



A sturgeon fights with a pair of DNR staffers at the Shawano dam April 17. Fish are caught, tagged and released as a way to help DNR with their fish management programs. KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

Sturgeon spawning brings out the crowds in Shawano

Females can produce up to 1 million eggs

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-chief

Water temperatures slowly rose in the second week of April, and social media was abuzz with questions about whether the sturgeon had returned to the Shawano dam. A week later, crowds gathered to watch Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff and other officials and volunteers catch, tag and release what some children refer to as the “dinosaur fish.” According to the DNR, sturgeons are living fossils, appearing first about 100 million years ago when the dinosaurs still roamed the earth. They have retained many primitive characteristics that have been lost or modified in other modern-day fishes. Debbie and David Buchert have witnessed the annual event every year since 1967. “We come every year,” Debbie Buchert said. “It gives us excitement just watching.”



Thousands of lake sturgeon continue to their annual spawning migration through the Wolf River to Shawano. These fish can live for decades. Males may reach 55 years, while females have been recorded living for 150 years. KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

Unless they encounter windy, chilly or rainy weather, the couple will spend hours over the course of several trips to Sturgeon Park, which used to simply be called the dam and was accessible from West Rich-

mond or West Oshkosh streets and a gravel road along the river. Before the city developed the site into a park with a walkway by

STURGEON, CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

Kautza reelected county board chairman

1 Highway/Parks Committee member chosen by coin flip

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-chief

Shawano County Supervisor Tom Kautza was reelected April 16 to another two-year term as chairman of the Shawano County Board. Kautza has been on the board for 12 years and served as chairman the last four. He defeated Supervisor Theresa Serrano 17-9. Supervisors Randy Young and Kathy Luebke were nominated but declined to be on the ballot. All elections at the board’s organizational meeting needed a majority of 14 votes for the winner. Supervisor Annelies Hartwig was absent from the meeting, which contributed to several tie votes that required supervisors to vote more than once to determine the winner. In the contest for vice chairman, candidates were Kevin Conradt, Joe Miller, Serrano and Young. Rick Giese was nominated but declined. Serrano was eliminated in the first round of voting, and Conradt was out after the second round. Miller and Young each received 13 votes in the third round. In the fourth round, Young won with 14 votes, compared to 11 for Miller and one supervisor not voting. The Highway/Parks Committee requires one member each elected from the eastern, central and western parts of the county, as well as two others appointed later the board chairman. For the eastern seat, Conradt defeated Supervisors Jim Przybylski, Ken Capelle and Jeremy Gretzinger. The elected central seat was won by newcomer Supervisor Randy Mallmann on a coin flip after five ballots in which no majority was reached. Supervisor Mike Wizner was eliminated in the first round, leaving Mallmann and Supervisor Allan Kuhn. The next two votes ended in 13-13 ties. Then, Mallmann collected 13 votes compared to Kuhn’s 12 with one not voting. The same thing happened on the fifth ballot, requiring a coin flip, which was done by County Clerk Kara Skarlupka. Finally, the western seat was won by Giese. Supervisor Dennis Knaak was eliminated on the first ballot, leaving Giese and Miller to face off. Before the vote could be taken, Miller withdrew, and the second ballot was in Giese’s favor, 24-2.

INSIDE

NWTC holds career fair for health care, law enforcement.

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Ready for some yarns from the woods?
Check out the column of
KATHLEEN MARSH
In today’s newspaper!

Hovde stops in Shawano during Senate quest

Candidate vows to be more visible than Baldwin, not always side with GOP

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

Eric Hovde, the man hoping to unseat two-term U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin, stopped in Shawano on April 15 to seek support from the Shawano County Republican Party as he hopes to help return the Senate to GOP control.

No one else has declared candidacy on the Republican side, so Hovde's full efforts are expected to be on Baldwin and her record over the last 12 years. Hovde was quick to deflect claims that he lives in California, even though many of his business operations are in the West Coast state, saying he moved his family back to Wisconsin in 2012 after previously being raised in the state.

Hovde noted that he immediately started traveling around Wisconsin after declaring his candidacy.

"The first couple of days, I literally drove 860 miles — first to the south side of Milwaukee to meet with



U.S. Senate candidate Eric Hovde talks with members of the Shawano County Republican Party on April 15 at the party's headquarters on one of his numerous campaign stops as he seeks to unseat two-term Sen. Tammy Baldwin. LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

Black and Hispanic leaders, then went on to Green Bay and then on to Wausau to Eau Claire to Hayward to La Crosse and then back home," Hovde said. "At every stop, I was meeting with people, companies, doing press, getting the word out there. I've been on the move ever since."

Hovde noted he's made a point of meeting with the media, saying that Baldwin avoids reporters with radio and print media.

"Literally every day, I'm doing radio or meeting with reporters," Hovde said. "Unlike her, who just hides herself and comes into the state for a week and does a bunch of staged events every month or two, I'm out and about, meeting with people and talking to people."

Hovde said people should expect the same level of visibility from him if he wins the election and joins Ron Johnson in

representing Wisconsin's interests in the Senate. He challenged Baldwin to meet with him in a debate, but questions if that will actually happen.

"I will never run from a television interview or radio interview or from a reporter," Hovde said. "I'll always make myself open and address any and all questions. If you're a senator, you should make yourself accessible to the press and to the people of the state. I cannot

believe how she can get away with how she avoids going on radio. I won't just go on conservative radio; I'll go on radio of any kind."

Hovde operates multiple companies, which has required him to provide health insurance to his employees. He criticized Baldwin for siding with Democrats on setups that make health care unaffordable for many, even those who have taken out insurance.

"I understand all too well how our economy works and how our health care system works," Hovde said. "She doesn't."

Hovde also attacked Baldwin's voting record, which he claimed is over 95% in favor of President Joe Biden's record. He vowed that, even if he becomes a senator and Donald Trump becomes president, he will not always side with Trump's plans.

"I agreed with probably 80% of President Trump's positions, but I did not like the amount of debt we took on during his presidency," Hovde said. "We're destroying our country with the amount of debt. By the way, all this debt and all this spending is creating the inflation that's impacting everybody in this country."

Look at the price of food. Look at the price of gas. Look at the price of your insurance."

Stopping the "crazy spending" is the key to bringing prices down to a more manageable level, according to Hovde. He noted the larger bumps in inflation have been since the coronavirus pandemic in 2020.

"During COVID, they increased spending by 40%," Hovde said, noting that the United States opened back up to commerce in 2021. "They still kept the spending. Now, did our population go up by 40%? No. Why is spending still up by 40%. The quickest way to do it is to take spending back to 2019 levels and then start a plan to get off all of this deficit spending. That'll real quickly start adjusting prices, because they won't have to print all that additional money."

Hovde hasn't yet endorsed a candidate for the 8th Congressional District seat, now that Mike Gallagher has stepped down. He had words of praise for Roger Roth and Andre Jacque, but admitted he hasn't met the newcomer, Tony Wied.

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NWTC event focuses on health care, law enforcement

Visitors learn of opportunities for education, employment

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-chief

Students and adults from the community took advantage of a career awareness spotlight event to learn more about area careers in health care and public safety and learn more about the opportunities available locally for employment, education and advancement.

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College hosted the event April 18.

"We wanted to take not only health care but also add in public safety," said Elyzabeth Hoffman, administrative assistant at NWTC. "Those are probably our two biggest program areas in Shawano specifically at NWTC."

In the past, the event was sometimes hosted by Shawano Community High School. At this year's event, 11 organizations participated, representing 26 career areas.

"We have a lot of really

great organizations, agencies in the area that offer services for health care and public safety," Hoffman said.

Students from Shawano, Menominee and Bonduel, as well as homeschoolers and adults from the community, attended.

Jeannie Otto, NWTC-Shawano regional learning manager, said more than 60 people registered in advance.

Health care has always been a significant learning program for NWTC, particularly for the past eight years when it has partnered with ThedaCare Medical Center-Shawano.

Shawano's NWTC nursing programs operates in a 5,000-square-foot space on site at the medical center, the only such collaboration in Wisconsin.

"We offer our LPN and certificate CNA programs there, and, we have agreements with other schools so people can continue on

toward their RN degree," Otto said.

The learning center in the medical center houses classroom and laboratory teaching equipment.

The career awareness spotlight also provided a chance for individuals to learn about the educational programs needed for health care and public safety careers.

Tammi Garsow, NWTC student involvement assistant, offered games of chance and prizes to lighten the mood, as well as interest cards for attendees to complete to help staff align them with NWTC programs.

"We plan activities for them to engage and network," Garsow said.

The event featured staff from NWTC, Shawano Ambulance, ThedaCare Medical Center, Shawano Police Department, Total Fitness, Advanced Physical Therapy and more.

Spotlighted careers included nursing, health



Tyler Thornborrow, a Shawano police officer and school resource officer, talks with students about potential careers in law enforcement and public safety during a career awareness event at NWTC on April 18. The event featured staff from NWTC, Shawano Ambulance, ThedaCare Medical Center, Shawano Police Department, Total Fitness, Advanced Physical Therapy and more. KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

care administration, health information technology, emergency

medical services, wellness and health, physical therapy, law enforcement

and criminal justice.

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"Those are probably our two biggest program areas in Shawano specifically at NWTC."

ELYZABETH HOFFMAN, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College administrative assistant

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Jaime Lee, Twig's Sun Drop Girl, talks with fourth-grade students April 16 at St. James Lutheran School about the Golden Girl and Golden Boy contest in its inaugural year, and how she's seeking two students that represent hometown values and positivity in Shawano.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

Twig's Beverage seeks Shawano's golden kids

Contest hopes to find children who dream big, spread positivity

BY LEE PULASKI
City Editor

Twig's Beverage is on a quest to find some golden children.

They could be the ones who help out in the classroom or bake cookies with Grandma. They might help out with a food pantry or stand up for their classmates against bullies.

Whoever they are, Jaime Lee wants to take them under her wing and show them how to be part of the positive side of Shawano in a new contest where they continue to promote the local Sun Drop soda. Twig's is looking for a pair of children in fourth grade in Shawano to be their Golden Girl and Golden Boy for the next year to represent the soda company and spread positivity in the community.

Lee recently visited the fourth grade classrooms at Olga Brener Intermediate School, St. James Lutheran School and Sacred Heart Catholic School to promote the contest and encourage students to apply. The Shawano native was especially eager to visit St. James, as she attended school there in her youth, and her son, a high school sophomore, also spent

his early years of learning there.

"I had the idea for a citywide program to inspire our youth," Lee said. "I'm proud to be from Shawano, and we wanted to get the younger Sun Drop fans on board that, yes, the Sun Drop tastes good and it's flavorful and sweet, but more importantly, that it's a hometown company with the small-town values. We're looking for two children to represent this and help us spread this message to the younger generation that giving back to the community is so important and to spread your gifts where you were raised."

To be considered for the contest, students have to write a short essay talking about how they currently help others and spread positivity in Shawano, ending with what their dreams are for the future. That essay, along with two letters of recommendation from adults, will determine who the Golden Girl and Golden Boy are. The deadline is May 16, and students have to turn in their materials to their teacher.

The prizes are tempting, as the winners get their own specialized T-shirts and crowns, along with a year's supply of Sun Drop. They'll be taken on a VIP tour of the Sun Drop Museum with Lee and six guests and be part of a special feature story on Shawano News, Lee's online program that features the positive side of the

Shawano area. Developing some projects for the Golden Girl and Golden Boy is another thing Lee hopes to accomplish with the winners.

Lee noted that all students have a chance, and that it's not going to come down to who's the better athlete or the grade A student.

"Everyone has special talents and gifts," she said.

Lee hopes that the winners — and even those who apply and don't win — will realize that it's just fine to dream big.

"Even though we live in a small town, they can make all their dreams come true with hard work and people that support them in the community," Lee said, noting that her life has come full circle with being a representative of Twig's as the Sun Drop Girl.

Lee noted that her efforts to spread positivity come after a rough patch. It's no secret that Lee spent years dealing with depression and anxiety before making the decision to get help for herself. She hopes that the contest will encourage students to follow their dreams, no matter what life throws at them.

"It makes them feel special and to have a purpose and work toward something that's positive, because each child is a gift from God and is here to share," Lee said. "We're here to help each other."

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Shawano Aldermen John Hoeffs, left, Jack Young, center, and Jim Hauer take their oath of office April 16. Each was elected to a two-year term in the April 2 election.

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

Jack Young takes oath as newest Shawano alderman

BY KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-chief

Jack Young joined a pair of returning aldermen and Mayor Bruce Milavitz in taking their oaths of office serving on the Shawano Common Council.

The council's organizational meeting was held April 16.

Aldermen Jim Hauer and John Hoeffs also took their oaths to serve another two years on the council.

District 3 Alderman Kevin Barkow was unanimously elected to serve as council president.

The six alderpeople approved of a pair of resolutions that stipulated appointments to various city and area committees and commissions by the mayor and council president.

Council members also gave City Clerk Lesley Nemetz and City Administrator Eddie Sheppard permission to research and propose changes to ordinances and policies that would place each alderperson on four committees. Currently, some alderpersons serve on three committees, while others serve on four.

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Shawano Mayor Bruce Milavitz takes his oath of office April 16 at the start of the Shawano Common Council organizational meeting.

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

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Registration now open for summer camps

The Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association announced that registration is open for the organization's annual summer conservation camps.

Open to middle and high school students, these camps provide educational outdoor experiences, foster an appreciation for nature and introduce a variety of careers in natural resources and conservation.

The Middle School Conservation Camp is held at Upham Woods in Wisconsin Dells. The outdoor learning center sits on the Wisconsin River, offering a "river classroom" to study Wisconsin's natural resources. With 318 acres of forested land, including a 210-acre island called Blackhawk Island, campers will explore the island on a guided hike and enjoy time swimming or paddling.

The High School Conservation Camp is located at the North Lakeland Discovery Center (NLDC), a nature-based education and community center in Manitowish Waters. The diverse, undeveloped land surrounding NLDC provides a teaching environment including a lake, river, mixed forest and bog. Students will participate in a local conservation project and in outdoor activities like fishing and canoeing.

At both camps, natural resources professionals from various agencies

will present programs on topics such as wildlife, habitat, water quality, fisheries, forestry, orienteering and canoeing. These professionals, as well as adult volunteers, will serve as overnight staff and group leaders for the duration of the camps.

To ensure these transformative experiences are accessible to all, WI Land+Water has worked to establish scholarship opportunities. The Brad Matson Memorial Conservation Camp Scholarship, named in honor of a passionate supporter of youth conservation programs, can provide funding for students who may not otherwise have the chance to attend a summer camp.

Additionally, many county land and water conservation departments offer their own scholarships for local students.

The camps are open to students entering grades 6-12, with camps scheduled for the following dates:

- Middle School Camp: June 9-12, Upham Woods, for students entering grades 6-8.
- High School Camp: June 17-20, North Lakeland Discovery Center, students entering grades 9-12.

Registration closes for both camps May 17. To register or for more information, including details on scholarship opportunities and dates to apply, visit wisconsinlandwater.org/camps.

Shawano Woman's Club fashion show coming in May

The 18th annual Shawano Woman's Club Fashion Show and Spring Fling will take place May 9 at The Gathering, 2600 E. Richmond St., Shawano.

The event starts at 10:30 a.m. with a cash bar, followed by a luncheon at noon. The theme this year is "Barbie Doll Pink."

Spring and summer fashions will be modeled during the event, with fashions provided by Dreier's Boutique, Ultimate Closet, B&H Fashionwear and Thornberry Cottage.

There will be raffle baskets, a silent auction, a wine pull and swag bags featuring donations from dozens of local vendors.

Tickets are \$35 and must be purchased in advance, by calling 715-570-0531 before April 30.

Proceeds from the event benefit scholarships for local students, the Shawano County Historical Society, Shawano County Library, Shawano County veterans and the many other community organizations supported by the Shawano Woman's Club.

Food dominates 4-H event



Morgan Strebel, a member of the Belle Plaine 4-H, sits and listens as a judge critiques a cake she made for the 4-H Foods Revue held April 20 at Shawano Community High School.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA



Hailey Altenhofen, a member of the Landstad 4-H, sets up her muffins in preparation for a critique as mother Whitney Altenhofen observes during the 4-H Foods Revue held April 20 at Shawano Community High School.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA



Jeanette Pitt helps Charlotte Pettis, a member of the Belle Plaine 4-H, to crack an egg as the pair make muffins during the 4-H Foods Revue held April 20 at Shawano Community High School.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

Supervisors officially in office



Shawano County supervisors took their oath of office at the start of the Shawano County Board's organizational meeting April 16. From left, are Raymond Rigsby, Jeremy Gretzinger, Curtis Naja and Lynn Tober-Steinke. Supervisors were elected to two-years terms in the April 2 election.

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

HAVE A STORY IDEA? LET US KNOW!
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Comedy City, based out of De Pere, will keep the audience in stitches with a night of improv May 4. CONTRIBUTED

Comedy City bringing its antics to Abrams

Comedy City will bring its group of improv performers to Abrams on May 4 for a night of fun and laughter. The De Pere troupe has performed improvisational theater for over 30 years. Nothing is scripted. By incorporating audience suggestions, the performers create a series

of short scenes, songs and sketches that keep the audience laughing. This event is presented by Glovers Bar and Grill and Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. Doors open at 6 p.m. for happy hour; refreshments will be served on the outdoor patio at the Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852

Maple St., Abrams. Also, the indoor concession stand will open for snacks and refreshments at 6 p.m. The show starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$14 and are on sale at www.abramstheater.com. The Comedy City performance is family friendly.

HSHS names new Wisconsin president

Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) has announced that Robert J. Erickson, MS, has been named HSHS Wisconsin market president and CEO. Erickson is scheduled to begin on April 29, and succeeds Brian Charlier, who retired in March. In addition to his market role, Erickson will also serve as president and CEO for HSHS St. Vincent Hospital and HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center in Green Bay. He will also have oversight of the system's two other Wisconsin-based hospitals, HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital in Oconto Falls and HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital in Sheboygan.



ROBERT ERICKSON

Catholic and community health systems. Most recently, he served as president and chief executive officer at UnityPoint Health Trinity Regional Health System, located in the Quad Cities area of Illinois and Iowa. He has held similar positions for health care organizations in Illinois, Kansas and Wisconsin. "We are so pleased to have Bob join our organi-

zation," said Kathy Donovan, senior vice president and chief operating officer for HSHS. "Bob is a dynamic leader and brings a wealth of experience in employee engagement, quality and growth." "I couldn't be happier to be back in Wisconsin, where I was born," Erickson said. "I'm eager to partner with providers and colleagues to advance our mission of high-quality care that attends to the whole person — body, mind and spirit." Erickson currently serves as a trustee for the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois. He is also active in Boys and Girls Clubs, Rotary and Catholic Charities.

Friends of Suring Area Public Library planning rummage sales

The Friends of Suring Area Public Library's annual rummage sales will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 9-11 and May 16-18 at the How Township Garage, 12896 State

Highway 32, Suring. The rummage sales will include clothing, household items, furniture, jewelry, collectibles and gently used items. All proceeds from the Friends' sales will sup-

port programs and services at the library. Donations will be accepted from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 6-8 at the garage. No electronics will be accepted.

2024 EVENT SCHEDULE

Near Memorial Park, Shawano

Friday May 31

Event Time // 4:30 PM – 10:00 PM

Kidz Zone // 4:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Inflatables & Yard Games

Admission is free!

Music-
Spark Spark Bang !
4:30 PM – 6:30 PM
Driftwood (country)
6:45 PM - 10:00 PM

Saturday June 1

Event Time // 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Flea Market & Antiques @ Farmers Brewery-6AM

5K Run/Walk- 9:00 AM

Craft Fair - 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Kidz Zone - 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Lumberjack Competition - 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Strongman Competition - 1:00 PM

Oneida Smoke Dancers 1:00PM

Music-
Wet Possum - 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
The Glam Band - 6:45 PM – 10:00 PM

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From serving people to serving food

Disenchantment in medical field leads to opening Melt Stop

By KAY REMINGER
Correspondent

Linsey Mathews served many people during her nursing career but has switched gears and is now in the business of serving food.

Her endeavor as owner of The Melt Stop, a mobile food truck with nutritious food, is gaining popularity among the locals and beyond.

For a few years as she'd watch food shows on TV, Mathews would turn to her husband and declare, "I can do that."

It piqued an interest deep inside. Intrigued, they thoughtfully discussed it at length. She began the process of transitioning from nursing to owning her own business. Mathews had always had a desire to cook and bake. They needed to find a good time to quit her job and just do it.

For 12 years, Mathews had worked in the medical field, first as a certified medical assistant, then as an LPN. Eventually becoming disenchanting with the medical community as the COVID-19 pandemic hit, she just physically wore out of her profession.

Soon her entire life would take a turn.

At the end of 2020, Mathews was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, an autoimmune disease that affects people differently. When she was diagnosed, it changed her perspective on life, and realizing her dream became a focus that brought her to where she is now.

