Correctional Institution, pleaded no contest April 3 to possession with intent to deliver narcotics, possession with intent to deliver THC and three counts of felony bail jumping. Sloma sentenced him to two years in prison followed by five years of

extended supervision.

• Janice M. Waukechon, 39, listed as homeless in court records, had her probation revoked for possession of narcotic drugs, possession of methamphetamine, two counts of felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of resisting or obstructing an officer. On April 3, Kussel sentenced her to three years in prison followed by three years of extended supervision, with credit for 290 days already served.

• Joseph L. Soulier, 19, Neopit, pleaded no contest April 3 to driving or operating a vehicle without the owner's consent, two counts of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (second offense) and operating while revoked. Sloma withheld sentencing and placed him on three years of probation with conditions beginning with 300 days in the county jail.

• Kayla M. Meyer, 22,

Shawano, pleaded no contest April 1 to four counts of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor charges including five counts of disorderly conduct, six counts of bail jumping and one count each of resisting or obstructing an officer, possession of THC, victim intimidation and possession of drug paraphernalia. Sloma withheld sentencing and placed her on three years of probation with conditions beginning with jail time.

• Andrew G. Funmaker, 49, Wittenberg, was charged April 1 with fleeing an officer in a vehicle and two counts of felony bail jumping. Sloma set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for May 21.

• Shelly G. Davids, 37, Bowler, was charged April 5 with five counts of felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of theft. Sloma set a \$1,500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for April 11.

PUBLIC RECORD

SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

April 7
Deputies responded to 27 incidents, including trespassing on Hofa Park Drive in the Town of Maple Grove; harassment on Julius Street in the Town of Angelica; two reckless driving incidents; two traffic hazards.

April 6
Deputies responded to 34 incidents, including a counterfeit complaint at North Star Casino, W12180 County Road A in the Town of Bartelme; operating without a license on County Road OO in the Town of Wittenberg; burglary attempt on Oakwood Drive in the Town of Wescott; DNR violation on County Road C in the Town of Green Valley; assisting with a fire on Camp 14 Road in the Town of Bartelme; warrant on U.S. Highway 45 in the Town of Birnamwood; warrant on Loon Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; gas drive-off at the C Store, W12140 County Road A in the Town of Bartelme; two 911 calls; six reckless driving incidents; one crash.

April 5
Deputies responded to 43 incidents, including noise on Anderson Avenue in the Town of Wescott; two reckless driving incidents; two traffic hazards; two crashes, one involving deer.

April 4
Deputies responded to 29 incidents, including a warrant at the Shawano County Courthouse, 311 N. Main St., Shawano; warrant on U.S. Highway 45 in Aniwa; property theft on Woodland Road in the Town of Washington; fraud on Curt Black Road in the Town of Wescott; property damage on Wood Lane in the Town of Lessor; operating while intoxicated on East Richmond Street in Shawano; one 911 call; two reckless driving incidents; two crashes, one involving deer.

April 3
Deputies responded to 53 incidents, including trespassing and threatening on Spruce Road in the Town of Angelica; property theft on Third Street in Mattoon; assisting with a fire on County Road C in the Town of Green Valley; assist-

ing with a fire on Boettcher Lane in Bonduel; three 911 calls; one reckless driving incident; seven traffic hazards; six utility problem calls; 11 crashes, one involving an animal.

April 2
Deputies responded to 63 incidents, including property damage on McDivitt Road in the Town of Germania; threatening on County Road BE in Bonduel; assisting with a fire on Cherry Avenue in the Town of Wescott; one reckless driving incident; 11 traffic hazards; three utility problem calls; 13 crashes, one involving deer.

April 1
Deputies responded to 25 incidents, including an animal bite on Bohn Road in the Town of Green Valley; repossession on Flint Avenue in Mattoon; threatening on Willow Road in the Town of Angelica; warrant on County Road N in Birnamwood; property theft on East Railroad Street in Bowler; controlled burning on Poplar Road in the Town of Richmond; repossession on Webers Point Court in the Town of Wescott; three 911 calls; three reckless driving incidents; one crash.

SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

April 7
Officers responded to 12 incidents, including drug offenses on Old Lake Lane in the Town of Wescott; juvenile problem on Estates Lane; vehicle crash with an animal on Waukechon Street; reckless driving on North Main Street.

April 6
Officers responded to 25 incidents, including noise on South Andrews Street; death investigation at an undisclosed location; hit-and-run at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B; drug offenses at Quality Inn and Suites, 104 N. Airport Drive; illegal burning on Humphrey Circle; DNR violation at Sturgeon Park, 811 S. Water St.; juvenile problem on South River Street; drug offenses at an undisclosed location.

April 5
Officers responded to 23 incidents, including noise at Sturgeon Park, 811 S. Water St.; traffic hazard on Eberlein Park Drive; vehicle crash with pedes-

trian on East Division Street; harassment at ThedaCare Medical Center, 100 County Road B.

April 4
Officers responded to 18 incidents, including harassment on Cherry Court; sexual assault at an undisclosed location; shoplifting at Walmart, 1244 E. Green Bay St.; vehicle theft at Quality Inn and Suites, 104 N. Airport Drive.

April 3
Officers responded to 24 incidents, including fleeing and pursuit on East Green Bay Street; utility problem on South Smalley Street; operating while intoxicated on East Green Bay Street; hit-and-run at Walgreen's, 401 E. Green Bay St.; vehicle crash with property damage on River Bend Road in the Town of Belle Plaine; utility problem on South Cleveland Street; fraud on South Main Street; utility problem on South Union Street; traffic hazard on Alpine Drive; utility problem on South Hamlin Street; vehicle crash on South Main Street; traffic hazard on South Main Street; utility problem on East Center Street.

Legals

WNAXLP

478841a4
04/12/24, 04/19/24
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
VILLAGE OF WITTENBERG
FLOODPLAIN ORDINANCE

PUBLIC NOTICE is given to all persons in the Village of Wittenberg that a public hearing will be held on May 7, 2024, at 6:00PM, to solicit comments on proposed floodplain ordinance revisions that are required by state and federal law. These revisions govern development in mapped floodplain areas. The proposed ordinance revisions are on file in the office of the Village Clerk. The proposed regulations are intended to protect life, health and property in floodplain areas and will govern uses permitted in mapped floodplains. Activities such as dredging, filling, excavating and construction of buildings are generally allowed, but may be restricted according to which flood zone the property is in. A copy of the proposed ordinance will be on file and open for public inspection in the office of the Village Clerk for a period of two weeks prior to this public hearing. All persons interested are invited to attend this hearing and be heard.

Written comments may be submitted to:
Village of Wittenberg Clerk
Dated at Wittenberg, WI, this 8th day of April, 2024.

WNAXLP

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 SCAN ME

‘The Nerd’ pits architect with unwanted guest

Audiences get to watch hilarious antics from all sides at Mielke Arts Center

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

Elaborate efforts to get rid of an unwanted house guest surround “The Nerd,” a two-act play that the Box in the Wood Theatre Guild will present later in April.

“The Nerd” follows a young architect named Willum Cubbert, who served in Vietnam and was rescued by Rick Steadman. Conversing through letters over the years, Willum promises Rick that he is willing to return the favor someday and help Rick when he is in need.

That day comes in late 1979 in Terra Haute, Indiana, when Willum is hosting a dinner party for Warnock Waldgrave, a client who has hired the architect to design his hotel. Rick waltzes in with his awkward manner and inappropriate behavior, ruining the occasion. He then makes matters worse when he decides to move in with Willum.

Things really start to go downhill, and Willum plots with his friends and tenants, Tansy McGinnis and Axel Hammond, to find a way to convince Rick to leave. From serving a meal of warm water and cottage cheese to convincing the nerdy man that Willum turns into a pig by the light of the full moon, their efforts go awry when Warnock shows up and is pelted by cottage cheese, tearing up his contract with Willum.

“The Nerd” was picked out for Box in the Wood’s spring production by Alex Konen, a teacher and play director at Shawano Community High School. Konen was originally slated to direct the show, but when the production was short an actor or two, he opted to play Willum and handed the reins to Mary Madsen, president for the Shawano County Arts Council.

“Poor Willum. This ‘old friend’ that he’s never really met shows up at his apartment, and Willum doesn’t know how to get rid of him,” Madsen said. “He’s never met him, but Rick, the nerd, saved his life. So as a result, now he’s come here, in all of his glory, and is deciding he can move in with Willum, because he said, ‘Anything you ever need, you just come to



A dinner in the second act of “The Nerd” goes hilariously awry. From left, Willum Cubbert, played by Alex Konen, Axel Hammond, played by Andy Frey, Rick Steadman, played by Jason Linder, and Tansy McGinnis, played by Samantha Grossen, interact while everyone is secretly plotting to get Rick to leave.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

AT A GLANCE

WHAT: “The Nerd,” presented by the Box in the Wood Theatre Guild

WHEN: 7 p.m. April 19-20 and April 26-27, 2 p.m. April 21 and April 28

WHERE: Mielke Arts Center, N5649 Airport Road, Shawano

TICKETS: \$15 adults, \$10 youth. Tickets available at shawanoarts.ludus.com.

me, and I will help you out.”

One funny scene shows off when Rick shows up at the apartment and has everybody at the dinner party play a game called “Shoes and Socks,” which includes everybody wearing bags over their heads while Rick hides their shoes and socks.

“Poor Willum is stuck with him (Rick) continually and can’t get rid of him,” Madsen said. “Rick does something totally

NERD, CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



Clelia Waldgrave, played by Jennifer Maglio, is confused about the strange turn of events during a first-act scene of “The Nerd.”

