

Wittenberg closes first TID under distress

Swiderski housing project on hold but not abandoned

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

The Wittenberg Village Board voted unanimously April 16 to close its first tax incremental finance district early to make room for forming a fourth district in the village this year.

The first TID encompassed the Marshfield Clinic, Nueske's and the Northcentral Technical College building, according to Village Clerk Traci Matsche.

According to consultant Harry Allen, the TID is being closed for two reasons. The district is distressed, which means there's more expense than revenue coming in for that district, and that district is past its expenditure period.

"With it being distressed, it actually has to close as soon as it has recovered all of its project costs," Allen said. "Even if you wanted to, you can't add any new costs. It really has to close once it has recovered its negative fund balance."

Allen added that the village will still receive one more payment from the TID because of the timing of the closure. To make the first TID solvent, the village recently amended its third TID to take some of the funds from that district to get the first TID out of the red.

"Even with the collection next year, the district would not have recovered its full fund position, so TID 3 was amended so that it can transfer excess dollars into TID 1 so we can close this out with a zero-dollar balance so there's no impact to the village's bottom line," Allen said.

Village President William Switalla noted that the fourth TID has not been established yet because there is a slow-down on a housing project planned by S.C. Swiderski in the village.

Board member David Timm said there was a clause in the Swiderski contract that it could stop the project if interest rates went over 7%, and Matsche confirmed that interest rates had jumped up.

"The last we heard, though, we were still number one for getting the project

TID, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Brandi Redbird, a Hoocak Academy instructor based in Wisconsin Rapids, demonstrates how the new language app works on her smartphone April 17 at the Siga Funmaker Community Center in Wittenberg.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

Ho-Chunk develop language app for its tribal members

Hoocak Academy provides learning at individual's own pace to revive native tongue

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

There's an app for almost anything these days, but a new one is expected to revive an important aspect of the Ho-Chunk Nation — its language.

The tribe has operated its Hoocak Academy since 2001, offering it in many places where there are Ho-Chunk reservations to teach a nearly lost language. However, it is not presently offered in the Wittenberg and Birnamwood schools.

Now, even without offering the Hoocak language in the area schools, the Ho-Chunk have developed a phone app that allows tribal members and anyone else seeking to learn the language to do so on their own time and at their own pace. Instructors at the Hoocak Academy introduced the app to Ho-Chunk tribal members living in Wittenberg on April 17 at the Siga Funmaker Community Center.

Brandi Redbird, who teaches Hoocak at

the high school level in Wisconsin Rapids, said the app is the culmination of an effort facilitated through a three-year federal grant with the Language Conservancy. The nonprofit organization has worked with the Lakota and Crow tribes, among many others, to get their people to speak their native tongue again. The hope is to help reverse decades of damage caused when the United States, in the 19th and 20th centuries, forced tribes to assimilate and become part of an English-speaking culture.

"We hope that everyone who wants to learn Ho-Chunk will make good use of this app, whether you're currently enrolled in a class like our 'Pathways: Bringing Ho-Chunk Home,'" Redbird said to a group of about 20 tribal members. "Whenever you have some free time, you can use this app to study. We also hope you'll tell your friends and family about it to get them to study when they have some free time, as well. We're all learning, and

we're all in this together."

There are currently about 20 units in the app, simple lessons with the language being spoken in both male and female voices. Redbird said there are plans for another 20 units to be installed in the coming months.

Redbird noted that the app is the next step in a process that taken over 20 years as she and other Ho-Chunk are trying to reclaim the elements that make up the tribal heritage.

"We have these online classes and high school courses, but not everybody can take these classes. It doesn't fit into their schedule," Redbird said. "With this app, it's more free. If somebody has free time, they don't have to be constricted by a schedule. Some people are just so busy that sometimes they can't take a look at something like this until just before bed. This gives them the freedom to do that."

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WBHS students see documentary on Vietnam war hero.

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Penny Smart, a Ho-Chunk tribal member in the Wittenberg area, practices using the new Hoocak language app on a tablet during the app's unveiling April 17 at the Siga Funmaker Community Center. LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

HOOCAC, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Cameron White Eagle, another instructor with the Hoocak Academy based in Nekoosa, noted that the app was put together through the help of the tribe’s eminent speakers, respected members of the community who give one-on-one instruction to the language apprentices who become the teachers of the language. White Eagle is one of those apprentices who has spent the last two years helping to teach the language.

“We could not have done any of this without them, including the work they put in for our first lexicons, our first translation stories, songs and other works,” White Eagle said.

White Eagle noted that even though the elder eminent speakers are a resource that keep the program going, it’s the Ho-Chunk youth who are destined to keep the Hoocak language from being lost.

“The best part of this whole process was seeing

the youth sitting side-by-side with their eminent seniors to record the Ho-Chunk language that you will hear on this app,” White Eagle said.

Redbird didn’t know how many Ho-Chunk tribal members are able to speak their language but pointed out that it was a low count, which makes it all the more important for the nation to encourage reembracing what makes them Ho-Chunk through options like the app.

“We have to do these proactive things,” Redbird said. “Otherwise, we’re going to lose our language.”

White Eagle noted that he hasn’t found anyone who is “fluent” in the language, but he believes the app will help get more people interested in learning Hoocak and open up further options for the academy to expand.

“It’ll make our jobs more interesting and fun,” White Eagle said. “My goal is to be able to assist them with that instead of sitting in a

room and asking, ‘OK, what would you like to learn?’ and everybody’s twiddling their thumbs. Now we have something.”

White Eagle noted that the coronavirus pandemic triggered the need for something independent to teach Hoocak, as classes were limited to online. With internet access spotty in many rural areas, it meant coming up with an option that could allow learning to continue even if society went into another lockdown.

“Some people still don’t feel safe masking up and going places, due to illness. There are some people who aren’t people people and say, ‘I don’t want to go out,’” White Eagle said. “This way, you can do this on your own at home, and if you have a question, you can email me (through the app), and I can answer the best I can, and if I can’t, I will find you an answer.”

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TID, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

as soon as the interest rates drop below 7%,” Timm said.

Matsche added that Swiderski’s engineers are still working on the Wittenberg housing, in spite

of the building delay. “They wouldn’t be doing all that if they were going to back out,” Matsche said.

Allen pointed out that having the taxes from

the first TID’s businesses will increase the village levy, which means that village tax rates should drop.

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Shawano Woman's Club fashion show coming in May

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

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

Spring and summer fashions will be modeled

during the event, with fashions provided by Dreier’s Boutique, Ultimate Closet, B&H Fashionwear and Thornberry Cottage.

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

Tickets are \$35 and must be purchased in ad-

vance, by calling 715-570-0531 before April 30.

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

NTC offers Pasture to Plate Butchery Certificate

Northcentral Technical College has announced an innovative, fully farm-integrated Pasture to Plate Butchery program, positioning NTC to educate the next generation of meat processors for the state.

This new program, complete with a 1,300 square foot cold lab, underscores NTC’s commitment to providing cutting-edge training that meets the evolving needs of the agricultural and culinary industries.

“We are thrilled to introduce our Pasture to Plate Butchery program as an extension of our Culinary Arts education on campus,” said Culinary Arts Faculty Chef Travis Teska. “As the demand for locally sourced, high-quality meats continues to grow, NTC is leading the way in preparing skilled professionals who can meet this demand while promoting ethical and sustainable practices.”

The Pasture to Plate Butchery Certificate is designed to equip students with comprehensive knowledge and hands-on experience in every aspect of the meat production process, from sourcing livestock to humane harvest to preparing cuts

for consumption to retail sales. Through a combination of classroom instruction, practical training and field experiences, students will gain proficiency in humane handling and slaughter under inspection, meat processing, sausage making, HACCP principles and butcher shop marketing and management skills.

“With programs like this in the state, hopefully we will never find ourselves in the position we found ourselves during the pandemic with not enough meat production to harvest and process animals which resulted in meat animals being killed without being used,” said Chef Jon Reinke, NTC culinary arts faculty.

The program curriculum covers a wide range of topics, including:

- Animal anatomy and physiology
- Livestock selection and breeding
- Humane handling and welfare
- Meat fabrication and utilization
- Sanitation and HACCP principles
- Marketing and entrepreneurship in the meat industry

A key feature of the program is its emphasis

on farm-to-table principles, which ensures that students understand the entire supply chain and can make informed decisions at every stage of meat production. Through partnerships with local farmers and NTC’s Agriculture Center of Excellence, students will have the opportunity to engage directly with livestock operations and gain real-world insights into sustainable agriculture practices.

“As a leading provider of workforce development programs, NTC is committed to preparing graduates who are not only skilled but also socially responsible stewards of the land,” said Teska. “The Pasture to Plate Butchery program exemplifies our dedication to equipping students with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in the modern meat industry while upholding the highest standards of ethics and sustainability.”

Applications are currently being accepted for the Pasture to Plate Butchery Certificate for the upcoming academic year. Tuition may be partially or fully reimbursed by State grants. For more information or to apply, visit www.ntc.edu/pasture-plate-butchery.

Registration open for summer conservation camps

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

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

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

The High School Conservation Camp is located at the North Lakeland Dis-

covery Center (NLDC), a nature-based education and community center in Manitowish Waters. The diverse, undeveloped land surrounding NLDC provides a teaching environment including a lake, river, mixed forest and bog. Students will participate in a local conservation project and in outdoor activities like fishing and canoeing.

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

To ensure these transformative experiences are accessible to all, WI Land+Water has worked to establish scholarship opportunities. The Brad Matson Memorial Conservation

Camp Scholarship, named in honor of a passionate supporter of youth conservation programs, can provide funding for students who may not otherwise have the chance to attend a summer camp.

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

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

- Middle School Camp: June 9-12, Upham Woods, for students entering grades 6-8.

- High School Camp: June 17-20, North Lakeland Discovery Center, students entering grades 9-12.

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

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Documentary shows Vietnam pilot's heroism

WBHS students learn about how late Scott Alwin served his country

BY LEE PULASKI
City Editor

Capt. Scott Alwin has the distinction of being the pilot awarded the most Combat Air Medals out of any branch of the U.S. Armed Services. Official records show 136, while his battalion records indicate that number is 207.

The eldest son out of 16 siblings, Alwin started out his service in the U.S. Air Force, but the continued conflict in Vietnam prompted him to enlist in the U.S. Army to fly helicopters. He served in the 68th Assault Helicopter Company for five tours of duty from 1967-72 in Vietnam.

Despite several crashes, Alwin returned home from war and started a family, but his life was cut short at age 31 when he was driving from Fort Benning to Washington, D.C., for meetings at the new War College and struck down by a suicidal drunk driver.

Alwin's life and career in the military are front and center in the documentary "Honor in the Air." Much of the documentary was shown April 18 to students at Wittenberg-Birnawood High School, with two of Alwin's sisters speaking to provide some context on their brother's heroism.

"We were preacher's kids," Pamela Fullerton said about her big family. "That meant we didn't get to swear, we didn't get to curse, but you're not going to believe this — your



Penny Alwin, left, and Pamela Fullerton stand April 18 with photos of their brother, the late Capt. Scott Alwin, in the auditorium of Wittenberg-Birnawood High School following a screening of the documentary "Honor in the Air," which Fullerton helped produce to tell the story of the U.S. Army pilot and his time in Vietnam.

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principal caught me saying 'hell' and 'damn it' a little while ago."

Alwin himself adhered to being a preacher's son, not using foul language or consuming alcohol in his life, said Fullerton, who was a producer for the documentary.

"We're here to tell you a story today, and the thing about this story, is that it could belong to any of you," she said. "You many not have 15 brothers and sisters, and you may not be a preacher's kid, but if you want to be a hero like Scott, all that is necessary is that you dedicate yourself to serving other people and loving your country."

Fullerton recounted how Alwin, as a child, always enjoyed taking his younger siblings on "great adventures" like rafting down a river that occasion-

ally came close to doing her in.

"He didn't seem to mind that I was being put in danger," Fullerton said. "I never quite understood that."

