

WITTENBERG ENTERPRISE & BIRNAMWOOD NEWS



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Santa Claus drops
in for Tigerton
Festival of Trees.
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Gaggle to monitor school-issued devices

School board approves spending \$20K to install system to prevent bullying, suicide, more

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

The Shawano School District will be using a new system to oversee all computer devices owned by it after the Shawano School Board approved a deal with Gaggle Safety Management on Dec. 11.

Using the services is expected to cost \$20,778 for the first year and about \$18,000 annually after that. The system is expected to flag concerning content on school-issued accounts for review and block potentially harmful content. That flagged content is reviewed by at least two Gaggle safety experts and, in severe situations, the district is contacted about potential harm from the content.

The funding for the initial purchase will be coming from the district's Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds.

Superintendent Kurt Krizan reported that the district had previously used the system called Bark to watch over computers and issue alerts whenever there were incidents of online bullying, cheating and more. Krizan said the system at the time had been free, but its use had been suspended by "a previous administration."

The district was planning to use Bark again but learned the system was now going to cost. Eric Brunner, the district's technology director, said the cost to use Bark would be \$13.50 per student annually, while the cost for Gaggle would be \$9 per student.

The idea came from Shawano Community High School principal Matt Raduechel, who had previously used Gaggle while being an administrator in the Wausau School District.

Gaggle claims it has analyzed more than 6.7 billion student emails, chats and computer files during the 2021-22 school year and found over 454,000 that required district attention, with one in three of those referencing suicide or self-harm.

Board member John Arens expressed concern about technology being used to monitor students while having policies that keeps them from utilizing artificial intelligence in their work.

"We're going to buy some software that's going to monitor students ... and yet we can't allow our students to use machine learning to maybe enhance their education?" Arens said. "I think the argument goes both ways on machine learning. It's not like this is an emergency, and we need this."

Raduechel said that the district shouldn't wait until there is an emergency to set up the Gaggle system.

"When we talk about student safety, there's no less than a dozen if not more in my seven years as an AP (associate principal) at John Muir Middle School where we had suicidal ideations that were caught by the Gaggle platform," Raduechel said, noting there were several instances where he was contacted early in the morning about the information flagged by the system and contacted law enforcement to do a wellness check on the students. "That's something that we're not able to do with Bark or anything that we're currently doing."

Besides suicide, Gaggle can pick up on student searches on weaponry and bullying, according to Raduechel. Any attempts to access pornography, especially involving children, will be blocked, he said.

"Sometimes, students are researching a video game, but other times, they're talking about weaponry or something like that," Raduechel said.

Arens noted that instances where the board has had to go into closed session about student expulsions over threatening behavior has not come from the school-issued devices but

from their personal cellphones, which Gaggle would not be able to monitor unless the students access their school accounts.

Madeline Schroth, a student representative on the school board, questioned how using foul language on a student device would be considered a safety issue.

Foul language alone would not be an issue in single instances, according to Raduechel, but pervasive use, especially if it's a threatening nature, would be cause for alarm.

Board member Al Pyatskowitz expressed concern that the surveillance is being put in after the devices have already been checked out to students, and notifications aren't going out to families. Pyatskowitz also criticized how the matter was going to the full board and bypassing the review of the district's finance committee.

"We talked about this last summer that we don't want to have a situation where we say, 'You have to vote on this tonight right away,'" Pyatskowitz said.

Despite board members' concerns, the expenditure on Gaggle passed unanimously.

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Shawano County OKs study of future needs

Report will focus on strategic plans instead of nuts-and-bolts details

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

Earlier this year, the Shawano County Board of Supervisors was presented with an in-depth study of the condition of the courthouse, heating plant, sheriff's department and jail.

Now, the public property committee wants a study aimed more at the future needs of the county.

A \$2,500 contract with The Samuels Group was authorized by the committee at its Dec. 7 meeting.

The study will concentrate more on the spacial concerns and needs as opposed to the recent study that focused on the state of the existing buildings.

"This would avoid another study where you would just spend a bunch of money, having somebody draw up another set of plans, or what they

think you should build," Supervisor Tom Kautza said.

The recent Somerville study centered on the age and status of select buildings — the number of hot water heaters, the age of the elevator, wear and tear on doors and locks, etc.

Jim Davel, county administrative coordinator, said the study offers a way for the county to establish its future. Prioritizing the county's needs is essential to developing a strategic approach to address the needs through a long-range plan.

"This guy's going to look at all the things we have on record right now," Davel said.

The Wausau-based company will provide the county with a preliminary opinion of a building master plan phasing schedule. The master plan will be based on previous building studies the county has completed as well as existing building tours and interviews with key county staff members and officials.

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Santa Claus visits with Zoey Pfeil Sticker, 3, of Oshkosh, on Dec. 16 at the 1905 Village Hall in Tigerton while surrounded by trees that are part of Tigerton Main Street's annual Festival of Trees. Santa's visit was made possible by the Tigerton Fire Department, whose tree is on the right.

Plenty of trees and Santa Claus, too



Santa Claus is outnumbered by, from left, Jackson Cotter, 7, Maliya Cotter, 6, and Brooklyn Cotter, 9, all of Birnamwood, as they rattle off their Christmas lists Dec. 16 when Santa visited the 1905 Village Hall in Tigerton.



Decorated trees were everywhere Dec. 16 in Tigerton's 1905 Village Hall for the annual Festival of Trees put on by Tigerton Main Street, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary.

WASP members compete at Verona

Several firsts earned at Shawano Winter Meet

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Members of the Wittenberg Area Swim Program (WASP) joined head coach Brenna Oppen at the Wisconsin Single Age State Championships, hosted by the Badger Aquatics Club, at Verona High School in Verona on Dec. 9-10.

Kaydence Crick, 10, placed 43rd in the 50-yard backstroke with a time of 40.48 seconds, 40th in the 50-yard breaststroke in 47.07, 30th in the 100-yard backstroke in 1:32.25 and 45th in the 50-yard fly in 42.59.

Peyton Crick, also 10, placed 23rd in the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:39.24, 16th in the 100-yard fly in 1:49.78, 27th in the 50-yard breaststroke in 44.56 and 38th in the 50-yard fly in 39.67.

Aislyn Sauter, 11, earned a 41st-place finish in the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:32.43, 33rd in the 50-yard breaststroke in 40.45 and 35th in the 100-yard backstroke in 1:27.97.

Another 11-year-old, Aubrey Wierzba, finished 21st in the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:26.74, 28th in the 100-yard individual medley in 1:17.48, 37th in the 50-yard breaststroke in 40.70 and 45th in the 50-yard fly in 37.27.

Shawano Winter Meet

Peyton Crick, Kaydence Crick, Sauter, Wierzba, Halley Innes, Rylee Crick and Maddison Suess competed at the Shawano Winter Meet on Dec. 2-3.

In the Girls 9-10 competition, Kaydence Crick won first place in the 100-yard fly in 1:39.14 and in the 50-yard backstroke in 40.38. She earned second-place finishes in the 100-yard IM in 1:28.76, the 50-yard fly in 40.96, the 50-yard freestyle in 36.62 and the 50-yard breaststroke in 45.56, as well as fourth in the 200-yard breaststroke in 3:43.52 and 11th in the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:45.89.

Peyton Crick collected five first-place finishes. These were in the 100-yard IM in 1:28.10, 100-yard breaststroke in 1:43.64, 50-yard fly in 40.03, 50-yard free in 35.92 and 50-yard breaststroke in 44.90. She also swam to second place in the 200-yard breaststroke in 3:28.85 and the 100-yard fly in 1:46.84, as well as ninth in the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:42.15.

Innes, 10, placed second in the 100-



High-fives are exchanged between Aislyn Sauter and Aubrey Wierzba at the Shawano Winter Meet.

CHAD SAUTER



Kaydence Crick and Halley Innes swim in the 50-yard butterfly at the Shawano Winter Meet on Dec. 2-3.

CHAD SAUTER

yard breaststroke in 1:50.87, as well as third place in the 100-yard IM in 1:34.73 and the 50-yard fly in 42.34.

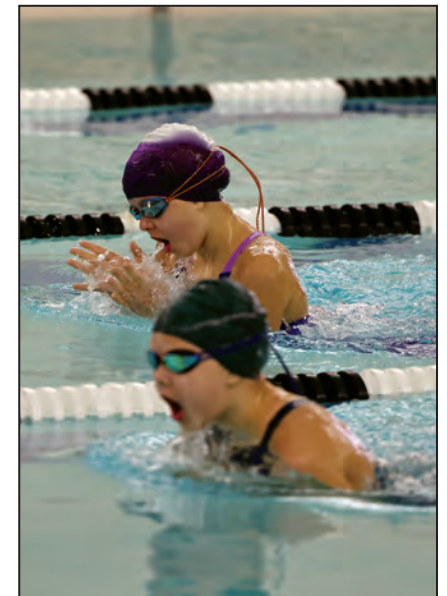
In the Girls 11-12 category, Sauter placed first in the 100-yard breaststroke, 1:33.09, and second in the 50-yard fly in 38.00 and the 50-yard breaststroke in 41.01. She captured third in the 100-yard free in 1:12.61 and the 100-yard backstroke in 1:33.21, in addition to a fourth-place finish in the 50-yard free in 33.96.

Wierzba took first in three events,

those being the 200-yard breaststroke in 3:04.95, the 50-yard fly in 36.00 and the 50-yard breaststroke in 39.42. She also earned second in the 50-yard backstroke in 37.59, third in the 50-yard free in 33.86 and fourth in the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:28.25.

Rylee Crick, 13, and Suess, 13, competed in the Girls Open category.

Crick had three second-place results — the 200-yard IM in 2:42.32, the 200-yard free in 2:23.60 and the 100-yard backstroke in 1:13.65. She placed



Kaydence Crick and Peyton Crick compete in the 50-yard breaststroke at the Shawano Winter Meet on Dec. 2-3. The girls are part of the Wittenberg Area Swim Program.

CHAD SAUTER

fourth in the 100-yard free in 1:04.03.

Suess finished 12th in the 100-yard backstroke in 1:38.34 and 18th in the 100-yard free in 1:23.35.

Both relay teams placed fourth. The 200-yard freestyle relay team of Rylee Crick, Suess, Peyton Crick and Wierzba had a time of 2:12:07, while the 200-yard medley team of Kaydence Crick, Wierzba, Peyton Crick and Sauter recorded a time of 2:36.12.

County wants out of airport business

Kautza, other supervisors upset with costs, lack of benefits

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

The Shawano City-County Airport could soon have a new owner – sort of.

Shawano County officials are weighing the option of turning over the airport 100% to the city of Shawano.

Currently, the two governments share costs for airport operations, and a joint commission that has jurisdiction for the construction, improvement, equipment, maintenance and operation of the airport.

“I don’t see any benefit at all coming out of the airport for the county besides spending money,” Supervisor Tom Kautza said to the county’s public property committee Dec. 7. “I can see no real benefit for it, of what it produces around here. It’s nice to have, but it’s another one of these things that’s nice to have, but how many people really use it, and what’s it do for everybody.”

Many municipalities began operating airports in the 1940s. The Shawano airport was dedicated in July 1940.

“That’s around World War II, and this is such a different time,” Kautza said. “That’s when they were building radar bases and everything else. I simply can’t see where what it would gain, with Green Bay’s close proximity, Appleton airport, central Wisconsin on the west end.

“And the grand plans that they have coming up for a seaport and all this other stuff. Who’s going to use that seaport?”

Supervisor Randy Young, who represents part of Shawano, is opposed to the city going it alone. He noted recent discussions he’s had with Mayor Bruce Milavitz and City Administrator Eddie Sheppard.

“I asked them to convince me why it’s a good idea for the city to take it over,” he said. “Their answer basically was just because the county wants out, and we don’t want it to go away.”

Several days after the meeting, Milavitz and Sheppard confirmed Young’s comments.

“These talks (about going our separate ways) have been going on for some time,” Sheppard said. “We believe the airport is an important asset to the community. We are OK

with the county transferring its levy responsibility, but this process can take up to a year, so no changes will be made until 2025.”

The airport commission is another sore spot for the county board chairman.

“The airport commission doesn’t want to answer to anybody,” Kautza said. “And the city will not give up on having the airport commission.”

Jim Davel, county administrative coordinator, said the county preferred disbanding the commission and hiring an airport director to report to the city.

“We thought that was a good plan, and they just didn’t want to do that,” he said.

Milavitz said the city has not had any issues with the commission. It operates completely above board and determines rates and other costs based on a fair market analysis.

Kautza said the airport was another “money pit” for the county.

“It’s the most inefficient run operation that is getting government money, and to tell you the truth, that’s one of the things I can’t stomach about it,” he said. “There’s no sense of where the money is coming from, and it’s like when they come with something, they’re demanding it, that we

have to do this.”

Kautza said Milavitz, who sits on the airport commission, also helps set the rates for himself as a member of the commission.

Supervisor Jerry Erdmann agreed. “The county, we get nothing out of it,” he said. “They have ideas, but their ideas are just going to cost the county money.”

Young disagreed.

“I’m probably not going to support it, because, from the city, I don’t think it’s maybe the best idea for the city to go alone,” he said.

Milavitz said the county’s position is based on a lack of understanding on how the airport commission works, as well as a personality conflict that has little to do with the airport.

“The airport is a great asset for the community — the city as well as the county,” he said.

The county pays about \$75,000 a year from its general fund for the airport, and upwards of another \$25,000 for capital improvements when requested.

A resolution for the county to pull away from the airport will be discussed at the January county executive committee meeting.

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Enrollment takes holiday twist



College of Menominee Nation student Tiarra LaTender shares a laugh with Santa Claus during a holiday open house Dec. 13 at the college. According to Kayla Diamond, CMN’s dean of student success, 80-90% of students are parents, so the event allowed children to have fun visiting with a variety of Christmas characters while Mom and Dad enrolled for the spring semester.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA



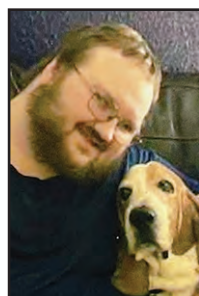
The Grinch looks over the camera to make sure it’s ready to capture Santa photos Dec. 13 during a holiday open house at the College of Menominee Nation.

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OBITUARIES

Brandon James Chapin went to be one of God's Angels in heaven on Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023, surrounded by his loving family at the young age of 31. He was born on Sept. 3, 1992, to Peggy and Randy Chapin at St. Mary's Hospital in Green Bay. Brandon had battled a brain tumor (hypothalamic pilocytic astrocytoma) since the age of 13.

No one could top his jokes or his artistry and especially his warm and thoughtful heart! He also had a never-ending supply of movie and TV quotes. He loved his family so much and especially his parents, siblings, and all his nieces and nephews. His dog, Axle, was his best pet



and favorite furry friend ever!

Brandon is survived by his mother, Peggy Chapin, of Cecil; his father, Randy and Jolene Chapin, of Navarino; his siblings, Heather (Evan)

Welch, of Shawano, Joel (Halle) Bartels, of Hortonville, Cody (Miranda) Chapin, of Gillett, Kassidy Chapin, of Cecil; his stepsisters, Macy and Kenedi Gondeck, of Navarino; his paternal grandfather, Russell (Doty) Chapin, of Green Bay; his nieces,

Raina, Velecia, Iradessa, Raylynn and Gracie; his nephews, Rhylee, Jaxon, and Corbin; his aunts and uncles, Bill (Jeannie) Stiles, of Hortonville, Susie Wetzel, of Gillett, Mike (Mona) Wetzel, of Tomah, Barbara (Troy) Laatsch, of Marion, John (Jan) Wetzel, of Appleton, Marge (Nate) Teller of Cecil, Joyce (Dale) Pathke of Manitowoc, Julie (Rick) Rauterkus of Clintonville, Tim (Shelly) Wetzel of Appleton, Russel (Kim) Chapin, of Pulaski, Calvin (Bobbi Jo) Chapin, of Embarrass, Paul (Nicole) Chapin, of Schofield, Dan (Stacy) Chapin, of Gillett, and Pat (Penny) Lohrengel, of Clintonville. He is further survived by numerous cousins.

He is preceded in death by his twin brothers, Quentin and Joseph Bartels; his maternal grandparents, Eugene and Patricia Wetzel; his paternal grandmother, Sally Chapin; his aunts, Patty Ann Wetzel and Jeannie (Wetzel) Stiles; his cousins, Ryan Pethke, Trisha Britzke, Matthew Alf, Keelynn Schachtschneider and Isaac Britzke; and a nephew, Easton Gondeck.

A memorial service for Brandon will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 15, 2023, at Swedberg Wendt Funeral Home in Bonduel. Visitation will be held at the funeral home on Friday from 9:30 a.m. until the time of service.

Karen G. Maxey

Karen G. Maxey, 79, of Sheboygan, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, at Aurora Medical Center-Sheboygan surrounded by family.

Karen was born Dec. 24, 1943, in Algoma, to the late Ralph (Evelyn) and Grayce (Post) Haack. On April 16, 1983, she married Jack Maxey Sr.

She enjoyed the patients she cared for at Morningside as a nursing assistant for 13 years. For over

23 years, Karen also worked as a professional seamstress at Anthony Corporation. Karen loved sewing; at work, she sewed drapery and tailored military uniforms. In 1997, Karen branched out on her own and started her own business, Karen Sewing and Alterations.

Karen loved crafts, decorating for weddings and the holidays and flowers, both planting and arranging.

She is survived by her loving husband, Jack; daughters, Diana Dodge, Evelyn (Angel) Dodge and Barbara (Rick) Dodge-Kunstman; nine grandchildren, Nathan (Ashley) Dodge, Deaven (Megan) Dodge, Brianna Dodge, Anthony (Jenn) Jacoby, Nichole Zelko, Jeffrey Zelko, Ricky Jr. Kunstman, Maria Kunstman and Cody (Emily) Marco; 12 great-grandchildren, Brayden, Aiyanna, Nadia, Matt, Aiyana, Fury, Leena, Lincoln, Arerith, Aymeric, baby Chapman and Ryder; three brothers, Fritz, Allen and Ralph Jr. (Mary) Haack; four sisters, Anita Kaquatosh, Donna Haack, Jean Haack and Sue Haack; and many other relatives and friends.

Karen was preceded in death by her parents; former husband, William Dodge Sr.; son William Dodge Jr.; sisters, Eva Wilbur, Linda Annamitta and Elsie Ashenette;



and beloved dog, Molly.

A memorial service for Karen will be held Saturday, Dec. 23, 2023, at 2 p.m. at Zimmer Westview Funeral and Cremation Care Center, W2132

Garton Road, Sheboygan. Friends and relatives may come and "make a memory" with the family at 1 p.m. until the time of service at the funeral home.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the staff of Aurora Medical Center-Sheboygan, for the great care given to Karen.

Please visit our website to share your stories and leave your condolences for the family at www.zimmerfuneralhome.com.

William Angus Jr.

William (Bill) Angus Jr., 88, passed away Saturday, Dec. 9, at Bellin Hospital after suffering from a brief illness.

Bill was born and raised in Oconto Falls, married his wife, Jean (Lotter). Soon after graduating from high school, the family of five children began.

Bill was a skilled machinist for decades and also worked endlessly as a handyman on the side doing home repairs and remodels. He will be remembered by so many lives he had touched.

Bill was preceded in death by his wife, Jean; his parents, William and Alice (Hoffman) Angus Sr.; eldest son, Richard Angus; and grandson, James Thomas Angus Jr.



Bill is survived by his children, William "Bill" Angus III, Michael "Mike" Angus, Lori (Tim) Willett, James "Jim" Angus; and his grandchildren, Jessica (Shaba)

Angus, Rebecca Angus, Richie Angus, Joseph "Joe" (Shawna) Angus, Jennifer Angus, Andrew (Ginny) Angus, Eric (Jessica) Angus, Laura (Kurt) Delzer, Abby Angus, Cole (Jackelyn) Young, Jennyjean (Jeff) Lambrecht, and Cassandra (Gavin) Gilbertson.

Rest in peace, Dad.

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Referendum plans start to coalesce

New middle school out as potential project, while high school pool plans altered

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

The Shawano School Board is getting closer to planning what specifically it will ask for a referendum question in April, but it appears the plans will not ask for a new middle school at this time.

A work session on Dec. 18 showed consensus that the district would need to maintain the existing middle school building for a few more years in the hopes of asking voters for the new building later down the line.

"If you remember from the survey results, a new middle school did not survey well," said Jody Andres, K-12 education specialist with Hoffman Design, the firm helping the district with the referendum process. "The results told us that if we put it out there, it would probably not pass, and there were some different reasons for that. We're only going to do the things that the community supports."

Building a new middle school and demolishing the existing one would cost the district \$53.7 million if it was done today, about half the money of the total projects the district was looking at for the proposed referendum. A referendum in 2015 put over \$9.5 million into updating the current Shawano Community Middle School, but it has proven to be costly to keep it up in recent years.

"The big caveat is, do we put any money or investment in the existing middle school," Andres said.

Andres recommended that, once the April election is finished, the district should start taking a hard look at what a future middle school would look like and potentially get the community involved. That way, in a few years, if the district decides to pull the trigger, a new referendum would have a higher likelihood of passing.

