



Five residents displaced; fire remains under investigation

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

FIRE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Once confirmation was made that all firefighters had exited the building, crews began to set up for exterior operations. Due to the size of the building and fire conditions, the incident was then up-graded to a MABAS Box alarm for more resources, which brought firefighters from Abrams, Lena, Little Suamico, City of Gillett, and Tri County as well as Oconto Falls Ambulance.

Pecha said the crews faced a number of challenges because of the building's age and balloon-frame construction along with multiple layers of roofing materials covered with a metal roof. Duame Sand and Gravel was called in for an excavator to assist with removing the roof so crews could gain access to the seat of the fire.

Crews were able to prevent the fire from spreading to Cornerstone Nutrition next door, although the business reported basement flooding that disrupted utilities. "We hope to be up and running soon and seeing all your beautiful smiles," the business posted on social media.

Oconto Fire Rescue responded with two engines, one ladder truck, one rescue truck, two ambulances and one command truck with 17 personnel.



An excavator from Duame Sand and Gravel removes debris under the direction of Oconto fire investigators Feb. 27, the morning after a blaze that gutted the two-story structure at 1131 Main St. WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

Two Oconto police officers also assisted on scene along with eight surrounding fire and EMS agencies for a total of 37 personnel. Wisconsin Public Service, Oconto County Emergency Management, Oconto Water Department, Oconto Street Department and the Oconto city building inspector also assisted on scene.

During the incident Oconto Fire Rescue responded to one unrelated EMS call, while Oconto Falls Area Ambulance Service provided mutual aid by standing by at the Oconto Fire Station and responded to three unrelated EMS calls while the fire-fighting effort continued.

Pecha said the fire remains under investigation. The American Red Cross was called in to help five residents who were displaced by the fire.

BREAKFAST, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Atlantic states," Koskinen said.

"Wisconsin has substantially improved its competitiveness because of record high employment, strong growth in businesses, an engaged work force, and we have big investments in the pipeline for manufacturing, date centers, electricity generation and schools — and so is Oconto County," he said.

Jayne Sellen, TEDCOR executive director, focused on a variety of positive developments over the past year in terms of economic development in Oconto County, starting with the opening of an Encompass child care center in Oconto Falls which opened up a sorely needed 140 child care slots for families in the southern part of the county.

The Urban Loft by Rival Properties Inc. apartment complex in Lena will add 80 housing units when it has completed all three phases, Sellen said.

"I really wanted to say thank you to the folks in Lena, because change is hard, and they had to have a lot of conversations, they had to do a lot of work to make sure this project worked out well," she said.

Also significant was the



Jayne Sellen, TEDCOR executive director, runs through a progress report Feb. 27 on a variety of projects advancing Oconto County tourism and economic development. WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

progress of the Northern Oconto County Room Tax Commission, which grew from a July 20, 2022, meeting of the seven northern towns.

"That was probably the only time I was ever nervous in this job, getting up in front of a bunch of people and saying, 'Hey, let's start a tax,'" Sellen said. "It's not something you want to do, but we needed a way to fund our tourism promotion and development."

Five of the seven towns — Breed, Doty, Lakewood, Mountain and Townsend — got together and wrote ordinances establishing room taxes with proceeds specifically earmarked to advance tourism in the county.

"We're coming off our first year and now we're going to have some real money to invest in promoting our county," Sellen said. "It could have been very easy for all of them to just kind of give up because a lot was involved, but they stuck together and they showed true grit, and I'm very thankful for that because this is going to be significant for our county for years to come."

Sellen also singled out the downtown revitalization studies undertaken in Suring and Lena this year and said grant applications have been submitted for similar studies in Gillett and Oconto.

The businesses and village government in Suring have been especially receptive to the study,

Sellen said.

"We are just finally getting the first drafts of that plan done, and our businesses are already implementing it," she said. "We don't have an implementation plan done, and the businesses are already starting to get to work to improve their facades and really embrace this process."

Also coming in for recognition were the Leadership Oconto County program, efforts to restore and redevelop the former Oconto Memorial Hospital building, broadband access efforts, the new Capital Catalyst Revolving Loan Fund established by the county, and the recipients of TEDCOR's micro loan program, which provides small loans for businesses to improve facades and other projects.

She took the opportunity to announce a new "nano-loan" program to support hospitality businesses hurt by the past two years of poor snow conditions. The program provides \$500 to \$2,000 in loans at 1% interest for up to three years, including deferred payments for the first six months.

wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com

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Publisher
Greg Mellis
gmellis@newmedia-wi.com

Editor-in-chief
Kevin Passon
kpasson@newmedia-wi.com

Retail advertising
advertising@newmedia-wi.com

Obituaries
obits@newmedia-wi.com

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OBITUARIES

Norma D. Skroch

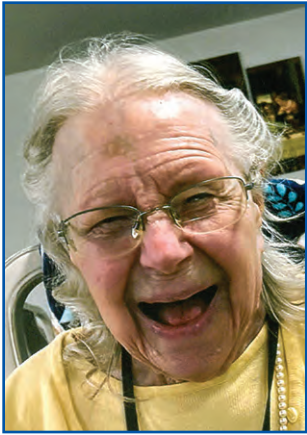
Norma D. Skroch passed away on Feb. 23, 2025, at Meadowview Estates in Bonduel after a long beautiful life.

She was born Aug. 14, 1927, in Hintz to Alex and Olga (Paholke) Zarling.

Norma attended various schools in Oconto, Lena and Oconto Falls. She was a proud graduate of Oconto Falls High School, class of 1945.

Early on, she worked various jobs for Shellman Publishing, Bauman Department Store and E.A. Mack Co. Later, she became a telephone switchboard operator in Green Bay for six years, where she had the unique experience of working near Don Hutson's Packers Playdium, a bowling alley and bar opened by the Packers legend.

On Nov. 24, 1948, Norma married Peter Skroch at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Oconto Falls. Together, they built a life filled with love and devotion to their family. Norma was a lifetime member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 302. Her interests included ceramics, oil painting and gardening, where she expressed her creativity and passion for the arts. She was a dedicated season ticket holder of the Green Bay Packers for 20 years.



Her grandkids will remember her as always immaculately dressed. She had the best collection of vintage clothes, makeup and perfume bottles for them to play with as children. They also treasure memories of cranking up the Victrola record player, putting on a record, and flipping through wedding photos with Grandma.

Norma is survived by her two sons, Richard (Jeanne Morales) Skroch and David (Wendy) Skroch; her grandchildren, Steven (Alisa) Skroch, Elizabeth (Jonathan) Royal, Catherine (Joshua) Thompson and Emiliano Morales; and three great-grandchildren, Matthew, Willow and one on the way. She is also survived by her sister, Mavis Gehling; and brothers, Roger



Zarling, and Jack (Karen) Zarling.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Alex and Olga; her husband, Peter Skroch; her sister-in-law, Donna Skroch; and her brother-in-law, Curtis Gehling.

A Mass of Christian burial was held at Jones Funeral Service in Oconto Falls on Monday, March 10, 2025. Burial took place at St. Anthony Cemetery in Oconto Falls.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations will go toward the National Glaucoma Society.

Norma D. Skroch leaves behind a legacy of love, creativity and unwavering commitment to her family and community. She will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege to know her.

Mary Ellen Klatt, 80, passed away Sunday, Feb. 23, 2025, at The Residence at Oshkosh, with her daughters by her side. For almost 20 years, Mary bravely battled Parkinson's disease with tenacity, humor, strength and courage, even in her final days.

Mary was born on Mother's Day on May 14, 1944, in Sheboygan. She was the middle child of the late Joseph and Hildegard (Fetterer) Kraus. She attended Holy Name Catholic elementary school and graduated from Sheboygan North High School in 1962. After high school, she attended Alverno College in Milwaukee, where she met her husband, Ralph, at a school dance. She later graduated from UW-Green Bay with a bachelor of science in elementary education.

Ralph and Mary settled in Brown Deer, where they made several lifelong friends and hosted many basement and backyard parties. They were active in the Jaycees/Jaycettes where Mary held various leadership roles including president, and led blood drives, Santa's Workshops, brat fries and many other civic-minded events.

In 1974, they purchased then ran a successful dairy farm in Gillett, where they learned by trial and error how to milk cows, birth calves, plant and harvest crops, shovel manure and everything else that goes into farming. In 1976, they received the Jaycees Outstanding Young Farmer award.

Mary loved to grow vegetables and beautiful flowers and even found time to bowl on Tuesdays. Mary worked from sunup to sundown all the while raising two daughters, finishing college, teaching religion classes, leading Girl Scout troops and substitute teaching. No matter how busy she was, she always had time for family and friends.

In retirement, Ralph and Mary moved to a



lake home on Shawano Lake, where they spent 25 years living a wonderful lake life. Grandma Mary cherished her summers with her grandchildren at the lake. She loved to play cards and board games, watch movies, take a boat ride and monitor their shenanigans on the slip n' slide, jet ski, pedal boat or golf cart.

Mary was an avid book reader and passed her love of reading to her daughters. Mary was also active in the Gillett Women's Club and in several bridge groups. Winters were spent with family and friends on South Padre Island in Texas.

Mary will be remembered as a kind-hearted and generous soul, with a warm smile, contagious giggle and love for all things silly. She was a wonderful listener, compassionate human and quiet leader. Her legacy reminds us to stop and smell the daylilies, never sweat the small stuff, learn something new on a trip to the zoo or museum, and always lead with kindness.

Mary is survived by her devoted daughters, Kelly (Eric) Caughlan and their children, Justin and Joshua, and Kathy (Doug) Slife, and their children, Drew and Zoe; her very special brothers, Ed Kraus and Steve (Joan) Kraus; her sisters-in-law, Sandy Klatt and Debbie (John) Hoepfner; two nephews, Andy (Abby) Dean and Jarrid (Lauren) Hoepfner; five nieces, Megan (Charlie) Truitt, Molly (Chris) Dwan, Gretchen Kraus, Amy (Joe) Hoff, Briana

(Nick) Joyce and their children. She is also survived by several cousins and many good friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 58 years; her sister-in-law, Mary Kraus; her sister-in-law, Candy Roepke; and a very special cousin, Sue Schneider.

The family would like to thank those who extended a special effort to keep in touch with Mary while she was at the The Residence in Oshkosh. A very special thank you to Phyllis Schloskey and Doreen Slife for your regular visits, and to Agnes Zwijacz for your special friendship.

A special thank you to the staff (past and present) at The Residence at Oshkosh (including the therapy staff at Power-back) who have become like family to us. We will never underestimate the value of the work you do, how hard you work and what truly caring, respectful and compassionate humans you are. Thank you. Each and every one of you are appreciated.

A memorial service for Mary will be held on Saturday, March 15, 2025, at 11 a.m. at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home-Westside, 100 Lake Pointe Drive, Oshkosh, with Lyn Zahorik officiating. A time of visitation will take place at 9 a.m. until the start of the service. Interment will be held at Calvary Cemetery, Sheboygan, at a later date.

Gifts in Mary's memory can be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research at <https://www.michaeljfox.org/> or a local charity of your choice. Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home in Oshkosh is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences can be expressed at <https://www.konrad-behlman.com/>

As she begins eternal life with our Lord and Savior, we rejoice in knowing the angels will welcome her home with loving and open arms.

Geraldine Knope

Geraldine Marlene (Niec) Knope, 90, of Oconto Falls, passed away on Feb. 24, 2025, peacefully at home.

She was born on May 11, 1934, to Casmir "Charlie" and Beatrice (Potkamaris) Niec in Pulaski. Gerry graduated from Pulaski High School in 1952 and married her high school sweetheart, Roger Knope, in 1956. They were married for 58 years before his death on Jan. 27, 2014.

They lived in Texas when Roger was in the Army service in the 1950s and raised three loving children, Jeffrey Knope, born 1957, James Knope, born 1961, and Mary Lee Davidson, born 1967. Geraldine worked for the city of Oconto Falls and held many other part-time jobs,



including at the hospital gift shop, for many years.

Gerry enjoyed being a member of the Red Hatters, participating in church activities and Bible group, and played with the same women in bridge club for many decades. Gerry loved her faith, family and friends dearly. She enjoyed food,

fun and always loved fresh flowers.

Geraldine is survived by her three children; her loving siblings, Grace (Alexander) Bryfczynski, Donald (Dottie) Niec and Marvin (Debbie) Niec; her grandchildren, Kimberly Courchaine (Jeffrey), Parker, Kristen, and Carson Knope (James), Abigail and Bennett Davidson (Mary Lee); and her great-grandchildren, Trinity Wilson (Jeremy) and Cole MacDonald (Kimberly).

