

Man, 34, rescued from river after alleged burglary

By **KEVIN PASSON**
Editor-in-Chief

A 34-year-old Bonduel man had to be rescued from the Wolf River after he was initially scared off from an alleged attempted burglary at a nearby home on Thanksgiving Day.

Justin M. Wilber faces one count of burglary and two counts of bail jumping after being pulled from the river by local fire and EMS personnel.

Shawano County Sheriff's Deputy Ayden Hale responded to an attempted burglary call at 6:54 a.m. Nov. 28. According to the report, the homeowners first saw someone on the property on their security camera, then found a man in the garage who fled when confronted. The door to the homeowners' truck was found to be open as well.

While searching the area, Hale said he heard a voice from an area of thick brush near the water's edge. Following the sound of the voice, Hale located Wilber 10 to 15 feet from the shoreline.

Wilber said he fell through the ice; he was stuck and said he was too cold to walk out of the water.

Hale called the fire department for a boat rescue. An EMS crew was also paged due to hypothermia concerns.

Once apprehended, Wilber told deputies he was trying to get across the river and fell through the ice. He resurfaced and tried to hide from the deputies and homeowners, as he also tried to get back to dry land.

According to the report, Wilber said that the night before, he was driving down back roads and listening to music when his car got stuck on a dead end road. He then walked for two hours, was cold and tired and went into the unlocked garage to warm up.

Wilber made an initial appearance in Shawano County Circuit Court on Dec. 2. Cash bond was set at \$100. His next court date is Feb. 4, 2025.

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Undeclared at Stratford Dual Tournament



Wittenberg-Birnamwood wrestlers Dalton Fletcher, Ben Miller and Bryson Schmid (pictured) went undefeated at 5-0 Dec. 7 at the Stratford Dual Tournament. The team won all three dual meets, defeating Crandon 58-24, Wausau West 70-4 and Southern Door 69-12.

TINA BACON

Shawano VFW breaks ground

Organizers hope to be in new clubhouse by Veterans Day 2025

By **KEVIN PASSON**
Editor-in-Chief

Members of Shawano's VFW are on the move – at least they hope to be soon.

After more than 72 years at the clubhouse at 204 W. Lieg Ave., plans are underway to relocate Herbert E. McLaughlin Post 2723.

"Veterans from the Korean War, Vietnam War, Desert Storm and Global War on Terror, as well as other peacekeeping and security missions around the globe, have passed through our doors and found a place both familiar and comfortable to them when they returned home," said Post Commander Tom Hoffman.

Post members gathered Dec. 9 for a groundbreaking at the



This is a rendering of the new VFW building to be constructed at South Olson Street and East Richmond Street.

recently purchased site at the southeast corner of South Olson Street and East Richmond Street.

The local post was formed March 31, 1933, and the clubhouse was dedicated Oct. 1, 1952. The clubhouse has served as a gather-

ing place for veterans as well as a facility open to the public for parties and other social events.

"While it has served our community well, it has become difficult to keep up to the maintenance, accessibility requirements

and updates that are required," Hoffman said. "A new clubhouse has become necessary, and as a nonprofit veterans organization, we are soliciting funds to assist us in this goal, so that we may continue to serve our community long into the future."

The preliminary budget is \$1 million.

This includes site preparation, foundation, utilities, the new clubhouse with interior furnishings, a storage building and a paved parking lot.

Plans are to have the new clubhouse completed by Veterans Day 2025.

Post members serve other veterans and the community by having honor guards at funerals,

VFW, CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

INSIDE

Local boxers take to the ring in front of family, friends.

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Committee wants new county facilities

Decision follows tours of other counties' government centers

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Citing a need for improved security, technology and efficiencies, members of the Shawano County Ad Hoc Building Committee agreed to recommend the county build new facilities rather than renovate or maintain existing buildings.

The decision came Dec. 2 after members toured government centers in Green Lake and Waushara counties.

"We had a good discussion with the other county employees who went through the process," said Supervisor Randy Mallmann, chairman of the ad hoc committee. "They talked about the good, the bad, what they would have done different."