It also appears that work on the pool at Shawano Community High School will be just enough to make fixes instead of turning the existing infrastructure into a competitive pool for the school's swim team instead of the \$5 million project advertised on a community survey sent out in the fall.

The pool was one of the more favored projects by the community, with 45% of respondents saying the pool should be fixed while 34%



Shawano School Board member Bobbi Lemerond urges her colleagues to make a decision that "affects every student" when figuring out a referendum plan during a Dec. 18 work session as board member David Cullen, left, and Hoffman Planning representative Jody Andres look on. LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA



Jody Andres, K-12 specialist with Hoffman Planning, explains the options available to the Shawano School Board during a Dec. 18 work session. LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

favoring closure. However, there was concern that making the pool a competitive pool under Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association standards would make it less accessible to community members who want to use it.

There was also discussion about building a second pool to be the competitive pool while maintaining the existing pool for the community, with a price tag of over \$13.3 million. The concern about doing that,

though, was whether the district could do that while addressing the deferred maintenance at the current Shawano Community Middle School and keeping the referendum under the \$70 million mark the community survey indicated would most likely pass the scrutiny of voters in April.

The plan for now is to put a new liner in the pool, which doesn't address temperature issues in the facility but would give the infrastructure another five years, according to

Andres, so that a new pool could be properly planned out.

"You've got a direction to fix that pool," Andres said. "Does that mean minimally fix it or fix it to give you another 20-30 years of life?"

Board member John Arens said that doing just the one pool and making it a competition pool would not be a good thing for the district.

"If we just do one pool right now, it will be a competition pool, and then we're going to lose the community's trust," Arens said. "If we want to sit down and make a long-range plan on some of this stuff, then the community can say, this is our goal and get behind us on."

What will be on the ballot is expected to include renovations at Shawano Community High School, which would include expanded areas for athletics, performing arts and technology education, as well as remodeling classrooms and labs and addressing critical maintenance needs to the tune of about \$30 million. An additional \$9.1 million would go into outdoor athletics facilities and a stadium that would include permanent bleachers and rebuilt concessions, ticketing and restrooms, along with putting a track at SCHS instead of using the SCMS one.

At Olga Brener Intermediate School, the district's second oldest facility, officials want to replace the roof along with heating/cooling, electrical and plumbing systems and renovate to make the school fully compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act. This is expected to cost around \$4.4 million.

Hillcrest Primary School would also see remodeled facilities, but it would also turn underutilized areas of the school into a day care, with the cost for this school's work topping out at around \$5.2 million.

Board member Bobbi Lemerond recommended that the final plan include something that will impact all students, not just athletics.

"We need to make sure that we're affecting every student in this district," Lemerond said.

A final decision on the referendum question will be voted on Jan. 8. Once that's done, the question will be put on the ballot for the spring general election April 2.



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NEW MEDIA INC.

Taxi fares in Shawano could increase

Costs to operate service have gone up 40% in 10 years

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

The city of Shawano's taxi service could be raising its fares as the Shawano Common Council approved annual agreements Dec. 13 with the company running the service.

The rates for City Cab are currently \$4 within city boundaries and \$3 for the elderly and handicapped, with an additional \$1.25 per mile outside the city's boundaries.

According to Greg Smith, the city's finance director, the rates have not been adjusted in at least a decade, but the cost of doing business has. He told the council that the cost per hour of operating City Cab was \$25.82 in 2014. Now, it's \$32.95, and it's expected to jump to \$37.59 in the future.

"Within 10 years, this cost has gone up quite significantly, over 40%," Smith said. "We haven't raised costs, as far as I can see, in over 10 years. So that's something to consider with this rising cost."

About 57% of the costs are expected to be covered by a federal grant, Smith said, although that will not be finalized until April. That will be when it's determined if the rates

need to increase and by how much.

"At that point, I'll reach back out to you," Smith told the council. "Right now, we're just going through the application process. Being conservative in some of our numbers, I believe we should be OK, but once DOT (Department of Transportation) comes out with its final allocations, spreading out the state and federal dollars, we should know a little bit more."

The council approved a five-year contract with Running Inc., based in Viroqua. Running Inc. operates a number of transit services throughout Wisconsin, including Tomah, Beaver Dam and Stoughton. The contract requires a maximum of \$443,712.36, based on 11,804 hours of service at the \$37.59 rate.

According to Smith, two companies submitted bids for the contract.

The council also approved submitting an application to purchase a new handicap-accessible minivan for City Cab, with the city providing up to \$10,000 in matching funds. Smith noted that the van being replaced will be put up for public auction to replenish the funds.

"There are sufficient funds to cover that portion of the grant this year," Smith said, who noted the total cost of the van could be around \$75,000.

The council also approved a resolution leasing the six current vehicles to Running Inc.

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

Hoffman not running for 4th term on council

By **NEW MEDIA STAFF**

There will be at least one new face on the Shawano Common Council in 2024 as the new election season starts to take form.

Lisa Hoffman, who represents the fourth aldermanic district, will not be running for a new term. She has filed papers of non-candidacy, and it was announced by City Clerk Lesley Nemetz at the Nov. 13 council meeting.

Hoffman declined to comment on why she is not running for another term. She was first elected to the council in 2017 and is currently serving as council president.

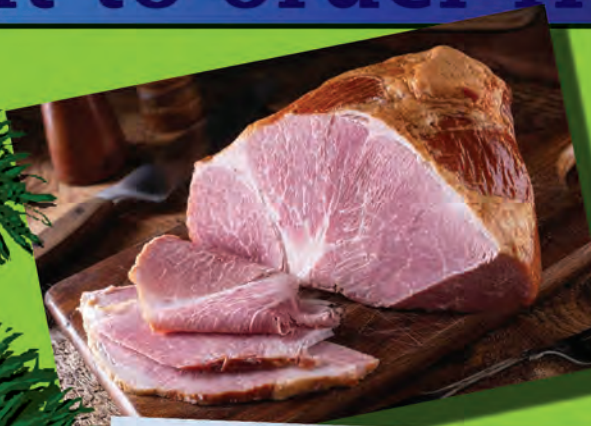
Also up for election are the second

and sixth aldermanic districts, as well as the mayor's seat. Mayor Bruce Milavitz and Aldermen Jim Hauer and John Hoefts have taken out papers to run for another term. Hauer and Hoefts have turned in their signatures, according to Nemetz.

The deadline to submit paperwork is Jan. 2. Mayoral candidates need the signatures of 50-100 city residents, and council candidates need 20-40 signatures from residents in their district. Anyone interested in running

As of Dec. 19, at least one other person, Brian Suprise, submitted a declaration of candidacy for the sixth district but had not submitted the signatures.

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ABOVE LEFT: The "Clock Church," St. John's Lutheran Church, overlooks Main Street in downtown Gillett.

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ABOVE: Til the Cows Come Home carries the work of more than 40 Shawano area artists, making for extra personal and unique Christmas gifts.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

LEFT: Gingerbread houses and other goodies are featured in the storefront of Fannita's Bakery in Shawano.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

BELOW: The courtyard next to Salscheiders Antique Bar and Packaged Goods in Oconto Falls is decked out for the holidays.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

BOTTOM: Decorated light poles and a Christmas tree at Lions Park are among the welcoming touches in downtown Bonduel.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA



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Menominee chefs serve in Washington, D.C.

Alegria, Husby expose national politicians and other tribes to Menominee cuisine

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

Menominee chefs Francisco Alegria and Leah Husby got the rare opportunity to bring Indigenous cuisine to Washington, D.C., this month as they served up plenty of natural taste for the Tribal Nations Summit.

Chef Robert Kinneen from the North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems program asked Alegria and Husby in November if they were interested in cooking at the summit, with only five chefs across the nation being invited to participate. Alegria said that while the invitation was last minute with only 10 days notice, he and Husby were eager to show off the work they're doing as they try to get the Menominee people to embrace ancestral foods again.

"All the tribal leaders meet for a summit in Washington, D.C., so we were asked to come represent the Menominee and create a menu for one of the days," Alegria said.

He added that the invitation likely came as a result of working with Sean Sherman, NATIFS founder and executive director, in 2022 when Sherman came to the Menominee Reservation and helped to prepare a community feast.

"He got to know us pretty well during that event," Alegria said. "I'd cooked with him a couple of times previously, but this was where I could be one-on-one and talk with him."

During the summit, chefs planned a luncheon daily that served 500 people, as well as a cocktail party for 175 people with the U.S. Department of the Interior. Alegria said that Menominee menu included a wild rice and corn salad using Oneida white corn, along with a soup with cranberries, kale and smoked trout. For dessert, they made a berry compote with blueberries macerated in maple syrup with some white pine.

"We went a little bit more traditional," Alegria said, noting that the Menominee menu was served on the last day of the event. "The fish soup



FRANCISCO ALEGRIA



LEAH HUSBY

was a seasonal soup."

Alegria was concerned about whether they'd be able to get all of the ingredients needed for the meal, being so far away from the reservation, where cranberries, wild rice and more are readily available, but he and Husby pulled it off.

"We picked the soup because there was a little more wiggle room," Alegria said.

Husby and Alegria also took some Menominee tea from a local tea-maker to Washington and served it to people daily.

Alegria noted that the logistics were interesting, because the chefs had to prepare the meals down the road from where the summit was taking place and then haul it over.

"There was all this security entering the building," he said. "There was no open flames. There was a challenge with keeping food warm."

Alegria and Husby also got to speak to national media during the summit, but reporters seemed more interested in political viewpoints than culinary ones. During the summit, President Joe Biden signed an executive order to streamline tribal access to federal funding, as well as announcing additional steps to help preserve Indigenous history and resources along with buffalo expansion and preservation.

Husby said the experience is one she will always remember.

"Not only is it the highlight of our career but also our lifetime to showcase our community and our foods on that level, to make our community visible at that level for our youngsters that are interested in this kind of career," Husby said. "I think, for both of us, the magnitude of it hasn't really sunk in yet. Everything was so fast while we were there, and then we came back and went to work right away. It almost seems in a way like it didn't happen, just because it was so amazing."

Alegria noted that it was all business in Washington, D.C., but was definitely an incredible experience.



During their visit to Washington, D.C., Menominee chefs serve up a wild rice and corn salad using Oneida white corn, along with a soup with cranberries, kale and smoked trout. Dessert is a berry compote with blueberries macerated in maple syrup with some white pine.

FRANCISCO M. ALEGRIA

He feels he could go head-to-head with other nationally renowned chefs.

"After cooking all day, you just want to go home and eat something because you're going to do it again the next day," Alegria said. "It wasn't just a one-time thing. We were rocking and rolling until we literally had to leave from serving our food to catch our Uber and then catch a plane. I'm glad to be home."

In addition to working for the Menominee tribe through its agricultural program, Alegria and Husby operate a catering business on the reservation and beyond. Alegria also writes a monthly column on Indigenous food for NEW Media.

Along with the five chefs, there were also aspiring chefs from the Southwestern Indian Polytechnical Institute in Albuquerque, New Mexico, who helped keep the food coming during the summit that took place Dec. 3-7. Seeing the SIPI students has gotten Alegria thinking of potentially doing an Indigenous culinary program on Menominee land, although the concept has not been discussed with tribal officials yet.

"I never knew there was a program like that," Alegria said. "That kind of sparked my interest in that we could get something like that here, some culinary interest here."

Christmas bird counts and last-minute gift ideas

Although it's been unseasonably warm a few weeks before Christmas, those winter doldrums are looming on the horizon for us sportsmen and sportswomen.

The gun-deer season was abnormally quiet for me and many of the hunters I talked to. I saw just a few deer and nothing within gun range. I'm used to hunting the late season, though, and will be out enjoying the Holiday Hunt (Dec. 24 to Jan. 1) for antlerless deer in Waupaca County. Depending on my hunting location, I'll be using either a muzzleloader or a 7-30 Waters pistol. Shawano also has a Holiday Hunt this year.

Archery season (bow and cross-bow) continues through Jan. 7 in most counties and Jan. 31 in a few, so bundle up and get out there. If you shoot a vertical bow, don't forget the armguard with all those extra clothes. Oconto County has the extended archery season to Jan. 31.

I've always had an interest in birds, and love to watch them when on my deer stand or checking my home bird feeders (if I remember to fill them). The National Audubon Society marks the 124th anniversary of its Christmas Bird Count this year, when birders nationwide attempt the Herculean task of trying to count the numbers of as many species as they see from Dec. 14 through Jan. 5 (each local group chooses a single day for their counts).

The grassroots tallies serve as a barometer of each species' health, although such a limited search with folks that may or may not be skilled at bird identification is not a strictly scientific endeavor, but it is loads of fun and if you hang with a few experts (as I have over the years), you'll get better at bird ID. To learn more about the Christmas Bird Count and find a group in your area,



Ross Bielema
Columnist

visit www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count.

Birders are a unique bunch. A rare yellow-billed loon made an appearance in Rock Falls, Illinois, when I was a reporter for the Telegraph Herald in Dubuque, Iowa (I attended junior college in nearby Dixon, Illinois, but the Arctic visitor quickly made both the local and national newspapers). The winter visit on the Rock River drew birders from around the world, eager to add this off-course loon to their life lists.

I watched as a member of the Linnean Society (the group that gives birds their common names, frequently changing them), wearing a heavy parka and holding his camera, waded into the frigid river up to his waist to get the proper angle of the bird. My headline for the story referenced the "loony" birdwatchers coming to see the loon. How could I resist?

The greatest birder I've ever met, and probably the best to ever practice his craft in Iowa or Illinois, was Pete Petersen, owner of Pete Petersen's Wild Bird Shop in the village of East Davenport, Iowa. When Petersen was a boy, he became crippled from polio and couldn't enjoy physical sports, so his mom gave him a field guide and binoculars. He and his wife traveled the world on birding adventures.

I went out before dawn one spring morning with him when I was a full-time outdoors writer for the Quad-



The pileated woodpecker, Wisconsin's largest woodpecker. These crow-sized birds have powerful bills that jackhammer hollow trees for grubs, and both their drilling and call can be heard for long distances in the Northwoods. ROSS BIELEMA

City Times in Davenport. He was doing a spring breeding bird census, and to say he took it seriously was like saying teenagers take their cell phones seriously. He'd been doing the survey for decades, following the same route and stopping for a few minutes in each spot every year.

We stood on a bridge before sun-up, and he identified eight or 10 species by their calls alone. We hopped in his Mercedes and followed a dirt road until we saw a "road closed" sign. The sign didn't stop him. He drove around it and approached a huge ravine filled with construction equipment. For a second, I thought he was going to try and jump the perhaps 100-foot gap, but he said, "Oh, dear," and we drove around it on another road. Pete complained about how this would alter his survey, but

we had no options. I realized then how seriously he took his birdwatching.

Petersen died of cancer many years ago, and he and his wife donated their collection of rare bird books to Western Illinois University in Macomb: www.wiu.edu/foundation_and_development/profiles/petersen.php.

Christmas is near, and if you're like me, you'll be buying some last-minute gifts. That's the way we guys roll.

A shooting stick is the ideal gift for the gun hunter on your list. I use one for rifle, pistol and even cross-bow hunting. The handy ones are bipods, and can quickly be adjusted to different heights. They will give you a much steadier shot and double as hiking sticks.

Binoculars are perfect for hunters and birdwatchers alike. Don't go for more than 10-power magnification, because you can't hold it steady. Great choices are 7x35 or 8x40 models. You should be able to divide the objective lens (bigger number) by the power (first number) to get a factor of five or more for the most clarity. I probably own eight pairs of binoculars but can always use another.

In the spirit of buying local, I recommend a wildlife calendar or art derived from trail camera photos. Jim Schoenike of Big Oak Products (www.bigoakproducts.com) in Marion offers calendars and note cards for individuals and companies wanting to put their logo and message on them.

Happy holidays. Time spent with family and friends, outdoors or in, is time well spent.

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, DEC. 22

GILLET: Elementary Music Concert, 10 a.m., Secondary School Auditorium, 208 W. Main St.

SATURDAY, DEC. 23

SHAWANO: Advent service, 5 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1254 S. Union St.

SUNDAY, DEC. 24

SHAWANO: Christmas Eve services, 9 a.m. Advent and 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. candlelight, Zion Lutheran Church, 1254 S. Union St.

GILLET: Christmas Eve service, 9 a.m.,

Tabor United Methodist Church, 120 W. Main St. No 8:30 a.m. worship service.

OCONTO FALLS: Christmas Eve services, 4 p.m. traditional, 5 p.m. contemporary, Grace Lutheran Church, 501 S. Main St.

BONDUEL: Christmas Eve service, 7 p.m., Zion United Methodist Church, 134 E. Green Bay St. No 10:30 a.m. worship service.

MONDAY, DEC. 25

SHAWANO: Christmas Day service, 9 a.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1254 S. Union St.

OCONTO FALLS: Traditional Christmas

Service with Communion, 9:30 a.m., Grace Lutheran Church, 501 S. Main St.

TUESDAY, DEC. 26

ABRAMS: Auditions for "Oklahoma," 6-8:30 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St. Tryouts for Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. spring musical scheduled for March. Details at Abramstheater.com.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27

ABRAMS: Auditions for "Oklahoma," 6-8:30 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St. Tryouts for

Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. spring musical scheduled for March. Details at Abramstheater.com.

SATURDAY, DEC. 30

SHAWANO: Bonduel Lions Club Fishing Derby and Meat Raffle, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bamboo Bar, W5884 Cedar Court.

SHAWANO: Worship service, 5 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1254 S. Union St.

SUNDAY, DEC. 31

SHAWANO: New Year's Eve service, 9 a.m. Zion Lutheran Church, 1254 S. Union St.

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Christmas not always a happy holiday

The most beloved holiday story of all time has to be "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. In the days leading up to Christmas vacation, I read it aloud with my Kaukauna middle school students every year from 1982 to 2001. I still know it almost by heart.

Dickens is a challenge to read, but even my least capable learners liked it. They loved watching the movie starring George C. Scott, by far the best film adaptation of the story. I hope they still enjoy it every Christmas with their families.

Thinking back to those happy days brings to mind a not-so-happy fact: many children do not approach Christmas with eager anticipation. I learned that the day before Christmas vacation in 1968 when I was in my first year of teaching at Kaukauna High School.

After the dismissal bell rang, I was gathering my things when "Mike" came to my classroom, as he usually did. Mike was bright but had a huge chip on his shoulder. I knew he'd gotten into trouble



Kathleen Marsh
Columnist

both in and out of school. It was just teenage stuff, never anything serious and never in my class. I really liked him. Sure, he was rough around the edges, a tough kid a lot like the farm boys I grew up with. Now here he stood, asking if I needed any help. I made the dreadful mistake of shooing him away. "Go home and enjoy your vacation, Mike. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year."

I was relieved when he left because I had two stops to make before heading home. Our English department had pitched in to provide Christmas dinner for a less fortunate family, and I had volunteered to do the grocery shopping.

It took a while to get everything, and darkness was descending as I threw in a package of Oreos as my own special treat.

I loaded the car and consulted a scrap of paper containing directions. Soon I found myself in a section of Kaukauna many called "the other side of the tracks." I found the address, a decrepit old house divided into down and upstairs apartments. Shivering from more than the cold, I saw light in a downstairs window. Ascending the crumbling cement steps, it was obvious no one lived upstairs. I knocked. No answer. I knocked again.

Finally, the door opened. There stood Mike. I couldn't help but glance inside. Oh my God, how can people live like this? I thought. He must have read my mind because he turned bright red. "What're you doing here, Miss Brantmeier? Seemed like you were in a hurry to get home." Now it was my turn to blush.

"I brought groceries to make Christmas dinner for the family ... ah ... upstairs," I fibbed.

His reply contained a bit of sarcasm. "Nobody up there; uninhabitable." He pronounced each syllable carefully, spelled it correctly, and proudly grinned. It was a vocabulary word we had just covered in class.

I thought quickly. "Then I do need your help, Mike. Can you please take this food?"

"Must be other people who need it more'n we do," Mike countered.

"Maybe," I said, "but please take it; as a favor to me?"

He reluctantly agreed. "All right, but only to help you out. You wait here; I'll carry up the bags. Sorry I can't ask you in, but Ma's sleeping.

She works nights cleaning."

When school resumed, I didn't mention the encounter. He'd quit dropping by my classroom after school, but I didn't ask him about it. I assumed he was embarrassed that I'd discovered his home circumstances. I found out why a few weeks later.

I was at the hardware store after school when I saw Mike there. He was wearing a shirt with the store logo. We exchanged smiles, but he was busy helping a customer find the right tool to fix a leaky faucet. I was impressed. Obviously, he had found his niche.

As the owner waited on me, I thanked him for giving Mike a chance.

"Great kid," he said. "Glad I took your recommendation."

Funny, Mike hadn't asked if he could use me as a reference. I smiled and nodded, pleased that Mike had trusted me enough to know I would say yes.

For the next three and a half decades, at least one student hung around my classroom on the day before Christmas vacation. Long after the rest had bolted as if the school was on fire, they lingered. I did, too. If they felt safer and merrier with me, well, it didn't cost anything to give them a few extra minutes.

