



A coon hound, later named Atley at the Shawano County Humane Society, was found on the side of a road Feb. 9, apparently left to die after suffering what appear to be gunshots to the face. After surgery to repair her broken jaw, the dog is recovering in foster care.

CONTRIBUTED

Dog with broken jaw recovering in foster care

Medical costs top \$11,000; donations sought for humane society

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

Donations are rolling in to the Shawano County Humane Society to help cover the medical expenses of a dog allegedly shot in the face and left to die on the side of a road.

On Feb. 9, Allena Muth found the wounded animal near Olson Road and County Road C east of Cecil. She brought the dog to the humane society and then filed a police report with local authorities.

"I wish I could've done more and kept her myself; she is the sweetest thing, even in so much pain," Muth wrote in a social media post. "Spread the word help me find the person who shot this poor girl and just left her on my road. You didn't kill her just so you know, went in her nose

and out her neck."

From Shawano, the female coon hound was taken to Clintonville Hometown Veterinary Service. X-rays showed a broken jaw and four entry/exit wounds. If the wounds are from a gun, it was most likely from a .22 caliber gun or smaller.

Atley, as the dog has become known, is estimated to be about 2 years old. She had surgery on her broken jaw Feb. 13 at Blue Pearl Animal Hospital in Appleton. Atley was placed in a foster home to complete her recovery but was returned to the hospital the next day after a setback. She continues to be monitored.

"The support has been very heartwarming," said Pam Nowak, executive director of the humane society. "Individuals and businesses have offered assistance and donations. It's also helped raise

awareness of the shelter."

An area woman who wants to remain anonymous has started to gather funds for a reward leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the dog's injuries.

Nowak said medical costs for Atley are now more than \$11,000.

Shawano's animal shelter is funded solely by donations; it does not receive any government funding.

Considered a no-kill shelter, animals are only euthanized under the most extreme circumstances, and then only at the recommendation of a vet.

Nowak said the shelter is usually full with a waiting list of people who want to surrender their pets.

DOG, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Gallagher won't seek re-election to Congress

Local GOP leaders in wait-and-see pattern regarding next candidate

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

U.S. Rep. Mike Gallagher's announcement that he won't seek another term in Congress is opening the way for a new face in Washington, and local GOP leaders are optimistic it will be a Republican again.

Richard Kucksdorf, Shawano County Republican Party chairman, said the party is expected to have a rigorous vetting process.

"First, we'll want to know if the candidate lives in the district," he said. "Then,

we'll ask how long they've lived here. If they just moved here as a carpet-bagger, how well can they represent the 8th District?"



MIKE GALLAGHER

That may have been an early critique of potential candidate Alex Bruesewitz, a supporter of former President Donald Trump and a GOP consultant. Bruesewitz is a former Wisconsin resident now living in Florida.

It was also an acknowledgement of the mistakes the party made in 2022 after Rep. Peter Schmidt won the Republican primary for the Wisconsin Assembly.

After the primary, it was revealed Schmidt had previously been charged with a felony but later convicted of misdemeanor disorderly conduct. As a result, the local party withdrew its support of Schmidt. He was also censured by the county party and prohibited from participating county GOP activities.

At that time, Kucksdorf said the Shawano County GOP failed to vet the six candidates before the primary.

Gallagher announced Feb. 10 he would not seek a fifth term in Congress.

"Eight years ago, when I first ran for Congress, I promised to treat my time in office as a high-intensity deployment," he said. "Through my bipartisan work on the Armed Services and Intelligence Commit-

GALLAGHER, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

INSIDE

Wittenberg thrift shop moves over to Homme Home.

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GALLAGHER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mittees, chairing the Cyberspace Solarium Commission and chairing the Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party, we've accomplished more on this deployment than I could have ever imagined.

"But the Framers intended citizens to serve in Congress for a season and then return to their private lives. Electoral politics was never supposed to be a career and, trust me, Congress is no place to grow old. And so, with a heavy heart, I have decided not to run for re-election."

Kucksdorf said Gallagher often partnered with a Democrat to bring forward bills regarding term limits. However, former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi would turn the Democrats' vision, he said, and he or she would back down before the matter came up for a vote, so it never worked out.

"I know his wife (Anne) is not a fan of the political life," Kucksdorf said. "He wants a civilian job. Washington, D.C., is very intoxicating. When he was named chair of the Committee on the Chinese Communist Party, they dangled other committee chairmanships in front of him, then told him just a few more terms and then it's the Senate. After that, it's the presidency."

Kucksdorf also related that Gallagher had recently been receiving death threats. He also was victim of swatting, in which someone had called Brown County authorities and told them Gallagher was dead and his wife and children were being held as hostages. A SWAT team was called to Gallagher's home that night, Kucksdorf said.

"I think that was the straw that broke the camel's back," Kucksdorf said.

However, even before Gallagher's announcement, Ken Sikora, Oconto County Republican Party chairman, was urging party leaders to consider an alternative in the 2024 election cycle.

Gallagher was one of a handful of Republicans who voted with Democrats against impeaching Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas for not stemming the flow of immigrants on the nation's southern border.

Sikora, in a letter to GOP county chairman in

the 8th District, said Gallagher was expected to do the right thing, hold people accountable and vote for impeachment instead of giving lip service.

"I believe it is time that we start seriously considering Gallagher alternatives," he wrote.

Sikora said Bruesewitz would have his support if he opted to run and invited Bruesewitz to address the county GOP.

"We are excited to welcome him to Oconto County and North East Wisconsin to help promote conservatism and the MAGA movement," Sikora wrote.

Bruesewitz was scheduled as the featured speaker at the Oconto County Republican Party 2024 Caucus on Feb. 17 in Lena.

Bruesewitz had repeatedly attacked Gallagher on social media following Gallagher's vote against impeaching Mayorkas earlier this month.

Roger Stone, a former Trump adviser, wrote on X that Bruesewitz "would have the full support of the MAGA movement" if he ran.

Former state Sen. Roger Roth, an Appleton Republican, said just hours after Gallagher's announcement that he would run for the seat.

Roth served as state Senate president from 2017-21 and ran for lieutenant governor alongside GOP gubernatorial candidate Tim Michels in 2022.

He previously ran for the 8th District in 2010 but was defeated in the GOP primary by former Rep. Reid Ribble.

State Sen. Andre Jacque, a Republican from De Pere, is also reportedly considering a run.

No Democrats were firmly running for the seat before Gallagher's announcement. However, former journalist Kelly Peterson, Navy veteran Alicia Saunders, and women's health Dr. Kristin Lyerly all expressed interest in running at an event held last month by Women Win Wisconsin.

Congressional candidates must file their paperwork to run in Wisconsin by June 1 to be on the ballot for the primary, set for Aug. 13.

Kucksdorf said he doesn't intend to bring any undeclared candidates to meet with local party members.

"Electoral politics was never supposed to be a career and, trust me, Congress is no place to grow old."

MIKE GALLAGHER, U.S. Representative

Board hires Waukesha County for collections

Shawano schools have \$83K in outstanding debt, could reach around \$100K

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

Plans to utilize a collection agency to get back more than \$80,000 in outstanding debt from families drew mixed reviews from the Shawano School Board.

The board voted 5-3 on Feb. 12 to hire the Waukesha County Collection Division to attempt to collect five years worth of food service, technology and other fees from families. According to finance consultant Cory Kaisler, the district has tried and failed to get the families to pay the district back, and customers of a collection agency have a 25-50% successful collections rate.

There are no upfront fees to hire the collection agency, and it will take 28% on any fees collected. About 70% of the \$83,000 in outstanding fees are technology fees caused by lost, broken or damaged devices, according to Kaisler. Food service negative balances account for about \$13,000, while the rest — about \$10,000 — is a combination of athletic fees and uniforms, classroom and library book fines, damage to school property and parking permits.

Kaisler noted there's another \$16,000 in fees for the current year that could be turned over to the collections agency by the end of the year if not paid.

He pointed out that the food service fees were

halted during the pandemic in 2020 by the U.S. government covering the costs of school lunches for almost three years. The district stopped its practice of notifying families of outstanding debt during the pandemic, as well.

"During that time frame, the outstanding fees ballooned a little bit," Kaisler said. "However, at the end of COVID, the U.S. government stopped covering costs for food services, and we went back to implementing the processes we had before."

He said the district has tried mailing invoices, making phone calls and sending emails to families alerting them that they owe the schools money, but it has not gotten the job done.

"The district decided we were going to look at other options to collect some of our fees," Kaisler said, adding that besides the collection agency, district officials considered utilizing small claims court, which was seen as costly and time-consuming, as well as writing off the debt by using the district's fund balance.

Kaisler noted the collection agency has options the district doesn't, such as garnishing tax returns, creating payment plans and garnishing pay.

"We really want to work with the person who owes us money to be able to try to collect without it being a financial hardship

on them," Kaisler said.

Board member David Cullen, who voted against the measure, feels the move is more antagonistic than cooperative.

"I think that would create a lot of bad will," Cullen said. "We're talking about \$80,000, which sounds like a lot of money, but in reality, it's a drop in the bucket. If I was a parent, and I got a bill for this, I would be ticked."

Cullen argued that the food service fees might be hard to collect because people might still believe the government is covering food costs, but board member Bobbi Lemerond countered that she received a notice from the district last year saying that the grace period for meal compensation was coming to an end.

Board President Mike Musolff said he wanted to foster a positive relationship with parents but waiving off the debt would be setting a bad precedent, in his view.

"Next year, if people found out we just waived this debt, they're not going to pay," Musolff said. "As much as I'd like to say let's do it, I can't."

Kaisler reiterated that most of the debt is related to tech, not food, with money owed for lost and unreturned iPads and other technology. He said there are currently 360 individuals with outstanding debt to the district, with the average debt being

\$254.

"As we continue to keep going down this road, I'm sorry to say I don't see this going backwards," Kaisler said. "Other people have paid their bills."

Board member Jeana Winslow was another no vote against the collection agency, and she questioned why the fees are in place when families don't have an opt-out for the technology.

"We require them to pay for them if they're broken," Winslow said. "I feel when we are requiring students to use these, I would be one of the parents who would opt out. I've said this from the beginning. It's going to be money, money, money. We require the kids to have these, and stuff happens at school. Students are mean. They break other kids' iPads. They take their charging cords. It's not their fault."

Regarding the food debt, Winslow recommending lobbying the state to cover food service costs fully to eliminate the need to charge families.

"I think we're going to do more damage to families," Winslow said. "I just don't think collections is the way to go."

Board member Al Pyatskowitz was the third vote against the collection agency but did not speak during the debate.

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Alpha House relocates to new site

Alpha House, the Wittenberg thrift shop that has been a staple of Webb Street for many years, has a new home.

Due to costly repairs needed at the location, the thrift shop moved across

the street to the lower level of Homme Home, next to the wellness center.

The shop is staffed completely with volunteer help and sells donated clothing and household items, so 100% of all sales go toward

the residents of Homme Home.

Volunteers moved all current stock in time for the reopening Feb. 16. The day featured complimentary snacks and door prizes.

Regular store hours are

from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

There are signs at Homme Home to direct shoppers and those with items to donate to the new location with handicap accessibility.

DOG, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Just today (Feb. 14), someone found eight puppies and brought them in. Two were immediately taken to the vet, and we found homes for the other six," Nowak said.

The shelter has a capacity for 22 dogs and upwards of 70 cats.

"We will do everything

we can to help," she said.

When animals without a home are taken in, photos and information about the animal is posted on the humane society's Facebook page.

"If they are going to be reclaimed, it's usually within 48 hours," Nowak said. "Our goal is to have

the animal reclaimed by its owner or adopted by someone else within 14 days."

Animals brought to the shelter are spayed, neutered, microchipped and vaccinated.

"Those costs add up, so we end up losing money on each adoption," she said.

Donations can be mailed

in or dropped off at the humane society at 1290 Jaycee Court, Shawano. Office hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday.

Donations can also be made through the humane society's website at www.shawanohumanesociety.com.

WITTENBERG

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Variety of vendors populate flea market

Indoor selection of items range from Amish jam to 1980s computers

By LYNN ZAFFRANN
Correspondent

Bad winter weather on Saturdays doesn't keep people from attending Zurko's Midwest Promotions Indoor Flea Market at the old Shawano Community Hall, 115 E. Division St.

The markets started Jan. 6 this year and will continue through March 23, running from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The popular Sunday flea market on the Shawano County Fairgrounds moved indoors for the winter in 2005, according to Tim Zurko.

"This is our 19th year," he said. "We purchased the building in 2005 from the city, renovated it, because we like old buildings. We've had it ever since. We do auctions here, as well."

Admission is free and there is ample parking in the building's lot and on the street. The flea market is held on the building's main floor, which is accessed by heading up a ramp that is decorated with multiple antique signs.

According to Zurko, there are usually about 25 vendors for the Indoor Flea Market.

"Some of the vendors only display at this market, but some of them are regulars at the fairgrounds," Zurko said, noting that they draw vendors from Wausau, Appleton and Green Bay.

One vendor at the Jan. 27 market was Travis Pipes, from Milwaukee.

"I wanted to come up and see what this is all about. I had a free Saturday, and I'm glad I came up. I've been doing this for about five years," he said.

It was his first time at the indoor market, but he



Don Adams, of Menominee, Michigan, makes a purchase from vendor Travis Pipes, Milwaukee. "I've been coming to this market, and the outdoor one, for years. My house is full of junk. I shouldn't come. I never get out of here without a pocketful of things," Adams said.

LYNN ZAFFRANN

said that he's displayed at the summer market three times. His wares are varied, with many antique and vintage collectibles.

"I attend a lot of rummage and estate sales, it's relationships and social-networking to find things that I like to display and sell," Pipes said.

Items for sale at the indoor flea market are quite varied. They range from Amish jams and homemade wooden puzzles, to antique jewelry, to a new Amazon Alexa Dot, vintage comic books or an old VCR.

Gordon Fecyk, owner of Great White Retro, displays 1980s computers, parts and systems, items from his vintage computer museum.

"I do this only for the indoor market," he said.

Fecyk buys, sells, trades and shows parts and systems at the market.

"A good chunk of it came from Tigerton, a lot from Green Bay, Pulaski,"

Fecyk said. "A person just north of here, who was getting rid of her collection, had an Atari 400 that wasn't working well, but I was able to get it fixed up. I'm trying to encourage people to dig stuff out of their closets and see if we can get it to work."

Patricia Owen, of Shawano, has run the snack bar at the Indoor Flea Market for about five years. Her granddaughter, Jordan Woltemath, helps out with the snack bar, while selling her hand-crafted jewelry at the flea market.