She was preceded in death by her grandson, Jeremy Knope (Jeffrey).

Funeral services will be held at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Oconto Falls, during her favorite time of year, the spring, with more information to come.

Shirley Iola (Winkler) Lusk

Shirley Iola (Winkler) Lusk, 84, passed away suddenly on Saturday, Aug. 24, 2024, after a brief battle with cancer.

She was born in Gillett to the late Edwin and Mildred (Christensen) Winkler; however, she spent most of her life in Florida. Throughout her life, she instilled in her children her love for adventure and joy. Known for her laughter and adventurous spirit, Shirley recently discovered a passion for the opera.

She enjoyed the little things in life, like tending to her garden, watching squirrels out her window,



collecting knickknacks and giving thoughtful gifts to others. She enjoyed murder mystery shows, finding joy in a good BOGO or sale, and always had a soft

spot for Scooby-Doo and the Peanuts gang.

Her life was filled with rich experiences, including traveling and living throughout the United States, living in Cuba and fulfilling a lifelong dream by traveling to Germany. She was mischievous, a little rebellious and fiercely headstrong — once she set her mind on something, she did it with determination and conviction. She was also known for having a beer in hand while cheering on her beloved Green Bay Packers, a tradition that brought her joy.

Shirley is survived by her five children, Jeff

(Mary) Pergande, of Fort White, Florida, Paul (Diane) Pergande, of Sanford, Florida, Bryan (Judy) Pergande, of Weed, California, Mabelle Lusk, of Clermont, Florida, and Michael Lusk, of Orlando, Florida; grandchildren, Steven, Crystal, Erik, Jennifer, Thomas, Valerie, Jaci, Krystal and Cassi; 18 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren.

She is also survived by her siblings, Helen Smith, of Wauwatosa, Edwin Jr. (Joyce) Winkler, of Gillett, Randy (Peggy) Winkler, of Gillett, Rick (Sandy) Winkler, of Muskego, Judy Wagner, of Gillett, Bon-

nie (Ken) Juza, of Suamico, and Debbie (Bryan) Huffman, of Wausau; sister-in-law, Ellen Winkler, of Krakow; many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her parents; siblings, Dorothy Blanchard, Robert Winkler, Gene Winkler and MaryAnn Sell; sister-in-law, Barbara Winkler; brothers-in-law, Don Wagner, John Smith and Hoyt Blanchard; grandson, Jeffrey Pergande.

Her family and friends will celebrate her life with a memorial in her hometown of Gillett on Friday, March 14, 2025, at the

Gillett Town Hall, 10908 Town Hall Road, Gillett, with visitation from 10 a.m. until the memorial service at 11 a.m.

Gruetzmacher Funeral Home in Suring is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences can be expressed at www.gruetzmacherfuneralhome.com.





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Brenda Bartz, owner of Brenda's Brushstrokes and Bisque, demonstrates how to apply flux to a blank ceramic bowl during a 4-H activity at her farmhouse classroom at N2978 County Road K in the Town of Waukechon. When the members started their bowl-painting, Bartz said: "You don't have to be perfect; the messier you are with this, the better they turn out."

LYNN ZAFFRANN

Brushstrokes, bisque begin in farmhouse classroom

Brenda Bartz's experience in Army fuels lifelong artistic passion

By **LYNN ZAFFRANN**
Correspondent

Fourteen Shawano County 4-H members, from ages 8-16, met at Brenda's Brushstrokes and Bisque's Farmhouse Classroom on Feb. 23 to learn how to paint ceramic bowls.

Brenda Bartz is the "Brenda" in Brenda's Brushstrokes and Bisque. She opened the business about five years ago and has her farmhouse classroom at N2978 County Road K in the Town of Waukechon.

"This is the first time we're doing the stoneware bowls with a 4-H group," Bartz said. "We've done other stuff, like glass fusing and mosaics with 4-H kids before today."

Casey Bartz, 4-H Visual Arts County Committee Leader, who is married to Brenda Bartz's nephew, said: "It's more or less finding different opportunities for the kids they might not think they can do or try."

Casey Bartz noted that she's taken classes through Shawano Community Education in order to come up with things the 4-H clubs might be interested in.

"This activity is a \$20 class. Each kid pays \$10 for this one, and we kick in \$10," she said, adding that a 4-H rummage sale raised quite a bit of money and the proceeds help make activities more affordable for the kids.

As the members started their bowl-painting, Brenda Bartz reminded them that they don't have to be perfect.

"The messier you are with this, the better they turn out," she said.

In her interactions with the 4-H mem-



Evelyn Suehring, a member of the Tiger Tribe 4-H, studiously paints a ceramic bowl during an art class Feb. 23. The art class was held at Brenda's Brushstrokes and Bisque in its farmhouse classroom. The owner of the ceramics shop, Brenda Bartz, has hosted other 4-H art classes.

LYNN ZAFFRANN

bers, it was apparent that Brenda Bartz is well-versed in teaching the ceramics techniques to all ages. She presented the instructions slowly and calmly and demonstrated what the members should do.

"We're using the peacock technique," Brenda Bartz said. "It ends up looking like a peacock design."

Creative juices were flowing as the club

members excitedly chose two colors for their stoneware bowls, with help from the Bartzes.

Dean Bulger-Posbrig, 11, chose Glo-Worm as one of his colors. His brother, Grant, 10, chose two other green colors. Both are members of the Tiger Tribe 4-H

Leopolis man recalls incredible, long life

Farm heritage, military service, marriage high points

By **KAY REMINGER**
Correspondent

(Editor's note: Joe Reminger is an uncle, by marriage, to Kay Reminger.)

Joe Reminger, U.S. Army veteran for World War II from Leopolis, has seen much during his lifetime.

Born June 11, 1927, Reminger grew up during the Great Depression.

"To us it was normal living," he said.

Recalling moves Reminger to realize his life was rich and full — a good life.

"At the time we didn't think of it as hard, just routine," Reminger said. "We ate every meal together and got a belly full three times a day. People back then were born in the house you lived in, and when you died, the wake was at the house."

His grandmother and grandfather lived with his family. Very often multi-generational families lived together. There were 10 family members living in the house at that time.

Reminger's grandmother had originated from a region called Bohemia in Czechoslovakia and came to America as a baby. In World War II, there was a mandate that all immigrants must be categorized. His brother took his grandmother to register as a citizen.

Fond memories of growing up on the farm included playing softball with neighborhood kids on the farm yards, mostly.

"Not many kids my age lived on the road at that time," he said.

Right down the road from the farm was Reminger's school. The school he attended was a state-graded school.

"We were big shots," Reminger said.

Four rooms housed all children starting in first grade. Reminger went on to finish high school in Shawano.

"There were classrooms and a dining room. They had music classes and phy ed," Reminger said. "The basement was the boot-room in the winter time, and it had four big rooms and there we played whatever games we could dream up."

Wood stoves served the heating purposes for the entire farmhouse. One of Reminger's many jobs as a youngster was having

LIFE, CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Alta and Joe Reminger, shown in his U.S. Army dress uniform, were married Oct. 5, 1957 at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, New York.

CONTRIBUTED

BISQUE, CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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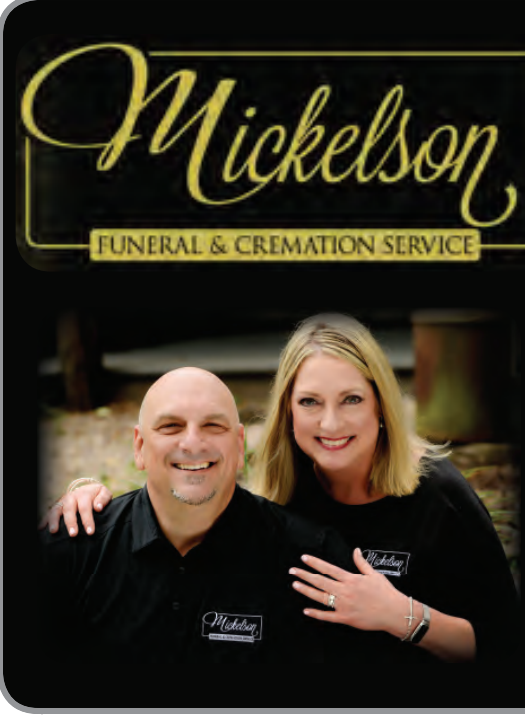


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LIFE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

to keep the wood pile stacked and ready for distribution. He'd split the wood with an axe, hauling it into the house and filling the wood box.

"I had to haul lots of wood," Reminger said.

His father purchased 40 acres of woodland, and they cut everything they could — they'd lived off the logs out of that woods. Reminger recalled skidding them to a central location with horses. One day, the family members were using them to skid, and they figured the horses would stand and instead, they took off and ran home, about a county mile away through the woods. Reminger had to walk all the way home to get the horses and bring them back.

Almost exclusively working with the horses, Reminger also milked cows by hand, storing milk in the milk cans in water. How it stayed cool in the summer he could not remember. The horses did all the work — plowing, planting, harvesting.

"We planted corn and hay and had no silos at first," Reminger said. "My dad built a silo with rocks, laying them all out. He built it eight feet deep."

In 1922, Reminger's father also built the barn that's on the farm to this day. The barn is 103 years old. The house was built before the barn, which makes the house he grew up in, at this time, way over 100 years old.

Later, Reminger's brother had a milk route, and one time, the truck wouldn't start and horses were called into duty.

"Grandpa hitched them up to the truck and they got real skittish," Reminger said. "They weren't used to being around motorized vehicles, but Grandpa

BISQUE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

club.

Many of the girls chose subtle colors of pink, rose and lavender.

Brenda Bartz was quick to point out that, after firing, the colors would turn out differently than the paint colors.

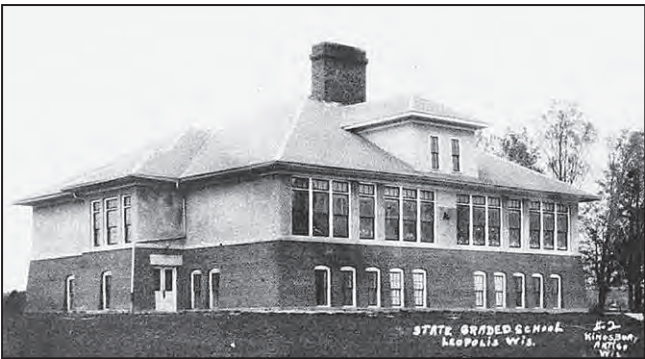
4-H members participate in showing more than just farm animals at the annual Shawano County Fair.

"Some of the activities that we do like this, go to the fair," Bulger-Posbrig said. The members participating in the bowl painting were encouraged to mark the bottoms of their bowls so that the fair judges would be able to identify the member.

Bulger-Posbrig said that, after the bowls were painted, they would be fired in a kiln.

Brenda Bartz said the bowls have to dry for 24 hours after being painted. Then, she will take the completed projects to her home, where she has two kilns in her garage.

"It's a 12-hour fire for these. Casey will pick them up and take them to



Joe Reminger went to this grade school in Leopold and then graduated high school in Shawano. CONTRIBUTED

calmed them right down. He'd worked with horses his whole life."

After completing schooling in Leopold, Reminger went on to finish high school in Shawano, staying the first year with a woman who needed a high schooler having a driver's license to live with her, to drive her car to run errands, etc. He was given room and board, bartering for hired help with chores. He said he'd walk to school from her house, "just a hop, skip and a jump away."

Graduating from high school in 1945, he was employed for a brief time with a standard lumberyard, which made oars for the U.S. Navy. He then enlisted in the Army, for there were two boys on the farm.

In 1957, Joe married his wife Alta, a career vet in her own right. After serving 20 years, she went on to school receiving a licensed practical nursing degree.

"I took my basic training in California, and Alta was stationed in California at the same time, but we didn't know it or meet," Reminger said. "The permanent stations in the states for me were Fort Bliss (El Paso), Texas, and Fort Huachuca, Arizona. Later, Alta and I got married at Fort Hamilton (Brooklyn), New York. I spent the Korean War in Germany."

Reminger had com-

pleted a mandated one-year in Vietnam beginning in 1964 in a non-combat assignment.

"I was assigned to Vietnam right before it heated up," he said. "My office was in a villa in Saigon, and I lived with all the NCOs (noncommissioned officers)."