After all, as Charles Dickens so wisely observed: we are all fellow travelers to the grave. Indeed. Merry Christmas and God bless us all, every one.

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



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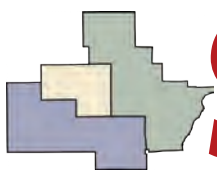
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Wynos signs to play softball in Minnesota

Menominee Indian High School senior planning to study psychology

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-chief

Danika Wynos is turning from an Eagle into a Blue Knight after she signed her letter of intent Dec. 15 to play softball for Dakota County Technical College in Rosemount, Minnesota.

The Menominee Indian High School senior made the announcement official after listening to congratulatory remarks from the school's athletic director and a former coach.

"It's a testament to dedication, discipline, passion that you've displayed both in the classroom and on the field. Today we recognize not only her athletic prowess, but also her commitment to excellence in

academics as well," MIHS athletic director James Oshkeshequoam said. "As an athletic director, I'm very proud to witness the culmination of your hard work. Not a lot of athletes get a lot of opportunities to make a step to the next level, so I'm really proud to see one of our own Menominee athletes reach that point."

Oshkeshequoam praised Wynos' leadership, teamwork and sportsmanship. He said those characteristics are demonstrated when she plays on the field, as well as daily in the halls and classrooms in the school.

The unwavering support of family, friends and school community was also noted.

"Your encouragement and guidance have played an integral role in the development of Danika," Oshkeshequoam said.

Brian Johnson, one of Wynos' former coaches, also congratulated her.

"If you've got a Wynos, the kid can play ball," he said. "The question was whether she would be feisty like Kristina (sister) or more calm like Naomi (sister). What I found is that Danika is sort of a mix of both."

Wynos mainly played at third base.

"We knew early on Danika was really gifted as third baseman," Johnson said.

He praised her for being at practice every single day.

"She was dedicated. She put in the work," he said. "It's not always fun."

Johnson also praised her passion for the game.

"She knew what she had to do to win," he said.

Johnson said Wynos was always a great teammate.

"That's a coach's dream," he said. "She loved the big moment. That's where your great players are. Two outs, bottom of the seventh, bases loaded, one-run ball game, she's like, 'Hit the ball to me. I'll end this thing.' 'Let me at the plate. I'll end this thing.' And I saw that from the time she was 8-9 years old."

He offered her one last piece of advice.

"You are playing softball to go to college. You're not going to college



Menominee Indian High School senior Danika Wynos signs a letter of intent Dec. 15 to play softball at Dakota County Technical College in Rosemount, Minnesota. The Division 2 Blue Knights were 4-1 in their conference last year. Wynos intends to study psychology.

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA



Danika Wynos' former coach, Brian Johnson, talks about the years he spent coaching her and praising her for the way she played softball. Wynos signed a letter of intent Dec. 15 to play softball at Dakota County Technical College in Rosemount, Minnesota. He told her to use softball as the ticket to a good education.

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

to play softball," Johnson said. "Use that softball as the ticket to a good education, and you'll have success in both."

Wynos will attend DCTC for two years and then go to an undetermined four-year school to compete her degree.

"I'm going to be studying psychology. I'll be going there for two years, getting my general education done, doing individualized studies," she said. "I chose this school because I feel like it's a good fit for me — a good opportunity."

She wants to become a counselor and return to Menominee County to work with her community.

She said she's enjoyed her time

on the field, both as a youngster and now as a high school athlete.

"It was very diverse. I had fun playing all my years here," she said. Playing third base came naturally to her.

The best part of the game?

"Playing third," she said.

Worst part of the game?

"Probably playing third again."

Wynos will receive \$1,500 in scholarship money when she begins classes at DCTC.

The Blue Knights are a Division 2 school. The 2021-22 softball team went 4-1 in conference play and was 15-15 overall.

kpasson@newmedia-wi.com

BOYS BASKETBALL

Panthers lose by a point; Mustangs still perfect

Four players scored in double digits, but the valiant comeback effort by the Oconto Falls boys basketball team came up one point short in a 71-70 loss to Peshtigo in non-conference action Dec. 16.

Peshtigo led 36-26 at the half. Oconto Falls' 44-35 second half brought them within a point of a tied game and forced overtime.

J.J. Pytleski scored 17 points including a trio of 3-pointers. Jameson Beaman had 16 points including a pair of 3-pointers. Alex Haines scored 11 points, and Emerich Skarban knocked down 10.

Haines led the team with 10 rebounds. Brady Bursa, Haines and Beaman each had five assists, and Haines had four steals.

Marion boasts perfect record

Marion stayed perfect at 8-0 overall with a 50-35 non-conference win Dec. 15 over Elcho. The Mustangs led 34-15 at the half, while the Hornets won the second half 20-16.

Oconto Falls loses to Waupaca

Oconto Falls played close and had a very strong second half Dec. 15, but the Panthers came up short, losing 59-55 to Waupaca in North Eastern Conference action.

Waupaca led 28-17 at the break, but Oconto Falls battled back and won the second half 38-31, coming just four points short of forcing overtime.

Alex Haines led Oconto Falls with 15 points, including two 3-pointers, and J.J. Pytleski had 14, including four 3-pointers.

Haines pulled down 14 boards and led with three assists. Three steals each were credited to Evan Yuma and Pytleski.

The Panthers are 2-5 overall but 0-5 in conference play.

Pulaski gets 1st conference win

The Red Raiders claimed their first Fox River Classic Conference win of the season Dec. 15 as they defeated Green Bay Southwest 80-54.

Pulaski improved to 1-2 in conference action and 4-2 overall.

Bonduel mounts comeback

After trailing by 20 at one point in the first half Dec. 14, Bonduel outscored Weyauwega-Fremont 41-18 in the second half to come back and win 74-63.

The Bears were still trailing 45-33 at the break, but the team kicked it into high gear to earn the Central Wisconsin East Conference game and improve

to 3-0 in league play and 4-1 overall.

Noah Weier led Bonduel with 21 points. Race Anvelink added 19, while Cade Johnson and Colin Margelofsky each scored 12.

Bowler dominates White Lake

In its first Central Wisconsin North Conference game of the season Dec. 14, Bowler was more than doubled up on by White Lake as the Panthers lost 56-27.

Bowler remains winless on the year at 0-5 overall.

Bowler led 15-14 at the break, but the Lakers stormed back and won the second half 42-12 to claim victory.

Tigers tame Wildcats

Tigerton had little difficulty in earning a 61-34 win over Gresham in Central Wisconsin North Conference action Dec. 14.

Each half was nearly identical in scoring, as Tigerton won the first half 30-18 and outscored Gresham 31-16 in the second half.

Maverick Maas and James Brady led the Tigers with 14 points each. Loghan Wanta led with six rebounds, Sam Anheuser had three steals, and Cameron Carlson, Joey Zimdars, Anheuser and Brady each had one assist.

Tigerton improved to 2-1 in the conference and 5-1 overall, while Gresham fell to 0-2 and 0-6.

Lena loses 3rd conference game

Lena has had no luck in Marinette & Oconto Conference action this year, losing its third contest 65-27 to Crivitz on Dec. 14. Lena, 0-3 in league play, is 3-3 overall with three non-conference wins.

It was all Crivitz as the hosts led 46-14 at the half. Lena was outscored 19-13 in the second half.

Lena's top scorer was Mason Spice with nine points.

Gillett defeats Wausaukee

Gillett moved to 3-1 in Marinette & Oconto Conference action with a 68-35 win Dec. 14 over Wausaukee. The visitors led 38-19 at the half and outscored Wausaukee 30-16 in the second half.

Aydin Franti led the Tigers with 24 points. Jesse DeBauch scored 14, and Ben Matczak added 10.

Witt-Birn beats Menominee Indian

Four Chargers scored in double digits Dec. 14 as Wittenberg-Birnamwood defeated Menominee Indian 75-44 in Central Wisconsin East Conference action.

"Balanced attack last night," Witt-Birn coach Garrett Rogowski said. "A

lot of guys contributed and gave us valuable minutes."

Jett Rogowski led with 23 points, followed by Oliver Fraaza with 11, and Jaden Clark and Hudson Miller each with 10.

Barron Waupoose led the Eagles with 12 points.

The Eagles are 0-3 in conference action and 0-6 overall. The Chargers are 2-1 and 3-3.

Suring falls to St. Thomas

The Eagles played a good game at the start Dec. 14, but St. Thomas Aquinas Academy was too much in the second half as they defeated Suring 53-36 in Marinette & Oconto Conference action.

Leading by just two at the half, 27-25, STAA outscored Suring 26-11 in their coast to a victory.

Suring is 9-4 in conference action and 1-5 overall.

Trent VanDenElzen scored 13 points for the Eagles.

Bonduel defeats Reedsville

Race Anvelink scored 19 points Dec. 12 as Bonduel fought back to earn a 67-64 non-conference win over Reedsville.

The Bears trailed 34-31 at the half but used a 36-30 second half to notch the three-point win. The team is 3-1 overall.

All members of the Bears scored, including Noah Weier with 17 points and Cade Johnson with 11. Also scoring were Colin Margelofsky with eight, Charlie Tauchen and Quinn Wesenberg each with five, and Sam Roberts with two.

Bowler falls to Tri-County

Bowler's record dropped to 0-5 Dec. 12 with its 63-44 loss to Tri-County in non-conference action.

The Panthers held a slim 25-23 lead at the half but were blown out in the second half, 40-19.

Gresham loses to Port Edwards

Like fellow Central Wisconsin North Conference counterpart Bowler, the Gresham boys fell to 0-5 overall Dec. 12 with its 90-51 defeat at the hands of Port Edwards.

Oconto Falls beat by Marinette

Oconto Falls' two wins this year have been non-conference games as the Panthers can't catch a break in North Eastern Conference action.

Leading 32-29 at the half over Marinette on Dec. 12, Oconto Falls lost the second half 33-27 as they lost the game 62-59. Oconto Falls is 0-4 in league

play (2-4 overall), while Marinette is 1-3 with its first conference win of the season.

Alex Haines set the pace for the Panthers with his 22 points, eight rebounds, two assists and three steals.

Brady Bursa also had two assists.

Pulaski thwarted by Sheboygan

The Red Raiders lost 83-71 to Sheboygan North on Dec. 12 in a Fox River Classic Conference matchup.

Pulaski is 0-2 in conference action and 3-2 overall. Sheboygan North is 2-0 in league play and 3-2 overall.

Shawano thrashes Green Bay

Shawano earned its first Bay Conference win of the year with a 76-35 thrashing of Green Bay West on Dec. 12.

With a comfortable 37-24 lead at halftime, the Hawks kept up the pace, opening the second half with a 26-2 run. When it was done, the Hawks outscored Green Bay West 39-11 in the half. The team is now 1-2 in the conference and 2-5 overall.

Logan Sipple led the Hawks with 17 points. Ryan Shanty scored another 16, while Will Verkuilen added 11.

Leading with five rebounds was Sipple. Verkuilen and Warner Beyer each had four assists, and Verkuilen had six steals.

Tigerton beats Elcho in OT

Tigerton needed a 7-5 overtime period Dec. 12 to claim a 78-76 victory over Elcho in non-conference action.

The Tigers were the strong team in the first half, leading 39-28. The Hornets came back in the second half with a 43-32 score to send the game into overtime with the score tied at 71-71.

Maverick Maas led Tigerton with 27 points, with Joey Zimdars contributing 13, and Loghan Wanta and Sam Anheuser each adding 10.

Wanta pulled down 16 boards, with Zimdars leading with two assists and Maas with five steals.

Gillett falls to Oneida Nation

In a battle for the early lead in the Marinette & Oconto Conference, Gillett came up short Dec. 11 against Oneida Nation, losing 55-52. Gillett is 2-1 in league play, while Oneida Nation is 3-0.

Ben Matczak sparked the Tigers with 15 points, including four 3-pointers. Jesse DeBauch scored 13, and Aydin Franti added 10.

The game was tied at 28-28 at the break, with Oneida Nation winning the second half 27-24.

Shawano hockey team gets first two wins

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Shawano/Bonduel extended its winning streak to two with a 9-4 win over Chequamegon/Phillips/Butternut on Dec. 16 in Park Falls.

Chequamegon took an early 2-0 lead in the first period before Cam Schroeder put Shawano on the board at 5:41 to make it 2-1 in favor of the home team going into the second period.

Chequamegon scored at 0:40 to go up 3-1.

That's when Shawano lit up the

board. The Hawks scored four times in the second period.

Karson Stoss scored at 7:45 with a Jeremy Helmuth assist. At 8:10, it was Schroeder again with help from Gavin Hundt. Brycen Madison scored at 16:07 with Stoss assisting, and Stoss then scored at 16:50 with help from Hundt and Michale Dillenberg.

The third period was a replica of the second. Chequamegon scored first at 2:40, and Shawano responded with four more goals.

Josh Fiskien scored at 3:39. Hunter

Jones, with an assist from Dillenberg, scored at 6:20. Hundt scored at 12:03 with help from Madison, and Waylon Snider scored at 15:44, again with help from Madison.

Each team served eight minutes in the penalty box on four infractions.

Shawano skaters had 41 shots on goal.

In the net for the Hawks, Kaiden Thornborrow made 11 saves on 13 shots on goal, and Tyson Lyons had 10 saves on 12 shots on goal. Each gave up two goals.

First win of the season

A 6-2 win over over Manitowoc JV marked the first victory of the year for the Shawano/Bonduel boys hockey team.

Gavin Hundt recorded a hat trick in the Dec. 14 home game, with Hunter Jones, Josh Fiskien and Cam Schroeder each scoring a goal as well.

"Very proud of our energy this evening," Hawks coach Adam Gafner said. "As coaches, we've been preaching to our team to play with a greater sense of urgency. It was nice to see the team respond."

Goals were traded evenly in the first period, with Hundt scoring first with an assist from Karson Stoss to put the hosts up 1-0. Then, tied at 1-1, Bundt scored at the 10:34 mark only to have Manitowoc score again to even the score at 2-2 as the period ended.

Shawano/Bonduel took control of the game with three unanswered goals in the second period. Hundt recorded his hat trick at 7:07 with help from Stoss and Schroeder. Jones scored at 9:51 with assists from Jeremy Helmuth and Brycen Madison. Finally, Fiskien scored at 11:49 to give Shawano/Bonduel a 5-2 lead.

At 3:57 in the third period, Schroeder scored with an assist by Stoss.

"It was great to see all three lines scoring tonight," Gafner said. "We haven't had that yet all season."

Shawano/Bonduel was penalized 23 minutes on 10 infractions, while Manitowoc JV was called on two fouls and served four minutes.

Kaiden Thornborrow worked the net for the Hawk and collected 20 saves on 22 shots on goal. Shawano/Bonduel had 38 shots on goal against Manitowoc JV's Dan Darlin.

GIRLS WRESTLING

Shawano Hawks handily win Holiday Classic

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Shawano's girls wrestlers were aggressive against multiple schools and captured first place at their own Holiday Classic on Dec. 16.

Jenna Moede wrestled well and took first place in her finals match with a fall in 3:52. Gwyn Hermann took second place after a close match in the finals.

"Gwyn continues to improve and wrestle hard," coach Mike Homan said. "Jenna went 4-0 on the day with four pins. Jenna has really been wrestling well, and she continues to improve."

Onna Hermann took second place as well. Caitlyn Moede took fifth place and had the toughest bracket of the tournament, as her bracket contained four state qualifiers from last season.

Ali Lemerond took second place as well.

"She has been wrestling well and improving greatly," Homan said, of Lemerond. "Adalyn Barkley took fourth place and wrestled some great matches. She is learning the sport and competing hard in every match."

Vivian Waldburger took first

place at 152 pounds. She has been on a roll lately, taking advantage of each match.

"Her season is off to a great start, and we look forward to more growth in the coming weeks," Homan said. "Courtney Schenk placed second as well. She continues to work hard and expand her knowledge of the sport."

Shawano outscored their opponents 119-92 and improved to 3-0.

Shawano wins at Brillion

Shawano's girls wrestling team took first place against multiple schools at Brillion on Dec. 8. The Hawks scored 109 points compared to 89 for their opponents as they improved to 2-0 on the season.

"We had multiple girls wrestling in finals and placing matches," Homan said. "All of the girls on the team did a great job fighting and wrestling hard tonight. I'm very proud of all of them. The girls keep working hard, and they keep improving greatly."

Earning second-place finishes were Jenna Moede, Onna Hermann, Caitlyn Moede and Vivian Waldburger. Placing third were Ali Lemerond and Courtney Schenk.

"All of the girls on the team did a great job fighting and wrestling hard tonight. I'm very proud of all of them. The girls keep working hard, and they keep improving greatly."

MIKE HOMAN, Shawano Community High School wrestling coach

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BOYS WRESTLING

Shawano takes fourth at Holiday Classic

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Shawano's boys wrestling team earned a fourth-place finish at the Holiday Classic it hosted Dec. 16.

Drake Herm captured the championship at the 144-pound weight class.

"Drake is a hard worker, a great kid and an outstanding teammate," coach Mike Homan said. "I really like the way he attacks people from the neutral position. His takedowns are something special, and he is always ready to go."

Carsen Herm took second place. Dylan Gartner wrestled well at 106 pounds and finished in fourth place.

"We look forward to seeing his hard work continue as we move into the later part of the season," Homan said.

Dane Hodkiewicz took fifth place at 113. "Dane has been working hard, and competing with some tough competition; it was nice to see him finish well this weekend at our home tournament," Homan said.

Owen Montour took fourth place today at 132.

Shawano tops Seymour

Shawano's boys wrestling team improved to 5-3 with a 49-16 win over Seymour on Dec. 14.

"We started at 215 tonight," Homan said. "We took some losses right away but did a pretty good job giving up decisions and not falls. We talked as a team about how important it would be to fight off near-fall situations; oftentimes that is the difference in big matches."

Kia Waukau had a big win at heavyweight in an overtime match, which got some momentum back for the Hawks.

Shawano picked up a big win at 120 by Chris Hammen-Jung and then took forfeits at 126, 138 and 150.

"We picked up some tight wins at 144 and 157. Drake and Carsen (Herm) continue to wrestle tough and aggressive matches; both were in control the entire match," Homan said. "We finished the dual off well scoring falls at 165, 175 and 190. Drew Chelberg, Mason Theis and Connor Chelberg all continue to work hard in practice, and it shows on the mat. They all took advantage of their matches tonight and earned the team big bonus points. We have a good amount of work to do but will continue to work on it as we progress through the season."

Wrestling at Bay Port

Shawano wrestlers competed against others from multiple schools at Bay Port on Dec. 9.

The team wrestled 30 teams from around the state. Place winners were Dane Hodkiewicz in 13th, Kody Popelka in seventh, Carsen Herm in sixth and Connor Chelberg in 10th.

Lena finishes fourth

Lena's boys wrestling team finished in fourth place at home Dec. 14. Ashwaubenon placed first, Peshtigo was second and in third was Wabeno/Laona/Three Lakes.

In Round 1, Pestigo topped Lena 60-16. Ashwaubenon topped Lena 51-30 in Round 2 and Wabeno/Laona/Three Lakes defeated Lena 66-11 in Round 3.

Wins against Peshtigo were Sam Peterson with a 12-2 major decision, Lucas Heimke with a pin in 3:07 and Max Peterson with a pin in 2:38.

Against Ashwaubenon, Sam Peterson won by pinfall in 2:33, Heimke by pin in 1:58, Max Peterson by pin in 2:26, Collin VanArk by pin in 1:04 and Dylan Urbanek by pin in 2:26.

Lena's wins over Wabeno/Laona/Three Lakes were by Sam Peterson with a 2-0 decision, Heimke with a 10-8 decision and Max Peterson by technical fall 17-2.

"Drake (Herm) is a hard worker, a great kid and an outstanding teammate. I really like the way he attacks people from the neutral position. His takedowns are something special, and he is always ready to go."

MIKE HOMAN, Shawano Community High School wrestling coach

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lena stays perfect with win over Gillett

Oconto Falls' girls basketball team won 63-32 in a non-conference victory over Peshtigo on Dec. 16. The Panthers are 5-2 overall.

Bonduel leads conference

In a battle for the lead in the Central Wisconsin East Conference, Bonduel declared victory and first place Dec. 15 with a 57-31 win over Weyauwega-Fremont. The Bears improved to 4-0 in the conference and 6-2 overall.

Bowler defeats White Lake

Bowler embarrassed White Lake on the Lakers' home court Dec. 15 with a 77-12 Central Wisconsin North Conference win.

White Lake scored six points in each half, while Bowler ran up 40 in the first half and 37 in the second.

Isabella Stevens set the pace with 25 points and 13 rebounds. Natalie Rickert scored 22 points. Weengeetah Mohawk scored 13 points and led the team with five steals. Bertina Dodge added 10 points, had 10 rebounds and led with six assists. Paige Treptow rounded out the scoring with seven points.

Bowler is 2-0 in conference action and 5-3 overall.

Lena beats Gillett

Lena kept its perfect season intact with a 44-24 win Dec. 15 over Gillett in Marinette & Oconto Conference action.