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

CMN students do well at Minnesota conference



Kelsey Kitson, left, and Chenoa Webster celebrate taking second place in the US AID International Development Challenge at the American Indian Higher Education Consortium Student Conference held in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

LUCY FENZL | COLLEGE OF MENOMINEE NATION

The word kenaheq-tam can be stated of any of the nine College of Menominee Nation students who competed at the tribal college conference last month. In English, the compliment translates as, “You did good” or “You are skilled.”

This year’s American Indian Higher Education Consortium’s (AIHEC) Student Conference was held March 9-12 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This gathering of the 35 accredited schools from 15 states rotates through five regional venues, with this year’s convention being hosted by the Woodland tribal colleges, including CMN. The annual conference brings together hundreds of tribal college



Ryan Winn
Columnist

students for competitions and celebrations.

The Woodland Host Committee wrote in its welcome message: “Throughout the conference, you will have the chance to participate in various events and competitions that showcase your academic prowess and foster a sense of camaraderie and friendly competition. Embrace the opportunity to learn, grow, and make memories that will last a lifetime.”

While there are passionate rivalries among

the schools competing in categories including archery, art, business, hand games, film, math, theater, traditional plants and writing, the event’s aim is to celebrate the thriving students within the tribal college movement. This year’s meeting attempted to encapsulate that continuing success with its theme: “Honoring our traditions, adapting to our future.”

CMN’s preparation for success was evident in students’ victories, but the reality was that the gathering proved more meaningful for them than merely a place to collect trophies and accolades.

Menominee tribal member Shawn “Sonny” Pamonicutt returned for his second consecutive year.

The biological and physical sciences major shared his reasoning: “My favorite part is connecting with Native American students from diverse tribal colleges nationwide. The student conference opens the doors to valuable interactions, knowledge-sharing and the development of lifelong relationships.”

Menominee student Elora Waupoose concurred. The liberal studies major said, “I liked that I was busy but I also had time to relax and do homework. I also loved the sense of community. I felt like I was meant to be there.”

Pamonicutt, Waupoose and fellow Menominee

CMN, CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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SAT. APRIL 20, 2024 10:00 A.M.

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10:30AM



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A doe with her fawn look around an open field. Gov. Tony Evers vetoed a legislative bill in March that would have banned antlerless hunting for four years. LINDA FRESHWATERS ARNDT

Does a ban on doe hunting help the herd?

Hunters frustrated at seeing fewer and fewer deer in the northern forest counties may have been thinking that a four-year ban on doe hunting there would bring about the massive hordes of whitetails seen there decades ago that our fathers and grandfathers still talk about.

Gov. Tony Evers vetoed the bill March 29, along with several others related to the outdoors.

As much as I dislike almost everything he does as a radically liberal governor playing mostly to the fringe animal-rights groups, I agree with him on this one.

I'm lucky enough to hunt deer in the central farmland zone, primarily Waupaca County, where the annual deer kill normally is in the top three counties, and we kill more deer here than are harvested in some eastern states. We may not see many deer when hunting (I saw fewer deer this year than perhaps any season in my 24 years of hunting here), but when I drive around, there they are by the dozens.

On a recent early spring drive from our favorite neighborhood dive bar and grill, my wife and I counted more than 50 deer in a 3-mile stretch of backroads, and all those deer survived the 2023 deer seasons and a mild winter here. Where were these animals when I was sitting in my ground blinds? They were all living nearby and doing just fine.

I understand Northwoods hunting is not the same. Vast forests of national land, as well as county and state lands, make hunting more difficult. Last winter produced severe weather in some of the northern counties, just one factor in a 30% reduction in the deer kill there.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources deer policy expert explained biological approaches to deer management and the many factors that some



hunters with tunnel vision might not consider.

"A ban on antlerless harvest isn't going to change anything," said Jeff Pritzl, DNR deer program specialist in Plymouth. "The whole system is built on protecting the deer population, but that is not the case in 75% of the state. We're killing as many deer per square mile as we did in the 1980s."

If you hunt in one county, or one farm, you base your perception of the deer herd on that area and on how many deer you see on those few (or many) days you are in the woods. This "human psychology vs. biology" and a "stationary strategy" of hunting in one spot (versus the deer drives and still hunting practices of decades ago) are at the heart of the misperception, Pritzl said.

The biggest factor in reduced harvests statewide from their peak around the year 2000 is fewer hunters.

Pritzl said we've lost 100,000 hunters in the past 24 years, and Wisconsin is expected to lose another 100,000 hunters in the next 10-15 years.

Aging hunters is a closely related factor. Baby boomers were in their 40s during the millennium harvest boom but are now in their 60s. Older hunters in general don't hunt as long or as hard, he noted.

Severe winters in the north can have a huge effect on the northern herds, as happened in 2013. Most of the northern counties then went to a bucks-only season and some counties in the northern forest zone have had bucks-only seasons for the past 10 years or so, Pritzl said.

"A bucks-only season is a last resort and biologically

not necessary," he said.

Deer biology dynamics vary greatly from county to county and even in smaller habitats. The bill Evers vetoed would have created a bucks-only season for four years in 20 northern counties, but deer in the southern tier of the forest zone, including Langlade, Lincoln, Rusk and others, were largely unaffected by last year's winter, and the bill drew the ire of hunters in that area.

The County Deer Advisory Councils also annually help manage the herd on a county basis rather than on a larger scale, he noted. No matter how many bonus antlerless tags are issued, the average hunter bags 1.3 deer per season, Pritzl said.

Another major factor in the Northwoods is a lack of logging and even fires, which can help generate young forest. Habitat changes can create "areas of critical thermal cover," including conifer and hemlock cover that protect deer from wind and deep snow.

"Deer thrive in disturbed landscapes," he said.

Predators, particularly wolves, coyotes and bears, also take deer. There is frustration at not aggressively regulating the wolf population. Evers also vetoed a bill that would have required the DNR to set a specific wolf population goal. The state once had a goal of 350 wolves, but their estimate now exceeds 1,000 animals and many residents in the Northwoods believe it is much higher.

Sportsmen will have a chance to weigh in on 49 questions online through April 13. They include a number of fishing, hunting and wildlife questions that serve to advise the DNR Natural Resources Board. For details, visit <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/wcc/springhearing>.

Ross Bielema is a freelance writer from New London and owner of Wolf River Concealed Carry LLC. Contact him at Ross@wolfriverccw.com.

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Bonduel church celebrates century

Special worship service, celebration planned for May 12

Zion United Methodist Church of Bonduel is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its building and will hold a special worship service and celebration at 10:30 a.m. May 12 at the church, 134 E. Green Bay St., Bonduel.

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, resident bishop in the Wisconsin Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, will deliver a message.

The beginning of the Zion United Methodist occurred in 1861 when the Evangelical Association of North America first listed Bonduel as a circuit. At that time, services were held in the homes of early pioneers. In 1867, August Seering donated land to build the first log church, and in 1874, the male members of the congregation met to legally incorporate.

By 1901, a second church was built next to the old log church on the site now known as the Zion United Methodist Church Cemetery (one mile east of Bonduel at what is now known as N3974 South Highline Road). The log church had been covered with white siding and was commonly called “the little white church on the hill.” The new church was a much larger, red brick structure with a steeple and bell.

Indicative of most country churches, the cemetery was located on



Zion United Methodist Church, 134 E. Green Bay St., Bonduel, is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its building and will host a special worship service and celebration at 10:30 a.m. May 12.

CONTRIBUTED

the same site. Through time, additional acreage was purchased from Seering to enlarge the cemetery and make room for a horse shelter.

In 1890, a parsonage and a barn were built in Bonduel on East Green Bay Street. By 1916, the first parsonage was sold and moved offsite to Second Street in Bonduel. A new parsonage was then built on the site.

The congregation was growing, so members of the congregation voted to build a much larger church in Bonduel next to the parsonage. This construction took place in 1924 during the first year of the Rev. J. G. Bleiler’s pastorate. The church was dedicated on Nov. 9, 1924.

By 1995, the use of

the church basement for church and community affairs had increased, as did the car traffic in front of the church. With the help of architect Bill Pederson, plans were drawn up to build an annex that would provide an elevator shaft and a ramp to the lowest level. Thus, the church acquired a handicap entrance and lessened the need to park on and walk across Green Bay Street. The entrance to this annex was located at the back of the church off Church Street.

Some of the reasons to place the handicap access at the back of the church were to avoid Packers traffic, to utilize the driveway and parking area in back of the parsonage and to take advantage of the fact that many members

were already using the former boulevard for parking. The parsonage driveway and parking lot were then blacktopped. This handicap-accessible entrance then became a primary entrance.

As the elevator shaft and machine room took up space previously occupied by the nursery/playroom, plans were made to provide a new mother’s room/dressing room for weddings in the southeast corner of the basement. It was also set up with a speaker so mothers could hear the services.

In the fall of 2001, major improvements were made to the front of the church when both the east and west front steps were replaced, and the bell tower was rebuilt with all new materials.

CMN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Evelyn Schmidt took third place in the Science Bowl. Waupoose and Schmidt also took first in the Serious Duo Interpretation Speech competition. Pamonicutt and Cedar Fernandez took second for their Serious Duo Interpretation Speech, as well as first place in the Humorous Duo Interpretation Speech.

