



ROB ZIMMER: It's too early to plant, but not to plan.

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GAUDERMAN TAKES THIRD AT STATE

Wittenberg-Birnamwood's David Gauderman, top, wrestles Reedsville's Cole Ebert during a Division 3 220-pound weight class semifinal match on Feb. 25 at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison. Gauderman went on to place third at state, while teammate Pierson Potrykus was also in action. SEE STORY ON PAGE B6 AND MORE STATE WRESTLING COVERAGE IN THE SPORTS SECTION.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

Bowler schools consider borrowing

School board approves a \$3.4 million upgrade to agriculture, tech ed departments.

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District map gets final OK

The Shawano County Board gives final approval of map for 2024 elections.

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Witt-Birn board OK's projects

Auditorium curtains, softball and baseball practice field are among items to get work this summer.

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Bowler School Board works on upgrading agriculture, CTE departments

School district considers borrowing \$3 million

By **LUKE REIMER**

Reporter

The Bowler School District is in the process of upgrading its agriculture and technology education departments.

“When I first came back to Bowler, our school board had been talking about our CTE (college technical education) offerings for our students,” said Superintendent Glenda Butterfield-Boldig.

She said the board has been looking at how they can help to fill a worker shortage in the area.

“Not everyone is going to college and with a skilled-worker shortage, some of our students have shown interest in filling those roles,” said Butterfield-Boldig. “We want the facilities to support what are students want to do when they leave.”

The school district is looking at borrowing \$3 million under Bowler’s revenue authority.

“We are not looking to go to referendum — we are not asking taxpayers to exceed the revenue limit,” said Butterfield-Boldig. “We are going to be able to make that service payment within our current revenue limit with our levy authority that we are granted by the state.”

The total projected cost for this project is \$3.4 million. The other \$400,000 will be made up through Bowler’s fund balance and additionally through applying for grants.

Butterfield-Boldig said that this has been a goal of the school board for the last three to four years.

“They have done really great

work from a fiscal perspective, making sure that when they have a surplus budget they put that money away,” said Butterfield-Boldig.

She said that the school district was looking at doing the agriculture and CTE departments separately, but with rising building supply costs, they thought the best course of action would be to do it all at once.

“That would probably be a better, more responsible thing to do,” said Butterfield-Boldig. “We have enough money in our revenue spending limit to make payments over 10 years.”

She said that she has noticed both wants and needs for upgrades to these departments within the community.

“We wanted to be sure that if students choose not to go on to a secondary education, that they have the skills necessary to succeed in these fields,” said Butterfield-Boldig. “We want our students to know that agriculture is just more than milking cows.”

She said that the school district is working with Northcentral Technical College to figure out what the Bowler community needs for jobs.

“They do a job of figuring out what the needs are in the community and working with us to help develop what should be taught in school,” said Butterfield-Boldig.

“One of the particular areas we are working on is a welding certificate. We are also working on basic machining as well.”

On the agricultural side, But-

terfield-Boldig said that they are still in the planning stages of what needs to be done.

“We are just finishing up the planning of that,” said Butterfield-Boldig. “Our new agriculture area will be a place where kids can get a hands-on experience working with animals.”

She also said that the school district is working on expanding their aquaponics area and improving their greenhouse space.

Butterfield-Boldig and the Bowler School Board are also looking at developing these departments, so that they can adapt to changing technologies.

“The last thing that we want do is spend \$3.4 million on this project and then find out five years in the future that we missed something or weren’t prepared for something,” said Butterfield-Boldig. “I do think that this provides a lot of opportunities for students.”

She added that the school district is really excited to get this project into motion.

“We are excited to be able to offer this opportunity, not only to our students, but we are hoping this new facility will give us an opportunity to be a regional training facility for workers who are out there right now,” said Butterfield-Boldig.

The Bowler School Board approved the resolution to borrow the money at their Feb. 21 school board meeting, but have to wait 30 days, until March 23, to use the money.

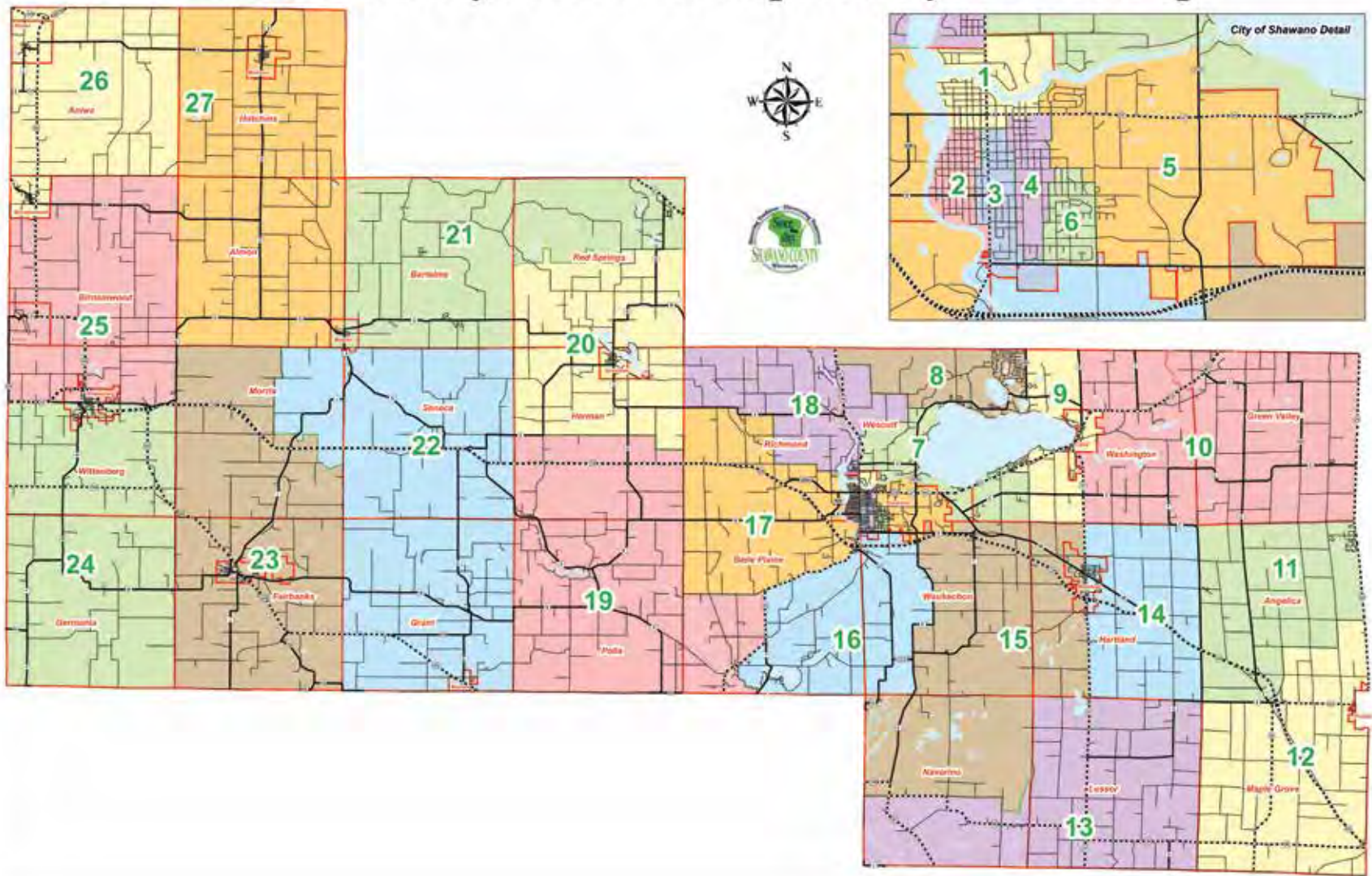
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CORRECTIONS

Accuracy is important to the Enterprise & News, and it wants to correct mistakes promptly. Call errors to our attention by phone at 715-526-2121, ext. 7018.

Shawano County 2022-2032 Supervisory District Map



Redistricting map approved by county board

By LUKE REIMER
Reporter

The Shawano County Board of Supervisors approved the proposed redistricting map during its meeting on Feb. 23.

The map was recently approved to send to the county board during the Redistricting Committee's meeting on Feb. 2. During the public forum of the Feb. 2 meeting, there was no input given by the public with questions or concerns.

The initial change for the redistricting map came during their Sep. 30 meeting when supervisors from the Town of Angelica had suggested a change.

"We would like some consideration on the maps that we sorted through," said Angelica Town Supervisor James Przybylski. "The total population works out pretty fine. We have quite a few wards, and we would like to keep it at a

minimum of at least three."

Connie Przybylski said that the Town of Angelica has talked to Shawano County GIS coordinator David Poffinbarger about the proposed redistricting map.

"Right now, we have four ballots that we deal with," she said. "If we condensed to this, we would only have three ballots."

James Przybylski added that a lot of questions come up around election time, with residents asking, "Why should I vote for this person if they are not in my district?"

During this meeting, Poffinbarger said that in the Przybylski's proposal, the population is almost identical. There would be a -1.55 deviation to a -1.56 deviation.

A deviation is how far away a district is compared to the ideal population. The ideal population is taking the total number of people in the county and dividing it by the

number of districts. The final map must have every district within 5% of the ideal population.

During the Feb. 23 meeting, Supervisor Deb Noffke asked if all of the towns had given their consent to the final map.

"Any town that was over 1,000

people or towns that were split due to supervisor districts had agreed," said Poffinbarger.

The new redistricting map will go into effect for the 2024 spring election.

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PUBLIC RECORD

SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Feb. 28

Officers responded to 29 calls, including a disturbance at Hillcrest Primary School, 1410 Waukechon St.; a threat at Hillcrest Primary School, 1410 Waukechon St.; a burglary on South Lincoln Street; property theft on South Lincoln Street; a disturbance at Walmart, 1244 E. Green Bay St.; property theft at Culvers, 1220 E. Green Bay St.

Feb. 27

Officers responded to 12 calls, including a disturbance on East Richmond Street; multiple disorderly conduct calls on North Airport Drive; a disturbance on South Maiden Lane.

Feb. 26

Officers responded to 14 calls, including bailjumping on South Washington Street; harassment on South Hamlin Street.

Feb. 25

Report was not sent by press time.

Feb. 24

Officers responded to 26 calls, including a controlled substance problem at Family Dollar, 413 S. Main St.; reckless driving on state Highway 22; a threat on Waukechon Street; disorderly conduct on South Lafayette Street.

Feb. 23

Officers responded to 15 calls, including car property damage on West Fourth Street.

Feb. 22

Officers responded to 23 calls, including property theft on East Green Bay Street; reckless driving on Lee Court; a probation violation on East Green Bay Street; harassment on South Main Street; reckless driving on South Bartlett Street; disorderly conduct on West Eagle Street.

SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Feb. 28

Deputies responded to 27 calls, including criminal damage on North Main Street in Shawano; a threat on Shawano Hills Court in the Town of Wescott; reckless driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Belle Plaine; a threat on Hunting Road in the Town of Grant; a fleeing/pursuit on Big Lake Road in the town of Red Springs; three crashes, two involving deer.

Feb. 27

Deputies responded to 29 calls, including operating while intoxicated on Lakeland Road in Shawano; operating while intoxicated on Cedar Court in the Town of Wescott; harassment on Hirt Road in the Town of Fairbanks; reckless

driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Wescott; a disturbance on North Main Street in Shawano; reckless driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Herman; reckless driving on County Road R in the Town of Washington; disorderly conduct on state Highway 156 in the Town of Lessor; reckless driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Morris; a fleeing/pursuit on state Highway 47-55 in the Town of Wescott; two crashes.

Feb. 26

Deputies responded to 29 calls, including reckless driving on West Pulaski Street in Pulaski; reckless driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Maple Grove; a disturbance on Sandy Lane in the Town of Belle Plaine; a sexual assault on Hemlock Road in the Town of Wittenberg; seven crashes.

Feb. 25

Deputies responded to 53 calls, including reckless driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Wittenberg; a drug problem on North Main Street in Shawano; a threat on Pine Street in Tigerton; property theft on County Road A in the Town of Herman; bailjumping on North Main Street; trespassing on West State Street in Bonduel; harassment on Opperman Way in the Town of Richmond; property theft on South Warrington Avenue in Cecil; reckless driving on

County Road BE in the Town of Wescott; a disturbance on Woodland Road in the Town of Washington; reckless driving on state Highway 117 in the Town of Washington; reckless driving on state Highway 29 in the Town of Maple Grove; a domestic disturbance on Cedar Street in Tigerton; seven crashes.

Feb. 24

Deputies responded to 29 calls, including shoplifting on U.S. Highway 45 in Tigerton; a disturbance on West Vinal Street in Wittenberg; disorderly conduct on County Road S in the Town of Lessor; a disturbance on Koo Yi Kun Lane in the Town of Bartelme; two crashes.

Feb. 23

Deputies responded to 26 calls, including a domestic disturbance on Koeller Lane in the Town of Richmond; a drug problem on Koeller Lane in the Town of Richmond; a drug problem on state Highway 47-55 in the Town of Wescott; a burglary on East Lake Crest Drive in the Town of Wescott; reckless driving on state Highway 47-55 in the Town of Wescott; one crash.

Feb. 22

Deputies responded to 30 calls, including a disturbance on North Madison Street in Bonduel; a disturbance on Poplar Road in the Town of Richmond; three crashes.

COURT NEWS

- Malachi J. Skruch, 21, Shawano, was charged Feb. 21 with two counts of bail jumping and one misdemeanor count of possession of THC. Judge William Kussel Jr. set a cash bond of \$200 and a signature bond of \$2,000. He also scheduled a resumed initial appearance for March 29.

- Alexis Peralta-Martinez, 20, Shawano, was charged Feb. 21 with three counts of bail jumping, one count of operating while intoxicated (second charge), one count of operating while revoked, one count of possession of THC, one count of possession of drug paraphernalia and three misdemeanor counts of bail jumping. Kussel set a cash bond of \$1,500 and scheduled a preliminary hearing for March 1.

- Jerry M. Piper, 44, homeless, was charged Feb. 21 with one count of possession of methamphetamine, nine counts of bail jumping and two misdemeanor counts of resisting or obstructing an officer. Kussel set a cash bond of \$7,500 and scheduled a resumed initial appearance for March 15.

- Luis Narvaez, 26, Menasha, was charged Feb. 21 with two counts of bail jumping and one misdemeanor count of operating while revoked. Kussel set a cash bond of \$2,500 and scheduled an

arraignment for March 4.

- Jeremiah J. Fischer, 44, Gresham, was charged Feb. 21 with one count of bail jumping, one misdemeanor count of operating while revoked and one misdemeanor count of bail jumping. Kussel set a cash bond of \$500 and scheduled a resumed initial appearance for March 1.

- Scott D. Kosbab, 49, Bowler, was charged Feb. 21 with two counts of bail jumping, one misdemeanor count of resisting or obstructing an officer and one misdemeanor count of bail jumping. Kussel set a cash bond of \$2,500 and scheduled an arraignment for March 23.

- Matthew A. Klein, 30, Shawano, was charged Feb. 21 with one count of possession of methamphetamine, one count of possession of THC with intent, less than or equal to 200 grams, and one misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. Kussel set a cash bond of \$3,000 and scheduled a resumed initial appearance for March 9.

- Riley T. Bosman, 19, Shawano, was charged Feb. 22 with one count of bail jumping and one misdemeanor count of theft of movable property, less than or equal to \$2,500. Kussel set a signature bond of \$2,500 and scheduled a preliminary hearing for March 11.

- Samuel P. Hyzer, 17, Bonduel, was charged Feb. 23 with one count of bail jumping, one misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct and one misdemeanor count of bail jumping. Kussel set a cash bond of \$500 and scheduled a preliminary hearing for March 15.

- Stewart J. Boivin, 64, Shawano, pleaded no contest to one count of operating with prohibited alcohol content. One count of operating while intoxicated was dismissed on prosecutor's motion. Kussel sentenced Boivin to two years in state prison and three years of extended supervision.

- Anthony A. Moses, 24, Shawano, was charged Feb. 25 with one count of repeated sexual assault of the same child (at least three violations of first or second degree sexual assault), one count of using a computer to facilitate a child sex crime, one count of exposing a child to harmful material, two counts of child enticement, one count of child sexual exploitation and one count of possession of child pornography. Kussel set a cash bond of \$30,000 and scheduled a preliminary hearing for March 4. On Feb. 23, one count of repeated sexual assault of the same child (at least three violations of first or second degree sexual assault), one

count of using a computer to facilitate a child sex crime, one count of exposing a child to harmful material and one count of child enticement were dismissed with prejudice.