Lena was led by Eva Brooks' 18 points, Madilyn Thomson's 14 and Kali Fischer's 10. Whitney Potter scored the team's other two points.

Brooks led with 13 rebounds, Fischer led with three assists, and Thomson, Fischer and Potter each had three steals.

The Wildcats improved to 5-0 in conference action and 9-0 overall. Gillett is 2-3 and 3-4.

Chargers clip Eagles

Wittenberg-Birnamwood improved to 3-1 in Central Wisconsin East Conference action with a 66-51 win Dec. 15 over Menominee Indian.

Rory Salvesen and Melaina Granquist each scored 24 points for the Chargers, and Faith Resch scored 10.

Granquist led with 12 rebounds, Harper Rogowski led with four assists, and Resch led with six steals.

The Chargers are 3-1 in conference action and 8-1 overall. The Eagles are 1-3 in conference play and 3-6 overall.

Pulaski falls to GB

A six-point first half spelled defeat for Pulaski, as the Red Raiders lost 42-

20 to Green Bay Southwest.

Trailing 19-6 at the break, Pulaski was also outscored 23-14 in the second half. They fell to 2-2 in conference action and 3-6 overall.

Ellie Mangold scored eight points.

Shawano beats Marinette on road

The Hawks traveled to Marinette on Dec. 15 and returned home with 66-36 non-conference win. Shawano improved to 8-2 overall.

Leah Nordin scored 25 points, while the Hawks' defense forced more than 20 turnovers.

Suring falls to Niagara

Suring dropped to 2-4 in Marinette & Oconto Conference action with a 50-33 loss to Niagara on Dec. 15.

Suring trailed 19-10 after the first half and was outscored 31-23 in the second half.

Bunny Cramer led the home team with 12 points.

Marion loses to Northland Lutheran

Marion's girls lost their second game of the week Dec. 14, a 49-13 defeat at the hands of Northland Lutheran.

The loss drops the Mustangs to 1-3 in the Central Wisconsin North Conference standings and 2-6 overall.

Marion is on a break now until Jan. 4, when they will host Elcho.

Bonduel defeats Amherst

Bonduel remained tied for first place in the Central Wisconsin East Conference standings after its 45-30 win over Amherst on Dec. 12. The Bears are 3-0 in league play and 5-2 overall.

Gresham dominates Marion

Gresham had little trouble Dec. 12 in earning its 73-23 win over Marion in Central Wisconsin North Conference action.

The victory improved the Wildcats to 2-0 in league, alone at the top of the standings, at 7-1 overall. The Mustangs are 1-2 in conference action and 2-5 overall.

Lena thwarts Oneida Nation

Eva Brooks led Lena with 20 points en route to the team's fourth Marinette & Oconto Conference win and eighth overall Dec. 12. Lena defeated Oneida Nation 60-41 to move to 4-0 in conference play and 8-0 overall. The Wildcats led 36-18 at the half and won the second half as well, 24-23.

In addition to Brooks leading her team in points, she also led with 17 boards and eight assists. Brooks and

Whitney Potter each had three steals.

Madilyn Thomson scored 14 points, with Potter contributing 10.

Menominee Indian defeated

A strong second half wasn't enough for the Eagles to claim victory as they lost to Manawa 69-56 in Central Wisconsin East Conference action Dec. 12.

Down 39-23 at the half, Menominee Indian outscored their guests 33-30 in the second half, but that still left them short of a win.

Urijih Reeves led the Eagles with 16 points. Adding to the total were Ayanna Smith with 13, Aaliyah Corn with 12 and Anisa Peters with 10. Natalie Peters scored five.

Reeves grabbed 11 rebounds, and Lena Wausau had 10. Smith and Wausau each had two assists, while Reeves and Smith each had three steals.

Pulaski beats Sheboygan

Pulaski squeaked by Sheboygan North 34-31 on Dec. 12 to improve to 2-1 in the Fox River Classic Conference standings. The Red Raiders are 3-5 overall.

Hawks take down Robins

In non-conference action, Shawano didn't hold back Dec. 12 as the Hawks crushed the Antigo Red Robins 63-27. The improved Shawano's overall mark to 7-2.

Leah Nordin scored 27 points, and Trinity Popelka added 11.

Suring falls to 1st place team

Suring's 55-42 loss to Coleman on Dec. 12 put their hosts at a perfect 5-0 record in the Marinette & Oconto Conference, as Coleman is all alone in first place.

Coleman led 26-21 at the half and

won the second half as well, 29-21.

All Suring girls scored in the game. Birdee Cramer led the Eagles with 13 points, followed by Bunny Cramer with 10. Claire Pommerich, Emily Peterson and Hailey VanRens each scored five, and Paige Pommerich and Emma Kristof each scored two.

Witt-Birn defeats Iola-Scandinavia

Wittenberg-Birnamwood hit the gas pedal to open the Dec. 12 game against Iola-Scandinavia and never let up as the Chargers won 73-24 on their home court.

Witt-Birn led 42-11 at the half and outscored their guests 31-13 in the second half to improve to 2-1 in the Central Wisconsin East Conference and 7-1 overall.

"I really liked our effort tonight and how well we played on the defensive end," coach Nick Mechelke said. "One of our keys tonight was to finish our opportunities, and we shot well."

Rory Salvesen's 25 points alone were enough to top Iola-Scandinavia's total. Melaina Granquist added another 15, and Faith Resch scored 12.

Oconto Falls beats Waupaca

The Oconto Falls girls dispatched Waupaca with little resistance, 71-29, in North Eastern Conference action Dec. 11.

The victory moved the Panthers to 3-2 in league play and 4-2 overall. Oconto Falls led 39-20 at the half and outscored Waupaca 32-9 in the second half.

Kati Raddatz led the Panthers with 23 points, including seven 3-pointers, and Rylie Shallow scored 12.

Raddatz also led her teammates with eight rebounds. Bailee Gorman had five assists, and Shallow had seven steals.

SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Sports is one of the first sections that readers dive into as they are eager to find out how their favorite teams are doing during the season. While we strive to cover as much sports as possible across three counties, helping hands with writing and photography skills are always welcome.

NEW Media seeks correspondents to cover sports in Shawano, Oconto and Menominee counties. We cover more than a dozen high schools in the area, and writers who can report a game fairly and accurately while producing jaw-dropping action photos can go far with us.

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



by Mark McClain

- 1 One of the Beatles
- 2 Artful dodge
- 3 Thinker's spark
- 4 Respectful title
- 5 Tasty tidbit
- 6 Play charades
- 7 Earlier
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4	1	9	5	7	3	6	2	8
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1	8	7	3	2	5	4	9	6
9	2	6	4	8	1	7	5	3



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COURT NEWS

▪ Violet R. Madosh, 37, Neopit, had her probation revoked Oct. 30 on two counts of possession of narcotic drugs. Judge William Kussel Jr. sentenced her Dec. 12 to 18 months in prison, followed by one year of extended supervision.

▪ Erin E. Wynos, 27, Keshena, pleaded no contest Dec. 13 to possession of methamphetamine, harboring or aiding a felon, two counts of felony bail jumping, four misdemeanor counts of operating a motor vehicle while her license was revoked, 12 counts of misdemeanor bail jumping, and misdemeanor counts of operating a motor vehicle while

intoxicated (third offense), possession of THC, resisting or obstructing an officer and possession of drug paraphernalia. Kussel levied fines and placed her on three years of probation with conditions, including 240 days in county jail.

▪ Leslie J. Lemens, 54, Sturgeon Bay, pleaded no contest Dec. 15 to operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fifth or sixth offense). Kussel sentenced him to two years in prison followed by three years of extended supervision with conditions.

▪ Thomas E. Raatz, 64, Wausau, pleaded no contest Sept. 14 to fleeing

an officer in his vehicle and second-degree recklessly endangering safety. Kussel sentenced him Dec. 12 to 19 months in prison followed by two years of extended supervision.

▪ Crystal M. Denny, 40, Gresham, pleaded guilty Dec. 12 to possession of THC (second or subsequent offense). Kussel levied fines and sentenced her to 200 days in the county jail.

▪ Michael B. Smith, 47, Antigo, pleaded guilty to possession of narcotic drugs and operating a motor vehicle while his license was revoked. Judge Katherine Sloma levied fines and sentenced him to six months in the

county jail.

▪ Matthew J. Vanderlinden, no birth date listed, Bonduel, was charged Dec. 15 with five counts of false imprisonment and a misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct. Sloma set a \$10,000 signature bond and scheduled a status conference for Feb. 13.

▪ Preston T. Harris Cook, 30, Shawano, was charged Dec. 15 with six counts of felony bail jumping, along with misdemeanor charges of criminal damage to property and disorderly conduct. Sloma set a \$5,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Jan. 3.

PUBLIC RECORD

SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT Dec. 18

Deputies responded to 17 incidents, including a warrant at the Shawano County Courthouse, 311 N. Main St., Shawano; harassment on Oak Avenue in the Town of Richmond; warrant arrest at Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg, N7198 U.S. Highway 45 in the Town of Wittenberg; scam on South Main Street in Shawano; one reckless driving incident; one crash.

Dec. 17

Deputies responded to 17 incidents, including a fight in progress on Oak Avenue in the Town of Richmond; criminal damage on Church Road in the Town of Morris; two 911 calls; three reckless driving incidents, one crash.

Dec. 16

Deputies responded to 19 incidents, including property damage on County Road Y in the Town of Belle Plaine; property damage on East Pioneer Avenue in Wittenberg; trespassing on First Street in Aniwa; two 911 calls; one reckless driving incident; one crash.

Dec. 15

Deputies responded to 43 incidents, including assisting with a fire on Tamarack Lane in the Town of Richmond; property theft on South St. Augustine Street in the Town of Maple Grove; harassment on Lakeview Road in the Town of Washington; threatening on Second Drive in the Town of Washington; weapon offense on Spruce Road in the Town of Belle Plaine; noise on High Street in Birnamwood; noise on North Branch Road in the Town of Pella; six 911 calls; one reckless driving incident; one traffic hazard; four crashes, one involving deer.

Dec. 14

Deputies responded to 31 incidents, including repossession on West State Street in Bonduel; a death investigation on East Pleasant Street in Gresham; property theft at Shawano County Jail, 405 N. Main St., Shawano; harassment

on South Mission Street in Wittenberg, trespassing at the Little Star Convenience Store, W12140 County Road A in the Town of Bartelme; fraud on East Mohawk Street in Wittenberg; weapon offense on Frazer Corner Road in the Town of Lessor; assisting with a fire on North Genesee Street in Wittenberg; juvenile problem at Pond Park, 401 S. Mill St., Wittenberg; death investigation on Main Street in Gresham; fraud on Meadowview Road in Cecil; criminal damage at the Shawano County Jail, 405 N. Main St. Shawano; noise on Main Street in the Town of Angelica; one 911 call; three reckless driving incidents.

Dec. 13

Deputies responded to 28 incidents, including an animal bite on Marcus Street in Birnamwood; repossession on Riverside Drive in the Town of Wescott; restraining order violation on County Road M in the Town of Fairbanks; three 911 calls; two reckless driving incidents; two crashes, one involving deer.

Dec. 12

Deputies responded to 18 incidents, including fleeing and pursuit on County Road G in the Town of Red Springs; warrant at the Menominee Tribal Jail, W3292 Wolf River Road, Keshena; two reckless driving incidents; two crashes, one involving deer.

SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Dec. 18

Officers responded to 20 incidents, including property theft at Dunham Sports, 1211 E. Green Bay St.; property damage at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B; tobacco problem at Shawano Community Middle School, 1050 S. Union St.; two sex offenses at undisclosed locations; animal bite at the Shawano County Humane Society, 1290 Jaycee Court; truancy at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B; vehicle theft at Walmart, 1244 E. Green Bay

St.; vehicle crash on South Main Street.

Dec. 17

Officers responded to 20 incidents, including a fight in progress at Wisconsin House, 216 E. Green Bay St.; reckless driving at Memorial Park, 901 S. Lincoln St.; vehicle crash with injuries on East Green Bay Street.

Dec. 16

Officers responded to 10 incidents, including operating while intoxicated on East Randall Street; burglary on South Union Street; attempted warrant at SAM's House, 105 E. Richmond St.

Dec. 15

Officers responded to 19 incidents,

including found property on East Lieg Avenue; trespassing on South Evergreen Street; juvenile runaway on Military Road; operating without a license on East Richmond Street.

Dec. 14

Officers responded to 18 incidents, including assisting with a fire on South Washington Street; two juvenile problems at undisclosed locations; scam on West Fifth Street; property theft at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B; property theft on East Green Bay Street; noise on Prospect Circle.

SPORTS EDITOR

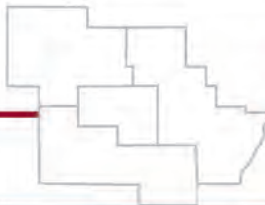
NEW Media is looking for a sports editor to immediately manage its three publications in northeast Wisconsin — the Shawano Leader, the Oconto County Times Herald and the Wittenberg Enterprise and Birnamwood News. We need someone with a love of sports who knows where to take our coverage in the future.

The sports editor will determine which games out of over a dozen school districts in three counties will be covered. During the school year, the editor will find local athletes to profile. The editor will also cover the local water ski team, the Shawano Ski Sharks, as well as coordinate coverage for the Shawano Speedway. Another duty for the editor will be to oversee and edit the layout of sports pages each week and make sure stories get on our website in a timely manner in accordance with our mantra of digital first. The sports editor will also oversee our Green & Gold Express, a seasonal publication covering the Green Bay Packers, along with hunting sections in the fall.

NEW Media tells the local stories that are ignored by other media outlets and provide the facts that are covered up by the keyboard gossips on social media. We're seeking someone versatile in what they cover, can turn stories around quickly, and can sniff out stories on their own. While the office is a base of operations, we want someone who'll be out in the community gathering stories.

Send a resume, cover letter explaining why you want the job and four to six samples of your work to editor Kevin Passon at kpasson@newmedia-wi.com.





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19.70	19.90	20.10	20.30	20.50
20.70	20.90	21.10	21.30	21.50
21.70	21.90	22.10	22.30	22.50
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BOOKS AND STUFF

Candle shop mystery falls a bit short

I won't say that "At the Scent of the Crime" by Melrose McFadden was a disappointment, but I must note that the story was sadly simplistic.

The story is set during Fall Haven's annual Winter Festival. It is cold enough to require a jacket, with only a dusting of snow on the ground. Paloma Finch and her best friend Leigh Hill run Wicked Wick, a candle shop featuring Paloma's unique blends of scents and Leigh's creative names.

The women grew up in the quaint village, left for school and the corporate world but returned to start over. Most of the shops on Fall Haven's cobblestoned square are "mom and pop" businesses who depend on tourist dollars.

Everyone is busy setting up for the three-day festival when Alistair Steele arrives. Alistair inherited most of the village buildings from his Uncle Xavier. Xavier was beloved in Fall Haven, but Alistair is despised. He has just announced that the rent on all his buildings will increase by 25% and the old maple factory will become a big box store.

Shop owners are furious, but before they can form a plan of action, Alistair Steele is dead. It appears that he crashed his little Vespa on the village square. This is where McFadden went wrong. Even the least qualified police officer would have asked basic questions such as "Why was Alistair Steele out and about before 5 a.m.? Why didn't his Vespa leave tracks in the fresh snow?"

Oddly, Sheriff Cole Finch (Paloma's ex-husband) agrees with the



mayor who insists that the death was an accident. Things are cleaned up, and the Winter Festival goes on as planned. But that doesn't keep Paloma and Leigh from their own investigation. Why was local real estate agent Butler looking for Alistair? What was the mayor doing at the square at 5 a.m.? Where was his assistant Parker at that time?

When they try to talk with the mayor, it feels like Parker controls what is said. They are most concerned with what will happen to the "big box" deal now that Alistair is dead. Naturally, the women waltz into Xavier's house and snoop. It doesn't take them long to find lots of business records but are shocked to find a marriage certificate and a shiny new laptop. They take them along for further study in the back of the candle shop.

In the midst of the investigation, Paloma realizes that though he's still quiet, Cole has matured into a good investigator. And she can't deny there is still a strong connection between them. At the same time, Leigh is being "courted" by Jason, the baker. As the Winter Festival winds down, the case heats up.

Paloma is closing the shop when she is confronted by Butler. The tiny woman confirms her suspicions

AT A GLANCE

BOOK: At the Scent of the Crime (Wicked Wick Mysteries, Book 1)

AUTHOR: Melrose McFadden

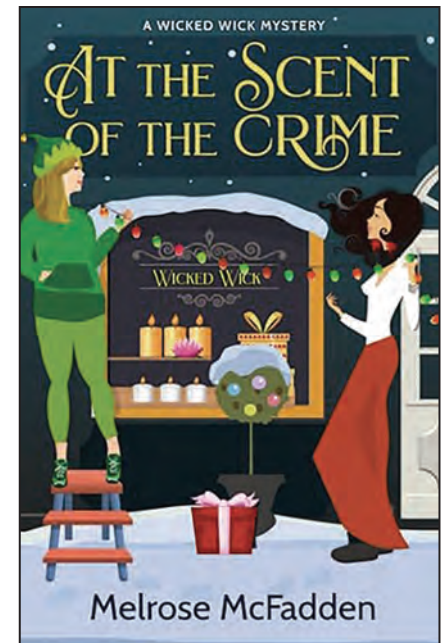
YEAR PUBLISHED: 2021

NUMBER OF PAGES: 222

by raving about how she and Alistair were not only working together on the property sale but were romantically involved until he suddenly dumped her. She would have made a quarter million dollars on the sale, but now she'd get nothing.

That rage drove Butler to poison Alistair by using information found in one of the botany books sold at Wicked Wick. She also implicated Parker and the mayor. Now she plans to kill Paloma before she can tell anyone. Luckily, Leigh and friends swing into action with no further injuries.

In the end, they learn that Alistair's widow is in Fall Haven and assures them that the big box deal is off. She also pledges to use Alistair's



estate to help the village maintain its warm, small-town appeal. Will the budding romances grow or will they remain dormant? Only book two can tell us.

REPORTER/NEWS EDITOR

NEW Media is seeking a bright and energetic reporter who has aspirations to be a news editor someday, as one of our staff members is pondering retirement. We seek talented journalists who can seize someone's attention with carefully developed words, eye-catching photographs and captivating videos in a fast-paced news environment where digital comes first.

The reporter/editor candidate would spend much of their time covering Oconto County, although occasionally a story could take them to Shawano County or Menominee County. Editors also work with freelancers to help out with stories when needed and seek out potential writers to add to the papers' richness.

NEW Media tells the local stories that are ignored by other media outlets and provide the facts that are glossed over by the keyboard gossips on social media. We're seeking someone versatile in what they cover, can turn stories around quickly, and can sniff out stories on their own. While the office is a base of operations, we want someone who'll be out in the community gathering the news.

All are welcome to apply, including recent or pending college graduates. Photography and copy editing skills are a must, and experience with shooting and editing videos could bring you to the front of the line. Experience laying out pages is also helpful, but we can train in-house.

Send a resume, cover letter explaining why you want the job and four to six samples of your work to editor Kevin Passon at kpasson@newmedia-wi.com.



FEATURES CORRESPONDENT

While hard news tends to dominate the papers, we occasionally get to showcase the brighter side of northeast Wisconsin. From incredible volunteers to brilliant authors and artists to theatrical productions and so much more, we want to show it all. We need your help to do that.

NEW Media is looking for people to tell the amazing stories in Oconto, Menominee and Shawano counties. Anyone with a curious mind, a photographer's eye and the skill to turn a phrase is welcome to apply.

Send a resume with writing and photography samples to city editor Lee Pulaski at lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com.



Best of Wolf River Region

WITTENBERG
ENTERPRISE
& BIRNAMWOOD NEWS



2023 Readers Poll

Deadline: January 22, 2024

BALLOT #1

Best Goods:

- ☐ Flower Shop _____
- ☐ Grocery Store _____
- ☐ Hardware Store _____
- ☐ Tile/Flooring _____

Best Services:

- ☐ A/C & Heating _____
- ☐ Child Care _____
- ☐ Chiropractor _____
- ☐ Dentist _____
- ☐ Insurance Agency _____
- ☐ Optometrist _____
- ☐ Pharmacy _____
- ☐ Real Estate _____
- ☐ Tax Service _____
- ☐ Veterinarian _____

Best of Wolf River Region

WITTENBERG
ENTERPRISE
& BIRNAMWOOD NEWS

ENTRY FORM

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Clip & Mail Your Ballots To: **Shawano Leader**
Attn: Best Of
1464 E. Green Bay St., Shawano WI 54166
e-mail: advertising@newmedia-wi.com

Deadline: January 22, 2024

•A minimum of 10 categories on ballot must be completed in order for your vote to count to be eligible to win prizes.
No purchase necessary to win.

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NEWS CORRESPONDENT

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

NEW Media is looking to get some help in covering meetings and events in Oconto County, Menominee County and western Shawano County. Anyone with a curious mind, a photographer's eye and the skill to turn a phrase is welcome to apply.

Send a resume with writing and photography samples to city editor Lee Pulaski at lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com.



