



Wittenberg Telephone turns 100

It's a big anniversary year at the local telecommunications company.

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School board discusses sports complex

Preliminary plans reviewed for Wittenberg-Birnamwood sports complex.

PAGE 3

Maddy Pietz is still shining in college

Wittenberg-Birnamwood grad is part of Winona State relay team that placed sixth at national meet.

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BENCH WORK FOR OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTER

Gavin Esker, a student at Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School, attaches a leg for a picnic bench on March 19 in the school's technical education classroom. The picnic benches are part of plans by the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District to create outdoor learning centers at the two elementary-middle schools that will allow students to learn first-hand about plants and some of the food they eat. **FOR THE FULL STORY, SEE PAGE 8.**

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA



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WITTENBERG
ENTERPRISE
& BIRNAMWOOD NEWS

(USPS 868-800)

Published Fridays

by **NEW Media Inc**

d/b/a The Wittenberg Enterprise
& Birnamwood News

PO Box 313 Wittenberg WI 54499

Periodicals postage paid at
Wittenberg WI 54499

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
NEW Media Inc, 1464 E. Green Bay St.,
Shawano WI 54166

Telephone

715-853-0515

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1464 E. Green Bay St., Shawano, WI 54166
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday-Friday
9 a.m. to noon Tuesday

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Subscription, delivery or payment question?

Call 715-526-2121

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday-Friday
9 a.m. to noon Tuesday

RATES

Print

Print single issue: \$1

Prepaid nonrefundable 12 months:

\$41 Mail - WI

\$52 Mail - outside WI

www.newmedia-wi.com

1-day, \$0.99

3-mo (90-day introductory offer) \$12

Month-to-month \$10

Prepaid 12 month, nonrefundable, \$99

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Wittenberg Telephone celebrates 100 years

Company will be transitioning to the name Cirrinity soon

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

The Wittenberg Telephone Company is celebrating its 100th year of operation in 2021.

Wittenberg Telephone was incorporated in 1921 by Ray Peterson. Today, the company offers telephone, broadband internet and television services to the community. Wittenberg Telephone serves roughly 3,600 people, as their footprint extends from Galloway all the way up to Pickerel. In 2010, it purchased a fiber network in Antigo, commencing its business within the city. After purchasing an office and expanding to Antigo in 2012, Wittenberg Telephone took on the moniker "Cirrinity."

While the Wittenberg area knows The Wittenberg Telephone Company as it is, the city of Antigo knows it as Cirrinity.

The company has been family owned for all 100 years of its existence. There is a sense of camaraderie among the employees.

"Working in a family business creates a great culture here," said Scott Nyman, CEO for Wittenberg Telephone. "It is not like I do one thing, you do one thing. It's everyone does everything."

With the family culture of the company, Wittenberg Telephone has prided itself on focusing on and providing services to small and rural communities.

"Our goal is to spoil the community and for them to say, 'Wow, that was nice,'" said Nyman.

Located in Wittenberg, the company has a unique relationship with the community. Wittenberg Telephone has become very involved with the Wittenberg community, often holding fundraisers and sponsoring events.

"I don't think that we would be here without the community," said Nyman.

Over the last 100 years, Wittenberg Telephone has adapted well to the ever-changing technology within its business. This has kept the employees of the company on their toes, as they need to keep their focus and stay ahead of the community's needs.



The Wittenberg Telephone Company has been serving people in the Wittenberg community for 100 years.
LUKE REIMER | NEW MEDIA

"We have kept up with the changing landscape of the technology," said Nyman. "You know the movies where they were rerouting calls on a circuit board? We were doing that."

The pandemic proved to be a challenging time for the company. Broadband internet needs rocketed up during this time because both adults and children were sent home from school and work. There was a 75% increase in traffic during the first month. That number has now doubled to a 150% increase.

The pandemic did not deter the employees though, as nobody missed a beat. Nyman said that the company was getting creative in how they could offer their customers internet.

One of the ways that the company has provided internet to those in need was introducing community hot spots. The hot spots work similar to cell phones in that a central point can be used and people can come around and connect to it. Those hot spots have helped those who relied on work or school for internet.

Once the pandemic slows and eventually ends, Nyman hopes that a celebration can be had among the

community for the 100th year of operation.

"If the pandemic ends, we do have plans to have a celebration for the 100th year," said Nyman. "We hope that it will be sometime in the summer, with (Wittenberg) Community Days."

Nyman is looking at sometime before winter next year to hold a celebration for the milestone year. Nyman also wants to get a celebration together for the private stakeholders, who may be outside of the area.

Within the coming weeks and months, Wittenberg Telephone will officially change its name to Cirrinity. It is also looking at introducing a new logo.

"Our board of directors have decided, being this is our 100 year anniversary, we would rebrand and move forward under one name, Cirrinity," said Nyman. "So we will start some marketing and rebranding work soon to begin our next 100 years as Cirrinity."

The company plans to keep growing and expanding, while trying to help out anyone in the community that needs it.

Aanonsen collecting pledges for sporting complex

Complex would be used to host youth sporting events as well as community events

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

Jerry Aanonsen, a former coach, teacher, athletic director and dean of students at Wittenberg-Birnhamwood High School is collecting pledges to build a sporting complex at the school.

The building of the sports complex was originally a part of a referendum but was voted down. At the March 22 Wittenberg-Birnhamwood School Board meeting, Aanonsen explained the initial plan for building the complex. The initial plan is to construct a building, containing three basketball courts, two bathrooms, a mechanical room, a meeting room and a 40-foot by 80-foot wrestling room. The wrestling room is thought of to be an important part of this complex.

"This is obviously a real concern," said Aanonsen. "Because of the room that the school currently has for wrestling."

The total 160-foot by 200-foot project is anticipated to cost between \$2.5 and \$3 million.

There is a need for this sports complex as the current sports facilities haven't been thoroughly updated since the school was built, according to Aanonsen. It has become apparent that the Wittenberg-Birnhamwood School District is running out of room to host the many youth activities that get scheduled.

Aanonsen believes that building this complex is important for the community and school district as youth sports are becoming bigger and bigger in the area.

"There has been an infiltration of youth athletics," said Aanonsen. "I have had some parents say that I am not letting my son or daughter do anything because of the time at night that these individuals have to be practicing."

Using the complex as a place to hold practices, camps and even tournaments will be beneficial to youth sports in the area, according to Aanonsen. In the basketball court area, the plan is to leave 18 feet between the out-of-bounds lines and the wall to allow for people to walk around the courts. The plan is also to include mobile bleachers that can be placed around the basketball courts for games and tournaments.

"We can have that space available to the community for walking and maybe other activities that the elderly can use, like pickleball, badminton or any low-energy activity," said Aanonsen.

Aanonsen hopes if the project gets passed and eventually built, that the community will use it as much as possible.

"Winter is a long part of our lives and we feel by having this and giving access to the community, it will probably be a pretty cool project," said Aanonsen.

ect," said Aanonsen.

The complex will be used for more than just school sports, though. Things like exercise classes, dance competitions and fairs were discussed on being held at the facility as well.

"Just this year, we have turned down two craft fairs," said Garrett Rogowski, Wittenberg-Birnhamwood superintendent. "RV and boat shows, what ever you want to have in there, that facility could really be utilized in a lot of different ways for a lot of different community members."

The complex also has potential to not only hold events, but bring tourists and visitors to the Wittenberg area.

"The bigger picture is that we are trying to provide kids a good place to learn and a good place to

go," said school board member Bree Krueger-Schmidt.

If this plan goes through and enough pledges are raised, the board anticipates that the building will be constantly used.

"I would guarantee that if that comes to fruition, that space will be used a full six days a week," said Rogowski.

So far, Aanonsen has raised \$16,400 through pledges from the community, most of the pledges coming from alumni. Aanonsen and the Wittenberg-Birnhamwood Sports Center fundraising committee have a goal of raising enough money for the complex by Aug. 31.

"Before we can really generate momentum, we need that big donor," said Rogowski. "For anything to get off of the ground, running, we will need that."

Early-morning crash claims one life

One person died in a fiery crash in the Town of Underhill in the early morning hours of March 22.

Oconto County Sheriff Todd Skarban said rescue crews were called around 3:10 a.m. to a one-vehicle accident on County Road VV near Kalaus Road.

Deputies found the vehicle engulfed in flames in a wooded area next to the ditch. It appears the driver had been eastbound on County Road VV when the crash occurred, Skarban said.

The victim's identity was being withheld pending notification of relatives.

This is the Friday-only COVID-19 Journal version of
NEW Media's Shawano Leader, Wittenberg Enterprise &
Birnhamwood News and Oconto County Times Herald.
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WELCOME DR. SCARLETT YOUNG



Walsh Dental Group is thrilled to announce the upcoming addition of Dr. Scarlett Young to our team! After an extensive search Dr. Walsh has chosen Dr. Young to join our team based on her treatment philosophies, patient care approach, and positive and enthusiastic personality. Committed to providing our patient family with the same comprehensive, high-quality care you have come to expect from our office, we could not be more excited to have Dr. Young join our team!

Dr. Scarlett Young grew up in Shawano, Wisconsin, where she graduated from Shawano High School in 2012. She then attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where she completed her Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry with a Biology minor. She is currently finishing her Doctorate of Dental Surgery at Marquette University School of Dentistry, where she will graduate this upcoming May. During her time at Marquette, she was very active in many organized groups such as the American Student Dental Association (ASDA), Psi Omega Fraternity, Student Professionalism and Ethics Association in Dentistry (SPEA), American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry (AADMD), and the Dental Tolerance Program. In her free time, Dr. Young enjoys spending time with her friends and family, golfing, cheering on Wisconsin sports teams, kayaking on the Wolf River, and traveling. Dr. Young is thrilled to return to the area to provide exceptional patient care.



Dr. Young will begin seeing patients in July 2021 at our new clinic. The new location of Walsh Dental Group will be 657 N. Main St. Shawano, WI 54166, which is scheduled to open in mid-June. To schedule an appointment with our office please call 715-524-2581 or visit our website at walshdg.com

PUBLIC RECORD

SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

March 22

Officers responded to 21 calls, including child abuse on South Hamlin Street; trespassing on South Andrews Street; property damage at Super 8 Motel, 211 Waukechon St.

March 21

Officers responded to 14 calls, including bail jumping on East Center Street; a lost wallet at Walmart, 1244 E. Green Bay St.; an assault on Estates Lane.

March 20

Officers responded to 20 calls, including criminal damage on South Andrews Street; a juvenile problem on East Robin Lane; property theft at CoVantage Credit Union, 604 S. Main St.

March 19

Officers responded to 29 calls, including reckless driving on North Airport Road and Lake Drive; property theft at Charlie's County Market, 521 S. Main St.; a juvenile alcohol call on South Andrews Street; harassment on East Fifth Street.

March 18

Officers responded to 20 calls, including a juvenile alcohol problem at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B; harassment on South Washington Street.

March 17

Officers responded to 31 calls,

including a controlled substance problem at Walgreens, 401 E. Green Bay St.; a threat on North Humphrey Circle; a found wallet at ThedaCare Medical Center, 100 County Road B; a domestic disturbance on East Lieg Avenue; a disorderly conduct on South Hamlin Street; a disturbance at Sharona's Bar, 111 S. Washington St.

