



Dave Schley, second from left, and other family members watch as one of Schley's grandsons makes the jump Jan. 1 into the channel between Shawano Lake and the Wolf River. The Clintonville resident has participated in Shawano's Polar Plunge for 20 years, being the senior of three generations of family taking part.

Cool reception greets polar plungers New Year's Day

Mix of first-timers, seasoned veterans make up chilly event

By LEE PULASKI City Editor

Many who were cool, calm and collected at the Lighthouse on New Year's Day wound up being cold and animated after diving into the channel between Shawano Lake and the Wolf River for the annual Polar Plunge. Dozens of people jumped into the water, with a few wading in, in a Shawano tradition that is celebrating its 24th year. Although not as many people participate in the Shawano plunge as the one that takes place in Door County's Jacksonport, there are some who have made the local event one that they take part in each year.



Diane Bloomquist, of Shawano, reacts to the chilly water before making her way back to shore Jan. 1 at the Lighthouse for the annual Shawano Polar Plunge. Even with a bad knee, Bloomquist has participated in the local event for 20 years.

COOL, CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

Behnke to tackle issues in legislature's 2025 session

6th District rep on ag panel, leading rural development

By LEE PULASKI City Editor

The Wisconsin Legislature is beginning its 2025 session, and Rep. Elijah Behnke, who represents the 6th Assembly District, is ready to hit the ground running.

Behnke will be on the Assembly's agriculture committee for the first time, an ideal spot because much of the district consists of agricultural land. He is also slated to chair the Assembly's rural development committee, although he admitted he's new to the area of rural development.



ELIJAH BEHNKE

"I haven't done a lot of studying about what that committee does," Behnke said during a Dec. 31 phone interview. "These committees were handed out like a week ago. I had actually asked for other ones, but I'm taking what I can get. I haven't yet talked to previous chairman to see what kind of bills go through, but I'm hoping they're bills that benefit rural communities whether it's state-backed business loans or other things to help stimulate the economies of small towns."

Previous aid to rural communities has included Main Street business grants, according to Behnke, but he believes more can be done to help Wisconsin residents who don't live in metropolitan areas. Behnke is in favor of programs that help to stimulate young entrepreneurs and farm setups.

"You've got different niche markets whether it's wool or meat goats or vegetables — that kind of farm stand or farmers market type of stuff," Behnke said. "Whether it's a tax credit on the land you're using to provide food for other people, that's a concept I like. Maybe subsidizing some of the healthy food instead of the junk food in America. Those would be some things that would help 5-acre farms to 35-acre farms, and if the big guys wanted to get in on it, that would help, too."

One of Behnke's priorities is cutting taxes to return the current state surplus to residents. With surpluses being commonplace in the state for several years, the current surplus is about \$4.5 billion.

BEHNKE, CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

INSIDE New garden columnist Melinda Myers debuts this week! PAGE 9 0 51497 11624 8

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Green Bay man charged in reservation death

By KEVIN MURPHY
Correspondent

A Shawano woman and two men were recently indicted in federal court in separate cases on involuntary manslaughter and drug offenses.

According to court records, Desmond L. Waukau Jr., 21, allegedly caused the death of a male passenger in a BMW sedan Waukau was driving May 19 on the Menominee Reservation. Waukau allegedly accelerated the car in an attempt to elude a marked police vehicle.

Waukau had a detectable amount of a controlled substance and an intoxicant in his blood after the fatal crash. Waukau was indicted on Dec. 17, was arrested and arraigned on both counts Dec. 30 and detained at the Brown County Jail.

He faces maximum penalties of eight years in prison and a \$250,000 fine if convicted on the involuntary manslaughter charge and a mandatory minimum of 2 1/2 years and up to 30 years in prison if convicted of fleeing an officer resulting in a death.

Waukau, of Green Bay, has a March 10 trial date before District Judge William Griesbach.

Dianna L. Chevalier, 40, was charged with possessing an unspecified quantity of methamphetamine with the intent to distribute. The incident is alleged to have occurred on Sept. 10 at a location on the reservation.

Chevalier was indicted on Dec. 17, but no court dates have been set in the case, and she is not in custody, according to online records.

Jerome D. Crowe, 37, of Shawano, was charged with allegedly possessing with the intent to distribute a mixture containing cocaine on Nov. 19. The indictment contained no other information about the alleged incident.

Crowe was to be arraigned Jan. 8. He is not currently in custody.

State and federal agencies investigated Chevalier's case under the Safe Trails Task Force, which targets alleged drug trafficking and violent crime on the reservation, according to a statement from the U.S. Attorney's Office.

No alcohol required for Menominee fun



ABOVE LEFT: Delvin Claw is a swirl of color as he competes for a \$100 prize during one of the dance challenges Dec. 31 at the Omaeqnomenewak Wehtohkatikamek Center in Keshena for the annual Menominee Sobriety Pow Wow.

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ABOVE RIGHT: Jamie Awonohopay makes her way around the arena Dec. 31 during one of the dances at the Menominee Sobriety Pow Wow held at the Omaeqnomenewak Wehtohkatikamek Center in Keshena.

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RIGHT: The drum group Scud Nation performs a song to get dancers moving around the arena Dec. 31 at the Omaeqnomenewak Wehtohkatikamek Center in Keshena for the annual Menominee Sobriety Pow Wow.

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BELOW LEFT: U.S. Army veteran Myrna Warrington joins other fellow veterans for a couple of turns around the arena Dec. 31 at the Omaeqnomenewak Wehtohkatikamek Center in Keshena.

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BELOW RIGHT: Andrew Ynnocencio, of Milwaukee, adjusts some of the feathers on his regalia before hitting the arena Dec. 31 at the Menominee Sobriety Pow Wow. Ynnocencio has been participating in the annual pow wow for over 10 years.

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Building razed in 3-way deal



The building at 116 W. Division St., Shawano, was razed in late December as part of a multiple-player agreement dating back to the planning of the Naberhood Plaza. At the time of planning for the plaza's construction four years ago, the city needed some land belonging to Automotive Supply, 209 S. Main St. City officials approached Ron Herman about buying his building on West Division Street to use in exchange for the Automotive Supply land. While Herman was open to the sale, he was using part of the building for storage and had a good tenant there as well. The three-way agreement was the city would buy Herman's building, let him use it for three years, then raze it and turn the site over to Automotive Supply, which is where things stand today. Automotive Supply has not said what it will use the site for now.

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

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Sanitary district purposes explained

Shawano Lake district operates regional treatment plant

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Everyone lives in one school district or another and understands they are governed by the local school board. The same goes for a municipality, whether the be a city, village or town.

What about a sanitary district, and what exactly is the purpose of these districts?

Sanitary districts are created to provide sewer and water service for urbanizing areas.

“A lot of sanitary districts provide sewer only, but we provide water and wastewater as well,” said Nicole Bystol, administrative manager of the Shawano Lake Sanitary District (SLSD). “We work to protect the waterways.”

Those residing within a sanitary district are rural customers who no longer can operate their own septic system.

“The sanitary district is meant to prohibit overflowing systems or a drain field that can harm the lake,” Bystol said. “It also helps those residents who can no longer afford to maintain their septic system on their



The Shawano Lake Sanitary District is a water and sewer utility and wastewater treatment facility servicing the Shawano Lake and surrounding areas. It employs 11 people who monitor, maintain and administer its operation.

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

own.”

Bystol said historical records show significant pushback when the SLSD was created, because not everybody wanted to give up their septic system.

“The district is much better for the environment, but not everybody wants to give up their own systems,” she said. “Once it was done, people were mostly OK with it; it’s just getting there first.”

Over the years, state lawmakers gave sanitary

districts more power, often related to lake management, including authority to suppress “swimmers’ itch, algae and other nuisance-producing growths,” according to a document published by UW-Stevens Point.

Sanitary districts, lake districts and voluntary lake associations all work to keep nearby waterways clean for sporting and recreational uses.

A major difference between lake districts and

sanitary districts is their method of governance. While a lake district is governed by a board of commissioners and electors at the annual meeting, a sanitary district is governed by its board of commissioners who may be appointed or elected.

Non-resident property owners and electors are able to vote for lake district commissioners, budgets and other lake district business at annual meetings. By contrast, non-resident

property owners do not enjoy these rights in a sanitary district.

Like any school district or municipality, the sanitary district has commissioners who are responsible for major decisions regarding the operation of the district. They employ staff, set rates, decide on maintenance priorities and determine when to make major investments.

Lake districts can only be formed on lakes that are publicly accessible. Sani-

tary districts do not carry this requirement, according to the UW-Stevens Point publication.

Each sanitary district must also have someone to handle day-to-day activities and billing to district customers. In some cases, like the Richmond Sanitary District, the district contracts out for these services. In this case, it contracts with the SLSD, where employees monitor the lift stations as well as coordinate the bills.

The SLSD is also unique in that it one of a few in Wisconsin that operate a regional wastewater treatment plant, the Wolf Treatment Plant on River Bend Road.

Because of this and its services to other districts, the SLSD has a staff of 11 people.

A sanitary district normally covers only a rural area; properties within a city or village are not included.

Unless, as in the case of the SLSD, its once-rural customers have been annexed into the city. Starting with McDonald’s, 1202 E. Green Bay St., and heading east, these businesses were in the Town of Wescott and were serviced by the SLSD when it was formed several decades ago. Since then, the area has been annexed into the city; however, they continue to be serviced by the sanitary district.

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VFW funds edging toward green light to build

Veterans aiming for \$600K before breaking ground on new post

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Members of Shawano’s VFW Post are more than halfway to where they want to be before giving the green light to begin building a new clubhouse.

Jeremy Buenning, junior vice commander of Herbert E. McLaughlin VFW Post 2723 and finance coordinator for the building project, said \$325,000 has already been raised. He said the goal is to have \$600,000 raised by March 1, which is when they want to tell Bayland Buildings Inc. to start the project.

“The lot was donated to us by Randy Bohm and is about three-quarters of an acre,” Buenning said. “We technically purchased it for \$1, and we have two years to complete the project.”

The current clubhouse



The Herbert E. McLaughlin VFW Post 2723 is at 204 W. Lieg Ave., Shawano. The clubhouse was dedicated Oct. 1, 1952. It has served as a gathering place for veterans as well as a facility open to the public for parties and other social events, but officials said it has become difficult to keep up to the maintenance, accessibility requirements and other updates that are required.

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was dedicated Oct. 1, 1952. It has served as a gathering place for veterans as well as a facility open to the public for parties and other social events, but officials said it has become difficult to keep up to the maintenance, accessibility requirements and other updates that are

required.

The new post, about 3,800 square feet, will be built at South Olson Street and East Richmond Street.

Parking will include about 31 spots at the new site, compared to five at the current site.

Buenning said if

Bayland Buildings can be given the green light by March 1, the new post will be open for at least a soft opening by Nov. 1 with a larger celebration on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

The entire project is expected to cost \$900,000.

“That’s the total cost

from start to finish, including furnishings, the building and paving the parking lot,” Buenning said. “When it’s done, it will be a very nice building.”

Some items will be moved over from the current clubhouse at 204 W. Lieg Ave.

“That will mostly be things like bar stools, chairs, tables, TVs and stock,” Buenning said.

If the full \$900,000 isn’t raised right away, the VFW is set to take out a loan for the balance, but they expect to pay that back soon.

“We will sell our current building, which should be between \$150,000 and \$200,000. We will also sell some items we don’t take to the new building,” he said. “I’m not sure, but I think the city would rezone it residential, so there wouldn’t be another bar going in there. It will most likely be a house.”

He said Bayland Buildings has the cost determined down to the penny and will server as the general contractor. Buen-

ning said he hopes local companies will be used for most of the work, and they might be willing to offer discounted prices to the veterans.

“Those in-kind donations will be like the other ones we receive and will be recognized in the vestibule of the new post,” he said.

Buenning stressed that the VFW Post is more than just a bar.

“It’s really our command center,” he said. “Many people don’t realize we give out between \$30,000 and \$35,000 in grants and scholarships to Shawano, Bonduel and Wolf River Lutheran high schools.”

To donate, make checks payable to Shawano Veterans Foundation Inc. and designate them for the New Building Fund. Mail the tax-deductible contributions to 610 W. Green Bay St., Shawano, WI 54166.

Questions can be directed to the VFW Post at ShawanoVFWPost2723@gmail.com.

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County officials take oaths of office



ABOVE: Shawano County Circuit Court Judge William F. Kussel Jr., left, administers the oath of office to, from left, Debra Wallace, county treasurer; Greg Parker, district attorney; and Amy Dillenburg, register of deeds Jan. 2 at the Shawano County Courthouse. Each will serve a four-year term after being elected in the November 2024 election. County Clerk Kara Skarlupka, also elected in November, was not present during the swearing in ceremony and took her oath at a later time. She will also serve a four-year term. KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

RIGHT: Shawano County Register of Deeds Amy Dillenburg signs her paperwork after being sworn in for a four-year term Jan. 2 by Shawano County Circuit Court Judge William F. Kussel Jr., left. Also pictured are Debra Wallace, county treasurer, and Greg Parker, district attorney, who each also took their oaths that day. KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA



Chamber board elected for 2025

The Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce recently named new board members and officers for 2025.

Ben Hartwig, Twig's Beverage, has been named president; John Opichka, Community Education Initiative, is president-elect; Leann Gueths, Novolex is past president; and Mike Papendorf, Bonduel State Bank, is treasurer.

Newly elected board members are Jodi Anderson, Value Added Distributors; Jeannie Otto, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College; Raul Beltran, Acu-

puncture of Shawano and Jiu Jitsu of Shawano; and Carrie Bohlman, Nueske's Applewood Smoked Meats.

Keith Marquardt, Shawano County Parks, will continue in his role of president of the Shawano County Tourism Council, a division of the Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce, and will fill the tourism representative position on the chamber of commerce board of directors.

Outgoing chamber board members are Zachary Linsmeyer, KerberRose; Mary White, Nueske's

Applewood Smoked Meats; Char Larsen, Premier Investment Services; Scott Parson, Thrivent Financial-Wolf River Associates; and Lori Singer, Celerity Staffing.

The chamber will recognize the new board members at the 98th Annual Awards Banquet on Jan. 16 at North Star Mohican Casino Resort in Bowler.

The board is comprised of 15 chamber members from throughout Shawano County representing the areas of agriculture, manufacturing, retail/business, tourism, education, gov-

ernment and professionals.

Six additional liaison board members represent Shawano County, Shawano County Economic Progress Inc., the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, city of Shawano, and the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians.

The Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce is a 350-plus member organization that advances economic growth by coordinating resources and providing networking, promotion and education to businesses in Shawano and Menominee counties.

USDA announces more organic dairy payments

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is announcing a second

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round of payments for dairy producers through the Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program (ODMAP) 2024, providing an additional \$8.7 million to help dairy producers mitigate market volatility, higher input and transportation costs, and unstable feed supply and prices that have created unique hardships in the organic dairy industry.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has already paid out \$23 million in the first round of payments for eligible producers, bringing total ODMAP 2024 payments to more

than \$31 million.

"This funding gives organic dairy producers critical support as they continue to weather a combination of challenges outside of their control," said Gene Schriefer, FSA state executive director in Wisconsin. "The payments are intended to help producers stay in operation until markets return to more favorable conditions."

FSA accepted ODMAP 2024 applications from Sept. 30 to Dec. 13. FSA is providing financial assistance for a producer's projected marketing costs in 2024 based on

their 2023 costs. ODMAP 2024 provides a one-time cost-share payment based on marketing costs on pounds of organic milk marketed in the 2023 calendar year or estimated 2024 marketing costs for organic dairy operations that have increased milk production.