“I really felt inspired by the duo interpretation speech competition that I did with my speech partner, Sonny,” said Fernandez, a Menominee tribal member. “I loved representing Native characters in a comedic way. My partner and I put life into our characters and shared so much with one another in doing so. This opportunity helped me step into the world of Native storytelling and how much fun we can have with that together.”

Menominee student Kelsey Kitson and Oneida tribal member Chenoa Webster took second place in the US AID International Development Challenge. Majoring in elementary and middle school education, the students’ project was titled, “Menominee Theoretical Model of Sustainability: A Model of Practical Application for Academic Learning and Understanding of Indigenous Nations Netaenawemakanak (all my relations) Curriculum Guide and Framework.”

“It is a curriculum guide and framework using the Menominee Theoretical Model of Sustainability to help educate students about other Indigenous nations on a local, national, and global level,” Kitson said.

“My favorite part of AIHEC was the ability to be surrounded by the support and good energy of fellow tribal school scholars, educators, administrators, community members and tribal nations,” Webster said. “The conference was uplifting, inspiring and an exemplary model of what

our strong future looks like when we continue to come together to share, learn, teach and collaborate in positive ways. Tribal colleges are places where students are loved and recognized for their unique gifts and AIHEC celebrates and honors those amazing accomplishments and talents beautifully.”

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation member Dakota Waupoose made his engagement with AIHEC a yearlong endeavor. The digital media major ran a successful campaign to serve as the AIHEC Student Congress-Great Lakes Region representative.

“I was inspired by my trip to lobby for AIHEC in Washington, D.C. during their most recent legislative summit,” Waupoose said. “It gave me a real passion to advocate for our people.”

Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe faculty member Dr. Vicki Besaw coached CMN’s Knowledge Bowl Team, which included Menominee Nation members Sasanehseah Shawanokasic and Adrian Demarre. Dr. Lucy Fenzl served on the conference planning committee and coached CMN’s Science Bowl, Poster and Oral Scientific Research presentations and the US AID International Challenge. I coordinated and coached the Speech Team. We were joined by CMN staff and Menominee Nation members, Melinda Cook, Susan Waukau and Lorenzo Warrington.

To the participants, the Woodland Host Committee wrote, “Together, let us honor our tradition while paving the way for a future that reflects our indigenous communities’ strength, resilience and adaptability.”

To CMN students who competed last month, kenaeheqtam.

Ryan Winn teaches communications, English, history and theater at the College of Menominee Nation. Visit www.menominee.edu for more information about the school.

NERD, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

obscene on an airplane when they go to see the Regency (Hotel), and that’s a disaster. Everything that follows with Rick and Wilum is a continual disaster.”

Konen did a scene study on “The Nerd” when he was in college, and that prompted him to suggest it as a Box in the Wood

production. The show will have the audience on three sides of the stage, which doesn’t happen often at the Mielke Arts Center.

“I knew it was a funny show, and I thought, if we could do something in this thrust — or round — style, this was the show, because I know the makeup of the

stage, somewhat,” Konen said. “It’s mostly in the middle of the living room (of Willum’s apartment). It’s something that I knew would excel in this space. It’s going to get the audience close, and they’ll be able to see us do crazy things.”

Madsen noted she came

into the production completely blind as to what “The Nerd” was about.

“We had our first read-through, and I was laughing so hard,” Madsen said. “By the end of the play, I couldn’t believe it. It was hilarious.”

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Farm life admirable, but not easy in practice

As a fellow columnist recently observed, the lineup of opinion and feature writers that NEW Media has assembled is impressive. I'm proud to be a part of this group which covers such a wide variety of interesting topics that readers tell me they turn to the columns first. Count me among them.

While I may disagree with views expressed by a particular writer, I know I can rely on a high level of quality of the writing itself. I abhor sloppy copy that comes from writers who just spew words onto a page and mail it in. If I'm asking people to spend precious minutes reading a piece I've written, I should respect them enough to do the serious revising and editing critical to producing quality work.

In my career as an English teacher, I would have students begin a writing assignment in class be-



Kathleen Marsh
Columnist

cause getting started is the hardest part. Some would quickly dash off a few lines, scurry up to my desk, plop down some scribbled sentences and ask, "Is this good enough?" My standard response: "If you have to ask me that, then we both know the answer is no." Good enough is never good enough. Effective writers don't call a piece finished until they've reworked it until it's first-rate. So never turn in any assignment until it's your very best.

Circling back, I want to go on record saying my favorite NEW Media columnist is Kay Reminger. I admire and appreciate her worldview, which often

coincides with my approach to life. I surmise that we are both hard workers, feisty females who put a premium on doing instead of talking, though heaven knows I do enough of that. I like to think we are both loyal wives, loving mothers/grandmothers, faithful friends, capable cooks and all-around do-gooders who are trying to live meaningful lives by improving our little corners of the world.

Kay's recent column about working around the farm with her husband was one of my favorites. It reminded me that, unlike her, I never mastered the art of driving a tractor. Truth is, I didn't have a chance. Let me explain by taking you back to a beautiful spring Saturday in 1958 when my father said: "Get ready; we're going out to pick stones."

My 12-year-old self groaned. That's one of the worst jobs on the farm.

It meant walking along a designated area to gather up rocks that had surfaced during tilling, throw them into a 5-gallon bucket and carry as much as I could manage over to be dumped onto a hay wagon.

After a couple of hours of back-breaking labor, I was sweaty, dirty and exhausted. Looking over to the wagon, I caught sight of my brother John, sitting comfortably aboard the tractor. How was it that he got to sit and drive? "It's not fair, Dad," I whined. "His job's a lot easier." John smugly grinned at me, which made me livid.

After a steady stream of complaining, Dad decided he'd heard enough and directed John to change places with me. Now I was the one who smirked. I climbed into the seat and got ready to enjoy what looked like an easy task. Dad gave me a quick lesson

in operating the clutch, shift, accelerator, and brake. Ready? "Of course," I said, rolling my eyes. Anybody can do this.

After a few feeble attempts, I did get the tractor going. Actually, it was pitching forward with a bucking motion that scared the heck out of everybody, including me. Dad tried again to tell me what to do, but I was so pathetically uncoordinated that I simply could not figure it out. Losing patience, Dad ordered me off the beast before I'd "grind enough gear to make a good dinner." That humiliating episode became my first and final attempt at driving a tractor. Kudos to Kay for learning how to operate farm machinery with skill and dexterity.

In case you're wondering, I'm not writing this because Kay and I are friends. In fact, I've never met her, but by reading her column, I

think I've come to know her better than I might if she was a neighbor. I realize her life might easily have been mine, but as Robert Frost said: "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, and I, I took the one less traveled by. And that has made all the difference."

My difference-maker was a college scholarship to Mount Mary in Milwaukee that led to a teaching career and a blessed life I never imagined possible when I was a girl. Ever hear the saying that your eyes are the window to your soul? Yes, and your words are the window to your heart. Thanks, Kay, for sharing your heart with us. Say, how about we do lunch sometime?

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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

SHAWANO: Youth Apprenticeship Employer Informational Event, noon to 1 p.m., Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce. Broad overview of the program by the Youth Apprenticeship Consortium coordinator.

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

SHAWANO: "Middletown," 7 p.m. Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B. \$5 adults, \$3 children. Tickets available at the door or at shawanotheater.ludus.com.

CLINTONVILLE: Wolf River Home Schoolers present "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang," 7 p.m., Clintonville High School, 64 W. Green Tree Road. Free admission, donations appreciated.

WITTENBERG: Spring Gala, 7-10 p.m., WOWSPACE, 114 W. Vinal St. "Art, food, drinks and fun." \$25 advance, \$30 at the door. Must be 21 to attend. Fundraiser for Walls of Wittenberg.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

CLINTONVILLE: SAYPro Concealed Carry Class, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Butch's Archery, N2885 Pioneer Road. Hosted by Shawano Area Young Professionals. \$70 members, \$80 non-members; tickets at saypro.org

KESHENA: 32nd annual Sturgeon Feast and Powwow, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Omaeqnomenewak Wetohkatikamek

Center, 2700 Mianaceqtawak Road. Water Walk at Keshena Falls 10 a.m., Grand Entry 1 p.m., Maec Michehswan "Great Feast" 5 p.m.

WITTENBERG: Artists Free Play XI, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., WOWSPACE, 114 W. Vinal St. Walls of Wittenberg spring juried art show.

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

SHAWANO: "Middletown," 2 p.m. Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B. \$5 adults, \$3 children. Tickets available at the door or at shawanotheater.ludus.com.

SHAWANO: Sacred Heart Trivia Night, 6-9 p.m., Sacred Heart Catholic School, 124 E. Center St. \$20 per person, 30 teams of up to eight members allowed, prizes for top three teams. Refreshments available for purchase. Fundraiser for the school.

SHAWANO: Stock car racing, 6-10 p.m., Shawano Speedway, 990 E. Green Bay St.

CLINTONVILLE: Wolf River Home Schoolers present "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang," 7 p.m., Clintonville High School, 64 W. Green Tree Road. Free admission, donations appreciated.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

WITTENBERG: Artists Free Play XI, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., WOWSPACE, 114 W. Vinal St. Walls of Wittenberg spring juried art show.

CLINTONVILLE: Wolf River Home Schoolers present "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang," 2 p.m., Clintonville High School, 64 W. Green Tree Road. Free admission, donations appreciated.

MONDAY, APRIL 15

SHAWANO: Blood Drive, 1:30-5:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1254 S. Union St. Appointments at 800-280-4102 or communityblood.org/donor

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

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, APRIL 16

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, APRIL 17

NEOPIT: Recovery talking circle, 6-8 p.m. The Circle House, W6715 Shawpoka-sic St. Information: Mindy Thunder at 715-799-3835 or mthunder@mitw.org.