At one point during Reminger's military career, he had orders to deploy to the USAEUR Headquarters stationed in Hidelberg. Another set of orders revoked that, and instead he was to be sent to the Third Armor Division. Rather than accept that offer, he opted to retire after serving 22 years.

Retiring from the service in 1967, he attended college in Oshkosh and graduated with a major in education and a minor in history. Rather than pursuing a teaching career, he instead applied with the civil service and was hired to work for the Social Security Administration in Rock Island, Illinois. There he worked for 17 years, and after that, to stay active, volunteered his time with AARP, teaching eight-hour driver's education classes to senior citizens.

After 55 years of marriage, Reminger's wife, Alta, passed in 2012. He then moved back to Wisconsin to live near family where today he resides comfortably in his own home.

the Courthouse (the 4-H division of the University of Wisconsin Extension)," she said. "They will be able to pick up their finished bowls there."

Every bowl using the techniques used at the 4-H class will be different, as no pattern is used. Examples similar to what the bowls the 4-H members created will look like can be seen on the 4-H Facebook page.

Brenda Bartz grew up in Belle Plaine and served in the U.S. Army from 1980-83. She found opportunities on-base to learn crafting.

"That's where I learned ceramics," she said. "I took classes at different bases."

Brenda Bartz returned to Shawano after being discharged and held different jobs, including a stint at the Shawano Clinic as a transcriptionist for 23 years, then as a biller. A couple of years later, her position moved to Neenah and she decided to sell bisque (ceramics) online instead.

Brenda Bartz opened her ceramics shop when she found the farmhouse was available to rent. The

house has a room set aside specifically for the classroom, where the 4-H activity was held. She stores paints, glass for stained and fused glass, and bisque pieces throughout the farmhouse.

"I have all the stuff I like to do here. Glass and glass fusing, ceramics and mosaics," Brenda Bartz said. "We can silk screen here, so designs can be put onto ceramics, too. It just keeps growing, and I keep adding."

In addition to hosting the 4-H event, Brenda Bartz has also had groups from the Stockbridge-Munsee Elderly Services take classes.

"It's open to anyone," she said. "We've had office Christmas parties, and other parties for people to get together and work on crafts. People can also come to our open hours."

More information about the business can be found on Facebook. Information about 4-H in Shawano County can be found at fyi.extension.wisc.edu/shawano4h.

Predator hunter uses voice to create recorded calls

Predator hunting guide and hunter Matt McHugh has fooled up to 24 coyotes in one night to be toppled by clients. His best single setup in North Dakota saw nine coyotes fall, and his best in Wisconsin dropped six song dogs.

The real skill nobody can match is his natural voice, duplicating dozens of predator and prey sounds that are so good, electronic call maker FOXPRO records him for their calls.

Call him the Pavarotti of predator sounds.

Members of the Clintonville Bow Hunters were treated to three of his hair-raising sounds Feb. 22 during their annual banquet in Marion, where the 37-year-old New London man shared his astounding hunting success and world champion voice calling.

"I grew up coon hunting with dogs (starting around age 7)," he said. "I was coon hunting as soon as I could walk and carry a flashlight. Hunting predators is going to teach you how to hunt anything better. You need to understand what makes them tick."

Coyotes are his main quarry, as there are few restrictions on hunting them in most states (they can be hunted year-round in Wisconsin), and they are known to prey on deer, which of course makes



Matt McHugh, of New London, a predator hunter and guide, kills about 400 coyotes a year with his custom rifles equipped with thermal scopes and suppressors. But his real talent is imitating predator and prey calls with only his mouth. FOXPRO game calls uses his recorded calls in their digital machines.

ROSS BIELEMA



Ross Bielema
Columnist

them extremely unpopular in this state. He averages 400-450 coyotes a year in multiple states.

To say he takes his hunting and guiding seriously is an understatement. He displayed four of his custom .22 Creedmoor bolt-action rifles used with his clients. They are fitted with thermal scopes and suppressors,

making lights and ear protection unnecessary.

Wisconsin has a quirky law that prohibits using lights to locate predators (the light can only be used to make the shot), but the thermal scopes eliminate this problem. The rifles sit atop rock-solid tripods for shots most hunters probably wouldn't attempt, thanks to rangefinding reticles dialed in to the ballistics of the hand-loaded cartridges.

He has about \$11,000 invested in each rifle package and carries \$8,800 thermal binoculars to ensure proper target identification and

coordinate up to four hunters firing in unison at the same coyote. It is all about efficiency, he explains. He wants his clients to leave with lasting memories of a successful hunt, but like all hunting, there are no guarantees.

"One hundred to 180 (yards) is my happy place," he told the group of spell-bound hunters. "Six hundred yards is a chip shot."

His incredible voice first learned to sing karaoke. To get coon dog puppies excited, he learned to mimic the sounds of raccoons. He then learned to imitate

the sounds of dying rabbits (a predator caller's most common choice) and later the sounds of both male and female coyotes, foxes and more.

He won back-to-back World Predator Calling Championships in 2013 and 2014 in Waco, Texas, where judges could request up to 65 different animal sounds. McHugh explained and demonstrated the differences between the non-aggressive female coyote call (which can readily draw males to the gun) and aggressive male calls (which can often spook males and females) during the banquet.

One of the judges at the contest, Steve Dillon, took an interest in McHugh's talents, because his family owns FOXPRO, one of the leaders in electronic game calls. In the old days, game call pioneers like the Burnham brothers used actual animals to record their calls, but those practices have been abandoned. Instead, McHugh travels to Pennsylvania where FOXPRO records his mimicry for the callers that are sold nationwide.

The callers sell for \$200-\$1,500 and can hold hundreds of digital sounds for hunting everything from crows and snow geese to four-legged predators. Don't play an e-caller

or blow a mouth call for 20 minutes at a time, he advised. Instead, try short bursts of two to eight seconds at a time. If your target animal doesn't show up in 15 minutes, move to another spot.

Wind is everything, and no cover scents will fool a crafty coyote's nose. Don't slam truck doors, and in general, get as high up as you can. Set the call 125-150 yards away to catch a circling animal.

To see McHugh among the FOXPRO field staff, go to www.gofoxpro.com/community/foxpro-field-staff.

He's been a guide for 13 years and charges about \$250 per hunter for his services, which includes use of his rifles, ammo and callers. If you're lucky, he might even use his voice.

He also runs Moondog Madness coyote hunting contests in multiple states. They recently wrapped up a contest in Dale, where 13 three-person teams brought in dozens of coyotes (the winning team harvested 34 animals in two rounds).

You can contact him through the Moondog Madness or Matt McHugh Facebook pages.

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



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FRANCESCA ULLMER

Soda bread, pinwheels tasty for holiday

St. Patrick’s Day is coming up March 17. This holiday is celebrated by many, regardless of Irish ancestry. In the United States, this day is often associated with corned beef and cabbage, drinking and parades, but who was St. Patrick?

St. Patrick was actually born in Britain around the year 387 A.D. Captured by Irish raiders when he was 14, he spent six years as a slave in Ireland. He escaped back to Britain and became a Catholic priest and bishop. He then returned to Ireland and converted much of Ireland to the Catholic faith.

There are many legends associated with St. Patrick, one of the most notable being how he drove all snakes out of Ireland. He also used a three-leaf clover to teach the people of Ireland the truth of the Blessed Trinity; this is why a three-leaf clover is also associated with this day.

Our family has its own little traditions for this day. We make Irish soda bread and St. Pat’s pinwheels. We started these traditions when my sisters and I were old enough to bake. Despite St. Patrick’s Day occurring during Lent, we still wanted to honor St. Patrick by making the day special.

Irish soda bread is a quick bread that requires



Francesca Ullmer
Columnist

no yeast. It rises from the combination of buttermilk and baking soda. It is basically a moist biscuit with raisins. We try a different recipe every year. This year, I was looking up recipes on the computer and saw this recipe that said super simple. I decided to try it, having never made Irish soda bread before.

It was really easy to make and tastes great with butter and strawberry jam. The recipe did call for a 9- or 10-inch cast iron skillet. I believe the one that my family has is a 12-inch. I still used it since cast iron bakes bread amazingly well. So, the bread that I made spread out more than is probably normal. If you use the right size pan, the bread will most likely be taller. Other recipes I looked at mentioned that a glass pie pan will also work. Do not forget to cut the X on the top of the bread; this ensures that the middle of the bread will cook completely.

Our other tradition is St. Pat’s pinwheels. These cookies are delicious. They are also a real pain to make.



St. Patrick’s pinwheels is flavored with peppermint extract and contrasts perfectly with the buttery vanilla taste of the plain dough.

FRANCESCA ULLMER

This is because the dough is so sticky. Make sure that when making these cookies there is room in your freezer. Any time that the dough gets too unmanageable, stick it in the freezer for a few minutes. The cold does help. Remember, even if they look a little funny they still taste good.

The green part of the dough is flavored with peppermint extract, and contrasts perfectly with the buttery vanilla taste of

the plain dough. Honestly, these cookies taste so good it is worth the hassle. Do not get turned off by the idea of peppermint extract in these cookies. I was skeptical at first, too, but now, as in the words of Oliver Hardy, “I have nothing to say.”

Francesca Ullmer, the second child of a large homeschooled family, is from the Krakow area. She enjoys baking, reading, knitting, raising goats, and entering numerous items in the Oconto County Fair.

ST. PAT’S PINWHEELS

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 1/4 cups granulated sugar | 1 stick butter | 2 eggs |
| 1/4 cup light corn syrup or regular pancake syrup | 1 tsp. vanilla | |
| 3 cups flour | 3/4 tsp. baking powder | 1/2 tsp. baking soda |
| 1/2 tsp. salt | 1/2 tsp. peppermint extract | 2 tsp. green food coloring |

Place the sugar and butter in a large bowl. Using a stand-up mixer with a paddle attachment, beat the sugar and butter at medium speed until well blended. Add the eggs, syrup, and vanilla; beat until well blended and fluffy. Whisk the flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt together. Add gradually to the butter mixture, beating at low speed until well mixed. Place half the dough into a medium bowl, and stir in the peppermint extract, desired amount of green food coloring, and 1/2 to 1 Tbsp. of flour to offset the extra liquid. Wrap each dough in plastic wrap and pat into a flattened disk. Refrigerate several hours or until firm. Sprinkle about 1 Tbsp. of flour on a large sheet of waxed paper. Place peppermint dough on the floured paper; flatten slightly with hands. Place another sheet of waxed paper on top, and roll dough into a 14-by-9-inch rectangle. Set aside. Repeat with plain dough. Remove top sheet of waxed paper from both doughs. Invert plain dough onto peppermint dough, aligning edges carefully. Trim if necessary. Remove waxed paper from plain dough. Roll dough tightly in jelly-roll fashion starting with long side, removing the rest of the waxed paper during rolling. Wrap the roll in waxed paper; freeze at least 30 minutes or until very firm. Heat oven to 375 degrees. Remove roll from freezer; cut into 3/8 inch-thick slices. Place slices 2 inches apart on an ungreased baking sheet. Bake for 6-9 minutes or until edges of cookies are very lightly browned. Do not overbake. Cool 2 minutes on baking sheet. Remove to cooling rack to cool completely.

SUPER SIMPLE IRISH SODA BREAD

- | | | |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 4 cups flour | 2 tsp. salt | 1 tbsp. sugar |
| 1 tsp. baking soda | 1 cup raisins or dried currants (optional) | |
| 1 egg | 1 3/4 cups buttermilk | 2 tbsp. melted butter |

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Whisk together the flour, salt, sugar, baking soda, and raisins. In a medium bowl, beat the egg and the buttermilk. Add the melted butter and stir to combine. Add the liquid ingredients to the dry ingredients and stir with a rubber spatula until combined. Mixture will be sticky. Grease a cast iron skillet (or other similarly sized baking dish) with softened butter. Set aside. Lightly flour your hands and sprinkle a little flour over the sticky dough ball. Use your hands to scrape the dough from the sides of the bowl, adding more flour as needed, and quickly shape the dough into a ball. Knead lightly if necessary. Transfer to prepared skillet. Sprinkle with a little more flour. Use a sharp knife to make a deep X across the top of the dough ball. Place in oven and bake for 30-35 minutes or until lightly golden and bottom sounds hollow when tapped. Remove from oven, transfer to cooling rack, and let cool for 15 minutes before slicing. Store in an airtight bag at room temperature for 3-4 days or freeze it for up to 2-3 months.

WHAT’S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

SHAWANO: Boost Your Brain and Memory, 9-10:30 a.m., ADRC of the Wolf River Region, W7327 Anderson Ave. A holistic approach to improving brain health. Final week of eight-week class, enrollment limited to 12 people; register by calling Ericka at 715-526-4712.