All committee members present agreed with the recommendation, which will be forwarded to the county's public property committee. From there, it will go to the full county board.

Ad hoc committee members were Supervisors Tom Kautza, Mallmann and Matt Pleshek; employees Grant Bystol, Scott Frank, Ty Raddant and Ethan Schmidt; and citizen

members Sam Crawford, John Jacobs Jr., Regan Mongold and Greg Strayer. Kurt Berner, of Samuels Group, was the facilitator.

Jacobs was absent from the Dec. 2 meeting.

Members first toured the Green Lake County Government Center in Green Lake. After lunch, they toured the Waushara County Courthouse, where they then met to discuss and decide on their recommendation.

"We're recommending the county focus on building new and possibly combining some buildings," Mallmann said. "The location, the time frame, phases, etc., would be determined by the county board."

Which buildings to be affected have also yet to be determined. The ad hoc committee took in-depth looks at the courthouse, sheriff's department and jail, and the public library.

The Green Lake County Government Center, at 158,000 square feet, is home to more than 30 county departments, a sally port and a 100-bed jail to accommodate Huber, medium and maximum security inmates.

In Waushara County, the courthouse combines



Steve Dreher, director of facilities and grounds for Shawano County, left, discusses the space needs of the Shawano County Courthouse with members of the ad hoc committee tasked with deciding the future of county buildings. The tour was one of three taken of county facilities before members agreed to recommend the county build new facilities. With Dreher, from left, are Sam Crawford, Greg Strayer, Scott Frank and Ty Raddant.

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

all of the county's general government, courts, court-related departments, human services and the public health department into a 135,000-square-foot, two-story free-standing building connected to the

current county jail.

The committee was tasked with choosing among three options – maintain existing structures as is, make necessary renovations or build new.

Mallmann said one of

the considerations that played a part in the committee's recommendation was the efficiency of shared resources.

"If we can combine our major facilities as much as possible, we can see sav-

ings in some shared areas and even some shared employees," he said. "It's all about making everything more functional and efficient."

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Licenses, insurance among suggested ATV requirements

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Shawano County Sheriff George Lenzner said he hasn't received any negative feedback on earlier proposals to ban ATV and UTV drivers from drinking and driving on county roads. However, a few other suggestions might not be seen in the same light.

Lenzner told the county's public safety committee on Dec. 4 he will soon sit down with corporation counsel to craft the exact wording of proposed ordinance changes.

"There are getting more and more on the roadway ... so I think we need to make some changes and make stuff a little safer so that we don't start having more issues," he said. "I don't think we should wait like we do with (state Highway) 29 and (County Roads) MMM and U,

where we have to have six, seven fatalities before the state will come in and fix the roadway."

He suggested four changes:

- Anyone 16 or older must have a valid driver's license to operate a UTV on county roads.
 - Children ages 12-15 must be accompanied by an adult with valid driver's license to operate ATVs on roadways. State law prohibits these younger children from operating UTVs on roadways.
 - No open intoxicants would be allowed while an ATV or UTV is operated on a road.
 - ATV or UTV users on county roads must have liability insurance coverage consistent with that required for automobile operators. They must also carry proof of insurance.
- "The majority of them (ATV and UTV users) don't cause us a problem.



Shawano County Sheriff George Lenzner is proposing changes to laws governing the use of ATVs and UTVs on county roads. His suggestions include a valid driver's license for UTV users, children 12-15 accompanied by an adult while operating an ATV, no open intoxicants and proof of insurance.

CONTRIBUTED

We're not really up in ATV/UTV calls here," Lenzner said. "It's always that 10% that cause the issues, and a lot of them are the same people that caused the issues before we allowed them on the roadway."

He reiterated the chang-

es would only govern those using the vehicles on county roads. They would not be in effect for drivers on trails or private property.

The sheriff said he scoured several other counties' ordinances, and some were even

more restrictive than his suggestions.

The city of Shawano is also considering changes to its laws, and the two government entities will work together to coordinate their proposals.

"It would be nice if we both are the same, so that you're not changing the law if you're in the city or going out of the city," Lenzner said.