KESHENA: Voter Registration Event, 6:30-7 p.m., College of the Menominee Nation Cultural Learning Center, N188 State Highway 47-55. Bring driver's license or tribal ID.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

SHAWANO: Health Care and Public Safety Career Awareness Spotlight, 10:30 a.m. to noon and 12:30-2 p.m., Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, 111 Thomas Ave. Information about available opportunities for employment,

education, advancement.

OCONTO FALLS: American Red Cross blood drive, 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., United Methodist Church, 165 N. Farm Road. Appointments can be made by downloading the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 800-733-2767.

KESHENA: Running and walking program, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Omaeqnomenewak

Wetohkatikamek Center, 2700 Mianaceqtawak Road. Infused water provided during the week, and a family snack-making station is provided on Saturdays. Information: Chelsey Latender, 715-799-5431 or chelseyl@mtclinic.net.

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

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Charger girls clean up at Warrior Invite

Bonduel's Wondra also claims a pair of first-place finishes

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-chief

Wittenberg-Birnamwood runners captured five first-place finishes at the Wausau West Girls Warrior Invitational on April 4.

Faith Resch won the 200-meter hurdles in 30.73 and the triple jump at 33-1.75. Harper Rogowski won the 400-meter dash in 1:08. The Chargers 4x400-meter relay team took the top spot in 4:37.72, while the 4x800-meter relay team won in 9:57.5.

Second-place finishes were recorded by Kylee Beversdorf in the 800-meter run and Nora Bushman in the 3,200-meter run.

Ava Brei captured third in the 200-meter dash, fourth in the 400-meter dash and fifth in the high jump.

Resch placed third in

the 55-meter hurdles.

Bushman finished fourth in the triple jump. Sixth place went to the 4x160-meter relay team.

In the shot put, it was Kelsie Davis in eighth.

Mariah Wondra won a pair of events to lead Bonduel.

She recorded a time of 12:44.21 in the 3,200-meter run and a time of 5:53.5 in the 1,600-meter run. Teagan Engel placed fifth in the 1,600-meter run.

Ashlyn Kurey scored a second-place finish in the triple jump.

The 4x400-meter relay team finished in third,

and the 4x160-meter relay team placed fourth.

Paige Niquette finished fourth in the 55-meter dash. Kurey placed fourth in the 200-meter dash, and Cierra Schnell was fourth in the long jump.

Olivia Giese was fifth in the 55-meter hurdles, and Hailey Berg finished seventh. Audrey Weier placed fifth in the 200-meter hurdles with Schnell placing seventh.

Engel earned sixth place in the 800-meter run.

Coming in ninth in the 400-meter dash was Addison Raymakers.

Weier was 10th in the high jump, and Josie Anvelink was 10th in the shot put.

Shawano's team best was a third-place finish in four events – Hatty Fritz in the shot put, Macey Nelson in the triple jump and the long jump, and 4x800-meter relay team.

Maci Beyer finished fourth in the high jump and fourth in the 800-meter run.

Coming in fifth were Grace Chelberg in the 400-meter dash and the 4x400-meter relay team.

Nelson was seventh in the 200-meter dash,

and Onna Hermann was eighth. The 4x160-meter relay team placed seventh.

Lauren Seehafer was 10th in the 55-meter dash.

Leading Menominee Indian's contingent was Lena Wausau, who placed sixth in the triple jump.

Alexis Zhuckkasee was eighth in the 55-meter dash, and the 4x160-meter relay team was also eighth.

Urijah Reeves placed ninth in the long jump, while Jaycee Broddock-Madosh was ninth in the shot put.

kpaddon@newmedia-wi.com

Bonduel boys take fourth in Wausau event

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Bonduel's boys finished in fourth place with 53 pants at the Wausau West Boys Warrior Invitational on April 5.

Shawano was fifth with 47 points, Menominee Indian placed seventh with 32 points, and Wittenberg-Birnamwood was 11th with no score.

Ben O'Brien led the Bears with a first place

in the 3,200-meter run in 11:25.45. O'Brien placed third in the 1,600-meter run, while Oliver Chitwood was ninth.

The 4x800-meter relay team placed second, with the 4x160 team in sixth, and the 4x400 team in seventh.

Samuel Roberts finished in third in the long jump and seventh in the triple jump.

Ryan Westrich placed

third in the shot put and sixth in the 200-meter dash.

Griffin Uelmen placed fifth in the high jump.

Shawano's top finisher was Trevor Schwartz, who placed second in the 800-meter run.

The 4x160-meter relay team grabbed third place, with the 4x800 team taking fourth, and the 4x400 team placing sixth.

Ryan Shanty finished

fourth in the long jump, and Lucas Nuthals placed fourth in the 55-meter dash. Josiah Kuehl was fourth in the 1,600-meter run, and Schwartz was sixth.

Coming in fifth the 200-meter dash was Logan Korth. Maverick Theis was ninth.

Shanty came in sixth place in the 400-meter dash, and Joshua Lesperance finished in ninth.

James Lange was ninth in the 55-meter hurdles.

Brian Waupoose led the Eagle with a pair of first-place finishes. His time of 57.71 was best in the 400-meter dash, and he completed the 800-meter run in 2:33.38.

Waupoose was fifth and Kenew Awonohopay was ninth in the high jump, although both recorded the same height of 5 feet 4 inches.

Awonohopay placed fourth in the triple jump and seventh in the long jump.

Mitchell Perez finished seventh in the 200-meter hurdles, and the 4x160-meter relay team was ninth.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood recorded a pair of 12th-place spots. Those went to Will Peters in the 400-meter dash and Marty Nowinsky in the 1,600-meter run.



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Pulaski boys get fist lacrosse win

BY NEW MEDIA STAFF

Pulaski's boys lacrosse team won its first game ever, an 11-5 win over Wayland Academy JV on April 6.

With a 1-0 lead after the first quarter, Pulaski piled on five more goals in the second to lead 6-1 at halftime.

Pulaski scored another pair of goals in the third period, but Wayland Academy scored four of their own to make it 8-5 going into the final stanza. Three unanswered goals sealed the win for the Red Raiders.

Ben Schroeder notched five saves while giving up five goals. Pulaski had 19 shots on goal.

After two games, Mitchell Sprecht leads Pulaski with three goals and two assists. Brady Huss has nine ground balls. Gavin Heintz has four takeaways.

De Pere Central 11 Pulaski 2

Pulaski's lacrosse season opened with an 11-2 loss to the De Pere Central Ghostbirds.

De Pere jumped out to

a 3-0 first quarter lead, a score that remained constant at halftime.

De Pere went up 5-0 in the third period.

Pulaski scored its first two goals ever in the fourth quarter, but De Pere added six of its own for the lopsided win. Both of the Red Raiders goals were scored by Jake Kuehl.

Schroeder made eight saves. Pulaski had seen shots on goal.

At its meeting on Dec. 2, 2022, the WIAA Board of Control approved the addition of lacrosse as a sanctioned sport with a tournament series for boys and girls in the spring of 2024.

It's the first time an entirely new sport has been introduced for both genders since the addition of boys and girls soccer in 1982-83.

Since that time, hockey and wrestling expanded to girls sponsorship in 2002 and 2022, respectively, and boys volleyball was reinstated in 2000, but those sports were already sanctioned for the other gender.

Navarino Wildlife Area wetlands to be restored

Wisconsin Waterfowl Association working to improve public lands with new initiative

Sixteen acres of wetlands at the Navarino Wildlife Area will be restored with the project expected to begin this year.

The project is the first to be undertaken by the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association (WWA).

Wisconsin has 1.4 million acres of public land available for hunting and recreation, including some of the best waterfowl habitat in the country. But there are many parts of those public lands that are unproductive and need significant restoration work.

To help that effort, in 2023 the WWA hired two new restoration ecologists to improve public lands in Wisconsin.

"By dedicating staff to develop plans to improve these public lands, we can not only ensure that Wisconsin can continue to

maintain a healthy waterfowl population but also help our waterfowl hunters see more success when out on public lands," said Bruce Ross, WWA executive director.

Working in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), WWA's public lands ecologists are identifying potentially restorable wetlands and developing restoration plans on DNR managed properties. They are also helping expand wild rice beds throughout the state, particularly in the Ceded Territory.

The program is a multi-year partnership with the Wisconsin DNR, with additional funding from other sources.

WWA's ecologists completed project identification and evaluation in 2023, setting the stage for

breaking ground on wetland restorations in 2024. To date, more than 150 public properties have undergone desktop reviews, with 11 properties under further consideration for restoration. Three other projects are in the planning and design process, and one is moving forward through permitting.

In addition to the Navarino project, additional potential projects totaling nearly 225 acres of wetland restoration include the Brooklyn Wildlife Area (Dane County), Peter Helland Wildlife Area (Columbia County) and Evansville Wildlife Area (Rock County), all in the planning and design process.

Wisconsin has lost about 50% of its wetlands due to drainage, agriculture, development and incompatible land use

practices. The restoration of hydrology in these wetlands will improve and increase habitats for waterfowl and other species of wildlife, improve retention of precipitation to prevent flooding in communities, filter groundwater, reduce runoff and erosion, and improve hunting and other recreational experiences.