March 16

Officers responded to 25 calls, including identity theft on South Washington Street; trespassing on West Third Street; harassment calls on South Evergreen Street and South Prospect Street; a threat on South Sawyer Street.

SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

March 22

Deputies responded to 34 calls, including bail jumping on state Highway 29 in the Town of Wittenberg; burglary on Second Drive in the Town of Washington; a burglary attempt on Hidden Lane in the Town of Lessor; reckless driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Herman; a pursuit on state Highway 47 and County Road S in the Town of Lessor; one crash.

March 21

Deputies responded to 40 calls, including trespassing on Country Lane in the Town of Washington; reckless driving calls on State Highway 29 in the Town of Wittenberg, state Highway 29 in the Town of Morris and County

Road OO in the Town of Wittenberg; harassment on North Main Street in Shawano; a drug call on River Bend Road in the Town of Belle Plaine; an ATV complaint on Elm Avenue in the Town of Wescott; four crashes, two involving deer.

March 20

Deputies responded to 48 calls, including reckless driving calls on state Highway 29 in the Town of Hartland, state Highway 22 in the Town of Belle Plaine, state Highway 47-55 in the Town of Wescott, state Highway 29 in the Town of Angelica and Lake Wagner Road in the Town of Belle Plaine; an adult drug offense on state Highway 47 and Lake Road in the Town of Lessor; bail jumping on West North Street in Bonduel; operating while intoxicated on Freeborn Road in the Town of Washington; a weapons offense on White Clay Road in the Town of Washington; six crashes, one involving deer.

March 19

Deputies responded to 40 calls, including a burglary on School House Road in the Town of Seneca; a property theft on Main Street in Gresham; reckless driving calls on state Highway 29 in the Town of Richmond and state Highway 29 in the Town of Wittenberg; a drug problem on state Highway 47 and South High Line Road in the Town of Lessor; trespassing on Lake View Drive in Aniwa; bail jumping calls on state Highway 47 and Happy Lane

in the Town of Hartland and on Lake Drive and Old Lake Lane in the Town of Wescott; five crashes, one involving deer.

March 18

Deputies responded to 44 calls, including harassment on state Highway 47-55 in the Town of Wescott; a juvenile problem on Main Street in Birnamwood; bail jumping on North Lafayette Street in the Town of Wescott; a runaway juvenile on Elm Road in the Town of Richmond; reckless driving calls on state Highway 29 in the Town of Waukechon and state Highway 22 in the Town of Belle Plaine; a burglary on County Road M in the Town of Richmond; a repossession on West Main Street in Bowler; three crashes, one involving deer and one involving a bobcat.

March 17

Deputies responded to 37 calls, including reckless driving calls on state Highway 47 in the Town of Lessor and on state Highway 29 in the Town of Hartland; a substance abuse problem on East Green Bay Street and North Union Street in Shawano; three crashes, one involving deer.

March 16

Deputies responded to 29 calls, including bail jumping on North First Street in Bonduel; reckless driving calls on East Freeborn Street in Cecil and on state Highway 29 in the Town of Belle Plaine; a pursuit on state Highway 153 in the Town of Wittenberg; four crashes.

COURT NEWS

Recent proceedings in Shawano-Menominee County District include:

- Stacy A. Delgado, 30, Shawano, was charged March 16 with one count of misdemeanor operating a vehicle without consent, one count of bail jumping and one count of misdemeanor bail jumping. Judge William F. Kussel Jr. set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for March 31.

- Bryan S. Pamonicutt, 27, Gresham, was charged March 16 with one count of driving or operating a vehicle without consent and five counts of misdemeanor bail jumping. Kussel set a \$750 cash bond and scheduled a resumed initial appearance for April 14.

- Shaun C. Whited, 43, Eland, was charged March 16 with one count of possession of THC-second offense and one count of possession of methamphetamine. Kussel set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a resumed initial appearance for April 13.

- Britney M. Gavitt, 29, Wittenberg,

was charged March 16 with one count of possession of THC-second offense, one count of possession of methamphetamine, one count of misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia, one count of possession of narcotic drugs and six counts of bail jumping. Kussel set a cash bond at \$2,500 and scheduled a preliminary hearing for March 26.

- Brett L. Ginter, 24, Bowler, was charged March 17 with one count of vehicle operator flee/elude officer, four counts of second-degree reckless endangering safety, one count of misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia and one count of misdemeanor possession of THC. Kussel set a cash bond of \$2,500 and scheduled a resumed initial appearance for March 24.

- Britney M. Gavitt, 29, Wittenberg, was charged March 17 with one count of manufacturing/delivering amphetamine and one count of bail jumping. Kussel set a cash bond at \$4,000 and scheduled a preliminary

hearing for March 26.

- Derek B. Metzenbauer, 35, Cecil, was charged March 17 with 65 counts of child pornography, one count of misdemeanor possession of THC and one count of misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia. Kussel set a cash bond at \$60,000 and scheduled a resumed initial appearance for March 31.

- Darrell C.D. Bolton, 32, Green Bay, was charged March 18 with one count of misdemeanor operating while revoked, one count of misdemeanor bail jumping and two counts of bail jumping. Kussel set a cash bond of \$250 and scheduled a preliminary hearing for April 13.

- Joshua W. Marsh, 41, Clintonville, was charged March 18 with one count of throwing/discharging bodily fluid at a public safety worker or prosecutor, one count of misdemeanor resisting or obstructing an officer, one count of misdemeanor disorderly conduct, four counts of bail jumping and eight counts of misdemeanor bail jumping.

Kussel set a cash bond of \$5,000 and scheduled a resumed initial appearance for April 1.

- Jason J. Pecore, 31, Shawano, was charged March 18 with one count of vehicle operator flee/eluding an officer. Kussel set a cash bond of \$1,500 and scheduled a resumed initial appearance for May 12.

- Stephany L. Rupprecht, 50, Green Bay, was charged March 19 with one count of possession of THC-second offense and four counts of bail jumping. Kussel set a cash bond of \$2,000 and scheduled a resumed initial appearance for April 5.

- Dallas J. Latender, 34, Neopit, was charged March 19 with one misdemeanor count of operating a vehicle while revoked and one count of possession of THC-second offense. Kussel set a cash of \$250 and scheduled a resumed initial appearance for April 5.

- Michael C. Metoxen, 51, Shawano. A charge of bail jumping was dismissed on prosecutor's motion.

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OBITUARIES

On Sunday, March 14, 2021, our family and community lost a humble man. In life and now in death, he would not want us to focus on the sadness of death, but instead focus on the happiness in our lives.

Lyle L. Grosskopf was born on June 14, 1943, to the late Clarence "Spitz" and Mabel (Blumreich) Grosskopf. He was united in marriage to the love of his life, Carol "Jean" Schreiber, on June 20, 1964, in Shawano, and together they had two children, Bud and Jayna.

Lyle was a very active member of his local community; his generosity and thoughtfulness will forever live on through the lives he impacted. Together, with his brother Ron, Lyle helped bring a Ducks Unlimited Chapter to Gresham as well as the Wisconsin Deer Hunters Association. Lyle was also an avid supporter of the Gresham Dollars for Scholars Foundation. Throughout Lyle's adult life he was dedicated to the BABA program, where he enjoyed announcing their



games and was also inducted into the Hall of Fame.

During Lyle's free time he enjoyed being with his great-grandkids, visiting local casinos, tinkering in his garage, working with his tractor, as well as deer hunting. He worked for CR Meyer for 35 years and currently held the position of Gresham village president. Although Lyle has had many accomplishments and achievements in his life, there are far too many to list them all.

Lyle was a devoted husband of 56 years; together, Lyle and Jean enjoyed watching local sporting events, going out for dinner, spending Packer game days with Danny and Mattie Stoeher, and enjoying each other's company.

He also leaves behind his two children, Lyle "Bud" (Beth) Grosskopf II and Jayna (Tom) Jung; his

grandchildren, Sam (Melissa), Tyler (Brittany), Misti, Sammi (Tony), Lyle III "Trey" (Taylor), Shae (Adam), Destiny (Thomas), Tomi Jo (Tyler) and Bailey; his great-grandchildren: Axl, Briell, Scarlett, Hunter, Ad-dyson, Blake, Brock, Kyera, Aralyn, Jailyn, McKaylyn, Jaxtyn, Taylyn, Brystal, Bryson, Brynleigh, Brody and Brentley; and one brother, Ron (Eldean) Grosskopf.

Lyle will join his parents and brother, Allen Grosskopf, in heaven where they will spend their days enjoying happy hour with a Manhattan in hand.

Funeral services for Lyle were held at 11 a.m. on Friday, March 19, 2021, at St. John's Lutheran Church-Hermsdorf with the Rev. Steven Conrad officiating. Burial was held on Saturday, March 20, 2021, in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Memorials may be made in Lyle's name to the charity of your choosing.

Lyle, my husband, my soulmate, my best friend. There won't be a day

that goes by that I won't think of you. I will love you always. — Jean

A limb has fallen from the family tree.

I keep hearing a voice that says, "Grieve not for me."

Remember the best times, the laughter, the song.

The good life I lived while I was strong.

Continue on my legacy, I am counting on you.

Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through.

My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest.

Remembering all, how I truly was blessed.

Continue traditions, no matter how small.

Go on with your life, don't worry about falls.

I miss you all dearly, so keep up your chin.

Until the day comes we're together again.

www.swedbergfuneralhome.com

Richard W. "Dick" Kuepper, 83, of Shawano, passed away peacefully early Saturday morning, March 13, 2021, at Birch Hill in Shawano.

Dick was born on Oct. 5, 1937, in Milwaukee, a son of Charles and Mildred (Dunlap) Kuepper. Richard excelled at athletics, lettering in football and track, setting several records.

After graduating high school, Richard moved to San Antonio, Texas, to attend Trinity University. After finishing college he returned to Wisconsin and worked as a counselor at Camp Lannon Fields Farms. It was there he met and fell in love with fellow counselor, Lynne Folstad, of Barron. The love of his life, they married on June 13, 1959, in Barron, and settled in Clintonville. In 1970, the couple moved to Shawano, where they remained for the rest of their 61-year marriage.

In Shawano, Richard worked his



way up from loan officer to vice president of Citizens State Bank, and led the Rotary Youth Exchange program. He was proud of his work as a long-time Rotary member and received two Paul Harris awards.

He and Lynne hosted four exchange students over the years: Karen Israelson from Sweden, Marcia Costa from Brazil, Astrid Solberg from Norway, and Jussi Toivonen from Finland. A testament to their commitment, Richard and Lynne kept in touch with all their "kids," travelling across the globe to visit them. They loved to travel, taking trips to Finland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Brazil, with Richard even venturing into St. Petersburg, Russia.

Long known for his amazingly beautiful woodworking skills, in later life Richard enjoyed touring and exhibiting his work — from small boxes to large dressers and desks — at art fairs. He acknowledged, however, that his greatest achievement was his family.