Best of Wolf River Region

WITTENBERG

ENTERPRISE

& BIRNAMWOOD NEWS

**2023**

Readers Poll

Deadline: January 22, 2024

BALLOT #2**Best Thing To Do:**

- ☐ Bowling Alley _____
- ☐ Casino _____
- ☐ Happy Hour _____
- ☐ Live Music _____
- ☐ Meat Market _____
- ☐ Night Spot _____

Best Outdoor Activities:

- ☐ Bait/Tackle Shop _____
- ☐ Golf Course _____
- ☐ Lawn/Garden _____

Best Vehicle Services:

- ☐ Auto Body Repair _____
- ☐ Auto Parts Supply Store _____
- ☐ Car Dealer _____
- ☐ Vehicle Service Center _____
- ☐ Tire Store _____

Best of Wolf River Region

WITTENBERG

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ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Clip & Mail Your Ballots To: **Shawano Leader**
Attn: Best Of
1464 E. Green Bay St., Shawano WI 54166
e-mail: advertising@newmedia-wi.com

Deadline: January 22, 2024

•A minimum of 10 categories on ballot must be completed in order for your vote to count to be eligible to win prizes.
No purchase necessary to win.

Best of Wolf River Region

WITTENBERG

ENTERPRISE

& BIRNAMWOOD NEWS

**2023**

Readers Poll

Deadline: January 22, 2024

BALLOT #3**Food/Dining:**

- ☐ Bar _____
- ☐ Breakfast _____
- ☐ Burger _____
- ☐ Coffee House _____
- ☐ Dessert _____
- ☐ Dinner _____
- ☐ Family Restaurant _____
- ☐ Fish Fry _____
- ☐ Lunch _____
- ☐ Pizza _____
- ☐ Sandwich _____

Best of Wolf River Region

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Clip & Mail Your Ballots To: **Shawano Leader**
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1464 E. Green Bay St., Shawano WI 54166
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Deadline: January 22, 2024

•A minimum of 10 categories on ballot must be completed in order for your vote to count to be eligible to win prizes.
No purchase necessary to win.



WE'RE NOT “THE MEDIA.”

There's a lot of talk about “the media,” the talking heads on cable TV who pander to political views for profit.

That's not the news, and it's certainly not this newspaper. Our goal every day is to fully and fairly report the news about this vibrant community and the people who live here.

That's at the heart of American newspapering—preparing timely and insightful reports about what matters most, prepared by hometown journalists who love this town and care about its future.

That's our pledge and our purpose.

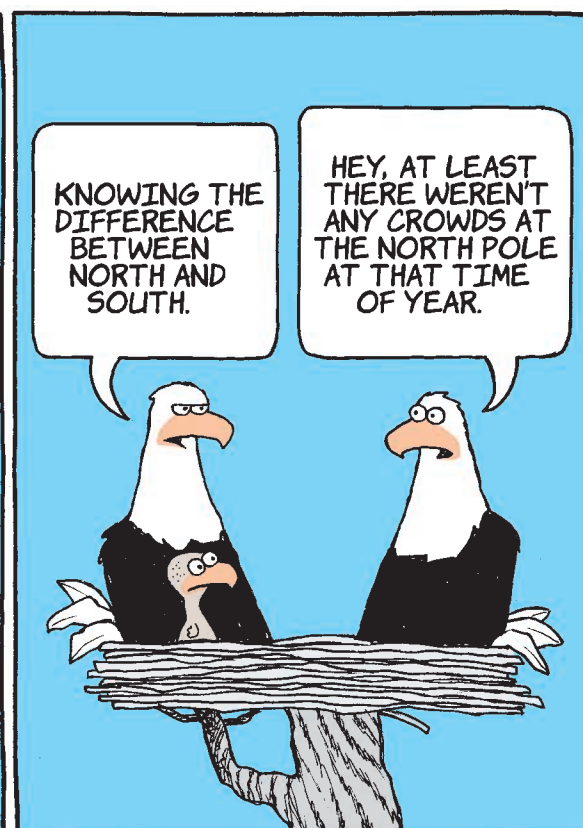
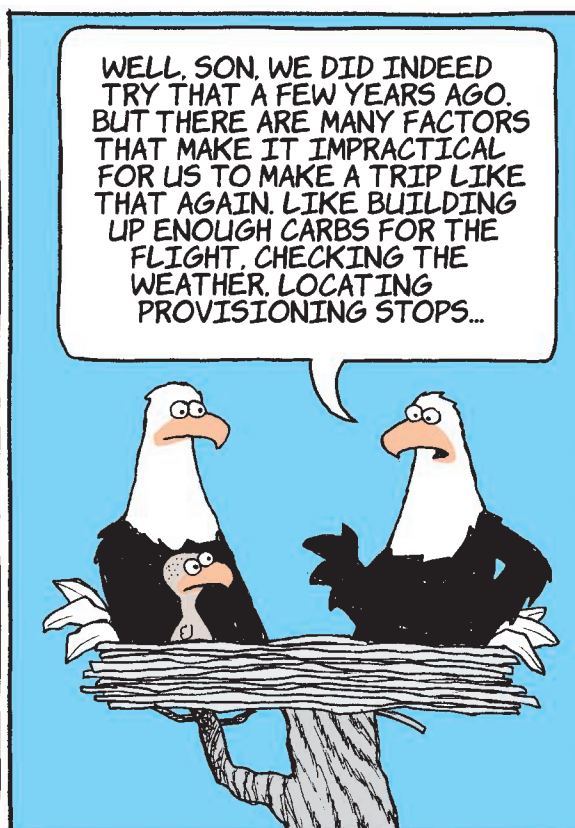
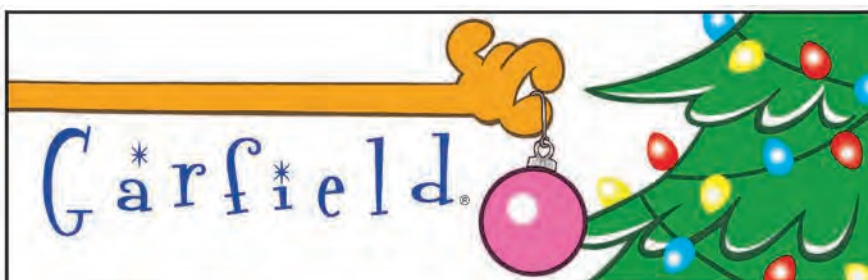
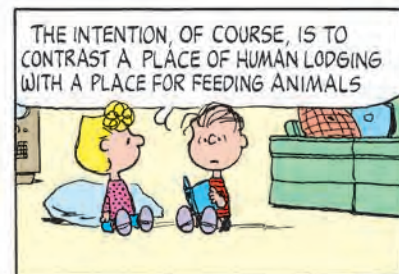
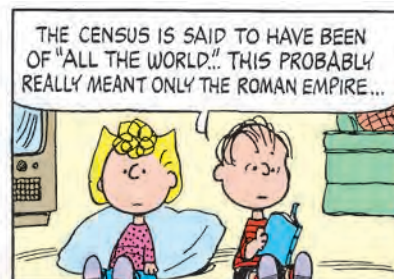
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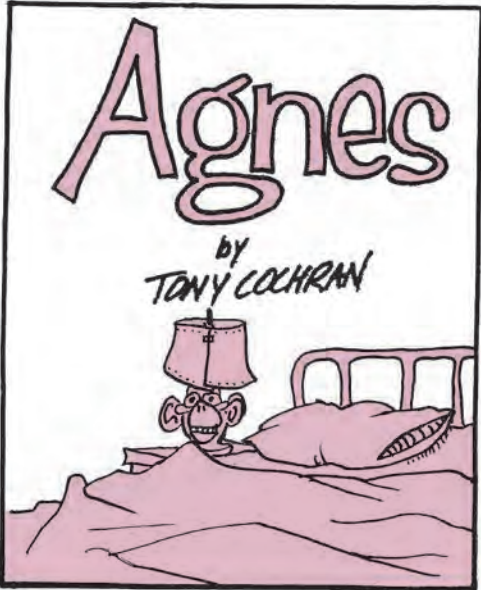


**FREE SPEECH
CENTER**
at Middle Tennessee
State University



Agnes

by TONY COCHRAN

A cartoon panel showing a character named Agnes sitting up in bed. A lamp is on a bedside table, and the room is dimly lit.A cartoon panel showing Agnes talking to a character with a red nose. The character is holding a book.

WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING?

ALLOWING TIME FOR PRACTICE.

A cartoon panel showing Agnes talking to a character with a red nose. The character is holding a clock.

TIME FOR PRACTICING WHAT?

WHATEVER MY FUTURE SELF WILL NEED TIME TO PRACTICE.

A cartoon panel showing Agnes talking to a character with a red nose. The character is holding a book.

WHY DON'T YOU WAIT UNTIL YOU HAVE STUFF TO PRACTICE?

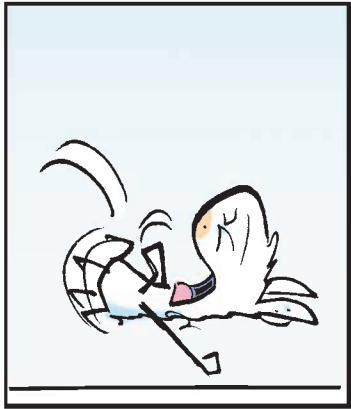
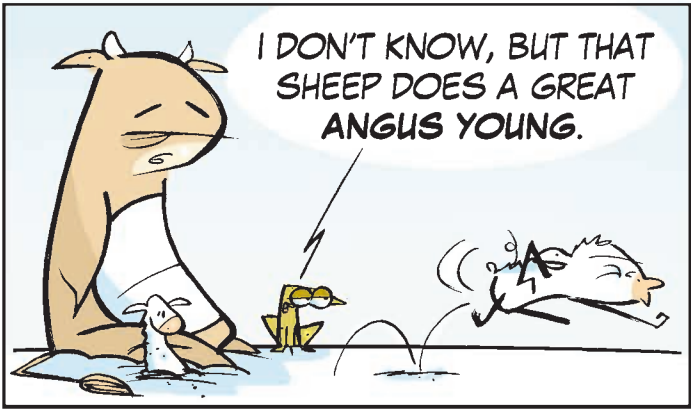
BY THEN I WILL HAVE FILLED ALL MY TIME WITH LEISURE

The BARN

by Ralph Hagen

A cartoon panel showing a cow sitting on the floor, looking at a sheep. The sheep is holding a book.

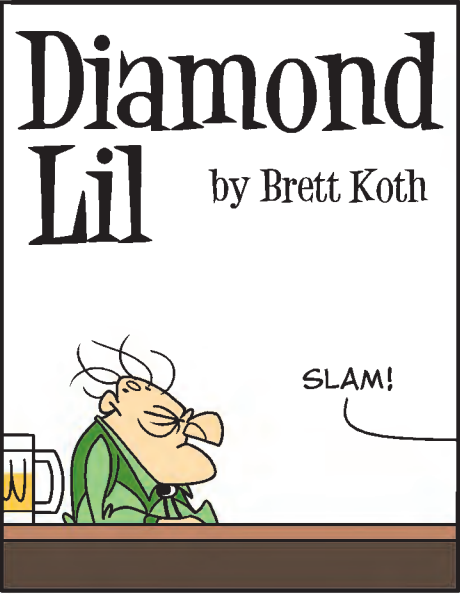
WHERE DID HE FIND THE EARBUDS?

A cartoon panel showing a cow sitting on the floor, looking at a sheep. The sheep is holding a book.A cartoon panel showing a sheep running.A cartoon panel showing a sheep running.A cartoon panel showing a sheep running.A cartoon panel showing a cow sitting on the floor, looking at a sheep. The sheep is holding a book.A cartoon panel showing a cow sitting on the floor, looking at a sheep. The sheep is holding a book.

I DON'T KNOW, BUT THAT SHEEP DOES A GREAT ANGUS YOUNG.

Diamond Lil

by Brett Koth

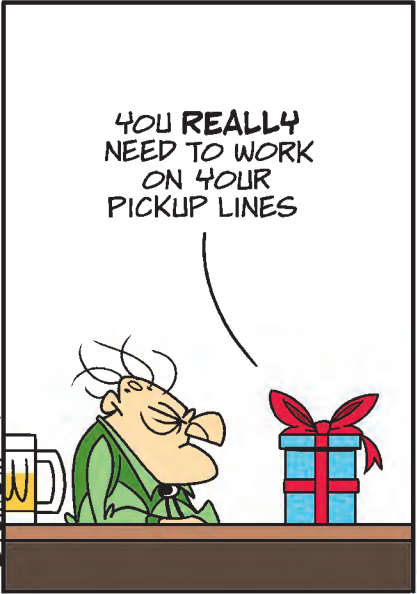
A cartoon panel showing a character with a green shirt and a red bow tie sitting at a bar. A glass of beer is on the bar.

SLAM!

A CHRISTMAS PRESENT WALKS INTO A BAR:

A cartoon panel showing a character with a green shirt and a red bow tie sitting at a bar. A glass of beer is on the bar. A wrapped gift is on the bar.A cartoon panel showing a character with a green shirt and a red bow tie sitting at a bar. A glass of beer is on the bar. A wrapped gift is on the bar.

CAN I PEEK INSIDE YOU?

A cartoon panel showing a character with a green shirt and a red bow tie sitting at a bar. A glass of beer is on the bar. A wrapped gift is on the bar.

YOU REALLY NEED TO WORK ON YOUR PICKUP LINES

by Smythe



BY MICK MASTROIANNI AND MASON MASTROIANNI



DECEMBER 23

	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
ABC WAOW WBAY	Good Morning America (N)		Good Morning America (N) Action 2 News: This Morning (N)		Wildlife Good Morn. oh baby!		Hearts of Two Wildlife Vets-Pets oh baby!		College Football Birmingham Bowl: Troy vs. Duke Troy (11-2) makes a short trip up Interstate 65 for the Birmingham Bowl versus Duke (7-5). (N) (Live)						College Football Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl: James Madison vs. Air Force Air Force (8-4) battles with James Madison (11-1) in the Armed Forces Bowl from Fort Worth, Texas. (N) (Live)							
CBS WFRV WSAW	Mission Sat (N) Hope in the Wild (6:00) CBS Sat	Hope in the Wild	CBS Sat (N) Lucky Dog	Innovation Nation	Mission Unstoppable	Hope in the Wild	Tails of Valor "Best of Friends"	Recipe Rehab "Pork Chops"	Outdoors Paid	NFL Slimetime (N)	Triple Crown Rodeo Season Recap (N)		Rogue Invitational Women's CrossFit (N)		Rogue Invitational Men's CrossFit (N)	College Basketball Vanderbilt at Memphis From the FedEx Forum in Memphis, Tenn. (N) (Live)			TBA The Good Side (N)	CBS Weekend News (N)		
FOX WZAW WLUK	Planet News (N)	Xploation Outer Space	Super Animals (N)	Nature Knows Best	Paid Program Prostate Health	Paid Program Fit! Walk-Fit!	Paid Programming	Paid Parade	Milovats' Christmas	Greatest Sports	Sounds of the Sea-so...	The Good Side	The Spirit Of The Season	St. Mary's Ch	College Basketball Arizona vs. Florida Atlantic From T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas. (N) (Live)			Christmas Win..	Skyfox Winter	Sheldon Sports	Sheldon Wheel	
NBC WGFA WJFW	Today (6:00) Today	906 Outdoors	The American Athlete	Paid Programming Eart..	Wild Kingdom	Earth Odyssey	Play It "Charity Starts at Home"	One Team-Sports	Paid Wild Child	Premier League Soccer Liverpool vs. Arsenal Liverpool is up against Arsenal at Anfield in matchround 18 of the 2023-2024 Premier League. (N) (Live)			Prem Goal Zone (N) (Live)		Football Night in America (N) (Live)			NFL Football Cincinnati Bengals at Pittsburgh Steelers The Steelers seek a season-series sweep of the Bengals. Pittsburgh prevailed 16-10 in Week 12. (N) (Live)				
PBS WHRM WLEF WPNE	Wild Kratts "Kickin' It With Roos"	Arthur's Perfect Christmas	Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood	Best of Sewing With Nancy	Love of Quilting "Sweet Happy Homes"	Garden "Research & Teaching Laborat..	Woodshop "Adirondack Camp Chair"	Jacques Pépin "Autumn Leaves"	Dooky Chase "Family Gathering"	Taste "Roots Kitchen & Cannery; Bozema..	Cook's Country "Biscuits and Chicken"	Test Kitchen "Stir-Fry and Congee"	Milk Street Television	Sara's "Week-night Two for One"	Mexican "Los mariachis"	This Old House	Ask This Old House	Rick Steves' Europe	Welcome to My Farm "Ice Ice Baby"	The Lawrence Welk Show "Christmas (Sandi Griffiths)"		
WACY WTPX	Hearts of Bones	oh baby!	Paid Bones	Makeover	Paid Law & Order: SVU	Outdoor.. Law & Order: SVU	MidWest Law & Order: SVU	Bensin.. Law & Order: SVU	World's Law & Order: SVU	Pets.TV Law & Order: SVU	SOS Law & Order: SVU		Fisher.. Law & Order: SVU	Walleye Law & Order: SVU	Outdoor.. Law & Order: SVU	Wingsh.. Law & Order: SVU	Heartland Law & Order: SVU		ModFam Law & Order: SVU	ModFam Law & Order: SVU	Goldbe.. Law & Order: SVU	Goldbe.. Law & Order: SVU
CW WCWF WYOW	Outdoor Into Wild	Paid Into Wild	Into Wild Into Wild	Into Wild Into Wild	Into Wild Pet Vet	Into Wild Open Rd	Pet Vet Rescue	Open Rd Paid Prog.	Science Movie..	Paid Programming	Walk-Fit! History	Cook-Like Holl..	A Family Matters Christmas ('22) Jo Marie Payton-Noble. Santa Stole Our Dog! ('17) Ed Asner.			Sports Highway	Greatest Sports	Paid Blood-line	Walk-Fit!	Last Man Burgers	Last Man Burgers	

SATURDAY				EVENING						DECEMBER 23			
		6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
ABC 9 WAOV 2 WBAY		To Be Announced	1 College Football (N) (Live) 2 College Football (N) (Live)	SRS Distribution Las Vegas Bowl: Utah vs. Northwestern The Wildcats (7-5) roll into their Las Vegas Bowl meeting against the Utes (8-4).						9 News 9 (N) 2 Action 2 News at 10 (N)	9 (35) Weird Earth 2 (35) InvestigateTV	2 (05) The Song "Peter Frampton" Guests Peter Frampton	9 (35) Storm of 2 (35) Opry (N)
CBS 5 WFRV 7 WSAW		5 Green & Gold Tailgate Show 7 NewsChannel 7 at 6 (N)	5 Wisconsin Inside Ed. (N)	When Christmas Was Young ("22) Tyler Hilton, Meghan Heffern, Karen David. A music manager falls for a gifted singer-songwriter who abandoned her dreams of making it big.				48 Hours (N)		5 Local 5 News at 10:00 (N) 7 NewsChannel 7 at 10 (N)	5 (35) To Be Announced 7 (35) Beat the Odds	5 (05) Friends 7 (05) The Song Peter Frampton	5 (35) Friends 7 (35) Opry (N)
FOX 55 WZAW 11 WLUK		55 Big Bang "The Occupation Recalibration" 11 Jeopardy!	FOX College Hoops Tip-Off (N) (Live)	College Basketball St. John's at Connecticut From XL Center in Hartford, Conn. (N) (Live)				55 World Chase Tag 11 Fox 11 News at Nine (N)	11 Seinfeld "The Strike"	Beat Shazam "From Worst to First!" A team of siblings; a stepfather/daughter team.		55 S.W.A.T. "Reckoning" 11 Paid Programming	11 The King of Queens "Noel Cowards"
NBC 25 WGBA 12 WJFW		(3:30) NFL Football Cincinnati Bengals at Pittsburgh Steelers From Acrisure Stadium in Pittsburgh. (N) (Live)		(05) Extended Family "Pilot" (N) (P)	(35) Night Court "The Night Court Before Christmas" (N) (SP)	(05) Saturday Night Live A Saturday Night Live Christmas Special A star-studded collection of popular Christmas-themed sketches from "Saturday Night Live."			25 NBC26 News at 10pm (N) 12 Newswatch 12 (N)	Saturday Night Live			
PBS 20 WHRM 35 WLEF 38 WPNE		Antiques Roadshow "Naughty or Nice" Highlights from past seasons include an 1863 Temperance lithograph and letter by Gerald Ford.		Father Brown "The Wheels of Wrath" A group of bikers cause outrage and excitement in equal measure in Kembleford.		Death in Paradise The team must prove Neville's innocence after Professor Cartwright is murdered.		Jamaica Inn "Episode 2" When Mary suspects her uncle of murder, she confides in the local vicar, Francis Davey.		Doc Martin "The Shock of the New" Martin's GMC report requires that he pass three refresher courses, starting with phlebotomy.		Agatha Christie's Poirot "The Million Dollar Bond Robbery" Seasickness may thwart Poirot's efforts in a challenging case.	
62 WACY 46 WTPX		Family Feud	Two Half Men	Someone They Knew		S.W.A.T. "Sins of the Fathers"		S.W.A.T. "Reckoning"		The Simpsons	Housewife	Housewife	Mom
		Law-SVU "Silent Night, Hateful Night"		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	
CW 14 WCWF 34 WYOW		14 Big Bang 34 Good Dr	14 The Big Bang Theory "The Convention Conundrum"	Christmas With The Chosen: Holy Night (N)				14 The Rookie 34 Liquidator	34 TMZ (N)	14 The National Desk (N) (Live)	34 ★★ A Knight's Tale '01) Mark Addy, Heath Ledger.	14 AWLO Tonite	14 TMZ (N)

