



Rep. Peter Schmidt listens to testimony during a public hearing Nov. 1 in Madison for the Speaker's Task Force on Childhood Obesity. Schmidt and seven other legislators from both sides of the aisle have been working for months to find out how big the problem of obesity in children is and what to do to reduce waistlines.

CONTRIBUTED

# Children's waistlines concern for Wisconsin Assembly

**Bipartisan task force presents five bills to provide healthier food options, money for food programs**

By **LEE PULASKI**  
City Editor

A number of bills announced by the Wisconsin Speaker's Task Force on Childhood Obesity are expected to help get families back on track with healthy eating and better options to access food.

Rep. Peter Schmidt, R-Bonduel, was a member of the bipartisan task force and said in a phone interview Jan. 16 that the bills are a step in the right direction. He noted that there was an obesity task force assembled in the late 2000s, but legislation did not materialize from that panel, so he's proud that his panel is making

## ONLINE

More information about the Wisconsin Speaker's Task Force on Childhood Obesity can be found at <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/committees/childhood-obesity>. There are videos and testimonies from public hearings on the site.

greater strides.

"Our motto is 'Healthy Kids, Healthy Future,' and I'm very optimistic that it's going to get through," Schmidt said. "We've got bipartisan support, and it builds off a foundation for the future."

The first two bills appropriate \$5 million to the state Department of Health Services for childhood obesity prevention and management programs as two-year grant awards.

The third bill reallocates and administers existing \$425,000 to DHS for a statewide healthy food incentive while seeking federal match funding through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Under

the Double Bucks program, FoodShare recipients would receive an amount up to the benefit amounts used at the eligible retailer for purchasing fruits and vegetables.

The fourth bill requires private schools participating in a parental choice program, including independent charter schools, and public schools to offer 180 minutes of physical activity each week to pupils in kindergarten to eighth grade.

The fifth and final bill is an assembly joint resolution proclaiming April 29 to May 3 as School Nutrition Professionals Appreciation Week.

Schmidt is optimistic that, should the measures get through the legislature, Gov. Tony Evers will sign all of them into law.

"The governor, one of the campaign themes he ran on is helping our children," Schmidt said. "This is up his alley."

Schmidt noted that the legislation

## Highway crews will repair library leaks

**Phase one to be completed by March**

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

An initial investment of about \$11,500 will be made to repair the leaking walls at the Shawano Public Library.

Shawano County Library Board members agreed Jan. 18 to have members of the county highway department repair the northeast corner of the building. Another repair project of about \$130,000, if necessary, would be done in the summer months.

Jim Davel, county administrative coordinator, suggested the library board have a "tactical pause" between the initial \$11,500 project and the other \$130,000 repair project to get a better understanding of what may be needed for that second repair project.

"In conversations I've had with (Highway Commissioner) Grant (Bystol) and his team, that might really do the lion's share of the problem, where we might not have to go down the road," Davel said, "but we'd have a better understanding after the initial work was done."

Bystol said his crew would need to get in soon and complete the project sometime in March. The second project could be done in the summer.

"That conference room in the northeast corner of the building, I think that's where the bulk of the problem is," he said. "I believe there's still outlying issues, basically encompassing the whole library, north side, south side, the emergency exit on the southeast corner."

"We identified in the conference room on the northeast corner, basically we would do a removal of the interior insulation, drywall, the tongue and groove, identify how many cracks are there and get a better look at the joints between the Spancrete and the poured wall."

Bystol believed that would take care of most of the issues of water leaking through the foundation.

"However, if you go to the exterior wall, and look at the north side, you've got the concrete tipping back the wrong way," Bystol said. You have buildings to the north with no gutters, all that water

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LIBRARY, CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

## INSIDE

Chargers boys basketball team can't overcome Bonduel.

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**Ready for some yarns from the woods?**

Check out the column of

**KATHLEEN MARSH**

In today's newspaper!



# Retzlaff trial halted after no contest plea

## Former campground owner gets year in jail with 262 days credited for time served, plus fines

By **LEE PULASKI**  
City Editor

Former campground owner Ann Retzlaff was sentenced to one year in Shawano County Jail as part of a plea deal with the Shawano-Menominee County District Attorney's Office, ending a nearly three-year court case.

Retzlaff pleaded no contest to most of the charges on Jan. 22, the day before a three-day jury trial was scheduled to start. Marathon County Circuit Court Judge Mark Moran ruled the sentences in all the cases would run concurrently.

Retzlaff pleaded to felony counts of fleeing and eluding officers and two counts of second-degree recklessly endangering safety, along with a count from Menominee County for resisting and failing to stop from the original case in May 2021. A count of resisting or obstructing an officer was dismissed but read into the record.

In the second case from her arrest in Wittenberg in April 2022, Retzlaff pleaded no contest to disorderly conduct and one count of bail jumping. Another count of disorderly conduct and another count of bail jumping were dismissed.

In the third case from her arrest in Lena in August 2023, Retzlaff pleaded no contest to one count of bail jumping, with the second one dismissed.

Retzlaff will also have to pay \$2,750 in fines plus court costs in all of



Ann Retzlaff, right, returns to her seat following a conference with her attorney, Michael Hughes, on Jan. 22 to start the plea and sentencing hearing, where Retzlaff pleaded no contest and was sentenced to one year in jail, getting credit for 262 days already served.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

the cases. She is being credited for 262 days she has spent in the jail, which means she could be free within the next few months — possibly sooner for good behavior. She also loses the right to possess a firearm and will have her driver's license revoked for six months. No additional supervision is being imposed once she's released.

Retzlaff claimed she was agreeing to plead out instead of moving forward with a trial because of her elderly, ill father. She said she was worried a trial could drag out proceedings for even longer.

"I wish for my freedom," she said. "My father has been suffering from ALS, and I have been away from him for a long time. As the first-born child of three, it's my re-

sponsibility to care for my elderly father, and I have been in here (in jail)."

On May 15, 2021, a Shawano County deputy heard on Menominee County radio traffic about a high-speed chase involving a vehicle registered to Retzlaff that failed to stop at a traffic light, according to the criminal complaint. The chase, starting in Keshena on state Highway 47-55, continued through the towns of Wescott and Richmond, where deputies twice laid out spike strips, and ended on state Highway 29 just west of County Road MMM.

Deputies with Shawano and Menominee counties initiated a "high-risk stop," according to the complaint, and shut down traffic on the highway's westbound lanes. A lieu-

tenant advised Retzlaff to get out of the vehicle, but she said she was a "sovereign citizen" and would not exit. A deputy used a slim jim to open the passenger door, which is when Retzlaff tried to drive off, nearly hitting two Shawano County officials.

Eventually, the vehicle was stopped again, and deputies pulled Retzlaff out of her vehicle. According to the complaint, as she was being handcuffed and searched, she claimed the deputies were involved with covering up sex trafficking and said she was rescuing one of her employees from a sex trafficking house on "Crow Territory" in Menominee County.

During the latest hearing, Retzlaff said she contacted law enforce-

ment first but felt the need to find her employee and render aid if needed. Retzlaff served in the U.S. Army as a medic, being discharged in 2003 with the rank of captain.

"She thought her life was in danger," Retzlaff said, noting that she'd told the employee one year earlier she would come and pick her up if things turned bad. "She thought her boyfriend, or her pimp, was going to kill her. She is like a child to me, just like all of my employees."

Retzlaff said when she arrived, law enforcement was at the scene rendering assistance, so she left to return to what was then Annie's Campground, west of Gresham, and she failed to stop at a traffic light temporarily installed for construction work taking place at the time. She claimed that she was in contact with a dispatcher explaining the situation while officers pursued her.

District Attorney Greg Parker told the judge that no less than nine officers were involved in trying to get her to stop. He said he had planned to play the recorded call, which was more than 32 minutes long, if the case went to trial.

"Even the dispatcher asked her to stop," Parker said, noting that this case was "noteworthy" out of all the pursuit cases he has dealt with. "Though it was at low speed, the defendant continued to ignore the officers."

Defense attorney Michael Hughes asked

the judge to consider an 11-month sentence instead of the full year, and he also requested leniency on the fines, noting that Retzlaff lost her campground in the interim and does not have the means to pay. He noted that Retzlaff was "deeply fearful of law enforcement" because of her belief that some law enforcement were implicit in human trafficking.

Retzlaff said she started a campaign to try and stop human trafficking in 2020 and claimed she was working with former Sheriff Adam Bieber to address the issue.

Moran noted that, while Retzlaff's intentions may have been good, she should have left it up to law enforcement to deal with the matter instead of going to the scene personally.

"They should be relied upon instead of providing self-help," Moran said. "Officers are trained for situations where there are a lot of moving parts, like this was, to de-escalate and create safety for everybody."

Retzlaff is still facing five counts of criminal slander of title and two felony bail jumping charges in Sauk County after allegedly filing false liens against representatives with Bank First and the new owner of the former Annie's Campground, now known as On the Rocks Family Kampground. That case is scheduled for trial in March.

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### ASSEMBLY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

under the Double Bucks program would provide more options to those living in poverty and using FoodShare.

"The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program can purchase additional fruits and vegetables," Schmidt said. "Participating farmers markets, community supported agriculture programs, grocery stores and other healthy food retailers can participate. For example, if a family spends \$10 on SNAP, they're given another \$10 on Double Bucks to spend."

Schmidt noted similar programs have been introduced in Ohio, Kentucky and Michigan. He said local programs from Brown, Dane, Milwaukee and

Eau Claire counties were utilized in crafting the legislation.

"We're taking those models and then taking the positives and expanding them statewide," Schmidt said. "The funding for this program was already approved in 2017 through Act 266 with \$425,000 allocated through a pilot program, and then we're also getting federal matching dollars through the USDA."

Schmidt also touted his support for the \$5 million in funding DHS will use to provide grants to nonprofits to provide support for healthier food options.

"These grants can be used for early interventions and screenings and provide healthy growth

and development," Schmidt said. "A lot of those nonprofits will be able to use that money to catch people early before it gets to be too big of an issue. It provides parental support for education on childhood weight management and supporting their guardians or caregivers that have a responsibility to the child besides the parent."

Childhood obesity is a problem in Wisconsin, Schmidt noted. He was surprised by some of the statistics he learned about from DHS, including that 10% of children ages 2-5 are obese, and that increases to 15.2% for ages 6-11 and 17.9% for ages 12-17. Obesity continues to increase as residents age

until 47.1% of Wisconsin's population is obese by the age of 65.

"We need to support the families and the local communities, because a lot of our children and families are in food deserts," Schmidt said. "They don't have enough resources to fight the waistline issue."

Obesity is not caused by one thing, Schmidt said. It's from a number of issues "stacked up on each other."

"We all agree that poor dietary choices and a lack of physical activity are the two general causes of obesity, but there can be contributors, like adverse childhood experiences and social deterrents, which causes stress on the child or parents and may cause

them to seek out comfort food or junk food that are high in sugar to allow them to escape from their current stressful environment," Schmidt said.

He noted that the shame or guilt of being in poverty can be a factor, too.

"They believe they're a failed parent," Schmidt said. "Then that stigma reinforces a negative mindset, and it's just a never-ending cycle that people get trapped in. As a parent, they feel they can never provide for their kids."

Another factor that surprised Schmidt was milk formulas for infants when mothers are not able to breastfeed lack the same nutritional value as mother's milk.

"You would think the

baby formulas would have more nutrients than breast milk," Schmidt said. "That was a big surprise for me. You would think with the improvement of technology, there would be better formulas than breast feeding."

Schmidt also pointed to social media influences on children that are not able to determine for themselves if something is bad for them among the factors that contribute to obesity.

"You see all these energy drinks at the gas stations; they've even got Kool-Aid as an energy drink now," Schmidt said. "It's got a picture of the Kool-Aid man on the energy drink, so they think it's good for you."

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# Book vending machines give rewards for literacy

Hillcrest, Olga Brener provide free books to students on birthdays, special occasions and for reaching benchmarks

By LEE PULASKI  
City Editor

Vending machines have traditionally spit out food or drink when you put in coins or dollar bills, but new machines at Shawano elementary schools are providing books instead.

Hillcrest Primary School received its book vending machine in October, while Olga Brener Intermediate School celebrated the receipt of its machine in December with a ribbon cutting. The parent-teacher organizations at both schools helped to bring the vending machines to the schools, along with funding from Olga Brener's Knowledge-a-thon program.

The vending machines work on tokens that students receive on their birthdays and for being the student of the month; at Hillcrest, they get tokens for meeting certain benchmark reading goals. Students who earn the tokens are able to go to the machines after the school's morning announcements and select the book they want.

"We're asking our students to read at home. So when students do that and fulfill their requirements at each grade level for Project Praise that we have, they get a token when they reach that accomplishment," said Hillcrest principal Aaron Manders. "They travel around the world (through reading) at the different grade levels, and they get a coin for their first trip, their fifth trip and their 10th trip. We've got a lot of students who have earned their first trip, and we are working on a few students who will hopefully be getting their fifth trip in the near future where they'll be getting another book."

The reason the program has such staggered reading goals is to encourage students to increase their reading abilities and understand that the next level has higher expectations.



Hillcrest Primary School student Carson Johnson puts a token into the book vending machine at the school Jan. 18 before selecting which book he wants. The machine allows students to pick a book on their birthdays, or half-birthdays if the birthday is during the summer, as well as rewarding students of the month and students who reach certain benchmark learning goals.

"Just yesterday, we had a student who got their second trip, so they didn't get a book, and they asked why not," Manders said. "I had to explain they had to keep going and do the hard work and get to five. If we did this for every trip, we'd be using up a lot of books, and we don't know if we could cost that out quite enough."

He added that many students have reached their fourth trip, which means the next benchmark is within reach.

At Olga Brener, the school is trying to get books into the hands of as many students as possible, according to principal Matt Peterson.

"The benefit for the kids is to get a book in their hands," he said. "What we've had in the past is a shelf where kids could grab some books. We've always had that option, but we figured we could bring a little

more excitement to it as a vending machine."

Peterson added that the machine also tells his students, "Thank you for selecting this book."

"We can stock the machine with different books so there's books for all different levels," Peterson said. "We put a couple of racks in there for larger books — the chapter books — for older students."

Manders said the vending machine has helped more students to focus on reading, especially at younger ages, which has been important since the coronavirus pandemic has impacted learning for all ages.

"The kids are really pretty excited with it," Manders said. "It's almost a novelty piece where the students get to choose exactly what they want, similar to if they're getting a bag of chips from a store, a soda

or anything like that. It's the same opportunity. It kind of creates that extra pizzazz instead of just having the books sitting on a table and saying, 'Here, pick one out.'"

Hillcrest has distributed at least 200 books since the vending machine was

installed, according to Manders. Since Hillcrest is 4-year-old kindergarten through second grade, staff have been working with students to show how the machine works.

"We're teaching them how to use it and how to

push the right buttons," Manders said. "They have to know what number it is. It's a pretty fun experience."

Olga Brener also held a Bingo event in December where students who won could get tokens for books if they didn't want to choose Gatorade or bags of chips, according to Peterson.

"We've been using it for a lot of different celebrations and rewards for students," he said.

Peterson added that Olga Brener hasn't been using the tokens as rewards for reading yet, but he said it could be a possibility now that the vending machine has been in operation for more than a month.

"The tokens right now are for small, individual celebrations," Peterson said. "We could do a classroom celebration where all of the students get a token and can go pick a book."

The vending machine had been at Olga Brener for several weeks before the big ribbon cutting, and students were asking about it, according to Peterson.

All in all, the principals are enjoying seeing their students get excited about reading.

"It's kind of a win-win for everybody," Peterson said.

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## Postage rate increases now in effect

If you've been to the post office this past week, you've undoubtedly notice the increase in postage rates. New rates went into effect Jan. 21.

The price of a first-class postage stamp increased nearly 3% from 66 cents to 68 cents.

Metered postage rates for first-class letters are up 1 cent per letter to 64 cents.

The Certified Mail fee increased an additional 5 cents per mail piece from \$4.35 to \$4.50, while Return Receipt (hard copy) increased from \$3.55 to \$3.65. The Return Receipt (electronic copy) cost rose from \$2.20 to \$2.32.

With the right mail volume, businesses can take advantage of the USPS presort discounts. First-class presorted postage increased nearly 9 cents, but sorting invoices, bills and statements by ZIP code is still advantageous and cost-effective.

Presort pricing is \$0.507 (5-Digit Automation Letter - 1 oz.), and presort postcard pricing is \$0.406 (postcard machinable presorted).

The shipping prices of the three primary carriers, USPS, FedEx and UPS, are also slated for rate increases in 2024 — USPS Ground Advantage, 5.4%; Priority Mail Services, 5.7%; Prior-

ity Mail Express, 5.9%; FedEx, 5.9%; and UPS, 5.9%.

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The Stockbridge-Munsee Community is seeking bids to rent out several farm fields located (primarily) in the Township of Red Springs, with a few smaller tracts in Bartelme and Herman, Shawano County. These fields range in size from 2.5 acres to 70 acres each and total approximately 501 acres. The fields will be leased to the highest bidder starting in the spring of 2024 and ending December 31, 2027. Please contact Maria Duits, Agriculture Manager, at 715-793-3031 for a bid packet. Bids are due to the Tribal Office by 4:30pm on Friday, February 15, 2024.

