



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Sixth-graders present veterans with acrostic poems — with the first letter of each line spelling out “VETERAN” — during a Veterans Day observance at Oconto Falls High School on Nov. 11. SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 5.

Greg Mellis | NEW Media

Ambulance upgrade moves forward

Oconto Falls Ambulance signs contracts in move toward critical-care paramedic service.

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Virtual backup plan developed

No plans to go virtual, but school district prepares just in case.

PAGE 3

Job skills learned repairing laptops

Students comprise the Chrome Support Squad at Oconto Falls High School.

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Oconto Falls City Council, ambulance service agree to five-year contract

Service expected to become the first critical-care paramedic provider in Oconto County

By **WARREN BLUHM**

Editor-in-chief

The Oconto Falls Ambulance Service is still on track to reach its goal of becoming the first critical-care paramedic service in Oconto County when the new year begins.

The Oconto Falls City Council on Nov. 9 approved a five-year contract with the ambulance service, which is owned by the towns of Oconto Falls, Morgan, Stiles and Spruce, the city of Oconto Falls and the village of Lena. Each municipality has a vote on the board of directors and contributes annual fees to the operation.

The service is currently a volunteer advanced emergency medical technician (AEMT) life-support service with 30 self-scheduled members: The first responders and EMTs put themselves on the schedule around their full-time jobs and other activities.

The aim is to upgrade the service to a critical-care paramedic service in partnership with HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital in Oconto Falls and Bellin Health Oconto, two grades above AEMT and on par with County Rescue/Eagle III, Bay Area Ambulance and Shawano Ambulance. They would be the first paramedic ambulance service of any kind in Oconto County.

When service director Patrick Ahlgrim and his wife, Angie, appeared before the council in April, they said they were pursuing the upgrade in part because of the delays incurred when patients need to be transferred under paramedic care to a hospital in Green Bay or Milwaukee. In those cases patients are dependent on the out-of-county ambulance's availability and the

time it takes to arrive.

The approved contract calls for crews to be staffed by full-time employees rather than volunteers, with a crew consisting of a critical-care paramedic and a non-medical (EMR, EMT or AEMT) available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A second crew will be supplemented by salaried administrative staff as well as a roster of 30 volunteers. The full-time staff is to be comprised of three two-person crews, each working two 24-hour shifts a week, for a total of 12 staff members in all.

The upgrade in service comes with an increase in the fees paid by municipalities. The contract calls for the city's share to jump from \$40,560 in 2021 to at least \$73,049 for the first year of the contract, based on its current certification as a full-time AEMT service. Once the critical-care paramedic certification is in, the city will pay \$77,942. A 2% annual increase is built into the contract through 2026.

The service is accepting applications for all provider levels up to critical-care paramedic with employment in that capacity beginning Jan. 1.

Alderman Marty Coopman told the council that he and City Attorney Larry Jeske had met with the service operators since the contract was introduced in October and "cleared up all of the issues with the contract."

Jeske said there were three issues. First, the contract was amended to include the actual annual payments; previously they had been spelled out in a separate letter of understanding. Then, they differentiated between the payments

for the increased certification and having the paramedics hired and in place.

"If something would happen along the way, if that ambulance service became decertified or that person was no longer with them, it would revert to the lower payment," Jeske said.

They also clarified the meaning of "patient charges" set by the ambulance service board of directors at its annual meeting, to make it clear those are charges to be paid by the patient and that the charges paid by the city are spelled out in the contract, he said.

It's up to the state to issue the critical-care paramedic certification, and Coopman said while that had not yet come in, "We should be hearing any day now."

Alderman Mat McDermid said his only concern is that if the service is unable to maintain the higher certification, the city would still be paying a much higher fee than it is now. Coopman said that's because it's hiring the full-time staff.

"Let's say the licensure doesn't come through, it would still be a full-time AEMT service, so that's where that comes from," Coopman said. "Going back to a volunteer service is not even possible right now. Couldn't happen."

Pressed by McDermid and Alderman Devin Wirtz about what would happen if the service did revert to the current volunteer, part-time service — as unlikely as that now appears — Jeske said the city and ambulance service would renegotiate the contract.

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CORRECTIONS

Accuracy is important to the Oconto County Times Herald, and it wants to correct mistakes promptly. Call errors to our attention by phone at 920-848-3427.

Virtual learning plan in place just in case

No plans to go virtual at this time, officials emphasize

By **WARREN BLUHM**
Editor-in-chief

Oconto Falls School District officials want parents to know they intend to keep their children attending classes in person, but they do have a virtual learning plan in place in the seemingly unlikely event of a new pandemic-level surge.

Heather Kangas, director of teaching and learning, emphasized that point as she began her report to the Oconto Falls School Board on Nov. 8.

“Nobody wants to move to a virtual learning plan, but we know that when we fail to plan, we plan to fail,” Kangas said. “We need to be prepared and have a plan.”

An effort has been made to build upon the experience of spring 2020 and the 2020-21 school year, she said, adding that the top priority is meeting the learning needs of all students.

All of that said, Kangas said a number of updates have been made to the draft plan for going virtual if need be.

- Kindergarten and first-grade

students continued to meet in person when the rest of the classes were in virtual mode last year. If circumstances allow, the new plan includes second-grade students also meeting in person.

- If an entire elementary building must be virtual, first-grade students will participate in synchronous virtual learning, that is, they would all be on devices interacting with teachers at the same time. Kindergartners would learn asynchronously with packets prepared for their home computers.

- Virtual high school classes would be held synchronously twice per week, with the class periods longer than they were last year and a longer time between classroom periods.

- Daily asynchronous lessons would be provided for high school students in classes not meeting synchronously.

- Teachers would be given additional time for small-group and individual sessions for students who need extra help.

“Virtual learning is really challenging for a lot of our students, so they

need some extra support,” Kangas said. “That comes in the form of one-to-one meetings with their teachers or in small groups.”

Expectations would not be lowered, and new learning would be provided five days a week, she said.

The district would continue to expect clear communication among teachers, students and parents, Kangas added.

“That’s critical for this to be successful with this learning, that all

parties need to be communicating with each other, so that we’re truly meeting the needs of our students,” she said.

As Kangas wrapped up her report, Superintendent Dean Hess reiterated that there currently is no plan to go fully virtual.

“I want to make people aware that we fully appreciate being face to face with our students, and I think they appreciate it as well, but as Heather stated, we still need to be sure that we have a sound plan,” Hess said.

County hires Health and Human Services director

The Oconto County Board has approved the deputy director of Human Services for Sheboygan County as the county’s new director of Health and Human Services.

County Administrator Kevin Hamann appointed Scott Shackelford to the post being vacated by Mike Reimer, who is retiring in January. Shackelford’s first day with Oconto County will be Jan. 17.

Hamann said they received about a dozen applications for the post, which oversees the second-largest

county department behind the Sheriff’s Office. “I think he’s a good candidate; I talked with the Sheboygan County administrator about him (and heard) nothing but praise,” Hamann said. “Very nice gentleman; I think he will fit in very well.”

Shackelford, who lives with his family in Suamico, also received an endorsement from Reimer himself, who knows him from working among counties over the years.

The new director will make a starting annual salary of \$106,684.



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OCONTO COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

Proceedings of Nov. 10

Christopher G. Halase, 30, Baraboo, was sentenced to five years in prison, followed by five years of extended supervision, for homicide by negligent handling of a dangerous weapon, in connection with the death of his sister, Ashley Halase, 31, of Reedburg, on Aug. 21, 2020.

In a plea agreement, a felony charge of second-degree reckless homicide and a misdemeanor count of discharging a firearm while under the influence of a controlled substance were dismissed but read into the record. Judge Michael T. Judge ordered that during his extended supervision, Halase must maintain absolute sobriety and complete all assessments, counseling and treatment deemed necessary by his corrections agent.

Whitney Morgan Helms, 36, Neenah, was sentenced to six months in prison, followed by one year of extended supervision, for possession of methamphetamine, in connection with

an incident that occurred in 2019. She also pleaded no contest to burglary and was placed on three years of probation after an additional prison term was imposed and stayed, in connection with an incident that occurred May 22, 2020. Judge ruled that the sentences be served consecutive to any other sentence Helms is currently serving. During extended supervision and probation, she must maintain absolute sobriety; complete all assessments, counseling and treatment deemed necessary by her corrections agent; and find and maintain steady full-time employment.

Jonathan M. Hanson, 39, Suring, pleaded no contest to repeated sexual assault of the same child from the time she was 12 until she was 15, between September 2018 and October 2020. Judge scheduled sentencing for Jan. 18 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

After a preliminary hearing, Tyler J. Geurts, 33, Oconto, was bound over to circuit court on 16 counts of possession of child pornography, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred March 8.

Arraignment was scheduled for Dec. 7.

William J. McGregor, 54, Green Bay, was placed on two years of probation after a prison sentence was imposed and stayed for possession of narcotic drugs, in connection with an incident that occurred April 4. Judge Jay N. Conley gave McGregor credit for 166 days already served in the county jail. During probation, he must refrain from possession or consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs, complete an AODA assessment and follow through with any recommendations of the treatment provider, comply with any other assessments and any resulting recommendations made by the Department of Corrections, obtain and maintain full-time employment and pay court costs.

Jacob S. Chilcote, 19, Oconto Falls, pleaded guilty to possession of narcotic drugs, in connection with an incident that occurred Sept. 10. In a plea agreement, two felony and two misdemeanor charges were dismissed but read into the record. Judge Michael T. Judge scheduled sentencing for Jan. 14 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

Proceedings of Nov. 9

A jury trial was rescheduled for March 29-30 for Bruce J. Carr, 68, Oconto Falls, on charges of possession with intent

to deliver THC and maintaining a drug place, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Feb. 8, 2019. A final pre-trial conference was scheduled for Feb. 28. In a related matter, Conley placed Carr on six months of probation after imposing and staying a 60-day jail term for felony bail jumping, in connection with an incident that occurred March 5, 2020. Probation conditions include that he refrain from owning or possession of alcohol or drugs without a valid prescription.

Proceedings of Nov. 8

Robert L. McDermid, 44, Oconto Falls, pleaded no contest to possession of methamphetamine in connection with an incident that occurred Jan. 2, 2020. In a plea bargain, a charge of felony bail jumping was dismissed but read into the record. Conley scheduled sentencing for Jan. 31 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

A jury trial was scheduled for March 8-11 for Kevin Lynn Ruhnke, 66, Hermantown, Minnesota, who is charged with second-degree reckless injury, hit-and-run causing injury, two misdemeanor counts of criminal damage to property and resisting or obstructing an officer in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred July 30, 2020. A final pre-trial conference was scheduled for Feb. 7.

OCONTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Nov. 11

Deputies responded to 63 incidents, including suspicious activity on Landing Lane in the Town of Stiles, an animal bite on Peshtigo Brook Road in the Town of Breed, theft on County Road F in the Town of Lakewood, fire near state Highway 32 and County Road S in the Town of Chase, a disturbance on Quincy Street in Oconto Falls, suspicious activity near West Frontier Road and County Road S in the Town of Little Suamico, nine traffic stops, one traffic hazard, two traffic offenses, one citizen assist, one welfare check; four 911 hangups and two open lines; one ambulance call; seven crashes, six involving deer.

Nov. 10

Deputies responded to 52 incidents, including intoxication on Pecor Street in Oconto, fraud on Trail Road in the Town of Maple Valley, fraud on County Road CC in the Town of Oconto Falls, suspicious activity on County Road D in the Town of Abrams, a disturbance on County Road Y in the Town of Little River, suspicious activity on County Road EE in the Town of Abrams, a structure fire on Geano Beach Road in the Town of Little Suamico, two traffic stops, one traffic hazard, one

traffic offense, two citizen assists, three miscellaneous traffic incidents, two welfare checks; four 911 hangups and four open lines; three ambulance calls; seven crashes, six involving deer.

Nov. 9

Deputies responded to 38 incidents, including a fire control burn on Badger Court in Oconto, an unwanted party on Brazeau Avenue in Oconto, trespassing on state Highway 22-32 in the Town of Gillett, an incident at the county jail on Arbutus Avenue in Oconto, suspicious activity near County Road V and Lone Lane in the Town of Maple Valley, suspicious activity on County Road A in the Town of Little River, one traffic stop, three traffic hazards, three traffic offenses, one citizen assist, one miscellaneous traffic incident, two welfare checks; four 911 hangups and three open lines; five crashes, four involving deer.

Nov. 8

Deputies responded to 51 incidents, including a disturbance on Quincy Street in Oconto, suspicious activity near Harris and North Branch roads in the Town of Breed, drugs at an address in the Town of Stiles, fraud on Elm Road in the Town of How, a fire control burn on Waterbrook Lane in the Town of Oconto, fraud on Knollwood Lane in the Town of Mountain, a missing

person on County Road T in the Town of Doty, suspicious activity on Martin Lane in the Town of Riverview, an animal bite on County Road E in the Town of Morgan, five traffic stops, three traffic hazards, one miscellaneous traffic incident, four welfare checks; two 911 hangups and three open lines; four ambulance calls; four crashes, one involving deer.

Nov. 7

Deputies responded to 39 incidents, including suspicious activity on state Highway 32 in the Town of Gillett, burglary on Emma Lea Lane in the Town of Lakewood, fire on Mountain Tower Road in the Town of Riverview, a disturbance on state Highway 22-32 in the Town of Gillett, a disturbance on South Maple Avenue in Oconto Falls, an animal bite on Joyful Acres Lane in the Town of Morgan, theft on Fawn Street in the Town of Townsend, suspicious activity near North Stiles Tower Road and CFR 101 in the Town of Abrams, suspicious activity on Robin Hood Lane in Gillett, four traffic stops, one traffic hazard, two traffic offenses, two welfare checks; two 911 hangups and two open lines; five crashes, four involving deer.

Nov. 6

Deputies responded to 48 incidents, including property damage on Sherman

Road in the Town of Oconto, a disturbance on Main Street in Oconto, fire on Pine Ridge Road in the Town of Doty, a structure fire on Park Avenue in Oconto, property damage on South Porcupine Lake Road in the Town of Spruce, suspicious activity on East Main Street in Lena, threatening on West Forrester Road in the Town of Lakewood, four traffic stops, two traffic offenses, four miscellaneous traffic incidents, two welfare checks; five 911 hangups and five open lines; one ambulance call; nine crashes, six involving deer.

Nov. 5

Deputies responded to 54 incidents, including trespassing on Kruegers Quarry Road in the Town of Pensaukee, a disturbance on Hunts Lane in the Town of Gillett, an assault on County Road J in the Town of Pensaukee, attempted fraud on Lee Lake Road in the Town of Brazeau, burglary on County Road VV in the Town of Underhill, illegal burning near U.S. Highway 41-141 and East Brown Road in the Town of Little Suamico, two traffic stops, one traffic hazard, two traffic offenses, one citizen assist, three miscellaneous traffic incidents, two welfare checks; five 911 hangups and two open lines; one ambulance call; seven crashes, six involving deer.



Oconto Falls sixth-graders participate in the Veterans Day program held at Oconto Falls High School on Nov. 11.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Veterans honored at Oconto Falls High School



Judith Kopczynski, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 523 Abrams, reflects during Thursday's program.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA



Veterans from American Legion Post 302 salute during the Veterans Day program at Oconto Falls High School on Nov. 11.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA



Vietnam Veteran Bob Thompson smiles during the Retirement of Colors by the Oconto Falls Area Veterans Monument Guard.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

HEROES ON THE COUNTY BOARD



Members of the Oconto County Board who served in the military were honored during the board's monthly meeting Nov. 10, the day before Veterans Day. Each received a bag of gifts packed by clients at New View Industries and congratulations from county Veterans Service Office Ron Christensen and state Sen. Eric Wimberger. Front row from left, Supervisors Tim Cole, Elmer Ragen, John Matravets, Ken Linzmeyer and Wimberger; back row, Ron Christensen, Dick Doeren, Paul Bednarek, Tom Bitters and David Christianson.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

Vets 4 Vets hosts free Christmas trees for veterans

Vets 4 Vets of Northeast Wisconsin is offering free Christmas trees to local veterans. The organization has partnered with Uncle Paul's Christmas Trees in Suring, where vets and their families are welcome to come

out from 1-4 p.m. Nov. 28 to cut down a Christmas tree to take home, free of charge.

Advance reservations are requested to join the fifth annual Trees 4 Vets, at Uncle Paul's Tree Farm,

11489 State Highway 32 in the Town of Breed. The family-friendly event will feature "cut your own" Christmas trees, bonfire, hot chocolate and holiday treats.

To reserve a spot for you and

your family to come cut down a tree, contact the group at its Facebook page message board (search Vets 4 Vets of Northeast Wisconsin), at Vets4vetsnew@gmail.com or at P.O. Box 135 Suring, WI 54174.

OBITUARIES

Rachael M. (Peterson) Janssen

Rachael Mae (Peterson) Janssen, 31, of Pulaski, received the ultimate gift of eternal life on Friday, Oct. 8, 2021, at Bellin Hospital surrounded by her family.

Rachael was born on June 22, 1990, to Joseph and Tami (Genke) Peterson. Rachael grew up on a small family dairy farm with three siblings. She graduated from Gillett High School in 2009, where she was known for her kindness, strong leadership and for being a successful athlete. She continued her education and received a bachelor's degree at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. She then moved to Green Bay and continued her education in the medical field while working. She worked as an autistic therapist, inpatient psychiatric nurse, med/surg nurse, perioperative and ICU nurse. She was always being a caring



and compassionate person, putting others' needs before her own.

Rach married the love of her life, Brian Janssen, on June 11, 2021. They had the wedding of their dreams sur-

rounded by family and friends on the Peterson Family Farm. Family was everything to Rachael. She was a devoted wife, daughter, granddaughter, sister, auntie, godmother, cousin, best friend and an INSPIRATION to many with her positive attitude and LOVE FOR CHRIST! She will also be remembered for her gorgeous and contagious smile, being the life of the party, love to dance, passion for living life to the fullest and willingness

to help others.

Rach never wanted to be defined by her cancer, and many would speak of it as a battle. To Rachael it was never a battle with cancer, it was a journey with God. And because of this, there was no battle lost. As Rachael would say, "Many may beat cancer, but they've lost the battle if they didn't find God." So as hard as this is, we are at peace knowing she received the ultimate gift of eternal life as one of His most genuine servants. Rachael's purpose will continue to be served through each one of us that she has inspired so graciously. She is now our guardian angel with some of the biggest wings.

Rach will be dearly missed by her loving husband, Brian; parents, Joseph and Tami Peterson, Gillett; sister, Kimberly (Brad) Krueger, Suamico; brother, Brandon (Dani-

elle) Peterson, Suamico; brother, Zakary Peterson, Gillett; nieces and nephews, (who she was like a second mom to); Jada and Carson Krueger; Dawson, Jordan and Brielle Peterson; grandparents, Donald and Ramona Genke, Gillett; Brian's loving parents and family; many aunts, uncles, cousins, godchildren and friends; and their special fur babies, Luca, Scout and Beau. Previously departed to eternal life were her grandparents, James and Shirley Peterson, Cecil.

To honor Rach in the light, a service and celebration of life was held by Pastor Stephen Maris (cousin of Rach) at the Peterson Family Farm on Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021. Gruetzmacher Funeral Home in Suring assisted with the arrangements.

HE walks with HER! And now she walks with each one of us!!! GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

Shawano downtown plaza swells in price

Supply chain issues, construction price hikes bring project up to \$2 million

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

The planned plaza for downtown Shawano is now expected to cost about \$2 million, leaving the city to try and figure out whether to scale down the project or find another revenue source to pay for it.

The city has \$1 million in Community Development Block Grant funding, along with matching funds of \$500,000, earmarked for the project, which leaves around \$500,000 of the project unfunded. The \$2 million project includes \$200,000 in contingency funds.

The reason for the increased price tag is due to supply chain issues, according to Brandon Herbert, a civil engineer with Strand Associates, which has been handling the design work for the plaza. He said lag time in getting construction materials has made it difficult to predict what the price of those materials will be.

“As you might have heard, supply chains, labor shortages and material pricing is just very difficult to predict,” Herbert said while meeting with the Shawano Common Council on Aug. 10.

City Administrator Eddie Sheppard noted that the city is not looking at cutting anything hard and firm at this point, as the city still has to get bids from contractors to see if the \$2 million estimate is accurate. But the city and Strand have been looking at potential items that could be delayed to a future date in order to reach the estimated opening date of fall 2022.

Currently, there are several items earmarked to be cut from the initial project. Among them are a table-top crossing and additional parking spaces on Washington Street, where the plaza connects with Franklin Park.

“Those are things you could do at any point,” Herbert said. “It’s not like you have to build them right now.”

The city could also hold off on seat walls in two areas of the plaza, as well as the floating bench structures slated to go in the plaza between Main and Washington streets. Herbert noted



Supply chain issues and increased construction material costs could impact how the Shawano downtown plaza, rendered here, could look by the time the work begins. The city has \$1.5 million in funding lined up, but the latest cost estimates put the plaza at \$2 million. PARKITECTURE

the seat walls might be more difficult to do later because there is one area that is going to be artificial turf instead of grass.

“These alternates are things we felt we could break out, if pricing gets too high; we could strip these things out of the project — not build them — and you would still get the plaza,” Herbert said. “It would still satisfy the general design intent of the space and the use of the space. We may not get everything we hoped for.”

