

Winter roars back into Oconto County



ABOVE: A lone walker crosses Washington Street in Oconto as a gentle snow falls Jan. 6. TOP RIGHT: Snow returns to the Oconto River in Oconto on Jan. 6, the day after the 12th day of Christmas. BOTTOM RIGHT: Snow covers the Oconto County Courthouse grounds for the first time in weeks. The wintry sights turned out to be a preview of bigger things to come, as a major winter storm was expected to descend on the area Tuesday.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

Summer concert lineup announced

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

The Oconto Falls Area Chamber of Commerce has rolled out the lineup for its annual Music by the River Sunset Concert Series, which has become a staple of the summer season.

The monthly series brings regional bands into town to perform from 6-9 p.m. at East Side Beach. Residents and visitors are invited to bring their own lawn chairs and enjoy a free concert as the sun sets over the Oconto River. Food and refreshments are available for purchase on the grounds.

Usually staged on the last Friday of the month in June, July and August, this year the last event is scheduled for Aug. 16.

This year's musical roster:

- June 28: Adam Trask, a band that aims to provide classic rock music from several eras with some modern and country cross-over hits.
- July 26: Breakfast Club, which describes itself as an authentic reproduction of timeless 1980s singalongs and dance hits.
- Aug. 16: Drive West, a five-piece variety band covering rock, country, Funk and R&B hits from the obscure to the obvious.

Local breeder wins top honors

Three dogs raised by Ri Lee Kennels of Oconto Falls placed high among the 5,756 canines entered in the AKC National Championship Dec. 15-17 in Orlando, Florida.

Local breeder owner handler Nikkie Kinziger-Francois of Ri Lee Kennels and GCH Ri Lee's Diamond of Faith, better known as Ivy, finished as the No. 1 owner-handled Tibetan Terrier in the National Owner Handler Series (NOHS). They competed against other finalists in the series and won Best of Breed.

They then went on to compete in the NOHS Group where they placed fourth, defeating 75 other owner handlers. Ivy is only the third Tibetan Terrier to win honors in the Owner Handler Group since the inception of this category in 2013. With a total entry of 31 Tibetan Terriers, Nikkie and Ivy further went on to win Select Female and Best Bred By Exhibitor on Dec. 16.

GCH Ri Lee's Dreams Etched in Diamonds, Vivienne (with handler Parker Lourier), and CH Ri Lee's Diamond Paragon, Bradley (with co-owner Tracy Doty) also represented Ri Lee Kennels at the National Championship and were also honored with Best of Opposite Sex



Posing with ribbons earned at the AKC National Championship are, from left, handler Parker Lourier with GCH Ri Lee's Dreams Etched in Diamonds, Vivienne; co-owner Tracy Doty with CH Ri Lee's Give Me Diamonds, Bradley; and Nikkie Kinziger-Francois with GCH Ri Lee's Diamond of Faith, Ivy.

CONTRIBUTED

and second Award of Merit. For more information on Ri Lee Kennels, visit its Facebook page or www.rileekennels.com.

INSIDE

School to Home Language Project underway at OFES .

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BACK AGAIN!

GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

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Project gets 4K Oconto Falls students reading

Four-year-old students at Oconto Falls Elementary School are taking home books and accompanying activities to use as the School to Home Language Project gets underway.

In spring 2023, 4-year-old kindergarten teachers Pamela Jackson and Alison Clausen and reading specialist Crystal Beaman wrote a grant proposal requesting money to purchase books and accompanying activities from the Leon H. and Clymene M. Bond Foundation. Oconto Falls was awarded grant monies to purchase 30 different book titles along with activities that matched book topics.

The School to Home Language Project was designed to provide all Oconto Falls 4K families with opportunities to build language skills as parents/guardians read with their children and engage in quality conversations through play.

Each week, 4K students take home a small backpack



Four-year-old kindergarten student Violet Schadrie shows off her fine motor lacing skills with materials provided through Oconto Falls Elementary School's School to Home Language Project.

CONTRIBUTED



Four-year-old kindergarten student Oscar Durocher shares how he sorted teddy bears by colors and sizes with materials provided through Oconto Falls Elementary School's School to Home Language Project.

CONTRIBUTED

with a book and activity. Families are encouraged to use the materials for five to six days. These books and activities were intended to promote positive home and school connections. Access to quality children's literature and activities is

intended to remove barriers and increase literacy. When families return materials to school, they receive another backpack with a new book and activity on a rotating schedule. By engaging with these materials, parents/guardians

help to build oral language skills through speaking and listening. Oral language skills are the building blocks for later reading and writing success. Beaman and the 4K team spent time during an open house recently pre-

sending parents/guardians with information on how the human brain learns to read. Hearing words helps children build an understanding for new concepts and makes students aware of individual sounds in words. Students who

can recognize individual sounds in words are later able to connect letters to those sounds for reading and spelling. Promoting literacy experiences and exploration is expected to impact students' future learning success.

County Public Health offers discounted radon tests

Oconto County Public Health is lowering the price of radon tests to encourage county residents to test for radon gas in their homes.

The easy-to-use tests will be for sale at the discounted price of \$5 per test. This sale will run through the entire month of January, which is National Radon Action Month. To make it even easier to get a radon test, several Oconto County municipalities have partnered with Public Health and will sell the test kits at their locations through January.

You can get a test kit at the following locations:

- Abrams Town Hall: 920-826-2299
- Pensaukee Town Hall: 920-826-2010
- Gillett City Hall: 920-855-2255

- Chase Town Hall: 920-562-3957
- Little Suamico Town Hall: 920-826-7655
- Mountain Town Hall: 715-276-6474
- Riverview Town Hall: 715-276-6914
- Little River Town Hall: 920-834-3617
- Oconto County Courthouse; Building C third floor: 920-834-7000
- Oconto Falls City Hall: 920-846-4505
- Brazeau Town Hall: 920-897-3855
- Townsend Town Hall: 715-276-6856

For information and addresses for these locations, visit www.co.oconto.wi.us/474/Municipalities. For an extra fee, test kits can be mailed from the Oconto County Courthouse only. Call 920-834-7000 for information.

Anyone with a home in Oconto County (cabins, too) can buy a test kit from any of these locations. Residents are welcome to buy a test kit at their nearest location; they do not have to live in that municipality. They can even buy a test kit for a friend or family member. Hours vary by location. Verify that the location will be open before traveling to it.

Radon is a radioactive gas from the ground that can enter a home through tiny cracks in the foundation. Radon causes 21,000 lung cancer deaths nationwide each year and about 962 of these deaths are in Wisconsin. This cause of lung cancer is largely preventable. The first step is to test.

For more information, visit <https://www.ocph.info/radon>.

Wild game banquet planned at Oconto Falls High School

Hillside Assembly will be sponsoring a free wild game banquet Jan. 27 at Oconto Falls High School, 210 N. Farm Road, Oconto Falls. A potluck dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m., with the featured seminar speaker, James VanSteenhouse, "The Bear Man," at 6:30 p.m. The doors open at 4 p.m.

VanSteenhouse, a retired CEO of Interline

Mortgage Services LLC, is an avid archery hunter around the world. He grew up on a farm in Michigan hunting with a shotgun and rifle. In September 2015, he was attacked by a grizzly while on an archery moose hunt, and it changed his life forever.

Display of replicas of huge white tail deer will be in the school gymnasium. This amazing display of

world-class trophy white-tail deer presents a unique display. This year includes grizzly bear and huge white tails taken in the wild. There will be a youth Nerf gun range from 4-5:30 p.m. with prizes.

Donation raffle prizes will be available again this year. For information, contact the church office at 920-855-2962 or www.hillsideassembly.com.

Future child care center makes progress



Renovation of the former Kaempfer and Associates building continues at 650 E. Jackson St. in Oconto Falls, where the goal is to open an Encompass Child Care Center serving up to 140 children by mid-June.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

Lena workshop looks at farm production costs

Farms have a pair of opportunities to get together with other farms to analyze expected production costs and help them prepare for the season ahead.

The Extension offices of Oconto, Marinette, Shawano, and Langlade counties are sponsoring a workshop at 10:15 a.m. Jan. 17, at Lena Town Hall, 6087 Goatsville

Road, Lena.

The workshop will feature attendee discussion about their anticipated costs for various crop management practices, on a crop by crop basis. Regional crops/soils educator Scott Reuss will moderate the discussion and utilize an Excel spreadsheet through which the group will calculate

expected per acre costs and revenues. The goal is to develop a reasonably accurate cost of production estimate for raising key crops in our region.

This is a free workshop, and registration is not required. For information, contact Reuss at 715-732-7510, 715-701-0966 or scott.reuss@wisc.edu.

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OCONTO COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

Proceedings of Jan. 4

• An Oconto County jury found Amy M. Uphill, 39, Oconto, not guilty of possession of methamphetamine, felony bail jumping or misdemeanor bail jumping in connection with an incident that occurred Sept. 6. Jurors deliberated for less than an hour before reaching their verdict.

Proceedings of Jan. 3

• Jeffrey M. Collard, 53, a Green Bay resident currently serving time at Dodge Correctional Institution in Waupun, was sentenced to 30 months in prison, followed by three years of extended supervision, for operating a motor vehicle with a restricted controlled substance (fifth or sixth offense), in connection with an incident that occurred July 31, 2022. Judge ruled that the sentence is concurrent with Collard's present sentence and that he is eligible for the

Substance Abuse Program, which can lead to early release upon successful completion.

• Jeremy R. Tank, 45, Pound, was placed on two years' probation after Judge withheld sentencing for child abuse recklessly causing harm, in connection with an incident that occurred Oct. 8, 2022. Conditions include 30 days in the Oconto County Jail with Huber work-release privileges starting Jan. 18.

• Michael K. Berck, 51, Green Bay, pleaded no contest to charges of the manufacture and delivery of psilocin, manufacture and delivery of THC and maintaining a drug trafficking place, in connection with an incident that occurred July 25. Judge scheduled sentencing for March 4 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

• Alissa R. Dehut, 32, Abrams, pleaded no contest to hit-and-run involving injury, in connection with an

Oct. 19, 2022, crash in the Town of Pensaukee. Judge scheduled sentencing for March 1 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

• Bond was set at \$500 cash for Conner Richard Lewis, 17, Shawano, after he was charged with misappropriating ID information to avoid penalty and misdemeanor counts of bail jumping and resisting or obstructing an officer, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Jan. 1. Judge adjourned his initial appearance until Jan. 11.

• Bond was set at \$500 cash for Scott A. Engle, 44, Marinette, after he was charged with possession of methamphetamine and misdemeanor counts of possession of illegally obtained prescription drugs and possession of drug paraphernalia, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Dec. 29. Judge adjourned his initial appearance until Jan. 11.

OBITUARIES

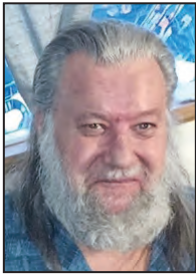
William J. Bullock

William J. "Willy" Bullock, 65, passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 30, 2023.

William was born March 30, 1958, in Oshkosh to the late William and Phyllis (Cheesebrough) Bullock. On Oct. 28, 2000, Willy was united in marriage to the love of his life, Karen Heling, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, White Clay Lake.

Willy had a tremendous work ethic and worked as a carpenter for many years before retiring. In his free time, he enjoyed watching the Packers, treasure collecting, attending bluegrass festivals and listening to music of all kinds. Willy was a great man with a wonderful sense of humor. He loved making people laugh and would do anything he could to help someone in need. He loved the holidays and always dressed up as Santa for his family.

William was an amazing



husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He will be deeply missed

and always remembered.

Willy is survived by the love of his life, Karen; children, Matthew (Robin) Vaughn, Maria (Jay) Gilmore-Bullock, Tabatha (Joshua) Valley, Robert Vaughn and Kelly (significant other Josh) Vaughn; grandchildren, Mahrea (Spencer), Ashley (Gage), Gracie, Jerimiah, Tucker, James, Cameron, Jacob (Jazzi), Autumn, Jerri, Bryanna and Jaydyn; great-grandchildren, Charlotte, Emersyn, James and Brinley; his beloved dog, Molly; and siblings, Daniel (Sandi) Bullock, Linda (Elmer) Kallies, David (Linda) Bullock, Ruth Bullock,

Jeffrey Bullock and Sam Bullock.

He is further survived by numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Willy was preceded in death by a grandson, Angelo; sisters, Phyllis Diaz and Susan VandenBusch; and his parents, William and Phyllis.

A celebration of Willy's life is being planned for a later date.

Willy's family would like to extend a special thank you to the first responders from Gillett and Shawano as well as to ThedaCare Regional Medical Center in Shawano for all they did.

"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." John 11:25-26

www.swedbergfuneral-home.com

Ervin Peitersen



including the Yamaha Touring Association.

Bob once served as presi-

dent of the NEW Coyote Club and Bear Hunters Association. He was also a volunteer fireman of the Oconto Falls Fire Department and also served as fire chief. Bob will be fondly remembered for his love of farming, making maple syrup and helping out his neighbors.

Survivors are his wife, Joan Peitersen, Oconto Falls; five children, Leah (Ian) Willmann, Green Bay, Susan (Don) Greiling, Oconto Falls, Robert (Patty) Peitersen, Belle Fourche, South Dakota,

Sally (Mike) Squires, Sobieski, and Jackie Peitersen, Oconto Falls; seven grandchildren, Christos, Yanna, Kimberly, Kristina, Preston, Ian and Eli; one sister, Cheryl Kelly, Weston; one sister-in-law, Diane Peitersen, Oconto Falls; many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, Dean; brother-in-law, Pat Kelly; and in-laws, Ervin and Marie McClure.

Visitation with the urn present will be held after 3 p.m. Monday, Jan. 15, 2024, at Jones Funeral Service in Oconto Falls until the time of services. Memorial service will be held 6 p.m. Monday at the funeral home with Pastor Gary Olson officiating.

In lieu of other expressions of sympathy, a memorial fund will be established.

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OBITUARIES

Marvin H. Zahn, 85, Gillett, entered into eternal rest Friday, Jan. 5, 2024, in the farmhouse where he was also born and raised.

Marvin was born on Aug. 11, 1938, to the late Robert C. and Hattie (Mueller) Zahn. He was a baptized, confirmed and lifelong active member of Immanuel/Faith United Lutheran Church in Gillett. On July 26, 1958, Marvin married Dorothy Mae Timm at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Gillett, which was located directly across the road from the Zahn farm. Marvin dedicated his life to his faith in Christ.

He was a fourth generation farmer on his family



farm that was established in 1878. He worked side by side with his father and passed that same passion of farming on to his own family. He was a man of the land and went from driving his team of horses (Barney and Kernal) to driving the largest John Deere tractor made. There was never an empty buddy seat in his tractor, as he always loved taking his grandsons with him whenever he could.

Marvin was very proud

that he and his son, Robert, traveled to Germany and got to tour the John Deere chopper factory, and see the homeland of his German ancestors. He saw the farm grow from 14 cows to a size he could never have imagined.