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# Workshop to help farms in alfalfa management efforts

UW-Madison Division of Extension is holding a free workshop designed to help farms in their alfalfa management efforts at 10 a.m. Jan. 31 at Lena Town Hall, 6087 Goatsville Road, Lena.

Regional educators Scott Reuss and Stephanie Bowers will be leading the discussion that will look at both the in-field management aspects and the ration development aspects, and talk about storage a bit along the way.

Key topics/questions

that will be addressed include: selection and species mixes; nutrient and cutting management, including results of Wiscosin Alfalfa Yield and Persistence project; growing and feeding rocket fuel to dairy herds; feeding the right quality to the right animals; and other topics based on participants' questions and concerns.

For information, contact Reuss at 715-732-7510, 715-701-0966 or scott.reuss@wisc.edu.

## OBITUARIES

### Jerome R. Krueger

Jerome "Jerry" R. Krueger passed away peacefully on Monday, Jan. 15, 2024, at ThedaCare Medical Center-Shawano.

Jerome Russell Krueger was born Feb. 28, 1943, to Alvin "Jake" and Gladys (Olson) Krueger. He was united in marriage to JoAnn Bricco on Sept. 12, 1963, at the St. Rose Catholic Church in Clintonville. The couple operated a farm and mink ranch for a number of years; however, Jerry spent most of his life working as an electrician at the Little Rapids Paper Mill in Shawano. Jerry and JoAnn enjoyed camping and traveling around the country in their RV over the years. Jerry loved being outdoors — especially hunting and spending time with his dog, Dozer.

Survivors include sons, Jason (Meghan) Krueger and Jesse (Savannah) Krueger; six grandchildren, Caiden, Kai, Kaleb (Savannah), Trystan, Shyran and Reyna; three great-grandchildren, Lavinia, Guinevere and Aldrik; and siblings, Rosie (David) Harney, Wally "Bud" (Sally) Krueger and Sandy (Duane) Mitchel.



Jerry was preceded in death by his parents; his loving wife, JoAnn, in 2016; and numerous other family members and friends.

A celebration of Jerry's life was held Monday, Jan. 22, 2024, at the Eberhardt-Stevenson Funeral Home, 299 S. Main St., Clintonville. Burial followed at the Greenwood Cemetery in the Town of Matteson.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund will be established by Jerry's family. They would like to thank the staff at Aster Assisted Living in Clintonville as well as the entire ThedaCare team in Shawano for all of their assistance and kindness.

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# Felzkowski bill would help young children with reading

Measure would help get books into the hands of kids up to age 5

By LEE PULASKI  
City Editor

A bill making its way through the Wisconsin Legislature would help make it easier to get books in the hands of young children.

Assembly Bill 741 would task the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families to establish a grant program where nonprofits can receive up to \$10,000 to reimburse them for no more than 50% of the cost of books provided in partnership with a national reading program that mails age-appropriate books for free to children from birth to age 5. The program does it for all children, regardless of the family's income.

Sen. Mary Felzkowski is one of four state senators sponsoring the bill, and she provided testimony in Madison earlier in January. The bill is up for discussion in the Wisconsin Senate in February, according to Felzkowski, and she expects the Assembly Education Committee will also address AB 741 that month.

"This has always been a passion of mine," Felzkowski said in a phone interview Jan. 19. "This money goes out to nonprofit organizations, and those nonprofits will spend it ... to get books into the hands of families with little children, getting them into reading and being engaged in the reading process way before they even start school."

Felzkowski is hopeful that, once the books arrive, parents will read to their children and hopefully get



MARY FELZKOWSKI

them interested in reading by themselves. She noted that the program, Imagination Dolly Parton, has been "wildly successful" in other parts of the United States.

"I was still in the Assembly, and I went to the National Council of State Legislators held in Nashville, and Dolly Parton spoke to the group," Felzkowski said. "This was at least six years ago, and this was something we always wanted to do in the state of Wisconsin, so we just got it done this year."

Felzkowski noted the money for the program was set aside in the 2023-25 biennial budget approved last summer.

The program intrigued Felzkowski after she was invited to read to children at a federally qualified health center near Birnamwood. She said one of the doctors uses the books as a

diagnostic tool to see what maturity level children are at, and that kids that have been read to show better maturity, development and learning potential over those who have never been read to.

"I've had that stuck in my mind for absolutely ever," Felzkowski said. "So when the opportunity came up, we jumped on it."

The senator believes the bill will easily sail through both chambers and be signed by Gov. Tony Evers.

"Gov. Evers is passionate about education and children, so I would assume he'd approve it," Felzkowski said. "The money was in the budget, and he signed it. If he had opposed it in any way, shape or form, he probably would have vetoed the money out of the budget."

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# Woman gets 3 1/2 years for stabbing

Sentence to be served after Peters serves 3 years for threats to law enforcement

By KEVIN MURPHY  
Correspondent

A Neopit woman who cut a man's head and shoulder with a knife was sentenced Jan. 16 in federal court to 3½ years in prison and three years' supervised release.

Justine V. Peters, 34, pleaded guilty in October to assault with a dangerous weapon in connection with bursting into a Neopit residence and telling a man, "I going to kill you," and stabbing or throwing a knife, cutting him.

According to court documents, the man told a Menominee Tribal Police detective that he and others were drinking at a Neopit residence on Dec. 20, 2022, when Peters attacked him, stabbing him with a knife.

A witness told a detective that he heard arguing when he entered the front room of the residence and saw Peters throw an object at the man, which hit him in the neck. Blood spurted from the man's neck which was tended to by the witness and others present while waiting for an ambulance to arrive.

The man said he was stabbed near the left shoulder and in the left side of his head. Peters fled the house, and officers found her hiding in her mother's basement where they arrested her.

Peters' mother told a tribal detective that her daughter came to her house upset and saying she had stabbed a guy, revealing his name to her.

The man was transported to ThedaCare Medical

Center-Shawano and then airlifted to ThedaCare Regional Medical Center in Neenah where lacerations to his neck were sutured. The man was released the next day.

Peters was indicted in August and faced maximum statutory penalties of 10 years in prison and three years' supervised release.

On Jan. 16, Peters' attorney, Thomas Phillip, argued that at her October plea hearing, Peters faced a sentence of 37-46 months calculated from the advisory guideline range. By sentencing, that was recalculated at 51-63 months due to convictions she received in Shawano County Circuit Court on Jan. 5.

"Had Peters' Shawano County court dates been delayed by two weeks;

her guideline range would have been 37-46 months," Phillip wrote the court.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew Maier recommended a sentence from the low end of the guideline range.

District Judge William Griesbach imposed a 42-month sentence but reduced that by the eight months he credited Peters for time served in tribal jail.

Griesbach also ordered that Peters' federal sentence be served consecutive to the combined three years' incarceration imposed on Jan. 5 by Shawano-Menominee County Circuit Court Judge Katherine Sloma. Peters was convicted for threats to law enforcement and being a passenger in a stolen vehicle.



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# Bird counts reveals impacts of climate change

My husband and I participated in Audubon's 124th Christmas Bird Count (CBC) this past year, joining other birders to identify and count birds in our assigned survey area. Survey areas are located within 15-mile radius circles; our survey area was just west of Peshtigo. On Dec. 16, from just after sunup to almost sundown, the group had the fun of observing a total of 40 species and 3,134 birds. An exciting find was a barred owl, up close and personal.

Our data will be combined with data from similar surveys going on in all 50 U.S. states and 20 foreign countries. Interested in what the long term CBC data set is telling us, I was not surprised to learn that it is documenting declines in bird numbers.

The 122nd CBC data recorded a total of 42,876,395 birds from the U.S., Canada, Latin American, and the Caribbean and Pacific Islands. According to Audubon.org, while this may seem a large number of birds, it is actually a dramatic decline in bird numbers when compared to the 60 million to 100 million birds reported 30 years ago.

The CBC data is also revealing changes in the movement patterns of birds. According to an article by Rebecca Heisman on the American Bird Conservancy website, research is showing that migratory birds have been arriving in North America in the spring about two days earlier each decade since the 1990s.

In addition, many groups of birds, including woodpeckers and large forest birds such as hawks, are more likely to be observed farther north now than they were only a few decades ago. According to Audubon.org, a 2021 study found that populations of 16 common duck species wintering in the Southeastern U.S. have also shifted northward over the past 50 years.

Climate change is also causing impacts to bird habitats and health. Heisman discusses several of these impacts including drought and fire, both of which can destroy nesting areas and other bird habitats.

Drought can also result in the spread of diseases such as West Nile virus; a disease that threatens humans and birds alike. Corvids such as crows and jays are especially subject to this disease. Drought causes birds to gather in large numbers around remaining water sources and stresses their immune systems, making them more susceptible to mosquito-borne infections like West Nile virus.

Global warming is driving rising sea levels that flood coastal marshes. This can be devastating to marsh

A barred owl is observed during the 2023 Christmas Bird Count near Peshtigo. LYNETTE THONNE

dwelling birds such as the saltmarsh sparrows that nest in the U.S. East Coast marshes. This impact is lowered if new marshes form inland before populations decline.

Another affect of global warming is mismatches in the biological timing of natural events like flowering, hatching, nesting, etc., also termed "phenological mismatches." Such a mismatch could occur with migratory birds and their food resources. Even though many birds are shifting their spring migrations north sooner, some are not doing it soon enough to keep up with the pace of other natural changes that are occurring due to climate change. In addition many birds start migrating northward based on day length and not temperature.

For these reasons, food resources may be inadequate when they arrive in their breeding territory. An example would be migratory songbirds arriving at their nesting sites after a spring warming spell and starting to raise young at a time when they missed the peak of the seasonal food resources that they rely on, such as caterpillars; this results in reduced breeding success. The caterpillars, due to warming weather would have peaked in numbers earlier in the spring, before the bird's arrival.

Climate change is also resulting in new interactions among species, adversely affecting some bird species. For instance, because there is less snowpack in the mountains of

Arizona, elk are staying at higher elevations over the winter than they have before. Their increased consumption of plants is resulting in the decrease of some songbird populations in these areas.

Audubon's Survival by Degrees report indicates that "two-thirds (64%) (389 out of 604) of North American bird species are at risk of extinction from climate change." The good news is that it also shows that if we take action now we can help improve the chances for 76% of the species at risk. You can download Audubon's report at [www.audubon.org/survival-degrees-about-study#521880bda2](http://www.audubon.org/survival-degrees-about-study#521880bda2).

What can we do now to help birds survive the adverse effects of global warming? Keeping cats indoors, eliminating pesticides and reducing window strikes remain ever important to help keep bird populations strong.

Reducing our carbon footprint by cutting back on the use of fossil fuels remains imperative if we are to slow global warming. We bought our first hybrid car this past year and continue to plant native trees and shrubs in our yard for our, and the birds, use and enjoyment. They also help to sequester carbon.

It may appear like our individual efforts don't amount to much in the seemingly overwhelming goal to fight global warming, but taken together, they do. Our world is changing fast, warming within our lifetimes, and we need to change with it, doing what we can to help reduce the impacts of climate change on us and the world around us.

Enjoy the birds, join a CBC in your area to learn more about our birds, and maybe plant a tree? All good.



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I was excited to move in to a place where I was able to continue my favorite hobby - sewing. I have plenty of room to continue to sew. The people here are great and the staff is very accommodating.

- Dorothy, Meadowlands Resident

I can't wait until that white stuff is gone and we can walk. Staff Member Amy walks with me around the pond in the summer.

- Denise, Golden Pond Resident



## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### FRIDAY, JAN. 26

**NAVARINO:** Light Up the Night - Torchlight Ski/Snowshoe, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Free with nonperishable food item. Does not include rentals. Without food donation, \$5 members, \$10 non-members, \$20 family. Register by calling 715-758-6999 or visit [www.navarino.org](http://www.navarino.org).

### SATURDAY, JAN. 27

**GRESHAM:** Lions Club 64th annual Fishing Derby, W10821 Upper Red Lake Road. \$600 in cash prizes; fish must be entered by 4:30 p.m. Fish Cash Prizes presented at 5 p.m. Cash raffle drawing at 6 p.m., \$500 first prize. Food, music, beverages available in heated shelter. Giant show kites on the ice. Music by Drive West 4 p.m.

**SHAWANO:** Walleye and Bass Tournament, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bamboo Bar, W5884 Cedar Court. Complete rules at Bamboo Bar Facebook page or call 715-201-1158.

**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.

**LAKEWOOD:** Paul Bunyan Snow Fun Day, 2-7 p.m., Waubee Lake Lodge, 18398 Waubee Park Lane. Paul Bunyan Snowmobile Club hosts meat and prize raffles, 50/50 raffles throughout the day, fisheriee and kids' fishing derby (7 a.m. to 4 p.m.; fish any lake), and a poker run.

**OCONTO FALLS:** Wild Game Banquet, 4-8 p.m., Oconto Falls High School, 210 N. Farm Road. Potluck dinner 5:30 p.m., seminar speaker James "Bear Man" VanSteenhouse 6:30 p.m. Wildlife replica displays, youth Nerf gun range 4-5:30 p.m. with prizes. Sponsored by Hillside Assembly.

### SUNDAY, JAN. 28

**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.

### MONDAY, JAN. 29

**SHAWANO:** American Cancer Society Relay for Life Launch Party, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Shawano County Library, 128 S. Sawyer St., lower level.

### WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31

**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](http://navarino.org) or 715-758-6999.

**LENA:** Alfalfa workshop, 10 a.m., Lena Town Hall, 6087 Goatsville Road. UW-Madison Division of Extension educators farm workshop on alfalfa management practices. Contact Scott Reuss at 715-732-7510, 715-701-0966 or [scott.reuss@wisc.edu](mailto:scott.reuss@wisc.edu).

### THURSDAY, FEB. 1

**OCONTO:** Oconto Masonic

Pine Lodge 188 monthly meeting, 513 Superior Ave. Family and friends are welcome at 6 p.m. dinner with a stated communication meeting to follow at 7 p.m.

**OCONTO:** Oconto County Historical Society Speaker Series, 6:30 p.m., Beyer Home and Carriage Museum, 915 Park Ave. Identifying family treasures with Bill Eiler, owner of Frugal Classics in De Pere.

### FRIDAY, FEB. 2

**NAVARINO:** Light Up the Night - Torchlight Ski/Snowshoe, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Free with nonperishable food item. Does not include rentals. Without food donation, \$5 members, \$10 non-members, \$20 family. Register by calling 715-758-6999 or visit [www.navarino.org](http://www.navarino.org).

### SATURDAY, FEB. 3

**SHAWANO:** Second annual Give Kids a Smile, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., Walsh Dental, 657 N. Main St. Free dental evaluation and same-day treatment for children ages 6 to 14. No appointment needed. First come, first served basis. For information, contact Dr. Scarlett Young at 715-524-2581 at Walsh Dental Group.

**TOWNSEND:** Far From Snoozin' Bed Races, 1 p.m., Wendt's Sandbar Resort, 16688 Nicolet Road. Five-person teams, \$25 per team, 100 percent payout, bed is provided. Registration begins at noon, meat raffle during races, 50/50 raffle, DJ, food and beverages.



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# Fight winter blues with adventure books, predator hunting

When I was in high school and college, I thought the only real learning occurred in a classroom.

It was probably years after graduating from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale with a coveted BA in liberal arts (English/creative writing) that I realized most learning doesn't involve school buildings, classrooms or teachers.

I think I learn something new every day. But if I want to make sure of it, I pick up a book or magazine and read. Reading seems to be becoming a lost art, as many abandon newspapers (thank God you readers are smarter than that), magazines and books. I am a voracious collector (my wife calls me hoarder) of books, and occasionally I even take time to read them.

My favorites are almost entirely nonfiction, especially true crime, biographies, World War II (my dad served in Okinawa as an Army infantryman and 90mm anti-aircraft gunner) and, of course, anything to do with hunting and firearms. The high-adventure outdoors books (think Jim Corbett, Ben East and my all-time favorite author, professional hunter Peter Hathaway Capstick) really grab me by the throat like a Bengal tiger and won't let go till the last page.

As sub-zero temperatures and mountains of

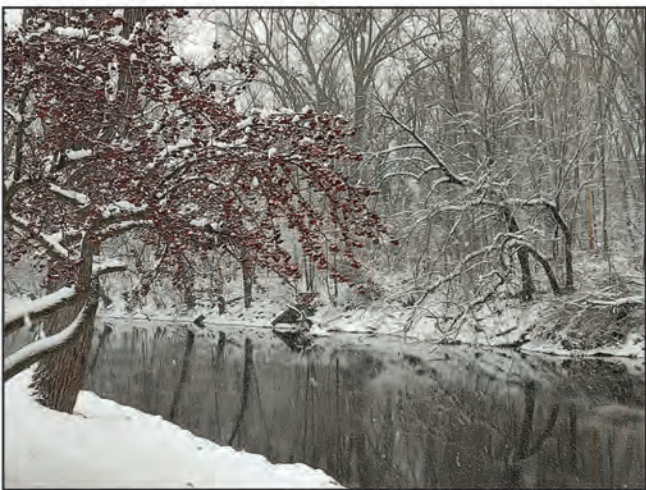


Ross Bielema  
Columnist

snow engulf our outdoor world, most of us retreat to the warm, cozy confines of a living room, den or man cave, and curl up with a bag of chips and a beverage. Hopefully your veg (rhymes with hedge) adventure includes a good book or magazine. It's time to read about warmer days and how to improve our hunting, fishing, trapping and other bushcraft skills.