He reminded committee members that ATVs and UTVs are recreational vehicles, and DNR laws are based on that. It's only when municipalities began allowing them on roadways that non-recreational vehicle laws began to be made.

Lenzner said he would also talk with corporation counsel about changes to county ordinances to allow for citations for such things as speeding, operating after revocation, operating without a valid

driver's license, etc.

"If we have a UTV in a 35 mph zone going 70 mph ... you can't give them a speeding ticket, because it's not a motor vehicle," he said. "Our ordinance says they have to conform, but our ordinance does not state that you're going to get a fine for it or anything. You could give a DNR citation for failure to obey a regulatory sign, but I was thinking you'd create a county ordinance."

When questioned by Supervisor Jeremy Gretzinger, Lenzner said the proposed ordinance would not affect ATV or UTV drivers on roads for agricultural purposes.

Lenzner said he hopes to have the proposed ordinance ready for the committee's February meeting, with the county board to act on it before trails open in the spring.

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Antibiotic resistance threatens public health

Every year, more than 2.8 million people in the U.S. contract infections due to antibiotic resistance, resulting in more than 35,000 deaths.

Aspirus Health is drawing attention to the escalating crisis of antibiotic resistance — a global public health threat that is putting the effectiveness of antibiotics at risk and making infections harder to treat.

“Antibiotic resistance is considered an urgent global public health threat that is consistently getting worse

by the day,” said Kelly Zander, system antimicrobial stewardship coordinator at Aspirus Health. “We’re constantly learning about new infections that are becoming harder and harder to treat, and the drugs that we do have aren’t working anymore.”

This growing issue is felt across communities nationwide, and Zander notes that even in the Aspirus Health service area, they see these patterns emerging.

A major cause of antibiotic resistance is

the misuse of antibiotics, including taking them for illnesses like the common cold or flu, where they are ineffective. Additionally, failing to complete prescribed antibiotic courses contributes to the survival of resistant bacteria. The overuse of antibiotics in agriculture also compounds the problem.

To protect the power of antibiotics, Zander urges people to adopt simple preventive measures.

For more information on antibiotic awareness, visit <https://www.cdc.gov>.



Officials are constantly learning about new infections that are becoming harder and harder to treat, and the drugs available aren’t working anymore, said Kelly Zander, system antimicrobial stewardship coordinator at Aspirus Health. CONTRIBUTED

Farmland rental workshops scheduled for Dec. 17-18

If you own or rent farm land in Wisconsin, how much do you understand about the process of renting that land?

Do you need a contract? What should be in the contract? How much is the land really worth? These and other questions that surround the process of renting farm land are the focus of workshops being conducted in the area in mid-December.

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Division of Extension is providing the opportunities for owners of farmland and agricultural producers to find

out about land rent realities and options. These free, in-person workshops are sponsored by the Extension offices of Langlade, Marinette, Oconto and Shawano counties. Registration is not required, and all interested persons are encouraged to attend.

There are two more options to attend this discussion.

- Dec. 17, 3 p.m., Pound Town Hall, W8484 County Highway B, Coleman.
- Dec. 18, 12:30 p.m., Town of Antigo Town Hall, W9291 State Highway 64, Antigo (adjacent to the Langlade County Airport).

If in doubt about weather is-

sues for these meetings, contact either the Marinette County Extension office at 715-732-7514 or Scott Reuss at 715-701-0966.

Reuss, crops and soils educator, will lead the discussion of the details that should be considered when negotiating a farm rental contract, and why having a contract is important. He will also detail some of the advantages and disadvantages of various types of annual or multi-year leasing contracts.

Current data regarding land rental rates in the multi-county area will be shared and discussed as well.

Although a written contract is not a legal requirement, it does allow for protections for both parties and allows the producer involved to more readily access crop insurance and governmental programs. Many factors can go into a contract, but the most important center on timing, payment processes, restrictions and opportunities for flexibility when unusual cropping conditions occur.

Contract templates of multiple types will be available as handouts, ranging from extremely simple to more complex arrangements. However, it is

important to make sure they match legal needs and the true needs and desires of both parties. The discussion will focus on basic cropland rental situations but can expand to building leases, grazing land and other situations attendees are interested in discussing.