However, even with those items put on hold, the project would still have \$110,000 in unfunded work if the bids came in around the \$2 million estimate. Sheppard said there are several resources that the city can tap into. Utilizing the city’s fund balance is an option, he noted, or the city could see if there are any savings from 2022 street repairs and other capital improvement projects that could be refunneled into the plaza project.

“With building conditions where they are, there are a lot of things we could trim, trim on the contingency, to make the numbers line up,” Sheppard said. “We do have options.”

Sheppard also said that several of the city’s tax incremental finance (TIF) districts are doing particularly

well, so it’s possible to find funding there.

“If you break down the purpose of what those districts are, it’s to encourage redevelopment,” Sheppard said. “This has clearly been key to our downtown revitalization and a factor in the growth of some of our TIF districts, bringing businesses and new residential.”

Herbert said he still plans to seek other parts of the project that could be delayed so the initial project could be done at \$1.5 million, unless the council decides to tap other revenue sources.

“This is just kind of the challenge we face right now,” Herbert said.

Blake Theisen, designer with Parkitecture, which came up with the plaza drawings, noted that the supply chain issues have caused everything to spike in price. He noted that there have been two hikes in the cost of steel alone, which includes rebar reinforcement, light poles and shade structures to be implemented into the plaza.

“It’s been a very frustrating year for everyone in the design industry with these supply chain issues,” Theisen said. “Since we’ve started the design, the shade structures have increased over \$120,000. When

that second price hike came in, we stepped back as a team and said, ‘OK, we have to reevaluate this and bring it into control.’”

Herbert said that Strand would advertise the project for bids in December and ideally open bids and approve in mid-January, in the hopes of starting construction early and having the space ready to use by next fall.

Alderman Rhonda Strebel said she would like to see the floating bench structures remain in the project, if at all possible, even if they were installed later. She noted they would match what has been set up at Franklin Park.

Mayor Bruce Milavitz, who sat on the plaza steering committee, noted that the seat walls were an important component that committee members considered key to the project, as it would provide as much seating as possible for plaza concerts and other events.

“I would hope that, as you build alternate ways of structuring it, if we can’t do it another way, at least we wouldn’t eliminate all of the seat walls,” Milavitz said. “The steering committee was pretty adamant of having that added in.”

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Wade Fernandez, shown at his home on the Menominee reservation in 2015, will be performing a concert in Appleton on Nov. 21 to benefit the Waking Women Healing Institute. FILE | NEW MEDIA

Fernandez concert to help Waking Women institute

Wade Fernandez will be performing a concert at 4 p.m. Nov. 21 at First Congregational Church of Christ, 724 E. South River St., Appleton.

At the concert, a freewill offering will be received to benefit the Waking Women Healing Institute, started by Kristen Welch, of Gresham, to address and prevent Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and acts of sexual violence against Indigenous women, girls and two-spirits. Please note that masks are required at this event.

Fernandez, whose Menominee name is Walks with the Black Wolf, is a multi-award winning international

touring artist from the Menominee Nation. Fernandez was in Appleton for Mile of Music 2021 and has just returned from Washington, D.C., for rehearsals at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Winning numerous awards in many genres, Fernandez's musical style knows no bounds. Beginning his solo career joining Jackson Browne and the Indigo Girls onstage has led to a long career with over 60 international tours. Both his music and his message are firmly grounded in his Menominee reservation roots and love for the land, animals and people.



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SHAWANO LEADER

NOTICE

Early Thanksgiving Deadlines

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**WILL BE CLOSED
Thursday, November 25.**

Regular business hours will resume Friday.

Special Holiday Advertising Deadlines for:

Product	Publication Date	Ad Deadline
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Wittenberg Enterprise	Wed., Nov. 24	Wed., Nov. 17
Shawano Leader	Wed., Nov. 25	Wed., Nov. 17



*Enjoy a safe and
happy holiday!*



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Menominee arts, crafts tell stories



Marguerite and Ron Bowan display a quantity of baby bibs, hot pads and Native-themed articles hand-sewn by Marguerite. They wear matching T-shirts to honor their uncle Jim Frechette, whose carvings are displayed in the Menominee Cultural Museum. Honoring family is very important to the couple.

LYNN ZAFFRANN

Mittens, leather medicine bags, carvings and more on display at cultural museum sale

By **LYNN ZAFFRANN**
Correspondent

The Native American Artist Arts and Craft Sale held at the Menominee Cultural Museum on Nov. 12 displayed the artistic talents of its vendors and gave voice to a few special individual stories.

When rummaging through various church or yard sales, Sue Welk's creative vision sees more than just a used sweater — she sees mittens. She repurposes sweaters into mittens that highlight the designs or colors that attracted her to a sweater in the first place. Her mitten creations include buttons, appliques or designs that were part of the original sweaters.

Welk has been selling her mittens at craft sales in the area for many years, along with other original

creations, such as doll clothes, scarves and pocket tissue covers.

"I originally started sewing Barbie doll clothes," Welk said, "but now I sew American Girl doll clothes, which are much easier to craft."

Recently, she fashioned an American Girl dress using fabric from a special wedding attendant dress.

Welk's talents are displayed at quite a few fairs each year.

"I had a booth at Shawano Fest and the Farmers Market this year, and also Oktoberfest," Welk said. "I was in a show in Pella just last week."

Ron Bowan Sr. and Marguerite Bowan have been involved in countless arts and crafts fairs for many years. They lived in Chicago for a while and that location made it convenient for them to take part in the pow wow circuit, selling their Native-

themed craft items.

"The main thing is you have to enjoy it," Marguerite Bowan said, "and these events are important to us, to our community."

Ron Bowan sells beaded items made by school children in New Mexico. Proceeds from sale of the items, which include various beaded items, help to fund the school. He makes leather medicine bags as part of his display, which is separate from Marguerite's.

"What's important to you can be put into the bags. I have tobacco and other items in mine." With a chuckle, Ron Bowan added, "My largest bags are used by women for their Bingo supplies."

Home economics class at Shawano High School spurred Marguerite Bowan's interest in sewing. She makes

a large variety of items, including baby bibs, adult bibs, Native-patterned Christmas stockings and Native-themed hot pads. Items using sports team logos are also popular.

"The plastic canvas medicine wheel is my big seller," Marguerite Bowan said, noting the wheel embodies the Four Directions and is very important to her.

Marguerite Bowan once sold 10 Green Bay Packers-patterned small Christmas stocking to a customer who planned to put a \$100 bill in each one for her grandchildren. She laughingly said she asked the woman if she could become her grandchild.

The Bowans became involved in arts and crafts after the deaths of their four daughters in a tragic carbon monoxide accident in January 1970.

"Staying busy helped us to move



Darrell Okachekum completes the purchase of a painted emu eggshell by Davey Jean Dorff at the Native American Arts and Craft sale on Nov. 12.

LYNN ZAFFRANN

forward, to deal with the loss," said Marguerite Bowan, who wears a necklace holding a picture of their daughters to remember them every day.

Since then, the couple was blessed with a son and two daughters, which also helped them to be able to move forward.

Ron Bowan's uncle Jim Forchette did multiple carvings for the cultural museum, including the large carved bear featured in the community room. The Bowans wore special T-shirts from the Oshkosh Museum to honor his uncle at the sale.

Alex Menore Jr. is an artist who has done carving and painting for more than 30 years, with involvement in arts and crafts markets for about 20 years.

Menore worked with his uncles, John and Anthony Gauthier, to paint the murals around the common area of Menominee Indian High School, which started his artistic ventures. This summer, he painted a mural in the common room of the cultural museum. The museum directors had a general idea of what they wanted. Menore took their suggestions and created a painting showing the floral themes the Woodland Indians used, along with the Menominee creation story, using the river and ancestors of the five main clans of the tribe (bear, eagle, wolf, moose and crane) in the mural.

"I dedicated this to my two uncles," Menore said. "If it wasn't for the patience they showed me, I wouldn't have been able to create this mural."

Menore signs his works "Gokey," a name his mother called him, derived from her maiden name, Gauthier. His crafting booth features vinyl decals,

which he traces and hand cuts. The decals are for cars, vans, trucks and other hard surfaces.

"I enjoy seeing my work on other people's cars," Menore said.

His nephew, Tom Gauthier, joined him at the fair on Friday. He is beginning to forge his creativity by making braided cords and painting lively patterns onto athletic shoes.

Darrell Okachekum's wife, Rita, is the inspiration for many of his creative projects. He said she tells him, "Why don't you do so-and-so?" He laughed and said he follows through on her ideas.

His hobby started with carving designs into ostrich and emu eggshells about 35 years ago. Okachekum was a country musician and took some of his projects on the road with him. He turned the hobby into Boodieful Creations by Okachekum when he saw how popular his crafting was with his fans on the road.

The ostrich eggshells are lit from the interior, and show the intricate scenes he carves into them. Okachekum said that he follows the natural shadings in the shells when carving. After the ostrich and emu eggshells, he started painting goose eggshells, typically with a Native theme. Inspired by his wife, who admired them at other fairs, Okachekum then turned to painting gourds. Rita finishes the edges of the gourds by incorporating braided pine needles as trim. Another popular item in his craft offerings are painted tree mushrooms.

A number of Okachekum's creations are on display in the cultural museum, located at W3426 County Road VV in Keshena.

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Dennis Bohm, right, reads the names of deceased veterans in Shawano County, as Nick Benzinger, second from left, replies "absent" during the roll call Nov. 11 during the Shawano Veterans Day ceremony at Shawano Ambulance Service. Joe Schwabe, left, and Scott Ludford look on.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

For veterans, every day is Veterans Day



Patty Ainsworth sings the national anthem during the Shawano Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11 inside Shawano Ambulance Service, flanked by Joe Schwabe, left, commander of Shawano American Legion Post 117, and Scott Ludford, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Shawano.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

Erdmann speaks about the sacrifices veterans make for freedom at Shawano ceremony

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

For most of America, Veterans Day comes once a year, but for those veterans the day honors, every day is Veterans Day.

That sentiment came from Jerry Erdmann, a Vietnam veteran from Tigerton who sits on the Shawano County Board of Supervisors. He noted that most folks who put on the uniform do it voluntarily with pride and honor.

"It's something we have in our souls that makes us proud that what we did for our government, even though some of it was in war," Erdmann said during the Shawano Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11 at Shawano Ambulance

Service. "I've always said that I'm a common man, but the government asked me to do uncommon things in the name of freedom."

Erdmann feels the freedom that the United States has is greater than any other country.

"The freedom that we have was given to us by tears, blood and lives," Erdmann said. "Sacrifices by the military individual, whether they were men, women, whether they drove trucks, whether they drove tanks, whether they were in an office or, like a lot of us, whether we carried the rifles that kept ourselves alive and kept our friends alive. They had my back, and I had their back."

Men and women have answered the call of duty, Erdmann said, dating back

to “Washington days.” Those people have fought for freedom so that others can enjoy it, he said.

“When we go to bed at night, trust me, there are men and women watching over us, protecting this great nation — protecting it for future generations,” Erdmann said. “We’re the home of the free because of the brave, and we all know why. It’s because of good men and women in the military and other parts like law enforcement have stepped forward to keep it that way.”

Military service is a mainstay for Erdmann’s family. He told the standing-room-only crowd that his grandfather served the United States during World War I, his uncle in World War II and a cousin answered the call for the Korean War.

“Well, guess whose turn it was next?” Erdmann said. “My turn. Vietnam. At least on a day like today, where it’s raining, we fought — but at least we didn’t have snow to worry about. Those veterans who were in a battle where there was snow, I feel so sorry for them, but they were stronger than most of us could ever be.”

Erdmann said he would gladly serve in the military again, if given the opportunity.

“I’m proud to be an American. I’m proud to have served,” Erdmann said. “I would gladly, if asked — and I don’t know why they haven’t asked me — do it all again. I know, when my daughter-in-law was deployed to Iraq, when we invaded Iraq, there was countless of us Vietnam veterans that talked to our legislators and had said there were some I know had signed petitions saying, ‘Don’t send the young. Send us, and this time let us do it right.’”

Erdmann expects that future generations will answer the call, like he did. He doesn’t expect it to cease, because there will always be good men and women who will step forward to protect the country.

“To a veteran, Veterans Day is 365 days a year,” Erdmann said. “We don’t forget. Memories are like a movie reel in our minds. I’ve seen that played over and over, but yet I’m damned proud to be an American. I’m proud to know good American veterans who have answered the call also.”

He added that many of those veterans are no longer alive, whether dying during battle or succumbing to age. Regardless of that, the memory of what they did will live on and should never be forgotten, Erdmann said.

“God help us if we should ever take our freedom for granted,” he said.

Erdmann also recounted that he really didn’t think much of country singer Billy Ray Cyrus when he first came on the music scene. But a song that Cyrus wrote, “Some Gave All,”



A few seats lay empty as most in the audience preferred to stand during the Shawano Veterans Day ceremony held Nov. 11 at Shawano Ambulance Service. The event was moved to the building from its usual spot outside the Shawano County Courthouse when rain fell mid-morning. LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

moved people to remember what veterans have done for America. Erdmann said he plays the song quite often, and he recited some of the words for the crowd.

Pastor Scott Ludford of Zion Lutheran Church in Shawano, who gave the prayers at the beginning and end of the ceremony, said he was moved by the roll call of the absent veterans who have passed on. He said it makes Veterans Day, which honors all veterans, even more meaningful.

“We remember today all those who have come before us, those who sacrificed and those who gave the greatest gift to our democracy — their lives,” Ludford said. “Their duty, their honor, today we leave this service knowing that all who have served our country, their lives are a precious gift that must be given to the future of our country and our families.”

Military service is the very fiber of freedom, according to Ludford, and recognition of that service makes the country’s freedom even stronger.

“Freedom and democracy are the result of what all of the honorable of this country has produced,” Ludford said. “Today we stand for the most honorable amongst us, and we must continue to carry the burden of their sacrifices, lest we lose sight of what true freedom is. Today is for remembering.”



Jerry Erdmann, a U.S. Army veteran who served during the Vietnam War, talks about the fight for freedom as the keynote speaker during the Shawano Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11 at Shawano Ambulance Service. LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

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Waupochnik mapping future of forests, wetlands

Emerald ash borer threat prompts woman to go back to school, determine how land functions

By **LEE PULASKI**

City Editor

Angela Waupochnik is dedicated to helping the forests that sit on the Menominee and Stockbridge-Munsee reservations, but in addition to that, she wants to make sure future generations are engaged and willing to carry on the work in the future.

Black ash trees on the reservations are threatened in particular by the emerald ash borer, a jewel beetle that's native to northeastern Asia that feeds on ash species of trees. The insect was first discovered in the United States in 2002 around Detroit and has since destroyed 40 million trees in that state and tens of millions more in other parts of the country and Canada.

For Waupochnik, the demise of the black ash trees in the area could result in damaging the ecosystem overall in Wisconsin. She had previously worked as a natural resources manager for the Stockbridge-Munsee, but she is now doing graduate work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison that will look at how to mitigate the damage the invasive species is expected to do.

"Like most tribes, we want to find mitigation strategies and respond to the impacts that we expect from the emerald ash borer," Waupochnik said. "I didn't have the expertise for that. I was a hydrologist, but I didn't know how to do that."

Waupochnik said she brought in some experts to do a sap flux study, which measures whole-tree water use. She wanted to see what the black ash trees' role was in the forests and wetlands that make up much of northern Wisconsin.

"If we can determine what their role is in these systems, then we'd know what the impact would be once the ash is gone," Waupochnik said. "What will the water levels be? What can we expect to grow there? What will be the impact on the species that live there? By measuring water, that's going to open a door to study a bunch of things that will be impacted by the emerald ash borer."

Because of the massiveness of the project, Waupochnik knew she couldn't do the work in her role with the tribe, so she made the decision to go back to school to get a doctorate in forest and wildlife ecology and utilize the university's resources to grab hold of the problem and perhaps find some solutions.

"I contacted some folks at UW, and



Students from Menominee Indian High School do research on the black ash trees on the reservation as a University of Wisconsin sign in the foreground indicates that there is a research site that should not be trespassed on. Angela Waupochnik, of Keshena, is utilizing the students to determine if there are ways to mitigate the threat of the emerald ash borer, which has decimated more than 40 million black ash trees in Michigan alone.

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they were willing to take me on as a graduate student," Waupochnik said. "So, here I am."

Two years into her research and study, one thing has been made clear, according to Waupochnik. Wetlands do not have a common mapping or classification, which makes it hard to determine impacts from invasive species in general and the emerald ash borer in particular.

"We don't know the status to begin with," Waupochnik said. "We have ideas, but I can't make comparisons between wetlands because there are so many differences."

The reason there's little data on wetlands, according to Waupochnik, is that many have assumed those ecosystems were "wastelands" that weren't important to people. The emerald ash borer has caused almost 100% mortality with the black ash trees it comes in contact with, she said, and she hopes to come up with better ways to manage the forests so that the mortality rate can go down.

"It's a good hope," Waupochnik said. "Right now, the only thing we can anticipate is complete loss."

She believes the black ash trees suck up more water than any other and release it into the atmosphere, so the loss of the trees would have an impact on water management. The loss of that tree species would also impact birds, mammals and reptiles who use them for shade, breeding and nesting, impacting the biodiversity of the region.

"What does that mean? Are we going to lose diversity on the landscape?" Waupochnik said. "Are we not going to have that support for other trees that need drainage? Losing a tree species is major. That's something we don't want."

To help her with her research, Waupochnik has been enlisting the aid of students at Menominee Indian High School. She said that, with increasing forest issues, it was important to be vigilant with the management of the land, and it only made sense to bring future generations in

to focus on the care.

"Let's show them the importance of modern forest health," Waupochnik said. "Let's encourage them to go into the field. They're already primed because they've lived in the forest their whole life. This is the most reasonable action we can do now."

The reaction has been mixed, according to Waupochnik. At first, it was overwhelming for the students, many of whom asked if they were the best research assistants for something this big. However, Waupochnik showed the students that the forests where they've lived are a friendly space and prime for learning.

"It's just like learning to ride a bike. You get used to it," Waupochnik said. "I think after they realized — hey, we're contributing — hopefully that alone will spark some interest. They are totally capable with this. Anyone is if you have the right atmosphere, the right space."

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Chrome Support Squad learns 21st century skills

Oconto Falls students work with TRA of Milwaukee on Chromebook repair

By **WARREN BLUHM**
Editor-in-chief

Four students at Oconto Falls High School are participating in the first-ever Chrome Support Squad, and they will receive elective credits this school year to diagnose and repair the school district's fleet of nearly 2,000 Chromebooks.

Technology Services Director Corey Jeffers and OFHS senior Jessie Pumplun briefed the Oconto Falls School Board about the unique new program Nov. 8.

In partnership with Technology Resource Advisors Inc. in Milwaukee, the students are learning how to inspect, diagnose and repair problems with the Chromebooks issued to high school students. Later this school year TRA trainers will be back to teach them on the middle school and elementary school devices, as well.

Any trouble that proves beyond the students' abilities are sent to TRA, Pumplun said.

Jeffers said the initiative relates to one of the "key interests" identified in setting the school district's mission: "providing students with 21st century learning opportunities and applications that adjust to their future life skill needs."

Before establishing the Chrome Support Squad, glitchy devices had to be sent to TRA for repair, which usually involved about a four-week

turnaround, Jeffers said.

"Right now, we have a process that if they can fix them in-house, they can turn them around within the week," he said. "They're doing a very nice job with that."

The group meets three times a week during what otherwise is a study hall. Their first exposure was two full days of training in the summer with a pair of technicians from TRA, which provides IT services at 16 locations around the country including its Milwaukee headquarters.

"The students at this point in time are learning what the world is like as far as technology shortages all over the world; it's affecting the parts that we get sent to us and all kinds of things like that," Jeffers said.

In addition to saving the school district time and money, the students are learning valuable job skills, he said.

"Students can go right from this particular position right now; they can technically work for TRA or another type of company that does this type of repair," Jeffers said.

They've been told if they wanted to work part-time at this while going to college, they'd be starting at \$18 an hour, and that wage could increase to upwards of \$30 an hour after about four years of working there, he said.

A second two-day round training is planned in September, and the trainers expect to return for a third round in the spring.



Oconto Falls High School senior Jessie Pumplun examines a Chromebook during a training session for the Chrome Support Squad this summer. Pumplun and three other students are repairing the school district's fleet of Chromebooks as issues arise.

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"It's all hands-on, and it's nice that the company is willing to drive to Oconto Falls and do it right in our Technology Services room," Jeffers said.

Pumplun said the experience has taught him to diagnose and fix problems, look for new solutions and adopting when the solution is not immediately clear.

He added that he has become adept at working on his own personal devices — "I'm able to be less scared of fixing them or troubleshooting them."

Certifications are available for this kind of work, and Jeffers said he hopes to arrange training that could place on the alternate days that are now the students' study halls.

"There's a pretty high level need for this type of work out in the workspace right now, especially as more places

around the world go to a remote learning and more places need people to know how to do these skills," he said. "There's just not a lot of situations where students are learning this type of information yet, and these types of skills. It's a pretty unique area with a high-level need.

Board member Jan Stranz said the program is progressing well.

"When this program was first talked about in the spring or summer, I thought it was a really good idea," Stranz said. "Having heard this report, I think this is a tremendous idea. This is taking off, and I'm really pleased where it's going."

Jeffers said the program has generated a lot of interest among other students.

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Gillett City Council updates ordinances

Terminology was changed for better clarification

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

The Gillett City Council reviewed city ordinances during their regular monthly meeting on Nov. 4.

"We as a council basically went through the code book to update and provide clarity to the city ordinances," said Gillett Mayor Josh

McCarthy.