My good friend Tom Walters of Bettendorf, Iowa, a former president of the Iowa Trappers Association and owner of American Bat Management, a nuisance wildlife trapping business, regularly gifts me with an amazing variety of outdoor-related books. I, of course, return the favor. We have two types of books: Those we gift, and those we loan. If I find something special at Half Price Books in Appleton, my favorite bookstore, I often buy two copies and keep one for myself. If they only have one copy, that's a loaner.

I was sitting in the La-Z-Boy under a fuzzy blanket one day and spotted a 1977 Varmint Hunter's Digest within reach. Since coyote



A January snowstorm like this one along the Embarrass River in New London is the perfect time to try a fox or coyote hunt using predator calls. Hungry critters looking for an easy meal will often come running to the hunter.

ROSS BIELEMA

hunting is one of my favorite sports, I picked it up and started leafing through the yellowed pages. Most of the book was written by Jim Dougherty, a legendary bow hunter who used to work (and hunt) for Ben Pearson Archery. As I read the author notes, I learned Dougherty was also a champion predator caller.

A photo of a wolverine caught my eye. As a youngster, I had a hard-cover animal book that included a photo of a wolverine and a description that this fiery Arctic creature had no fear of bears and could chew through foot-thick cabin walls! I was both terrified and fascinated by this low-slung, weasel-like monster! My older brother even nicknamed me "Sneak-A

Wolverine!" I guess I was years ahead of the Marvel comics creations.

The article told of a bear hunter who shot a wolverine with his .338 rifle! Obviously few hunters have had a chance to bag such an elusive animal. I've seen a few wolverine pelts for sale over the years (including at War Bonnet Native American Gifts in Shawano), and I know I will have one on the wall someday, even though I didn't shoot it. Folklore has it that a wolverine fur collar will never freeze up, no matter how cold it gets.

Another story told of an unusual way to hunt foxes, which certainly could be adapted to coyotes. He painted a wooden toboggan white and used it to tow his dead foxes (I've never had

the need), as well as lying on it and pushing with his hands to sneak up on them. It sounded a bit far-fetched, but he was hunting in the open farm fields of Iowa. He used the curled front of the toboggan as a rifle rest, and pushed the snow with his arms as he approached sleeping foxes. I thought I'd read every possible way to hunt wild canines, but here was a 1977 book with a new trick.

Coyote and fox hunting have become easier since the days of the Burnham Brothers records and cassettes. (Yes, the early hunters carried record players into the field!) Electronic callers with dozens or even hundreds of digital chip recordings are sold at most major sporting goods stores. Downloads of other sounds are available, too. And the old reliable mouth calls are nice to slip in a pocket in case the electronic caller batteries die or you've been deer hunting without success and want to see if a coyote is stalking nearby.

Although a centerfire rifle is a great choice (a scoped AR-15 in .223 or 5.56 is excellent), a rimfire rifle will normally cause less fur damage. My favorite is still the .22 Winchester Magnum Rimfire, but the .17 HMR is nice, too. If you hunt with a friend in a wooded area, he can carry a shotgun for the close-range shots so you

have all distances covered. You are typically imitating the sound of a dying rabbit, so expect to attract crows, hawks, owls, feral cats and any other nearby predators. It's exciting to become the prey. Keep a camera handy for the critters you can't shoot. A decoy is a good idea to draw attention away from you.

I set a stuffed rabbit in the snow, but a great decoy can be made with a metal stick (an old arrow works), a thread and a turkey feather. The feather will blow in the breeze, catching the eye of the stalking killer that approaches!

Coyotes and foxes typically circle to catch the scent of whatever is killing that fake rabbit, so if you sit back-to-back with your buddy, you can watch in all directions.

Wear white coveralls or snow camo and avoid moving when a canine predator approaches.

Red and gray fox season is open Oct. 14 through Feb. 15, while coyote hunting is open all year long. There are no bag limits. Furs are most valuable in the winter months.

Get out there and give it a try! And if you don't like the cold, stay inside and read about it.

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

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# Resolutions easier to keep when awards are involved

Did you make any New Year's resolutions? If so, how's it going? For most of us, the answer falls somewhere between not so good and not at all.

After a lifetime of failing to keep all but one resolution, I consider these promises-to-self more aspirational than obligatory. This means if you falter, you don't just quit trying. Less likely to get depressed that way.

Are you curious as to the one resolution I did keep? It's something I started long ago, and it's been life-changing in many ways. Here's the key — instead of focusing on yourself, you concentrate on doing something to make your little corner of the world a better place.

One year, I got the bright idea to make it an assignment for my seventh graders. They were to write down a resolution and put it in a sealed envelope in their classroom folders. Anyone who participated got an A, even though I promised not to read or grade their submissions. We would open them on the last day of school when volunteers who shared resolutions and results got an A+. It was eye-opening amazing. From trying out for the baseball team to going to babysitting school to visiting Grandma in a nursing home every month, their stories made that last crazy day one of the best of the year.

Interested? Here's how it goes. You resolve to do something you think you cannot do, something that challenges you physically, emotionally or mentally. (You get extra credit if it involves all three). Two requirements: it must be something you don't do for yourself, and if you fail, nobody gets hurt. Meeting your goal wins you a gold medal; coming in close earns a silver, a small suc-



**Kathleen Marsh**  
Columnist

cess nets the bronze. You can even award yourself a participation trophy for an honest attempt.

Over the years, I've been able to "win" all of the above. Lest you think I'm boasting here, I'm just trying to show how little things you do to benefit others can pay huge dividends, not to mention reveal things about yourself that you might never have otherwise uncovered. Be careful though. This process can transform your life in ways you'd never intended.

I gave myself a participation award one year for volunteering to sell food at a Post 44 Legion fisheriee. Talk about a fish out of water. I came home with aching legs and frozen toes, but the Legion does such fantastic work that I was proud to be a tiny part of the cause. I also earned a participation trophy for joining Red Arrow Snowmobile and ATV Club. Jon and I don't own snowmobiles or ride the trails, but our dues support those who do, so it's all good.

During the wretched COVID closure, I took a bronze for organizing a Support Our Local Restaurants campaign. A small group of us organized to provide badly needed income to an "adopted" eatery by ordering take-out and buying gift certificates. OK, it wasn't a totally altruistic gesture on my part. Some nights I didn't have to cook, and the certificates made great no-shopping-required gifts.

My first silver came almost 20 years ago, earned by going way out of my comfort zone. Although I'm

more the secretary type, I became president of the Wabeno Legion Auxiliary. Bless those Legion ladies who patiently put up with my many blunders, pitching in to help revitalize Unit 44. Special kudos to the wonderful women who helped me find leadership skills I didn't know I possessed.

As president, I succeeded in resurrecting our sponsorship of delegates to Badger Girls State, a summer program where high school juniors spend a week at University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh learning how representative government works. We have sponsored dozens of girls from Wabeno and Laona high schools who say it's a life-altering experience. Karen Prueter is now president, but we still do BGS and many awesome things for veterans and the community.

I'm unabashedly sharing two of my gold medals. The first is for publishing eight books, four on the history of Townsend. The second is for leading the effort to restore Holt and Balcom Logging Camp in Lakewood. Some of the most fun times of my life were the Red Light Saloon shows staged to raise money for the camp. I had no idea I could write, direct and act in musical comedy. What a hoot that was.

Charles Dickens said people spend their lives toiling in their own little spheres. Sure, but each of us can make our sphere a better place. It starts with baby steps, but each step initiates another step, and before you know it, you're in too deep to quit. So take the American Legion challenge. Be the one. You'll never regret it.

**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.**

## SCHS students sell frybread



Alynn Fowler turns over a piece of frybread in a cooker Jan. 19 at Shawano Community High School for a frybread sale. Proceeds benefit Title VI students and help pay for trips at the end of March to the University of Wisconsin campuses in La Crosse, Menomonie, Eau Claire and River Falls. There will 20 SCHS students and 20 more from Menominee Indian High School going on the trip.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA



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## Bonduel's fast start leads them to a victory over Wittenberg-Birnamwood

By **DUSTIN RIESE**  
Correspondent

In a matchup featuring two of the best teams in the CWC Large Conference, the Bonduel Bears (13-1) faced off against the Wittenberg-Birnamwood Chargers (6-7) on Jan. 19.

Looking to keep their unbeaten record alive in conference, it was the visiting Bears who got off to a strong start, which had the Chargers looking for answers. Led by several big runs and terrific 3-point shooting, the Bears raced out to an early double-digit lead and never looked back as they took care of the Chargers 63-41.

"Our boys played tough defense tonight and had very balanced scoring with five players in double figures," Bears head coach Duke Copp said. "Always a tough, physical game with Wittenberg, and I felt our boys met the challenge of playing against guys bigger and stronger than we are."

The best way to get a team more physical than you is to play first, and the Bears had no problems doing that early on. With the game tied 2-2, Bonduel put the clamps on defensively, which forced the Chargers into several uncharacteristic errors. That led to a 12-0 run by Bonduel to open up a 14-2 lead. Race Anvelink was responsible for five of those points; he was one of five players in double figures.

"Played a tough Bonduel team tonight," Chargers head coach Garrett Rogowski said. "Overall, we played well on the defensive end of the floor, stopped dribble penetration, closed gaps, but gave up too many offensive rebounds at the end of possessions leading to second- and third-chance opportunities."

Despite facing a deficit early on, the Chargers did their best to chip away



Bonduel's Quinn Wesenberg is defended by Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Boone Schairer.  
DUSTIN RIESE

as Hayden Miller went inside for a pair of quick buckets to pull within 14-6. That opened things up for some of the Chargers' shooters, and Boone Schairer delivered, making things 14-8. Every time the Chargers looked as if they were about to come back, Bonduel had another run in them as Ryan Westrich went inside for one of his many buckets, while Colin Margelofsky forced another turnover before going coast to coast for another layup.

The defensive pressure was something Copp was extremely happy with, and he cited it as one of the biggest reasons for this victory.

"We felt our defensive pressure was key to forcing some turnovers and getting some easy baskets," he said. "We are still working to get better and improve each night out, but we continue to play well."

Trailing by 11 late in the first half, the Chargers were hoping an Oliver Fraaza triple would be the bucket to close out the half strong, but it was Bonduel answering with a pair of triples from Quinn Wesenberg and Charlie Tauchen

that opened up a 35-21 half-time lead for the Bears.

That lead only began to grow for the Bears in the second half as the Chargers had no answers for the Bears' attack.

Even with Jett Rogowski picking up the first bucket to open the second half, Bonduel's pressure continued to force turnovers as they continued to maintain a lead. Miller and Zander Barke refused to go down without a fight, as they answered those buckets by the Bears with two of their own to pull within 38-27.

It was at this point in the game where Bonduel was about to put things away, and once again it was the defensive pressure that made the difference. With every turnover they were forcing on the opposite end, the Bears got out running, leading to several easy layups on the other end.

It also led to their shooters finding open looks as Cade Johnson and Wesenberg connected on a trio of triples before the Westrich bucket inside capped off an 11-2 run to make things 49-31 Bears.

It was that run that Rogowski ultimately felt



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Marshall Fraaza makes a move on Bonduel's Ryan Westrich down low to convert on the layup.  
DUSTIN RIESE

was the difference in the game as the Chargers just couldn't get over the 10-point hump.

"It was just one of those nights," he said. "We were put in a massive hole early and knew we had to battle our way out. I thought the kids did a great job of chipping away at the lead several times, but whenever we got close, they had all of the answers. Offensively, we had a lot of opportunities with good

perimeter looks but didn't shoot well from the field. The score doesn't reflect the flow of the game, as it was closer throughout until the last five minutes of the game."

Schairer managed to come away with a tough layup inside later in the game, but the Bears still led by 16. Trailing by 18 after Westrich went inside for another and one, Jaden Clark came away with a rare 3-point make for the

Chargers as they pulled within 55-40 at that point. Unfortunately, for the Chargers, that was the final bucket they would score as Westrich and company ended the game on an 8-0 run to pick up the 63-40 victory.

On the three big runs the Bears had, they outscored the Chargers 33-4. That was the difference in the game as the Chargers outscored them 36-30 apart from those runs.

## Drake Herm makes finals at Sheboygan North

By **NEW MEDIA STAFF**

Drake Herm made the finals and came away with a second-place finish for the second year in a row at the Sheboygan North Invite held Jan. 20.

Owen Montour placed fourth.

"Drake and Owen have been doing a great job lately earning bonus points and really wrestling good matches," coach Mike Homan said.

Kody Popelka finished in sixth place.

Taking seventh place were Dane Hodkiewicz, Carsen Herm and Connor Chelberg.

Dylan Gartner placed eighth.

**Shawano 57, Menasha 17**

Shawano downed Menasha 57-17 in a dual meet Jan. 18.

Shawano started at 150 pounds where Marcus Cicerio lost a back-and-forth

decision 9-5.

Carsen Herm earned a fall at 157 in 1:24, but Drew Chelberg lost a decision at 165 by a score of 3-1.

Mason Theis earned a fall in 1:49 at 175. At 190, Connor Chelberg kept the winning up with a fall in 5:20, at 215 Kaydin Campbell earned a fall in 1:56.

Unfortunately, the Hawks lost on injury time at 285.

At 106, Dylan Gartner came up with a 5-3 deci-

sion, Dane Hodkiewicz and Alex Montour both earned forfeits at 113 and 120, respectively.

At 126, Austin Stickney gave up a technical fall in 4:40. Owen Montour and Kody Popelka both earned forfeits at 132 and 138, respectively.

The last match of the night was at 144 where Drake Herm earned a fall in 1:11.

"It was a great night of wrestling," Homan said.

"Connor Chelberg had a really good win at 190. Connor just keeps working hard day after day. Every time he is in the practice room, he is working hard and continuing to learn new position and improve his technique. He was offensive on his feet tonight and controlling on top. It was a good complete match."

"Dylan Gartner also wrestled a great match, after going down 2-0, he

battled back for an escape and then a takedown at the end of the first period to go up 3-2. He earned a reversal in the second and gave up an escape but rode his opponent out in the third period. He was in some good scrambles and kept working to stay in position. It was a well-wrestled, hard-fought match."

The victory improved Shawano's record to 4-0 in the conference and 11-4 overall.



# Gillett now has six-game winning streak

**Friday, Jan. 19**  
Gillett  
Gillett extended its winning streak to six games with a 65-56 Marinette & Oconto Conference win over Niagara.  
Niagara's 36-29 second half wasn't enough to overcome the 36-20 deficit it faced at the break.  
Gillett improved to 8-1 in league play (10-4 overall) and is tied for first place.  
Jesse DeBauch led Gillett with 25 points. Aydin Franti contributed 15, and Ben Matczak added 10.  
**Lena**  
Lena dropped to 1-7 in Marinette & Oconto Conference action and St. Thomas Aquinas Academy improved to 3-5 after Lena lost 66-45.  
St. Thomas led 39-27 at the break and outscored their hosts 27-18 in the second stanza.  
**Marion**  
A low-scoring second half spelled defeat for Marion as the Mustangs lost 38-28 to White Lake.  
Leading 22-17 at the break in the Central Wisconsin North Conference game, Marion only scored six points in the second half as White Lake scored 21 en route to the victory.  
The teams are tied for first place at 4-2.  
**Oconto Falls**  
Alex Haines scored 16 points as Oconto Falls

came from behind to defeat Luxemburg-Casco in a North Eastern Conference matchup.  
Trailing 26-19 at the break, the visitors stormed back with a 32-21 second half to earn the four-point win.  
Brady Bursa and Jameson Beaman each had four rebounds, Haines and Emerich Skarban each had three assists, and Skarban had five steals.  
**Pulaski**  
Pulaski rests in the middle of the pack in the Fox River Classic Conference after a 74-49 win at Notre Dame De La Baie Academy.  
The Red Raiders are 5-4 in league play and 8-5 overall.  
Pulaski was comfortably in the lead during the game, leading 38-22 at the break and outscoring their hosts 36-27 after the break.  
Ethan Schmidt and Dixon Holewinski each scored 16 points, Colin Schultz added 13, Bryce Wotruba contributed 12, and Joseph Mijal scored 10. Dylan Dorn added four, and Bohdan Schmidt scored three, as all players scored.  
**Shawano**  
Shawano suffered an 84-46 loss to Xavier as their guests stayed atop the Bay Conference with a 6-0 mark, while the Hawks dropped to 2-5 (4-11 overall).