For questions about these topics, contact Reuss in the Marinette County office at 715-732-7510 or via e-mail at scott.reuss@wisc.edu. For those who cannot attend a program, another good source of farmland leasing information is found at <http://www.aglease101.org/>.

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Jason Komanekin Jr., right, swings and does more damage to Angel Reyes in a lightweight boxing match Dec. 7 at Menomonee Casino Resort in Keshena. Komanekin kept his undefeated record intact with a victory over Reyes. Judges for all of the boxing matches were Pat Morley, Barry Wolf and Mike Rogers.



Young members of the Menomonee Indian Boxing Club cheer on Jason Komanekin Jr. and other MIBC members competing at the boxing matches Dec. 7 at Menomonee Casino Resort.

PHOTOS BY GREG MELLIS



Jason Komanekin Jr. practices at the Menomonee Indian Boxing Club in Keshena. Dozens of area boxers, including children, hone their skills at the MIBC.



Friends and family of Jason Komanekin Jr. yell words of encouragement during a bout between Komanekin and Angel Reyes. Komanekin won on a TKO.



The Menomonee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin flag is draped over the shoulders of Brad Blackowl on Dec. 7 at Menomonee Casino Resort. Blackowl won his cruiser weight match over Justin Echols.



VFW Post 2723 members gathered Dec. 9 for a groundbreaking at the recently purchased site at the southeast corner of South Olson Street and East Richmond Street. The local post was formed March 31, 1933, and the clubhouse was dedicated Oct. 1, 1952. Its age and condition are making it more economical to build new than continue to repair or renovate.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

VFW, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

placing flags on veterans' graves every Memorial Day, conducting an annual clothing drive for needy veterans, awarding college scholarships to high school students, awarding grants to graduating high school students who join any military service and providing a color guard for area parades and community events.

In August, a committee was formed to organize

this effort. Members are planning several local fundraising events throughout 2025 to help bring awareness to the goals.

They will also apply for grant money.

Junior Vice Commander Jeremy Buenning is the finance coordinator for the project.

A wall in the building will recognize donors according to the level of their gifts. Special recognition

will be given to those who donate \$2,723 or more.

Checks should be made payable to "Shawano Veterans Foundation Inc." and designated for the New Building Fund.

Mail the tax-deductible contributions to 610 W. Green Bay St., Shawano, WI 54166.

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

OBITUARY

Charlotte A. Kranski



Charlotte A. Kranski, 81, of Larsen, died on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024, at her home under the care of her family and Compassus Hospice.

Charlotte was born on June 15, 1943, in Milwaukee, the daughter of Andrew and Pearl (Koziczowski) Yenter.

Charlotte was united in marriage to Kenneth Kranski on Aug. 26, 1961. The couple settled in Grand Chute, where they lived and raised four children. The couple later divorced.

Charlotte settled in Arizona and became an agent for Prudential Realty. In February 2013, Charlotte was united in marriage to Jeff Peterson. He preceded her in death.

Charlotte enjoyed fishing in her pond, gardening and traveling.

She cherished the time spent with her kids and grandkids.

Charlotte is survived by three children, Kenneth Kranski Jr. of Winchester,

Dr. Clinton Kranski of Temecula, California, and Keri Lee Kranski-O'Neill of Greenville; grandchildren, Kourtney Kranski, Winneconne, Kameryn Kranski, Neenah, and Ayla O'Neill, Greenville; great-grandchildren, Kiara Heath, Elliana Kranski and Brélynn Wilke; siblings, Frederick (Karen) Yenter and James Yenter; and siblings-in-law, John "Jack" VanderKoy, Daniel Wanta and Linda Yenter.

Charlotte was preceded

in death by her parents; husband, Jeff; former husband, Kenneth; son, Kyle; grandson, Avery; brothers, David, Hubert (Theresa), Chester (Helen), Robert (Marian), Conrad, William, Andrew, Joseph, Jerome, Daniel and Roger; and sisters, Ramona (Volkmar) Bauer, Rita (Roger) Shalewski, Theresa Wanta and Patricia VanderKoy.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 6, 2024, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Galloway. Father Augustine Bentil will officiate.