- Navada L. Whitewing, 25, Wittenberg, was charged Feb. 25 with two counts of bail jumping and one misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct. Kussel set a cash bond of \$500 and scheduled a status conference for March 2.

- Anthony C. Hendrix, 27, Shawano, was charged Feb. 25 with two counts of bail jumping and one misdemeanor count of bail jumping. Kussel set a cash bond of \$10,000 and scheduled a resumed initial appearance for March 2.

- Carey P. Forsyth, 69, Shawano, pleaded no contest Feb. 25 to one count of bail jumping. Kussel sentenced Forsyth to three years of probation. In another case, Forsyth pleaded no contest to one count of operating while intoxicated (fourth offense) and one misdemeanor count of operating while revoked. One count of operating with prohibited alcohol content (fourth offense) was dismissed on prosecutor's motion. Kussel sentenced Forsyth to 300 days in jail and three years of probation.

Witt-Birn board grants approval on projects

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood School Board a variety of maintenance capital projects Feb. 28.

"These are high ticket projects that we want to get lined up now, so that we can get everything on the calendar for the summer," said Superintendent Garrett Rogowski.

The projects include new stage and auditorium curtains at Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School and Birnamwood Elementary-Middle School, excavating a practice field and resurfacing the gymnasium floor.

"This should for the most part round out our capital project work," Rogowski said.

The board began by accepting a quote from Lighthouse Productions

for repairing auditorium curtains for \$18,874.54 at the high school and \$13,385.87 at Birnamwood.

"The curtains in the auditorium at Birnamwood are in need of replacement," said Rogowski. "The curtains in the high school auditorium are showing their wear as well."

At Birnamwood the color of the curtains will be green and in the high school, they will be royal blue.

Rogowski said Lighthouse Productions guaranteed that the curtains would be installed prior to the next school year.

WBHS English teacher Patrick Alcantara, who helps direct plays and musicals, said it would help the program to have this done.

"It would be really beneficial to reinstall the curtains, so that they are in the best position, as well as hav-

ing a professional appearance," said Alcantara.

Rogowski added that these expenses will be covered under the school district's maintenance fund.

With regard to excavating the baseball and softball practice field, Rogowski said the goal is to extend the field approximately 100 feet to the east and level the ground surrounding the existing field.

"What we would have is a full-sized practice field for baseball and softball," said Rogowski.

The board accepted a quote from Hansen Excavating for \$107,425.

Rogowski said seeding and fencing would be up to the school district to cover, adding the school district hopes to start soon and work on it during the summer months.

"It would be utilized for probably

next spring," said Rogowski.

Rogowski said that the need for larger practices fields comes from the number of students who are playing sports. He added the money for this would come out of Fund 46.

Finally, the board approved two quotes from Stalker Sports Floors for \$21,150 and \$82,675 to resurface two basketball courts, one in the high school and the other in the Wittenberg Elementary school.

"The last time that the high school gym floor was addressed was 2010," said Rogowski. "We are looking for resanding, re-painting and an oil-based finish."

The gymnasium floor at Wittenberg Elementary School is also on the list to have work done.

"That surface is really starting to see its wear," said Rogowski.

OBITUARIES

Mark A. Braatz

Mark Alan Braatz, 61, of Sparta, was called to his eternal home on Friday, Feb. 18, 2022. Mark was born Feb. 26, 1960, in Shawano to Donald and Sally (Clayton) Braatz. On Oct. 23, 1982, Mark was united in marriage to Brenda Lee Van-Boekel at St. John Lutheran Church in Polar.

After receiving his GED, Mark enlisted in the United States Army in 1979, actively serving for 27½ years, 11 of which were foreign served. He was a tank commander (19Z5H). He served in Saudi Arabia from Oct. 21 to Dec. 6, 1994, two tours in Iraq from Dec. 30, 1990, to May 3, 1991, and Feb. 13, 2004, to Feb. 23, 2005, and two tours in Kosovo from Nov. 17, 1999, to June 11, 2000, and Nov. 11, 2002 to July 28, 2003.



He received two high awards, the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star, including many other awards and decorations. His love for his country and the

time he served was his greatest life achievement. He retired as a sergeant major. After his retiring from the Army, he and Brenda returned to Wisconsin and settled in Sparta.

After retirement, Mark went on to receive his Bachelor of Science in business education with a minor in management from Viterbo University. He graduated magna cum laude. He then chose to be a substitute teacher for both the Sparta and Bangor school districts. After subbing for 10 years, he decided to

fully retire.

Mark loved the outdoors, fishing, being on the river, camping, taking pictures of wildlife and traveling. In addition to these things, his time spent with his grandchildren, parents and family was his greatest love.

Survivors in addition to his parents and wife, Brenda, include his children, Jessica (Phil) Clayton, of Edgerton, Mathew Braatz, of Sparta, and Ashley (Joe) Van Geertruy, of Sparta; 10 grandchildren: Layla Braatz, Jackson Brown, Jazzabelle Van GeerTruy, Kayden Van GeerTruy, Trevor Clayton, Collin Clayton, Ivy Clayton, Mathew Braatz Jr, Clarissa Braatz and Tobi Braatz; sister, Barb Braatz, of Michigan, brothers, Jeff (Karen) Braatz, of Antigo, and Joe (Lee) Braatz, of Shawano; sisters-in-law Becky (Terry) Buechner, of Seymour, Patti (Dave)

Andraschko, of Antigo, and Sandy (Mark) Andraschko, of Antigo; brother-in-law, Scott (Sandi) Van-Boekel, of Antigo; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents; Rupert and Dorothy Braatz; maternal grandparents, Clyde and Agnes Clayton; father-in-law and mother-in-law Gerald and Mary VanBoekel; and a niece, Renee Hurlbert.

Family services were held at Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation in Sparta and the burial at Northern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Spooner. Online condolences may be offered at www.schanhoferfh.com.

Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation in Sparta assisted the family with funeral arrangements.

Bryon T. Pitzl

Bryon Timothy Pitzl, 53, passed away in his home on Feb. 11, 2022.

He worked while living in Keshena for 12 years at Marion Body Works and Aarrowcast.

In the last 10 years, he lived in Brown Deer, where he had many friends. He loved spending time outdoors hunting and fishing.

He loved music and 1980s big hair bands, also heavy metal. He loved going to concerts and living loud.

He is survived by his children, Amanda, Daryal, Cheyenne and Mar-



tin. He is also survived by his parents, Robert and Carol; brothers, Craig (Cathy) and John (Rochelle); sister, Catherine; and special friend, Dawn.

Services will be held at 4 p.m. March 11, 2022, at Molthen Bell and Son Funeral Home, 700 Milwaukee Ave., South Milwaukee. Burial will be held privately with

family members. Relatives and friends are welcome to the service.

A few thoughts from his family members are as follows:

• Melissa Robinson, ex-wife: 24 years and four children together. You were a hard worker, amazing mechanic, terrific cook (especially venison), a gardener with a green thumb I have never seen before or since. The wildflowers still come up every year where you planted them. Amanda is creating a memorial tribute in the form of a bench alongside that beauti-

ful garden. The lilac bush is taller than the house now; you cut a foot-long twig for me years ago, and now it is a huge beautiful tree, right where you planted and nurtured it. I pray you have peace and happiness, and Pipit, Mom and Dad welcomed you home. No more illness, worries or pain. God bless you, and you rest now. I'll see you again.

• Amanda Vandenhuevel, daughter: He was my best friend.

• Cheyenne Pecore, daughter: I love you a bushel and a peck.

OBITUARIES

Renae L. Byre

Renae Byre, 55, Burlington, North Dakota, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2022, in her home. Renae Lorrissa Brend was born on Oct. 15, 1966, in Tigerton to Martha (Palmer) Dahl and Curtis Brend. Renae grew up and attended school in Bowler. She went on to receive her bachelor's degree in environmental science and biology at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and continued her education by receiving her master's degree in counseling and college student personnel at Oklahoma State University.

She then worked at a few universities throughout the United States in the student service and development profession. In the summer of 1994, she came to North Dakota to spend time with her family, as she did most of her childhood summers. Instead of returning to her career at the university, she decided to take a risk and move to Maxbass, North Dakota. It was here that she met the love of her life and married Royal Byre.

In 1995, they started their family and, four years later, they moved to Burlington. As a child, Renae wanted nothing more to be a stay-at-home mom. When her youngest was born, the dream came true as she was able to be with her children full time until they were all in school.

After the children were in school, she started working at First District Health Unit. She initially worked to prevent and eliminate tobacco-related illness, despite it being political and controversial, and eventually became



the director of health promotions. She was motivated to help people become free of tobacco and other addictions as she had seen firsthand the impact it had on

her loved ones and the whole community.

Renae had a gift of meeting people where they were at in life, seeing the good in them and helping them to overcome addictions and making them feel valued. She had taken disability retirement in January 2019.

Renae was a very creative person. If she wasn't painting or decorating, you would find her digging up her yard or creating a new garden. She loved junk. She had an eye for seeing a beautiful project in something broken down that others would toss away. Again, she could see the good in everyone and everything despite their brokenness and help them become something beautiful to be valued. Renae was blessed with many close intimate friends, her church family and work family.

She developed quite a following of friends on social media. Renae was very good at educating people on what the cancer was doing to her body, what the treatment was going to accomplish and how long she thought it would work. Many people drew inspiration from her posts, and she heard from

many people that she had helped them through difficult times in their life with her sage advice, courage and faith. She long outlived any prognosis that the doctors would give her.

She was a tireless advocate for cancer research and equitable insurance coverage for cancer treatments. This brought her to testify at the North Dakota legislature for the Chemotherapy Fairness Bill and helped get it enacted into law. She promoted Women's Way and helped with initiated measures and gathering signatures. She was an agent of change to make the world a better place.

Renae was baptized at her grandparent's home in Mohall, North Dakota, by the Rev. Simonson of Zion Lutheran Church. She was confirmed at St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Bowler. She became a Catholic in 2010, and she and her family were members of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Foxholm.

She is survived by her husband, Royal; sons, Keegan Byre, Jonas Byre and Sterling Byre, all of Burlington; mother, Marcy (Ron) Dahl, Apache Junction, Arizona; father, Curt (Linda) Brend, Bowler; brother, Randy Brend of Newburg, North Dakota; sister, Char (Perry) Collier, Stinnett, Texas; sister-in-law, Belinda (Mark) Vollmer, Surrey, North Dakota; brothers-in-law, Archie Byre Jr., Maxbass, North Dakota, Everett (MiSuk) Byre, Lewisville, Texas, and Eric (Kim) Byre, Stephen, Minnesota; and godson, Landon Syverson, Wisconsin Rapids.

She was also blessed with an extended family, sisters, Valerie (Andrew) Bovre, DeForest, Danielle Warren, Green Bay, Bonnie (Tom) Weseli, Bloomington, Minnesota, Lisa (Adam) Moe, Brimfield, Illinois, and Ivy (Corey) Thorson, Minot, North Dakota. She is also survived by uncles, Leroy (Shirley) Brend, Bismarck, North Dakota, Rick (Paula) Brend, Plover, and Arlyss (Ora) Brend, Bismarck, North Dakota; aunts, Paula (John) Mundt, Westhope, North Dakota, Rita Palmer, Sydney, Montana, and Ursula Palmer, Orlando, Florida; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Archie and Arlene Byre; paternal grandparents, Ed and Caroline Brend; maternal grandparents, Clark and Lois Palmer; uncles, John Palmer and Chuck Palmer; step-brother, Scott Warren; and a cousin and godson, Ryan Palmer.

Mass of Christian Burial was held Monday, Feb. 28, 2022, at St. John the Apostle Catholic Church, Minot.

Memorials are preferred to metavivor.org or St. Mary's Catholic Church, Foxholm. The service will be livestreamed for the public to view and can be accessed by going to the Thompson-Larson Funeral home website: www.thompsonlarson.com

Those wishing to sign the online register and share memories may access the online obituaries section at www.thompsonlarson.com.

Harlan J. Peters Sr.

Harlan J. "Huck" Peters Sr., 59, of Wisconsin Rapids, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2022, at his home.

Visitation was held Friday, Feb. 25, 2022, at the South Branch Community Center, W1281 County Road M, Keshena, followed by a traditional Menominee prayer service and meal.

Harlan was born July 1, 1962, in Shawano to Alex and Gloria (Corn) Peters. He married Lisa Donovan on Aug. 14, 2021, on the Wisconsin River.

Harlan worked as a forklift operator at Ocean Spray Cranberry.

He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting and fishing. He loved spending time with his children and grandchildren and attending pow wows. He loved to cook and spent a lot of time doing construction projects, maintaining and upgrading his home, as well as welding projects.

Harlan is survived by his wife, Lisa Donovan-Peters; his mother, Gloria; children, Andrea, Randall (Millie),



Melissa (Ruben), Harlan Jr. (Heather), Nicole (Vance), Nathaniel, Ryan, Alina and Isaiah; grandchildren, Daniel, Aurelia, Darius, Adrianna, Carter, Mya, Jaxon,

Shaniah, Meskoweseven and Marcel; brothers, Alex III (Olga), Joseph and Dale (Carla); sisters, Kathy and Annette (Harley); and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Alex; son, Jordan; brothers, Gus and Tony; sisters, Jeanie and Gale; and nephews, B.J., Roland, Shawn, Shane and Marcel.

Special thanks to Huck's family at Ocean Spray.

Herman-Taylor Funeral Home, Wisconsin Rapids, is honored to be assisting the family.

Laura F. Prausa

Laura F. Prausa (nee Bengtson), 97, passed away on Feb. 5, 2022, in Spring Hill, Florida. She was born March 1, 1924, to the late August and Anna (Benson) Bengtson in Swedetown, Oconto County.

Laura met and married Harold Prausa on Dec. 10, 1943. They were married 63 years. Laura was a member of First English Lutheran Church in Appleton and Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church in Hudson, Florida.

Laura was involved in various Masonic activities. Her biggest joy in life was traveling with Harold and being with her family and friends — especially at their cottage at Legend Lake in Wisconsin and their home in Florida, where they first moved in 1991. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren were the joys of her life.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harold; sister, Rose; and parents, August and Anna Bengtson.

Laura is survived by her son, Les (Barbara) Prausa; daughter, Ann (James) Bromwell; and five grandchildren, Richard (Shannon) Prausa, Jeremy (Stacy) Jahn, Thomas (Amy) Prausa, Jessica (Scott) Touve, Susan (Henry) Long.

She is further survived by 11 great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life was held in Florida at Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church on Feb. 19. A memorial service will be held Saturday, June 25, at Appleton Highland Park in Appleton. The service will begin at 11 a.m.

We would like to thank all who cared for Laura, especially the caregivers and staff at the Residence at Timber Pines where she resided the last 10 months of her life.

Memorials appreciated to Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church, the Marshfield Clinic or the American Heart Association.

Panel addresses racial issues in America

Professor, Stockbridge-Munsee leader discuss why it's difficult for people to get along

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

Shawano had a discussion on race Feb. 24 that had nothing to do with roaring engines and a dirt track.

Instead, the presentation held at the Shawano Public Library focused on how racism is still prevalent in American society today — from full-blown hatred and discrimination toward people of a different colored skin to making assumptions of foreigners, like their intelligence or their ability to speak a certain way.

The library hosted the event as part of a month-long dive into a discussion about race. The library held a winter reading challenge to encourage the community to read “Stamped From the Beginning” by Ibram X. Kendi, which examines the history of racist ideas in America, and followed that up with a Facebook discussion group discussing what is addressed in the book. The program concluded with the evening presentation featuring Shannon Holsey, president of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians, and professor Angel Saavedra Cisneros, who teaches political science at St. Norbert College.

Holsey noted that her tribe is not originally from Wisconsin but from upstate New York, but forced relocations from the government brought her people to Wisconsin to settle on land that originally belonged to the Menominee. Even when the U.S. Constitution was crafted, she said, it was geared toward white men and not considered for other races — especially not Native Americans, who were not granted U.S. citizenship until 1924.

“We didn’t even receive our freedom of religion until 1978,” Holsey said, noting that the early Europeans had deemed the various tribes living here centuries ago to be uncivilized. “We were always civilized, and some people think that, when people came to the Americas, they somehow evolved Native Americans through assimilation.”

For Holsey, having discussions on the different ways various cultures live their lives and conduct



Shannon Holsey, left, president of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians, listens as Angel Saavedra Cisneros, a political science professor, makes a point Feb. 24 about how racial issues are still a big problem today and have not gone away during a panel discussion at the Shawano Public Library.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

themselves today is important to realize there’s more than one way of doing things.

“Unity does not have to mean necessarily uniformity, but there has to be a level of diplomacy and decorum because it’s really significantly important to understand our history,” Holsey said. “We don’t want them to repeat themselves because there’s an underbelly and ugliness of it.”