Much of Alwin's story was not known to his siblings until recently, and a lot of it came from others who served with him in Vietnam. The family knew that Alwin had earned multiple Purple Hearts, Distinguished Flying Crosses and Bronze Stars, along with a Silver Star, but they discovered that he developed the auto-rotation maneuver that counteracted tail-rotor and engine failure. It is still standard training for all pilots, according to Fullerton.

"It is still saving lives, today," she said.

Fullerton noted that pilots received a Combat Air Medal for every 25 hours of flight time, which means

that if his battalion records reflect the true number of medals he earned, he spent more than 5,000 hours in the skies over Vietnam, moving troops across the land.

"In combat, the life expectancy for a helicopter and its crew — including the pilot, co-pilot, gunner and crew chief — was 30 seconds," Fullerton said to the students. "He wasn't there to be a hero. He was just there because his coun-

ONLINE

To see the documentary and find out more about Capt. Scott Alwin, go to www.honorintheair.com.

try asked him to go, and that's probably something a lot of you don't know."

Fullerton noted that 70% of those who fought in Vietnam volunteered for service and recalled the less-than-grateful greeting that Alwin and others received.

"There were no great big celebrations of their homecoming," Fullerton said. "Many of them were beaten up as they came home, spit upon, reviled, called baby killers, among other things. They came home without the support that was accorded World War II veterans."

Alwin wasn't always treated right in the service, either, according to Fullerton. Alwin had crashed twice already due to enemy fire at the time a new executive officer took command, she said, and that officer warned Alwin that if he crashed again, his flying days were over.

When the inevitable happened and Alwin was relieved of duty, Fullerton said, his fellow pilots vowed they would not fly, either.

"Every single pilot in that unit came into that man's office, took their wings off their chest, slapped them on the desk and said, 'If Alwin

doesn't fly, we don't fly. It's stupid for us to be taking off and leaving our best pilot behind,'" Fullerton said, noting that the executive officer threatened to court martial all of them, and the pilots said to go right ahead and do that.

That convinced the officer to change his tune and reinstate Alwin.

"These were brothers in a way that was every bit as significant as the fact that he was our brother," Fullerton said.

Alwin's younger sister compared the fight in Vietnam to the war in Ukraine, where those people are fighting to keep their freedoms from being taken away by Russia.

"The Ukrainians feel right now that if the Communists in Russia get back into Ukraine, they are going to take over that territory, and Putin can have his empire back," Fullerton said. "In a sense, history is repeating itself."

Penny Alwin, Scott's older sister, told the students that another brother, who served as a medic during Vietnam, said the pilot summed up his bravery very succinctly one time, saying: "When in doubt, do your duty."

"Sometimes, that's all it comes down to," said Penny Alwin.

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Kautza reelected Shawano County Board chairman

BY KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-chief

Shawano County Supervisor Tom Kautza was reelected April 16 to another two-year term as chairman of the Shawano County Board.

Kautza has been on the board for 12 years and has served as chairman the last four years.

He defeated Supervisor Theresa Serrano 17-9. Supervisors Randy Young and Kathy Luebke were nominated but declined to be on the ballot.

All elections at the board's organizational meeting needed a majority of 14 votes for the winner. Supervisor Annelies Hartwig was absent from the meeting, which contributed to several tie votes that required supervisors to vote more than once to determine the winner.

In the contest for vice chairman, candidates were Kevin Conradt, Joe Miller, Serrano and Young. Rick Giese was nominated but declined.

Serrano was eliminated in the first round of voting, and Conradt was out after the second round. Miller and Young each received 13 votes in the third round. In the

fourth round, Young won with 14 votes, compared to 11 for Miller and one supervisor not voting.

The Highway/Parks Committee requires one member each elected from the eastern, central and western parts of the county, as well as two others appointed later the board chairman.

For the eastern seat, Conradt defeated Supervisors Jim Przybylski, Ken Capelle and Jeremy Gretzinger.

The elected central seat was won by newcomer Supervisor Randy Mallmann on a coin flip after five ballots in which no majority was reached.

Supervisor Mike Wizner was eliminated in the first round, leaving Mallmann and Supervisor Allan Kuhn.

The next two votes ended in 13-13 ties. Then, Mallmann collected 13 votes compared to Kuhn's 12 with one not voting. The same thing happened on the fifth ballot, requiring a coin flip, which was done by County Clerk Kara Skarlupka.

The western seat was won by Giese. Supervisor Dennis Knaak was eliminated on the first ballot, leaving Giese and Miller to face off. Before the vote, Miller withdrew, and the second ballot was for Giese, 24-2.

An advertisement for Cirrinity Wi-Fi service. It features a photograph of a family (a man, a woman, and a young girl) sitting at a table and looking at a laptop. Overlaid on the image is the text: "When your time is limited, your internet shouldn't be. Whatever you want to do online, fiber gives you the ultimate internet experience. Connection Matters." The Cirrinity logo is in the bottom right corner.

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Hovde stops in Shawano during Senate quest

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

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

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

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

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

“The first couple of days, I literally drove 860 miles — first to the

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

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

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

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

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

"I will never run from a television interview or radio interview or from a reporter," Hovde said. "I'll always make myself open and address any and all questions. If you're a senator, you should make yourself accessible to the press and to the people of the state. I cannot believe how she can get away with how she avoids going on radio. I won't just

go on conservative radio;
I'll go on radio of any
kind."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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An advertisement for Menards Garden Center. The top half features a close-up of a person's hands wearing green and yellow gardening gloves, planting a small potted plant with yellow and purple flowers into dark brown soil. A silver trowel is visible in the soil. The background is a bright, out-of-focus green. The bottom half of the image has a dark green background. On the left, white text reads "Stop in to your nearest Menards® location," followed by a yellow banner with the text "SCAN THIS QR CODE" in black. Below the banner, white text says "or visit **MENARDS.com** / Gardening to shop our entire selection!". On the right side of the bottom section is a square QR code.

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Comedy City, based out of De Pere, will keep the audience in stitches with a night of improv May 4. CONTRIBUTED

Comedy City bringing its antics to Abrams

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

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

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

HSHS names new Wisconsin president

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



ROBERT ERICKSON

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

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

Friends of Suring Area Public Library planning rummage sales

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

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

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



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Saturday June 1
Event Time // 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
Flea Market & Antiques @ Farmers Brewery-6AM
5K Run/Walk- 9:00 AM
Craft Fair - 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Kidz Zone - 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Lumberjack Competition - 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Strongman Competition - 1:00 PM
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Wet Possum - 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
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From serving people to serving food

Disenchantment in medical field leads to opening Melt Stop

By KAY REMINGER
Correspondent

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

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

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

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

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

Soon her entire life would take a turn.

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

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



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

helps keep her mind and body healthy.

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

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

continue to pursue her education.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Felix and Fingers tickling ivories in Shawano

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

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

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

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

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

AT A GLANCE

WHAT: Dueling Pianos fundraiser for Shawano Dollars for Scholars

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Sherman noted that while Felix and Fin-

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

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

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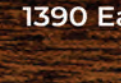
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- Amy

Everyone is so kind. The ones that take care of me are especially nice. I miss my home, but this is as good as my home away from home. I'm happy!

- Betty



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Ruby-throated hummingbird a summer delight

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

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

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

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



wings make as they fly.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

LISA JANSEN

to protect his throat.”

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

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

Hummingbirds migrate
alone to Mexico and other

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

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

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

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

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

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

The background of the entire advertisement features a vibrant night sky filled with colorful fireworks exploding against a dark blue backdrop. In the upper center, the North Star logo is prominently displayed, consisting of the words "North Star" in a white script font above a large white five-pointed star. Below the star, the words "MOHICAN CASINO • RESORT" are written in a smaller, white sans-serif font.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

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

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

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

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

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

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

THURSDAY, MAY 2

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

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

FRIDAY, MAY 3

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

Bewitched by books, library mission goes on



Kathleen Marsh
Columnist

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

The town chairwoman responded with a flat-out no.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Bonduel, Pulaski win both ends of doubleheaders

Shawano softball team doubles up on West De Pere

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-chief

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

April 15
Bonduel 8, Shiocton 6
Hailee Thompson led the Bears with a home run and five RBIs. Lila Pleshek added four hits. Ella Griesbach had three RBIs. Hailey Zernicke got the save for Bonduel.
Bowler/Gresham 7, Tigerton 5
Tigerton 18, Bowler/Gresham 2
Tigerton tried to come back in the first game of a doubleheader against Bowler/Gresham, but they ran out of innings. Bowler/Gresham scored three runs in the first inning and two more in the third to hold a 5-0 lead. Tigerton sent three runners across the plate in the top of the fifth to cut the lead to 5-3, but Bowler/Gresham scored twice in the bottom of the inning to go up 7-3. Tigerton's two runs in the top of the sixth weren't enough of a comeback. Danika Tiller hit 2-for-3 for Tigerton. She was also the losing pitcher, giving

up a home run and seven other hits in her six innings. She also struck out 14 and walked two. In the second game, which only lasted four innings, it was all Tigerton, including an 11-run second inning. McKenzie Hoffman, Lillian Welch and Aaliyah Lederhaus each had two hits for the Tigers. This time around, Tiller was the winning pitcher.
Scoreboard
Bonduel 8, Shiocton 6
Bowler/Gresham 7, Tigerton 5
Tigerton 18, Bowler/Gresham 2
Marion 7, White Lake 0
Amherst 13, Menominee Indian 1
Ashwaubenon 1, Pulaski 0
Shawano 7, Wausau East 2
Gillett/Suring 25, Elcho 15
Coleman 10, St. Thomas Aquinas/Lena 0
Fox Valley Lutheran 9, Oconto Falls 5
Wittenberg-Birnamwood 7, Manawa 2

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Red Raiders soccer team shuts out Shawano

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-chief

April 20
Waupaca 2, Shawano 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Resch wins big at Rosholt track meet

BY KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-chief

**April 19
Back the Track**

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

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

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

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

Roberts won the triple jump.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bonduel's Mariah Wondra placed second in

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TRACK, CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



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

CONTRIBUTED

Bears clean house at Whistling Straits

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

BY KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-chief

**April 19
Whistling Straits**

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

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

Charlie Tauchen carded a 96.

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

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

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

**April 17-18
Sheboygan North Invitational**

Pulaski golfers scored a 333 in Round 1 and a 339 in Round 2 for a 672 total in the Sheboygan North Invitational.

Waukesha North won the 48-team event, scoring a 304 on the first day and a 300 on the second for a total of 604. Waukesha North's AJ Anderson was the medalist with a 142.

Sophomore Brady Howard led Pulaski golfers with a 152. He scored 81 on the first day and 71 on the second day.

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

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

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

**April 16
Bay Conference Mini-Meet**

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

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

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

North Eastern Conference Mega Meet

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

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

The two teams tied for sixth place with a 361.

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

scored 99.

**April 15
Metro Invite**

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

Kimberly won the invite with a 306.

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

Fox River Classic Conference Mini-Meet

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

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

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

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TRACK, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Teammate Anthony Martin placed second in the discus.

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

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

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

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

Hopfensperger and Onna Hermann.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and Brooke Hodkiewicz.

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

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

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

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

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

Daniel Augustine placed third in the 800-meter run.

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

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

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

**April 16
NEC Pentangular**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**April 15
CWC Small Pre-Conference**

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

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

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

Stevens also won the shot put and high jump.

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

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

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

CWC Large Preseason Meet

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In the girls events, Ella

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

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

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

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

Morz captured first in the pole vault.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Panthers win DH over Truckers

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

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

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

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

Johnson had two hits for Bonduel.

Beckett Hartlaben was the winning pitcher.

Oconto Falls 6, Clintonville 3
Oconto Falls 5, Clintonville 4

The Panthers won both game of a doubleheader against Clintonville.

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

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

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

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

Carter Heroux was the winning pitcher.

Scoreboard
Bonduel 3, Norway 2
Sturgeon Bay 20, Gillett 9
Wautoma 8, Marion 5
Oconto Falls 6, Clintonville 3
Oconto Falls 5, Clintonville 4
Appleton East 8, Pulaski 5
Wittenberg-Birnawood 21, Three Lakes/Phelps 0

April 19
Bonduel 13, Southern Door 1

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

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

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

lead the Bonduel hitters.