Richard is survived by his daughters, Wendy (Jon) Kofoot, of Savage, Minnesota, and Kathy (Dan) Braun, of Shawano; his granddaughters, Haanah Braun, of Northfield, Minnesota, and Maris Braun, of Seattle, Washington; his nieces, Robin Baird, of Arlington, Virginia, and Carol (Lynwood) Harris, of Coppell, Texas; his great-niece, Casey (Brad) Williams, and great-great-nephews Cambell and Camden, of Lewisville, Texas; and his international family who loved him dearly.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Lynne; his parents, Charles and

Mildred Kuepper; and his sister, Lucy.

A funeral service for Richard and Lynne will be held at a later date. Graveside services will take place at a later date at Wayside Cemetery in Barron, with Pastor Mary Anne Conklin officiating.

In lieu of flowers and plants, memorials are preferred to the Alzheimer's Association at act.alz.org/donate.

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

"The family would like to thank the amazing caregivers at Birch Hill for their loving care."



Elizabeth M. Cornelius



john) Cornelius. She attended college and earned her BA in sociology. Elizabeth became a counselor/therapist at the Oneida Group Home for a number of

years. She was an excellent cook, terrific artist and loved gardening in her spare time.

Elizabeth was a loving mother of Tony Kolosso, Elizabeth (Terry) Fagan, Ammy (Bobbie) Vaughn, Sam (Barb) Kolosso, Conrad (Sharon) Cornelius and Dan (Tammy) Cornelius.

She was a loving grandmother of 12 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

Elizabeth is also survived by a sister, Debbie (Marvin) Wilber, and a brother, Weston (Debbie)

Cornelius.

She was preceded in death by her parents; fiancé, Howard Bird; sisters Maribeth, Pam and Candace; and brothers Garrett and Conrad.

Elizabeth's funeral service was held Friday, March 19, 2021, at 11 a.m. at the Family of Christ Church, 600 S. Main St., Clintonville, with the Rev. Steven Devroy officiating. Interment will take place at Union Cemetery in Tigerton.

www.eberhardtstevenson.com

Elizabeth M. Cornelius, 79, of Clintonville, formerly of Tigerton, passed away surrounded by family on Sunday morning, March 14, 2021, at Evergreen Health Services in Shawano.

Elizabeth had been ill for the past few years with multiple health complications. She made her home with the late Howard Bird in Tigerton. Elizabeth was born on April 22, 1941, in Tigerton as the daughter of the late John and Eva Jane (Christ-

Alice Rose Lex

Alice Rose Lex, 86, of Antigo, died Thursday, March 18, 2021, at her home under the care of her family and Le-Royer Hospice. She was born on April 24, 1934, in Birnamwood, a daughter of the late Joseph and Barbara (Rank) Korbisch. She married George Lex on Oct. 1, 1952, at St. Boniface Catholic Church, Aniwa. He preceded her in death on Feb. 29, 2008.

She was a graduate of Birnamwood High School. Alice and her husband owned and operated the Lex home-stead dairy farm and Lex Trucking Company Inc.

Her faith was very important to her; she was a member of St. John



Catholic Church and participated in prayer circle. She volunteered for C.A.R.R. for many years.

Alice was a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, who cherished time spent with her family. She also enjoyed camping, gardening and her many pets over the years, most recently the companionship of Cody, her yorkie.

Survivors include six daughters, Donna Hance of Wittenberg, Cindy

(special friend Ken) Evans of Oconto, Geri (Dale) Hamilton of Birnamwood, Jeanne (Pat) Zalewski of Antigo, Vicki (David) Anunson of Waunakee and Carrie (Ryan) Anderson of Andover, Minnesota; two sons, Tom (special friend Donna) Lex of Birnamwood and Paul (Mikki) Lex of Antigo; 27 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; a daughter-in-law, Dolly Lex of Antigo; two sisters, Rosella Toney of St. Paul, Minnesota, and Katherine Resch of Antigo; two brothers, Charles Korbisch of Antigo and William (Pearl) Korbisch of Charleston, South Carolina; a brother-in-law, Harry Fronek of Antigo; and sister-

in-law, Eunice (Lex) Duffek of White Bear Lake, Minnesota.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by a son, Robert Lex; four sisters, Ann Martis, Caroline Fronek, Barbara Korbisch and Marcella Lenzner; two brothers, Joe Korbisch and Frank Korbisch; and two sons-in-law, Tom Hance and John Evans.

A funeral Mass was held on March 22 at St. John Catholic Church in Antigo. Burial took place at St. Boniface Catholic Cemetery, Aniwa.

Online condolences at www.bradleyfh.com.

Russell Olson

Russell "Rusty" Olson, 62, of Hatley, died on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital.

Rusty was born Feb. 13, 1959, in Monmouth, Illinois, the son of Russell and Ruth (Clark) Olson.

Rusty worked as a firefighter for the Wittenberg Fire Department and as a paramedic for the Spirit Critical Care Transport for many years. After Sept. 11, 2001, Rusty went to New York for a week to help with search and recovery. He later worked in shipping and stock at Greenheck and occasionally helped



in EMR. Rusty was a member of the Smart Local 365 at Greenheck. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, gardening and always took pride in his "perfect yard." Rusty loved spending

time with his family and friends, especially his grandchildren.

Rusty is survived by his mother, Ruth Ann (Earl Motz) Olson; one

daughter, Holly (Dan) Filtz; seven grandchildren, Hailey, Ethan, Mason, Jakub, Isaiah, Tucker and Ellie; former wife, Helen; one sister, Roxanne (Tim) Thiede; two nephews, Jeremy Thiede and Christopher (Megan) Thiede and many close friends.

Rusty was preceded in death by his father, Russell; two daughters in infancy, Heather and Ruthie; one sister, Rhonda DeCrane, and his best friend, Kip Hoppe.

A memorial visitation was held from 4-7 p.m. on Wednesday, March

24, 2021, at Schmidt & Schulta Funeral Home, Wittenberg. Burial will be in Silent Home Cemetery in Cameron, Illinois, at a later date.

Memories and message of support may be shared at schmidtschulta.com.

The family would like to thank Rusty's friends for visiting and keeping him company. The family would also like to thank Greenheck as Rusty always had good things to say about them.

Bill on sexual assault kits passes Senate

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul announced in November 2019 that a backlog of almost 4,500 sexual assault kits had finally been tested, with many of them sitting for years and significantly delaying justice for many victims.

State Sen. Rob Cowles and others in the legislature are pushing through a bill that would help keep such a backlog from ever developing again. Senate Bill 71 creates timelines and protocols for collecting and processing sexual assault kits, and it was approved on a voice vote March 16 with bipartisan support.

"It was passed unanimously," Cowles said in a phone interview with NEW Media a few days later. "It made it through one house, and now we've got to get it through the Assembly."

The bill would require health care professionals to notify law enforcement within 24 hours that there is a sexual assault kit, and then within 72

hours, law enforcement would have to take possession and send it to the state crime labs. The labs would then have 14 days maximum to analyze the kits and inform law enforcement of the findings.

The bill would also require the state labs to hold sexual assault kits from people who have not consented to analysis for 10 years. The labs would need to hold the kits of those who have consented to an analysis for up to 50 years or until the perpetrator's imprisonment has ended, whichever is longer.

The bill, once approved by the Assembly, would need to be signed by Gov. Tony Evers before becoming the law of the land, but Cowles was optimistic that it would go through without difficulty.

"It should go through," Cowles said. "It's got strong support from the police community, from the health care community, the nurses association, a variety of different groups that help women who have been violated. They feel we need a statutory process, and this will help create certainty for the rape kits. That's the goal."

Cowles noted that a similar bill made it through the Senate two years ago but got tangled up in the Assembly. He said it has never been determined why the Assembly did not vote on that bill.

"I'm more optimistic this time," Cowles said.

Such progress on testing sexual assault kits would be welcome news to Stacey Cicero, executive director for Safe Haven. Her organization helps people who have been impacted by domestic violence, and oftentimes, the abuse that people suffer includes sexual assault.

"I can tell you that there's always been a backlog of sexual assault test kits, and anytime you have backlogs like that, it takes longer to prosecute and longer to find the criminals," Cicero said. "The kits test DNA and other things, and obviously it's much quicker to have the kits tested so that cases can get to trial quicker."

Prior to 2018, when previous Attorney General Brad Schimel announced a major initiative to test sexual assault kits that was continued

by Kaul, victims would be examined by personnel at medical centers, evidence would be gathered up and sent to state crime labs — and then they would just sit. That didn't sit well with Cowles.

"In the past, it was just chaos," Cowles said, noting the issue came to light in the Wisconsin Legislature about six years ago. "The kits were building up in different places, and we want to make sure that wrongdoers are prosecuted. This bill will help create that certainty of information that will go after these terrible people that violate women."

In the last two years, the state crime labs have been keeping up on testing the kits through informal protocols, according to Cowles, but Senate Bill 71 would make those protocols official and help avoid the possibility that kits would languish for years.

"This would put it into the statutes and create even more certainty," Cowles said.

Outdoor learning centers coming to local schools

Efforts to create vegetable, pollinator gardens under way to promote student learning

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District is planning to break ground soon on two outdoor learning centers at its elementary schools that will allow some education to be held outside the classroom in a hands-on learning.

The district received grant funding totaling \$7,000, \$3,500 for each school, to develop the learning centers, but officials are still doing some fundraising in the hopes of getting into full construction mode come May and have them ready in the fall when students return for the new school year.

"There'll be two (parts to the) learning centers for each school," said Ashley Hegewald, project coordinator for the Grow the Gardens outdoor learning programs. "One will be a classroom surrounded by a vegetable garden, the other will be a classroom surrounded by a prairie pollinator garden."

Hegewald works for an organization called Field Edventures, which provided the grants. When the coronavirus pandemic hit last year, Field Edventures started working with a number of schools throughout the state because classrooms could not be utilized, at least in the initial months of the pandemic. Turning to outdoor scenarios made sense since it was not healthy to keep students inside.

"I've been working as a field coach with the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District doing outdoor education with the students," Hegewald said. "We've been doing explorer days once a month with the younger grades, but part of the grant was to initiate a student-led project, so working with some of the K-8 students and teachers, we thought, wouldn't it be neat to have outdoor learning centers where we can get outside to learn either about nature and the outdoors or to learn about math in the garden."

The explorer days have involved spending a full day at one of the local parks or visiting the school forest near Birnamwood to find out about the plants and animals that call those places home. Those days were thoroughly enjoyed by students and staff alike, which is what got Hegewald thinking about the outdoor learning centers at the schools themselves, so they didn't require trips off campus, which require significant advanced planning.



Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School students David Reid, left, and Peter Cohen work March 19 on one of the picnic benches that will eventually be part of the outdoor learning centers planned for the elementary schools in Birnamwood and Wittenberg. The students, who are part of the technical education program, will also be working on regular benches and garden sheds that will be part of the centers.

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"The feedback I've gotten from teachers is that the kids look forward to them," Hegewald said. "They retain a lot of the information that they learn, and my goal is just to get them to thinking about how things are interconnected in nature, working on their observations and nature journaling sort of skills."

While the grants are providing some of the funding needed, the project is also turning to the community for help. One fundraiser allows donors to give just \$25 to purchase a fence post that they will be able to paint and decorate as they see fit and then bring back to the schools to be added to the final garden fences.