McCarthy said that they did not make that many changes.

"We added a few things," said McCarthy. "For example, we added vaping to our tobacco policy."

He said that the overall process of reviewing and updating the ordinances was a process for the city council.

"Minor changes and updating the terminology was a tedious task for us," McCarthy said.

The mayor said that updating these ordinances and making sure that the terminology is understandable is a positive thing for Gillett.

"A city needs to be governed by

updating the terminology to the changing times, not outdated or unclear regulations," said McCarthy.

McCarthy anticipates that these changes will be positively received by the Gillett community.

"The community has put a lot of trust in myself and the rest of the council to make the most calculated and best decisions for the city," he said. "Most of our updates are common sense."

As the year continues, McCarthy said he and the council hope to continue to clarify ordinances and improve on other aspects in the city.

"In the past couple years, the

city council and I not only updated the city ordinance book, but have also updated our 20-year comprehensive plan, outdoor recreational plan and will begin work on our five-year capital improvement plan," said McCarthy.

A full catalog of updated ordinances can be found on the Gillett city website, <https://cityofgillett.com>.

"Questions can be directed towards the clerk during office hours, to help community members navigate and find what they are looking for," said McCarthy.

lreimer@newmedia-wi.com

EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Oconto County Dept. of Health & Human Services has an opportunity for job seekers interested in a full-time position in a professional office setting. Our Administrative Support Division is looking for a self-motivated, organized and detail-oriented individual to join our team! Qualifications include one to three years of related office experience and a high proficiency in computer skills, including extensive knowledge in MS Office products. Excellent customer service skills are also required.

This position is responsible for performing a variety of administrative functions including receptionist duties, typing, transcription, record keeping, filing, and general clerical support. Good organizational skills and a high degree of accuracy are also required.

This position works 37.5 hours per week with a beginning wage of \$19.19 per hour, and an excellent fringe benefit package. Finalists may be required to undergo a detailed, background investigation and may be required to take a skills test.

Interested applicants must apply on-line at www.co.oconto.wi.us and include cover letter, resume and references. Application deadline is Monday December 6, 2021 at 4:00p.m.

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NOTICE OF BUDGET CHANGE

The following budget adjustments/transfers have been approved by the Oconto County Board of Supervisors on November 10, 2021:

FROM	TO	AMOUNT	PURPOSE
Contingency Fund	Sheriff's Department	\$48,860	Wage Adjustment for Sheriff Deputies

Published pursuant to Wis. Stats. 65.90(3)(a).

WNAXLP

MECHANIC

Oconto County Highway Department is accepting applications for full time Mechanic to start in January 2022. Pay rate is \$25.88/hour plus excellent fringe benefits. Requirements include: a high school diploma or GED, a minimum of a diesel mechanic certificate and/or degree or 5 years of work experience in diesel equipment or truck repair. Applicants with experience in parts inventory and good organizational skills are preferred by not required.

Finalists will be required to undergo a detailed background check, physical exam, and mechanics test. Successful candidate must possess a current valid commercial driver's license (CDL) with A, B, D and N endorsements.

See link below for full job description. Interested candidates please apply on-line. Please include a resume and references. **Application deadline is Monday, November 29, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.** For more information, please contact the Oconto County Highway Department at 920-834-6885.

http://www.co.oconto.wi.us/career_opportunities

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OCONTO FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT AWARDED A WE ENERGIES FOUNDATION GRANT

The Oconto Falls Fire Department received word of being awarded a We Energies Foundation Grant for emergency portable lighting. With this award the fire fighter's health and safety will be greatly improved and they will be able to operate at night time emergency scenes more efficiently. Our fire fighters will be able to set up lighting to light up the scene at night time incidents without having to carry generators, extension cords, gas containers and lights at any emergency whether on the roadways



or in remote areas. These portable lights are light weight. Just one light is bright and powerful enough to light a large area. This award will also allow our department to open up space in our cramped compartments. These portable lights will allow us to not have to worry about having fuel for the generators and eliminate the possibility of starting a fire from the hot generators or emergency responders from getting caught up in extension cords they cannot see in the dark.

The Oconto Falls Fire Department is grateful for being selected for this much needed grant and is very appreciative for the opportunity to apply. It is only because of these grant opportunities that allow small volunteer fire departments to better their services to the communities they serve without having to ask for more budget funds or having fundraisers. The Oconto Falls Fire Department wishes to thank We Energies Foundation for these much needed grant funds.

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SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Lena/STAA players fill up all-conference lists

Suring, Gillett
also have athletes
recognized

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

High school football players from Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas, Suring and Gillett were recognized for their play this fall after the MONLPC released its all-conference lists for both divisions.

Lena/STAA and Gillett each played in the East Division, while Suring was in the West Division.

Lena/STAA

The Lena/STAA co-op had eight players recognized on all-conference teams after winning the East Division with a perfect record.

Junior Josh Kristof picked up the highest honor after being named the Defensive Player of the Year from his linebacker position.

He led the team with 126 total tackles on the season, 13 of which went for losses. He also had 4½ sacks, a forced fumble and an interception that he returned for a score.

Senior Lane Whiting was named to the all-conference first team as a running back, defensive lineman and punter.

“My goal was to make first team all-conference again this year, and it is an honor to receive first team all-conference in all three positions,” said Whiting. “I worked hard in the off-season, and I’m grateful for my coaches and teammates who pushed me to be better every day. It was a great way to end my senior season.”

Whiting rushed for 501 yards and nine touchdowns on the season, averaging six yards per carry. He also caught four passes for 67 yards and another score.

On defense, he accumulated 36 total tackles, with eight going for losses. He had a team-leading seven sacks and forced a fumble.

Senior Logan Shallow made the first team as a running back and was a second teamer as a defensive back.

“It was extremely special to me,” said Shallow of the honors. “My team-



Lena/STAA's Lane Whiting, left, rushes the passer during the team's postseason game against Wabeno/Laona on Oct. 29 in Lena. Whiting made the all-conference first team at three different positions this fall.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

mates and I worked really hard, and it feels good to be recognized — especially in my senior year. It is what I’ve trained for since my freshman year, and I was very happy when I found out I made all-conference on both sides of the ball.”

Shallow led the co-op with 1,030 rushing yards and scored 12 touchdowns. He averaged 8.2 yards per carry. Shallow also led the team with 179 receiving yards and four touchdowns on eight receptions.

On defense, Shallow posted 67 total tackles, forced a fumble and recovered four fumbles. Five of his tackles went for losses.

Junior Sam Marquardt made the first team as a defensive back and was on the second team as a quarterback.

He passed for 308 yards and six touchdowns on the season, while rushing for 926 yards and 12 touchdowns. He averaged 6.7 yards per carry.

As a defender, Marquardt racked up 48 total tackles. He intercepted three passes and recovered a fumble.

Senior Blake DeDamos and sophomore Anthony Seefeldt each made the first team as offensive lineman, helping pave the way for the team’s potent offense.

Junior Ethan Braley also landed on the first team, doing so as a kicker.

Sophomore Logan Graef was the

other Titan honored by the conference, making the second team as a linebacker.

He had 50 total tackles on the season, including one sack. He intercepted a pass and recovered a fumble.

Gillett

Gillett had a pair of players make an all-conference team.

Senior Ryan Holub landed on the second team for his play as a defensive lineman.

Holub capped the season with 31 tackles, including five that went for losses. He also was credited with four sacks.

Sophomore Ben Matczak was an honorable mention pick as an offensive end. He hauled in 21 receptions for 436 yards and five touchdowns.

Suring

In the MONLPC’s other division, Suring had six players honored.

Senior Taron Haak made the first team as a running back, defensive lineman and kicker.

“It means a lot to me getting these,” said Haak. “Being my senior year, it really felt like all the time and work paid off for me, and it was a great accomplishment and really set a good example for the younger kids on the team. We have plenty of them young

guys that are going to have to step up this next year now with five of us seniors leaving.

“Just a great feeling leaving with all of these accomplishments and all the great memories I’ve made throughout all the years I’ve played football here at Suring.”

Haak led the Eagles with 1,217 rushing yards and nine touchdowns, averaging over 9 yards a carry. On defense, he tallied 37 total tackles, 17 of which went for losses. He also had six sacks and recovered two fumbles.

Senior Gavin Fredenburgh also made the first team, doing so as an offensive end.

“It was particularly special to me to earn the first team all-conference award as a WR because we didn’t pass a lot,” said Fredenburgh. “All season we focused on the ground game rather than the pass game. However, whenever we did pass, I made the most out of it that I could.

“When my coach (Mitch Taylor) handed me the award, he told me, ‘You earned this. You earned respect from every coach this year. Every coach I talked to said they had to double team you to take away our pass game.’”

Fredenburgh had 149 receiving yards and two touchdowns as a receiver, while also adding 358 yards and eight touchdowns on the ground.

Senior offensive lineman Jackson Schaal helped pave the way for the running game and was rewarded with a spot on the second team.

Sophomore defensive back Trent VanDenElzen, senior linebacker Jeremy Hensel and sophomore linebacker Keegan Rattin were all honorable mentions for the Eagles.

VanDenElzen capped the year with 40 total tackles, two of which went for a loss. He also intercepted two passes, forced a fumble and recovered another.

Hensel led the team with 68 total tackles, nine of which were for losses. He forced four fumbles and intercepted three passes, one of which he returned for a touchdown.

Rattin was second on the team with 65 total tackles, with eight going for losses. He forced and recovered a fumble and finished with one sack.

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

Gillett's Anker makes M&O 1st team

4 Suring, 2 Lena athletes also make all-conference lists

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The Suring, Lena and Gillett volleyball teams all had players named to an all-conference team in the Marinette & Oconto Conference.

Suring had four players honored, while Lena had two and Gillett one.

Gillett

Senior Naomi Anker was the lone Gillett player honored, but she earned a spot on the first team for her play as a defensive specialist.

"Being first team as a senior was probably the best thing that could have happened to me," said Anker. "Volleyball is my favorite sport, and I put everything into it. It is an awesome feeling knowing I put everything into the game. It was such an awesome thing to hear as it's my final year playing the sport I love."

Anker led the team with 126 digs and 29 aces. She also accumulated eight blocks.

Suring

Suring senior Kate Mahoney and junior Christine Sleeter each landed on the all-conference second team, while juniors McKenzie Chesterfield and Trinity Remic were honorable mentions.

Mahoney was the team's setter, capping the season with 257 assists.

"This was an unexpected honor," said Mahoney. "I love the game of volleyball, and I believe there are a lot of deserving athletes in the conference. It means so much to be

selected. I would not have reached this goal without my teammates and coaches trusting and believing in me. I am very thankful, and I will greatly miss the game."

Mahoney also tallied 111 digs, 42 kills and 23 aces for the year.

Sleeter was a middle hitter and setter for the Eagles, finishing with a team-leading 145 kills.

"Making the second team means so much to me," said Sleeter. "I never thought I would even be considered for second team this year. My freshman year season, I didn't think I would get this far, or become this good."

"My coach Ms. (Tonia) Kruschke helped me so much to become this good. I'm gonna use this honor to motivate me to do even better so I can hopefully make first team next season."

Sleeter also recorded 113 digs, 94 assists and 35 aces for her team.

Chesterfield played on the right side for Suring and did a little bit of everything. She finished with 133 digs, 79 kills, 26 assists and 20 aces.

Remic was the team's libero this fall. She totaled 92 digs and 30 aces on the season.

Lena

Lena senior Melanie Cops made the all-conference second team, while junior Natalie McNurlen was an honorable mention.

Cops served as a middle hitter for the Wildcats, finishing with 86 kills and 42 blocks in conference play. She also served 26 aces.

"It was very special for me to be named second team all-conference my senior year because it shows me that hard work pays off," said Cops. "I was nervous at the beginning of the season because I was just getting back from an injury, but there wasn't a reason to be nervous. Knowing I ended my senior season and accomplished something is what makes it so special."

McNurlen was an outside hitter for Lena. She finished M&O play with 62 kills and five blocks.

She also tallied 19 aces and 14 digs.



Gillett's Naomi Anker serves during the team's Oct. 14 M&O conference match against Lena in Lena. Anker made the all-conference first team in her senior season.

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Pulaski players aplenty on all-conference lists

By **MORGAN RODE**

Sports Editor

The Pulaski High School football team had 16 players honored with spots on Fox River Classic Conference-North Division all-conference teams after a strong season.

Senior running back Aaron Maroszek and junior offensive lineman Will Friedman were first-team selections on offense, while senior defensive end Aaron Hawpetoss, junior defensive lineman Trevan Fatla, senior outside linebacker Ben Suchalla, junior inside linebacker Jake Adams and senior defensive back Riley Lom were first teamers on defense. Junior Mason Wells made the first team as a punter.

Maroszek led the Pulaski ground attack with 1,058 rushing yards on the season, also scoring 13 touchdowns. He also caught 12 passes for 139 yards and two more scores.

Friedman helped provide running lanes for the Red Raiders and was a unanimous first teamer.

Hawpetoss capped the year with 35 total tackles, nine of which went for losses. He was credited with four sacks and recovered two fumbles.

"It's extremely special to me making first team all-conference," said Hawpetoss. "I'm very proud of the accomplishment and thankful for my teammates that helped me get to this point. The most important part though, is the way it inspires others on my team to get better. Very proud!"

Fatla put up similar numbers to Hawpetoss, with 34 total tackles — four of which went for losses — two sacks, a forced fumble and fumble recovered.

Suchalla tallied 51 tackles for Pulaski, with five going for losses. He forced two fumbles and picked off a pass.

"You always strive to be the best you can be at the sport, and especially making first team my senior year is pretty rewarding for the work I've put in — lifting in the summer and all the reps put in during practice," said Suchalla.

"It's a great feeling to see your name on a chart and have first team next to it, but I have to remember it's my teammates that put me in this position by doing their responsibilities as well. And a special shoutout to the best linebacker corp in the state — couldn't have made any of these accomplish-

ments without them."

Adams led the team with 98 total tackles, 15 of which were for losses. He also had one sack, a forced fumble and an interception.

Lom totaled 27 tackles, two interceptions and a recovered fumble this season. Three of his tackles went for losses.

"It was extremely special to have that moment, not only this year, but for the rest of my life really meant a lot to me to see how much time and work I've put in over the years. Playing through injuries and hard times, and finally getting the recognition I feel like I deserve really meant a lot," said Lom.

Wells averaged 31.8 yards on his 11 punts this season. Three of his punts pinned opponents inside their own 20-yard line.

Junior offensive lineman Jack Marsh and fullback Aidan McDougal were second team selections on offense. Senior outside linebacker Mason Petzel, senior inside linebacker Max Burdette and Wells (defensive back) were second teamers on defense.

Marsh and McDougal provided more strong blocking for Pulaski. On just 17 touches, McDougal scored five touchdowns — three as a runner and two as a receiver.

Petzel finished the year with 54 total tackles, with seven going for losses. He added three sacks and two interceptions.

Burdette totaled 91 tackles, six of which were for losses. He forced four fumbles and had one sack. Wells had 35 total tackles on the year and picked off three passes.

Junior offensive lineman Charlie Duffrin, junior running back Maverick Cole, senior kicker Will Steeno and sophomore defensive back Elliott Karcz were all honorable mentions for the Red Raiders.

Duffrin was another piece to Pulaski's offensive line, providing running room for Cole and others. Cole had 1,023 yards and 14 touchdowns on the ground and also threw a touchdown pass.

Steeno converted four of his six field goal attempts and made 34 of his 36 extra point tries. Karcz posted 37 total tackles on the season. He forced a fumble and intercepted four passes.

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HIGH SCHOOL SWIM

Pulaski's Schmidt takes 22nd at state

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

Pulaski High School's Taya Schmidt placed 22nd as a diver at the 2021 Girls Fall Swimming & Diving Championship on Nov. 13 at the Waukesha South Natatorium in Waukesha.

Schmidt earned a score of 166.8. "Competing at state this year was exciting and I had lots of fun, even though I didn't do the greatest," said Schmidt. "The meet was pretty much like every other meet, as in warm-ups, divers meeting, then competing. I had fun talking to other divers and

meeting new people while warming up."

Schmidt was one of 22 athletes in the 1-meter diving event. She advanced to state after a second-place finish at sectionals.

Being a junior, Schmidt is hoping to use the state experience as a moti-

national tool heading into next season.

"This year's state made me realize how much harder I have to push myself for next year because of the things I would like to accomplish," said Schmidt.

sports@newmedia-wi.com

COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

By **NEW MEDIA STAFF**

UW-Whitewater

Shawano Community High School graduate Baylie Hansen played in both of the UW-Whitewater volleyball team's NCAA regional matches last week.

In a win over Ithaca on Nov. 11, Hansen posted three attack kills, a dig, three block assists and two solo blocks.

In a loss to Otterbein on Nov. 12, the Shawano grad tallied two digs.

St. Norbert

Pulaski grad Kendall Karcz tallied eight total tackles in the St. Norbert football team's win over Concordia Chicago on Nov. 13.

Karcz was credited with four solo tackles and four assisted tackles. One of his assisted tackles was for a loss.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood grad Emma Herb scored two points in two minutes of action during the St. Norbert women's basketball team's win over Carthage on Nov. 12.

Herb hit two free throws for her points. She also grabbed a rebound and had an assist.

Lindenwood

Oconto Falls graduate Nate Trepanier opened his wrestling season for Lindenwood University by picking up two wins by pin at the Maryville Open on Nov. 6.

After his two wins, he dropped his remaining matches by medical forfeits.

Concordia-St. Paul

Pulaski grad Andrew Egnarski led the Concordia University-St. Paul football team with 10 total tackles in a loss to Minot State on Nov. 13.

Four of the 10 tackles were solo ones.

Egnarski finished the regular season with 58 total tackles, the

second-most on the team.

He also had five sacks and an interception.

Carroll

Oconto Falls graduate Sammy Shallow started and played 11 minutes in the Carroll University women's basketball team's win over St. Mary's College on Nov. 12.

She dished out an assist in her time on the floor.

Saginaw Valley State

Shawano grad Tori DePerry started in both of the Saginaw Valley State women's basketball team's wins last week.

In 27 minutes and a win over Hillsdale on Nov. 12, DePerry hit eight of her 14 shot attempts for 19 points. She also grabbed nine rebounds and tallied an assist and a block.

DePerry posted two points, three rebounds, one assist and one steal in 17 minutes against Findlay on Nov. 13.

Augsburg

Bonduel graduate Max Sokolski dropped a pair of matches during the Luther Open on Nov. 13.

Competing in the 165-pound weight class, Sokolski lost by technical fall (17-2) before a tough 5-4 decision loss.

Ripon

Witt-Birn grad Lauren Bahr competed in four events while representing the Ripon women's swim team at the Gene Davis Invitational on Nov. 13.

Individually, Bahr placed seventh in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 27.35 seconds. She was 10th in the 100 freestyle (1:02.03).

She was also on the second-place finishing 400 freestyle relay (3:59.59) and the fourth-place finishing 200 freestyle relay (1:50.71).

ONLINE

More high school and college highlights can be found at www.newmedia-wi.com.

Carthage

Bonduel graduate Jayson Toellner earned a major decision win for the Carthage College wrestling team on Nov. 10.

Toellner won 14-2 in a 149-pound exhibition match.

Wisconsin Lutheran

Bonduel grad Kara Troxel scored in both of the Wisconsin Lutheran College women's basketball team's games last week.

In a win over Martin Luther on Nov. 12, Troxel played eight minutes and scored two points. She also tallied three rebounds.

In three minutes and the team's win over Washington (Missouri) on Nov. 13, Troxel scored two points.

Rockhurst

Shawano graduate Averl Vomas-tic led the Rockhurst University volleyball team with 20 attack kills in a five-set win over Missouri University of Science and Technology on Nov. 12.

Vomastic also tallied 13 digs, four block assists and an assist.

UW-Green Bay

Witt-Birn grad McKenna Metropulos turned in three first-place finishes during the UW-Green Bay women's swim team's dual win over St. Norbert on Nov. 12.

Individually, Metropulos won the 100 freestyle with a time of 53.93 seconds.

She was also on the first-place finishing 200 freestyle relay (1:39.13) and 400 medley relay (4:03.55).

UW-Eau Claire

Bonduel graduate Isaac Garside caught four passes for 50 yards in the UW-Eau Claire football team's

loss to UW-La Crosse on Nov. 13.

Garside's longest reception went for 20 yards. He also returned two kickoffs for 33 combined yards.

Minnesota Crookston

Witt-Birn grad Abi Fraaza played big minutes off the bench for the Minnesota Crookston women's basketball team in a pair of games last week.

In a loss to Nebraska-Kearney on Nov. 12, Fraaza played 17 minutes. She had eight points, three rebounds and an assist.

In a tight loss to Northwest Missouri State on Nov. 13, Fraaza played 22 minutes. In that time, she totaled nine points, two rebounds, one assist and two blocks.

Minnesota Duluth

Pulaski graduate Logan Kobus punted four times for the Minnesota Duluth football team in its win over Northern State on Nov. 13.

He averaged 34.2 yards per punt, with a long punt of 46 yards.

Marian

Oconto Falls grad McKayla Goebel played in both of the Marian women's basketball team's losses last week.

Goebel grabbed a rebound in two minutes of play against Dubuque on Nov. 9.

In 13 minutes against Lawrence on Nov. 11, Goebel tallied two points and three rebounds.