Marvin had many joys in life outside of farming. He was an avid bowler, enjoyed fishing, camping and playing dartball. He liked making homemade sausage and never missed a year of deer hunting right on the farm. Along with so many other talents, he was an expert carpenter. He and his sons built many barns and sheds by hand throughout the years. He could be seen rid-

ing around the farm in his Kubota UTV checking on things every day.

Marvin will be remembered as a selfless, kind-hearted man who would help anyone at any time. He was a very patient man and never complained. He loved that the farm allowed him to work close with family every day. Marvin's genuine smile will be missed by all.

Marvin is survived by three sons, Robert (Kathleen) Zahn, Ricky (Debbie) Zahn and Randy Zahn; one daughter, Cindy (John) Banchy; grandchildren, Justin (fiancé Whitney), Jacob (Kaitlyn), Jesse (fiancé Emily), Eric (Kelly), Mindy Ward, Noah (Crystal), Luke;

great-grandchildren, Kaden and Delaney; sister, Beatrice Krause; brother, Ronald (Jody) Zahn; special friend, Gloria Bonnin; and family friend, Joanne. He is further survived by many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Marvin was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy; sister Lillian (Roy) Miller; and brother-in-law, Jim Krause.

Visitation and services were held at Faith United Lutheran Church in Gillett on Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024, with Pastor John Laatsch officiating. Marvin will be laid to rest next to his wife, Dorothy in Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery

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

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established in Marvin's memory.



Audrey L. Gallagher, 89, of Shawano, passed away on Monday, Jan. 1, 2024, at Sun Valley Assisted Living Facility, Shawano.

Audrey Linda Gallagher was born Jan. 8, 1934, in Gillett, daughter to the late Edmund and Linda (Kitzman) Elbe. She graduated from Gillett High School with the class of 1952.

Audrey was united in marriage to Lowell F. Gallagher on Sept. 11, 1954, at St. John's Lutheran Church, Gillett. She lived in the Oconto Falls area for about five years, where she



started working as a nurse's aid at the Oconto Falls hospital. After moving to the Town of Wescott in 1959, she later worked at the Shawano hospital as a nurse's aid in the OB department, starting in 1965.

After many years of service, Audrey decided to attend Northwest Technical

Institute to earn her LPN certificate. On Feb. 2, 1981, Audrey went back to work at Shawano Hospital as an LPN, where she worked until her retirement in 1997. She also worked after retirement for a time as a med-tech at Heartland Nursing Home, Shawano.

Audrey enjoyed reading and traveling with her daughters. They would take spontaneous road trips around the state, took Amtrak across the country on multiple occasions and traveled to Hawaii, New Zealand and Australia.

lia. Audrey cherished her grandchildren to the fullest and will be remembered for her caring nature, and the love she had for family, friends and patients over the years.

Audrey is survived by her daughters, Rachel (Brian) O'Brien, Cecil, Brenda Reynolds, Shawano, and Candace (Terry) Foss, Milwaukee; grandchildren, Benjamin and Katelyn O'Brien, Nicholas Buchholz, Bradford Reynolds, Hope (Tyler) Albertson, and Andrew Nelson; a great-granddaughter, Kali

Nelson; brother, Wallace (Charlotte) Elbe, Belton, Texas; her canine companion, L.B.; and many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her parents; daughters, Deborah Gallagher (in infancy) and Susan Gallagher; son, John Gallagher; son-in-law, James Buchholz; sisters, Virginia (Llewellyn) Strehlow and Barbara (Frank) Frazer; and a special canine companion, Ubo.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan.

8, 2024, at Hope Community Church, Shawano, with the Rev. Chris Secor officiating. Interment took place following the service at Wescott Lake Drive Cemetery, Town of Wescott.

Visitation took place on Monday at the church from 9 a.m. until the time of service.

The Eberhardt-Stevenson Funeral Home and Crematory, Clintonville, is assisting the Gallagher family.

An online guestbook is available at eberhardtstevenson.com.

On Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023, Arvilla Christensen, 93, of Suring, passed away under the attentive care of her family and Unity Hospice.

Arvilla was well known for her hospitality, always offering fresh homemade pies and vegetables from the garden. She was instrumental in establishing a family business and keeping it going for nearly 50 years. Many will smile at remembering her ability to get things accomplished.

On April 29, 1967, she was baptized as one of Jehovah's Witnesses. Her love of God and neighbor and the promise of a restored paradise on Earth motivated her to share this hope with many in the community.

Arvilla will be missed

by her sons, Howard (Karen) Christensen and Jeffrey (Nancy) Christensen; daughter, Toni (Kurt) Zastrow; granddaughter, Heidi Brickner; and grandsons, Michael (Jin Hee) Christensen and Jonathan Christensen.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Russell; father, Earl Fletcher; mother, Lillian Fletcher; and sister, Jeanette Gross.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024, at Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 506 Chestnut Ave., Oconto Falls, from 1 p.m. until the memorial service at 2 p.m. with Kurt Zastrow officiating. Arvilla will be interred in the Breed Union Cemetery.

Gruetzmacher Funeral Home in Suring is as-

sisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences can be expressed at www.gruetzmacherfuneralhome.com

A special thank you to all members of Unity Hospice for their attentive care to Arvilla and her family. The family would also like to extend a special thank you to Sandra Bannister and Mackenzie Wozniak whose exceptional loving care added great enrichment to Arvilla's past few years.



Milton M. Laabs, 89, of Berry Lake, passed away peacefully on Saturday morning, Dec. 30, 2023, at Aurora BayCare Medical Center in Green Bay.

Milton was born Aug. 23, 1934, in Abbottsford, a son of the late Alfred and

Alvina (Awe) Laabs. He attended country schools and later served in the U.S. Army from 1961-65. Upon returning from service, he started driving semi for Super Value, then drove for Klemm Tanker Truck. Following his retirement in 1998, he continued driving gravel trucks and delivery equipment on a part-time basis.

On Dec. 10, 1972, he was united in marriage

to the former Yolunda "Yogi" Thorne. Milton loved doing yard-work,

keeping his animals, traveling and hunting whenever he could. His home and his yard were his pride and joy.

Survivors include his wife, "Yogi," of Berry Lake; eight children, Lana (Mark) Dittman, of Shawano, Darwin Laabs, of Shawano, Stacey (Marty) Minnick, of Arizona, Tony (Regina) Thorne, of



Alabama, Shawn (Katrina) Thorne, of Bonduel, Jenny (Jody) Bystol of Shawano, Billy (Michelle) Laabs, of Shawano, and Dan (Stephanie) Laabs, of Gresham; 19 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; his brother, Marlin (Priscilla) Laabs, of Marshfield; and several brothers- and sisters-in-law. He is further survived by numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Milton was preceded in death by his brother, Alfred Laabs; his sisters, Jeanette Jeffrey and Joann Laabs; and two grandsons, Jacob Thorne and Jeremy Hoff.

A time to remember and celebrate the life of Milton Laabs will be held on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Mickelson Funeral Service in Shawano. AmVets Post 10 will conduct military honors at the funeral home at 1 p.m.

Mickelson Funeral and Cremation Service Inc. of Shawano is assisting the family with arrangements. Please share online condolences at www.mickelsons.com.

The family would like to thank the staff at Aurora BayCare Medical Center and the Gillett Ambulance Service for their care and concern.



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GUEST COLUMN

Fearless forecasters flail again for 2024

It's another year, and all things seem filled with renewal and possibility. Except, sadly, the ongoing record of futility racked up by the super-secret cabal known only as Forecasters Anonymous.

Super-secret in order to spare its members the acute embarrassment of publicly showcasing their mass ignorance.

Each December, the group gathers for lunch and a stab at predicting events of the coming year.

The members are very good at eating, as their waistlines attest. Not so good at prognosticating, as their unbroken record — stretching over decades — of abysmally wrong predictions proves.

Most of the names of those in attendance would be familiar to our community's readers. At least old readers. Forecasters members are getting a bit long in the tooth, but they have been (or, is it has-been?) longtime leaders in industry, finance, business, academia and other fields. All have made their mark in the region, and never let anyone forget it.

Even though, judging from the hapless predictions they make, success surely arrived more out of luck than skill.

To prove the point, the best score on last year's predictions was under 70% correct — a low D or high F, by classroom standards. Most scored below 50%. The "winner" of what is called the Completely, Hopelessly, Confused Award got just 40% of the predictions right.

Consider some of the silly forecasts for 2023, made at the December 2022 luncheon:

- Almost everyone expected a recession in 2023. Didn't happen.
- They did expect the Packers to have a better record than the Bears, though both teams pretty much suck.
- Aaron Rodgers would take the opening-day snap for the Green Bay Packers. In fact, he lasted four plays for the New York Jets.
- Gas prices were expected to be about a dollar higher than they are.
- Liberals would not take over the Wisconsin Supreme Court, which they in fact did by beating the conservative candidate by double digits.
- Mortgage rates would be a reasonable 5% or so. Tell that to wannabe homebuyers.
- California Gov. Gavin Newsom would be running for president for the Democrats. Nope. Old Joe is still saddled up.



Bill Barth
Guest columnist

• Doubt took over on a question about whether Wisconsin would legalize recreational or medical marijuana and tax it accordingly, like pretty much every other state around us. Hint: The parking lot at the dispensary just feet across our border with Illinois is filled with Wisconsin plates.

So it went. With that kind of sorry outcome, performance expectations for the 2024 predictions should be low. Nevertheless, the intrepid members of Forecasters Anonymous once more gave it their best. Here, for what it's worth (not much), is a sampling of the group's consensus opinions:

- Ground will not be broken for the Ho-Chunk casino complex approved for Beloit.
- Trump may be elected in November or maybe Biden or maybe somebody else. No matter who wins, though, the loser will graciously concede defeat. Really?
- Tammy Baldwin and Bryan Steil will keep their jobs.

• Republicans will not win control of the Senate. Democrats won't win control of the House.

• The Dow will be between 37,000 and 38,000 at the end of the year, which means the market will be stuck where it is.

• Bucks fans, forget it. The Lillard trade will not bring a title.

• New Wisconsin legislative maps to replace the court-rejected gerrymandered ones will be in place for the primary election.

• Hunter Biden will be convicted of a felony.

• Trump may, or may not, be convicted. The group clearly has forgotten that old adage often attributed to the late, great Rock County Circuit Judge Edwin Dahlberg, about sometimes being in error, but never in doubt.

There's more, but we have asked readers to endure enough. Forecasters Anonymous will return next December to stuff bellies and blow the dust off infrequently exercised minds. Then we will report on how their predictions turned out.

Until then, hope springs eternal. Happy New Year.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Doing homework needed for election

To the editor:

In 2024, we will be facing a presidential election. As a swing state, Wisconsin will be flooded with television commercials, mailers and phone calls. Opponents on both sides will try to attack the other. Voters will have to do their homework and try to decide what is true and what is false.

There will be obvious differences when it comes to maintaining democracy at home and abroad. President Joe Biden is standing up to authoritarian leadership, which suppresses the rights of citizens. From working across the aisle to secure appropriate gun safety laws to improving community infrastructure by repairing roads and bridges, he has consistently proved concern for the safety of all Americans.

Voters will reflect on the present state of the economy and how lives are being affected. A drop in the unemployment rate to under 4% has occurred under Biden. Policies have led to better paying jobs and standing up to corporate price-gouging. Since the pandemic, he has



opened the door to more business and worked to lower gas and prescription drug prices and increase health care and child care. Biden has shown he cares for hard-working Americans.

Everyone will need to think about who is committed to moving our country forward. From addressing climate change to expanding the internet, giving people access to health care and more educational opportunities, the next leader should have plans that treat all Americans fairly.

It's not too early to do your homework.

Shirley Hinze, Shawano

People all equal in American dream

To the editor:

It is supposed to be an American standard that we are all created equal. If our gifts and talents were equal, the supermarkets and the department stores would not exist. These blessings exist because millions of people from all walks of life are gifted and talented differently.

However, we all have the same equal birthright. If we respect God as our father, he respects us individually as his personal family members. Our judgement is not based

on what we accomplish in comparison to what other people accomplish. Our judgement is based on what we do with the individual gifts and talents that we are given to work with.

The widow does not have the same function in life that the multi-billionaire has, but in God's family, they are still brothers and sisters with an equal eternal value. In being created in the spiritual image of God, human beings are the only creatures in all of God's creation with artistic imagination to design new things or to change things that we were designed to do at the time of our creation.

Loren L. Longard, Suring

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

Limit privacy protections for police officers

Law enforcement officers in Winnebago County shot three people in 2023, one fatally. While we know the names of the people shot, the identities of those who pulled the trigger remain secret.

The fatal shooting, on Aug. 2, was of an armed 37-year-old man at a Neenah gas station by an Outagamie County sheriff's deputy and an Appleton police officer, both members of the Lake Winnebago Area Metropolitan Enforcement Group, a narcotics enforcement unit. The two nonfatal shootings, on March 17 and June 29, involved Oshkosh police officers.

Even after investigations have cleared all three officers of wrongdoing, officials have withheld their identities, citing different rationales.

In the fatal shooting, Sheboygan County District Attorney Joel Urmanski said the Appleton police department requested its officer's name be withheld because "they work in an undercover capacity." The Outagamie County Sheriff's Department continues to withhold its deputy's name due to "credible threats" to safety.

Authorities in northwestern Wisconsin have also



Jacob Resneck
Guest columnist

cited "a threat directed at officers" who shot and killed a knife-wielding suspect on Oct. 8 to withhold release of their names. The Wisconsin Department of Justice led the investigation of the shooting by two Rice Lake police officers but more than a month after completing its probe has still not released the investigatory file on its website, a deviation from usual practice.

In the nonfatal shootings, in which the suspects face felony charges, Winnebago County District Attorney Eric Sparr has cited Marsey's Law, a state constitution amendment passed in Wisconsin in 2020, to enhance the rights of crime victims. Sparr said in an interview that the officers' names are being withheld "just the same way we wouldn't release the names of victims in other cases."

Law enforcement agencies in Florida and Ohio have similarly cited those states' version of Marsey's Law in refusing to release

the names of officers involved in shootings. In late November, Florida's conservative-leaning Supreme Court rejected anonymity for police officers who shot and killed suspects. But the practice remains untested in Wisconsin courts.

Tom Kamenick, an attorney and founder of the Wisconsin Transparency Project, doesn't buy that undercover officers can't be named, especially given that they don't use their real names in the field.

"I'm very wary of government agencies claiming that the identities of government employees who killed people need to be kept secret," he said.

Meanwhile, the Oshkosh Police Department took months to release bodycam footage from both non-fatal encounters. In one case, the footage was redacted to obscure the image of the armed man shot — which even the district attorney said went too far.

"Since that was ruled a justified shooting, he would not be the victim of a crime," Sparr said.

Oshkosh police refused to explain their reasoning for the edits, but its records division released a less obscured redacted version

three weeks later.

Now, if Republican lawmakers have their way, it could soon be prohibitively expensive for news outlets and members of the public to obtain such footage. A bill backed by law enforcement groups and recently introduced in the state Senate would allow police agencies to charge for the time it spent editing and redacting bodycam footage before it's released to the public.