SUNDAY				MORNING / AFTERNOON																DECEMBER 24			
	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30	
ABC 3 WAOV 2 WBAY	Good Morning America (N)		1 This Week (N) 2 Action 2 News: This Morning (N)		1 Capitol 2 This Week	1 Up-Front	1 Financial 2 Up-Front	1 Packers 2 Hearts of	1 Coldwell 2 Vets-Pets	1 Discover Wisconsin..	1 Outdoors 2 Seas..	1 Holidays 2 The Good	1 A Baylor Christmas	1 Mark Milovats' Christmas Wonderland		1 Deadline to Disaster 2 Magnificent		1 Sports (N) 2 Paid		1 The Best of 2 Paid Program	1 Paid Programming	ABC World News (N) 2 News (N)	
CBS 3 WFRV 1 WSAW	1 News-maker 2 Sunr..	1 Local 5's Sea	CBS News Sunday Morning News, features, weather and commentary. (N)			Face the Nation (N)		1 Green-Gold 2 Retir..	The NFL Today (N) (Live)		1 Happy Holiday (N) 2 Celebration		1 Sounds of the Season		1 The Good Side	The Musial Awards (N)		NFL Football Jacksonville Jaguars at Tampa Bay Buccaneers State sides in the Jaguars and Buccaneers reengage. Jacksonville leads the series 4-3. (N) (Live)		Buccaneers Sunshine			
FOX 55 WZAW 11 WLUK	11 Paid (6:00) News (N)	11 Mountain Faith Living	11 FOX News Sunday (N)	11 Sharyl Attkisson	11 Invest. 11 Fox News (N)	11 Home Remodeler	FOX NFL Kickoff (N) (Live)		FOX NFL Sunday (N) (Live)		11 NFL Football Green Bay Packers at Carolina Panthers David Long and the Packers ride the waive into their game against the Panthers. (N) (Live) 11 NFL Football (N) (Live)		11 (25) NFL Football Anzona Cardinals at Chicago Bears (N) (Live) 11 (25) NFL Football (N) (Live)										
NBC 26 WGBA 12 WJFW	Sunday Today With Willie Geist (N)		12 Meet the Press (N) 12 Fast: Home Rescue		12 The Race 12 Meet Press	12 Mid-West Outdoors	Paid Programming	12 Paid The Huddle	12 A Christmas Witnes..	12 Paid Programing	12 Paid Programing	12 The Christmas Thief 12 Paid	12 Paid Programing	12 Paid Programing	12 Paid Programing	Paid Programming	Paid Programming	12 Apple-ton (N) 12 Paid	12 Paid Programing	12 News (N) 12 Paid Prog.	NBC Nightly News (N)		
PBS 20 WHRM 38 WLEF 38 WPNE	Wild Kratts: A Creature Christmas		Work It Out Wombats!	Daniel Tiger "Snowflake Day!"	Washington Week With The Atlantic	Firing Line With Margaret Hoover	Here and Now	Market to Market	Doc Martin "The Shock of the New"		Agatha Christie's Poirot "The Million Dollar Bond Robbery"		Father Brown "The Wheels of Wrath"		Death in Paradise		Season of Light: Christmas With the Tabernacle Choir		CLOWN by Quentin Blake		Holiday Concert from UW-Eau Claire		
32 WACY 45 WTPX	Paid	Paid	Paid	Jeffress	Vets-Pe..	Ready..	Outback	Ocean..	Broadw..	Know	Hollywood (N)		Appleton Boychoir		The Good Doctor		The Good Doctor		ModFam	ModFam	Mom	FamFe..	
	Bones		Bones		NCIS	NCIS		NCIS "Unearth"		NCIS "Guardian"		NCIS		NCIS "Love Lost"		NCIS		NCIS "Bridges"		NCIS "Big Rig"			
CW 14 WCVF 34 WYOW	14 Worship 34 To-morr..	14 Daily 84 In Touch (N)	14 Catho-lic Mass	14 Sha-lom 84 Key of David	14 Out-door 34 Cath. Mass	14 Mt. Faith 34 Perry Stone	14 Walk-Fit! 84 Mad Dog & M	14 Paid 84 Big Bang	14 Polka 84 Sea-son	14 St. Mary's Ch	14 Paid Program 84 TMZ (N)	14 Paid Programing	14 Paid Chicago "Snitch"	14 Paid Programing	14 The Farmer and the Belle: Saving Santaland 84 Chicago		14 Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer		14 Christmas (N) 84 WOW - Women What's in the Box? (N)		14 Van-Impe 84 Family ..	14 Shel-don 84 Family ..	

SUNDAY			EVENING						DECEMBER 24				
	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	
ABC 9 WAOW 2 WBAY	America's Funniest Home Videos A special holiday-themed episode; kids react to their gifts.		*** Home Alone ('90) Joe Pesci, Daniel Stern, Macaulay Culkin. A left-behind boy (Macaulay Culkin) battles two burglars (Joe Pesci, Daniel Stern) in the house.			Celebrity Fam "Rosie O'Donnell vs. Billy Porter" Celebrity contestants Rosie O'Donnell and Billy Porter. Guests Rosie O'Donnell, Billy Porter		9 The Jefferson Awards 2 Action 2 News at 10 (N)		(.35) Christmas: A Welcoming Story (N)	(35) Entertainment Tonight (N)		
CBS 5 WFRV 7 WSAW	60 Minutes (N)		Lingo "Lingo for the Holidays" Longtime friends face off against a father and son. (N)		Loteria Loca "Happy Holidays" A registered nurse and a retired firefighter compete. (N)		6 Christmas Eve Mass 7 CSI: Vegas "In the White Room" The bodies of two festival attendees are discovered.		7 St. Mary's Christmas Cantata 6 (.35) Sports Xtra 7 (.35) InvestigateTV		6 (.05) Osteen 7 (.05) Game Time Bruce Smith Bruce Smith (N)	6 (.35) CSI: Vegas 7 (.35) SEAL Team	
FOX 55 WZAW 11 WLUK	65 (3:25) Football Arizona Cardinals at Chicago Bears 11 (3:25) Football	The OT (N) (Live)	The Simpsons (N)		Krapopolis "The Superbowl"	HouseBroken "Who's Having a Merry Trashmas?"	Family Guy "Oscars Guy"	65 Seinfeld "The Strike" 11 Sounds of the Season A	65 Seinfeld "The Mango" 11 Sounds of the Season B	65 Goldbergs "Food in a Geoffy" 11 Skyfox Winter (N)	65 Goldbergs "Animal House" 11 (.35) Sharyl Attkisson	65 Housewife "Wildflower Girls" 11 (.05) The National Desk	
NBC 26 WGBA 12 WJFW	5 More Sleeps 'til Christmas	Night Court "The Night Court Before Christmas"	**** It's a Wonderful Life ('46) Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, James Stewart. A guardian angel strengthens a man (James Stewart) ruined by a miser (Lionel Barrymore).						26 NBC26 News at 10pm (N) 12 Newswatch 12 at 10pm (N)		12 Outdoorsman "Celebrity Big Game Hunts" (N)	26 Bensinger Arnold Schwarzenegger 12 Funny You	Christmas Eve Mass (N) (Live)
PBS 20 WHRM 36 WLEF 38 WPNE	Agatha Christie: Lucy Worsley on the Mystery Queen "Destination Unknown" Agatha Christie's shocking disappearance in 1926 grips the nation.		All Creatures Great and Small on Masterpiece "Edward" Mrs. Hall conquers demons from her past; Tristan discovers the challenge of housekeeping.		All Creatures Great "For Whom the Bell Tolls" Everyone faces decisions as war comes in September 1939; romance beckons for Tristan and Mrs. Hall.		All Creatures Great "Merry Bloody Christmas" It's Christmas and Siegfried must decide whether to protect Tristan at the cost of River's welfare.		Antiques Roadshow "Out of This World" Autographed photos from NASA space program; 1737 Celestial and terrestrial atlas.		Austin City Limits "Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats; Adia Victoria" Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats perform songs from "The Future"; Adia Victoria.		
32 WACY 45 WTPX	Family Feud	Two Half Men	** A Knight's Tale ('01) Mark Addy, Rufus Sewell, Heath Ledger.						Forensic Files		Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Major Crimes "Reloaded"
CW 14 WCWF 34 WYOW	NCIS "Evil Eye"		NCIS "Unusual Suspects"		NCIS "Butterfly Effect"		NCIS "Stranger in a Strange Land"		NCIS "Head Games"		NCIS "Kompromat"		
	Penn & Teller: Fool Us "Penn & Teller: Merry Fool Us" Celebrating the holiday season with magicians and more.		The Chosen "Sustenance" While Jesus preaches to thousands, the disciples realize there is no food. (N) (SF)			14 WOW What's in the Box? (N) 24 Liquidator		24 The Good Doctor "Teeny Blue Eyes"		14 Truth of God 24 WOW - Women Of Wrestling		14 Extra (N) 34 Moviefone TV	

WEEKDAY						MORNING / AFTERNOON										DECEMBER 25 TO DECEMBER 29												
		7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30					
ABC	9 WAOW	Good Morning America				M Disney/Kelly and Mark		The View		News 9		Barry-more		GMA3: What You Need to Know		NBA/ Hosp.	Baske-tball		Tamron Hall		Judge Eboni	Judge Eboni	M Basketball/News		News 9	World News		
	2 WBAY	Good Morning America				Disney/ News		25 Words		The View		Storage Wars		Pawn Stars		Action 2 News	Paid Pro-gram		NBA/ Hosp.	Baske-tball		GMA3: What You Need to Know		25 Words	Invest-igateTV+	Baske-tball/ N.	Action 2 News	Action 2 News
CBS	5 WFRV	CBS Mornings				M Christmas/Local 5 Live		The Price Is Right		M The NFL Today / Young & Restless		Football/ News		Bold/ Beautiful		Tu-Th The Talk / F College Football		Tu-Th Let's Make a Deal		Friends	Friends	Parade/ News	Tu-Th News	News	CBS News			
	7 WSAW	CBS Mornings				25 Words		Paid/F Elite		The Price Is Right		M The NFL Today / Young & Restless		Football/ News		Bold/ Beautiful		Tu-Th The Talk / F College Football		Tu-Th Let's Make a Deal		TBA/ Clarkson	M The Good	ACountry/ News	Invest-igateTV+	Spirit/ News	CBS News	
FOX	59 WZAW	Business	AgDay	Dateline		Sherri		The Jennifer Hudson Show		Family Feud		Family Feud		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Mathis Court	Mathis Court	Hot Bench	Hot Bench	Pregame/ Judge..	Football/ Judge ..	Family Feud	Family Feud	Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon			
	11 WLUK	M Season	M Season	M Holiday River Parade		Live with Kelly and Mark		Fox 11 Living With Amy		Dr. Phil				Various	Various	The Jennifer Hudson Show		Barry-more	Barry-more	Pregame/ Peo. C..	M NFL Football	Judge Judy	Judge Judy	News	Wheel/ Inside			
NBC	26 WGBA	Today				Today 3rd Hour		Today With Hoda & Jenna		People Puzzler		Scripps		NBC News Daily		M Appleton Boychoir/ Dateline		Tamron Hall		The Kelly Clarkson Show		Family Feud	Family Feud	News	NBC News			
	12 WJFW	Today				Today 3rd Hour		Today With Hoda & Jenna		Neighbor		Neighbor		NBC News Daily		Person, Place	Pictionary	Pictionary	Funny You	Funny You	Jeopardy	Up North at 4		Jeopardy!	News	NBC News		
PBS	20 WHRM	WildKrat/ Wild ..	Various	Daniel Tiger	Rosie's Rules	Nutcra-cker/ S..	Work It	Donkey/F Rocket	Pink/ Pink	Elinor	Nature-Cat/ Roc..	Eleme-ntary	Xavier Riddle	Old House	Midwife/ Cook	When Disaster Strikes		Various		Odd-Squad/		Various	Nature Cat	America				
	36 WLEF	WildKrat/ Wild ..	Various	Daniel Tiger	Rosie's Rules	Nutcra-cker/ S..	Work It	Donkey/F Rocket	Pink/ Pink	Elinor	Nature-Cat/ Roc..	Eleme-ntary	Xavier Riddle	Old House	Midwife/ Cook	When Disaster Strikes		Various		Odd-Squad/		Various	Nature Cat	America				
	39 WPNE	WildKrat/ Wild ..	Various	Daniel Tiger	Rosie's Rules	Nutcra-cker/ S..	Work It	Donkey/F Rocket	Pink/ Pink	Elinor	Nature-Cat/ Roc..	Eleme-ntary	Xavier Riddle	Old House	Midwife/ Cook	When Disaster Strikes		Various		Odd-Squad/		Various	Nature Cat	America				
CW	62 WACY	Morning Rush				A.Wom..		Midwes..		Sherri		iCRIME		Dateline		The First 48		Chicago Fire		Boychoir/TMZ Live		Various	ModFam	Goldbe..	Goldbe..			
	46 WTPX	Various	Xplorati..	Various	F Planet	Various		Various		Various		Various		Various		Various		Various		Various		Various		Various				
	14 WCWF	The National Desk			National Weat	Paid Pro-gram	Judge Eboni	Supreme Justice	Hot Bench	Hot Bench	Paternity Court	Court Cam	Law & Order: SVU		48 Hours		Judge Mathis		Pictionary	Person, Place	Jeopardy	Funny You	Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon				
	34 WYOW	Divorce Court	Divorce Court	The Steve Wilkos Show		Karamo		Maury		Extra		Holly-wood		Blast		Blast		Jerry Springer		Maury		Karamo		The Steve Wilkos Show		TMZ Live		

MONDAY	EVENING	DECEMBER 25
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		6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
ABC 8 WAOW 8 WBAY		(4:00) Basketball Boston Celtics at Los Angeles Lakers (N) (Live)	Monday Night Countdown (N) (Live)	NFL Football Baltimore Ravens at San Francisco 49ers The 49ers host the Ravens on Christmas night for a potential Super Bowl 58 preview. (N) (Live)				(15) Monday Night Postgame (N) (Live)		9 News 9 (N) 2 Action 2 News at 10 (N)	(05) Jimmy Kimmel Live!		
CBS 8 WFRV 7 WSAW		5 Local 5 News at 6:00 (N) 7 NewsChannel 7 at 6 (N)	5 Local 5 News at 6:30 (N) 7 Inside Edition (N)	The Price Is Right at Night		Mariah Carey: Merry Christmas to All!			5 Local 5 News at 10:00 (N) 7 NewsChannel 7 at 10 (N)		(35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert (N)		(35) Comics Unleashed With Byron Allen
FOX 55 WZAW 11 WLUK		(3:30) Football New York Giants at Philadelphia Eagles (N) (Live)	NFL on FOX Post-game (N) (Live)	MasterChef				55 Sounds of the Season 11 Fox 11 News at Nine (N) (Live)	55 Seinfeld "The Glasses" 11 Fox 11 Winter (N)	55 Seinfeld "The Pilot" 11 Fox 11 News at 10 (N) (Live)	55 Last Man 11 (35) Jeopardy! (N)	55 Last Man Standing "Elfie" 11 (05) Wheel of Fortune (N)	55 Goldbergs 11 (35) King
NBC 26 WGBA 12 WJFW		26 NBC26 News at 6pm (N) 12 Newswatch 12 at 6 (N)	26 Family Feud 12 Wheel of Fortune (N)	How the Grinch Stole Christmas!	** Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas Jeffrey Tambor, Christine Baranski, Jim Carrey: A curmudgeon (Jim Carrey) hates the Christmas-loving Whos of Whoville.				26 NBC26 News at 10pm (N) 12 Newswatch 12 at 10pm (N)		26 (35) Tonight Show "Mandy Moore" Actress Mandy Moore. Guests Mandy Moore (N) 12 (35) Tonight Show (N)	26 (35) Meyers 12 (35) Meyers	
PBS 20 WHRM 38 WLEF 38 WPNE		PBS NewsHour Amna Nawaz and Geoff Bennett offer in-depth analysis of current events. (N)		Call the Midwife "Holiday Special 2023" Delicate situations cause uncertainty for the midwives just two weeks before Christmas. (N)				Call the Midwife "Holiday Special 2023" Delicate situations cause uncertainty for the midwives just two weeks before Christmas.		Agatha Christie: Lucy Worsley on the Mystery Queen "Destination Unknown" Agatha Christie's shocking disappearance in 1926 grips the nation.		O Holy Night: Christmas With the Tabernacle Choir	
62 WACY 46 WTPX CW 14 WCWF 34 WYOW		Family Feud	Two Half Men	Green Bay Holiday Parade				Paid Program	Paid Program	Two Half Men	Housewife	Housewife	Mom
		FBI "Fortunate Son"		FBI "Second Life"		FBI "Heroes"		FBI "Breakdown"		FBI "Protégé"		FBI "Money for Nothing"	
		13 Big Bang "The Clean Room Infiltration" 30 Dish Nat. (N)	13 The Big Bang Theory "The Solo Oscillation" 30 TMZ (N)	The Waltons' Homecoming "(21) Marcelle LeBlanc, Christian Finlayson, Logan Shroyer. John Boy embarks on a life-changing journey to find his father on Christmas Eve.				13 Last Man "Gift of the Wise Man" 30 Dish Nation (N)	13 Seinfeld "The Pilot" 30 TMZ (N)	13 National (N) 30 Family Guy "How the Griffin Stole Christmas"	13 National (N) 30 Family Guy	13 Last Man "Elfie" 30 Burgers "The Bleakening"	13 Extra (N) 30 Bob's Burgers "Better off Sled"

TUESDAY **EVENING** **DECEMBER 26**

		6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
ABC 8 WAOW 9 WBAW		9 News 9 (N) 2 Action 2 News at Six (N)	9 News 9 Pack Attack 2 Entertainment Tonight (N)	Celebrity Jeopardy!		Celebrity Jeopardy!		Celebrity Jeopardy!		9 News 9 (N) 2 Action 2 News at 10 (N)	(.35) Jimmy Kimmel Live! (N)	(35) Nightline (N)	
CBS 6 WFRV 7 WSAW		5 Local 5 News at 6:00 (N) 7 NewsChannel 7 at 6 (N)	5 Locker Room 7 Locker Room	NCIS: Sydney "Gone Fission" The death of an American seaman is investigated.		NCIS: Sydney "Snakes in the Grass" A Navy compliance officer is found dead in a waterhole.		NCIS: Sydney "Brothers in Arms" A shark spits out an arm wearing U.S. Navy equipment.		5 Local 5 News at 10:00 (N) 7 NewsChannel 7 at 10 (N)	(.35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert (N)	(35) Comics Unleashed With Byron Allen	
FOX 55 WZAW 11 WLUK		55 Big Bang 11 Jeopardy! (N)	55 Big Bang "The Separation Triangulation" 11 Wheel (N)	Name That Tune		Hell's Kitchen		55 NewsChannel 7 at 9pm (N) 11 Fox 11 News at Nine (N) (Live)	55 Seinfeld "The Puffy Shirt"	55 Seinfeld "The Pilot" 11 Fox 11 News at 10 (N) (Live)	55 Last Man "Heavy Meddle" 11 (.35) Seinfeld "The Puffy Shirt"	55 Last Man "Bad Heir Day" 11 (.05) Inside Edition (N)	55 Goldbergs 11 (.35) King
NBC 26 WGBA 12 WJFW		26 NBC26 News at 6pm (N) 12 Newswatch 12 at 6 (N)	26 Packers Live 12 Wheel of Fortune (N)	Night Court "The Honorable Dan Fielding Part 2"	Extended Family "Pilot"	Weakest Link "How Jane Lynch Stole Christmas" Eight holiday helpers play high-stakes trivia.		Found "Pilot" Gabi's search for a missing teenager becomes complicated.		26 NBC26 News at 10pm (N) 12 Newswatch 12 at 10pm (N)	(.35) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon (N)	(35) Late Night With Seth Meyers (N)	
PBS 20 WHRM 39 WLEF 39 WPNE		PBS NewsHour Amna Nawaz and Geoff Bennett offer in-depth analysis of current events. (N)		State Honors Concert 2023 (N)		The Nutcracker and the Mouse King			Karamu: Feast for the 7th Day	Super Skyscrapers "One World Trade Center" One World Trade Center is engineered to be the safest and strongest skyscraper ever built.		NOVA "Decoding the Great Pyramid" Archaeological research sheds light on some of the mysteries of the Egyptian pyramids.	
62 WACY 46 WTPX		Family Feud	Two Half Men	Dateline "A Teacher's Message"		Chicago P.D. "Closer"		My News at 9 (N)	Tonight (N)	Two Half Men	Housewife	Housewife	Mom
CW 14 WCWF 34 WYOW		14 Big Bang "The Cooper Extraction" 34 Dish Nat. (N)	14 Big Bang "The Separation Triangulation" 34 TMZ (N)	Inside the NFL Week 16 Recapping the greatest moments from week 16. (N)		Whose Line Is It Anyway? "Alyson Hannigan"	Whose Line Is It Anyway? "Greg Proops 10"	14 Last Man "Heavy Meddle" 34 Dish Nation (N)	14 Seinfeld "The Pilot" 34 TMZ (N)	14 National (N) 34 Family Guy "Encyclopedia Griffin"	14 National (N) 34 Family Guy "Stewie Is Enceinte"	14 Last Man "Bad Heir Day" 34 Burgers "The Helen Hunt"	14 Extra (N) 34 Burgers "Every Which Way but Goose"

FRIDAY	EVENING	DECEMBER 22
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BACK TO THEIR OLD WAYS

**PACKERS' PLAYOFF
HOPES DIMMED WITH
LOSS TO TAMPA BAY**



Jayden Reed caught six passes for 52 yards and a touchdown against the Buccaneers on Dec. 17. However, Green Bay as a whole faltered, losing the game 34-20 and dimming their chances at a playoff berth. With the score tied at 10-10 late in the first half, Tampa Bay's Baker Mayfield led the Bucs to a field goal, and that started a roll Tampa Bay carried over to the second half. The Bucs scored touchdowns on three straight possessions through the third and fourth quarters to open up the advantage. They likely would've scored a fourth straight TD, but running back Rachaad White slid down in the red zone late in the game to run out the clock.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

Baker Mayfield, Buccaneers too much for Green Bay

Packers chances to make the playoffs drop to 26%

By **LUKE REIMER**
Green & Gold Express

Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Baker Mayfield became the first visiting quarterback to ever record a perfect passer rating at Lambeau Field as the Buccaneers beat Green Bay 34-20 on Dec. 17.