Cardinal Stritch

Gillett graduate Aubrey DeBauch played 25 minutes in the Cardinal Stritch University women's basketball team's loss to Olivet Nazarene on Nov. 13.

DeBauch scored eight points, grabbed seven rebounds and dished out three assists in her time on the floor.

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

Pulaski duo makes FRCC 1st team

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

A pair of Pulaski High School volleyball players landed on the Fox River Classic Conference first team after big fall seasons.

Senior Jocelin Feutz and sophomore Emily Bruss were the two Red Raiders honored.

Feutz led the team with 134 attack kills and 30 total blocks in conference play. The senior also posted 50 digs, 37 service points and 11 aces.

"Being selected first team all-conference my senior year really put the cherry on top," said Feutz. "I was able to end my last high school season playing the best volleyball I have throughout my career. This award showed all my hard work has paid off. This is not the end, and I am excited for the next chapter of my career."

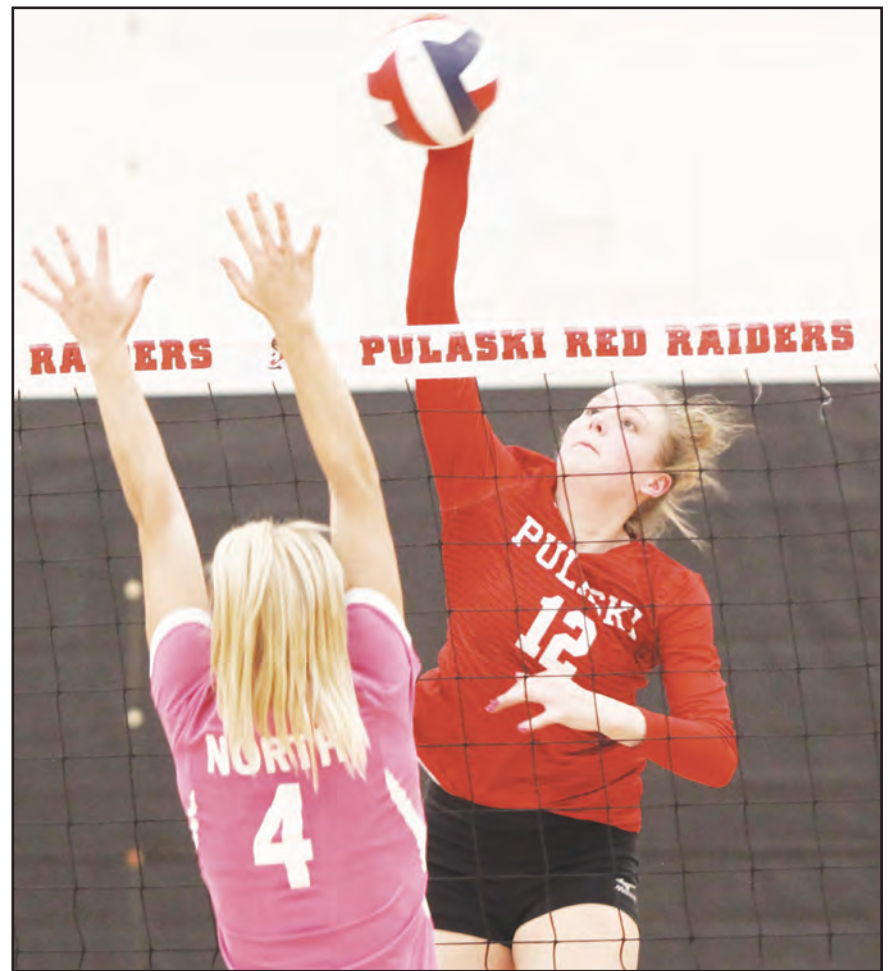
Bruss racked up 263 assists in FRCC play for Pulaski.

The sophomore also tallied 70 digs, 16 total blocks and 25 attack kills. She led the team in service points (63) and aces (16).

"This honor is huge because this will definitely motivate me even more next season to achieve even more," said Bruss. "I will continually be working hard in the offseason to make myself stronger and a better volleyball player. Especially, since club season is coming up, I will be working even harder to compete and play at that high level. I will keep working on getting stronger, bigger, faster, so that my work will pay off in the long run next season. I can't wait for the next season to come!"

Pulaski finished 3-6 in conference play this season.

sports@newmedia-wi.com



Pulaski's Jocelin Feutz, right, spikes the ball during a conference match against Sheboygan North on Sept. 28 in Pulaski. Feutz made the all-conference first team in her senior season. MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

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Winter farmers market begins



The winter farmers market returned to First Presbyterian Church in Shawano on Nov. 13 after a one-year hiatus precipitated by the coronavirus pandemic, with food, crafts, music and more livening up the church's gymnasium. Local vendors are setting up shop once a month through March at the church to sell meat, honey, cookies, pies, eggs and an assortment of craft items. The market, facilitated by the FRESH Project, will take place from 9 a.m. to noon on Dec. 4, Jan. 8, Feb. 5 and March 5 and is described by program director Barbara Mendoza as "shop therapy."



Diane Mehlberg, of Gresham, finishes setting up some wood puzzles crafted by her husband, Tom Mehlberg, as the winter farmers market starts Nov. 13 at the First Presbyterian Church in Shawano. The booth was aptly named "Husband's Craft, Wife's Cash."



Kayla Sesse, left, of Pulaski, looks over some of the cookies and other treats being offered by Tracey Zillman, second from right, and Lee Ellis, right, with her 4-year-old son, Aldo, in tow during the first winter farmers market of the season at First Presbyterian Church in Shawano.

PHOTOS BY LEE PULASKI • CITY EDITOR



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Working with NEW Media gives journalists experience in covering Native American tribes, the heart of America's agriculture, education at the K-12 and collegiate levels, courts and crime, municipal governments, community festivals, arts and entertainment — the list goes on. The right person will also be able to tell the stories of individuals that call northeast Wisconsin home, from aspiring authors to Native American cultural warriors to longtime nurses to eager entrepreneurs to talented musicians.

In addition to telling the run-of-the-mill stories, NEW Media also puts out a number of specialty publications. Our pride and joy is the Green and Gold Express, which covers the Green Bay Packers, but there are also monthly pages dedicated to senior living, along with a summer fun magazine, sections dedicated to Pulaski Polka Days and the two county fairs in our coverage area, and much more.

NEW Media prides itself on being the paper of record for Shawano, Menominee and Oconto counties. We tell the stories that aren't told by other media outlets and provide the facts that can't be found on social media. We're seeking someone versatile in what they cover, can turn stories around quickly, and is able to take on assignments from editors but can also sniff out stories on their own.

A journalism degree is recommended, but someone with equivalent newspaper experience is just as likely to grab our attention. Photography skills are a must, and experience with shooting and editing videos could bring you to the front of the line. Other experience that could pique our interest include editing news copy, laying out pages and covering sporting events.

For immediate consideration, send a resume, cover letter introducing yourself and four to six samples of your work to Warren Bluhm, editor-in-chief, at wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com. Put "Storyteller" in the header.



Students attend Catholic Schools Mass



Sacred Heart Catholic School's student council executive board attended the annual Catholic Schools Mass at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Pulaski on Nov. 3, where Bishop David Ricken presided. Posing with Ricken are, from left, front row, Izzy Martens, Isabelle Brown, Robin Walby and Cora Pieper; back row, Sydney Mitchell, Davis Lyons and Bryton Van Gheem. Sacred Heart students were joined by numerous other students from across the Diocese of Green Bay. CONTRIBUTED

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OPINION

Military families should not be going hungry

At this time of the year, we're eager to celebrate all that we are thankful for, trimming down the turkey population to prepare for a big feast. However, it's also the time of year when we hear about those less fortunate, with many of them unable to afford the basic food necessities we all take for granted. Usually it's folks who have lost their employment or who have lost their home to fire, flood or some other tragedy.

You wouldn't suspect that some of those people are our men and women in uniform. I certainly didn't, until I read an Associated Press story that said as many as 160,000 active-duty members of our military are having trouble feeding their families, according to Feeding America. According to the organization, about 29% of those in the junior enlisted ranks faced food insecurity, although there have not been any formal studies on the issue.

There is also some rule from the U.S. Department of Agriculture that prevents needy military families from accessing food stamps. Apparently, military families who live off base receive a basic allowance for housing to help cover rent, utilities and other things. However, that allowance counts as income in calculating food stamp eligibility, according to the 2008 Food and Nutrition Act.

Couple that with the reality that military life involves frequent reloca-



LEE PULASKI

tion around the country, which makes it difficult for military spouses to secure steady employment, and I can't help but wonder what kind of raw deal the federal government is giving the folks who sacrifice to defend our freedom. We're asking them to fight our enemies, potentially losing life and limb, and yet we can't make sure that the families being left behind are getting enough food to eat?

I've long criticized how our country treats those who give up much to put on the uniform and defend us from harm. The broken veterans administration system has kept our great heroes waiting for medical and mental services often to the point where they die without getting the help they need. That's bad enough, but knowing that the Pentagon and Congress have not developed something where the people who serve can supply their families with essential food while they do their duty just makes my blood boil.

Sen. Tammy Duckworth, a Democrat in Illinois who had been a Blackhawk pilot before losing both of her legs in a helicopter crash in Iraq, spoke in the AP story about the United States having the mightiest military in the

world, but we've got lower ranking military members who have to worry about carrying out their missions while simultaneously wondering if their family is going to be able to eat that night.

"It's one of these things that the American people don't know about, but it's a matter of course among military members. We know this," Duckworth said, according to AP.

If we know this, then why aren't we doing something about this? More specifically, why isn't Congress doing something about this? The fat cats on Capitol Hill are prattling on about whether the 2020 election is legit, arguing about how to pay for needed infrastructure in our country or preaching that Republicans or Democrats — depending on what day of the week it is — are going to send this country directly to hell. They should be focusing on this country's needs, and ensuring the families of our military have enough to eat is a need.

This would seem like an issue that Rep. Mike Gallagher, who ran for office touting his time in the military, should be jumping on. Gallagher has preached the need for a strong military and the need to shore up national security. How can our men and women in uniform focus on what needs to be done to protect our country knowing that the families back home are having to turn to food pantries and the kindness of strangers to feed themselves?

If he was wise, he'd be gathering up his fellow Republicans and reaching across the aisle to the Democrats to pass legislation fixing this travesty.

Come to think of it, there's nothing saying that folks on Capitol Hill who have never served in uniform shouldn't be leading the charge. Sens. Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin could be heroes in their own right if they crafted legislation to correct this issue or at least led the rallying cry on the Senate floor if one of their colleagues develop a solution. Instead of being in the chorus of preaching their party lines, Johnson and Baldwin could stand out and solve what should be an easy problem.

This is the land of the free, because of the brave. The spouses and children provide strength to those brave men and women. We should be providing strength to those families by making sure they're well-fed, and it's inexcusable that those families should need to scrounge for food in what is supposed to be a land of plenty. We just finished expressing our gratitude to veterans and are about to embark on another holiday where we give thanks for having enough food to eat. This should not be happening.

The federal government created this problem. It needs to fix it — now.

Lee Pulaski is the city editor for NEW Media. Readers can contact him at lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gallagher, Johnson spread discord locally

To the editor:

In the recent edition of the Shawano Leader, there was an article describing the dedication of the new Shawano County Republican party headquarters. The highlighted guests were Rep. Mike Gallagher and Sen. Ron Johnson. Of course, the attendance of these individuals was highly appropriate.

However, the content of their

messages was not. In effect, they were speaking to attendees that continue to bow to the knee of their secular "jesus" — Donald J. Trump. This despite the fact that he continues to propagate the "big lie" about the 2020 election and continues to foment discord that could result in additional events as the one that occurred on Jan. 6.

Specifically, Gallagher intimated "dark money" coming into Wisconsin that influenced the election in favor of Democrats. Really? This coming from a member of a party whose very existence is almost totally dependent on

hard-to-trail money from individuals such as the Koch brothers and other white elites. Of course, his MO is not to provide specifics but merely to add to prevailing conspiracy theories.

Then, of course, there is the honorable Ron Johnson. He is the one who very proudly asserted that he did not feel threatened on Jan. 6, because the crowd was made up of white patriots; however, he would have been terrified if the crowd had been made up of Black Lives Matter protesters. The implication was that this was a "peaceful" gathering.

The attack on Anthony Fauci was particularly egregious. When science does not matter, it flies in the face of God creating human beings to think.

I will repeat my firm belief that personal freedom does not extend to another's right to place my health in jeopardy. Don't believe the myths propagated by our Republican leadership — nationally, statewide or locally. If you want to be faith-based, start thinking about your neighbors' well-being instead of just your own.

Ken Kroenke, Shawano

OPINION PAGE POLICY

The Shawano Leader 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. No anonymous opinion pieces will be published under any circumstances. The 400-word limit applies to thank you letters, as well. The best and most expedient way to send letters is by email to editor@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.

Nature still has many shades in November

For many people, November is often a forgotten month in the garden. Most of our trees and shrubs now stand bare of leaves, and most of our perennials and annuals are dormant for another season. Yet, November is a beautiful time to take notice of the many different textures and the subtle beauty of the shades of autumn.



ROB ZIMMER

Hydrangeas, still full and lush as their blooms fade and dry beneath the November wind, have transformed into shades of bronze and copper and gold. Leave them standing throughout the winter season, when their elegant forms are tufted in pristine white snow.

Ornamental grasses are the stars of November, dancing in the autumn breeze and filling our gardens with vertical flair, incomparable texture, elegant beauty, as well as an important food source for migrating songbirds, along with those that choose to overwinter here in our area.

Some of my favorite grasses during November are native prairie dropseed, now colored in rich golden yellow, as well as Japanese silver grass and all of the miscanthus, or maiden grasses. Blue fescue is also stunning in powder blue with tufts of snow decorating its textured form.

Many of our trees and shrubs take on a whole new look during November, when their leafless forms make it easier to appreciate their textured bark, subtle colors, graceful forms and the habitat and shelter they provide for wildlife and birds.

Some of my favorite trees and shrubs for interest in November, as well as all winter long, are red osier dogwood, yellow twig dogwood, highbush cranberry, conifers in all shapes and sizes, hydrangeas, roses, as well as all of our birches, hickories, and crabapples that provide abundant food sources for winter in birds.

White birch, especially, is important for overwintering birds such as American goldfinches, common redpolls, juncos, as well as other songbirds that feast upon the abundance seeds that now fill these trees throughout the winter season.

Of course, there are the oaks, many of which hold their richly



Bunchberry displaying its gorgeous fall color. Many lucky property owners are fortunate to find this beautiful spring wildflower in their woodland gardens.

ROB ZIMMER

colored leaves throughout the winter season and provide bountiful acorns as food for many species of backyard birds, as well as squirrels, whitetail deer and other garden visitors.

Our most beautiful backyard trees reach their peak in November. These are the tamaracks. Tamaracks are native throughout the state and often found in large colonies in swamp-

land and bogs, especially in our area. The only conifer found in our area that drops its needles each year in November, tamaracks turn a brilliant yellow, then orange, before finally shedding their needles in the November wind.

Many gardeners in our area still have annuals blooming in garden beds and containers, as warm weath-

er throughout much of the month has kept hardy annuals in bloom. Even with the snowfall, I've seen snapdragons, marigolds, and others still adorning containers and landscape beds this past weekend.

Take a closer look at your garden and backyard over the next month and enjoy the subtle beauty of the shades of November.

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN! CHRISTMAS OPENHOUSE

WHEN: DECEMBER, 2ND
WHERE: MAIN STREET, OCONTO FALLS
TIME: 3-7PM

ACTIVITIES: WAGON RIDES BY THE ANTIQUE BAR,
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Beef quality assurance certification scheduled

The Marinette and Oconto county offices of UW-Madison Division of Extension and the Wisconsin Beef Council are planning an in-person Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certification session beginning at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 1 at the Pound Town Hall, W8484 County Road B, on the eastern edge of the Village of Coleman.

In addition to the BQA training, agriculture agent Scott Reuss will be sharing forage management resources and conducting a forages and grazing question-and-answer session with attendees.

One member of a farm family must attend for a farm to be BQA certified, but multiple members are welcome to attend this local training site. Farms can register to attend by either visiting the statewide registration website at <https://tinyurl.com/2hr5karf> or contacting Reuss by calling 715-732-7510 or calling/texting 715-701-0966. Registration is required. Anyone registering within seven days of the session should contact Reuss directly, rather than using the web process.

Producers can also become BQA

certified by attending the online certification available at <https://www.bqa.org/>. Whichever method a farm chooses to use to gain BQA certification, it is the farm's responsibility to file their certification with markets through which they market animals.

BQA certification is not a legal requirement, but instead is required to be able to market animals through certain vendors. Buyers representing some large packers and processors (including Tyson) only purchase cattle from farms selling beef breed types of finished cattle that are BQA

Certified. In addition, JBS requires that producers selling cattle directly to their plants sign an affidavit stating that they are "in compliance with all applicable state or national BQA certification and verification programs." The packer requirements represent their policy, not that of BQA or the Beef Checkoff program.

Farms or consumers with questions about the BQA process or any other agricultural management question can contact Reuss through the phone numbers above or by emailing him at scott.reuss@wisc.edu

HSHS, Prevea observe National Rural Health Care Day

St. Clare's and Prevea operate five rural health clinics in Oconto County

HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital and Prevea Health offer "Five Things to Know" about the importance of rural health care in Oconto County, and across the country, to mark National Rural Health Day, which was observed Nov. 18.

"Small towns, farming communities and frontier areas are wonderful places to live and work," said Teryl Eisinger, CEO of the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health, which founded the observance. "The hospitals and providers serving these rural communities not only provide quality patient care, but they also help keep good jobs in rural

America."

The Oconto Falls medical facilities noted:

- Today, there are more than 4,500 federally designated RHCs nationwide providing health care services in underserved areas.
- Together, HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital and Prevea Health offer five RHCs throughout Oconto County to provide not only health care, but jobs to the region. Their RHCs (HSBS St. Clare Memorial Hospital Prevea Health Centers) are located in Oconto Falls, Gillett, Lena, Mountain and Suring. So far in 2021, HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital

Prevea Health Centers have provided care to nearly 12,000 people.

• Founded as Oconto Falls City Hospital in 1921, HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital has been providing rural health care for 100 years. It is a federally designated critical access hospital offering 24-hour emergency care, urgent care and a variety of other services at 855 S. Main St. in Oconto Falls.

"We are honored to care for those who live in and frequent these wonderful rural communities," said Nicole Stapleton, director of HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital Prevea Health Centers. "As a local leader in rural health care, we are also proud of our efforts to provide testing and vaccinations to keep these communities healthy and safe during the COVID-19 pandemic."

Pulaski native trains with Army National Guard



Spc. Deedra Irwin, a human resources specialist with 86th Troop Command, 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Mountain), Vermont National Guard, fires a biathlon rifle during a practice session at the Camp Ethan Allen Training Site in Jericho, Vermont, on Nov. 2. Irwin, a native of Pulaski, competed in the 2021 Biathlon World Championship and is on Team USA's 2021-2022 National A Team.

DON BRANUM | U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Snowmobile clubs host safety class

The Paul Bunyan Riders Snowmobile Club and the Red Arrow Snowmobile ATV Club held a DNR snowmobile safety course Oct. 30 at Townsend Town Hall. Lead instructor was Larry Westphal assisted by instructors Diane Fitzpatrick, Brian Fitzpatrick, Deb Uhlenbrauck and Sandy Wagner for the one-day course.

Training materials had been sent to the students two weeks in advance of the class. Westphal said instructors were extremely pleased with the students' preparation prior to attending the classroom session.

Twenty-eight students passed the exam and have successfully completed the DNR Snowmobile Safety Course: Evan Anderson, Braiden Ansorge, Chloe Ansorge, Nolan Caelwaerts, Aiden Cahak, Jennifer Calaway, Kiley DeNoble, Cody Gruszynski, Claire Grygiel, Gary Grygiel, Leah Grygiel, Pamela Grygiel, Romeo Hertel, Heidi Hilbert, Lukas Hilbert, Kya Kelleher, Natalie Kelleher, Crosby Kimps, Ian Kleman, Evan Malueg, Zoe Neeley, Hope Rezek, Ruby Rezek, Zachary Roland,

Hope Soper, Jake Wagner, Nathaniel Weber and Kaleb Zahn.

Individuals born after Jan. 1, 1985, must complete the course to legally drive a snowmobile in Wisconsin. Currently that means that anyone 36 years old or younger must have completed the course. An online version is available through the DNR's Gowild website for students over 16, but younger students are required to take the classroom version and all students are highly encouraged to take the classroom version for maximum effect.

The clubs congratulated the graduates and their parents who encouraged them to take the course and thanked the Town of Townsend for the use of its facility.

The Paul Bunyan Riders Snowmobile Club has been active in the Lake-wood community for over 50 years. The Red Arrow Snowmobile ATV Club has been serving the Townsend area since 1968. For more information, visit paulbunyanriders.com or redarrowtownsend.com, or visit the club Facebook pages.

Notice of Judicial, County Supervisor, Municipal, Referendum, and School District Election

April 5, 2022

STATE OF WISCONSIN }
Oconto County }
Spring Election

An election is to be held in the towns, villages, cities, wards, and election districts of the State of Wisconsin, on Tuesday, April 5, 2022. The following officers are to be elected:

Judicial Officers

Court of Appeals Judge, for the term of six years, to succeed the present incumbent listed, whose term of office will expire on July 31, 2022: **Thomas M. Hruz, District III**

Circuit Court Judge, each for the term of six years, to succeed the present incumbent listed, whose term of office will expire on July 31, 2022: **Jay Conley, Branch II**

County Supervisors

A County Supervisor for each county supervisory district, for a term of two years, to succeed the present incumbent listed, whose term will expire on April 19, 2022:

Due to 2021 redistricting, the district lines have been redrawn creating some districts with more than one incumbent and some with no incumbent. Incumbent with an asterisk (*) were appointed midterm.