Holsey noted that many K-12 history textbooks today don’t speak of Indigenous people beyond 1900.

“There’s an invisibility about who we are,” Holsey said.

Cisneros noted his job requires him to teach about things that are “impolite to talk about at the dinner table,” which includes race and politics. He immigrated to the United States from Mexico and became a citizen last fall, and he said that he’d been pretty naive about this country and imagined it was a multicultural melting pot.

“I thought race was something that we read about in textbooks and that racism had been eradicated,”

Cisneros said. “I want to remind us all that we’re human, and we have lots of flaws. We can fight these flaws if we remember that we’re human. If we listen to humans and sit next to humans, then we can change the way we view our identities and use them for good.”

Healing is a key factor in mending race relations, according to Cisneros, but that only works when the perpetrator apologizes. He noted that people should think before they speak.

“What do you lose from being able to do right by someone?” Cisneros said. “You don’t lose anything by saying, ‘You know what? That might hurt you, and I don’t have to do that anymore.’ Micro-aggressions are really interesting. If you wouldn’t use that compliment for somebody like you, then maybe you shouldn’t use it.”

The issue of white privilege also came up during the panel discussion, and Cisneros pointed out that the concept of privilege is not necessarily limited to races with white skin, and that it should be acknowl-

edged but not in a shameful way.

“Privilege is something you have, whether you want it or not,” Cisneros said. “You can’t give it up. You can elevate people. You can use it for good, but you can’t give it up.”

Holsey related her experience from two days earlier, when she addressed the Wisconsin Assembly. She noted that like-minded people or people who looked the same were congregated in different parts of the chamber.

“I am in the legislative hall, and — I’m not even kidding — the Republicans are on one side of the hall, the Democrats are on one side, and the Natives are just over in a corner somewhere,” Holsey said.

Holsey suggested that people should try to regularly put themselves in situations where they’re not with like-minded individuals, and that it might help people to understand that differences are OK.

“Every day I learn from somebody, and everybody has their own story to tell,” Holsey said.

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Sacred Heart kicks off reading week

ABOVE: Brycen Reiter, left, reads to Everette DuQuaine in the Sacred Heart Catholic School gymnasium Feb. 28 to kick off Read Across America Week. Setting up Camp Read-A-Lot, students were broken up into multi-age groups and teachers set up campsites throughout the gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED

LEFT: Sacred Heart Catholic School teachers Lori Mathwich and Michelle Powers look over some books Feb. 28 in the school gymnasium as part of the school's celebration of Read Across America Week. Campsites were themed and so their book collections and camp decorations were based on that theme. Themes were food, dinosaurs, mysteries, Dr. Seuss, animals, Mardi Gras, fantasy and sports.

CONTRIBUTED

BELOW: Sacred Heart Catholic School eighth-grade student Swede Corn reads to younger students Feb. 28 in the school gymnasium as part of Read Across America Week. The student groups spent 10 minutes at each campsite to enjoy the books there.

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Pulaski schools plan for future growth

Listening session reveals need to expand elementary schools, renovate all facilities

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

The Pulaski School District is growing to the point where at least one elementary school is going to exceed capacity by 2025, and other schools could be reaching capacity in the 10 years after that.

To that end, district officials are seeking community input on how to address school needs and whether they would support a referendum in November 2022 or beyond. The district held a listening session Feb. 23 to talk with families and community members about immediate and future needs to gauge what they'd support in a large improvement and renovation project.

"I'm really glad that we have a nice crowd tonight," said Superintendent Allison Space. "This evening couldn't happen without all of us working together."

Hillcrest Elementary School, located in Brown County south of Highway 29, is expected to exceed its capacity in three years. The district needs to build on to the existing building soon unless other steps are taken, like transferring students to other elementary schools. However, Sunnyside Elementary School, located east of Pulaski, is expected to exceed its capacity by 2030, and Lannoye Elementary School, the closest school to Hillcrest, is forecast to reach capacity by 2035.

Besides growth at the elementary school, the district predicts that enrollment of middle school students could increase by about 100 between now and 2035, meaning that an expansion of Pulaski Community Middle School could be on the horizon. However, that capacity could be reached sooner; an additional 50 middle school students attend from outside the district due to open enrollment, and that number could climb.

The district also estimates that the high school could grow its in-district student population by over 150 students but does not believe it will reach capacity there unless its open enrollment count grows there, as well.

If the district decides to go for a referendum, it could be in a good financial position to do so, according to Mark Logan, the district's business manager. The district had a tax rate of



Pulaski High School Principal Jeremy Pach, right, listens as a community member talks about the necessity of supporting the schools in a smaller breakout of the listening session that took place Feb. 23 at the high school. The Pulaski School District is anticipating that it could ask voters to approve a referendum in November, but the amount in the referendum will depend upon community input.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

\$8.84 per \$1,000 of valuation in 2016, but the current rate is \$6.32 — one of the lowest in the area and significantly below the state average of \$8.67.

Logan noted that the district recently became debt free after paying off its 2013 referendum six years early, resulting in a savings of \$100,000 for the district. He said that the property owners in the district could see their tax rate go up 72 cents if \$50 million in bonds were approved, \$1.27 for \$75 million in bonds and \$1.82 for \$100 million.

The district is estimating that the infrastructure needs of the existing schools, not including the expansion, could cost anywhere from \$39.4 million to \$43.4 million, according to Clint Selle, an architect with Bray Architects. About \$8 million of those infrastructure needs fall in the immediate category and another \$16 million are needs that could emerge as a priority in the next few years.

Pulaski is looking at an expansion of Hillcrest that could almost double the size of the building. The expanded areas would house classrooms for

kindergarten and second grade, a commons area, gymnasium, music and art classrooms, administrative offices and more. Hillcrest's expansion could cost the district up to \$27.7 million, which would be cheaper than building a new school, estimated to cost close to \$38 million.

"It would provide us a challenge if we were to build a new school in the Hillcrest area, taking and (demolishing) that building and putting something in the same place," Space said. "We have had those conversations."

A similar expansion is being eyed for Sunnyside, with classrooms for kindergarten and first grades on the upper floor, the main offices and a new cafeteria. The expansion is estimated to cost as much as \$24.3 million.

Other, smaller expansions are also being considered for the Lannoye, Fairview and Glenbrook elementary schools, ranging from \$1 million to \$7 million.

Pulaski High School could expand to include a new pool and athletic facilities on the northeast corner of the

building, including an indoor practice facility for the sports programs. The high school could expand on the south end, too, with more technology education facilities, and there are also plans to provide more than 200 additional parking spaces. All of these projects are expected to cost as much as \$45.7 million.

If a pool is built at the high school, the existing pool at Pulaski Community Middle School would be removed and turned into technology education classrooms for those students. That could cost the district as much as \$3.1 million.

At all of the schools, plans are in the works to redesign classrooms for the modern era, moving away from the rows of desks to a more interactive concept.

Space noted that the information and input received from the community will be posted on the district's website, www.pulaskischools.org, with a question-and-answer format to help inform residents.

It's too early to plant but not to plan

While it is getting tempting for many of us, it is still a bit too early to begin starting seeds indoors for the upcoming growing season, but that doesn't mean that we cannot dream.



ROB ZIMMER

Right now is the best time of the year to head to your local garden center to pick up seed of some of your favorite plants, as well as new varieties on your wish list. Seeds don't last long in the stores. If you wait until April or May to shop, they will be pretty well picked over. So, head out now and gather your seed, even if you have to wait several more weeks to plant them.

Vegetable seeds have been extremely popular over the last few years since the virus pandemic began. More and more gardeners are discovering the joys of growing food at home. They are snapping up the seeds fast. Gather your favorites now, especially heirloom tomatoes, peppers, beans, peas, carrots, beets and others.

Speaking of garden dreams, this may be the year that you want to completely overhaul your garden. Try a new design. Do some sketching of the areas in your yard and garden where you plan and see what new options you can come up with. It's always fun to try a new garden design or a new garden outline and what better time to indulge your dream garden design than right now while snow still blankets the yard.

Don't let the perfectionist inside you intimidate your garden passion. Your garden design doesn't have to be perfect. Search out examples online and piece together elements of different garden designs that interest you. Make it fun.

Winter is also the perfect time to take a closer look at your garden and see what's missing. Do you have plenty of berries and seed heads available for overwintering songbirds? Do you have enough sheltering space for these birds, such as evergreen shrubs? A brush pile or discarded Christmas tree, perhaps? Is there enough winter interest in your garden in the form of grass plumes, dried hydrangea blossoms, seed heads of various flowers, the



The houseplant craze is catching on, fueling the winter dreams of many gardeners.

ROB ZIMMER



Many garden centers and greenhouses have already begun spring planting of annuals, hanging baskets and other garden novelties.

ROB ZIMMER

bark of trees, colorful winter shrubs, even your own garden art?

Now is the time to make a list of what's missing and what you want to add to the garden next year to make the garden in winter an even more inviting place, for yourself, as well as our wild friends.

If you are really antsy, now is

a great time to pick up one of the tabletop or desktop hydroponic gardens where you can instantly begin growing lettuce, herbs, even seeds indoors. Most of these have their own lights built in, so you don't even need to worry about providing an adequate light source. Pick one up and enjoy the fun. You'll be eating

fresh greens in a matter of just a few weeks.

The winter dreams of many gardeners are brought to life in the form of house plants and indoor blooms. Houseplants are a huge and popular trend right now, boosted by online sites, such as Pinterest and TikTok. A whole new generation of plant lovers are beginning to enjoy the beauty and benefit of growing indoor plants. With more and more young adults living in apartments, the house plant boom is happening.

From succulents and orchids to foliage plants and lush, hanging gardens, the demand for house plants is driving up prices and many classics are becoming harder to find. Houseplant growers continue to hybridize more and more tantalizing choices to tempt indoor plant lovers.

Whatever your garden dreams, now is the time to act, and to begin to prepare for the new growing season just a few short weeks away.

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Evers quietly signs bill on police hiring

Legislation would make it tougher for bad apples to get jobs elsewhere

By **PETER CAMERON**
The Badger Project

With little fanfare and no opposition, a bill proponents hope will cut down on bad apples in law enforcement passed the legislature and was signed by the governor way back in November.

The law requires law enforcement agencies maintain a work history file for each employee and creates a procedure for law enforcement agencies, jails and juvenile detention facilities to receive and review an officer candidate's file from previous employers.

Gov. Tony Evers announced the bill signing with several others in a press release issued Nov. 5. Passage has garnered little to no media coverage or public comment from elected officials.

Union protections often make it difficult to fire officers, chiefs across the country complain, so law enforcement agencies will sometimes agree to seal a problem officer's personnel file in exchange for his or her willing resignation. This law aims to end that practice in Wisconsin.

It "provides a much-needed mechanism to keep bad actors in policing from moving to new agencies after being terminated for unlawful or unethical behavior," said Meghan Stroshine, an associate professor of criminology and law studies at Marquette Univer-

sity who studies law enforcement.

"Police are afforded many protections due to the unique role they play in society, but there should be no cases where a police department is in the dark about the reason(s) an individual was fired from another law enforcement agency," Stroshine wrote in an email, "nor should there be the possibility of sealing officers' personnel files in exchange for their resignation. There should be open access to information about what led to the end of employment at a job candidate's previous agency."

She noted that the law does not impose consequences for agencies that fail to comply.

"I see this law as a first step in preventing 'wandering officers' from finding employment after termination, not the final step," she said.

The largest police union in the state, the Wisconsin Professional Police Association, supported this measure because it mandates statewide uniformity and transparency in hiring law enforcement officers, said Jim Palmer, the group's executive director.

"No one wants a bad officer out of the profession more than a good one, and the law now requires all agencies to review the performance records anytime they consider hiring experienced officers," Palmer wrote in an

email. "Mandating this transparency on a statewide basis will make agencies more accountable, and that serves both the interests of the public and the law enforcement community."

An investigation in 2021 by The Badger Project found that nearly 200 current officers in Wisconsin had been fired or forced out from previous jobs in law enforcement. Many were simply young officers in their first jobs who failed to pass their new hire probationary period, when the bar to fire them is very low. Some rehired officers had lost jobs for more serious conduct, like public drunkenness and sexual harassment.

The new police transparency law came out of the Assembly Speaker's Task Force on Racial Disparities, formed after a Minneapolis police officer's murder of George Floyd and the resulting unrest. Assembly Majority Leader Jim Steineke (R-Kaukauna), who is white, and state Rep. Sheila Stubbs (D-Madison), who is Black, co-chaired the task force.

Steineke was "not available to comment," spokesman Mitch Goettl said in an email. A member of the Assembly since 2011, he recently announced he will not seek reelection this year.

Stubbs also did not respond to questions about the bill.

Steineke called leading the com-

mittee a "political loser" in an email captured last year in a records request by Up North News, a left-leaning news organization, noting in the email and a subsequent interview that some would be upset no matter what the committee did.

He also stressed in the email the importance of finding areas of bipartisan agreement, while writing that accomplishments would show how Evers "could get things done if his (administration) weren't so damn political."

"This isn't a role I relish, but think it's the right thing to do right now," he wrote in the email.

Last summer, the governor signed several bipartisan bills that came out of the racial disparities task force. The bills banned chokeholds by police, required law enforcement agencies make their use of force policies publicly available, created statewide standards for when an officer may use deadly force, mandated officers to intervene when other officers use illegal force and created whistleblower protections for officers who report misconduct.

State Democrats, a legislative minority since Republicans were able to draw political districts in 2011, cannot pass any legislation without GOP approval.

Flood awareness week prompts safety tips

The official start of spring in a couple of weeks also marks a return to flood season across the state.

To encourage everyone in the state to be prepared, Gov. Tony Evers has declared Feb. 28 to March 4 Flood Safety Awareness Week in Wisconsin. Shawano County is encouraging people to take the week to assess their flood risk and learn how to protect themselves before, during and after a flood.

Flooding is a topic that should be taken very seriously in the area, especially with Shawano Lake and the Wolf River running through the county, according to Lt. Chris Madle, the county's emergency management director.

Each year, flooding also causes millions of dollars in damage to homes, businesses and public in-

frastructure throughout Wisconsin, Madle said. Many of those losses are not covered by basic insurance policies either, often requiring special coverage through the National Flood Insurance Program or through a private company.

While it's not always possible to stop the waters from rising, it's important to know flood risk. Homeowners can assess the potential for flooding on their property if they live in a flood plain or near a body of water, or have a basement. They should plan with the family for what they will do if the floodwaters begin to rise.

Madle also recommends building a go-kit, which should include items such as food, water, cash, medications and copies of important documents (passports and birth cer-

tificates, medical records, insurance policies and financial documents).

People can keep water out of their house, according to Madle, by cleaning gutters regularly, directing downspouts away from foundations, repairing cracks in foundations, improving grading so water flows away from the house and covering window wells.

Madle also urges homeowners to investigate flood insurance. Standard insurance policies generally do not cover flooding. Most flood coverage requires 30 days to take effect. Find information at <https://www.floodsmart.gov>.

Residents should stay up to date on the forecast and identify multiple ways to receive alerts about dangerous weather conditions and potential flooding, such as a NOAA Weather

Radio, trusted local news outlets and mobile weather apps.

People should never drive or walk through flooded areas, according to Madle. Just six inches of fast-moving water can sweep adults off their feet, while 12 inches can carry away a small car. Be especially careful while driving at night. Driving through floodwaters puts lives at risk — more than half of flood fatalities are vehicle related. Flooding killed one person in Wisconsin in 2020.

People should stay out of floodwaters, which can contain bacteria from human and animal waste, sharp objects, hazardous chemicals, downed power lines and other dangerous items.

If a home floods, residents should follow cleaning and disinfection guidelines to avoid mold growth.

Linus supply of blankets swells from volunteers

New group of blanketeers looking for agencies who have need of more than 50 coverings

By **LYNN ZAFFRANN**
Correspondent

Thirteen volunteers, known as blanketeers, got together locally to create and collect 51 handmade blankets to give to children who are ill, traumatized or in need of the reassurance provided by the hug of a comfortable blanket.

They are now spreading the word that the blankets are available to donate through the Project Linus program.

Project Linus is an organization dedicated to donating new, handmade blankets to children in need. Make a Blanket Day, the first one sponsored by the Oconto and Marinette counties chapter of Project Linus, was held in Oconto Falls on Feb. 19.

Lynette Konitzer, of Oconto Falls, worked toward holding a Make a Blanket Day since forming the chapter in October 2021. She is the chapter's coordinator and would like to hold the event two or three times per year.

An enthusiastic quilter herself, Konitzer arranged sponsors for Make a Blanket Day. Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in Oconto Falls provided classroom space and the use of a long-arm quilting machine. The Marinette Walmart donated a community grant, which was used to purchase supplies for the blankets.