Mayfield gashed the Green Bay defense as he completed 22-of-28 for 381 yards and four touchdowns.

Chris Godwin was Mayfield's number one target on the day, as the Pennsylvania State alum recorded 155 yards on 10 receptions. Superstar receiver Mike Evans was held to just 57 yards on four receptions, but one of those receptions went for a touchdown. That touchdown for Evans was his 97th career touchdown, which puts him 12th on the all-time list and ties former NFL tight end Rob Gronkowski and Las Vegas wide receiver Davante Adams.

Green Bay's run defense continued to struggle in this game as well, as Tampa Bay's running back RaShaad White picked up 89 yards on 21 carries. White also recorded two receptions for 50 yards.

"We have to challenge much better in the backend, I get it, they have some good wideouts, but you have to be willing to challenge, especially if you are getting gashed," said Packers coach Matt LaFleur.

Mayfield's biggest throw of the day came late in the game, as the Buccaneers were up 27-20 and facing a third-and-four from its own 48-yard line. Mayfield dropped back and hit David Moore right past an outstretched hand from Packers line-backer De'Vondre Campbell. Moore took the pass and ran down the right side of the field before scoring a touchdown. The play was originally reviewed but was determined that Moore crossed the goal line to give the Buccaneers a 14-point lead with 6:30 left in the game.



Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Baker Mayfield diced up Joe Barry's defense to the tune of 381 yards on 22-of-28 passing with four touchdowns for a perfect 158.3 passer rating in the 34-20 win over the hometown Packers. It marked the most points the Buccaneers have ever scored at Lambeau Field.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

Green Bay was unable to rebound from the two-score deficit, as its final push came up short.

On the first five plays of the ensuing drive, Packers quarterback Jordan Love got five different Packers involved with Romeo Doubs, Malik Heath, Patrick Taylor, Tucker Kraft and Dontayvion Wicks helping to advance the ball to the Tampa Bay 30-yard line. From there, three incomplete passes set up a fourth-and-10 for Love and the offense. On fourth down, Love dropped back and was sacked for a loss of 19 yards, ending Green Bay's hopes of winning a game with huge playoff implications.

For Green Bay, Love completed 29-of-39 for 284 yards and two touchdowns.

In his first game since Nov. 19 against the Los Angeles Chargers, Aaron Jones recorded 13 carries for 53 yards, adding another 16 yards through the air on four receptions. Wicks was the leading receiver for Green Bay in the game, recording 97 receiving yards on six receptions.

"I think that they easy we started was decent - we put some good drives together, and I think the the thing that hurt us was getting down to the red zone and not capitalizing on some of those opportunities," said

Love, alluding to the two field goals and a turnover on downs that Green Bay was forced to settle for. "That's definitely what hurt us tonight."

Green Bay opened its scoring early, as Mayfield was stripped of the ball on the Buccaneers four-yard line. After Jones got stuffed for a one-yard loss, LaFleur called for a screen pass on the next play. Love dropped back and hit Kraft, and with a great block from Rasheed Walker, Kraft leaped into the end zone for his second career touchdown.

Love's second touchdown pass came on one of his best plays in his young career.

On third-and-14 from the Tampa Bay 17-yard line, Love took the snap and was forced to roll to his right. It appeared Love could have ran for the first down, but instead he threw a dart to the corner of the end zone. In heavy traffic, Jayden Reed made a contested catch, while keeping both feet in bounds in what was reminiscent of Aaron Rodgers throwing a touchdown to Davante Adams.

"On those plays, anything can happen. Basically, I had a corner route - I was kind of a decoy route," said Reed, on his touchdown. "It was kind of scramble mode and I turned towards Jordan and we locked eyes. He made a great throw, so I could make the catch."

The loss for Green Bay now gives the Packers a 6-8 record. With the Chicago Bears losing this week, Green Bay still holds a one game lead over its rivals to avoid the bottom of the NFC North. The Minnesota Vikings also lost this week, maintaining Green Bay's one-game deficit to the team.

That may all be for nothing though, as the Packers now slide to the 11th seed in the NFC, making the next three games on its schedule as close to a must win as possible.

For what it is worth, according to the New York Times Playoff Simulator, the Packers currently hold a 26% chance to make the playoffs. If the Packers were to beat the Carolina Panthers next week, those chances only rise to 34%. If the Packers do beat the Panthers, then a win in week 17 against the Minnesota Vikings would spike those chances all the way up to 65%.

BEAT The Expert

Week 15 Games: Sun., Dec. 17



Luke Reimer
New Media

Denver @ Detroit
Minnesota @ Cincinnati
New York Jets @ Miami
Chicago @ Cleveland

Tie Breaker Game:
Tampa Bay @ Green Bay

Week 14 Winner :

**Jacob
Westendorf
New Media**

Weekly Standings

	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Jim Wiegand, Tower Clock Eye Center	2-3	47-23
Jacob Westendorf, New Media	3-2	47-23
Tim Murphy, New Media	1-4	46-24
Robert Buss, Buss Automotive	2-3	44-26
Staff, Iverson's Piggly Wiggly	0-5	39-31
Kevin Passon, New Media	2-3	39-31
Staff, Shawano Health Services	1-4	38-32
Shane Senn, Senn Insurance	1-4	38-32
Luke Reimer, New Media	1-4	37-33
Staff, Walsh Dental Group	1-4	34-36
Sue Moede, Moede Plumbing	1-4	34-36



Jim Wiegand
Tower Clock
Eye Center

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
Cincinnati
Miami
Chicago

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 17 @ Green Bay 21



Robert Buss
Buss
Automotive

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
Cincinnati
Miami
Cleveland

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 17 @ Green Bay 28



Shane Senn
Senn
Insurance

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
Cincinnati
Miami
Cleveland

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 13 @ Green Bay 31



Staff
Walsh Dental Group
Shawano

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
Minnesota
Miami
Cleveland

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 24 @ Green Bay 28



Staff
Shawano
Health Services

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
Minnesota
Miami
Cleveland

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 24 @ Green Bay 28



Moede & Sons
Plumbing
Shawano

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
Cincinnati
Miami
Cleveland

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 14 @ Green Bay 24



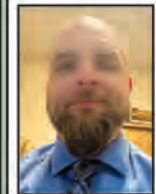
Staff
Iverson's
Piggly Wiggly

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
Cincinnati
Miami
Cleveland

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 17 @ Green Bay 27



Jacob Westendorf
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
Cincinnati
Miami
Cleveland

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 20 @ Green Bay 27



Luke Reimer
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
Cincinnati
Miami
Cleveland

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score : Tampa Bay 21 @ Green Bay 23



Tim Murphy
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Detroit
Cincinnati
Miami
Cleveland

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 20 @ Green Bay 23



Kevin Passon
New
Media

This Week's Picks:

Denver
Cincinnati
Miami
Cleveland

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Tampa Bay 14 @ Green Bay 28

VITALS

GREEN BAY PACKERS AT CAROLINA PANTHERS

TIME AND DATE: Noon on Sunday, Dec. 24

LOCATION: Bank of America Stadium

TV: Fox **RADIO:** Flagship WRNW-FM Milwaukee - 97.3; Packers Radio Network includes WIXX-FM Green Bay - 101.1, WRLO-FM Antigo - 105.3, WLST-FM Marinette - 95.1, and WSAU Wausau - 550 AM and 95.1 FM

2023 RECORDS: Packers, 6-8. Panthers 2-12.

HISTORY: These two teams have met 17 times with the Packers boasting an 11-6 record. The most famous meeting between the two teams came in January 1997. The Packers had disposed of the San Francisco 49ers with the entire crowd chanting, "We want Dallas."

The crowd would not get their wish as the upstart Carolina Panthers led by future Packers' defensive coordinator Dom Capers would upset the Cowboys. A rout would follow. The Packers won the NFC Championship Game 30-13 against an overwhelmed Panthers team.

The last time these teams met was during the COVID-19 season, with the Packers winning 24-16.

The last time these two teams met in Carolina was in 2017. Aaron Rodgers returned from a broken collarbone suffered earlier in the season to try and make a late season run at the playoffs.

His return would last one game, as the Panthers would beat the Packers 31-24, effectively ending the Packers' season.

COACHES: Packers Packers - Matt LaFleur (fifth season, 53-27). Panthers - Chris Tabor (Interim, 1-2).

PACKERS SCHEDULE

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

NFL SCHEDULE

Thursday, Dec. 21

Saints at Rams, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 23

Bengals at Steelers, 3:30 p.m.

Bills at Chargers, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 24

Commanders at Jets, Noon

Lions at Vikings, Noon

Browns at Texans, Noon

Packers at Panthers, Noon

Seahawks at Titans, Noon

Colts at Falcons, Noon

Jaguars at Buccaneers, 3:05 p.m.

Cowboys at Dolphins, 3:25 p.m.

Cardinals at Bears, 3:25 p.m.

Patriots at Broncos, 7:15 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 25

Raiders at Chiefs, Noon

Giants at Eagles, 3:30 p.m.

Ravens at 49ers, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 28

Jets at Browns, 7:15 p.m.

KEYS TO THE GAME

A win over the Panthers not a given for the Packers

By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

Just two weeks ago, the Green Bay Packers controlled their own playoff destiny. They were 6-6 coming off a massive win against the Kansas City Chiefs. The playoffs were an expectation. They even had an outside shot at winning the NFC North if they continued their winning ways and got some help from the teams around them.

Now, all of those dreams have been dashed. The Packers are 6-8 after back-to-back disappointing losses to the New York Giants and Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Through 14 games, this team has proven one thing clearly. They are capable of beating anyone, as evidenced by back-to-back wins over the Chiefs and Detroit Lions.

They are also capable of losing to anyone, as evidenced by the last two games they've played.

The Packers are favored on the road against the worst team in the NFL this week. The Carolina Panthers are coming off a 9-7 win over the Atlanta Falcons.

In the era of Aaron Rodgers, this game was considered a layup. Jordan Love, while improving, is not to that point of his career where any game can be considered a layup. That's especially true in a road game.

To avoid hitting rock bottom, here is what the Packers need to do to beat the Panthers on the road:

Packers secondary vs. Bryce Young

Bryce Young had high hopes surrounding him when he was the top pick of the 2022 draft. Those hopes have not shined through on the field this year.

Young has not thrown a touchdown pass since before Thanksgiving Day. He has nine touchdown passes on the season and nine interceptions.

The team has struggled mightily to move the ball through the air. The good news for Carolina is that their stoppable force is about to meet what proved to be a very movable object with the Packers' pass defense



The Packers' defense cannot take the upcoming Carolina team for granted, even if the Panthers have the worst record in the NFL. Tampa Bay quarterback Baker Mayfield on Dec. 17 completed 22-of-28 for 381 yards and four touchdowns against that Packers' defense. The defense allowed Mayfield to reach his season-high for passing yards before the third quarter expired. They gave up a perfect passer rating to a guy on his fourth team in three years. They allowed more than 100 yards on the ground, including more than four yards per carry to Rachaad White and Chase Edmonds. This game felt like one where the Bucs could have thrown for 400 or run for 200. It was just a matter of what they chose to do.

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coming to town.

With Jaire Alexander missing his sixth consecutive game for a shoulder injury, Baker Mayfield and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers piled up more than 350 yards through the air. He threw four touchdown passes on his way to a perfect passer rating. Mayfield's perfect day was the second in the history of Lambeau Field, the other belonging to Aaron Rodgers in 2019 when he tore apart the Oakland Raiders.

The secondary, and pass defense as a whole, is reeling. They need the Panthers to be some medicine to cure what has ailed them.

If they're not, the Packers have some big questions they'll need to be asking as soon as the game ends.

Ground game vs. Panthers' defense

The Packers' ground game has never felt like it's been at full strength this season. AJ Dillon just missed Sunday's game with a broken thumb, which coincided with Aaron

Jones' return from a knee injury.

Jones started the season on the wrong foot with a hamstring injury that kept him out of two games and limited for several others.

The reality of the situation is Green Bay has not had an individual 100-yard rusher on the season. The bread and butter of this offense was supposed to go through the ground game spearheaded by these two running backs.

It's unclear if Dillon will be able to play Sunday with the thumb injury, but even if he doesn't, the Packers need more from their ground game.

Love and the passing offense have done their part, but this is not an offense at a stage where it can be one-dimensional.

Carolina is 22nd in the NFL in rush yards allowed per game. They allow 123 yards on the ground.

There should be some opportunities for the Packers to get back to their bread and butter on Sunday afternoon.

Packers' tackles vs. Brian Burns

When the Packers were on the clock in the 2019 draft, they were targeting a pass rusher. Brian Burns was on the board, as was Michigan's Rashan Gary. The Packers took Gary and the two careers became intertwined. Both players have become two of the better pass rushers in all of football through their short careers.

Gary signed a contract extension earlier in the year, and it remains likely that Burns will get one from Carolina sooner rather than later.

Love has played much better of late, but any quarterback is going to struggle if he is not protected.

Rasheed Walker and Zach Tom both performed admirably against Tampa Bay on Sunday. Love was only sacked twice, one of which came late in the game against an all-out blitz when the game had already been decided.

Burns is a game wrecker, and the Packers have had their struggles against players of his ilk.

Aidan Hutchinson had a big game against them in September. Maxx Crosby did as well.

The Packers' offense should be able to find some holes in the Panthers' secondary, but protecting the quarterback is always at a premium.



Patrick Taylor had one carry for six yards and two receptions for minus-four yards in Sunday's 34-20 loss to the Buccaneers. With AJ Dillon (thumb) sidelined, Taylor worked as the backup behind Aaron Jones, and he played 26 snaps compared to the 29 Jones received. However, Taylor only tallied three touches while Jones finished with 17. The Packers used a similar distribution in recent weeks when Jones was sidelined and Dillon wasn't, so there is little reason to expect much from Taylor -- he has not recorded more than six touches in a game this season -- unless both of his fellow running backs are unavailable.

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Bulaga grateful for time spent in Green Bay

By JACOB WESTENDORF

Green & Gold Express

Bryan Bulaga, a first-round draft pick in 2010 from Iowa who manned right tackle for the better part of a decade, returned to officially retire as a Packer on Nov. 17.

He had not played since the last of his two years with the Chargers in 2021.

"Being drafted here and being part of this organization — I think the greatest organization in the NFL — was an absolute honor. Green Bay, it feels like home to me for more than one reason.

"Getting drafted and winning a Super Bowl and all that here, that's part of it, but I think coming here as a 21-year-old, really had no responsibility besides play football and worry about myself, and then becoming a man here, getting married, having kids, make relationships outside of this building. It felt like home from the minute I stepped down here till I left in 2020.

"So, to make it official as a Green Bay Packer to me means the most, be-

cause it's truly where I felt I belonged, where I felt the most comfortable, where it felt like home and family. For me, it truly is a special moment.

"Obviously start right away with Ted Thompson. Took a gamble on a short-armed, small-handed guy from Iowa. Probably not the greatest 40 time and stuff like that. But selected me in the first round and I will be forever grateful for that. Hell of a guy, the times he actually wanted to talk to me. Ted was a man of few words, so the times I did get to speak to him, he was a helluva guy to be around, so very thankful.

"And finally, obviously, Aaron (Rodgers). I'd like to think from time to time we made Aaron look good. Maybe some people would disagree. But he made us look good a lot.

"Being able to block for a Hall of Fame quarterback and experience what it's like to watch greatness and be a part of greatness with him is something I'll always be appreciative of."

What was your message to the team after practice Nov. 17?

"What I told them, it's cliché and

things like that, but times weren't always good for even us when we were here. I mentioned 2017 and '18, we went through some hard times.

"But the thing we believed in that locker room with the guys that we had we could come out the other side better than what we were in right now. We trusted in each other, and we stuck together. There was never any finger-pointing; there was never any getting down on each other. We knew we had the guys. We just needed to pull it together and get it together, and we eventually did.

"My message to them was stick together during this. It's not always going to be pretty; it's not always going to go the way you want. But if you guys hold together, keep fighting for each other, keep fighting for the guys you have in the huddle, you'll come out of this better."

What do you miss?

"I miss the locker room. I miss the guys. I miss the camaraderie. Sundays, it's hard to replicate Sundays and the feeling you get going out there in front of all the fans on Lambeau, you'll never replicate it, because it's

awesome. But the thing you miss is the locker room, the guys, the camaraderie, the O-line dinners, the meeting rooms, the BSing. That's literally the hardest part of walking away is knowing you're not in that little group anymore. You're excluded. Yeah, you may be in a group text, but you're not there doing it. So I think for me, that's probably the toughest part.

Talk about the Super Bowl run.

"I didn't really realize what was happening until we beat the Eagles in that first-round playoff game. I remember, we're sitting on the bench and Cliffy, he looked at me, he was like, 'Man, this doesn't happen every day. Like, we have a really good team; we're hot.'

"At the end of the season, we got hot. Going to Philly against one of the better teams in the league and we kind of took care of them. We didn't blow him out by any stretch, but it was a comfortable win — at least we felt it was in the locker room. And he goes, 'This kind of stuff doesn't happen every year, so just start enjoying this and taking this in, this playoff run.'

NOTEBOOK

Packers have edge on paper but can't take Panthers for granted

By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

Packers' offense vs. Panthers' defense

Carolina's defense has kept them competitive throughout the season, and they have some star power to give them some teeth on that side of the ball.

Brian Burns is one of the league's best pass rushers and has continued to wreak havoc on opposing quarterbacks this season. He has six sacks and one forced fumble on the season.

Jaycee Horn is working his way back from injured reserve and has a world of potential at cornerback.

The unit is led by Ejiro Evero. Evero, of course, was the runner-up in the Packers' 2021 search for a defensive coordinator.

After Jim Leonhard turned the Packers down, LaFleur was left with two choices, Evero, and Joe Barry.

LaFleur chose Barry, and Barry has yet to outperform Evero, in either Denver or Carolina. That is a blunder that could keep LaFleur up at night as the team went from Super Bowl contender, to fringe playoff team.

The Packers' offense continues to play well. The offense scored 20 points against a tough Tampa Bay defense but was a mistake or two away from putting up more points. Jordan Love missed an open Jayden Reed on the opening possession that caused them to come away empty as opposed to having an opening drive touchdown.

They were 2-for-5 in the red zone after struggling against the Giants as well.

The red zone issues need to get cleaned up. If they do, the Packers could light up the scoreboard, as they've continued to move the ball well between the 20s.

Jordan Love bounced back from a below average game against the Giants, with a strong showing against Tampa Bay. Love threw for 284 yards and two touchdown passes against a Bucs defense led by the well-respected Todd Bowles.

Dontayvion Wicks shook off an ankle injury to catch six passes for 97 yards. The Packers were uncertain



Quarterback Jordan Love was 29-of-39 for 284 yards with two touchdowns, no interceptions and a 111.5 rating. Rookie tight end Tucker Kraft (four catches for 57 yards) and wide receiver Jayden Reed (six catches for 52 yards) caught the TDs.

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as to whether Wicks was going to be able to play after his ankle injury last Monday night.

Jayden Reed caught six more passes and is becoming a focal point of the offense.