"We have donuts, coffee, tea, hot chocolate," Owen said. "We also do chips, macaroni and cheese and ravioli microwave lunch bowls. We don't have a food vendor's license, so I can't make hot dogs, or hamburgers. It fits the needs of the vendors and customers."

Woltemath has been working at the flea market for about a year. She has

her own business, JOBUGG Designs.

"I make and design everything that I sell," Woltemath said. "I watched a YouTube video and got inspired to do this."

Carol Fuqua sells vintage jewelry, glassware, pottery and collectibles with her husband, Scott, at the flea market.

"It's something to do in the winter. We've been doing this for about five years, interrupted by COVID," Fuqua said. "It's been a fun thing meeting people and getting out in the community. It's fun selling things, wheeling and dealing. Prices aren't set in stone."

Fuqua said she enjoys the other dealers and have made friends with a number of them.

"There are quite a few husbands and wives here," Fuqua said. "Some of the people do it year-round, but we just do it during the winter months."



Patricia Owen and her granddaughter, Jordan Woltemath, wait for customers at the indoor flea market snack bar, located in the Zurko Midwest Productions building in downtown Shawano. Owen supplies customers and vendors with a variety of candy, drinks and chips. Woltemath helps out behind the counter, while selling her own hand-crafted jewelry.

LYNN ZAFFRANN



Gordon Fecyk, right, displays his items at a recent Saturday Indoor Flea Market in Shawano. He has been buying and selling 1980's vintage computers, such as Commodore 16s and Apple II's, since 2022. Tim Zurko, left, is the son of Irene and Bob Zurko, owners of Zurko Midwest Productions. Tim manages the Saturday flea markets, where many pieces of vintage memorabilia are displayed, such as a sign from Angie's Main St. Cafe.

LYNN ZAFFRANN

Plea deal offered to Pedro Noriega-Avila

New hearing set for April to determine if trial needed

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

A plea offer is in the hands of attorneys representing Pedro Noriega-Avila, they told Shawano-Menominee County Circuit Court Judge William Kussel Jr. on Feb. 14, but they need some time



PEDRO NORIEGA-AVILA

to decide whether to accept it or proceed to trial. Kussel granted the request and set a new hearing for 3 p.m. April 10 in Branch II in the Shawano County Courthouse, where it's expected there will either be a plea, or arrangements will be made to set a new trial date.

Noriega-Avila was originally scheduled to stand trial in August 2023 on one count of sexual

assault of a child under age 13, two counts of sexual assault of a child and two counts of incest with a child by stepparent. The trial was halted after his attorney at the time, Sara Stertz, stepped down due to being in the late stages of pregnancy and disagreement with her client on defense strategies.

Since then, Noriega-Avila had been without representation. Court records show James Scoenecker was appointed Jan. 4 to represent the defendant, and Joe Furnstahl was also appointed on Feb. 1.

The criminal complaint states that Noriega-Avila allegedly went into his stepdaughter's room between September 2009 and June 2010 and assaulted her. It goes on to say that additional incidents occurred in 2014 and 2015. Noriega-Avila married the victim's mother on July 9, 2010.

Noriega-Avila initially appeared before Kussel on June 10, 2016, and subsequently posted a \$5,000 cash bond. Noriega-Avila was then ordered to appear on June 20, 2016, but he did not show up, and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

Noriega-Avila faces a maximum of 40 years in prison and \$100,000 fine for each of the incest counts and the latter two sexual assault counts. For the child sexual assault in 2010, he faces up to 60 years in prison.

Noriega-Avila was missing from the court for almost five years until his arrest in Arizona in 2021. Law enforcement responded to a U.S. Border Patrol station on March 13, 2021, regarding the warrant issued by the Shawano-Menominee County Circuit Court for Noriega-Avila, and the defendant

was already in custody when officers arrived.

In April 2021, extradition documents were issued by the county for Noriega-Avila, who was brought back to Shawano County in July 2021.

Noriega-Avila remains in the Shawano County Jail on a \$500,000 cash bond. He has been incarcerated for over two years, mainly because of the difficulty in finding an attorney the first time around. It took until late 2022 before Stertz was found to handle the case.

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WRLHS gets grant to educate about opioids

Principal to present workshop on information, alternatives

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

Wolf River Lutheran High School is sounding the alarm about the opioid crisis and how, even in Shawano County, the drug problem has taken hold.

The school recently received a \$5,000 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to educate students and the community about drugs



SHELLIE KOSMERCHOK

recently went through an eight-hour training session to learn the latest on opioids, signs that teens are using them and what parents and others can do if they sense someone is on opioids.

Kosmerchok is holding three in-school workshops in February. One addresses opioids, the second concerns marijuana and the third discusses vaping.

in general with an emphasis on opioids. Principal Shellie Kosmerchok recently went

“With our kids, they have to take a pre-test, a post-test, and then they have to create a wellness plan,” Kosmerchok said. Kosmerchok will also be leading a community workshop from 9-11 a.m. March 2 at WRLHS, W7467 River Bend Road, Shawano, to discuss opioids in a format geared to parents. She noted that the workshop is not restricted to families with students at her school but is open to the entire community, for anyone who wants to listen.

“The rationale is to make parents aware,” Kosmerchok said to explain why she applied for the

DPI grant. “This information is from the Prevention Plus Wellness program.”

Kosmerchok said the information will help parents ensure their teens are leading “a healthy life.” She noted that the school has not dealt with any opioid problems on campus so far, but that the students are dealing a lot with anxiety and depression, both of which can lead people to turn to drugs for a solution.

“It leads them to do unhealthy things in their lives,” Kosmerchok said. “The program here gives them tools, and for the parents, it’s to promote healthiness in their stu-

dents so they’ll be able to see signs.”

Kosmerchok said many parents are unaware of the dangers of opioids. She noted there’s plenty of education out there about hard drugs, but opioids tend to be more insidious.

“A lot of it is the prescription drugs,” Kosmerchok said. “It’s not even so much the heroin or the oxy(codone) on the street or whatever. It’s from their friends.”

The benefit of Prevention Plus Wellness is that it doesn’t just preach that drugs are bad. Kosmerchok said it also provides healthy alternatives to dealing with anxiety and depression.

The community workshop is expected to talk about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, survey parents on their knowledge about opioids, give positive messages that can be passed on to teens, symptoms of drug abuse and tips on what to do if someone overdoses on opioids.

“This is to give them resources that they’ll be able to learn from,” Kosmerchok said. “There isn’t as much opioid use or deaths in our areas as there are in other areas, but it’s still there. It’s still happening.”

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Now's the time to consider flood insurance

Official suggests not waiting until waters begin to rise

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-chief

One inch of water can lead to thousands of dollars in damage to a home or business, so local and state officials encourage owners and renters to consider flood insurances.

Most homeowners and renters insurance policies do not cover flood damage, and on average, 40% of National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) flood insurance claims occur outside of high-risk flood areas. With increasing annual precipitation in Wisconsin, flood insurance is a tool to help prevent financial vulnerability.

Federal flood insurance is available to residents

through the National Flood Insurance Program if the local community is a member of the National Flood Insurance Program.

Flood insurance coverage includes buildings and possessions for residential and commercial customers.

It covers many direct losses from a flood, including foundations, basements and crawl spaces, appliances, debris removal, walls and floor-

ing, electrical, plumbing and HVAC systems, furnaces and water heaters, and more.

Insurance can be purchased through the NFIP to cover agricultural structures but not crops or livestock.

According to the DNR, here are a few things to consider when contemplating whether to purchase flood insurance.

- Since October 2016, 20 of 72 counties in Wisconsin have received federal disaster declarations due to flooding.

- A 1% chance flood (or 100-year event) can happen four or more times during a 30-year mortgage.

- In Wisconsin, annual average precipitation rose by about 3.1 inches between 1950 and 2006 representing a 10% increase.

- Over the next 50 years, the observed trend toward an increase in the annual amount of precipitation is expected to continue, according to the Wisconsin Emergency Management 2016 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Homeowners and renters are encouraged to talk to their local insurance agent or visit floodsmart.gov to learn more.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) floodplain program manages community enrollment in the National Flood Insurance Program, with staff serving as experts on federal flood insurance.

“Flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program is one of the tools that builds flood resiliency into our Wisconsin communities,” said Sarah Rafajko, State of Wisconsin National Flood Insurance Program coordinator at the DNR. “Don’t wait until flood waters are rising to explore insurance.”

There is usually a 30-day waiting period before National Flood Insurance Program policies go into effect, so signing up today ensures residents have coverage in place by the time spring showers start to hit Wisconsin.

Those who own property in Special Flood Hazard Areas are re-

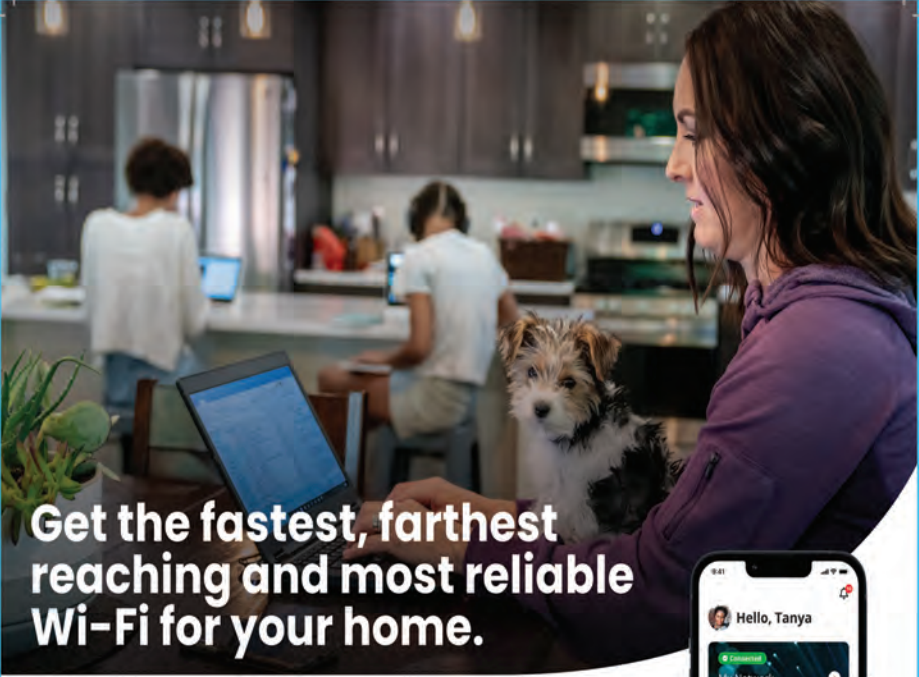
quired to purchase flood insurance if they have a mortgage from a federally regulated lender. Those not required to have the coverage should also consider their flood risks.

Additionally, the Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance has a number of resources available to help consumers understand flood insurance at oci.wi.gov/ flood and information on mitigating flood risk at oci.wi.gov/disasters.

“One inch of water can cause up to \$25,000 in damage, so even small or moderate floods can be financially devastating if you don’t have the right insurance,” said Wisconsin Commissioner of Insurance Nathan Houdek. “Whether you rent or own, there is flood insurance coverage available for your needs.”

Learn more about flooding and flood insurance on the DNR’s floodplain webpage at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/FloodPlains/insurance.html>.

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Snowmelt and wet weather increase flood risk in spring, but Wisconsinites can protect themselves with flood insurance. CONTRIBUTED

Crack sealing, microsurfacing bids approved

Shawano streets expected to last longer with 2 projects

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

Street projects have already been determined for the city of Shawano for 2024, but the Shawano Common Council signed off on spending nearly \$100,000 to help keep the streets not being rehabilitated going for just a little longer.

The council approved a \$46,810 bid from Fahrner

Asphalt Sealers for microsurfacing work, the lower of two bids submitted. The council also approved a \$49,250 bid from Asphalt Seal and Repair for crack sealing, which beat out three other bidders for the project.

Scott Kroening, public works director, noted that the two programs help to keep the streets going well beyond their typical 20-year shelf life.

“This is probably the biggest bang for our buck to extend the lifetime of our streets,” Kroening said about the city’s crack sealing work. “We’ve been doing it for over 20 years. It’s always been a good program, I believe.”

Asphalt Seal and Repair has won bids the last two years for crack sealing, which prevents water from reaching and damaging the base material of

the streets, and Kroening said the company has done excellent work. The company’s bid helped the project come in just under the city’s \$50,000 budget, as the other three bids shot well above it.

Microsurfacing on city streets involves putting a slurry coat on the roads, and the program was started by the city in 2016.

“It’s like the slurry coat on driveways, but it’s much more than that,” Kroening said. “This is all

to extend the life of that pavement and give her some longevity.”

Street life is usually 20 years, but with the two projects combined, Kroening said the streets can last another 10 years before complete rehabilitation is needed.

Kroening noted he likes the work Fahrner has done recently on Shawano streets, noting their project seems a little thicker, which translates to better patch work. Fahrner’s bid,

though the lowest, was over the \$45,000 budgeted for the program, but savings anticipated from other capital projects should compensate for the additional \$1,810, according to Kroening.

Alderman John Hoeffs believes crack sealing has a better track record at extending street life.

“Crack sealing seems to last longer than the microsealing,” Hoeffs said.

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

More cameras being purchased for Shawano schools

School board agrees to spend almost \$197K to cover all schools

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

The Shawano School Board voted Feb. 12 to use a portion of its remaining \$1.1 million of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Resource (ESSER) funds to purchase additional cameras to

make sure hallways and classrooms are covered in case of hostile activity.

The school district will purchase the cameras from Wire Technologies in Kaukauna for Hillcrest Primary School, Olga Brenner Intermediate School and Shawano Community Middle School to the tune of almost \$197,000. The district had previously purchased some cameras to the tune of \$100,000 but quickly discovered that the number barely covered Shawano Community High School, according to dis-

trict technology director Eric Brunner. The ESSER funds have to be spent by the end of September.

“We have a need for additional cameras throughout our schools,” Brunner said.

The total number of cameras will be 475 among all four schools once the latest installation is complete. Once finished, there is expected to be complete coverage inside and outside of the schools, according to Brunner.

Board member John Arens made the motion to

approve the purchase of the cameras, but he added the caveat that there needs to be an implementation plan submitted to the district’s finance and facilities committee later in February.

“What I’m looking for is who’s on your project team, what their roles are, what the oversight in this project is, because we’re talking about a large number of cameras from an outside vendor,” Arens said. “The vendor’s going to have to adhere to our school safety plan.”

Arens added he wants to implement a plan to include all applicable warranties and who will be doing the maintenance on the cameras, as well as documentation that the cameras were started up and tested properly.