Burial will be in the parish cemetery. Visitation will be held on Friday, at the church, beginning at 9 a.m. until the time of Mass.

Schmidt & Schulta Funeral Home, Wittenberg, is assisting the family with arrangements.

Memories and messages of support may be shared at SchmidtSchulta.com.

Johnson to host mobile office hours

U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson's staff will be available for mobile office hours Dec. 18 in Brown and Menominee Counties.

These office hours give constituents the opportunity to meet with Johnson's staff to request assistance with a federal

agency or other federal matters.

Office hours will be from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Suamico Village Hall, 12781 Velp Ave., Suamico; and from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at Menominee Public Library, N172 Highway 47/55, Keshena.



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Packers Foundation invests in new pageant

The Green Bay Packers Foundation chair's message to grant recipients was succinct. On Nov. 21, Wilson Jones told the 398 grantees gathered in the Lambeau Field Atrium that "the Green Bay Packers appreciate what you do."

Wilson conveyed that the foundation was created in 1986 by Judge Robert J. Parins "as a vehicle to assure continued contributions to charity," with its goal being "to assist the many nonprofit organizations across the state that impact the well-being of Wisconsin residents."

In 2024, they awarded \$1.5 million to help meet their charge.

There were 459 grants submitted this year, with each seeking funding for eligible projects in arts and culture, athletics and education. Wilson noted: "This was the largest number of applications we've ever had."

He added that all the organizations that applied shared something in common with the foundation.

"We have the same mantra — everybody matters," he said. "We want to encourage you to keep doing what you do to inspire others in our state."

I attended the luncheon event with pageant stage manger Melinda Cook to accept a check on behalf of the Menominee Pageant Players Guild. Our group stages a theatrical production in the



Woodland Bowl every summer on the Wednesday before the Menominee Contest Pow Wow, as well as a dinner theater evening on the Menominee Restoration Act in late December.

While a Dec. 19 show at Menominee Indian Middle School will mark our next production, the Packers Foundation grant will help finance our summer 2025 endeavors.

Menominee people have been inviting guests onto their land to hear performed oration since the 1800s, with their pageant productions running from 1937 into the 1970s. The latter shows are a mixture of recorded dialogue, pantomime and live music and dancing under theatrical lights in the majestic Woodland Bowl in Keshena.

Since 2016, the College of Menominee Nation has answered elders' requests to revive the shows, staging classic pageant scripts from the 1940s through the 1960s. Celebrated by both the community who created

them and those who travel from throughout the state to witness, the shows have inspired our turn toward a new chapter in Menominee theater history.

The Green Bay Packers Foundation grant funds the creation of new pageant scripts that will carry the productions forward for the next few years. Drawing from both written and oral Menominee stories, the new show will aim to reflect the messages that 21st century pageant patrons need to hear. The charge to write new shows has been a goal of our revival team since day one.

After our 2016 production, our late master of ceremonies Richie Plass said, "Look at these people, these young ones. Fifty years from now, they'll be great, these young ones, carrying this on. And maybe even make new stories, make them their stories. And that's what our culture is about. It's forever changing as much as it is staying as it was."

In 2023, the Pageant Players Guild answered the call to produce new stories by adding a new scene to enhance a collection of past work in a show called "Onkow." In 2024, we created and staged the short intermission show, "How Muak Got Their Necklace." In 2025 and beyond, we aim to stage all new productions.

Packer alumnus Dorsey Levens concluded the foundation



Menominee Pageant Players director Ryan Winn and stage manager Melinda Cook accept a Green Bay Packers Foundation check from Packer alumnus Dorsey Levens. COLLEGE OF MENOMINEE NATION

gathering stating, "It's amazing what you can do to change someone's life. All you have to do is show them you care and give them your ear."

"If you want to change the world, you start in your community."

Menominee people have always recognized the power of stories to enact positive change.

With funding from the Green Bay Packers Foundation and the continued support of CMN, the Menominee Pageant Players Guild endeavor to add to the

proud tradition of Menominee theater.

Generation after generation, Menominee theater practitioners have been empowering artists, affirming cultural teachings and changing patrons into allies, one production at a time.