SURING: World Day of Prayer, 10 a.m., Our Redeemer’s Lutheran Church, 11015 County Road M. Hosted by Hickory United Methodist Church.

PULASKI: Wicka’s Jam Session, 2-6 p.m., Wicka’s Bar, 137 S. St. Augustine St. Casimir Pulaski Days event.

SHAWANO: Lenten Fish Fry, 4-7 p.m., Sacred Heart Catholic Parish and School, 124 E. Center St. Cod, fries, bread, beverages, non-fish food options available. \$20 adults, \$8 age 12 and under.

OCONTO: Fish Fry, 4-7 p.m., Holy Trinity Parish, 300 Arbutus Ave. Adults \$13, children 6-12 \$7, 6 and under free. 50/50 and cash raffles.

WITTENBERG: “Trouble at the Tropicabana,” a murder mystery dinner theater production by Crossroads Community Theatre. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m., WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal St. Tickets \$45 per person, available at Sentry Foods or by calling 715-253-3525. Choice of chicken or fish for plated dinner service.

SURING: Recovery Talking Circle, 6-8 p.m. South Branch Community Center, W1281 County Road M.

PULASKI: Friday Night Polka Delight, 7-11 p.m., Mountain Bay Bar and Grill, 104 S. Wisconsin St. Casimir Pulaski Days event.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

SHAWANO: Cabin Fever Craft Fair, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Shawano Civic Center, 225 S. Main St. Handmade craft items and free admission.

SHAWANO: Maple Syrup Snowshoe Hike, 9:30 a.m. to noon, Sugar Shack Trails, N7061 Ash Road. Hosted by Shawano Pathways. Arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of the hike to register, get gear on and meet the guide. All hikes are free, but donations are appreciated.

NAVARINO: Thin Bunny Craft, 9 a.m. to noon, Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Easy guided class to paint, decorate and personalize a bunny decoration. Members \$25, non-members \$30.

PULASKI: Open House, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Pulaski Museum, 129 W. Pulaski St. Puzzles for Pints kids event 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

SHAWANO: Cornhole Tournament, 11 a.m., Shawano Lake Golf Course, W5714 Lake Drive. Double elimination, \$30 per team, maximum 30 teams, 100% payout to top four teams. Registration 10 a.m.

GRESHAM: American Legion Meat Raffle, 5 p.m., Legion Hall, 951 Main St. 50/50 drawing

WITTENBERG: “Trouble at the Tropicabana,” a murder mystery dinner theater production by Crossroads Community Theatre. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m., WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal St. Tickets \$45 per person, available at Sentry Foods or by calling 715-253-3525. Choice of chicken or fish

for plated dinner service.

SHAWANO: Live Comedy: Tom Clark, 6:30 p.m., Stubborn Brothers Brewery Crescent Ballroom, 220 S. Main St. Opening act Steph Clark 7 p.m., Tom Clark 7:30 p.m. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, includes one drink ticket.

PULASKI: Casimir Pulaski Days Big Dance, 7-11 p.m., Scolly’s Hometown Ballroom, 149 W. Pulaski St.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

KRAKOW: Casimir Polish Hearty Brunch, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., St. Casimir Catholic Church, W146 Park St. Casimir Pulaski Days finale.

MONDAY, MARCH 10

OCONTO: Masonic Pine Lodge 188 dinner, 6 p.m., 513 Superior Ave. Open to family, friends and interested guests, followed by Master Mason private meeting at 7 p.m. For info, contact the lodge secretary at 920-373-0950.

SHAWANO: Recovery talking circle, 6-8 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, Room 4, 100 W. Presbyterian St. Information: Dallas Gast, 715-701-5388 or dallasgast8@gmail.com.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

WABENO: Free Veterans Breakfast, 9:30 a.m., American Legion Hall, 4494 N. Branch St. Coffee ready 9 a.m. Chef’s choice, hosted by Donna and Vicki, 715-889-3731.

KESHENA: Recovery talking circle, 6-8 p.m. Omaeqnome-newak Wetohkatikamek Center, 2700 Mianaceqtawak Road. Information: Mindy Thunder at 715-799-3835 or mthunder@mitw.org.

SHAWANO: Shawano Pathways monthly meeting, 6-8 p.m., Shawano Civic Center, 225 S. Main St. Use the entrance off Washington Street.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

KESHENA: Recovery talking circle, 6-8 p.m. Omaeqnome-newak Wetohkatikamek Center, 2700 Mianaceqtawak Road. Information: Mindy Thunder at 715-799-3835 or mthunder@mitw.org.

POUND: North Country Kickers line dance lessons, 6:30-9 p.m., Equity Hall, W7403 State Highway 64. \$5 admission. Playing a variety of music. Everyone welcome. For information, call Nancy 920-829-6316 or Charles 920-606-4370.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

SHAWANO: Chili to Go, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Peace United Church of Christ, 208 E. Maurer St. Quart of chili with crackers \$9. Bake sale and raffles.

OCONTO: Jacob’s Well — Oconto All Community small group Bible study, 2:30 p.m. The Shop On Main (rear conference annex), 821 Main St. Information at jacobswellgb.org.

SHAWANO: Shawano Community High School Jazz Band, 7 p.m., Stubborn Brothers Brewery, 220 S. Main St.

ABRAMS: “Godspell,” 7 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theatre, 5852 Maple St., presented by Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. Adults \$19, senior citizens, youths and veterans \$17. abramstheater.com

BOWLER: Native American Talking Circle, 7-9 p.m., Mohican Family Center, N8605 Oak St. Information: Yvonne Burr, 715-326-0891.



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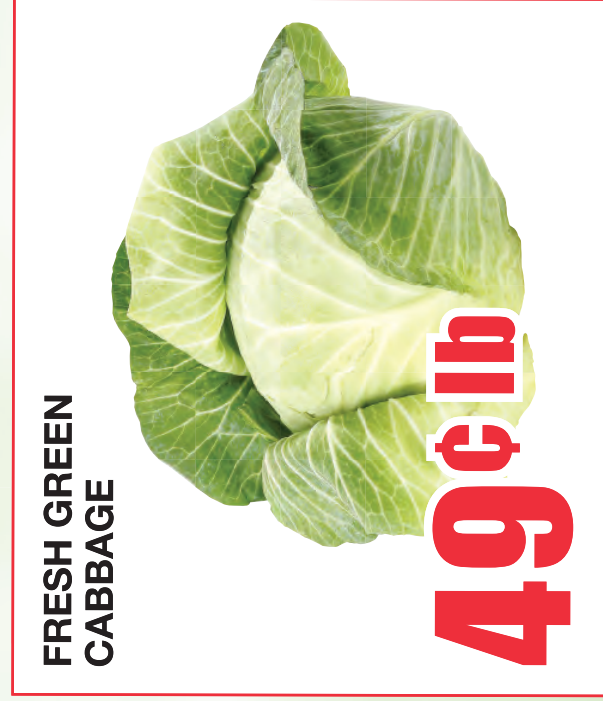
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Whiting, Huffman repeat as state champs

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Six of the seven area girls who competed at the WIAA state wrestling meet placed in the top six, and two returned home as champions – again.

Lena junior Taylor Whiting is state champion again after pinning Neenah junior Kylee Kurszewski in 1:13 in the title match of the 114-pound weight class.

Wittenberg-Birnam-

wood sophomore Brooke Huffman pinned Kiley Georgel of Luxemburg-Casco in 33 seconds to win the 185-pound weight class crown.

At 152 pounds, Bonduel senior Madalyn Sokolski

placed second, losing the title match 14-0 to Isabelle Olesen of Oak Creek.

Pulaski's Harlow Skendore placed third in the 145-pound weight class. The sophomore pinned Katelyn Nosbisch of Black

River Falls in 1:21.

Taking fifth place at 165 was Bonduel sophomore Alisha Berg.

She pinned Amerrah Kayon of Shoreland Lutheran in 3:21.

At 138, Pulaski junior

Leah Kapla placed sixth. In the fifth-place match, she lost 7-0 to Natalie Poplawski of New Berlin West/Eisenhower.

Bonduel's Madelyn Hert competed at 185 but did not place.

Shawano, Bonduel, Witt-Birn girls advance to WIAA sectionals

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

March 1
Wittenberg-Birnamwood 55, Seymour 44

Melaina Granquist scored 22 points and Rory Salvesen dropped in 17 as Wittenberg-Birnamwood won its regional title with a 55-44 win over Seymour.

"Very proud of this group tonight," coach Nick Mechelke said. "We couldn't put it all together tonight. We made our runs, and then Seymour would come right back. We just couldn't put them away. This time of year, you just need to find a way, and that's what we did."

Salvesen led the Chargers with two assists. Granquist had 11 rebounds, and Faith Resch had seven steals.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood was scheduled to play against Florence at Oconto Falls on March 6 with the sectional finals set for March 8 at Seymour.

Bonduel 55, Auburn-dale 36

The Bears broke the game open in the second half, defeating Auburndale 55-36 for the regional title.

The Bears were led by Audrey Weier with 12 points and Tatum Sporisky with 11.

Bonduel was scheduled to play St. Mary Catholic at Brillion on March 6. The sectional final will be March 8 at Oconto Falls.

Shawano 54, Fox Valley Lutheran 31

Shawano, 20-5 overall, dominated Fox Valley Lutheran 54-31 to win the regional title.

The Hawks were scheduled to play Marinette at Pulaski on March 6. The



Emery Thompson brings the ball up court against Weyauwega-Fremont in WIAA regional action. Bonduel won 60-42 to advance to the sectional finals against Auburndale.

BELLA ROBERTS

sectional finals will be March 8 at Mosinee.

Freedom 60, Menominee Nation 42

Freedom held a slim four-point lead at halftime but opened it up in the second half en route to a 60-42 win in the regional finals.

Urijih Reeves led the Eagles with 19 points.

The Eagles, 13-12 overall, finished the season in third place in the Central Wisconsin East Conference with a 7-7 record.

Reeves led the team with 18.1 points per game. She was joined by Aaliyah Corn with 8.4 and Lena Waukau with 6.5.

Natalie Peters averaged

8.0 rebounds per game, and Reeves notched 7.2.

Reeves also led with 2.6 assists per game; Peters had 1.9.

Marinette 50, Pulaski 28

Pulaski didn't have a player score in double digits as Ashley Servais led the team with nine in its 50-28 loss to Marinette for the regional title.

The Red Raiders finished the season at 8-18, including a 4-14 mark in the Fox River Classic Conference.

Sprangers led the team with 10.7 points per game, with Servais at 9.6 and Lily Urben at 5.9.

Feb. 28



Bonduel's Tatum Sprosky looks for an open player in the Bears' 60-42 WIAA regional semifinal win over Weyauwega-Fremont. Sprosky and Audrey Weier led Bonduel with five assists each. Bonduel would go on to win the regional title against Auburndale and was scheduled to play March 6 in the sectional semifinal against St. Mary. Catholic.

BELLA ROBERTS

Shawano 71, Antigo 13

Shawano's victory was never in doubt as the Hawks crushed Antigo 71-13 in a WIAA regional game.

Leah Nordin led Shawano with 18 points, Jadyn Brown scored 10. Ella Stuber had nine points, all on 3-pointers.

Creden Weisnicht led

the Hawks with seven rebounds. Marissa Tomashek and Trinity Popelka each had three assists, and Nordin had four steals.

Pulaski 38, Luxemburg-Casco 34 (OT)

Pulaski used a 10-6 overtime period to win its regional game over Luxemburg-Casco 38-34.

Olivia Sprangers led the

Red Raiders with 12 points.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood 66, Oconto Falls 52

Oconto Falls played tough against Wittenberg-Birnamwood, but the Chargers played tougher and ended the Panthers season after winning 66-52.

GIRLS BASKETBALL, CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Falk, Trepanier lead boys wrestlers at state wrestling meet

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Jack Falk, a sophomore from Pulaski, placed second in the WIAA state wrestling meet's Division 1 106-pound weight class.

In the title match, he lost to Union Grove's Camden Rugg.

Three Oconto Falls wrestlers finished either second or third.

Senior Nick Trepanier finished second in the D2 175-pound weight class. In the title match, he lost 16-2 to Micah Kuchta of Coleman.

Oconto Falls sopho-

more Isaiah Holtz placed third in the 113 class in Division 2. He defeated Kaiden Hahn of St. Croix Falls 13-6 in the third-place match.