"The fence will be bright and colorful and filled with art," Hegewald said.

Another fundraiser will seek higher funds, but those funds will help with various aspects of the outdoor learning centers. Giving \$50 will help to purchase native plants for the gardens, while \$200 will help offset the costs of the Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School technical education classes that are building picnic benches for the learning centers. A gift of \$500 will help each garden build a shed.

It was easy to find space for the

learning centers because rural school districts tend to have a lot of open space available, according to Hegewald. The outdoor learning center at Wittenberg Elementary-Middle School will have the vegetable garden located outside the school's cafeteria, she said, while the pollinator garden will be located near the playground area and expected to be close to the size of a football field.

"They'll be able to look outside and see where their food might come from," Hegewald said, noting that the gardens will also have composting stations to allow students to learn where their food waste goes. "I think that we'll have this full circle learning started just by looking out those windows."

At Birnamwood Elementary-Middle School, the outdoor learning center will be located in the field behind the school gymnasium, according to Hegewald, which will be in close proximity to a wooded area.

The gardens at both schools will be filled with plants native to Wisconsin, according to Hegewald, that will attract beneficial pollinators.

Ground preparation is currently taking place for these outdoor learn-

FYI

Anyone wishing to donate or purchase a fence post for the outdoor learning centers can inquire at any of the school offices. For information about the program, contact Ashley Hegewald at hegewaldashley@gmail.com.

ing centers, Hegewald said. The high school's tech ed program is currently building the needed amenities like the benches and sheds, and she hopes that means the work can begin in May.

"They've been so helpful about it and so excited," Hegewald said. "They used to go to school at the elementary-middle schools and now the teachers say they're just excited to give back to the community with their skills."

There will also need to be some raised garden beds built to allow the plants space to grow, according to Hegewald. Carrots, pumpkins and more are planned for the vegetable gardens.

"My goal is to build the garden so that every student can have at least one carrot from the garden," she said. "We also want to grow some popcorn for the PTO (parent-teacher organization) popcorn days."

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SENIOR LIVING

Initiative to help vaccinate vulnerable seniors

By **RACHEL TREISMAN**
Wisconsin Public Radio

The country's rollout of COVID-19 vaccines is picking up speed, with a third new vaccine ramping up production and an accelerated timeline promising enough supply for every American adult by the end of May.

Still, the process of finding and booking appointments remains difficult for many eligible individuals. Now, a new initiative by more than a dozen health insurance providers is aiming to promote health equity by making it easier for seniors from underserved populations to get vaccinated.

Andy Slavitt, senior adviser on the White House COVID-19 Response Team, said at a regular briefing that the pilot program will help 2 million of the country's most vulnerable seniors overcome three commonly-cited challenges: questions about the vaccine, scheduling and transportation.

"This commitment came from organizations who have the call centers, technology and community relationships to run a pilot program like this, and it comes on the heels of our call to action last week to the private sector to use their talents and resources to help bring a quicker end to this crisis," Slavitt said.

Through the Vaccine Community Connectors pilot, Slavitt said, providers will contact unvaccinated Americans over the age of 65 who live in areas of "high social vulnerability" to talk about the efficacy, safety and value of vaccines. They will also facilitate registration and appointment scheduling, arrange transportation to and from sites and ensure individuals return for their second shot. Slavitt added they are looking to deploy mobile vans in certain communities.

In a press release announcing the initiative, members of the trade groups America's Health Insurance Plans and Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association said providers will use enrollee data, analytics and government resources to help identify vulnerable communities and tailor their outreach to them.

For example, they said, some communities will be best served by mobile clinics or language assistance,



Vaccine clinics are taking place Thursdays and Fridays at the old Lakeland Center, 504 Lakeland Road, Shawano. If you can't get an appointment there, there is a new initiative to help seniors find locations that offer coronavirus vaccines.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

while others will benefit most from free transportation provided by ride-sharing services.

"Improving health equity means setting important goals, removing barriers to better care and meeting people where they are," said Tonya Adams, national spokesperson for the Vaccine Community Connectors program and chief customer experience officer at Regence BlueCross BlueShield.

The U.S. is racing to vaccinate its population in the face of a number of newly emerging coronavirus variants, and as several states have moved to roll back mask mandates and other public health directives.

Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, warned at Wednesday's briefing — as she has since late last week — that recent progress in slowing the pandemic appears to be stalling. The most recent seven-day average of new cases stands at 66,000, an increase of 3.5% over the previous seven days. And the most recent seven-day average of deaths increased 2.2% over that period to slightly more than 2,000 deaths a day.

She urged Americans to continue masking up, observing social distancing and avoiding gatherings, measures she said would determine the course of the virus in the "pivotal"

months before the country can be vaccinated en masse.

Some 15.6% of the U.S. popula-

tion has had at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, according to an National Public Radio tracker.

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SAVVY SENIOR

How to search for senior discounts in 2021

By JIM MILLER

Special to NEW Media

Dear Savvy Senior,

I just turned 60 and would like to find out the best way to go about locating senior discounts.

Looking to Save

Dear Looking,

One of the best, yet underutilized perks of growing older in the United States is the many discounts that are available to older adults.

There are literally thousands of discounts on a wide variety of products and services including restaurants, grocery stores, travel and lodging, entertainment, retail and apparel, health and beauty, automotive services and much more. These discounts — typically ranging between 5 and 25% off — can add up to save you hundreds of dollars each year.

The first thing to know is that most businesses don't advertise them, but many give senior discounts just for the asking, so don't be shy.

You also need to know that while some discounts are available as soon

as you turn 50, most don't kick in until you turn 55, 60, 62 or 65.

Because senior discounts frequently change and can vary depending on where you live and the time of the year, the internet is the easiest way to locate them.

A good place to start is at The-SeniorList.com (click on the "Senior Discounts" tab), which provides a large list of discounts in categories, i.e. restaurant dining, grocery stores, retail stores, prescription medications, travel discounts and more.

You can also search for discounts by provider. Go to a search engine like Google and Yahoo and type in the business or organization you're curious about, followed by "senior discount" or "senior discount tickets."

Another good avenue to senior discounts is through membership organizations like AARP, which offers its members age 50 and older a wide variety of discounts through affiliate businesses (see AARPdiscounts.com).

If, however, you don't like or agree with AARP, there are other organizations you can join that also provide

discounts like the American Seniors Association (AmericanSeniors.org), the American Automobile Association (AAA.com), or for retired federal workers, the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE.org).

Here's an abbreviated rundown of some of the different types of discounts you can expect to find.

Restaurants: Senior discounts are common at restaurants and fast-food establishments — like Applebee's, Arby's, Burger King, Chili's, Denny's and IHOP — ranging from free/discounted drinks, to discounts off your total order.

Retailers: Many thrift stores like Goodwill and Salvation Army, and certain retailers like TJ Maxx, Banana Republic, Kohl's, Michaels, Ross and Walgreens stores offer a break to seniors on certain days of the week.

Grocery stores: Many locally owned grocery stores offer senior discount programs, as do some chains like BI-LO, Piggly-Wiggly, Fry's Food Stores, New Seasons, Fred Meyer, and Hy-Vee, which offer discounts on

certain days of the week but they vary by location.

Travel: American, United and Southwest Airlines provide limited senior fares in the U.S. to passengers 65 and older, while British Airlines offers AARP members discounts of up to \$200. Amtrak provides a 15% discount to travelers over 62. Most car rental companies give discounts to 50-plus customers or those who belong to organizations like AARP. Royal Caribbean, Norwegian, Celebrity and Carnival cruise lines offer discount rates to cruisers 55 and over. And, most hotels offer senior discounts, usually ranging from 10 to 20%.

Entertainment: Most movie theaters, museums, golf courses, ski slopes and other public entertainment venues provide reduced admission to seniors over 60 or 65. And the National Park Service offers a lifetime senior pass for those 62 and older for \$80 (see nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm).

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

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Schools have preliminary plans for graduation

Some schools returning to traditional graduations, others get creative with celebrating seniors

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

Just over a year into the COVID-19 pandemic, area high schools are still having to adjust their plans for graduation.

Most schools in the area plan to hold their graduation ceremonies in late May and early June. Due to the pandemic last year, most of the schools were forced to change that. This year, some of the schools are looking to return to that normal time slot to hold their ceremonies. As we start to return to normalcy, some schools already have preliminary plans on what graduates can expect to happen come May and June.

Shawano Community High School plans to hold its graduation ceremony on schedule on May 28, but instead of the traditional location of the school's field house, it will once again be held on the football field, where grads can social distance, according to principal Scott Zwirschitz. The 2020 graduation had to be postponed to August and held on the field with limited attendance from family members and limited to the presentation of the diplomas.

"It is difficult to plan a graduation at a facility outside of your own. I am hoping that we can have the graduation in person and together, but we will have to wait and see about the cases."

TIM MAYER, Bonduel High School principal

poned to August and held on the field with limited attendance from family members and limited to the presentation of the diplomas.

"We believe we can have more spectators outside than inside, but we will have a contingency plan to move it back inside the gym if the weather doesn't look like it's going to cooperate," said Zwirschitz, noting that moving it into the field house would limit the number of spectators that would be allowed inside.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School is planning to hold its graduation ceremony in a similar fashion as last year. Weather permitting, the ceremony will be held on May 28 at 6 p.m. on the football field. The

graduates will be up in the bleachers, while guests of the graduates will be socially distanced on the football field.

"Having the graduation ceremony outside on the football field was successful last year," said principal Bill Hass. "We received very good feedback on doing it that way last year."

The Bonduel School District is undecided of what its plans are regarding graduation moving forward. The school board will thoroughly study trends and the amount of COVID-19 cases that are present in the Bonduel area to decide what an appropriate celebration would be, according to Tim Mayer, high school and middle school principal.

Last year, the school held a virtual ceremony and presented it at the Shawano Cinema drive-in movie theater, 1494 E. Green Bay St., Shawano. School principal Tim Mayer said that something like that could happen again this year. With all of the factors that are coming into play on how the graduates will be honored, Mayer hopes that it can be in person.

"It is difficult to plan a graduation at a facility outside of your own," said Mayer. "I am hoping that we can have the graduation in person and together, but we will have to wait and see about the cases."

Menominee Indian High School principal Chuck Raasch has preliminary plans of holding gatherings in the school's gymnasium on May 26.

There will be two separate sections comprised of graduates based on the letter that their last name starts with. Students whose last name start with A-L will be honored at 5 p.m. while those starting with M-Z will be honored at 7 p.m.

Each graduate will have four tickets to use to invite guests, according to Raasch. Each person entering the gymnasium will have to follow the safety procedures put into place, including having temperatures taken, practicing social distancing and wearing masks. Each person will also be recorded for contact tracing. The gymnasium will be sanitized between sessions.

Last year, MIHS held graduation in its parking lot. Students got out of their cars to receive their diploma and were verbally congratulated by the superintendent and Raasch. The entire graduation was broadcast on Facebook Live.

"Our preliminary plans are to hold a somewhat traditional graduation this year," said Raasch. "It would be nice to have everyone together."