Brunner noted there’s a five-year warranty for the cameras, and there are some security cameras at the school that are still functioning great after eight years.

Board President Mike Musolf said he understood Arens’ concern, especially

with the cameras being a large ticket item.

“It’s really important that we do it right the first time,” Musolf said.

Arens said the cameras should also help when crimes are committed at the school. He noted the recent theft of a catalytic converter from one of the district’s trucks. There was a camera there, but the older style made it difficult to make out the thief.

“The thief looked like Sasquatch,” Arens said.

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

Recognized for outstanding performance



Cleary Building Corp. branch manager Patrick Campbell, left, was recently recognized for outstanding sales performance in 2023. He works out of the company’s Pulaski branch office. He won Cleary’s 2023 Elite Sales Specialist Award. The award is given to top Cleary sales performers for exhibiting a highly professional sales personality, energy, drive and motivation leading to dedication, leadership and excellence in all aspects of sales. His award was presented by Scott Goodell, region manager.

CONTRIBUTED

Submissions sought for Great Waters Photo Contest and Writing Project

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is accepting entries for the 16th annual Great Waters Photo Contest and Writing Project through April 1. The top photographs and writing submissions will be featured in the DNR’s Office of Great Waters next calendar.

The photo contest and writing project highlight how people connect with and value the Great Lakes and Mississippi River, inspiring greater care for these vast yet vulnerable resources.

Eligible entries include photos of Lake Michigan, Lake Superior or the Mississippi River in Wisconsin

and short essays, stories or poems around 200 words inspired by these waters. Written descriptions of stewardship projects or partnerships to help protect or restore Wisconsin’s Great Waters will also be accepted.

Pictures of all seasons are needed and are accepted in the following categories:

- People enjoying Wisconsin’s Great Waters.
- Cultural and historical features.
- Natural features.
- Wildlife.

To review the photo contest and writing project rules and instructions, visit the DNR’s Great Waters

Photo Contest and Writing Project webpage at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/GreatLakes/Contest.html>.

Email all photography entries to DNRGreatWatersPhotoContest@wisconsin.gov and all writing entries to DNRGreatWatersWritingProject@wisconsin.gov by April 1. Include your name, address, phone number and email address with the submission.

For questions about the photo contest or writing project, contact Susan Tesarik, DNR Office of Great Waters, at Susan.Tesarik@wisconsin.gov or 608-977-2416.





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SW 1/4 NE 1/4 SEC 35 T27N R16E PARCEL #044-40130-0000	JESSE MUELLER JERRY BECKER, VENDOR PATTI BECKER, VENDOR	11827	2021	2020	223.33	98.27	250.00	571.60
S.E.1/4 N.E.1/4 EX PRT SOLD IN DOC #556760 SEC.35 T.27N R.16 E. PARCEL #044-40140-0001	JESSE MUELLER	11828	2021	2020	122.83	54.05	250.00	426.88
PRT OF S.E.1/4 N.W.1/4 & PRT OF N.E.1/4 S.W.1/4 COM S 1/4 COR TH N 2131.21'TO POB; TH CONT N 448.52'TH W 1272.89' TH S 20.03'TH E 211.06'TH S 428.66'TH E 1058.15'TO POB SEC.35 T.27N R.16 E. PARCEL #044-40310-0003	JESSE MUELLER	11839	2021	2020	39.08	17.20	250.00	306.28
W 1/2 OF NW 1/4 SE 1/4 SEC 35 T27N R16E ACREAGE PER PLAT OF SURVEY PARCEL #044-40420-0010	JESSE MUELLER	11865	2021	2020	241.95	106.46	250.00	598.41
HIDDEN PINES PART N.E.1/4 S.W.1/4 & FRAC N.W.1/4 S.W 1/4 SEC.6 T.27 R.17 E. LOT 13 PARCEL #044-60150-0120	STEVEN J MATEKEL	11971	2021	2020	1,145.32	503.94	250.00	1,899.26
TOWN OF WAUKECHON								
NW 1/4 FRAC NW 1/4 2-26-16EX BROOK'S PLAT OF LIME KILN & EX W 49.5'OF S 231'N&E LOT 1 BROOK PLAT OF LIME KILN & COM SE COR LOT 3 SD PLAT TH ANG 14DEG 9'LF 269.2'TO POB TH ANG 108DEG30'LF 934.5'TH ANG24DEG45'RT246.6'TH ANG 4 DEG24'RT INTERS E LN SD40 TH S ON SD LN 500'MOL TH LF 82DEG30'260'MOL TH 95DEG LF 317.5'TH ANG17DEG18'LF TH S 2DEG W364'N BDY OLD 29 TH NW ALG N BDY OLD 26 TO POB PARCEL #046-02220-0000	JESSE MUELLER	11164	2021	2020	183.80	80.87	250.00	514.67
N.E.1/4 S.W.1/4 EX HWY DES V.795 P.127 AND EX CERT SUR REC V.8 P.310 SEC.2 T.26N R.16 E. PARCEL #046-02310-0010	JESSE MUELLER	11167	2021	2020	398.01	175.12	250.00	823.13
S.E.1/4 S.W.1/4 EX W 24'SEC 2 T.26 R.16 E. PARCEL #046-02340-0000	JESSE MUELLER	11170	2021	2020	359.77	158.30	250.00	768.07
NE 1/4 FRAC NW 1/4 EX V15 CSM P124 & EX THE S 33' RD SEC 3 T26N R16E PARCEL #046-03210-0010	JESSE MUELLER	11184	2021	2020	301.10	132.48	250.00	683.58
BROOKS PLAT OF LIME KILN SEC 2 T26N R16E LOTS 2 & 3 ACREAGE PER PLAT OF SURVEY PARCEL #046-40050-0000	JESSE MUELLER	11792	2021	2020	5.86	2.58	250.00	258.44
TOWN OF WESCOTT								
PRT OF S.E.1/4 S.E.1/4 THAT PRT LYG SE OF EDGEWOOD ROAD SEC.20 T.27N R.16 E. PARCEL #048-20440-0001	KLAYTON E KELLOGG LYDIA FELIZ	11508	2021	2020	294.37	129.52	250.00	673.89
COM NW COR N.W.1/4 N.W.1/4 TH S ALG SEC LN 285'TO POB TH CONT SD LN85'S TH E TO E BDY NW-NW-NW TH N 21'TH N85 DEG44'W TO POB S.30T.27R.16 PARCEL #048-30220-0040	DR R C SAMANTA ROY IN- STITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, INCORPORATED	11659	2021	2020	2,251.98	990.87	250.00	3,492.85
N 140'OF S 290'N.W.1/4 N.W. 1/4 N.W.1/4 & TH PRT DES V. 664 P.739 SEC.30 T.27 R.16 E. PARCEL #048-30220-0050	DR R C SAMANTA ROY IN- STITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, INCORPORATED	11660	2021	2020	6,461.45	2,843.04	250.00	9,554.49
S 150'OF N.W.1/4 N.W.1/4 N. W.1/4 EX PRT DES V.664 P. 739 SEC.30 T.27 R.16 E. AND N5654 ST 47-55 HWY PARCEL #048-30220-0060	MIDWEST PROPERTIES OF SHAWANO LLC	11661	2021	2020	3,839.72	1,689.48	250.00	5,779.20
ACHTEN'S FIRST ADDITION TO SUNSET VIEW SEC 24 T27N R15E LOT 7 BLK 3 PARCEL #048-40100-0060	BEIT MAMTAKIM CORPORA- TION OF USA INCORPORATED	11820	2021	2020	5,212.23	2,293.38	250.00	7,755.61
PARKWOOD ESTATES PART N.E. 1/4 & S.E.1/4 SEC.1 T.27 R. 16 E. LOT 66 PARCEL #048-70350-0690	DON W STIEGLBAUER	12098	2021	2020	174.34	76.71	250.00	501.05
WESCOTT ACRES PRT OF N FRAC 1/2 OF NE 1/4 DES V.427 P2 SEC 1 T27N R16E LOT 17 PARCEL #048-85150-0160	RODNEY A BORKENHAGEN	12224	2021	2020	132.48	58.29	250.00	440.77
WESCOTT ACRES PRT OF N FRAC 1/2 OF NE 1/4 DES V427 P2 SEC 1 T27N R16E LOT 18 PARCEL #048-85150-0170	RODNEY A BORKENHAGEN	12225	2021	2020	132.48	58.29	250.00	440.77
WESCOTT ACRES PRT OF N FRAC 1/2 OF NE 1/4 DES V427 P2 SEC 1 T27N R16E LOT 19 PARCEL #048-85150-0180	RODNEY A BORKENHAGEN	12226	2021	2020	128.78	56.66	250.00	435.44
VILLAGE OF ANIWA								
VIL OF ANIWA NE 1/4 NW 1/4 E 600' OF W 804' OF S 600 FT SEC 8 T29N R11E PARCEL #101-08210-0010	BEVERLY J FAUST	11281	2021	2020	51,099.17	22,483.64	250.00	73,832.81
VIL OF ANIWA OBERWIESER'S SUB-DIV BLK 26 LOT 4 BLK 2 PARCEL #101-70050-0140	SEAN LOCKE JULIE LOCKE	12015	2021	2020	535.87	235.79	250.00	1,021.66
VIL OF ANIWA OBERWIESER'S SUB-DIV BLK 26 LOT 7 & 8 BLK 2 PARCEL #101-70050-0170	SEAN LOCKE JULIE LOCKE	12018	2021	2020	308.89	135.91	250.00	694.80
VIL OF ANIWA ORIGINAL PLAT LOTS 1-2 & 3 BLK 5 PARCEL #101-70100-0060	DIANE L SIBILIA CHARLES R JAMES	12060	2021	2020	12.32	5.42	250.00	267.74
VIL OF ANIWA ORIGINAL PLAT E 1/2 LOTS 5 & 6 BLK 5 PARCEL #101-70100-0070	DIANE L SIBILIA CHARLES R JAMES	12062	2021	2020	4.61	2.03	250.00	256.64
VILLAGE OF BONDUEL								
VIL OF BONDUEL WESTPHAL & LANGE'S PLAT 2ND ADDITION LOT 16 BLK 2 & LOT 17 V326 P111 PARCEL #107-85100-0340	TINA RADTKE	12217	2021	2020	1,133.02	498.53	250.00	1,881.55
VIL OF BONDUEL WHITNEE WOODS PLAT SEC 8 T26N R17E LOT 7 PARCEL #107-87100-0060	JAMES F HUTTER SUZANNE HUTTER	12234	2021	2020	669.49	294.58	250.00	1,214.07
VILLAGE OF BOWLER								
VIL OF BOWLER PRT S.W.1/4 N.W.1/4 COM 25'N & 33'E OF W 1/4 SEC COR TH E100'TH 128'TH W100'TH 128'TO POB SEC.31 T.28 R.13 E PARCEL #108-31230-0220	MERLE R MOEDE CINDY PUKALL MOEDE	11672	2021	2020	771.93	339.65	250.00	1,361.58
VILLAGE OF CECIL								
VIL OF CECIL FREEBORNS ADD LOT 6 BLK 1 SEC 20 T27N R17E PARCEL #111-50050-0060	ELLEN S KOEPPEN JORDAN KOEPPEN	11914	2021	2020	1,174.35	516.72	250.00	1,941.07
VILLAGE OF ELAND								
VILLAGE OF ELAND LULL & MYLREA'S ADD WAS LOT 1 & PRT LOT 2 V15 CSM P87 MAP #3527 SEC 31 T28N R11E NKA LOT 1 CSM MAP #4707 PARCEL #121-65050-0040	BRETT J ROEHL	11976	2021	2020	374.42	164.74	250.00	789.16
VILLAGE OF MATTOON								
VILLAGE OF MATTOON ORIGINAL PLAT LOTS 4 & 5 BLK 18 PARCEL #151-70050-0300	GERALDINE T COX	12024	2021	2020	1,169.18	514.44	250.00	1,933.62
VILLAGE OF MATTOON ORIGINAL PLAT LOT 6 BLK 20 PARCEL #151-70050-0510	REBECCA L OSBORN	12028	2021	2020	1,064.41	468.34	250.00	1,782.75
VILLAGE OF MATTOON ORIGINAL PLAT E 60'LOTS 1 & 2 ALL LOTS 3-4 & 5 & LOT 6 EX E 28'BLK 22 PARCEL #151-70050-0580	RONALD K MONTEITH TREVOR D BURNS	12034	2021	2020	421.08	185.28	250.00	856.36
VILLAGE OF TIGERTON								
TH PRT OF S.W.1/4 N.W.1/4 KNOWN AS LOT 2 CERT SUR REC V.4 P.265 MAP #1211 SEC.9 T.26 R.12 E. & HWY ACCESS RESTRICT DES V.878 P.173 PARCEL #186-09230-0010	PERFORMANCE TORQUE CONV	11303	2021	2020	177.29	78.01	250.00	505.30
VILLAGE OF TIGERTON MILL SITE DES V.288 P.611 PRT S 1/2 S.W.1/4 SEC.9 T.26 R.12 E. PARCEL #186-65050-0020	PAMELA M WHITEWING JOHN A WHITEWING	11975	2021	2020	121.71	53.55	250.00	425.26
VIL TIGERTON ORIGINAL PLAT LOT 3 & 4 BLK 33 PARCEL #186-70050-1320	GARY L HARGROVE JODY L HARGROVE	12049	2021	2020	327.52	144.11	250.00	721.63
VIL. TIGERTON ORIGINAL PLAT LOTS 1 & 2 BLK 34 EX S 10' PARCEL #186-70050-1360	BRIAN K JENSEN AMY JENSEN	12050	2021	2020	2,596.55	1,142.48	250.00	3,989.03
VIL. TIGERTON ORIGINAL PLAT LOT 3 BLK 34 EX S 10' PARCEL #186-70050-1370	BRIAN K JENSEN AMY JENSEN	12051	2021	2020	968.74	426.25	250.00	1,644.99

House wrens not just one-note birds in Wisconsin

Sadly, my mom passed away last fall. In the midst of cleaning out her things for auction, I was so consumed with grief that I couldn't think straight. So, when the auctioneer put the birdhouses in a box to sell, I didn't think anything of it. Now, months later, I realize the birdhouse of Mom's annual visitor, a house wren, is gone.

Every summer, a house wren calls Mom's backyard home. When she arrives and begins bringing nesting material into the birdhouse, Mom would call me and announce, "She's back."

Her house wren was very successful in raising baby wrens. It was hard to get a look at the babies inside of the house, so when they first appeared out of the house, Mom would call me and announce, "The babies are out."