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

Shawano 1, West De Pere 0

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

Keszo also had two hits on the day.

Scoreboard
Bonduel 13, Southern Door 1
Pulaski 12, Green Bay Southwest 2
Shawano 1, West De Pere 0

April 18
Bonduel 11, Manawa 1

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

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

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

Weier was the winning pitcher.

Shawano 13, Oconto Falls 5

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

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

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

For the Panthers, Luke Gilbertson had an RBI.

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

Wittenberg-Birnawood 6, Amherst 4

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

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

Zandyr Barke and Braeden Groshek each had an RBI.

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

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

North 1
Shawano 13, Oconto Falls 5
Wittenberg-Birnawood 6, Amherst 4

April 16
Denmark 1, Oconto Falls 0

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

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

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

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

Scoreboard
Port Edwards 19, Bowler 3
Marion 17, Elcho 5
Iola-Scandinavia 18, Menominee Indian 0
Denmark 1, Oconto Falls 0
Pulaski 2, Sheboygan South 2
Wild Rose 15, Tigerton 10
Wittenberg-Birnawood 13, Gillett/Suring 5
St. Thomas Aquinas 6, Lena 5

April 15
Bonduel 1, Shiocton 0

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

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

Brodie Hartmann had the other hit for Bonduel.

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

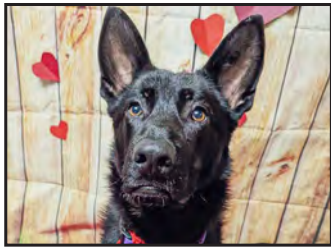
After the first inning, Mutchie only allowed three baserunners.

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

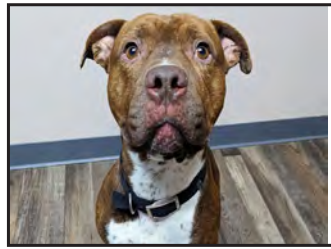
Northland Lutheran 4, Gresham 3

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

Scoreboard
Bonduel 1, Shiocton 0
Gillett/Suring 18, Elcho 3
Northland Lutheran 4, Gresham 3
Coleman 13, Lena 7
Marion 20, White Lake 0
Amherst 27, Menominee Indian 1
Oconto Falls 7, Denmark 1
Xavier 5, Shawano 0



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FINISHING TOUCHES: Not too hard, mostly

by Mark McClain

- ACROSS

1 Burgles

5 Org. for obstetricians

8 Pacific island nation

12 "Finally!"

18 Exotic palm berry

19 Junction point

21 Cartel that Qatar quit

22 Explanation opener

23 Common tennis shot

26 Firehouse vehicle

27 Luau greeting

28 Poke fun at

29 Talk nonstop

31 Quaint oath

32 Light brown

33 All gone

35 High school math

37 Infamous emperor

38 Accuse in court

39 Acquire

43 Space opera event with an alien species

49 NCO club visitor

50 Trade show

51 Long-legged shorebird

52 "No problem"

54 Fans' cheer

56 Very strict

57 VIP's ride

59 [Not my error]

61 Tread-bare

62 Mediocre mark

63 With precision

65 Eggnog spice

68 Superlative suffix

69 Collegiate event in a ring

71 Budgetary excess

74 In a jiffy

75 Bridge support

76 Inflight announcement

77 Unquestionable

79 In the past

81 Courteous chap

82 Genghis Khan follower

84 Sooty shaft

87 Nebraska city

89 Shoelace alternative

90 Pageantry

91 Took charge

93 Double or triple

96 Step on it

97 Heavy hammer

99 Enormous

100 Large ex-lake

102 French fashion house

104 Practice, as an occupation

107 Maytag alternative

110 Native New Mexican

111 Author ___ Ingalls Wilder

112 Open courtyards

114 Got depleted

116 Deep cleaning tool

119 With a noble name

120 Any of the Simpsons

121 Phony deal

122 Division preposition

123 Dismissive looks

124 Smooch, in Britain

125 Corner PC key

126 Mexican coin

6 Spanish hunter's cap

7 Threw in

8 Cry on a course

9 Wall St. debut

10 Stevenson physician

11 Cooling off periods

12 Ensign's assent

13 Printer powder

14 Necessity for a checked suitcase

15 Where the Himalayas are

16 Email button

17 Golf shop supplies

20 Genesis twin

24 Visited often

25 Recipe amt.

30 Marge alternative

34 Religious offshoot

35 Choral contingent

36 ___ noir (bugaboo)

38 Rm. coolers

40 Skater's leap

41 Apple tablet

42 ___ de plume

43 Satirical comedy

44 Collegiate octet, familiarly

45 Thesaurus guy

46 Poli ___ (college major)

47 "We gotta leave!"

48 Coral island

53 Shakespearean monarch

55 Assist in a crime

57 Legal claim

58 Very quick, in brand names

60 Herb in curry

63 Pendulum direction

64 Puppy bark

66 Campground setup

67 Hard drive measure

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69 Little chirper

70 Dusk to dawn

71 Game played with dogs

72 Game-playing brand

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PUBLIC RECORD

SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

April 21

Deputies responded to 21 incidents, including operating without a license on state Highway 29 in the Town of Belle Plaine; operating without a license on state Highway 29 in the Town of Waukechon; harassment on Oak Street in Tigerton; two 911 calls; three reckless driving incidents; two crashes, one involving deer.

April 20

Deputies responded to 15 incidents, including found property on Green Valley Road in the Town of Angelica; operating while intoxicated on East Green Bay Street in Shawano; one reckless driving incident.

April 19

Deputies responded to 23 incidents, including operating without a license on state Highway 29 in the Town of Hartland; warrant on Elm Street in Tigerton; assisting with a fire on Lone Maple Road in the Town of Fairbanks; sick animal on River Road in the Town of

Hartland; criminal damage on East Hofman Street in Cecil; weapon offense on Green Valley Road in the Town of Green Valley; one 911 call; one reckless driving incident; two traffic hazards; three crashes, two involving deer.

April 18

Deputies responded to 36 incidents, including criminal damage at Shawano Lake County Park, W5785 Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; restraining order violation on South Webb Street in Wittenberg; harassment of state Highway 22 in the Town of Green Valley; criminal damage on West Vinal Street in Wittenberg; vehicle theft on Meadow Road in the Town of Hutchins; identity theft on Spaulding Street in Tigerton; scam on East Green Bay Street in Bonduel; repossession on Chickadee Lane in the Town on Aniwa; repossession on Ah Toh Wuk Circle in the Town of Bartelme; assisting with a fire on County Road E in the Town of Washington; vicious animal on Maple Leaf Road in the Town of Belle Plaine; three 911 calls; one reckless driving incident;

one crash.

April 17

Deputies responded to 37 incidents, including operating without a license on East Lieg Avenue in Shawano; restraining order violation on Acorn Road in the Town of Belle Plaine; scam on Schabow Street in Gresham; elderly abuse on South Webb Street in Wittenberg; assisting with a fire on East Rollman Street in Bowler; intoxication on South Prouty Street in Wittenberg; criminal damage on West Vinal Street in Wittenberg; shoplifting at 22 Shell, N4543 State Highway 22 in the Town of Belle Plaine; one 911 call; two reckless driving incidents; one traffic hazard; three crashes, one involving deer.

April 16

Deputies responded to 35 incidents, including assisting with a fire on state Highway 55 in the Town of Maple Grove; scam on Cloverleaf Lake Road in the Town of Belle Plaine; fraud on Sunshine Court in Bonduel; assisting with a fire on Maple Lane in the Town of Seneca; assisting with a fire on

Sycamore Road in the Town of Richmond; two 911 calls; one reckless driving incident; one traffic hazard; two crashes, one involving deer.

April 15

Deputies responded to 35 incidents, including a warrant attempt at the Shawano County Courthouse, 311 N. Main St., Shawano; property theft on Pioneer Road in the Town of Belle Plaine; eviction on South Sawyer Street in Shawano; assisting with a fire on state Highway 29 in the Town of Wittenberg; criminal damage on Cedar Street in Tigerton; property theft on Red River Road in the Town of Hutchins; animal bite on Azalea Drive in the Town of Wescott; four 911 calls; three traffic hazards; two crashes involving deer.

SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

April 21

Officers responded to 11 incidents, including a vicious animal on West Fifth Street.

April 20

Officers responded to 22 incidents, including a warrant arrest on East Randall Street;

drug offenses on East Randall Street; drug offenses at Charlie's County Market, 521 S. Main St.; reckless driving on East Elizabeth Street.

April 19

Officers responded to 28 incidents, including fraud at CoVantage Credit Union, 911 E. Green Bay St.; fraud at Shawano Auto Sales, 939 E. Green Bay St.; lost property at the Shawano Recreation Center, 220 E. Division St.; lost property on Sockless Main Street; shoplifting at Goodwill Industries, 300 Lakeland Road; juvenile problem on West Green Bay Street; traffic hazard on South Airport Drive.

April 18

Officers responded to 24 incidents, including a curfew violation on Highview Avenue; warrant arrest on East Stevens Street; found property on East Green Bay Street; overdose at Four Seasons Hotel, 201 N. Airport Drive; bail jumping on North Main Street; operating without a license on East Elizabeth Street; warrant arrest on East Green Bay Street; drug offenses on South Bartlett

Street.

April 17

Officers responded to 16 incidents, including drug offenses on state Highway 47-55 in the Town of Wescott; vehicle crash with injury on County Road B; vehicle crash on River Heights Drive.

April 16

Officers responded to 33 incidents, including a counterfeit complaint at the LCMS Thrift Store, 2324 E. Richmond St.; two juvenile problem complaints at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B; property theft at the Shawano Recreation Center, 220 E. Division St.; two truancy complaints at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B; reckless driving on South Lafayette Street; warrant attempt at Walmart, 1244 E. Green Bay St.; juvenile problem on South Andrews Street; illegal burning on West First Street; operating without a license on Waukechon Street; shoplifting at Walmart, 1244 E. Green Bay St.; traffic hazard on East Green Bay Street; vehicle crash on East Green Bay Street.

COURT NEWS

• Crystalee C. Caley, 30, Gillett, pleaded no contest Dec. 7 to possession of methamphetamine. Judge Katherine Sloma withheld sentencing April 15 and placed her on two years of probation with conditions.

• Rogelio Cuenca, 43, Shawano, pleaded no contest Jan. 30 to two counts of possession of narcotic drugs and one count of possession of methamphetamine. Sloma withheld sentencing April 16 and placed him on four years of probation with conditions.

• Cameron R. Barnes, 32, Pulaski, pleaded no contest April 15 to aggravated battery intending bodily harm. Sloma withheld sentencing and placed him on four years of probation with conditions.

• Noah Jorstad, 24, Shawano, pleaded no contest April 16 to five counts of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of resisting or obstructing an officer and disorderly conduct. Judge William Kussel Jr. levied fines and sentenced him to 210 days in county jail.

• Kurt D. Hughes, 33, Shawano, was charged April 15 with two counts of felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct.

Kussel set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for July 2.

• Vernon A. Parrott, 28, Tigerton, was charged April 15 with battery to a law officer, seven counts of misdemeanor bail jumping and a further misdemeanor count of resisting or obstructing an officer. Kussel set a \$2,500 cash bond and a \$2,500 signature bond and scheduled a status conference for May 20.

• David B. Leurquin, 54, Manitowoc, was charged April 15 with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia to produce methamphetamine and two counts of misdemeanor bail jumping. Kussel set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for April 30.

• Sarah M. Eisch, 39, Oneida, was charged April 17 with possession of narcotic

drugs and two counts of misdemeanor bail jumping. Kussel set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for June 17.

• Wendy L. Mason, 48, Clintonville, was charged April 18 with possession of narcotic drugs, possession of methamphetamine and five counts of felony bail jumping. Kussel set a \$1,500 cash bond and scheduled a status conference

for May 22.

• Deonte J. Matchopatow, 18, Shawano, was charged April 18 with two counts of felony bail jumping. Kussel set a \$1,000 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for April 30.