Gillett Secondary School is planning on having its graduation ceremony as traditional as possible, according to principal Jason Dreier. With just under 50 seniors this year, Dreier does not expect a lot of people to fill up the gym for graduation.

Dreier noted that there were roughly 50 graduates last year. With that number not being staggeringly high, Dreier hopes that the pandemic won't be an issue. The graduation is going to be held on May 30. Even with the small gathering, the graduates, members of the school board and visitors are going to follow the COVID-19 mandates, including social distancing and wearing masks.

Last year, the graduates were celebrated online as each senior was highlighted in a Facebook post on the school district's Facebook page. A YouTube video was also made of all of the seniors detailing their plans after school. Finally, a commencement ceremony was held on the track in August.

"Our plan is to have a traditional graduation this year," said Dreier. "We are still going to comply with the COVID-19 mandates for graduation, too."



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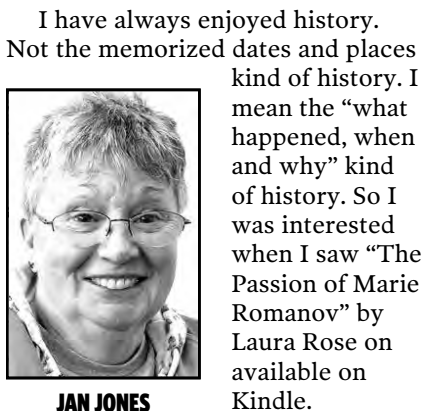
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JAN JONES

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History is full of stories about the last Russian royal family and how they died. In this novel, Rose uses historical facts blended with conjecture to create a believable narration of the last days of their lives.

She opens the story with the confession of a young man conscripted to guard “The House of Special Purpose” where the Tsarina and the Romanov children lived. The children were Olga, Tatiana, Marie, Anastasia and their brother, Alexis. The family was aware that there was a great upheaval in land but aren't deeply concerned that a true revolution could ever happen while the Tsar lived.

That changed on March 13, 1917. The events that followed were recorded in Marie's journal. The Tsar had been in Stavka for the past week and expected back that night, but he hadn't arrived or sent word that he'd be delayed. Several of the family's supporters and court functionaries sent word that they would be returning as quickly as possible. Their travels would depend on what the Bolsheviks allowed.

That fateful night the mansion lost power. The guards who usually protected them disappeared. Soon the bitter cold seeped into the opulent rooms. Tsarina Alexandra made her way to the second floor and summoned Marie, allowing the other girls to sleep. From then on Marie would be sleeping in the Red Room with their mother. They all did their best to maintain a calm, daily routine, but little by little their staff of servants began to disappear. Only the most loyal refused to leave.

When she had time to herself, Marie wondered at why she and not Tatiana had been asked to sleep in their

AT A GLANCE

BOOK: “The Passion of Marie Romanov”

AUTHOR: Laura Rose

PUBLISHER: Memoir House

PUBLISHED: 2014

PAGES: 332

mother's room? She also reminisced about how idyllic her life had been.

All the Romanov children were cherished by their parents, even when the people were disappointed each time a girl was born. They were overjoyed when Alexei was born, so the family did its best to minimize the knowledge of the boy's condition — what we now know was hemophilia.

The child was in constant danger. The slightest bump could cause uncontrollable bleeding. One of the few who could give the child relief was the “mad monk” Rasputin, but no one knew where he was.

It didn't take long to realize that they were prisoners in the mansion. And though she kept up a brave front, the Tsarina knew that the Tsar's saving return was doubtful.

At first, Tsar Nicholas offered to abdicate, making Alexei Tsar. Then, he offered the position to his brother Michael, but Michael refused. Now the family faced either execution or exile.

Most would have chosen to live in exile, but the Tsarina was adamant about preferring to die rather than live in exile. We will never know if that deep loyalty to Russia caused the Romanovs to be killed, but the Bolsheviks' level of hatred ran high enough to almost guarantee it.

The Tsar finally managed to rejoin his family. Over the next 18 months, the family was moved several times. Sometimes they were well cared for and others they were treated with disdain or worse. As she records her feelings and impressions, we see a 19-year-old girl become a woman and Marie accept the fact that her entire family will soon be dead.

While I prefer books that make me look for answers, once in a while I need to ground myself in real life, even when it is horrific. Your public library can help you stay grounded. This would be a good week to stop by and check it out.



Do you know what's happening in your child's school?

Wisconsin law says it's your right to know – but that right may be going away.

Under **Senate Bill 55** and **Assembly Bill 60**, school boards, city councils, village boards and county boards would no longer be required to print a summary of their actions in your local newspaper and on the statewide public notice website, www.WisconsinPublicNotices.org.

SB55 and AB60 must be stopped.

Contact your state representative today and tell them you want your local government business to remain in your community newspaper and on the statewide public notice website.

WITTENBERG
ENTERPRISE
& BIRNAMWOOD NEWS



The current playground at Olga Brener Intermediate School is unsatisfactory to school and district officials. Some of the existing equipment will stay and be added to the new equipment that the school is looking into purchasing.

LUKE REIMER | NEW MEDIA

Olga Brener to update playground equipment

Total costs for the equipment would be about \$114K

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

The Shawano School District Buildings and Grounds Committee is recommending installing new playground equipment at Olga Brener Intermediate School.

On March 17, the committee met with Lee Recreation to discuss upgrading the current playground. Jeff Thompson, a representative for the company, led a presentation, highlighting different equipment that could be included in the new playground.

Prior to the presentation, Shawn Mathwich, buildings and grounds director for the Shawano School District, led Thompson on a tour of the current playground. After an inspection, Thompson noticed red flags, including non-compliance issues, outdated playground equipment and spots where the playground area was flooded with water. Thompson suggested that the district let Lee Recreation upgrade its playground.

"Part of it was, what can we do to provide; not only bringing you guys up to compliance in terms of surfacing," said Thompson. "Secondly, upgrading

your equipment that is deteriorating in the best economical way and then third would be to provide some opportunities for inclusive play for those individual students that may need it."

Thompson suggested to install an artificial surface, while using wood chips, in hopes of avoiding the use of shredded rubber. He outlined a plan for an asphalt path. Using asphalt would provide easy snow removal, as well as efficient access to the playground for those who use a mobility device.

Included in the presentation was the Volta Spinner, which works like a merry-go-round with enough seating for nine children to use at a time. Thompson also mentioned the Inclusive Orbit, which is also similar to a merry-go-round like structure that is flushed with the surface that it stands on. The spinners are usually a very popular item within playgrounds.

"The spinner is utilized immensely up at Hillcrest," said Mathwich. "The kids absolutely love that piece."

One piece of equipment that Thompson was very excited about was the Brava Swing. The Brava Swing is different than a regular swing, in that those who use the swing, will be able to use their legs and arms to propel themselves back and forth. The swing provides inclusivity to children who may use a mobile device or have a disability.

Finally, a big new play set will be

part of the installation. Some spots on the play set, like the slides extend up as far as eight feet high.

Even though new equipment is being introduced, not all of the current equipment will be leaving, just the parts that aren't in good shape. The playground will be condensed too, offering easier supervision for those in charge and giving the students a chance to be closer together with each other.

If a decision is made soon, the playground project would be expected to finish by the end of June, costing \$114,607 including Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant items. For additional add-ons, it would cost another \$9,471.

Some of the equipment would be paid for with the money coming from the district's fund balance. There is also a possibility that the board can ask the school's parent-teacher organization if there are funds available, as the PTO has done fundraising for the playground in the past.

"I think it is worth an ask if the PTO has funds that they would contribute to a piece of equipment," said Superintendent Randi Anderson. "It shows a little sake in the game in our parents and the community for this building."

Building this playground facility would also add a spot where people in the neighborhood with or without disabilities can come and spend their time.

"It would be a good thing for the entire community, because currently the city does not have a park that is wheelchair anything," said school board president Tyler Schmidt. "The more area that we have as a hard surface for those individuals to move around, the better off we are."

All of the equipment that was discussed is ADA approved, giving those with disabilities an opportunity to use the equipment as well.

As far as removing some of the existing equipment, Mathwich hopes that someone can excavate it, rather than the grounds crew do it themselves.

"If we were going to try and replace the swing set, we are going to destroy them," said Mathwich. "I think personally, that if we are going to do, we need to do it right the first time."

Instead of trying to rebuild and move all of the old equipment, the board agreed that they would rather bring in the new equipment.

"We have a beautiful proposal in front of us, I think it is an opportunity for us to reface the outside, ensure ADA compliance and have a beautiful playground for Olga Brener," said Anderson.

The committee plans to bring the proposal of the playground as well as where the costs are coming from to the full school board in early April.

lreimer@newmedia-wi.com

"It would be a good thing for the entire community, because currently the city does not have a park that is wheelchair anything. The more area that we have as a hard surface for those individuals to move around, the better off we are."

TYLER SCHMIDT, Shawano School Board president

BBBS event brings community together



At the March 20 event in Franklin Park in Shawano, game stations were held for both children and adults to participate in. Many people had different strategies to winning the games, but Bucky Badger and the Shawano Hawk got the most creative in the football throwing game.



ABOVE: The Shawano varsity baseball team was in attendance at Franklin Park on March 20 to help out with the dizzy baseball game. Participants spun around in circles and then tried to hit a ball off of the tee as far as they could.

RIGHT: The game that made everyone laugh the most at the March 20 event was charades. Here, the sun shined down on Aubrielle Curran as she acted out a guitar player. Families were given the opportunity to act out different occupations and sports.



PHOTOS BY LUKE REIMER • REPORTER

NOTICE OF PUBLIC TEST AND CANVASS

Notice is hereby given the public testing of the DS-200 Precinct Tabulating Equipment and the AutoMARK marking device being used in municipalities within Marathon County—Spring Election, Tuesday, April 6, 2021 is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. — 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 29, 2021. Municipalities within Marathon County will be publicly testing the DS-200 Tabulating Equipment and AutoMARK at the Municipal Clerk's Office in conjunction with the County Clerk's Office. Contact the Municipal Clerk for their scheduled time for testing.

The Marathon County Canvass Board will be canvassing election materials from the Tuesday, April 6, 2021 Spring Election on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. at Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau, Assembly Room and Tuesday, April 13, 2021 to complete the canvass, including any rehabilitated Provisional Ballots.

WNAXLP

Notice of Public Test
on Electronic Voting Equipment

Notice is hereby given that the following municipalities will conduct a pre-election public test on the required electronic voting equipment to be used at the **Spring Election on April 6, 2021**. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Town of Wittenberg: Tues., March 30th @ 10:00 a.m.
Wittenberg Town Hall,
W17395 Co. Rd. Q., Wittenberg.

Village of Wittenberg: Weds., March 31st @ 10:00 a.m.
Wittenberg Community Center,
208 W. Vinal St., Wittenberg.

WNAXLP

VILLAGE OF WITTENBERG

NOTICE OF ABSENTEE VOTING AT HOMME HOME OF WITTENBERG
FOR THE SPRING ELECTION
ON APRIL 6, 2021

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Monday, March 29, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. Special Voting Deputies, appointed by the Village of Wittenberg, will conduct absentee voting for qualified residents of Homme Home for the Aging at 604 S. Webb St. A qualified elector is any U.S. citizen who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day, who has resided in the municipality where he or she wishes to vote for at least 28 consecutive days before the election and is a registered voter.