ODMAP 2024 provides financial assistance that immediately supports certified organic dairy operations during 2024 keeping organic dairy operations sustainable until markets return to more normal conditions.

For more information, visit fsa.usda.gov.

EV owners to pay more taxes to recharge

Increase still lower than state's gas tax

By JOHN DAVIS
Wisconsin Public Radio

People who recharge their electric vehicles at public charging stations will pay a new tax in the new year.

Legislators created the new 3 cents per kilowatt tax and Gov. Tony Evers signed it into law.

Businesses, including hotels that offer EV chargers, will have to register with the Wisconsin Department of Revenue.

In a release, Revenue Secretary-designee David Casey said the new tax will help maintain the state's roads.

"It will help ensure continued funding for road repairs and construction as Wisconsin drivers increasingly make the switch to electric vehicles, while creating a more equitable system in which all drivers contribute to road maintenance costs," he said.

Revenue officials said the projected revenue from the new tax is about \$3.35 million for 2025 and approximately \$3.85 million for 2026, much less than the state's gas tax provides to the transportation fund.

The tax will not apply to residential EV charging stations.

"That's where the vast majority of your charging happens. Our day-to-day driving, we are charging in our garage," said Libby Belden, of Verona.

Belden and her husband have owned an electric

Rivian pickup truck for more than a year.

"Really, the impact on a tax is going to be when we are doing our road trips," she said.

Belden said paying a tax to charge her electric vehicle will be much less than paying for gas and the state's tax on the gas.

"I'm not concerned about this tax. I think it's our duty to figure out ways that if we're going to continue to switch Americans to driving electric vehicles, we need to make sure we're still supporting our infrastructure in the way we need to," she said.

Electric vehicle owners will still pay much less in taxes to recharge compared to people who pay the state's gas tax. An EV with a battery capacity of 50 kilowatt hours will pay \$1.50 to recharge. Meanwhile, the state's gas tax was 32.9 cents per gallon in 2024, the 20th highest in the nation. The tax to fill a 15-gallon gas tank is almost \$5.

Belden said her family hasn't had a problem finding EV chargers on trips to visit people in Minnesota and Indiana, but Wisconsin needs more chargers up north. The state plans to add more than 50 new fast chargers in 2025.

"I think more companies are catching on to the fact that they have an opportunity to get people's wallets when they are spending time charging," she said. "When we were charging after a Packers game, I went and bought some Christmas decorations in a store that I would not have bought otherwise. I think that has more of an impact on your wallet than a 3-cent tax does."



Shawano has at least two locations where there are public charging stations, including this station in the parking lot behind Naberhood Plaza. The second station is at Franklin Park. LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

McCutcheon case opened political ad floodgates

2014 ruling declaring caps unconstitutional resulted in 2024 advertising saturation

By **PETER CAMERON**
The Badger Project

In 2024, eight people donated \$1 million or more to a political party in Wisconsin.

Some of them gave much more.

Before 2015, the most a person could give in annual political donations in Wisconsin was \$10,000.

What changed? A monumental 2014 U.S. Supreme Court decision you've probably never heard of: *McCutcheon v. FEC*, in which the high court ruled that annual caps on total political donations from one person are unconstitutional. Wisconsin Republicans, who control the legislature, acted quickly after the *McCutcheon* case, removing the \$10,000 limit that had been state law.

That has created an ever-increasing flood of cash into the bank accounts of state political candidates, even for lower offices like legislators, in huge amounts never seen before. That money pays for, among other things, political ads that saturate the airwaves and jam mailboxes with fliers.

Billionaires are among the most active donors in this post-*McCutcheon* world.

For example, Reid Hoffman, the co-founder of LinkedIn, has given more than \$7.5 million to the Democratic Party of Wisconsin in 2024 alone. Diane Hendricks, co-founder of the huge building materials company ABC Supply headquartered in southern Wisconsin, gave the Republican Party of Wisconsin more than \$6.5 million this year. Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker and George Soros gave the state Democratic Party over \$2 million and over \$1 million in 2024, respectively.

"This is the Looney Tunes world that we're living in right now," said Nick Ramos, executive director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, a nonprofit that tracks campaign finance spending in the state. "Everyone knows the game. It's created this glorified money-laundering operation."

While donations to Wisconsin political parties can be made without limit since the *McCutcheon* decision, a cap on donations directly to state candidates remains in place, but that cap has workarounds that billionaires and the parties have exploited.

A person can only donate a maximum of \$2,000 to a candidate for state Senate, but that same person can donate \$1 million to a political party in Wisconsin, and the party can give that \$1 million to the candidate. It's a loophole for avoiding direct limits to candidates.

Fallout from the *McCutcheon* ruling is similar to that from the much more widely-known *Citizens United* case, a 2010 U.S. Supreme Court decision that allowed corporations and unions to make unlimited independent expenditures in elections.

In Wisconsin, "*McCutcheon* had a much greater impact than *Citizens United* did," said Mike Wittenwyler, a Madison-based lawyer who has specialized in political law for the last two decades.

Wisconsin Democrats have proposed legislation to close that loophole by placing limits on donations to and from political parties. The Republican-controlled legislature has, so far, ignored those bills.

So in an example of beating someone at their own game, Democrats are using the lack of limits to swamp the GOP in a campaign finance system Republicans helped create. In recent years, left-leaning donors have overwhelmed right-leaning contributors in Wisconsin, leading to a massive fundraising advantage.

In 2024, the Democratic Party of Wisconsin raised nearly \$57 million for the election, almost double that of the state GOP, which raised about \$29 million. Democrats used much of it to blast Republican candidates with negative advertising on the airwaves and through the mail.

Democrats hope to take back the state legislature in 2026 for the first time in more than a decade. But if they do, will they still want to close a loophole they have turned in their favor?

"My biggest hope is that we will elect some people with some backbone who get to the negotiating table and deliver some bills that make sense and really scale back what has become an absolute monster," Ramos said. "In this horror movie, it doesn't look like the heroes are stopping it right now."

The Badger Project is a nonpartisan, citizen-supported journalism nonprofit in Wisconsin.

Beer run with actual running



ABOVE: Stacy and Dan Hohn strike a pose just before being the first ones to cross the finish line Jan. 1 during the fourth annual beer run outside Stubborn Brothers Brewery. Over 300 people participated in the half-kilometer run.

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LEFT: Plenty of runners took part in the New Year's Day beer run like these two, but others decided to walk from the Farmers Brewery to Stubborn Brothers Brewery. Free beer was offered at the Farmers Brewery before the run began.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

Hollander partners with cafes to celebrate workers

Hollander Chocolate Company spread holiday cheer in Shawano and Port Washington this season by partnering with local coffee shops and cafes to honor the communities' public workers.

They offered free hot chocolate and discounted specialty chocolate drinks throughout the holidays as a thank you to those who keep the community safe, connected and thriving.

Public workers, including first responders, health care staff, educators, and city and county employees were invited to visit participating coffee shops and cafes to enjoy hot chocolate and discounted specialty chocolate drinks made with Hollander's signature gourmet chocolate. The initiative aims to recognize their hard work and commitment, particularly during the busy and often challenging holiday season.

"Hollander Chocolate Company is rooted in community, and this partnership reflects our gratitude for the people who make these communities a wonderful place to live," said



Doug Podzilni, center, president at Hollander Chocolate Company, based in Port Washington, spread holiday cheer by presenting chocolate and discounted drinks to Shawano County Sheriff's Deputy Hailey Buschman, left, and Lt. Chris Madle.

CONTRIBUTED

Doug Podzilni, president at Hollander Chocolate Company, based in Port Washington. "By collaborating with local coffee shops, we hope to bring a little warmth and sweetness to those who give so much to our community."

Podzilni opted to ex-

pand the giving program to Shawano this year, as he has a cottage on the lake and spends a lot of time in the area.

Building on the success of this initiative, Hollander plans to expand the program to more communities in the coming years,

further spreading their mission of appreciation and connection.

Shawano partner locations include The Daily Drip, Heather's Beans and Books, The Gourmet Café at Thornberry Cottage and Classics Restaurant and Lounge.



Scott Schwartz, of Pulaski, gets the crowd excited in the parking lot at Lambeau Field prior to a home game. Schwartz has been one of the first tailgaters at every home game for the last 30 years, no matter the weather, and has entertained and fed guests with flair.

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3 Packers fan nominees reside close to home

Brosig, Bucholz, Schwartz seeking to be in hall of fame

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

It's time again to nominate the biggest fan of the Green Bay Packers, and three nearby residents are among the 10 contenders for this year's honor. John Brosig, Regan Buchholz and Scott Schwartz are vying to be in the Packers Fan Hall of Fame, which comes with four club seats to a 2025 Packers home game, four pre-game sideline pass, four passes to the Packers Hall of Fame, custom Packers jersey, a gift certificate for \$500 to the Packers Pro Shop, and a subscription for one year to PackersNews.com. Fans submitted nominations with an essay of 500 words or less, along with a photo, explaining why they should be put in the hall of fame. The winner will be announced in February, but fans can vote through Jan. 31 at www.packers.com/fhof. Voters will be entered into a drawing to win Packers merchandise. Brosig, a Pound resident, plans his entire year around the Packers, according to a letter from the Brosig family. He started attending games in 1960 when tickets were free, but he purchased season tickets in 1964 and has been to home games regularly in the last 60 years.



Regan Bucholz was a big factor in getting Packers coach Vince Lombardi put on a postage stamp after collecting 11,000 signatures in 1995 and 1996. Bucholz originally thought he would only get a couple hundred signatures when he joined the cause.

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“Growing up as a kid in the 1940s and 1950s, he remembers sitting around the radio with his father and uncles and learning about the legend of the Packers,” according to the letter. “To him, they were like gods.” Brosig’s favorite memory was attending the Ice Bowl game, and talks about

how pivotal that game was, still possessing a team bench from that game to this day. “Dad has always been a positive fan, never swearing or bad-mouthing the players or coaching staff,” according to the

FAN, CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

‘Godspell’ kicks off ASPI’s 2025 season

Looking ahead to 2025, Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. will present a musical, a comedy and a Christmas-themed youth show at the Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St., Abrams. The three shows are “Godspell” in March, “The Play that Goes Wrong” in May and “A Ghost Tale for Mr. Dickens Jr.” in December. “Godspell,” directed by Elizabeth Jolly-Haslitt, will be performed March 13-23. The musical is based on the Gospel of Matthew, with music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz — who also composed the music for “Wicked” and “Pippin.” Using a blend of parables, songs, games and tomfoolery, Jesus’ life plays out onstage. In this New Age production, Jesus’ message of kindness, tolerance and love shines vibrantly. Pre-sale tickets are now available for purchase by Spotlight Sponsors and season ticket holders. For the general public, tickets go on sale Jan. 13. “The Play that Goes Wrong,” directed by Mike Eserkahn, will be performed May 8-18. The comedy describes the inept and accident-prone Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society’s attempt to produce an ambitious 1920s murder mystery. Unfortunately, the set is not yet complete, the props start to disappear, actors go missing and the set begins to collapse. Mayhem ensues, the acting gets worse and the set becomes increasingly dangerous. The question is whether any of the cast and crew will remain standing, or conscious, by the final curtain.

“A Ghost Tale for Mr. Dickens Jr.” is a youth show directed by Bobby Buffington, presented Dec. 4-14, 2025. The show is an adaptation of a book in Mary Pope Osborne’s award-winning fantasy adventure series “Magic Tree House.” In this Christmas story, Jack and Annie’s treehouse takes them to the foggy streets of Victorian London. Here they learn the importance of charity and kindness through their friendship with legendary author Charles Dickens, who is suffering from a severe case of writer’s block. While Jack and Annie witness the hardships faced by the poor and Mr. Dickens is haunted by sad memories of his own, they inspire Mr. Dickens to write one of the greatest holiday stories of all time. This musical puts a unique twist on a famous holiday tale.

ASPI, CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



The cast of “Oklahoma!” gives a cheer during its performance in 2024. Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. will present a musical, a youth show and a comedy in 2025. Season tickets are on sale now for the shows presented at the Nancy Byng Community Theater in Abrams.

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Singing ice can be found on the flowage

One of my most popular columns of 2024 was the one about psithurism, trees talking to each other. I love the fact that many readers, especially those who chase those elusive whitetails, have told me they too have learned to listen to the trees chatting each other up as they enjoy cherished time in the woods.

I drew facts for that column from an article by AmeriCorps member Kristen Summers who works for the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association (wisconsinwoodlands.org). Based out of University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Kristen sends an email each Monday with her latest installment of Kick Off Your Week by Learning Something New.

Truth is, I actually do learn a lot of something new from Kristen. For example, she recently revealed that the rest of the earth is talking, too. In Songs of the Ice, her last article of 2024, she explained the scientific reasoning behind why each winter and spring the Townsend Flowage moans and groans so loudly it reminds me of my husband Jon's reaction when I ask for help in the kitchen.

I knew from living on the Townsend Flowage that this "music" is caused by the ice expanding and contracting due to fluctua-



tions in temperature. The process produces cracks that send out vibrations, creating booms and rumbles that wake me up at night. Sometimes it's so loud, it rivals those precious pontoon boaters who think their music is so great everyone residing on the lake wants to hear it, too. (No, we don't.)

Anyway, Lord knows I have enough trouble sleeping. Thanks to Kristen, I now know the name of what causes all that hullabaloo out on the ice. It's called acoustic dispersion, the separation of a sound wave into its frequency components as it passes through a given medium.

She explained: "When the sound passes through something solid, like ice, frequencies travel at varying speeds that arrive at your ear at different times. The sounds are more pronounced during rapid temperature changes, such as at the beginning of the day as the sun comes out and starts warming the ice, or at night when temperatures start plummeting. It is also more likely that you will hear



The lake noise around the Townsend Flowage has been more pronounced the last two winters with less snow to quell the sound.

KATHLEEN MARSH

them on bodies of water that are clear of snow, since snow dampens the sounds."

Ah, yes. The last two winters have been almost snowless, which explains why the lake noise has been so much more pronounced. My son, Jeremy, might compare it to my "pots and pans symphony," the racket I make getting breakfast when he wants to sleep in while here on vacation.

That said, Kristen definitely increased my knowledge about bodies of water that freeze. She wrote that in the Great Lakes region, tempera-

tures can shift rather quickly. This causes (here's another new scientific word for you to add to your vocabulary) cryoseism, commonly called an ice quake. Did you know there are two types of cryoseism? There are, even though neither Siri nor spellcheck even recognize the word.

According to Kristen's explanation, cryoseism creates icequakes that happen with "lakes and glaciers as a result of ice rifting on the surface of water." It also creates frost quakes, which occur "when saturated ground quickly freezes and then

the frozen soil or rock suddenly cracks." It probably won't surprise you that incidents of cryoseism are becoming much more frequent in our warming climate.

Wait, there's more to learn. As if the songs produced by ice aren't amazing enough, so are the ice patterns that result from the cracking. If you want to immerse yourself in this topic, search YouTube for Jonna Jinton, a Swedish artist, photographer and musician. Jonna's channel offers over 15 hours of video that capture the beauty of singing ice in both aerial

drone footage and audio recordings. It really is worth a visit.

I have never met Kristen Summers, but she has profoundly enriched my life. Thanks to her, if I am working out in the woods on a hot summer day or lying awake in the middle of a cold winter night, I take the time to actually pay attention to the sounds of nature around me. By listening to the trees talking or to the ice singing, I find myself reveling in the Divine Presence and saying a prayer of thanksgiving. That helps to brush away those negative thoughts and nagging worries, giving rise to serenity which brings sanity in an out-of-control world.