District 1 Elmer Ragen
Town of Little Suamico Wards 8 & 9

District 2 Teri Willems*
Town of Little Suamico Wards 1 & 2

District 3 OPEN
Town of Little Suamico Ward 3
Town of Chase Ward 3

District 4 Elizabeth Paape
Town of Little Suamico Wards 4 & 5

District 5 Guy Gooding
Town of Little Suamico Wards 6 & 7

District 6 Dennis Kroll and Robert Pott
Town of Chase Wards 1 & 2

District 7 OPEN
Town of Chase Wards 4 & 5

District 8 OPEN
Town of Abrams Ward 1
Town of Morgan Ward 1

District 9 Allan Stranz, Fran Wranosky, and Leonard Wahl
Town of Abrams Ward 3
Town of Morgan Ward 2

District 10 Tim Cole
Town of Abrams Ward 2
Town of Pensaukee Ward 2

District 11 Diane C. Nichols and Karl Ballestad
Town of Oconto Ward 2
Town of Pensaukee Ward 1

District 12 OPEN
City of Oconto Wards 1 & 2

District 13 Dick Doeren
City of Oconto Wards 3 & 4

District 14 Al Schreiber
City of Oconto Wards 5 & 6

District 15 John Matravers and Rose Stellmacher
Town of Little River Ward 2
City of Oconto Ward 7

District 16 Tom Bitters
Town of Little River Ward 1
Town of Oconto Ward 1

District 17 Buzz Kamke
Town of Stiles Ward 2
City of Oconto Falls Ward 1

District 18 Stephanie Holman
City of Oconto Falls Wards 4 & 5

District 19 Bart Schindel
City of Oconto Falls Wards 2 & 3

District 20 OPEN
Town of Oconto Falls Ward 1
Town of Stiles Ward 1

District 21 Kenneth Linzmeyer
Town of Lena Ward 1
Village of Lena Ward 1

District 22 Paul Bednarik and David Parmentier
Town of Brazeau Ward 1
Town of Spruce Ward 1

District 23 Gregory Sekela
Town of Gillett Ward 2
Town of Oconto Falls Ward 2

District 24 Tracy Ondik
City of Gillett Wards 1-3

District 25 Gary G. Frank
Town of Gillett Ward 1
Town of Underhill Ward 1

District 26 Douglas McMahon
Town of Maple Valley Ward 1
Village of Suring Ward 1

District 27 Alan Sleeter
Town of Bagley Ward 1
Town of Brazeau Ward 2

District 28 OPEN
Town of Breed Ward 1
Town of How Ward 1

District 29 Judy Buhrandt
Town of Mountain Ward 1
Town of Riverview Ward 2

District 30 Don Bartels, Jr.
Town of Lakewood Ward 1
Town of Townsend Ward 1

District 31 David Christianson
Town of Doty Ward 1
Town of Riverview Ward 1
Town of Townsend Ward 2

Information concerning county supervisory district boundaries may be obtained from Oconto County Clerk's office at 301 Washington Street Oconto, WI.

District Boundaries

Information concerning multi-jurisdictional municipal judge district boundaries may be obtained from Oconto County Clerk's office at 301 Washington Street Oconto, WI.

Municipal Offices

The offices listed below are to be elected to succeed the present incumbents listed. The term for all offices is for two years beginning on Tuesday, April 19, 2022.

TOWN OF BRAZEAU

10892 Parkway Road, Pound, WI 54161

Town Board Supervisor
Town Board Supervisor

Rodney J. Gretzon
David Parmentier

TOWN OF LITTLE SUAMICO

5964 County Road S, Sobieski, WI 54171

Sanitary District #1 Commissioner (Six year term)

Dan Herzberg*

VILLAGE OF LENA

117 E. Main Street, Lena, WI 54139

Village Trustee
Village Trustee
Village Trustee

Pauline Borchert*
Linda M. Hinds
Craig LeFebre

VILLAGE OF SURING

604 E. Main Street, Suring, WI 54174

Village Trustee
Village Trustee
Village Trustee

David W. Kuchenbecker
Jacob School*
Randy Schuettpeiz

CITY OF GILLETT

150 N. McKenzie Street, Gillett, WI 54124

Mayor
Aldersperson Ward 1
Aldersperson Ward 2
Aldersperson Ward 3

Josh McCarthy
Marie Blaser
Sandra Hubbard
Nanette Mohr

CITY OF OCONTO

1210 Main Street, Oconto, WI 54153

Mayor
Aldersperson
Aldersperson
Aldersperson
Aldersperson

Lloyd Heier
Kim M. Bronikowski
Dean Reed
Roger Reed
Al Schreiber

CITY OF OCONTO FALLS

500 N. Chestnut Avenue, Oconto Falls, WI 54154

Mayor
Aldermanic District 1, Wards 1 & 2
Aldermanic District 2, Wards 3 & 4
Aldermanic District 3, Ward 5

Brad Rice
Jeff McDonald
Marty Coopman
Tim Holman

Information concerning aldermanic district boundaries may be obtained from the city clerk.

School Districts

The following offices are to be elected to succeed the present incumbents listed. The term of office for school board member is three years beginning on Monday, April 26, 2022. A description of the school district boundaries can be obtained from the school district office.

Gillett School District
Clifford L. Gerbers
Preston Peterson
Jamie Young

Oconto Unified School District
Crissy Thome Kumhala, Rural Seat
Kris Alwin, City Seat
Maria Roberts, City Seat

Oconto Falls School District
Ronald Leja
Sharon Stodola-Eslien

Pulaski School District
Brian Chlopek, Zone 1 – Village of Pulaski
Barb McKeefry, Zone 3 – Townships of Angelica and Green Valley

Suring Public School District
Amanda Seibert, Towns of Doty, Mountain, Riverview Area
Wayne Sleeter, Towns of Bagley, Maple Valley, Spruce Area

A description of the school district boundaries can be obtained from the school district office. Schools located in Oconto County, but not listed above publish separately in another paper (Coleman, Crivitz, Lena, Peshtigo, and Wabeno).

For Candidates

The first day to circulate nomination papers is December 1, 2021, and the final day for filing nomination papers is 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 4, 2022. Candidates for (list statewide and judicial titles) file with the Wisconsin Elections Commission.

Caucus for Candidates

Between December 1st, 2021 and January 1st, 2022 a date for the town caucus will be scheduled to nominate candidates to appear on the spring election ballot for the above listed offices. The caucus will be held between January 2nd and January 21st. Notice of the scheduled date of the caucus will be given at least five (5) days before the caucus. The Towns of Bagley, Gillett, Morgan, and Underhill use a caucus.

Primary Election

If a primary is necessary, the primary will be held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022.

Additional Information

Acceptable Photo ID will be required to vote at this election. If you do not have a photo ID you may obtain a free ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

DONE in the City of Oconto, on November 23, 2021.

Kim Pytleski, Oconto County Clerk
 301 Washington Street
 Oconto, Wisconsin 54153
 920-834-6800

WNAXLP**Forestry & Parks Technician**

Oconto County Forest, Parks & Recreation Dept. is seeking to fill a full time Recreation Forest Technician to start after January 1, 2022. This is an entry level position assisting in the implementation of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

This position will assist in all aspects of the forestry program including layout, setup and field administration of timber sales, and other forestry related practices. This position will assist in all aspects of the park program including janitorial duties, construction maintenance, and landscaping projects. This position will assist with all aspects of the recreation program including trail reconstruction, boat launch maintenance, and grant project assessment and cost estimates.

An Associate's Degree in Forestry or Natural Resources is preferred, however a high school diploma or general education degree (GED) and significant work experience in forestry and parks operations or equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered. Must have a Wisconsin driver license with CDL class A or obtain one within 90 days of employment. Starting wage rate \$21.41 - \$23.64 hr. with full time Oconto County fringe benefits.

Applications will be accepted until November 29, 2021 at 12:00 PM.

For more information, contact Oconto County Forest & Parks, 301 Washington St., Oconto, WI 54153, 920- 834-6995. To apply fill out application online:

www.co.oconto.wi.us/career_opportunities

Finalists may be required to undergo a detailed background investigation.

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WNAXLP**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Oconto County – CDBG Citizens Participation Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 8, 2021
New View Industries
222 Park Street, Gillett WI
Multi-Purpose Room

Notice is hereby given that the Oconto County CDBG Citizens Participation Committee will hold a public hearing regarding the Community Development Block Grant Public Facilities (CDBG-PF) CL-PF 20-11 project to construct the New Beginnings store and training center on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 during the regularly scheduled County CDBG Citizens Participation Committee Meeting which begins at 4:00 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend and provide comment on the proposed projects. The agenda for the hearing is as follows:

1. Overview of the (CDBG-PF) CL-PF 20-11 Project
2. Project Construction Status
3. Public comment
4. Adjourn public hearing

Additional information on this CDBG project can be obtained by contacting Kevin Hamann, County Administrator at 920-834-6811 or kevin.hamann@co.oconto.wi.us.

Notice is further given that printed copies of the complete agenda are available for inspection at the Office of the County Clerk, Courthouse, 301 Washington Street, Oconto, Wisconsin 54153, during regular office hours, and from the County's website calendar: www.co.oconto.wi.us

Dated this 5th day of November, 2021.

THE OCONTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By: Kim Pytleski, Oconto County Clerk

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Health *and* Wellness

3 Rules *for Staying Active*

The cooler months are officially here, but that doesn't mean we should hibernate! For some of us, this can be a challenging time of year to keep up with our workouts. Or maybe you've been struggling just to get active, and now it's cold outside making it even more difficult. Exercise is not only good for your body, but also for your mind — especially during the holidays and during a pandemic when we are dealing with extra stress. Beat the holiday bloat by increasing your water intake, becoming or staying active and enlisting a friend or family member to hold you accountable.

RULE #1: WATER CONSUMPTION IS VITAL

Our bodies are made up of approximately 60 percent water. For the average person it is recommended to drink approximately eight 8 ounce glasses of water every day. We can lose upwards of 10 percent of water weight when exercising. If we don't replenish, we can become increasingly more fatigued, mentally foggy and sluggish. If we stay hydrated and sustain an active lifestyle, the benefits are plentiful and include weight loss, increased mood and better sleep. Consuming water can help in weight loss by suppressing hunger and preventing us from consuming high caloric foods with limited nutritional value.

RULE #2: STAY ACTIVE

Staying active during a hectic time can seem nearly impossible. Dust off that stationary bike or treadmill, and exercise first thing in the morning before everyone else wakes. Beginning your day with a workout has been shown to result in increased mood and energy for the day. Aim to be active at least four days a week, with at least 30 minutes of aerobic exercise every day. Examples of aerobic exercises include brisk walking, running, skiing, ice skating, sledding, snowshoeing, biking, stair climbers and swimming.

Another great option are free videos on YouTube that include exercises for beginners. Pinterest also has many workouts available in calendar form.

Remember, you do not have to complete a full 30 minutes of physical activity all at once, small 10-15 minute workouts can also be beneficial. Consider splitting your 30-minute lunch break and take 15 minutes to eat your lunch followed by 15 minutes of brisk walking.

Can't exercise because your joints hurt? An elliptical workout is gentle on knees and hips. The elliptical is actually my favorite type of work out while binge watching TV shows!

RULE #3: STAY ACCOUNTABLE

Becoming or staying active when it's cold, is difficult, but not impossible. If you live in town, bundle up and go for a walk with a friend or family member. No buddies to work out with? No problem! Tell someone you'd like to stay active this time of year. Then, you can make a game of it by challenging each other to walk the most steps. When someone holds us accountable, we are more likely to follow through with our promises and commitments.

There's been an increased focus on self-care over the last two years, and that needs to include physical health too. Good physical health can prevent a plethora of unnecessary health problems.



**ERIN BANCROFT,
APNP**

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ALL-REGION REVIEW

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Friday, November 19, 2021

Fall Sports



FOOTBALL

Chargers' Wesolowski named Player of the Year

Witt-Birn, Lena/STAA earn team recognition

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

A total of six area football teams made the postseason this fall, with plenty of impact players leading the way.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood was one of the teams that made the postseason, with senior Ben Wesolowski having a monster season to lead the Chargers. Wesolowski was named the NEW Media Inc. Football Player of the Year.

"I just trusted my coaches' game plan and teammates, and they trusted me in return which helped make this season possible — along with putting in extra time with my teammates just trying to be they best team we could be," said Wesolowski.

During Witt-Birn's 13-game season, the quarterback was as dynamic as some of the state's best. Wesolowski threw for 1,967 yards and 29 touchdowns while rushing for 1,847 yards and 20 more scores. To add to his impressive resume, he also caught a touchdown pass.

Wesolowski credited his teammates for their work in the offseason as the biggest reason for his balanced season on offense. He added their "constant support and belief in me helped greatly."

On defense, he tallied 36 total tackles, five of which went for losses. Wesolowski also intercepted three passes.

In the team's 79-8 thumping of Nekoosa in mid-October, Wesolowski had a game for the ages.

The senior threw nine touchdowns in the contest, which set a new state record. Seven of the scores went to star wideout Kaden Schmidt, which set another state record.

Wesolowski finished with 522 passing yards in the contest. He also rushed for 78 yards and two more scores, while tallying seven total tackles and an interception on defense.

"It's awesome to have a record that rewards you for your hard work, and to have a record is not only a personal achievement but a team one," said Wesolowski. "I



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Ben Wesolowski runs with the football during the team's playoff win over Amherst on Nov. 5 in Amherst.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

can't thank my teammates or coaches enough for giving me the opportunity to do something like that, because without them it wouldn't be possible."

Honorable mentions

With so many strong teams in the area, it should come as no surprise that several individual players enjoyed big seasons.

Wesolowski's teammate Ben Flak put together a big season on defense, totaling 94 tackles and 13 sacks. He also forced two fumbles.

Schmidt finished with 784 receiving yards and 16 scores on the season to go along with his new single game record.

Dealing with injuries for most of the season, Shawano's Carson Popp and Ashton Henning became one of the state's best duos in the passing game. Popp finished with 2,365 passing yards and 21 touchdowns, with 966 of those yards and 11 of the touchdowns going to Henning — who also intercepted three passes this fall.

Dylan Thomson led Oconto

Falls this fall. He rushed for 1,445 yards and 18 touchdowns and was the second-leading tackler on the defense. Lineman Mitchell Kallies enjoyed strong showings on both sides of the ball to earn some conference honors.

Despite a tough season as a team, Menominee Indian senior Andre Corn was an absolute force all over the field. Corn had 891 yards and three touchdowns as a receiver while tallying 141 total tackles, four interceptions and four forced fumbles on defense.

In Pulaski, the 1-2 running duo of Aaron Maroszek and Maverick Cole guided the Red Raiders to a strong fall. Maroszek had 1,058 yards and 13 touchdowns, while Cole had 1,023 yards and 14 scores.

At the 8-player level, the big seasons continued.

Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas saw Logan Shallow rush for over 1,000 yards and score 16 total touchdowns. He was also second on the team in tackles.

Suring's Taron Haak totaled 1,217 rushing yards and nine scores on the season and racked up six sacks and 17 tackles for losses on defense.

The Marion/Tigerton co-op was powered by Nick Malueg, who rushed for 701 yards and nine scores while adding a couple scores as a receiver. He also led the team in tackles.

Teams of the Year

Witt-Birn and Lena/STAA are the Teams of the Year after incredible fall seasons.

Before the season began, Witt-Birn coach Bernard Holsey said, "I feel we could do something special this season and surprise people." The Chargers did something special and surprised plenty of people on their way to a second-place finish in the Central Wisconsin Conference-Large Division and eventual run to the state semifinals.

Witt-Birn upset state power Amherst on its playoff run and had several players earn all-conference honors.

Lena/STAA posted a perfect record in the regular season to win the MONLPC-East Division crown. The co-op finished without a win just two years ago in 2019.

The co-op also earned a playoff win — the first in co-op history.

VOLLEYBALL

Gresham's Cerveny tabbed area's top player

Witt-Birn earns team honor

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

Several volleyball teams in the area enjoyed big fall seasons, with several teams and players accomplishing big-team feats.

Gresham kept up its recent string of success, with Valarie Cerveny leading the way. The senior was named the NEW Media Inc. Player of the Year for her efforts this fall.

"My teammates, coaches and family have helped me have a big season this year," said Cerveny. "They're always there to support me, and I wouldn't be able to receive this recognition if it wasn't for them. I have to give a lot of credit to my teammates and coaches, because if it wasn't for them I don't think I would be able to be as successful."

Cerveny averaged nearly four kills per set this fall, tallying 260 on the season. She also had 27 total blocks.

"Going into matches, it's hard to tell what the other team is going to do because you can watch so much film but yet they'll change it the day before the match," said Cerveny of how she was successful match after match. "A lot of times I'll watch the blockers to see what side they're taking away and if they're double blocking.

"If they double block, it's really easy to find an open spot on the court, so I generally tip around the block. When I'm going up and only have a single block, I watch the block out of the corner of my eye to see what side they're taking away, and then I'll hit the ball to the opposite side."

She wasn't just a strong player at the net though, also excelling as a server and on defense.

Cerveny racked up 159 service points and served 39 aces this fall. She also had 84 digs.

Her play in the Central Wisconsin Conference-North Division earned her the Player of the Year honor. The Wildcats won the conference title with a perfect record.

"My teammates are always so supportive and so hyped up," said



Gresham's Valarie Cerveny leaps up to spike the ball during the team's Aug. 28 match against Bowler in Gresham.

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Cerveny. "It's so fun playing when everyone is so close to each other and we just go out on the court and have fun. Winning is just a plus side of playing with them; it really was just an amazing year."

Honorable mentions

Nearly every team in the area had a player or two who enjoyed big seasons.

Shawano's Abby Bystol racked up 200 attack kills on the season and landed on the Bay Conference first team.

Bonduel's Allaina Robaidek was a first teamer in the CWC-East and finished the year with 234 attack kills, 244 digs and 156 assists.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Reese Rogowski was the Player of the Year in the CWC-East and accumu-

lated 352 attack kills, 299 digs, 208 service points and 44 aces for the season. Teammate London Metropulos had 344 attack kills, 69 total blocks and 221 digs for the year, and she was a first team selection in the conference.

Hailey Peitersen did a little bit of everything for Oconto Falls this fall, finishing with 738 assists, 306 digs, 50 total blocks, 213 service points and 165 attack kills. She made the North Eastern Conference first team.

Tigerton's Skyler Hauser was a first-team pick in the CWC-North, posting 237 attack kills, 46 block kills, 264 digs and 37 aces for the fall season.

Pulaski's Emily Bruss was an all-conference first-team pick in the Fox River Classic Conference

after tallying 634 assists, 161 digs, 32 blocks, 159 service points, 59 aces and 87 attack kills.

Team of the Year

Witt-Birn is this fall's Team of the Year after winning the CWC-East title and winning a regional title.

The Chargers went undefeated in conference play and were rewarded with six all-conference selections and Becky Rew being tabbed the conference's Coach of the Year.

Witt-Birn accomplished that all with a fairly young team. The Chargers graduate just three players from this fall's team and will return almost all of its starting lineup next year.



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BOYS SOCCER

Pulaski's Steeno named top athlete

Red Raiders the Team of the Year after deep postseason run

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The Pulaski High School boys soccer team enjoyed a special fall season, finishing in the top half of the conference standings before a deep postseason run.

Senior Will Steeno was a big part of the team's success and has been named the NEW Media Inc. Boys Soccer Player of the Year for his efforts.

"I think what helped me the most was playing with and learning from previous varsity players," said Steeno of his big season. "I have been waiting for my senior season since freshman year and preparing for it throughout my high school career. I knew I had to step up and be a leader on the team, so that gave me motivation to have a successful season."

Steenno battled an ankle injury in the early portion of the season, but he rounded into form in time to help Pulaski to a fourth-place finish in the Fox River Classic Conference and then advance to a sectional final in playoff action.

Steenno was the hero for the Red Raiders in the team's playoff victory over Wausau East, scoring the only goal of the match in overtime.

"Starting from captains' practices in the summer, we knew we were going to have a strong team this year," said Steeno. "Through practices every day and going through training camp and tryout week with the team led us to success this season."

The senior capped the year with seven goals and an assist despite being a focal point for opponents. He made the all-conference first team.

Along with his play on the soccer field, Steeno also did some kicking for the football team, which also had a big season and deep postseason run.



Pulaski's Will Steeno chases down the ball during the team's conference match against Bayport High School on Sept. 28 in Pulaski.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

"I knew it would be difficult to fit both seasons in this fall, and I was drained, especially toward the end of the seasons," said Steeno.

"To balance out football and soccer, I would have two practices a day. When soccer and football game days overlapped, I would drive from the soccer games right to the football games, throw on my gear and play. I made it right before kickoff for a few games, but for the majority of the time, the combination worked out just fine. I'm glad I could be a part of two teams this fall."

Honorable mentions

Pulaski seniors Trentin Dauk

ONLINE

All-conference fall sports stories can be found at www.newmedia-wi.com.

and Joe Wacholz, Shawano senior Ethan Schwitzer and Gresham/Bowler senior Will Jensen all enjoyed strong seasons on the field.