Only observers from each of the two recognized political parties whose candidates for governor or president received the greatest number of votes in the municipality at the most recent general election may accompany the deputies to each facility where absentee voting will take place. The observers may observe the process of absentee ballot distribution in the common areas of the home, facility, or complex. Each party wishing to have an observer present shall submit the name of the observer to the clerk or board of election commissioners no later than the close of business on the last business day prior to the visit.

Family members of residents may be present at the time of voting.

Traci Matsche
Village Clerk

WNAXLP

WBHS forensics team to district festival



The Wittenberg-Birnhamwood High School forensics team completed their first asynchronous sub-district festival at the end of February, and they are now moving on to the district festival in mid March. The competitions this year are completely virtual. This week, their district entries are submitted and each student must earn three scores of twenty in order to advance to state in April. The students involved in WBHS forensics this year are Brian Nelson, a senior in the Moments in History category; Taylor Bergner, a sophomore in the prose reading category; Jessica Storlie, a sophomore in the prose reading category; and Alex Centeno, a sophomore competing in the informative speaking category.

CONTRIBUTED

Have a story idea? Email us!
wittenberg@newmedia-wi.com

Notice of Spring Election – Tuesday, April 6, 2021
Polling Place Locations

Notice is hereby given that a Spring Election will be held on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 in the Towns, Villages and City in Shawano County. All polling places will be open at 7:00 a.m. and will close at 8:00 p.m. All polling places are handicapped accessible.

<u>Town, Village or City</u>	<u>Polling Place</u>	<u>Town, Village or City Hall Address</u>	<u>Municipal Clerk</u>
Town of Almon	Almon Town Hall	N8096 Regina Rd, Bowler	Heather Matsche
Town of Aniwa	Aniwa Town Hall	W17712 Co Rd. Z, Birnamwood	Tammy Resch
Town of Birnamwood	Birnamwood Town Hall	N9291 Riverview Rd, Birnamwood	Dennis Knaak
Town of Germania	Germania Town Hall	W18101 Co. Rd. M, Tigerton	Kathryn Breaker
Town of Morris	Morris Town Hall	N15320 Berg Rd, Tigerton	Vicki Kennedy
Town of Wittenberg	Wittenberg Town Hall	W17395 Co Rd. Q, Wittenberg	Linda Fletcher
Village of Birnamwood	Matsche Community Center	362 Railroad St. Birnamwood	Lauri Klumppan
Village of Eland	Eland Village Hall	W19141 Maple St, Eland	Marnie Osterbrink
Village of Wittenberg	Wittenberg Community Center	208 W. Vinal St, Wittenberg	Traci Matsche

Notice of Meeting of the Local Board of Canvassers

At the close of voting on Election Day, pursuant to the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 19.84, the Election Inspectors at each polling place will convene as the Local Canvassing Board for the purpose of conducting the local canvass pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 7.51. This meeting will be open to the public pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 19.81-89.

Notice of Meeting of the Local and Municipal Board of Canvassers

At the close of voting on Election Day, pursuant to the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 19.84, the Election Inspectors will convene as a joint meeting of the Local Board of Canvassers and the Municipal Board of Canvassers for the purpose of conducting the local and municipal canvasses pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 7.51 and 7.53(1). This meeting will be open to the public pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 19.81-89.

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a.m. (open meeting) at First American
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AA Group Meeting: 24 hour group
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Co-Dependency Meeting Thursdays at
noon. St. James Lutheran Church, 1402
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Library celebrating National Poetry Month

April is National Poetry Month and Shawano County Library will be highlighting different poems, poets, and related activities during the entire month.

The Academy of American Poets describes the month as a time to “remind the public that poets have an integral role to play in our culture and that poetry matters.” National Poetry Month launched in 1996, making this year the 25th celebration.

The library will be celebrating by offering a variety of virtual programs available on the library’s Facebook page. During the programs, patrons will see and hear friendly staff faces, a few star patrons, and a wide variety of poems. Poetry readings will take place every Monday through Friday in April at 8 a.m.

Other virtual programs include do-it-yourself magnetic refrigerator

poetry on April 1 at 9 a.m., as well as learning how to make infused water through the Hungry Librarians program on April 12 at 9 a.m. A Blackout Poetry event will take place April 14 at 9 a.m., and patrons can learn how to make their own cake box journal on April 21 at 9 a.m.

There will also be a virtual challenge available through Beanstack (shawanolibrary.beanstack.org). Patrons can sign up for a Beanstack account anytime and get started on this challenge on April 1. The challenge will allow patrons to explore poetry more fully through poetry readings, delving into the different types of poetry, creating their own Mad Libs-style poetry, as well as many other great activities.

For information, contact the library at sha@shawanolibrary.org or 715-526-3829.

WNA launches editorial writing, cartoon contest

As a continuation of its efforts to increase civic education and engagement, the Wisconsin Newspaper Association Foundation has launched the Wisconsin Civics Games Editorial Writing and Cartoon Contest.

The contest will celebrate the rights established by the First Amendment. The contest is open to all Wisconsin middle and high school students.

“We were thrilled by the enthusiastic statewide response to the launch of the Wisconsin Civics Games in 2019 and shared in the disappointment this year’s games had to be canceled because of the pandemic,” said WNA Foundation Board Member Eve Galanter, who helped spearhead the Wisconsin Civics Games. “We didn’t want to lose the critical connections that had been made or the momentum that had been built toward fostering civic and civil engagement.

“During this challenging time, we decided to continue these efforts with the launch of an editorial writing and cartoon contest.”

For the writing contest, high

school students will be asked to write a guest column of 500 words or less about the First Amendment, and middle school students will be asked to write a letter to the editor of 200 words or less on the same topic. Students wishing to compete in the editorial cartoon contests may do so by submitting one First Amendment-themed editorial cartoon. Entries can be submitted online.

The entry deadline is May 15, and winners will be announced on July 1.

First-place winners will receive \$500, second-place winners will receive \$250, third-place winners will receive \$100 and honorable mention recipients will receive \$50.

In addition to being published on the Wisconsin Newspaper Association’s website, winning entries will also appear in newspapers across the state.

Additional information can be found at wisconsincivicsgames.com. Those interested in providing support through a donation or sponsorship can also find more information on the Civics Games website.

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SPORTS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Wisconsin men finish 1-1 in NCAA Tournament

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

The Wisconsin men's basketball team was unable to rally from an 18-point deficit in a 76-63 second round NCAA Tournament loss to top-seeded Baylor on March 21 in Indianapolis.

The ninth-seeded Badgers turned the ball over 14 times in the contest, with most of the turnovers occurring in the first half. Wisconsin trailed 42-29 at halftime and then was down by 18 points early in the second half.

The Badgers were able to cut the deficit to seven a couple times, but eventually they ran out of time.

D'Mitrik Trice led Wisconsin with 12 points, while Nate Reuvers had 11. Micah Potter and Jonathan Davis each scored 10 points off the bench.

Potter grabbed 10 rebounds to record a double-double. He also had three assists and three blocks.

Both teams converted 25 of their 55 field goal attempts while each knocked down eight 3-pointers. The difference was at the free-throw line, where Baylor outscored Wisconsin 18-5.



Wisconsin forward Micah Potter, center, has his shot blocked by Baylor guard Matthew Mayer, left, in the first half of a second round NCAA Tournament game March 21 at Hinkle Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

MICHAEL CONROY | THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wisconsin ends the season with an 18-13 record. The Badgers went

just 10-10 in Big Ten play.

To open the tournament, Wisconsin

dominated from start to finish in an 85-62 win over North Carolina on March 19 in West Lafayette, Indiana.

The Badgers were led on offense by Brad Davison and Trice. Davison made five 3-pointers and 10 of his 15 shots in a 29-point outburst. Trice converted eight of his 15 shots to add 21 points.

Against a taller and more athletic eighth-seeded North Carolina front line, the Badgers actually controlled the glass, out-rebounding the Tar Heels 37-34.

Davison and Davis led the team with six rebounds each. Trice, Al-eem Ford and Reuvers each grabbed five boards.

Reuvers and Potter proved to be a strong last line of defense for Wisconsin, blocking four and three shots, respectively.

As a team, Wisconsin shot over 50% from the floor, while holding North Carolina to just 38.5%. The Badgers made eight more 3-pointers (13-5) and only committed 11 fouls in the contest.

Wisconsin's 85 points was tied for the second-highest mark of the season.

Deer season planning meetings running through April 1

Feedback to be provided online in mid-April

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources announced March 18 that the 2021 County Deer Advisory Councils' planning meetings will take place virtually March 22 through April 1 to discuss the upcoming deer seasons.

Wisconsin's hunting legacy runs deep. Everyone has a say about the deer herd in Wisconsin, and the DNR wants to hear from you. Anyone interested in listening to their county's meeting can join from the comfort of home.

Every county in Wisconsin has its own CDAC (<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Hunt/cdac>), and each spring they meet to develop recommendations for antlerless harvest goals, antlerless tag availability and season options for their county. The recommendations for the 2021 deer hunting season are provided to the

Natural Resources Board (<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/NRB>) along with recommendations from the DNR.

Councils will develop their recommendations using two meetings separated by a public input period to provide transparency and multiple opportunities for public input. After each meeting, the DNR will update the CDAC website with meeting summaries and preliminary recommendations.

The councils will meet virtually via Zoom to develop preliminary recommendations on harvest quotas and season structure options. Oconto County is set to meet March 29 at 6 p.m., with Shawano County meeting on March 30 at 7 p.m.

Zoom link and call-in numbers are available at <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/CDACFind.aspx>.

All council meetings are open to

the public. Anyone wishing to provide feedback will be asked to do so using the online public input form available on the DNR website from April 12-25.

The agenda for each county's meeting will include the development of antlerless harvest goals and season framework recommendations for the 2021 deer season to achieve each county's deer population objective. Options under discussion include the antlerless deer harvest quota and various season framework options such as offering the holiday hunt or extended archery/crossbow seasons. The public can view the presentations from DNR wildlife biologists regarding objectives at <https://dnrmedia.wi.gov/main/Catalog/catalogs/2021-county-deer-advisory-council-county-wildlife-biologist-presentations>.

A second round of meetings will take place in May, during which council members will review public comments and make final recom-

mendations for the 2021 deer season. The DNR will review the final CDAC recommendations following the May meetings and provide CDAC and department recommendations to the Natural Resources Board for approval in June.

Each county in Wisconsin has a County Deer Advisory Council to provide input and recommendations to the department on deer management within their county. Councils work with local DNR staff to schedule meetings, provide community outreach and an opportunity for public input, review population data and deer impacts on forests and agriculture, develop recommendations on county population objectives and create annual antlerless harvest quotas.

The public can submit questions about the process to DNRCDACWebMail@wisconsin.gov. Information is available on the DNR's County Deer Advisory Councils website.

COLLEGE HOCKEY

Watts scores in OT, Wisconsin women win title

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Daryl Watts scored a remarkable goal 3 minutes, 16 seconds into overtime, giving Wisconsin a record-tying sixth national title with a 2-1 victory over Northeastern in the women's Frozen Four championship game March 20 in Erie, Pennsylvania.