Once they fledge, the backyard would turn into a revelry of birds flying here and there, then pausing to try out their vocals and learn the songs. If you've never heard a wren sing, it is equivalent to a glorious opera singer belting out a cheerful melody for the whole neighborhood to hear. One reason their song is so remarkable is that they can hit two notes at the same time.



Lisa Jansen
Columnist

Mom and I would watch them for hours. We sat on the patio drinking lemonade and eating Rice Krispies bars. It was one of those little moments that have become one of my big memories.

I think I will put up a new wren house in Mom's yard, at the end of the clothes line, where the other had been. When the house sells, I will tell the new owners about Mom's wren in hopes they leave the birdhouse up. They would not need to put up a bird feeder; house wrens are not picky eaters. They eat small flies, spiders and insects like beetles and caterpillars. If you set out mealworms, they wouldn't complain.

There are 10 species of wrens in the United States. Wisconsin has four — the house wren, winter wren, sedge wren and marsh wren. I have seen all but the winter wren. I hear him often in the Northwoods. He doesn't fly away when I walk by, but instead he continues to sing. The thickness of the brush allows him to hide from me in plain

sight. Perhaps, this year is the year he flies out of the thicket to say hello.

I've also seen four other wrens — the Carolina wren, cactus wren, rock wren and the canyon wren. The Carolina wren lives year-round in the Eastern half of the U.S. but its range doesn't usually include Wisconsin. I first spotted one at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in Florida. The cactus wren lives year-round in the Southwest U.S. I saw my first one in the Baja California peninsula.

Finding the rock wren and canyon wren are a longer story. In spring of 2023, I spent six weeks hiking and birding in Lake Havasu City, Arizona. On my very first hike there, I saw a rock wren. He was out in the open for all to see. On the other hand, the canyon wren was very elusive. We could hear him in brush alongside the road, but it was too thick for us to spot him.

We often returned to where we had heard him. He was always singing, sometimes in the brush and sometimes in the cliffs above the brush, but we never saw him. On the very last day there, when my husband asked me where I wanted to go, and without hesitation, I said I wanted to go back to find the canyon wren.



Baby house wrens are trying out their vocals on a fence post.

LISA JANSEN

As soon as I got out of the car I could hear him high in the cliff. I looked up and there he was, on the top ledge, in all his splendor for me to see. It was a glorious sight and a great ending to my vacation.

The last two wrens I've yet to see are the Pacific wren, which lives along, you guessed it, the Pacific Coast, and the Bewick's

Wren, which lives in the southern west half of the U.S. and the northern Pacific Coast. I'm going to Arizona in May and will keep a special lookout for him.

I worry about Mom's wren, but I have hope. I hope that when she arrives at Mom's backyard there will be a house ready to welcome her. If not, then soon after she

will find a house close by where she can continue the tradition of raising babies in a backyard and singing loud and clear for all to enjoy. Perhaps Mom will help guide her to her new home.

Lisa Jansen is a Wisconsin master naturalist, nature writer, and award-winning photographer. She specializes in raising awareness of birds and butterflies of the Midwest.

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Bears hit triple digits in win over Coleman

Tigerton wins Central Wisconsin North Conference title with victory over Marion

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

Saturday, Feb. 17 Bonduel

The Bears soared into triple digits with six players scoring in double digits in a 103-61 victory over Coleman in non-conference action.

Bonduel led 46-34 at the break and then poured it on in the second half with a 57-27 score.

Ryan Westrich led the way with 21 points. He was joined by Quinn Wesenberg with 18 points, Race Anvelink with 17, Noah Weier and Carter Moesch each with 12, and Cade Johnson with another 10. For good measure, the other players also scored, as Charlie Tauchen had seven, Sam Roberts hit on four, and Colin Margelofsky had two.

Bonduel improved to 22-1 overall.

Lena

A 61-49 loss to St. Lawrence Seminary dropped Lena to 4-18 overall this season.

Caleb Schlosser scored 15 points, and Mason Spice added 11 for Lena. Also scoring were Anthony Seefeldt with eight, Tyler Shallow with six, Logan Graef with five and Luke Koslowsky with two.

The Wildcats were beat 24-17 in the first half and 37-32 in the second half in the 12-point loss.

Friday, Feb. 16

Gresham

Gresham was decimated 80-13 by Almond-Bancroft in non-conference action.

Tigerton tops Marion

With time running out in the regular season and the Central Wisconsin North Conference title still up in the air, Tigerton grabbed that title with its 36-32 win over Marion.

Tigerton holds on to first place with an 8-2 mark, followed by White Lake at 7-3 and Marion at 6-3. Tigerton is 18-4 overall.

Nearly half of the Tigers' points came from James Brady, who dropped in 17 — including 3-of-5 from the free throw line.

Brady also led his team with 10 rebounds, Sam Anheuser led with three assists, and Cameron Carlson had five steals.

Menominee Indian

The Eagles slipped into last place in the Central Wisconsin East Conference after a 68-59 loss to Shiocton.

Menominee Indian led 33-31 at the break, but the game slipped away from them in the second half with Shiocton fighting back with a 37-26 score for the nine-point win.

Barron Waupoose led the Eagles with 17 points, with Mikey Chapman scoring 15 and Kenew Awonohopay adding 10. Ryan Corn scored nine, and Maech Corn, Jordan Cox and Anikohsaeh Corn each scoring two.

The Eagles are 2-11 in conference play and 3-19 overall.

Oconto Falls

Oconto Falls (2-15, 6-17) lost 63-53 to Denmark in North Eastern Conference action.

Jameson Beaman led the Panthers with 19 points, including four 3-pointers, and Alex Haines had 14 points, including one triple. JJ Pytleski's six points came from a pair of 3-pointers.

Haines pulled down 15 boards for Oconto Falls and also led his team with seven assists. Brady Bursa recorded three steals.

Pulaski

The Red Raiders (8-9, 12-11) were blown away by Fox River Classic Conference leader De Pere (16-0, 21-1) 90-60.

Pulaski was behind by 21 points at halftime and lost ground with a nine-point deficit in the second half.

Bryce Wotruba and Dixon Holewinski led Pulaski with 18 points each. Wotruba connected on 3-of-5 from the 3-point line, while Holewinski went 4-for-5 from the behind the arc. Joseph Mijal scored 11 points, and Ethan Schmidt chipped in another 10. Pulaski's other points were scored by Dylan Dorn (two) and Bohdan Schmidt (one).

Mijal led the team with seven rebounds, Ethan Schmidt had four assists, and Bohdan Schmidt had a pair of steals.

Shawano

Shawano couldn't maintain its lead in the second half against Seymour as the Thunder pulled out a 49-46 win in Bay Conference action.

The loss dropped the Hawks to 5-8 in the conference and 7-15 overall.

Shawano led 21-19 at the break, but Seymour was a bit too much in the 30-25 second half as they snatched the victory from the clutches of the Hawks.

Crew Weisnicht led Shawano with 14 points, including 3-of-6 from the 3-point line and 1-of-2 from the free throw line.

Warren Beyer and Anderson Schmidt each scored eight points, and had two 3-pointers. Logan Sipple scored nine points, and Jerzy Brocker had seven.

Brocker pulled down 11 rebounds, Sipple had four assists, and Brocker and



Shawano and Green Bay East players watch the ball to see where it will fall after a missed basket Feb. 9 in Shawano. The Hawks won the non-conference game 81-56.

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

Beyer each recorded three steals.

Witt-Birn

Wittenberg-Birnhamwood inched closer to second place in the Central Wisconsin East Conference with a 53-43 win over Weyauwega-Fremont.

The Chargers are in third place at 8-5, with Weyauwega-Fremont in second at 9-4. Bonduel is atop the standings at 13-0.

"After losing to Wega by over 20 the first time we played this season, the Chargers dominated from the start tonight," coach Garrett Rogowski said. "It was a great defensive effort holding the Warhawks to 17 points below their season average."

Jett Rogowski was the only Wit-Birn player to hit double digits, but his 23 points clearly helped power the victory. Seven other players scored.

Rogowski and Keegan Schmid each connected on a pair of 3-pointers, and Oliver Fraaza was a perfect 3-for-3 from the free throw line.

Fraaza led his team with five rebounds, and Rogowski led with five assists and four steals.

Thursday, Feb. 15 Bonduel

Race Anvelink's 22 points set the pace for Bonduel in its 70-56 win over Central Wisconsin East Conference opponent Iola-Scandinavia. Of Anvelink's 22 points, including six triples, 19 were scored in the second half.

Ryan Westrich scored 11 points for the Bears, with

Cade Johnson and Noah Weier each adding 10. Colin Margelofsky scored seven, Quinn Wesenberg added five, Sam Roberts had three and Charlie Tauchen contributed two.

Bonduel held a slim four-point lead at the half and widened the margin of victory with a 39-29 second half.

Bonduel, 21-1 overall, is unbeaten in conference play at 13-0.

Gillett

Gillett won its last four Marinette & Oconto Conference games to stay one game behind conference-leader Crivitz.

The Tigers' latest win was a 91-71 victory over Coleman.

Ben Matczak and Jesse DeBauch teamed up for 28 points each in the 20-point win. Aydin Franti scored 21 points, and Thomas Carmody added 10. Garrett Klein and Ryan Pensis each scored two.

Gillett (12-2, 15-7) held a commanding 47-28 lead at the break and, although the second half was much closer, they won that contest, too — 44-43.

Gresham

After beating Bowler on Feb. 2 for its first win of the season, Gresham is back on a four-game losing skid with a 61-58 loss to Stockbridge in non-conference action. The Wildcats are 1-20 overall.

Lena

A 20-point game by Tyler Shallow and points by each of the other six players wasn't enough for Lena, as they lost 63-51 to

Wausaukee.

Wausaukee won the game on both sides of the half, 24-18 before the break and 39-33 after it.

Anthony Seefeldt scored another 10 points for Lena. Also contributing were Caleb Schlosser with nine, Zander Thomson with four, three each by Mason Spice and Mason Belongia, and Logan Graef with two.

Lena dropped to 11-13 in the Marinette & Oconto Conference and 4-17 overall.

Tuesday, Feb. 13 Gresham

Gresham and Wild Rose battled to a 17-17 tie at halftime of their non-conference game; however, the host team blew open the second half with a 34-16 score to defeat Gresham 51-33. Gresham is 1-19 overall.

Menominee Indian

The Eagles lost their sixth consecutive game, dropping a 79-57 non-conference contest against Oconto. Menominee Indian has a 3-18 overall record.

Pulaski

A second-half comeback by Seymour fell short as Pulaski held on for a 62-56 non-conference win. The Red Raiders, 12-10 overall, led 36-20 at the break, with Seymour winning the second half 36-26.

Shawano

The Hawks have been flipping back and forth between wins and losses in their last seven games, with the latest being a 72-55 loss to Rhinelander

in non-conference action. Shawano is 7-14 overall.

Wolf River Lutheran

The visiting White Lake Lakers drowned Wolf River Lutheran 66-24. Wolf River Lutheran scored 12 points in each half, while White Lake scored 32 in the first half and 34 in the second half.

Monday, Feb. 12 Gillett

Gillett fought the good fight but came up short, losing 73-70 to Peshtigo in a non-conference game.

Gillett led 40-39 at the break, but Peshtigo fought back, and with its 34-30 second half, they prevailed in their comeback.

Ben Matczak led the Tigers with 22 points, including six 3-pointers. Jesse DeBauch scored 20 points, including six free throws, and Aydin Franti scored 16 points, including one triple and five free throws.

Thomas Carmody scored another eight points, while Tyler Frank scored four.

The Tigers fell to 14-7 overall.

Menominee Indian

Oneida Nation topped Menominee Indian 64-59 in a non-conference matchup at Oneida Nation High School. The Eagles are 3-17 overall.

Tigerton beats Suring

Leading by a single point at halftime, Tigerton opened up the game with a 30-19 second half to grab at 54-42 non-conference win over Suring.

Maverick Maas and James Brady led the Tigers with 12 points each, and Joey Zimdars added another 10. The other four players also scored, with Sam Anheuser getting seven, Loghan Wanta sinking six, Cameron Carlson with five and Gavin Kielblock with two.

Maas had a pair of 3-pointers, Wanta led the team with eight rebounds, Anheuser had three assists, and Maas recorded three steals.

Tigerton is 17-4 overall, and Suring is 4-17.

Witt-Birn

Wittenberg-Birnhamwood fell to below .500 overall with a 51-36 non-conference loss to Marathon at home.

Marathon controlled the game with a 27-19 first half and 24-17 second half.

Jett Rogowski led Wittenberg-Birnhamwood with 15 points, including two 3-pointers.

The team "played a solid game defensively," coach Garrett Rogowski said. "Offensively, (they) played to within five late in the second half and let it slip the last five minutes."

The Chargers dropped to 10-11 overall.

Wrestlers prepare for state tournament

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Shawano's Drake Herm will represent the Hawks at the boys state wrestling tournament this weekend at the Kohl Center in Madison.

At the sectionals in Kimberly on Feb. 17, Herm battled in the finals match but lost 14-0. In his wrestle back, he pinned Ryan Schmidt of Kaukauna in 42 seconds to qualify for the state tournament. His first match was set for the afternoon of Feb. 22.

"Drake has done such a great job all year long," coach Mike Homan said. "He continues to lead our team, and we are excited to watch him wrestle in Madison this weekend."

Carsen Herm found his way to the finals where he lost by pin to Tanner Hart of Kimberly. He went on to the third-place match and won by fall in 52 seconds over Grant Harris of Hortonville.

"Carsen had a good year. It didn't earn him a trip back to the state tournament, but he had a great season," Homan said. "He has been a rock in our lineup the last three years, and his leadership and wrestling will be missed. We will especially miss the way he earned victories by pin in most matches."

Carsen Herm has the school record for pins in a season at 28.

Drew Chelberg, Connor Chelberg and Brayen Boivin were all out after losing their first-round matches. Homan said all three wrestlers have good years ahead of them.

"Connor has been such a great wrestler for us the last two years," Homan said. "He works tirelessly

and has one of the best work ethics on the team. He has battled hard in every position, and his leadership will be missed. He is one of those special athletes that you cannot replace; you are just glad you had the opportunity to coach him."

At 113, Dane Hodkiewicz had to medical forfeit due to an injury, after earning his way into the second round.

Oconto Falls Sectional

Several area wrestlers advanced to the state tournament after competing in the WIAA Division 2 sectionals at Oconto Falls on Feb. 17.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Brooke Hoffman placed first at 185.

At 148, Cole Bozile (Oconto Falls) beat Colton Klug (Brillion) for second place.

At 144, Andres Sanchez (Wittenberg-Birnamwood) defeated Colin Meiselwitz (Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah/Howards Grove) for second place.