The diagnosis was an eye-opener for Mathews, and she began to realize life is short and so cemented her decision to make a change. Researching MS and relying on the medical community, she undergoes a brain MRI once a year and sees her neurologist every six months. Taking homeopathic supplements, she's been monitoring her health, eating better and is stable. Training and running half-marathons, she is exercising more, which



Linsey Mathews gave up a career in nursing and now spends her days making sandwiches through her mobile food truck The Melt Stop.

KAY REMINGER

helps keep her mind and body healthy.

Working a bit longer at ThedaCare, she eventually left in July 2022. It was hard for her to leave, but she knew if she was going to make a move in her career, this would be the time.

Going to Northeast Wisconsin Technical College for one year to get her diploma in culinary arts, she became a certified professional chef and has since decided to

continue to pursue her education.

"I'm going to take my time, sign up for a couple of business-focused classes," Mathews said. "Whereas the first year was more basic culinary skills, to understand the proper way to do things, how to cost out and how to make money, this class will center more on the business aspect."

Mathews is state-certified and needed a base-established business to be accountable

with. She noted there are a lot of hoops to jump through when starting a business.

Launching The Melt Stop just one year ago in July, Mathews keeps a physical calendar, noting events and who she has helping her, if needed. She is well-capable of handling it all on her own, although she occasionally gets assistance from her sister, cousin and husband.

Mathews has catered events that served over 2,000 people and is open to serving at family celebrations such as birthdays, anniversaries and graduations. Being an industrious entrepreneur, she is a proud member of the Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce, understanding the opportunity there to gain exposure and to rub shoulders with other business owners.

"I do flat sandwiches," Mathews said. "Panini is a flat sandwich, and I had a panini-press commercial grade on my truck, but it was sucking all my generator power and was very heavy so I had to pursue other possibilities."

Now she does her melts on her flat-top grill. She presents a wide variety of sandwiches, as well as waffle fries, and sells water and Sun Drop.

Most food Mathews gets from Performance Foods (formerly Reinhardt) in Shawano. Other supplies she gets at Sam's Club in bulk. She gets her bread at Fanita's Bakery in Shawano. Although she'd love to bake her own bread, she would need a commercial kitchen with an oven. That is something she'd consider long-term, along with purchasing an actual brick and mortar building with a storefront.

Offseason can find Mathews working behind the counter at Sweet Life Eatery in Shawano. Located above Total Fitness, they offer smoothies, grain bowls, salads and beverages.

Mathews, who is married to James (Bubba) Mathews, is the mother of two boys, Maddux, 9, and Ryder, 5.

"Do something you love," she said. "Don't stay at a job you hate. Life is too short."

Mathews can be reached via phone at 715-853-3238 as well as Snapchat and Facebook. She moves around, but when folks can reach her, she'll greet them with a smile and a delicious melt.

Felix and Fingers tickling ivories in Shawano

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

The wild animals that call Shawano Lake County Park home might have a hard time getting to sleep on April 26 as the Felix and Fingers Dueling Pianos team comes to the pavilion for a fundraiser benefiting Shawano Dollars for Scholars.

Although the term "dueling pianos" might indicate the two featured performers are going to try and one-up each other in the songs they play, the event is expected to actually be more of an interactive engagement between the pianists and the audience, according to Mike Sherman, regional entertainment director for Felix and Fingers.

"It's an all-request show," Sherman said. "It's highly interactive engagement, singalongs and sometimes it turns into a dance party. Really, what we want to do is be friends with everybody by the end of the night, get to know them, get them all singing along and clapping. Sometimes we'll bring some people on the stage and have fun with them up there."

Because this is a fundraiser, Sherman said the performers will be expecting those who request songs to shell out a little hard cash, all of which goes to Dollars for Scholars.

AT A GLANCE

WHAT: Dueling Pianos fundraiser for Shawano Dollars for Scholars

WHEN: 5:30-11 p.m. April 26; entertainment begins at 7 p.m.

WHERE: Pavilion, Shawano Lake County Park, W5685 Lake Drive, Shawano

TICKETS: \$75 per person. Includes complimentary appetizers.

FYI: Dress code is casual. Cash bar available all night.

"It's a fun and sassy way of engaging, but also helping them raise a lot of money for a good cause," Sherman said.

Felix and Fingers aren't actually the stage names for the two pianists coming to Shawano, but they were for the original founders for the group years ago, Sherman said. Performing for the fundraiser are Jake Ashey from Madison and Robert Deason from Chicago.

Deason took piano lessons in the third grade, which he claims helped to nurture his natural sense of competition. He went on to perform all over the country after being a musical theater major in college. Deason got involved with Felix and Fingers in 2008 after seeing a Craigslist ad for piano players at a new suburban bar in Chicago.

Ashey has a family heritage in music, with three of his four grandparents being professional musicians. He started study-



Felix and Fingers Dueling Pianos will be performing April 26 at the pavilion in Shawano Lake County Park as a fundraiser for Shawano Dollars for Scholars.

CONTRIBUTED

ing piano at age 5, and he had a stint playing piano on the Holland America cruise line before getting recruited with Felix and Fingers.

"It's going to feel like a four-person band, because the energy is up there," Sherman said. "It's just really two people up there playing all the song requests and banter off each other."

Sherman noted that while Felix and Fin-

gers performs in many major cities, much of the fun comes from hitting the small-town venues.

"There might not be as much to go out and do, and so these people appreciate it so much more because it's a cool kind of entertainment you don't see every day of the week," Sherman said. "It brings me a lot of joy to see the looks on people's faces when they leave at the end of the night."

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- Amy

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Ruby-throated hummingbird a summer delight

As summer approaches, I daydream of all the adventure it will bring. Fishing. Kayaking. Hiking. There are countless ways to enjoy the season, but my favorite is birdwatching, especially the beloved ruby-throated hummingbird.

Was there ever a bird so fun to watch? I sit on my deck and observe them as they hum past my ear, zipping toward the feeders. My heart fills as they dodge, dart and dash all around me displaying their unique antics. They love to show off as they fly in all directions — forward, up, down, sideways and, most impressively, backward.

Unlike other birds, a hummingbird's wings attach to the body only at its shoulder joints. This enables a hummer to rotate its wings 180 degrees allowing them to move in all directions. Cornell Lab reports their wings beat an amazing 53 times every second. They can reach top speeds of 30 mph while moving forward but they can double that speed to 60 mph while diving.

The back and head of a ruby-throated hummingbird is iridescent green, the underparts are white, and the males sport the ruby-red throat for which they are named. The hummingbird part of their name comes from the humming sound their



wings make as they fly.

Hummingbirds are typically no more than 3½ inches long with a wingspan between 3-4 inches. All birds are lightweight because of their hollow bones, but ruby-throated hummingbirds weigh just 0.11 ounce and their eggs are smaller than a jelly bean.

Hummingbirds may be small, but they are big eaters. They need to eat at least half their body weight in sugar daily. You can attract them with a feeder filled with sugar water. I make my own by boiling four cups of water, then dissolving one cup of sugar into it. Let it cool before putting it out for the birds. Keep any extra in your refrigerator. You should never add honey, fruit juice or red dye to your sugar water.

The sugar water in your hummingbird feeder should be replaced at least once a week and more often in hot weather. Clean your feeder with a mixture of vinegar and water. I purchased a brush kit specifically for cleaning hummingbird feeders that works very well.

Hummingbirds are very territorial. This aggressive behavior is ingrained in them to ensure they get the nourishment they need. They will go after each other and other birds, even large birds, to defend their food source. So, spread your hummingbird feeders out and away from other feeders.

Hummingbirds also like nectar from wildflowers. The tip of their grooved, w-shaped tongues have tiny hairs that help them lick up nectar 10-15 times each second. Their favorite flowers include cardinal flower, honeysuckle, bee balm and jewelweed. They can remember every feeder and flower they've ever been to and know just how long it takes for each flower to replenish its nectar.

The ruby-throated hummingbird holds a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.

During courtship, they can produce a wingbeat rate of a whopping 200 beats per second as opposed to the normal 90 beats per second produced by all other hummingbirds.

According to the National Audubon Society, “A hummingbird’s brilliant throat feathers are called its ‘gorget’ (pronounced gor-jit). The term comes from days of old, when a knight-in-armor wore a metallic collar, or gorget,



A ruby-throated hummingbird rests on a bee balm stem.

LISA JANSEN

to protect his throat.”

When the male hummer turns his head towards the sun it shimmers with color. This is the result of iridescence, rather than colored pigments. The throat feathers contain minutely thin, layers of “platelets,” that light waves reflect and refract off of creating color.

There are 325 species of hummingbirds in the world, 12 found regularly in the U.S. and Canada. Only the ruby-throated breeds in eastern North America, including Wisconsin.

Hummingbirds migrate alone to Mexico and other

Central American countries. Some fly over the Gulf of Mexico while others follow the coastline to reach their wintering grounds. They often stop at the same locations for food, water and rest along their journey.

According to an April 12, 2023, article by Birds and Blooms, “Even young birds making their first southward migration fly solo, without any guidance from their parents. Instead they rely on instinct.”

Keeping your feeders up in the fall won't stop your hummers from migrating. Pure instinct, as well as the

length of day and change of seasons, tell them when to migrate. After your regular visitors leave, keep your feeders up to nourish those arriving from further north as they stop by on their journey south.

As you anticipate the magic of summer, think about the ruby-throated hummingbird and how remarkable this small bird is. It will make you fall in love with nature all over again.

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

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

GILLET: Spring Community Market, 5-7 p.m., Gillett Library Community Center, 204 E. Main St. Local vendors selling homemade products including bread, home décor, jewelry, more.

SHAWANO: Duel It for the Kids, 5:30 p.m., Shawano County Park Pavilion, W5785 Lake Drive. Fundraiser for Shawano Dollars for Kids scholarship program featuring Felix and Fingers Dueling Pianos. Social 5:30 p.m., entertainment 7 p.m. \$75, information at shawano.dollarsforscholars.org.

SHAWANO: "The Nerd," 7 p.m., Mielke Arts Center, N5649 Airport Road. Adults \$15, students \$10 at shawano-arts.com.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

NAVARINO: Navarino Trail Run/Walk, 9 a.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Register at navarino.org.

SHAWANO: Spring Walk and Trail Clean-up - Shawano Pathways, 10 a.m. Meet in Four Seasons Hotel parking lot, 201 Airport Road, or 620 S. Main St. Walk one of the in-town Park-to-Park loops or Mountain Bay Trail and clean up along the way.

SHAWANO: Fun For Kids Sake, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Franklin Park, 235 S. Washington St. Children's games and activities, supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters of Shawano County.

NAVARINO: Celebrate Spring with Paw Patrol, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Navarino Nature

Center, W5646 Linsten Road. Interact with local police/K-9, firemen, ambulance and more. Trolley rides, pond study, outdoor games and crafts.

WITTENBERG: Artists Free Play XI, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., WOWSPACE, 114 W. Vinal St. Walls of Wittenberg spring juried art show.

KESHENA: Running and walking program, noon to 6 p.m., Omaeqnomenewak Wetohkatikamek Center, 2700 Mianaceqtawak Road. Infused water provided during the week, and a family snack-making station is provided on Saturdays. Information: Chelsey Latender, 715-799-5431 or chelseyl@mtclinic.net.

KESHENA: Exotic Pet Surrender Event, noon to 3 p.m., College of Menominee Nation Cultural Building, N188 State Highway 55.

TOWNSEND: Northern Lakes Archers Informational Meeting, 3 p.m., Townsend Town Hall, 16564 Elm St. The club operates a field archery range on 30 acres of town property, which is reopening this year.

SHAWANO: Stock car racing, 6-10 p.m., Shawano Speedway, 990 E. Green Bay St.

SHAWANO: "The Nerd," 7 p.m., Mielke Arts Center, N5649 Airport Road. Adults \$15, students \$10 at shawano-arts.com.

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

SHAWANO: Zurko Promotions Flea Market, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Fairgrounds, 990 E. Green Bay St.

GILLET: Soup Takeout, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tabor

United Methodist Church, 120 W. Main St. Chili and potato bacon soups, \$10 per quart. Call in an order to Sue at 920-855-2543.

OCONTO: Annual Potato Pancake Luncheon, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1700 Superior Ave. AYCE potato pancakes, sausages, dessert bars and beverages included. Adults \$9, children 6-12 \$4, under 5 free. Carry-outs available. Bake sale.

WITTENBERG: Artists Free Play XI, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., WOWSPACE, 114 W. Vinal St. Walls of Wittenberg spring juried art show.

SHAWANO: "The Nerd," 2 p.m., Mielke Arts Center, N5649 Airport Road. Adults \$15, students \$10 at shawano-arts.com.

WITTENBERG: The Cactus Blossoms in concert, 4 p.m., Wittenberg-Birnawood High School, 400 W. Grand Ave. Doors open 3 p.m. Ticket information at rubbersoulproductions.com.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

SHAWANO: Chamber Coffee Connections, 8-9 a.m., Shawano Country Chamber Conference Room, 1263 S. Main St. Guest speaker from Worldwide Signs.

SHAWANO: 100-plus Women Who Care Shawano County, 5-7 p.m., Stubborn Brothers Brewery. Social hour 5-6 p.m., meeting 6-7 p.m. in second floor Crescent Ballroom.

SHAWANO: Silent Book Club, 6-7:30 p.m., Beans and Books Espresso, 215 N. Main St.

THURSDAY, MAY 2

NAVARINO: Senior Safari Lunch and Learn, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Navarino Nature Center, 5646 Lindsten Road. Topic is frogs, toads and salamanders. Registration is required by calling Heidi at 715-526-4686. Suggested \$4.50 donation for meal.

SHAWANO: Hard Hat Pre-Opening Party, 5-8 p.m., Mountain-Bay Trail Information Center (former railroad depot), 620 S. Main St. Fundraiser for the new center hosted by Shawano Pathways and Friends of the Mountain-Bay Trail. info@shawanopathways.com.

FRIDAY, MAY 3

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

Bewitched by books, library mission goes on



Kathleen Marsh
Columnist

I've been deeply involved in the library business since 2017. At a November town meeting, I respectfully asked the board if anything could be done about the \$45,000 bill we owed to Oconto County for library services. I knew much of it went to fund faraway Brown County libraries, though Townsend had a handful of residents using them.

The town chairwoman responded with a flat-out no.

"Have we tried?" I asked. In an exasperated tone, she replied, "You try!"

Now people who know me understand such talk is like waving a red flag in front of an indignant bull. I started doing research, making phone calls, meeting with anyone who knew anything about library funding. Miraculously, I stumbled upon Shannon Schultz, a Department of Public Instruction expert and fantastic source of information.

Shannon's solution? Form a joint library. Oh, oh. That required townships to work together, something that had always proved troublesome here in Poor Man's Paradise.

One prominent Oconto County official scoffed at the idea: "Never gonna happen. You people up there couldn't agree on what brand of beer to serve at a church picnic."

Never? Did he say never? Whoa. The size of that red flag quadrupled.

Well, it wasn't as if it hadn't been done before. Townsend and Lakewood were partners in a first-class ambulance service; local fire departments operated under a mutual assistance pact. Why not a joint library? Where to begin? You can love libraries, which I did, but you also need to know how they're run, which I didn't.

That problem was solved when I was chosen to fill an empty seat on the existing Lakewood Library Board chaired by Linda

McKenna. A retired second grade teacher, Linda is amazing. She's a first-rate thinker, planner and doer. None of what has subsequently transpired at the library would have happened without her. Linda immediately turned an I into a we. Together we assembled a task force to represent the stakeholders: Linda and former Director Nicole Lowery (Library); Dick Kendall (Doty); Joann Roy (Lakewood); Ann Hogan (River-view); and Don D. Bartels Jr. (county supervisor). I would speak for Townsend. We invited Mountain, but they declined.

From our first to our final monthly meetings, we got right down to business, operating by consensus instead of parliamentary procedure. That wise decision promoted harmony and cooperation as participants felt respected, included, empowered and heard. When the subject of needing someone to keep minutes came up, everyone avoided eye contact, waiting for someone, anyone, to volunteer.

I know, I should have kept my mouth shut, but no, I had to go and raise my hand. I was immediately appointed, by consensus, of course. OK, then, time to get to work. Not busy work. Meaningful, productive, consequential work done by dedicated people determined to succeed.

It took three years to hammer out a legal framework enabling the townships to assume joint ownership of Lakes Country Public Library on Jan. 1, 2020. This required a huge leap of faith for Lakewood, which had owned and operated the library since 1982. It had become an ever-increasing finan-

cial burden, but now the four towns would provide \$135,000 annually to fund it. Consequently, the library's financial status was sound; its future secure.

Fast-forward to 2024. What will likely be the subject of a future column, Lakewood Library is undergoing extensive modification. A building project will double its size with 21st century amenities and services. The new facility has a roomy community center, teen zone and expanded children's library. There's a large circulation desk, relaxing soft-seating area with fireplace, updated computer section, family restroom, local history room and small sound-proof rooms for telehealth and quiet study.

Since that fateful Townsend meeting almost seven years ago, my life has been overwhelmed by all forms of communication. It's been a lot of work and then some. My arm has ached from holding a cellphone; my email inbox is always overflowing; piles of paper accumulate all over the house. I've written a thousand letters and spoken a million words. In the end, it's all been worth it, if only because of the wonderful friends and wealth of knowledge I've acquired along the way.

Dedication of the library will take place on July 27, sure to be one exciting day in the Wisconsin Northwoods. The happiest person attending will most likely be my husband, Jon. He's been the wind beneath my wings, keeping me aloft on the most challenging adventure of my life. I did promise him this will be our final flight.

In retrospect, I realize I haven't felt this alive since Jon and I saved the Holt and Balcom Logging Camp after some long-deceased lumberjacks bewitched me. Hmmm. Did something similar happen here? Was I bewitched by books? Just the thought makes me smile.

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Bonduel, Pulaski win both ends of doubleheaders

Shawano softball team doubles up on West De Pere

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-chief

April 20
Three Lakes/Phelps 6, Wittenberg-Birnamwood 2
Wittenberg-Birnamwood 9, Clintonville 5

Wittenberg-Birnamwood went 1-1 in its home quadrangular. The Chargers lost the opener 6-2 to Three Lakes/Phelps but bounced Clintonville 9-5 in game two.

Against the Truckers, Brieleigh Ladika hit 3-for-4 with a double and two RBIs. Evelyn Fletcher hit a triple and also had two RBIs.

Kendall Lex was the winner on the mound, allowing five runs on seven hits in seven innings while striking out five and walking two.

Scoreboard
Seymour 3, Shawano 1
Bonduel 11, Norway (Michigan) 0
Bonduel 12, Norway (Michigan) 0
Pulaski 14, Sheboygan North 0
Pulaski 12, Sheboygan North 0
Three Lakes/Phelps 6, Wittenberg-Birnamwood 2
Wittenberg-Birnamwood 9, Clintonville 5

April 19
Scoreboard
Luxemburg-Casco 7, Oconto Falls 3
April 18
Wittenberg-Birnamwood 9, Amherst 2

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood softball team defeated Amherst 9-2. Rory Salvesen was the leading hitter for Chargers, going 2-for-4 with a home run, a double and four RBIs.

Ella Eichman pitched a complete game, giving up two runs and striking out eight with no walks.

Wausaukee 8, St. Thomas Aquinas/Lena 7
It came down to the seventh inning, as Wausaukee pulled out an 8-7 win over St. Thomas Aquinas/Lena. Wausaukee was up 7-1 after three innings. St.



Ella Eichman winds up for another pitch against Manawa on April 15. Eichman, a junior at Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School, was the winning pitcher in the Chargers's 7-2 victory.

Thomas Aquinas/Lena scored five runs in the bottom of the fourth inning to make the score 7-6. Wausaukee scored one run in the top of the seventh to go up by two runs. St. Thomas Aquinas/Lena scored its final run in the bottom of the seventh.

Scoreboard
Manawa 3, Bonduel 1
Rosholt 11, Bowler/Gresham 7
Gillett/Suring 11, Marion 6
Wausaukee 8, St. Thomas Aquinas/Lena 7
Weyauwega-Fremont

12, Menominee Indian 0
Coleman 4, Oconto Falls 3
Shawano 8, Xavier 3
Wittenberg-Birnamwood 9, Amherst 2
April 16
Shawano 6, West De Pere 3
Shawano hitters enjoyed a nice day on the field, defeating West De Pere 6-3. Marissa Tomashek hit 3-for-4 with two triples and a double. Ella Stuber was 1-for-3 and a pair of RBIs. Abby Bystol hit 2-for-4,

and Kimora O'Kimosh was 2-for-3. Braylyn Babino hit 1-for-4. Kadence Meyers pitched seven innings, gave up six hits and one earned run while walking two and striking out six.
Scoreboard
Port Edwards 23, Bowler/Gresham 13
Marion 18, Elcho 4
Iola-Scandinavia 14, Menominee Indian 0
Pulaski 12, Manitowoc Lincoln 0
Shawano 6, West De Pere 3
Wild Rose 17, Tigerton



Wittenberg-Birnamwood senior Lillian Lemieux watches the ball during the April 15 home game against Manawa. Lemieux was 1-for-3 in the 7-2 win.