The Wisconsin Department of Justice's guidance on Marsey's Law puts the burden on local authorities to balance between privacy and transparency as required by law. Kamenick thinks that's not enough.

"It really would have helped if the attorney general's office would have put out clearer guidance," he said.

In lieu of this, it is up to the public and the press to demand minimal standards of accountability and transparency for police officers who shoot — and even kill — people in the line of duty.

Jacob Resneck is an investigative reporter with Wisconsin Watch. Your Right to Know is a monthly column distributed by the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council (wisfoic.org), a nonprofit, nonpartisan group dedicated to open government.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, JAN. 12
NAVARINO: Light Up the Night Torchlight Ski/Snowshoe, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. One-mile loop route. Free with nonperishable food donation, otherwise \$5 members, \$10 non-members, \$20 family. Rental fees extra for skis or snowshoes. Register at 715-758-6999 or www.navarino.org.

SATURDAY, JAN. 13
NAVARINO: Introduction to Cross-Country Skiing, 9-10 a.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. \$5 members, \$10 non-members, \$20 families. Register at 715-758-6999 or www.navarino.org.

SUNDAY, JAN. 14
SHAWANO: Winter Hike with Shawano Pathways, 1:30-3 p.m., Cotter Creek Trails, W9050 Broadway Road. Bring snowshoes if there's snow cover; boots with traction if not. Free, donations

appreciated for maps and trail upkeep. Questions: contact Joel Kroenke at 715 853-6879 or info@shawanopathways.org. Pre-registration not required.

TUESDAY, JAN. 16
COLEMAN: Marinette and Oconto Counties Literacy Council annual meeting, 1 p.m., Village Hall, 202 E. Main St. Officers to be elected, general plans to be made for the year, review of bylaws and policies. Public welcome; call ahead if attending to Janet Glime 920-373-1035 and information will be sent.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 17
NAVARINO: Wednesday Winter Walks Series, 9-10 a.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Slow-paced exploration of one of the center's trails. Weekly through January. Cost: One hike \$5 members, \$10 non-members; entire series: \$15 members, \$30 non-members.

Register at navarino.org or 715-758-6999.

THURSDAY, JAN. 18
KESHENA: Shawano County Chamber of Commerce Celebration and Awards Banquet, 5:15 p.m., Menominee Casino Resort and Convention Center, N277 State Highway 47-55.

SATURDAY, JAN. 20
LENA: Squirrel hunt and raffles, sunrise to 6 p.m., Ray's Boneyard Saloon, 9089 Frontage Road. Fundraiser for Oconto County Veterans Memorial. Sign up by 6 p.m. Jan. 19; \$20 per two-person team. Hunting from sunrise to noon; raffles and paddle wheel noon to 6 p.m., 50/50 drawings at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

POUND: White Potato Lake Ice Fishing Derby, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., shoreline near Wouter's Front II, 13127 White Potato Lake Road. Cash prizes in six fish categories; \$50 and

\$10 ticket raffles; table raffles, half-hog and quickie meat raffles.

SHAWANO: All Species Fishing Tournament, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bamboo Bar, W5884 Cedar Court. First- and second-prize payouts for bass, northern, walleye, crappie, perch, bluegills; payouts based on entries. Must fish Shawano Lake only. Complete rules at Bamboo Bar's Facebook page or by calling 715-201-1158.

TOWNSEND: Bonfire in the Woods, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Red Arrow Snowmobile-ATV Club Clubhouse, 16712 Hummingbird Hill Lane. Join the ride; free hot dogs and hot chocolate on the trail. Donations accepted to support the trail system in the Townsend area.

WITTENBERG: "The Art of the Quilter X — Sew Bee It," 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal St. More than 40 quilts on display; People's Choice awards and Award of

Excellence to be given.
NAVARINO: Porcupine Snowshoe Hike, 1 p.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Snowshoe through the woods and bog to the porcupine dens. \$5 members, \$10 non-members, \$20 families. Snowshoe rentals extra. Register at 715-758-6999 or www.navarino.org.

ABRAMS: Machickanee Forest Candlelight Ski, 5:30-8 p.m., Trailhead at 6625 Timberline Road. One-mile trail groomed for classic cross-country skiing lighted by candlelight. Snowshoeing allowed by side of the trail. Fires for warming and cooking. Fellowship and trivia at the trailhead.

SHAWANO: Second annual SAYPro Adult Prom, 7-11 p.m., Stubborn Brothers Brewery, 220 S. Main St. Masquerade theme, formal dress code encouraged. Appetizers and special photo opportunities included with registration fee of \$30. 715-575-9392 or email saypro13@gmail.com

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Applications open for 77th Alice in Dairyland

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) invites individuals with a passion for promoting agriculture to apply to be the 77th Alice in Dairyland through Jan. 31.

As one of the most widely recognized communications professionals in Wisconsin agriculture, Alice in Dairyland travels extensively promoting Wisconsin's agricultural industry and its impact on the state economy. In this highly visible and fast-paced position, Alice in Dairyland serves as a full-time spokesperson, cultivates relationships with television, radio, and print media outlets throughout the state, writes and delivers speeches at events and utilizes social media to tell the stories of Wisconsin agriculture.

Additional duties include developing and executing marketing plans, delivering classroom presentations and networking with industry professionals. Alice must also learn and retain information about the diversity of Wisconsin agriculture and be able to tailor that information to educate both urban and rural audiences.

"Serving as Alice in Dairyland is a once in a



Ashley Hagenow currently serves as Wisconsin's 76th Alice in Dairyland. She is midway through her one-year term, and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is looking for who will serve as the 77th Alice.

CONTRIBUTED

lifetime opportunity, and I will be forever thankful for this experience," said 76th Alice in Dairyland Ashley Hagenow. "In this role, you are a teacher, communicator, agri-marketer, professional speaker, media professional,

relationship builder, student and so much more. Serving as an ambassador for Wisconsin agriculture is the most rewarding and exhilarating experience. I look forward to continuing the important work of promoting Wisconsin's

diverse and abundant agriculture industry while developing skills to use throughout my career."

Alice in Dairyland applicants should have an interest in Wisconsin agriculture, public speaking experience and at least

three years of experience, education or training in communications, marketing, education or public relations. Applicants must also be female residents of Wisconsin who are at least 21 years old.

This one-year, full-

time, contractual position starts July 8. The chosen candidate will travel extensively and be required to be in-person at the DATCP's Madison office each week. The annual salary for Alice in Dairyland is \$45,000 and includes holiday, vacation and sick leave, and use of a state vehicle while on official business. Reimbursement is provided for an individual health insurance premium up to \$450 a month and professional travel expenses.

To apply, provide a cover letter, completed application form, resume and contact information for three professional references to DATCPAlice@wisconsin.gov or P.O. Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911 by 4:30 p.m. Jan. 31. Application materials are available at www.aliceindairyland.com.

Qualified applicants will have a preliminary interview on Feb. 24 at DATCP's Madison office or via Microsoft Teams. Top candidates are required to attend a two-day program briefing and press announcement March 1-2 and the three-day final interview process May 2-4 in Door County.

For information about the program, visit the Alice in Dairyland website.

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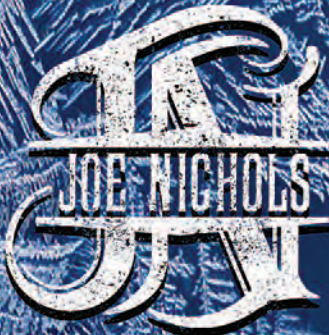
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Take safety to next level for those unaware of hunting seasons

All of us can do little things to make a big difference in preventing accidents. We all tend to have 20/20 hindsight after an accident, but of course, then it's too late. The infamous Three Mile Island release of radioactive gas into the atmosphere, considered one of the worst North American nuclear plant accidents, was a long series of missteps that led to disaster.

I experienced a brief "coulda been" situation that really wasn't a close call because of our experience as hunters. It occurred during the holiday hunt (Dec. 24 through Jan. 1) for antlerless deer in Waupaca County at a muzzleloader club near my home.

Sitting behind a stretched piece of camo fabric waiting for a doe to show were a friend and club prospect, Scott, and myself.

We are both experienced deer hunters and follow the four basic hunting safety rules at all times, including "Be sure of your target and what's beyond." Contrary to slob hunting folklore (probably unfairly forwarded by anti-hunters), most hunters don't randomly fire at noises or flashes of movement in the woods, and don't leave farmers' gates open to let all his cattle to wander. I'm sure you've heard the latter story 100 times, but I've



Ross Bielema
Columnist

never found an actual case of it.

It was about 3 p.m. on a warm post-Christmas afternoon, and we were scanning the woods and nearby open field for deer. Suddenly, in the woods to the south, I saw the flash of white that likely signaled a moving white-tailed deer. It was a trail crossing where I'd seen and even killed deer before.

"Scott. Deer." Those were my first whispered words. We turned slightly to face the movement for a better look.

Within a few seconds, two young girls ran into an opening where primitive campers pitch their canvas tents during the club's October rendezvous, followed by an adult and a dog. My heart skipped a beat when I saw the girl with the white coat in plain sight. Although she was never in danger with us, I shivered to think of what could happen with younger or less-experienced hunters.

When I was a reporter and later outdoors writer in Davenport, Iowa, we had a couple from nearby Bettendorf, Iowa, who moved to Maine, another state with a

long legacy of deer hunting. The woman, perhaps not familiar with deer hunting, decided to chop wood on their wooded property, deciding to wear a brown jacket and white chopper's mittens as she swung her arms up and down.

It was a fatal mistake. She was shot in the chest by a careless hunter who was road hunting (legal in some states for pheasants, but not typically for deer) and saw her white mittens as a deer's tail. Why would anyone shoot at a deer as it runs away?

Another reporter covered the story for months on the man's arrest and later trial. I hesitate to call such a person a hunter, but this poacher didn't follow basic safety rules, and the woman didn't use common sense during the deer season. Had she worn a blaze orange cap and/or jacket, she'd likely be alive today.

I immediately yelled to the man and waved at him. He acknowledged us by waving back and immediately moving his group out of the area. No harm, no foul.

Since I knew where many of the buckskinners normally put their camps, I had an idea who the man was. A text to him later confirmed my suspicions. He said he had simply forgotten about the holiday hunt, a relatively new hunt in Waupaca County that



A Christmas Eve deer hunt in Waupaca County was interrupted when dozens of blue jays descended on columnist Ross Bielema's hunting spot, so he made the best of it and started shooting photos. It was the only thing he shot that day.
ROSS BIELEMA

is annually decided by the county's deer advisory council.

We later talked about it, and he apologized, but the incident was a valuable lesson for everyone and shows how quickly and easily an accident can happen.

I stirred up a minor hornet's nest when I suggested that our club close the shooting range during all of the gun deer seasons for safety reasons. Although our range doesn't get used much even in summer months (I know because I live close enough to hear the shots), a few shooters took exception. We had a spirited discussion at our Jan. 3 meeting that led to various additional safety suggestions, including a sign to tell members when

the gun deer seasons are open. Sure, you can look it up at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov>, but how many will take the time to do that?

We've also had club members collecting pine boughs for holiday decorations during a deer season with no blaze orange on and one who drove a vehicle through the same campground. We hunters keep track of each other's locations via texts, but hunters can always take an extra step to notify non-hunters of their presence, whether by a sign on their vehicles or other means.

One club member thought it would be helpful to put some extra blaze orange caps and clothing in the clubhouse for use by non-hunters when in the

woods during deer season.

Most of us hunters get so engrossed in our sport that we forget we are the minority (just a bit more than 10% of the overall population hunt), and others don't know when the deer or other seasons are. I've run into this especially on public land when encountering squirrel or other small game hunters. In a state like Wisconsin where deer hunting is sacred and storied, it's hard to believe we hunters need to tell everyone when we are in the woods, but if it prevents injury or death, it's worth the extra effort.

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

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LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK

Feedback makes the quill grow stronger

One of the best things about writing this column is feedback, even from strangers who approach and ask if I'm Kathleen Marsh. Well, with the way things are right now, I find myself hesitant to answer. Then I throw caution to the wind. So far, it's all been good. I've met interesting people who tell me I enrich their lives. That works both ways.

These folks usually comment on a topic I've written about and share a similar experience. I always leave these encounters feeling fulfilled, especially when someone says I made them laugh, cry, think or remember. I'm fully aware that the capability of using words to evoke strong emotions is one of the most powerful weapons human beings possess.

An older gentleman, Matt: "We always celebrated St. Nick's Day with candies and oranges, like your family. That article brought back warm recol-



lections of my childhood."

A lovely lady, Alice: "My mother knitted our St. Nick stockings using wool sheared from our own sheep. She stored them in her hope chest, protected by mothballs. Most people hate that smell, but for me it brings back wonderful memories."

When the feedback is from people I know, that can be worrisome too, especially if they're good writers.

One reassuring response came from Evelyn Gaede, a retired teacher and published author. "One year I had 15 middle schoolers in a special education classroom in Waukegan, Illinois. Many found excuses to hang out in my classroom before school or during lunch.

It didn't take long for my aide Mrs. Nieves and me to figure out they felt safer there. Some were starved for attention, needed a sympathetic ear or basked in the positive feedback. Mrs. Nieves opened my eyes to what their home lives were like and helped me by helping them understand why I had to keep strict order.

"When the size of the lunch group became overwhelming, we made a schedule. We'd go through the lunch line with whoever was on the list that day and carry their trays to our room. It was also an incentive. If students were well-behaved and did their work, their names went into a jar. We drew two names each Friday; winners were invited to lunch with us the following week. We couldn't believe how those kids really wanted to spend that time with us.

"At Christmas, we decided to buy a coat for a student still coming to school in a light windbreaker. I

found a super warm snowmobile jacket on clearance. Wait. We couldn't give a present to one and not the others. My husband, David, pitched in so we could buy each one something they really needed. Lots of happy tears that last day before vacation. Thanks for bringing back a precious memory."

Also weighing in was Carrie Sherrill, a former student and excellent writer. "I loved your St. Nick and Christmas columns! It's so great the way you weave historical facts into the story so that we all learn something new, and I can certainly identify with 'Mike.' We were one of those poor Kaukauna families from 'the wrong side of the tracks.'

My mom was so proud, and even though Dad was disabled and died when I was 15, she worked hard to avoid being thought of as a 'charity case,' but we had neighbors who would sneak things onto our porch or

into our mailbox. My high school guidance counselor (Betty Nigl) was one. Had it not been for Betty, I likely wouldn't have gone to college. She found scholarships and grants for me, reassuring my mother I'd be fine so far from home (Green Bay)."

Carrie chose a nursing career, though she would have made a great English teacher. When it comes to eliciting emotions, this girl's got game. Here's an example of her using her gift for writing poetry to describe a heartfelt experience.