The public lands initiative also worked to expand wild rice beds throughout the Ceded Territory in northern Wisconsin. Natural wild rice production in Wisconsin is on a long-term decline, and the restoration or establishment of wild rice in suitable state waters will help create more food sources and better covers for wildlife. WWA volunteers collected 230 pounds of wild rice and purchased another 1,500 pounds in 2023 - all of it seeded on priority waters.

The Wisconsin Waterfowl Association is a state-based nonprofit conservation organization.

Morz leads Pulaski girls at Whitewater

BY NEW MEDIA STAFF

Pulaski's Hallie Morz placed fifth in the pole

vault and was the top finisher for the Red Raiders at the Wisconsin State Indoor Track & Field

Championships on April 6 at UW-Whitewater. The girls 4x400-meter relay team was 10th.

The best finish for the boys was Keaton Dauk, who was 43rd in the 400-meter dash.



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Driftwood (country)
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2024 EVENT SCHEDULE
Near Memorial Park, Shawano

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Event Time // 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
Flea Market & Antiques @ Farmers Brewery-6AM
5K Run/Walk- 9:00 AM
Craft Fair - 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Kidz Zone - 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Lumberjack Competition - 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Strongman Competition - 1:00 PM
Oneida Smoke Dancers 1:00PM

Music-
Wet Possum - 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
The Glam Band - 6:45 PM – 10:00 PM

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Oconto Falls softball team goes 1-1

Crivitz 13, Oconto Falls 3

Oconto Falls was dominated by Crivitz and lost 13-3 in what was the Panthers' season opener and Marinette & Oconto Conference opener April 6.

**April 1
Oconto Falls 3, Two Rivers 1**

Oconto Falls opened its 2024 season with a 3-1 non-conference win on the road against Two Rivers.

Bonduel 25, Menominee Indian 3

Three runs by the Eagles in the top of the first inning didn't hold up against a second-inning barrage from Bonduel.

The Bears had 24 runs cross the plate in that inning as they defeated Menominee Indian 25-3 in the Central Wisconsin East Conference opener for both teams.

Bonduel pounded out 19 hits, compared to five for the Eagles.

Getting multiple hits for the Bears were Tatum Sporisky 2-for-2, Taylor Rank 2-for-3, Joselyn Bohm 3-for-4, Lila Pleshek 2-for-4, Carli Anderson 2-for-2, Hailee Thompson 2-for-2, Hailey Zernicke 4-for-4, Allison Zernicke 2-for-2.

Hailey Zernicke had a pair of home runs, while Allison Zernicke, Hailey Zernicke and Thompson each hit doubles.

Hailey Zernicke had 10 RBIs, Thompson had three, Anderson and Rank each had two, and Allison Zernicke, Pleshek, Bohm and Sporisky each had one.

Sporisky also stole two bases. She was also the winning pitcher, allowing three five hits and three runs in her three innings, while striking out four.

Oconto Falls opens golf season

Oconto Falls' Kadyn Riel tied for second with an 82 in the North Eastern Conference Mini-Meet #1 at Twin Oaks Golf Course in Denmark on April 1.

The Panthers ended the day in sixth place with a 409.

Little Chute and Wrightstown tied for first with a 357.

Pulaski soccer team goes 1-1

Pulaski's girls soccer team went 1-1 at the Appleton East Triangular on April 6.

The Red Raiders

opened play with a 2-1 loss to Appleton East.

Later in the day, Pulaski defeated West Bend East/West 3-1.

Shawano, Bonduel baseball teams get conference wins

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

**April 6
Crivitz 3
Gillett/Suring 0**

The Gillett/Suring co-op baseball team opened its 2024 season with a 3-0 loss at the hands of Crivitz.

It was also the Marinette & Oconto Conference opener for both teams. Oconto Falls 3, Luxemburg-Casco 2

The 2024 campaign kicked off on a high note for Oconto Falls as the Panthers snuck past Luxemburg-Casco 3-2.

It as the season opener

and the North Eastern Conference opener for the Panthers.

**April 1
Shawano 7, Xavier 3**

Shawano's nine hits combined with Xavier's four errors to help the Hawks win 7-3.

Shawano trailed 3-2 going into the sixth inning, when the home team brought five runs across the plate. Jerzy Bocker tied the game, Carsen Herm's single put Shawano in front and Pete Bruette's two-run triple put the game away for the Hawks.

Bocker, Bruette and Thomas Keszo each went 2-for-4, and Bruette had two RBIs.

Keszo pitched 4 1/3 innings, gave up three runs on three hits, walked four and struck out two. Bruette pitched 2 2/3 innings, walked three and struck out three.

Bruette gets the win on the mound.

**Bonduel 10
Menominee Indian 0**

Leading 4-0 after four innings, Bonduel broke the game open with six runs in the fifth inning.

Colin Margelofsky had

a two-run single, while the Eagles walked four and committed three errors in the inning.

Brodie Hartmann and Charlie Tauchen had singles, Noah Weier added a double and Easton Reinke had a triple for Bonduel's five hits.

Hartmann was sharp in the first game of the year, striking out 12 while walking only one.

Mikey Chapman was the losing pitcher, walking six and striking out three.

Bonduel is 1-0 in CWC-East play, and Menominee Indian is 0-1.

Explore Wisconsin's natural wonders with Natural Resource Foundation field trips

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources encourages the public to explore Wisconsin with a Natural Resources Foundation (NRF) field trip.

The NRF is a nonprofit that protects the state's lands, waters and wildlife and connects people with nature.

This year is the 31st season of NRF field trips, and 275 trips are scheduled from April through early

November. Field trips are expert-led adventures that explore Wisconsin in a variety of ways, from paddling in Door County to steep, off-trail hiking in Green County. These trips often offer a behind-the-scenes look at Wisconsin's natural treasures, many of which are not usually open to the public.

Some examples of the 275 field trip opportunities include:

- Frogs and toads of

Sandhill Wildlife Area.

- Introduction to foraging.
- Effigy mounds at Nitschke Mounds Park.
- Birding the Cedarburg Bog: canoe and hike.
- Namekagon River: Wood turtles and wildflowers.
- Seeds for pollinators at Dewey Heights State Natural Area.

The entire field trip list is available in the Natural Resources Foundation

Field Trip Guidebook.

Each trip is labeled to indicate the physical demand and if it is family-friendly. The annual tradition is open for all ages and abilities, including 24 trips accessible for standard wheelchairs.

Registration is only available online and is only open to Natural Resources Foundation members.

To join, visit <https://www.wisconsinconservation.org/>.

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YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

Shine more light on open investigations

A horrific scene played out in February in an apartment complex in Middleton, a Madison suburb.

A woman and her two young children had died. The tight-knit community mourned for this family as its members asked, how could this happen?

Several days after the shootings, Middleton police released a statement saying the mother had killed her two children and shot the children’s father before taking her own life. The crime raised questions about mental health issues and whether there had been warning signs in the woman’s troubled life.

To try to give the public more information, the Wisconsin State Journal requested the incident report, any 911 calls related to the incident and records relating to the original complaint that brought police to the apartment complex that day. (Middleton police were already on scene when they encountered the injured man, who survived the shooting.)

Middleton police denied access, saying it was an open investigation and “no police records” could be released. It did not explain how releasing specific public information might harm their case.

Too often, police agencies in Wisconsin are responding to requests for public information with blanket “open investigation” responses that are not adequately explained or clearly necessary. This denies the media — and the public — pertinent information about crimes that have happened in their backyards.

There is no blanket exemption in Wisconsin’s open records law for records from an open investigation. Records are assumed to be public, but records keepers can perform a “balancing test” between the public’s right to know and the harm that could come from releasing information.

For instance, they could withhold records that could alert a suspect that authorities are looking for him or her, or reveal information known only to the perpetrator. Those are understandable exceptions.

The State Journal staff and other Wisconsin media understand that there are times when releasing information might be harmful. We have worked with law enforcement to prevent the release of victims’ names before the family has been notified. We don’t want to jeopardize a criminal case or endanger citizens.

Having an open investi-



Kelly Lecker
Guest columnist

gation cannot be a blanket reason for denying all public records in a given case.

In the Middleton case, authorities had already said that the suspect had died, so there was no risk of jeopardizing a future prosecution. Releasing information such as 911 calls could give insight into what led up to this tragedy, helping the community better understand the situation or prompting someone in crisis to seek help.

Withholding records and public information can serve to fuel speculation and rumors. A public and open process creates a system of checks and balances that are essential to building trust. It helps the media and community members better understand crime trends and identify issues that could lead to change.

Regrettably, some Wisconsin law enforcement agencies have even denied requests for investigative files on unsolved cases that are often decades old. In late March, UW-Madison police denied the State Journal’s request for records related to the death of Christine Rothschild in 1968, citing an active investigation. The homicide has not been solved in 56 years, and releasing information to the public today might be the only thing that moves the case along.

When applying the balancing test, law enforcement agencies should look at each piece of information they feel would be harmful to their open investigation if it were released, and they should provide in their response to the public records request a reason for withholding that information. If some information does need to be withheld for the sake of an investigation, the rest of the requested information should still be released.

Because of the Middleton Police Department’s vague and blanket rejection, we don’t know if 911 calls related to the Middleton shooting exist, or why police were at the apartment complex that day. We can’t tell if there was a valid reason for withholding information. That’s a disservice to the public.

Kelly Lecker is the executive editor of the Wisconsin State Journal and local news director for Lee Enterprises. Your Right to Know is a monthly column distributed by the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council, a nonprofit, nonpartisan group dedicated to open government.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Take new look at failed school referendum

To the editor:

Many are left wondering whether it’s worth going through the arduous planning and referendum process again. The harsh reality is that the reasons for pursuing a referendum in the first place haven’t gone away. On the contrary, the need for facility repairs and upgrades will compound as time goes on.