1
Wittenberg-Birnamwood 15, Gillett/Suring 4
April 15
Bonduel 8, Shiocton 6
Hailee Thompson led the Bears with a home run and five RBIs. Lila Pleshek added four hits. Ella Griesbach had three RBIs. Hailey Zernicke got the save for Bonduel.
Bowler/Gresham 7, Tigerton 5
Tigerton 18, Bowler/Gresham 2

Tigerton tried to come back in the first game of a doubleheader against Bowler/Gresham, but they ran out of innings. Bowler/Gresham scored three runs in the first inning and two more in the third to hold a 5-0 lead. Tigerton sent three runners across the plate in the top of the fifth to cut the lead to 5-3, but Bowler/Gresham scored twice in the bottom of the inning to go up 7-3. Tigerton's two runs in the top of the sixth weren't enough of a comeback. Danika Tiller hit 2-for-3 for Tigerton. She was also the losing pitcher, giving

up a home run and seven other hits in her six innings. She also struck out 14 and walked two. In the second game, which only lasted four innings, it was all Tigerton, including an 11-run second inning. McKenzie Hoffman, Lillian Welch and Aaliyah Lederhaus each had two hits for the Tigers. This time around, Tiller was the winning pitcher.

Scoreboard
Bonduel 8, Shiocton 6
Bowler/Gresham 7, Tigerton 5
Tigerton 18, Bowler/Gresham 2
Marion 7, White Lake 0
Amherst 13, Menominee Indian 1
Ashwaubenon 1, Pulaski 0
Shawano 7, Wausau East 2
Gillett/Suring 25, Elcho 15
Coleman 10, St. Thomas Aquinas/Lena 0
Fox Valley Lutheran 9, Oconto Falls 5
Wittenberg-Birnamwood 7, Manawa 2

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Red Raiders soccer team shuts out Shawano

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-chief

April 20
Waupaca 2, Shawano 1

The Hawks battled hard in a non-conference game against the Waupaca Comets but came up short, 2-1. At halftime, the Hawks trailed 1-0. Trinity Popelka scored the Hawks' only

goal in the 51st minute, tying the game 1-1. The Comets put in their second goal late in the game, ending the score 2-1.
Scoreboard
Pulaski 2, Slinger 0
Waupaca 2, Shawano 1
April 19
Pulaski 5, Menasha 2
Veronica Decker score all five goals as Pulaski beat Menasha 5-2.

Goalkeeper Sydney Hakes had six saves.
April 18
Pulaski 8, Shawano 0
Veronica Decker scored six goals as Pulaski shut out Shawano 8-0 in Shawano. Josie Steeno and Isabella Logue scored the other two goals for the Red Raiders. Pulaski jumped out to

a 3-0 lead in the first half and scored another five goals after the break. It was the third game in a week for the Hawks. Shawano goalie Brynlie Boyles had 24 saves.
April 16
Pulaski 1, Sheboygan North 1
Veronica Decker scored Pulaski's only goal in the Red Raiders' 1-1 tie with

Sheboygan North. Pulaski had 11 shots in the game. Goalkeeper Sydney Hakes had 10 saves.
Xavier 1, Shawano 0
Shawano dropped to 1-2 in the Bay Conference after a 1-0 loss to Xavier. Xavier scored early in the first half. Both team battled the rest of the game, but no goals were scored.

Goalkeeper Brynlie Boyles had 19 saves.
April 15
Medford 1, Shawano 0
Shawano goalkeeper Brynlie Boyles had nine saves against Medford, but the one that hit the net was enough as the Raiders won 1-0.

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Resch wins big at Rosholt track meet

BY KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-chief

**April 19
Back the Track**
Area track and field athletes grabbed their share of first-place finishes at the Back the Track event in Rosholt.

For the boys, Bonduel's Ryan Westrich won the 100-meter dash, with Suring's Quinn Thomson placing second.

Westrich also won the discus, with Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Landen Schmidt placing third.

In the long jump, Lena/Thomas Aquinas' Lucas Heimke won the top spot, with Bonduel's Sam Roberts in second.

Roberts won the triple jump.

Zander Thomson, of Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas won the 110-meter hurdles, with Suring's Trent VanDenElzen placing second.

Positions flipped in the 300-meter hurdles, with VanDenElzen winning and Thomson in second.

Westrich placed second in the 200-meter dash. Bonduel's Ben O'Brien placed second in the 3,200-meter run.

Anthony Seefeldt of Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas earned second place in the shot put, and Westrich was third.

Suring's Jake Cornell earned third in the 400-meter dash. Bonduel's Griffin Uelmen was third in the high jump.

In the girls competition, Faith Resch of Wittenberg-Birnamwood won the 100-meter hurdles, the 300-meter hurdles, the high jump and the triple jump.

In the triple jump, Bonduel's Ashlyn Kurey placed second with Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Nora Bushman in third.

Bonduel's Mariah Wondra placed second in

the 3,200-meter run, and Bushman was third.

Bushman earned the No. 2 spot in the 1,600-meter run, and Bonduel's Teagan Engel was third.

Suring's Ginger Gerndt placed second in the pole vault.

Taking second in the 4x400-meter relay were Kylee Beversdorf, London Metropolis, Ava Brei and Harper Rogowski of Wittenberg-Birnamwood. Taking third was the Bonduel team of Kurey, Wondra, Paige Niquette and Cierra Schnell.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood Kaydence Burclaw finished second in the discus, and teammate Kelsie Davis was third.

Rogowski placed third in the 400-meter dash. Davis was third in the shot put.

In the 4x100 relay, the Bonduel team of Josie Anvelink, Anna Beaumier, Olivia Giese and Sophie Smith placed third. Bonduel's 4x200 team of Beaumier, Addison Raymakers, Giese and Niquette also placed third.

Kurey, Schnell, Teagan Engel and Wondra placed third in the 4x800 relay.

Alabama Lambert of Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas was No. 3 in the long jump.

Amherst Invite
Gresham/Bowler's boys placed sixth and the girls are seventh out of eight teams at the Amherst Invite.

Lakeland Union topped the boys with 168 points; Gresham/Bowler scored 22. Newman Catholic won for the girls with 117 points; Gresham/Bowler had 27.

Bryson Nelson led the boys team with a second-place finish in the 3,200-meter run and third place in the 1,600-meter run.

TRACK, CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



Oconto Falls golfers shot a 361 overall, and Kaydn Riel shot a 75 to place first (medalist) out of 50 conference golfers at Northbrook Golf Club in Luxemburg. From left, are Jackson McDonald, Nick Trepanier, Carson McDermid, Riel and Isaiah Hirst.

CONTRIBUTED

Bears clean house at Whistling Straits

Oconto Falls' Riel is medalist at NEC Mega Meet in Luxemburg

BY KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-chief

**April 19
Whistling Straits**
Bonduel captured first place and four golfers placed within the top five scores, including the medalist spot, at Whistling Straits in Sheboygan.

The Bears scored a 326. Colin Margelofsky was the best on the course with a 76. Teammates Jake Dreyer was third with an 81, Colin Fischer was fourth with an 83, and Jaxon Bogacz tied for fifth with an 86.

Charlie Tauchen carded a 96.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood placed second with a 367. Individual scores were Joe Seegmiller with an 88, George Seegmiller with an 89, Owen Schultz with a 93 and August Barke with a 97. A 115 was recorded by Set Fischer.

Marion golfers placed fifth with a 395. Elijah Scheef scored a 93, Sam Gueths hit a 97, Ryan Malueg had a 101 and Collin Grogan had a 104. A 114 was carded by Jack Schoen.

Menominee Indian/Gresham golfers placed 12th. Scores were Kaiden Zits with a 112, Griffin Hoffman with a 125 and Frankie Allery with a 126. River Wheelock had a 133.

**April 17-18
Sheboygan North Invitational**
Pulaski golfers scored a 333 in Round 1 and a 339 in Round 2 for a 672 total in the Sheboygan North Invitational.

Waukesha North won the 48-team event, scoring a 304 on the first day and a 300 on the second for a total of 604. Waukesha North's AJ Anderson was the medalist with a 142. Sophomore Brady Howard led Pulaski golfers with a 152. He scored 81 on the first day and 71 on the second day.

Junior Dixon Holewinski shot an 83 each day for a 166. Connor Burant, a senior, was right behind him at 168, scoring an 84 each day. Senior Zachary Valeria hit 91 on Day 1 and 96 on Day 2 for a 187.

Senior Gavin Ostrenga carded a 102 on Day and did not play on Day 2.

Benson Chlopek, a junior, did not play on Day 1 but scored 95 in the second round.

**April 16
Bay Conference Mini-Meet**
Shawano golfers placed fifth at a Bay Conference Mini-Meet at Mid Vallee Golf Course in De Pere.

The Hawks carded a 214, well behind leader West De Pere's 159.

Shawano was paced by Tristan Miller's 48, followed by Blake Knope's 49, Cooper Montour's 58 and Jakob Stuhr's 59. Dan Bergman scored 64.

North Eastern Conference Mega Meet
Kadyn Riel of Oconto Falls was the medalist at the North Eastern Conference Mega Meet at Northbrook Golf & Grill in Luxemburg.

His 75 was two strokes better than the runner-up, Brady Eastman of Marinette.

The two teams tied for sixth place with a 361.

Other Panthers and their scores were Carson McDermid 92, Jackson McDonald 97 and Nick Trepanier 97. Isaiah Hirst

scored 99.

**April 15
Metro Invite**
Shawano golfers scored a 409 and placed 20th out of 20 teams at the Metro Invite at High Cliff Golf Course in Sherwood.

Kimberly won the invite with a 306.

Scoring for the Hawks were Blake Knope with an 87, Tristan Miller with a 90, Jakob Stuhr with a 115 and Duane Gristeau-Blanche with a 117. Daniel Bergmann shot a 124.

Fox River Classic Conference Mini-Meet
Pulaski scored a 331 and tied Sheboygan North at the Fox River Classic Conference Mini-Meet in Elkhart Lake.

De Peter and Notre Dame Academy tied for the win at 308, followed by Bay Port with 314, and then Pulaski and Sheboygan North.

Leading the Red Raiders was Colin Schultz with an 80. Other scores were Brady Hayward 81, Connor Burant 84 and Dixon Holewinski 86. Zachary Valeria carded a 93.

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TRACK, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

The best finishes for the girls were Isabella Stevens' second-place in the shot put, and Emily Jensen's third place in the same event.

**April 18
Manawa Invitational**
Shawano's boys finished first and the girls finished second at the Manawa Invitational.

Taking first for the boys were Ethan Onesti in the 800-meter run, Andon Chelberg in the 1,600-meter run, Will Chelberg in the 3,200-meter run and Connor Chelberg in the high jump.

Three relay teams also earned first place. Runners were Aiden Rasmussen, Kaden Ewert, Lucas Nuthals and Drake Herm in the 4x100; Austin Peterson, Maverick Theis, Micah Weland and Logan Korth in the 4x200; and Andon, Will, Connor and Drew Chelberg in the 4x400.

Earning second place were Nuthals in the 100-meter dash, Ryan Schwitzer in the 400-meter dash, Mason Theis in the shot put, Ryan Shanty in the long jump and the 4x800 relay team of Josiah Kuehl, Owynn Helsel, Aiden Sisco and Joshua Lesperance.

Third place was earned by Rasmussen in the 100-meter dash, Nuthals in the 200-meter dash, Andon Chelberg in the 800-meter run, Kuehl in the 1,600-meter run and Mason Theis in the discus.

Menominee Indian's Barron Waupoose won the 200-meter dash and the 400-meter dash.

Teammate Anthony Martin placed second in the discus.

Fellow Eagle Kenew Awonohopay won the triple jump and finished third in the long jump.

Marion's Tristan Herro was second in the high jump.

Capturing first place for the Shawano girls were Adalyn Barkley in the 800-meter run and triple jump, Bailey Hendricks in the 3,200-meter run and Maci Beyer in the high jump.

The 4x200 and 4x400 relay teams also won. Both teams featured the same girls – Barkley, Beyer, Tela

Hopfensperger and Onna Hermann.

Placing second were Emma Nielson in the 400-meter dash, Macey Nelson in the long jump and triple jump, and the 4x800 team of Hendricks, Anabelle Schroeder, Nielson and Teagan Powers.

Recording a third-place finish were Natalie Bystol in the 100-meter dash and high jump, Beyer in the 800-meter run, Schroeder in the 3,200-meter run and the 4x100 relay team of Lauren Seehafer, Della Vue, Macey Nelson and Bystol.

Menominee Indian's 4x100 team captured second. Runners were Rikki Latender, Lena Waukau, Madeline Tomow and Alexis Zhuckkahose.

The Eagles' 4x200 team of Urijah Reevis, Ti Yanna Waukau, Lena Waukau and Zhuckkahose placed third.

Shawano won the boys division with 161 points, followed by Chilton 139, Manawa 124, Menominee Indian 56, Marion 10, Wolf River Lutheran 4 and Laona-Wabeno 2.

In the girls division, it was Chilton 178, Shawano 146, Manawa 134.5, Menominee Indian 21, Marion 10, Laona-Wabeno 4.5 and Wolf River Lutheran 3.

Mishicot Invite
Oconto Falls boys and girls each placed first out of eight teams at the Mishicot Invite. The boys scored 152 points, followed by Manitowoc Lutheran at 136.5, while the girls scored 160, ahead of Two Rivers' 152.

Leading the girls with first-place finishes were Rylie Shallow in the 100-meter dash and the 200-meter dash, the 4x100 relay team (Abby Budz, Gracie Miller, Anna Spaulding and Shallow) and the 4x800 team (Ava Hodkiewicz, Hannah Ludemann, Hailey Delzer and Brynn Hodkiewicz).

Oconto Falls' 4x200 relay team took second place and featured Ashlyn Vandermoss, Kati Raddatz, Hailyn St. Louis and Bailee Gorman. Also placing second was the 4x400 team of Brynn Hodkiewicz, Ludemann, Ava Hodkiewicz

and Brooke Hodkiewicz. Coming in third were Budz in the 100-meter dash, Brooke Hodkiewicz in the 800-meter run and the 1,600-meter run, Emma Meissner in the 3,200-meter run, Ava Hodkiewicz in the discus and Miller in the long jump.

Winning first place for the boys were Connor Wilquet in the 100-meter dash, Isaac Bramer in the 200-meter dash, Alex Haines in the 110-meter hurdles, the 4x100-meter relay team (Brady Bursa, Bramer, Evan Yuma and Wilquet), the 4x200 team (Bursa, Bramer, Yuma and Wilquet) and Bryce Schefdore in the discus.

Second-place honors were earned by Haines in the 300 hurdles, the 4x400 team (Brant Luzerne, Carter Hill, Croix Gardebrecht and Emerson Rice), the 4x800 team (Laluzerne, Griffin Kopke, Braxton Rajkovich and Rice) and Bursa in the long jump.

Dan Baker Invitational
Pulaski posted a handful of top finishers at the Dan Baker Invitational in De Pere.

In the boys events, taking second was the 4x200-meter relay team of Rylan Rodal, Aiden McGlinn, Keaton Dauk and Brody Zeinert.

Daniel Augustine placed third in the 800-meter run.

Madden Skenadore was third in the 100-meter hurdles and the 300-meter hurdles.

For the girls, Emerson Fabry ran away with the 800-meter run title. The 4x200-meter relay team of Addison Krueger, Lily Urben, Rachael Allen and Olivia Sprangers won first place, and so did the 4x400 team of Ella Hasser, Allen, Olivia Stedl and Urben. Hallie Morz won the pole vault.

Sprangers captured second in the 100-meter dash and the 200-meter dash, as did Hasser in the 400-meter dash and the triple jump. Second also went to the 4x100 relay team (Ava Vieaux, Faye Brunke, Allen and Morz).

**April 16
NEC Pentangular**

The North Eastern Conference Pentangular at Clintonville was called after the 400-meter dash due to poor weather conditions.

Prior to the early exit, Oconto Falls athletes racked up several top finishes.

For the boys, Griffin Kopke won the 1,600-meter run, and Bryce Schefdore won the discus.

Earning a second-place finish was Conner Wilquet in the 100-meter dash.

On the girls side of the ledger, the 4x800-meter relay team of Emma Meissner, Arianna Impastato, Hailey Delzer and Maddy Przybylski captured first.

It was Brooke Hodkiewicz in second in the 400-meter dash.

**April 15
CWC Small Pre-Conference**

Gresham/Bowler and Marion were among the seven schools taking part in the CWC Small Pre-Conference meet at Tri-County.

Gresham/Bowler girls placed third, with Marion in fourth. For the boys, Gresham/Bowler was fourth and Marion fifth.

Leading the way for the girls were the winning Gresham/Bowler 4x100 and 4x200 relay teams. The 4x100 featured Jemy Reedy, Nevaeh Teller, Addison Fischer and Isabella Stevens. The 4x200 featured Reedy, Teller, Alivia Perez and Stevens.

Stevens also won the shot put and high jump.

Gresham/Bowler's Reedy placed second in the 100-meter dash, as did Marion's 4x200 team (Belle Conover, Kennedy Zuniga, Ainboa Zambrano and Ella Stuhr), Gresham/Bowler's 4x800 team (Camille Gourley, Emily Jensen, Perez and Fischer), Jensen in the discus, Perez in the high jump and Reedy in the long jump.

For the boys, Gresham/Bowler's Bryson Nelson won the 3,200-meter run. Marion's Landon Marquardt won the 110-meter hurdles, and the Gresham/Bowler 4x200 relay team also won (Ethan May, Cody Mehlberg, Brandon Jeske and Riley Hohensee).

Gresham/Bowler's Adam Gourley placed second in the 300-meter hurdles, as did the 4x800 relay team of Kobe Miller, Mason Martin, Gourley and Jeske. Marion's Tristan Herro was No. 2 in both the high jump and triple jump.

CWC Large Preseason Meet

Wittenberg-Birnhamwood's girls won the 10-team CWC Large Preseason Meet in Amherst. The Chargers ran up 138 points, with Bonduel placing third with 95 points and Menominee Indian finishing ninth with 28.

Bonduel's boys placed third with 78.5 points, while Menominee Indian was ninth with 37.5 and Wittenberg-Birnhamwood was 10th with 14.

Leading the Chargers with first-place finishes were: Faith Resch in the 100-meter hurdles, the 300-meter hurdles, the high jump and the triple jump; Nora Bushman in the 800-meter run; the 4x400 relay team (Kylee Beversdorf, Ava Brei, Bushman and Harper Rogowski); and the 4x800 relay team (Beversdorf, Lily Metropulos, Rogowski and Bushman).

Bonduel's Mariah Wondra won the 3,200-meter run, followed by Wittenberg-Birnhamwood's Gabrielle Timm in second.

Also placing second were Brei in the 100-meter dash, Menominee Indian's Alexis Zhuckkahose in the 200-meter dash, Bonduel's 4x400 team (Ashlyn Kurey, Paige Niquette, Cierra Schnell and Wondra), Bonduel's 4x800 team (Kurey, Teagan Engel, Schnell and Wondra), Bonduel's Audrey Weier in the high jump and Kurey in the triple jump.

Bonduel's Teagan Engel was third in the 1,600-meter run, as was Menominee Indian's 4x100 relay team (Rikki Latender, Madeline Tomow, Lena Waukau and Zhuckkahose), Bonduel's Rachel Hutter in the discus and Beversdorf in the long jump.

Pulaski Quad

Pulaski's boys and girls each placed in third at the Pulaski Quad.

In the girls events, Ella

Ficarri won the 100-meter hurdles, with Katelyn Jossie in second.

The 4x200 relay team of Addison Krueger, Lily Urben, Rachael Allen and Olivia Sprangers took first, as did Emerson Fabry in the 400-meter dash.

Also winning was the 4x100 relay team Ava Vieaux, Faye Brunke, Allen and Hallie Morz. Pulaski's "B" team of Megan Kraft, Lydia Klopotic, Isabella Cricks and Anna Friedman took second.

The 4x400 relay team also won with Ella Hasser, Allen, Fabry and Urben.

Morz captured first in the pole vault.

Brunke placed second in the 100-meter dash, and Urben was second in the 300-meter hurdles.

For the boys, Madden Skenadore won the 110-meter hurdles, and Keaton Dauk won the 300-meter hurdles.

The 4x200 team placed second and featured Rylan Rodal, Aiden McGlinn, Bohdan Schmidt and Brody Zeinert.

April 16
The Shawano boys track and field team finished second and the girls finished third in team scoring at the Bay Conference Relays in Shawano.

West De Pere won the boys events with 147 points, while Shawano scored 103.

West De Pere also won the girls events with 130 points, followed by Xavier with 110 and Shawano with 96.

Top finishes for the boys were: distance medley relay: Connor Chelberg, Andon Chelberg, Ethan Onesti, Will Chelberg. 4x800: Will Chelberg, Onesti, Josiah Kuehl, Trevor Schwartz. Throwers shuttle run: Connor Chelberg, Drew Chelberg, Mason Theis. Shot put: Theis, Jack Dietz, Connor Chelberg.