Konitzer was involved in the Brown County chapter before launching the Oconto and Marinette counties group.

"I've been a quilt instructor at NWTTC in Green Bay for five years," she said, "and I was part of the Brown County Project Linus chapter for about two years."

When forming the Oconto and Marinette chapter, she reached out to her quilting friends. She said that "quilters love to get together and sew all day." Blanketeers at the first Make a Blanket Day included volunteers who crochet, knit and create fleece tie blankets, in addition to quilters. Of the 13 volunteers on Feb. 19, five were women who created fleece blankets.

Completed blankets went through quality control by Konitzer, who added a special Project Linus label to each one. She keeps them at her house and personally delivers them to agencies.

"The Marinette foster system took some," she said. "We need more places to accept the blankets we have on hand now."

Konitzer is looking for new places



Kathy Delvaux, Roxanne Mueller, Sharon Starks, Barb Hoeft, Carol Vincent and Karen Haag are busily making blankets at Make a Blanket Day for Project Linus. It was the chapter's first event.

CONTRIBUTED

to donate the blankets made by her chapter. Medical facilities, shelters, foster care programs and agencies that help children are eligible for the donations. Konitzer may be reached at 920-671-4197 or lynettekonitzer@gmail.com.

"I really want to get the word out about the blankets that we have to donate," Konitzer said.

Project Linus was created in 1995 in Denver and is currently headquartered in Belton, Missouri. With chapters in all 50 states, Project Linus creates and collects blankets to donate locally to children in hospitals, shelters, social service agencies or anywhere a child may be in need of a blanket's hug.

The impetus to create Project Linus came after speaker-author Karen Loucks Rinedollar read an article about a seriously ill 3-year-old cancer patient who was comforted by her special "blankie." Loucks Rinedollar decided to provide new handmade blankets to Denver's Rocky Mountain Children's Cancer Center, creating

Project Linus. Linus, the blanket-carrying character in the Charles Schulz "Peanuts" comics, inspired the organization's name.

Following the national organization, the Oconto and Marinette counties chapter's mission is to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized or in need of new blankets created by volunteer blanketeers. Additionally, the mission is to provide a rewarding and fun service opportunity for individuals and groups for the benefit of children.

Nationwide, there is an estimated 80,000 blanketeers volunteering in local chapters, such as the Oconto and Marinette counties chapter, who are providing a positive impact on the lives of children in need. Information about the national Project Linus organization, including how to create a local chapter, can be found at www.projectlinus.org. Access to the application to form a chapter is on the website.



Laura Davister uses Northeast Wisconsin Technical College's longarm quilting machine at Make a Blanket Day on Feb. 19. At the event, Project Linus volunteers, called blanketeers, created and collected 51 blankets to give to children who are ill, traumatized or otherwise in need of some TLC.

CONTRIBUTED

Sunflower Star brightens up barn quilt

Wayne and Judy Depner are the hosts of Shawano County's 385th barn quilt, which is on display on their barn at N9632 Old Highway 47, Black Creek. The quilt, called Sunflower Star, was given to them by their children as a Christmas gift in 2021.

"We are so excited to finally have a barn quilt on our barn," Judy said.

Wayne and Judy purchased the 86-acre farm in March 2012, from Dr. Elwyn Mantei, Marvin Mantei's son, and moved there from Marinette. While the cropland is rented to farmers in the immediate area, Wayne and Judy have substantial gardens of flowers and vegetables. Judy, who is an avid canner, starts all plants from seed. Friends and neighbors are very interested in her canned goods, especially since no chemical enhancements are applied. Among the fruits she particularly likes to raise are gourds, from which she makes "thunder" gourds.

The barn on which the quilt is displayed is over 100 years old and is in excellent condition. The Depners put on a new roof to help preserve it and now use it for storage, especially for their large number of garden tools. The barn

has the original stanchions as well as the gutter cleaner, which still works.

The area was developed by an Act of Congress in 1848 and the first private owner of the farm was John Marsh in 1876. Marvin Mantei bought the 86-acre farm on Oct. 7, 1944 from Edgar Helms.

Mantei dairy farmed with a herd of about 28 Holstein cows along with pigs and chickens. Milk from his dairy cows was sold to the White Lily Cheese Factory. In 1954, about two years before he sold the dairy cows, Mantei sold the pigs because they got out of their pen and damaged his garden. He kept raising chickens until the early 1960s. Marvin then raised dairy heifers as replacement stock for local dairy farmers before gradually switching to raising beef cattle until about 2000.

"Purchasing the farm and moving here from Marinette has been a very good decision," Judy said. "It's a great place to enjoy our gardens in our retirement years."

The Depner barn quilt was painted by the Shawano County Barn Quilt Committee and was put on display by Keith and LeRoy Raddant of Raddant Electric in Shawano.



Wayne and Judy Depner are shown with Shawano County's 385th barn quilt on their farm at N9632 Old Highway 47, Black Creek.

JIM LEUBENBERGER

ACS grant to help ThedaCare transport cancer patients

The American Cancer Society (ACS) recently awarded a transportation grant to the ThedaCare Family of Foundations, supporting the transportation needs of patients who are undergoing treatment for cancer. It was one of five grants awarded to health systems throughout the state of Wisconsin.

"This grant will allow us to assist cancer patients who might be facing challenges with reliable transportation to clinics for their treatments," said Leigh McNamara, regional cancer center practice administrator, hematology and oncology services. "It will be a great benefit for our patients and for our cancer care teams, who are often searching for solutions to help their patients."

Transportation has been identified as one of the top three barriers to patients receiving their needed cancer

treatments, according to the American Cancer Society.

"We understand that transportation problems rank right behind financial resources and access to health care as barriers to patients getting cancer care," said Kim Kinner, American Cancer Society senior director. "Those barriers can contribute to disparities in cancer outcomes."

Kinner noted that patients receiving radiation treatments often need to visit their treatment center five days a week for several weeks. She also added that organizing travel, especially for someone who may be suffering from fatigue, pain or other side effects from treatment, can be challenging.

McNamara said the grant will allow the ThedaCare Cancer Care teams to identify patients who are having difficulty getting to their treatments and tailor assistance to each person.

"ThedaCare serves very diverse populations throughout northeast and central Wisconsin," said McNamara. "What may be a transportation solution for someone in the Fox Valley simply may not be available to someone living in our more rural communities. This grant will empower our care teams to find the best solution for each individual person. For some, that may be a gas card to cover fuel expenses, while for another patient, it may be covering the cost of using a local ride service."

Kinner added the direct connection with patients, understanding each person's needs, is why ACS grants funding to health care systems directly — because they know their communities.

Community funds assist patients and families in countless ways. Through its generosity to the ThedaCare Family of Foundations, the Amer-

ican Cancer Society's transportation grant will allow health care providers to support patients, so patients can focus on their health, said Courtney Weiland, vice president of philanthropy with the ThedaCare Family of Foundations.

"Donations to the ThedaCare Cancer Care program improve the health and well-being of our community each day," said Weiland. "In addition to the generous gift from the American Cancer Society to keep transportation from becoming a barrier to patients, community donors provide critical support through survivorship programming, advanced technology and training and wellness 'extras,' such as services through our High Hopes Salon with their gifts. We're grateful for their tremendous generosity and are honored to see their donations impact the individuals we serve."

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COLLEGE NOTES

Northcentral Technical College

Northcentral Technical College is pleased to announce the president's list for outstanding academic achievement for the fall 2021 term. The following students enrolled in a post-secondary program earned a 3.75 grade-point average or above and successfully completed a minimum of six credits:

- Aniwa: Kevin Bessert, Esther Manteufel
- Birnamwood: Rory Clark, Kalvin

Fischer, Macey Fischer, Benjamin Gilkenson, Magen Malueg, Richard Olson, Cheyann Schairer, Wyatt Schoepke, Abigail Shetter, Morgan Treu, Faith Wachendorf

- Caroline: Anna Kersten
- Eland: Noah Buss, Jackson Graff, Austin Hitz, Rachele Wamboldt
- Marion: Blaine Prickette
- Mattoon: Brian Horrell, Matthew Pecha
- Shawano: Jeanette Flucke, Rachel Koeppen, Jocelyn Miller
- Suring: Courtney Balthazor

- Tigerton: Nick Schultz
- Wittenberg: Liliana Doak, Evelyn Kizewski, Julie Pranke, Mary Stoinski

University of Dubuque

Riley Engebretsen, of Gillett, has been named to the fall semester 2021 academic dean's list for the University of Dubuque.

To be named to the dean's list, a student must earn a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher for that semester.

UW-Madison

Just over 1,800 students received degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison during a commencement ceremony at the Kohl Center on Dec. 19, 2021.

Local degree recipients include the following:

- Eland: Michael Nelson, Bachelor of Science, biomedical engineering, graduated with highest distinction
- Abrams: Michael VerVelde, Bachelor of Science, civil engineering
- Sobieski: Erica Peters, Bachelor of Science, chemical engineering

Applications for Buy Local grants being accepted

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is accepting applications for 2022 Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin (BLBW) grants through April 2.

DATCP will award a total of up to \$300,000 in BLBW grant funding in 2022.

BLBW is a competitive grant program designed to strengthen Wisconsin's agriculture and food industries by helping farms and businesses more efficiently process, market and distribute locally grown food products. BLBW grants provide consumers with access to more Wisconsin-grown food products — including organic vegetables, hops varieties, hazelnut products, locally grown grain and other value-added products.

Qualified applicants include individuals, groups or businesses involved in Wisconsin production agriculture, food processing, food distribution, food warehousing, retail food establishments or agricultural tourism

operations. Projects may include collaborations or partnerships.

Projects can receive grant funds for up to three years. Grant requests must be between \$5,000 and \$50,000. Eligible project expenses include compensation for personnel, consultant services, materials and supplies. Projects must show a one-to-one match of cash or in-kind support accounting for at least 50% of the total project budget.

DATCP will use a competitive review process to select the most qualified projects. Selected project contracts and work would begin in June.

Since its inception in 2008, 76 Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin projects have been funded, totaling more than \$2.1 million. Grant information and application materials are available at <https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/BuyLocalBuyWisconsinGrants.aspx>. For information, contact DATCP Grants Specialist Ryan Dunn at ryand.dunn@wisconsin.gov or 608-590-7239.

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OPINION

Referendum call may drown in mixed messages

A presentation to the Shawano School Board on Feb. 21 hinted at the possibility of having a referendum in November to pay for some potentially expensive renovations and expansions to the public schools in Shawano. A consultant for the district said discussions are underway with “stakeholders,” a survey is planned to go out to the community and the board could receive a presentation in late May suggesting which direction to go.

While a referendum is not set in stone yet, it’s been my experience in covering education that when a school district smells the possibility of getting the property owners to foot the bill, they’re more than willing to push the question to voters — many of whom do not own homes and would not be paying more in property taxes. Before this stakeholder task force brings forth anything with the word “referendum,” a lesson in recent history and current events might be in order.

Three years ago, the school district and the city of Shawano came together to plan a new recreation center that would replace the existing facility and serve the needs of both entities, with the school district noting it did not plan well when building SCHS in the 1990s and made its weight room and other athletic facilities too small to use. A survey was sent out, and meetings were held throughout the summer to get input on what the center should entail.

When the time came to suggest



LEE PULASKI

the referendum, property owners came out and said no, nuh uh, nyet. Why? The price tag of up to \$28 million was a factor, but they also said they didn’t feel the district communicates with its constituents about what’s happening in the schools and were not convinced the money would be spent properly.

So the question is whether the district’s become a trustworthy steward in the eyes of the taxpayers since then and could convince a district of well over 10,000 people to agree to pay for bonds worth eight figures to pursue expanded facilities and fix up the ones that are aging. The answer is rather murky.

Let’s start with the pandemic. When schools had to close in 2020, the first time was because of a state edict. However, when the new school year started, Shawano’s public schools went to full virtual learning later in September and stayed there until the second semester, even as neighboring districts only did so for a couple of weeks as necessary. It was only after angry parents read the school board the riot act that it decided to bring students back to schools in-person.

While other districts made a point of telling families when they were

lifting their mandates, Shawano was mum until parents started complaining about the issue, and officials were like, “Oh, the governor’s mandate was overturned, and our requirement was linked to that — gee, didn’t you know?” When parents spoke out during a board meeting, which was still meeting virtually at the time, and one tried to blame Superintendent Randi Anderson personally, the board president pulled the plug on the commenter, saying the board doesn’t listen to personal criticism.

Recent meetings have shown district enrollment is dropping, which means less money for the schools. At the same work session where the hint of a referendum came up, administrators presented a new program that could help middle schoolers. Board member Chuck Dallas expressed concern about the program focusing on college readiness, noting that college is just a dream for many students because “we’re a poor district.” Yet the poor property owners would be asked to pay more taxes through a referendum.

When talk of expanding fine arts and athletic facilities first came up in early 2020, officials talked about using the district’s fund balance — the latest euphemism for a rainy day fund — to pay for most of the work, as the district had saved far more than professional bean counters recommend. That talk is no longer there, replaced by suggestions that property owners fork over

their money once again.

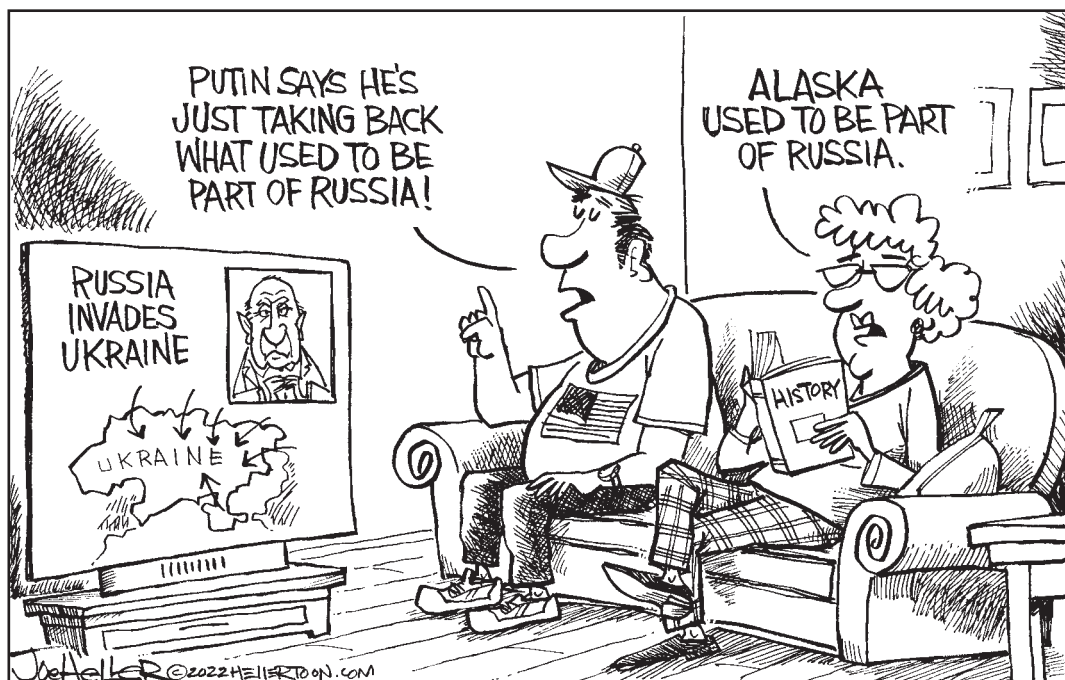
As for communicating with the public, I only need look at my email to see if the district has improved. Sacred Heart Catholic School, a competitor for Shawano students, sends photos of what the school is doing on an almost weekly basis and has regularly invited me to come to the school and cover stories that might interest the community. Bonduel School District Superintendent Joe Dawidziak recently sent me a link to a video on the district’s Facebook page of a kind act from a recent basketball game. Other districts also communicate regularly.

Shawano School District, though? My email shows notices of board and committee meetings but little else. The last time the superintendent extended an olive branch to the newspaper to cover a story was when the Stockbridge-Munsee helped teachers get vaccinated. That was a year ago.

Despite technological advances, many people in the area — especially older ones — still turn to their newspaper or radio station for the news and don’t look at Facebook or other social media. They’re the ones who vote.

If the district decides a referendum is the way to keep its facilities from crumbling and becoming outdated to teach the students of tomorrow, it’s going to have to get on voters’ good side and quit drowning them in a sea of mixed messages.

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



OPINION PAGE POLICY

The Shawano Leader welcomes letters from its readers and wants to publish as many as possible. Letters should be no longer than 400 words and must be typed.

The editor reserves the right to edit letters for accuracy, brevity and clarity. Please avoid personal attacks. Only one letter per writer will be published in a 14-day period, and letters from new writers will be considered first over more frequent participants.