Teammate Cole Bozile, a senior, placed third in the D2 138-pound class. He won on a 10-0 major deci-

sion of Antonio Sowell of Amery.

Ben Miller, a junior at Wittenberg-Birnamwood, placed fourth in the D2 144-pound class. In the match for third place, he lost 5-0 to Louis Hock of Wrightstown.

Bonduel's Colin

Fischer, a senior, placed fifth in the 165 class in Division 3. He won 7-4 over Nolen Waldner of Ithaca/Weston in the fifth-place match.

Also competing but not placing were Broc Ambrosius, D1, 138, Pulaski senior; Dane Hodkiewicz,

D2, 120, Shawano junior; Max Peterson, D3, 150, Lena junior; Mason Taylor, D1, 157, Pulaski junior; Andy Servais, D1, 190, Pulaski senior; Dalton Fletcher, D2, 120, W-B sophomore; and Devin Wudtke, D2, 138, W-B junior.

GIRLS BASKETBALL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Rory Salvesen led the Chargers with 28 points including four 3-pointers. Harper Rogowski scored 15 points, and Melaina Granquist added another 13.

Granquist led the team with five rebounds, Salvesen had three assists, and Kylee Beversdorf had four steals.

The Panthers end the season at 11-15 overall after finishing 8-10 in the North Eastern Conference.

Rylie shallow led Oconto Falls with 16.0 points per game, followed by Maddy Maloney with 11.5 and Ella Jahnke with 9.0.

Jahnke pulled down an average of 10.8 rebounds per game, and Maloney had 5.9.

Shallow also led with 2.2 assists per game; Maloney had 1.2.

Bonduel 60, Weyauwega-Fremont 42

Bonduel was led by Audrey Jacobs' 14 points and Audrey Weier's 11 in its 60-42 win over Weyauwega-Fremont.

Weier led the Bears with six rebounds. Weier and Tatum Sporisky each had five assists. Jayla Reinke, Cierra Schnell and Allison Zernicke each recorded three steals.

Menominee Nation 59, Tomahawk 26

The Eagles put the clamps on the Hatchets early and never let up in a 59-26 win.

Menominee Nation led Tomahawk 36-8 at half-time and outscored their opponents 23-18 in the second half.

Urijih Reevis led Menominee Nation with 21 points, with Lena Waukau adding 10.

Aaliyah Corn had eight rebounds, Reevis had five assists, and Corn had seven steals.

Green Bay NEW Lutheran/Providence Academy 56, Lena 48

Lena will not return to the state tournament after losing 56-48 to Green Bay NEW Lutheran/Providence Academy in regional action.

Kali Fischer led Lena with 15 points, and Eva Brooks had 14.

Madilyn Thomson pulled down 13 rebounds. Thomson and Maddy



Oconto Falls' Ella Jahnke (10) can't stop Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Melaina Granquist (42) from scoring in WIAA sectional action.

TINA BACON

Kushner each dished out three assists, and Abby Kostreva and Haley Van Ark each had three steals. Lena was the Marinette & Oconto Conference champion with a 15-1 mark while finishing 22-3 overall.

Thomson led the Eagles with 16.3 points per game, followed by Brooks with 16.2 and Fischer with 11.1.

Brooks pulled down an average of 9.6 rebounds per game, and Thomson recorded 9.4.

Thomson also led with 3.6 assists per game. Brooks recorded 3.1.

Florence 39, Gillett 38
Florence pulled out a one-point win, 39-38, over Gillett to end the Tigers season.

Gillett, 20-5 overall, was in second place with a 12-4 record in the Marinette & Oconto Conference.

Cilena Guns led the Tigers with 13.9 points per

game, followed by Audrey Pate with 9.9 and Hope Soper with 9.6.

Guns also set the pace with 7.8 rebounds per game, while Pate had 6.4.

Soper led with 2.8 assists per game; Maggie Kaczmarek averaged 2.3 per game.

Feb. 25
Oconto Falls 60,

Peshtigo 42

Oconto Falls was the only local team to win in the opening round of WIAA playoff action, capturing a 60-42 victory over No. 8 seed Peshtigo.

The No. 9 seed Panthers advanced to the next round and will take on No. 1 seed Wittenberg-Birnamwood, which has not lost all season.

Crivitz 53, Marion/Tigerton 36

The Marion/Tigerton season ended with a 53-36 loss to Crivitz.

The No. 11 seed Mustangs traveled to No. 6 for the first round of WIAA regional action.

Marion/Tigerton, which finished 4-2 and in second place in the Central Wisconsin North Conference, was 15-10 overall.

Green Bay NEW Lutheran/Providence Academy 50, Suring 30

The No. 8 seed Suring Eagles lost 50-30 to No. 9 seed Green Bay NEW Lutheran/Providence Academy in WIAA regional action.

Suring's year ended with a 4-12 record in the Marinette & Oconto Conference and 11-14 overall.

According to wissports.net, Bunny Cramer led the Eagles this year with an average of 17.0 points per game, followed by Paige Pommerich with 7.7 and Emma Kristof with 6.6.

Ellayna Skarban averaged 7.2 rebounds per

game, and Cramer had 4.3.

In assists per game, it was Kristof with 2.6 and Cramer with 2.4.

Oneida Nation 90, Bowler 31

Bowler finished the season with an overall mark of 4-16 after its 90-31 loss to Oneida Nation in WIAA regional action.

Bowler was seeded No. 13 and Oneida Nation was No. 4 in the Division 5 Sectional 2.

The Panthers finished 0-6 and in last place in the four-team Central Wisconsin North Conference.

Florence 52, Gresham 23

Gresham was out-matched by Florence in its 52-23 loss in the first round of the WIAA playoffs.

Gresham, winners of the Central Wisconsin North Conference with a 5-1 mark and 11-12 overall, was seeded 10th. Florence was seeded seventh and advanced to the next round to take on Gillett.

According to wissports.net, Lexi Baddmoccasin-Barnes led Gresham during the year with an average of 12.6 points per game. She was followed by Janay Pecore-Kirkland with 6.8 and Allie Cerveney with 5.8.

Pecore-Kirkland averaged 8.4 rebounds per game, and Emily Jensen had 6.9.

Baddmoccasin-Barnes led with 4.3 assists per game; Grace Haffner averaged 1.8.



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How far will Charger girls team go?

BY MIRIAM NELSON
Correspondent

Fresh off winning the Central Wisconsin Conference East title, having fun and the love of the sport seems to be the secret to the success of the Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School girls basketball team. With an impressive 14-0 conference mark, coach Nick Mechelke is looking forward to seeing how far this team will go.

“Our biggest strength is our defense and the pressure that we put on that teams have a hard time dealing with,” Mechelke said. “We are extremely quick and athletic, and the other teams can’t handle. We harass them to make mistakes that end up in our favor.”

With three rounds of regionals, two rounds of sectionals and then the top four competing at state, there are still a lot of games ahead. Mechelke is confident this team has what it takes to go far this season.

Melaina Granquist, junior, and Faith Resch, senior, have been playing basketball since middle school, and Mechelke has been there the whole time. His coaching philosophy involves trying to keep the passion of basketball in the sport and making it fun for them with the end

goal of being successful. Going into these championship games, Granquist, center, feels they have a 100% chance of taking it all the way to state.

“I just go in and play as hard as I can and hope for the best,” she said. Resch, guard, prepares for one game at a time.

“I just go in thinking it’s just like any other game and always put in as much effort as I can and know that I’ll play as hard as I can and it’ll end up as it’s supposed to in the end,” she said.

Resch and Granquist are prepared for whatever comes their way, and that preparedness is due in part to their exceptional attitude and training. For Resch, each school year has begun with swimming, then basketball, then on to track, then summer league and then straight into strength and conditioning. Mechelke coaches Resch in basketball and track.

Granquist plays volleyball in the fall and basketball in winter. She contributes her success to extra practice and participating in club sports. She would like to turn pro and is inspired by all the players in the WNBA, noting they all work hard to play at that level.

They each bring unique talents

to the team. At just 5 feet 4 inches, Resch uses her speed to outrace her opponents.

Granquist, at 5 feet 11 inches, finds most girls playing that position are about the same height, so she tries to consistently jump higher and faster than her opponents and get the ball to the right person.

In a normal game, they play around eight or nine girls.

“Their strength is being quicker and able to outrun their opponents,” Mechelke said. “The defense is good at throwing the other teams off their game.”

Most of the team members have been playing basketball together since middle school. They have been able to learn to depend on each other over the years to work as a well-oiled machine.

“I think just knowing each other and getting each other out of slumps and just having fun and playing the best they possibly can,” Resch said is the secret to teamwork.

“We are very proud of our girls on their accomplishments this year and look forward to supporting them with hopefully more continued success into the post season,” added Superintendent Garrett Rogowski.



Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School girls basketball coach Nick Mechelke stands behind a pair of his star players, Faith Resch, left, and Melaina Granquist.

MIRIAM NELSON

Bay Area Ice Bears making return trip to state tournament

BY NEW MEDIA STAFF

Feb. 28
Bay Area 3, Fond du Lac Warbirds 1
The Ice Bears punched

their ticket to the state tournament with a 3-1 win over the Fond du Lac Warbirds.

A scoreless first period gave way to Bay Area’s

three goals in the second period.

Rachael Beeck scored at 1:28 with an Addison Gady assist. Faye Brunke scored at 2:34 with assists

from Tiana Stindt and Emily Bill. Then, at 11:20, Bill scored with Addison Dahl and Julianne Bradford assisting.

The Warbirds scored

their goal in the third period.

The Ice Bears had 28 shots on goal. The Warbirds only managed six, with Reese Spiering get-

ting five saves. The Warbirds had more penalties than shots on goal, getting called for

HOCKEY, CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



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Boys basketball regular season comes to an end

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

**Feb. 27
Bonduel 87, Weyauwega-Fremont 69**

Bonduel finished the 2024-25 regular season a perfect 14-0 in the Central Wisconsin East Conference and 23-1 overall after defeating Weyauwega-Fremont 87-69.

Ryan Westrich scored 25 points with 12 rebounds. Carter Moesch scored another 21 points including five 3-pointers. Cade Johnson dished out 10 assists.

Quinn Wesenberg contributed 13 points, and Race Anvelink added 11.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood 75, Manawa 55

Wittenberg-Birnamwood finished the regular season with a 17-7 mark after beating Manawa 75-55.

Zandyr Barke paced the Chargers with 21 points including four 3-pointers. Jett Rogowski and Jaden Clark each scored 16.

Gillett 67, St. Thomas Aquinas Academy 64

Jesse DeBauch pounded in 49 points in Gillett's 67-64 win over St. Thomas Aquinas Academy.

The two teams tied at 10-6 in the Marinette & Oconto Conference. The Tigers are 13-11 overall

at the end of the regular season.

Little Chute 61, Oconto Falls 24

JJ Pytleski scored 11 points in Oconto Falls' 61-24 loss to Little Chute.

The Panthers' regular season ends with a 10-8 North Eastern Conference record and 14-10 overall.

Sheboygan North 99, Pulaski 69

Pulaski's 69 points were spread among 11 players, but the Red Raiders fell drastically short in a 99-69 loss to Sheboygan North.

Colin Schultz led Pulaski with 15 points, followed by Dixon Holewinski with 12 and Joseph Mijal with 10.

Bryce Wotruba led the team with four rebounds and three steals, and Schultz had two assists.

The Red Raiders are 10-8 in the Fox River Classic Conference and 13-11 overall.

Lena 55, Suring 44

Lena topped Suring 55-44 as both teams ended the regular season with a 4-12 record in the Marinette & Oconto Conference.

Lena is 9-14 overall, and Suring is 7-16.

White Lake 68, Bowler 34

Bowler's 68-34 loss to White Lake left the

Panthers with a 3-6 mark in the Central Wisconsin North Conference and 6-15 overall.

Tigerton 73, Northland Lutheran 55

Tigerton's regular season drew to a close with a 73-55 win over Northland Lutheran.

Caleb Dahlstrom led the Tigers with 16 points, followed by James Brady with 13 and Maverick Mass with 10.

Brady pulled down 13 rebounds. Brady and Sam Anheuser each had three assists, and Brody Miller had three steals.

Tigerton won the Central Wisconsin North Conference with a perfect 10-0 record. The Tigers are 22-1 overall.

Gresham 64, Marion 60

Marion's 64-60 loss to Gresham left the Mustangs winless in the Central Wisconsin North Conference this season. At 0-10 in league play, Marion is 3-21 overall.

Menasha 63, Shawano 61

Shawano's regular season ended at home with a 63-61 loss to Menasha.