Logan Sipple was the only Hawk to score in double digits as he had 17 points.  
Sipple and Crew Weisnicht each pulled down five boards, and Will Verkuilen had three assists and three steals.  
**Suring**  
Suring, 0-8 in the Marinette & Oconto Conference, lost 78-30 to first-place Crivitz.  
Suring trailed 48-15 at the half and was outscored 30-15 after the break.  
Michael Bailey led Suring with 10 points.  
**Thursday, Jan. 18**  
**Menominee Indian**  
Menominee Indian had trouble keeping up its first-half pace when they were overpowered by Iola-Scandinavia, which captured an 81-74 Central Wisconsin East Conference win.  
The Eagles led 42-32 at the half, but Iola-Scandinavia fought back after the break to win the second half 48-32, which was enough for the six-point win.  
Menominee Indian dropped to 1-7 in conference action and 2-12 overall.  
**Tuesday, Jan. 16**  
**Bonduel tops Menominee Indian**  
The Bears stayed perfect at 7-0 in the Central Wisconsin East Conference with a 76-54 win over Menominee Indian.

Bonduel is 12-1 overall.  
Ryan Westrich led Bonduel with 19 points. Also scoring in double digits were Race Anvelink with 14, Charlie Tauchen with 13 and Noah Weier with 12.  
The Eagles dropped to 1-6 in league play and 2-11 overall.  
For Menominee Indian, Kenew Awonohopay and Ankohsach Corn each scored 11 points, while Ryan Corn added 10. Corn and Lyons each had a pair of 3-pointers.  
**Marion beats Bowler**  
In another contest of area teams, Marion defeated Bowler 57-38 in a Central Wisconsin North Conference game.  
Marion improved to 4-1 in conference action and 10-6 overall. Bowler fell to 0-3 in league play and 1-11 overall.  
**Gillett**  
Gillett is tied with Crivitz at 7-1 for first place in the Marinette & Oconto Conference after an 88-43 pounding of St. Thomas Aquinas Academy.  
Gillett's 49-20 first half generated more points than were needed for the win. A 39-23 second half just added to their dominance of the game.  
**Gresham**  
Wanbli Spotted War Bonnet scored 13 points, including three triples, but Gresham pulled up short in a 58-38 loss to Northland

Lutheran.  
Kevin Miller pulled down seven boards, Nolan Pecore had six assists, and Spotted War Bonnet had a pair of steals.  
**Oconto Falls**  
Oconto Falls snapped its nine-game losing streak with a 64-58 non-conference win over Green Bay West.  
The Panthers led 31-24 at the break, while the hosts won the second half 34-33.  
Oconto Falls is now 3-11 overall.  
**Pulaski**  
Pulaski manhandled Sheboygan South, winning 60-64 in the Fox River Classic Conference game.  
The Red Raiders improved to 4-4 in the conference and 7-5 overall.  
**Tigerton**  
Tigerton defeated Tomahawk 56-37 in a non-conference road game. The Tigers improved to 8-3 overall.  
James Brady led the Tigers with 17 points. Joey Zimdars scored 11, and Loghan Wanta added 10.  
Wanta pulled down eight boards, and Cameron Carlson had four steals. Six players each had one assist.  
**Wittenberg-Birnamwood**  
An overtime loss to Shiocton knocked Wittenberg-Birnamwood out of second place in the Central

Wisconsin East standings.  
Tied at 46-46 at the end of regulation, Shiocton won the OT period 5-3 for the 51-49 victory.  
The game was as evenly matched as you can get - tied at 20-20 at the break and 46-46 after the second half.  
The Chargers fell to 4-3 in league play and 6-6 overall.  
Each player on the Chargers team scored, but only Jett Rogowski hit double digits with 15.  
**Monday, Jan. 15**  
**Marion**  
The Mustangs dropped to 9-6 overall with a 73-35 non-conference thrashing at the hands of Lakeland Union High School.  
**Oconto Falls**  
The Panthers, 2-11 overall, fell to 0-9 in the North Eastern Conference with a 75-40 loss to Little Chute.  
The visitors were up 36-16 at the half and added another 15 points to their margin of victory with a 39-24 second half.  
Alex Haines and Easton Engel led Oconto Falls with eight points each. Haines also led with six rebounds and six assists.  
**Shawano**  
Seymour controlled the Bay Conference game against Shawano, winning 57-39. Seymour led 24-15 at the half and outscored Shawano 33-24 in the second half.

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# Lena girls keeps perfect record intact

## Bonduel comes from behind to beat Wittenberg-Birnamwood

### Saturday, Jan. 20 Gillett

Gillett topped Northland Pines 53-40 in a non-conference game. The victory improved Gillett's overall record to 7-8.

### Lena

It was a non-conference win, but Lena's 60-50 victory over Florence kept the team a perfect 16-0 overall this season.

Eva Brooks led the Wildcats with 20 points. Madilyn Thomson poured in 14, and Whitney Potter added another 13.

Lena led 26-22 at the break and won the second half 34-28.

### Friday, Jan. 19 Pulaski

Pulaski fell to 6-4 in Fox River Classic Conference play after its 91-29 defeat at the hands of 10-0 Notre Dame De La Baie Academy.

Olivia Sprangers scored 10 points for the Red Raiders.

Notre Dame led 55-15 at the break and won the second half 36-14.

Pulaski fell to 8-8 overall.

### Shawano

A second-half comeback looked promising for Shawano, but they couldn't overcome their first-half deficit as they lost 65-52 in West De Pere in a Bay Conference matchup.

West De Pere led 25-14 at the break. Shawano fought back, but its 40-38 shortfall in the second half, although strong, wasn't enough.

Leah Nordin scored 30 of the Hawks' points, and Ella Stuber added 10. Abby Bystol chipped in seven, Marissa Tomashek and Natalie Bystol each scored two, and Braylyn Babino had one, as all six players scored.

Shawano is 2-4 in conference action and 12-5 overall.

### Thursday, Jan. 18 Bonduel tops Wittenberg-Birnamwood

Bonduel's perfect Central Wisconsin East Conference record was in danger when Wittenberg-Birnamwood visited last week.

The Chargers held a 29-17 lead at the break, but Bonduel's 33-17 second-half comeback was just enough to pull out a 50-46 win.

The Bears sit atop the conference at 7-0 (14-2 overall), while the Chargers are in second place at 5-2 (12-2 overall).

"This game was the tale of two halves," Chargers coach Nick Mechelke said. "The girls executed our game plan to a 'T' in the first half. I couldn't have been prouder for that. Bonduel is good and well-disciplined. They held their composure and battled back into the game. They forced some big turnovers and took advantage of it and came out on top. I hope this game was a step in the right direction for us that we can learn from."

Rory Salvesen paced the Chargers with 20 points, and Melaina Granquist contributed 16.

Granquist grabbed 15 boards, Salvesen had two assists, and Granquist had five steals.

### Gillett

Hope Soper scored 10 points in Gillett's 44-32 loss to Crivitz.

The other five Gillett players also scored, with Audrey Pate and Sophie Limberg each dropping in six, Maggie Kaczmarek getting four, and Lily Hansen and Clara Shaal each sinking three.

### Lena squeaks by Gresham

Eva Brooks scored 29 points and Madilyn Thomson added 13 as Lena slid past Gresham 54-50 in a non-conference game.

The Lena Wildcats led the Gresham Wildcats 28-25 after the first half and won the second stanza 26-25.

Brooks led Lena with 10 rebounds. Hannah Thomson, Kali Fischer and Whitney Potter each had three

assists. Alabama Lambert, Brooks, Thomson and Potter each had three steals.

Gresham was led by Madelyn Haffner's 15 points and Janay Pecore-Kirkland's 14.

### Marion

The Mustangs improved to 2-3 in Central Wisconsin North Conference action with their 59-2 win over White Lake.

### Menominee Indian

Menominee Indian used a 29-0 first half to claim a 43-39 win over Iola-Scandinavia in Central Wisconsin East Conference action.

The Eagles improved to 2-4 in league play and 5-9 overall.

Urijih Reeves led Menominee Indian with 12 points.

Natalie Peters and Aaliyah Corn each had 10 rebounds. Corn had four assists, as well as six steals.

### Oconto Falls

Oconto Falls' two-point loss to Luxemburg-Casco knocked them down from second to fourth place in the North Eastern Conference.

The Panthers' 35-33 loss dropped them to 6-4 in league play and 10-5 overall.

Rylie Shallow and Kati Raddatz each scored 13 points.

Oconto Falls trailed 19-16 at the break, and their 17-16 second half wasn't

enough to lift them past Luxemburg-Casco.

### Suring

Suring lost 54-53 to Oneida Nation in Marinette & Oconto Conference action, dropping the Eagles to 2-7 in conference action and 4-12 overall.

### Tuesday, Jan. 16 Bowler

Bowler nabbed a 52-44 win over Nekoosa and embarked on its third two-game winning streak of the season. Bowler improved to 8-6 on the season.

### Lena

Every girl scored as Lena dumped on St. Thomas Aquinas Academy 77-12 in Marinette & Oconto Conference play.

Eva Brooks led the way with 18 points, and Madilyn Thomson dropped in another 17. Also scoring were Abby Kostreva and Whitney Potter with eight each, Kali Fischer with seven, Hannah Thomson with six, Maddy Kushner with five, Alabama Lambert with four, and Karli Fischer and Haley Van Ark with two each.

Brooks led the team with eight rebounds, Potter had four assists, and Brooks had seven steals.

Lena held a 33-4 lead at the half and outscored their guests 44-8 after the break.

Lena is now 9-0 in league action and 14-0

overall.

**Oconto Falls**  
Like Lena beating St. Thomas Aquinas Academy, Oconto Falls had no trouble downing Little Chute in a North Eastern Conference game. The 52-10 final score improved the Panthers to 6-3 in the conference and 10-4 overall.

### Pulaski

The Red Raiders moved above .500 on the season with its 61-47 win over Sheboygan South in Fox River Classic Conference play. Pulaski is now 6-3 in league play and 8-7 overall.

### Shawano

The Hawks dropped to 12-4 overall with a 53-48 loss to Menasha in a non-conference home game.

### Wittenberg-Birnamwood

Any worries that coach Nick Mechelke had going into the Central Wisconsin East Conference game against Amherst were quickly put to rest.

"I was little nervous how we were going to come out tonight since we haven't played for 12 days, but we came out very well," the Chargers coach said. "We came out up 14-0 and finished up 42-16 at the half. We got great play from many girls tonight, but I was really happy for Harper Rogowski. She played exceptional on offense tonight."

The Chargers would go on to win 71-45.

Rogowski's 17 points included four 3-pointers. Rory Salvesen led Wittenberg-Birnamwood with 23 points, and Melaina Granquist scored 22.

Ava Brie, Brie Ladika and Faith Resch each had three assists, Resch led with six rebounds, and Brie had five steals.

The Chargers improved to 5-1 in conference action and 12-1 overall.

### Monday, Jan. 15 Bowler

A 64-44 win over Northland Lutheran helped keep Bowler near the top of the Central Wisconsin North Conference. The Panthers stayed in second place with a 3-1 mark, while improving to 7-6 overall.

**Gresham nips Gillett**  
Gresham topped Gillett 50-45 in a non-conference matchup. Gresham improved to 11-3 overall, while Gillett fell below .500 at 6-7.

### Marion

The Mustangs had a scoreless first half and trailed Port Edwards 25-0 at the break in a non-conference game. Despite Marion, 2-12 overall, outscoring their hosts 23-22 in the second half, Port Edwards won 47-23.

**Oconto Falls**  
Oconto Falls sat at 9-4 overall with a 52-39 non-conference win over Southern Door.

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Dan Brokiewicz, of Bonduel, shows off the musky he pulled out of Shawano Lake's Cecil Bay on Jan. 11. He and his fishing buddy, Fuzzy, estimated the fish to be about 50 inches long and weighing 30 pounds. How big was that fish you just caught? Share it with us, and we'll share it with our readers! Send in the photo, along with the names of those pictured, what you caught and when (and maybe where, if you don't mind giving up the secret fishing spot). Email information and photos to sports@newmedia-wi-com. CONTRIBUTED

# Shawano's girl wrestlers hit string of tough opponents

## Coach says the goal is to learn and then improve

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

With a limited participation against 103 other teams at Wausau West, Shawano's wrestlers captured fourth-, seventh- and eighth-place finishes Jan. 20.

Courtney Schenk was Shawano's fourth-place finisher. "She did a great job opening up her offensive attacks and pushing the pace in her matches," coach Mike Homan said. "We talked last week about how she needed to open up her offense, and that is exactly what she did today. She did a great job attacking and getting to the legs of her opponents. It is great to see her wrestling well as we near the postseason."

Onna Hermann placed seventh. "Onna Hermann had a tough bracket loaded with multiple state place winners," Homan said. "She battled all day and did a good job finishing in seventh place."

Lily Tomas placed eighth. "Lily has not been wrestling very long and is learning the sport as we move through the season," Homan said. "She is doing a great job picking up all of the new techniques. We look forward to her continuing to improve each week."

**Menasha 48, Shawano 12** Shawano struggled from the start and found themselves on the losing end of a 48-12 dual conference match against Menasha girls on Jan. 18. Shawano gave up a forfeit at

107 pounds, and Jenna Moede was pinned in 2:59 at 114. At 120, Hermann earned a fall in 23 seconds. That was followed by four pins by Menasha. At 126, Caitlyn Moede was pinned in 3:41. At 132, Breleigh Thornock was pinned in 1:43. At 138, Adalyn Barkley was pinned in 1:15, and at 145, Vivian Waldburger was pinned in 3:44. Finally, at 152, Schenk earned a fall in 1:10.

Shawano gave up a forfeit at 165, and Tomas was pinned in 2:55. "Tonight is one of those opportunities where we get to see who we are and how we can respond to adversity," Homan said. "We did not wrestle the way we want, and we need to make some changes as we move forward. I'm excited to see how our girls respond as we go back to practice and get some work in. We will improve as we enter our last quarter of the season and move toward the sectional tournament."

**UW-Stevens Point** The Shawano girls wrestling team dropped two of three matches at UW-Stevens Point on Jan. 16. Shawano was defeated by Wausau West 42-30 and Nekoosa/Assumption/Port Edwards 39-30, while beating Kimberly 48-18. Against Wausau West, the Hawks forfeited four weight classes due to injury and wrestlers not in attendance.

"We wrestled eight matches in each dual and did very well," Homan said. In the first dual with Wausau West, Shawano won five of its eight matches. Winners during that first dual were Hermann, Thornock, Caitlyn Moede, Schenk and Tomas. "Each of these girls earned falls in their match and did a great job scoring team points," Homan said. "The forfeit points were just too much to overcome." The next dual was against Nekoosa/Assumption/Port Edwards. Shawano also won five matches in this dual. Winners were Hermann, Thornock, Caitlyn Moede, Waldburger and Schenk. The girls again won by falls and racked up 30 team points. "We won some quality matches in this dual but just came up short in the end," Homan said. In the victory over Kimberly, winners were Jenna Moede, Hermann, Thornock, Caitlyn Moede, Barkley, Vivian, Schenk and Tomas. "It was a great way to finish the night," Homan said. "This team wrestled well tonight and won more matches than we lost. We have room to grow and get better as we look forward to the next step in our season. These girls all have great opportunities to move forward towards the end of the season." Shawano is now 2-2 after the holiday break.

# DNR to host public meetings on fisheries management

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will host a series of informational meetings across the state's northeast region to educate anglers on various fisheries management topics. This is a chance to learn how the DNR manages game species and protects and restores their habitat. The meetings are part of a spotlight series highlighting

various fisheries in Green Bay and inland waters in northeast Wisconsin. The sessions will be held in person and via Zoom from 6-8 p.m. over the next few months, giving the public a chance to meet and learn from their local DNR fishery resource specialists. More information on these meetings, including Zoom login info, can be found on the DNR's meetings and hearings calendar.

Scheduled hearings include the following:

- Inland Trout And Lake Management In Florence And Forest Counties; Greg Matzke, DNR fisheries biologist; Jan. 29; Wild Rivers Interpretive Center, 5628 Forestry Drive, Florence.
- Green Bay Walleye And Muskellunge Management; Jason Breeggemann, DNR fisheries biologist; Feb. 7; Green Bay DNR Service Center, 2984 Shawano

Ave., Green Bay.

- Green Bay Northern Pike And Yellow Perch Management; Tammie Paoli, DNR fisheries biologist; Feb. 12; Peshtigo DNR Field Office 101 N. Ogden Road, Peshtigo.
- Inland Trout Management In Marinette And Oconto Counties; Chip Long, DNR fisheries biologist; Feb. 19; Peshtigo DNR Field Office, 101 N. Ogden Road, Peshtigo.

- Northeast Wisconsin Trout Habitat Management; Jonathan Pyatskowitz, DNR fisheries habitat specialist; Feb. 26; Green Bay DNR Service Center, 2984 Shawano Ave., Green Bay.
- Green Bay And Fox River Area Of Concern Habitat Restoration Project Updates; Brie Kupsky, DNR Green Bay program coordinator; March 4; Green Bay DNR Service Center, 2984 Shawano Ave., Green Bay.

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# Shawano announces summer entertainment lineup

## Thursdayz at Franklin back for sixth season, while Naberhood parties return for a second year

By **LEE PULASKI**  
City Editor

The snow and cold temperatures indicate it's winter, but the city of Shawano has already finalized plans for its summer music lineups.