At the Nursing Home

In the far corner, Phillip leans over the tray of his geri chair, unable to speak since the stroke two years ago. He takes it all in. His eyes bright his paralyzed arm hugs the stuffed puppy that is his constant companion

now that Marie has passed. He leans closer, cocks his head raises his eyebrows, intent on the music. The fingers on his good hand tap in time to the happy songs: Frosty the Snowman We Wish You a Merry Christmas And then I see it. This miracle of Christmas he forms the words words of the old country so long stored in his memory's vault Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht no voice, but he mouths the entire song as a single tear falls down his whiskered cheek.
— Carrie Sherrill

Wow. Talk about powerful words. Here's hoping you make beautiful memories in 2024.

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

Weight loss surgery can help to reverse type 2 diabetes

For many, weight management is an important factor that helps support their overall health and well-being.

"Carrying extra weight is a major risk factor for type 2 diabetes," said Dr. Kevin

Wasco, a general surgeon and co-director of the The-daCare Bariatrics program. "In fact, 90% of people who have type 2 diabetes are overweight or obese. Many people understand that maintaining a healthy

weight helps prevent this metabolic disease."

Numerous studies have explored the relationship between weight and diabetes. New information suggests that weight loss surgery can possibly help

improve symptoms of type 2 diabetes or even reverse the condition altogether.

It's a popular topic among health care providers because the burden of diabetes continues to increase. Effective treatment options can help improve the quality of life for millions of Americans and reduce the strain of diabetes on the health care system. According to an American Diabetes Association Report, diabetes cost Americans \$412.9 billion in 2022 alone.

"Weight loss surgery is one of the most promising solutions for addressing type 2 diabetes," Wasco said.

Diabetes is a metabolic disease that prevents your body from maintaining healthy blood sugar levels. People who have type 1 diabetes produce very little insulin or none at all. With type 2 diabetes, either the pancreas can't produce enough insulin or the body stops responding to insulin

the way it should.

Type 1 diabetes is often genetic, while type 2 diabetes results from lifestyle factors such as diet and living a sedentary lifestyle.

Without treatment, diabetes can cause many health issues. High blood sugar can damage organs, nerves and tissues throughout the body. It can also lead to kidney problems, diabetic peripheral neuropathy and vision issues.

While there is no way to reverse or prevent type 1 diabetes, studies show that lifestyle changes and weight loss can help reduce symptoms and even reverse type 2 diabetes. Some interventions have better outcomes than others, with weight loss surgery leading the charge.

Weight loss surgery includes a variety of surgical interventions that can help people lose weight. People who qualify include those with a body mass index of 40 or higher, as well as people with a BMI

of 35 or higher with at least one other significant health condition, such as type 2 diabetes.

Two types of weight loss surgery are available.

Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass restricts the size of the stomach by partially bypassing the small intestine. It provides the fastest and most complete loss of excess weight.

Gastric Sleeve Resection is sometimes a better choice for people with significant medical problems, this procedure removes approximately two-thirds of the stomach. It also allows for future procedures if a person regains weight.

On average, people will lose a total of 125 to 150 pounds within one year or later after weight loss surgery. Nearly 75% of patients maintain their significant weight loss after five years.

"We often hear that these procedures give people a second chance by improving their health and quality of life," said Wasco.

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Holistic ways of knowing can lead to satisfying environment

According to Dr. Anne Jones, the Menominee word anamaehkatih translates to “Happy New Year.”

She shared: “I just learned that phrase from Monica Macaulay who is a linguistics professor at UW-Madison. It was provided by an elder in the 1980s. It quite likely comes from the verb anamaehkatowak, ‘They greet each other, say goodbye to each other, shake hands,’ because one of the words for January is anamaehkatwan-kesoq—shaking hands moon.”

Jones spoke at the College of Menominee Nation’s employee convocation last week to help kick off the new semester. At the invitation of CMN President Christopher Caldwell, she facilitated a conversation titled: “Spirit, heart, mind and body: Holistic ways of knowing can lead to a satisfying environment for learning and working well with one another.”

“Menominee and Indigenous ways of knowing, like language and cultural teachings, are vitally important to our people and our ability to thrive well into the future,” Jones said. “We know that the Menominee and Wisconsin’s Tribal Nations were deeply and profoundly impacted by colonization, forced removals, termination and the boarding school era. Native people have cultural teachings, ways of being and knowing that have sustained us since time immemorial and it’s extremely important that we honor our ancestors and our children of the future by leading from our culture.”



Jones, who describes her professional background as being “in community development,” is a professor in the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension.

“I have worked for Extension for 25 years serving in a variety of capacities including associate dean, special assistant to the dean for strategic directions and as a community development educator in Kenosha County,” Jones said. “As a specialist, I use Indigenous methodologies like the medicine wheel and cultural teachings to help people, organizations and communities achieve their goals.”

“The least important thing about me is my educational background and the most important thing is that I’m a Menominee. Sure, I’m proud that I went to school and earned a Ph.D., but I am even more proud of my family. My grandmother was Mary Blumreich, who was among the many leaders who fought for restoration, and my mom is Joan Lord who lives in Keshena. Their hard work and perseverance created the circumstances that got me to where I am today.”

“I was born in Oconto Falls and grew up in Kenosha. I’m proud of my Swedish grandmother too. I come from a long line of strong women.”

Jones’ conversation with CMN’s staff and

faculty was not her first interaction with the school. She enthused, “I learn so much when I visit and I feel like I am at home and comfortable with just being who I am. I’ve been at CMN to help with a ‘Tribes Lead!’ program, to help moderate a panel discussion and am also helping with some program evaluation.”

Still, her conversation was the first time she addressed all of CMN’s employees.

“I hope that faculty and staff see ways to incorporate cultural teachings into their work and that faculty in particular feel comfortable with exploring ways to indigenize their curriculum and learning outcomes,” Jones said

Jones began by noting that while the Badger State is only 175 years old, archeological findings show that Menominee people have lived here, in the place now called Wisconsin, for at least 14,000 years.

“Indigenous ways of knowing are more important than academic ways of knowing, at times, but we need both,” Jones said.

While all CMN employees are trained in part in the Western world, Jones focused their attention on what she called the “Grandparent Teachings.” Calling them “how to be in the world,” Jones



Dr. Anne Jones shares her knowledge Jan. 3 at the College of Menominee Nation Cultural Learning Building for the college’s employee convocation.
MICHAELA WELCH | COLLEGE OF MENOMINEE NATION

explained that humans have spiritual, emotional, intellectual, and physical gifts that make up the four quadrants of the medicine wheel.

“We need to use all of our gifts,” she said. “Sometimes we find comfort in our own personal strengths or abilities, but the lesson of the Medicine Wheel is to use all four of the components.”

After CMN employees self-divided into the quadrant they felt was their strength, each

group reflected on their value and when their gift became overdeveloped and caused shadowing — going from a strength to a deterrent — that stifled both personal and collaborative growth for the school.

Ultimately, CMN was asked to look to a higher power and ask “how is spirit calling your name to create a more holistic learning and working environment?” Jones said. “I hope that everyone knows that they are valued and

important to the success of CMN and to its students.”

Judging by the stories shared aloud both in small groups and larger discussions, Jones achieved her goal. To put it another way, her visit went a long way in ensuring a reflective, anamaehkatowak for CMN and the students it serves.

Ryan Winn teaches courses in communication, English, history, and theater at College of Menominee Nation. For more information about the school, visit www.menominee.edu.

NEWS CORRESPONDENT

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

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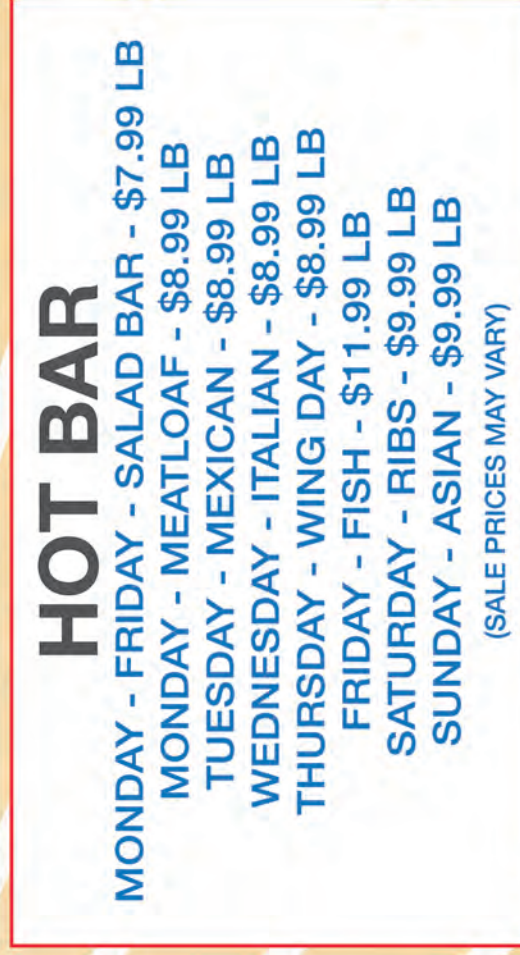
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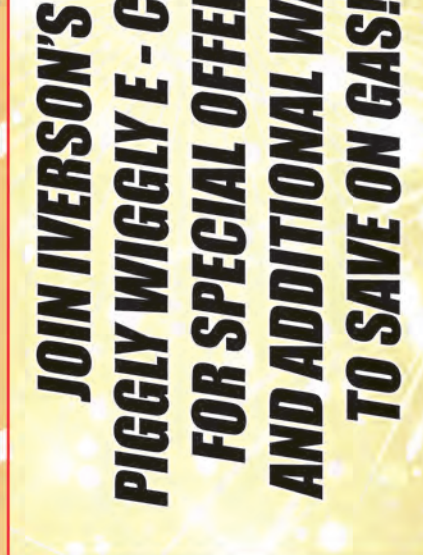
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Shawano wrestlers successful at Shiocton

Wittenberg-Birnamwood captures first place at Merrill tournament

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Shawano's boys enjoyed a successful tournament at Shiocton on Jan. 5, going up against teams from Shiocton, Medford, Stevens Point and Reedsville.

The team wrestled Stevens Point in the opening match and defeated them 46-22, lost to Medford on the last match of the dual 37-32 and defeated Reedsville 78-6.

Shawano won the pool due to a three-way tie in pool wrestling and won on criteria of most points scored.

"We advanced to the championship match vs. Shiocton," coach Mike Homan said. "In that match, we had some big matches to move us into first place."

It all started with a big win at 106 pounds by Dylan Gartner, 7-2, and Dane Hodkiewicz pinned his opponent in 30 seconds.

"We lost the next two matches but got back on track at 132 with a major decision by Owen Montour 18-6, Kody Popelka secured a fall at 138 over Zach Reif of Shiocton in 3:54," Homan said.

Drake Herm was in a tight match when he secured a pin over Jordan Jahnke in 4:29. Carsen Herm secured a win at 157 over Blake Carton 6-2. Drew Chelberg at 165 continued the winning with a major decision 13-2 over Logan Leeman. Mason Theis also secured a win at 175 with a fall in 3:54, and Kia Waukau finished out the dual meet with a sudden victory 3-1 over Owen Carlson.

With these matches, the team won the championship dual 41-30.

"It was a great team win as everyone fought hard in their matches," Homan said. "I was really proud of the team as they came together tonight and continued to fight hard when it mattered."

This was the first tournament win that the Hawks have had in the last 10 years.

Shawano's girls also wrestled in Shiocton.

Finsihing in first were Caitlyn Moede and Ali Lemerond. Coming in second were Onna Hermann, Adalyn Barkley and Courtney Schenk. Taking third were Jenna Moede, Madelyn Moesch, Breleigh Thornock, Vivian Waldburger and Lily Tomas.

Lauren Harkey placed fourth.

"We continue to have our leaders on this team step up and lead by example," Homan said. "It is very exciting to see all of these girls continue to stack up wins."

Wittenberg-Birnamwood places first at Merrill

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood wrestlers took first place at the Blue Jay Wrestling Invite on Jan. 6.

Brooke Hoffman finished first for the girls at 185, and Nathan Waupekenay was first for the boys at 190.

Placing second were Andres Sanchez-Decorah at 150 and Owen Schultz at 215. Finishing in third were Dalton Fletcher at 106 and Bryson Schmid at 175.

Fourth-place finishes went to Brenna Marsh (girls) at 114, Easton Davis



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Brooke Hoffman finished in first for the girls at 185 pounds to help lead the Chargers to a first-place finish at a tournament in Merrill. There were 26 teams competing in the event. CONTRIBUTED

at 132, Ben Miller at 138, Megan Bresnahan (girls) at 138 and George Seegmiller at 215.

Other finishers were Bo Davis, 113, sixth place; Braxton Olson, 120, 12th place; Gideon Hayek, 126, 14th place; Grayson Niswander, 150, 16th place; Joey Seegmiller, 157, eighth place; Braeden Groshok, 165, 15th place; Carter Waldvogel, 190, eighth

place; and Dominic Weso, 285, sixth place.

Hawks win by a point

A hard-fought battle at West De Pere on Jan. 4 came down to the Shawano wrestlers winning by a single point, 34-33.

There were a few girls matches mixed in before and after the varsity dual meet. Caitlyn Moede got the night started off with a

quick pin of her opponent.

After that, the boys teams started the varsity dual. At 132, Owen Montour won 10-3, Drake Herm won by fall at 138, Cody Popelka had a huge major decision against one of the best West De Pere wrestlers at 144, winning 9-1.

Shawano lost the 150-pound match but secured a fall at 157 by Carsen Herm.

"We lost the two matches at 165, and 175, giving up decisions," coach Mike Homan said. "These were important matches, and they mattered a great deal, especially because they were decisions, and we kept West De Pere out of bonus points."

At 190, Kaydin Campbell secured a fall in 1:09, and Connor Chelberg followed it up with fall in 2:29.

"We lost the heavy-weight match but got on track at 106 with a big win by Dylan Gartner 6-0," Homan said. "As we headed into the last three matches of the night, we knew we were going to have to give up less than three pins. Holding at least one match to a decision would secure a victory for the team."

Dane Hodkiewicz was up at 113; he ended up on the losing side but only gave up a decision 6-1.

"I was proud of how hard he fought tonight and kept that match close the whole way," Homan said. "It was a great effort by Dane with the meet on the line."

Kody Popelka was up next.

"We knew it was going to be a close match, but Cody really wrestled a tough gritty match and came away with a late takedown that secured a major decision" Homan said. "This was the difference in the dual that went back and forth between each team. Kody has been doing well lately and really opened up his offense tonight. We look forward to more of that from him as we move through the season."

Dickman helps Antigo win in overtime

Eli Kassler scored the winning goal in overtime to help Antigo defeat Milton 5-4 on Jan. 6.

However, before then, Owen Dickman scored all four goals for Antigo.

Milton started the game with a 2-0 lead in the first period. Dickman scored his first goal at 2:41 in the second period with assists from Kassler and Parker Paff. Milton then went ahead 3-1, but Dickman scored again, this time at 15:34, with help from Alex Brittenham and Nolan Bunnell to make it 3-2 at the end of two periods.

Dickman wasted little time in the third period to tie and then lead Milton. At 1:10, he scored with assists from Collin Tiedemann and Kassler to tie

the game at 3-3. Then, at 2:25, Antigo took the lead on Dickman's fourth goal with help from Kassler. Milton would tie the game at 4-4 at 3:27, which ended regulation scoring.