The Hawks finished at 4-10 in the Bay Conference and 7-17 overall.

Shiocton 65, Menominee Nation 62

**Feb. 25
Tigerton 75, Crandon 62**

Tigerton improved to 21-1 with its 75-62 win over Crandon.

James Brady led the Tigers, recording a double-double with 20 points and 12 rebounds.

Caleb Dahlstrom scored another 13 points, and Joey Zimdars and Sam Anheuser had 10 each.

Brody Miller led the team with five assists, and Brady grabbed five steals.

**Feb. 24
Bonduel 88, Peshtigo 32**

Eleven Bonduel players

scored in the Bears 88-32 crushing of Peshtigo.

Leading in the scoring was Quinn Wesenberg with 28 points, including six 3-pointers. Carter Moesch sacred 13 points, including a trio of 3-pointers, and Ryan Westrich had 11.

Also scoring for the Bears were Cade Johnson, Cole Westphal, Mason Zuleger, Griffin Uelmen, Mason Ballwahn, Race Anvelink, Sam Roberts and Kody Schroeder.

Gillett 56, Suring 46
Suring slowly pulled ahead in the second half to defeat Gillett 56-46 in M&O Conference play.

The Eagles were led by Michael Bailey with 17 points, Taylor Booth Stofregen with 13 and Parker Haak with 10.

Jesse DeBauch led the Tigers with 37 points. Ryan Pensis chipped in another 10.

Coleman 77, Lena 55

Despite 23 points from Mason Spice, Lena couldn't stop Coleman in a 77-55 loss.

Shawano 72, Wittenberg-Birnamwood 58

Almond-Bancroft 95, Gresham 50

Valley Christian 76, Marion 36

Menominee Nation 73, Crandon 58

HOCKEY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

seven infractions for 25 minutes, including five minutes for checking from behind (major) and 10 minutes for checking from behind (misconduct), both on the same player.

Bay Area, seeded No.1, was scheduled to play No. 4 seed Sun Prairie West Co-op in a semifinal game March 6. D.C. Everest, No. 2 seed, was set to play No. 3 seed Eau Claire North Co-op. The winners of the semifinal games will play for the state championship at 3 p.m. March 8 in Middleton.

**Feb. 25
Bay Area 6, Lakeshore Lightning 0**

The Bay Area Ice Bears won their first WIAA playoff game, a 6-0 semifinal shutout of Lakeshore Lightning.

The Ice Bears tallied 14

shots on goal in the first period, and the Lightning had seven, but neither team found the back of the net.

Scoring began in the second period when the Ice Bears connected on three of their 13 shots on goal.

Abby Monmaerts scored at 1:05 with a Rachael Beeck assist. Addison Dahl followed at 6:03 with assistance from Julianne Bradford and Tiana Stindt. The Ice Bears' third goal of the period was recorded at 8:15 when Ava McDonald scored with assists from Aisling Buchan and Lily Lyons.

Lakeshore only mustered three shots on goal in the period. The same was true for their third-period output.

Bay Area scored on three of six shots on goal in the third period.

Lyons scored at 3:47 with help from McDonald and Mya Sheppard. Then, Emily Bill scored twice, first at 10:00 and again at 11:50. Faye Brunke assisted on Bill's first goal, while she and Bradford assisted on the second goal.

In the end, Bay Area had 33 shots on goal. Lakeshore had 13, with Reese Spiering getting 13 saves.

The game was mostly free of penalties, with each team only called for two infractions apiece for four minutes.

The Warbirds are made up of girls from St. Mary's Springs, Oshkosh, Omro, Kewaskum, Campbellsport, Valders, Waupun, Plymouth, Kohler and Sheboygan.

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The figure displays three 8x8 grids, each representing a different stage of a word search puzzle. The grids are arranged horizontally.

Grid 1 (Left): Shows the initial state of the puzzle. Some cells contain numbers, while others are empty. The numbers are: Row 1: 2, 9, 6, 4; Row 2: 3, 8, 2, 7; Row 3: 6, 1, 5, 9; Row 4: 6, 3, 5; Row 5: 5, 7, 1, 2, 4; Row 6: 2, 5, 1; Row 7: 1, 7, 9; Row 8: 5, 8, 3, 2; Row 9: 4, 8, 6, 7.

Grid 2 (Middle): Shows the state of the puzzle after removing the words. The numbers remain in their original positions, but the cells that were part of the words are now empty. The numbers are: Row 1: 6, 4, 5; Row 2: 1, 7, 6; Row 3: 5, 2, 7, 9, 1; Row 4: 7, 8, 1, 3, 5; Row 5: 3, 5, 7, 9, 2; Row 6: 9, 5, 2, 6, 8; Row 7: 8, 3, 5; Row 8: 7, 1, 4.

Grid 3 (Right): Shows the state of the puzzle after removing the numbers. The cells that were part of the words are now empty, and the numbers have been removed. The numbers are: Row 1: 9, 4, 2, 8, 5, 1, 6, 3, 7; Row 2: 7, 5, 8, 9, 6, 4, 2, 1; Row 3: 3, 1, 6, 2, 4, 7, 5, 8, 9; Row 4: 4, 2, 7, 5, 9, 6, 8, 1, 3; Row 5: 5, 6, 3, 7, 1, 2, 8, 9, 4; Row 6: 8, 6, 1, 4, 6, 3, 7, 5, 2; Row 7: 9, 7, 4, 1, 2, 5, 3, 6, 8; Row 8: 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 4, 2, 7, 6; Row 9: 2, 8, 6, 3, 7, 6, 1, 4, 5.

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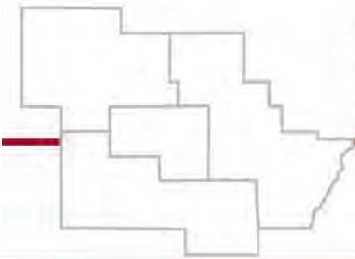


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Welcome to our **World Day of Prayer 2025 Friday, March 7 • 10:00am** Location: **Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church** 11015 County Road M, Suring, WI Hosted by: Hickory United Methodist Church

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OCONTO COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

Proceedings of Feb. 24

• Bond was set at \$3,500 cash for Steven Ray Wick, 49, Clintonville, after he was charged with operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fifth or sixth offense), in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Feb. 22. Judge Jay Conley adjourned his initial appearance until March 13.

• Bond was set at \$1,000 cash for Steven James Rhodes, 19, Bellevue, after he was charged with child abuse intentionally causing harm and misdemeanor counts of criminal damage to property and disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Feb. 23. Conley adjourned his initial appearance until March 13.

• Bond was set at \$250 cash for Caleb Noah Clark, 21, Green Bay, after he was charged with possession of THC (second or subsequent offense) and mis-

demeanor possession of drug paraphernalia, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Feb. 21. Conley adjourned his initial appearance until March 13.

• Bond was set at \$250 cash for Anthony Obed Perez Diaz, 21, Green Bay, after he was charged with possession of THC (second or subsequent offense) and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Feb. 21. Conley adjourned his initial appearance until March 13.

Proceedings of Feb. 25

• Shawn Michael Schoen, 48, Marinette, pleaded no contest to theft by a contractor, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred March 16, 2020. Judge Michael Judge scheduled sentencing for April 28 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

• Bond was set at \$50,000

cash for Ethan Curtis Wykle, 21, Oconto, after he was charged with second-degree sexual assault of a child, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred at an underage drugs and drinking party in Oconto on Jan. 24, and a misdemeanor count of resisting or obstructing an officer, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred during his arrest Feb. 20. Judge adjourned his initial appearance until March 13.

Proceedings of Feb. 27

• Christopher W. Woodliff, 40, Oconto, was sentenced to six years in prison, followed by four years of extended supervision with conditions, for possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine, possession of THC (second or subsequent offense), and possession of amphetamine, in connection with an incident that occurred May 25. Judge

ruled that Woodliff is eligible for the Substance Abuse Program, which can lead to early release upon successful completion.

• Kyle K. Sydor, 36, Oconto, pleaded no contest to felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of resisting or obstructing an officer, in connection with an incident that occurred Dec. 16, and a misdemeanor count of theft, in connection with an incident that occurred March 18, 2021. The 2021 count was amended from a felony in a plea agreement. Judge scheduled sentencing for May 5 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

Proceedings of Feb. 28

• James John Crouse, 53, Menominee, Michigan, pleaded no contest to possession of THC (second and subsequent offense) in connection with incidents that occurred Nov. 13, 2024, and Nov. 16, 2023, and

felony bail jumping in connection with the 2024 incident. Judge scheduled sentencing for March 20 and agreed to use a pre-sentence investigation from a previous Marinette County case.

• Stuart Lee Long, 38, Cecil, pleaded guilty to burglary to a building or dwelling in connection with an incident that occurred June 12, 2020. Judge scheduled sentencing for June 4 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

• Jeremy L. Rushton, 36, Ishpeming, Michigan, pleaded no contest to possession of methamphetamine in connection with an incident that occurred Feb. 6. Judge levied court costs and sentenced him to 23 days already served in the Oconto County Jail. Rushton also was wanted on a fugitive complaint from Michigan, and he waived extradition during a March 13 appearance before Judge.

• A July 11-12 jury trial was

scheduled for Michael Lee Vandenhuevel, 29, Green Bay, on charges of attempted strangulation and suffocation, false imprisonment, and misdemeanor charges of battery, criminal damage to property, making contact after a domestic abuse arrest, and disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Sept. 24, 2023. Judge scheduled a final pre-trial conference for June 27.

• Bond was set at \$1,000 cash for Carrie M Haanen, 48 Appleton, after she was charged with possession of THC (second or subsequent offense), three counts of felony bail jumping, and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Feb. 26. Judge adjourned her initial appearance until March 13.

OCONTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Feb. 27

Deputies responded to 44 incidents, including suspicious activity on state Highway 32-64 in the Town of Mountain and on Deer Hill Road in the Town of Underhill, threatening on Vermeiren Road in the Town of Pensaukee, attempted fraud on Kosmal Lane in the Town of Lena, squad damage near state Highway 32 and Wendt Road in the Town of Breed, 10 traffic stops, one traffic hazard, one traffic offense, two citizen assists, two mis-

cellaneous traffic incidents, two welfare checks; three open-line 911 calls; two ambulance calls; three crashes, two involving deer.

Feb. 26

Deputies responded to 55 incidents, including an unwanted party on Main Street in the City of Oconto, an incident at the county jail, 220 Arbutus Ave., Oconto, a fire control burn on Allen Road in the Town of Little Suamico, internet fraud on Maple Leaf Trail in the Town of Little Suamico, an animal

bite on Saint Aubins Lane in the Town of Spruce, a structure fire on Main Street in the City of Oconto, 10 traffic stops, one traffic hazard, five traffic offenses, two miscellaneous traffic incidents, three welfare checks; one 911 hangup and two open lines; four crashes, one involving deer.

Feb. 25

Deputies responded to 31 incidents, including suspicious activity on Iditarod Trail in the Town of Stiles, a death investigation in the Town of

Oconto Falls, harassment on Gregory Lane in the Town of Little Suamico, theft on Nelligan Lake Lane in the Town of Riverview, theft on Sunrise Lane in the Town of Little River, an unwanted party on County Road J in the Town of Oconto, one traffic stop, one citizen assist, four miscel-

laneous traffic incidents, one welfare check; four open-line 911 calls; one crash.

Feb. 24

Deputies responded to 52 incidents, including suspicious activity on Loon Lane in the Town of Brazeau, on East Main Street in the City of Gillett, on West Maple Street

in the Village of Lena, and on County Road J in the Town of Pensaukee; five traffic stops, two traffic hazards, one traffic offense, two citizen assists, one miscellaneous traffic incident; two 911 hangups and three open lines; two ambulance calls; one crash, involving deer.

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03/07/03/14/2025

City of Oconto Falls East Side Beach Seasonal Positions

Beach Supervisor-Seasonal

\$17.00-18 an hour, depending upon qualifications

Seasonal: Preseason (March-April) Beach Season (May to September)

MINIMUM POSITION QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENTS:

Required Experience: Minimum two years supervising lifeguard experience, swim training, customer service, personnel management.

Preferred: One year managing an outdoor aquatic facility

Certifications/Licenses: Valid American Red Cross Lifeguard/CPR/AED/First Aid Certification; American Red Cross Lifeguard Instructor Certification-

Objective: The Beach Supervisor is responsible for assisting in the planning, promotion, development, coordination and supervision of beach facilities, programs, and staff.