Thursdayz at Franklin will be going into its sixth season with a lot of talented musicians gracing the bandshell at Franklin Park, 235 S. Washington St. Bands start playing at 6 p.m. every Thursday in June, July and August. For those who get hungry, there will be food trucks on the street, and nonprofit organizations will be roaming the grounds selling tickets for 50/50 raffles.

The new season begins with Johnny Wad on June 6, as the popular Northeast Wisconsin band performs covers of the best music from the 1980s and 1990s. The finale will be Aug. 29, when Star Six Nine comes to town with a smattering of rock, pop and country tunes.

With Independence Day falling on a Thursday this year, the city will be having hometown band Spark Spark Bang hit the stage bringing the intensity of punk rock and the refinement of pop pros. This event is being sponsored by the Shawano Optimists.

Madeline Stuewer, city parks and recreation coordinator, was eager to mix things up with some familiar faces and some new groups. Among the newbies is Salsa Manzana from Appleton, which will be performing June 27.

"They're Latin music, a full-on band," Stuewer said.



The Cloud 9 Fire Show will kick off the summer block parties June 4 at the Naberhood Plaza. The members also plan to do a workshop if anyone wants to learn their unique skills.

CONTRIBUTED

"I also plan on bringing in some salsa instructors for if you want to dance. The option is there."

Stuewer is also eager to see how audiences react to 7000apart, a pair of Swedish-American high school sweethearts performing indie pop. She said that the duo performed at last year's Shawano Fest, so she's eager to see how they perform as a headline event.

"We immediately got a

lot of requests to get them at Thursdayz," Stuewer said.

The city will also be bringing back the Naberhood Block Parties for their second season at the Naberhood Plaza, 214 S. Main St., Family-friendly events will take place on Tuesdays during the summer, while live music will be featured at the Saturday block parties.

The Tuesday events, which begin at 5:30 p.m.,

will debut in a blaze of glory as the Cloud 9 Fire Show comes to Shawano on June 4, with multi-prop fire dance performances, magic shows and even a free workshop for anyone wanting to learn the craft. Wrapping up the family-friendly events will be a family game night on Aug. 20, which will feature larger-than-life versions of popular games, along with plenty of music blasting and the Naberhood's water feature being in full force.

In between, Shawano is bringing improv, family yoga, petting zoos, a hypnotist and a ventriloquist. The events are being sponsored by the city, the

Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce and Stubborn Brothers Brewery.

Stuewer noted that Cloud 9 Fire Show is fairly new, but she's excited to see how well the group can captivate local audiences.

"They're working on developing more educational things," Stuewer said.

At the game night, the city also plans to have face painters and a caricature artist to provide a good sendoff to the end of summer, according to Stuewer.

One thing that will be absent from the Tuesday block parties will be the movie nights. Stuewer said there was too much confusion from people because the movies took place after sunset, while the other activities took place in the early evening. The movies are done in partnership with the Shawano County Library, and Stuewer is in contact with officials to see when and where the movies could fit in the schedule of summer activities.

"The goal will be to have it as its own separate thing so it doesn't get confused," Stuewer said.

The Saturday block parties will be shifting away from afternoon performances and will take place in the evenings, also at 5:30 p.m. Toco Beach Steelpan will perform first on June 8, bringing tropical music to Northeast Wisconsin complete with steelpan, flutes and marimbas. The final Saturday performance will feature Foocoustics, a tribute band that will be playing songs from the Foo Fighters, Nirvana, Stone Temple Pilots and other bands from the 1990s.

There will be other bands playing throughout the summer covering a wide variety of genres like folk, polka, indie, rockabilly and acoustic rock.

"We've got a good variety," Stuewer said. "Kate

**AT A GLANCE**

**Thursdayz at Franklin lineup**  
(performances begin at 6 p.m.)  
**JUNE 6:** Johnny Wad  
**JUNE 13:** Fire on High  
**JUNE 20:** That '90s Band  
**JUNE 27:** Salsa Manzana  
**JULY 4:** Spark Spark Bang  
**JULY 11:** Copper Box  
**JULY 18:** The Third Wheels  
**JULY 25:** The Michigan Shivers  
**AUG. 1:** Brass Differential  
**AUG. 8:** 7000apart  
**AUG. 15:** Carbon Road  
**AUG. 22:** Cherry Pie  
**AUG. 29:** Star Six Nine

**Naberhood Block Parties —**  
**Tuesday (Events start at 5:30 p.m.)**  
**JUNE 4:** Cloud 9 Fire Show  
**JUNE 11:** Rondini's Magic Show  
**JUNE 18:** The Funny Farm Petting Zoo  
**JUNE 25:** Kid's Music Show  
**JULY 2:** Improv with Comedy City  
**JULY 9:** Family Yoga and Art Expression  
**JULY 16:** Disney Night  
**JULY 23:** The Funny Farm Petting Zoo  
**JULY 30:** Rondini's Hypnosis  
**AUG. 6:** Ventriloquist Barbara Jean  
**AUG. 13:** National Night Out  
**AUG. 20:** Family Game Night

**Naberhood Block Parties —**  
**Saturday (Events start at 5:30 p.m. unless otherwise indicated)**  
**JUNE 8:** Toco Beach Steelpan  
**JUNE 15:** Pat Wiley  
**JUNE 22:** Blue Suede Cadillacs  
**JUNE 29:** Just About Right  
**JULY 6:** Zakk Abitz  
**JULY 13:** The Breakfast Club (9 a.m.), Adam Trask Band (11 a.m.) and Jacob Fannin (1 p.m.)  
**JULY 20:** Cousin Arthur  
**JULY 27:** Kate Voss and the Hot Sauce  
**AUG. 3:** Zander's Music Raymakers  
**AUG. 10:** Finding North Band  
**AUG. 17:** The Speako Chords  
**AUG. 24:** Foocoustics

Voss (playing July 27), she's more of a rockabilly and very fun. We've got an Elvis impersonator coming on June 22; that one I'm excited for."

Stuewer noted the Toco Beach performance was going to feature an overall beach party theme at the plaza.

"Something new and something different every week is the goal," she said.

During Shawano Fest on July 13, there will be three bands during the day and no evening performance. On the lineup is the Breakfast Club at 9 a.m., Adam Trask Band at 11 a.m. and Jacob Fannin at 1 p.m.

Stuewer said that evenings seemed like a better opportunity to draw more people downtown and grab some people who might spend the day on Shawano Lake or the Wolf River and might want to do something in the evening.

"We just felt like people were wanting to be on the lake or hanging out in the afternoon," Stuewer said. "We thought we would play into the evening, supertime. You could get some food, walk around downtown, hang out, listen to music."

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

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**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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EOE



## LIBRARY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

running off. You’ve got a fair amount of issues on the exterior. I think the interior work would get most of it, but I can’t guarantee that. That’s where the other \$130,000 is.”

Davel again urged the board to consider the future of the library.

Shawano County is in the initial phase of considering a new multi-use government center and a justice center. Any decision to move forward with those will require a two-thirds vote of the county board.

“We believe you should be in a constant state of fundraising for whatever it is for the library,” Davel said.

Library board member Marsha Hoeffs asked him to clarify that if these repairs are made whether there would be a need for the library to find a new home.

“I don’t believe there’s any course of action that you’re going to move out of the library,” he said.

Davel said the extent of

any extensive remodeling effort of the library has yet to be fully examined and discussed by any county committee. There were recommendations made in a facility assessment report by Somerville Architects and Engineers, but those have not been acted on by anyone.

“I’m all in on let’s address that issue, get it taken care of and move forward, but we can’t just sit and do nothing,” said Supervisor Jerry Edrmann. “That building isn’t going to do the county one bit of good if we don’t correct the problems. You can’t let your buildings deteriorate.”

The \$11,500 would be paid by library board’s contingency fund. The other \$130,000 would have to be discussed with the county board.

Davel reminded board members that estimates are only for repairs, not putting back anything that has to be removed in the process of making those repairs.

kpasson@newmedia-wi.com

## PUBLIC RECORD

### SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

**Jan. 21**

Deputies responded to 25 incidents, including operating without a license on East Green Bay Street in Bonduel; property damage on Kolpack Road in Bowler; three 911 calls; one traffic hazard; four crashes.

**Jan. 20**

Deputies responded to 33 incidents, including a snowmobile problem on state Highway 47 in Bonduel; drugs on East Green Bay Street in Shawano; operating without a license on state Highway 47-55 in the Town of Wescott; assisting with a fire in Birnamwood; three 911 calls; one traffic hazard; eight crashes, one involving deer.

**Jan. 19**

Deputies responded to 44 incidents, including a warrant attempt on East Hofman Street in Cecil; criminal damage at Bonduel High School, 400 W. Green Bay St., Bonduel; a warrant on North Genesee Street in Wittenberg; operating without a license on North Sawyer Street in Shawano; operating without a license on state Highway 29 in the Town of Waukechon; fraud on Evergreen Street in the Town of Navarino; trespassing at the Novitiate, W9711 Butternut Road in the Town of Herman; intoxication on South Warrington Avenue in Cecil; drugs on U.S. Highway 45 in the Town of

Wittenberg; juvenile alcohol at Big Time Sports, W6014 Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; four 911 calls; two reckless driving incidents; seven crashes, two involving deer.

**Jan. 18**

Deputies responded to 40 incidents, including vehicle theft on Birch Lane in the Town of Richmond; operating without a license on state Highway 156 in the Town of Lessor; lost property on Marsh Road in the Town of Aniwa; fleeing and pursuit on East Green Bay Street in Shawano; scam on High Line Road in the Town of Lessor; property theft on Belle Plaine Avenue in the Town of Belle Plaine; harassment on Knoke Street in Gresham; three 911 calls; one reckless driving incident; one traffic hazard; four crashes.

**Jan. 17**

Deputies responded to 28 incidents, including property damage on Shore Drive in the Town of Wescott; property damage on State Road in Birnamwood; property theft at Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg, N7198 U.S. Highway 45 in the Town of Wittenberg; shoplifting at Kwik Trip, 102 W. Express Way, Bonduel; vehicle theft at Classic’s Restaurant and Lounge, W6026 Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; one 911 call; one traffic hazard; one crash.

**Jan. 16**

Deputies responded to 39 incidents, including a search

warrant on South Lutz Street in Shawano; criminal damage on South Webb Street in Wittenberg; scam on Third Street in Aniwa; threatening on East Hoffman Street in Cecil; death investigation on Derby Lane in the Town of Washington; operating without a license at John’s One Stop, N5847 State Highway 47-55; operating without a license on U.S. Highway 45 in the Town of Wittenberg; warrant on North Genesee Street in Wittenberg; operating without a license on West Green Bay Street in Shawano; two reckless driving incidents; one traffic hazard; seven crashes.

**Jan. 15**

Deputies responded to 24 incidents, including harassment on state Highway 32 in the Town of Angelica; assisting with a fire on Angelica Street in the Town of Angelica; three 911 calls; one crash involving a turkey.

### SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Jan. 21**

Officers responded to 12 incidents, including assisting a transient at Amerivu Inn Suites, 211 Waukechon St.; operating while intoxicated on West Richmond Street; operating while intoxicated on South Main Street.

**Jan. 20**

Officers responded to 18 incidents, including operating while intoxicated at Franklin Park, 235 S.

Washington St.; operating without a license on East Richmond Street; vehicle crash at Charlie’s County Market, 521 S. Main St.; reckless driving on Aspen Court.

**Jan. 19**

Officers responded to 17 incidents, including an assault on East Elizabeth Street; operating without a license on South Sawyer Street; lost property at Shawano Police Department, 125 S. Sawyer St.; missing person at Birch Hill Care Center, 1475 Birch Hill Lane.

**Jan. 18**

Officers responded to 33 incidents, including threatening on Dallman Lane; a death investigation at an undisclosed location; vehicle crash on South Franklin Street; drug offenses at Shawano Police Department, 125 S. Sawyer St.; tobacco problem at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B; repossession on East Green Bay Street.

**Jan. 17**

Officers responded to 25 incidents, including a vehicle crash at Shawano Cinema, 1494 E. Green Bay St.; hit-and-run at Dunkin’ Donuts, 1209 E. Green Bay St.; vehicle crash on North Main Street; attempted theft and truancy at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B; drug offenses at Shawano Community Middle School, 1050 S. Union St.; property damage on South Bartlett Street; child abuse or neglect at an

undisclosed location; two hit-and-run calls at Walmart, 1244 E. Green Bay St.; noise on East Randall Street.

**Jan. 16**

Officers responded to 24 incidents, including trespassing at Wisconsin House, 216 E. Green Bay St.; property theft on East Randall Street; vehicle crash at Huckleberry Harbor, 222 N. Sawyer St.; drug offenses at an undisclosed location; juvenile problem at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B; two truancy calls at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B; vehicle crash on South Lincoln Street; operating without a license on East Lieg Avenue; vehicle crash at Kwik Trip, 1241 E. Green Bay St.; vehicle crash with property damage at Goodwill, 300 Lakeland Road; operating without a license at Shawano Community Middle School, 1050 S. Union St.; hit-and-run at Culver’s, 1220 E. Green Bay St.

**Jan. 15**

Officers responded to 26 incidents, including operating while intoxicated on Channel Trace Drive; drug offenses at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B; vehicle crash with property damage at BMO Bank, 101 N. Main St.; three truancy calls at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B; scam at the Shawano Police Department, 125 S. Sawyer St.

## COURT NEWS

- Cody W. Lawe, 26, Green Bay, pleaded guilty Jan. 9 to felony bail jumping, and misdemeanor counts of possessing illegally obtained prescription drugs and disorderly conduct. Judge Katherine Sloma withheld sentencing and placed Lawe on probation for two years plus probation.
- Sarah N. Ebertsch, 41, Wausau, pleaded guilty Oct.. 24 to felony charges of possession of narcotic drugs and bail jumping. Sloma sentenced her Jan. 8 to two years in prison followed by two years of extended supervision with conditions.
- Karen M. Bero, 60, Shawano, pleaded no contest Jan. 10 to possession an electric weapon. Sloma levied a \$500 fine plus other fees and court costs for a total of \$2,608.
- Sunday D. Dixon, 37, Neopit, pleaded no contest Jan. 11 to possession of methamphetamine, felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. Sloma withheld sentencing and placed Dixon on three years of probation with conditions, beginning with 90 days in county jail. She was given credit for 45 days already served.
- Matthew W. Netzel, 39, Birnamwood, pleaded no contest Jan. 12 to possession of methamphetamine, two counts of felony bail jumping, and misdemeanor counts of resisting or obstructing an officer and two counts of disorderly conduct. Sloma levied fines and sentenced Netzel to 240 days in county jail, with credit for 24 days already served.
- Chad J. Kessen, 50, Bowler, pleaded no contest Dec. 18 to intentionally subjecting an individual at risk to abuse, victim intimidation, false imprisonment, three counts of felony bail jumping, possession of methamphetamine, and misdemeanor counts of operating while revoked and an ignition interlock device violation. Sloma sentenced him Jan. 12 to two years in prison followed by four years of extended supervision.
- Violet L. Dixon, 36, Neopit, was charged Jan. 8 with possession of methamphetamine, six counts of felony bail jumping, and misdemeanor counts of resisting or obstructing an officer and possession of drug paraphernalia. Sloma set a \$1,500 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for March 25.

- Caitlynn J. Testolin, 31, Oconto Falls, was charged Jan. 8 with possession of paraphernalia to manufacture, compound, convert, produce or store methamphetamine, six counts of felony bail jumping, and misdemeanor counts of fraudulent use of a financial transaction card and misappropriating identity information to obtain money. Sloma set a \$3,000 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for Feb. 28.
- Duran S. Teller, 37, Green Bay, was charged Jan. 8 with two counts of felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of operating while revoked. Sloma set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for Feb. 26.
- Matthew P. Urbanczyk, 29, Tigerton, was charged Jan. 8 with battery or threat to a law officer, possession of THC (second or subsequent offense), four counts of misdemeanor bail jumping, and a misdemeanor charge of resisting or obstructing an officer. Sloma set a \$2,500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Jan. 12.
- Cheyenne S. Grant, 25, Bowler, was charged Jan. 9 with possession of methamphetamine and

misdemeanor counts of possession of cocaine and possession of THC. Sloma set a \$1,500 signature bond and scheduled a scheduling conference for Feb. 20.