Learning from this experience as a district and as a community is the key to moving forward. We must take measures to ensure past mistakes aren’t repeated to increase the chances of future referendum success.

The district must seek to fully understand why the community rejected the original proposal in the first place. There are often assumptions that may not be accurate. For example:

- Is the total cost of the project really the main stumbling block?
- Is there community misunderstanding about what operating budgets cover versus the purpose of a capital referendum?
- Are there concerns over increasing property taxes?
- Do community members understand the risks and liabilities associated with current infrastructure conditions?
- Were there “too many” things listed on the question?
- Do they fully understand the implications of doing nothing?

The district must get answers to all questions and objections and proactively address them — and they will. I appreciate the immediate response by the district to offer another series of listening sessions

to once again hear the voice of community concerns and potential solutions.

The failed referendum requires a fresh look, not a complete abandonment. Properly communicating the cost of doing nothing may be more compelling than concerns over the cost to repair and upgrade. Together, we can determine where opportunities for improvement in the referendum may lie.

From the information gained in these listening sessions and the district’s understanding of community objections, opinions, and solutions they can address specific concerns with the initial proposal and provide community members a better understanding of the needs and further proposed solutions.

I believe in this community’s commitment to our school district and its students. I would strongly encourage every voting constituent to take the time to attend one of these listening sessions. Ask the hard questions. Share your frustrations. Provide solutions, as well. If one of these sessions doesn’t fit into your schedule, ask for a meeting with the district administration. Get your answers. Become informed.

Let’s move our district forward together.

Michael McKinnies, Shawano
Life’s not perfect, but it’s better four years later

To the editor:

Remember our lives exactly four years ago? For many, it’s very hard to do. Hospitals were overrun, lacking the equipment and medicines to prevent people from dying. Make-shift triage centers were set up in parking lots, warehouses and sports stadiums. Refrigerated trucks were used as

OPINION PAGE POLICY

NEW Media welcomes letters from its readers and wants to publish as many as possible. Letters should be no longer than 400 words and must be typed. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for accuracy, brevity and clarity. Please avoid personal attacks. Only one letter per writer will be published in a 14-day period, and letters from new writers will be considered first over more frequent participants. Longer pieces of up to 800 words will be considered for guest columns. All columns require a head shot of the author. All opinion pieces must be signed by the author, and an address and telephone number must be included for verification. Anonymous opinion pieces will not be published under any circumstances. Thank you letters will be considered for publication on community pages in the paper. The 400-word limit applies to thank you letters, as well. The best and most expedient way to send letters is by email to news@newmedia-wi.com. Put “letter to the editor” in the subject line and send the text in the body of the email. Letters can also be sent by mail or delivered in person to 1464 E. Green Bay St., Shawano.

mobile morgues. Kids were out of school, and their parents were out of work. People hoarded toilet paper, and that was just the beginning of shortages, supply chain disruptions and price increases that have persisted even to this day.

Well over 900,000 Americans died during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Put aside the humanitarian aspect, and focus on the economic impact.

The first three years of the Donald Trump administration had the same relatively flat unemployment levels (below 5%) as the previous Barack Obama years (after recovering from the Great Recession). During 2020, Trump’s final year of office, unemployment skyrocketed from 4.4% in March to 14.8% in April. It has declined during the Joe Biden administration to under 4% for the past two years, lower than pre-pandemic levels. Not so with prices and inflation. At least not entirely - yet.

The good news is that inflation is receding. After jumping to 9.1% in the summer of 2022, it has steadily declined to around 3.2% currently.

Voters hate inflation, particularly at the grocery store (corporate greed has continued to drive up prices). People shouldn’t

blame the president. It’s the Federal Reserve’s job to set interest rates to fight inflation, which greatly impacts prices. To slow price increases, central banks have had to raise interest rates which makes loans, credit card payments and mortgages more expensive.

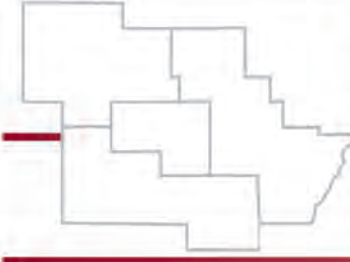
So, blame the Fed if you want, but also thank the Fed for avoiding another “great” recession. Thank President Biden and his bipartisan congressional initiatives that stimulated our economy back from the pandemic better than any other nation.

After accounting for inflation, the median American household real total wealth increased 37% from 2019 to 2022.

Regarding ongoing complaints about oil prices, there’s only so much a president can do. U.S. domestic crude oil production reached record levels last year. Remember, gas was super cheap four years ago because of excess supply. No one was driving. They had nowhere to go. Quarantine was the word of the day.

So, how are you doing, personally, compared to four years ago? Is everything perfect? No, but give it serious thought between now and when you vote in November.

Jan Koch, Shawano



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Email: hr@newmedia-wi.com
Phone: 715-526-2121
EOE

The Newsday Crossword

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

SPRING CLEANING: Neatness counts

by Billie Truitt

- ACROSS

1 Casino cubes

5 Military group

10 Feudal domains

15 Rugged cliff

19 Norway's patron saint

20 Spot for an eagle cam

21 *Hamlet* duel helper

22 Prefix for sphere

23 Defeat soundly

26 Tel __, Israel

27 Buckskin, e.g.

28 Zaps for dinner

29 Modify, as software

31 Prankster's cry

33 Ending meaning "animals"

34 Devious logician

35 Shepherd who cohosted *The View*

38 Make a thorough search

41 Gobbled up

42 Those folks

44 Angry outbursts

45 Poker ritual

46 Past reasonable limits

48 Withstands

49 Trident-shaped letter

52 Commit a financial crime

55 German article

56 Husband of Ruth

57 Modify

58 Tailor at work

60 Freightner load

61 About half of South America

65 Thicket of small trees

67 Utterly exhausted

68 Sneakers' strings

69 Informal summons

71 Cloth remnant

74 "Look __ now!"

75 Pool tool

76 Cancel an intended action

82 Pollen collector

83 Medicare prescription section

85 Stew holder

86 Narrow walkway

87 Hiker's container

89 The lady's

90 Temporary tattoo dye

91 Knock by a wave off a boat

95 Ship carrying petroleum

96 Ring-shaped

97 S&L dispenser

98 Decide to withdraw

101 Martian moon

102 Baffle

104 Emergency phones

108 Tooth pros' degs.

109 Cause infatuation

112 In __ of (rather than)

113 Tennis great Chris

114 Furnish all the food for

115 Craving

116 Legendary lawman

117 Actress Rene

118 Picnic spoiler

119 Needing directions

6 Thin and high-pitched

7 Monteverdi opera hero

8 Lubricate

9 Lowly worker

10 Spend, so to speak

11 "Cross my heart!"

12 Largest dwarf planet

13 Strong and healthy

14 *Peanuts* pianist

15 Does a Latin dance

16 Part of a French farewell

17 Surrounded by

18 Doth bestow

24 Rose protector

25 Greek liqueur

30 Olympic blades

32 Get tough

34 Salt dispenser

35 Naval commando

36 Tennis great Mandlikova

37 Caesarean rebuke

39 Ink cartridge color

40 Pro sports deal

42 Legal wrong

43 Back from vacation

46 Divulge something

47 Hold in esteem

49 Fried rice morsel

50 Wise mentor

51 Sport shirt brand

53 Speaker's platform

54 "Be glad to"

56 Prohibition

59 Group's strong acknowledgment

60 Manage somehow

61 Divulge something

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62 Be worthy of

63 Zenith

64 Start of 63-Down's clue

66 MD workplaces

67 Telejournalist Paula

69 More terse

70 Yard+ length

72 Trucker on the air

73 GPS calculations

75 Person doing survey work

77 German urban region

78 Abundant

79 Very slender

80 Novelist Rice

81 At hand

83 Italian name of six popes

84 School team members

87 Becomes friends

88 Unqualified for

90 Lugs around

91 Walk like a penguin

92 Lack of energy

93 Baseball great Duke

94 Arsenal array

95 Until the due date

99 Instagram upload

100 Copier chemical

102 Comprehends

103 USMC single-strippers

105 Infamous emperor

106 Brain scans, for short

107 Editor's "leave it in"

110 Sch. southeast of Wheeling

111 Skim milk's lack

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‘Dead Woman’s Pond’ has paranormal twists

I was expecting something paranormal when I selected “Dead Woman’s Pond” by Elle E. Ire, but I got a whole lot more. (Warning: If you can’t deal with same-sex relationships you might not like this book.) If you can look beyond the sexual preferences of the protagonists, you’ll find a pretty compelling plot with a paranormal twist.

Flynn Dalton realized that she was “different” at her grandmother’s funeral. While standing near the casket, Flynn saw and spoke with her late grandmother. When the woman walked through the wall and disappeared, Flynn fainted. The 9-year-old never told anyone about the encounter and endured years of counseling due to the trauma.

Now in her mid-20s, Flynn has grown up in every way. She is now a tall, muscular woman with many skills. For years, she supported herself working as an excellent carpenter. When the housing boom in



Jan Jones
Columnist

Florida stumbled, she lost her steady job, so now she is living paycheck to paycheck working on an apartment complex just outside of the wealthy enclave of Festivity, Florida.