Longer pieces of up to 800 words will be considered for guest columns. All columns require a head shot of the author.

All opinion pieces must be signed by the author, and an address and telephone number must be included for verification. No anonymous opinion pieces will be published under any circumstances.

Thank you letters will be considered for publication on community pages in the paper. The 400-word limit applies to thank you letters, as well.

The best and most expedient way to send letters is by email to editor@newmedia-wi.com. Put “letter to the editor” in the subject line and send the text in the body of the email.

Letters can also be sent by mail or delivered in person to 1464 E. Green Bay St., Shawano.

BOOKS AND STUFF

Elderly man poisoned, cozy mystery asks Whodunit

This week's book was a random ebooks selection. Naturally, "The Poisoned Peer" turned out to be book six in Emily Organ's Churchill and Pemberley series.



JAN JONES

Mrs. Annabel Churchill and her assistant Miss Pemberley are private detectives in

Compton-Poppleford. Both share a love for Pemberley's dog, Oswald, and treats from the bakery.

Miss Tryphena Ridley-Balls is Churchill's newest friend. She's the daughter of the wealthy 99-year-old Earl of Middlemop. (Yes, this book is full of improbable names and fusty references.) Churchill has high hopes for a friendship with such a wealthy woman.

Later that day, they learn that the elderly Earl is dead. Then Tryphena arrives. She says that her father was murdered and wants Churchill and Pemberley to investigate. The Earl had always been anti-social but had become even more prickly in recent months. He, Tryphena and his 97-year-old sister, Nora, live in the massive Gripe-down Hall. They are served by Mr. Porge, the butler; Mrs. Surpant,

the housekeeper; Gertie, the maid; a handyman, Mr. Goldbeam; and a few other household servants.

The Earl maintained a regular schedule and insisted on a nightly dose of Dr. Crumpot's Remedy Syrup just before he went to bed. Sometime that afternoon, someone put a fatal dose of cyanide into his medicine. As the detectives reconstruct the Earl's last day, they learn that he kept to his normal schedule: He'd had his supper, then prepared for bed with Mr. Porge's help. Gertie found his body when she went to get his supper tray.

The only other visitor had been Mr. Goldbeam, who had been summoned to clear the Earl's chimney. He said he found it stuffed with papers, but they have disappeared before the police arrived. Churchill is reluctant to include Tryphena in the suspect list, but Pemberley insists that they must consider everyone in the household.

Everyone is stunned when the will names Mrs. Surpant as the new owner of the vast estate. Within days a more recent will is found, and it names the Earl's grandson as owner. Soon Tryphena finds a codicil in which she is the main heir. Apparently, the old man changed his will many times depending on his mood.

With every twist, the suspect list changes and Churchill and Pember-

AT A GLANCE

BOOK: "The Poisoned Peer" (Churchill and Pemberley series, Book 6)

AUTHOR: Emily Organ

PUBLISHER: emilyorgan.com

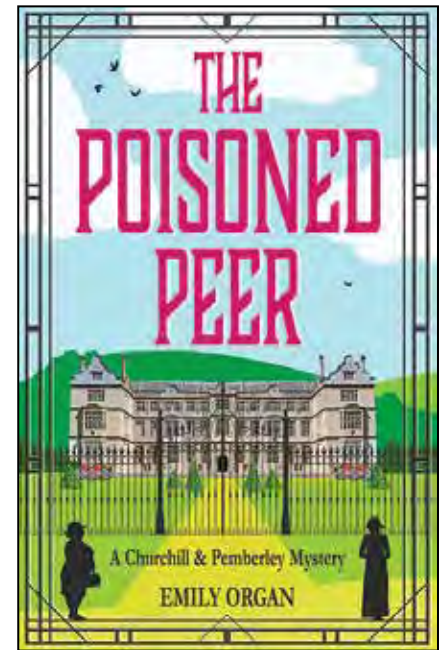
YEAR PUBLISHED: 2021

NUMBER OF PAGES: 278

ley change focus and dig where the police have not. Meanwhile, Mrs. Thonning is furious about a series of "poison pen" letters published in the local paper. The anonymous letters claim all kinds of problems due to poor quality items purchased at Thonning's shop. She is certain that the new shop owner is behind the letters and begs Churchill and Pemberley to investigate. They reluctantly agree, and that creates a whole other challenge for the detectives. In the end they learn that the letters were penned by one of Mrs. Thonning's former "man friends" as revenge for being dumped.

Churchill knows that the police don't want her help, but when she unravels all the tangled clues, the officials agree to help unveil the killer.

As things return to normal, Tryphena visits the office to apologize for doubting Churchill and Pemberley. She also informs them that a new will was found. This one



names the Earl's dog, Margery, as heir. Tryphena assures the women that she isn't worried about losing her ancestral home as another will is apt to be found.

Few of us will ever have to worry about becoming heir to a grand estate. In fact, I'd rather read about all the intrigue and scheming than be part of it. Your public library can supply books for every taste. All you have to do is drop by and check it out.

Waivers offered to counter bus driver shortage

To help school districts strained by a shortage of school bus drivers, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will implement a temporary waiver to get more drivers behind the wheel and encourage former drivers to reinstate.

"DOT is taking every available opportunity to ease the strain on communities struggling to recruit drivers by removing barriers that might keep prospective drivers from applying," DMV Administrator Kristina Boardman said.

Drivers seeking their school bus license (S endorsement) will have the portion of the test that identifies under the hood engine components waived until March 31. All other components of the written and road tests will remain. A recent waiver from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration temporarily allows states to modify the CDL test for school bus drivers.

"Wisconsin's CDL examiners will focus on the testing requirements that are critical to safety in order to help school districts and

communities struggling to recruit qualified school bus drivers," Boardman said.

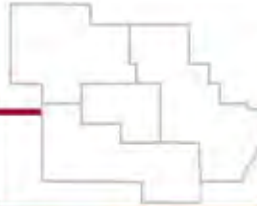
Drivers receiving a CDL under this temporary waiver are permitted to operate intrastate school buses only. They are not authorized to operate trucks, motor coaches or any other type of commercial motor vehicle requiring a CDL.

Additionally, the DMV recently sent a letter to nearly 1,000 former drivers who let their school bus licenses lapse. The letter encourages interested drivers to renew

their endorsements and check out employment opportunities in their communities. Many school bus companies have implemented employment incentives, including increased wages and sign-on and referral bonuses.

"With the critical shortage of school bus drivers in Wisconsin, we hope these steps will support new and returning drivers to get behind the wheel and ensure all students have convenient, safe transportation to their local schools," Boardman said.

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When the coronavirus pandemic hit, churches and other places of worship had to close, which meant NEW Media's worship directory had to go away. Now that the faithful are returning to their houses of worship, we're in the process of rebuilding our worship directory on our website

WWW.NEWMEDIA-WI.COM

Houses of worship can send their vital information, including physical addresses, days and times of services, names of leaders and contact information, to **EDITOR@NEWMEDIA-WI.COM**. Be sure to have **"WORSHIP DIRECTORY"** in the subject line.




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Community Foundation to provide arts grants

The Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin is seeking applications for Community Arts Grant funding by the April 15 application deadline.

The Community Arts Grant Fund, administered within the foundation, encourages cooperation and expansion of arts oppor-

tunities in our area. Grants, up to \$5,000 will be awarded for projects and programs that reinforce the quality and diversity of the arts in north central Wisconsin.

Funding for the Community Arts Grant program is being provided through the Wisconsin Arts Board, a state agency, the B.A.

and Esther Greenheck Foundation, and the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin's Wausau-Marathon County Fund.

Projects designed to complement, enhance, or expand new or existing cultural activities throughout Marathon County will be eligible to receive funding. To

qualify, some portion or outcome of the project must be open to the public.

To apply for a Community Arts Grant in 2022, contact Sue Nelson, foundation program director, at 715-845-9555 for grant guidelines and application instructions.

NTC extends free application waiver

Northcentral Technical College is extending an offer that gives

learners the opportunity to apply to the college for free.

Application fees are currently being waived for everyone interested in applying to NTC, which is a savings of \$30.

"This is our way of helping

students get started at NTC and supporting their dreams during difficult times," said Sarah Dillon, vice president of student services.

Those who are interested in applying for free also have the opportunity to meet with a career

coach or financial aid specialist and schedule a tour of campus including Timberwolf Suites, NTC's partnership for student housing.

For information, visit www.ntc.edu/apply.

VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on Election Day may request to vote an absentee ballot. 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 ward or municipality where he or she wishes to vote for at least 28 consecutive days before the election. The elector must also be registered in order to receive an absentee ballot. **Proof of identification must be provided before an absentee ballot may be issued.**

You must make a request for an absentee ballot in writing.

Contact your municipal clerk and request that an application for an absentee ballot be sent to you for the primary or election or both. You may also submit a written request in the form of a letter. Your written request must list your voting address within the municipality where you wish to vote, the address where the absentee ballot should be sent, if different, and your signature. You may make application for an absentee ballot by mail or in person.

Making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail

**The deadline for making application to receive an absentee by mail is:
5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 31, 2022.**

Note: Special absentee voting application provisions apply to electors who are indefinitely confined to home or a care facility, in the military, hospitalized, or serving as a sequestered juror. If this applies to you, contact the municipal clerk regarding deadlines for requesting and submitting an absentee ballot.

Voting an absentee ballot in person

You may also request and vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office or other specified location during the days and hours specified below for casting an absentee ballot in person.

Town / Village / City	Municipal Clerk	Phone Number	Office Address to Obtain Absentee Ballot	First Day to Vote Absentee Ballot in Clerk's Office	Last Day to Vote Absentee Ballot in Clerk's Office	Hours for In Person Absentee Voting
Village of Eland	Marnie Osterbrink	715-253-2968	W19069 Elm St. Eland 54427	Tuesday 3-22-2022	Friday 4-1-2022	M-F 5-7:00 By Appointment
Village of Aniwa	Mary O'Neill	715-218-2364	N11895 Summer St. Aniwa, WI 54408	Tuesday 3-22-2022	Friday 4-1-2022	M-F By Appointment
Village of Wittenberg	Traci Matsche	715-253-6063	208 W. Vinal St. Wittenberg, WI 54499	Tuesday 3-22-2022	Friday 4-1-2022	M-Th 8-5:00
Town of Almon	Heather Matsche	715-571-2561	W16650 Cnty Rd N Birnamwood, WI 54414	Tuesday 3-22-2022	Friday 4-1-2022	M-F 5-7:00 By Appointment
Town of Aniwa	Tammy Resch	715-449-2351	N10485 Cherry Rd Birnamwood, WI 54414	Tuesday 3-22-2022	Friday 4-1-2022	M-F 8-2:00 By Appointment
Town of Birnamwood	Dennis Knaak	715-449-3212	W17874 Cnty Rd N Birnamwood, WI 54414	Tuesday 3-22-2022	Friday 4-1-2022	M-F By Appointment
Town / Village / City	Municipal Clerk	Phone Number	Office Address to Obtain Absentee Ballot	First Day to Vote Absentee Ballot in Clerk's Office	Last Day to Vote Absentee Ballot in Clerk's Office	Hours for In Person Absentee Voting
Town of Germania	Benjamin Dudzik	715-881-0628	W17298 Cnty Road M Tigerton, WI 54486	Tuesday 3-22-2022	Friday 4-1-2022	M-F By Appointment
Town of Hutchins	Jan Fischer	715-489-3403	N11814 Hutchins-Aniwa Rd Birnamwood, WI 54414	Tuesday 3-22-2022	Friday 4-1-2022	M-F By Appointment
Town of Morris	Vicki Kennedy	715-326-1602	W15701 Marquardt Ln Wittenberg, WI 54499	Tuesday 3-22-2022	Friday 4-1-2022	By Appointment
Town of Wittenberg	Dick Beversdorf	715-881-3998	W17395 Cnty Rd Q Wittenberg, WI 54499	Tuesday 3-22-2022	Friday 4-1-2022	M-F By Appointment only

No in-person absentee voting may occur on the day before the election.

The municipal clerk will deliver voted ballots returned on or before Election Day to the proper polling place or counting location before the polls close on April 5, 2022. Any ballots received after the polls close will not be counted.



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NEW Media seeks freelancers to craft feature stories, cover community and high school sports, and cover events of local interest in Shawano, Oconto and Menominee counties for our online and print products. Self-starting correspondents have the opportunity to meet new people, learn about their communities and tell interesting stories to a broad audience. Correspondents must be able to take photos to accompany stories. Send a cover letter detailing your writing and photography experience and your fees, along with any clips you might have, to editor@newmedia-wi.com. Put "Correspondent" in the header.



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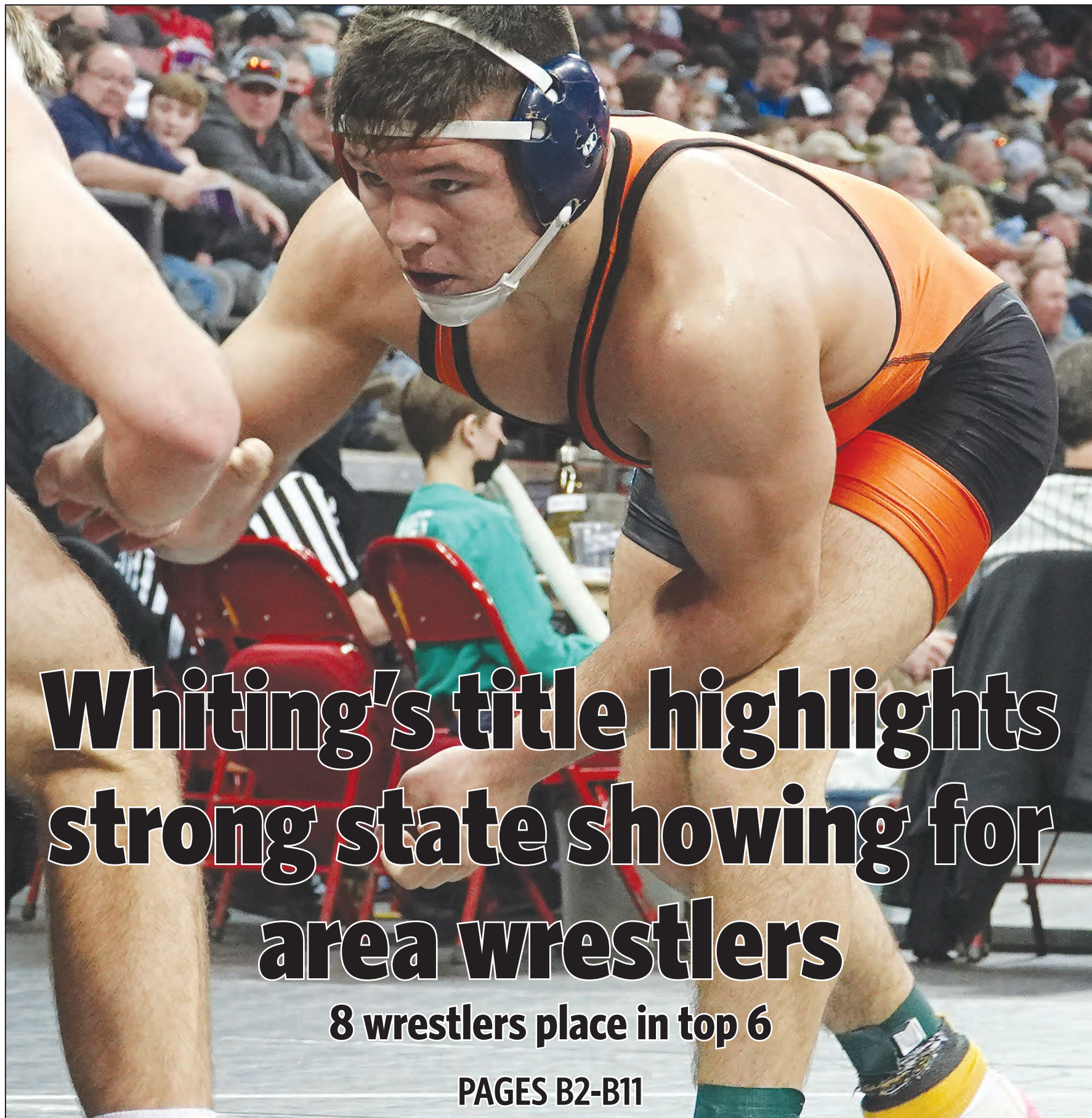
SPORTS

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SECTION B

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FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2022



Whiting's title highlights strong state showing for area wrestlers

8 wrestlers place in top 6

PAGES B2-B11

Oconto Falls' Clayton Whiting wrestles Amery's Grant Cook in a Division 2 182-pound weight class quarterfinal match at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament on Feb. 26 at the Kohl Center in Madison.