• Ayesha M. Dodge, 28, Keshena, was charged April 19 with possession of THC (second and subsequent offense), possession of meth-

amphetamine, possession of an illegal article and three counts of felony bail jumping. Kussel set a \$500 cash bond and a \$10,000 signature bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for May 7.

• Joshua G. Helfenstein, 31, Marion, was charged April 19 with possession of narcotic drugs. Kussel set a \$3,000 signature bond and scheduled a status conference for July 8.

Legals WNAFLP

Legals WNAFLP

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04/26/24, 05/03/24
THE VILLAGE OF WITTENBERG IS HIRING:
The Village is looking to hire a part-time employee to work with the Public Works Department.
Hours would vary, depending on time of year.
JOB SUMMARY
□ Help maintain Village grounds, ballfields, parks and water and sewer properties.
□ Work directly and indirectly with the general public in a courteous and informative manner.
□ Assist with Village street and sidewalk repairs.
□ Assist with maintenance on any Village buildings or structures.
□ Assist with routine maintenance for Water and Sewer Department.
KNOWLEDGE/ABILITIES and AVAILABILITY:
□ Must be available on a flexible basis.
□ Valid WI driver license.
□ Must be able to operate Village equipment (zero-turn mowers, backhoe, sweeper, trucks)
□ Able to work off ladders or scaffolding.
□ Must be able to work independently without supervision.
□ Ability to communicate well with the general public, fellow workers and board members.
Interested applicants may pick up an application at 208 W. Vinal St., Wittenberg, or the form can be accessed on our Village website, using the Village Forms and Permits link at the bottom of the page. Applications and resumes can be sent to the Village office at PO Box 331, Wittenberg, WI 54499. Review of applications will begin immediately. Wages will be determined by the Village Board at the time of hire.
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‘The Wolf Gift’ natural winner for Anne Rice

This week I revisited one of my favorite authors. Anne Rice. I’m not sure when she published her Wolf Gift Chronicles, but I discovered book one, “The Wolf Gift,” on Infosoup. I must say, it was pure Anne Rice; intriguing but extremely wordy.

The Golding family has called San Francisco home for generations and done well. This generation includes Grace, Phil, James and Reuben. Phil is a poet and philosopher with a warm and dreamy outlook on life. Grace is a hard-working surgeon more focused on saving lives than anything mundane.

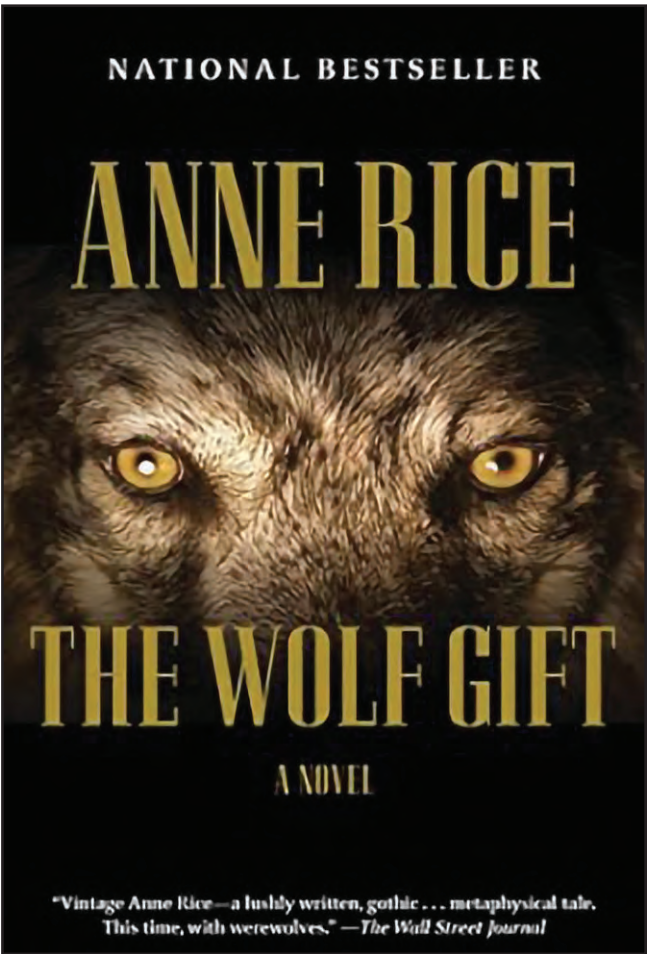
James surprised them all and became a priest devoted to caring for the down and out on the infamous Tenderloin district of the city. Almost 10 years younger is Reuben. Nearing 25, he is tall, amazingly handsome and recently employed as a reporter for The Observer.

As the story opens, Reuben is preparing to do a story on the fabled building known as the Nideck house. The sprawling mansion was built by Felix Nideck, but he disappeared without a trace 20 years ago. Felix has been declared dead and his niece, Marchent, has decided to sell the property and find places for all the artifacts her dear uncle had collected over years of archaeological digs.

Reuben is instantly in love with the place and considers offering to buy it. Due to the remoteness, Reuben agrees to spend the night and to his great surprise, Marchent takes him into her bed.

In the middle of the night the silence is broken by screams. Someone broke in and attacked Marchent. Reuben tries to help but is stabbed several times. Suddenly, “something” appears, ripping the attackers to pieces and biting Reuben in the process.

When he wakes, he is in a hospital. The attackers were Marchent’s estranged brothers, she is dead, and the creature who saved Reuben is nowhere to be found.



He is astounded to learn that just before the attack, Marchent had done all the legal work leaving the Nideck property to Reuben. He heals quickly, but when he hears screams for help, he suddenly morphs into a man-wolf and goes to the rescue, tearing out the man’s throat.

This new power is both terrifying and exhilarating, and he knows he must hide it at all costs, yet he can’t resist responding to the calls of the innocent. When he smells evil, his body simply reacts.

When he confesses everything to James, he is confronted by the question of his right to destroy the lives of the evil doers. Jim explains that they may have been bad people, but they never had a chance to seek redemption or atone for their sins. This moral dilemma torments Reuben as he is compelled to continue his killing spree.

His sanity is saved

AT A GLANCE

BOOK: The Wolf Gift
AUTHOR: Anne Rice
PUBLISHER: Random House
YEAR PUBLISHED: 2012
NUMBER OF PAGES: 528

when he meets a special woman named Laura. She knows what he is and doesn’t care. Together they embark on a quest to discover the secrets of the mansion and the life of Felix Nideck and his friends.

Things reach a crescendo when Reuben accidentally bites a young man he is trying to save. As feared, the boy heals and exhibits the same man-wolf traits as Reuben. Reuben saves him and with the help of Felix and friends assures Nideck Point will be a safe haven for the foreseeable future.

There isn’t enough space here to share all the plot twists and turns, but I will say I enjoyed the many surprises and the way justice is served at Nideck Point. As books one concludes we learn about the painful history of those known as the “morphinkinder,” their moral codes and their shared need to avenge the innocent.

NEWS CORRESPONDENT

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

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

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



REPORTER/NEWS EDITOR

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

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

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

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

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



SPORTS EDITOR

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

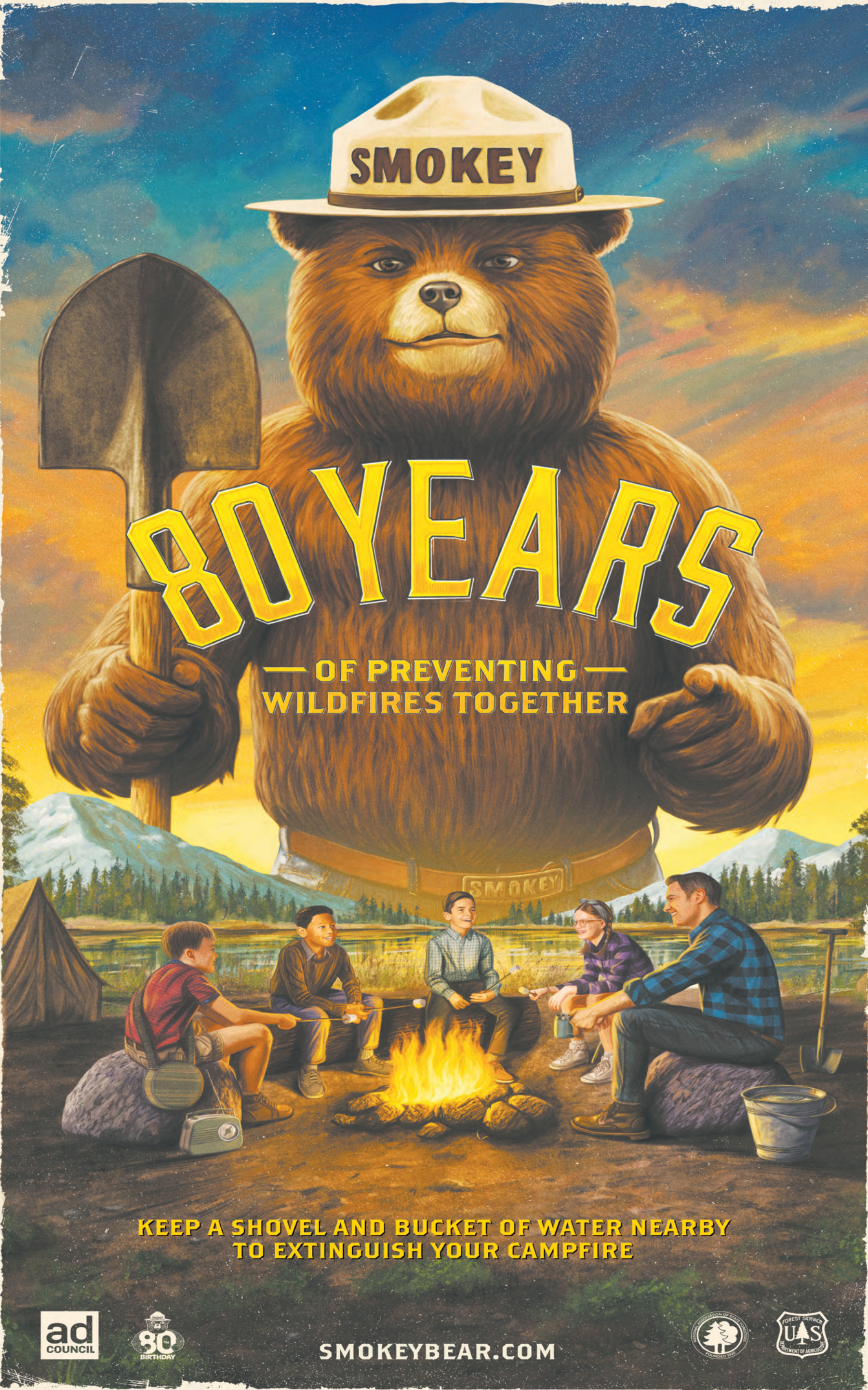
The sports editor will determine which games out of over a dozen school districts in three counties will be covered. During the school year, the editor will find local athletes to profile. The editor will also cover the local water ski team, the Shawano Ski Sharks, as well as coordinate coverage for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

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

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A large, stylized illustration of Smokey Bear, a brown bear wearing a tan fireman's hat with "SMOKEY" written on it. He is holding a large shovel in his right paw. The text "80 YEARS" is written across his chest in large, yellow, outlined letters. Below this, the text "— OF PREVENTING — WILDFIRES TOGETHER" is written in smaller yellow letters. In the foreground, five children and a man are sitting around a campfire, roasting marshmallows. A tent is visible on the left, and a bucket of water is on the right. The background shows a mountain range under a sunset sky.