She has long accepted her lesbian status and earned the respect of most of her fellow workers. A little over a year ago, Flynn was dumped by her girlfriend, Kate. Kate said it had been fun but decided to marry her boyfriend, Max. Within months, Kate’s car crashed through a stone wall at Dead Man’s Pond and she drowned.

The tragic accident rattled Flynn, but she moved on and fell head over heels in love with a well-known psychic named Genesis. The two are fast becoming an item. One of Flynn’s other skills is bowling, and she

AT A GLANCE
BOOK: Dead Woman’s Pond (Nearly Departed, Book 1)
AUTHOR: Elle E. Ire
PUBLISHER: Dreamspinner Press
YEAR PUBLISHED: 2021
NUMBER OF PAGES: 412

makes extra cash hustling unsuspecting opponents at Kissimmee Lanes.

One night, Flynn is driving home in her old but sturdy truck when the brakes fail. She nearly ends up in the lake but manages to crank the wheel into a huge planter instead. Suddenly, Flynn feels herself drawn toward the lake. Luckily, she is stopped by a local cop.

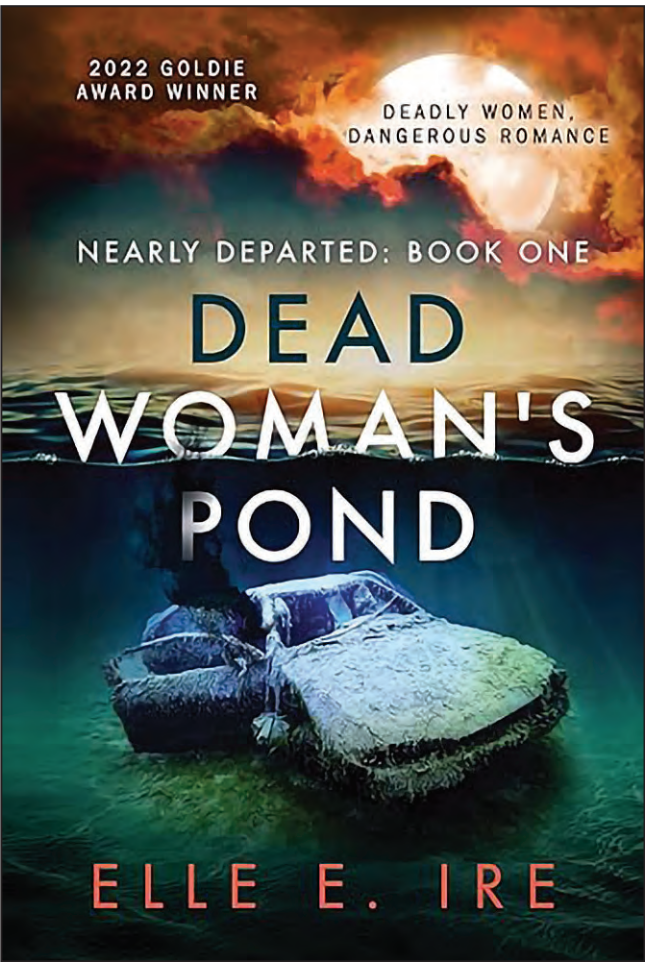
From that point on her life takes on a frightening trajectory. She’s always refused Gen’s offer of a “reading” but accepts her insights and warnings about the lake wanting her.

Long story short — Kate’s wealthy husband was enraged when he discovered his wife wants a divorce so she could go back to her lover, Flynn.

He paid Leopold, a psychic aligned with dark forces, to create a bad luck medallion to attach to Kate’s car, but Max cursed the medallion and the car plunged into the lake instead of having an accident. Ever since then, the medallion has lured more women to their deaths, and now Max hopes Flynn will be next.

Flynn and Gen are committed to one another, but stubborn independence gets in the way and nearly costs Flynn her life. Knowing about Max and the medallion, Gen makes a deal with Leopold. He will dive with Flynn to retrieve the cursed item so it can be neutralized, but Leopold double crosses them.

Flynn experiences a wild out-of-body event that saves Gen and her brother, Chris. As Gen rushes to Flynn’s physical body, Flynn’s essence finds and kills Max. It will take all of Gen’s formidable skill to save Flynn by transferring life from Leopold to her beloved Flynn. We don’t know the follow-up for the



mess, but book two promises to continue the duo’s relationship and paranor-

mal adventures. I love discovering plot twists and turns.

NWTC event focuses on health care, law enforcement

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College presents a Health Care and Public Safety Career Awareness Spotlight on April 18 from 10:30 a.m. to noon and 12:30-

2 p.m. at NWTC Shawano, 111 Thomas Ave., Shawano. Participants can find out more about area careers in health care and public safety and learn more about

the opportunities available locally for employment, education and advancement. The event will feature staff from NWTC, Shawano Ambulance, ThedaCare

Medical Center, Shawano Police Department, Total Fitness, Advanced Physical Therapy and more. Spotlighthed careers include nursing, health care

administration, health information technology, emergency medical services, wellness and health, physical therapy, law enforcement and criminal justice.

Lunch will be provided by ThedaCare for all registered attendees. Registration and additional info can be found at www.nwtc.edu/Shawano.

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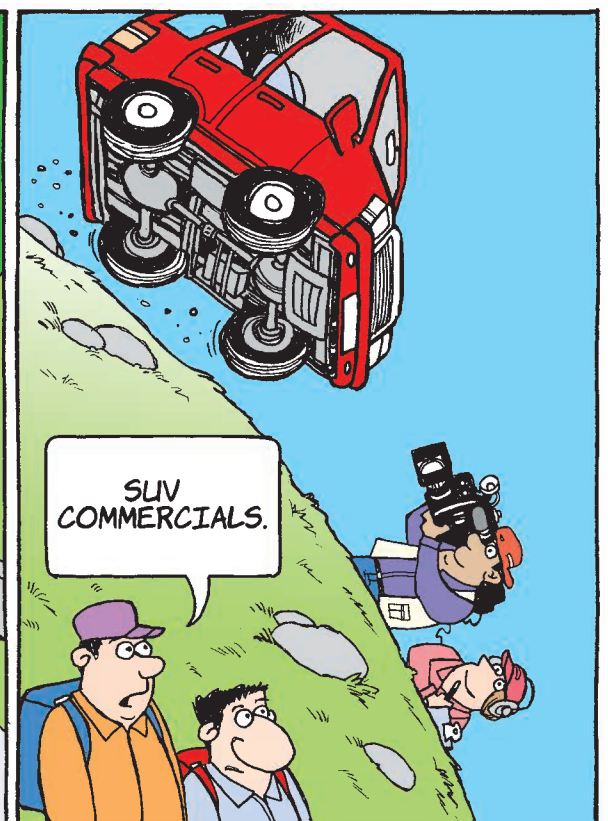
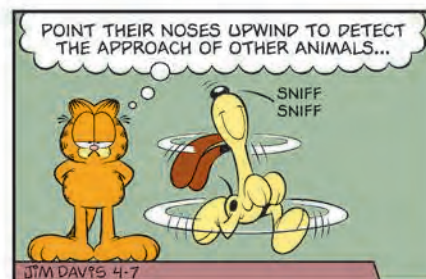
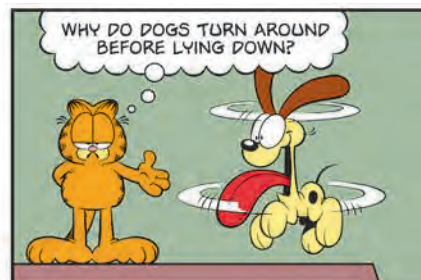
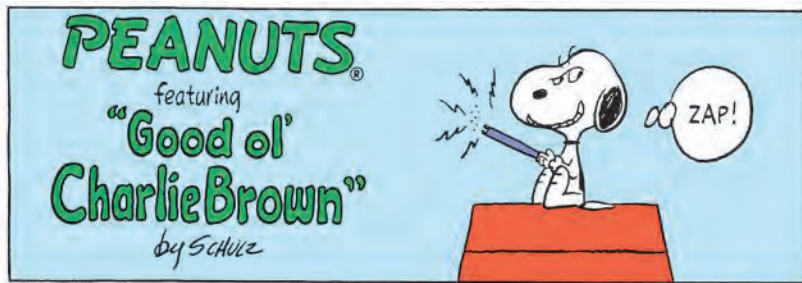