Dauk helped anchor a stout Red Raiders' defense. He added four goals and an assist and was named to the all-conference second team.

Wacholz led Pulaski with 11 goals this season, while also chipping in seven assists. He was an all-conference honorable mention pick.

Schwitzer guided the Hawks on the field this fall, scoring 12 goals.

The senior landed on the Bay Conference second team for his play.

Jensen led the Gresham/Bowler co-op with nine goals this fall.

Team of the Year

After its regional title and sectional appearance, Pulaski was tabbed the Team of the Year for the 2021 season.

The Red Raiders finished 14-7-2 on the season, including playoff wins over Merrill (10-0), Wausau East (1-0) and Green Bay Southwest (1-0).

After Steeno had the only goal against Wausau East, Wacholz had the lone goal against Green Bay Southwest.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Beyer, Adams named Runners of the Year

Shawano boys and girls earn Team of the Year honors

By **MORGAN RODE**

Sports Editor

It was another strong year for area cross-country runners, with plenty of top finishes and achievements being met along the way.

As the season came to a close, it was Shawano senior Grace Beyer and Oconto Falls senior Joe Adams who continued to deliver under pressure. For their efforts, Beyer and Adams were named the NEW Media Inc. Female and Male Runners of the Year.

Beyer was the top runner for the Shawano girls team all season, and she eventually helped the team qualify for state.

Beyer placed fourth at the Bay Conference Meet, fifth at sectionals and 24th at state.

"I owe a lot of my success this year to my teammates and coaches who pushed me every day at practice and made me work hard even when I was having an off day," said Beyer. "A few of the girls ran with me every day at practice, and we worked together to make sure we got the best workout in as possible.

"Another thing that I feel helped my success was the team bond we had this year. I enjoyed going to practice every day, which in turn helped me want to work harder and strive for the goals I had set in the beginning of the year."

Adams placed fourth at the North Eastern Conference Meet and at sectionals. He then capped his career with a 48th-place finish at state.

"The last four years of experience and advice from my coaches helped me to this great final year of high school cross-country," said Adams. "I used the positives and negatives of my past seasons to learn and grow as a runner."

Both Beyer and Adams served as leaders for their teams and thanked their teammates for their support.

Both runners mentioned the hard work they and their teams put in and added that their teammates pushed them to the strong seasons they had.

Beyer and Adams each had plenty of memorable moments this fall, with the biggest being state.

"The most memorable moment from this cross-country season has to be finding out that the girls qualified for state as a team," said Beyer. "Be-



Shawano's Grace Beyer runs at the 2021 State Boys & Girls Cross-Country Championships on Oct. 30 at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

fore the awards ceremony we didn't know who had qualified, but we had suspected that Grace Chelberg, Lily Guenther and myself had qualified.

"When they weren't calling our names individually, we slowly started to figure out that we had qualified as a team. There was so much joy in

everyone that day that I will remember that moment forever."

Beyer made her first state appearance, as did Adams.

"My favorite moment this past season was the state meet," said Adams. "Missing out on state the last three years was always rough, but getting there this year probably meant more to me because of that."

"The boys team went down to the meet with me, and that experience is one I will never forget. I am so glad I got to state this year and that my team went to support me. That was just one awesome day for sure."

Honorable mentions

The strong year of cross-country action meant there were plenty of runners worthy of being tabbed the area's best runners.

On the girls side, Shawano's Chelberg and Guenther each enjoyed big years behind Beyer, with plenty of top-10 finishes to their names.

Ashlyn Kurey was the top runner for the Bonduel girls team, which qualified for state.

Carleigh Kaczmarek and Angela Mosconi were the top runners for the Gillett girls, and both ended the season competing at state.

Olivia Noack has been the Suring girls top runner for a couple seasons, but she took it to another level this season and racked up a bunch of top finishes before also making it to state.

There were some strong showings

ONLINE

More high school sports results and news can be found at www.newmedia-wi.com.

on the boys side as well.

Ethan Onesti led the Shawano boys this season with a number of top finishes and then helped guide the team to state.

Cooper Uelmen was the top runner for the Bonduel boys. He ended his high school career competing at state.

Pulaski's T.J. Shaw had a similar story to Adams, making state for the first time as a senior.

The brother duo of Evan and Alex Peterson led the Gillett boys all season and both qualified for state.

Teams of the Year

The Teams of the Year are both from Shawano after both teams qualified for state.

The boys won a Bay Conference title before also taking first at sectionals. The girls were second in the Bay and second at sectionals.

What makes the team's big years even more promising is that many of the same runners will be back next fall. Only Beyer was a senior from the girls state team, while the boys team had only two seniors.



Oconto Falls' Joe Adams nears the finish line at the 2021 State Boys & Girls Cross-Country Championships on Oct. 30 at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids.

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GIRLS GOLF

Shawano's Eggert named Golfer of the Year

Pulaski earns team honor after getting to sectionals

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

It's not too often that freshmen golfers lead their team on the links. It usually takes some experience before a golfer can settle into a groove and match other team's top golfers.

That wasn't the case for Shawano freshman Sophia Eggert, who was named the NEW Media Inc. Girls Golfer of the Year. The freshman looked like an experienced upper-classmen this season as she guided the Hawks at several events this fall.

"What helped me this successful season was the positivity around me from my team, coaches and family. My dad always helps me with everything and trained me for the season," said Eggert.

Eggert not only made the first team in the Bay Conference, but she was the conference's Golfer of the Year.

"My favorite moment from this season was winning the last Bay Conference Championship Meet at Wander Springs and ending the conference season as No. 1 Conference Player of the Year," said Eggert.

She then placed 11th at regionals to earn an individual spot at sectionals.

"My team helped me with the season by encouraging me and always being great sports. Also, it was a great experiences to win meets as a team," said Eggert. "The work I put in this season really paid off — golf practice with the team is like fun work."

Honorable mentions

Despite only a few other girls golf teams in the area, there were plenty of honors to go around.

Eggert's teammate Teghan Kristof also landed on the all-conference first team before qualifying for sectionals.

Bonduel's Sarah Garside and Ava Pleshek each enjoyed strong seasons. Garside made the honorable mention team in the Bay before qualifying for sectionals alongside Pleshek.

Oconto Falls' Kate Pytleski was an honorable mention in the North Eastern Conference before making it to sectionals as an individual.



Shawano's Sophia Eggert looks on after taking a shot during a Bay Conference meet at Shawano Lake Golf Course on Aug. 19 in Shawano.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

Team of the Year

While Pulaski wasn't led by an individual golfer or two, the Red Raiders earned the Team of the Year honor.

After taking fifth in the Fox River Classic Conference standings, Pulaski placed fourth at its regional to qualify for sectionals as a team.

Vivien Ninham and Summer Jaeger were the team's top finishers at regionals before Ninham, Olivia Follese and Ella Ficarri led the team at sectionals.



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GIRLS SWIM

Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Stark tabbed 2021 area Swimmer of the Year

Chargers also take Team of the Year honor after big year

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School girls swim team has rostered several talented individual swimmers over the past few seasons.

Senior Olyvia Stark was one of those talented swimmers on this year's team and was named the NEW Media Inc. Girls Swimmer of the Year after a big fall season.

"Well, it's my senior year, and I wanted it to be my best and fastest season yet," said Stark on what led to her big year. "I showed up to as many

practices as I could and pushed myself to keep going even if I was exhausted. There were many days where I would feel like quitting, but I knew if I did I would regret it."

Stark swam individually in the 200-yard freestyle and 100 backstroke and helped form the 200 medley and 200 freestyle relay teams.

She finished in the top three in three of the four events to make an all-conference team in the Bay Conference.

Stark was the conference's second-best swimmer in the 200 freestyle and third-fastest swimmer in the 100 backstroke. The 200 freestyle relay team Stark was a part of came in third.

"We worked hard in and out of the pool," said Stark. "We would go into the weight room every day and do ab workouts. We all had hard workouts in the pool as well that we had to push through together — most of us cried

through some of them and fought through injuries. Even though they were hard, we pushed through, and if we didn't, I don't think we would have been as fast as we were."

Along with her strong finishes at the conference meet, Stark was often the top finisher in the team's duals this fall.

"Honestly this whole season has been a blessing and a blast," said Stark. "My favorite moments would have to be at the meets, cheering on my teammates and the opposing teammates. I met so many girls from the other teams that were just bundles of joy. The people from my team and other teams made this season one to remember for years to come."

Honorable mentions

Pulaski's Taya Schmidt and Witt-Birn's Faith Resch both had strong seasons, too.

Schmidt ended her season competing at state as a diver. She was the first-place finisher in the event at the Fox River Classic Conference Meet, along with finishing third in the 50 freestyle.

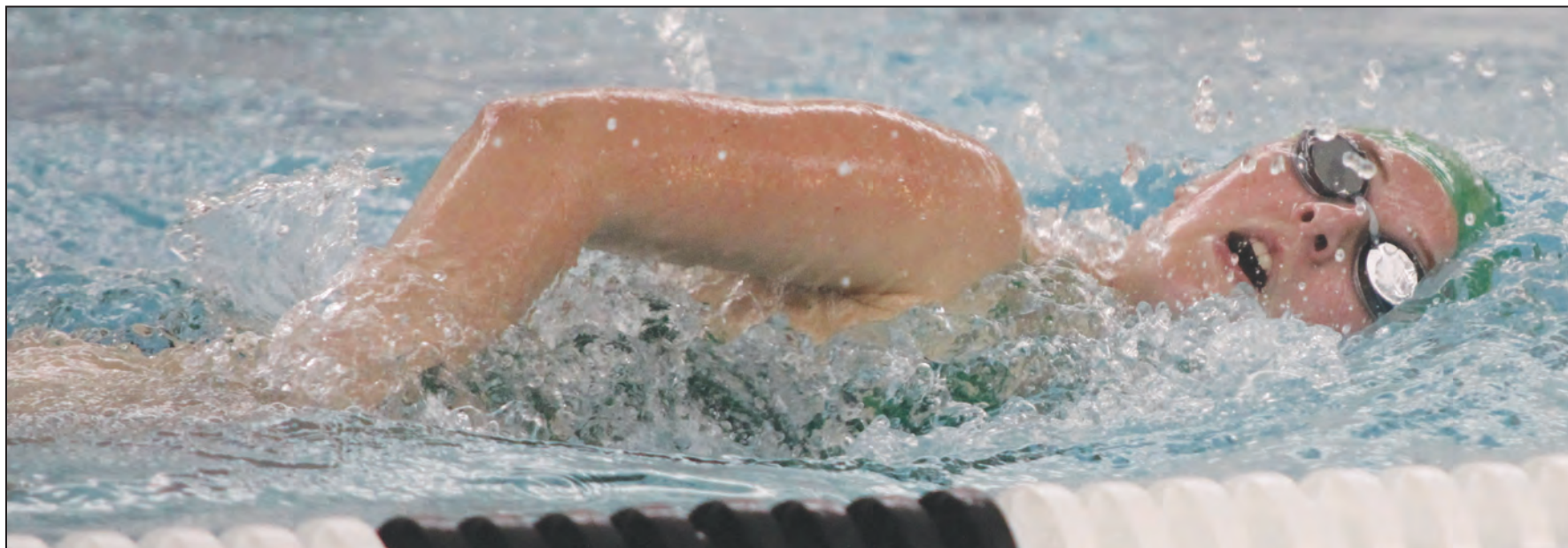
Resch capped her strong freshman year by taking third at the conference meet in the 50 freestyle and 100 butterfly individually, along with a third-place finish with Stark on the 200 freestyle relay team.

Team of the Year

Witt-Birn also takes the Team of the Year honor for continuing to succeed despite its limited roster numbers.

Competing in the Bay against primarily larger teams, the Chargers still won several duals and placed fourth at the conference meet.

Behind Stark and Resch, the Chargers had six total top-three finishes at the conference meet.



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Olyvia Stark swims the 200-yard freestyle during a Bay Conference dual against Shawano on Oct. 5 in Shawano.

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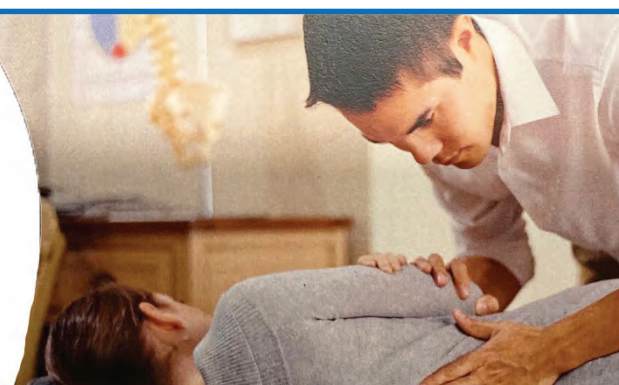
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GIRLS TENNIS

Hawks' Ainsworth named Player of the Year

Shawano also the Team of the Year

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The Shawano and Pulaski girls tennis teams each turned in some memorable moments during the 2021 fall season.

Junior Jenna Ainsworth was a part of several big moments for Shawano and was named the NEW Media Inc. Girls Tennis Player of the Year.

"Most of my success comes from my mental strength. Tennis is truly a mental sport, and playing singles amplifies the loneliness felt," said Ainsworth.

"I always focus on the next point, whether I'm winning 5-1 or losing spectacularly. I always think, 'OK, let's win the next point, get to 15-love, next point, next point, next point.' Over and over. That was my mantra throughout every game, and it really helped me stay strong through some tough matches."

Ainsworth capped the year with an 18-8 mark and took third in the No. 2 singles bracket at the Bay Conference Tournament. She made the all-conference first team.

She helped the Hawks to a third-place finish at the conference tournament and for the overall standings.

"Our team is so supportive of everyone. Our practices are full of encouragement and fun, and my teammates heavily contribute to how much I enjoy playing," said Ainsworth.

"We help each other during the offseason with player-led open courts and group lessons, and I can tell through my and the team's success this year that those really

paid off. We had an amazing season, and though I excelled individually, I know I couldn't have done it without the support of everyone around me."

After regular season play wrapped up, Ainsworth picked up a win at subsectionals.

There were many matches or big days that Ainsworth could have considered her favorite of the season, but one conference match against West De Pere stood out.

"The girl I played this year I happened to play the previous year during the conference tournament," said Ainsworth. "What makes this match so special is that I lost to her pretty badly last year, but turned the tables this year. I won in two sets, so we didn't even end up in a close match tie break. Winning showed me how much I've improved in the offseason and makes me want to continue growing."

Honorable mentions

Shawano's Adison Moesch and the doubles team of Sarah Carroll and Anna Etten and the Pulaski doubles team of Paige Vanderveren and Madeline Diefenthaler also turned in big moments.

Moesch finished the year with a 15-8 mark. She took fourth at the conference meet at No. 3 singles and earned a win at subsectionals.

Carroll and Etten teamed up for a 10-5 record this season. They took second at the conference meet at No. 2 doubles and also picked up a subsectionals win.

Vanderveren and Diefenthaler represented Pulaski at sectionals at No. 1 doubles after a win at subsectionals.

Team of the Year

Shawano is this fall's Team of the Year after placing third in the Bay, which was a team goal set before the season.



Shawano's Jenna Ainsworth prepares to hit the ball during the team's home quad on Aug. 19 in Shawano.

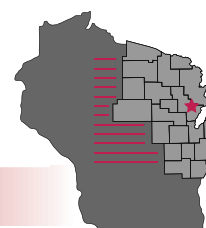
LUKE REIMER | NEW MEDIA

Along with Ainsworth making the all-conference first team, Rylie Anderson made the second team singles list, while Kate Williams

and Nicole Piantek made the second team doubles list.

The team then picked up four wins at subsectionals.

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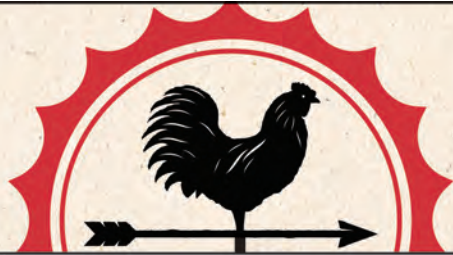


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SHUT OUT, BUT BANGED UP

Green Bay defense blanks Seattle,
but injuries continue to mount

PAGE 2

Green Bay Packers outside linebacker Whitney Mercilus celebrates a sack against the Seattle Seahawks on Nov. 14 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. Mercilus later left with an injury and has since been ruled out for the season.

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Injury-riddled defense looks to continue upward trend

The Green Bay Packers' defense continues to defy the odds.

The unit's most recent achievement was shutting out Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson for the first time in his career. The Packers' defense accomplished that while missing a couple key starters — something the team has dealt with for several weeks — and lost a couple more players along the way.

It doesn't

seem to matter who has stepped onto the field for the defense this year, the unit has continued to impress and actually somehow looks improved without a couple of its stars.



MORGAN RODE

"When someone goes in, there's no loss of faith at that position," said safety Adrian Amos. "They are held accountable to the standard of the person they are replacing.

"Our coaches do a great job of putting us in positions to succeed. So if you do have a guy in there, he's not going to go in there and do something that he necessarily (is) not comfortable with."

The Packers have only had pass-rushing linebacker Za'Darius Smith for one game, and he was limited in his snaps against the New Orleans Saints.

Green Bay lost star cornerback Jaire Alexander a couple weeks later, but they have found ways to replace him and continue their winning ways.

Starting pass rusher Preston Smith and cornerback Kevin King have also missed some games.

The most recent additions to the



Green Bay Packers outside linebackers Preston Smith, right, and Rashan Gary, left, close in on Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson during a Nov. 14 game at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

defensive injury list are pass rushers Rashan Gary and Whitney Mercilus, who each had sacks against the Seahawks. Gary is expected to play again this season, but Mercilus is reportedly out for the year.

That means more players will need to step up to continue the defense's upward trend.

"It's tough, but like I've said, we all practice like we're starters," said inside linebacker Krys Barnes. "It's always tough when you lose somebody, but the next guy in is going to come up and fill that role the same

way like whoever was in there."

Both Amos and Barnes talked about the defense buying into defensive coordinator Joe Barry's scheme and simply doing their 1/11 when on the field.

It sounds like a fairly easy thing to do, but all it takes is one defender to not fully comprehend a certain play for an opposing offense to take advantage. It makes what the defense has accomplished to this point of the season that more impressive considering how many guys have been asked to do their 1/11 at certain points.

Speaking of the first-year defensive coordinator Barry, he has endeared himself to Packers' fans in a hurry.

When Barry was hired by coach Matt LaFleur in the offseason, fans weren't thrilled looking back on Barry's track record. The defense's showing against the Saints in week one and for the first half of the Detroit Lions game in week two didn't help matters, but the defense has steadily improved since then and is now starting to get noticed across the league.

While LaFleur is an offensive-minded coach, he's been quick to

ONLINE

More Packers news and roster moves can be found at www.newmedia-wi.com.

credit the defense after each game and knows that unit is the biggest reason for the team's 8-2 start.

"I really like the culture that we have on that side of the ball," said LaFleur. "The guys are buying in, playing for one another, playing with great energy and effort."

Green Bay seems to be trending away from having a high-powered offense and instead being guided by a strong defense.

With quarterback Aaron Rodgers still in town, the chances the offense continues to play second fiddle to the team's defense seem low. If the Packers' offense can start playing more efficiently and consistently, or Rodgers plays anywhere near the MVP level he did a season ago, Green Bay will be the team to beat in the NFC and the front-runner for the Super Bowl.

Now the Packers' goal is to find a way to get the offense and defense to play well at the same time.

Morgan Rode is the sports editor for NEW Media. Readers can contact him at sports@newmedia-wi.com.



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KEYS TO THE GAME

By **BILL HUBER**

Correspondent

The Green Bay Packers (8-2) will travel to face the Minnesota Vikings (4-5) at noon Sunday at U.S. Bank Stadium. FOX will televise the game.

History

Green Bay leads the series 62-54-3.

Coaches

Green Bay – Matt LaFleur, 34-8, third season. Minnesota — Mike Zimmer, 68-52-1, eighth season.

When the Packers have the ball

In past seasons, Green Bay's offense vs. Minnesota's defense would be a clash of the titans. Not this year. After leading the NFL in scoring last season, Green Bay enters this week ranked 19th with 21.6 points per game and is 25th in the red zone. Minnesota is 16th with 23.4 points allowed per game and is also 25th in the red zone.

Passing the ball will be a challenge, though. The Vikings are No. 10 in opponent passer rating, No. 4 in completion percentage and No. 1 in sack percentage.

Not that the injury-plagued Packers will have sympathy, but injuries have been a major issue.

Danielle Hunter, who with six sacks is one of the best pass rushers in the NFL, is on injured reserve after suffering at torn pectoral against Dallas a few weeks ago. Nose tackle Michael Pierce (elbow) was placed on injured reserve this week. That's their best defensive linemen. Veteran cornerback Patrick Peterson (hamstring) has been on injured reserve for a month but could be ready to for Sunday.

Zimmer employs a 4-3 defense. The front consists of Everson Griffen and D.J. Wonnum as the ends, and Dalvin Tomlinson and Armon Watts as the tackles.

Tomlinson, a second-round pick by the Giants in 2017 who has started all 73 games of his career, is the best player on the depleted unit. However, with zero tackles for losses after recording eight last year in New York, he's been a bit of a disappointment after signing a two-year deal worth \$22 million in free agency.

Griffen, a four-time Pro Bowler who will turn 34 next month, is back with the Vikings and has five sacks. Sheldon Richardson, the NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year in 2013, a Pro Bowler in 2014 and a 16-game starter in 2020, is the top backup. He's got 1½ sacks.