Antigo ended up with 35 shots on goal, and Milton fired off 41.

Oshkosh 9, Shawano/Bonduel 2

Shawano/Bonduel's quick score against Oshkosh was a flash in the pan as the Ice Hawks came storming back to claim a 9-2 win Jan. 4.

Max Huntington scored at the 3:41 mark to give Shawano a 1-0 lead. However, Oshkosh answered with three goals in the first period, all in less than three minutes, to take a 3-1

lead.

Cam Schroeder scored with an assist from Karson Stoss just a minute into the second period to tighten the score to 3-2. But, like in the first period, Oshkosh answered with a string of five goals in the period to go up 8-2.

Another goal for the Ice Hawks in the third period ended the scoring.

Tyson Lyons and Kaiden Thornborrow split time in the net for Shawano, collectively getting 18 saves on 27 shots on goal. Oshkosh's two goalies made 20 saves on 22 shots.

Shawano/Bonduel served eight minutes in the penalty box on four infractions, while Oshkosh was penalized four times for 11 minutes.

Antigo 5, Northland Pines 3

Owen Dickman scored three goals and assisted on a fourth as Antigo downed Northland Pines 5-3 on Jan. 4.

Dickman put his team up 1-0 with a goal in the first period, with an assist by Eli Kassler.

After the Eagles tied the game at 1-1 midway through the second, Dickman, again with help from Kassler, scored at 11:13. He scored again at 16:15 as Antigo led 3-1 going into the third period.

Kassler scored with help from Ian Brittenham and Dickman at 12:10, and then scored again on his own at 12:33 for a 5-1 lead. Northland Pines scored twice in the third period, but it wasn't enough of a

comeback.

Antigo recorded 29 shots on goal, while Northland Pines had 25.

Antigo 6, Pacelli 4

A hat trick by Owen Dickman helped propel Antigo to a 6-4 win over Stevens Point Pacelli on Jan. 2.

The game wasn't as close as the final score would indicate, but Pacelli did appear to be the verge of a comeback late in the third period before Antigo slammed the door shut.

Antigo took a 2-1 first-period lead with two early scores. First it was Eli Kassler with an assist from Dickman, and then it was Dickman scoring on his own.

Antigo went up 3-1 with

an early second-period goal by Kassler and an assist by Dickman. After Pacelli made the score 3-2, Antigo answered with another goal by Kassler to take 4-2 lead going into the third period.

Dickman scored with a Kassler assist at 6:30 to make it 5-2. Pacelli's comeback was swift when it happened. First, they scored at 10:09, and then they quickly scored again at 10:31 to make it a 5-4 game. Dickman ended their hopes, though, when he scored with help from Kassler at 14:39 to make it 6-4.

Pacelli was penalized five times for 18 minutes, while Antigo was called for two infractions for four minutes.

Shawano girls continue roll with another win

By **DUSTIN RIESE**
Correspondent

The Shawano girls kicked off the second half of their season with a trip to Bay Conference rival Seymour on Jan. 4 and returned home with another win.

Winners of four of their last five entering the game, the Hawks (12-3) have been on quite a run this season and appear set to challenge for the Bay Conference crown.

It was more of the same as the dynamic duo of Leah Nordin and Abby Bystol led the way on offense, while the defense made life miserable for the opposition. The defense is what stood out in this one as the Hawks continued to go about their business with another big 51-31 victory.

“We have really started to get on a nice run and play some great basketball the past few weeks,” coach Ryan Koenig said. “Tonight, I thought we

played hard and really good defensively all night. Offense started out slow, but the second half did a better job.”

Things didn’t go as planned for the Hawks in the early going as Salem Boyd picked up four quick points for the Thunder and helped Seymour race out to an early 6-0 lead. That was a lead they would hold for nearly five minutes as the Shawano offense appeared out of sync early on.

All it took was a triple from Bystol to get the offense rolling. She and Nordin combined to score the next nine points as Shawano used its 9-0 run to grab the lead for good 9-6.

“Our spacing and movement was not good to start, and I thought halfway through the first half we got back to normal,” Koenig said. “Once that happened, we started to play our game, and we started hitting our shots more consistently.”

That 9-0 run may have given the Hawks the lead, but they were just getting started as the Thunder offense did next to nothing the rest of the first half. Add that to Bystol and Nordin having their way on the inside, and opening things up for Trinity Popelka and Ella Stuber from deep, it was the Hawks ending the first half on a 24-6 run to double up the Thunder 24-12 at the break.

As expected, the Hawks continued to keep the pressure on to begin the second half with Popelka opening the scoring, while Nordin was starting to show her range from deep with a triple to push the lead to 29-15. Another tough bucket by Nordin gave the Hawks a 31-16 advantage, with Popelka and Bystol getting in on the fun to push the lead up to 37-17.

Fully in control as they were most of the night, the Shawano defense continued to put the clamps

down, forcing the hosts into tough situations. That resulted in several costly turnovers leading to a pair of Nordin buckets as Shawano could do no wrong and pushed their lead to 41-17, their biggest of the night.

“Defense is our bread and butter, and tonight it was the difference in the game,” Koenig said. “I just loved our focus and communication from everyone, and we need to continue that the rest of the way.”

In desperate need of a late game spark, Keira VandeHei did her best by providing four quick points for the Thunder with Natalea Hill getting involved late to provide most of the Seymour offense down the stretch. At one point, it was starting to feel as if the Thunder would make a late-game push to try and make things interesting, but Nordin had other plans as she continued to have her way with the Thunder defense to push the lead



back up to 22.

It was at this point in the game when the Hawks began to empty their bench, and it came after

Braylyn Babino connected for a corner triple. Popelka and Rylee Trochil closed out the scoring for the Hawks.

Lena girls keep up with their winning ways

By **NEW MEDIA STAFF**

Jan. 5 Gresham

Gresham was never threatened by the Northeast Wisconsin Christian Homeschoolers Athletic Association (NEWCHAA), as the Wildcats won with ease, 70-20 on Jan. 5. Gresham imported to 9-3 overall.

Marion

Marion’s losing skid extended to a fifth game with a 41-31 loss to Tri-County. The Mustangs are 2-9 overall.

Oconto Falls

Oconto Falls moved ahead of Denmark in the North Eastern Conference with a 42-30 win. The Panthers are 5-3 in conference play (8-3 overall), while Denmark fell to 4-4 in league action.

Rylie Shallow and Mad-dy Maloney each scored 11 points for the Panthers.

Oconto Falls led 19-12 at the break and extended their margin of victory with a 23-18 second half.

Jan. 4

Gillett tops Suring

Going into their Jan. 4 game, Gillett and Suring were tied at 2-4 in the Marinette & Oconto Conference. After Gillett’s 43-28 win, they improved to 3-4 (5-6 overall), while Suring dropped to 2-5 (4-10) overall.

Lena

Keeping its perfect record alive, Lena finished on top of Coleman 53-47. Lena is 7-0 in Marinette & Oconto Conference and 12-0 overall.

Eva Brooks led all scorers with 20 points. Kali Fischer added 13, and

Whitney Porter scored another 11.

Brooks also led with 11 rebounds and four assists. Alabama Lambert and Madilyn Thomson each grabbed three steals.

Lena led 26-15 at the break, while Coleman won the second half 30-27.

Menominee Indian

Even though four of its six players scored in double digits, Menominee Indian came up short, losing a 54-51 game to Amherst. The Central Wisconsin East Conference loss dropped the Eagles to 1-4 in conference action and 4-9 overall.

Ayanna Smith and Lena Waukau each scored 13 points, and Urijah Reeves and Aaliyah Corn each scored 10. Anisa Peters chipped in three, and Natalie Peters added two. Waukau sunk three 3-pointers,

while Smith and Corn each had two.

Corn led the team with 10 rebounds and four steals, Reeves had three assists.

Pulaski

The Red Raiders improved to 5-2 in the Fox River Classic Conference with a 53-45 victory over Green Bay Preble. Pulaski is 7-6 overall.

Olivia Sprangers led all scorers with 24 points. All six of her teammates also scored, although none did so in double digits.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood

The Chargers kept themselves in the mix near the top of the Central Wisconsin East Conference standings with a 73-41 thumping of Manawa.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood improved to 4-1 in conference play and 11-1

overall.

“We played really aggressive tonight on both ends of the court,” coach Nick Mechelke said. “Defensively, we forced a lot of turnovers and finished well around the basket. Kit Stewart finished well, shooting 83% from the field. We knew Manawa was going to press the whole game, and our guards took advantage and saw the court well.”

Rory Salvesen was Witt-Birn’s scoring leader with 23 points, followed by Melaina Granquist with 17 and Stewart with 12.

Granquist pulled down 13 boards and had seven steals, while Salvesen contributed with six assists.

Jan. 2

Bonduel

Ella Hischke dropped in 12 points and Hailee Thompson added 11 to lead

Bonduel to a 55-36 win over Auburndale in non-conference action.

Hailey Zernicke was all over the place as she pulled down 10 boards. Hischke led the team with six assists, and Audrey Weier, Tatum Sporisky and Thompson each had two steals.

Gillett

Gillett ended its three-game losing streak with a 44-41 win over Sturgeon Bay in non-conference action.

Shawano

Shawano picked up after the holidays in the same place as they were before – with another win.

The Hawks defeated Waupaca 67-38 in a non-conference game at home.

Leah Nordin had 23 points, and Trinity Popelka scored 11.



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Bonduel, Gillett get dominant victories

Menominee Indian gets first conference win of the season

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Bonduel

Bonduel's 5-0 record in the Central Wisconsin East Conference puts them in sole possession of first place, thanks to a 62-47 win over Shiocton.

Freshman Quinn Wessenberg made five 3-pointers to lead the Bears, 10-1 overall, with 23 points. Ryan Westrich added 12 points, while seven other players scored as well.

Bonduel controlled the game, leading 38-28 at the half while outscoring Shiocton 24-19 after the break.

Gillett vs. Lena

Gillett and Lena are on near opposite ends of the Marinette & Oconto Conference, even more so after Gillett defeated their guests 72-31.

Gillett improved to 4-1 in the conference and 6-4 overall, while Lena dropped to 1-4 and 4-5.

Aydin Franti scored 23 points and Jesse DeBauch scored 22 to lead Gillett.

Mason Spice led Lena with nine points.

The Tigers wasted little time in demonstrating their dominance as they outscored the Wildcats 44-17 in the first half. Their 28-14 second-half performance more than sealed the win.

Menominee Indian

The Eagles earned their first Central Wisconsin East Conference win with a 61-57 defeat of Amherst. Menominee Indian is 1-4 in conference play and 2-9 overall.

Pulaski

The Red Raiders are solidly in the middle of the Fox River Classic Conference at 3-3 following its 90-57 blowout of Green Bay Preble, which has yet to win a conference game.

Pulaski, 6-4 overall, has been going back and forth with wins and losses since the first week of December.

Shawano

Logan Simple's 26 points were almost enough

to single-handedly beat Green Bay East, as the Hawks trounced their hosts 70-29.

Will Verkuilen scored another 16 for Shawano, and Crew Weisnicht added another 10.

Shawano held a commanding 48-18 lead at the half. Scoring slowed in the second half, but the Hawks prevailed there, too, 22-11.

Suring

Suring remains without a win in the Marinette & Oconto Conference after losing a 65-41 home game to Niagara. The Eagles are 0-6 in the conference and 1-9 overall.

Tigerton

A 45-39 loss to Northland Lutheran dropped Tigerton to third place in the Central Wisconsin North Conference. The Tigers are 2-2 in conference play and 6-3 overall.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood

Wittenberg-Birnamwood won its second close game of the week with a 49-47 victory over Manawa.

The win improved the Chargers to 4-1 in the Central Wisconsin East Conference and 6-4 overall.

Jan. 2

Bonduel

Bonduel stayed perfect in the Central Wisconsin East Conference with a 75-51 win over Manawa.

Bonduel is 4-0 in league play and 9-1 overall.

Race Anvelink led the Bears with 18 points, including four triples. He was followed by Ryan Westrich with 13 and Noah Weier with 10.

Sam Roberts set the pace for rebounds with seven. Colin Margelofsky recorded nine assists and four steals.

The score of each half was nearly identical, with Bonduel winning the first half 38-27 and the second half 37-24.

Gresham

Gresham dropped to 0-3 in the Central Wisconsin North Conference and 0-10 overall with its 53-37 loss to White Lake.

Menominee Indian

In a Central Wisconsin East Conference game, Menominee Indian was defeated 67-41 by Weyauwega-Fremont.

The Eagles dropped to 0-4 in conference play and 1-9 overall.

Oconto Falls

The Panthers remained without a win in the Marinette & Oconto Conference after a 55-53 loss to Wrightstown.

Oconto Falls is 0-7 in league play and 2-9 overall.

Oconto Falls led 29-24 at the half, but Wrightstown battled back with a 31-24 second half to win.

J.J. Pytleski led the Panthers with 16 points, and Brady Bursa added 14. Jameson Beaman collected 10 boards, Bursa and Evan Yuma each had two assists, and Conner Wilquet had three steals.

Pulaski

Pulaski's 60-57 non-conference loss to New London left the Red Raiders with an overall record of 5-4.

Shawano

Shawano fell to 3-9 overall with its 76-42 non-conference loss to D.C. Everest.

The hosts doubled up on the Hawks in the first half, leading 46-23 at the break. They extended their lead with a 30-19 second half.

Tigerton

Green Bay NEW Lutheran overpowered Tigerton, 61-32, in a non-conference matchup.

Tighten, 6-2 overall, was led by Sam Anheuser with 11 points. Also leading the Tigers were James Brady with seven rebounds and three steals, Gavin Kielblock with two assists.

Tigerton trailed 34-15 at the break and fell behind by another 10 points with a 27-17 second half.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood

It was a close game in Amherst, but Wittenberg-Birnamwood managed to pull out a 61-57 victory in overtime.

"After a sluggish first half, we executed much better down the stretch and in overtime," coach Garrett Rogowski said.

Amherst led 24-21 at the break, but the Chargers tied it up at 44-44 at the end of the second half. A 17-13 overtime score gave Wittenberg-Birnamwood the win.

Jett Rogowski led Wittenberg-Birnamwood with 22 points and eight rebounds. Oliver Fraaza added 10 points.

Boone Schairer had three assists, and Fraaza had three steals.



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources urges ATV/UTV riders to be careful operating in winter conditions. CONTRIBUTED

ATV/UTV riders urged to beware of winter conditions

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) urges ATV/UTV riders to be mindful of potentially dangerous winter conditions when operating recreational vehicles during the extended riding season.

Many of the state's trails have yet to be covered in snow, but just because a winter road or trail is legally open for riding doesn't mean it's safe. Frost, ice and fresh snow can cause slippery conditions. UTVs and ATVs may have great traction off roads, but that can change when they are driven on roadway routes in winter.