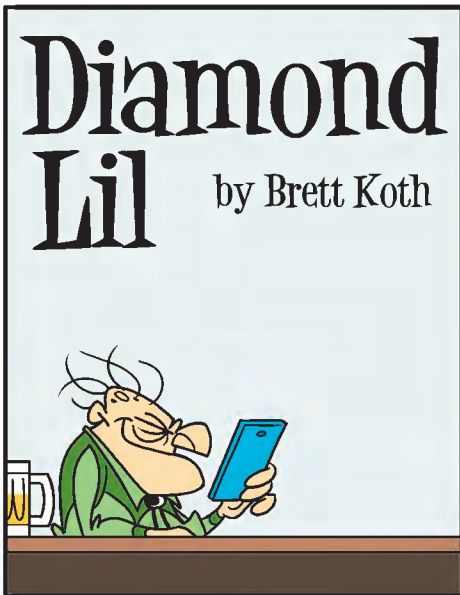
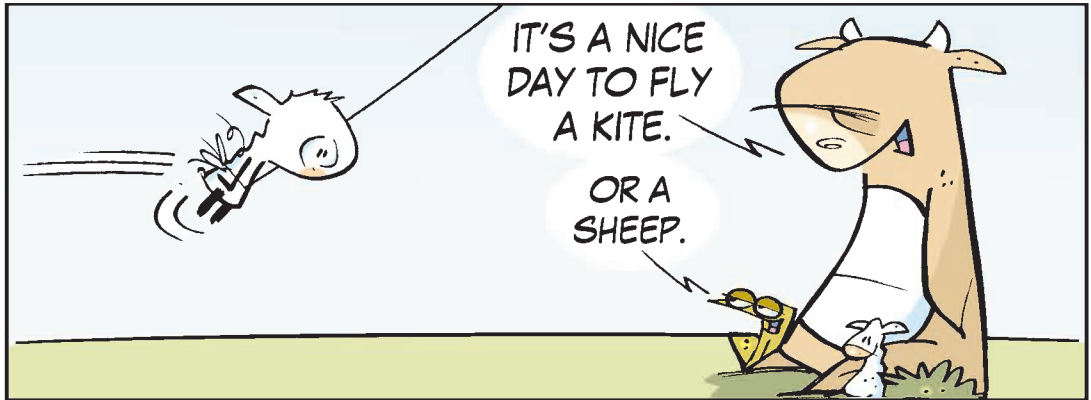
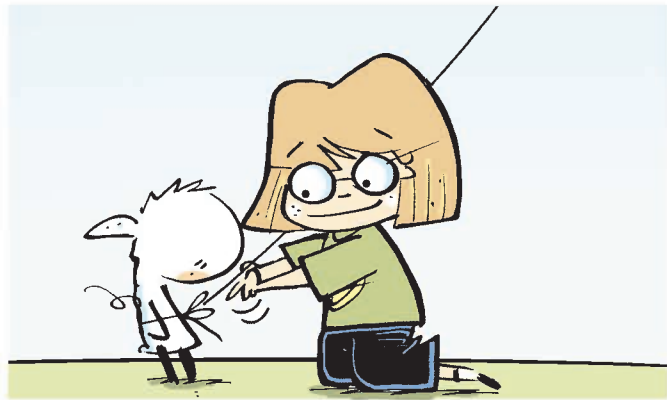
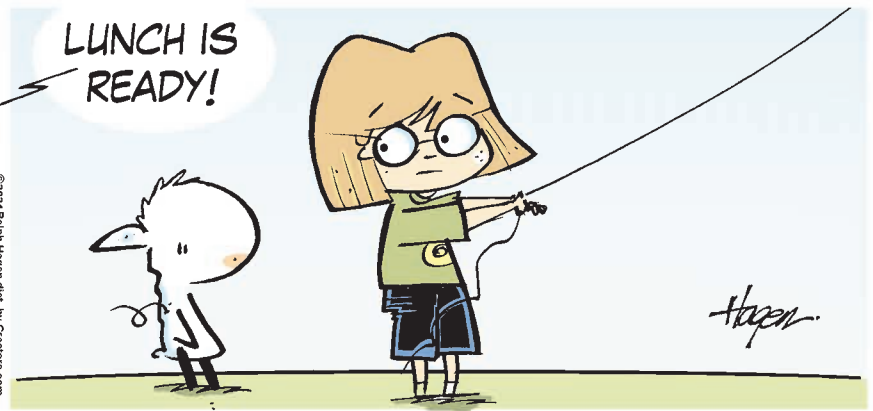
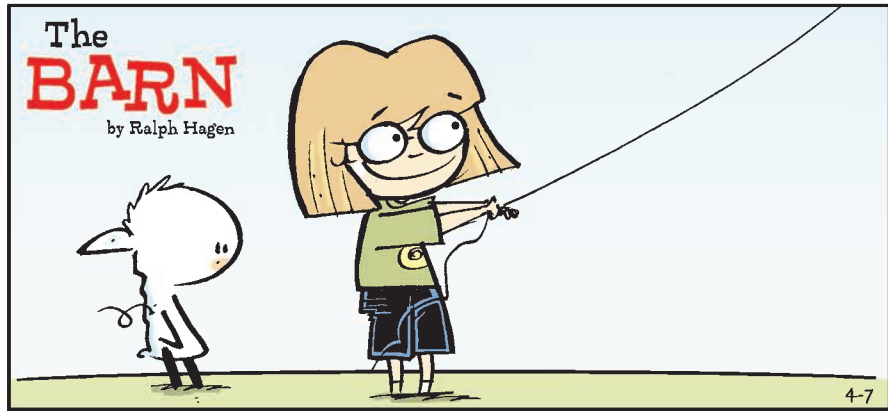
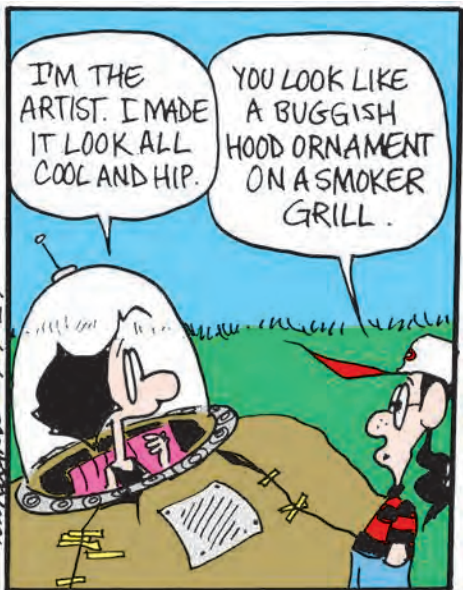
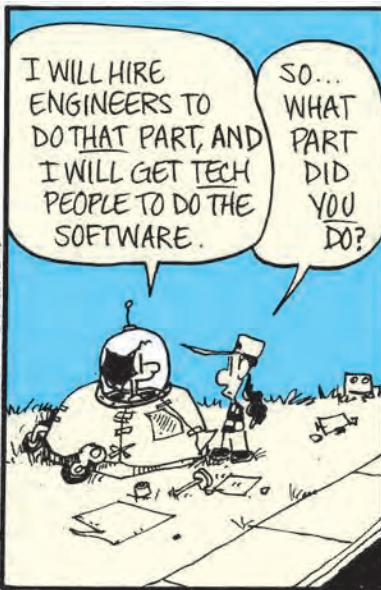
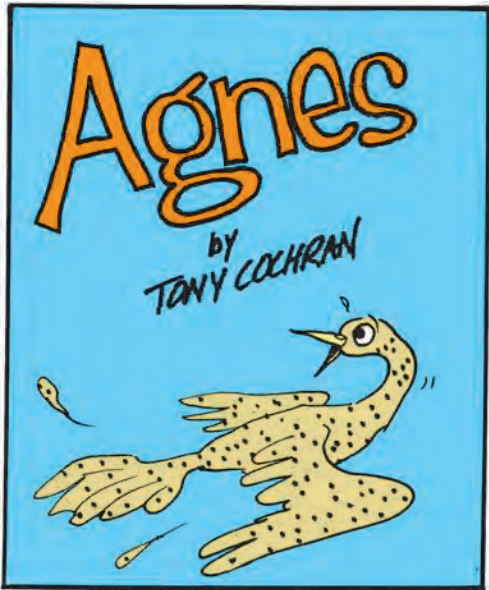
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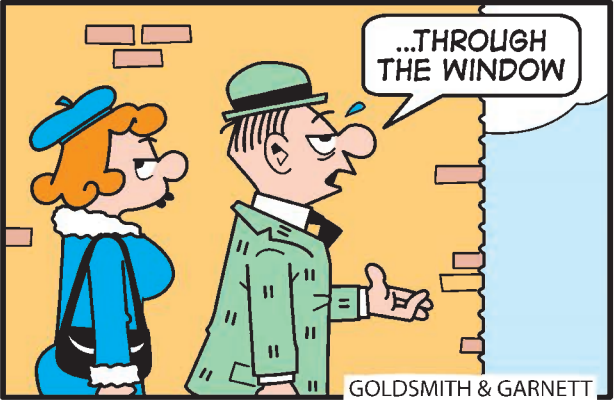
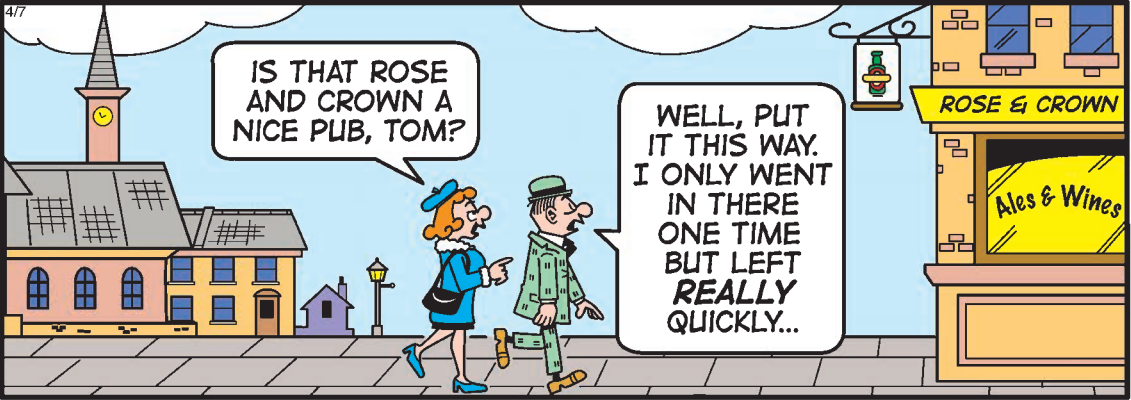
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