Afterthought: This column is due to run the second Friday of January, called Quitter's Day because by then most New Year's Resolutions are history. If that's true for you, I challenge you to start over. My 2024 resolution was to walk five million steps. I hit the mark on Dec. 29. If I can accomplish what I never thought possible, so can you. As the Nike logo says, just do it.

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

FAN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

letter. "Just have faith,' he always says."

The family's letter notes that Brosig and his wife love tailgating and would often have celebrations with 100 people or more in attendance, often traveling to away games and making friends with fans of the opposing team. Brosig, with the help of nephews, purchased an ambulance and renovating it into a vehicle called Pulse of the Pack.

Brosig beat kidney cancer almost 20 years ago, but he was diagnosed with stage four pancreatic cancer in June 2024. It did not stop him from attending the home opener, as he pushed his chemotherapy treatment until after the game.

Bucholz, who lives in Bonduel, is being nominated partially for his contribution to get legendary Packers coach Vince Lombardi on a postage stamp. According to the nomination letter, Bucholz, who was a mail carrier in Green Bay for 34 years, got involved with a petition pushed by state Rep. John Gard and thought he was



John Brosig won't let anything stop him from attending a Packers game, not even stage four pancreatic cancer. Brosig is known for planning his entire year around the Packers, including weddings, travel plans, and parties for birthdays, graduations and anniversaries.

CONTRIBUTED

going to get a couple of hundred signatures.

That estimate was way off as Bucholz wound up collecting 11,000 signatures on his own. Over 26,000 total signatures were collected for the petition, and

Lombardi was commemorated on a stamp in 1997.

Bucholz grew up a Packers fan as a young boy after his dad attended the famous Ice Bowl in 1967, according to the nomination letter.

"As he grew up, he enjoyed going to games, owning Packers stock, collecting unique Packers memorabilia, meeting his favorite players, visiting the Pro Football Hall of Fame to see Dave Robin-

son inducted in 2013, adding his son and daughter to the season ticket wait list and joyfully watching them receive tickets 30 years later, and being a beer vendor at Lambeau for a few years in the 1990s when they still poured the beer in plastic cups for the fans, are just a few of his memorable moments," according to the letter.

Schwartz, living just a short drive away in Pulaski, is known by Lambeau Field staffers by name, according to the nomination letter submitted for him. It shouldn't be surprising, since Schwartz has been one of the first fans in the parking lot at 1265 Lombardi Ave. for over 30 years.

"In rain, snow, sleet or hail, Scott can be found at the front of the line to get in the parking lot at least six hours before kickoff," according to the letter. "He posts up in the same parking spot every game, unloads a professional PA system onto the roof of his truck, and gets the party started for all those die hard Packer fans that show

up in the lot four hours prior to the start of the game."

Besides the usual Wisconsin fare of brats, beer and cheese, Schwartz and a team of a dozen committed tailgaters serve up steaks, burgers and cookies, among other items. Schwartz also coordinates comical parodies about the NFC North, including "Tim the Die Hard Packer Fan" and the "Wedge of Allegiance."

"Scott knows the history of the team both on the field and off," according to the letter. "He shares stories of seasons past with the newbies. He takes great pride in his extensive, awe-inspiring collection of memorabilia. He instills a sense of pride for the team in fans from all over the world simply by being him self. You can find him wandering the tailgate handing out handmade buttons commemorating each game of the season, making new friends, and always bending over backwards to ensure everyone is having a great time."

ASPI, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Season tickets are on sale now at a discounted price for all three shows: \$51 for adults and \$45 for senior citizens, youth and military

veterans. Season ticket holders have a chance to reserve their tickets before the general public and can choose their seats for each

show. To purchase tickets, call the box office at 920-826-5852 or visit abramstheater.com.

ASPI recently wrapped

up its 21st season with sold-out performances of "Seussical the Musical," a successful Giving Tuesday campaign and a profitable

online auction. The community theater is continuing its Light the Way campaign to raise \$25,000 to replace its theatrical lighting.

Donations of any size are appreciated at abramstheater.com. ASPI is a 501(c)(3) organization, and all donations are tax deductible.

GARDENING WITH MELINDA MYERS

Monstera easy to care for, adaptable indoors

Kick off 2025 with the addition of a monstera plant to your indoor garden. You'll join other gardeners observing 2025 as the Year of the Monstera. Each year, the National Garden Bureau (NGB) selects and celebrates one plant in each of the following categories: annual, perennial, bulb, edible and shrub. The plants are chosen for their popularity, easy-care nature, adaptability, diversity and versatility.

Monstera certainly meets the criteria and, as NGB declared, it is "the world's most iconic indoor plant." The large, glossy heart-shaped leaves have distinct perforations called fenestrations. Scientists speculate these holes allow tropical downpours to pass through, minimizing plant damage.

There are several different monstera, ranging in size and leaf shape including some with variegated leaves. Some are easy to grow while others are a bit fussier. Always check the plant label for specifics on caring for the monstera you select.

One of the most popular and readily available is the Monstera deliciosa, commonly called split-leaf philodendron, even though it is not a philodendron. It's known for its large heart-shaped perforated leaves on thick stems. In its native habitat, it can grow 66 feet tall but typically grows up to 7 or 8 feet indoors.

The flowers that seldom appear indoors are like a peace lily with a cone-shaped structure (spadix) surrounded by a cupped white sheath (spathe). The flowers may be followed by an edible fruit that tastes like a combination of pineapple, banana and mango. This flavorful combination inspired its nickname, fruit salad plant, and the botanical name that translates to "delicious monstrosity."

In general, these tropical beauties prefer growing conditions like that of their native habitat. They prefer bright, filtered indirect sunlight. Avoid direct sunlight that can scorch or cause leaves to turn yellow. Grow monstera in a quality well-drained potting mix in a container with drainage holes. Water them thoroughly when the top 2 inches of soil are dry. Pour off excess water or place the pot on pebbles in a saucer. The pebbles elevate the pot above any water that collects in



The National Garden Bureau has declared 2025 as the Year of the Monstera, calling it "the world's most iconic indoor plant." MELINDAMYERS.COM



Melinda Myers
Columnist

the saucer to avoid root rot. As this water evaporates, humidity increases around the plant.

Further boost the humidity by placing your monstera with other plants. As one plant loses moisture or transpires, the neighboring plants will benefit.

Only apply houseplant fertilizer when the plants are actively growing, usually March through October. Let the plant and your garden goals be your fertilization guide. Fertilizers provide needed nutrients to plants in need of a nutrient boost or when you want to stimu-

late more growth.

Support the plant with a moss pole or trellis as it starts to climb. The large aerial roots attach to nearby surfaces to help them climb. In nature, these roots help monstera to climb trees and have been used to make rope in Peru and baskets in Mexico.

Use these beauties to create an indoor tropical paradise or to provide some green relief. No matter your indoor décor, this unique plant will make a welcome addition.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including "Midwest Gardener's Handbook," "Revised Edition" and "Small Space Gardening." She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds and Blooms magazine. Myers' website is www.melindamyers.com.



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Wisconsin a state descended from trees

Long before Wisconsin was America's Dairyland, it was home to dense, diverse forests. Some of the earliest and most sacred stories told within the Badger State are about how Native people thrived within the woods. Although much has changed since the glaciers carved out the path for trees, the forest remains an invaluable resource for each generation of Wisconsinites.

Last fall, father-daughter duo Jerry Apps and Susan Apps-Bodilly published the book "Timber! A Northwoods Story of Lumberjacks, Logging, and the Land." The text is aimed at educating children in grades 3-5, but it offers a rich narrative alongside historical photos, quotes from archival correspondence and relatable discussion questions that can engage readers of all ages. Dedicated "To the next generations of young people responsible for caring for our forests," the historical narrative resonates strongest during a Wisconsin winter.

Beginning with an overview of how Wisconsin's original Native American

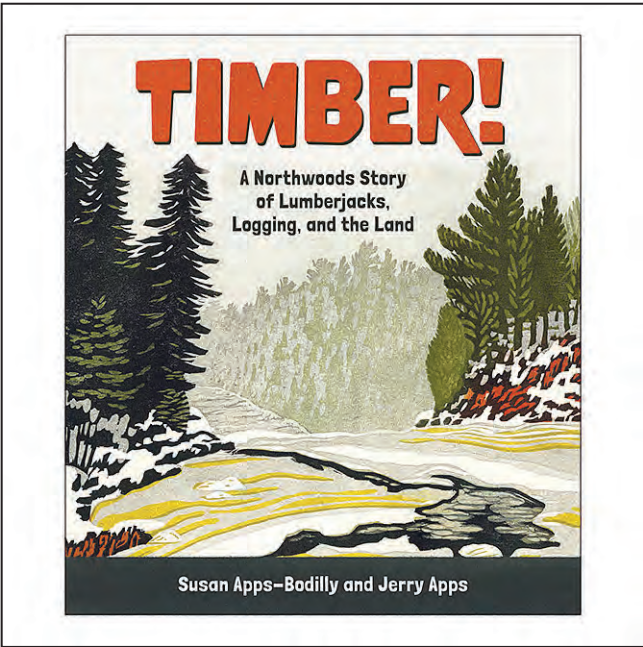


inhabitants "have lived on this land since time began," the text explains how those ancestors "believed the land should be treated with respect" and that "this is a belief that Native peoples still have today."

The authors discuss how the arrival of Europeans led to "changes to the land." They highlight how the 19th century encroachment of settlers brought land cessions through the use of "forced" and "pressured" treaties. Wisconsin land was then surveyed, divided and sold to non-Native people, beginning the logging boon that built our state.

The Apps reveal how white pine became "the tree of choice" for Wisconsin loggers, as it is "soft but tough" and has the ability to "float in water."

The winter months were favored for labor, because there were no insects. The frozen ground made it easier to move logs, and



local farmers were able to pick up an axe to lend a hand while their fields were covered with snow. The spring thaw meant Wisconsin's rivers could easily transport the timber to the mills popping up throughout the Northwoods.

The Apps proceed to take readers from the setup of a logging camp through the mythology of "telling tall tales" about the Hodag and Paul Bunyan. The upshot is that they capture the necessity of shared the

cultural stories and music produced and perpetuated in the logging community around the turn of the 20th century.

The book is perhaps most applicable when its authors discuss how the scientists and environmentalists warned against the dangers of clear-cutting. They contend that the combination of cutover land and drought led to the infamous 1871 Peshtigo Fire, showing how overharvesting perpetuated one of

Wisconsin's most infamous disasters.

From the fervor of axes to the necessity of land stewardship, the Apps explain how government-funded conservation efforts began in 1924. The history of state-sponsored reforestation projects is rife with stops and starts, but there's no doubt that responsible forestry practices thrive throughout our state today.

Throughout it all, the Menominee people have led the way in sustainable forestry practices. The Apps quote Chief Oshkosh's 1854 instructions: "Start with the rising sun and work towards the setting sun, but take only the mature trees, the sick trees, and the trees that have fallen. When you reach the end of the reservation, turn and cut from the setting sun to the rising sun, and the trees will last forever."

After many diplomatic efforts with state and federal bureaucrats, the Menominee people won the right to build a mill in Neopit in 1908 and run it according to Oshkosh's advice. Today, Menominee Tribal Enterprises "cuts about 15 million feet of lumber each year,"

yet they have more board feet standing in their forest than when they began.

A decade ago, Menominee Forest Manager Marshall Pecore said, "The things that we do is intelligent tinkering. We don't have all the answers. One of the important things with tinkering is keep all the pieces, so we're trying to keep all the pieces of the forest together."

Pecore added: "It is part of the ancestral lands and seeing it held intact I think has enabled the Menominee to maintain their cultural identity."

The state's terrain has demonstrably changed since the time of glacial erosion, but the plentiful resources of the natural landscape remain. Each new generation of Wisconsinites would do well to learn about the history of the forest, recognize the ways it is ingrained in our collective character and appreciate the necessity of preserving the gifts it offers for future generations.

Ryan Winn, Ph.D., teaches communications, English, history and theater at the College of Menominee Nation. Visit www.menominee.edu for more information about the school.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, JAN. 10

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

SATURDAY, JAN. 11

SHAWANO: Northern and Bass Hourly Derby/Bonduel Bears Meat Raffle, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bamboo Bar, W5884 Cedar Court. Payout first and second every hour based on entries. 24-inch minimum to register northern, 14-inch minimum to register bass. Must fish Shawano Lake only. More info and rules on Bamboo Bar's Facebook page or call 715-201-1158.

NAVARINO: Introduction to Cross Country Skiing, 9 a.m. to noon, Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. One-hour introduction to learn basic kick and glide, stopping and turning. NNC members \$5, non-members \$10, families \$20. Arrive early to rent skis. Register by Jan. 9 at 715-758-6999.

CECIL: Singles Billiards Tournament, 10 a.m., Golden Sands Golf

Course, 300 Naber Road. BCA Rules, 8-ball and 100% payout. Entry \$25. Register by calling 715-745-2189.

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

ABRAMS: Machickanee Cross Country Ski Club Candlelight Ski, 5:30-8 p.m., 6625 Timberline Road.

SHAWANO: Shawano Pathways Winter Moonlight Snowshoe Hike, 6 p.m., Maple Hills Recreation Area, N4270 State Highway 22. Arrive at least 15 minutes early to register and get gear on. Free, but donations appreciated. Check for weather cancellations at shawanopathways.com or Shawano Pathways Facebook page.

MONDAY, JAN. 13

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

TUESDAY, JAN. 14

KESHENA: Recovery talking

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

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 15

NAVARINO: Storytime, 10-11:30 a.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Book theme: Winter fun.

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

THURSDAY, JAN. 16

SURING: Military Night, 5-9 p.m., Suring School, 411 Algoma St. Spaghetti dinner 5 p.m. Free for veterans and \$7 for public, boys junior varsity game 5:45 p.m., Military Night ceremony 6:45 p.m., varsity game 7:35 p.m.

BOWLER: Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce Awards Ban-

quet, 5:15-8 p.m., North Star Casino, Orion Event Center, W12180 County Road A. \$45. Social hour 5:15 p.m., Dinner 6 p.m., Program 7 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, JAN. 17

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

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

SATURDAY, JAN. 18

SHAWANO: Northern and Bass Fishing Tournament/Hawks Hockey Meat Raffle, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bamboo Bar, W5884 Cedar Court. Payout first and second, based

on entries. Must fish Shawano Lake only. More info and rules on Bamboo Bar's Facebook page or call 715-201-1158.

NAVARINO: Crafts: Snowman Stand, 9 a.m. to noon, Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Easy guided class to paint and decorate a 3-foot snowman decoration. Members \$30, non-members \$40, space limited, reservations via navarino.org/events or 715-758-6999.

NAVARINO: Porcupine Snowshoe Hike, 1 p.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Snowshoe through the woods, bog, and past porcupine dens. Bring snowshoes or rent. Arrive early to rent. Members \$5, non-members \$10, families \$20. Register by Jan. 16.

SHAWANO: Third annual SayPro Adult Prom, 7-11 p.m., Stubborn Brothers Brewery, 220 S. Main St. Appetizers along with special photo opportunities included with registration fee of \$30 per ticket. Pre-registration required at 715-575-9392 or saypro13@gmail.com.



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Will sandhill crane season fly in Wisconsin?