Top finishers for the girls were distance medley relay: Adalyn Barkley, Bailey Hendricks, Lily Guenther, Grace Chelberg. 4x200: Barkley, Onna Hermann, Natalie Bystol, Tela Hopfensperger. Shot put: Madisyn Weinig, Hatty Fritz, Bailey DeFere. Discus: Weinig, Fritz, DeFere.



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Panthers win DH over Truckers

April 20
Bonduel 3, Norway 2
Norway scored first against Bonduel on a cold Saturday. The Knights put up two runs in the second inning on two infield hits and a single by Bryce Adams, but that is all they could get off starter Charlie Tauchen who threw five solid innings giving up the two runs and five hits while striking out two.

Bonduel loaded the bases in the fifth but could only manage one run on an Easton Reinke sacrifice fly.

The Bears had two on in the sixth but couldn't get the hit to score any.

In the seventh, Cade Johnson led off with a single and advanced to second on a sacrifice and then scored on a Noah Weier single to tie the game. Brodie Hartmann then singled to score Weier who was running on the pitch with the winning run.

Johnson had two hits for Bonduel.

Beckett Hartlaben was the winning pitcher.

Oconto Falls 6, Clintonville 3

Oconto Falls 5, Clintonville 4

The Panthers won both game of a doubleheader against Clintonville.

In game one, Jack Adler hit 2-for-4 with two runs and two RBIs. Cole Bozile hit 2-for-4 with a run scored.

Adler was also the winning pitcher, serving on the mound for six innings, giving up three runs on four hits while striking out eight and walking one.

In game two, Luke Gilbertson hit 1-for-4, including the walk off RBI single with two out in the bottom of the seventh.

Bozile had another good outing, going 2-for-3, scoring twice and collecting an RBI.

Carter Heroux was the winning pitcher.

Scoreboard
Bonduel 3, Norway 2
Sturgeon Bay 20, Gillett 9

Wautoma 8, Marion 5
Oconto Falls 6, Clintonville 3

Oconto Falls 5, Clintonville 4

Appleton East 8, Pulaski 5

Wittenberg-Birnawood 21, Three Lakes/Phelps 0

April 19
Bonduel 13, Southern Door 1

Bonduel started fast as the first five hitters scored and the Bears scored six in the first inning and four more in the second and then cruised to the win 13-1 win over Southern Door.

Bonduel took advantage of six walks and eight Southern Door errors.

Easton Reinke and Brodie Hartmann were both 22-for-3 with three RBIs to

lead the Bonduel hitters.

Brodie Hartmann won on the mound. He pitched three innings, gave up three hits and struck out four.

Shawano 1, West De Pere 0

Tom Keszo pitched a one-hit shutout for the victory on the mound as Shawano blanked West De Pere 1-0.

Keszo also had two hits on the day.

Scoreboard
Bonduel 13, Southern Door 1

Pulaski 12, Green Bay Southwest 2

Shawano 1, West De Pere 0

April 18
Bonduel 11, Manawa 1

The Bears scored in every inning as they defeated Manawa 11-1.

Bonduel scored twice in each of the first two innings, three times in the third and fifth innings, and once in the fourth inning.

Easton Reinke was 4-for-4 with a home run. Noah Weier was 2-for-4 with a double, and Brodie Hartmann, Karson Stoss and Charlie Tauchen all added to hits each in the Bears 13-hit attack.

Weier was the winning pitcher.

Shawano 13, Oconto Falls 5

The Hawks had 13 runs on 12 hits in a 13-5 win over visiting Oconto Falls.

Jerzy Bocker, Carsen Herm, Pete Bruette and Parker Beyer each had two hits on the night for Shawano. Herm had a pair of RBIs.

Dylan Hodkiewicz got the win pitching. He gave up one run on four hits, struck out two and walked two.

For the Panthers, Luke Gilbertson had an RBI.

Chase Belanger was the losing pitcher. He surrendered eight runs on seven hits, walked one and struck out two.

Wittenberg-Birnawood 6, Amherst 4

Amherst scored all four of its runs in the second inning, but Wittenberg-Birnawood kept chipping away until it walked off the field with a 6-4 win.

Evan Meverden hit 3-for-3 with a double and two RBIs. Ian Salvesen went 2-for-4 with a double and an RBI. Owen Dickman went 2-for-3 with an RBI.

Zandyr Barke and Braeden Groshek each had an RBI.

Chris Sippl pitched all seven innings for the Chargers. He allowed four runs on four hits, walked two and struck out nine.

Scoreboard
Bonduel 11, Manawa 1
Wausaukee 4, Lena 3
Weyauwega-Fremont 10, Menominee Indian 2
Pulaski 6, Sheboygan

North 1
Shawano 13, Oconto Falls 5

Wittenberg-Birnawood 6, Amherst 4

April 16
Denmark 1, Oconto Falls 0

Denmark got revenge on Oconto Falls from the previous day's loss to win 1-0.

Jack Adler was the best Panthers' hitter on the day, going 2-for-3 with a double.

Denmark's Braedyn Heezen was 1-for-3 and was walked with the bases loaded with two outs in the bottom of the seventh.

Cole Bozile was the losing pitcher, working the last 2/3 of an inning, giving up three walks and one run.

Scoreboard
Port Edwards 19, Bowler 3

Marion 17, Elcho 5
Iola-Scandinavia 18, Menominee Indian 0

Denmark 1, Oconto Falls 0

Pulaski 2, Sheboygan South 2

Wild Rose 15, Tigerton 10

Wittenberg-Birnawood 13, Gillett/Suring 5

St. Thomas Aquinas 6, Lena 5

April 15
Bonduel 1, Shiocton 0

Bonduel scored in the bottom of the first inning and that proved to be enough for a 1-0 shutout of Shiocton.

Cade Johnson and Colin Margelofsky singled to start the game. Easton Reinke then walked, and Noah Weier hit a sacrifice fly to score Johnson.

Brodie Hartmann had the other hit for Bonduel.

Johnson and James Mutchie from Shiocton were engaged in a pitchers' duel right from the start, and both pitched strong complete games.

After the first inning, Mutchie only allowed three baserunners.

Johnson was sharp from the start but got into trouble in the sixth. After loading the bases with nobody out, the Bears defense stepped up and got three ground ball outs to get out of the inning.

Northland Lutheran 4, Gresham 3

Tied at 3-3 after five innings, Northland Lutheran scored a run in the bottom of the seventh for the 4-3 win.

Scoreboard
Bonduel 1, Shiocton 0
Gillett/Suring 18, Elcho 3

Northland Lutheran 4, Gresham 3

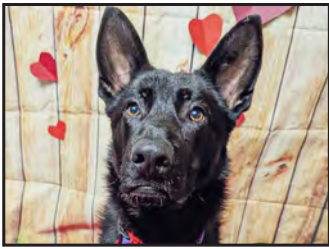
Coleman 13, Lena 7

Marion 20, White Lake 0

Amherst 27, Menominee Indian 1

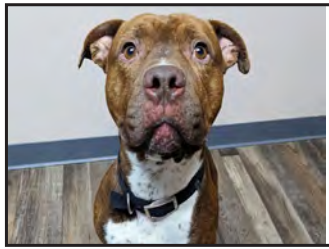
Oconto Falls 7, Denmark 1

Xavier 5, Shawano 0



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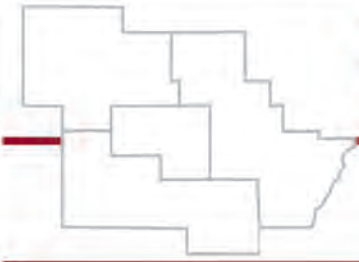
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The Newsday Crossword

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

FINISHING TOUCHES: Not too hard, mostly

by Mark McClain

- ACROSS

1 Burgles

5 Org. for obstetricians

8 Pacific island nation

12 "Finally!"

18 Exotic palm berry

19 Junction point

21 Cartel that Qatar quit

22 Explanation opener

23 Common tennis shot

26 Firehouse vehicle

27 Luau greeting

28 Poke fun at

29 Talk nonstop

31 Quaint oath

32 Light brown

33 All gone

35 High school math

37 Infamous emperor

38 Accuse in court

39 Acquire

43 Space opera event with an alien species

49 NCO club visitor

50 Trade show

51 Long-legged shorebird

52 "No problem"

54 Fans' cheer

56 Very strict

57 VIP's ride

59 [Not my error]

61 Tread-bare

62 Mediocre mark

63 With precision

65 Eggnog spice

68 Superlative suffix

69 Collegiate event in a ring

71 Budgetary excess

74 In a jiffy

75 Bridge support

76 Inflight announcement

77 Unquestionable

79 In the past

81 Courteous chap

82 Genghis Khan follower

84 Sooty shaft

87 Nebraska city

89 Shoelace alternative

90 Pageantry

91 Took charge

93 Double or triple

96 Step on it

97 Heavy hammer

99 Enormous

100 Large ex-lake

102 French fashion house

104 Practice, as an occupation

107 Maytag alternative

110 Native New Mexican

111 Author ___ Ingalls Wilder

112 Open courtyards

114 Got depleted

116 Deep cleaning tool

119 With a noble name

120 Any of the Simpsons

121 Phony deal

122 Division preposition

123 Dismissive looks

124 Smooch, in Britain

125 Corner PC key

126 Mexican coin

6 Spanish hunter's cap

7 Threw in

8 Cry on a course

9 Wall St. debut

10 Stevenson physician

11 Cooling off periods

12 Ensign's assent

13 Printer powder

14 Necessity for a checked suitcase

15 Where the Himalayas are

16 Email button

17 Golf shop supplies

20 Genesis twin

24 Visited often

25 Recipe amt.

30 Marge alternative

34 Religious offshoot

35 Choral contingent

36 ___ noir (bugaboo)

38 Rm. coolers

40 Skater's leap

41 Apple tablet

42 ___ de plume

43 Satirical comedy

44 Collegiate octet, familiarly

45 Thesaurus guy

46 Poli ___ (college major)

47 "We gotta leave!"

48 Coral island

53 Shakespearean monarch

55 Assist in a crime

57 Legal claim

58 Very quick, in brand names

60 Herb in curry

63 Pendulum direction

64 Puppy bark

66 Campground setup

67 Hard drive measure

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69 Little chirper

70 Dusk to dawn

71 Game played with dogs

72 Game-playing brand

73 Fortune-telling deck

74 Gas tank insert

77 Ten Benjamins

78 Canyon edges

80 Frat letter

82 Chemistry facility

83 Pub beverage

84 EMT expertise

85 Frozen princess

86 Outcries

88 Firefighter's tool

89 Still life item

92 Stops something

94 Greediness

95 Ice cream parlor supply

98 Church official

101 Harder to come by

102 Trucker's space

103 Major airports

104 Trim, as branches

105 Enumerates

106 Web portal

107 Certain patron's interests

108 Primary

109 Deal preceder

111 Anatomical air bag

113 Safari or cruise

115 PGA distances

117 Marsupial, for short

118 SUV maker in Detroit

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OBITUARIES

Mary Suzanne “Suzie” Habeck-Schafelke, age 84, passed away on April 17, 2024. Suzie had a strong faith and was truly excited to reunite with her son, Bobby, and her daughter, Cindy, in heaven.

Suzie was born on Sept. 15, 1939, in Milwaukee to the late Lloyd and Madge (Linquist) Jung. Suzie worked a rural postal route for the post office for 20 years and was proud to be the first female carrier in Shawano County.

On Sept. 2, 1978, Suzie was united in marriage to Leon Habeck in Las



Vegas. Leon preceded her in death on Oct. 29, 1997. Suzie then married Jerry Schafelke on April 29, 1999. Jerry preceded her in

death on Jan. 19, 2021.

In her free time, Suzie enjoyed shopping and watching game shows and sports; some of her favorites were the Packers, Badgers and Michigan State basketball, but she loved and would watch all sports.

The most important thing to her was her beloved family, whom she was extremely proud of. Family holidays always included some of Suzie’s famous snacks. Her smile could light up a room and she had the ability to connect with people on such a loving level. She made

many treasured friendships over the course of her life. She was a selfless and generous woman who was always thinking of others. Giving to others was her whole life, and she loved to give anonymously. Suzie was one of a kind and made an impact on so many. She will be dearly missed and always remembered.

Suzie is survived by three children, Rick (S.O. Laura Acra) Bayer, Linda (Jeff) Engel and Nancy (Greg) DeGrave; and stepchildren Greg (Mary) Habeck, Beth (Michael Peters) Habeck,

Terrie (Greg) Reitzner, Mike (Cindy) Schafelke, Sue (Neal) Klemme and Sandy (Todd) Buman. She is further survived by numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and, of course, her many lifelong girlfriends.

Suzie is preceded in death by: husbands, Leon Habeck and Jerry Schafelke; her son, Robert J. “Bobby” Bayer; her daughter, Cindy Monroe; stepson, Dave Habeck; and former husband, James Bayer.

A funeral to celebrate Suzie’s life will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2024,

at 1 p.m. at Swedberg Funeral Home in Shawano with Deacon James Lonick officiating. Visitation will begin at 11:30 a.m. and continue until the time of the service. Burial will follow in Woodlawn Cemetery in Shawano. Memorial donations can be directed to St. Jude’s Children Hospital.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to Compassus Hospice for their wonderful care.

“I love you Mom ... until we dance again ...”
www.swedbergfuneral-home.com

Leland ‘Lee’ J. Buckoski

Leland “Lee” John Buckoski, 93, slipped unexpectedly into the arms of Jesus on April 16, 2024, at his home in Fox Crossing. Just days before his passing, he had the pleasure of visiting “The Farm” with his children regaling them with his memories.

Lee was born on Aug. 14, 1930, to Andrew and Julia (Steff) Buckoski at home in the Town of Seneca, Shawano County. He was the youngest of three children and assisted his parents on the family farm. Lee attended Rippling Brook School (a one-room schoolhouse) and graduated from Bowler High School in 1948.

Lee met Rogene Anderson in the early ‘50s at the Caroline Ballroom. The two fell in love and were united in marriage on July 10, 1954, at St. Rose Catholic Church in Clintonville. They spent years working the family farm and raising their family until the barn was lost in a fire.

They moved in 1969 so Lee could continue work at Allis-Chalmers in Appleton. Lee was a farmer at heart through his life, and he and Rogene instilled a strong work ethic in all of their children.

As a devout Catholic, Lee found value in daily Mass at St. John the Baptist Church.

A lover of the outdoors, Lee enjoyed hunting, fishing, ice fishing, golfing and birdwatching – especially looking for the elusive



bluebird. He enjoyed playing and watching baseball and softball. As season ticket holders for the Packers, he and Rogene spent many hours in the stands cheering on their team. In later years following retirement, the couple spent hours antiquing and then selling their treasures at flea markets.

Lee is lovingly survived by his children, Steve (Debbie) Buckoski, Deborah Buckoski, Mike (Pam) Buckoski, Mark Buckoski, Donna (Gregg) Handler and Tom (Kim) Buckoski; grandchildren, Aaron (Amanda) Buckoski, Jason (Sarah) Buckoski, Andrew (Nicole) Buckoski, Justin (Kim) Buckoski, Matthew (Dana) Buckoski, Maren (Morgan) Popp, Ben Buckoski, Eric (Amy) Handler and Ryan (Maggie) Handler. He is further survived by 23 great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Mary Ann Moder; brother-in-law, Wally Laehn; as well as other family and friends.

He is preceded in death

by his wife of 65 years; his grandson, David; his parents; sister, Hazel (Cliff) Flanagan; brother, Eugene (Ilamae) Buckoski; Rogene’s parents, Theodore and Mildred Anderson; and brothers-in-law, Charles Moder and Russell (Ila) Anderson; as well as sister-in-law, Kathy Laehn.

A visitation will take place on Thursday, April 25, 2024, from 5-7 p.m. at Wichmann Funeral Home, Tri County Chapel, 1592 Oneida, Fox Crossing. This time of gathering will be followed by a prayer service.

A funeral liturgy will take place Friday, April 26, 2024, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 516 De Pere St., Menasha, at 11 a.m. Friends and family may gather at the church from 9 a.m. until Mass begins. Lee will be interred at St. Mary Cemetery, Leopolis.

Because Lee’s wife, Rogene, left us during the height of COVID, please plan to join us as we also celebrate her life through these gatherings.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund will be established in Lee’s name.

To our sister, Deb, you made Dad’s wish of remaining at home come true. Thank you for all the love and care you provided to him and to us.

For additional information or to share a memory, please see Leland’s obituary at wichmannfuneral-homes.com.

Patricia ‘Pat’ Ann Murphy

Patricia Ann “Pat” Murphy, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt and friend, passed away on April 13, 2024, in De Pere at the age of 86.

Pat was born in Shawano on Aug. 1, 1937, to the late Milton and Clara (Norton) Krueger. Pat graduated from Shawano High School and later studied hospitality management at Fox Valley Technical College.

Pat and her first husband, Maynard Bahr, raised five wonderful children together. She was an amazing woman, a dedicated mother and a doting grandmother, and she loved spending time with her family. In her free time she enjoyed gardening, reading, sewing, crafting, cooking, baking and traveling, including trips to Hawaii, Europe, Mexico, Canada, Aruba and numerous places across the United States. She spent several winters in Lake Havasu, Arizona.

She never shied away from a chance to learn something new. She was very proud to have opened her own restaurant, Copper Kettle. She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and Shawano Lioness. She was a former Cub Scout leader and taught Sunday school at St. John in Pulcifer for many years.

Later in life, Pat met her soulmate, Marvin “Marv” Murphy, and they



were united in marriage on Sept. 9, 2000. They built a beautiful home on the Oconto River and enjoyed their little slice of heaven together until Marv’s passing in 2014.

Pat’s presence brought light and joy to so many lives. She was a wonderful combination of softness, strength and kindness. She had a heart of gold, with her arms and her door always open. Her house was full of love, laughter and treats for whoever came to visit. Pat was the epitome of everything you’d want in a mother and grandmother. She will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

Left to cherish Pat’s memory are her children, Steve (Kathy) Bahr, Brenda (John) Schuelke, Debra Bahr, Jim (Dawn) Bahr and Kevin (Sheila) Bahr; grandchildren, Heather (Chris Goke) Van Kooy, Brian (fiancé Lindsay Pockat) Bahr, Josh (Tricia) Marohl, Katie (Neil)

Crider, Brooke (Billy) Calkins, Emily (fiancé Preston Mullins) Bahr, Briana (Rashid) Ghbein, Logan (Stacie Polarek) Bahr, Samantha (Michael) Johnson, Rachel Bahr and Justin Bahr; 14 great-grandchildren, Jack, Madeline, Lucy, Simon, Allison, Rilynn, Chase, Charlize, Frances, Edison, Lila, Katie, Noah and Ada; two brothers, Mike (Sandra) Krueger and Wesley Krueger.

She is further survived by numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Marvin Murphy; a great-granddaughter, Lauren Jean Marohl; former husband, Maynard Bahr; her parents; and siblings, Fred Krueger, Mickey Krueger, Mae Evelyn, Helen Hintz, Shirley Smith, Edwin Krueger and a sister in infancy.

A memorial service for Pat was held Friday, April 19, 2024, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Bonduel.

Memorials may be directed to St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital, as it was near and dear to Pat’s heart.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the nurses and staff at the Jack and Ingrid Meng Residence Hospice House for their kindness and loving care.

www.swedbergfuneral-home.com

NEWS CORRESPONDENT

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

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

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



SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

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

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

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



Legals
WNAXLP

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04/12/24, 04/19/24, 04/26/24
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
SHAWANO COUNTY
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 2024PR000018
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
Bernice M. Reinert
Deceased
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal
administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth July
24, 1931 and date of death August 16,
2023, was domiciled in Shawano County,
State of Wisconsin, with a mailing
address of 259 River Pine Dr., Shawano,
WI 54166.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against
the decedent's estate is July 16, 2024.
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano
County Courthouse, 311 N. Main Street,
Shawano, Wisconsin, Room 202, Probate
Office.

/s/ Gwen Hoffman
Probate Registrar
04-02-2024

Attorney David Watson
7702 W. Mequon Rd
Mequon, WI 53097
414-491-3283
Bar No. 1097467

WNAXLP

83b50efc
04/26/24
Our File #W125903
STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT
COURT MENOMINEE COUNTY

LVNV FUNDING LLC Case No.
24SC000015
Plaintiff,
Vs.
ROSE TOURTILLOTT
Defendant.

SMALL CLAIMS AMENDED SUMMONS

To:
ROSE TOURTILLOTT
N1401 THUNDERBIRD RD
KESHENA WI 54135-9342

You are being sued by: LVNV FUNDING
LLC in the Small Claims Court of
MENOMINEE County, located at PO
BOX 279/W3269 COURTHOUSE LANE
KESHENA WI 54135.
A hearing will be held at 9:30 a.m. on
May 17, 2024 at the Shawano County
Courthouse located at 311 N. Main St.
Shawano, WI 54166. If you do not
appear, a judgment may be given to the
party suing you. A copy of this amended
summons along with the summons
and complaint is being mailed to you.
Dated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin this April
15, 2024.