- Andrew R. Robinson, 22, Caroline, was charged Jan. 10 with five counts of felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of battery. Sloma set a \$10,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Jan. 18.
- Justin T. Okimosh, 31, Shawano, was charged Jan. 11 with two counts of battery or threat to a law officer and misdemeanor counts of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (third offense), operating while revoked, possession of THC and disorderly conduct. Sloma set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for Feb. 22.
- Jeremy M. Knutson, 45, Bonduel, was charged Jan. 12 with resisting arrest, 10 counts of felony bail jumping, and misdemeanor counts of battery, resisting or obstructing an officer, and disorderly conduct. Sloma set a \$10,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Jan. 22.
- Shawn A. Bork, 39, Shawano, pleaded no contest Oct. 24 to fleeing an officer in his vehicle, possession with intent to deliver fentanyl, six counts of felony bail jumping, and misdemeanor charges of knowingly violating a domestic abuse injunction, possession of THC and possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Katherine Sloma sentenced him to five years in prison followed by four years of extended supervision with conditions.
- Richard J. Schreiber, 54, Green Bay, was charged Jan. 16 with operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fourth offense), felony bail jumping and misdemeanor bail jumping. Judge William Kussel Jr. set a \$2,500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Jan. 23.
- Anthony B. Felix, 38, Aniwa, was charged Jan. 16 with child abuse intentionally causing harm and a misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct. Kussel set a \$5,000 signature bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Jan. 29.
- Caitlynn J. Testolin, 31, Oconto Falls, was charged Jan. 16 with a felony count of domestic abuse disorderly conduct, four counts of felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of resisting or obstructing an

officer. Kussel set a \$2,000 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for Feb. 28.

- Anthony M. Teller, 40, Neopit, was charged Jan. 16 with fleeing an officer in his vehicle, second-degree recklessly endangering safety, four counts of felony bail jumping, five counts of misdemeanor bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of operating a motor vehicle while his license was revoked. Kussel set a \$5,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Jan. 23.
- David A. Corn, 23, Shawano, was charged Jan. 17 with two counts of felony bail jumping, possession of narcotic drugs, possession of THC (second or subsequent offense) and a misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. Kussel set a \$1,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Jan. 23.
- William J. Vandermoss, 58, Shawano, was charged Jan. 18 with false imprisonment, disorderly conduct and two counts of battery, all felony charges with a domestic abuse repeater enhancement. Kussel set a \$2,000 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for Feb. 19.





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# Who killed Grumpy Gill and why?

"Home is Where the Body Is" by Jody Holford is subtitled a "Wannabe Sleuth" mystery because several of the characters consider themselves good sleuths, but books and TV can't compare to real life.

Annie has agreed to move from Portland, Oregon, to the gated community of Rainbow Falls, Washington, to house-sit while her parents take a yearlong trip around the world. Annie is a single, self-employed graphic designer who loves crime novels and police procedurals, but faints at the sight of blood.

When she arrives in town and stops for coffee, she encounters the resident grouch, Gill Howard. They don't hit it off at all.

Annie hasn't unpacked when a whirlwind named Margie barges in. Margie is in charge of almost everything that happens in the area and quickly presents Annie with a list of resident duties and expectations.

She soon learns that Margie and Joseph are sweethearts, Raj is a single loner, and Ginger is single and travels a lot. Bob and his grandson, Tate, are her next door neighbors and grumpy Gill is her other neighbor.

When Annie enters the garage, she encounters a large white cat in an agitated state. Terrified, Annie calls area veterinarians for help. To her surprise, handsome and single Ben shows up. As I expected, there is an instant connection. He explains that the cat is about to give birth, but as they watch Annie keels over.



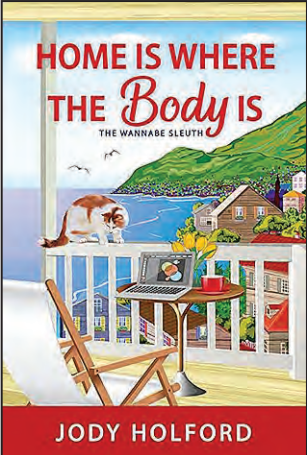
When Annie learns that the cat, Shelby, belongs to Gill, she decides to drop by and tell him about the kittens, but when she arrives she finds Gill dead with a large knife in his back. Once again, the blood causes Annie to pass out.

She wakes to learn that the case has been taken over by the nearby Trenton police. Detectives Ricker and Black immediately target Annie as the prime suspect. They refuse to do even a rudimentary investigation and refuse to listen to anything local officer Ryan suggests.

Several of the residents of Rainbow Falls decide to do their own investigation and Annie is forced to help prove her own innocence. Gill's nasty temperament gives them a long list of people to consider as suspects, but no one seems to have either the strength or motive to stab the man. While the case creeps forward Annie begins to meet the people in both the compound and the community.

A picture of Gill forms. He was divorced, had one daughter, Mira, and ran a car dealership in a town where most people simply walked instead of driving. He may have been disliked, but no one seems to have a motive to kill him.

When young Tate is arrested, they must double their efforts to find the real killer. As Annie, Ryan, Ben



**AT A GLANCE**  
**BOOK:** Home is Where the Body Is (The Wannabe Sleuth, Book 1)  
**AUTHOR:** Jody Holford  
**PUBLISHER:** Tule Publishing Group  
**YEAR PUBLISHED:** 2022  
**NUMBER OF PAGES:** 324

and Margie dig into Gill's history, they learn that he was the lone holdout preventing Joseph from moving in with Margie and renting out his own home. Everyone is at the monthly HOA meeting when Ricker and Black arrive to arrest Joseph.

Shocked and saddened, Annie goes to the garage to spend time with the kittens, where surprisingly the real killer confronts and attacks her. She comes to find she is surrounded by friends and neighbors who explain that the killer has been arrested and Ryan will get credit for solving the case.

While resting from her ordeal, Annie decides she actually likes the vibe of what she considered a sleepy little town and hopes to stay around after her parents return.

Who knows what kinds of drama exist within even the smallest towns?

## Schmidt votes for not tracking private firearms transactions

State Rep. Peter Schmidt, R-Bonduel, voted in favor of legislation ensuring that private firearm transactions are not tracked, and the data is not collected.

"I co-authored this legislation to prevent government and corporate overreach," Schmidt said. "We have certain rights guaranteed under the United States Constitution, including the right to bear arms, and as the amendment states, that shall not be infringed."

Assembly Bill 468/Senate Bill 466 prohibits a financial institution, as part of a payment card transaction, from requiring the use of a merchant category code that identifies the merchant as a firearms retailer. The bill



also stipulates that the Department of Justice may not maintain a list of firearm purchasers based on information from background checks it performs, and no governmental entity may keep a list of firearm owners. The attorney general is mandated to enforce the prohibitions created in this bill. Similar legislation has passed in other states with bipartisan support.

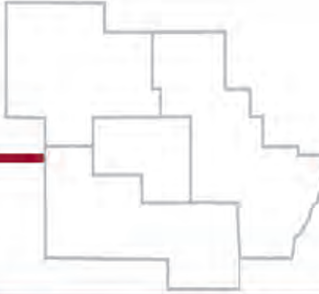
The bill defines a financial institution as an entity involved in facilitating or processing a payment card transaction, including a bank, acquirer, payment

card network, or payment card issuer. The bill defines a firearms code as a merchant category code approved by the International Organization for Standardization specifically for firearms retailers.

Additionally, subject to limited exceptions, a financial institution is prohibited from discriminating against a firearms retailer solely based on the assignment or nonassignment of a firearms code when approving a lawful payment card transaction.

"We enter dangerous territory when government and business unite to squash our constitutional rights," Schmidt said. "I will fight for everyone's right to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness, even if I stand alone."





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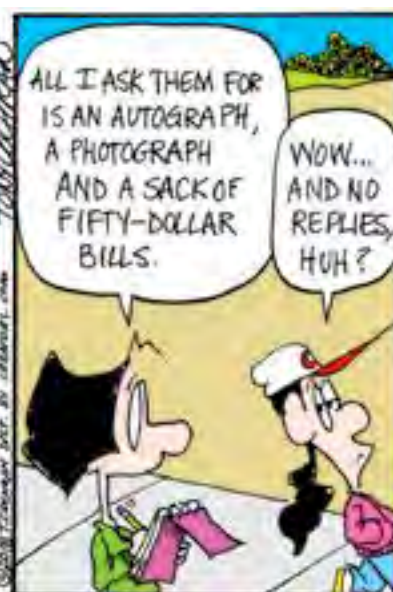
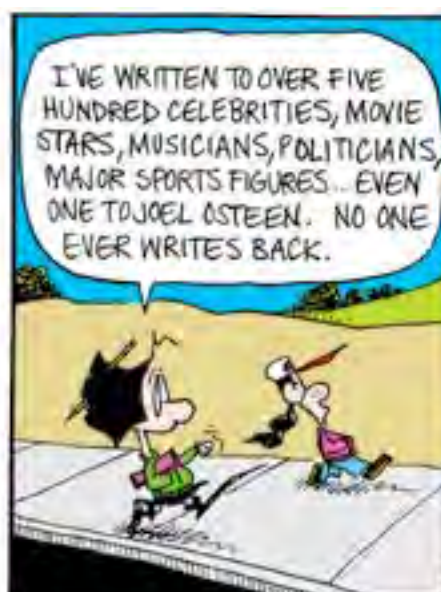
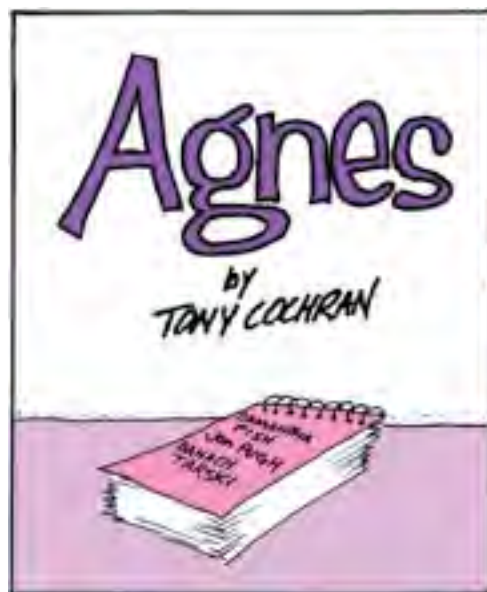
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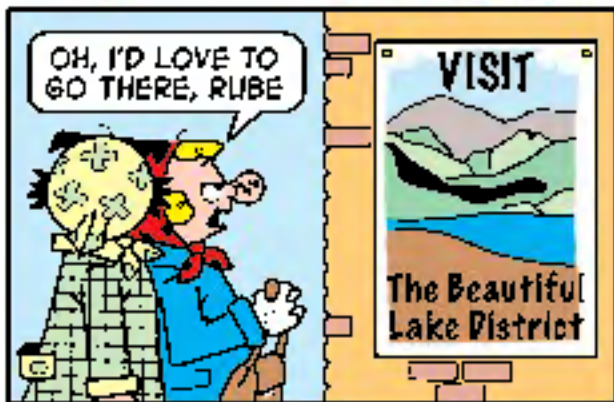
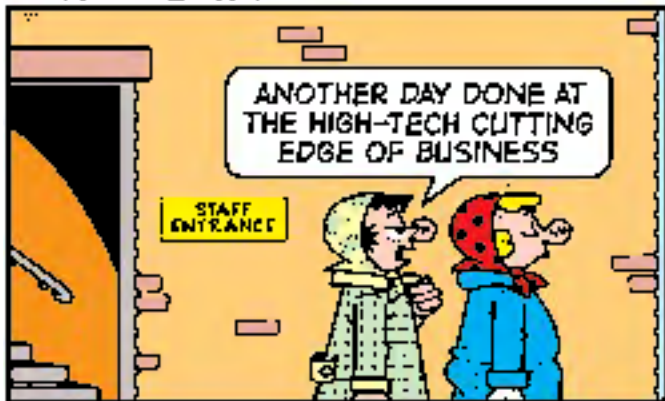






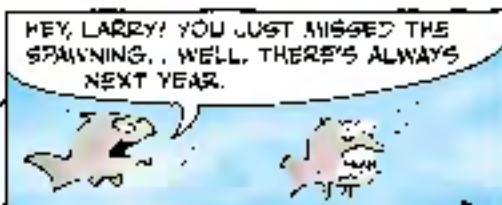
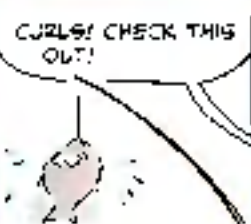
# ANDY CAPP

by Smythe



## DOGS OF C-KENNEL

BY MICK MASTROIANNI AND MASON MASTROIANNI







**SHAWANO**  
country  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**REPORT TO THE  
COMMUNITY**

**NEW Media Inc**  
**January 26, 2024**





The Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce saw 2023 as fulfilling its goal of working together in the region. With the Shawano School District and the City of Shawano, the chamber organized a well-attended 2023 homecoming parade. FILE | NEW MEDIA

# Annual report highlights successful year

By **SUZANNE WITTMAN**  
Executive director

First off, I'd like to thank the Chamber staff for their dedicated and diligent hard work day in and day out. Secondly, a heartfelt thank you to the Chamber's Executive Board and the full Board of Directors who serve as representatives of all industries in Shawano and Menominee counties.

A shout out to our Chamber ambassadors! With Vaughn Bohm as president, the ambassadors were a joy to work with as they came up with fun and engaging ideas for our events and represented the Chamber at every ribbon-cutting.

We also saw 2023 as fulfilling our goal

of working together in our region. With the Shawano School District and the City of Shawano, we organized a well-attended 2023 homecoming parade. We partnered with Shawano County Economic Progress Inc. (SCEPI), Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC), Shawano Community Education Department and the Shawano Area Young Professionals (saYPro), offering educational events focused on the importance of employee benefits, the state of the local economy and how businesses are choosing Shawano Country as the place to be!

We continued to support the work of the Wolf River School to Work Youth Apprenticeship program, the Wittenberg

Chamber, the 8th Grade Career Fair and our area nonprofits.

A highlight of this summer was hosting Lt. Gov. Sara Rodriguez as we were able to show her just some of the assets in Shawano Country. We also learned more about the culture of all the tribes represented in our region through the Native American Tourism of Wisconsin (NATOW) conference, where we gave the lunch welcome address and represented Shawano Country with a booth full of resources.

To further encourage those to "shop local," we helped market our retailers by creating the "Shop Small, Shop Shawano Country!" promotion, which occurred around and during Small Business Satur-

day in November.

To end the year, the Chamber, our tourism department and Leadership Shawano County (LSC) were represented at Downtown Shawano's Holiday Stroll and Tree Lighting event. We are so proud of the LSC program and all that is gleaned during these sessions. Ask an LSC alum about their experience, and you will surely hear nothing but glowing praise for all that they learned and accomplished.

As we look to the future, we are already envisioning a year where we are engaged and eager to serve our Chamber members. Thank you to all our members who continue to support our endeavors year after year.

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Jeanne Cronic, having served a number of roles both professionally and voluntarily, was named the Shawano County Chamber of Commerce's Distinguished Citizen of the Year.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

# Distinguished Citizen of the Year gives in spades

## Cronic's dedication to community, children shows in her work, volunteer efforts

By **LEE PULASKI**  
City Editor

Jeanne Cronic has been a lot of things in her life. Four decades in the education field saw Cronic teaching, serving as a school principal, helping college students as the student life coordinator for Northeast Wisconsin Technical College's Shawano campus, instructing through Junior Achievement, serving with Big Brothers Big Sisters and, finally, bringing history to life as a Heritage Park docent with the Shawano County Historical Society. Also on Cronic's resume is serving as Shawano's mayor along with stints on the Shawano County Library Board, St. James School Board, Safe Haven Board of Directors, Shawano Optimists, Shawano Area Matthew 25 and more.

Such a laundry list made it obvious to the Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce, where Cronic serves as an ambassador, that she should be the 2024 Distinguished Citizen of the Year. Cronic was nominated for the honor by Robyn Shingler, director for the Shawano Community Education program. In her nomination letter, Shingler noted that the Shawano native lived right next to her father's shoe store on Main Street. "Little did she know, she would grow up to become principal of the school in her own backyard," Shingler wrote. Shingler noted that Cronic's dedication to her community hasn't waned, pointing out she continues to help Shawano by sitting on the board for the city's redevelopment authority. "Jeanne was a criti-

cal advocate and active participant in Shawano's Redevelopment Authority (RDA) through which new plans have been developed to expand and grow the Shawano area," Shingler wrote. "Jeanne continues to serve the City of Shawano as a member of the RDA Board, which published a 112-page downtown master plan to improve and enrich our community, its businesses and public spaces." Shingler added that once Cronic meets a person, she remembers them always. "Jeanne has the unbelievable gift of remembering the names of every student, every youth she has crossed paths with over all these years," Shingler wrote. For Cronic, it's not about the accolades when she sets her mind to improving the community.

Cronic calls living in Shawano "a lifelong thrill" and said she's always thought of ways to give back to the community, considering how much she has received. "It's overwhelming to think that I was chosen as Distinguished Citizen of the Year," Cronic said. "I love Shawano. It's my hometown. I'm born, raised and going to be buried here." Cronic touted a love of children as a reason that she gives so much to youth organizations and programs. "I feel it is my honor to give back to each of these organizations because they have given me so much," Cronic said. "St. James is where I started my education. I was in education as a teacher and principal, and I saw the need to help some of these kids that maybe don't have the best

home life and could use a little encouragement in their development. I just enjoy children, and I enjoy our community." Cronic's civic service gave her a chance to support her neighbors, regardless of their age. One of her inspirations was her father, who had served on both the Shawano Common Council and the Shawano County Board of Supervisors. She saw what he did to help the area grow, and she swore to herself that, if she had the opportunity, she would mimic his efforts. "As a mayor, I felt like I should be the community's best cheerleader," Cronic said. "I tried to do that and promote whatever we needed for our community. It just kind of evolved from working on the plan commission and then becoming the mayor, but prior to that, I had a

lot of encouragement by my family to be part of the political scene." For others who are looking to give back to her community, Cronic recommended starting small and focusing on something they're passionate about. She noted that people don't have to serve on "every committee" or be dedicated to dozens of organizations to make a difference. "Give as much time or as little time as you can to that organization, and you will see that you will get back more than what you ever give," Cronic said. "It is such a rewarding feeling to know you are helping your community, others, individuals to have a better life. I think it's so important that people give back. We've just been so blessed with opportunities in our lifetime — some more than others."