The Pageant Players Guild appreciates this rich history. Now it's time to add to it.

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

Hunter shares 'Late Season Deer' reality show

I love reality shows that aren't fake, or at least appear not to be fake. Shows like "Naked and Afraid," "Life Below Zero" and "Survivor: SOS" show actual survival tips that could save a life or at least get you through a few days on some remote island or longer in Alaska.

If I had a chance to make my own reality TV show, I'd call it "Late Season Deer." The goal is to put some venison in the freezer by any legal means possible while avoiding frostbite, amputated toes, hair-pulling boredom and a padded room with clipboard-holding observers.

When the last few shots of the nine-day gun deer season fade into the distance and the first few days of the 10-day muzzleloader deer season begin, those lingering doubts about gathering fresh venison begin to solidify. But I now had someone new to share my misery and pop-up blind with.

Scott Krebs, of Oshkosh, the spouse of one of my wife's best friends, lost his hunting spot last season and briefly shared my blind last season at Fox Valley Muzzle Loaders Club in New London. Although no deer fell, I convinced him to join the club because he was anxious to learn more about muzzleloading rifles and enjoy hunting on the club's 40-acre woods.

He purchased a new CVA Optima V2 .50-caliber muzzle-loading rifle with Vortex scope combo online (one huge benefit of trying the sport is that you can purchase most muzzleloaders through the mail). It took us two sessions to get the rifle dialed in for his load of two 50-grain White Hots pellets and a Hornady 240-grain bullet. The light-



weight rifle had an exceptionally light trigger, and he got to shoot at a doe Nov. 29 (muzzleloaders are legal for all gun deer seasons).

He missed. But our spirits were revived, because we had seen several deer that day. I chalked it up to rookie frontloader nerves and that hair trigger. Muzzleloaders take a little getting used to.

"It's different than a regular rifle, because you don't have a fast second shot," Krebs said.

I've taught him how to load his rifle by first dropping two White Hots down the barrel, then inserting the pre-greased bullet and working it down a few inches with the short-starter (a short rod with a ball of wood on one end for a nice grip) before using the rifle's ramrod to seat the bullet on top of the powder pellets. Open the hinged rifle to put a 209 shotshell primer into a hole in the breech plug, close the gun, cock the hammer and you are ready to fire. Elapsed time: a minute with practice.

They also make muzzleloading pistols, and they can provide a quicker follow-up shot. Note that blackpowder revolvers are not legal during the muzzleloader-only season, because they can be loaded from the rear. (I use a single-shot pistol that must be loaded from the muzzle.)



Scott Krebs, of Oshkosh, enjoyed his first muzzleloader deer season this year after purchasing this new CVA Optima V2 .50-caliber rifle. As a new member of Fox Valley Muzzle Loaders Club in New London, he's been mentor hunting with columnist Ross Bielema on the club's 40-acre woods. ROSS BIELEMA

Although inline muzzleloaders like the rifles we were using are generally more reliable than the older sidelock rifles that

some still use (inlines have caps that put the ignition fire directly in line with the powder, while sidelocks have caps that send the

spark at an angle to the powder), both versions can fail. I had a small forkhorn buck come in to within about 25 yards of my blind on opening morning, and the 209 primer didn't fire. The buck walked off as I struggled to figure out what happened. I believe I left too much oil in the breech and it saturated the primer, the powder or both.

Modern muzzleloader hunters, like their buckskin-wearing forefathers, need to carry a bunch of gear in a "possibles" bag, either of traditional or modern design. I've swapped out my fringed leather bag with shoulder strap that I carried years ago with my CVA mountain rifle for a nylon zipper pouch that tucks in my hunting coat pocket. Krebs chose a flat dark earth nylon tactical pouch with zipper for his necessities.

"You need a lot of stuff with a muzzleloader," Krebs said. "You need bullets and powder and caps and a short starter and a ramrod and"

Rather than stuffing a rifle magazine with sealed, water-tight metallic cartridges, you are essentially creating your own powder-bullet-primer combo with each loading.