Whether you prefer calling the sandhill crane a majestic migratory bird worthy of photos or the “ribeye in the sky” earning a spot on the dinner table next to the mashed potatoes, one thing is certain: this distinctive bird is plentiful.

These 3-foot-tall, 10-pound birds with their distinctive rusty-gate call have moved a step closer to having a hunting season in Wisconsin, and biological evidence suggests there is no reason not to do so.

A 12-member Wisconsin Legislative Council Study Committee on sandhill cranes held five meetings from August through December and voted Dec. 10 to forward a bill that would establish a hunting season. The Wisconsin Legislative Council will now review the draft and potentially introduce it to the state Assembly and Senate for consideration.

Delta Waterfowl is one of the conservation organizations that was represented on the study committee and has endorsed the hunt.

Paul Wait, Delta Waterfowl’s senior communications manager, was one of eight citizen committee members and noted the bird’s comeback on the group’s website.

“The eastern population of sandhill cranes is such a wonderful conservation success story, growing at more than 4% per year and now numbering more than 110,000 birds,” Wait said. “As we were directed, the study committee considered the science, the agricultural damage caused by sandhill cranes, and potential hunting opportunity. The bill we ultimately recommended would establish a hunting season, help to manage the crane population and provide crop damage relief to farmers.”

Cranes cause nearly \$2 million in crop damage annually in Wisconsin, including corn, potatoes, winter wheat, cranberries,



strawberries and other crops, the Delta Waterfowl release noted. A total of 1,405 sandhill cranes were killed under U.S. Department of Agriculture crop damage permits, but by law, the meat can’t be eaten and the birds must be discarded or left in the field. Farmers are not reimbursed for the damage, because cranes are not a hunted species.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which supports a Wisconsin hunt, says the eastern population must be at a minimum of 30,000 birds for a sustainable hunt. That minimum was reached about 20 years ago, according to the agency.

A total of 17 states currently allow sandhill crane hunting.

A 2020 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report called “Status and Harvests of Sandhill Cranes” estimates the mid-continent population of cranes to be nearly 840,000 birds, far exceeding the population goal of 350,000-475,000 birds.

This primary population has been stable from 1982 through the mid-2000s, the report states.

Additional sandhill crane populations in the Rocky Mountains, lower Colorado River Valley and Eastern states are monitored separately, and have seen either slight decreases or stable numbers, but all exceed population goals.

Cranes are regulated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (just as ducks and geese are), with general hunting guidelines handed down to the states for fine tuning by state departments of natural resources.

If the state legislature approves a hunt, the wildlife service would then have to provide parameters.

Not all committee members back a hunt.

“The decision to have a sandhill crane hunt is a political, social and cultural decision,” said committee member Meleesa Johnson, executive director of Wisconsin’s Green Fire. “From a science perspective, there is no biological reason to not hold a hunt and there is no biological reason to hold a hunt. From a science perspective, a wildlife management plan is the somewhat objective



A state legislative committee has recommended that the legislature support a sandhill crane hunt. There are more than 110,000 sandhill cranes in Wisconsin and more than 1.7 million in North America, according to the Baraboo-based International Crane Foundation.

ROSS BIELEMA

tool that is the repository of data, evaluations, studies, methodologies and observations to make sound decisions for hunting species like deer, ducks, geese, bear and other game.”

The International Crane Foundation also opposes a hunt.

“Advocates for a hunting season on sandhill cranes have long promoted it as the solution to crop damage, but we know a hunting season is not going to help farmers,” said Rich Beilfuss,

ICF executive director, on the group’s website. “We have three or more separate issues to address: crop damage by cranes, hunting cranes for recreational purposes and crane-based tourism in Wisconsin. I hope we can look holistically at how best to support farmers and cranes.”

ICF’s suggested solution to combat crop damage is to fund a seed corn additive called Avipel, which claims to cause digestive issues in cranes and other birds. Farmers

would apply Avipel to seed corn and the birds would learn to avoid it, according to the Avipel website.

A recent poll suggested that only one in five people support a crane hunt but the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and the farm groups represented on the committee all support a hunt.

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

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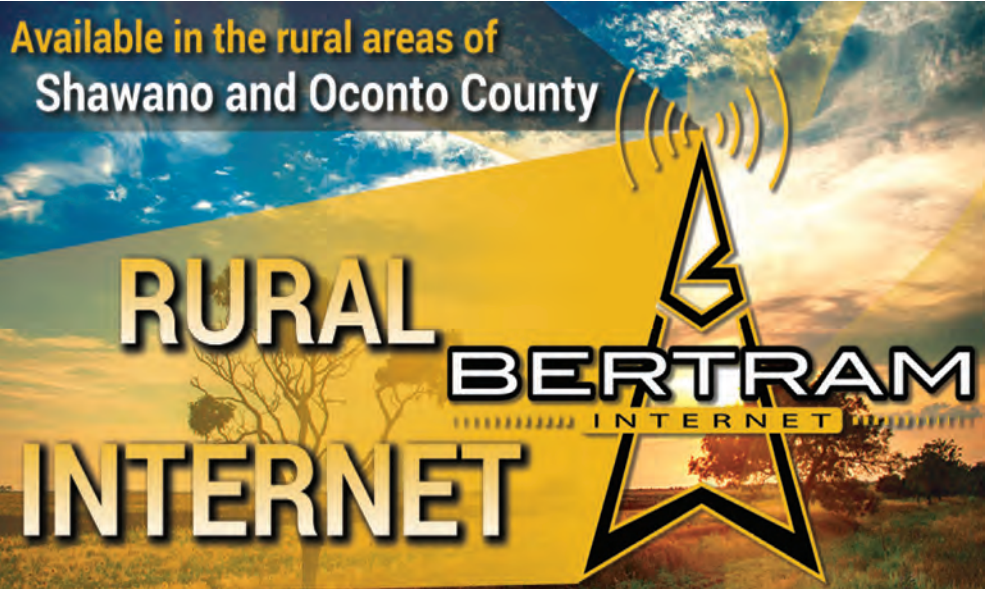
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Above, Shawano's Will Verkuilen is guarded by New London's Parker Heise at a Jan. 3 game in Shawano. Verkuilen ended the game with 15 points and five assists. At right, Shawano's Logan Sipple brings the ball up the court. Sipple was the leading scorer for the Hawks, collecting 18 points. Below, Shawano's Anderson Schmidt and New London's Nickolas Ploedert chase a loose ball.

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA STAFF

Bonduel boys improve to 10-0; Lena tops Gresham

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Jan. 4
Mishicot 54, Suring 49
Jan. 3
New London 59, Shawano 56

Shawano clawed back into the game after half-time but came up short in a 59-56 loss to visiting New London.

Down by 11 at halftime, Shawano outscored New London by eight in the second half in their three-point loss.

Logan Sipple led the Hawks with 18 points and also pulled down nine

rebounds. Will Verkuilen scored 15 points and led the team with five assists. Each also had two steals.

Bonduel 88, Reedsville 61

Sophomores Carter Moesch and Quinn Wesenberg led Bonduel with 33 and 21 points, respectively, in the Bears 88-61 win over Reedsville.

Cade Johnson also scored 10 points.

Bonduel improved to 10-0 overall.

Oconto Falls 78, Marinette 53

Jameson Beaman led the Panthers with 22 points in a

78-53 win over Marinette.

Evan Yuma also scored 12 points for Oconto Falls.

Emerich Skarban led the team with eight rebounds, Carson McDermid had five assists, and Brady Bursa, Yuma and Chase Carriveau had had two steals.

Pulaski 76, Bay Port 64

Colin Schultz scored 29 points, and Bryce Wotruba had 16 as the Red Raiders had a strong second half to defeat Bay Port 76-64.

Pulaski was trailing 38-25 at halftime but poured it on for a 41-26 second half.

Lena 61, Gresham 59
Port Edwards 73,

Marion 36
Menominee Nation 76, Amherst 62
Tigerton 74, Stockbridge 19
Dec, 30

Gillett 68, Florence 59
A strong second half by Gillett propelled them to a 62-59 win over Florence.

Trailing 34-31 at half-time, the Tigers outscored their guests by 12 points in the second half to secure the win.

Jesse DeBauch led all scorers with 29 points, including 11-of-13 from the free throw line. Ryan Pensis added 14 points.



Shawano boys wrestle to 1-3 at Shiocton

Shawano wrestlers had a tough time of it Jan. 3 in Shiocton, going 1-3 in their dual matchups.

"We met two very good teams in Slinger and Shiocton," coach Mike Homan said. "Both of those teams have very solid lineups,

and points do not come easy against those teams. We did have some wins but just came up short midway through both meets."

Shawano's win came against Medford, with a loss following against Kiel.

"In our final match, we battled back and forth with Kiel, but in the end, we gave up too many bonus points that we could not overcome and we dropped our third dual of the night."

Some individuals that

stood out were Dane Hodiakiewicz going 4-0 on the night, Kody Popelka going 3-1 and Jack Dietz also going 3-1 on the night.

"We had some other young wrestlers step up and get some nice wins as well," Homan said. "Dane

has been wrestling well and did a great job tonight by earning four victories. He is starting to wrestle really well. Kody did a great job battling and getting bonus points for the team."

Popelka is leading the

team in pins and he added to that with two more at Shiocton.

"Jack Dietz did a nice job as well adding three wins to his season total," Homan said. "He has been working hard and that work is paying off for him."



Rory Salvesen (20) leads a group of players up the court during Wittenberg-Birnamwood's 61-50 win over Crandon. Salvesen scored 21 points for the Chargers, which were led by Melaina Granquist with 23. TINA BACON

Ice Bears carve out 2 more victories

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

**Jan. 4
Bay Area 6, Beaver Dam 0**

The Bay Area Ice Bears enjoyed another shutout this season, blanking Beaver Dam 6-0.

Hannah Von Haden had a hat trick, with one goal in each period. Julianne Bradford scored twice, and Emily Bill had a goal as well.

Assists were credited to Addison Dahl (two), Bradford (two), Faye Brunke, Aisling Buchan (two), Bill and Tiana Stindt.

Reese Spiering had 13 saves.

**Jan. 3
Bay Area 7, Gentry Academy 5**

Third-period goals by Faye Brunke, Emily Bill and Julianne Bradford lifted the Ice Bears from a 5-4 deficit to a 7-5 win over Gentry Academy.

After Bradford scored at 4:00 in the first period, Gentry Academy responded with three goals for a 3-1 lead at the end of the period.

Ava McDonald brought the Ice Bears closer at 3-2 but the team fell back again 5-2.

Aisling Buchan scored at 16:17 and McDonald added another score at 16:55 to make it a 5-4 game in favor of Gentry as the period ended.

Addison Dahl had three assists, while Bradford, Bill and Hannah Von Haden each had two.

Reese Spiering had seven saves.

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Shawano shuts down New London; Chargers outshoot Crandon

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

**Jan. 3
Shawano 56, New London 29**

Shawano shut down New London with stellar man-to-man defense, winning 56-29.

"(A) total team effort led to the decisive victory," coach Ryan Koenig said.

The Hawks improved to 8-3.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood 61, Crandon 50

Both teams shot the ball well, but the Chargers emerged victorious with a 61-50 win.

"Crandon played very well against our defense, and they handled our pressure well," Witten-

berg-Birnamwood coach Nick Mechelke said. "The duo of Rory (Salvesen) and Melaina (Granquist) played very well tonight and carried us offensively."

Granquist led the Chargers with 23 points, and Salvesen scored 21. Each had three 3-pointers, and Salvesen also had six free throws.

Granquist and Faith Resch each had six rebounds.

Bonduel 57, Stratford 52

Audrey Weier scored 14 points, and Cierra Schnell added 12 as the Bears maintained their five-point halftime lead to win 57-52.

Menominee Nation 59, Gresham 26

Urijah Reevis led the Eagles with 17 points, and Anisa Waupoose added 11 as Menominee Nation defeated Gresham 59-26.

Coleman 47, Gillett 40

Coleman pulled away in the second half en route to a 47-40 win over Gillett.

Cilena Guns led Gillett with 17 points.

Lena 87, Wausaukee 16

Lena's defense kept Wausaukee to single digits in each half, while the offense saw four players score in double digits in a an 87-16 win.

Kaelyn Cook led the Wildcats with 19 points, followed by Madilyn Thomson with 14, Eva Brooks with 12 and Kali

Fischer with 11.

**Marion/Tigerton 48, Port Edwards 31
Marinette 54, Oconto Falls 39**

Bay Port 67, Pulaski 59

Suring 82, Stockbridge 19

**Jan. 2
Auburndale 35, Bonduel 27**

**Dec. 30
Wittenberg-Birnamwood 54, Marinette 23**

Early issues were corrected, and Wittenberg-Birnamwood went on to soundly defeat Marinette 54-23.

"We struggled in the first half tonight against Marinette," coach Nick Mechelke said. "We came out slow and got down

16-9 and finished the the half up 22-18. We made some adjustments on the defensive end and held Marinette scoreless in the first 11 minutes."

Wittenberg-Birnamwood held Marinette to five second-half points while scoring 32.

"Our defensive effort was spot on in the second half," Mechelke said. "This was a good win for us tonight."

Melaina Granquist scored 21 points, including three 3-pointers. Rory Salvesen added 12 points.

Faith Resch led the team with three assists. Granquist had nine rebounds, and Resch had five steals.

Gillett 43, Florence 33

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Snowmobilers urged to prepare for new season

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) encourages snowmobilers to keep safety at the forefront of their preparations. This includes staying alert to the rapidly changing ice conditions commonly found in the early and later parts of winter. “The biggest thing we want folks to remember is that no ice is completely safe,” said Lt. Jacob Holsclaw, DNR off-highway vehicle administrator. “On a sunny day, ice that may have been thick enough to drive on in the morning may be unsafe by the afternoon, especially during the early part of the season.” This rule also applies to ATVs and UTVs. Last season, several ATVs and UTVs went through the ice, with two incidents resulting in fatalities. Local fishing clubs, outfitters and bait shops are the best sources for information on current ice conditions. The DNR also encourages all snowmobilers to take a safety education class. According to Wisconsin law, anybody at least 12 years of age and born after Jan. 1, 1985, must have a valid safety education certificate to operate a snowmobile.

Shawano girls take third at wrestling invnite

BY NEW MEDIA STAFF

Shawano’s female wrestlers placed third at the Shiocton Invite on Jan. 4, finishing just 11 points out of first place. “I like the effort that I’m seeing,” coach Mike Homan said. “We just need to keep working to get better.” Gwyn Hermann took second place at 107. Adalyn Barkley also took second place at 145. “She (Barkley) wrestled well also and really put herself in good positions,” Homan said. “Her offense continues to improve, and she wrestled out of some tough spots on Saturday. She does a great job in the practice room, and it shows during competitions. She is consistent and continues to improve each week.” Vivian Waldburger placed fourth, Ayanna O’Kimosh and Jenna Mode each placed fifth.

Shawano, Antigo both beat Spooner

Jan. 4 Northwest Icemen 3, Shawano/Bonduel 1
Trailing 1-0 after the first period, Shawano/Bonduel evened the score on a Max Huntington goal at 1:33 in the third period. However, the Icemen scored twice in the third period to take the 3-1 win. Tyson Lyons recorded 25 saves for Shawano/Bonduel, which took 34 shots on goal.

Antigo 4, Spooner 2
Eli Kassler completed a hat trick and Owen Dickman notched the last goal of the game as Antigo scored three goals in the third period to beat Spooner 4-2.