"Be extra careful, espe-

cially when slowing down and approaching turns," said Lt. Warden Jacob Holsclaw, DNR off-highway vehicle administrator. "Nothing stops fast on slippery pavement, and these machines do not handle the same as a car or a truck."

In 2023, there were 32 fatal ATV/UTV crashes in the state, the most recent of which happened on Dec. 31. The consumption of alcohol or drugs, excess speed, driver inexperience and operator error are leading causes of fatal crashes.

Here are a few more safety tips to keep in mind when operating your off-highway vehicles during

winter.

- Never consume alcohol or drugs before or during your ride.
- Always wear a DOT-approved helmet.
- Always wear a seatbelt in a UTV.
- Remember, no ice is 100% safe. Warmer than usual winter temperatures have created hazardous ice conditions, and extra caution is necessary.
- Do not travel in unfamiliar areas.
- Let someone not riding with you know where you are going and when you will return.
- Follow all posted speed limits and regulatory signs.

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Athlete nominated to Youth Olympic Winter Games U.S. luge team

A Cecil girl is among seven athletes nominated to represent the United States at the Gangwon, South Korea, 2024 Youth Olympic Winter Games. Talia Tonn is one of two girls who met the standard to race in the singles completion for USA Luge. Other athletes are competing in boys' singles, boys' doubles and girls' doubles. The field is limited to 15

sleds in both doubles disciplines and 20 sleds for the singles disciplines. Qualifying was determined through International Luge Federation sanctioned events, including Continental Cup, Youth A World Cup, Junior World Cup or World Cup competitions, during the 2023 and current seasons. Athletes eligible to

compete must have been born between Jan. 1, 2006, and Dec. 31, 2009. The race will take place at the Alpensia Sliding Center, site of the 2018 Olympic Winter Games, from Jan. 19 to Feb. 1. Luge training will begin Jan. 15, and a schedule for luge competitions can be viewed at <https://olympics.com/en/gangwon-2024/sports/luge>.

Experience winter in a new light with DNR candlelight events

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) invites the public to celebrate the outdoors this winter at any of the several candlelight events happening across Wisconsin. These events are scheduled at different locations through March. These free-to-low cost events typically begin around sunset and offer a variety of ways to enjoy the winter scenery after dark, including hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Many will include activities such as bonfires, hot chocolate, cider and other refreshments available for sale or by donation, and some will have open warming shelters.

Those who would like to participate by hiking and snowshoeing do not need to have any experience. These events offer no-commitment opportunities for first-timers. Although the amount of gear needed varies, warm clothing with layers is recommended for all events. Trekking poles are optional. A headlamp or

flashlight is recommended. Some properties may have other equipment, such as snowshoes or an outdoor track chair, available to check out. Contact the property to see what is available and to make reservations. Find the full and additional details on the DNR's Event Calendar.

SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Sports is one of the first sections that readers dive into as they are eager to find out how their favorite teams are doing during the season. While we strive to cover as much sports as possible across three counties, helping hands with writing and photography skills are always welcome. NEW Media seeks correspondents to cover sports in Shawano, Oconto and Menominee counties. We cover more than a dozen high schools in the area, and writers who can report a game fairly and accurately while producing jaw-dropping action photos can go far with us.

Send a resume, writing and photography samples to editor Kevin Passon at kpason@newmedia-wi.com.



Bella- Meet Bella. She is a 5 year old cat looking for a calm home. Bella loves burrowing under her blankets and napping whenever she can. If you would like to meet Bella, contact the shelter to set up an appointment.



Cash- Meet Cash. He is a 3 year old pit mix who is looking for his forever home. He has settled in well and has been good for staff. He can be very sweet and goofy. Cash would do best in a home by himself without any other animals.



Thor- Meet Thor. He is a 1 year old Husky Shepherd mix. He is still young and full of energy. He really likes the outdoors and playing ball. Thor does well with other dogs and would like a buddy in his future home.



Maple and Oliver - Meet Oliver and Maple. They are an 11 month old duo looking for a home together. Oliver and Maple are a sweet pair of cats, they enjoy greeting the staff and exploring the shelter. They are both front declawed.

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Oconto Falls FFA earns ag literacy grant

Oconto Falls is one of eight Wisconsin FFA chapters to have been awarded \$500 grants through Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom's inaugural FFA Food for America Ag Literacy Grant program.

These grants will provide financial support to FFA chapters with plans for executing and evaluating agriculture literacy activities as part of Wisconsin FFA's Food for America program.

The Oconto Falls chapter's program is called "Shoes to Fill."

In the 2022-23 school year, Wisconsin FFA chapters reported activities reaching over 48,000 Wisconsin students and community members. Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom and Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation help support FFA members who are dedicated to our shared mission of increasing agricultural literacy across grades Pre-K through 12th grade through collaboration with educators, industry experts and volunteers.

"The Food for America program provides learning opportunities for students of all ages," said Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom Coordinator Beth Schaefer. "FFA members develop activities and teach their fellow students, learning core skills in communication and project management. Participants enjoy learning from a peer, which is an incredibly powerful educational experience."

CoVantage returns \$6M to members

A record \$6 million in patronage has been deposited into the accounts of members who borrowed and saved with CoVantage Credit Union in 2023.

This is the largest patronage payment in the history of CoVantage Credit Union. In the last five years, \$25 million has been returned to members specifically through patronage.

Patronage is a concept that originated many years ago as a way for cooperatives like CoVantage to give extra value to those who use their services. This marks the 43rd consecutive year that CoVantage member-owners have received this benefit.

"When the board and I met at the end of the year, we determined how much income was needed to fund regular dividends and operating expenses, and to maintain in reserves to protect the credit union," said Dennis Haltinner, CoVantage board chairman. "Because of our financial strength, and the fact that more and more members are trusting CoVantage with their deposits, loans and cards, 2023 was a successful year for our organization."

The year-end patronage payment includes a bonus on dividends earned for those who save and a loan interest rebate for those who borrow. CoVantage depositors received a bonus on dividends earned on eligible certificate, money market and savings accounts. Borrowers received a rebate of their total 2023 interest paid on eligible vehicle, home equity, in-house mortgage, credit card and commercial loans.

Information about the CoVantage patronage program can be found at covantagecu.org/patronage.

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ACROSS

1 Fragrance
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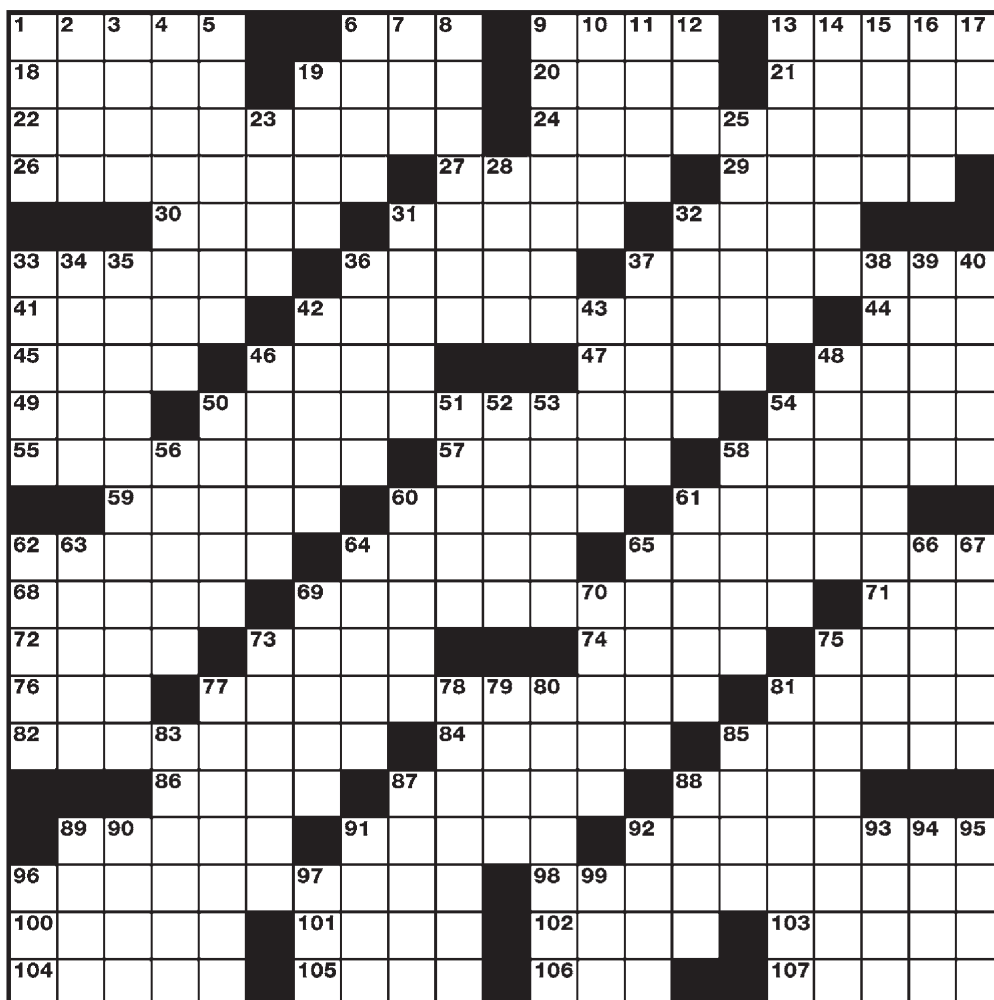
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- 2 Almost unobtainable

3 Small bills
4 Windy, wet seasons
5 Bending backward
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9 Manicotti filling
10 Wonderland dessert
11 Self centers
12 "Send help" signal
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14 Now degreased
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34 Hold responsible
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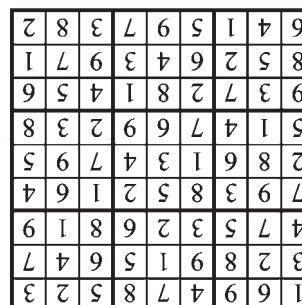
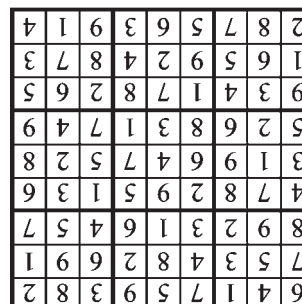
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56 Packs (down)
58 City of Tuscany
60 Didn't do anything
61 Civil War photographer
62 Leave quickly
63 GWTW heroine
64 Similarly
65 Passes quickly
66 Boca __, FL
67 Shelled out
69 Spanish national hero
70 Smart-alecky

73 Church district
75 Football officials
77 Needing work
78 Thinks much of
79 Diner serving
80 Beer can opener
81 Original SNL cast
member
83 Cast aside abruptly
85 Polka band instrument
87 "No more for me"
88 Sloping walkway