In the second-place match at 165, Bryson Schmid (Wittenberg-Birnamwood) beat Vincent Cook (Freedom).

In the second-place match at 285, Owen Schultz (Wittenberg-Birnamwood) defeated Sam Keuler (Wrightstown).

At 106, Garrett Ganter (Oconto Falls) defeated Logan Boehnlein (Seymour) for third place.

The third-place battle at 190 saw Nick Trepanier (Oconto Falls) defeat Cooper Cappaert (Freedom) 5-3.

Ethan Brissette (Peshtigo) pinned Braeden Groshek (Wittenberg-Birnamwood) in 5:17 for third place at 157. Groshek finished in fourth place.



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Bryson Schmid joined his teammates at the Oconto Falls Sectional wrestling meet Feb. 17. At the end of his day, in the second-place match at 165 pounds, Schmid beat Vincent Cook of Freedom.

TINA BACON

Shawano girls wrestling season ends at sectionals

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Only the first-place finishers at Kimberly's girls wrestling sectionals on Feb. 17 advanced to state. Unfortunately, there are no Shawano girls moving on to the Madison competition.

At 120, Onna Hermann defeated Ramses Trader from Kimberly with a fall in 1:56. In the semifinals, she beat Hannah Huza of Hortonville 8-5. But, in her finals match, she fell to Amari Richard of Neenah 9-2.

Hermann finished her senior year with a 35-8 record.

"Onna did a great job learning the sport in the last two years," coach Mike Homan said. "We will always remember the work she has put into her wrestling and the great matches that she wrestled for us. She will be greatly missed."

Vivian Walburger wrestled in the semifinals at 145. She avenged an early season loss to Erika Hamilton of Menasha by winning by fall in 5:19. In the finals, she lost to Harlow Skenandore of Pulaski in 56 seconds.

"I was proud of Vivian wrestling hard in the semifinals," Homan said.

"The girl that she defeated from Menasha had beaten her about three weeks ago. It was great to see her wrestle much better and defeat her today. I'm looking forward to her working hard this offseason to see what she can do next year."

At 132, Breleigh Thor-nock defeated Issabella Sauter of Appleton West by fall in 1:48. In the next round, she lost to the eventual champion, Lillie Banks of Menasha, by fall in 1:13.

"Breleigh has done a good job this season," Homan said. "She has a lot of work to do but shows some flashes of being a great wrestler. We look forward to seeing her work hard this offseason to see what she can do next year."

At 138, Adalyn Barkley defeated Stella Somers of Appleton West in 1:14 but lost in the semifinals to Leah Kapla of Pulaski in 2:45.

"Adalyn has done a great job in her first year of wrestling," Homan said. "She has made great strides. We look forward to a good offseason of work and a successful season of wrestling next year."

At 152, Courtney Schenk won her quarterfinals match over Savannah Pratt of Pulaski by fall in 1:40. In semifinals, she lost to Renezmai Rhoades of Bay Port by fall in 5:01.

Schenk went 29-13 during the year.

"She has had a great two-year career and will be missed next season," Homan said.

At 235, Lily Tomas won her semifinals match over Emma Vervrick of Neenah by fall in 4:51. In the finals match, she lost to Allison Abel of Menasha 12-8.

"She has done a great job learning the sport in the last two months," Homan said. "We look forward to her working hard this offseason to come back for a great senior season next year."

At 126, Caitlyn Moede lost her first-round match to Anna Behling of Bay Port by fall in 3:46. "Caitlyn was battling some sickness this week, and it showed in her results," Homan said. "Caitlyn has been a great wrestler for us this season. She had a great two-year career, especially this year going 32-9 during the season."

At 114, Jenna Moede lost her first-round match to Scarlet Beckstrum from Green Bay United 11-8.

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Shawano falls to conference champs in OT

By **DUSTIN RIESE**
Correspondent

Not only that, but sophomore Leah Nordin entered the game 12 points away from 1,000 as all eyes were on her.

Backed by an overall strong defensive performance from top to bottom, Shawano gave Xavier all they could handle as a late-game bucket from Nordin helped keep things close before the teams needed to settle things in overtime. In the extra frame, it was the Xavier defense that came up huge as they forced Shawano to commit several turnovers leading to a 61-57 OT loss for Shawano.

"I thought we played very well, especially defensively," coach Ryan Koenig said. "We didn't shoot well from the free throw line, and against top teams, that can't happen if you want to win."

The intensity on the floor was apparent from the opening tip as Halle Vande Hey opened the scoring with a bucket on the inside. She was responsible for four of her team's first six points, but it was Shawano that did its part to keep things close, trailing 6-5 early. That was until Abby Bystol and Ella Stuber connected for five straight points as Shawano opened up their first lead of the game 10-6.

Shawano continued to maintain its lead over the next five minutes, but Xavier battled back as Faith Hafner picked up six points in a two-minute stretch to put her team back in front 18-16. Once again, Shawano answered

with Natalie Bystol tying things up with a bucket down low before Stuber connected for another three to put Shawano on top 21-18. That was when the Xavier defense took over, as Elle Krull sparked a 12-4 run to end the first half with Xavier in front 30-25.

Shawano couldn't have asked for a better start to the second half as they came out swinging. Abby Bystol wasted no time getting Shawano on the board as she opened the second half with a 3-pointer from the wing. That was followed by a Nordin put back to tie things up, with Trinity Popelka and Abby Bystol capping off a 10-0 run to open the second half to put Shawano back in front 35-30.

In desperate need of points, Joy Krull put an end to the Shawano run with a bucket on the inside before Carsyn Stempa tied things up with a triple. Stempa would follow that triple up with a steal to move Xavier in front as their 11-2 run gave them a 41-37 lead. The remainder of the second was a mix of sloppy play and stingy defense as neither team made things easy for the other.

Xavier maintained their four-point lead until late in the game when Stuber drove baseline to convert the and one, only to miss a free throw. That was followed moments later by another Nordin bucket as Shawano managed to pull within 46-44 only to tie things up 48-48 to force overtime.

For Nordin, her quest for 1,000 will have to wait as she finished with 11



Leah Nordin uses the screen and looks to get to the rim. She needed 12 points to hit 1,000 in her career but ended the night at 999.

DUSTIN RIESE

points to end the game at 999.

With just four minutes standing between them and the end of their regular season, it was the Xavier defense that came out swinging and turned defense into offense. In total, Xavier used a 9-3 run to begin the overtime period and held a 57-51 lead. That brief stretch is what Koenig felt was the difference in the game.

"We had a few too many turnovers in overtime," he said.

Down by six with less than two minutes to go,

Abby Bystol kept things interesting as her and one pulled Shawano within 57-54. Elle Krull extended the lead to 59-54 with an easy layup on the other end only to have Popelka pull Shawano within 59-57 with fewer than 30 seconds to go. That was as close as Shawano would get as Xavier iced the game with a pair of free throws to claim the outright Bay conference title 61-57.

Shawano will return to the court Feb. 23 when they travel to New London for their regional semifinal game.



Brynlie Boyles hustles to chase down a loose ball.

DUSTIN RIESE

Lena's perfect conference record ends

Brooks hits 1,000 points in career; Nordin sets school record with 40 points against Hodags

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

**Friday, Feb. 16
Gillett**
Gillett improved to 10-6 in the Marinette & Oconto Conference with a 55-15

victory over St. Thomas Aquinas Academy. It is the third conference win in a row for Gillett, 14-9 overall.

Lena defeats Suring
Returning to the win column in the Marinette &

Oconto Conference, Lena defeated Suring 77-47.

Lena (15-1, 22-2) lost its only conference game to Coleman earlier but still remains in first place. Suring dropped to 3-13 in conference play and 5-19

overall.

Eva Brooks led Lena with 23 points, with Kali Fischer adding 16 and Madilyn Thomson contributing another 12. Brooks only needed four points going into the game to hit

1,000 for her career. She now rests at 1,019 points.

Thomson and Brooks set the pace with 11 rebounds each. Fischer and Whitney Potter each had four assists, and Fischer grabbed seven steals.

For Suring, it was Bunny Cramer leading the scoring with 15 points.

Lena held a 44-23 first-half lead and then won the second half 33-24.

**Thursday, Feb. 15
Bonduel**
Bonduel closed out the regular season with another win, this time a 63-28 demolishing of Iola-Scandinavia. The Bears finished 14-0 in the Central Wisconsin East Conference at 22-2 overall.

Bonduel dominated the game with a 35-11 first half and a 28-17 second half.

Gresham
Gresham saw its six-game winning streak come to an end with a 60-36 non-conference loss at Almond-Bancroft. The

Wildcats are 17-5 overall.

Lena
Lena's perfect Marinette & Oconto Conference record came to an end with a 53-43 loss to Coleman.

Lena (14-1, 21-2) trailed 26-17 at halftime. Coleman won the second-half battle as well, 27-26.

Eva Brooks led the Wildcats with 19 points. Madilyn Thomson's nine points came from three 3-pointers, and six of Whitney Potter's seven points were from a pair of triples. Kali Fischer scored six points for Lena, and Alabama Lambert had two.

Brooks also led her teammates with 12 rebounds and four assists. Brooks and Fischer each had five steals.

Menominee Indian
The Eagles dropped a 5-50 decision to Shiocton in Central Wisconsin East Conference action. Menominee Indian is 5-8

GIRLS, CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

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Area boys hockey teams' postseason play comes to an end

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

Waupaca 4, Antigo 2
A pair of goals in the last minutes of play ended the season for the Antigo Red Robins boys hockey team on Feb. 15.

The No. 5 seeded Red Robins, a co-op team with Wittenberg-Birnamwood, lost 4-2 to No. 4 seed Waupaca in the WIAA Division 2 Sectional 2 regional round.

The Comets opened the game with a goal in the first period another in second to take a 2-0 lead. Eli Kassler's short-handed goal at 13:59 in the second period made it 2-1.

Owen Dickman tied the game at 2-2 at 7:02 in the third period. However, Waupaca's Liam Bloedow scored twice at the end of the game, first at 16:08 and then at 16:37, to steal the contest from Antigo.

Antigo was penalized there times for six mantes, and Waupaca was called for two infractions for four minutes.

The Red Robins combined for 14 shots on goal, while the Comets had 41.

Fond du Lac 9, Shawano 1
Fond du Lac poured in four goals in the first period en route to a 9-1 victory over Shawano in the Division 1 Sectional 2 WIAA regional game Feb. 13.

Shawano's lone goal



Shawano and Antigo hockey teams squared off Feb. 8 at the Crawford Center, with the Red Robins, a co-op team with Wittenberg-Birnamwood, coming out on top 6-2. Both teams lost tin their opening round games in the WIAA postseason last week, with Antigo losing 4-2 to Waupaca and Shawano, a co-op team with Bonduel, losing 9-1 to Fond du Lac.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

came from Blake Knope at 1:20 in the second period to make the game 4-1. Gavin Hundt and Cam Schroeder assisted on the goal.

The Cardinals scored three times in the second period and another two times in the third period for the lopsided win.

The No. 13 seed Shawano was called for five penalties and served 18 minutes, while No. 4 seed Fond du Lac was hit with two infractions for seven minutes.

Shawano used two goalies in the game. Tyson Lyons played one period, gave up four goals and recorded 13 saves. Kaiden Thornborrow played two periods, gave up five goals and noticed 17 saves.

Offensively, Shawano

managed only nine shots on goal.

Bay Port 6, Ashwaubenon 0
Bay Port, the No. 1 seed, shut out Ashwaubenon 6-0 in the second round of the WIAA Division 1 Sectional 2 postseason Feb. 15, ending the season for the Jaguars.

The Pirates scored twice in the first period and four times in the third.

Ashwaubenon is a co-op team with Pulaski.

Ashwaubenon 3, Sheboygan South 2
Ashwaubenon defeated Sheobygan South in the opening round of the WIAA Division 1 Sectional 2 postseason Feb. 13. Ashwaubenon was seeded No. 9, and Sheboygan South was No. 8.

GIRLS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

in league play and 9-14 overall.

Oconto Falls
Oconto Falls' regular season ended with a 59-24 loss to North Eastern Conference foe Freedom.

No Panther scored in double digits, with Amber Otto leading her teammates with seven points.

The Panthers were down by 15 at the break; a 20-point second-half deficit sealed the game for Freedom.

The Panthers finished the regular season at 9-9 in the conference and 13-11 overall.

Pulaski
Pulaski slipped to 9-9 in the Fox River Classic Conference after a 72-30 loss to De Pere.

De Pere held the early lead, 35-26, at the half and blew the game open with a 37-4 second half.

Maggie Lardinois led Pulaski with 11 points.

Olivia Sprangers helped the Red Raiders with eight points, Lily Urban added five, and Ellie Mangold, Ashley Servais and Reese Lardinois each had two.

Witt-Birn
Wittenberg-Birnamwood closed out is regular season with a 61-37 thrashing of Weyauwega-Fremont in Central Wisconsin East Conference action.

The victory put the Chargers at 12-2 and in second place in the conference and 22-2 overall.

Tuesday, Feb. 13 Bowler

Bowler lost a non-conference game, 70-46, to Wild Rose. Bowler battled from behind much of the game, trailing 34-21 at intermission and then getting outscored 36-25 in the second half.

Isabella Stevens led the

Panthers with 13 points, while Natalie Rickert had 10. Bertina Dodge added nine, and Paige Treptow and Autumn Thiex each scored six.

Stevens led her team with 15 rebounds, Treptow and Stevens each had a pair of assists, and Thiex and Stevens each grabbed three steals.

Gillett tops Suring
Gillett defeated Suring 48-37 in Marinette & Oconto Conference action.

Gillett improved to 9-6 in conference play and 13-9 overall. Suring is 3-12 in the M&O and 5-18 overall.

Marion
Marion's 66-49 non-conference loss to Port Edwards dropped the Mustangs to 4-18 overall.

Oconto Falls
In their final home game of the season, Oconto Falls lost 73-42 in a non-conference battle against Kewaunee.

Shawano
Leah Nordin set a new school record for Shawano with 40 points against the Rhinelander Hodags. That puts Nordin at 988 points in her career.

The Hawks won the non-conference game 67-49 and improves the team to 16-7 overall.

Witt-Birn
Wittenberg-Birnamwood continued its wining ways with a 75-42 non-conference win over Wabeno/Laona. The Chargers are 21-2 overall.

Monday, Feb. 12 Gresham

After slamming White Lake 65-7 on Feb. 9 in White Lake, the Gresham girls welcomed the Lakers to their court and proceeded to throttle them 66-7 in another Central Wisconsin North Conference game.