Job Description:

The Beach Supervisor is responsible for the planning, promotion, supervision, operations, and administration of swimming lessons and Lifeguards. The individual will work in conjunction with the City Administrator to establish and uphold rules, regulations and policies of the facility.

Special work emphasis of this position will be in the areas of: facility and staff safety training, emergency procedures, personnel administration, front end operations.

Hours: Preseason: (March to May) 5-10 hours per week
Beach Season: June to August) Minimum 35 Hours Week

Education: Required: High School Diploma.

Knowledge: Water safety principles and emergency procedures.

Skill in: Providing necessary emergency care and leading and directing staff, leadership in emergency situations.

Certified Lifeguards - East Side Beach

City of Oconto Falls, WI

\$13.00 - \$15.00 an hour

Hours: Flexible

Seasonal (June to Mid-August)

Education/Certifications/Experience Requirements

REQUIRED: Must have current Certified Lifeguard Training. Water Safety Instructor (W.S.I.); First-aid Basics; and C.P.R. for the Professional Rescuer Certifications with AED Certifications; and supplemental experience working with or teaching learn to swim programs.

Possess the strength and endurance to perform all lifesaving and first-aid procedures while under the most difficult situations.

Complete knowledge of all swimming and water safety programs, and the ability to teach and demonstrate all swimming strokes.

Must be 15 years of age or older by May.

EXPERIENCE: Knowledge and/or background of the specific program

Ability and/ or experience to work with varied age groups, including children

Ability to take direction

Ability to understand and effectively carry out oral and written instructions

Examples of Duties

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS

Responsible for supervision of assigned facility during work hours (including, but not limited to, security, cleanliness, and safety)

Safety and direct supervision of patrons during all swim programming

Coordination and planning of program related activities and events

Encourage children to participate in activities through positive reinforcement

Serve as a positive role model to the participants

Continually train on emergency action plans, including by not limited to roles and responsibilities, rescue skills, and CPR and AED use

Respond to emergency situations, following established emergency protocols

Complete necessary paperwork specific to job responsibilities (attendance forms, accident/incident report forms, facility checklists, etc.)

Perform set-up and take-down of program related equipment

For more details on these positions and City employment application please visit our website at www.cityofocontofalls.com. Applications can be obtained at City Hall, 500 N Chestnut Avenue, on our website. Applications with certifications can be e-mailed to info@ci.ocontofalls.wi.us. Questions call 920-846-4505

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Zastawniak asks for jury trial

Peshtigo man faces 26 felony charges involving alleged child sex exploitation and assault

By **WARREN BLUHM**
News Editor

A Peshtigo man serving a 25-year sentence in a federal prison for child sex exploitation is scheduled to stand trial on state charges alleging he exploited and sexually assaulted teenage girls in Oconto County.

Zachary A. Zastawniak, 24, was scheduled to enter a plea in Oconto County Circuit Court on Dec. 11, but that hearing was postponed, because defense attorney Kirk Obear was said to be researching whether to bring a motion to dismiss on grounds of double jeopardy.

At a followup hearing Feb. 7, Obear did not file such a motion but

asked Judge Jay Conley for another delay to allow District Attorney Hannah Schuchart time to review the sentencing transcript from federal court.

Conley scheduled another followup hearing for Feb. 27, but pointedly said, ““I want us to either schedule a trial, schedule a plea hearing if there’s going to be a resolution, or if there’s a resolution before that date, let’s have a plea hearing.”

The Feb. 27 hearing turned out to be very brief, as Schuchart and Obear asked that a five-day jury trial be scheduled, which Conley set for Aug. 25-29 with a final pre-trial conference on July 15.

Zastawniak faces 26 felony charges in Oconto

County Circuit Court: two counts of using a computer to facilitate a child sex crime, three counts of second-degree sexual assault of a child, three counts of child enticement, soliciting a child for prostitution, trafficking of a child, two counts of threatening to communicate derogatory information, five counts of felony bail jumping and eight counts of possession of child pornography.

According to the criminal complaint, a 15-year-old girl said she had sent Zastawniak explicit images of herself, and he later threatened to post them online unless she came to a hotel room and had sex with him.

wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com



Zachary Zastawniak is escorted Feb. 27 into an Oconto County courtroom, where an August trial was scheduled on numerous charges alleging sexual exploitation of teenage girls.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

Dickinson pleads to a reduced charge

To be sentenced March 24 for causing mental harm to a child

By **WARREN BLUHM**
News Editor

A Portage man convicted of the repeated sexual assault of the same child pleaded no contest to a lesser charge Feb. 24 rather than risk being found guilty at a retrial.

Joshua L. Dickinson, 46, pleaded no contest in Oconto County Circuit Court to an amended charge of causing mental harm to a child. The conviction carries a maximum sentence of 12 years, 6 months in prison, a fine up to \$25,000 or both.

Defense attorney Charles L. Glynn asked that Judge Michael Judge

proceed to sentencing immediately, but Assistant District Attorney Richard Zoellner asked for additional time. The judge scheduled sentencing for 3:15 p.m. March 24.

An Oconto County jury found Dickinson guilty after a two-day trial in November 2021, and Judge sentenced him to six years in prison followed by five years of extended supervision with conditions.

Dickinson later filed a motion for a retrial on grounds that three Child Protective Services (CPS) reports were never introduced by either the prosecution or defense, that he had ineffective

counsel and that the prosecution made improper statements during closing arguments.

Judge ruled in March 2024 that the CPS reports did contain material information and that the defendant was prejudiced by the failure of both sides’ attorneys to provide them in discovery. As a result, Judge set aside the

jury verdict and ordered a new trial.

The judge declined to rule on the defense argu-

ments alleging ineffective counsel or improper prosecutorial statements, saying withholding the

CPS reports was sufficient cause for a new trial.

wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com

Center gets grant from Bond Foundation

The Bellin Health Bond Community Center received a generous donation to support phase three of its outdoor youth playground, annual kids’ triathlon and continuation of free community day events through a grant from the Leon H. and Clymene M. Bond Foundation, Inc.

This is the third year the Bond Community Center has received a grant from the Bond Foundation. The current grant was applied for through the Bellin Health Foundation, which will assist in managing the one-year grant for \$30,000.

“We are very thankful for this donation, which will allow us to increase the play-ability of our playground for kids of all ages,” said Julie Bulin, vice president of Bellin Health

Oconto Hospital. “These funds are a way for us to continue providing great health and well-being programming to everyone within our community.”

A portion of the funds will be dispersed to the third annual kids’ triathlon, geared toward children ages 3 to 14, as well as to free community day events such as family yoga, crafting projects and scavenger hunts.

The Bond Center offers health and fitness programs designed for various ages and skill levels in a welcoming and friendly environment. The center is a recreational and wellness facility that serves the residents of Oconto and neighboring communities. Visit www.bellinfitness.com or [Facebook.com/bellinfitnessbcc](https://facebook.com/bellinfitnessbcc) for information.

03/07, 03/14/2025

Bids Requested

Newcap, Inc., 1201 Main St., Oconto, WI

Is requesting bids for Energy Star Refrigerators and Freezers

for their contract year:

Contact Julie Mueller for bid specifications

All bids are due by 2:00 p.m. on March 20, 2025

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WNXLP

01/03/2025, 03/7/2025

NOTICE TO DOG OWNERS

Pursuant to Section 174.052, Wisconsin Statutes, rabies vaccinations and dog licenses are required for all dogs who are 5 months of age or older.

Vaccinations against rabies are required per Section 95.21(2), Wisconsin Statutes, within 30 days after the dog reaches 5 months of age and shall be repeated within one year after the initial vaccination. In addition, dogs shall be revaccinated when their rabies certificate expires. A certificate documenting that the dog's rabies vaccinations are current shall be presented to the treasurer when obtaining an annual dog license.

The owner of a dog more than 5 months of age on January 1 or within the licensing year shall obtain an annual dog license. Any person who keeps more than one dog shall contact their municipal treasurer regarding the availability of a multiple dog license.

2025 Dog Licensing tags shall be obtained by April 1, 2025, from your Municipal Treasurer.

Licensing fees may vary by municipality. Late fees are assessed after April 1, 2025.

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T-Bagley 920-842-4619	T-Lakewood 715-276-3579	T-Oconto 920-373-6270	T-Underhill 920-590-2991
T-Brazeau 920-897-3855	T-Lena 920-829-5467	T-Oconto Falls 920-373-3071	V-Lena 920-829-5226
T-Breed 920-842-2991	T-Little River 920-829-6316	T-Pensaukee 920-826-2010	V-Suring 920-842-2333
T-Chase 920-373-8308	T-Little Suamico 920-826-7655	T-Riverview 715-276-9478	C-Gillett 920-855-2255
T-Doty 715-276-7554	T-Maple Valley 920-373-2077	T-Spruce 920-246-0974	C-Oconto 920-834-7711
T-Gillett 920-676-2844	T-Morgan 920-846-0699	T-Stiles 920-370-5014	C-Oconto Falls 920-846-4505

Published pursuant to Sec. 174.052 Wis. Sta.

Publication Dates: January 3 and March 7, 2025

Please return form and money to your local Municipal Treasurer:

Neutered Male	Un-Neutered Male	Spayed Female	Un-spayed Female	Kennel	Municipality Fees 2025
\$3.00	\$8.00	\$3.00	\$8.00	\$35.00 + \$3.00 per dog in excess of 12 dogs	Fees for all municipalities in Oconto County except the municipalities listed below
\$3.00	\$25.00	\$3.00	\$25.00		Town of Chase
\$5.00	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$10.00		Town of Stiles, and Townsend, and City of Gillett,
\$7.00	\$12.00	\$7.00	\$12.00		City of Oconto Falls

DOG LICENSE APPLICATION-Complete all fields

Name of Owner _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone # _____

Include a Business-size Self Addressed Stamped Envelope for tag return by mail.

Name of Dog _____ Female _____ Male _____

Breed _____ Spayed _____ Neutered _____

Color _____

Rabies vaccination-Date Given (MM/DD/YYYY) _____

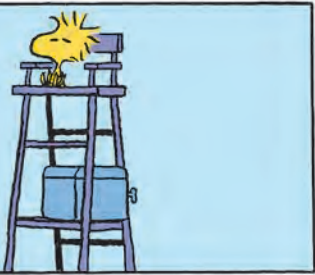
Rabies vaccination-Date Expired (MM/DD/YYYY) _____

Rabies Tag # _____

WNXLP

PEANUTS

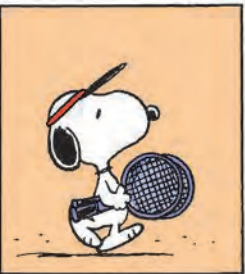
featuring
"Good ol'
Charlie Brown"
by SCHULZ





3/2





I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE FOR THIS FINE TOURNAMENT WE HAD HERE TODAY..THE FANS..THE LINE JUDGES...



AND, OF COURSE, THE BALL BIRDS!



GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

ANY SPECIALS TODAY, IRMA?

SURE!



WE HAVE AN EXCITING NEW DRINK CALLED A GONGGOOSH!

SOUNDS GOOD!



ONE GONGGOOSH COMING RIGHT UP!



HERE'S YOUR GONGGOOSH, HON



I WONDER WHY THEY CALL IT A GON...



GONG! GOOSH



the OTHER COAST

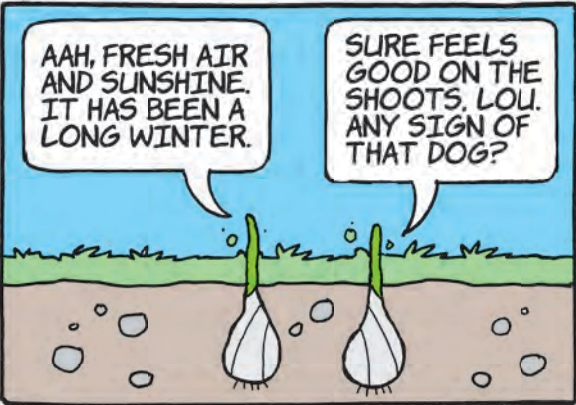
3-02 PALESTINE

I FEEL THE EARTH WARMING. WAKE UP, STAN.