Spoooner took a 1-0 first period lead only to have Kassler score at 1:17 in the second period to tie the game. Spooner scored again toward the end of the period to take a 2-1 lead. Dickman and Ethan Novy each had two assists, and Alex Brittenham had one.

Jan. 3 Shawano/Bonduel 6, Spooner 2
Gavin Hundt recorded a hat trick as Shawano/Bonduel jumped out to a 6-0 lead before Spooner managed to find the back of the net. Hundt scored the team’s first and third goals in the first period, with Teagan Harkey scoring one in between. In the second period, goals were notched by Blake Knope, Harkey and Hundt. Kaiden Thornborrow had 25 saves.

Jan. 2 Antigo 10, Pacelli 4
Eli Kassler scored a hat trick in the first period, and Antigo never looked back as the Red Robins beat Pacelli 10-4. Kassler ended the night with five goals, and teammate Owen Dickman added four more. Liam Burt had the other goal for Antigo.

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NEW Media is pleased to announce our new gardening column presented by nationally known gardening expert, TV/radio host, author & columnist

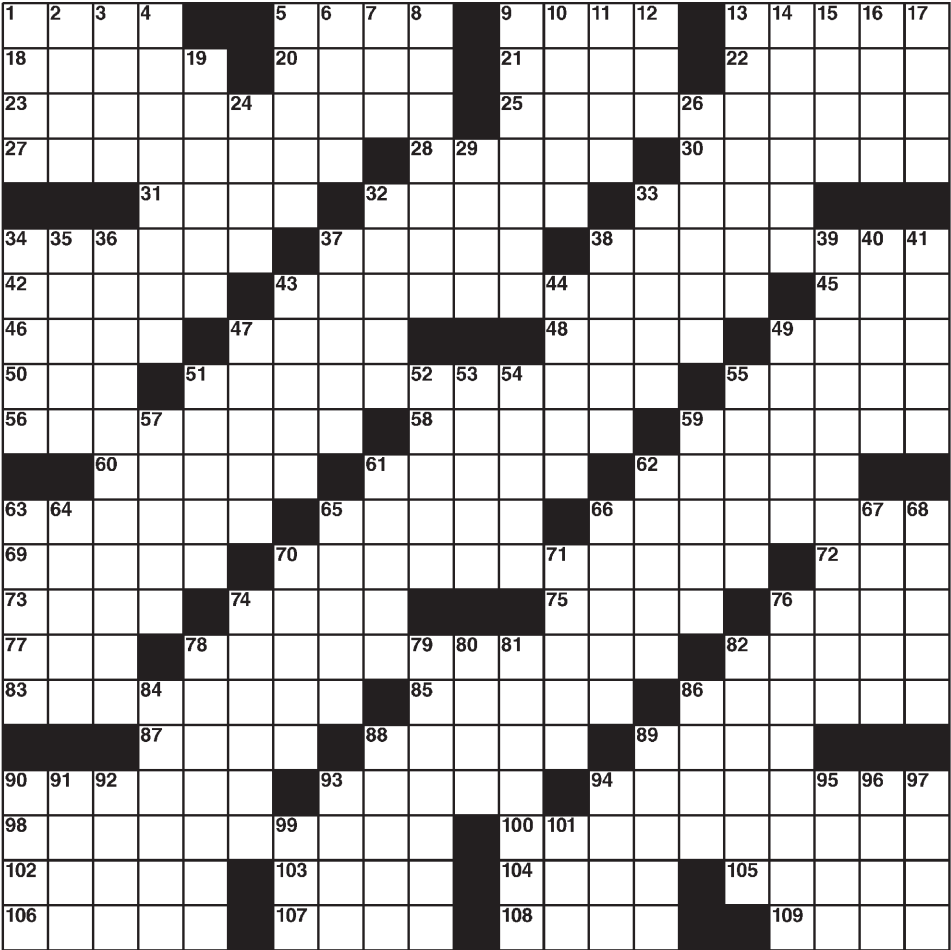
Melinda Myers

Melinda has a master's degree in horticulture, is a certified arborist and was a horticulture instructor with tenure. Watch for her column in the second and fourth issues of NEW papers starting January 10, 2025.

NEW MEDIA INC.

The Newsday Crossword
Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
A CENTURY AGO...: What happened in 1925
by S.N.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Good buddies
5 Map out
9 Thin coin
13 Ill-suited
18 Feeling sorry for
20 100 cents in Spain
21 Rocks from mines
22 Nary a soul
23 ...she won a Pulitzer for *So Big*
25 ...its Phantom luxury auto was first sold
27 Makeshift Frisbee
28 Weather map region
30 Trattoria courses
31 Inauguration ceremony
32 Fishing vessels
33 Late afternoon hour
34 Entices
37 Narrow ravine
38 Soft hugs
42 Rabbit relatives
43 ...a science teacher was convicted in what newspapers called this
45 Incoming plane stat.
46 Part of 77-Across: Abbr.
47 Salmon shade
48 Countrywide: Abbr.
49 Patriotic symbol
50 Color of the US 49-Across
51 ...this film with Chaplin as a prospector premiered
55 Director/screenwriter Coppola
56 Troop groups
58 Adolescent, for instance
59 Elate
60 Divers into lakes
61 Stirs to action
62 Central idea
- 63 Pay tribute to
65 Parisian waterway
66 Blend together
69 Novels' essences
70 ...this Gershwin orchestral work premiered
72 ___ out (get dressed)
73 Successful legislation
74 Diva's solo
75 Not doing anything
76 Life story, for short
77 Doc bloc: Abbr.
78 ...this countrywide grade-schoolers' contest was first held
82 Smashing, in show biz
83 Busy stores in December
85 Complained, as cattle
86 Feeds, as a fire
87 Stir to action
88 Passover feast
89 Give a grade to
90 Charlotte __, VI
93 Goblet, for instance
94 Test of strength
98 ...this *Odd Couple* star was born
100 ...this Mexican began to paint
102 Disney's Little Mermaid
103 Yuletide trio
104 "___ Lang Syne"
105 "Old Macdonald" ender
106 "I Am Woman" singer
107 Any tech sch.
108 Hinge (on)
109 Package of copy paper
- DOWN**
- 1 Map out, for short
2 Car from Bavaria
3 Row of a poem
4 Access, as some purses
5 Western Australian city
6 Oil change, informally
7 Consist of
8 City on Chesapeake Bay
9 Toto's owner
10 Smooths, as shirtsleeves
11 Defrost
12 Subj. for immigrants
13 Solve, as a mystery
14 Lariat loops
15 Auto racing great A.J.
16 Ancient Andes dweller
17 Golf bag supplies
19 Black piano keys
24 Wears away
26 Corkscrew shape
29 Sprint or dash
32 Con game
33 Trust in a person
34 Choreographer Twyla
35 Three-legged stand
36 ...this Virginia Woolf novel was published
37 Cymbals' relatives
38 Computer malfunction
39 ...this photo accessory was first used (really!)
40 Web commerce
41 Katey of *Married...With Children*
43 Demeanors
44 Types of bolt fasteners
47 What a texter types on
49 Gift getter's question
51 Trumpet sounds
52 Song's words
53 Lorna of literature
54 More impolite



- 55 Ledge for knickknacks
57 Speaks highly of
59 Macbeth title
61 Of punishment
62 Sheer linen fabric
63 Snowball fight sound
64 San Antonio shrine
65 Potting mixtures
66 Needing deciphering
67 Sam who sang "You Send Me"
68 Toaster waffle brand
- 70 Pancake kin
71 Rome's river
74 Orbital high point
76 Publishers' trade show
78 In a harsh-sounding manner
79 "You better believe me!"
80 Indicates agreement
81 Prosper
82 Putt, for instance
84 Was mopey
86 Lengthy tale
88 Tough travels
- 89 Caked with wet dirt
90 Not quite shut
91 Colt's mother
92 Etching liquid
93 FBI guy
94 Cash drawer
95 "What fun!"
96 *Et* ___ (and others: Lat.)
97 Enough space
99 Start of this century
101 French thoroughfare

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- ✓ Quiet Systems
- ✓ Energy Efficiency

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Ruth M. Shepherd

Ruth M. Shepherd, 86, formerly of Clintonville, passed away Dec. 22, 2024.

Eberhardt-Stevenson Funeral Home and Crematory, Clintonville.

Legals

WNAXLP

987905c8

12/27/24, 01/03/25, 01/10/25

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, OF SHAWANO COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE

Alyssa Johanna Rice

By Alyssa Johanna Rice

Hearing case No.24cv2225

NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: Alyssa Johanna Rice
To: Carmen Johanna Rice
Birth Certificate: Alyssa Johanna Rice
IT IS ORDERED:
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Shawano County State of Wisconsin
Judge Katherine Sloma
311 N Main St Shawano WI
01/17/2025 8:15 a.m.
If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-526- 9347 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation

WNAXLP

fb865264

12/27/24, 01/03/25, 01/10/25

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT SHAWANO COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Lyle E. Hagen

DOD 09/15/2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS (Informal Administration)
Case Number - 24pr72

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE :
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 06/18/1948 and date of death 09/15/2024, was domiciled in Shawano County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address N6832 S. Forest Haven Road, Shawano, WI 54166, USA.
3. All interested persons waived notice. You do not need to appear unless you object. The application may be granted if there is no objection.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate 02/28/2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano County Courthouse, 311 N Main St, Shawano, WI Wisconsin Room 202 Probate Office.
Form completed by: James E. Aschenbrenner P.O. Box146, Shawano, WI 54166, USA Phone: 715 524 6258 Bar Number: 1008896

WNAXLP

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12/27/24, 01/03/25, 01/10/25

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MENOMINEE COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF John Deck

DOD 05/04/2023

NOTICE TO CREDITORS (Informal Administration)
Case Number - 24pr04

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE :
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 09/26/1945 and date of death 05/04/2023, was domiciled in Menominee County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address N1446 Silver Canoe Lane Keshena WI 54135, USA.
3. All interested persons waived notice. You do not need to appear unless you object. The application may be granted if there is no objection.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate 02/28/2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano County Courthouse, 311 N Main St, Shawano, WI Wisconsin Room 202 Probate Office.
Form completed by: James E. Aschenbrenner P.O. Box146, Shawano, WI 54166, USA Phone: 715 524 6258 Bar Number: 1008896

WNAXLP

Legals

WNAXLP

18c44f34

12/27/24, 01/03/25, 01/10/25

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MENOMINEE COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Jeffrey Grignon

NOTICE TO CREDITORS (Informal Administration)
Case Number - 24pr07

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE :
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 11/27/1963 and date of death 08/12/2024, was domiciled in Menominee County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address PO Box 415 Keshena WI 54135, USA.
3. All interested persons waived notice. You do not need to appear unless you object. The application may be granted if there is no objection.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate 03/20/2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano County Courthouse, 311 N Main St, Shawano, WI Wisconsin Room 202 Probate Office.

WNAXLP

07d0bcbd

12/27/24, 01/03/25, 01/10/25

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT SHAWANO COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Martha E. Gerd

DOD 11/16/2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS (Informal Administration)
Case Number - 24pr71

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE :
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 03/02/1938 and date of death 11/16/2024, was domiciled in Shawano County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address W5344 Rosemary Court, Shawano, WI 54166, USA.
3. All interested persons waived notice. You do not need to appear unless you object. The application may be granted if there is no objection.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate 03/20/2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano County Courthouse, 311 N Main St, Shawano, WI Wisconsin Room 202 Probate Office.
Form completed by: James E. Aschenbrenner P.O. Box146, Shawano, WI 54166, USA Phone: 715 524 6258 Bar Number: 1008896

WNAXLP

63d5ec0b

12/27/24, 01/03/25, 01/10/25

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, SHAWANO COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Omia L. Knudsen

a/k/a Omia Louise Knudsen

Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)
Case No. 24 PR 78

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 1/28/1962 and date of death 11/17/2024, was domiciled in Shawano County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of N7138 County Rd. V, Cecil, WI 54111.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is March 24, 2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano County Courthouse, 311 N. Main Street, Shawano, Wisconsin, Room 202, Probate Office.
Form completed by: Atty. Emily Z. Dunham 1930 Algoma Blvd. Ste. A Oshkosh, WI 54901 920-215-4050 Bar Number 1068948

WNAXLP

USDA reports farmers getting less for corn, soybeans

The average price received by farmers for corn during November in Wisconsin was \$3.90 per bushel, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service Agricultural Prices report. This was 2 cents above the October price but 50 cents below November 2023.

The November average price received by farmers for soybeans, at

\$9.73 per bushel, was 17 cents below the October price and \$3.07 below the November 2023 price.

The November average oat price per bushel, at \$4.12, was 41 cents above October and 74 cents above November 2023.

All hay prices in Wisconsin averaged \$146 per ton in November. This was \$9 above the October price and \$6 above the

November 2023 price. The November 2024 alfalfa hay price, at \$157, was \$10 above the previous month but \$39 below November 2023. The average price received for other hay during November was \$103 per ton. This was \$12 below the October price and \$37 below November last year.

The Wisconsin all milk price for November was \$22.90 per hundred-

weight (cwt). This was \$2.50 below last month's price but \$2.70 above last November's price.

The U.S. all milk price for November was \$24.20 per cwt, \$1.30 higher than Wisconsin's price but \$1 lower than last month's U.S. price.

The complete report can be found at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications.

COOL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

For Diane Bloomquist, of Shawano, it's not an event she's willing to miss. Bloomquist doesn't bother being in a hoodie or heavy coat when she steps outside, except for when it's below zero, but considering the temperature Jan. 1 was hovering around 30 degrees, she was only wearing pants and a T-shirt announcing she has no problem with the cold at age 80.

Bloomquist has been participating just about every year for the last 20.

"I was gone one year with relatives in Arizona, but mostly I've been doing it as many times as I can," she said. "I just love it. I don't mind the cold. I like the cold."

The downside of being 80 is that Bloomquist is not able to jump into the channel like most of the others who braved the freezing waters.

"I can't jump in, because I have a bad knee, so I walk in," Bloomquist said. "I wish I could jump in, but I can't. This knee is all screwed up, and I've got a lot of fluid on it. I'll have to have it replaced someday. If I jumped in and landed wrong, somebody would probably have to pick me out of there."

For Dave Schley, the annual Polar Plunge is a



Shivering and quick departures from the water are all part of the experience of Shawano's Polar Plunge each year. LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

family affair. Seven family members from ages 4 to 67 took part in the 2025 event.

"I've been doing it for years, and then my daughter started doing it, and now my grandsons are doing it," Schley said. "We've got three generations doing this."

Schley noted the enticement for the family members to take part is a trip out to eat. Like Bloomquist, Schley has been plunging individually for 20 years.

"I think that if you can do this today, you're good for the rest of the year," Schley said.

Although there are many veterans of the Polar Plunge, there were a few, like Anthony Carroll, of Shawano, who were braving the chilly jump for the first time. Carroll pointed to a female friend as the reason he was participating and said she had needed others for support to jump in.

"It was last minute,"

Carroll said. "I didn't think about it until two hours ago. I didn't think I was going to do anything."

Carroll participated in the Jacksonport plunge when he was 12, and he remembers the experience leaving him cold.

"I forgot shoes to change into, so my feet almost froze off," Carroll said. "I learned this year. I brought a pair of shoes I could slip on."

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

BEHNKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"It's just egregious that the Democrats are seeing inflation, won't acknowledge it but they want to keep spending government money," Behnke said. "Spending money is the reason we're in this inflation era. It's just crazy what the federal government is doing, but we in the state are going to try and cut some of our own fat. The irony is if we can't come to a new budget, the budget will actually decrease because the state spent less money in 2024."