The Wildcats spread the ball around, with all 10 players adding to the final score.

Emily Jensen led Gresham with 12 points and 10 rebounds. Jesse Jensen and Madolyn Haffner each scored 10 points. Haffner also led the team with seven assists.

Also scoring were: Camille Gourley with eight points; Grace Haffner and Jocelyn Cerveney with six each; Allie Cerveney, Addison Fischer and Janay Pecore-Kirkland with four each; and Alivia Perez with two.

Allie Cerveney and Emily Jensen each had two steals.

Gresham impaired to 8-0 in conference action and 17-4 overall.

Marion
Marion snuck by Goodman/Pembine for a 49-48 non-conference win to give the Mustangs a 4-17 overall record.

Menominee Indian
Ayanna Smith scored 21 points, including four 3-pointers, and Urijah Reeves added 20 as Menominee Indian crushed Green Bay East 82-53 in a non-conference game.

Natalie Peters scored another 10 points for Menominee Indian. Mylee Dixon, Anisa Peters and Keira Nacotee each scored eight, Aaliyah Corn contributed five, and Taylesia Blackowl scored one.

Smith led the Eagles with 11 rebounds, while Reeves had 10. Reeves led her teammates with nine assists, and Nacotee had a pair of steals.

Menominee Indian doubled up on Green Bay East with a 4-20 first half and piled it even more with a 42-33 second half.

Panthers hang tough but fall to Wrightstown

By **DUSTIN RIESE**
Correspondent

When it comes to the Oconto Falls Panthers (6-16, 2-14), things haven't always been pretty, but they have at least been competitive in a lot of games.

That rang true against the Wrightstown Tigers (11-11, 9-7) on Feb. 13 as the Tigers entered their game riding a two-game conference winning streak. Not the same Tigers team of the past, the Panthers held their own most of the night and were within 49-44 with fewer than five minutes to go. That was until a series of turnovers led to an 11-1 Tigers run to put the game out of reach as the Panthers lost 60-50.

One thing about the Panthers this season as opposed to teams in the past is that they have done a much better job starting off strong. Compare that to the past few seasons when they often found themselves down by 20 or more points at the half, and you can see how much improvement

this team has made this season. Wrightstown was another prime example of that as the Panthers' defense came up huge several times in the first half to keep the Tigers' offense in check while their offense did what they had to do.

A big reason for the Panthers overall success in the first half was the play of Jameson Beaman and Alex Haines, who continue to lead the way for this group. Haines has a knack for getting into transition quickly, turning fast break opportunities into easy buckets while Beaman has shown the ability to step outside and inside. Both of them combined for 27 points on the night with Beaman leading the way with 17 points and Haines adding 10.

JJ Pytleski come through with 10 points as those three not only accounted for 37 of the teams 50 points, but helped the Panthers secure a 29-28 lead over the Tigers after one half of play. Once the second half got rolling, the

Tigers came out with a different sense of urgency as they wanted to speed up the tempo.

For the most part, the Panthers matched that tempo as the Tigers were unable to open up a significant lead. However, once Ethan Cyra got going offensively, the momentum started to shift. Cyra scored a game-high 24 points, with half of them coming from beyond the arc.

With Cyra doing his thing offensively, it came down to the Tigers' defense, especially late in the game. Holding a 49-44 lead with just under five minutes to go, Wrightstown began to toughen up on defense and forced the Panthers to work their offense more than they would've liked.

That resulted in several costly turnovers including a couple of steals by Aiden Humphries who converted three of them into late-game layups as part of that 11-1 run late. Humphries finished the game with 12 points.



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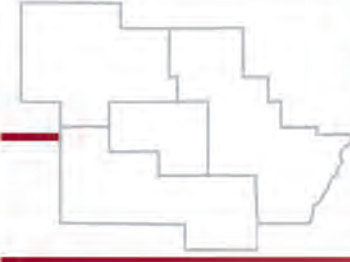
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CITY OF OCONTO FALLS NOTICE – RESOLUTION 24-002 APPROVAL

The following resolution has been passed by the Common Council for the City of Oconto Falls at a meeting held on February 13, 2024. A full text of said resolution may be obtained from the Oconto Falls clerk's office located at 500 N. Chestnut Ave, Oconto Falls, WI 54154. Phone: 920-846-4505.
RESOLUTION 24-002: RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE SUBMISSION OF A "COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – PUBLIC FACILITIES (CDBG PF)" APPLICATION

Posted by City Deputy Clerk
Jenny Friedman

WNAXLP

CITY OF OCONTO FALLS NOTICE – RESOLUTION 24-001 APPROVAL

The following resolution has been passed by the Common Council for the City of Oconto Falls at a meeting held on February 13, 2024. A full text of said resolution may be obtained from the Oconto Falls clerk's office located at 500 N. Chestnut Ave, Oconto Falls, WI 54154. Phone: 920-846-4505.
RESOLUTION 24-001: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ENCOMPASS CHILDCARE SUBMISSION OF A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT (CDI) GRANT APPLICATION TO WISCONSIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (WEDC)

Posted by City Deputy Clerk
Jenny Friedman

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Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
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- ACROSS
- 1 Secret trove

6 Conspiracy

10 Retro ski lift

14 C sharp equivalent

19 WWII sub

20 Repetitive learning

21 Actor Cronyn

22 Speak from a podium

23 Cleopatra star

26 Horse opera

27 Unit of force

28 Fish-eating furry mammals

29 Golden Girls star

31 Winter Games vehicle

33 "Darn it!"

35 Tie tightly

36 Mileage-rating org.

37 \$, in exchange rate tables

40 Must-have

42 "Piece of cake!"

45 Some Like It Hot star

49 Abated

53 No gentleman

54 Two on stage

55 Snoop around

57 Bank job

58 Spider incubators

61 Robbins of ice cream fame

63 Bunch of buddies

66 Earnest request

67 Patched, as a lawn

69 Woes

72 Mormons, in brief

73 Scandal star

76 Give in to gravity

79 Began wholeheartedly

80 Fishing strings with multiple hooks
- 84 Clothed (in)

86 Blackbird

87 Genesis ship

89 Sentry

90 Go off-script

92 Crafty

94 Inside info

96 Penitent

97 Erie-to-Ontario river

100 Fifty Shades series star

104 Orner

106 Forbidden action

107 Opposite of WNW

108 --Cone (icy treat)

111 Medal recipient

112 Cherished

115 "Just leave -- me"

117 North by Northwest star

120 Wise Greek goddess

122 Wine barrel

126 Scoundrel

127 Grammer's brother on Frasier

130 "-- ears" ("Do tell")

131 Jane Austen novel

132 Actor Epps or Sharif

133 Paddled craft

134 Evergreen trees

135 Primatologist Fossey

136 Project Apollo landers

137 Not a secret
- DOWN
- 1 Signaled to speak

2 With expertise

3 Piggy bank addition

4 Greenish eye color

5 Greek vowel

6 12-year-old, for instance
- 7 Former senator Trent

8 Part of OTOH

9 Aquarium fish

10 "-- kingdom come ..."

11 Tulip or onion

12 One-celled creature

13 Poker ploy

14 Meal delivery company

15 Campus club

16 Wood-turning tool

17 Scarfed down

18 -- firma

24 Golf pro's stumble

25 Up and about

30 Author Quindlen

32 Gasoline descriptor

34 Cut it out

37 Dark brown

38 NCO nickname

39 Pharmacy inventory

41 Tooth-driller's deg.

43 Composer Prokofiev

44 Little chirp

46 "No harm, no foul"

47 Arles affirmative

48 Illustrator Rockwell

50 Pickling herb

51 Secondhand

52 School support grps.

56 Wild stories

59 '80s PC data medium

60 Begin a tennis match

62 Spectacular view

64 Austin Powers' father

65 Arrive at

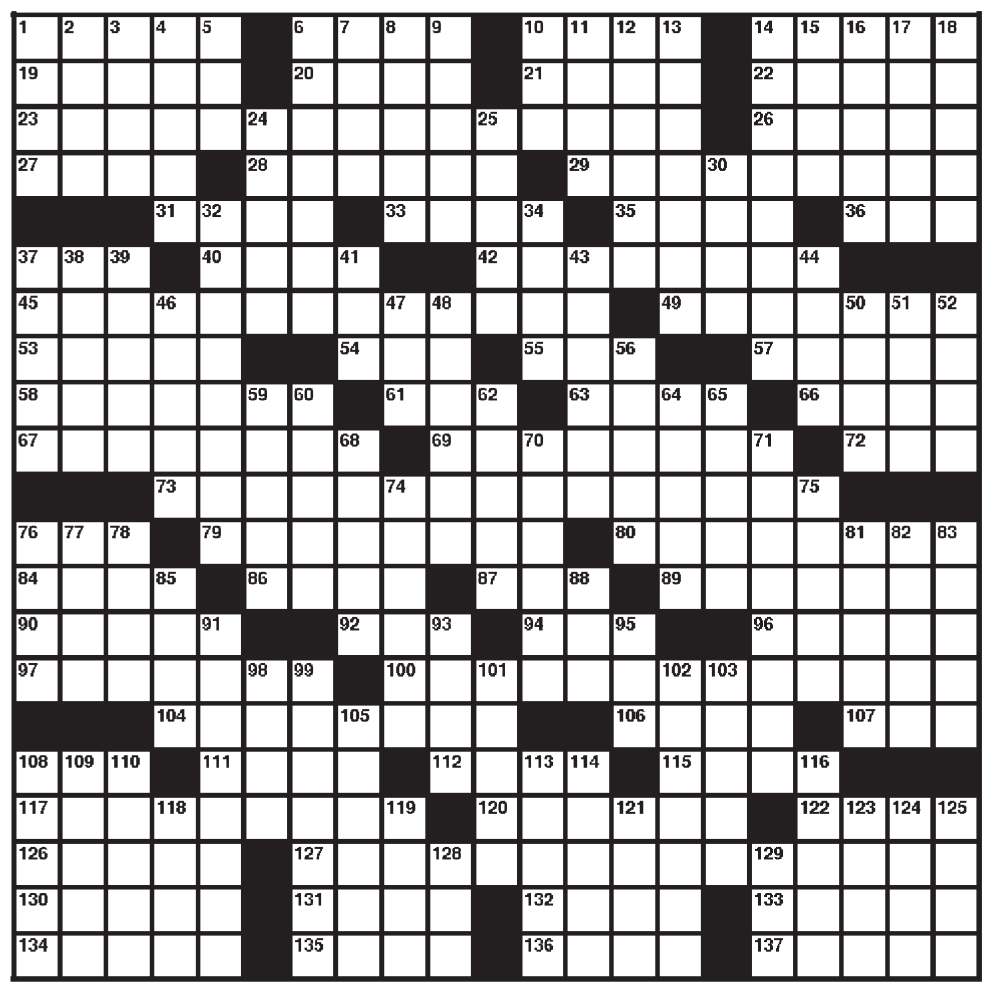
68 Coloring experts

70 Sound in "sock"

71 Single-RBI homer

74 "I'm on it!"

75 Canon competitor



- 76 Quick read

77 German-based grocer

78 Elegant party

81 From Oslo, for instance

82 Money in Madrid

83 Gypsy composer

85 Residence, so to speak

88 Container for tools

91 Body wash products

93 Doghouse locale

95 Skillet or wok
- 98 Regretful person

99 Grated against

101 Work, as dough

102 Those in many clubs

103 At the ready

105 Parisian pal

108 Doc's written order

109 Actress Watts or singer Judd

110 Keyboard with pipes

113 Playwright Fugard
- 114 What blank verse lacks

116 Humpback habitat

118 Year-end season

119 Game of Thrones rating

121 Dutch cheese

123 Pisa's river

124 Trash barge

125 Well-honed

128 Writer Fleming

129 "Ewww!"

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Does sturgeon spearing law need warm-weather clause?

Long-time sturgeon spearkers and residents living around Lake Winnebago have never seen a sturgeon season like this one and hope they never see another.

The worst ice conditions in modern spearing history didn't stop a few from getting on world's largest lake sturgeon fishery and bringing a few of these prehistoric fish to the snowless ice.

If such an unprecedented preseason warm snap returns to Winnebago and the upriver lakes in a future year, can anything be done to postpone the season's start or otherwise prevent a potential tragedy?

That solution depends on the state legislature, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources staff says.

The legislature sets season dates and other regulations on tagging distribution and more, so they are the ones who would need to take action.

"We're sort of entering new territory," said Tom Meronek, fisheries team supervisor for the DNR office in Oshkosh. "If we were told to work on that (regulations changes), we would work on that. It's not our job to ensure the ice is safe. They are getting out safely."

Meronek and most ice fishermen agree that there is never ice that's guaranteed safe. Even in the coldest winter, portions of Lake Winnebago typically have cracks with open water, areas of thin ice near currents and air pockets. Local clubs typically plow the snow to create roads for the spearkers, install metal bridges over the cracks and mark dangerous ice spots with discarded Christmas trees.

This year, there was no snow to plow, and the ice was too thin to drive on with pickup trucks and other heavy-duty vehicles. ATVs were used to move some shanties in just a few areas, while most spearkers opted for hauling light-weight fabric hub blinds or tents in sleds pulled by hand.

That's what Heather Klein and her husband, Scott Klein, of North Fond du Lac did. She waited nine years to finally draw a coveted upriver lakes tag, where shallower water (normally 6-7 feet, compared to 10-15 feet on Winnebago) makes seeing and spearing fish easier. The success rate for upriver lakes spearkers is more than 60%, while it's under 10% on the big lake.

Because spearkers are more successful on Lake Poygan and the other upriver lakes, the DNR only issues these tags after individuals have applied for typically eight or nine seasons and accumulated preference points. There are no limits on tags issued for



The biggest fish for Day 6 of the season was a 109.8-pound, 70.8-inch, F4 female lake sturgeon speared by Devin Bovee. WISCONSIN DNR



Winnebago because of the low harvest rate.

By state law, the sturgeon spearing season starts on the second Saturday in February and continues for 16 days or until any of the sex-specific harvest quotas are reached. The upriver lakes and Winnebago have separate quotas (as well as an overall systemwide quota), so it's typical for upriver lakes spearkers to end their season in just a few days. Meronek said the upriver quota is set so spearkers take about 5% of the overall 40,000-fish population.

Spearkers typically take 702 (2021) to 783 (2023) fish for the entire system on opening weekend, but this year it was just 122 fish, Meronek said.

With fewer spearkers and fewer fish taken, could the season be extended this year or upriver lakes tag recipients be reissued tags next year? Not without legislative changes, he explained.

"We have no way to cancel or delay a season to the following year," he said.