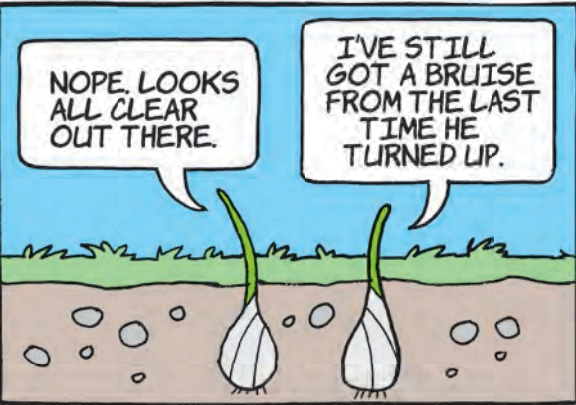
AAH, FRESH AIR AND SUNSHINE. IT HAS BEEN A LONG WINTER.

SURE FEELS GOOD ON THE SHOOTS. LOU. ANY SIGN OF THAT DOG?

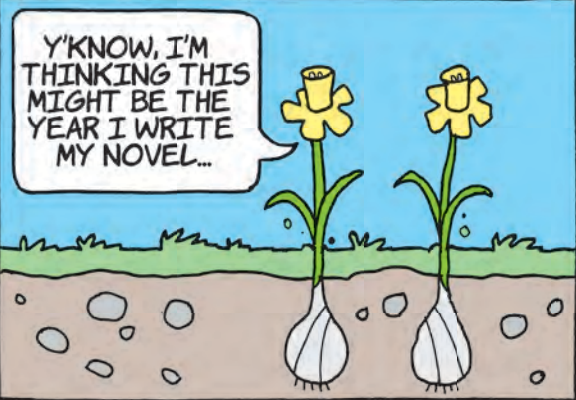


NOPE. LOOKS ALL CLEAR OUT THERE.

I'VE STILL GOT A BRUISE FROM THE LAST TIME HE TURNED UP.



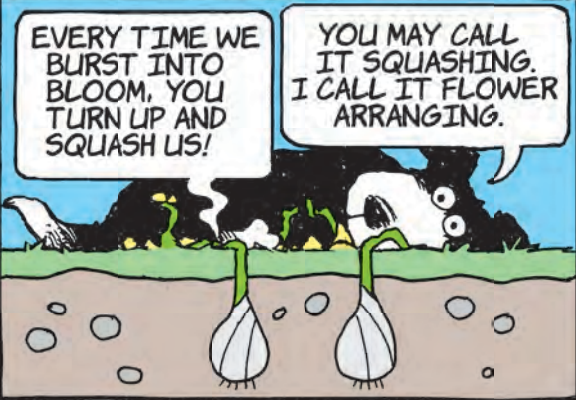
Y'KNOW, I'M THINKING THIS MIGHT BE THE YEAR I WRITE MY NOVEL...

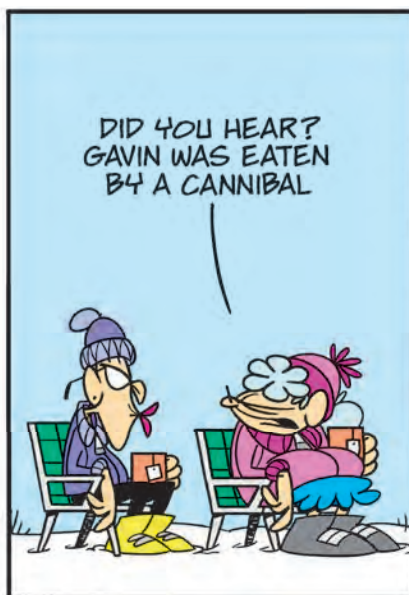
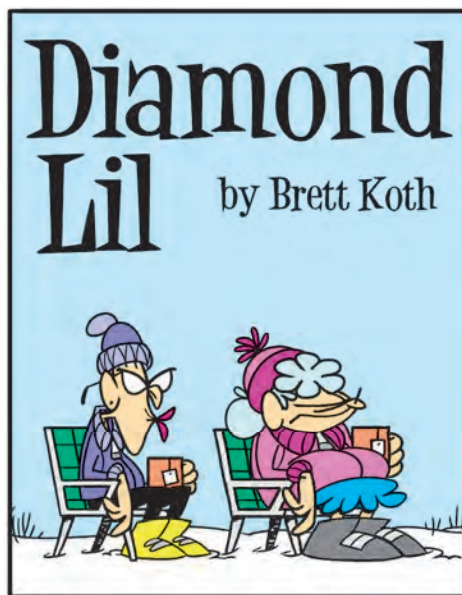
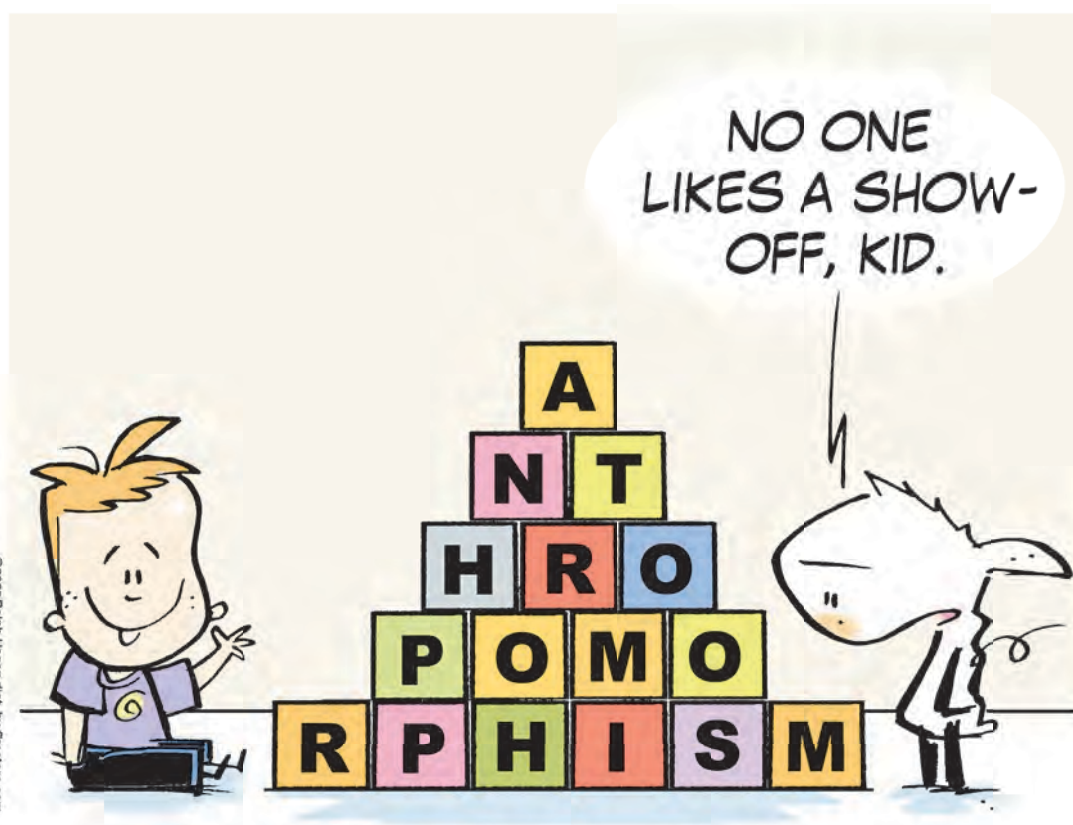
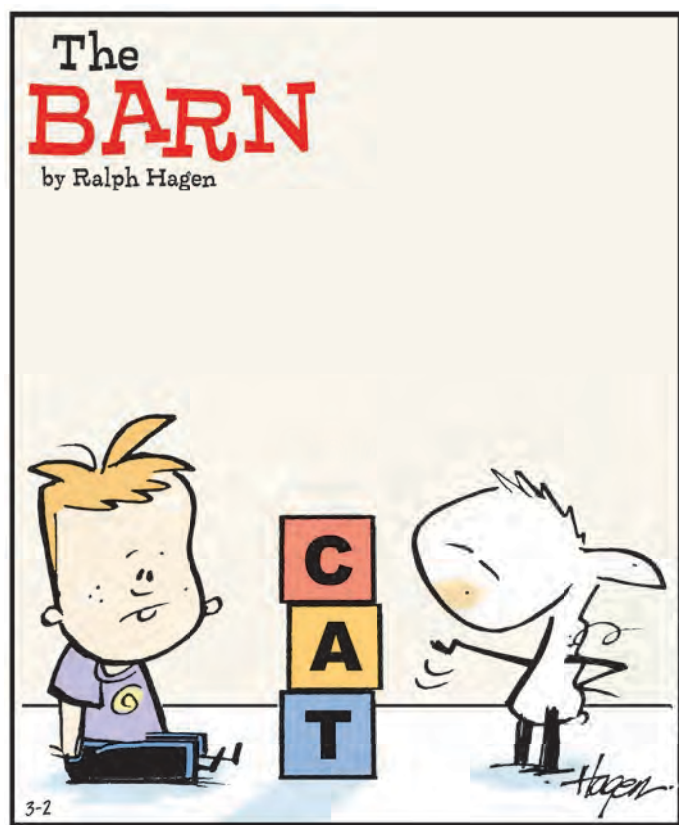
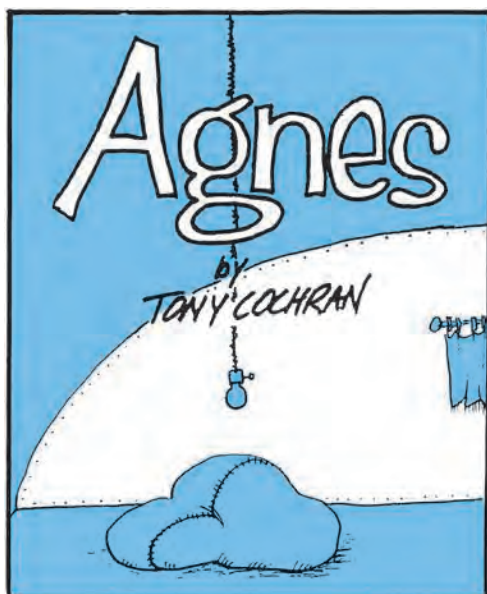




EVERY TIME WE BURST INTO BLOOM, YOU TURN UP AND SQUASH US!

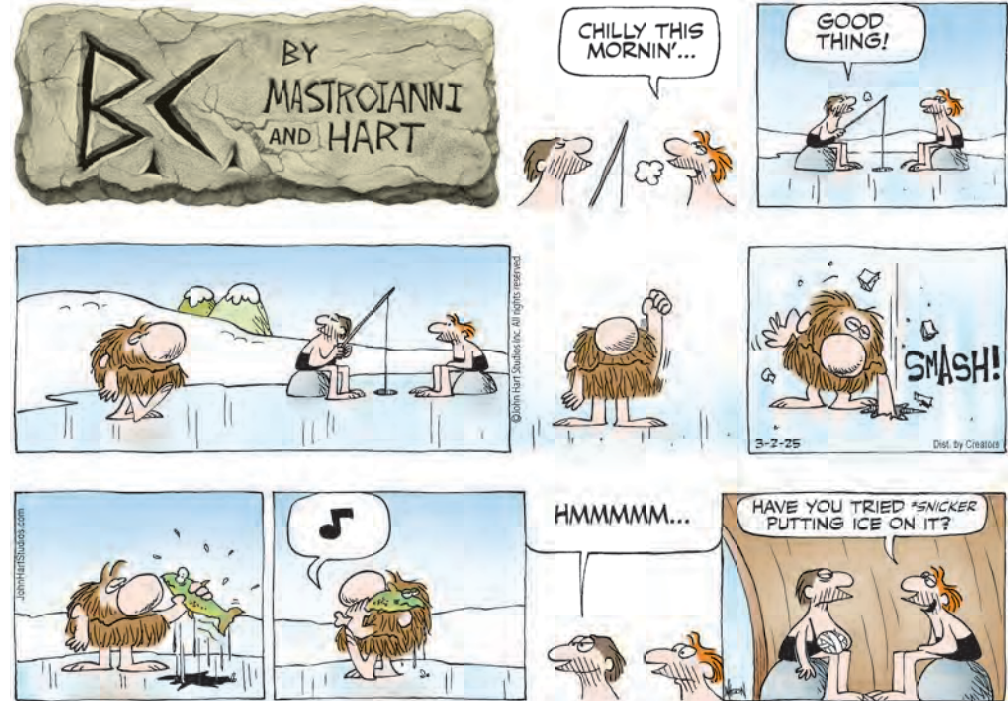
YOU MAY CALL IT SQUASHING. I CALL IT FLOWER ARRANGING.





ANDY CAPP

by Smythe



DOGS OF C-KENNEL BY MICK MASTROIANNI AND MASON MASTROIANNI