Behnke said that if the 2025-27 biennial budget is not decided in a timely fashion, the state funding will be limited to the amount spent in 2024.

"We would actually be cutting state spending, because in 2024, we spent less money than we did in 2023," Behnke said. "That's always a negotiating tool that we have with the governor to say, if he wants a budget, then he needs to include some tax breaks."

Behnke said the only tax break Gov. Tony Evers

has signed in recent years was a child tax credit, but Behnke and other Republican legislators are putting forth a tax break for retirees on their investments along with a tax-free retirement proposal.

One bipartisan bill Behnke is working on is something to address road salt. It addresses wasted salt in commercial areas like Walmart when businesses try to clear their parking lots so people can get to them.

"That salt ends up in our fresh water, so we shouldn't overapply the salt," Behnke said. "Right now, Walmart has no incentive to apply less, because they don't want to be sued over slip-and-falls. My legislation offers a little immunity for a commercial applicator of salt if they would follow best practices."

The bill was pushed through in the last legislative session, with Democrats leading the charge, but Evers vetoed it, Behnke said.

Being in a new district

with some new constituents, one of the things brought up to Behnke are whether elections are fair and secure.

"Obviously, (President-elect Donald) Trump won in 2024, but the numbers from 2020 look suspicious, where (Joe) Biden got 81 million, and Kamala (Harris) did not," he said. "(Constituents) want election integrity bills."

Behnke also wants to work on solutions that bring down the high price of food for consumers, but he acknowledged a lot of that work is going to be due to federal policy.

"We can help at the state level," Behnke said.

Another constituent issue is property taxes, especially those whose taxes have sharply increased.

Behnke plans to hold a number of town hall meetings throughout the district to get input from more people on the issues they want him to fight for. Those meetings have not yet been scheduled.

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

HUGE INDOOR RUMMAGE SALE

@ Faith United Lutheran Church

11465 Old U Rd, Gillett, WI 54124

1/2 PRICE SALE ON SATURDAY!

Thursday, January 16 & Friday, January 17 8AM-4PM

Saturday, January 18 8AM - Noon

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FREE PELLETS*



With Purchase of Stove and Vent Package



PLUS! **SAVE UP TO \$2,000***
WITH THE FEDERAL TAX CREDIT*




FREEDOM STOVES

BUILT-IN BATTERY BACK-UP*
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01/03/2025, 01/10/2025

OFFICIAL NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS FOR FURNISHING:

CITY OF SHAWANO2025 CRACK SEALING PROGRAM

Will be received by the City of Shawano in the office of the Department of Public Works, 2905 E. Richmond Street, Shawano, WI until 11:00 AM Local Time on January 21st, 2025, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Owner requires bid security in the form of a bid bond or cashier's check in the amount of 5% of the bid amount.

ESTIMATE OF QUANTITIES

Provide, Rout, Clean, and Seal Cracks with 21,000 pounds of hot poured rubber sealant

The Contract Documents may be examined at the office of the Department of Public Works, 2905 E. Richmond St., Shawano, WI 54166. Complete sets of Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Department of Public Works, 2905 E. Richmond St., Shawano, WI 54166. All bidders shall bid in accordance with and shall bid upon the Bid Forms provided in the Contract Documents.

Owner requires Bidders to be pre-qualified for this project in accordance with the Wisconsin Statutes 66.29(2). Qualifications shall be delivered to the Engineer, not less than 5 days prior to the bid deadline. The Owner's decision as to the prequalifications shall be final.

The City of Shawano Common Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informalities in bidding, or to accept the bid or bids which best serves the interest of the City. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days after the scheduled opening of bids without the consent of the City.
Published by the authority of the City of Shawano, Wisconsin.

BY: Bruce Milavitz, Mayor
Lesley Nemetz, City Clerk
Matt Pleshek, City Engineer

WNAXLP

01/03/2025, 01/10/2025

OFFICIAL NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS FOR FURNISHING:

CITY OF SHAWANO2025 MICRO-SURFACING PROGRAM

Will be received by the City of Shawano in the office of the Department of Public Works, 2905 E. Richmond Street, Shawano, WI until 11:00 AM Local Time on January 21st, 2025, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Owner requires bid security in the form of a bid bond or cashier's check in the amount of 5% of the bid amount.

ESTIMATE OF QUANTITIES

Micro-Surfacing 13,000 SY on various streets

The Contract Documents may be examined at the office of the Department of Public Works, 2905 E. Richmond St., Shawano, WI 54166. Complete sets of Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Department of Public Works, 2905 E. Richmond St., Shawano, WI 54166. All bidders shall bid in accordance with and shall bid upon the Bid Forms provided in the Contract Documents.

Owner requires Bidders to be pre-qualified for this project in accordance with the Wisconsin Statutes 66.29(2). Qualifications shall be delivered to the Engineer, not less than 5 days prior to the bid deadline. The Owner's decision as to the prequalifications shall be final.

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Published by the authority of the City of Shawano, Wisconsin.

BY: Bruce Milavitz, Mayor
Lesley Nemetz, City Clerk
Matt Pleshek, City Engineer

WNAXLP

Best of Wolf River Region

SHAWANO LEADER

2024

Readers Poll

Deadline: January 20, 2025

BEST OF SHAWANO LEADER 2024

BALLOT #1

Best Goods:

☐ Appliances

☐ Carpet/Flooring

☐ Farm and Feed Store

☐ Flower Shop

☐ Furniture/Home Accessories

☐ Grocery Store

☐ Gift Store/Antiques

☐ Hardware

☐ Health Food

☐ Jewelry

☐ Men's Clothing

☐ Women's Clothing

☐ Paint Store

☐ Pet Grooming & Boarding

☐ Plant/Nursery

Best Services:

☐ A/C & Heating

☐ Attorney

☐ Bank

☐ Butcher/Meat Shop

☐ Child Care/Daycare

☐ Chiropractor

☐ Credit Union

☐ Dentist

☐ Electrician

☐ Fitness Center

☐ Gas Station/C-store

☐ Hair Salon/Barber

☐ Insurance Agency

☐ Massage

☐ Pharmacy

☐ Plumber

☐ Real Estate Company

☐ Retirement Community

☐ Travel Agency

☐ Veterinarian

Best of Wolf River Region

SHAWANO LEADER

ENTRY FORM

Name

Address

City State Zip

Phone Email

Clip & Mail Your Ballots To: Shawano Leader Attn: Best Of

No purchase necessary to win. Deadline: January 20, 2025

1464 E. Green Bay St., Shawano WI 54166 e-mail: advertising@newmedia-wi.com

A minimum of 10 categories on ballot must be completed in order for your vote to count to be eligible to win prizes.

Best of Wolf River Region

SHAWANO LEADER

2024

Readers Poll

Deadline: January 20, 2025

BEST OF SHAWANO LEADER 2024

BALLOT #2

Best Thing To Do:

☐ Casino

☐ Cheese Factory

☐ Happy Hour/Night Spot

☐ Hotel/Motel/Resort

☐ Live Music

☐ Museum

☐ Golf Course

☐ Campground

Best Vehicle Services:

☐ ATV Store

☐ Auto Body Repair

☐ Auto Parts/Supply Store

☐ Boat Dealer/Maintenance

☐ Car Dealer

☐ Vehicle Service Center

☐ Car Wash

☐ Tire Store

Best of Wolf River Region

SHAWANO LEADER

ENTRY FORM

Name

Address

City State Zip

Phone Email

Clip & Mail Your Ballots To: Shawano Leader Attn: Best Of

1464 E. Green Bay St., Shawano WI 54166 e-mail: advertising@newmedia-wi.com

Deadline: January 20, 2025

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

COURT NEWS

PUBLIC RECORD

• Dominique J. May, 31, Keshena, pleaded no contest Dec. 30 to two counts of possession of narcotic drugs and misdemeanor bail jumping. Judge Katherine Sloma withheld sentencing and placed her on two years of probation with conditions.

• Latasha M. Teller, 34, Green Bay, pleaded no contest in 2022 for two counts of misappropriating ID information, possession of methamphetamine, four counts of felony bail jumping, misdemeanor bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of operating while revoked and possession of drug paraphernalia. Her probation was revoked Oct. 29, and Judge William Kussel Jr. sentenced her Jan. 2 to one year in county jail.

• Jesse A. Steinke, 40, Shawano, pleaded no contest Aug. 4, 2023, to two counts of possession of methamphetamine and two counts of felony bail jumping. Judge Leon Stenz withheld sentencing Jan. 2 and placed him on three years of probation with conditions.

• Robert M. Cimbalnik, 59, Laona, pleaded no contest Oct. 24 to operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (seventh, eighth, or ninth offense). Kussel sentenced him Jan. 2 to four years in prison followed by five years of extended supervision with conditions.

• Kelsey L. Hofman, 29, Shawano, was charged Dec. 30 with felony retail theft. Sloma set a \$1,500 signature bond and scheduled a status conference for Jan. 28.

• Calvin K. Ossman, 37, Marion, was charged Dec. 30 with three counts of felony bail jumping and three misdemeanor counts of retail theft. Sloma set a \$100 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Jan. 8.

• Jeremy W. Bistoff, 34, Shawano, was charged Dec. 30 with fleeing an officer in his vehicle and a misdemeanor count of possession of THC. Sloma set a \$2,500 signature bond and scheduled a status conference for Jan. 28.

• Tiffany L. Husting, 36, Shawano, was charged Dec. 30 with second-degree recklessly endangering safety, resisting an officer and causing bodily harm, physical abuse of an elder person, battery or threat to a law officer, throwing or discharging bodily fluid at a public safety worker, and a misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct. Sloma set a \$1,000 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for Jan. 21.

• Justine M. Pochel, 40, Green Bay, was charged Jan. 2 with battery or threat to a law officer and misdemeanor counts of resisting or obstructing an officer and disorderly conduct. Sloma set a \$2,500 signature bond and scheduled a status conference for March 3.

• Leonard A. Traut, 36, Wittenberg, was charged Jan. 3 with first-degree recklessly endangering safety, false imprisonment, victim intimidation, battery and disorderly conduct in a domestic abuse incident. Sloma set a \$2,500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Jan. 13.

SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Jan. 5
Deputies responded to 15 incidents, including a probation violation on County Road A in the Town of Bartelme; shoplifting at Dollar General, 411 N. State Highway 22, Cecil; harassment on Lake Drive in the Town of Washington; weapon offense on South Mission Street in Wittenberg; two 911 calls; three reckless driving incidents; one traffic hazard; two welfare checks; two crashes, one involving deer.

Jan. 4
Deputies responded to 25 incidents, including a failure to report to jail at the Huber Work Release Center, 1240 Engel Drive, Shawano; warrant arrest on County Road PP in the Town of Germania; operating without a license on Waukechon Street in Shawano; intoxication on River Drive in the Town of Wescott; six 911 calls; one reckless driving incident; two crashes involving deer.

Jan. 3
Deputies responded to 31 incidents, including a warrant arrest on Stone Avenue in Mattoon; restraining order violation on Old Keshena Road in the Town of Wescott; property theft on Lake Drive in the Town of Hutchins; custodial interference at Dollar General, 413 N. Genesee St., Wittenberg; three 911 calls; five reckless driving incidents; two traffic hazards; two welfare checks; two crashes, one involving deer.

Jan. 2
Deputies responded to 17

incidents, including operating without a license on Waukechon Street in Shawano; sick animal on state Highway 47-55 in the Town of Wescott; sick animal on County Road D in the Town of Pella; two 911 calls; four disabled vehicles; two reckless driving incidents; one welfare check; two crashes, one involving deer and the other involving a pedestrian.

Jan. 1
Deputies responded to 17 incidents, including a warrant attempt on Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; scam on Grass Lake Road in the Town of Belle Plaine; sick animal on Oak Park Circle in the Town of Wescott; threatening on County Road MMM in the Town of Richmond; harassment on state Highway 22 in Cecil; two 911 calls; three welfare checks; one crash.

Dec. 31
Deputies responded to 27 incidents, including four security calls at Shawano County Courthouse, 311 N. Main St., Shawano; farm accident on Bohn Road in the Town of Green Valley; warrant on Trieglaff Road in the Town of Grant; trespassing on Capitol Drive in the Town of Belle Plaine; threatening on Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; intoxication at Mohican North Star Casino Resort, W12180 County Road A in the Town of Bartelme; warrant attempt at Big Time Sports, W6014 Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; one 911 call; one reckless driving incident; two welfare checks; two crashes.

Dec. 30
Deputies responded to 27 incidents, including animal noise on Mosling Road in the Town of Green Valley; warrant on Camp 14 Road in the Town of Bartelme; warrant at Menominee Tribal Jail, W3292 Wolf River Road, Keshena; bad check at Butch's Archery, N2885 Pioneer Road in the Town of Belle Plaine; eviction on Spruce Lane in the Town of Pella; operating without a license on state Highway 117 in the Town of Hartland; two 911 calls; three reckless driving incidents; four welfare checks; two crashes, one involving deer.

SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jan. 5
Officers responded to 21 incidents, including noise on Aspen Court; assault on South Main Street; repossession on West Fifth Street; harassment on South Franklin Street; repossession on South Bartlett Street; warrant arrest at Walmart, 1244 E. Green Bay St.; drugs at an undisclosed location; property theft on East Richmond Street; one 911 call; one traffic hazard; three welfare checks.

01/03, 01/10, 01/17/2025

ORDINANCE NO. 12-24 REAFFIRMING AND, AS MAY BE NECESSARY, AMENDING THE TOWN OF BELLE PLAINE ZONING DISTRICT MAP TO ESTABLISH THAT TAX PARCEL 10332400100 IS ZONED GENERAL AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, since at least 1998, Tax Parcel No. 10332400100 (As shown on Exhibit 1 attached) has been zoned General Agricultural District under the Town of Belle Plaine Zoning Ordinance (As shown on Exhibit 2, Town of Belle Plaine Zoning map 1998); and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the Town of Belle Plaine, with the assistance of Shawano County, sought to update and amend the Town of Belle Plaine Comprehensive Plan as required under state statutes, and to update and amend the Town of Belle Plaine Zoning Map as directed by the Town; and

WHEREAS, Shawano County prepared a proposed updated and amended Zoning Map dated June 8, 2022 (As shown on Exhibit 3 attached) which depicted Tax Parcel 10332400100 as zoned Residential District which was not directed by the Town and made in error; and

WHEREAS, because the proposed zoning map was in error the Town Board of the Town of Belle Plaine DID NOT adopt an ordinance to amend the Town Zoning Map showing a zoning change for Tax Parcel 10332400100 from General Agriculture District to Residential District and DID NOT provide any public notice or conduct any public hearing as required by state statute and did not intend to do so; and

WHEREAS, because no action was taken by the Town Board to adopt the proposed Zoning Map amendment showing Tax Parcel 10332400100 as Residential District, the Town considers Tax Parcel 10332400100 to be zoned General Agricultural District; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Belle Plaine deems General Agriculture District an appropriate district designation for Tax Parcel 10332400100 for the following reasons: Its irregular shape as an abandoned railroad right-of-way; its limited access for residential use; its use as a snowmobile trail; and its forest cover (as shown on Exhibits 4 & 5); and

WHEREAS, the Town of Belle Plaine Zoning Committee, after public notice and public hearing considered the reaffirmation and, as may be necessary, amendment of the Town of Belle Plaine Zoning District Map to designate Tax Parcel 10332400100 in its entirety including parcel driveways as General Agricultural District and recommended its approval. (The designation does not include the Round Lake access along the North line of Lot 4, CSM 2292 which shall be deemed Residential District).