WNAXLP

NEW MEDIA INC.
715-526-6188

54a4df40
04/19/24, 04/26/24, 05/03/24
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
SHAWANO COUNTY
Amended Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 24PR24
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
James G. VandenBrook
DOD 02/29/2024
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal
administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth
08/29/1932 and date of death
02/29/2024, was domiciled in Shawano
County, State of Wisconsin, with a
mailing address of W3996 South High
Line Rd. Bonduel, WI 54107
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against
the decedent's estate is July 25, 2024
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano
County Courthouse, 311 N. Main Street,
Shawano, Wisconsin, Room 202, Probate
Office.

/s/ Gwen Hoffman
Probate Registrar
04-11-2024

Atty. Christina J. Kabara
PO Box 12646
Green Bay, WI 54307
920-434-0777
Bar No. 1024907

WNAXLP

BUY IT
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Call Today 715-526-6188 NEW MEDIA INC.

Legals
WNAXLP

580bf2f2
04/26/24
STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF
A NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN
AND INTENT TO REISSUE A
WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE
ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES)
PERMIT No.WI-0059544-05-0
Permittee: Matsche Farm Inc, N9035
River Rd, Birmamwood, WI, 54414
Facility Where Discharge Occurs:
Matsche Farm Inc, N9035 River Road,
W16550 County Rd N,W16233 County
Rd N, W19069 Western Ave, N102xx
Sugarbush Road, Birmamwood ; 216434
Black Cherry Drive, Eland
Receiving Water And Location: Surface
water and groundwater within the North
Branch Embarrass River Watershed &
South Branch Embarrass River
Watershed
Brief Facility Description : Matsche Farm
Inc is a existing Concentrated Animal
Feeding Operation (CAFO). Matsche
Farm Inc is owned and operated by the
Matsche Family. It currently has 13,007
animal units (5,998 Milking & Dry Cows,
4,845 Heifers, and 1,462 Calves).
Matsche Farm Inc is proposing an
expansion in animal units to 14,515
animal units (7,200 Milking & Dry Cows,
4,800 Heifers, and 900 Calves) during the
permit term. Matsche Farm Inc is
expected to annually generate
90,878,015 gallons of manure and
process wastewater and 4,536 tons of
solid waste at the current animal units
and increasing to 102,904,259 gallons of
manure & process wastewater after the
expansion. Matsche Farm Inc has a total
of 10,138 acres available for land
application of manure and process
wastewater of which 10,042 are
spreadable. Of this acreage, 4,886 acres
are owned, and 5,252 acres are
controlled through contracts, rental
agreements, leases, or under manure
contracts. As part of the expansion,
Matsche Farms Inc is proposing to build
additional animal housing, an expansion
of the Feed Storage Area, and an
additional satellite waste storage facility.
The Department has tentatively decided
that the above specified WPDES permit
should be reissued.
Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone
and Email: Brian Hanson, DNR, 647
Lakeland Rd, Shawano, WI, 54166-
3843, (920) 366-3302,
Brian.Hanson@wisconsin.gov
Persons wishing to comment on or object
to the proposed permit action, the terms
of the nutrient management plan, or the
application, or to request a public
informational hearing may write to the
Department of Natural Resources at the
permit drafter's address. All comments or
suggestions received no later than 30
days after the publication date of this
public notice will be considered along
with other information on file in making a
final decision regarding the permit.
Anyone providing comments in response
to this public notice will receive a
notification of the Department's final
decision when the permit is re-issued.
Where designated as a reviewable
surface water discharge permit, the U.S.
Environmental Protection Agency is
allowed up to 90 days to submit
comments or objections regarding this
permit determination. If no comments are
received on the proposed permit from
anyone, including U.S. EPA, the permit
will be re-issued as proposed.
The Department may schedule a public
informational hearing if within 30 days of
the public date of this notice, a request
for a hearing is filed by any person. The
Department shall schedule a public
informational hearing if a petition
requesting a hearing is received from
USEPA or from 5 or more persons or if
the Department determines there is
significant public interest. Requests for a
public informational hearing shall state
the following: the name and address of
the person(s) requesting the hearing; the
interest in the proposed permit of the
person(s) requesting the hearing; the
reasons for the request; and the issues
proposed to be considered at the
hearing.
Information on file for this permit action,
including the draft permit and fact sheet
(if required), the operation's nutrient
management plan and application may
be inspected and copied at the permit
drafter's office, Monday through Friday
(except holidays), between 9:00 a.m. and
3:30 p.m. Please call the permit drafter
for directions to their office location, if
necessary. Information on this permit
action may also be obtained by calling
the permit drafter at (920) 366-3302 or by
writing to the Department. Reasonable
costs (15 cents per page for copies and 7
cents per page for scanning) will be
charged for information in the file other
than the public notice and fact sheet.
Permit information is also available on
the internet at:
http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/PublicN
otices.html. Pursuant to the Americans
with Disabilities Act, reasonable
accommodation, including the provision
of informational material in an alternative
format, will be made to qualified
individuals upon request.

WNAXLP

COURT NEWS

- Crystalee C. Caley, 30, Gillett, pleaded no contest Dec. 7 to possession of meth-amphetamine. Judge Katherine Sloma withheld sentencing April 15 and placed her on two years of probation with conditions.
- Rogelio Cuenca, 43, Shawano, pleaded no contest Jan. 30 to two counts of possession of narcotic drugs and one count of possession of methamphetamine. Sloma withheld sentencing April 16 and placed him on four years of probation with conditions.
- Cameron R. Barnes, 32, Pulaski, pleaded no contest April 15 to aggravated battery intending bodily harm. Sloma withheld sentencing and placed him on four years of probation with conditions.
- Noah Jorstad, 24, Shawano, pleaded no contest April 16 to five counts of

felony bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of resisting or obstructing an officer and disorderly conduct. Judge William Kussel Jr. levied fines and sentenced him to 210 days in county jail.

- Kurt D. Hughes, 33, Shawano, was charged April 15 with two counts of felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct. Kussel set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for July 2.
- Vernon A. Parrott, 28, Tigerton, was charged April 15 with battery to a law officer, seven counts of misdemeanor bail jumping and a further misdemeanor count of resisting or obstructing an officer. Kussel set a \$2,500 cash bond and a \$2,500 signature bond and scheduled a status conference for May 20.

- David B. Leurquin, 54, Manitowoc, was charged April 15 with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia to produce methamphetamine and two counts of misdemeanor bail jumping. Kussel set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for April 30.
- Sarah M. Eisch, 39, Oneida, was charged April 17 with possession of narcotic drugs and two counts of misdemeanor bail jumping. Kussel set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for June 17.
- Wendy L. Mason, 48, Clintonville, was charged April 18 with possession of narcotic drugs, possession of methamphetamine and five counts of felony bail jumping. Kussel set a \$1,500 cash bond and scheduled a status

conference for May 22.

- Deonte J. Matchopatow, 18, Shawano, was charged April 18 with two counts of felony bail jumping. Kussel set a \$1,000 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for April 30.
- Ayesha M. Dodge, 28, Keshena, was charged April 19 with possession of THC (second and subsequent offense), possession of methamphetamine, possession of an illegal article and three counts of felony bail jumping. Kussel set a \$500 cash bond and a \$10,000 signature bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for May 7.
- Joshua G. Helfenstein, 31, Marion, was charged April 19 with possession of narcotic drugs. Kussel set a \$3,000 signature bond and scheduled a status conference for July 8.

PUBLIC RECORD

SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
April 21
Deputies responded to 21 incidents, including operating without a license on state Highway 29 in the Town of Belle Plaine; operating without a license on state Highway 29 in the Town of Waukechon; harassment on Oak Street in Tigerton; two 911 calls; three reckless driving incidents; two crashes, one involving deer.
April 20
Deputies responded to 15 incidents, including found property on Green Valley Road in the Town of Angelica; operating while intoxicated on East Green Bay Street in Shawano; one reckless driving incident.
April 19
Deputies responded to 23 incidents, including operating without a license on state Highway 29 in the Town of Hartland; warrant on Elm Street in Tigerton; assisting with a fire on Lone Maple Road in the Town of Fairbanks; sick animal on River Road in the Town of Hartland; criminal damage on East Hofman Street in Cecil; weapon offense on Green Valley Road in the Town of Green Valley; one 911 call; one reckless driving incident; two traffic hazards; three crashes, two

involving deer.
April 18
Deputies responded to 36 incidents, including criminal damage at Shawano Lake County Park, W5785 Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; restraining order violation on South Webb Street in Wittenberg; harassment of state Highway 22 in the Town of Green Valley; criminal damage on West Vinal Street in Wittenberg; vehicle theft on Meadow Road in the Town of Hutchins; identity theft on Spaulding Street in Tigerton; scam on East Green Bay Street in Bonduel; repossession on Chickadee Lane in the Town on Aniwa; repossession on Ah Toh Wuk Circle in the Town of Bartelme; assisting with a fire on County Road E in the Town of Washington; vicious animal on Maple Leaf Road in the Town of Belle Plaine; three 911 calls; one reckless driving incident; one crash.
April 17
Deputies responded to 37 incidents, including operating without a license on East Lieg Avenue in Shawano; restraining order violation on Acorn Road in the Town of Belle Plaine; scam on Schabow Street in Gresham; elderly abuse on South Webb Street in Wittenberg; assisting with a fire on East Rollman Street in Bowler; intoxication on South Prouty Street in Wittenberg; criminal damage on West Vinal Street in Wittenberg; shoplifting at 22 Shell, N4543 State Highway 22 in the Town of Belle Plaine; one 911 call; two reckless driving

incidents; one traffic hazard; three crashes, one involving deer.
April 16
Deputies responded to 35 incidents, including assisting with a fire on state Highway 55 in the Town of Maple Grove; scam on Cloverleaf Lake Road in the Town of Belle Plaine; fraud on Sunshine Court in Bonduel; assisting with a fire on Maple Lane in the Town of Seneca; assisting with a fire on Sycamore Road in the Town of Richmond; two 911 calls; one reckless driving incident; one traffic hazard; two crashes, one involving deer.
SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT
April 21
Officers responded to 11 incidents, including a vicious animal on West Fifth Street.
April 20
Officers responded to 22 incidents, including a warrant arrest on East Randall Street; drug offenses on East Randall Street; drug offenses at Charlie's County Market, 521 S. Main St.; reckless driving on East Elizabeth Street.
April 19
Officers responded to 28 incidents, including fraud at CoVantage Credit Union, 911 E. Green Bay St.; fraud at Shawano Auto Sales, 939 E. Green Bay St.; lost property at the Shawano Recreation Center, 220 E. Division St.; lost property on South Main Street; shoplifting at Goodwill Industries, 300 Lakeland Road; juvenile problem on West Green Bay Street; traffic hazard on South Airport Drive.

April 18
Officers responded to 24 incidents, including a curfew violation on Highview Avenue; warrant arrest on East Stevens Street; found property on East Green Bay Street; overdose at Four Seasons Hotel, 201 N. Airport Drive; bail jumping on North Main Street; operating without a license on East Elizabeth Street; warrant arrest on East Green Bay Street; drug offenses on South Bartlett Street.
April 17
Officers responded to 16 incidents, including drug offenses on state Highway 47-55 in the Town of Wescott; vehicle crash with injury on County Road B; vehicle crash on River Heights Drive.
April 16
Officers responded to 33 incidents, including a counterfeit complaint at the LCMS Thrift Store, 2324 E. Richmond St.; two juvenile problem complaints at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B; property theft at the Shawano Recreation Center, 220 E. Division St.; two truancy complaints at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B; reckless driving on South Lafayette Street; warrant attempt at Walmart, 1244 E. Green Bay St.; juvenile problem on South Andrews Street; illegal burning on West First Street; operating without a license on Waukechon Street; shoplifting at Walmart, 1244 E. Green Bay St.; traffic hazard on East Green Bay Street; vehicle crash on East Green Bay Street.

• Silo Relining
• Barn & Basement Wall Resurfacing
• Sandblasting

Family Owned

800-801-7070
Beaver Dam, WI

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Big Lake Property Owners Association (the Association) proposes to manage approximately 15 acres of Big Lake to control excessive growth of the exotic invasive aquatic plant, Eurasian watermilfoil. TIGRIS Aquatic Services, LLC will conduct an application of the aquatic herbicide ProcellaCOR EC (florpyrauxifen-benzyl) to infestations. It is anticipated that the application will occur sometime in May or June, 2024 and will proceed only after the Association obtains a permit for the treatment from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

The water use restrictions for ProcellaCOR EC are as follows: *Do not use water from application areas for non-turf irrigation purposes for 10 days (turf can be irrigated immediately).*

The Association will hold a public informational meeting on the proposed project if five or more individuals, organizations, special units of government, or local units of government request one in writing. The person or entity requesting the meeting shall state a specific agenda of topics including problems and alternatives to be discussed.

The request for a public informational meeting must be sent in writing to: Big Lake Property Owners Association, W10319 Litzen Drive, Gresham, WI 54128 and to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 2984 Shawano Ave, Green Bay, WI 54313 within 5 days after the public notice is published.

WNAXLP

Sturgeon Guard back on duty at Wolf River

Like clockwork but depending on weather and water temperature, thousands of lake sturgeon migrate up the Lake Winnebago system to spawn and lay their eggs in the rocks of the Wolf, lower Fox and Peshtigo rivers.

Watching the thrashing, splashing fish — many 6 feet long or more — becomes a spectacle for thousands of fascinated visitors in April and early May at special viewing areas in Shawano, New London and Shiocton.

Now joining the spring fun again after a three-year hiatus is a group of volunteers dedicated to protecting these prehistoric fish, the Sturgeon Guard.

Although this group of more than 100 volunteers enjoys their half-day shifts monitoring the spawn at the three public areas as well as several undisclosed sites, their mission is serious, explained Don Mielke, of Sherwood, the man credited with starting up the dismantled Sturgeon Guard.

Initially created by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and staffed by volunteers around the clock during the spring spawn, the Sturgeon Guard kept a watchful eye on these massive fish and those who might harm them for more than 30 years, according to the DNR website. Mielke helped behind the scenes for 25 years, but his dairy farming duties kept him from actual guard duty.

The COVID-19 pandemic



demarcated the successful program in spring 2020. Mielke — one of the original leaders of the Northern Half Chapter of Sturgeon For Tomorrow who still farms 285 acres — said a problem with inefficiencies in feeding a varying number of volunteers and the retirement of a cook kept the program down for two more years. The DNR officially closed the program in 2022, citing administrative difficulties and a lack of volunteers. But the DNR suggested the program could be revived if an agency stepped forward.

Mielke, 68, said he couldn't figure out who would revive the guard, but looked in the mirror and said, "Well, why can't you do it?" So in 2023, that's what he did.

Volunteers from the Lower Cliff Fishing Club in Sherwood and funding from Sturgeon for Tomorrow got the ball rolling last year. Jen and Josh Reitz serve as his communications liaisons with the DNR and game wardens, as well as keeping up with posts on the Scutes the Sturgeon Facebook page (Scutes is the Sturgeon Guard mascot named for the largest sturgeon ever netted by the DNR, and a wooden replica of Scutes is

at Shawano Dam). Scutes are the rows of bony structures that protect the fish, Josh Reitz explained.

Mielke's right-hand man who helps with keeping the volunteers stocked with DNR pamphlets and other daily tasks is Glenn Mattern, who can take over his coordinator duties at a moment's notice.

"We had to adapt a different format," Mielke explained.

Coordinating the dozens of volunteers includes a pre-spawning season meeting with the DNR, daily texts from DNR senior sturgeon biologist Margaret Stadig and a debriefing meeting after the season ends to discuss how to do things better.

The issue of feeding the troops is no longer an issue, either, because each volunteer receives a \$40 Kwik Trip gift card for each shift they work, funded by Sturgeon For Tomorrow donations generated in part by the group's annual banquets. Guard shifts are sunrise to 2 p.m. and 2 p.m. to dusk.

The early and current iterations of the Sturgeon Guard have been amazingly effective at putting most spring sturgeon poaching to a halt. Guard members helped nab sturgeon netters at a New London park one year, which prompted the program to monitor many lesser-known spawning areas without being obvious.

Technology in the form of cell phones keeps the guard members informed but also can be used in the



Kathy and Roger Woelfel of Sherwood keep a watchful eye on spawning lake sturgeon April 15 at the New London Sturgeon Trail as part of the recently reestablished Sturgeon Guard. Volunteers with the guard make sure the vulnerable fish aren't disturbed or touched, and hand out sturgeon pamphlets at New London, Shiocton and Shawano viewing areas.

ROSS BIELEMA

event that those volunteers see someone getting a bit close to the thrashing, splashing action. Mielke said the guards are taught to take photos of any potential violations, and if necessary, follow violators to their vehicles and get photos of license plates, as well as calling the warden.

"They've got it in their minds that they've got to touch the fish," he said, noting that doing so can result in a \$303 fine. "We don't need to be Sherlock Holmes."

Roger and Kathy Woelfel of Sherwood, both retirees and Lower Cliff Fishing Club members who enjoy

their Sturgeon Guard duties in New London, were easily spotted on the County Road X Sturgeon Trail in their fluorescent yellow vests one warm April afternoon as they answered questions and handed out pamphlets to dozens of sturgeon watchers.

Roger said he enjoys talking to kids and adults about the sturgeon.

"They soak it up," he said.

Mielke said the only real requirement to be a Sturgeon Guard is to have a passion for the sturgeon, which number about 40,000 in the Lake Winnebago system — more

than any other place on earth.

He's exhibited that passion by helping the DNR with three tagging operations, by successfully spearing 25 sturgeon over the decades and also catching them with pole and line.

If you want to help the Sturgeon Guard and the fish they watch, donate to Sturgeon For Tomorrow, he noted. Those interested in more information can send an email to wisconsin-sturgeonguard@gmail.com.

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

STURGEON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the river, it wasn't uncommon to sit inches from the water to watch the fish — and sometimes slip and join the fish in the river.

"It happened to our children," Debbie Buchert said of them falling in the water. "They were little. You had to watch them close, because they would sit right up there."

"Shawano made a big improvement with this park and the walkway," Dave Buchert added. "It's much safer."

Thousands of fish make the trek each year.

"This must be the peak right now," Dave Buchert said. "I've never seen so many as this."

Sturgeon spawning is dependent on water temperature and flow, according to the DNR. During seasons when water flow is high and water temperatures rise slowly, spawning begins when the water temperature reaches about 53 degrees. In contrast, during seasons of low water flow and more rapid water temperature rise, spawning does not begin until water temperatures reach 58-59 degrees.

At the dam, sturgeon are caught with hand nets, tagged, measured and re-



Another sturgeon is pulled from the waters of the Wolf River at the Shawano dam. Each year, thousands of the fish make their way northward through the Winnebago System to spawn.

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

leased back into the river.

Like pets, the fish are chipped. One member of the crew will use a handheld machine to scan the fish to determine if it was chipped during an earlier spawning season. If not, one will be inserted.

Information collected from the fish help officials manage the fish population.

The dam prevents sturgeon from going further upstream, making it a perfect spot to capture the fish and watch them.

Sturgeon Park is the

site of the largest sturgeon netted by the DNR, a female captured in 2012. The DNR measured her at 87.5 inches, and declared her the largest lake sturgeon ever documented in the United States, and possibly the world.

That wasn't the first time DNR biologists handled the fish. A coded fin tag identified her as the same sturgeon a previous crew captured in 2004 at the same dam when she measured nearly 85 inches.

The last time the DNR handled the giant fish was

February 2019 during the annual spearing season on Lake Winnebago. A spearfisherman hauled the fish onto Winnebago's ice that day and brought her body to a DNR registration station.

It was estimated the fish was about 100 years old when it was speared.

Sturgeon can measure 6 feet, 6 inches long and weigh close to 200 pounds. Instead of scales, the lake sturgeon has coarse skin.

Lake sturgeon migrate to shores of freshwater lakes

for spawning. Spawning occurs on clean, gravel shoals and stream rapids.

Female lay anywhere from 2 million to 3 million eggs per season. Sturgeon may not begin spawning until they are 15-25 years old, and only spawn every four years on average.

These fish can live for decades. Males may reach 55 years, while females have been recorded living for 150 years.

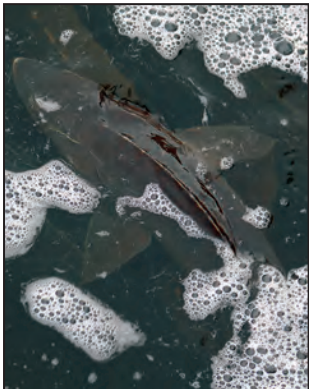
The Winnebago System is home to 44,000 adult lake sturgeon. The system contains more than 165,000 acres of habitat, and fish have unimpeded access to 100 miles of the Wolf River and 110 miles of the upper Fox River for spawning.