Watts had the puck behind the Northwestern net when Husky defenseman Megan Carter turned her back. Watts, the leading scorer in the country, intentionally banked the puck off Carter's back and it deflected by goalie Aerin Frankel.

"Literally, I'm speechless right now," Watts said after her 19th goal ended the fourth overtime game in the 20th women's Frozen Four. "I have no words. This is unbelievable.

"My mind is kind of a blur right now. I was pretty sure I could bank it off her."

Second-seeded Wisconsin (17-3-1) tied Minnesota for the most national titles and technically is a back-to-back champion since the 2020 NCAA Tournament was not held because of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Wisconsin celebrates its NCAA title win over Northeastern on March 20 at Erie Insurance Arena in Erie, Pennsylvania.

GREG WOHLFORD | ERIE TIMES-NEWS VIA AP

Tight checking kept two high-powered offenses in check until midway through the third period. Then the teams, neither of which had been shut out all year, swapped goals 39 seconds apart.

It started with Wisconsin freshman Makenna Webster getting her

eighth when she banged in a rebound of Casey O'Brien's shot with eight minutes left in regulation.

Then Alina Mueller dug the puck out on the end board and found Chloe Aurand in the left circle for a one-timer. Aurand went far corner top shelf for her 15th for the top-seeded Huskies.

Northeastern got a great opportunity late when Britta Curl was penalized for a cross check with 5 1/2 minutes to play, but goalie Kennedy Blair and the Badgers killed off their fourth penalty.

"We did a great job killing penalties and having momentum a bunch in the second and third period," longtime Wisconsin coach Mark Johnson said. "When we got that one goal, I thought that might be enough but give them credit. They came right back the next shift to tie it up. Then it comes down to one shot. I didn't think it was going to come from behind the net."

In addition to 2019, Wisconsin won titles in 2011, 2009, 2007 and 2006 in nine championship game appearances, all under Johnson.

"I haven't met a national championship trophy I didn't like," Johnson said.

Northeastern (22-2-1) had a 22-game unbeaten streak with 18-straight wins. The Huskies were in their first Frozen Four and were trying to win the school's first NCAA championship game in any sport.

The Huskies, who had one penalty, were outshot 37-25 and held to one goal for only the third time this season.

COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Des Moines Area

Gresham Community High School graduate Christian Haffner and the Des Moines Area Community College (Iowa) men's basketball team suffered a pair of losses last week.

In a 72-70 loss to Indian Hills Community College (Iowa) on March 17, Haffner scored 14 points, hitting four 3-pointers and a pair of free throws. He also posted three rebounds and an assist while playing 36 minutes.

DMACC dropped an 83-73 game against Southeastern Community College (Iowa) on March 20. Haffner tallied 13 points and had three triples among his five field goals. He also added an assist and a steal across 29 minutes.

North Iowa Area

Oconto Falls grad Samantha Coron played in two matches for the North Iowa Area Community College women's volleyball team last week.

In a 3-0 win over Iowa Lakes Community College on March 18, Coron contributed six digs, four assists and

two attack kills.

Coron recorded 13 digs, two assists, three attack kills and a serving ace during a 3-0 loss to Des Moines Area Community College on March 21.

St. Norbert

Oconto Falls graduate and current St. Norbert College track and field athlete Emily Gonnering competed in four events during the season-opening Equinox Classic on March 20.

Gonnering's top finish came in the javelin throw, where she placed seventh with a top throw of 23.25 meters. She came in 11th in the discus (25.49).

Gonnering took 14th in the shot put (8.36) and didn't post a mark in the hammer throw.

Bonduel grad Noah Beilfuss, Wittenberg-Birnamwood grad Simon Stewart and Oconto Falls grad Mason Sefcik all pitched in the same game for the St. Norbert baseball team. St. Norbert lost 9-5 against Cornell College on March 19.

Beilfuss started the game and got the first six outs. He struck out two batters while surrendering a pair of runs on five hits.

Stewart got the next three outs, get-

ting a pair of groundouts and a flyout.

Sefcik worked the final two innings, allowing an unearned run on two hits. He struck out one batter.

Edgewood

Gresham graduate and current Edgewood College softball player Mackenzie Hoffman continued to produce for the team during several games last week.

During a 9-5 loss against Wisconsin Lutheran College in the second game of a doubleheader on March 20, Hoffman drew a pair of walks.

During a doubleheader against Alverno College on March 21, Edgewood won game one 12-9 before losing 10-9 in game two. Hoffman singled, reached on an error and laid down a sacrifice bunt while also scoring twice in game one. In game two, she singled and laid down another sac bunt.

Hamline

Shawano graduate and current Hamline University (Minnesota) tennis player Peyton Buerman competed in a doubles match during the team's 8-1 loss to St. Mary's University (Minnesota) on March 19.

Buerman and doubles partner Janie Schwartz lost an 8-3 match at No. 3 doubles.

Bryant and Stratton

Shawano graduate Bayleigh Laabs continued her strong season at the plate for the Bryant and Stratton softball team despite the team losing both games of a doubleheader against Rock Valley College (Illinois) on March 21.

In a 5-2 loss in game one, Laabs hit a solo home run for the Bobcats.

Laabs hit another homer in the team's 13-4 loss in game two. Laabs drove in three runs and also walked once.

UW-Eau Claire

Suring graduate and current UW-Eau Claire track and field athlete Mitch Stegeman was named to the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association's Midwest All-Region team in the heptathlon.

To earn All-Region honors, an athlete must be one of the top-five individuals in their respective region on the final tfrs.org list. Stegeman came in fourth in the heptathlon standings to earn his spot.

COLLEGE TRACK

Maddy Pietz continuing to shine on track

Witt-Birn grad helped relay team take 6th at NCAA Indoor Championships

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

Maddy Pietz was a track and field star during her time at Wittenberg-Birnwood High School.

Pietz has continued to shine during her time at Winona State University, recently helping the 4x400 meter relay team to a sixth-place finish at the NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Championships at the Birmingham CrossPlex in Birmingham, Alabama on March 13.

Pietz joined teammates Kalley Harris, Kendall Zeman and Brooklyn Schyvinck for the sixth-place finish, completing the relay in 3 minutes, 48.58 seconds. The finish earned the relay team All-American status.

"Competing at nationals is truly unlike anything I have experienced before," said Pietz. "It's an honor to just get to compete there, and placing in the top eight, earning All-American status was a dream I wasn't sure I'd ever achieve."

Despite an immense amount of success at the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association state track and field meet, where Pietz claimed three individual titles to go along with three first-place finishes as part of relay teams, she said competing at the indoor championships was the most nervous she'd ever been before a race.

"The track at the CrossPlex is a banked 200-meter track which was something new for me," said Pietz. "Because of COVID, we didn't have access to the track to practice or get fa-

miliar with it until literally 30 seconds before the gun went off for the race. My team and I had to adjust to the banked track on the fly, and I couldn't be happier with how we competed."

While Pietz admitted that college competitions are far different than high school ones, she did say her high school state track experience helped prepare her for "high stakes races like I was faced with down in Birmingham at Nationals."

When on the Witt-Birn 4x400 relay, Pietz served as the last runner, saying she rarely had to deal with other runners after strong efforts by teammates Paige Norrbom, Kylie Linke, and Emily Norrbom. For Winona State's 4x400 relay, Pietz is the third runner.

"It's very hard to get out of the traffic since everyone is running at a similar speed," said Pietz. "Now, when I get the baton, I know I just have to run my race and try to get as good of a position for my anchor as I possibly can."

Coming into this indoor season, Pietz knew the number of chances to compete would be low because of the pandemic. That was after she had her entire sophomore outdoor season erased because of the pandemic.

Pietz, Harris, Zeman and Schyvinck posted a time of 3:51.51 in the 4x400 relay during a dual against Minnesota State on Jan. 30. At the time, that mark was the best in all of Division II in the event.

After that day, the team only had two more meets before the indoor championships. One of those times



Winona State's Maddy Pietz, right, runs her leg of the 4x400 meter relay during the NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Championships at the Birmingham CrossPlex in Birmingham, Alabama on March 13. The relay team ended up placing sixth to earn All-American status. CONTRIBUTED

was during the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Championship on Feb. 27, where the team took first in 3:51.

The relay team then learned it was selected to compete in the indoor championships.

"This 4x400 that I was a part of was really special because I got to compete with two of my really close friends, Brooklyn Schyvinck and Kendall Zeman," said Pietz. "Brooklyn, the anchor on the team, is actually also one of my roommates, so it was pretty cool to get to experience competing at this level with her. Our leadoff runner, Kalley Harris, is a senior this year and it was really awesome to always have her leadership and poise."

Pietz's athletic accomplishments helped her land at Winona State, and her coaches haven't been disappointed as she got familiar with the college competitions.

"Maddy is an outstanding young lady," said Winona State track and field coach Mason Rebarchek. "She shows up every day with a good attitude, ready to work hard. She's a great teammate and a great leader and role model. She's a joy to coach. She's one of those individuals that you know will be successful in life after college."

Pietz can't believe next year will be her senior season already, but is going to do everything she can to soak up the time she has remaining at Winona State.

She hopes to find her way to the NCAA Division II Outdoor Championships in May, possibly again with the 4x400 relay team.

"To say that I am excited for what is to come this outdoor season is an understatement," said Pietz. "I have always loved outdoor track and field, so I can't wait to get out there after not having an outdoor season last year due to COVID."