80 YEARS

— OF PREVENTING —
WILDFIRES TOGETHER

**KEEP A SHOVEL AND BUCKET OF WATER NEARBY
TO EXTINGUISH YOUR CAMPFIRE**

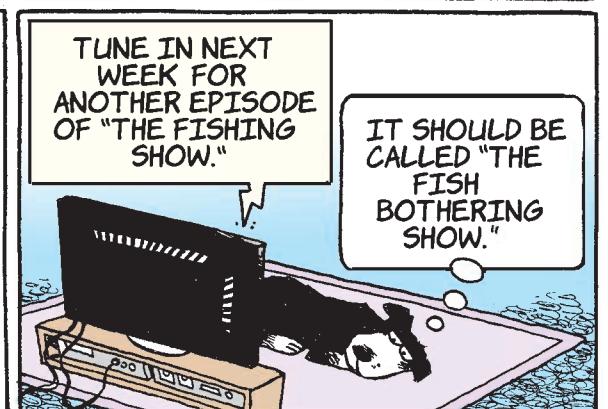
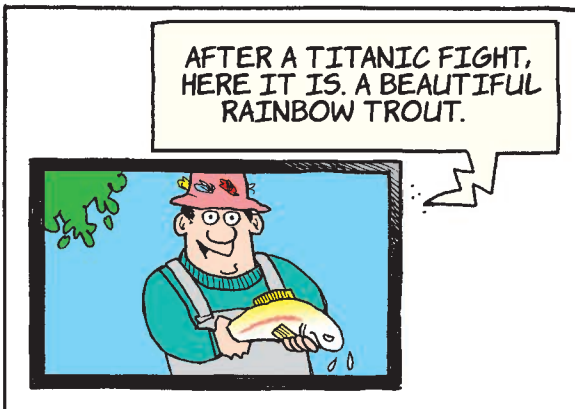
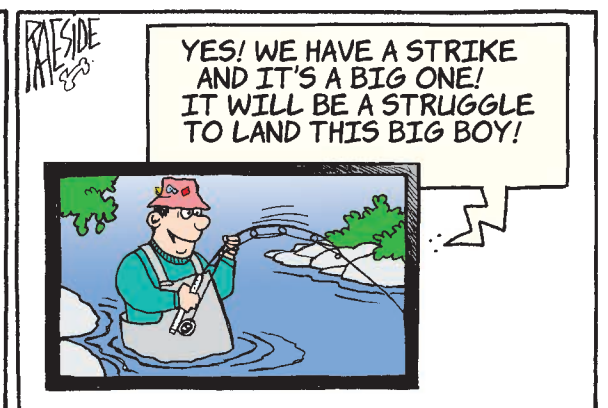
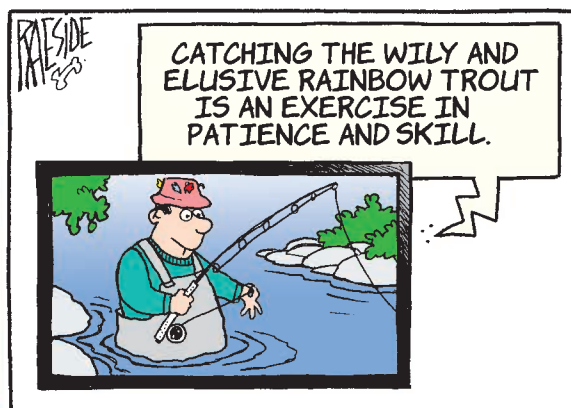
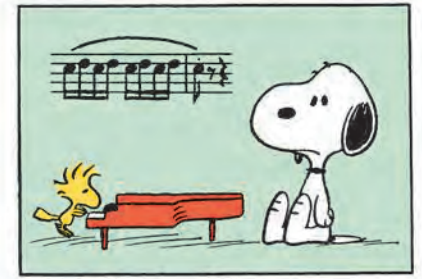
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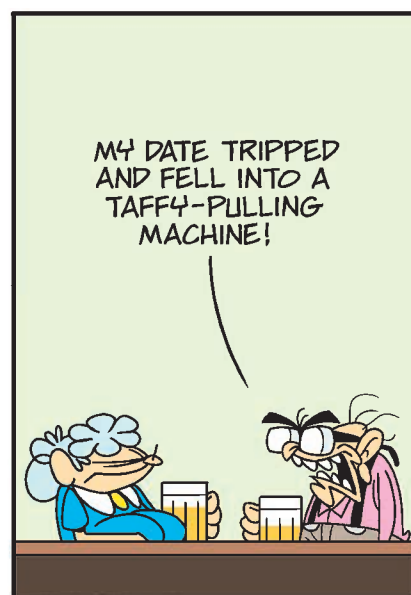
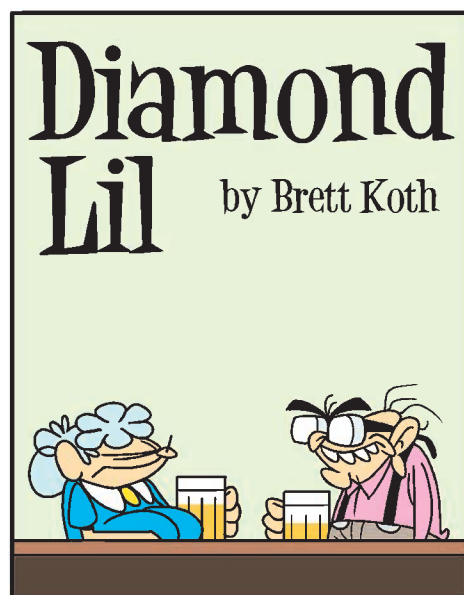
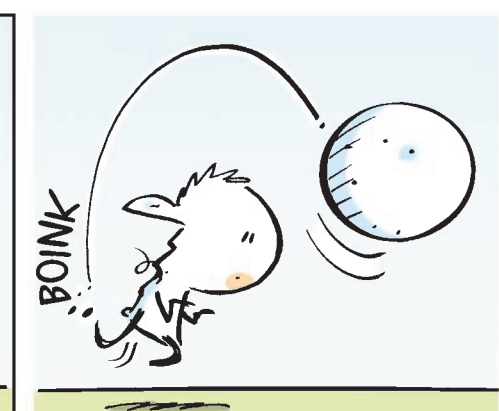
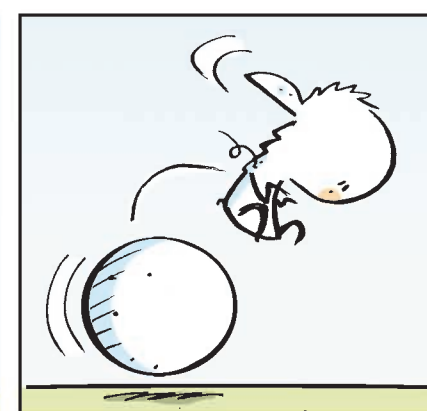
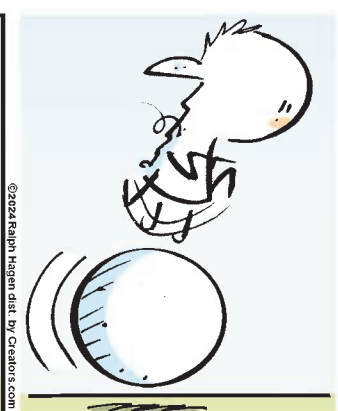
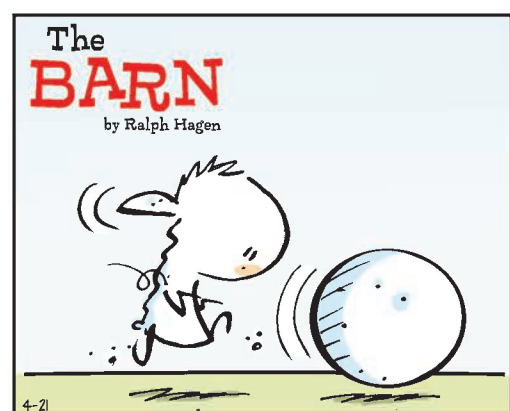
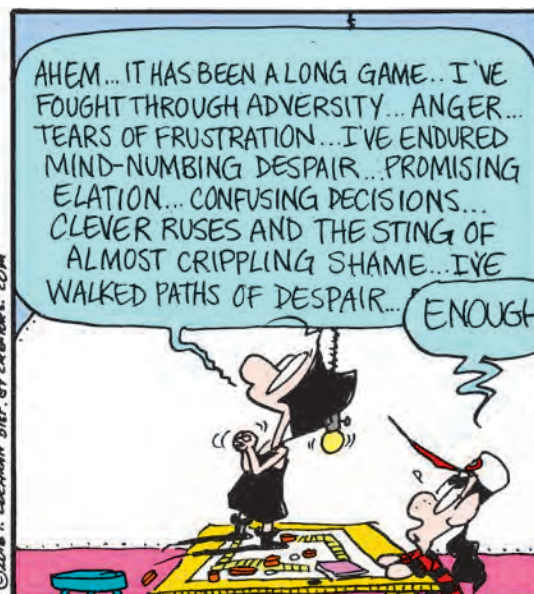
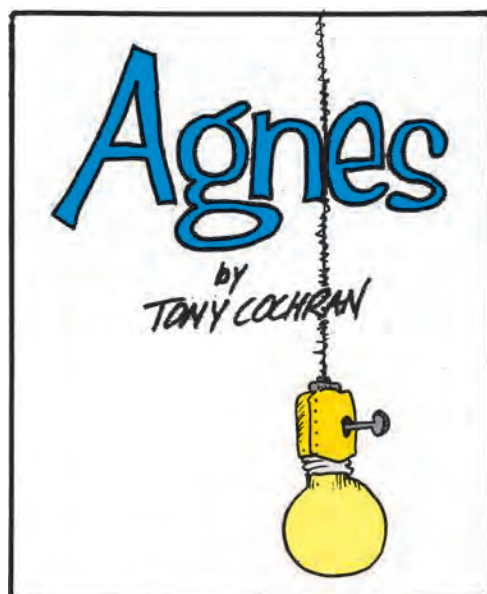
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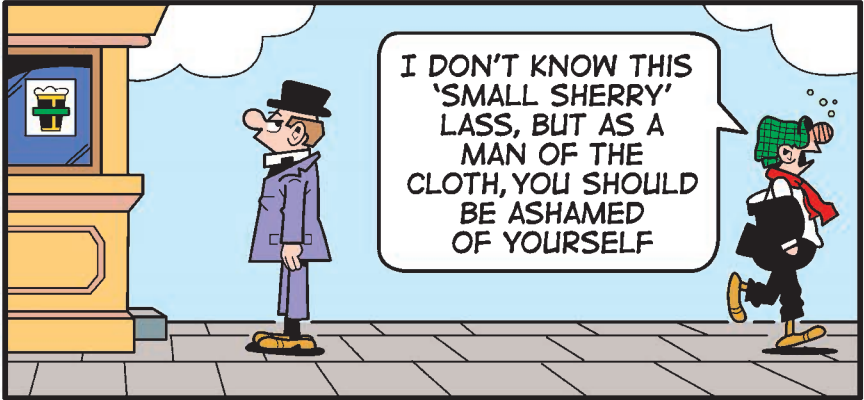
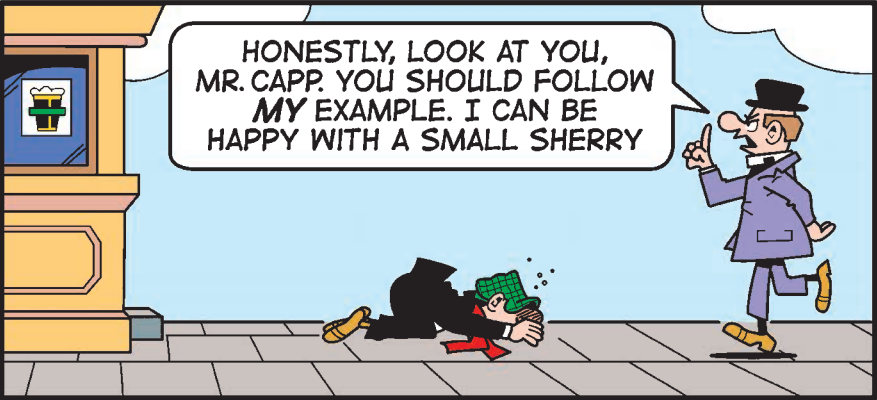
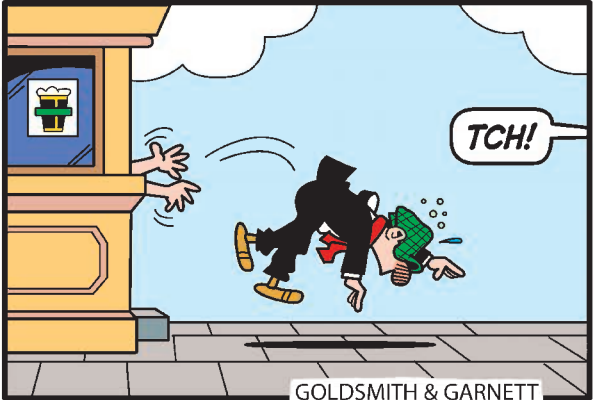
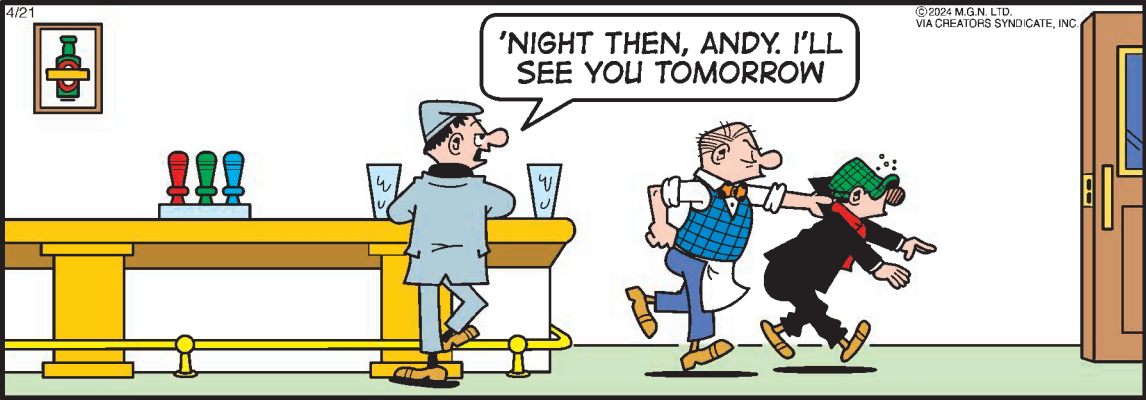
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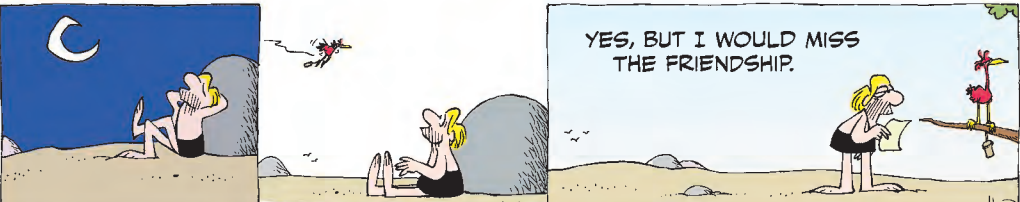
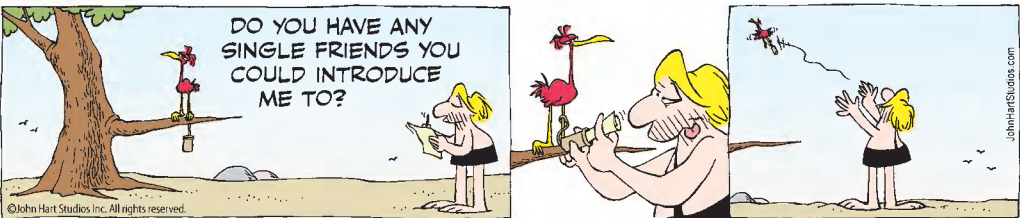
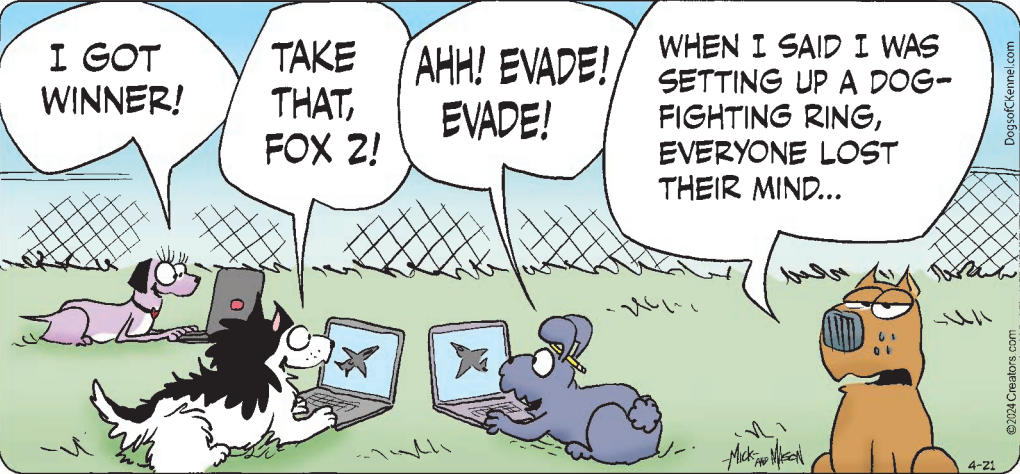