In the Upper Wolf River, lake sturgeon had access to spawning habitat below Keshena Falls prior to construction of the dam in 1892. The Department of Natural Resources, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, and United States Fish and Wildlife Service have been jointly working to restore lake sturgeon to the Wolf River upstream of the Shawano and Balsam Row dams since the early 1990s. The primary rehabilitation tool to date has been the

capture and transfer of sub-adult and adult lake sturgeon from the Winnebago System to waters upstream of the Balsam Row Dam.

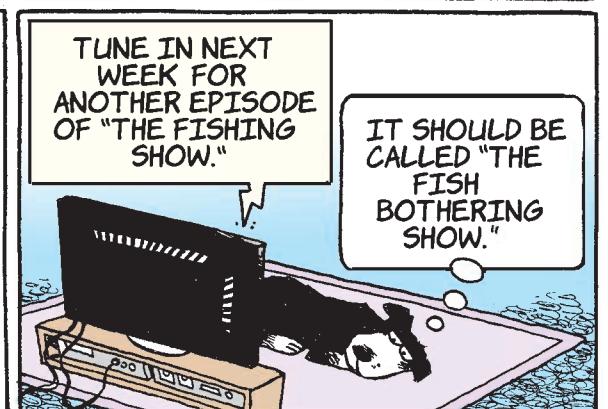
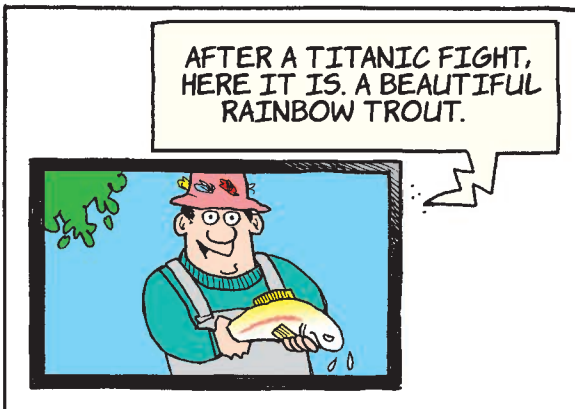
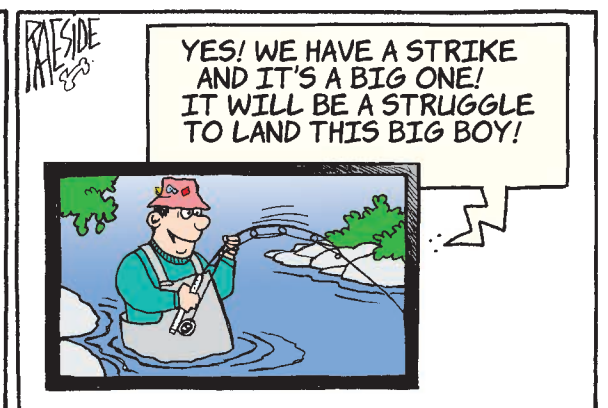
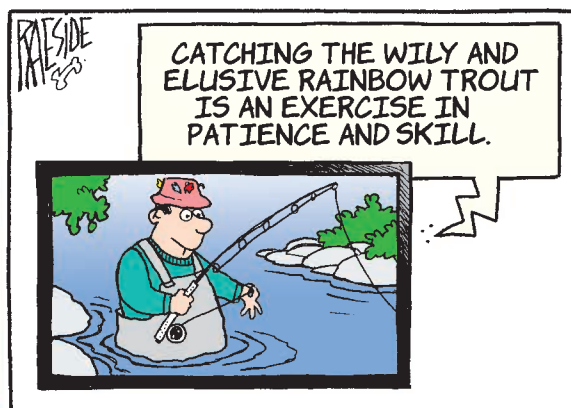
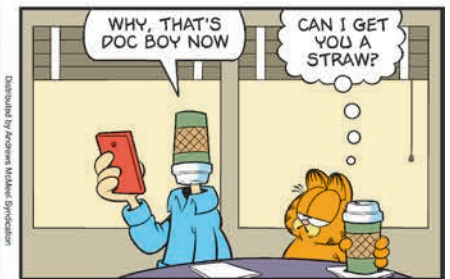
Also, in the Oconto River downstream of Stiles Dam, lake sturgeon from Green Bay have established a small adult spawning population below Stiles Dam. This population has been identified as genetically similar to the Peshtigo River population, and recruitment has been documented. Spot-lighting surveys confirmed fingerling sturgeon in the lower Oconto River in recent years.

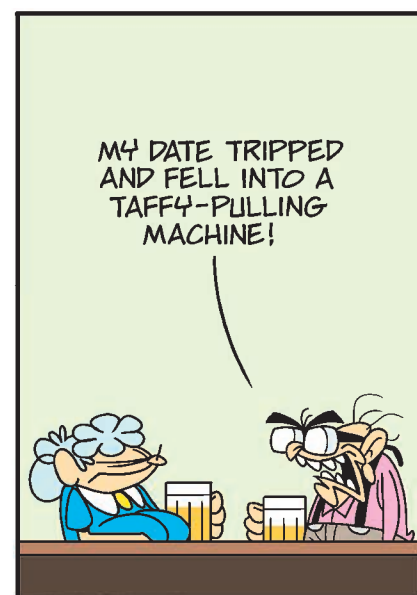
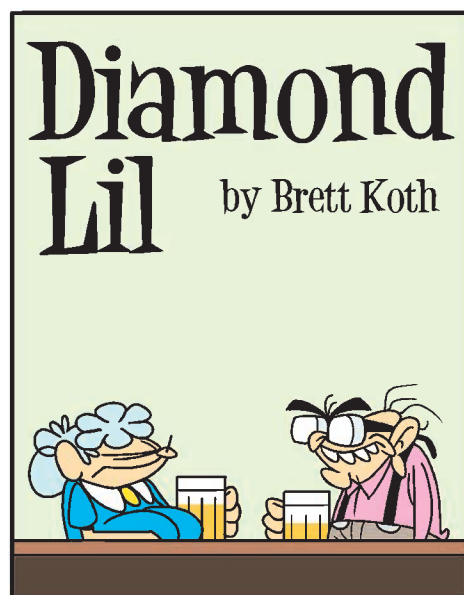
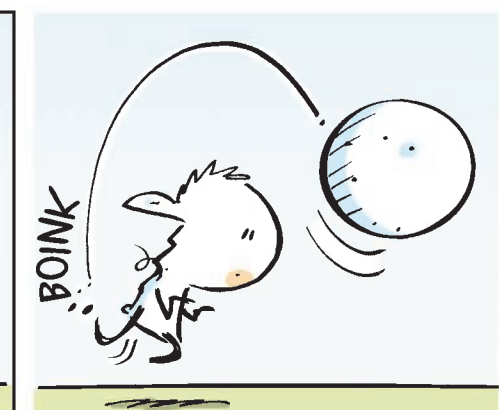
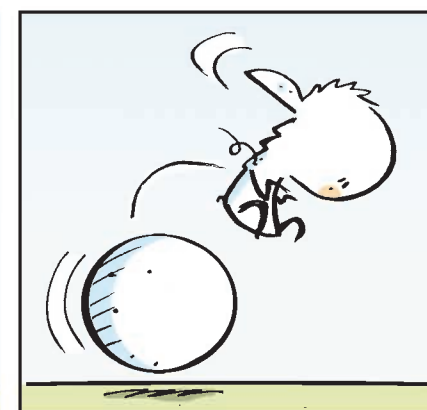
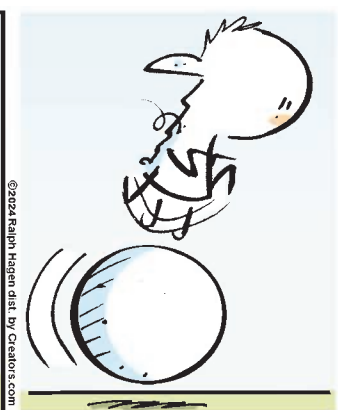
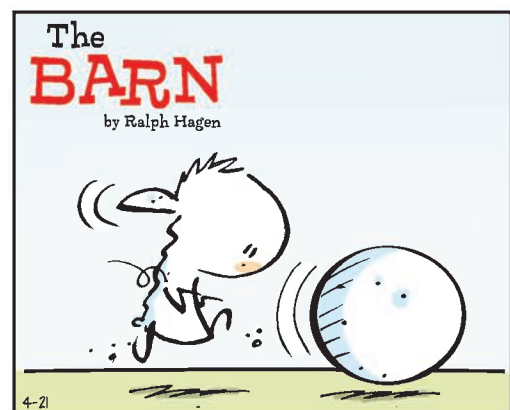
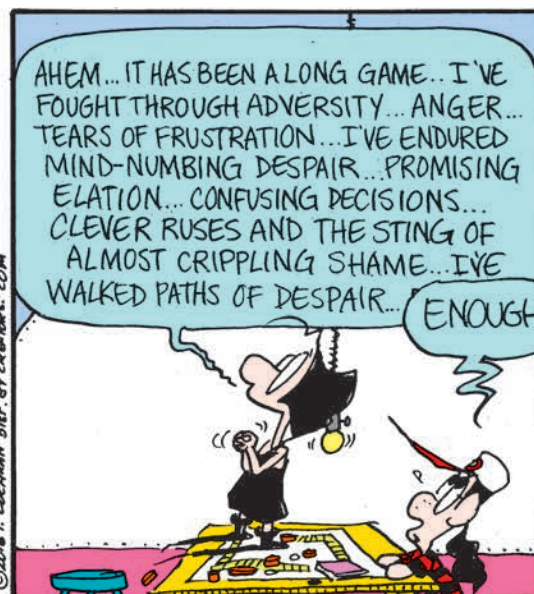
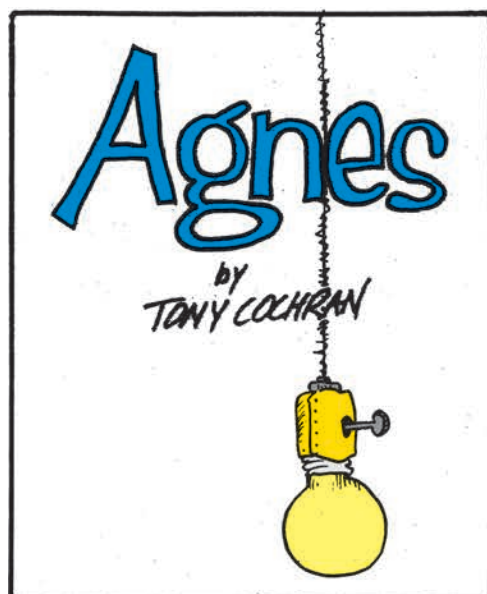
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Members of the Wisconsin DNR catch, tag and releases upwards of 2,000 sturgeon at the Shawano dam each year. About 85% of those caught are males.

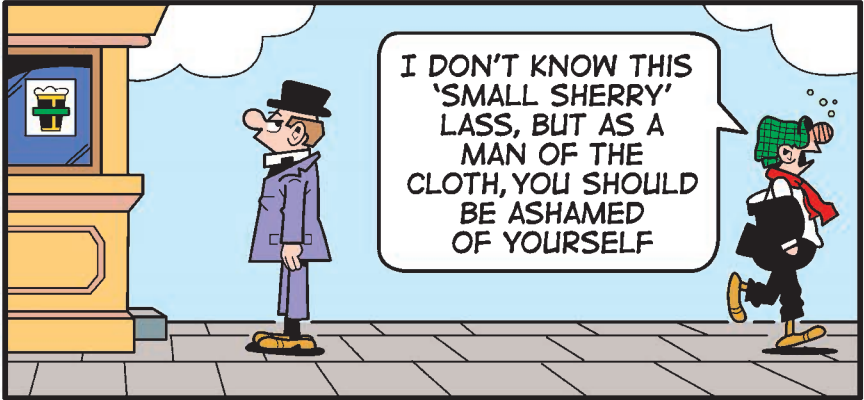
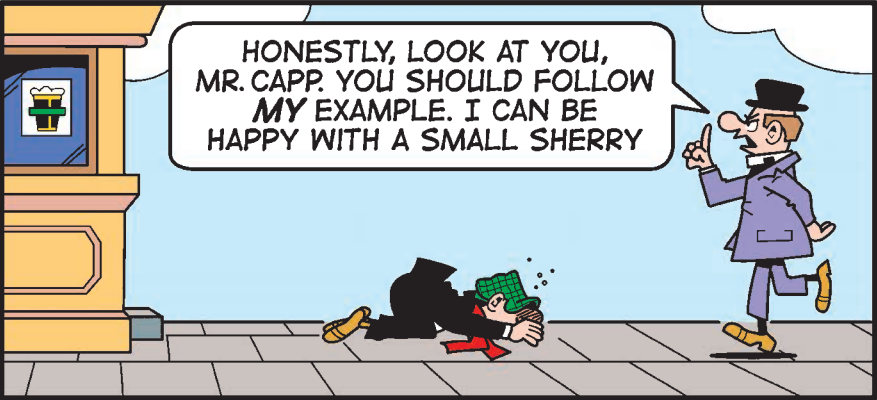
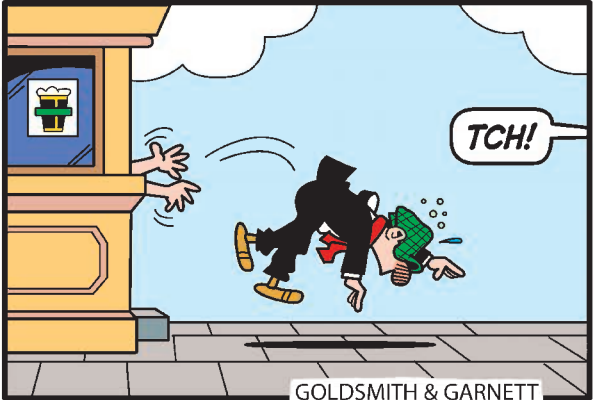
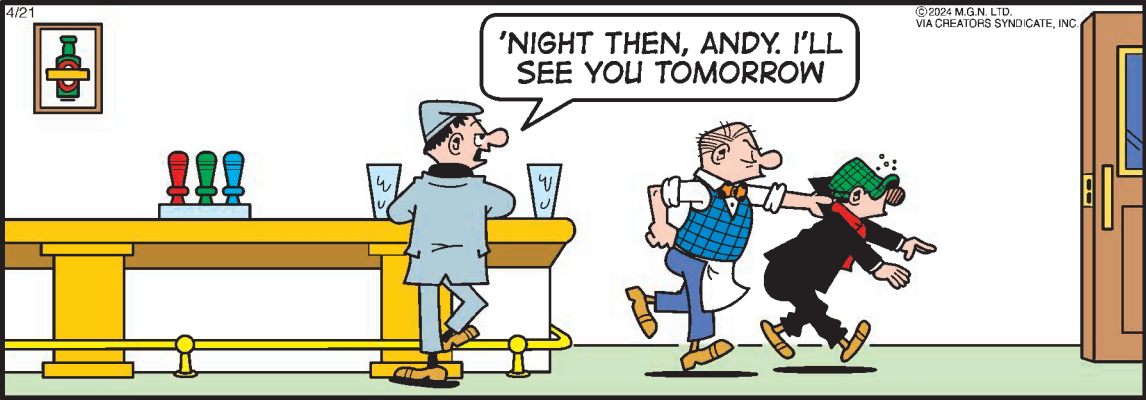
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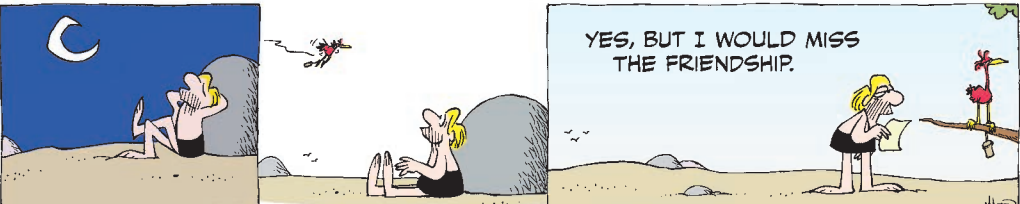
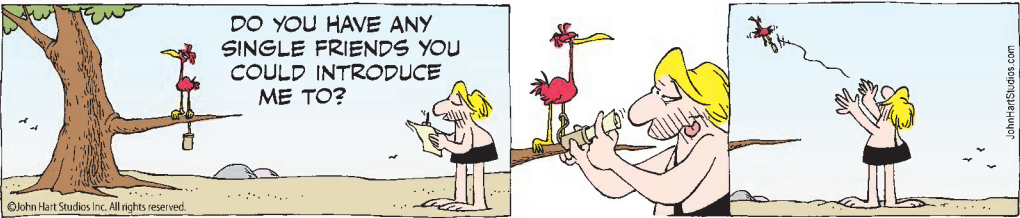
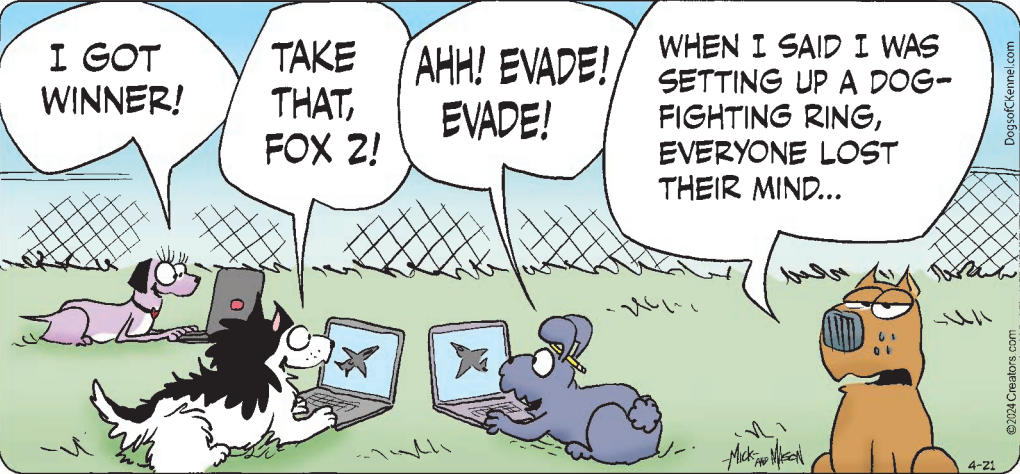


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by Smythe



DOGS OF C-KENNEL BY MICK MASTROIANNI AND MASON MASTROIANNI



Packers have 5 picks among first 91

By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

Brian Gutekunst's last two draft classes have gone exactly according to plan. He found players that were both impactful as rookies and players that look to building blocks for the foreseeable future.

That sets up for the Packers to need a war chest of salary cap space to give second contracts to all of those players as soon as next offseason, but that is a good problem to have.

The Packers at this time a year ago were in unknown territory. Aaron Rodgers was gone. Jordan Love was going to be the starter. Yes, the Packers were publicly confident in Love, but until something happened on the field, it was hard to know exactly what the team was going to get.

Combine that with the fact the offense was going to be historically young, there were no expectations for the Packers to compete for a Super Bowl.

Those days are gone now. Love is good. The Packers have a quarterback of the future. The rest of the roster is set to be built around him now.

This year's draft class is going to be scrutinized heavily, because it could be the one that pushes the team over the top and into the Super Bowl for the first time since 2010.

Here is a list of the picks the Packers will have for this draft class.

- Round 1, Pick 25
- Round 2, Pick 41 (from Jets for Rodgers)
- Round 2, Pick 58
- Round 3, Pick 88
- Round 3, Pick 91 (from Bills for Rasul Douglas)
- Round 4, Pick 126
- Round 5, Pick 169*
- Round 6, Pick 202
- Round 6, Pick 219*
- Round 7, Pick 245
- Round 7, Pick 255*

With those picks in mind, here are some scenarios that could emerge for the Packers' draft class with the help of Pro Football Network's mock draft simulator.

Day 1:

Gutekunst has been noticeably unpredictable during the first round during his tenure as general manager.

He took a cornerback during



Running back Aaron Jones poses with family, friends and fans after the Packers lost to the San Francisco 49ers in the NFC Divisional Round earlier this year. It turned out to be Jones' last game with the Packers, as he was released two months later. For more on Jones and other players released in the offseason, turn to page 7.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

his first draft class that the team would historically have thought was too short. That player was Jaire Alexander.

He's taken an inside linebacker and older prospect in the first round. Of course, he was also responsible for one of the biggest stunners in recent draft history.

He moved up to pick Jordan Love following a 13-3 season and appearance in the NFC Championship Game.

One thing appears to be certain. Gutekunst will treat the draft like a long-term proposition regardless of the situation of the current team.

This year, however, is where the first round is interesting.

The Packers could be looking to fortify their offensive line by taking a tackle early, such as Georgia's Amarius Mims or Washington's Troy Fautanu.

Gutekunst could also look to fortify the interior of his offensive line with someone like Duke's Graham Barton. Barton is not limited to just playing guard

or center. Some teams could see him as a tackle, and the Packers could be one of those as well. Some have speculated that he is a better prospect than Elgton Jenkins.

The Packers loved Jenkins and spent the 44th overall pick on him. It's unlikely they'll have the luxury to wait for the second round of this year's draft class to be able to take Barton. He is flying up the board in mock drafts from the experts.