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BONDUEL WINS REGIONAL, B12 • 2 TEAMS LOSE REGIONAL TITLES, B13 • 3 ATHLETES SIGN LOI, B14-B15

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Oconto Falls' Whiting wins 4th state title

He finishes with 163-5 career record

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

Oconto Falls senior Clayton Whiting capped a historic high school career with his fourth state title after winning the Division 2 182-pound weight class at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament on Feb. 26 at the Kohl Center in Madison.

Whiting won the first-place match with a 17-5 major decision win over Northwestern's Ian Smith.

The four state titles puts Whiting in elite company, as only 19 other wrestlers had accomplished the feat coming into this year's tournament.

"It means a lot that my work is paying off," said Whiting. "All those years of blood, sweat and tears finally came to reality, and I ended up getting my fourth one tonight."

Whiting was one of three wrestlers to win a fourth state title on championship night. While most of the four-time champions are in the lighter weight classes, Whiting won his titles at 152, 170 and 182 (twice).

Whiting's first title was at 152 pounds, making it the heaviest weight for the first title of the 22 four-time champs. Only four of those four-time champs have a title over 152, and Whiting is the only one to have a title over 160 pounds.

"Just hours and hours of work, day and night, nonstop," said Whiting of what it took to win four titles, adding that mental toughness and positivity were also a big part of his success.

Whiting finished 3-0 at state and 50-1 on the season.

After a bye, he earned a 19-4 technical fall win over Amery's Grant Cook in the quarterfinals. Whiting then pinned Turner's Cal Ries in 3:44 in a semifinal matchup to advance to the title match.

"My aggression was way more toned down," said Whiting of this year's state run. "I didn't want to rush anything, didn't want to make any simple mistakes throughout all my matches."

All 15 points Whiting allowed in the tournament came on escapes,



Oconto Falls' Clayton Whiting, top, wrestles Amery's Grant Cook in a Division 2 182-pound weight class quarterfinal match at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament on Feb. 26 at the Kohl Center in Madison.

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with the Panther wrestler letting his opponents up.

Against Amery's Cook, Whiting had three first-period takedowns to take a 6-2 lead into the second period. Whiting then got a three-point nearfall from the top position before another takedown. In the final period, Whiting escaped from the bottom position before two more takedowns and a three-point nearfall to reach the 15-point threshold for a technical fall win.

In his win over Turner's Ries, Whiting had four takedowns in the first period for an 8-3 lead. He escaped the bottom position to start the second period and got a takedown six seconds later. After three more takedowns, Whiting finished the match off by pin.

Northwestern's Smith made Whiting work hard in the first-place match, but Whiting still made things look easy.

The Oconto Falls standout again led 8-3 after a period after four takedowns. He got two points on a reversal at the start of the second period and then got another two points on a takedown. In the final period of his high school career, Whiting escaped the bottom posi-

tion before tacking on four more points on two takedowns.

After the final whistle sounded, Whiting tossed his headgear to the mat and flexed each bicep before posing amid a loud ovation from the crowd. He then was congratulated by Northwestern coaches before going over to his coaching staff for high-fives and a hug from his dad Shane, who was part of the Panthers' three-person staff on the mat.

Whiting then ran up into the crowd to hug his mom Sarah and interact with his sister Taylor before returning to the court to be interviewed.

Whiting capped his phenomenal career with a 163-5 record. He only lost two matches after his freshman season.

The day before leaving for state, Whiting got word that he was the new No. 1 wrestler in the country in his weight class, according to FloWrestling.

"I'm like, 'Now I really gotta show Wisconsin who the No. 1 kid is really like,'" said Whiting of his reaction to that news.

The University of Missouri commit went 48-3 as a freshman

before a state title at 152 pounds. He finished 48-1 as a sophomore before securing the 170 weight class title. He posted a 17-0 mark during his COVID-19-altered junior season when he claimed his first 182 title.

Whiting will leave high school with four of the school's 18 individual state titles. He joined Jacob Morrissey (3), Riley Delzer (2) and Dewey Krueger (2) as the lone multiple-time champions in Panthers' history.

"I think my legacy is going to stay in there forever, and I think it means a lot to all the wrestlers that are incoming to my high school," Whiting said. "It's going to motivate them that anything is possible, and they can become just like me someday."

While Whiting's career at Oconto Falls has come to a close, his wrestling career as a whole is far from over.

Whiting, who also hopes to compete in the Olympics one day and win gold, will be a part of the Pittsburgh Wrestling Classic on March 25. He is part of Team USA and will wrestle in the team's dual against Team Pennsylvania at 182 pounds.



Oconto Falls' Clayton Whiting, front, hugs his dad Shane after winning his fourth state title during the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament on Feb. 26 at the Kohl Center in Madison.

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Oconto Falls' Clayton Whiting celebrates his fourth state title after winning the Division 2 182-pound weight class first-place match at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament on Feb. 26 at the Kohl Center in Madison.

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HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Pulaski's Gibbons 2nd, Wells 3rd at state

Eggert takes 5th, while Woosencraft, Gille end seasons at state

By **MORGAN RODE**

Sports Editor

Pulaski High School sent five individual wrestlers to the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament, held Feb. 24-26 at the Kohl Center in Madison. Of those, three athletes placed in the top six.

Trenton Gibbons placed second in the Division 1 182-pound weight class, while Mason Wells was third at 220 pounds and Ethan Eggert grabbed fifth at 113 pounds. Brady Gille (138) and Chase Woosencraft (170) dropped both of their state matches.

Gibbons opened the state tournament with two wins by pin on Thursday. He pinned Union Grove's Gianna Scacco in 2:42 and then took down De Pere's Michael Alexander in 5:03.

Gibbons trailed 2-0 against Scacco before pulling off a reversal to tie the match. Gibbons had another reversal in the second period before getting the pin.

The Pulaski junior was down 5-0 to Alexander before an escape in the second period. He trailed 7-1 before taking down Alexander in the third period and pinning him.

Gibbons picked up another thrilling win in the semifinals Friday night, winning 5-4 by ultimate tiebreaker over Waterford's Evan Danowski.

Danowski led 3-1 heading to the third period before Gibbons escaped and earned a point on a penalty to tie things up. After each wrestler escaped during overtime, Gibbons didn't let Danowski escape the bottom position in double overtime to earn the final point and win.

Gibbons then took on West Bend West's Connor Mirasola in the title match Saturday night, but he lost by pin in 28 seconds.

Wells lost just once on his way to third place.

Wells won by injury default over Port Washington's Jacob Peacy in his first match. Wells led 7-2 after the first period after a takedown, two two-point nearfalls and a penalty point.

The Pulaski junior then won a 14-6 major decision over Pewaukee's John Mohr in the quarterfinals.

Wells had two takedowns and a



Pulaski's Trenton Gibbons, top, wrestles Union Grove's Gianna Scacco during a Division 1 182-pound weight class match Feb. 24 at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

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three-point nearfall in the first period to lead 7-1. He had two escapes and a takedown to win the second period 4-3. Mohr had a reversal to start the third period, but Wells escaped and took him down to seal his win.

"I stuck with my training and what got me here," said Wells on what he did well at state. "I finished my shots good. I wrestled tough and wrestled through the whistles."

In the semifinals Friday, Wells lost a 12-6 decision to Madison La Follette's Jackson Mankowski. It was a tight match going into the final period, but Mankowski got a takedown and three-point nearfall to pull away.

Wells won two tight decisions Saturday to grab third place. He first defeated Holmen's Carson Westcott 10-7 and then edged Brookfield East's Aaron Botsch 7-6 in the third-place match.

Against Westcott, Wells was down 7-6 entering the third period, but he pulled off a reversal and two-point nearfall to win it.

Wells trailed 6-4 in the third-place match but escaped from the bottom position before getting a takedown. Then he held on for the one-point



Pulaski's Mason Wells, bottom, wrestles Brookfield East's Aaron Botsch during the Division 1 220-pound weight class third-place match Feb. 26 at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

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decision win.

"It's great; it feels amazing," Wells said of his third-place finish. "But I lost in the semis, and it's my goal next year to get past that."

To win a title next year, "I just got to keep training in the offseason and putting in the work and listen to my coaches and trust what they tell me," Wells said.

Eggert had a busy three days at state, posting a 4-2 record to take fifth.

His state run began with a 7-2 win over Holmen's Turner Campbell.

Eggert led 4-0 going to the third period after takedowns in the first and second. He upped the lead to 7-0 after getting a penalty point and reversal and eased to the win from there.

The junior then dropped an 8-0 major decision to West Bend West's Ben Bast, which sent him to the consolation bracket Friday.

Eggert opened consolation action with a pin in 3:59 over Mount Horeb/Barneveld's J.J. Poarch. The Red Raider wrestler got the only points in the first period on a takedown and then had an escape and takedown in the second period to take a 5-0 advantage. Poarch took him down in the third, but Eggert pulled a reversal and then got a penalty point to pull away before pinning Poarch.

Eggert then earned an 8-2 decision win over New Richmond's Luke Kamish to guarantee himself a spot on the podium.

Eggert outscored Kamish 5-1 in the second period after escaping and then taking him down twice. Kamish escaped in the third, but Eggert took him down again and added another point on a penalty to come away victorious.



Pulaski's Ethan Eggert, right, tries to pin Milton's Aiden Slama during the Division 1 113-pound weight class fifth-place match, held Feb. 26 at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

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The Pulaski wrestler split his two matches Saturday. He lost a 10-5 decision to Slinger's Noah Tonsor before earning a 5-0 decision win over Milton's Aiden Slama in the fifth-place match.

Against Tonsor, Eggert earned his points on three escapes and a takedown. Eggert had a three-point nearfall and reversal against Slama.

"It means a lot, as I've had the goal

of placing at high school state since I was in grade school," said Eggert, who said he did well on his shots but struggled at times to stay in a good position, which let opponents get to his legs.

"Taking fifth gave me confidence and proved to myself that I am capable of doing big things if I keep working hard."

Gille opened state against

Kaukauna's Greyson Clark, losing a 16-0 technical fall. Clark went on to win the state title.

After Clark advanced, that moved Gille, a senior, to the consolation bracket Friday morning. He dropped a 7-1 decision to Arrowhead's Nate Druckrey, escaping in the third period for his point.

Woosencraft lost a 23-8 technical fall to Milton's Aeden Sinclair in his first state match. Woosencraft earned all eight points on escapes. Sinclair went on to win the title at 170 pounds.

Woosencraft, a sophomore, then dropped a 6-0 decision to Kasey Gish of West Bend East in a consolation matchup.

"First off, state was an incredible experience," said Woosencraft. "I enjoyed every second of it and love each and every one of our fans; they never gave up on me and always believed in me."

He added that this year's state experience will help him in the final two years of his high school career.

Woosencraft finished the year with a 27-15 record, while Gille was 30-12. Eggert posted a 39-9 mark. Wells earned a strong 36-3 record, while Gibbons went 37-6.

sports@newmedia-wi.com

HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

GIRLS HOCKEY

Xavier co-op 7

Green Bay East co-op 6

The top-seeded Green Bay East co-op, also known as the Bay Area Ice Bears, lost a wild Division 1 sectional title game to the second-seeded Xavier co-op on Feb. 25 at the Mullett Ice Arena in Hartland.

The Green Bay East co-op, which rosters Pulaski players, wraps up the season with a 21-2-1 record.

Green Bay East co-op 3

Univ. School of Milwaukee co-op 1

The top-seeded Green Bay East co-op defeated the fifth-seeded University School of Milwaukee co-op on Feb. 23 in Green Bay.

It was the Green Bay East co-op's first playoff game after it received a bye.

BOYS HOCKEY

Lakeland Union 3

Antigo/Witt-Birn 1

The fourth-seeded Antigo/Wittenberg-Birnamwood co-op was defeated by top-seeded Lakeland Union on Feb. 23 in Minocqua.

Witt-Birn's Owen Dickman scored the first goal of the game for the co-op, but Lakeland Union scored twice in the third period to come away with the win.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Bonduel 68

Menominee Indian 62

Bonduel topped Menominee Indian in a Central Wisconsin Conference-East Division clash on Feb. 24 in Keshena.

Noah Weier hit four 3-pointers and led Bonduel with 20 points. Jon Sell made six shots and six free throws to score 18 points.

Reece Stoltenow chipped in 13 points for the Bears, while Charlie Tauchen had 11 points.

Bryce Dixon scored 16 points to pace Menominee Indian. Isaiah Moss provided 15 points, while Lloyd Reeves had 12 points. Joshua Besaw and Wendell Waukau contributed 10 and nine points, respectively.

Lena 65

Niagara 34

Max Beyer powered Lena to a Marinette & Oconto Conference win over Niagara on Feb. 24 in Lena.

Beyer made 10 3-pointers and scored 39 points to outscore Niagara by himself.

Logan Shallow added 11 points for Lena, while Lane Whiting had eight points.

Tigerton 73

White Lake 65

Tigerton defeated White Lake in a CWC-North clash on Feb. 24 in White Lake.

Ryder Graham led Tigerton with 24 points and 12 rebounds.

Colby Wanta scored 22 points for the Tigers, while Zeke Gripen-trog had 17 points.

Gresham 78

Northland Lutheran 66

Gresham earned a CWC-North road win over Northland Lutheran on Feb. 24 in Kronenwetter.

Lukas Pecore knocked down four 3-pointers and scored 25 points for Gresham. Will Jensen added 15 points, while Belasaire Vele had 13 and Jack Haffner eight.

Vele also dished out 13 assists and grabbed eight rebounds. Haffner had five assists and five boards, while Jensen grabbed six rebounds.

Blade Hoffman was credited with seven rebounds for Gresham.

Witt-Birn 78

Shiocton 64

Wittenberg-Birnamwood took down Shiocton in a CWC-East battle on Feb. 24 in Wittenberg.

Simon Schairer powered Witt-Birn with 26 points, making 12 field goals and two free throws.

Ben Wesolowski and Jack Fraaza each tallied 13 points, while Ben Flak had 10 points.

Ashwaubenon 66

Pulaski 53

Pulaski dropped a Fox River Classic Conference matchup to Ashwaubenon on Feb. 24 in Pulaski.

Derek Shaw made three 3-pointers and scored 16 points for Pulaski.

Brady Wotruba added 14 points for the Red Raiders, while Gatlin Robaidek had seven points.

Shawano 60

Pulaski 55

Shawano outscored Pulaski by six in the second half to claim a nonconference win on Feb. 21 in Shawano.

Michael Metcalf-Grassman scored 29 points to power Shawano to victory. He hit four 3-pointers among his nine field goals, and added seven free throws.

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Witt-Birn's Gauderman places 3rd at state



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's David Gauderman, right, takes down Reedsville's Cole Ebert during a Division 3 220-pound weight class semifinal match on Feb. 25 at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

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Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Pierson Potrykus, top, wrestles Stanley-Boyd's Breckin Burzynski during a Division 3 126-pound weight class match on Feb. 24 at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

Potrykus ends wrestling career at Madison

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School junior David Gauderman lost just once at state on his way to a third-place finish in the Division 3 220-pound weight class at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament, which ran Feb. 24-26 at the Kohl Center in Madison.

Senior teammate Pierson Potrykus also competed at state, losing his lone match at 126 pounds.

Gauderman had a bye and didn't wrestle his first state match until Friday morning.

He pinned Stratford's Cole Marten in 1:43 to advance. Gauderman took Marten down about 90 seconds into the match before pinning him.

The win moved Gauderman into the semifinals Friday night, where he lost 7-6 to Reedsville's Cole Ebert by ultimate tiebreaker.

Neither wrestler scored in the first period. In the second, Ebert escaped from the bottom position before Gauderman took him down to grab the lead.

Before the period ended, Ebert escaped and took him down before Gauderman escaped.

In the third period, Gauderman pulled off a reversal from the bottom position before Ebert escaped.

Tied at five, each wrestler escaped from the bottom position to send the match to double overtime. Ebert escaped with 11 seconds remaining to claim the match.

"The semifinal match didn't go my way. I just made one mistake early in the match, and it cost me at the end of the match," said Gauderman.

The loss sent Gauderman into the consolation bracket Saturday, where he won twice to grab third place. Gauderman defeated Fennimore's Cameron Winkers 10-3 and then pinned Marten in 1:37 in the third-place match.

Against Winkers, Gauderman took the lead with an escape and takedown in the second period.

Winkers took Gauderman down at the start of the third period before Gauderman escaped and took him down. After Winkers escaped, Gauderman got a late takedown and two-point nearfall to seal up the win.

In the third-place match against Marten, neither wrestler scored in the first period. Marten chose the bottom position for the second period, but Gauderman made him regret that decision by pinning him.

"I can't really say I'm mad at myself for not wrestling good, because this weekend is probably the best I've wrestled all year," said Gauderman.