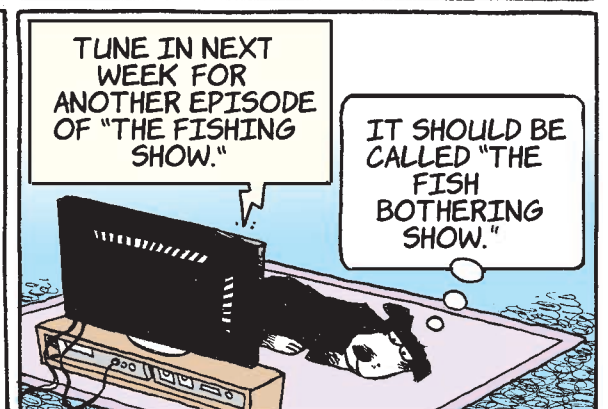
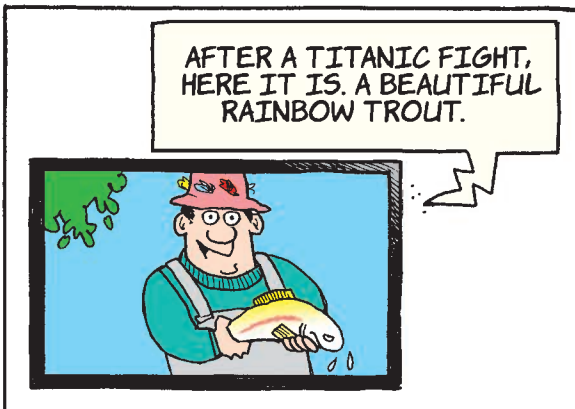
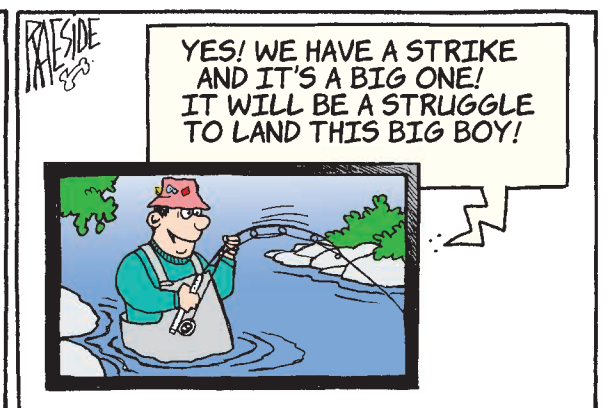
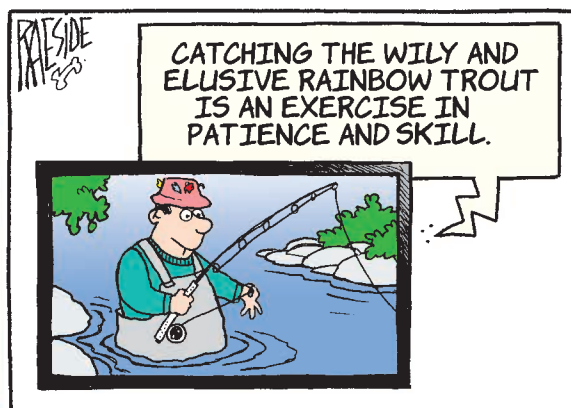
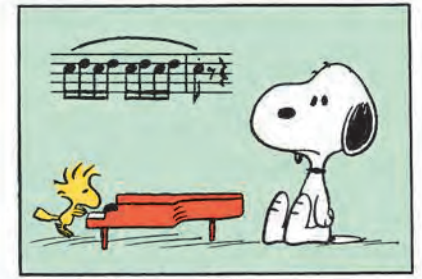
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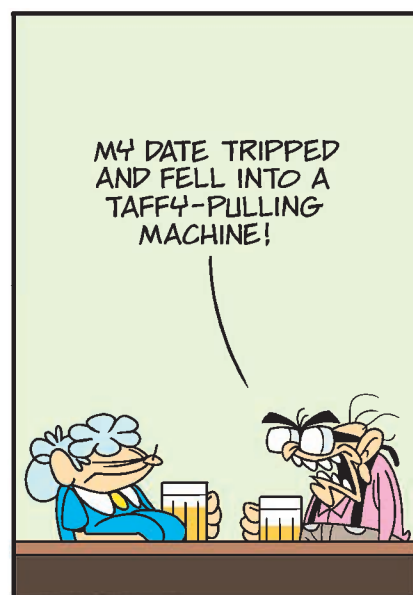
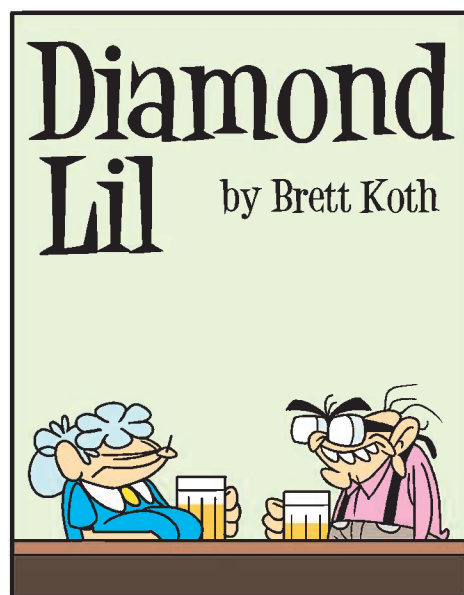
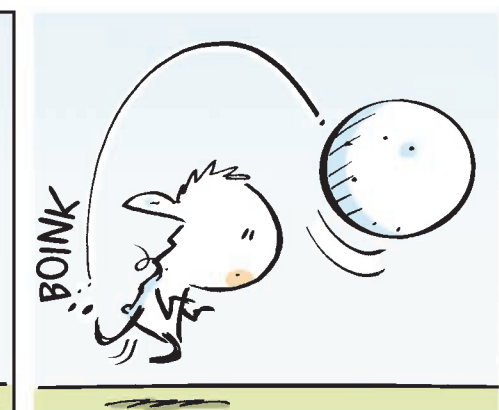
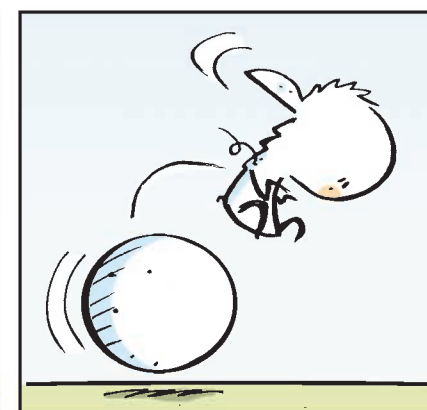
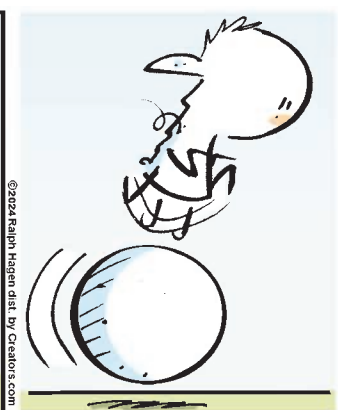
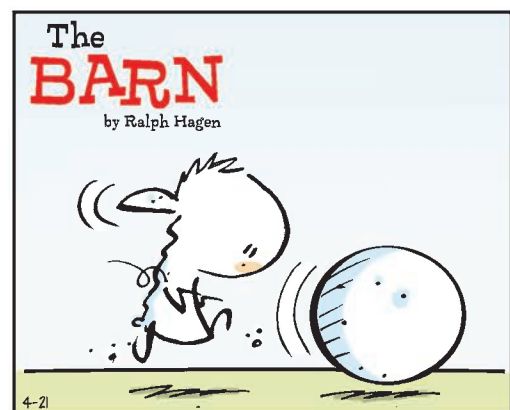
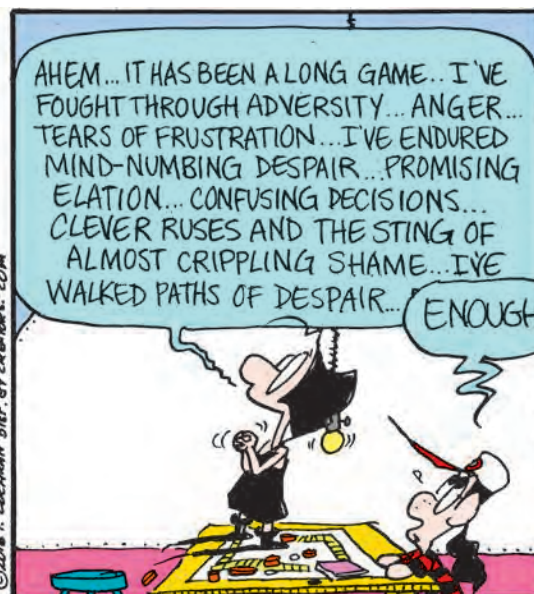
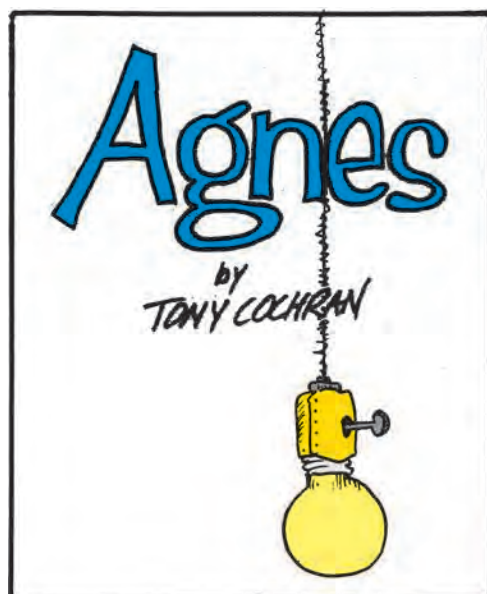
by Smythe