Jackson Powers-Johnson from Oregon could be another option if the Packers wanted to upgrade at center.

If the Packers decide to go away from the offensive side of the ball, something they've done every year but one in the last 10 years, they could address their defense at any of the three levels.

The defensive line or edge rushing group could use another boost. The Packers took Iowa's pass rusher Lukas Van Ness last year with the 13th overall pick. That said, there are never too many good pass rushers on a defense, and Preston Smith will be 32 this upcoming season.

If UCLA's Laiatu Latu is available, that could be a consideration at the Packers' pick in the first round. The same is true for Florida State's Jared Verse.

If they're looking on the defensive line, there are a few players that could fit the mold.

Texas' Byron Murphy or Illinois' Jer'Zhan Newton are both guys that could give the defensive line a boost.

Kenny Clark is playing on a contract set to expire following the 2024 season. TJ Slaton is playing on an expiring contract as well. While it seems unlikely, the Packers could look to the

future early.

While Devonte Wyatt and Karl Brooks have had some nice moments, neither has proven to be a high impact player.

Linebacker is another position the Packers need to add bodies. Texas A&M's Edgerrin Cooper appears to have caught the Packers' eye enough to bring him in for a top-30 visit prior to the draft.

The defensive backfield is another popular spot for the first round. Iowa's Cooper DeJean is one of the favorites amongst mock drafters for the Packers to select in the first round. He could play nickel corner or safety in Jeff Hafley's 4-3 scheme.

A scout recently told Bill Huber of Packer Central that DeJean was the perfect complement to Xavier McKinney.

DeJean may not be available when the Packers are on the clock, which could cause them to look elsewhere.

The safety class, by consensus, is not a good one, which could cause the Packers to wait until later to add to their safety room.

If they did not want to wait, Minnesota's Tyler Nubin or Washington State's Jaden Hicks could be players that sneak into the end of the first round.

If they wanted to add a cornerback, Alabama's Terrion Arnold and Kool-Aid McKinstry are potential options. Toledo's Quinyon Mitchell is the best fit for Hafley's scheme but likely requires a move into the top half of the first round.

Day 2:

Gutekunst has four picks on the second day of the draft, which arms him with the ability to move anywhere.

For as much focus as the first

round has had on defense, every pick the Packers have had in the second round over the last two years have been used on offense.

Last year's second- and third-round picks were Luke Musgrave, Jayden Reed and Tucker Kraft.

All three players look to be building blocks for the future.

The second round could be where Gutekunst looks to address the running back room, depth at safety, and the offensive line.

Running backs that could go on Day 2 include Michigan's Blake Corum, Texas' Jonathan Brooks and Tennessee's Jaylen Wright.

Wright and Florida State's Trey Benson both fit well as change-of-pace types to the Packers' current backfield of Josh Jacobs and AJ Dillon.

Safety depth could be players that slip through the cracks of the first round and into the second round like Nubin. Other players could include USC's Calen Bulllock and Georgia's Tykee Smith and Javon Bullard.

Yale's Kiran Amegadje was referred to as the most interesting player in the draft class at offensive tackle by Dane Brugler.

Day 3:

The third day of the draft is typically about depth and fortifying the special teams.

Gutekunst will likely look for more depth on his offensive line and has stated he wants to get back into the practice of drafting quarterbacks. Tennessee's Joe Milton is the most interesting of quarterback prospects that could go on the third day of the draft.

For special teams, one potential option is Michigan wide receiver Cornelius Johnson.

Where can I watch the 2024 NFL draft?

The 2024 NFL Draft presented by Bud Light will be televised nationally by NFL Network, ABC, ESPN and ESPN Deportes.

On-air coverage of the draft will begin at the times listed below. All times listed are Central Time.

April 25: 7 p.m., NFL Network, ABC, ESPN, ESPN Deportes (Spanish).

April 26: 6 p.m., NFL Network, ABC, ESPN, ESPN Deportes (Spanish).

April 27: 11 a.m., NFL Network, ABC, ESPN, ESPN Deportes (Spanish).

In addition to TV coverage, the networks will have information through apps and websites.

For more information on NFL Network's Draft Week Coverage, visit www.nfl.com/network/events/nfl-draft.

New faces excited for next chapter in Green Bay

Running back Jacobs, strong safety McKinney among big additions for Packers

By **LUKE REIMER**
Green & Gold Express

While the Green Bay Packers overperformed last season and finished a game short of the NFC Championship, general manager Brian Gutekunst and his staff deemed it appropriate to make some changes.

Among those changes were the signings of two young players who are expected to make a major impact that may help Green Bay get over the hump. The first signing that Green Bay made when the new NFL season opened was running back Josh Jacobs.

Jacobs was drafted by the Las Vegas Raiders with the 24th pick of the first round in 2019 out of the University of Alabama. While at Alabama, Jacobs recorded a total of 1,491 rushing yards and 16 touchdowns. While those numbers don't scream anything crazy, in 2018, he shared the Crimson Tide's backfield with three other NFL running backs in Damien Harris, Najee Harris and Brian Robinson.

After being selected by the Raiders, Jacobs was finally given the opportunity to be the No. 1 guy in the backfield. That proved to be a great addition for the Raiders, as in his rookie season, Jacobs totaled 1,150 rushing yards and seven rushing touchdowns. He followed that season up with another stellar performance as a sophomore in the NFL, totaling 1,065 rushing yards and 12 rushing touchdowns. With high expectations, Jacobs somewhat underperformed in his third campaign, as he ran for 872 yards and nine touchdowns.

With many in the NFL world criticizing Jacobs after his third season, the Alabama alum more than proved the doubters wrong in his fourth season. Playing in

his first complete season, Jacobs led the NFL in rushing with 1,653 yards and tied his career high with 12 rushing touchdowns. During the season, Jacobs added a career-best 400 receiving yards as well. He followed that season up with 805 rushing yards in 13 games last season.

While Green Bay made the splash in free agency by signing Jacobs, many thought the team was going to partner him with Aaron Jones. Gutekunst had different plans though, as Jones was subsequently released, leaving the backfield wide open for Jacobs.

The change from Jones to Jacobs will be an interesting dynamic, as each player plays a different style of football. Jones was able to exploit defenses by hitting one cut hard and gashing the defense with as little contact as possible. Jacobs works the running back position by bruising his way through the offensive and defensive lines, trying to wear down defenses with his physical style of running.

While both styles have proven to be effective in the NFL, Jacobs' style of running may give the Packers a little more flexibility when it comes to designing inside runs.

"I had a few (teams) to choose from, but ultimately it came down to what I have seen and what I have believed in this team," said Jacobs, on why he opted to sign with Green Bay. "Young quarterback, young skill guys and good offensive line, so for a running back, you can't load the box and when you do, you still have guys that can move around."

Jacobs wasn't the only one who made the move to Green Bay though. With an obvious weakness at the strong safety position, the Packers brought in Xavier McKinney, who spent his first four

seasons in the NFL with the New York Giants.

While he was with the Giants, McKinney totaled 279 total tackles and nine interceptions. Also out of Alabama, McKinney figures to slide into a prominent role on a Packers defense that is eagerly looking to limit players like Christian McCaffrey, David Montgomery and Puka Nacua, among other stars in the NFC.

McKinney will look to start immediately at the strong safety position to give the Packers a fast and strong secondary. What Packer fans should be excited about, too, is McKinney played in every game for the Giants last season.

As a whole, McKinney flies around to the ball and oftentimes uses his speed to greatly limit opposing quarterbacks. With 27 pass deflections, two forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries, McKinney is at the top of scouting reports for every opposing offensive coordinator.

Partnering him with Jaire Alexander gives Green Bay a solid one-two punch and a great base for its growing secondary.

The Alabama alum should also bring new defensive coordinator Jeff Hafley some flexibility on that side of the ball. While with New York, McKinney was able to line up all over the secondary, taking snaps at safety, slot corner and even up in the box as a hybrid linebacker. With his speed and playmaking ability, it seems likely that McKinney will be able to make an immediate impact.

"For me, I am more so like whatever we need for that game I want to go do," said McKinney, on his favorite position to play. "I try not to get too focused on one spot. I never try to box myself in, and I think that is what gives me the ability to

play in different spots in the defense and in any scheme at a high level."

In classic Gutekunst fashion, both of these big name signings come with youth. It has become fairly obvious that Green Bay is looking to keep its team as young as possible while keeping solid talent. Coming into his sixth season, Jacobs is just 26 years old and McKinney entering his fifth season in the NFL is just 24 years old.

As has been the theme with Green Bay in recent years, the front office has not shied away from moving on from aging veterans who have had great careers in Green Bay.

In the past three offseasons, Green Bay has said farewell to Davante Adams, Aaron Rodgers and Aaron Jones. Those three have been replaced by Christian Watson, Romeo Doubs, Jordan Love and Josh Jacobs, all of whom are 26 or younger.

The youth movement in Green Bay should obviously pay dividends when the team can gel together like what was shown last season.

As we saw last season, the young Packers team needed time to figure out its game plan and play styles before being able to really compete. When it did work out the kinks, the Packers looked like one of the better teams in the league.

With a full season under the belt with Love, expectations are high for Green Bay. After faltering against San Francisco, opting to replace Jones with Jacobs and Darnell Savage, who was picked up by the Jacksonville Jaguars, with McKinney, young, strong pieces may be in place to help the Packers finally beat the 49ers.

If all else fails this season, Jacobs and McKinney are young enough to where they should be able to play in the Green Bay system for years to come.



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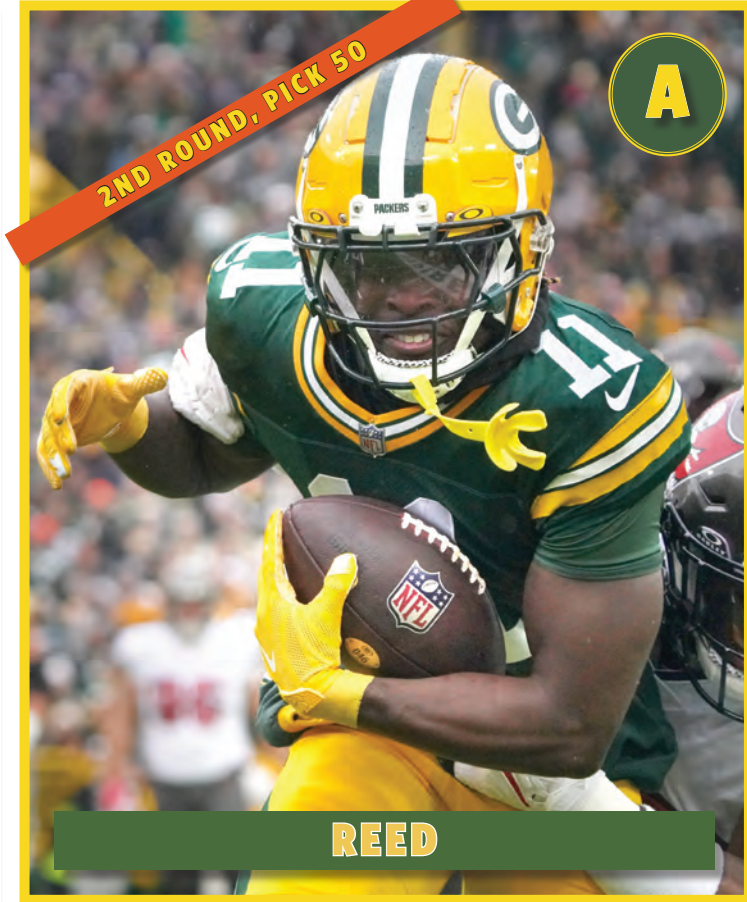
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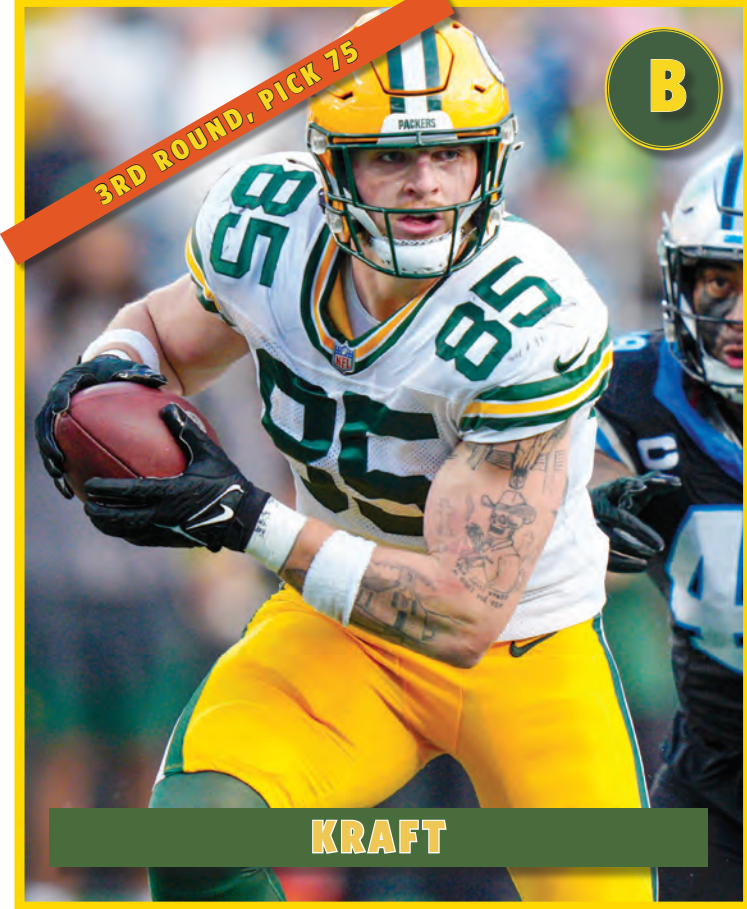
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By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

The 2023 draft class for the Green Bay Packers could go down as one for the ages. If they win a Super Bowl in the next few seasons, it's likely that many of the foundational pieces for that championship team will have come from this draft class.

Brian Gutekunst entered this draft loaded with ammo at the top end of the draft due to the trade of Aaron Rodgers to the New York Jets.

While Rodgers' move to the Jets was the ending of an era, it was necessary to move to the next stage of Green Bay Packers football.

The Rodgers trade paved the way for Jordan Love to become the team's starting quarterback, something that he was uncertain was ever going to happen at the same time one year earlier.

Rodgers had just signed a new contract, and Love felt resigned to remaining on the bench in Green Bay until a new opportunity arose.

"I'll admit I think the hardest time was when he signed the contract last year," Love said to Green Bay media last May. "It was kind of like, 'OK, well, where do we go from here? What do I do?' I think I just sat back, kind of thought to myself, and just came back with the approach, like, just go ball out. Any opportunity I get – I'm going to get the preseason – who knows what happens after that."

Instead, Love was installed as the starter and Gutekunst went to work trying to build a team around him.

The wide assumption, as it has been for the last four seasons around draft time, was that the Packers would end the drought of selecting a first-round wide receiver. That drought extends back to 2002 when Mike Sherman traded up to take Florida State's Jaxon Walker.

Those claims got louder when the trade of Rodgers moved the Packers up two spots in the first round.

Consensus was building that the Packers were targeting Ohio State wide receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba.

Gutekunst did not take him. Instead, his draft class started with a pass rusher and ended with a wide receiver.

First Round Pick 13 – Lukas Van Ness, OLB, Iowa

Van Ness was a player the Packers clearly targeted in a move from 15 to 13 in a trade with the New York Jets that sent Rodgers to the East Coast.

Van Ness was a rotational pass rusher, mostly behind Rashan Gary and Preston

Smith for most of the season. His development track looks a lot like Gary's from when he was a rookie.

By the end of the season, however, Van Ness looked to be finding his sea legs as an NFL player.

He finished the season strong and should be able to take starting caliber reps during his second season.

Grade: B
Second Round Pick 42 – Luke Musgrave, TE, Oregon State

Musgrave was the Packers' starting tight end from the moment he was drafted. Part of that was a byproduct of Robert Tonyan and Mercedes Lewis moving on in the offseason, but it was mostly due to what the Packers thought of him.

Musgrave flashed explosive ability to stretch the seam and gave one of the great locker room moments of the year when he was able to stay on his feet for a long touchdown against the Dallas Cowboys.

Musgrave and draft classmate Tucker Kraft will allow Matt LaFleur to have plenty of tools at his disposal to toy with opposing defenses.

Grade: B
Second Round Pick 50 – Jayden Reed, WR, Michigan State

Reed's chemistry with Love was on display early in training camp. By the end of the season, he was Love's go-to guy. Reed led the team in receiving yards and tied for touchdowns with Romeo Doubs.

He made plays in the run game as well.

Reed was seen as a consolation prize to the first round receiver fans and pundits were clamoring for. Instead, he just outperformed any of the receivers taken in the first round.

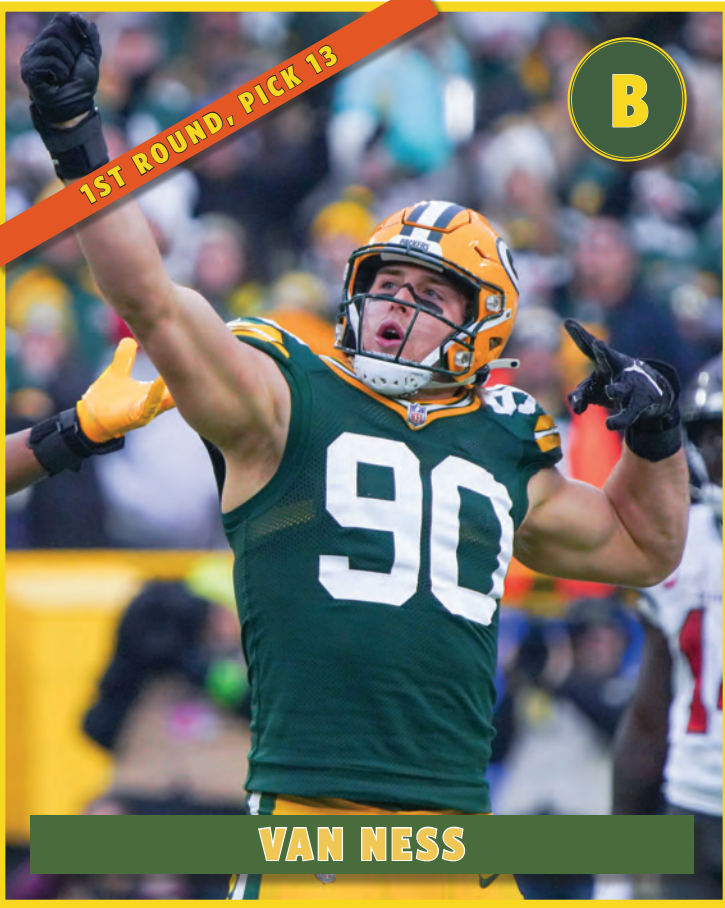
Reed's game reminds many of what Randall Cobb was like in his prime, but Reed is probably faster.

He'll be a big part of this offense for years to come.

Grade: A
Third Round Pick 75 – Tucker Kraft, TE, South Dakota State

Kraft had a tough start to the season. He admittedly felt like he was swimming upstream.

There were times he was surpassed on the roster by Ben Sims, an undrafted free



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agent.

By the end of the season, Kraft was in the discussion as the team's best tight end on the roster.

Whoever the best guy at that position is does not really matter. Kraft and Musgrave can combine for one of the best tight end combinations in all of football if they continue to develop.

Grade: B
Fourth Round Pick 116 – Colby Wooden, DL, Auburn

Wooden was surpassed early by fellow draft classmate Karl Brooks. The plays he made were few and far between, but he did finish the season strong, blocking a field goal against San Francisco.

Of the top five defensive linemen on the roster, it's Wooden's spot that feels the most tenuous should the Packers decide to add another guy in the draft.

Grade: C
Fifth Round Pick 149 – Sean Clifford, QB, Penn State

Clifford was a backup quarterback who showed well in preseason. He played well in mop-up duty. The Packers are happy with him, and he never had to play. That's all most teams will ask for with their backup.

Grade: B
Fifth Round Pick 159 – Don-tayvion Wicks, WR, Virginia
Wicks was the second half of a dynamic duo that emerged with Reed before the end of the season.

He was sensational down the stretch while battling through a multitude of injuries. Wicks was always open and saved his best for a playoff clincher.

He scored two touchdowns against the Bears and another the following week against the Cowboys in what might have been Love's best play of the season.

Wicks' future is bright, and this is one of the steals of the draft.

Grade: A
Sixth Round Pick 179 – Karl Brooks, DL, Bowling Green

There's an argument to be made that Brooks was the second-best defensive lineman on the roster last season.

He had four sacks and flashed some violent hands in the pass rush game. He should be given more opportunities to get after the quarterback in Jeff Hailey's even fronts. That should excite Packers fans.

Grade: B+
Sixth Round Pick 207 – Anders Carlson, K, Auburn

Carlson led the league in missed kicks during his rookie season. After starting the season hot, he missed a kick in every game save for one following the bye week.