"It (third place) means a lot. It's nice knowing that basically everybody else is a senior, so I don't have to worry about anybody next year. Obviously, I wish I would have came in first, but I'm glad I came back after the loss in the semifinals and cleaned up a little bit."

After a fourth-place finish at state as a sophomore and now a third-place finish, Gauderman is hoping his final wrestling season ends atop the podium with a state title.

"Just lifting heavy, conditioning, doing everything that's necessary. Just working out every day, not giving myself excuses on the weekends not to go and workout because if you want to be at the top, that's what you got to do," said Gauderman of the work it'll take to win state next winter.

Potrykus' match came Thursday evening against Stanley-Boyd's Breckin Burzynski. Potrykus dropped a 3-1 decision.

Neither wrestler scored in the first period, with the first points coming on a Burzynski escape in the second. Potrykus escaped in the third period.

It looked as if the match would head into overtime, but Burzynski got a takedown with under five seconds to go to steal the match.

"It was definitely great to wrestle there again," said Potrykus. "Wish I could've lasted longer into the tournament, but I'm still glad I got to have my family come for the weekend and have a good time."

Potrykus finished the season with a 44-8 record, while Gauderman was 47-4.

WITT-BIRN BOYS HOOPS



The Wittenberg-Birnamwood boys basketball team held an 8-8 record through Jan. 31. CONTRIBUTED

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood boys basketball teams began its postseason journey this week after a strong regular season. The Chargers earned a 15-9 overall record and were 9-3 in the Central Wisconsin Conference-East Division to

claim second place.

Simon Schairer and Ben Wesolowski were the team's top scorers, with Schairer and Max Fraaza leading the team in rebounding. Wesolowski and Kaden Schmidt led the team in assists.

WITT-BIRN GIRLS HOOPS



The Wittenberg-Birnamwood girls basketball team held a 12-6 record through Jan. 31. CONTRIBUTED

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood girls basketball team recently wrapped up its season after a loss in a Division 4 regional title game. The Chargers earned playoff wins over Montello and Marathon.

Witt-Birn capped the season with a

17-10 record, including a 6-6 mark in the CWC-East to tie for third place.

Reese Rogowski and Kaylee Schram led the team in scoring and rebounding. Rogowski and Jadalynn were tops in assists.

WITT-BIRN WRESTLING



The Wittenberg-Birnamwood wrestling team had 16 dual wins through Jan. 31. CONTRIBUTED

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood wrestling team wrapped up its season with David Gauderman and Pierson Potrykus competing at state. Gauderman took third. The team took second at the CWC

Tournament. Gauderman took first, while Potrykus, Easton Davis, Andres Sanchez, Max Kersten, Nico Pelusi, Owen Schultz, Nathan Waupekenay and Coye Brillowski took second.

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HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING



Bonduel's Tyson Bogacz, right, wrestles Boyceville's Ira Bialzik during a Division 3 160-pound weight class consolation match Feb. 25 during the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

Bogacz claims 6th at D3 160 weight class

Bonduel junior caps year with 43 wins

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

Bonduel High School junior Tyson Bogacz earned a sixth-place finish in the Division 3 160-pound weight class at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament, which ran Feb. 24-26 at the Kohl Center in Madison.

Bogacz finished with a 1-3 record at state and capped the season with a 43-11 record.

"I wish I could've been higher on the podium," said Bogacz. "My sixth-place finish this year just means I have a lot of work to do this offseason. I learned more than enough from this experience.

"This finish tells and shows me there's still work to be done if I want to get to where I want to be by next year."

Bogacz had a bye and didn't have to wrestle the first night of state. He opened his state run against Aquinas' Calvin Hargrove, dropping an 11-7 decision.

Bogacz had the first takedown, but Hargrove got three points on an escape and takedown to lead 3-2 after one period. The Aquinas wrestler then scored five points off a reversal and three-point nearfall to take a commanding 8-2 lead, but Bogacz pulled off a reversal of his own for the final points of the period.

In the final period, Bogacz escaped the bottom position and then got a takedown with about 45 seconds left to cut the deficit to one. After Hargrove escaped, he took down Bogacz with just over 25 seconds left and hung on for the win.

The loss sent Bogacz into the consolation bracket, where he picked up a 9-2 decision win over Boyceville's Ira Bialzik.

Bogacz had the lone points in the first period on a takedown and then scored five points in the next period on an escape, takedown and two-point nearfall. The junior upped his lead to nine after a takedown in the third period. Bialzik pulled off a reversal with 25 seconds left, but Bogacz didn't surrender any more points the rest of the way to claim the win.

On the final day of the tournament, Bogacz dropped a 9-3 decision to Wabeno/Laona/Three Lakes' Piersson Czaplinski before losing a 6-5 decision to Hargrove in the fifth-place match.

Against Czaplinski, Bogacz trailed 2-0 after a period before

escaping late in the second period. Czaplinski got a takedown with just over 10 seconds left to take a 4-1 lead. In the final period, Czaplinski and Bogacz each had reversals before Czaplinski got three more points on an escape and takedown in the final 15 seconds.

In his second showdown with Hargrove, Bogacz scored the first takedown before the Aquinas wrestler escaped and then took him down with five seconds left in the opening period. Bogacz got the only point in the next period on an escape and then took the lead after a three-point nearfall about 30 seconds into the final period. Seconds later, Hargrove pulled off a reversal and then eventually got two more points on a nearfall with 40 seconds left to emerge victorious.

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Panthers' freshman Bozile makes podium at D2 126 weight class

Pankratz finishes with 1-2 mark

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

Along with Clayton Whiting's state title, Oconto Falls had Graeson Pankratz and Cole Bozile competing at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament, which ran Feb. 24-26 at the Kohl Center in Madison.

Bozile came away with a sixth-place finish in the Division 2 126-pound weight class, while Pankratz fell a win short of making the podium at 120 pounds.

"It's pretty awesome to wrestle my last matches at state," said Pankratz, a senior. "Not many people get to do that."

Bozile's state run began with a 6-2 decision win over Adams-Friendship's Jordan Dolata on Thursday night.

All the scoring came in the final period, with Bozile and then Dolata pulling off reversals. Bozile got another reversal before a two-point nearfall to pull off the win and advance to the quarterfinals.

Bozile faced Neillsville/Greenwood/Loyal's Derek Zschernitz in the quarterfinals and won another 6-2 decision.

Bozile fell behind early on but pulled a reversal to tie the match. In the second period, Bozile started in the top position and never gave it up, adding two points on a nearfall near the end of the period. In the final period, Bozile earned another two points on a reversal to seal up his win.

Bozile squared off with Portage's Chase Beckett in the semifinals Friday night. Beckett won a 10-0 major decision and then went on to win the state title.

The loss sent Bozile to the consolation bracket, where he wrestled two matches Saturday.

Bozile dropped a 7-0 decision to Campbellsport's Ostin Blanchard and then lost a 4-3 decision to Ashland's Austin Defoe in the fifth-place match.

Against Defoe, Bozile trailed the entire match before getting a take-



Oconto Falls' Cole Bozile, top, wrestles Portage's Chase Beckett in a Division 2 126-pound weight class semifinal match Feb. 25 at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

down with just under 10 seconds to wrestle to tie things up. Defoe escaped to claim the win.

"I think I did great — not the outcome I would've liked, but I fought hard," said Bozile of his state tournament. "I think that I could've wrestled better on my feet and getting out on bottom."

The freshman was thrilled to end his year on the state podium and thanked his wrestling partners for helping him get there. He's excited for what's to come in the next three years.

"This finish makes me want to be standing higher on that podium next year," said Bozile. "The state experience was also nothing but the best, and now I know what I have to come in the next three years."

Pankratz began his state tournament Thursday evening against Win-

neconne's Mason Sternard. Pankratz won a 7-0 decision, controlling the match from start to finish.

Pankratz got a takedown about 30 seconds into the match and held that position the rest of the period. In the next period, Pankratz got another takedown. He started in the bottom position in the third and escaped before getting a late takedown to seal his win.

In the quarterfinals Friday, Pankratz was pinned in 4:31 by Neillsville/Greenwood/Loyal's Luke Dux.

Pankratz trailed 6-2 after a period after escaping twice and then escaped twice in the second period, but trailed 10-4. Dux escaped, took down Pankratz and then pinned him in the final period.

It was a similar outcome for Pankratz in a consolation match Friday afternoon against East Troy's Jonah

Edwards, who pinned Pankratz in 4:21.

Pankratz grabbed the lead with an escape and takedown in the second period, but Edwards responded with an escape, takedown and three-point nearfall to surge ahead. He then pulled a reversal before pinning Pankratz in the final period.

Pankratz was pleased with how he wrestled Thursday but said he got caught in some positions and put on his back during his Friday matches. Despite falling short of his expectations, he was happy to end his career on the biggest stage.

"It was cool to experience the tournament one more time, and there's no better place to wrestle my last match," said Pankratz.

Pankratz finished the season with a 37-12 record, while Bozile was 24-9.

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Comins takes 6th at D3 106 weight class



Lena's Dylan Comins, top, wrestles Fennimore's Amryn Nutter during a Division 3 106-pound weight class consolation match Feb. 26 at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

Junior breaks school record for wins in a season

By MORGAN RODE
Sports Editor

Lena High School junior Dylan Comins posted a 2-3 record on his way to a sixth-place finish in the Division 3 106-pound weight class at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament, which ran Feb. 24-26 at the Kohl Center in Madison.

"I accomplished what I wanted to, just to make the podium," said Comins, who finished the season with a 50-10 record, helping him set a new school record for wins in a season.

He expressed disappointment at ending his state experience with

a loss. "I didn't wrestle up to my potential in my last match, but I'm happy with my state run."

Comins opened his state run Thursday night against Cadott's Kaleb Lodahl, winning an 18-1 technical fall.

Comins controlled the match from start to finish. He got the first takedown before a three-point nearfall about a minute into the match. Lodahl escaped shortly after, but Comins got another takedown and three-point takedown before the first period expired.

In the second period, Comins pulled off a reversal from the bottom position before two three-point nearfalls helped him reach the 15-point-plus advantage to call the match by technical fall.

"It was awesome to wrestle in the Kohl Center," said Comins. "The atmosphere of everything is just unexplainable."

In the quarterfinals the following

day, Comins dropped a 13-7 decision to Glenwood City's Wyatt Unser.

Unser had all five first-period points on a takedown and three-point nearfall, before Comins won the second period 4-1. He had two takedowns to one Unser escape.

In the final period, Unser escaped the bottom position before Comins got a takedown to trim his deficit to one. Unser took over the match with the next six points on an escape, takedown and three-point nearfall before Comins got a late escape.

The loss sent Comins into the consolation bracket, where he pinned Auburndale's Derek Godard in 2:01 to guarantee himself a place on the podium.

It was Godard that led 5-0 after a period, but Comins got a takedown halfway through the second period that led to the pin.

Comins wrestled twice on the final day of state. He dropped an 18-2 technical fall to Fennimore's Amryn Nutter

and then lost a 9-3 decision to Unser.

Against Nutter, Comins trailed 2-0 about three minutes into the match before Nutter got a takedown and trio of nearfalls to go up 12-0. Comins had the first takedown of the final period, but Nutter escaped, took down Comins and got a three-point nearfall to end the match.

In Comins' second match against Unser, the Lena junior trailed 7-0 going to the third period. Unser scored the first point of the last period before Comins picked up a point on a penalty before getting a late takedown. He then let Unser escape but couldn't bring him down again.

Comins' state experience the past two years has him planning big things for his final high school season.

"Next year I will be hungrier to get higher on the podium after I got a taste of what it is like to win in Madison," said Comins.

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Shawano's Young and Smits fall short of Division 1 state podium

Young wins pair of matches

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

Shawano Community High School wrestlers Caden Young and Jackson Smits fell short of top-six finishes during the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament, which ran Feb. 24-26 at the Kohl Center in Madison.

Young went 2-2 in the Division 1 170-pound weight class while Smits, a senior, dropped his lone state match at 220 pounds.

"Being my last wrestling season, just like everybody else, I did not want it to end," said Smits. "Making it to the state tournament gave me more time to do what I love with the people that I love. In the end, I am just grateful to have gotten more time."

Young opened his state run Thursday afternoon against New Berlin West/Eisenhower's Jack Gillis, winning a tight 8-6 decision.

Young dominated the first period, taking down Gillis three times before allowing three escapes. Gillis tied the match with an escape and takedown in the next period.

The Shawano junior started the third period in the bottom position, and after drawing a stalling call, picked up the go-ahead point on a penalty. He got his final point on an escape.

The win moved Young into the quarterfinals against Arrowhead's Noah Mulvaney, who topped Young in a 12-6 decision.

Mulvaney got two takedowns to one Young escape in the first period. Mulvaney scored all five points in the next period on an escape, takedown and two-point nearfall to take control. Young continued to battle in the final period, cutting into the deficit with a takedown and two-point nearfall, but a Mulvaney escape and takedown sealed the match.

The loss meant Young moved to the consolation bracket Friday. He began consolation action with a 10-3



Shawano's Caden Young, top, wrestles Union Grove's Travis Moore during a Division 1 170-pound consolation match Feb. 25 at the 2022 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

decision win over Muskego's Matt Kinzel.

Young controlled the match, going up 5-0 after a takedown and three-point nearfall in the first period and escape in the second. Kinzel escaped in the final period, but Young secured the win with a takedown and two-point nearfall.

Young's season came to a close after a 9-2 decision loss to Union Grove's Travis Moore.

Moore got a takedown in the first period and escape in the second to go up 3-0 before a three-point nearfall in the third period. Young pulled off a reversal, but eventually ran out of time.

"For me, my state tournament as a whole was underwhelming," said

Young. "I feel like I didn't wrestle to the best of my abilities."

Despite falling short of his expectations, Young believes he can build on the experience.

"This is definitely going to help motivate me to reach the top of that podium," said Young, who added he enjoyed the state experience.

Smits' state match came against Holmen's Carson Westcott on Thursday afternoon. Westcott won a 9-4 decision, then lost in the next round, meaning Smits was eliminated from the consolation competition.

Smits fell behind 2-0 before escaping early in the second period. Westcott then got a takedown and three-point nearfall to make it 7-1.

In the final period, Smits got a

takedown and then kept the pressure on, eventually getting a point on a stalling call. The senior eventually ran out of time, with Westcott picking up late points on a penalty and escape.

"My match did not go the way I hoped it would, but I rest easy knowing that I left everything out there on the floor of the Kohl Center," said Smits. "All in all, the state experience is one that I will never forget. I am truly blessed to have had this opportunity to make more memories with my coaches, teammates and family."

Smits finished the season with a 32-9 record, while Young was 28-4.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Bonduel girls win D4 regional title

Gresham, Menominee Indian also earned playoff wins

By **MORGAN RODE** and **LUKE REIMER**
NEW Media

The high school girls basketball postseason got underway last week with regional play.

Bonduel won two games to claim a Division 4 regional title, while Gresham and Menominee Indian also picked up playoff wins before being eliminated.

Bonduel

Third-seeded Bonduel opened the playoffs with a 46-44 overtime win over sixth-seeded Crandon in a regional semifinal battle on Feb. 25 in Bonduel. The Bears then routed seventh-seeded Shiocton 83-46 in the regional title game Feb. 26 in Bonduel.

In the title game, Allaina Robaidek scored 25 points to power Bonduel. Hailey Zernicke had a double-double with 14 points and 11 rebounds.

Brenna Hertzfeldt finished with nine rebounds and eight points for the Bears. Kylie Hoffman dished out six assists, and Ella Hischke had five assists.

In the team's win over Crandon, Robaidek led the way again.

Robaidek scored four of the Bears' five points in overtime on four free throws. In total, Robaidek recorded 14 points, while Zernicke added another 10 points.

Crandon is a team that had been a thorn in the side for Bonduel. The Bears had been eliminated by Crandon in three out of the last four playoffs. Earlier in the season, Robaidek hit a game winning 3-pointer to beat Crandon.

"In my freshman and sophomore seasons, they (Crandon) actually knocked us out of the playoffs," said Robaidek. "I was going to die before I let that happen again."

Not much scoring came in overtime as Bonduel outscored Crandon 5-3 in the extra period. One of the biggest plays in the game came when Audrey Weier rebounded a missed Hischke free throw with under 10 seconds left in overtime. After another made free throw from the Bears, Crandon's desperation 3-point attempt missed, giving



Bonduel's Hailee Thompson runs the fast break, looking for an open teammate during the team's Division 4 playoff win over Crandon on Feb. 25 in Bonduel.
LUKE REIMER | NEW MEDIA

Bonduel a two-point win.