NOW THEREFORE, THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF BELLE PLAINE DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

- The designation of Tax Parcel 10332400100 in its entirety including parcel driveways as General Agricultural District is hereby reaffirmed. (The designation does not include the Round Lake access along the North line of Lot 4, CSM 2292 which shall be deemed Residential District).
- In the event it is necessary, the Town of Belle Plaine does hereby amend its Plan and Zoning Map to designate Tax Parcel 10332400100 in its entirety including parcel driveways as General Agricultural District as shown on Exhibit 6. (The designation does not include the Round Lake access along the North line of Lot 4, CSM 2292 which shall be deemed Residential District).
- This Ordinance shall take effect upon publication.

Adopted this 21st day of December, 2024.

ATTEST:
Kristine Vomastic, Clerk

Alvin Bartz, Town Chair

Ayes: 3 Nays: 0
WNAXLP

Best of Wolf River Region

SHAWANO LEADER

BEST OF SHAWANO LEADER

2024

Readers Poll

Deadline: January 20, 2025

BALLOT #3

Best Food/Dining:

☐ Bakery

☐ Bar

☐ Breakfast

☐ Burger

☐ Coffee House

☐ Dessert

☐ Dinner

☐ Family Restaurant

☐ Fast Food

☐ Fish Fry

☐ Ice Cream

☐ International

☐ Lunch

☐ Pizza

☐ Sandwich

Best of Wolf River Region

SHAWANO LEADER

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Attn: Best Of

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Deadline: January 20, 2025

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Bacardi Rum
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Cinnamon Whiskey
Original or Orange
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Canadian Whiskey
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7 Crown Whiskey

\$18⁹⁹ 750 ml.
\$20⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.
\$21⁹⁹ ltr.
\$18⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.
\$42⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.
\$14⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.
\$18⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.



Handmade Tito's Vodka

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Windsor Canadian Whiskey

\$13⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.



Tangerey London Dry Gin

\$29⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.



Paul Masson Grande Amber Brandy

\$14⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.



Captain Morgan Spiced Rum

\$25⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.



Doctor McGillicuddy's Schnapps

\$18⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.



Coconut, Spiced or Cherry Spiced Admiral Nelson Rum

\$11⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.



Canadian Club Whiskey

\$16⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.



Canadian Mist Whiskey

\$15⁴⁹ 1.75 ltr.



Early Times Whiskey

\$16⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.



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Rich & Mellow Korbel Brandy

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Kettle One Vodka

\$33⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.



Light McAdam's Whiskey

\$13⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.



Svedka Swedish Vodka

\$16⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.



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High Noon Vodka Seltzers

\$16⁹⁹ 8 pk.



Bombay Blue Sapphire London Dry Gin

\$32⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.



Dewar's White Label Scotch Whiskey

\$29⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.



Evan William's Bourbon Whiskey

\$22⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.



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\$46⁹⁹ 1.75 ltr.



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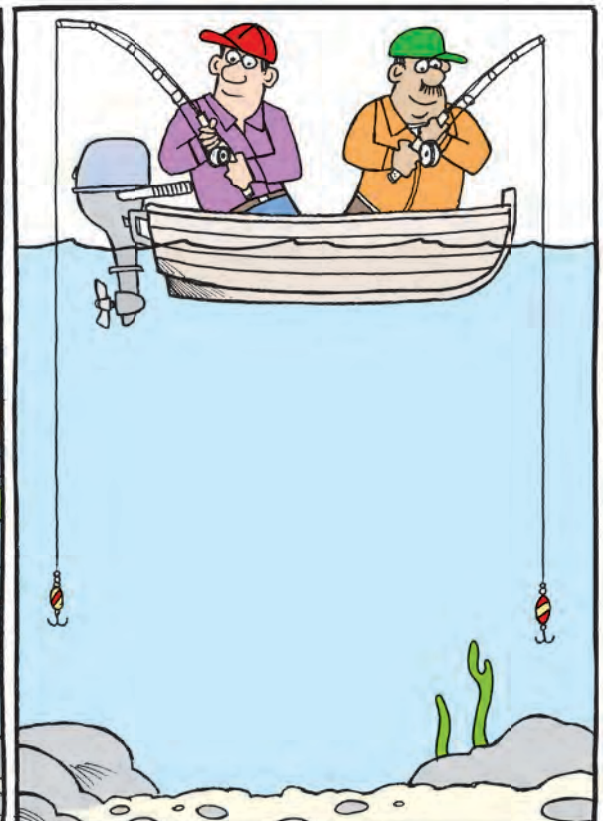
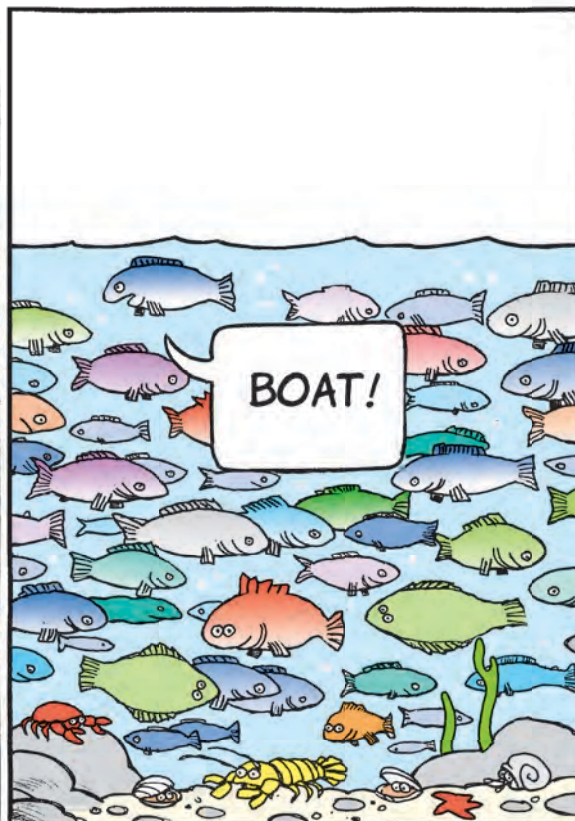
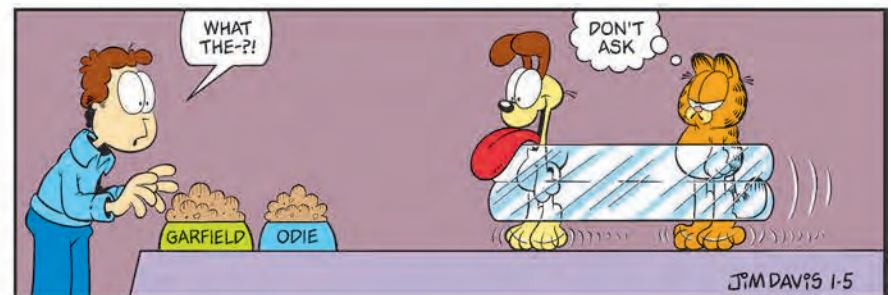
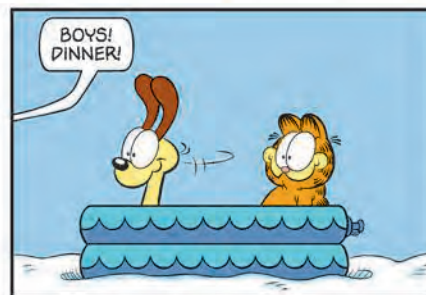
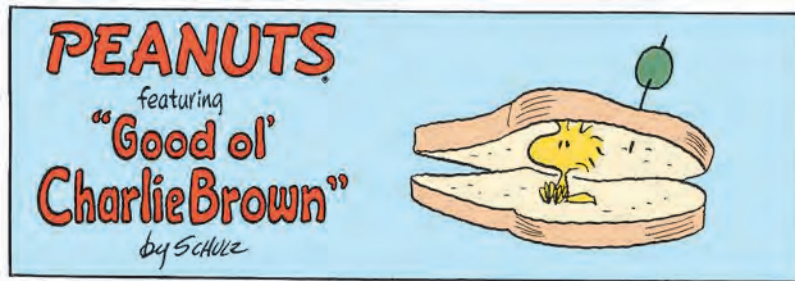
Prices Effective Friday, January 10 through Thursday, January 16, 2025

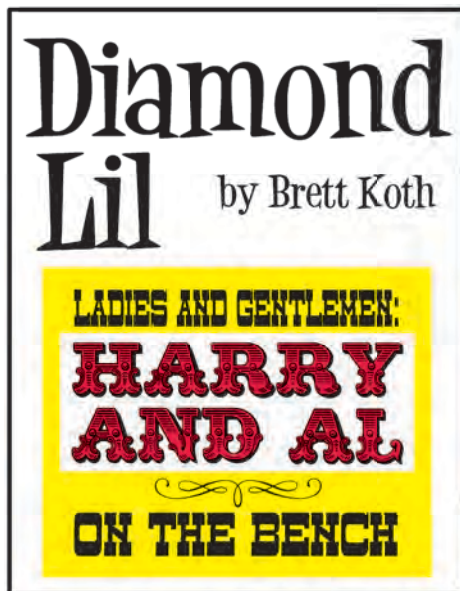
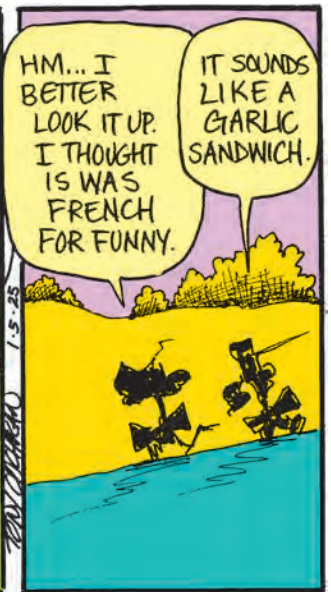
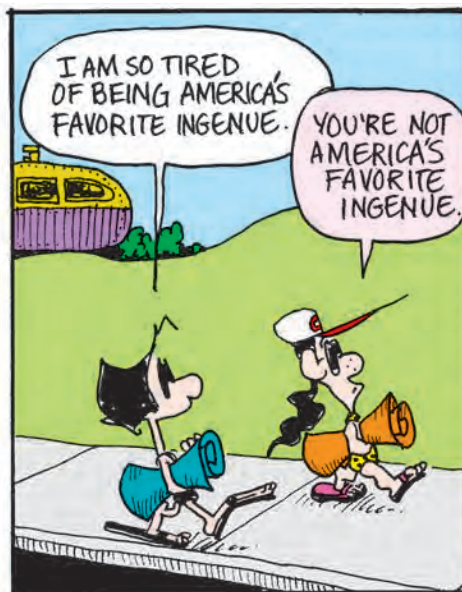
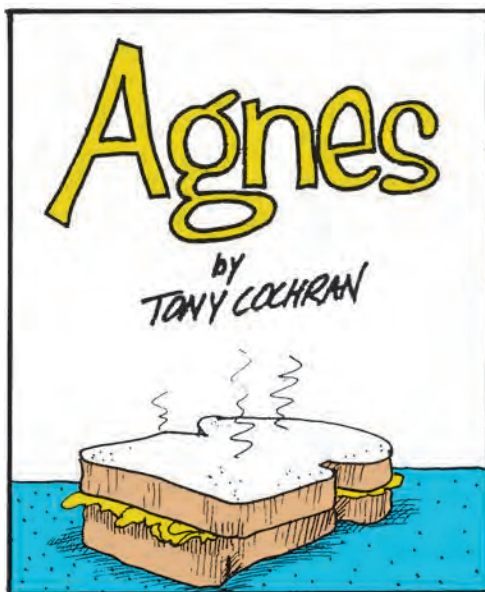
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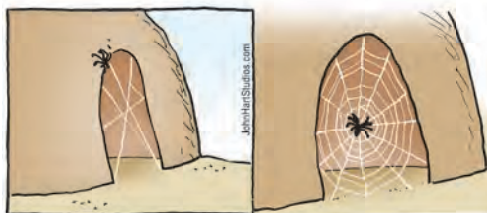
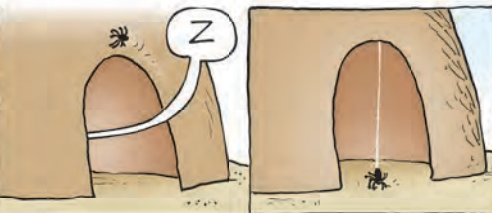
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COLD REALITY

PACKERS LOSE STEAM IN SECOND STRAIGHT LOSS HEADING INTO PLAYOFFS

BY LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

Packers star players Jordan Love and Christian Watson were forced out of the game with injuries, as Chicago Bears kicker Cairo Santos nailed a 51-yard field goal to win 24-22 in Green Bay on Jan. 5.

In the middle of the second quarter, Love went down with an apparent injury to his throwing arm, which forced him out of the game and allowed Malik Willis to see extended time. It seems that Love avoided a major injury though, indicating that his elbow was hit and his arm went numb.

“By the time that I can start feeling my hand, I would definitely be trying to get back out there,” said Love, on if he would have gone back in if this was a do-or-die game. “I think it just comes down to if I can throw or not — grip the ball, things like that. So once some feeling starts coming back, I would try to push it for sure.”

Both Love and Packers head coach Matt LaFleur indicated that Love should be ready to go in Green Bay’s wild card playoff matchup against the Philadelphia Eagles on Jan. 12.

The same might not be able to be said about Watson though. A few plays before Love was forced out of the game, Watson went down with an apparent non-contact knee injury after running a deep route on the right side of the field. Since Watson was drafted in 2022, he has suffered nu-

merous injuries, including an ankle sprain and a knee bruise this season.

Finding itself down 21-13 with six minutes left in the fourth quarter, Willis led a four play, 51-yard drive that culminated in a 21-yard rushing touchdown from Emanuel Wilson to cut Chicago’s lead to two. During the drive, Willis injured the thumb on his throwing hand. That injury played a part in Green Bay’s two-point attempt as the football came out of Willis’ hand in an awkward manner resulting in the PAT failing.

On Chicago’s ensuing drive, wide receiver D.J. Moore caught a pass at the line of scrimmage, but was hit immediately by Packers defensive back Carrington Valentine and fumbled the football. Fellow defensive back Javon Bullard recovered the fumble, and Green Bay was set up at the Bears’ 43-yard line.

Three plays later, Green Bay faced a fourth-and-4 from the Bears’ 37-yard line. With 58 seconds left in the game, as opposed to running the game clock down, LaFleur called a timeout and sent the kicking unit out. Packers kicker Brandon McManus converted the 55-yard attempt to give Green Bay a 22-21 lead.

With 48 seconds remaining in the game, Green Bay linebacker Kingsley Enagbare immediately sacked Bears quarterback Caleb Williams, but was called for a 15-yard penalty due to a horse collar tackle. Williams then completed a



15-yard pass to wide receiver Rome Odunze, before scrambling for four yards. A Chicago illegal shift later, the Bears were set up with a third-and-11 from its own 49-yard line. With Green Bay playing a deep three deep coverage, Williams connected with Moore for 18 yards to set up the game winning attempt.

“At the end of the game, that is squarely on me — just got caught in a situation where we planned on going for it and they felt like (McManus) could make that field goal,” said LaFleur, on why he took the timeout before the field goal attempt. “Hindsight is 20/20. I wish I would not have taken the timeout, because it gave them obviously way too much time to go down and operate. Like I told the team, that is on me and that can’t happen.”