Ditto for Tucker Kraft, who made a nice 40-yard catch on a wheel route last week against Tampa Bay.

The team clearly misses Christian Watson and his deep speed. It's unclear if he will be able to play this week. He was listed as doubtful for Sunday's game against Tampa Bay. If he can play, however, that should open up more things underneath for the other receivers similar to the way it did against Detroit and Kansas City.

The run game is still struggling, and that may be the case all season. AJ Dillon and Aaron Jones have rarely been on the field at the same time this year as Jones has battled

injuries all year.

Once Jones finally returned, Dillon missed Sunday's game with a broken thumb. His status for the rest of the month is unclear, but ball security is difficult without a working thumb.

The third running back spot has been a bit of a revolving door, and there weren't many opportunities for the other running backs last week.

Jones carried the ball 13 times Sunday. The other two backs combined for two carries for six yards. Considering the way LaFleur likes to rotate his running backs, that was an odd development. Maybe it was just a byproduct of trailing by two scores for a majority of the second half.

We'll see if LaFleur wants to give Jones more of a workload, or if he pulls the reigns back a bit as Kenyan Drake and Patrick Taylor should be more comfortable in the offense.

Packers' defense vs. Panthers' offense

Carolina's offense has struggled mightily this season. Bryce Young has clearly not developed at the same rate as his draft classmate, CJ Stroud.

Young has not been surrounded by a strong supporting cast. His best receiver on the season is former Minnesota Viking Adam Thielen. Thielen has had a strong season, but he should not be the best receiver on any team that has any sort of aspirations of developing a young quarterback.

As a result, Young has struggled. In fact, at the completion of Sunday's game against Atlanta, Young has not thrown a touchdown pass in a month. His last scoring throw was Nov. 19 against Dallas.

He has nine touchdowns and nine interceptions on the season. If the Panthers had not traded their first-round pick to acquire him, they would likely be in the quarterback market. As it is, they'll look to continue to build around him this offseason.

Perhaps some good news is on the way for Young. The Packers' defense allowed Tommy DeVito to earn NFC Offensive Player of the Week honors, and likely will play a large part in Baker Mayfield receiving that honor as well.

Mayfield finished Sunday's game with more than 350 passing yards and a perfect passer rating to go along with four touchdown passes.

The Bucs could have traveled through the air or on the ground to do whatever they wanted.

Despite the poor performance, Matt LaFleur made it clear that he is not thinking about an in season change at defensive coordinator.

With that being the case, it will be more of the same blueprint for Joe Barry in this defense.

They followed some of that blueprint last week against Tampa Bay. They sacked Baker Mayfield five times, only to see Mayfield convert on third-and-long scenarios through the air later in the drive.

Lukas Van Ness has two sacks in three weeks. Rashan Gary and Kenny Clark continued what has been a strong December in rushing the

passer.

The secondary got a boost last week with Eric Stokes returning as a full-time starter to the defensive backfield after being activated from injured reserve.

It was Stokes' first action on defense since a gruesome leg injury knocked him out for the remainder of the 2022 season and all of training camp this year.

Stokes will have his ups and downs. Carrington Valentine has continued to have his ups and downs as well.

This team was shredded on Sunday by Chris Godwin, who had more than 100 yards receiving in the first half. He finished the day with more than 150.

They gave up three touchdown passes of more than 20 yards, including a 52-yarder to seal a win for Tampa Bay.

The run defense only allowed 102 yards to Tampa Bay's running backs, but both backs averaged more than four yards per carry. Tampa Bay was ranked 29th in the NFL in rush yards per game coming into Sunday's game.

Green Bay's defense, as has been the case for years, is simply not good enough. They peacock a little



Second-year linebacker Kingsley Enagbare (55) and rookie linebacker Lukas Van Ness (90) celebrate their efforts against Tampa Bay on Dec. 17. Any positive plays were overshadowed by negative ones and a loss that dims Green Bay's playoff hopes.

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about a solid points-per-game track record earlier in the season, but the underlying metrics that suggested a regression was coming have hit at the worst possible time.

Special teams

The ups and downs of a young kicker is showing for this team. After making all of his kicks against Kansas City, Anders Carlson missed a crucial field goal against the Giants in a game the Packers lost by two.

Against the Tampa Bay Bucca-

neers, he made all of his kicks.

The December temperatures that typically occupy Green Bay have not shown up. The Packers' most recent game against Tampa Bay had a kick-off temperature over 40 degrees in the middle of December.

Because of that, Keisean Nixon has mostly been put on ice for the season. The Packers have clearly coached him to be more cautious on kicks he takes out of the end zone.

The Packers' special teams as a whole are ranked toward the bottom of the league in almost any metric and are the most penalized team in that unit. For a team that promoted their special teams coordinator in the offseason, Rich Bisaccia's unit has been the biggest disappointment on the team.

Carolina's special teams has been in flux this season with Chris Tabor getting promoted to interim head coach. He is unlikely to keep that title beyond this season. They finished fourth in Rick Gosselin's special teams rankings from a season ago. Their kicker is former Chicago Bear Eddy Pineiro.

Former Packers' draft favorite Ihmir Smith-Marsette is the Panthers' punt returner, and he does have a return for a touchdown this season.

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Ballentine makes the most of opportunities

By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

Cornerback Corey Ballentine played college football at Washburn and was selected by the New York Giants in the sixth round of the 2019 NFL Draft. He also played for the New York Jets, Detroit Lions, Atlanta Falcons and Arizona Cardinals before joining the Green Bay Packers.

What's this season been like for you?

This season has obviously been up and down for me. I started on practice squad, and I've kind of worked my way up. That's kind of how every year my whole journey to the league has been. It hasn't always been easy or how I thought it would be, but I just kept my head down, kept working and let it all play out how it plays out. When I get my opportunity, take that opportunity and make the best of it.

Was it hard to stay positive?

There's been times where it was hard, yeah. I mean, switching teams or being released for whatever reason, or things that were out of my control. It was hard at some points

– just believing in myself. But I feel like over time, I just kind of, firstly, relied on my faith and believing in God and believing that whatever is happening, it's happening for a reason and he'll get me through it. And to this point, he has. I feel like when there's times where I doubt myself, I have to have something else to lean on, and that's kind of what I go to.

There's that phrase that you don't have to get ready if you stay ready. A challenge when back on practice squad?

I wouldn't say it was necessarily super hard, because I feel like I always have tried to prepare like that anyway. Especially since being activated, I prepare like anything could happen if somebody gets injured and I get thrown in. It's happened before in my career where I've just been thrown in, and I've been expected to play at a certain level. So I kind of know how it goes already, and I try to stay ready before I get out there so I don't have anything sneak up on me and I'm prepared for whatever situation that's in front of me.

I'm guessing it's maybe not exactly what you thought your ca-



Cornerback Corey Ballentine chases down Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes.

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reer was going to play out, right?

I wouldn't necessarily say it was a surprise. I didn't really look at it in any type of way. I just kind of went to practice one day and they were just like, 'Hey you're going to be up.' Or just kind of how everything played out this season, just getting my opportunity, getting elevated off of the practice squad, getting signed. I just stayed ready. I just kept working. I didn't let the moment get too big, made plays where I needed to make plays, be where I was supposed to be, know my job, know my assignment, execute that, and don't make it harder than it needs to be.

And I really think that's just how I got to this point. I don't do more than I need to do; I don't do less than I need to do. I don't make it bigger than what it is. I do my job and let the rest handle itself.

What's it been like going out of the tunnel, 'Starting at corner from Washburn'? It's got to be pretty cool, considering everything.

It's a wild moment. It's a blessing. Being out there, my teammates supporting me, trusting me to be out there, and just the atmosphere, especially (against the Chiefs), was amazing. I'm glad I got the opportunity. I'm glad I could go out there and show what I can do.

Are you happy with how you've played?

Yeah, obviously, there's things that I could clean up, but I feel like, so far, I've done pretty well.

The only thing I would like

more is turnovers. But those come. I try not to force it. I don't want to sacrifice the integrity of the defense trying to chase plays. I want to let it come to me whenever it comes. Put myself in the best position to make the play, play the ball and, when it comes, it'll come. As of right now, I'm more focused on doing my job and then making sure we win the game.

What was the key on the defense with so many second-stringers in the secondary?

I feel like initially we were losing close games, and it was more so because of execution. We were practicing hard; we were doing everything we needed to do in practice. But I feel like when it came to the game, it was things like penalties that were throwing us off, or small mental errors here or there, or a missed cue here or there, or we didn't see this quite fast enough or whatever.

I feel like as time has went on, we've kind of meshed a little better. We looked back on what we could do as individuals to help the team get better. And I feel like everybody's kind of taken hold of that and tried to pick something out of their own game to make themselves better. And then, as we've been on the field together, we kind of just jelled together. We're just executing a lot better, getting off the field, offense putting together drives, special teams making plays and giving us good field position. I feel like it's all complementary ball. We're just playing executing much more efficiently than we were.



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GREEN BAY PACKERS

Player	#	Pos	HT	WT	Age	Exp	College
Jaire Alexander	23	CB	5-10	196	26	6	Louisville
Zayne Anderson	39	S	6-2	206	26	1	BYU
Corey Ballentine	35	CB	5-11	196	27	5	Washburn
Karl Brooks	94	DL	6-3	296	23	R	Bowling Green
De'Vondre Campbell	59	LB	6-4	232	30	8	Minnesota
Anders Carlson	17	K	6-5	219	25	R	Auburn
Kenny Clark	97	DL	6-3	314	28	8	UCLA
Sean Clifford	8	QB	6-2	218	25	R	Penn State
Brenton Cox Jr.	57	LB	6-4	250	23	R	Florida
Josiah Deguara	81	TE	6-2	238	26	4	Cincinnati
AJ Dillon	28	RB	6-0	247	25	4	Boston College
Romeo Doubs	87	WR	6-2	204	23	2	Nevada
Kingsley Enagbare	55	LB	6-4	258	23	2	South Carolina
Rudy Ford	20	S	6-0	210	29	7	Auburn
Rashan Gary	52	LB	6-5	277	26	5	Michigan
Malik Heath	18	WR	6-2	213	23	R	Mississippi
Elgton Jenkins	74	G/T	6-5	311	27	5	Mississippi State
Anthony Johnson Jr.	36	S	6-0	205	24	R	Iowa State
Aaron Jones	33	RB	5-9	208	29	7	Texas-El Paso
Caleb Jones	72	T	6-9	370	24	2	Indiana
Tucker Kraft	85	TE	6-5	259	23	R	South Dakota State
David Long Jr.	30	CB	5-11	196	25	5	Michigan
Jordan Love	10	QB	6-4	219	25	4	Utah State
Isaiah McDuffie	58	LB	6-1	227	24	3	Boston College
Josh Myers	71	C/G	6-5	310	25	3	Ohio State
Royce Newman	70	G/T	6-5	310	26	3	Mississippi
Yosh Nijman	73	T	6-7	314	27	4	Virginia Tech
Keisean Nixon	25	CB	5-10	200	26	5	South Carolina
Matt Orzech	42	LS	6-3	245	28	4	Azusa Pacific
Jonathan Owens	34	S	5-11	210	28	5	Missouri Western
Jayden Reed	11	WR	5-11	187	23	R	Michigan State
Sean Rhyan	75	G	6-5	321	23	2	UCLA
Robert Rochell	22	CB	6-0	193	25	3	Central Arkansas
Jon Runyan	76	G	6-4	307	26	4	Michigan
Darnell Savage	26	S	5-11	198	26	5	Maryland
Ben Sims	89	TE	6-5	250	23	R	Baylor
T.J. Slaton	93	DL	6-4	330	26	3	Florida
Preston Smith	91	LB	6-5	265	31	9	Mississippi State
Eric Stokes	21	CB	6-0	194	24	3	Georgia
Patrick Taylor	27	RB	6-2	217	25	3	Memphis
Zach Tom	50	OL	6-4	304	24	2	Wake Forest
Samori Toure	83	WR	6-1	191	25	2	Nebraska
Carrington Valentine	37	CB	6-0	189	22	R	Kentucky
Lukas Van Ness	90	LB	6-5	272	22	R	Iowa
Quay Walker	7	LB	6-4	241	23	2	Georgia
Rasheed Walker	63	T	6-6	324	23	2	Penn State
Christian Watson	9	WR	6-4	208	24	2	North Dakota State
Kristian Welch	54	LB	6-3	240	25	4	Iowa
Daniel Whelan	19	P	6-5	216	24	1	UC Davis
Dontayvion Wicks	13	WR	6-1	206	22	R	Virginia
Eric Wilson	45	LB	6-1	230	29	7	Cincinnati
Colby Wooden	96	DL	6-4	273	22	R	Auburn
Devonte Wyatt	95	DL	6-3	304	25	2	Georgia
Reserve/Injured							
David Bakhtiari	69	T	6-4	310	32	11	Colorado
Tyler Davis	84	TE	6-4	252	26	4	Georgia Tech
Luke Musgrave	88	TE	6-6	253	23	R	Oregon State
Luke Tenuta	78	T	6-8	314	24	2	Virginia Tech
Emanuel Wilson	31	RB	5-11	226	24	R	Fort Valley State Univ.

CAROLINA PANTHERS

Player	#	Pos	HT	WT	Age	Exp	College
Amaré Barno	90	OLB	6-6	245	24	2	Virginia Tech
Vonn Bell	24	S	5-11	205	29	8	Ohio State
Raheem Blackshear	3	RB	5-9	190	25	2	Virginia Tech
Bradley Bozeman	56	C/G	6-5	325	29	6	Alabama
Derrick Brown	95	DT	6-5	320	25	4	Auburn
Brian Burns	0	OLB	6-5	250	25	5	Florida State
DJ Chark Jr.	17	WR	6-3	200	27	6	LSU
Jeremy Chinn	21	S	6-3	220	25	4	Southern Illinois
Alex Cook	27	S	6-1	196	24	R	Washington
Andy Dalton	14	QB	6-2	220	36	13	TCU
Tae Davis	33	LB	6-0	222	27	5	Tennessee-Chattanooga
Ikem Ekwonu	79	T	6-4	320	23	2	N.C. State
Sam Franklin Jr.	42	S	6-3	210	27	4	Temple
Shaquill Griffin	20	CB	6-0	198	28	7	UCF
Yetur Gross-Matos	97	OLB	6-5	265	25	4	Penn State
Kamu Grugier-Hill	54	LB	6-2	220	29	8	Eastern Illinois
Marquis Haynes Sr.	98	OLB	6-2	235	30	6	Mississippi
Johnny Hekker	10	P	6-5	225	33	12	Oregon State
CJ Henderson	23	CB	6-1	205	25	4	Florida
Troy Hill	13	CB	5-10	182	32	8	Oregon
Jaycee Horn	8	CB	6-1	200	24	3	South Carolina
Chuba Hubbard	30	RB	6-1	210	24	3	Oklahoma State
Donte Jackson	26	CB	5-10	180	28	5	LSU
D'Shawn Jamison	29	CB	5-9	186	24	R	Texas
JJ Jansen	44	LS	6-2	235	37	16	Notre Dame
Nash Jensen	66	G	6-4	328	24	R	North Dakota State
DJ Johnson	52	OLB	6-4	260	25	R	Oregon
Deion Jones	40	LB	6-1	222	29	8	LSU
Ricky Lee	61	T	6-5	289	24	R	North Carolina A&T
Eku Leota	46	OLB	6-3	252	24	R	Auburn
Frankie Luvu	49	LB	6-3	235	27	6	Washington State
Terrace Marshall Jr.	88	WR	6-2	200	23	3	LSU
Cade Mays	68	G	6-6	325	24	2	Tennessee
Jonathan Mingo	15	WR	6-2	220	22	R	Mississippi
Taylor Moton	72	T	6-5	325	29	7	Western Michigan
Eddy Piñeiro	4	K	5-11	190	28	6	Florida
LaBryan Ray	93	DT	6-4	290	26	1	Alabama
Jammie Robinson	22	S	5-11	190	22	R	Florida State
Miles Sanders	6	RB	5-11	210	26	5	Penn State
David Sharpe	74	OT	6-6	343	28	5	Florida
Ihmir Smith-Marsette	11	WR	6-1	185	24	3	Iowa
Mike Strachan	86	WR	6-5	225	26	3	Charleston
Stephen Sullivan	84	TE	6-5	245	27	2	LSU
Adam Thielen	19	WR	6-2	195	33	10	Minnesota State
Ian Thomas	80	TE	6-4	260	27	6	Indiana
Nick Thurman	91	DE	6-4	305	28	2	Houston
Tommy Tremble	82	TE	6-4	250	23	3	Notre Dame
Shy Tuttle	99	DT	6-3	300	28	5	Tennessee
DeShawn Williams	96	DT	6-1	295	30	5	Clemson
Xavier Woods	25	S	5-11	200	28	7	Louisiana Tech
Chris Wormley	71	DE	6-5	300	30	7	Michigan
Bryce Young	9	QB	5-10	204	22	R	Alabama
Reserve/Injured							
Henry Anderson	94	DE	6-6	300	32	9	Stanford
Dicaprio Bootle	32	CB	5-10	180	26	1	Nebraska
Claudin Cherelus	53	LB	6-2	230	24	R	Alcorn State
Brady Christensen	70	G	6-6	300	27	3	BYU
Austin Corbett	63	G	6-4	305	28	6	Nevada
Justin Houston	50	OLB	6-3	270	34	13	Georgia
Hayden Hurst	81	TE	6-4	245	30	6	South Carolina
Justin McCray	67	G	6-3	320	31	7	UCF
Giovanni Ricci	45	TE	6-3	240	27	3	Western Michigan
Laviska Shenault Jr.	5	WR	6-1	220	25	4	Colorado
Shaq Thompson	7	LB	6-0	230	29	9	Washington
Luiji Vilain	43	LB	6-4	252	25	2	Wake Forest
Chandler Wooten	57	LB	6-3	230	24	2	Auburn
Chandler Zavala	62	G	6-3	322	24	R	NC State

Packers' defensive coordinator's job still safe

By **LUKE REIMER**
Green & Gold Express

A career day from Buccaneers quarterback Baker Mayfield was not enough for Packers head coach Matt LaFleur to commit to giving up on Packers defensive coordinator Joe Barry yet.

In what started out as an underperforming season for the Packers' defensive, given the expectations coming into the year, has quickly turned tumultuous for Barry, as over the previous two losses for Green Bay, the Packers have given up 539 passing yards and five passing touchdowns to Mayfield and Giants quarterback Tommy DeVito. In total, Green Bay has given up 819 total yards in the last two games. That equates to 17% of the total amount of yards Green Bay has given up all season.

"Now is not the time for that to be honest with you," said LaFleur, when asked if he would consider a change at defensive coordinator. "Now is not the time. I am trying to find solutions."

LaFleur's comments seem to

indicate that Barry will remain the defensive coordinator through the end of the season, but what does that cost? Green Bay now sits in a must-win situation for what feels like each of its last three games and an obvious deficiency has been the play of the defensive unit, especially on third downs. Just last week against Tampa Bay, the Buccaneers converted seven of 11 times when it was faced with a third down.

The inability to get off of the field on third down is not the only issue though, as the run defense has been less than impressive over the past two weeks as well. The Buccaneers and the Giants combined for 308 rushing yards, which brings Green Bay's total rushing yards given up to 1,943. That ranks 30th in the NFL. Given those alarming stats, it begs a fair question, why is Barry still employed by the Green Bay Packers?

Making a coaching change at any level and at any point in the season is a major event for a football team. That becomes exemplified when a team is as young as Green Bay is and is in a spot where it needs to win

to keep its season alive. Making a coaching change, especially one as important as the leader of the defensive unit, more often than not takes time to prove to be successful and time is something that is not really on the Packers' side right now.

Possibly to the dismay of Packers fans, it appears that Barry is going to remain the signal caller for the Packers for at least the next three games.

That stems from there not really being a plan for life beyond Barry yet. If Barry were to get fired, names like Jerry Montgomery (defensive line coach/run game coordinator) or Greg Williams (passing game coordinator) would probably be at the front to succeed him. If that were to happen, it would be hard to imagine that there would be any kind of overhaul on the scheme that Green Bay would run for the remainder of the season.

As much as Packers fans want to put all of the blame on Barry, he has had to manage injuries all season long. Jaire Alexander, De'Vondre Campbell, Eric Stokes, Quay Walker, Rashan Gary, Devonte Wyatt and Keisean Nixon are all starters on this

defense who have missed time due to injuries. As anyone who has ever played football will tell you, it is really hard to play, let alone win when you don't have your best players on the field.

With that being said, there have been numerous times this season where the opposing team was faced with a third-and-short, and Green Bay's corners have lined up 10 yards or more off of the receiver. There have also been times where inside linebackers were forced to cover slot receivers and times where linebackers and safeties were in no-man's-land in zone coverage.

It is obvious that something needs to change on the defensive side of the ball, but that may not come until the offseason. If Green Bay does in fact decide to fire Barry, some names that could be brought in for an interview might include Jacksonville Jaguars passing game coordinator Deshaea Townsend, San Francisco 49ers linebackers coach Johnny Holard or Dallas Cowboys defensive backs coach and former Green Bay Packers great Al Harris.

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