"My emotions were everywhere tonight," said Robaidek. "I had to keep a cool composure though, as my teammates were looking to me for that."

The game was close early, with the Bears leading 12-10. That's when Bonduel head coach Jerry Reinke made the decision to play a 2-3 zone defense. The Bears excelled in the zone, as the Cardinals only scored five points in the last nine minutes of the first half. Bonduel led 18-15 going into the break.

"Late in the season, we have been getting better at our zone defense," said Robaidek. "We just had our hands up and were active. We knew that we could not sit back and let it come to us; we had to go."

The defense from the Bears was dominant again to open the second half, as they opened the half on a 10-0 run. The Cardinals then started to get hot from the field. Crandon went on a 18-10 run, to bring the game to 38-33 with 3:18 left in the game. A couple of made 3-point shots, combined with a couple of Bonduel turnovers, gave the Cardinals a 41-40 lead with under a

minute to play.

Much like the overtime period, Bonduel added a free throw from Robaidek and Crandon's 3-point attempt at the buzzer was off the mark.

Bonduel will continue its postseason push against top-seeded St. Mary Catholic in a sectional semifinal matchup March 3 in Crivitz.

Gresham

In Division 5, sixth-seeded Gresham defeated 11th-seeded Northland Lutheran 67-45 on Feb. 23 in Gresham before falling just short in a 66-60 loss to third-seeded Edgar on Feb. 25 in Edgar.

Against Edgar, Hannah Cerveney led Gresham with 23 points, while Maddie Haffner added 15 points. Cerveney hit four 3-pointers, while Haffner made three.

Valarie Cerveney chipped in eight points for the Wildcats.

Valarie Cerveney and Hannah Cerveney powered Gresham against Northland Lutheran, scoring 22 and 18 points, respectively.

Jessa Jensen and Haffner added seven points each for Gresham, while

Chloe Bohl had six.

Menominee Indian

In Division 3, seventh-seeded Menominee Indian earned a home playoff win before being eliminated.

The Eagles rolled to a 67-28 win over 10th-seeded Tomahawk on Feb. 23 in Keshena before falling 65-55 to second-seeded Amherst on Feb. 25 in Amherst.

Shawano

Up in Division 2, Shawano was topped in its first playoff game.

The fifth-seeded Hawks lost 51-34 to fourth-seeded New London on Feb. 25 in New London. Shawano had a bye to open the postseason.

Marion

Marion was the only local team that moved its playoff game up a day because of the impending inclement weather.

The 16th-seeded Mustangs lost 67-6 to top-seeded Assumption in a Division 5 regional quarterfinal matchup Feb. 22 in Wisconsin Rapids.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Gillett girls eliminated after regional title loss

Oconto Falls, Lena, Suring also earned playoff wins

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The Oconto Falls, Gillett, Lena, Suring and Pulaski girls basketball teams all took part in regional playoff games last week.

Gillett advanced to the regional title game before being eliminated, while Oconto Falls, Lena and Suring all earned a playoff win.

Gillett

Playing in Division 5, fourth-seeded Gillett earned home playoff wins over 13th-seeded White Lake (64-10 on Feb. 23) and fifth-seeded Florence (47-44 on Feb. 25) before coming up short in a 35-29 loss to top-seeded Wabeno/Laona on Feb. 26 in Laona.

It was a balanced attack that led Gillett past White Lake. Carleigh Kaczmarek and Halle Fisher each scored 11 points for the Tigers, while Laney DeBauch and Alaina Herzog had eight each. A total of nine Gillett players scored.

In the win over Florence, only four

Gillett players scored. Kaczmarek led the team with 19 points, while Macy Franti had 13 and Herzog 10. Naomi Anker had the other five points.

Kaczmarek scored 14 of Gillett's points in the regional title loss to Wabeno/Laona. Herzog chipped in eight points.

Oconto Falls

Up in Division 3, Oconto Falls cruised to a 52-24 win over 11th-seeded Little Chute on Feb. 23 in Oconto Falls before being eliminated in a 72-52 loss to third-seeded Xavier on Feb. 25 in Appleton.

Hailey Peitersen had a huge game to lead the Panthers past Little Chute. Peitersen nearly outscored Little Chute all on her own after tallying 19 points, which included three 3-pointers.

"We had a really good warm-up before the game. I was feeling it in pregame, and we kind of just talked it over. It's hard to beat a team three times, but we all just got in the right mindset, and we got the job done," said Peitersen.

The teams split the first 14 points in the contest before Oconto Falls scored 15 straight points. Peitersen had 10 of the points on that run.

Oconto Falls overwhelmed Little Chute with a trapping press before dropping back into a 1-3-1 zone.

The Panthers had a chance to blow the game wide open, but they managed just two points over the final six minutes of the opening half.

Peitersen added a couple more buckets in the second half to help the team to a 44-19 lead with less than seven minutes to play. At that point, coach Tim Solarek pulled the starters and key reserves to rest them.

It was a bittersweet moment for Peitersen and the rest of the Panthers' senior class, as the win over Little Chute marked that group's final game on their home court.

"It's great. It was nice to see the fans here one last time," said Peitersen. "It's so cool to see what's coming up in the years and celebrating our successes, too."

Amber Otto starred down the stretch, scoring six straight points to help the Panthers seal the win. Alexis Euclide also scored six points for Oconto Falls, which had 10 players score in the contest.

Against Xavier, Peitersen poured in 27 points for the Panthers. Euclide added 15 points. Oconto Falls trailed by just six, 33-27, at halftime.

Lena

Back in Division 5, sixth-seeded Lena eased to a 66-23 win over No. 11 Goodman/Pembine on Feb. 23 in Lena before dropping a 46-37 regional semi-

final game to third-seeded Niagara on Feb. 25 in Niagara.

In the win over Goodman/Pembine, four Lena players scored in double figures, led by Claire Brooks' 13 points.

Natalie McNurlen and Eva Brooks each contributed 11 points for the Wildcats, while Chaela Rabas had 10. Whitney Potter added in seven points.

Against Niagara, Eva Brooks scored a team-high 12 points. Rabas tallied nine points, and Potter had eight.

Suring

Also in Division 5, seventh-seeded Suring topped No. 10 Bowler 59-18 on Feb. 23 in Suring before the Eagles were eliminated. They lost 57-33 to second-seeded Three Lakes on Feb. 25 in Three Lakes.

In the win over Bowler, 10 Suring players scored. MacKenzie Bailey and Christine Sleeter led the Eagles with 15 and 12 points, respectively.

Pulaski

Up in Division 2, ninth-seeded Pulaski was topped 46-41 by eighth-seeded Luxemburg-Casco in its lone playoff game Feb. 23 in Luxemburg.

Ella Wiese scored 17 points for Pulaski. Olivia Kubek and Madeline Christenson added eight points each.

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HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Witt-Birn girls' season ends after regional title loss

Bowler, Tigerton eliminated in regional quarterfinals

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood, Bowler and Tigerton girls basketball teams all competed in regional playoff games last week.

Witt-Birn advanced to the regional title game before being eliminated, while Bowler and Tigerton were topped in the regional quarterfinals.

Witt-Birn

Witt-Birn was a No. 5 seed in

Division 4. The Chargers routed 12th-seeded Montello 68-26 on Feb. 23 in Wittenberg before picking up a 34-31 regional semifinal win over fifth-seeded Marathon on Feb. 25 in Marathon. Witt-Birn was defeated 50-36 by top-seeded Westfield in a regional title game Feb. 26 in Westfield.

Against Montello, Kaylee Schram tallied 25 points, eight rebounds and three steals for Witt-Birn, while Reese Rogowski had 21 points and three assists.

Faith Resch chipped in nine points for the Chargers. Jami Wendler and Jadalynn Davids had four assists each. Resch grabbed eight rebounds, while Allison Linke had six.

Rogowski led the way against Marathon, tallying 14 points, five

assists, four blocks and three steals.

Schram added 11 points and 12 rebounds for the Chargers. Davids dished out three assists.

In the loss to Westfield, Rogowski again led the way with 18 points and three steals. Schram added seven points.

"Westfield is an outstanding team and a great 3-point shooting team," said Witt-Birn coach Nick Mechelke. "They knocked down seven of them to our two, and that was the big difference tonight."

"I really enjoyed how aggressive we played tonight, and I'm very proud of how we finished this season. We were down 20 and chipped the lead to 13 at the half. We continued to stay aggressive and got the lead down to 8-9 points, but we just didn't have enough tonight."

Mechelke also thanked seniors Schram and Davids for their time and dedication to the basketball program.

Bowler

Bowler was a No. 10 seed in Division 5. The Panthers were defeated 59-18 by seventh-seeded Suring on Feb. 23 in Suring.

Bowler was limited to just four points in the first half, at which point the team trailed by 31 points.

Tigerton

Tigerton also was a part of the Division 5 brackets and was a No. 14 seed.

The Tigers lost 64-4 to third-seeded Edgar on Feb. 23 in Edgar.

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Shawano's Beyer, Roloff sign letters of intent

Both athletes staying in state

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

Shawano Community High School seniors Grace Beyer and Isabel Roloff each signed letters of intent on Feb. 23 inside the high school.

Beyer will join the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay cross-country team, while Roloff heads to UW-Milwaukee to compete on the track and field team.

"It's so special. Just knowing that my four years of hard work have made me able to run in college. All the support from my teammates and coaches have helped me get to this place," said Beyer. "It's so special to be able to celebrate this with friends and family and have the support there from all of those people — to cheer me on in college and just know that they will always be there for me through that too."

"I guess it's kind of just a day to have a ceremony that recognizes all the hard work I've put in," said Roloff. "Going on to track in the next four years is going to help me push even harder and be an even better athlete than I am."

Each athlete has etched their name in the Shawano record book over their high school careers.

Beyer owns the best time ever for any Shawano girls runner in the team's home invite. She led the team her entire senior season, which culminated with the team competing at state.

Roloff has the girls school record in the 100-meter dash and pole vault. She also ranks third in the 200 dash. Roloff made it to state in the 100 and pole vault as a junior.

While both have been consistent performers for their teams over their careers, the thought of competing in college wasn't a sure thing for either athlete.

"My senior year I was going to do cross-country as normal and just see — if I did good, I'd run in college then. If I had fun, I was like 'oh, I'll continue this,' said Beyer.

Beyer had plenty of fun during her final season, eventually guiding the team to state.

She was named the NEW Media Inc. All-Region Girls Cross-Country



Shawano's Isabel Roloff, center, signs a letter of intent as her parents, Jenny, left, and Jeff look on during a signing day ceremony on Feb. 23 at Shawano Community High School.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA



Shawano's Grace Beyer, center, signs her letter of intent as her parents, Troy, left, and Jamie look on during a signing day ceremony on Feb. 23 at Shawano Community High School.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

Runner of the Year for her big final season.

She said several colleges wrote letters and reached out with interest, with UW-Green Bay being one of the last to do so.

"I really liked the school. The coaches were extremely supportive and nice," said Beyer. "I loved the atmosphere that was there and decided that GB was where I would like to continue my running career."

Beyer added that Green Bay also appealed to her as a Division I school, which opened up more opportunities for her. The school being close to home also was a positive.

Beyer has enjoyed her conversations with coach Mike Kline and

some of the current runners, and also has gotten to know a couple of the incoming recruits.

"It's just a team that I want to be involved in, a team that will be supportive and that I'll have fun running with," said Beyer.

Roloff's recruitment process took off during the team's regional meet last spring. Milwaukee's sprint coach was in attendance and handed his business card to the Shawano coaching staff and told them to have Roloff fill out a recruitment survey.

Roloff did just that before having several conversations with that Milwaukee coach, talking about the school and track and field program. This past fall, she took an official visit to the school and decided

that's where she wanted to be.

"I really liked Milwaukee's campus, because not only am I going to college to run track, I'm also very invested in my academics," said Roloff. "It's in a big city area, but with a smaller campus, more compact — I really liked that. I also liked that they have a good business school that I can get my degree in and be proficient in the future."

While it was the sprint coach who noticed Roloff, she anticipates doing both sprints and pole vault in college, just like she has in high school. UWM believes Roloff will excel most in the 100 dash at the start of her career there, and she also hopes to keep improving as a vaulter.

Roloff has the unique opportunity in getting one final season in the sport she will compete in at the college level.

"I'm definitely hoping to go back to the state track meet this year," said Roloff, adding that the school is back in Division I instead of 2 like last year, which make things a bit more challenging.

"For the 100-meter, I hope to get a new PR (personal record), just like I have been in past years and continue to improve that time. The pole vault as well, keep getting new PRs and improving myself, not only to go to the state track meet, but to improve myself as well."

Menominee Indian's Corn signs letter of intent

Senior will join University of Minnesota Morris football team

By **LUKE REIMER**

Reporter

Menominee Indian High School senior Andre Corn signed his letter of intent at the high school on Feb. 25.

Corn will join the University of Minnesota Morris football team for the upcoming season.

"It's hard to put this into words," said Corn. "Right now I am really excited. I worked so hard every day for this moment here."

The senior has excelled at two football positions, wide receiver and defensive back. In 2021 alone, Corn recorded 44 receptions for 891 yards and three touchdowns. On the defensive side of the ball, Corn tallied 141 combined tackles and four interceptions.

In his high school career, Corn has recorded 101 catches for 1,739 yards and five touchdowns. He has also recorded 315 tackles, eight interceptions and nine forced fumbles.

With this versatility, he said that he was not completely sure which position he was going to land on in college.

"Honestly, I have been thinking about it a lot," said Corn. "I have been leaning more towards receiver. Honestly, I will play wherever they want me to play. I will make plays wherever they put me — I just want to do what's best and help the team."

Following his signing, Corn thanked the students and staff that were in attendance. As he was giving a speech and thanking everyone, Corn was getting choked up with emotions.

"Growing up was pretty traumatic for me," said Corn. "My brother was always there for me. He taught me this game that I love. Ever since I was five years old, he was teaching me how to play football."

The emotions from Corn, talking about his brother, comes from his brother's recent passing.

"I truly believe that I would not have had this moment or day, if he wasn't there teaching me," said Corn. "It is emotional, but it is a good emotional, I am happy."

During the process of choosing where he wanted to continue his football career, Corn said that the head coach from the University



Menominee Indian's Andre Corn carries the ball during the team's nonconference matchup against Auburndale on Aug. 19 in Keshena. Corn signed a letter of intent to continue his football career on Feb. 25.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

of Minnesota Morris initiated a conversation with him during the Indigenous Bowl at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

"When I was talking to him, he told me that I was the first one on his list and that he was looking for me," said Corn. "I have been talking to him ever since then. He blessed my life in so many different ways."

Corn estimated that 20-30 schools reached out to him.

"Minnesota Morris offers free tuition for Native Americans," said Corn, on why he chose to continue his football and education career at

the University of Minnesota Morris. "I loved being in Minnesota. I feel like it is the right decision."

Corn will join a former Menominee Indian teammate in Bryce Dixon in Morris.

"I think it is pretty cool to experience college with someone that I was teammates with already," said Corn. "We know each other, so we can push each other out of our comfort zones and help each other grow."

He said that through high school and football, he has learned many lessons, including resiliency.

"My life was hard," said Corn. "I learned just to show up every day and get in a habit. No matter how I felt, or whatever was going on in my life, I always managed to show up."

Corn added that this is something that will follow him to college.

"Football made me come to school," said Corn. "I want to get better, not as an athlete but as a person too."

Corn plans to major in social work in college.

BONDUEL GIRLS BASKETBALL



The Bonduel girls basketball team won a Division 4 regional title on Feb. 26

HARMANN STUDIOS

The Bonduel girls basketball team is in the middle of its postseason journey. The Bears won a Division 4 regional title after an overtime win over Crandon on Feb. 25 before a rout of Shiocton on Feb. 26.

During the regular season, Bonduel went 22-4 overall. The Bears finished 11-1 in the Central Wisconsin Conference-East Division to share the conference title with Amherst.

BONDUEL BOYS BASKETBALL



The Bonduel boys basketball team had a 9-7 overall record through Jan. 31.

HARMANN STUDIOS

The Bonduel boys basketball team begins its postseason March 4 with a home game. The Bears will face either Manawa or Mishicot.

Bonduel posted a 15-9 record during the regular season and finished 7-5 in the CWC-East to take third place. The team won seven of its last nine games.

BONDUEL WRESTLING



The Bonduel wrestling team has 14 dual wins on the year through Jan. 31.

HARMANN STUDIOS

The Bonduel wrestling team recently wrapped up its season with Tyson Bogacz placing sixth at the state tournament. At the girls state tournament, Hailey Berg and Maddy Sokolski each took second place.

Bonduel finished fourth as a team at the CWC Tournament, with Tyson Bogacz and Jaxon Bogacz each winning individual titles. Six other Bears took either third or fourth place.



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