Carlson's struggles were mostly brushed off by the coaching staff, but he missed a crucial 43-yard field goal in the team's divisional round loss to the San Francisco 49ers.

The Packers have brought in a veteran, Greg Joseph to compete with Carlson this offseason.

Unfortunately, the competition was brought in too little too late. Carlson's leash was too long a season ago, and his miss to help end the season would have been forgivable if it were not so predictable.

Everyone gets low marks for drafting an ineffective kicker and being stubborn enough to stick with him throughout a playoff run.

Grade: F
Seventh Round Pick 232 – Carrington Valentine, CB, Kentucky

Valentine was one the pleasant surprises of the 2023 season. He was pressed into

duty during the season with injuries ravaging the cornerback group and acquitted himself well.

During training camp, he was the star of the show. He was always around the ball and felt like he made at least one big play per day in practice.

That did not translate to regular season games. Valentine did not record an interception on the season, but he was sticky in coverage. The passer rating he allowed against him was 81, which is more than ever could be asked for from a rookie cornerback picked in the seventh round.

Valentine started every game after Rasul Douglas was traded before the deadline and looks to be in line to start across from Jaire Alexander in 2024 as well, depending on the injury status of Eric Stokes.

Regardless of what happens, this pick is already a massive success.

Grade: A
Seventh Round Pick 235 – Lew Nichols, RB, Central Michigan

Nichols was injured early in camp and subsequently released with an injury settlement. Even when he was healthy, Emanuel Wilson looked like a better player. Nichols doesn't get a failing grade as a seventh round pick but gets low marks considering Gutekunst typically keeps all of his draft picks, especially as rookies.

Grade: D
Seventh Round Pick 242 – Anthony Johnson Jr., S, Iowa State

Johnson Jr. was a preseason darling after showing up as a potential first-round pick in a mock draft over at PFF by Cris Collinsworth. Instead, Johnson Jr. was picked in the seventh round. He hauled in one interception on the season and was seeing some time as a safety at a position that was in flux for most of the year.

Johnson's primary contributions come on special teams. With the addition of Xavier McKinney in free agency, and no other players being brought in as of yet, Johnson Jr. is in line to start next to him. Whether he does or not remains to be seen, but he has at least proven himself as a quality backup.

Grade: C
Seventh Round Pick 256 – Grant DuBose, WR, Charlotte

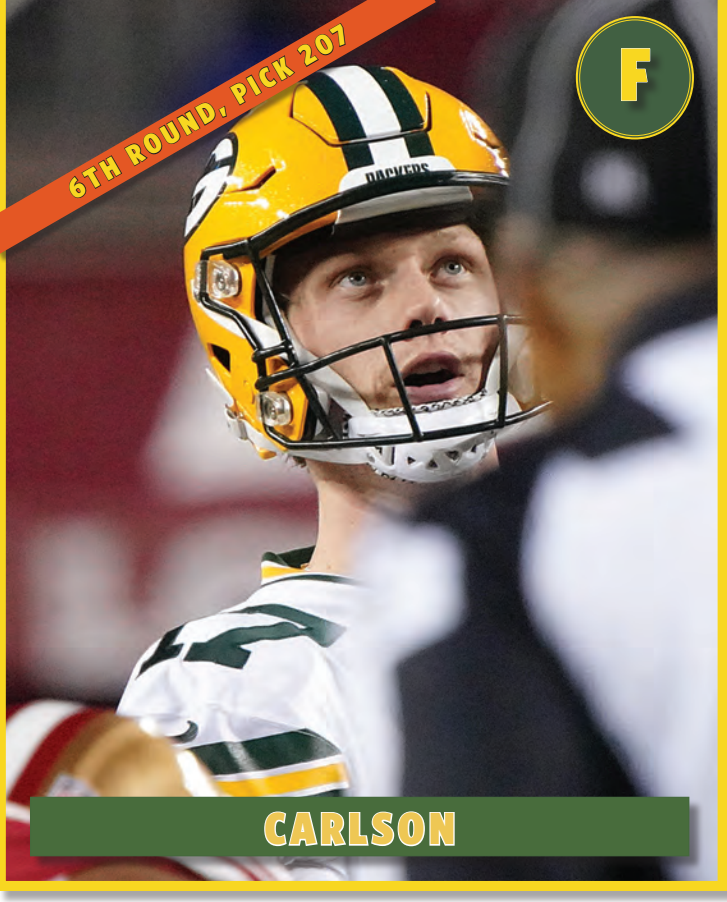
DuBose spent most of the season on the practice squad. He was elevated for the final game of the season against the Chicago Bears but was made inactive when Wicks was able to play that day.

DuBose is competition for the back of the roster, but his spot is far from safe. The Packers could add someone that has more value on special teams.

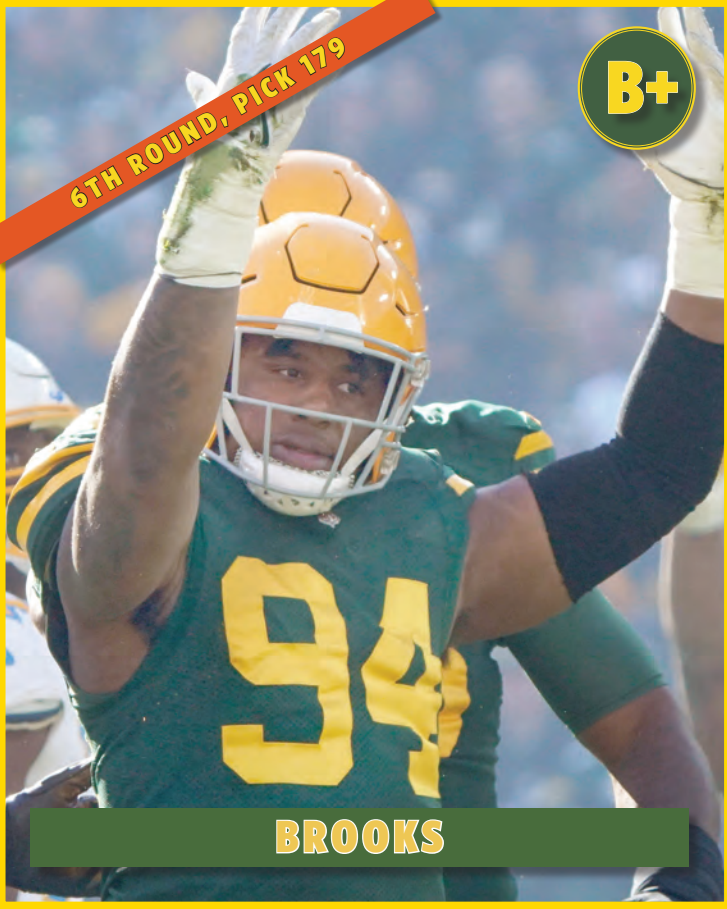
Grade: Incomplete



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Packers need help at several positions

Draft, trades, free agents provide opportunities for Green Bay to shore up offense, defense

By **JACOB WESTENDORF**
Green & Gold Express

The Green Bay Packers' offseason has been a roller coaster ride.

The 2023 season ended after the Packers outplayed the San Francisco 49ers for the better part of three and a half quarters.

Unfortunately, the game is four quarters long, and the Packers house of horrors stung them again as they went home with a 24-21 loss.

The future, however, looks bright. Jordan Love played like an MVP candidate down the stretch of the 2023 season, establishing himself as not only the Packers' quarterback of the future but one of the best players in the sport at his position.

Love and his band of pass catchers should have the offense feeling like they're in a good spot for the future if they can fortify some depth on their offensive line.

One key to overcome will be the loss of Aaron Jones. Merely weeks after Brian Gutekunst called Jones the heartbeat of the football team, he cut the heart out of the team.

Jones was released after refusing to take a pay cut for a second consecutive season and signed with the Minnesota Vikings.

Jones was replaced by Josh Jacobs, who the Packers reportedly agreed to terms with hours before Jones was released.

Jacobs is younger and won the rushing title in 2023. The question will be how the Packers fill the leadership void that Jones filled so admirably during a tumultuous time in Green Bay.

Jacobs will be flanked by AJ Dillon, who the Packers surprisingly were able to re-sign after his market was limited in the offseason.

The offensive line also said goodbye to its best player when David Bakhtiari was released before the start of the new league year, ending a three-year saga of unfortunate knee injuries that have wrecked what could have been a Hall of Fame career.

On the defensive side of the ball, the big additions were at defensive coordinator, and safety.

Jeff Hafley was tabbed as the man to replace Joe Barry, who was let go after the team finished in the bottom third of defensive rankings for the third year in a row.

Matt LaFleur's hire was certainly outside the box. Hafley was not seen as a primary candidate after Barry was fired, but he brings an attacking style defense that should better suit some of the players that the Packers have on the roster.

One thing they did not have that Hafley needed was a game-changing safety.

The Packers did what they rarely do



Green Bay Packers coach Matt LaFleur will work with general manager Brian Gutekunst to improve the team from its 2023 playoff run. The Packers have late stages of free agency, the draft or trades to still try and improve a roster that according to everyone in Tittletown, is ready to win a Super Bowl right now.
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and dipped into the top end of the free agent market to give him one.

Xavier McKinney was signed to a four-year contract worth \$68 million to stabilize a position that was in flux throughout all of 2023.

The work to improve the team is not done. The Packers have late stages of free agency, the draft or trades to still try and improve a roster that according to everyone in Tittletown, is ready to win a Super Bowl right now.

Here's a look at some of the needs they still need to address.

Offensive line

The offensive line has gone through some change this offseason. Bakhtiari, Jon Runyan Jr. and Yosh Nijman have all moved on. Nobody has been brought in as of yet to replace them.

If the season began today, Sean Rhyan would replace Runyan Jr. at right guard. Royce Newman would be the team's primary backup on the interior of the offensive line. Caleb Jones would be the swing tackle.

Of the team's current players on the roster, only Newman has played snaps as a reserve lineman.

Rhyan had a better second season than rookie year, but that was a low bar to

clear. He still struggled and never fully grabbed hold of the starting spot at right guard despite competing with Runyan Jr. throughout the back half of the season.

Rhyan is far from a slam dunk as a starter. Josh Myers has been inconsistent and is entering a contract year.

Both players could be replaced as soon as the 2024 draft, if not the 2025 season, should a replacement be selected in this year's draft class.

The Packers could also elect to go the veteran route at that position. Dalton Risner remains available, and he's played a lot of snaps in his career, most recently with the Minnesota Vikings.

There are still question marks at tackle as well. Zach Tom looks like a building block at right tackle. He was the team's best player on offense in 2023.

Rasheed Walker finished the season strong but also struggled mightily early in the year after being pressed into duty following Bakhtiari's injury.

Walker's strong finish has overshadowed the fact he was still rotating with Nijman as late as the week before Christmas.

He could be the team's left tackle of the future but likely would not prevent Brian Gutekunst from taking an offensive tackle early in this year's draft class.

Safety

McKinney is going to lead the safety room for years to come. The issue for now is there is nobody around him. That is nearly a literal translation.

Anthony Johnson Jr. Benny Sapp III and Zayne Anderson are the only other safeties under contract right now. Johnson Jr. is a former seventh-round pick. Sapp and Anderson were both primarily used on special teams.

McKinney is a good start to fixing the safety room, but they'll need more help back there. That could mean a bargain free agent and a draft pick. They need bodies.

Whether it's Iowa's Cooper DeJean, Washington State's Jaden Hicks or Minnesota's Tyler Nubin, Gutekunst will likely be in the market to add at least one player to that group via the draft.

Cornerback

On paper, the cornerback group looks OK. Jaire Alexander and Eric Stokes have both played good football in the past. Alexander is a two-time All-Pro selection.

Closer examination, however, reveals this group's stability is tenuous, at best.

Alexander has struggled with injuries and bizarre behavior from a season ago that resulted in a suspension for the team's penultimate game of the season.

Alexander and the team have said that situation has been put in the past, and Alexander did play well in the team's final three games of the season. When he's on the field, he's a game changer.

Stokes has struggled with injuries and spent two separate stints on injured reserve a season ago. When he did play, he really struggled. There's questions as to whether he's lost some athleticism as well due to the lower body injuries he's sustained in his career.

This could be a position where the Packers use yet another high pick to protect themselves in the event that Alexander and Stokes both struggle with injuries, and Carrington Valentine's strong rookie season turns into a mirage.

Running back

Yes, the Packers brought in Josh Jacobs and were able to re-sign AJ Dillon this offseason. This is the same regime that selected Dillon in the second round when they had Aaron Jones and Jamaal Williams both on the roster.

Both Jones and Williams were on expiring contracts at that time. Dillon's contract will expire. Jacobs' contract is essentially a one-year deal with three team options.

The Packers need to find a young running back for the future. With Jacobs and Dillon both being more powerful runners, this is a position group that could stand to add some speed.

Tennessee's Jaylen Wright, Florida State's Trey Benson or Texas' Jonathan Brooks are all players that could fit that sort of mold.

If Gutekunst wanted to pair similar styles to Jacobs, Michigan's Blake Corum or Wisconsin's Braelon Allen could be options as well.

The Packers theoretically could stand to add two players to this group as well in the event that Jacobs and Dillon both move on after the 2024 season.

Linebacker

Of all the spots on the roster, linebacker might be the thinnest group at the moment. Quay Walker will return for his third season, but he has been inconsistent through his two years as a pro.

Isaiah McDuffie is set to start, and he has the benefit of having played for Hafley before at Boston College.

Those are the only two linebackers that have played significant snaps on the roster. De'Vondre Campbell was released and went to San Francisco this offseason.

Kristian Welch and Eric Wilson are around to play special teams.

The veteran linebacker class was picked over during free agency, leaving that group as thin as the draft class. The Packers have hosted Texas A&M's Edgerrin Cooper on a top-30 visit for draft picks.

Would the Packers be willing to use another premium draft asset on an inside linebacker? That remains to be seen, but there's no question that Gutekunst needs to add at least one or two players to this position group.

NFL 2025 draft coming to Green Bay

Detroit is just days away from hosting the 2024 NFL draft, but there are plenty of Green Bay area officials and residents already looking ahead to 2025.

The 2025 NFL draft will be held April 24-26 in and around Lambeau Field and Tittletown.

Festivities will include several days of activities throughout Green Bay and will feature the NFL Draft Experience — a massive free football festival — near Lambeau Field to allow fans of all teams to participate and test their football skills, enjoy interactive exhibits and autograph sessions, and take pictures with the Vince Lombardi Trophy. The Draft Experience will be open all three days of the event.

Green Bay is expecting around 250,000 fans.

Lodging will be at a premium during the event. Expect more people to make their residences available on of short-term

home rental services like Airbnb and Vrbo.

Discover Green Bay is providing a guide to short-term rentals for those willing to have others stay in their homes.

Highlights of the guide include an overall review of guidelines, applying for a license and arranging for an inspection, getting a state sellers permit, confirming local requirements (including local room taxes), reviewing your homeowner's or renter's insurance, and listing your property.

While discussions have been held at the Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center, no definite promotions are in the works yet, said Suzanne Wittman, executive director.

More information about the 2025 NFL draft, including venue information, staffing and volunteer opportunities, and other ways to get involved, can be found at packers.com/draft25 or www.greenbay.com/draft25.



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Packers say goodbye to six in free agency

BY LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

With the induction of the new NFL season, the Green Bay Packers front office was fairly busy when it came to organizing who will be on the field next year.

Out of the players who said farewell to the green and gold, there are six notable names who will see themselves on new teams in the coming season: Aaron Jones, David Bakhtiari, De'Vondre Campbell, Jon Runyan Jr., Darnell Savage and Jonathan Owens.

The first move of Green Bay's free agency when the new season started was the release of longtime tackle Bakhtiari.

Bakhtiari spent the first 11 seasons of his career in Green Bay, where he put together one of the best Packer careers of all time. Forming a strong relationship with Aaron Rodgers, Bakhtiari started 131 games at the left tackle position, where he collected two First-Team All-Pro awards, three Second-Team All-Pro awards and three Pro-Bowl selections.

In Green Bay, Bakhtiari quickly became known as not only one of the best offensive linemen in the NFL but one of the best players in the NFL. The Colorado alum was a major reason why Rodgers was able to succeed and why Green Bay had a potent offense for the better part of a decade. Things changed though when he went down with a knee injury in 2020.

As Green Bay was preparing for a play-off push in the 2020-21 season, Bakhtiari went down with a torn ACL in practice Dec. 31. While he was forced to miss the subsequent postseason, there was optimism that he would be back for the 2021 season. After the injury was set back, he was put on the physically unable to perform list, which meant he was to miss the first six games of the season. That quickly turned into a season-long injury, as Bakhtiari started just one game, the season finale. He was able to return for the 2022 season, but his knee once again acted up, and after 11 games, he was ruled inactive. Finally in 2023, he was limited to just one game.

Finally, general manager Brian Gutekunst and the front office opted to part ways with the veteran due in part to the \$40 million cap hit this season.

On the same day as Bakhtiari's release was the release of running back Jones.

Similar to Bakhtiari, Jones spent his entire career in Green Bay, where he became the team's number three all-time leading rusher with 5,940 career rushing yards. On top of the rushing yards, Jones garnered 45 rushing touchdowns. The move to release Jones came quickly as just minutes before he was released Green Bay had signed former Raiders running back Josh Jacobs.

After Gutekunst had hinted at keeping Jones in Green Bay during his end-of-season press conference, many quickly latched onto the idea of employing a one-two punch of Jacobs and Jones for the upcoming season.

Gutekunst explained that the Green Bay front office asked Jones to take a pay cut, but as negotiations moved along, it became less likely that the two sides could agree.

"Obviously we had to do what was in the best interest of the football team, and that is what we did," said Gutekunst.

While Jacobs is more than capable of being the workhorse running back, his 4.2 yards per carry average is almost one yard less than Jones' 5.0 yards per carry average. When the offense seemed to stall the last few seasons, giving the ball to Jones has more than often provided the spark plug. With Jones now in Minnesota, it will yet to be seen who is that player to step up when things go sideways for the offense.



The first move of Green Bay's free agency when the new season started was the release of longtime tackle David Bakhtiari. He spent the first 11 seasons of his career in Green Bay, where he put together one of the best Packer careers of all time.

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Following Jones' release, Green Bay elected to move on from another veteran, linebacker Campbell.

Campbell started his tenure in Green Bay on a great note, making First-Team All-Pro, the first Packers inside linebacker to be awarded a First-Team All-Pro since Ray Nitschke.

The grace quickly wore off though as in his second season in the green and gold, Campbell became increasingly frustrated with how the Packers were managing his injuries, as well as how he was being received by fans. At the beginning of the 2023 season, Green Bay had inked Campbell to a five-year, \$50 million deal.

That contract ended up being moved, after Green Bay released Campbell and he signed with the 49ers.

With the signing of Jacobs, the Packers will need to continue to look for help in the run game, as starting guard Runyan signed with the New York Giants in the offseason.

While he was somewhat part of a rotation on the offensive line, Runyan started 50 games in his four-year career in Green Bay. Runyan was a sixth round pick in 2020, before becoming the everyday starter after his first season. The release of Runyan came on the back of his expiring rookie contract. With the release of Runyan, Green Bay was not only able to save money but it gives the team a little flexibility on the offensive line with Zach Tom, who can play anywhere on the offensive line.

In 2022, the Packers drafted Sean Rhyhan in the third round of the NFL draft. With the limited play that Rhyhan has had on the offensive line, he has shown that he is more than capable to play in the NFL. Releasing Runyan also gives Green Bay the option to finally see what Rhyhan can do as the everyday starter.

Savage was the fifth veteran who was released in this season's free agency period. Savage was a first round pick for the Packers in 2019. Savage, much like other Packers defensive backs, have performed well when they have been on the field, but injuries have severely hampered his production.

Along with Savage being released was fellow safety Owens. In the previous offseason, Owens signed a one-year deal with Green Bay. From that point, the Missouri Western alum totaled 84 combined tackles and one fumble recovery.

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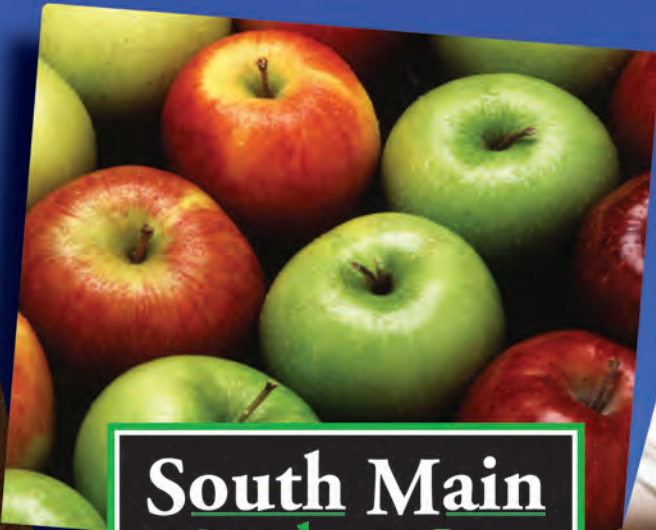




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