89 Indy Jones weapon
90 Irish republic
91 Takes to court
92 Snoozer of a speaker
93 Sentry's order
94 Had no doubt about
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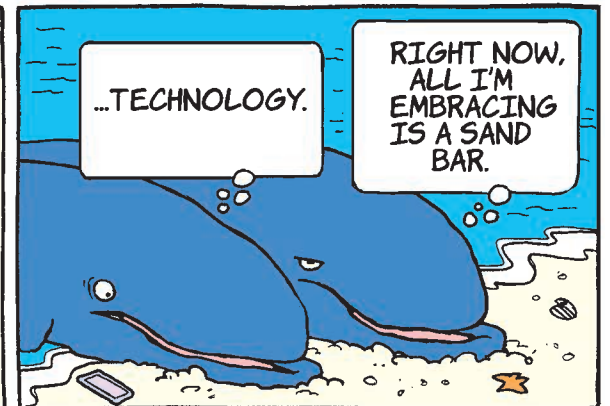
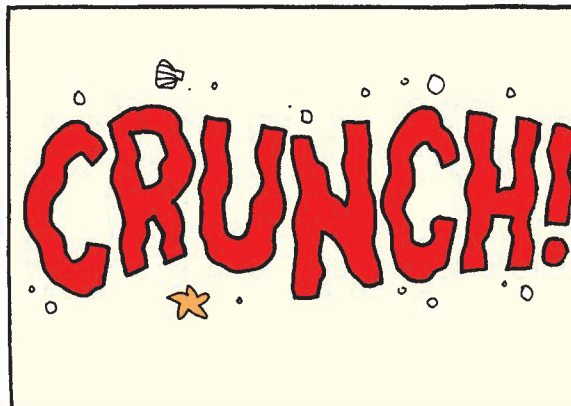
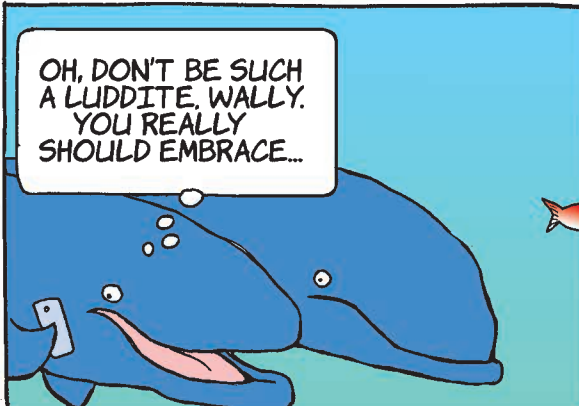
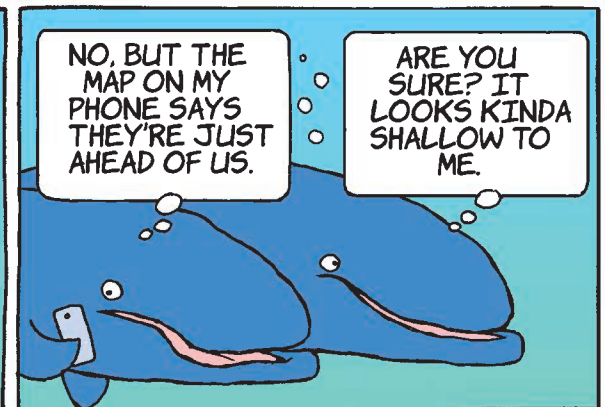
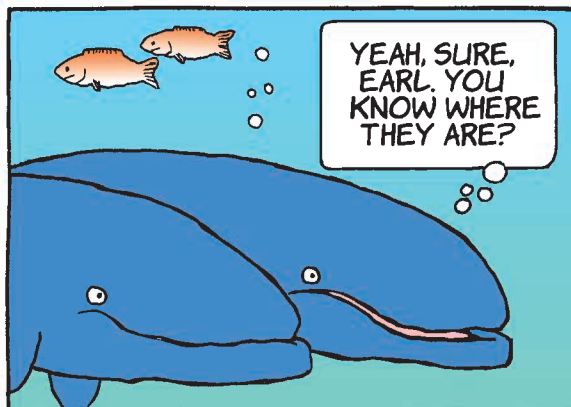
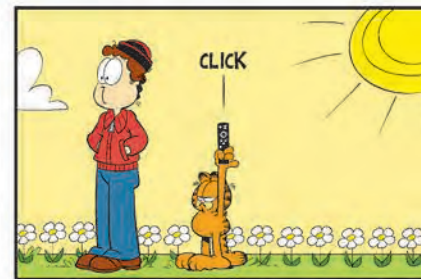
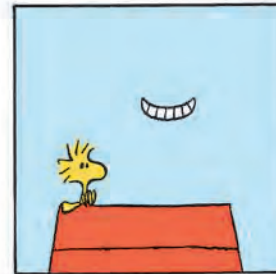
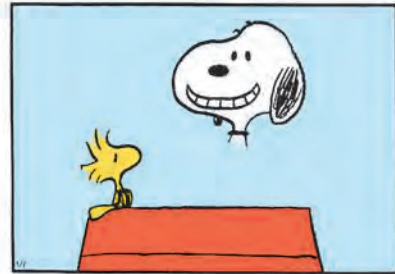
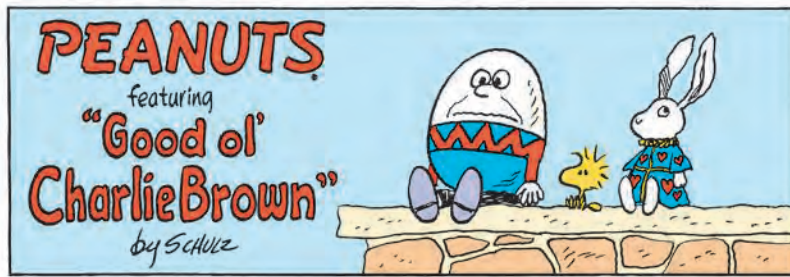
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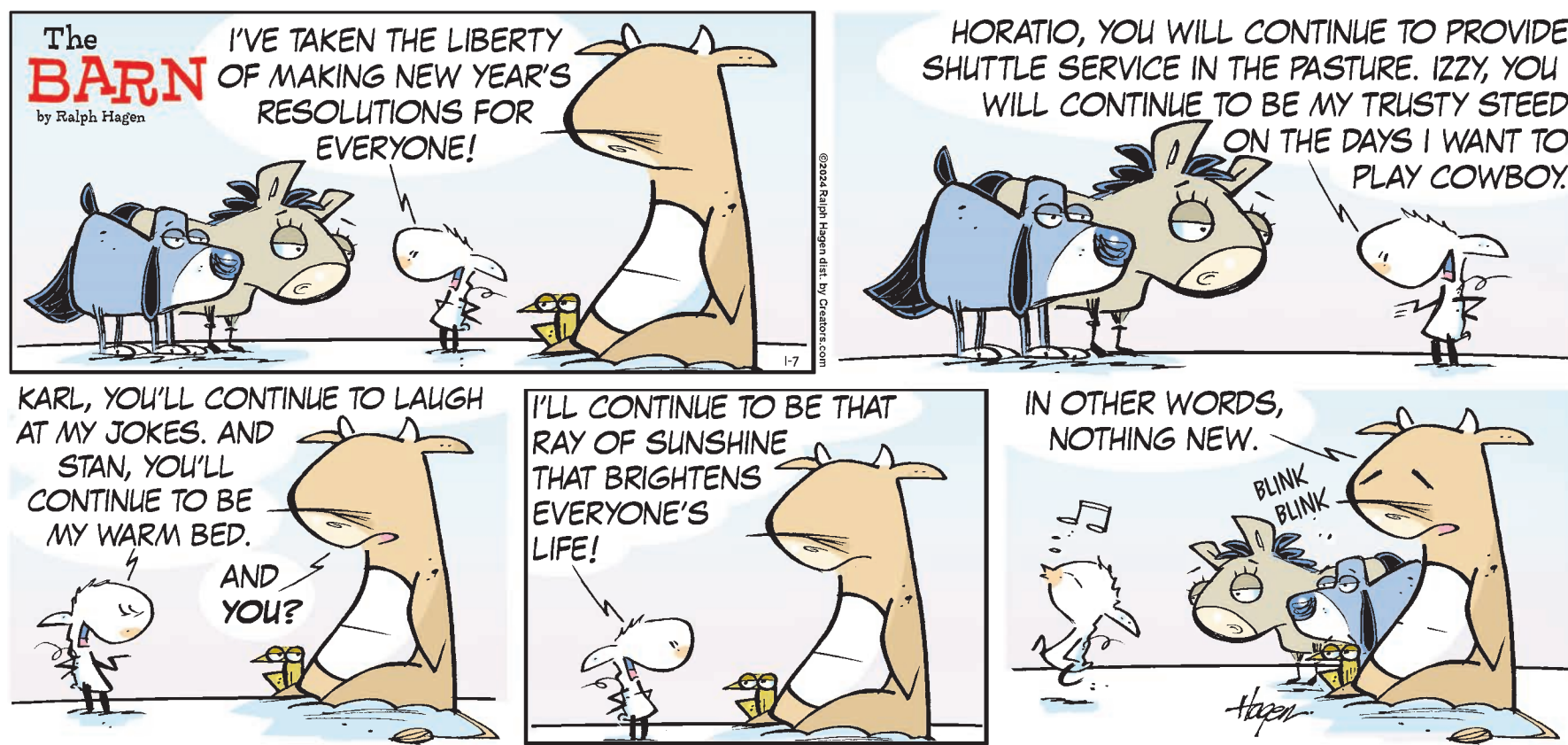
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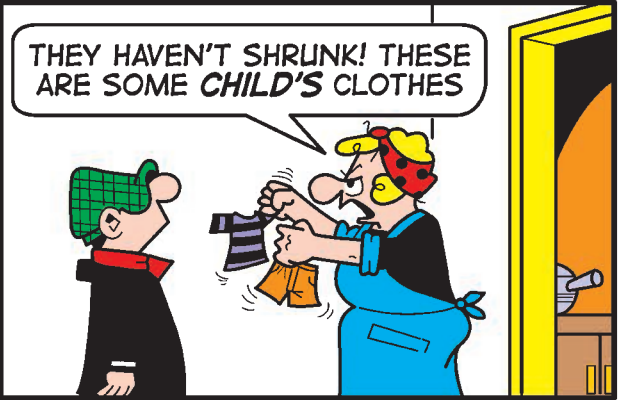
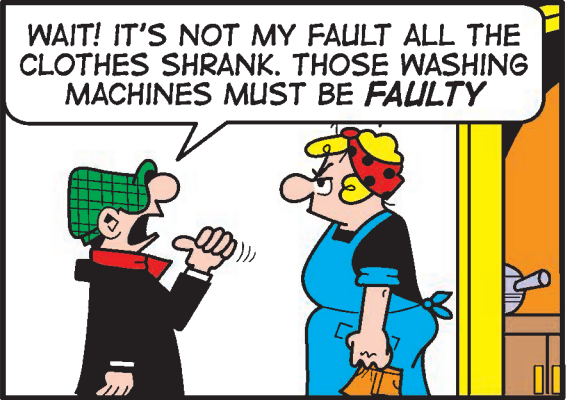
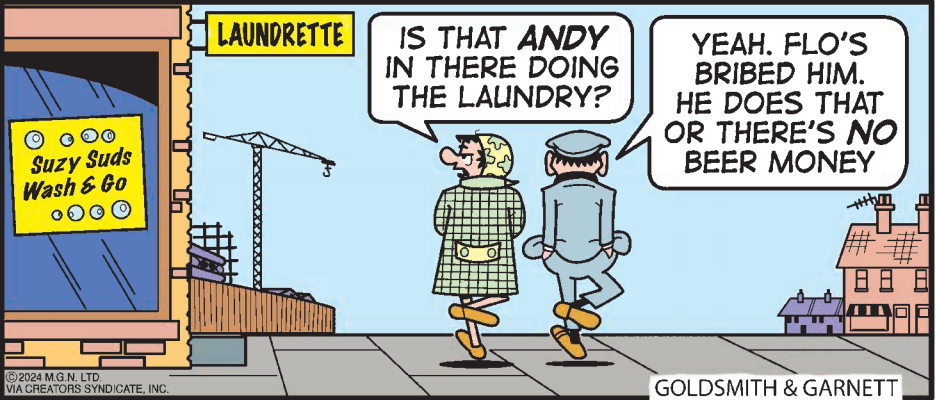
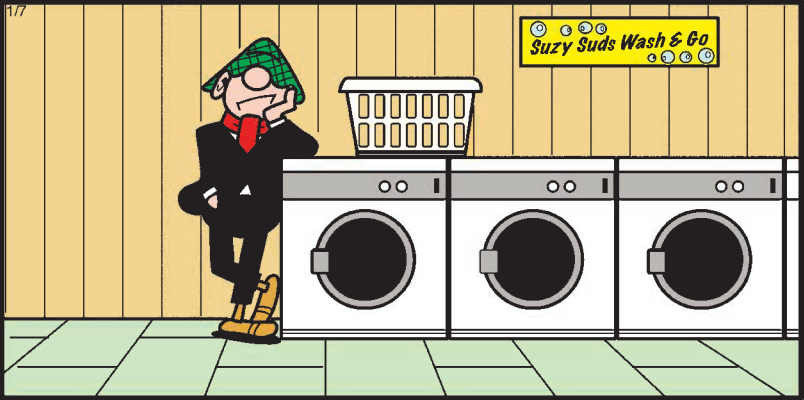
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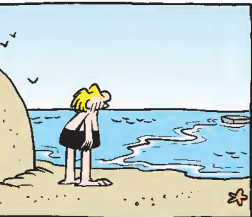
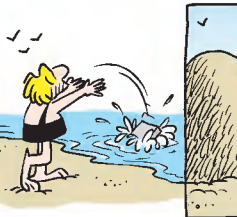
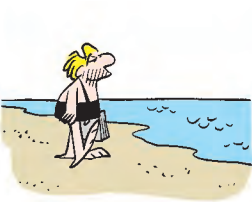
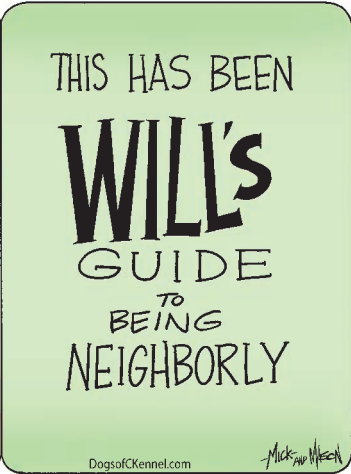
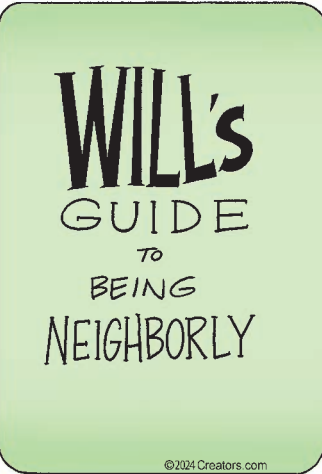
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Dontayvion Wicks was on the receiving end of both touchdown passes from Jordan Love in Green Bay's 17-9 victory over the Bears. The win pushed the Packers into the playoffs for the first time since 2021. The Packers' path this week is simple. If they win, they'll have a date in San Francisco next week as they'll be the lowest remaining seed.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

'Rebuilding season' turns into playoff appearance

Young core works through season-long ups and downs to reach postseason

By LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

In what was supposed to be a rebuilding season, the Green Bay Packers, led by first-year starting quarterback Jordan Love, have clinched a wild card spot and the seventh seed in the NFC Playoffs.

Coming into the season, it seemed fairly unlikely that this iteration of the Green Bay Packers would be able to come anywhere close to sniffing a playoff spot.

With a core of a first-year starting quarterback, a wide receiver room where no player had more than one year experience and a defense that had a lot to prove, Green Bay was able to win when it mattered, including wins against the Detroit Lions, New Orleans Saints, Minnesota Vikings and Chicago Bears.

How was that possible though? While a lot of credit has to go to the development and improvement of Love as a passer, there was also the emergence of players like Jayden Reed, Bo Melton, Devonte Wyatt and Isaiah McDuffie. There were no Pro Bowl selections for the Packers this year, meaning that there was not one player who was dominant. It

was a team effort and the belief from the players, coaches and front office that the playoffs were an actual possibility.

"You guys see it every week. He has stepped up when his number has been called, and that is really all you can do in that position," said Love, on the improved play from Melton. "I think he has been making some huge plays for us over the last couple of weeks and just stepped up into a role that we needed him to step into."

That comment about Melton from Love can probably translate to a variety of players. That idea of just being ready when their number is called has done wonders for this team, and Melton's success has sort of become a microcosm for where this Packers team is at.

With how young the team was, the beginning of the season, and even into the middle of the season, was tumultuous.

There was a few game stretch where the Packers lost games on last play interceptions. There were games where the team couldn't complete a pass to the middle of the field. There were games where the defense looked like it didn't belong in the NFL.

But through all of that, no one fal-

tered, and no one gave up on the season, leading to an improbable run to the playoffs.

"I think (the season) is rewarding in the fact that everyone counted us out," said Packers head coach Matt LaFleur. "We were struggling and we held it all together, and to get here was special. Our last regular season game at home, to have that kind of environment – a lot of times during the national anthem, you just kind of look around and say, 'Wow, this is really special.'"

With that being said, there is still a lot of football yet to be played for the Green Bay Packers. That comes this weekend when the team has to travel to Dallas to face a familiar face in Mike McCarthy.

The Cowboys have shown that they are one of the better teams in the NFL all season, but there is no reason why Green Bay can't win this game. Like the Kansas City Chiefs game, or the Detroit Lions game, Green Bay is going to be the underdog, but to beat Dallas, it has to keep that mentality of playing as a team and having everyone buy into what LaFleur and his staff are selling.

The playoffs are almost like a reset on the season. No matter how good or bad

a team played throughout the season, it sits atop the 14 best teams in the NFL. The Packers are just that – a top-14 team in the NFL.

While it may be on the bottom end of that top 14, it is not a guarantee that the lowest seed in the NFL doesn't win a Super Bowl. Look at Green Bay's most recent Super Bowl victory. It came in as a six-seed and won three games on the road en route to beating the Pittsburgh Steelers in the Super Bowl.

Now, obviously, this team is much different than that 2011 team, but just as everyone counted that year's team out, everyone was counting this team out.

"It was tough – a 2-5 start – but the main thing that we did was stick together," said Love. "Everybody came into the building finding ways to try and get better, improve themselves and make the team better, so it has obviously been a process for us. It hasn't been easy. There have been a lot of ups and downs, but we stuck together, were able to get on a win streak and put ourselves into this position, so credit to everyone in the locker room."

Once again, that all starts this weekend with the Dallas Cowboys.

Packers clinch playoff spot after beating Bears

Quarterback Jordan Love reaches 4,000 passing yards, running back Aaron Jones becomes sixth player in Green Bay history with 8,000 career yards

By **LUKE REIMER**
Green & Gold Express

Green Bay Packers head coach Matt LaFleur boosted his record against the Chicago Bears to 10-0, as the Packers beat the Chicago Bears in a 17-9 victory at Lambeau Field on Jan. 7 to clinch a wild card spot in the NFL Playoffs.