DOGS OF C-KENNEL BY MICK MASTROIANNI AND MASON MASTROIANNI

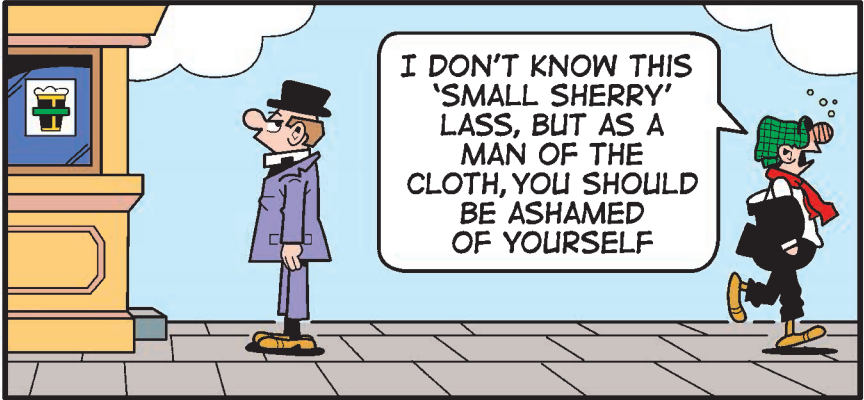
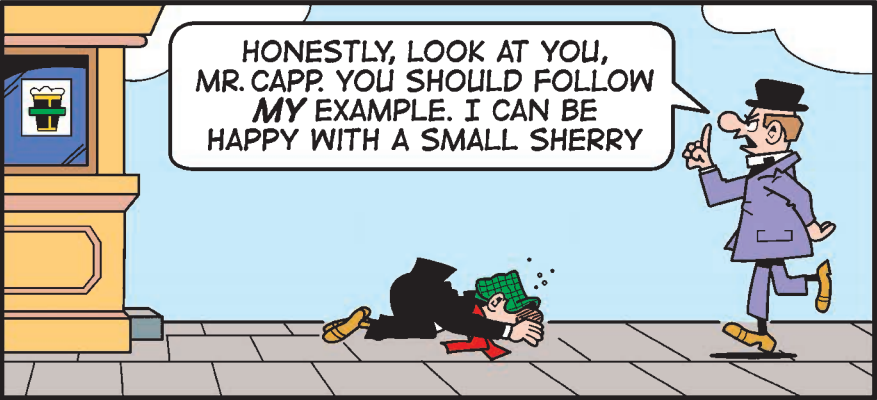
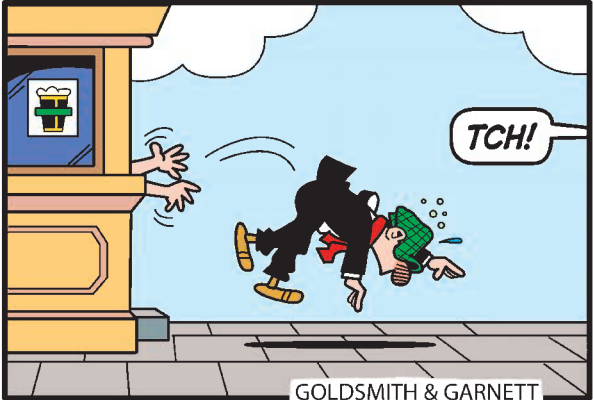
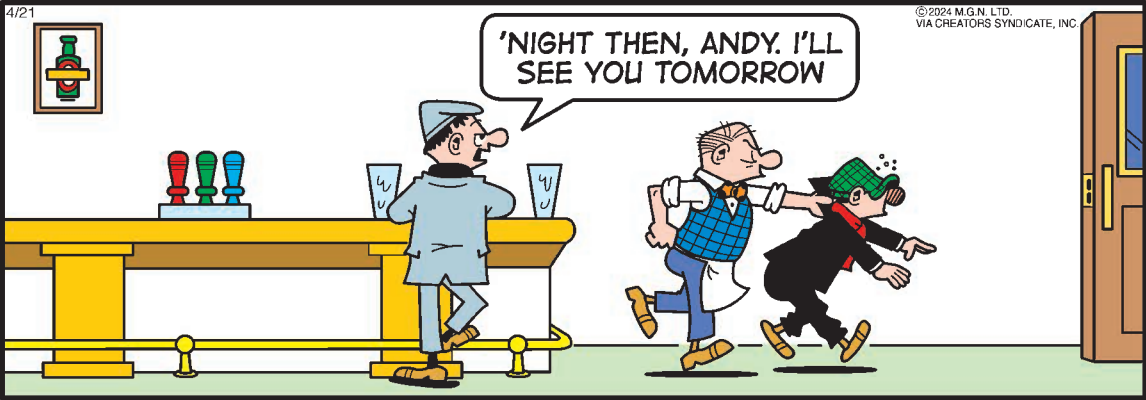




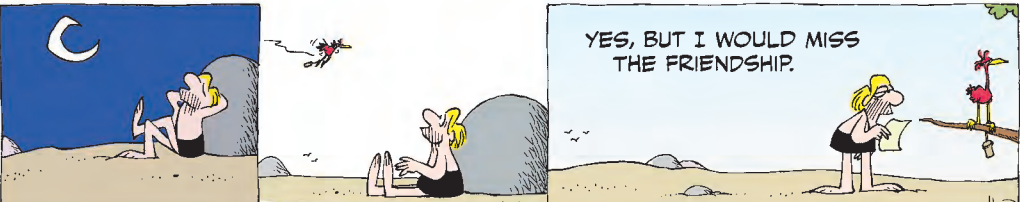
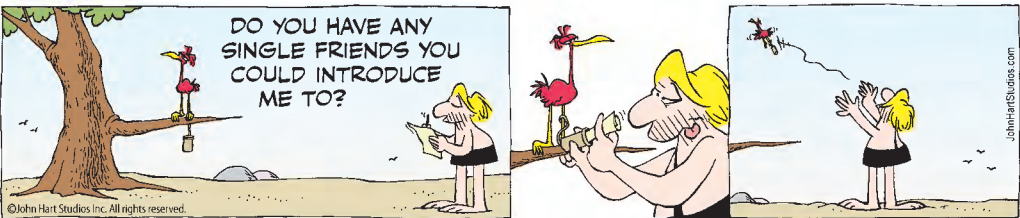
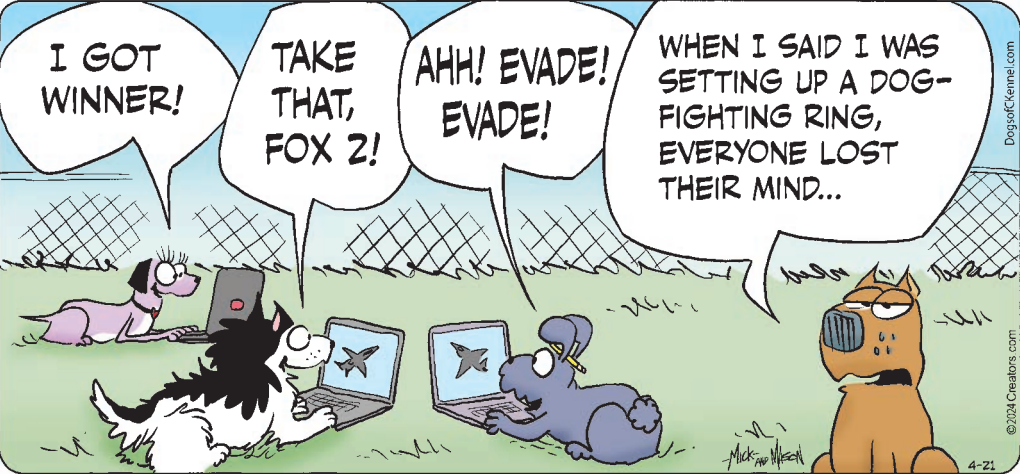


ANDY CAPP

by Smythe



DOGS OF C-KENNEL BY MICK MASTROIANNI AND MASON MASTROIANNI



Packers have 5 picks among first 91

By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Day 1:

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

He took a cornerback during



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

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

future early.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Day 2:

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

For as much focus as the first

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Day 3:

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

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

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

Where can I watch the 2024 NFL draft?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New faces excited for next chapter in Green Bay