# Primal Eats family involved in community

Wedding hall, partner satellites are part of growing business

By **WARREN BLUHM**  
News Editor

Primal Eats has come a long way in three years. The store and restaurant at 14109 County Road VV began as a spin-off of Apple Creek Whitetails Ranch but has grown in leaps and bounds, added two buildings to its complex and formed partnerships with other businesses to offer its tasty cuisine in new locations.

Now Primal Eats has been named 2023 Business of the Year by the Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce.

Apple Creek Whitetails Ranch had been open since 2007, offering guided hunting trips including a hunting lodge and private restaurants to people from all over the country and even the world.

Owner Scott Follett was seeking alternate ways to use the facility, which includes a 1,500-acre hunting range, when he and his family began to discuss the idea of a store and public restaurant.

“The concept probably started about five years ago with manufacturing and then it moved to restaurant three years ago,” said Ethan Follett, Scott’s son who serves as Primal

Eats accountant.

Another son, Isaac, is the restaurant’s general manager.

The Primal Eats store, offering primarily venison products such as venison sausage, opened up in September 2020, and the restaurant opened in January 2021. Outdoor seating opened that spring.

Billed as “Texas style BBQ meets Wisconsin,” their food is the main attraction, including an award-winning brisket that is slow-smoked for 14 hours, pulled pork, German sausage and a variety of sandwiches and pizzas.

Samantha Sperberg of Prey and Asenbrenner Insurance, who nominated Primal Eats, said Scott Follett and his family are very involved in giving back to the Shawano area community.

“An example of this is hosting their ice cream stand with proceeds going to local organizations, such as SAM25,” Sperberg said. “They also do a great job participating in community events, like Thursdayz at Franklin, Sun Drop Days and much more.”

The facility has gained a reputation for hosting business meetings and private gatherings, including a newly construction



Primal Eats has grown by leaps and bounds since it opened under a tent on the Applecreek Whitetails Ranch grounds in early 2021.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

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Primal Eats products have been available at the store and gift shop since September 2020. PRIMAL EATS

wedding and banquet hall, as well as adding swing sets, campfires, live music and other activities for all ages.

“We wanted to make it family friendly with a whole bunch of activities outside, so we added swings and games outside,” Ethan Follett said.

In addition to the meeting facilities onsite, Primal Eats caters to gatherings throughout the area, from Shawano to Green Bay.

“They are also adding more food processes to make their dining experience faster and more compatible with their high demand,” said Sperberg, who added that the business grew so quickly that growing pains have been part of the family’s challenge. “They strive to make changes, adapt and continuing business at the

best of their ability.”

Having worked for Scott Follett some years ago, Sperberg said he was always considerate of his employees’ goals and ambitions.

“If there was education in that path, he was the first to get you in the right direction,” she said. “Scott and his family are very attentive to their employees and always consider them family and treat them with respect. I believe Scott would help anyone strive to any situation and also give people chances that might not have elsewhere.”

Another new phase of the Primal Eats story is the addition of satellite partnerships, including a dine-in restaurant at Titledown Brewing Company, 320 N. Broadway, Green Bay.

“Titledown Brewery wanted to do some food

with their beer and they came to us,” Ethan Follett said.

Primal Eats is also partnering with the BP gas station and convenience store in Cecil, at 417 S. Warrington St., offering food to go.

“It’s kind of like the concept of Kwik Trip where you just go in and grab food and go ice fishing,” Ethan said.

Follett said the Primal team is “excited and very thankful” to be named Shawano Country Business of the Year.

The Primal Eats restaurant and gift shop, 14109 County Road VV in rural Gillett, is currently open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday. For more information, visit [primateats.com](http://primateats.com) or the Primal Eats page on Facebook.

# Chamber resources offered to strengthen local businesses

**By LEANN GUETHS**  
Chamber president

I am glad to report that the Chamber is closing 2023 with a solid performance thanks to our members, board members, the community and the Chamber staff.

Our memberships continued to grow, new partnerships were created and the networking events were a success. We even had a visit from the Lt.

Gov. Sara Rodriguez! The Chamber team worked diligently to meet the expectations of our members and our community, and supported the growth of the Shawano and Menominee counties. We have a great team of people working for us!

In 2024, the Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce will continue to advocate for our community, our businesses and promote progress

and economic growth. I ask that you continue to utilize the resources the Chamber has to offer to help strengthen your businesses and develop growth opportunities within the area.

I look forward to our continued growth and development as the Chamber moves forward connecting, convening and advocating for the greater Shawano and Menominee counties in 2024.

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# Unity Hospice demonstrates care for patients, families, employees

Nonprofit organization lives out its mission, vision and values each day

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

Alisa Gerke is humbled by the selection of Unity Hospice as the Service Business of the Year by the Shawano County Chamber of Commerce.

“It’s way cool,” said Gerke, Unity’s executive director, using her favorite adage. “It’s very humbling to be honored for our mission and our values by the community. For us, our work comes at one of life’s most vulnerable times. We go about our work in a humble fashion, caring for our neighbors when they need it the most.”

Unity Hospice has an office in Shawano and headquarters in De Pere. The company has been around since 1977 and has been in Shawano the past 26 years. It employs 208 full-time and 51 part-time staff.

Unity Hospice was nominated for the award by Christy Brozak, the company’s marketing director. Gerke didn’t know about the nomination beforehand.

“I was way beyond excited,” she said. “I was not aware of being nominated until Christy told me after we were selected.”

Gerke said Unity Hospice is a mission-driven, community-focused nonprofit organization. Both she and Brozak spoke highly of employees and the company’s culture as it relates to them.

“Unity recognizes and appreciates that our people are our most valuable asset and critical to our success. Culture is therefore at the heart of day-to-day operations,” Brozak said. “It’s how to care for each other that leads to a trusting, high-quality team that’s willing to go above and beyond to give top-notch service delivery.”

“As a result, many opportunities have been created for employees to share their ideas, concerns and feedback, and participate in new education/training — including nursing and CNA excellence councils, psycho-social focus group, quarterly all-staff town meetings, head heart hands engagement committee and emerging leaders program.”

Gerke has been with Unity Hospice for about 12 years.

“Working here has been a blessing,” she said. “It has grown me personally and professionally. I can’t imagine me being anywhere else.”

Shawano is one of three “work stations,” with others in Sturgeon Bay and

Marinette. These sites serve as a gathering point for those local employees, as well as a place to pick up and drop off equipment.

“One thing that sets up apart from the for-profit providers is that these employees live and work in these communities,” Gerke said. “They live in Shawano, have their kids or grandkids in the schools, buy their gas there, shop there. They care for people in their own community.”

Unity Hospice employees serve patients in 13 counties in northeastern Wisconsin, and the need for its services continues to grow.

“We have an aging population of those 65 and older in northeastern Wisconsin and across the country,” Gerke said. “That, combined with a longer life expectancy, means there is a growing need for palliative (specialized medical care that focuses on providing relief from pain and other symptoms of a serious illness) and hospice services.”

“Also, more individuals are embracing and understanding what hospice is all about and what we can offer.”

Brozak said the number of our family, friends and neighbors who received hospice care was 2,205 in 2021, which increased to 2,298 in 2022.

The number of virtual and in-person visits made to hospice patients by a member of Unity’s care team increased from 78,914 in 2021 to 99,085 in 2022.

Palliative care patient numbers rose from 81 in 2021 to 166 in 2022.

And, the number of individuals who benefited from Unity’s grief support services climbed from 6,379 in 2021 to 7,281 in 2022.

That growing demand for services is also of the biggest challenges facing Unity.

“Our most significant issue continues to be significant competition from for-profit hospice providers entering northeast Wisconsin with services because they identify the profit they can make,” Brozak said. “Unity is the only locally owned nonprofit in northeastern Wisconsin. We address the issue by regularly gathering feedback from our Patient and Advisory Council as well as community partners to develop creative solutions for program development and proactively discuss opportunities for improvement.”

Unity’s grief services are also important to fami-



Unity Hospice was named the Shawano County Chamber of Commerce Service Business of the Year.

CONTRIBUTED

lies who have suffered the death of a loved one.

“What does life look like now? We work with families, and we partner with schools and businesses when children or co-workers are struggling to deal with a death,” Gerke said.

Pediatric hospice care is another unique service. To serve in that capacity requires specialized training.

“In addition to the physiological differences between children and adults, there are medications, family support and more to deal with,” she said.

Brozak said Unity not only improves the lives of patients and their families but also provides excellent value for the taxpayer.

She said key findings from the most comprehensive analysis of administrative and enrollment claims data for patients in Medicare and Medicare Advantage include:

- Hospice care is associated with increased

satisfaction and quality of life, improved pain control and reduced physical and emotional distress.

- Medicare spending for those who received hospice care was \$3.5 billion less than it would have been had they not received hospice care.

- Hospice is associated with lower Medicare end-of-life expenditures when hospice lengths of stays are longer than 10 days.

- Hospice stays of six months or more result in savings for Medicare.

“Unity offers Community Care, a financial assistance program that ensures everyone throughout northeast Wisconsin, regardless of their financial means, has access to Unity’s compassionate hospice care, Supportive Care Management and grief support,” Brozak said.

Unity also offers a Speaker Bureau program that provides free virtual or in-person educational sessions on more than 20 end-of-life topics presented by experienced

physicians, nurses, social workers, grief counselors, chaplains and administrative staff.

Regardless of the program, though, Gerke and Brozak insist Unity Hospice wouldn’t be where it is today without its employees. And to that end, Gerke said it’s vitally important staff be taken care of, too.

“Our culture is very important,” she said. “Taking care of people is our No. 1 goal, and to offer exceptional care, we need to take care of our people.”

Strategic and annual operating plan cycles are built on the foundation of Unity’s mission, vision and values, all three of which were developed from staff feedback.

“These three pillars ensure we spend time on meaningful initiatives, assign and commit to outcome measures,” Brozak said. “Specifically, Unity’s core value statements serve as our guiding principles for how we go about our work on a daily basis,

how we interact with patients, families, co-workers and community partners, and which strategies we implement to fulfill our mission.

“Unity’s vision statement guides both our short- and long-term planning to create sustainable, organizational success. Our commitment is focused and intentional, resulting in engaged employees and positive quality and financial outcomes.”

Unity is the sole organization offering inpatient hospice at seven area hospitals and is a collaboration between Bellin Health, HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center and HSHS St. Vincent Hospital.

Established as the third hospice program in the nation, Unity launched Wisconsin’s first palliative care program in 2002, the area’s first hospice residence in 2007, the region’s only Grief and Education Center in 2021 and the area’s first pediatric hospice program in 2024.



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# Hoffman honored as SAYPro’s Young Professional of the Year

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

Elyzabeth Hoffman still finds it hard to believe she was chosen as the Shawano Area Young Professionals 2023 Young Professional of the Year.

“When I first got a call about it, I was like, ‘Really? Me?’” she said. “I don’t like to talk highly of myself. There are a lot of really great young professionals in the community. I still have trouble believing they picked me.”

Hoffman is a marketing assistant at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC) in Shawano and a full-time student at University of Wisconsin-

Green Bay, pursuing a degree in organizational leadership. She’s married with two young children, and she’s involved in her church and community groups.

Her job led to her involvement with the Shawano County Literacy Council.

“It’s a passion of mine and a logical next step based on my job,” she said. “Both are involved with the same goal, just different ways to get there.”

Melody Boyd, with the literacy council, was one of the two who nominated Hoffman.

“Elyzabeth has been a member of our board of directors at Shawano



Elyzabeth Hoffman is the Shawano Area Young Professionals 2023 Young Professional of the Year. Hoffman is a marketing assistant at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC) in Shawano and a full-time student at University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, pursuing a degree in organizational leadership. She’s married with two young children, and she’s involved in her church and community groups.

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County Literacy Council for the past two years,” Boyd said. “She is dependable and proactive. She established and maintains our social media account. She provides thoughtful and relevant input at board meetings and completes tasks in a timely and efficient manner. Elyzabeth always presents herself in a professional yet friendly manner and, as the youngest member of our board, provides fresh insight to whatever is presented.”

One of Hoffman’s co-workers, Becky Hutchison, also nominated her.

“I have worked with Elyzabeth since December 2021,” Hutchison said. “She exhibits positive energy and willingness to participate wholeheartedly in the Literacy Council, despite other involvement in the community and growing family.”

Hoffman and her husband, Kyle, are the parents of two young children, Henry, 4, and Clyde, 2.

She is also heavily involved in the Shawano MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) leadership team, based at her church, St. James Lutheran Church.

“As a young mother, it’s a great way to meet and talk with others,” she said.

Hoffman was among the 2023 graduates of Leadership Shawano County, a cooperative effort of the Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce and the University of Wisconsin-Extension of Shawano County.

The goal of the leadership program is to build a pool of citizens with broad knowledge of ideas, issues and concerns faced by local communities. It is hoped that as the participants become aware of the challenges and the

many existing resources, they will take leadership and active participation roles in helping to meet those challenges.

From her participation in that, she and her fellow graduates created Shawano Paddlers, which aims to plan and coordinate paddle outings for canoeing, kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding in the Shawano area.

“I’ve always enjoyed time on the water, but the funny thing is, I don’t even own a kayak,” she said with a laugh. “Whenever we would plan an outing, we would make sure rentals would be available – for others and for me. There are a lot of really great places to paddle around Shawano. It has definitely reignited my passion for paddling.”

Another passion of Hoffman’s is sustainability. At NWTC, she’s involved with the Environmental Climate Stewardship Team that focuses on sustainability issues at NWTC and in the greater Shawano community.

“She sets a great example of work-life balance for other young professional women,” Boyd said.

The Shawano Area Young Professionals is a group of individuals engaged in a career and who exemplify strong morals and ethics, strive for personal and career-related growth, all achieved by experience, education and positive relationships.

“She checks all of the boxes in regards to (that) mission,” Hutchison said. “There is positivity flowing through her bones. She is always willing to participate, time willing. Learning is growing, so with her working at a school and being enrolled in school, I would say that also shows strong morals and ethics to better her life and family.”



Sunshine crosses the trees and fields on a warm fall day in Shawano Country. However, no matter the season, there is always a unique business to visit, something fun to do or a new corner of the area to explore.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

# Board of Directors elected

The Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce named new board members and officers for 2024.

Leann Gueths, Novolex, will continue on as president. Zachary Linsmeyer, KerberRose, is past president, and Mary White, Nueske’s Applewood Smoked Meats, is treasurer.

Newly elected board members include: Ben Hartwig, Twig’s Beverage; Lori Singer, Celerity Staffing; and Kellie Diedrick, ThedaCare.

Keith Marquardt, Shawano County Parks, will continue in his role of president of the Shawano Country Tourism Council (a division of the Shawano Country Chamber of Com-

merce) and will fill the tourism representative position on the Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

The Chamber thanked all of outgoing board members for their participation: Yvette Hartman-Wilber, Tumbleweed; Roxanne Tilleson, The Rustic Shed; Vikki Weaver, ThedaCare; and Penny Kuhn, Charlie’s County Market.

The Chamber recognized the new and outgoing board members at the 97th Annual Celebration and Awards on Jan. 18 at the Menominee Casino Resort & Convention Center in Keshena.

The board is comprised of 15 Chamber members from throughout Shawano County

representing the areas of agriculture, manufacturing, retail/business, tourism, education, government and professionals.

Six additional liaison board members represent Shawano County, Shawano County Economic Progress Inc., The Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, City of Shawano and The Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians.

The Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce is a 400-plus member organization that advances economic growth by coordinating resources and providing networking, promotion and education to businesses in Shawano and Menominee counties.