Top left, wide receiver Jayden Reed had a big catch but also a big fumble against the Bears. Above, Green Bay head coach Matt LaFleur said after the loss to Chicago that he wished he had not taken a timeout before Brandon McManus’ go-ahead field goal. Doing so gave the Bears enough time to drive down the field for their own go-ahead and winning field goal. Below, wide receiver Christian Watson went down with a no-contact knee injury that could see him miss the playoff game against the Eagles on Jan. 12. Mistakes and injuries need to be avoided if the Packers hope to beat Philadelphia in the opening round of the playoffs.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS



WEEK 18/OFFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 22 VS. BEARS 24



Tight end Tucker Kraft caught four balls for 36 yards against the Bears, including this catch for 20 yards. In the regular season, Kraft caught 50 balls for 707 yards for a 14.1 yards per catch average. He also hauled in seven touchdowns and had a long reception of 67 yards.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

GOING UP FOR THE CATCH

KRAFT HAULS IN 4 CATCHES FOR 36 YARDS AGAINST THE BEARS



MENOMINEE

CASINO RESORT

Packers face uphill battle against Eagles

BY JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

The Green Bay Packers will travel to Philadelphia to take on the Eagles in the opening Wild Card Round of the NFL playoffs.

Here are the keys to the Packers coming out on top.

Defense vs. Saquon Barkley

The Green Bay Packers can change the coordinators. They can change personnel.

One thing has remained the same during Matt LaFleur's tenure as head coach.

They stunk against opposing run games.

That was true, of course, until this year.

The Packers run defense is actually the strength of that side of the ball.

They were excellent for most of the year, and even good against Barkley the first time these two teams

met.

Yes, Barkley went over 100 yards, but he had to earn every yard on his way to his 105 yards and two touchdowns on that night in Brazil.

Green Bay's coming off a strong finish to the season where they slowed down Aaron Jones and Chicago's run game to close out the year.

The task this week, however, is admittedly pretty different.

Philadelphia's offensive line is right up there with the Detroit Lions as far as the best in the NFL.

Lane Johnson might be the best player at his position.

Landon Dickerson and Mekhi Becton combine for a punishing tandem at both guard spots.

Behind the great wall of Philadelphia is the NFL's best running back this season, Saquon Barkley.

Barkley may have broken the NFL's rushing

record in a single season held by Eric Dickerson had he been asked to play in Sunday's win over the New York Giants.

Instead, the Eagles rested their starters to gear up for what they hope to be a long postseason run.

Barkley will surely be leaned on as the Eagles look to establish the line of scrimmage against a Packers team that played all their guys in a physical battle against the Chicago Bears.

Packers/Eagles vs. Momentum.

Is momentum real? I suppose that depends on who you ask.

This week's game is a tale of two teams headed in opposite directions as the playoffs get underway.

The Eagles are winners of 11 of their last 12 games. The Packers have lost their last two against division rivals in disappointing fashion.

The Eagles rested their

starters in the final week of the season and could come out of the gates firing with fresh legs.

As LaFleur said earlier this week, the only philosophy that matters is the one that works.

LaFleur played his starters in a game that was largely meaningless outside of playing for seeding against the Chicago Bears.

The results were disastrous.

Christian Watson was injured and likely will not be able to play in this week's game. The question is less so whether he can play this weekend and rather when he will be able to play in 2025.

Jordan Love also exited Sunday's game with an elbow injury. He later said he would have been doing everything to back in if it were a win-or-go home scenario.

He did not say, however, that he could have gone back in. Those are

two different things.

How healthy is Green Bay's quarterback?

How healthy is the psyche in Green Bay after losing their last two games? Are they a defeated team, or can they flip the switch?

Passing game vs. Eagles' young secondary

Coming into the first game of the regular season the thought was that this might be Green Bay's biggest advantage. The Packers' passing game was entering its second full season together.

Love is established as the quarterback of the future, and all of his weapons were back around him.

That will not be true. Christian Watson will not be available on Sunday.

Romeo Doubs missed Sunday's game with an illness but should be good to go.

They have everyone except for their most explosive playmaker.

That could be a problem against the Eagles, who boast one of the best defenses in football.

Their nickel package of Cooper DeJean, Quinyon Mitchell and Darius Slay is one of the most talented trios in all of football.

The Eagles complement that well with a pass rush that is not as lethal as the group they had two years ago but still very good.

At some point, Green Bay's passing game is going to need to make some plays down the field.

GREEN BAY PACKERS AT PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

TIME AND DATE: 3:30 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 12

LOCATION: Lincoln Financial Field

TV: Fox

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

2024 RECORDS: Packers, 11-6, Eagles 4-3.

HISTORY: The Eagles and Packers have played each other 46 times, which includes three postseason meetings as well.

The most recent meeting in the postseason came in 2010 when a Tramon Williams interception preserved a 21-16 Packers victory in a

season that would see them win the Super Bowl.

Their last meeting in the regular season came in this year's season opener. The Packers and Eagles faced off in Brazil.

Jordan Love threw two touchdown passes, including a 70-yarder to Jayden Reed. Xavier McKinney and Devonte Wyatt made splash plays early on defense, but the Packers made too many mistakes, and Saquon Barkley scored three touchdowns in what would become an MVP caliber season for the Eagles' talented running back.

COACHES: Packers — Matt LaFleur (sixth season, 67-33). Eagles — Nick Sirianni (fourth season, 45-20).

PACKERS SCHEDULE

Friday, Sept. 6 at Philadel-

phia, L 29-34

Sunday, Sept. 15 vs. Indianapolis W 16-10

Sunday, Sept. 22 at Tennessee W 30-14

Sunday, Sept. 29 vs. Minnesota L 29-31

Sunday, Oct. 6 at LA Rams 3:25 p.m. W 24-19

Sunday, Oct. 13 vs. Arizona W 34-13

Sunday, Oct. 20 vs. Houston W 24-22

Sunday, Oct. 27 at Jacksonville W 30-27

Sunday, Nov. 3 vs. Detroit L 14-24

Week 10 BYE

Sunday, Nov. 17 at Chicago W 20-19

Sunday, Nov. 24 vs. San Francisco W 38-10

Thursday, Nov. 28 vs. Miami W 30-17

Thursday, Dec. 5 at De-

troit L 34-31

Sunday, Dec. 15 at Seattle W 30-13

Monday, Dec. 23 vs. New Orleans W 34-0

Sunday, Dec. 29, at Minnesota, L 27-25

Sunday, Jan. 5, vs. Chicago, L 24-22

NFL SCHEDULE

Wild Card Round

Saturday, Jan. 11

LA Chargers at Houston, 3:30 p.m.

Pittsburgh at Baltimore, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 12

Denver at Buffalo, Noon

Green Bay at Philadelphia, 3:30 p.m.

Washington at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 13

Minnesota at LA Rams, 7 p.m.



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My favorite Green Bay Packer memories

"For the Packer games a family member will usually come over and we order a pizza and watch the game together!"

Dorothy Martin
Golden Pond Tenant





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2024-25

Playoffs - Wild Card Round
Sat., Jan. 11, Sun., Jan. 12 & Mon. Jan. 13

Teams on Bye: Detroit & Kansas City

Denver @ Buffalo
LA Chargers @ Houston
Pittsburgh @ Baltimore
Washington @ Tampa Bay
Minnesota @ LA Rams

Tie Breaker Game:
Green Bay @ Philadelphia

2024 Beat the Expert Champion:
Mike Worachek
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Weekly Standings	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Tim Murphy, NEW Media	3-2	69-21
Mike Worachek, Card & Coin	3-2	65-25
Matt/Rory, Buss Automotive	3-2	64-26
Luke Reimer, NEW Media	4-1	63-27
Jacob Westendorf, NEW Media	4-1	62-28
Tanya Hintz, Shawano Health	3-2	58-32
Staff, Walsh Dental	3-2	56-34
Kevin Passon, NEW Media	2-3	56-34
Elaine Arneson, The Cottages at Meadowlands	1-4	54-36
Rita Kristof, The Cottages on Golden Pond	2-3	52-38
Staff, Iverson's Piggly Wiggly	3-2	50-40



This Week's Picks:
Buffalo
Houston
Baltimore
Washington
Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Green Bay 34 @ Philadelphia 28

Week 18 Winner:
Jacob Westendorf
NEW Media



This Week's Picks:
Buffalo
LA Chargers
Baltimore
Tampa Bay
LA Rams

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Green Bay 34 @ Philadelphia 28



This Week's Picks:
Buffalo
LA Chargers
Baltimore
Washington
LA Rams

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Green Bay 28 @ Philadelphia 27



This Week's Picks:
Denver
LA Chargers
Baltimore
Washington
Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Philadelphia 14



This Week's Picks:
Denver
Houston
Pittsburgh
Tampa Bay
Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Green Bay 30 @ Philadelphia 24



This Week's Picks:
Buffalo
LA Chargers
Baltimore
Washington
Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Green Bay 17 @ Philadelphia 27



This Week's Picks:
Buffalo
LA Chargers
Baltimore
Washington
Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Philadelphia 21



This Week's Picks:
Buffalo
LA Chargers
Baltimore
Tampa Bay
Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Philadelphia 23



This Week's Picks:
Buffalo
LA Chargers
Baltimore
Tampa Bay
LA Rams

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score : Green Bay 24 @ Philadelphia 31



This Week's Picks:
Buffalo
LA Chargers
Baltimore
Tampa Bay
Minnesota

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Green Bay 10 @ Philadelphia 35



This Week's Picks:
Buffalo
LA Chargers
Baltimore
Washington
LA Rams

Tie Breaker Game:
Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Philadelphia 27

WEEK 18/OFFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 22 vs. BEARS 24



Running back Chris Brooks broke one open for 23 yards, his longest run of the season, against the Bears on Jan. 5. For the day, Brooks carried the ball eight times for 59 yards. For the season, Brooks played in 15 games and had 36 carries for 183 yards and one touchdown.

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BROOKS SEES PLENTY OF ACTION

RUNNING BACK COLLECTS 59 YARDS ON 8 CARRIES

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GREEN BAY
PACKERS

2 Malik Willis.....QB

7 Quay Walker.....LB

8 Josh Jacobs.....RB

9 Christian Watson.....WR

10 Jordan Love.....QB

11 Jayden Reed.....WR

13 Dontayvion Wicks.....WR

17 Brandon Mcmanus.....K

18 Malik Heath.....WR

19 Daniel Whelan.....P

20 Javon Bullard.....S

21 Eric Stokes.....CB

22 Robert Rochell.....CB

24 Carrington Valentine..CB

25 Keisean Nixon.....CB

26 Corey Ballentine.....CB

27 Kitan Oladapo.....S

29 Xavier McKinney.....S

30 Chris Brooks.....RB

31 Emanuel Wilson.....RB

33 Evan Williams.....S

39 Zayne Anderson.....S

42 Matt Orzech.....LS

45 Eric Wilson.....LB

50 Zach Tom.....OL

52 Rashan Gary.....DL

53 Arron Mosby.....DL

55 Kingsley Enagbare.....DL

56 Edgerrin Cooper.....LB

57 Brenton Cox Jr.....DL

58 Isaiah McDuffie.....LB

59 Ty'Ron Hopper.....LB

62 Jacob Monk.....C/G

63 Rasheed Walker.....T

71 Josh Myers.....C/G

73 Andre Dillard.....T

74 Elgton Jenkins.....G/T

75 Sean Ryan.....G

76 Kadeem Telfort.....T

79 Travis Glover.....T

80 Bo Melton.....WR

85 Tucker Kraft.....TE

86 John FitzPatrick.....TE

87 Romeo Doubs.....WR

88 Luke Musgrave.....TE

89 Ben Sims.....TE

90 Lukas Van Ness.....DL

93 T.J. Slaton.....DL

94 Karl Brooks.....DL

95 Devonte Wyatt.....DL

96 Colby Wooden.....DL

97 Kenny Clark.....DL



PHILADELPHIA
EAGLES

0 Bryce Huff.....DE

1 Jalen Hurtz.....QB

2 Darius Slay Jr.....CB

3 Nolan Smith Jr.....OLB

4 Jake Elliott.....K

6 DeVonta Smith.....WR

7 Kenny Pickett.....QB

8 C.J. Gardner-Johnson....S

10 Braden Mann.....P

11 A.J. Brown.....WR

13 Ian Book.....QB

14 Kenneth Gainwell.....RB

16 Tanner McKee.....QB

17 Nakobe Dean.....LB

19 Josh Sweat.....OLB

21 Sydney Brown.....S

22 Kelee Ringo.....CB

23 Eli Ricks.....CB

26 Saquon Barkley.....RB

27 Quinyon Mitchell.....CB

28 Will Shipley.....RB

29 Avonte Maddox.....CB

32 Reed Blankenship.....S

33 Cooper DeJean.....DB

34 Isaiah Rodgers.....CB

36 Tristin McCollum.....S

42 Oren Burks.....LB

49 Rick Lovato.....LS

51 Cam Jurgens.....C/G

53 Zack Braun.....LB

54 Jeremiah Trotter Jr.....LB

56 Tyler Steen.....OL

58 Jalyx Hunt.....OLB

59 Thomas Booker IV.....DT

61 Nick Gates.....OL

65 Lane Johnson.....T

68 Jordan Mailata.....T

69 Landon Dickerson.....G

72 Darian Kinnard.....T/G

74 Fred Johnson.....T

75 Jack Driscoll.....OL

77 Mekhi Becton.....G/T

79 Trevor Keegan.....G

81 Grant Calcaterra.....TE

82 Ainius Smith.....WR

83 Jahan Dotson.....WR

84 E.J. Jenkins.....TE

88 Dallas Goedert.....TE

89 Johnny Wilson.....WR

90 Jordan Davis.....DT

93 Milton Williams.....DT

97 Moro Ojomo.....DT

98 Jalen Carter.....DT

=MIKE'S=

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WEEK 18/DEFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 22 vs. BEARS 24



Quarterback Caleb Williams runs with the ball while being chased by linebacker Edgerrin Cooper on Jan. 5 at Lambeau Field. Safety Xavier McKinney posted his eighth interception of the season, the most by a Packer since CB Charles Woodson in 2009. Also, safety Javon Bullard registered the first fumble recovery of his NFL career.

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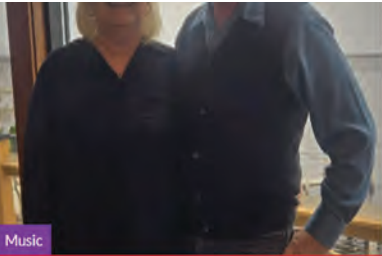
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Music

JAN 11

BAMM LIVE AT PRIMAL EATS

Sat, Jan 11, 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm

WEEK 18/OFFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 22 VS. BEARS 24



Running back Josh Jacobs set a franchise record by posting a rushing touchdown in his eighth consecutive game. It also ties the franchise mark (WR Davante Adams, 2020) for the most consecutive games (eight) with a TD. Jacobs became just the fourth player in team history to clear the 1,300-yard rushing mark (Ahman Green, 2001 and 2003; Jim Taylor, 1961 and 1962; Dorsey Levens, 1997). His 1,329 yards on the season rank No. 5 in single-season team history. Jacobs finished the season with 15 rushing TDs (tied for No. 3 in team history), 16 total TDs (tied for No. 7) and 1,671 yards from scrimmage (No. 6).

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RECORD-SETTING RUN

JACBOS SCORES TOUCHDOWN IN EIGHTH CONSECUTIVE GAME