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

By **LUKE REIMER**
Green & Gold Express

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

seasons in the NFL with the New York Giants.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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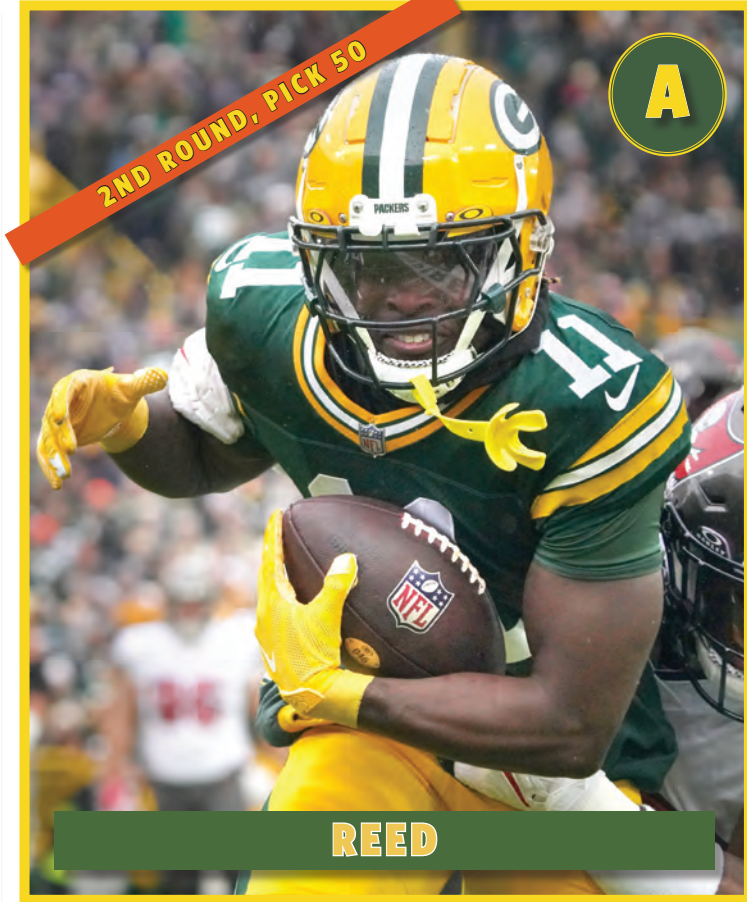
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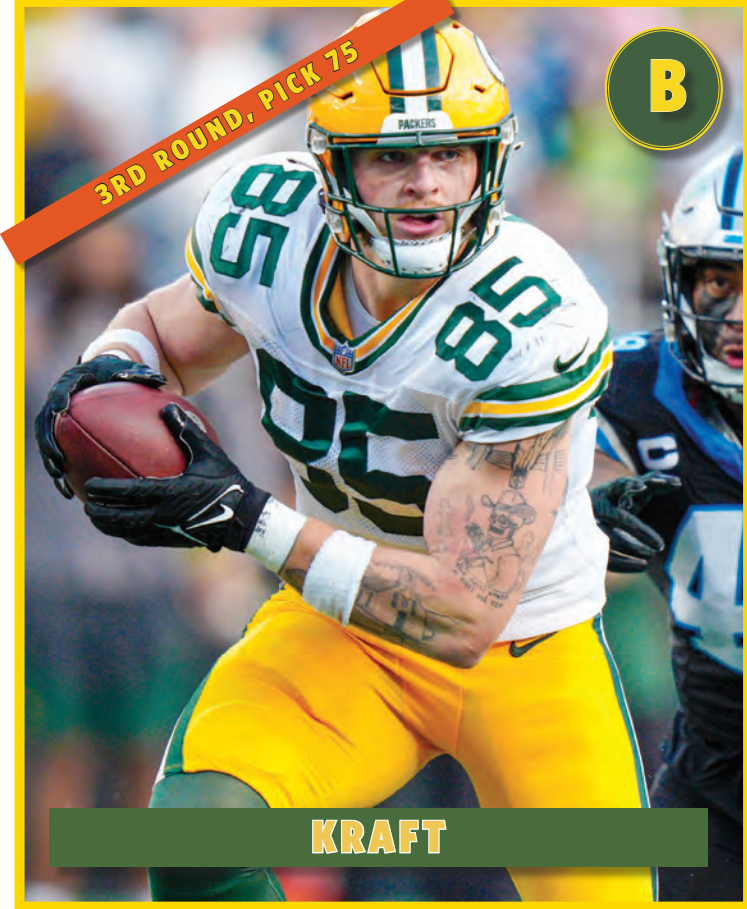
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By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He made plays in the run game as well.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

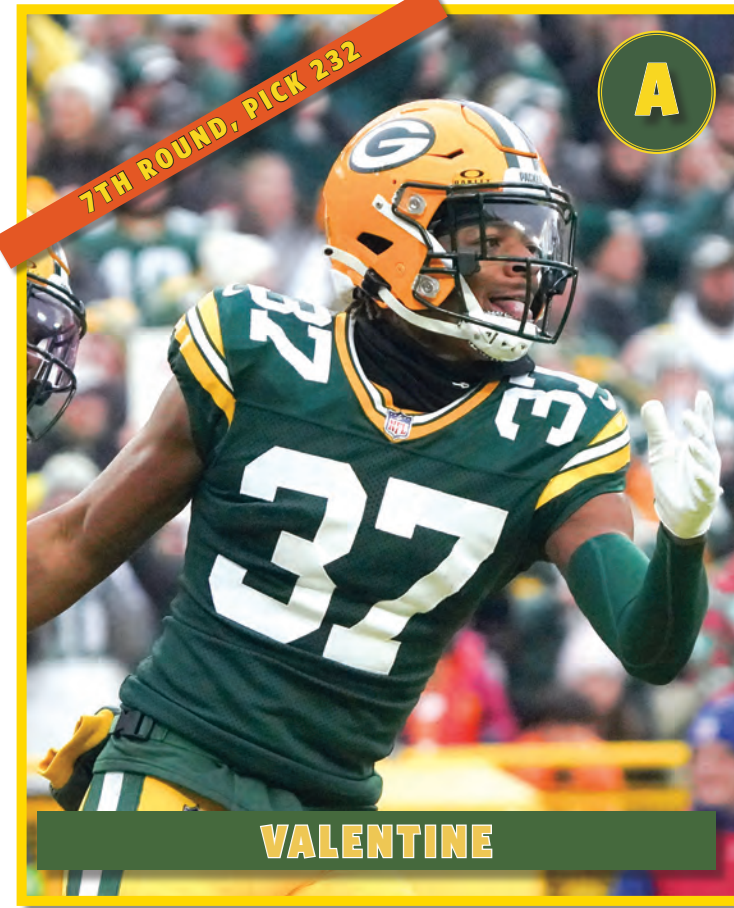
Johnson's primary contributions come on special teams. With the addition of Xavier McKinney in free agency, and no other players being brought in as of yet, Johnson Jr. is in line to start next to him. Whether he does or not remains to be seen, but he has at least proven himself as a quality backup.

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

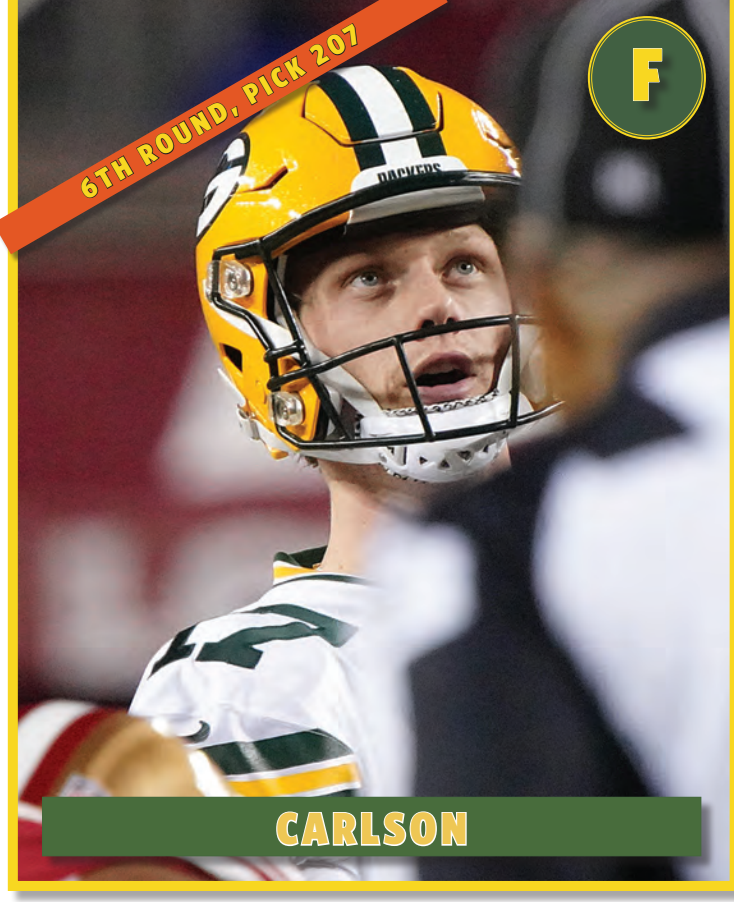
DuBose spent most of the season on the practice squad. He was elevated for the final game of the season against the Chicago Bears but was made inactive when Wicks was able to play that day.

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

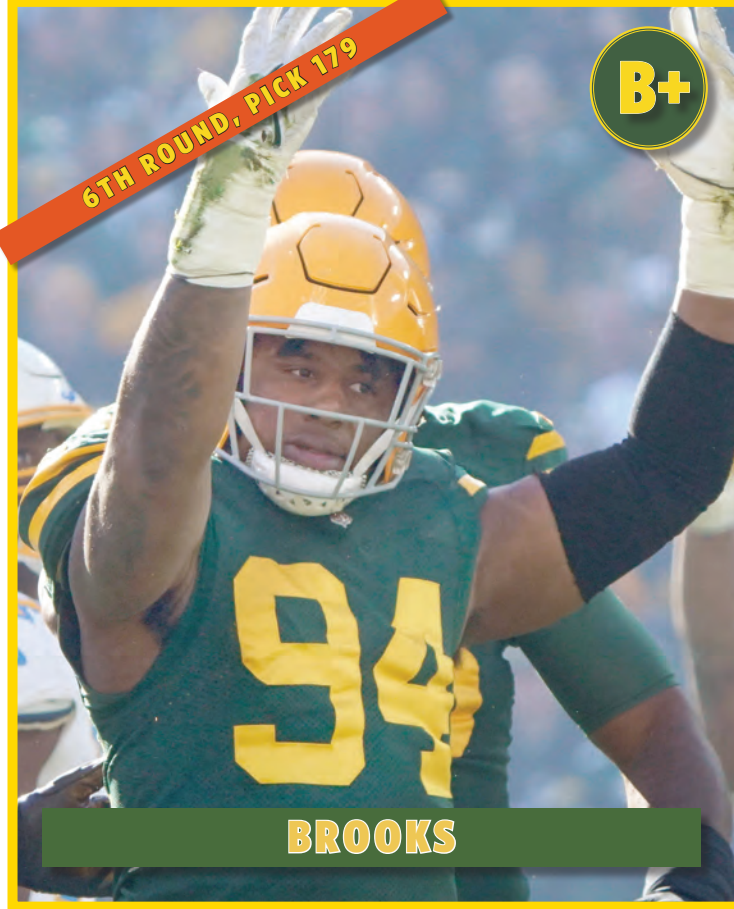
Grade: Incomplete



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Packers need help at several positions

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

By **JACOB WESTENDORF**
Green & Gold Express

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Packers did what they rarely do



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

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

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

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

Offensive line

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Safety

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

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

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

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

Cornerback

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

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

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

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

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

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

Running back

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

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

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

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

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

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

Linebacker

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

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

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

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

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

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

NFL 2025 draft coming to Green Bay

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

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

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

Green Bay is expecting around 250,000 fans.

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

home rental services like Airbnb and Vrbo.

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

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

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

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



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Packers say goodbye to six in free agency

BY LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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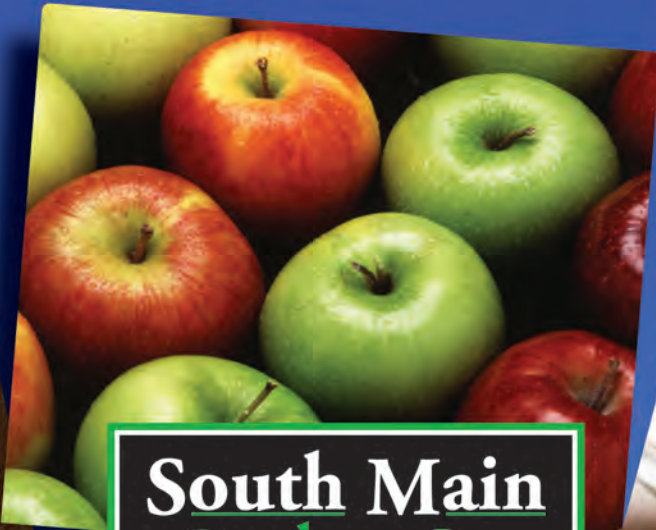




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