The linebackers are excellent, with Eric Kendricks flanked by Anthony Barr and Nick Vigil.



Green Bay Packers receiver Davante Adams, center, carries the ball as quarterback Aaron Rodgers (12) and Josiah Deguara (81) look on during the team's win over the Seattle Seahawks on Nov. 14 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. The Packers' passing game will face a challenge against the strong Minnesota Vikings pass defense.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

An All-Pro in 2019, Kendricks is one of the game's great middle linebackers. He leads the team with 92 tackles, is second with five tackles for losses, third with four sacks and tied for second with four passes defended. Barr, a four-time Pro Bowler, missed the first four games with a knee injury and has 14 tackles. He is a threat against the run, in coverage and blitzing the quarterback.

Cameron Dantzler and Bashaud Breeland have been the cornerbacks with Mackenzie Alexander in the slot. Based on the early season lineups, Peterson would replace Dantzler in the lineup. Breeland, though, has really struggled. According to Pro Football Focus, he's allowed a 69.1 percent catch rate and four touchdowns and been penalized four times.

The 31-year-old Peterson spent his first 10 seasons in Arizona before joining the Vikings in free agency. He's allowed a 59.4 percent catch rate in six games. Dantzler and Alexander lead the cornerbacks with four passes defended.

Harrison Smith and Xavier Woods are the safeties. The 32-year-old Smith, who is expected back from the COVID list, is one of the league's great game-wreckers. From 2017 through 2020, he recorded 16 interceptions, 39 passes defended and four forced fumbles. Woods, an underrated pickup from Dallas, has two interceptions, six passes defended and two forced fumbles.

When the Vikings have the ball

Green Bay's surging defense, which is up to third in points allowed and total defense after smothering Arizona's Kyler Murray, Kansas City's Patrick

Mahomes and Seattle's Russell Wilson the past three weeks, will get another challenge against Minnesota quarterback Kirk Cousins.

Few teams in the league can match the combination of Justin Jefferson and Adam Thielen at receiver and Dalvin Cook at running back. Minnesota is 14th with 24.6 points per game but seventh in total offense (384.7 yards per game), ninth in rushing offense (122.4 per game) and ninth in passing offense (262.2 per game).

Cousins is hard to sack (Minnesota is second in sack rate) and doesn't make mistakes (No. 1 in interception percentage). It is terrible on third down (26th at 35.7 percent) but excellent in the red zone (seventh at 66.7 percent).

Cousins is No. 6 in passer rating and completion percentage, and has 18 touchdowns vs. two interceptions. He's mostly a dink-and-dunker; his average pass distance of 6.86 yards ranks 31st out of 34 qualifying quarterbacks. He was brilliant against the Packers in 2018 (passer ratings of 118.8 and 129.5), horrendous in 2019 (52.9 and 58.8) and superb in 2020 (118.6 and 138.1).

Jefferson, who had one of the great rookie seasons by any receiver in NFL history with his 88 receptions for 1,400 yards and seven touchdowns in 2020, has 55 receptions for 775 yards and four touchdowns this year. He is their best deep threat and is elusive after the catch, but he's dropped six passes, according to PFF.

Thielen, coming off a season of 14 touchdowns, has 50 receptions for 542 yards and seven touchdowns. K.J. Osborn sees a lot of action as the No. 3 receiver and has 29 catches for 341

yards and two scores.

With Irv Smith on injured reserve, Tyler Conklin has provided surprise production at tight end with 35 receptions for 353 yards and three touchdowns.

Cook, who is fifth in the league with 648 rushing yards, and Alexander Mattison form one of the best one-two punches in the NFL. According to PFF, Cook is sixth with 32 missed tackles forced and second with 23 runs of 10-plus yards. He is a threat to go the distance at any point. Fullback C.J. Ham is a quality blocker and adept receiver.

The offensive line is not very good. Rookie Christian Darrisaw is the left tackle, Ezra Cleveland the left guard, Garrett Bradbury is the center, Oli Udoh is the right guard and Brian O'Neill is the right tackle.

O'Neill is by far the best player; the interior is weak and Darrisaw is only four starts into his career.

Special teams

Packers kicker Mason Crosby made his first nine field-goal attempts of the season but has missed seven of his last 12 tries. While he's been in a funk for weeks due to poor holds and protection, Vikings kicker Greg Joseph shook off a chip-shot miss that would have beaten Arizona in week two. He's 19-of-23 on field goals, including 5-of-6 from 50-plus yards.

Packers punter Corey Bojorquez has been tremendous and will have to be again because Vikings returner Dede Westbrook is a legit threat. He's got a 45-yard return this year. Vikings punter Jordan Berry will give Packers rookie returner Amari Rodgers some opportunities.







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PACKERS ROSTER							
Active							
#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP. COLLEGE	
2	Mason Crosby	K	6-1	207	37	15	Colorado
7	Corey Bojorquez	P	6-0	217	25	4	New Mexico
8	Amari Rodgers	WR	5-9	212	22	R	Clemson
10	Jordan Love	QB	6-4	219	23	2	Utah State
12	Aaron Rodgers	QB	6-2	225	37	17	California
13	Allen Lazard	WR	6-5	227	25	3	Iowa State
17	Davante Adams	WR	6-1	215	28	8	Fresno State
18	Randall Cobb	WR	5-10	195	31	11	Kentucky
19	Equanimeous St. Brown	WR	6-5	214	25	4	Notre Dame
20	Kevin King	CB	6-3	200	26	5	Washington
21	Eric Stokes	CB	6-0	194	22	R	Georgia
22	Shemar Jean-Charles	CB	5-10	184	23	R	Appalachian State
24	Isaac Yiadom	CB	6-1	190	25	4	Boston College
26	Darnell Savage	S	5-11	198	24	3	Maryland
27	Patrick Taylor	RB	6-2	217	23	1	Memphis
28	AJ Dillon	RB	6-0	247	23	2	Boston College
29	Rasul Douglas	CB	6-2	209	26	5	West Virginia
31	Adrian Amos	S	6-0	214	28	7	Penn State
33	Aaron Jones	RB	5-9	208	26	5	Texas-El Paso
36	Vernon Scott	S	6-2	202	24	2	TCU
39	Chandon Sullivan	CB	5-11	189	25	4	Georgia State
41	Henry Black	S	6-0	204	24	2	Baylor
42	Oren Burks	LB	6-3	233	26	4	Vanderbilt
44	Ty Summers	LB	6-1	241	25	3	TCU
46	Steven Wirtel	LS	6-4	228	24	1	Iowa State
49	Dominique Dafney	TE	6-2	243	24	1	Indiana State
50	Whitney Mercilus	LB	6-4	261	31	10	Illinois
51	Krys Barnes	LB	6-2	229	23	2	UCLA
52	Rashan Gary	LB	6-5	277	23	3	Michigan
53	Jonathan Garvin	LB	6-4	257	22	2	Miami
58	Isaiah McDuffie	LB	6-1	227	22	R	Boston College
59	De'Vondre Campbell	LB	6-3	232	28	6	Minnesota
62	Lucas Patrick	G	6-3	313	28	5	Duke
67	Jake Hanson	C	6-4	296	24	1	Oregon
69	David Bakhtiari	T	6-4	310	30	9	Colorado
70	Royce Newman	T/G	6-5	310	24	R	Mississippi
73	Yosh Nijman	T	6-7	314	25	2	Virginia Tech
74	Elgton Jenkins	G	6-5	311	25	3	Mississippi State
76	Jon Runyan	G	6-4	307	24	2	Michigan
77	Billy Turner	G/T	6-5	310	30	8	North Dakota State
79	Dennis Kelly	T	6-8	321	31	10	Purdue
81	Josiah Deguara	TE	6-2	238	24	2	Cincinnati
83	Marquez Valdes-Scantling	WR	6-4	206	27	4	South Florida
84	Tyler Davis	TE	6-4	252	24	2	Georgia Tech
86	Malik Taylor	WR	6-1	220	25	2	Ferris State
89	Mercedes Lewis	TE	6-6	267	37	16	UCLA
90	Jack Heflin	DL	6-3	304	23	R	Iowa
91	Preston Smith	LB	6-5	265	28	7	Mississippi State
93	T.J. Slaton	DL	6-4	330	24	R	Florida
94	Dean Lowry	DL	6-6	296	27	6	Northwestern
95	Tyler Lancaster	DL	6-3	313	27	4	Northwestern
96	Kingsley Keke	DL	6-3	288	25	3	Texas A&M
97	Kenny Clark	DL	6-3	314	26	6	UCLA
Reserve/Injured							
23	Jaire Alexander	CB	5-10	196	24	4	Louisville
25	Will Redmond	S	5-11	186	27	6	Mississippi State
32	Kylin Hill	RB	5-10	214	23	R	Mississippi State
47	Chauncey Rivers	LB	6-2	259	24	1	Mississippi State
55	Za'Darius Smith	LB	6-4	272	29	7	Kentucky
56	Randy Ramsey	LB	6-3	238	26	2	Arkansas
71	Josh Myers	C/G	6-5	310	23	R	Ohio State
85	Robert Tonyan	TE	6-5	237	27	4	Indiana State
Practice Squad							
6	Kurt Benkert	QB	6-3	218	26	2	Virginia
11	J.J. Molson	K	5-11	180	24	1	UCLA
16	Chris Blair	WR	6-2	198	24	R	Alcorn State
30	Shawn Davis	S	5-11	202	23	R	Florida
35	Ryquell Armstead	RB	5-11	220	25	3	Temple
38	Innis Gaines	S	6-1	202	23	R	TCU
40	Tipa Galeai	LB	6-5	229	24	1	Utah State
45	Bronson Kaufusi	TE	6-6	270	30	3	Brigham Young
48	Kabion Ento	CB	6-1	187	25	2	Colorado
57	Ray Wilborn	LB	6-3	230	24	1	Ball State
64	Ben Braden	G	6-6	329	27	2	Michigan
72	Auzoyah Alufohai	DL	6-4	313	25	1	West Georgia
78	Cole Van Lanen	T/G	6-4	305	23	R	Wisconsin
88	Juwann Winfree	WR	6-1	210	25	2	Colorado
98	Abdullah Anderson	DL	6-3	303	25	2	Bucknell
99	R.J. McIntosh	DL	6-5	286	25	4	Miami

VIKINGS ROSTER

Active

#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
1	Greg Joseph	K	6-0	206	27	4	Florida Atlantic
3	Jordan Berry	P	6-5	195	30	7	Eastern Kentucky
8	Kirk Cousins	QB	6-3	205	33	10	Michigan State
11	Kellen Mond	QB	6-3	212	22	R	Texas A&M
12	Dede Westbrook	WR	6-0	178	27	5	Oklahoma
14	Sean Mannion	QB	6-6	230	29	7	Oregon State
15	Ihmir Smith-Marsette	WR	6-1	185	22	R	Iowa
17	K.J. Osborn	WR	5-11	203	24	2	Miami (Fla.)
18	Justin Jefferson	WR	6-1	195	22	2	LSU
19	Adam Thielen	WR	6-2	200	31	8	Minnesota State
20	Harrison Hand	CB	5-11	185	23	2	Temple
21	Bashaud Breeland	CB	5-11	195	29	8	Clemson
23	Xavier Woods	S	5-11	204	26	5	Louisiana Tech
24	Mackensie Alexander	CB	5-10	192	28	6	Clemson
25	Alexander Mattison	RB	5-11	215	23	3	Boise State
26	Kene Nwangwu	RB	6-1	210	23	R	Iowa State
27	Cameron Dantzler	CB	6-2	190	23	2	Mississippi State
29	Kris Boyd	CB	5-11	195	25	3	Texas
30	C.J. Ham	FB	5-11	250	28	6	Augustana (S.D.)
33	Dalvin Cook	RB	5-10	210	26	5	Florida State
35	Luke Stocker	TE	6-5	253	33	11	Tennessee
41	Chazz Surratt	LB	6-2	233	24	R	North Carolina
42	Andrew DePaola	LS	6-1	229	34	7	Rutgers
43	Camryn Bynum	S	6-0	200	23	R	California
44	Josh Metellus	S	5-11	207	23	2	Michigan
45	Troy Dye	LB	6-3	225	25	2	Oregon
48	Blake Lynch	LB	6-3	233	24	2	Baylor
51	Wyatt Davis	G	6-4	315	22	R	Ohio State
52	Mason Cole	OL	6-5	298	25	4	Michigan
54	Eric Kendricks	LB	6-0	232	29	7	UCLA
55	Anthony Barr	LB	6-5	257	29	8	UCLA
59	Nick Vigil	LB	6-2	230	28	6	Utah State
64	Blake Brandel	T	6-7	315	24	1	Oregon State
66	Eddie Yarbrough	DE	6-3	259	28	4	Wyoming
69	Rashod Hill	T	6-6	310	29	6	Southern Mississippi
71	Christian Darrisaw	T	6-5	315	22	R	Virginia Tech
72	Ezra Cleveland	G	6-6	312	23	2	Boise State
74	Olisaemeka Udoh	G	6-6	320	24	3	Elon
75	Brian O'Neill	T	6-7	310	26	4	Pittsburgh
83	Tyler Conklin	TE	6-3	248	26	4	Central Michigan
85	Dan Chisena	WR	6-3	203	24	2	Penn State
89	Chris Herndon	TE	6-4	253	25	4	Miami
90	Sheldon Richardson	DT	6-3	290	30	9	Missouri
92	James Lynch	DT	6-4	295	22	2	Baylor
93	Patrick Jones II	DE	6-4	264	23	R	Pittsburgh
94	Dalvin Tomlinson	DT	6-3	325	27	5	Alabama
96	Armon Watts	DT	6-5	307	25	3	Arkansas
97	Everson Griffen	DE	6-3	273	33	12	USC
98	D.J. Wonnum	DE	6-5	258	24	2	South Carolina

Reserve/Injured

7	Patrick Peterson	CB	6-1	198	31	11	LSU
12	Chad Beebe	WR	5-10	187	27	4	Northern Illinois
13	Blake Proehl	WR	6-1	190	22	R	East Carolina
14	Nate Stanley	QB	6-4	233	24	1	Iowa
58	Michael Pierce	DT	6-0	340	29	6	Samford
66	Jordon Scott	DT	6-1	326	23	R	Oregon
81	Bisi Johnson	WR	6-0	210	24	3	Colorado State
82	Ben Ellefson	TE	6-3	250	25	2	North Dakota State
84	Irv Smith Jr.	TE	6-2	240	23	3	Alabama
95	Janarius Robinson	DE	6-5	258	22	R	Florida State
99	Danielle Hunter	DE	6-5	263	27	7	LSU

Reserve/Non-Football Injury

76	Jaylen Twyman	DT	6-2	285	22	R	Pittsburgh
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Practice Squad

5	Tye Smith	CB	6-0	190	28	6	Towson State
9	Trishton Jackson	WR	6-1	191	23	2	Syracuse
36	A.J. Rose Jr.	RB	6-1	211	24	R	Kentucky
39	Parry Nickerson	CB	5-10	179	27	4	Tulane
40	Zach Davidson	TE	6-7	251	23	R	Central Missouri
46	Myles Dorn	S	6-2	210	23	2	North Carolina
47	Tuf Borland	LB	6-1	233	23	R	Ohio State
50	T.J. Smith	DT	6-3	303	24	1	Arkansas
63	Cohl Cabral	C	6-5	296	23	1	Arizona State
65	Spencer Pulley	C	6-4	311	28	6	Vanderbilt
68	Kyle Hinton	G	6-2	315	23	1	Washburn
73	Nate Orchard	DE	6-3	243	28	6	Utah
86	Brandon Dillon	TE	6-5	250	24	1	Marian
87	Myron Mitchell	WR	6-1	185	23	R	UAB
91	T.Y. McGill	DT	6-0	294	28	7	N.C. State

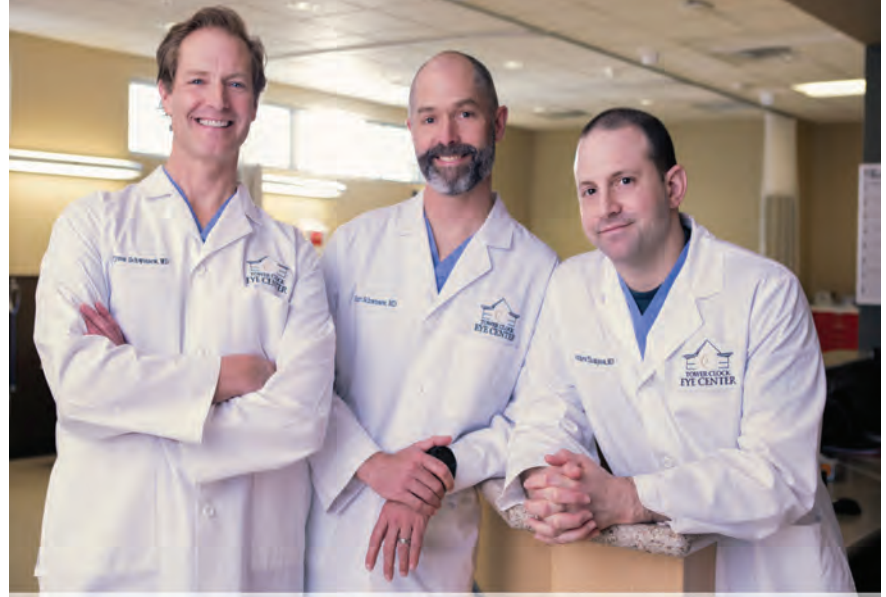
Practice Squad/COVID-19

34	Jake Bargas	FB	6-2	245	24	1	North Carolina
61	Timon Parris	T	6-6	330	26	1	Stony Brook
78	Dakota Dozier	G	6-4	305	30	8	Furman

Reserve/COVID-19

22	Harrison Smith	S	6-2	211	32	10	Notre Dame
56	Garrett Bradbury	C	6-3	300	26	3	North Carolina State
57	Ryan Connelly	LB	6-2	234	26	3	Wisconsin
79	Kenny Willekes	DE	6-3	264	24	2	Michigan State

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GAME VITALS PACKERS DEPTH CHART

GREEN BAY PACKERS (8-2) at MINNESOTA VIKINGS (4-5)

WHEN: noon, Sunday
WHERE: U.S. Bank Stadium
TV: FOX
RADIO: 620 AM (WTMJ), Sirius Satellite Radio (WTMJ feed)

THE SERIES

Packers vs. Vikings
All-time, regular season: 62-54-3
All-time, postseason: 1-1
All-time, at Vikings: 30-29
Streaks: The Green Bay Packers have won three of the past four games against the Minnesota Vikings. The Packers are 2-3 in their last five trips to Minnesota.

Last meeting, regular season: Nov. 1, 2020, Vikings won 28-22 at Lambeau Field. Minnesota's Dalvin Cook rushed for 163 yards and three touchdowns in the win.

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time	TV
Sept. 12	at New Orleans	Loss 38-3	
Sept. 20	vs. Detroit	Win 35-17	
Sept. 26	at San Francisco	Win 30-28	
Oct. 3	vs. Pittsburgh	Win 27-17	
Oct. 10	at Cincinnati	Win 25-22	
Oct. 17	at Chicago	Win 24-14	
Oct. 24	vs. Washington	Win 24-10	
Oct. 28	at Arizona	Win 24-21	
Nov. 7	at Kansas City	Loss 13-7	
Nov. 14	vs. Seattle	Win 17-0	
Nov. 21	at Minnesota	noon	FOX
Nov. 28	vs. L.A. Rams	3:25 p.m.	FOX
BYE WEEK			
Dec. 12	vs. Chicago	7:20 p.m.	NBC
Dec. 19	at Baltimore	noon	FOX
Dec. 25	vs. Cleveland	3:30 p.m.	FOX
Jan. 2	vs. Minnesota	7:20 p.m.	NBC
Jan. 9	at Detroit	noon	FOX

OFFENSE

RB
Aaron Jones
A.J. Dillon



QB
Aaron Rodgers
Jordan Love



WR
Davante Adams
Randall Cobb



TE
Josiah Deguara
Tyler Davis



RT
Billy Turner
Dennis Kelly



RG
Royce Newman
Lucas Patrick



C
Lucas Patrick
Jake Hanson



LG
Jon Runyan
Lucas Patrick



LT
Elgton Jenkins
Yosh Nijman



TE
Mercedes Lewis
Dominique Dafney



WR
Marquez Valdes-Scantling
Allen Lazard



DEFENSE

CB
Kevin King
Chandon Sullivan



DE
Dean Lowry
Tyler Lancaster



NT
Kenny Clark
T.J. Slaton



DE
Kingsley Keke
Jack Heflin



CB
Eric Stokes
Rasul Douglas



OLB
Preston Smith



ILB
Krys Barnes
Oren Burks



ILB
De'Vondre Campbell
Ty Summers



OLB
Rashan Gary
Jonathan Garvin



S
Adrian Amos
Vernon Scott



S
Darnell Savage
Henry Black



FYI

Rosters and depth charts are accurate as of Nov. 15, 6:15 p.m.