Reissuing upriver lakes tags the following year would potentially double the normal 500-tag limit there, likely creating a shorter season and possibly exceeding the harvest quota in a day or two, he added.

Heather Klein has speared for 16 years, entering the Wisconsin tradition because of her husband. She's seen small fish swim past her shack's hole on Winnebago, but this is her

first time on Poygan. Scott got her set up there on opening weekend, but the gear was reinvented to accommodate the thinner ice (about 10 inches during the first week, Heather Klein said). A few used ATVs to move their gear, but most just went on foot, as she did, walking more than a half mile one way.

Scott Klein came up with a way to hold the spear over the hole, using a curtain rod and a support arm stuck in the ice. Sturgeon spears have heavy steel heads, much too heavy to hold for the 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily spearing hours. They used their traditional chainsaw hole-cutting gear but a pop-up hub tent and portable propane heater subbed for the heavy wooden shanty and 20-gallon propane heater of their normal season.

"I was hesitant," Heather Klein said. "But Scott knows where it's safe and where it's not, and I trust him."

Thousands of spearkers decided to stay off the ice this season, including Steve Klein of North Fond du Lac, a 40-year spearing veteran who normally helps plow the Lake Winnebago roads as part of the West Shore Fishing Club. Steve Klein, brother to Scott Klein, expressed his sadness about breaking tradition on Facebook.

Heather Klein said her pre-spearing group gathered at Wendt's on the Lake restaurant on Winnebago's west shore the night before the opener, as they always do, for drinks and food.

"It was as busy as ever," she said.

The lack of shanties on the ice there seemed bizarre.

"This is eerie," she said.

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PUBLIC RECORD

SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Feb. 18
Deputies responded to 32 incidents, including operating without a license on South Warrington Avenue in Cecil; harassment at Shawano County Jail, 405 N. Main St., Shawano; property theft on Pioneer Drive in the Town of Wescott; animal bite on Center Road in the Town of Hartland; restraining order violation on U.S. Highway 45 in Tigerton; operating without a license on South Main Street in Shawano; noise on state Highway 156 in the Town of Lessor; drugs on Balsam Row Road in the Town of Wescott; juvenile alcohol at Big Time Sports, W6014 Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; two 911 calls; one reckless driving incident.

Feb. 17
Deputies responded to 33 incidents, including drugs on Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; bail jumping on

Second Street in Mattoon; operating without a license on state Highway 22 in the Town of Wescott; burglary on First Street in Mattoon; fraud on Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; bail jumping on North First Street in Bonduel; juvenile alcohol on Olson Road in the Town of Green Valley; one reckless driving incident; three crashes.

Feb. 16
Deputies responded to 38 incidents, including repossession on North Warrington Avenue in Cecil; shoplifting at Mattoon Market, 1017 Fourth St., Mattoon; noise on Cedar Street in Tigerton; vehicle theft on Hummingbird Road in the Town of Birnamwood; harassment on state Highway 22 in Cecil; fraud on state Highway 22 in Cecil; found property at Shawano County Jail, 405 N. Main St., Shawano; ATV problem on Ash Circle in the Town of Wescott; scam on County Road M in the Town of Wittenberg; property theft on Cedar Street in Eland; operating without a license on South Warrington Avenue in Cecil; property theft on Hiawatha Court in the Town of Wescott; two 911 calls; two reckless driving incidents; one crash.

Feb. 15
Deputies responded to 36 incidents, including trespassing at Ho-Chunk Casino, N7198 U.S. Highway 45 in the Town of Wittenberg; fraud on County Road S in

the Town of Angelica; threatening on state Highway 156 in the Town of Lessor; scam on Belle Plaine Avenue in the Town of Belle Plaine; found property on County Road Y in the Town of Belle Plaine; trespassing on North Warrington Avenue in Cecil; operating while intoxicated on County Road M in the Town of Pella; one 911 call; seven crashes, one involving deer.

Feb. 14
Deputies responded to 39 incidents, including bail jumping on East Green Bay Street in Bonduel; property theft on Lake Road in the Town of Almon; assisting with a fire on Burma Road in the Town of Grant; a warrant at the Menominee Tribal Jail, W3293 Wolf River Drive, Keshena; assisting with a fire on state Highway 55 in the Town of Maple Grove; property theft on Red Oak Lane in the Town of Wittenberg; one 911 call; one reckless driving incident; two traffic hazards; two crashes.

Feb. 13
Deputies responded to 33 incidents, including criminal damage on Lake Crest Drive in the Town of Wescott; repossession on County Road D in the Town of Almon; operating without a license on Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; drugs at Kwik Trip, 102 W. Express Way, Bonduel; warrant on Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; operating while intoxicated on North Airport Road in

the Town of Wescott; drugs on state Highway 22 in the Town of Belle Plaine; operating without a license on U.S. Highway 45 in the Town of Aniwa; bail jumping on East Railroad Street in Bowler; operating while intoxicated on state Highway 160 in the Town of Maple Grove; two reckless driving incidents; one traffic hazard; two crashes, one involving deer.

Feb. 12
Deputies responded to 36 incidents, including operating while intoxicated on Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; warrant at the Shawano County Courthouse, 311 N. Main St.; operating without a license on North Avenue in Mattoon; property theft on Madison Way in Shawano; assisting with a fire on North Ellms Street in Wittenberg; operating without a license on state Highway 29 in the Town of Belle Plaine; trespassing on Hiawatha Court in the Town of Wescott; operating without a license at The Pad, 221 N. Airport Drive, Shawano; operating without a license on state Highway 29 in the Town of Hartland; one 911 call; one reckless driving incident; one crash.

SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Feb. 18
Officers responded to 12 incidents, including drug offenses at Kwik Trip, 1241 E. Green Bay St.; property theft on East Green Bay Street; warrant arrest on East Cen-

ter Street; warrant arrest on South Main Street; operating without a license on state Highway 47-55 in the Town of Wescott; trespassing on South Main Street.

Feb. 17
Officers responded to 17 incidents, including property theft on South Andrews Street; shoplifting at Charlie's County Market, 521 S. Main St.; bail jumping at Safe Haven, 380 Lakeland Road; operating while intoxicated on Waukechon Street.

Feb. 16
Officers responded to 20 incidents, including two juvenile problem calls at Shawano Community Middle School, 1050 S. Union St.; scam at Ollie's Flowers, 129 N. Main St.; vehicle crash on South Main Street; vehicle theft on East Richmond Street; property theft on South Main Street; hit-and-run on East Green Bay Street; drug offenses on East Lieg Avenue.

Feb. 15
Officers responded to 25 incidents, including noise on South Smalley Street; bail jumping at Ole Town Tap, 115 N. Main St.; tobacco problem at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B; harassment on East Fifth Street; reckless driving on East Green Bay Street; threatening at People's Express North, 1381 E. Green Bay St.; drug offenses at Shawano Police Department, 125 S. Sawyer St.; vehicle crash with personal injury on

County Road BE.

Feb. 14
Officers responded to 26 incidents, including a juvenile runaway at an undisclosed location; drug offenses on South Sawyer Street; vehicle crash with property damage on North Main Street; threatening at an undisclosed location; drug offenses at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B; bicycle complaint at the Mountain Bay Trail; reckless driving at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B; juvenile problem at an undisclosed location; juvenile problem on South Union Street.

Feb. 13
Officers responded to 19 incidents, including noise on Humphrey Circle; reckless driving on state Highway 47-55 in the Town of Wescott; two juvenile problem calls at Shawano Community Middle School, 1050 S. Union St.; reckless driving on East Green Bay Street; juvenile problem at Olga Brenner Intermediate School, 1300 S. Union St.; shoplifting at Kwik Trip, 1241 E. Green Bay St.

Feb. 12
Officers responded to 15 incidents, including a juvenile problem at Shawano Community Middle School, 1050 S. Union St.; warrant at CoVantage Credit Union, 911 E. Green Bay St.; reckless driving on Waukechon Street; juvenile problem on South Union Street.

4c1d747d02/23/24

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND JOINT REVIEW BOARD MEETING VILLAGE OF WITTENBERG, WISCONSIN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village of Wittenberg will hold a Joint Review Board meeting on March 5, 2024 at 5:00 PM.

The meeting will be held at the Wittenberg Village Community Center, located at 208 W Vinal St.

The purpose of the meeting is to organize the Joint Review Board for consideration of the Village's proposal to amend Tax Incremental District No. 3.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Plan Commission of the Village of Wittenberg will hold a public hearing on March 5, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

The meeting will be held at the Wittenberg Village Community Center, located at 208 W Vinal St.

The hearing will be held to provide the public a reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment to the Project Plan for Tax Incremental District No. 3.

Based on the planned use of properties within its boundaries at time of creation, territory within the District was previously identified as suitable for industrial development

Projects to be undertaken within the District and costs to be incurred (Project Costs) will continue to be for the purpose of promoting industrial development and may include acquisition of property, rights of way or easements, site preparation, installation or rehabilitation of utilities and streets, payment of cash grants as development incentives to owners, lessees, or developers of land located within the District, professional services and organizational costs, administrative costs, financing costs and other costs as may be necessary to implement the District's Project Plan. Projects may be undertaken within the District's proposed boundary and in areas located in the Village within ½ mile of that boundary.

As permitted under Wisconsin Statutes Section 66.1105(4)(h)1., the list of estimated Project Costs in the current Project Plan would be amended and increased by approximately \$500,000

The proposed amendment would allow excess revenue to be transferred from the District to Tax Incremental District No. 1 as permitted under Wisconsin Statutes Section 66.1105(6)(f). Under the proposed amendment, a total of \$74,544 in excess tax increments will be transferred to Tax Incremental District No. 1.

All interested parties will be given a reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments to the District's Project Plan. A copy of the proposed amendment to the District's Project Plan, is available for public inspection and will be provided on request during normal business hours at the office of the Village Clerk at the Wittenberg Village Hall, located at 208 W Vinal St.

By Order of the Village of Wittenberg, Wisconsin

Published February 23, 2024

WNAXLP

COURT NEWS

▪ Mashaquit Waupekenay, 34, Keshena, pleaded no contest Feb. 12 to fleeing an officer in his vehicle, possession of methamphetamine, eight counts of felony bail jumping, and misdemeanor charges of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence (first offense), two counts of causing injury while OWI and two counts of possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge William Kussel Jr. withheld sentence and placed him on four years of probation for the drug charges. For the traffic convictions, Kussel sentenced Waupekenay to 15 months in jail with Huber work-release privileges, revoked his driver's license for 24 months, and levied fines and other court costs.

▪ Aaron L. Jacobs, 34, Green Bay, pleaded no contest Feb. 12 to two counts of battery or threat to a law officer, battery by prisoners, throwing or discharging bodily fluid at a public safety officer or prosecutor, and two misdemeanor counts each of lewd and lascivious behavior, resisting or obstructing an officer, and disorderly conduct. Judge Katherine Sloma sentenced him to two years in county jail already served and levied fines and court costs.

▪ Michael L. Alloway, 26, Suamico, had his probation revoked Dec. 18 for misappropriating ID information to avoid penalty, possession of THC (second or subsequent offense), six counts of felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor charge of operating a motor vehicle while his license was revoked. Sloma sentenced him Feb. 12 to nine months in jail.

▪ Kelly P. Grzybowski, 29, pleaded no contest Feb. 12 to two counts of battery or threat to a law officer, two counts of battery by

prisoners, 11 counts of felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of resisting or obstructing an officer. Kussel sentenced him to three years in prison, followed by six years of extended supervision with conditions.

▪ Monty L. Beauprey, 40, Wausau, pleaded guilty Feb. 14 to fleeing an officer in his vehicle and two counts of second-degree recklessly endangering safety. Sloma sentence him to three years in prison followed by five years of extended supervision concurrent to a prison term he is already serving.

▪ Shyla L. Vele, 32, Bowler, was charged Feb. 12 with two counts of felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct. Kussel set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Feb. 19.

▪ Andrew W. Kizaur, 28, Seymour, was charged Feb. 12 with strangulation and suffocation, false imprisonment, and misdemeanor counts of battery and disorderly conduct. Kussel set a \$3,500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Feb. 20.

▪ Joshua J. Emmer, 36, Tigerton, was charged Feb. 12 with criminal damage to property and disorderly conduct. Kussel set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Feb. 21.

▪ Gary W. Wetzel, 56, Cecil, was charged Feb. 12 with operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fifth or sixth offense). Sloma set a \$3,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Feb. 19.

▪ Thomas J. Smitala, 59, Wisconsin Rapids, was charged Feb. 12 with two counts of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of battery and disorderly conduct. Kussel set a \$1,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Feb. 21.

▪ Ryan J. Waukau, 24, Keshena, was charged Feb. 13 with taking and driving a vehicle without the owner's consent. Kussel set a \$5,000 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for March 18.

▪ Felicia D. Beaulieu-Morgan, 25, Neopit, was charged Feb. 14 with felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of possession of THC.

Kussel set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for March 18.

▪ Christopher J. Keuschel, 41, Shawano, was charged Feb. 14 with criminal damage to property and a misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct. Kussel set a \$5,000 signature bond and scheduled a status conference for April 2.

▪ Elizabeth A. Bullock, 21, Bonduel, was charged Feb. 14 with felony bail jumping. Kussel set a \$2,500 signature bond and scheduled a competency hearing for April 22.

▪ Samuel B. Bullock, 20, Bonduel, was charged Feb. 14 with felony bail jumping. Kussel set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Feb. 22.

▪ Sue A. Miller, 57, Shawano, was charged Feb. 15 with possession of methamphetamine. Kussel set a \$2,500 signature bond and scheduled a status conference for May 7.

▪ Angelina D. Yellow, 32, Keshena, was charged Feb. 15 with possession of narcotic drugs, possession of methamphetamine, nine counts of misdemeanor bail jumping, and misdemeanor counts of resisting or obstructing an officer, possession of THC and possession of drug paraphernalia. Kussel set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Feb. 23.

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 for 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 can apply.

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



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Pets are heroes of Penn's mysteries

If you've ever tried to figure out what a pet is trying to say, you will like Kathy Manos Penn's three-book set "Dickens and Christie" mysteries.

After Aleta Petkas Park-er's husband Henry died in a cycling accident, "Leta" took early retirement, packed up and moved from Atlanta to the quaint village of Astonbury in the Cotswolds of England. She lives in a converted schoolhouse with her beloved Dickens, a dwarf Great Pyrenees dog, and Christie, a regal black cat.

Leta has the unique ability to understand animals but does her best to hide that talent. Unlike the U.S., most businesses in England welcome well-behaved dogs.