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BOWLING			High team handicap series (top 3): Gulliver's Landing 2,647, Strike-a-pose 2,537, Lisa's Lakeside 2,474.			Tavern Front 81 115			Melody Mill 90 71		
Resch Lanes — Monday Ladies Handicap			High individual handicap series (top 7): Jordyn Krueger 689, Jenny Schrank 687, Cassie Wierzbza 683, Heather Giddings 683, Lynn Brown 670, Mary Krause 661, Tara Milanowski 649.			High team handicap games (top 3): Kemmer Electronics 1,417, Mama's Place 1,253, Liberty Potatoes 1,239.			Legacy Seed Pro 86 75		
Team	W	L	Resch Lanes — Wednesday Night Handicap			High individual handicap games (top 7): Hugh McAloon 326, Jason Harris 317, Jimmy Hohensee 302, Kirk Elliott 301, Jamie Deruchowski 296, Derrick Jehn 281, Jason Resch 280.			Gullivers 82 79		
Gulliver's Landing	45 1/2	35 1/2	Team	W	L	High team handicap series (top 3): Kemmer Electronics 3,934, Mama's Place 3,580, Liberty Potatoes 3,532			Gutt'er Done 77 84		
Resch Lanes	45 1/2	35 1/2	Liberty Potatoes	119	77	High individual handicap series (top 7): Jason Harris 865, Kirk Elliott 844, Hugh McAloon 785, Jason Resch 783, Jimmy Hohensee 783, Ervin Resch 775, Steve Burkhardt 768.			Cherek Transport 76 85		
Lisa's Lakeside	42	39	Resch Lanes (1)	99 1/2	96 1/2	Resch Lanes — Thursday Men's League			RJ Auto Repair 72 89		
Tavern Front	40	41	Mama's Place	93	103	Team	W	L	Legacy Seed 57 104		
Strike-a-pose	33	48	Hanke's Sentry Foods	86	110	Resch Lanes	104	57	High team scratch games (top 3): Resch Lanes 1,077, Legacy Seed Pro 1,037, Melody Mill 972.		
Kropf's Meats	28	53	Slammers	84	112	High team handicap games (top 3): Jason Resch 299, Jim Schultz 276, Jeff Arndt 259, Caleb Zblewski 255, Randall Skaggs 248, Greg Wolff 245, Joe Onesti 245.			High individual scratch games (top 7): Jason Resch 3,082, Resch Lanes 2,993, Melody Mill 2,894.		
High team handicap games (top 3): Gulliver's Landing 947, Strike-a-pose 900, Tavern Front 882.			Resch Lanes (2)	83 1/2	112 1/2	High team scratch series (top 3): Legacy Seed Pro 3,082, Resch Lanes 2,993, Melody Mill 2,894.			High individual scratch series (top 6): Jason Resch 729, Greg Wolff 698, Jeff Arndt 694, Jim Schultz 691, Randall Skaggs 673, Joe Onesti 655.		
High individual handicap games (top 7): Jordyn Krueger 283, Cassie Wierzbza 275, Lynn Brown 266, Heather Giddings 256, Mary Krause 255, Jenny Schrank 240, Nikki Nievinski 236.			Kemmer Electronics	82	114						



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HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

ONLINE

VOLLEYBALL

Elcho 3

Bowler 2

Bowler rallied a couple times, but eventually dropped an alternate fall season match to Elcho on March 19 in Elcho. The Panthers lost by scores of 25-19, 24-26, 25-20, 20-25, 15-8.

McKayla Putnam tallied 12 attack kills, 14 digs and nine assists for Bowler, while Morgan Paiser had eight attack kills and 16 digs. Brandi Spencer finished with 26 assists and five aces.

Tynea Johnson added six attack kills and 19 digs for the Panthers. Tia Kroening and Bertina Dodge had 10 digs each.

Tigerton 3

Elcho 0

Tigerton swept Elcho in a match on March 18 in Elcho. The Tigers won by scores of 25-18, 25-15, 25-14.

Skyler Hauser led Tigerton with 11 attack kills, seven service points and five block kills. Savannah Swartz added eight attack kills, 14 digs, 11 service

points and four aces, while Elizabeth Robbins had six digs, five assists and four attack kills.

Adrienne Brady tallied 13 assists, 11 service points and eight digs for Tigerton. Abby Swartz contributed 13 digs and six service points, while Ladia Block had 11 digs and six service points.

Tigerton 3

Menominee Indian 1

Tigerton won the final two sets to top Menominee Indian on March 16 in Keshena. Tigerton won by scores of 25-13, 18-25, 25-16, 25-13.

Savannah Swartz led Tigerton with 12 total kills, 16 service points and six aces, while Skyler Hauser added 11 digs, six attack kills and eight service points. Adrienne Brady contributed 19 assists and eight service points.

Elizabeth Robbins tallied 10 assists, nine service points and four attack kills for Tigerton. Ladia Block posted a team-leading 15 digs.



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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

Stabilizing ag economy requires structural reform

Wisconsin dairy farmers were treading water in 2020, kept afloat by direct payments from the federal government. The aid resulted in a sharp decrease in herd exits: 360 dairy farms went out of business in Wisconsin last year compared to 818 closures in 2019.

When I read the latest statistic, my first reaction was relief. It's a sad state of affairs when the average loss of one dairy farm a day in Wisconsin feels like good news. Even worse was the recognition that the underlying cause was exacerbated by the very thing that kept farmers hanging on.

The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) provided \$564 million to Wisconsin dairy farmers in 2020, accounting for over half of the farm assistance allocated to the state. The payments were sorely needed as farmers faced extreme price volatility and supply chain disruptions amid the pandemic. Government payments also tend to exacerbate overproduction which in turn creates chronically low commodity prices and leads to increased consolidation — exactly



BOBBI WILSON

the situation we find ourselves in today. After pouring billions of taxpayer dollars into the dairy industry, 2021 is starting with a glut of milk on the market, cold storage full to the hilt with butter and cheese, and depressed milk prices. As Nate Donay said in a recent Hoard's Dairyman Milk Check Outlook "we got bailed out and then we started drilling holes in our own boat." He adds that during the second half of 2020, U.S. dairy farmers added 93,000 cows, representing the fastest expansion in 22 years.

While several dairy co-ops used base-excess plans to limit milk production during the pandemic, direct payments from the government encouraged farmers elsewhere to expand. If we are going to use taxpayer dollars to bail farmers out, at the very least we shouldn't pay them to make

the problem worse.

During crises that require federal aid, such as a global pandemic, payment eligibility should include limits on overproduction. Under normal circumstances we should focus on policies that promote fair prices and keep dairy farmers in business. We need a complete overhaul of the Federal Milk Marketing Orders to promote greater transparency in milk pricing and allow farmers to capture more of the value in the dairy supply chain.

We also need a mechanism to balance milk production to meet profitable market demand. Such a program should apply to all producers to avoid the scenario where farmers in one region limit their production while farmers elsewhere ramp it up. These reforms will reduce government expenditures and better position the industry to respond to future economic shocks.

Dairy produces \$45 billion in revenue in Wisconsin a figure that is often exalted by the industry. We celebrate our state heritage of America's Dairy-

land. Given the important economic and cultural impact, one dairy farm a day should be regarded as an unacceptable loss in Wisconsin. If farm policy fails to provide a livable income that keeps farmers on the land, it is simply failing.

It's time to try something new, which is why WFU is ramping up Dairy Together efforts to address the urgency felt by family farmers to adopt real solutions. We're also building coalitions and setting the foundation for dairy reform in the 2023 Farm Bill.

Without changes to federal policy, the USDA projects farmers won't see profits like 2020, of which over a third came from direct payments, for over a decade. As 2021 gets underway with a new president and a new Congress, the best hope to truly stabilize the agricultural economy is not more exorbitant bailouts, but structural reform.

Bobbi Wilson is the policy and special projects coordinator for Wisconsin Farmers Union.

GUEST COLUMN

UW System planning to maximize in-person instruction

In a traditional university setting, students learn and grow through their interactions with peers and faculty. This sort of engagement — in and out of the classroom — builds sharper thinking, contributes to social development and enriches communities.

As University of Wisconsin System campuses plan for the fall semester, we will be seeking to maximize this engagement through in-person teaching and learning while building on our successful embrace of remote instruction. In fact, I have directed our universities to ensure that students attending a UW campus in fall 2021 will have as classic a UW campus experience as possible — including a goal of at least 75% of all classes being in person.

This school year, our universities pivoted to more remote and hybrid class offerings to afford UW students a path to a degree while ensuring the health and safety of our university



TOMMY THOMPSON

and surrounding communities. An aggressive testing program, in combination with our masking, distancing and cleaning protocols, made welcoming back students possible. We have been making improvements to our testing efforts ever since. Because of the culture of responsibility we have built at all of our universities, we now see COVID-19 infection rates below 1%. It has been a remarkable success story during perilous times.

As we look to the fall, we're not naïve. We know the pandemic still hovers over all of our lives. Yet, we also have hope that the vaccine supply will increase and know that our efforts to maintain a safe and healthy environment for students, faculty and staff will persist.

We have taken enormous steps to help students during this challenging time, including enhancing our behavioral health services and distributing millions of federal dollars to help pay the bills. We have also made it easier for prospective students to apply.

We haven't stopped at our campus borders. Over the last several months, the University of Wisconsin System has taken extraordinary steps to help Wisconsin combat the coronavirus pandemic.

We have administered about 250,000 free COVID-19 tests in our university communities. We have deployed nursing, pharmacy and other health care students to hospitals, clinics and vaccination sites. We have worked with state and local health officials to establish vaccination sites on our campuses.

We have done all of this because when Wisconsin faces a problem, the University of Wisconsin System

will step up to help solve it.

Our online education efforts have been tremendous, and we're working on ways to make them even better for those who prefer that way of learning. Moreover, our faculty have learned how to better incorporate technology into instruction — even classes taught in person.

Now it is time for us to plan to resume as much of an in-person campus experience as possible this fall. That means small-group classroom discussions about politics, history and literature. It means hands-on lab research and internships. It means cheering on athletic teams, attending live performances and socializing in the dining halls. Rest assured, we'll keep in mind the safety of everyone on campus and continue to consult with local, state and federal health experts.

Tommy Thompson is the president of the University of Wisconsin System.

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County considers abandoning printed legal notices

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

The Shawano County Executive Committee has asked county administration to develop a plan to forego the idea of having an official county newspaper and instead post legal notices on the county website.

The committee expects to review the plan at its next regular meeting April 14 for possible action by the full county board a week later.

Former Corporation Counsel Tony Kordus asked the state attorney general's office in December whether revisions to state statutes in recent years have eliminated the requirement to publish legal notices in a newspaper, "including meeting agendas, minutes, ordinances and resolutions, and public hearing notices for various zoning matters."

Bonduel attorney Tom Martell spoke with an assistant attorney general, Hannah Jurss, who said "the short answer is yes," County Board Chairman Tom Kautza told the committee.

"According to them, we no longer have to do all the publications that we were doing before," Kautza said.

"The way it talks about if you're less than 250,000 (population), you don't need to designate an official paper for your publication notices," added James Davel, interim administrative coordinator.

A number of notices are specifically required to be printed, but Class 1 and 2 legal notices and public hearings may be posted in a visible public place and on the internet, Davel said.

Committee members said ending print publication would save the money and time — especially for the Planning, Development and Zoning Department, which often must meet specific time-

lines for notices of public hearings.

"This would save PD&Z a lot of hassle as far as posting times and time frames working with the towns for public hearings," Supervisor Kevin Conradt said.

The county currently has designated the Shawano Leader as its official newspaper. The Leader has reduced its publication to once a week as a cost-saving measure since shortly after COVID-19 lockdowns were ordered.

Davel said that the Wisconsin Counties Association could not find a single county where notices are placed almost exclusively on the internet.

"Tom (Martell) was a little concerned about that. He said sometimes it's not good to be the first," Davel said. "He didn't disagree with what DOJ had sent back, but this is really a time and a cost savings across the county when you look at it."

He asked the committee for permission to develop a system for posting notices on the county website for approval in April.

"Let us as a staff go through this, and by next meeting we can give you the process we want to execute here, and then we go from that," Davel said. "That way we can talk to the department heads to make sure that we're straight across the board, and that the community gets the right information and it's easily accessible."

Beth Bennett, executive director of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association, said Shawano County has misinterpreted the meaning of the law.

"State statute says absolutely you must run legal notices in newspapers," Bennett said. "You don't need to designate an official newspaper, but you must publish in a newspaper."

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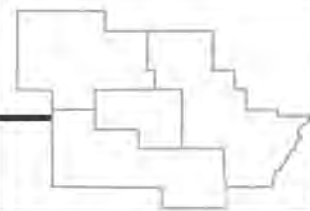
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