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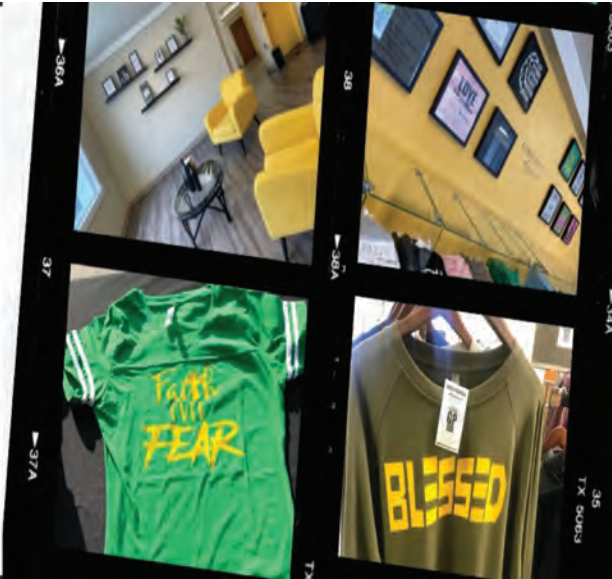
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VIKINGS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR
Justin Jefferson
K.J. Osborn

TE
Tyler Conklin
Chris Herndon

RT
Brian O'Neill
Blake Brandel

RG
Olisaemeka Udoh
Wyatt Davis

C
Mason Cole

LG
Ezra Cleveland

LT
Christian Darrisaw
Rashod Hill

RB
Dalvin Cook
Alexander Mattison

QB
Kirk Cousins
Sean Mannion

FB
C.J. Ham

WR
Adam Thielen
Ihmir Smith-Marsette

DEFENSE

CB
Cameron Dantzler
Mackensie Alexander

DE
D.J. Wonnum
Patrick Jones II

DT
Dalvin Tomlinson
Sheldon Richardson

NT
Armon Watts
James Lynch

DE
Everson Griffen
Eddie Yarbrough

CB
Bashaud Breeland
Kris Boyd

OLB
Nick Vigil
Chazz Surratt

MLB
Eric Kendricks
Troy Dye

OLB
Anthony Barr
Blake Lynch

S
Josh Metellus

S
Xavier Woods
Camryn Bynum

SCHEDULE

Sunday's Games

New Orleans at Philadelphia, noon
Miami at N.Y. Jets, noon
Washington at Carolina, noon
Indianapolis at Buffalo, noon
Detroit at Cleveland, noon
San Francisco at Jacksonville, noon
Houston at Tennessee, noon
Green Bay at Minnesota, noon
Baltimore at Chicago, noon
Cincinnati at Las Vegas, 3:05 p.m.
Arizona at Seattle, 3:25 p.m.
Dallas at Kansas City, 3:25 p.m.
Pittsburgh at L.A. Chargers, 7:20 p.m.

Monday's Game

N.Y. Giants at Tampa Bay, 7:15 p.m.

Teams on bye: Denver, L.A. Rams

STANDINGS

NFC East					AFC East				
Team	W	L	T		Team	W	L	T	
Dallas	7	2	0		Buffalo	6	3	0	
Philadelphia	4	6	0		New England	6	4	0	
Washington	3	6	0		Miami	3	7	0	
N.Y. Giants	3	6	0		N.Y. Jets	2	7	0	
North					North				
Team	W	L	T		Team	W	L	T	
Green Bay	8	2	0		Baltimore	6	3	0	
Minnesota	4	5	0		Pittsburgh	5	3	1	
Chicago	3	6	0		Cincinnati	5	4	0	
Detroit	0	8	1		Cleveland	5	5	0	
South					South				
Team	W	L	T		Team	W	L	T	
Tampa Bay	6	3	0		Tennessee	8	2	0	
New Orleans	5	4	0		Indianapolis	5	5	0	
Carolina	5	5	0		Jacksonville	2	7	0	
Atlanta	4	5	0		Houston	1	8	0	
West					West				
Team	W	L	T		Team	W	L	T	
Arizona	8	2	0		Kansas City	6	4	0	
L.A. Rams	7	3	0		L.A. Chargers	5	4	0	
San Francisco	4	5	0		Las Vegas	5	4	0	
Seattle	3	6	0		Denver	5	5	0	



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Original, Fire or Honey Jack Daniel's Whiskey \$34.99 1.75 ltr.

Canadian Club Whiskey 2 FOR \$25.98 1.75 ltr. (After \$6.00 rebate on 2)

Light, Light Rye or Light Cherry Mount Royal Whiskey \$19.79 1.75 ltr.

Rich & Mellow Korbel Brandy \$18.99 1.75 ltr.

Southern Comfort Whiskey \$22.99 1.75 ltr.

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Grey Goose Vodka \$46.99 1.75 ltr.

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Wine

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Wine

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Sauvignon Blanc
Wine

Cabernet or Pinot Noir
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Wines

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Bota
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Wines

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BEAT The Expert



Morgan Rode
NEW Media Sports Editor

Week 11 Games: Sunday, Nov. 21

Teams on bye: LA Rams & Denver

New England @ Atlanta Thurs., Nov. 18
Indianapolis @ Buffalo
Washington @ Carolina
Baltimore @ Chicago
Detroit @ Cleveland
San Francisco @ Jacksonville
Green Bay @ Minnesota
Miami @ NY Jets
New Orleans @ Philadelphia
Houston @ Tennessee
Cincinnati @ Las Vegas
Dallas @ Kansas City
Pittsburgh @ LA Chargers
NY Giants @ Tampa Bay Mon., Nov. 22

Tie Breaker Game: Arizona _____ @ Seattle

Weekly Standings

	Weekly Record	Overall Record
God's Purpose Apparel	8-5-1	100-49-1
Tower Clock Eye Center	7-6-1	96-53-1
Shawano Seasons Restaurant	6-7-1	95-54-1
22 Shell	6-7-1	93-56-1
Buss Automotive	5-8-1	93-56-1
Tim Murphy	5-8-1	93-56-1
Morgan Rode	6-7-1	92-57-1
Dennis Brei	6-7-1	91-58-1
Hawkeyes	5-8-1	90-59-1

Weekly Standings

	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Shawano Place Assisted Living	6-7-1	90-59-1
State Farm-Idell Johnston	6-7-1	90-59-1
P & D Sale and Service	6-7-1	88-61-1
Smokey Joes	7-6-1	88-61-1
B & C Auto Recycling	5-8-1	86-63-1
Gehm's Club 117	5-8-1	83-66-1
Iverson's Piggly Wiggly	8-5-1	79-70-1
Cirrinity/Wittenberg Telephone	4-9-1	78-71-1
Senn Insurance	6-7-1	78-71-1



This Week's Winner: Iverson's Piggly Wiggly



Morgan Rode
Shawano
Leader

This Week's Picks:

New England	Green Bay	LA Chargers
Buffalo	NY Jets	Tampa Bay
Carolina	New Orleans	
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Las Vegas	
San Francisco	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score : Arizona 27 @ Seattle 31



Tim Murphy
Shawano
Leader

This Week's Picks:

New England	Green Bay	LA Chargers
Buffalo	Miami	Tampa Bay
Carolina	Philadelphia	
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Las Vegas	
San Francisco	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 20 @ Seattle 17



Dennis Brei
Oconto County
Times Herald

This Week's Picks:

New England	Green Bay	LA Chargers
Buffalo	Miami	Tampa Bay
Carolina	Philadelphia	
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Cincinnati	
Jacksonville	Dallas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 21 @ Seattle 13

FOLLOW YOUR FAVORITES!



Toby
B&C Auto
Recycling

This Week's Picks:

New England	Green Bay	LA Chargers
Buffalo	Miami	Tampa Bay
Carolina	New Orleans	
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Cincinnati	
San Francisco	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 31 @ Seattle 24



Iverson's Staff
Iverson's
Piggly Wiggly

This Week's Picks:

New England	Green Bay	LA Chargers
Buffalo	Miami	Tampa Bay
Carolina	New Orleans	
Chicago	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Las Vegas	
San Francisco	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 21 @ Seattle 24



Amber
Smokey Joe's
& JDoggs

This Week's Picks:

New England	Green Bay	LA Chargers
Indianapolis	Miami	Tampa Bay
Washington	Philadelphia	
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Detroit	Las Vegas	
Jacksonville	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 17 @ Seattle 13



Robert Buss
Buss
Automotive

This Week's Picks:

New England	Green Bay	LA Chargers
Buffalo	Miami	Tampa Bay
Carolina	Philadelphia	
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Cincinnati	
Jacksonville	Dallas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 17 @ Seattle 23



Dena
P&D Sales
& Service

This Week's Picks:

New England	Green Bay	LA Chargers
Buffalo	Miami	Tampa Bay
Carolina	New Orleans	
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Las Vegas	
San Francisco	Dallas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 30 @ Seattle 27



Sophie
Idell Johnston
State Farm Agent

This Week's Picks:

New England	Green Bay	LA Charges
Buffalo	Miami	Tampa Bay
Carolina	Philadelphia	
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Cincinnati	
San Francisco	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 25 @ Seattle 27



Scott Nyman
Cirrinity

This Week's Picks:

New England	Minnesota	LA Chargers
Buffalo	NY Jets	Tampa Bay
Carolina	Philadelphia	
Chicago	Tennessee	
Detroit	Las Vegas	
San Francisco	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 28 @ Seattle 17



In Memory of
Patty Lasher
Shawano Seasons
Restaurant

This Week's Picks:

Atlanta	Green Bay	Pittsburgh
Buffalo	NY Jets	Tampa Bay
Carolina	New Orleans	
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Cincinnati	
San Francisco	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 28 @ Seattle 21



Jim Wiegand
Tower Clock
Eye Center

This Week's Picks:

New England	Green Bay	Pittsburgh
Buffalo	Miami	Tampa Bay
Carolina	New Orleans	
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Las Vegas	
San Francisco	Dallas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 24 @ Seattle 17



Russ
Gehm's
Club 117

This Week's Picks:

New England	Minnesota	LA Chargers
Buffalo	Miami	Tampa Bay
Washington	New Orleans	
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Cincinnati	
Jacksonville	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 31 @ Seattle 27



Shane Senn
Senn
Insurance

This Week's Picks:

Atlanta	Green Bay	LA Chargers
Buffalo	NY Jets	Tampa Bay
Carolina	Philadelphia	
Chicago	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Cincinnati	
San Francisco	Dallas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 34 @ Seattle 31



Brenda
22 Shell

This Week's Picks:

Atlanta	Green Bay	LA Chargers
Buffalo	NY Jets	Tampa Bay
Washington	New Orleans	
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Cincinnati	
San Francisco	Dallas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 31 @ Seattle 21



Chris
God's Purpose
Apparel

This Week's Picks:

New England	Green Bay	LA Chargers
Indianapolis	Miami	Tampa Bay
Carolina	New Orleans	
Baltimore	Houston	
Cleveland	Cincinnati	
San Francisco	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 27 @ Seattle 23



Aaron
Shawano
Place

This Week's Picks:

New England	Green Bay	LA Chargers
Buffalo	NY Jets	Tampa Bay
Carolina	Philadelphia	
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Cincinnati	
San Francisco	Kansas City	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 34 @ Seattle 27



Dale
Hawkkey
Hearth & Home

This Week's Picks:

New England	Green Bay	LA Chargers
Indianapolis	Miami	Tampa Bay
Washington	New Orleans	
Baltimore	Tennessee	
Cleveland	Cincinnati	
San Francisco	Dallas	

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Arizona 17 @ Seattle 20

Follow The Pack With Us!

Green Bay Football 2021 Season			
SEPTEMBER - REGULAR SEASON			
Sunday, September 12	3:25 pm	@ New Orleans Saints	FOX
Monday, September 20	7:35 pm	DETROIT LIONS	ESPN
Sunday, September 26	3:20 pm	@ San Francisco 49ers	NBC
OCTOBER			
Sunday, October 03	3:25 pm	Pittsburgh Steelers (GOLD)	CBS
Sunday, October 10	NOON*	@ Cincinnati Bengals	FOX
Sunday, October 17	NOON*	@ Chicago Bears	FOX
Sunday, October 24	NOON*	WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM	FOX
Thursday, October 28	7:30 pm	@ Arizona Cardinals	FOX
NOVEMBER			
Sunday, November 07	3:25 pm*	@ Kansas City Chiefs	FOX
Sunday, November 14	3:25 pm*	SEATTLE SEAHAWKS	CBS
Sunday, November 21	NOON*	@ Minnesota Vikings	FOX
Sunday, November 28	3:25 pm*	LOS ANGELES DOLPHINS (GOLD)	FOX
DECEMBER			
BYE WEEK			
Sunday, December 12	7:20 pm*	CHICAGO BEARS	NBC
Sunday, December 19	NOON*	@ Baltimore Ravens	FOX
Saturday, December 25	3:30 pm	CLEVELAND BROWNS	FOX
JANUARY			
Sunday, January 02	7:20 pm*	MINNESOTA VIKINGS	NBC
Sunday, January 09	NOON*	@ Detroit Lions	FOX

NOTEBOOK

By **BILL HUBER**
Correspondent

Dynamo Dillon

When running back A.J. Dillon ran through Pro Bowl linebacker Bobby Wagner for a 3-yard touchdown early in the fourth quarter on Sunday, it was the type of power running the Green Bay Packers expected when they selected Dillon in the second round of last year's draft.

When Dillon caught a swing pass at his knees, turned upfield, ran through two tackles and gained 50 yards to set up his clinching touchdown, it was the type of athletic play the Packers could only have projected.

Dillon has emerged as an all-around dynamo for the Packers. With Pro Bowl running back Aaron Jones suffering a minor knee injury vs. Seattle, it will be up to Dillon to not just carry the load for the next game or two but be an all-around threat out of the backfield.

"That's something I really wanted to work on here," Dillon said after scoring two touchdowns in a 17-0 victory over the Seahawks. "I always talk about being an APB – all-purpose back. I really want to be somebody reliable in every situation. So, I've just been working on it. I've got Aaron Jones to teach me a lot of the stuff he's done so well in the pass game, so he's really been teaching me a lot."

There was no denying Dillon's running ability coming out of Boston College. In three seasons, he carried the ball 845 times. He averaged 24.1

carries per game for his career and 26.5 carries during his final season. Many of his 4,382 rushing yards were the result of the 245-pounder's bruising style.

The question entering the 2020 NFL Draft was whether he'd be a viable receiver. It wasn't that Dillon couldn't catch the ball. It's that he wasn't asked to catch the football. Dillon caught only 21 passes for 236 yards in his career and had just one game of more than two catches.

In 10 games this season, he has 16 receptions for 196 yards. Of the 46 running backs with at least Dillon's 18 targets, he is tied for eighth in catch percentage (88.9), No. 1 in yards per target (12.3), No. 2 in yards after the catch per catch (11.3) and No. 5 in yards per route (2.11). Obviously, that's skewed by the 50-yarder, but he's also had catches of 24, 21 and 16 yards.

With Jones sidelined and rookie seventh-round pick Kylin Hill out with a season-ending knee injury, Dillon is the last man standing in what had been a crowded backfield. Patrick Taylor, an undrafted free agent in 2020 who had zero career carries until late in the fourth quarter vs. Seattle, is the only other back on the 53-man roster. So, it will be up to Dillon to carry the running game at the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday and perhaps against the Los Angeles Rams at Lambeau next week.

It's something he did at Boston College but hasn't done in the NFL. In fact, he's played half of the offensive snaps just once in his career – 56% vs. Tennessee late last season, when he dominated the Titans with 124 rushing

yards and two touchdowns.

He's ready for the challenge.

"I don't want to say he's come a long way, but he has come a long way," coach Matt LaFleur said. "That's not a knock on him. I'm just really happy to see his progression. Going back and really reflecting back on his first year, there were times where he would get worn out quickly and I don't think that's necessarily an issue anymore. He's learned how he needs to prepare. I think he puts in the work in the offseason. I think he is so multi-dimensional as a halfback."

Challenge on offense

With Aaron Rodgers back from a bout with COVID-19, the offense was not sharp against Seattle. The conundrum for LaFleur is how to get it fixed.

Players need to practice – Rodgers included. After beating Arizona with a makeshift receiver corps on a Thursday night, he missed the final three practices and the game against Kansas City, then the three practices before facing the Seahawks.

"We haven't really practiced a whole bunch," LaFleur said. "Basically, the week before Arizona was all walk-through, so it's not like he was getting a ton of time with these guys. And then we had different receivers the last time he played and then you're getting all these guys back, so naturally there was probably a little bit of a dip in terms of from our passing game."

The challenge is the Packers are entering their 11th consecutive week with a game. They've been hammered

by injuries. LaFleur felt "the energy was maybe a little bit off" against the Seahawks. So, there are competing interests. One is to cut back on practice to make sure the players are as fresh as possible for Sunday. Another is to crank up the practice reps to help an offense that ranks only 19th in scoring.

"That's the trick right now," LaFleur said. "How do you make it so that we're getting what we need from an actual practice standpoint but yet keeping everybody fresh and so we can fly around? Because the speed is absolutely one thing that can benefit you, and the more you practice, sometimes it takes away from that. You want guys healthy, you want them to be able to go out there and fly around."

Slow starts

The Packers have scored only 24 points in the first quarter. Only the Giants (20), Lions (20) and Jets (14) have scored fewer points. Those teams are a combined 5-21. This week's opponent, the Vikings, are 11th with 51 points.

"That's something that we're searching for," LaFleur said. "Obviously, it all starts with us as coaches and myself as a play-caller. Got to do a better job. We've got to make sure we get these guys ready to go so that when we go into a game, we're capitalizing on our opportunities. I thought we had some opportunities in the first quarter (against Seattle) and didn't do enough, obviously. But that's always a good problem to correct when you win a football game. You've just got to be on your 'A' game every week."



Green Bay Packers running back A.J. Dillon grits his teeth as he carries the ball during the team's win over the Seattle Seahawks on Nov. 14 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. Dillon will have to carry a bigger workload the next couple weeks with starting running back Aaron Jones out.

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Packers blank Seahawks at Lambeau for 8th win

Dillon scores 2 TDs

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The Green Bay Packers defense continued its recent string of success, this time shutting out the Seattle Seahawks in the team's 17-0 win on Nov. 14 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

The Seahawks got quarterback Russell Wilson back after he missed time with an injury, but the Packers' defense was up to the challenge. It was the first time that Wilson has been shut out in his NFL career.

"First and foremost, it's hard to shut out anybody," said Packers safety Adrian Amos. "But then when you got a guy that can extend (plays) who has the pedigree and all the things he has done — a Super Bowl-winning quarterback and everything — that's a tough task."

It marked the first Packers' shut-out win since September 2018.

The Packers' pass rush chased Wilson around all game, leading to some errant throws and costly mistakes. The Seattle quarterback completed half of his 40 passes for



Green Bay Packers running back A.J. Dillon, left, and Elgton Jenkins celebrate with fans after Dillon scored a touchdown during the game against the Seattle Seahawks on Nov. 14 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

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only 168 yards, was intercepted twice and was sacked three times.

Both of the Packers' interceptions came in the end zone.

Cornerback Kevin King got the first pick in the third quarter on what

was the best Seattle drive of the game. Amos got the second takeaway on a deep ball from Wilson in the fourth quarter.

"I thought our defense really carried the night," said coach Matt LaFleur.

It was a standout performance from start to finish for the Packers' defense.

Four of the five Seattle possessions in the first half ended in punts. The other drive came right before halftime, with the Packers' defense knocking down a pass to the end zone as the second quarter clock expired.

Seattle had just 86 total net yards at halftime.

Amos said that it was at halftime that the defense started having thoughts of pitching the shutout, and the unit continued to dominate in the second half.

The defense forced another punt on Seattle's first drive of the third quarter before King's pick kept the visitors off the scoreboard on the next drive.

"It's always good to get interceptions, especially down in the red zone — taking points off the board. Those are huge," said King. "Get that momentum swing and give it back to the best offense in football."

After the Packers turned the ball over, the defense picked them up by forcing a three-and-out.

After Green Bay was able to extend its lead to 10-0, Amos had his interception to set up the Packers' final scoring drive of the contest.

Up 17-0 with under two minutes to play, the only real question left was if the defense was going to pitch the shutout or not.

Seattle worked the ball to the Green Bay 37 before outside line-backer Preston Smith came up with a big sack of Wilson, resulting in a 14-yard loss.

After an incomplete pass, the Packers' defense stopped a fourth-down pass short of the first-down marker as time expired to seal up the win.

"A lot of times when you're up like that, you give them something cheap at the end. That was good to see we closed it out at the end, didn't give them nothing cheap to make it interesting with them kicking an on-side kick — we finished it right then," said Amos.

Seattle finished with 208 net yards for the game and had the ball for just over 20 minutes.

The defensive effort was especially big because the Packers' offense struggled for a large portion of the contest.

The Packers' offense drove right down the field on the first possession of the game, but a holding penalty and sack forced a 42-yard field goal attempt, which kicker Mason Crosby missed.

After punting on the next two drives, the offense put together a 14-play, 82-yard drive to finally score. This time, Crosby connected from 27 yards.

The offense had another chance to score before half, but eventually turned the ball over on downs.

The unit had just four possessions in the second half. The first ended in a punt before a promising drive ended in an Aaron Rodgers interception in the end zone.

The offense at least ended the day on a positive note with a pair of touchdowns from running back A.J. Dillon, who finished with 128 total yards of offense. His touchdown runs were from 3 and 2 yards out.

Dillon got the bulk of the workload in the second half after starting running back Aaron Jones left and didn't return with an injury.

In Rodgers' return from the COVID-19 list, he struggled at times but still finished with 292 passing yards, with the longest pass going to Dillon for 50 yards. Davante Adams had seven grabs for 78 yards, Jones added four receptions for 61 yards and Marquez Valdes-Scantling pulled in a 41-yard reception.

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