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DaiJohn Gonzalez, left, throws a right jab at Alberto Moreira, right, during their four-round welterweight fight at Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg in June 2022.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

# Working together works for Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg

By **GREG SEUBERT**  
Correspondent

Teamwork. That one word, in a nutshell, sums up what makes Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg a success. Located just north of Wittenberg at N7198 U.S. Highway 45, the entertainment complex that includes a casino, hotel, restaurant and convenience store has 163 full-time and 17 part-time employees. On Jan. 18, it received a Business of the Year award from the Shawano County Chamber of Commerce. Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg opened its doors in July 2008 and is one of six casinos owned and operated by the Ho-Chunk Nation. Other casinos are located in Black River Falls, Madison, Nekoosa, Tomah and Wisconsin Dells. A seventh casino is currently under construction in Beloit and is scheduled to open later this year. “Simply put, teamwork makes Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg successful,” executive manager Fletcher Collins said. “In order to make this possible, it takes the entire team’s contributions, extra efforts and commitment to make us succeed. The team is committed to see our facility thrive and be an enjoyable place to game, dine and stay.” The casino has experi-

enced growth in many areas while recovering from the COVID pandemic, according to Collins. “We have seen growth in our tourism numbers,” he said. “Our guests’ visits have increased nearly 25% this past year. These guests visit from all four corners of the Midwest. This drives up the local economy, as they visit local businesses while they stay with us. “Our employee numbers have also experienced a boost. With the local community returning to work, we have been able to provide quality customer service through a near-10% increase in our staffing. This has been a positive experience with our local community serving our visiting guests, providing that local welcome and warmth this region is known for.” Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg saw substantial growth and profitability in 2023. “This is attributed to the attraction and visitation of our guests that come to our facility and our wonderful community of Wittenberg,” Collins said. “This past year, Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg exceeded net profit by 14% over projects. This is a 3% increase over the past year and a major improvement of 41% in comparison to pre-COVID revenue generations.” A commitment to its

nearly 200 full- and part-time employees is paying dividends for the operation, Collins said. “Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg has made valiant efforts to improve employee morale and loyalty,” he said. “Investing in our employees through incentives has been a positive step to improve employee satisfaction. Our employee incentive investments increased nearly 100% this past year in order to provide more appreciation and recognition to our valued employees. “Employment figures have improved, and 30% of our employees have been a part of our organization for 11 years and longer. Through on-the-job training, customer service training and meeting the needs of our valued employees, we have achieved a high retention rate and have reduced turnover in many areas. Keeping our employees informed, providing training and mentoring has been a great tool to achieving customer and employee satisfaction. “The management team is constantly working to meet the goals and needs of all of our team members. Investing more time and attention, improving employee work areas and creating team builders behind the scenes creates a more fun and entertaining work environment.” On the other hand, attracting quality workers is

a significant issue for the company. “Like many businesses, attracting employees is the most challenging issue in our industry,” Collins said. “Attracting the talent that is needed in the hospitality environment in a smaller community has been difficult. The management team has worked to develop interactive recruitment, interviews and further enticements that reward the applicant’s skill base, providing a more competitive wage along with our benefits.” Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg has made many improvements to make the gaming experience more enjoyable for its guests. “In the gaming industry, attractions are aimed at providing the most up-to-date games for our guests, providing fun and exciting promotions and providing services tools that make the gaming experience more enjoyable,” Collins said. “We have invested in gaming products that speed up jackpot payouts, reducing the ‘wait time’ and getting the player back to enjoying the game. We have invested in new ATM kiosks that have improved service, functionality and reliability. “We have maintained a fresh and exciting gaming floor with the games our customers ask for and enjoy. This is where we have benefited the most. Customer satisfaction

keeps our guests coming back to the Wittenberg community.” The casino is also a popular destination for wedding parties. “We have become a place for local weddings to stay and enjoy,” Collins said. “We have increased our wedding package sales and have included a shuttle service to and from the hotel where their wedding and receptions are held. This is a great way to improve safety on the highways by allowing us to be your designated driver. Our bride and groom receive many benefits from having their wedding party be our guests, and we have seen significant increases in the stays.” Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg supports the community in several ways, according to Collins. “Through our donations and sponsorships program, we were able to give over \$150,000 to nonprofit community organizations and charitable fundraisers within our community and surrounding areas,” he said. “We have been able to gain new relationships and invest in established, standing relationships with event organizers and personnel. “This has allowed us to understand the visions and goals each organization has and to see how we can better help them succeed. In order to help invest in a thriving community,

we continuously work to purchase items through local businesses, and we work to hire local entertainment.” The casino also promotes environmental awareness. “We put in place a policy to remove stand-alone office printers in order to consolidate printers and reduce paper usage, and we have an area to recycle cans in order to donate the proceeds to our local Head Start preschool,” Collins said. “We work on letting our community get to know us personally through volunteer work such as our twice-a-year Adopt-A-Highway roadside cleanups. We also provide ready assistance to a local community center when needed, and we recycle used towels and rugs from our local animal humane society. “We also have a great relationship with our local Head Start preschool, where we have the students come to our veterans events along with having them come to visit offices on Halloween to do some fun trick-or-treating. We routinely provide space within our facility free of charge for local vendors to set up and sell items and do the same for medical assistance pop-ups to provide free COVID testing, along with COVID and flu vaccine shots.”



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# Marion Body Works still going strong

**By GREG SEUBERT**  
Correspondent

What started as a blacksmith shop almost 120 years ago has evolved into one of the area's most successful manufacturing firms.

Marion Body Works Inc. is based in Marion and opened a second manufacturing facility in Shawano in 2022. It received a Business of the Year award from the Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce on Jan. 18.

The company has grown from building cattle racks and milk wagons for farmers to building all-aluminum fire truck cabs.

“Our focus has always been on the quality of our product, as well as our customers,” said Kevin Ignacio, the company’s president since 2023. “Our employees are dedicated to providing our customers with the best experience and product. We have a great team that pushes past any challenge to ensure the customers’ satisfaction.”

Marion Body Works has 322 full-time and four part-time employees.

"Our employees are the main focus here at Marion," Ignacio said. "Marion Body Works takes pride in our extremely low turnover rate and the longevity

of our employees' time here. We strive to be the employer of choice and do what we can to make sure our employees are set up for success, growth and overall happiness. We provide a place of employment that allows our employees to grow and succeed."

The company's roots go back to 1905 as a blacksmith shop owned by the Milbauer family. The company started manufacturing all-aluminum fire apparatus in 1964. Wausau Homes acquired the shop in 1971 and renamed it Marion Body Works.

Vinson "Bud" Simpson purchased the company in 1980, and under his watch, the company started a new business segment in 1981 as a result of a partnership with Oshkosh Corp. to build wrecker and cargo bodies for the heavy expanded mobility tactical truck program.

Marion Body Works constructed a storage building in 1986 and converted the former storage building into fully equipped production space.

Two expansions in 1989 added to the company's truck mounting and paint drying capability, and the company purchased surrounding land in 1990 and



**Marion Body Works opened its Shawano facility in 2022 after decades of having its main facility in Marion.**

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**Several chassis sit outside the main facility of Marion Body Works, waiting to be shipped.**

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2001 for future expansion.

The company began building all-aluminum fire truck cabs for custom chassis builders, and an addition to the manufacturing building in 1999 accommodated the growth of van body production.

Curt Ignacio and Jim Simpson assumed leadership of the company as co-presidents in 2003. Simpson passed away in 2012, and Ignacio stepped down from his role as president in 2023.

Marion Body Works broke ground in 2015 for its new headquarters, which opened the following year on Ramsdell Street in Marion.

The company expanded its commercial truck building production by opening a second manufacturing facility in Shawano in 2022.

“Marion Body Works continues to develop all aspects of our business,” said Kevin Ignacio, who represents the third generation of leadership for the Simpson-Ignacio family. “In October 2022, Marion Body Works expanded into the Shawano community by opening a second location to help support the necessary commercial truck body manufacturing.”

Lead times are one of the significant issues the company is facing, according to Ignacio.

“In order to help accommodate orders, we opened the second production facility in Shawano and invested a lot into making sure the building could accommodate these high production numbers,” he said.

The company supports the local community in a number of ways, including charitable donations, sponsorships and a Christmas For Kids program.

“MBW has a Caring Committee that is staffed by our employees,” Ignacio said. “The main focus is finding ways to give back to our communities,” Ignacio said. “We are very adamant about supporting our local communities that so many of our employees reside in.”



Marion Body Works brought out its 15,000th chassis built for Spartan Motors on Aug. 16 at its main plant in Marion. For nearly 30 years, the two companies have worked together to build fire apparatus for municipalities all across the United States, across portions of Canada and in Latin America.

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**Dr. Paul Mantz, D.D.S**

# WOLF RIVER

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# Congratulations

to this year's  
Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce award winners!



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IN 2023 HO-CHUNK GAMING  
WITTENBERG GAVE OVER

**\$150,000**

TO NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY  
ORGANIZATIONS AND CHARITABLE  
FUNDRAISERS WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY  
AND SURROUNDING AREAS.



## HO-CHUNK GAMING WITTENBERG TEAMWORK LEADS TO SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME + ACHIEVEMENTS

### Veterans Day Ceremony

It's important to recognize and honor the sacrifices of veterans, not just on Veterans Day but also on Vietnam Veterans Day. We Show appreciation for their service by holding a special Flag Raising Ceremony each year.

### Adopt-A-Highway Roadside Cleanup

Employees & community take responsibility for cleaning and maintaining a stretch of HWY 29 two times per year; a positive contribution to the community and the environment.

### Employee Participation and Awareness

Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg employees participate in a variety of ways to improve, encourage and build morale at every level; as well as support and spread awareness and show support for causes such as Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW), and more.

### Customer Appreciation Concert

Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg was able to offer a free outdoor concert in September to bring together a community of all ages.

### Major Sponsor for Community Events

One Third of our sponsorships have been in Shawano County through great partnerships with businesses like T&C Lanes, Fireworks Country, Wittenberg Fire & Amulance, Wittenberg Community Days and the Wittenberg Chamber of Commerce just to name a few.

### Free Pack Attack Event

Antonio Freeman was a special guest on Oct 30, 2023 for a Free Pack Attack event held on-site for guests to meet a legend and enjoy a memorable moment.

### Community Contributions

We strive to make small community events a success through donation and sponsorship opportunities. For example, being able to help provide comfort care for animals in need by donating recycled rugs and towels to the local Humane Society.







saYPro is a Young Professional group for ages 21-40 in the Shawano County Area who are engaged in a career, and exemplify strong morals and ethics, and strive for personal and career related growth; achieved by experience, educations and positive relationships.

## Mission

Our mission is to create relationships by connecting young professionals while contributing to our community.

## Membership

Becoming a saYPro member is a simple process with zero time commitment. As a member you will receive monthly updates of what we are doing in our community, including invites to member only events, receive discounted rates to other events, many local volunteer opportunities and much more.

### Connect



**SAYPRO.ORG**

Visit our website to see past and upcoming events, along with our membership form and monthly updates!



**FACEBOOK**

Find us on Facebook to stay connected with our organization and see upcoming events!



**SAYPRO13@GMAIL.COM**

Email us with any questions or ideas for our organization!



Shawano County has more than 400 miles of groomed and marked snowmobile trains winding through majestic forests and scenic meadows. ATVs can be used on most of the trails when the temperature is below 28 degrees and trails are open.

CONTRIBUTED

## Did you know?

### Snowmobiling

Shawano County has more than 400 miles of groomed and marked snowmobile trains winding through majestic forests and scenic meadows. ATVs can be used on most of the trails (with the exception of the Mountain Bay and WIOUWASH Trails) when the temperature is below 28 degrees and trails are open.

### Cross-country skiing

Shawano Country has cross-country ski trails to challenge all levels of skiers.

- Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road, Shiocton, has 12 miles of groomed trails. Ski rentals are available.

- Maple Hills Recreation area, on Highway 22, 2 miles south of Shawano, has 6.9 miles of groomed hilly trails with a parking area.

- Shawano Lake County Park, W5785 Lake Drive, Shawano, has a one-mile groomed trail.

- Shawano Lake Golf Course, W5714 Lake Drive, Shawano, has 5 miles of groomed trail.

- Wilson Lake County Park, 2 miles west of Wittenberg on Nightingale Road, has a one mile trail through wooded area.

### Fishing

Shawano Country is a fisherman's paradise and

home to some of the most exciting fishing tournaments in the state. The area's extensive lake and river system offers excellent pan and sport fishing. Visit the Shawano Country Chamber & Visitor Center for a topographic map of Shawano Lake and a complete list of other lakes in the county.

- Shawano Lake covers more than 6,000 acres up to 40 feet deep in some areas. It is one of the state's best fishing lakes containing a wide variety of fish including largemouth bass, walleye, northern pike, perch, crappie, muskie, bullhead, bluegill and panfish.

- Washington Lake is connected to Shawano Lake by a small channel on the north shore of Shawano Lake. It has excellent largemouth bass cover.

- Loon and Lulu Lakes are located just west of Washington Lake and are good bass and walleye pike lakes.

- Upper and Lower Red Lakes are formed by dams on the lower Red River at Gresham. They provide excellent bluegill, bass, and northern pike.

- The Cloverleaf Lakes chain of lakes near Embarrass is good for bluegill and bass.

### Snowshoeing

Groomed trails are

available at:

- Maple Hills Recreation Area-2.5 mile trail
- Shawano Lake Golf Course, W5714 Lake Drive, Shawano

Natural trails are available at:

- Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road, Shiocton. Snowshoe rentals are available.

- Hayman Falls County Park, County Road M west of Shawano through Pella one mile, then south 1/2 mile.

- Shawano Lake County Park, W5785 Lake Drive, Shawano

- Shawano Lake Golf Course, W5714 Lake Drive, Shawano

- Wilson Lake County Park, 2 miles west of Wittenberg on Nightingale Road

### Ice skating

Outdoor ice skating is available in several locations. In Bonduel (located behind the Public Safety Building at 201 S. First St.), Tigerton and Wittenberg ice rinks with warming houses and skates available.

Indoor ice skating is available at the Crawford Center, 225 S. Waukechon St., Shawano. Open October through March for Shawano Hockey League. Open skating available. \$3 admission, skate rentals available. 715-524-3976



# Shawano Chamber serves as ‘front door’ to community

The Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce is a nonprofit membership-based organization that advocates for, and works with, our member businesses.

The primary reason that it exists is to do what is necessary to keep Shawano Country’s businesses healthy, thus ensuring economic, civic and cultural well-being. The Chamber represent 430 businesses and organizations of all sizes throughout Shawano and Menominee counties. It is not part of local state or federal government, though it does often partner with governments to accomplish economic and community development. It is funded by membership dues as well as non-dues items such as event revenue, sponsorships and sales of various products and services.

Members of the Chamber serve on the Board of Directors, on committees and as ambassadors. The board directs the Chamber staff to carry out the “plan of action.” Members serve on committees with similar interests to explore issues, programs, or opportunities of common concern.

The chamber is not narrowly focused on one

particular industry, issue, cause or activity. It focuses on a broad range of activities and support for businesses and communities.

The Chamber serves as the “front door” for the entire area to attract new businesses and industry, new residents and tourists. Many newcomers, job recruits, visitors and business people get their first impression from their visit to the chamber. They are the ones who answer the phone calls and emails from people who have questions about Shawano Country. They are an information resource for prospective business owners deciding about locating to the area. They are the ones who build an awareness of the area with tourism advertising and promotions.

The Chamber supports new and existing businesses with educational seminars and workshops including leadership training. It provides networking and promotional opportunities that are critical for the survival of some businesses.

Non-members are urged to contact the Chamber office to learn more at 715 524-2139 or chamber@shawanocountry.com.

## Happy anniversary!



Hundreds of people lined up for the ping pong ball drop at Nueske’s Meats in Wittenberg on Sept. 16, 2023. The balls were dropped from a helicopter, and specific balls signified prizes for those who grabbed them. The business celebrated its 90-year anniversary with a breakfast, farmers market and vintage demonstrations, children’s entertainment, food trucks, live entertainment, pig and duck races, wood carving demonstrations, a ping pong ball drop and fireworks. Nueske family ancestors came to Wisconsin in 1882, bringing with them European skills of applewood smoking and dozens of recipes for spicing and curing meat. In 1933, R.C. Nueske couldn’t find smoked meats as good as those his family made, so he decided to market his smoked bacon, ham, poultry and sausage to friends, neighbors and general stores around northern Wisconsin.

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# CALLING CONSERVATIVE LIBERTARIAN - INDEPENDENT - LIBERAL - VOTERS THAT CARE ABOUT AMERICA

**BE AWARE: A REPUBLICAN OR A DEMOCRAT WILL WIN THE 2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION – NOT AN INDEPENDENT – NOT A LIBERTARIAN.**

*Support the Republican party because it matches your values, goals and desire to save America from the WOKE - Social Justice - Diversity Equity Inclusion (DEI) madness. We welcome - respect & encourage your independent thinking.*

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- #3 - children should not be subjected to TRANSVESTITE propaganda = like books, shows etc. in schools Pre-K thru 12.
- #4 - children's health is important - we must protect our children at all times - sex trafficking is a crime
- #5 - in the 1st - 2nd Amendment and all amendments
- #6 - the Supreme Court decision regarding affirmative action was correct because affirmative action mandated discrimination against certain groups – just like DEI does
- #7 - our National debt is too high and American energy independence is critical
- #8 - in America first because America is a good country and a beacon of hope for the world
- #9 - in immigration through a controlled secure border
- #10 - believe 100% in law & order. WE DO NOT support de-funding the police.



**DID YOU KNOW? The Republican Party of Shawano has been a member of the Chamber since 2021.**  
**Did you know that the Republican Party Shawano supports local business by giving away \$1,000.00 Chamber Bucks each year as raffle prizes.**

[www.shawanorepublicans.com](http://www.shawanorepublicans.com) • Visit our Facebook page - Republican Party of Shawano



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