Quarterback Jordan Love finished the game completing 27-of-32 passes for 316 yards and two touchdowns. The big day from Love put him over the 4,000-yard milestone on the season.

Dontayvion Wicks was on the receiving end of both touchdown passes from Love.

Jayden Reed was the biggest benefactor of Love's big day, as the Michigan State alum totaled 112 yards on four receptions. Bo Melton had another big day for the offense, as he totaled 62 yards on five receptions.

As for the run game, Aaron Jones led the attack, rushing for 111 yards on 22 carries.

"I think that we have been getting better every game," said Love, on the state of the offense heading into the playoffs. "Every week, we are finding ways to improve and get better, and now we are in the dance. So we are going to continue doing the same thing that we have been doing and try to find ways to get better, but I like where our offense is moving. We are moving in the right direction."

The Packers' defense made life difficult for Bears quarterback Justin Fields and company. Fields completed 11-of-16 passes for 148 yards. Khalil Herbert was the leading rusher for Chicago on the day, recording 28 yards on 12 carries. Superstar receiver D.J. Moore was held to just 64 yards on four receptions.

The Bears opened the game with a 10-play drive that resulted in a 50-yard field goal from kicker Cairo Santos. Green Bay responded with a 12-play, 52-yard drive. During the drive, Jones accounted for 34 rushing yards, while Wicks caught a 19-yard reception. After Love was sacked on third-and-6 from the Bears' 15-yard line, Anders Carlson was asked to attempt a 41-yard field goal, which sailed wide left.

The Packers made up for the missed field goal as the defense forced Chicago to punt. Taking over at their own eight-yard line, Love and the offense moved quickly. On the second play of the drive, Love connected with Reed for a 32-yard gain. A few plays later, Melton picked up 10 yards, and then Jones added another 12 on the ground. Facing a third-and-one from Chicago's 10-yard line, Love dropped back and connected with Wicks for a 10-yard touchdown to score the first touchdown of the game.

After Santos connected on another field goal, this time from 39 yards out, Green Bay took over from its 25-yard line with 1:17 left in the second half. The offense immediately moved down the field, with Love connecting with Melton to gain 24 yards. With an added 13-yard reception from Jones, Green Bay found itself with a first-and-10 from the Chicago 38-yard line. Two plays later, Love tested fate and threw a jump ball to the corner of the end zone, which was almost intercepted by a Bears defender. Insult added to injury for Green Bay, as Love connected with Wicks for a three-yard gain, but the referee ruled that Wicks was tackled in bounds and the clock struck zero to go into halftime. Though Green Bay did not have an opportunity to attempt a field goal, the Packers still led 7-6.

"That last play, we had double out routes called on both sides, and when I got the snap, I felt the corner tricking it pretty hard. So I wish that I would have just thrown it out of bounds," said Love. "I threw it to Wicks, and the DB made a



Quarterback Jordan Love finished the Bears game completing 27-of-32 passes for 316 yards and two touchdowns. The big day from Love put him over the 4,000-yard milestone on the season. He has thrown for 4,159 yards and has a passer rating of 96.1.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

great play and tackled him going backwards. So that is a play that I will learn from and just stash that in the memory bank and move forward."

Coming out of halftime, Green Bay immediately got a spark, as the team moved 46 yards in four plays. Marching down to the Bear's 12-yard line, Love connected with Wicks for the rookie receiver's second touchdown of the game.

"He is just resilient," said LaFleur, on how he was able to perform so well in a playoff-like environment. "Those are things that you cannot coach. You can sit there and talk about it until you are blue in the face; however, that is something that he possesses, and I admire him for that."

On Chicago's ensuing drive, Fields and the Bears' offense used its rushing attack to work down to the Packers' 48-yard line. Faced with third-and-seven, Packers linebackers Quay Walker and Rashan Gary and defensive lineman Karl Brooks sacked Fields for a three-yard loss, forcing Chicago to punt.

Green Bay capitalized on the forced

punt, as it rode Jones and Melton to 24 yards on the first five plays of the drive. With the ball at midfield, Love rolled left and ran up field, but was hit by Bears defensive back Tyrique Stevenson and fumbled the football, which was recovered by Chicago.

Taking over at its own 42-yard line, Chicago was faced with a third-and-seven. Fields dropped back and completed a 12-yard pass to Moore to pick up a first down. As Moore dropped to the ground to make the catch, it appeared the ball moved in his hands, which resulted in LaFleur throwing the red challenge flag. The play was upheld, and Green Bay was penalized with a timeout. Fields responded on the next play, by rolling to his left and firing a 27-yard strike to tight end Cole Kmet, to set up first-and-10 from the Green Bay 17-yard line. Two plays later on third-and-10, Fields' pass intended for Kmet was broken up by Packers defensive back Carrington Valentine, setting up a 35-yard field goal from Santos.

Leading 14-9, Love connected with Reed on the first play of the drive for a 59-

yard gain down to the Bears' 13-yard line. On third-and-four from the Bears' seven-yard line, Love fired a dart to the back of the end zone intended for Melton.

As Melton came to the ground, the ball appeared to be bobbled and it was called an incomplete pass. After the referees got together to discuss the call, the ruling was changed to a touchdown. Upon further review, it was ruled that Melton did not possess the ball before stepping out of bounds, and Green Bay was forced to settle for a 25-yard field goal from Carlson.

Chicago responded by driving down to the Packers' 43-yard line where, on third-and-five, Fields' pass was batted down, setting up a fourth-and-five. Gary jumped offside, and Chicago was awarded a first down. While Chicago picked up the first down, Fields was forced to leave the game, stemming from a hit earlier on the drive. He was only forced to miss one play, though, and after a holding call, Brooks sacked Fields to set up a third-and-22 from midfield. Fields' next pass was thrown too high, and Chicago was once again forced to punt.

Backed up to its own five-yard line, Green Bay eventually faced a third-and-two from its own 14-yard line. On the crucial down, Love once again connected with Reed, this time for 15 yards. After Reed's reception, Green Bay rode the legs of Jones for 14 yards, before facing a third-and-seven from its own 43-yard line. On the third-down play, Love stepped up in the pocket, rolled to his right and threw a pass across his body, which connected with tight end Tucker Kraft to pick up the much-needed first down.

Green Bay picked up one more first down to ice the game, as three kneel downs from Love put the Packers into the playoffs. During the last drive of the game, Jones became the sixth player in Green Bay history to reach the 8,000 total yard mark.

Green Bay will now take on the Dallas Cowboys after the Los Angeles Rams beat the San Francisco 49ers in Week 18, setting up a matchup against former Packers head coach Mike McCarthy.

"It is going to be great for our team, in terms of we have to go on the road and earn it," said LaFleur. "Certainly going to Dallas is not going to be an easy task. I have got a lot of respect for what Coach McCarthy has been able to establish there - they have a lot of great players ... so we are going to have to be at our best to go down there and come away with a victory."



Aaron Jones became the sixth player in Green Bay history with 8,000 career yards. Against the Bears, he rushed for 111 yards on 22 carries. GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

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2023 RECORDS: Packers, 9-8. Cowboys 12-5.

NFL SCHEDULE Wild Card Weekend
Saturday, Jan. 13
Browns at Texans, 3:30 p.m.
Dolphins at Chiefs, 7 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 14
Steelers at Bills, Noon
Packers at Cowboys, 3:30 p.m.
Rams at Lions, 7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 15
Eagles at Buccaneers, 7p.m.

PACKERS SCHEDULE
Sept. 10 at Chicago W 38-20
Sept. 17 at Atlanta L 25-24
Sept. 24 vs. New Orleans W 18-17
Sept. 28 vs. Detroit 7:15 p.m. L 34-20
Oct. 9 at Las Vegas 7:15 p.m. L 17-13
Oct. 15 BYE
Oct. 22 at Denver 3:25 p.m. L 19-17
Oct. 29 vs. Minnesota Noon L 24-10
Nov. 5 vs. LA Rams W 20-3
Nov. 12 at Pittsburgh L 23-19
Nov. 19 vs. LA Chargers W 23-20
Nov. 23 at Detroit W 29-22
Dec. 3 vs. Kansas City W 27-19
Dec. 11 at NY Giants 7:15 p.m. L 24-22
Dec. 17 vs. Tampa Bay L 34-20
Dec. 24 at Carolina W 33-30
Dec. 31 at Minnesota W 33-10
Jan. 7 vs. Chicago, W 17-9



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Benny Sapp III is a strong safety for the Green Bay Packers. He played college football at Northern Iowa and Minnesota. He was thrilled to play against the Vikings, a team for which his father played. He said it was an unbelievable feeling. "Just being a kid, going to the games, 8, 9 years old, learning the 'Skol' chant, seeing your dad in those colors, meeting the Vikings, Brett Favre at the time, just hoping that he'd win the game and I can go in the tunnel," he said. "And then now I'm actually on the field. It was an unbelievable feeling. It was definitely a dream come true for that 8-year-old, 9-year-old kid and I'm glad that I was able to do that for him."

GREEN BAY PACKERS



Sapp fulfills dream of 8-year-old self

By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

Benny Sapp III is a strong safety for the Green Bay Packers. He played college football at Northern Iowa and Minnesota. His father, Benny Sapp II, was an NFL

cornerback. Also playing college football at Northern Iowa, he was signed by the Kansas City Chiefs as an undrafted free agent in 2004. He also played for the Miami Dolphins and Minnesota Vikings.
How did it feel to make your NFL "debut" playing your dad's former team?

"Oh, man, it was an unbelievable feeling. Just being a kid, going to the games, 8, 9 years old — learning the 'Skol' chant, seeing your dad in those colors, meeting the Vikings, Brett Favre at the time, just hoping that he'd win the game and I can go in the tunnel. And then, now I'm actually on the field. It was an unbelievable

feeling. It was definitely a dream come true for that 8-year-old, 9-year-old kid, and I'm glad that I was able to do that for him."
Reaction to make the roster?
"My reaction was honestly just, 'OK, it's another opportunity, and now my expectations just got higher.' I'm just very



Senn

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Final Score: Green Bay 21 @ Dallas 17

KEYS TO THE GAME

Packers will be pressed to outscore Dallas in wild card playoff game

By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

The Green Bay Packers are in the playoffs.

Less than a year after making seismic changes to their organization, and less than three months after falling to 2-5, the Packers are now 9-8 and headed to the postseason for the first time since 2021.

The Dallas Cowboys are the NFC's No. 2 seed by virtue of being the NFC East Division champions and are coming off a dominant win over the Washington Commanders to earn that division title.

The Packers rode a 300-yard passing day from Jordan Love and a suffocating defense to a 17-9 win over the Chicago Bears at Lambeau Field.

A year after losing to Detroit in the same scenario, the Packers redeemed themselves just one year later.

The Cowboys are a different challenge. The Bears' offense, despite its fanfare, is not a good one.

The Cowboys are a good offense. They're even better at home. Dak Prescott is likely to finish in the top five of MVP voting and may even win it.

He led the league in touchdown passes this season.

They're powered by superstar receiver CeeDee Lamb to carry their offense and still have a strong running game with Tony Pollard.

Of course, the highlight of this match-up is former Packers coach Mike McCarthy taking on his former team on the opposing sidelines.



Dontayvion Wicks caught a 10-yard touchdown pass and a 12-yard touchdown pass from Jordan Love in the Packers 17-9 win over the Bears.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

The Packers' path this week is simple. If they win, they'll have a date in San Francisco next week as they'll be the low-est remaining seed.

Here is what the Packers need to do to earn themselves another week.

Jaire Alexander vs. CeeDee Lamb

Jaire Alexander has had a tumultuous month to say the very least. Alexander has

bounced in and out of the lineup with a shoulder injury that has cost him most of his season.

Then upon his return to the lineup, he inserted himself as a game day captain, which led to a suspension before the Packers played the Minnesota Vikings on New Year's Eve.

Alexander seemed remorseful once he was activated from the suspension list and

said he'd work on the things that he needs to be better at.

Alexander was stellar in his return to the lineup against Chicago. DJ Moore had one big play that looked like a coverage bust, but otherwise Alexander kept him quiet most of the day.

His second career interception came in Dallas when Prescott targeted Amari Cooper. Alexander was in the right place at the right time.

This week, he'll be matched up with one of the best receivers in football. Lamb was a popular name for the Packers to target in a trade up during the 2020 NFL Draft when they selected Jordan Love.

Instead, the Cowboys took Lamb, and he has ascended to the top of the NFL.

He finished the year with more than 1,700 yards receiving and 12 touchdowns.

If the Cowboys need a big play, they are targeting him.

For the criticisms that have followed McCarthy, one thing is certain, he knows how to get his best playmakers the ball.

It'll be up to Alexander, who will likely want this assignment, to slow him down and make other players beat him.

Aaron Jones vs. Cowboys' defense

For all the conversation about the young offense that has ascended, which is completely deserved, the Packers' best player is still one of the oldest guys on their offense.

Aaron Jones looks like he has not lost a step at 29 years old.

He's piled up more than 100 yards rushing each of the last three weeks. Last

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Outside linebacker Rashan Gary (52) and defensive lineman Kenny Clark (97) celebrate after another big play against the Chicago Bears' offense on Jan. 7.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

week's game was particularly impressive as the Bears defense was the top-ranked unit in the NFL against the run.

Jones ran for more than five yards a carry and piled up 111 yards on 22 carries.

Perhaps what is more important is that Jones has not been limited by either injury or coaches' decision.

Jones was the only running back to carry the ball in Sunday's win over the Bears. With AJ Dillon potentially still limited, the Packers will need to give the Cowboys a healthy dose of Jones again.

The path to victory for Green Bay this week is to limit possession for Dallas' high-powered offense. Controlling the clock might be an old school mentality, but it might require some old schools of thought with a sprinkle of new school to get the Packers on to the second round.

Jones' breakout performance came in Dallas as a rookie, so this is a bit of a full circle moment for him.

Jordan Love vs. Dak Prescott

These lines always seem a little silly. No, the quarterbacks are not physically facing each other. They'll never share the

field at the same time.

That being said, a quarterback always knows who is on the other sideline. Tom Brady used to say that he knew he would probably need to put up points if he were facing Peyton Manning.

That's true this week for Jordan Love. Love has played well down the stretch. He has not thrown an interception since early December when the Packers lost to the New York Giants.

He threw two more touchdown passes Sunday against Chicago and looks in complete command of the offense.

He'll be facing a Dallas offense that can put up points in bunches. Prescott has ascended to one of the best quarterbacks in football this season and will likely find success against Green Bay's defense that has struggled this season.

Love will need to put up points. The rest of the offense will need to help him as well. They scored 17 points but could have easily had more if they held on to two passes that were in their hands.

This isn't a game where the defense is going to hold Dallas to less than 20 points. Love needs to be ready to match Prescott.



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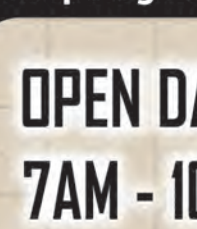
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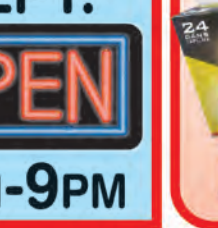
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