In book one "Bells, Tails and Murder," Leta is enjoying an evening out at the local Inn owned by Libby and Gavin. As the guests mingle, they are served amazing snacks made by local gem Alice. The woman cleans for many people in the village and always leaves a basket of home-baked goodies for her clients.

The following morning Leta takes Dickens for a walk near the cricket pavilion and discovers Alice's body. Leta is an avid mystery reader and very observant. She notes several things about the scene.

While waiting for DS Gemma, Leta peeks into Alice's car. There's no sign of her purse or her phone, making Leta suspect foul play. She shares her thoughts with Gemma,



Jan Jones
Columnist

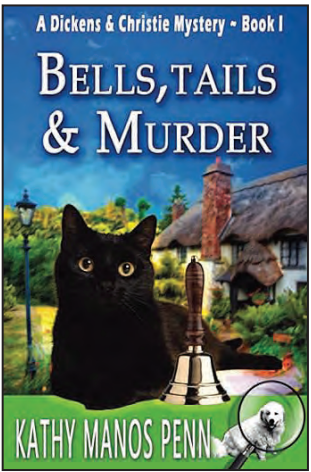
but the officer scoffs at the interference.

When Leta, Wendy and Wendy's mother Belle go to Alice's flat to rescue her cat, Tigger, they find the place has been ransacked. It doesn't take long to find Tigger, but when Leta sees one of her cherished figurines on Alice's bookshelf, she feels compelled to do a tiny search and take a few pictures whether or not Gemma would approve.

Soon the entire village is abuzz with questions about who would harm dear Alice and why. The ability to understand animals gives Leta an inside track, as Dickens eagerly shares things he overhears or observes, and Christie's keen eye for detail picks out details in Leta's photos.

Before long Leta, Wendy and Belle discover that Alice had been stealing small items from most of her cleaning clients. Many of those items were sold at flea markets or on the internet. As they dig, they are appalled to learn that Alice was blackmailing several people.

With help from Dickens and Christie, Leta finds a link between Alice and several signed, first-edition books by Peter Pan author J.M. Barrie. Apparently, he was a dear friend of Belle's mother. He had a special love for little Belle



AT A GLANCE

BOOK: Bells, Tails and Murder (Dickens and Christie, Book 1)

AUTHOR: Kathy Manos Penn

PUBLISHER: Manos Penn & Ink

YEAR PUBLISHED: 2020

NUMBER OF PAGES: 235

and sent her several books. She has kept the books and his letters hidden away in a small box. Now someone is planning to steal and sell them. That someone was Alice.

Through friendly chats with those being blackmailed, Leta sees how Alice would be hated, but none of her information would be worth murder. With the help of American journalist Dave and book historian Thom, Leta gets insights into the value of Belle's books and letters, but this only adds to the list of potential suspects. It takes a late-night break-in and the heroics of Dickens and Christie to reveal the culprit.

In the end, nearly all of Belle's treasures are recovered and safe, the small village is peaceful again, and Leta has many new friends.

Growth not something that happens overnight

Usain Bolt said: "I trained four years to run nine seconds, and people give up when they don't see results in two months."

What is the price of excellence? So many of us want to see results immediately. We want to know that our diet is working and we want it to show in the way we look and feel right now. We want to go eight for 10 from the field, rarely miss that jump shot and expect that to be the case whenever we step on the floor. We want to be amazing readers, writers and learners about everything that interests us and pray that our kids are far better off than we ever were. We watch a movie and see things unfold the way we envision it happening in our own lives.



Garrett Rogowski
Guest columnist

Can all that we want and aspire to become our reality? Maybe. I think it can, but no matter what, we have to embrace the journey. It's the grit, the work that happens at your desk, in the gym when no one is watching, over time, and more time, and then even more time. It's easy to give up, make excuses, blame things that are out of our control.

The winners, the people that reach their goals, that never stop believing in their capabilities, that

never listen to the doubters, they're the ones that get to take a deep breath and feel good about what they have accomplished.

Sahil Bloom wrote in "The Growth Paradox": "Growth takes a much longer time coming than you think, but then happens much faster than you ever thought possible. Growth happens gradually, then suddenly. The best things in life come from allowing compounding to work its magic. Slowly, then all at once."

It's true. You can't let failure derail you. Gradually, then suddenly. Slowly, then all at once. Eventually, all your hard work will pay off. Have faith and believe. Don't forget to enjoy the journey along the way.

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21 AND OLDER

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21 AND OLDER



**WHEEL OF FORTUNE
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FRI., APRIL 19
TICKETS: \$35/\$45/\$55
21 AND OLDER



Theresa Caputo

Long Island MEDIUM

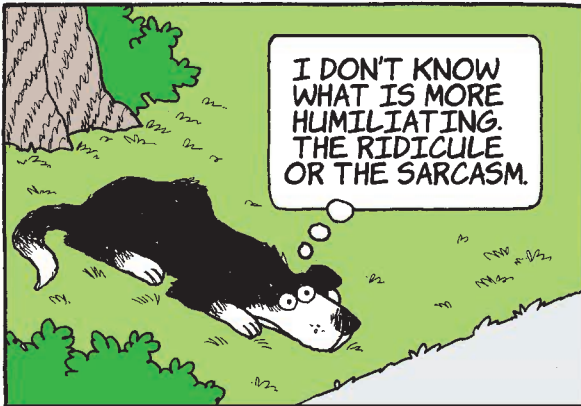
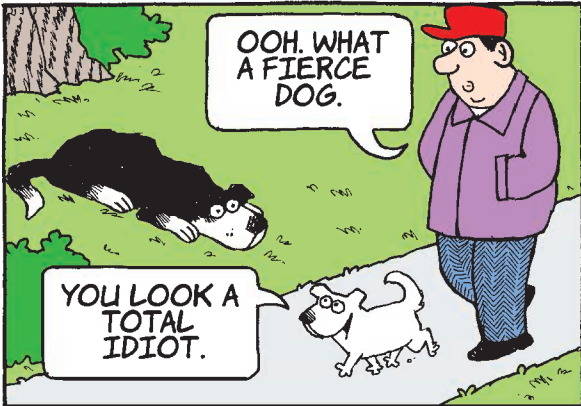
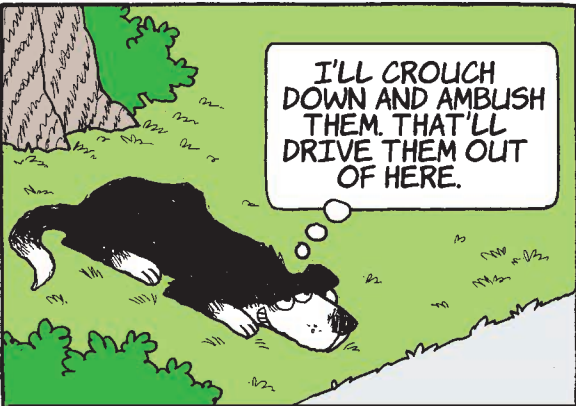
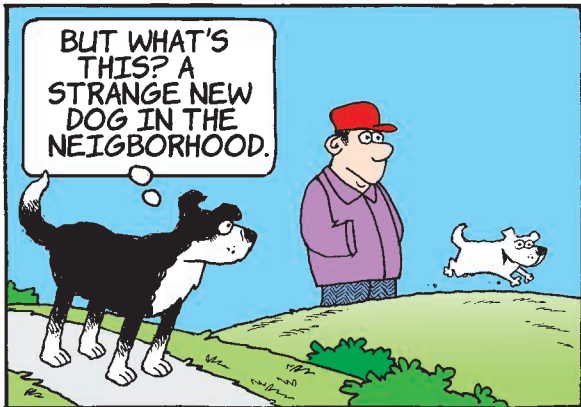
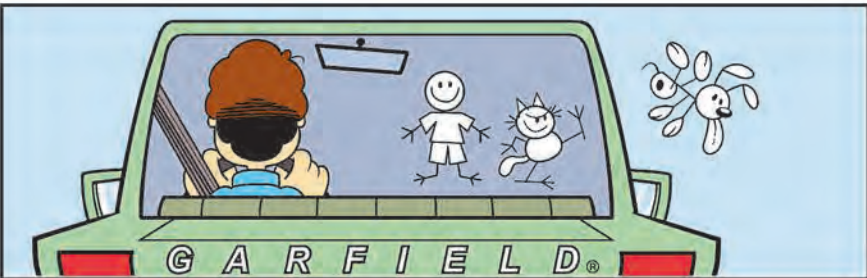
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21 AND OLDER

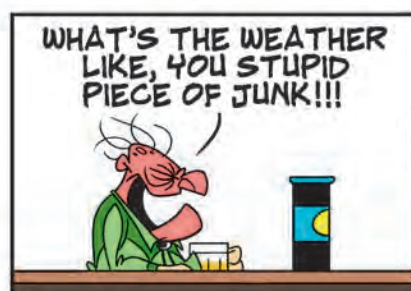
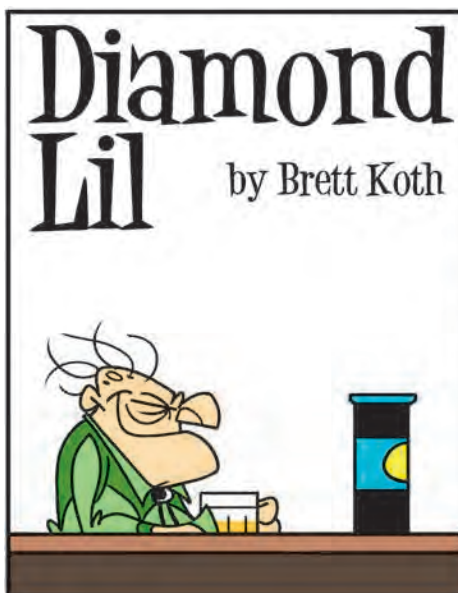
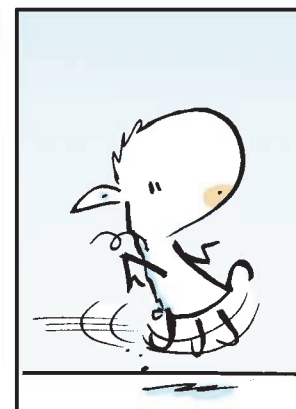
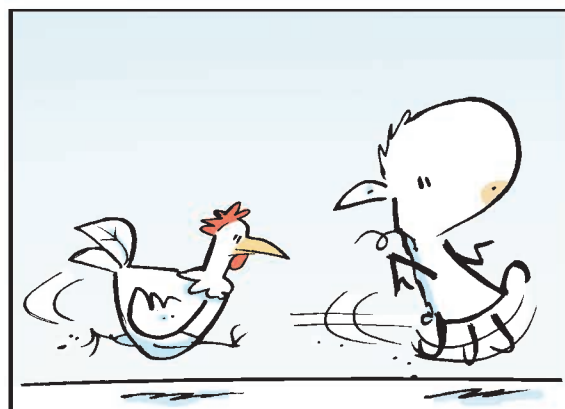
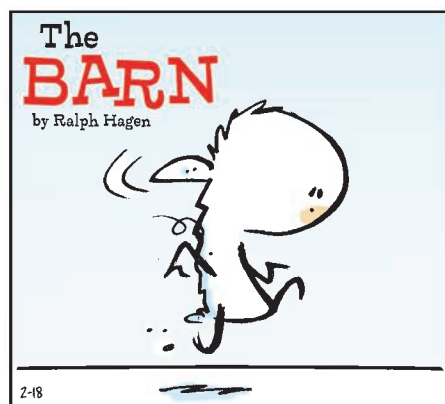
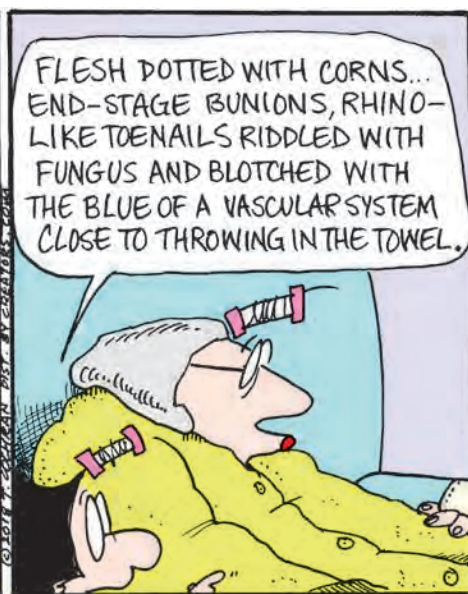
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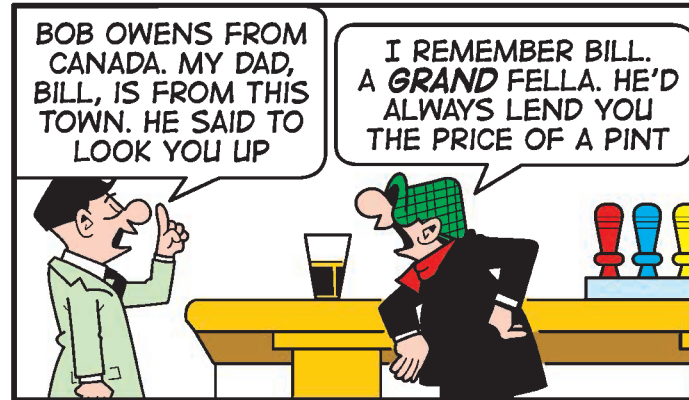
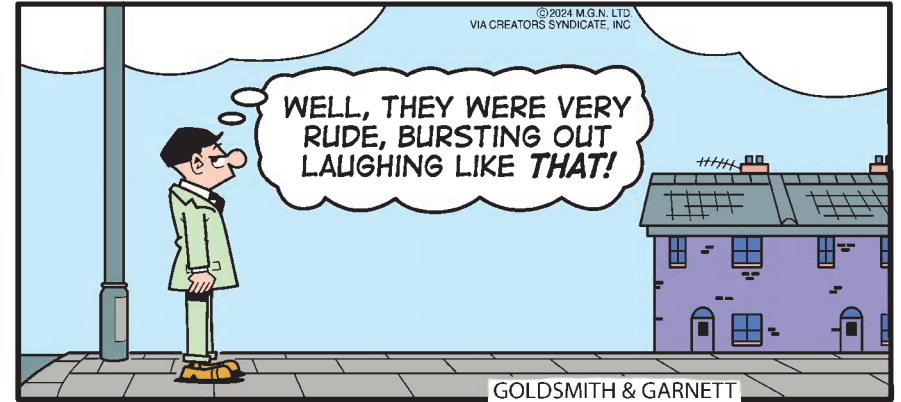
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DOGS OF C-KENNEL

BY MICK MASTROIANNI AND MASON MASTROIANNI