When the muzzleloader season ends Dec. 11, the four-day antlerless season (Dec. 12-15) gives muzzleloader and regular firearms hunters another chance for a deer. Then Krebs and I can return to our blind with crossbows or vertical bows to wrap up our "Late Season Deer" reality show. By the time the Jan. 5 finale rolls around, it will resemble "Life Below Zero."

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

Building a gingerbread house

Sacred Heart Catholic School second and eighth graders worked together Dec. 3 to make gingerbread houses. Graham crackers, hot glue, sprinkles, icing, candy and miscellaneous decorations all went into their festive creations. The students revealed the final products at the school's Christmas concert Dec. 10. From left, are Ellie Cumberland, Jordin Wild, Addyson Fowler-Doxator, Briella LaRock and Mechaela Jaros.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, DEC. 13

BONDUEL: Community Archives Holiday Bake Sale, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bonduel State Bank, 130 N. Cecil St.

NAVARINO: Santa's Winter Wonderland, 5-7 p.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. \$10 per family. Photos with Santa, lighted Christmas trails, children's activities.

ABRAMS: "Suessical The Musical," 7 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St. Presented by Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. Tickets \$19 for adults and \$17 for senior citizens, youths and veterans at abramstheater.com or 920-826-5852.

SATURDAY, DEC. 14

SURING: Cookie Walk and Kringle Sale, 9-11 a.m., Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, 11005 County Road M. Cookies and candy for \$8 a pound, \$8 for Kringle.

SHAWANO: Saturdays with Santa in the Naberhood, 10 a.m. to noon, Naberhood, 214 S. Main St. Sensory friendly with Strive Behavioural Solutions.

PULASKI: Christmas Storytime, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Pulaski Museum, 129 W. Pulaski St.

BONDUEL: Visit with Santa, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 1919 Antiques, 129 N. Cecil St.

SHAWANO: Saturdays with Santa in the Naberhood, 2-4 p.m., Naberhood, 214 S. Main St. Santa with the Shawano County Library.

BOWLER: Bowler Area Historical Society open house, 4-7 p.m., 104 E. Main St. Serving hot chocolate, coffee and cookies. In conjunction with the Bowler Holiday Parade at 6 p.m. sponsored by the Bowler FFA.

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

ABRAMS: "Suessical The Musical," 7 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St. Presented by Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. Tickets \$19 for adults and \$17 for senior citizens, youths and veterans at abramstheater.com or 920-826-5852.

SUNDAY, DEC. 15

SHAWANO: Blue Christmas Service, 10:30 a.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1254 S. Union St. A service of reflection, hope and remembrance for those who find the holiday season challenging. Followed by a light lunch and "Navigating the Holidays After a Loss," noon to 1:30 p.m. RSVP to Nancy Schultz 715-390-4540.

ABRAMS: "Suessical The Musical," 1 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St. Presented by Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. Tickets \$19 for adults and \$17 for senior citizens, youths and veterans at abramstheater.com or 920-826-5852.

MONDAY, DEC. 16

BONDUEL: Grades 5-8 Children's Christmas Program, 7 p.m., St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, 240 E. Green Bay St.

TUESDAY, DEC. 17

KELLY LAKE: Sanitary District #1 monthly meeting, 6 p.m., district office building, 9535 Green Acres St. Agenda will be posted at two posting boards around Kelly Lake and on the office door. Visitors welcome. Call 920-842-4527 by Dec. 16 to be placed on the agenda.

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

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18

NAVARINO: Storytime, Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Topic: Penguins. \$3 fee, register at 715-758-6999.

ABRAMS: Auditions for the musical "Godspell," 6-8:30 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St. AbramsTheater.com, 920-826-5852 or theater.aspi@gmail.com.

THURSDAY, DEC. 19

ABRAMS: Auditions for the Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. musical "Godspell," 6-8:30 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St. AbramsTheater.com, 920-826-5852 or theater.aspi@gmail.com.

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YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

A fund to fight government secrecy

BY JONATHAN ANDERSON

In 2022, the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council created a designated fund to help cover legal costs associated with fighting to pry records into the public domain. Called simply the WFOIC Legal Fund, it has never had more than \$4,000 in its coffers. The council, of which I am a member, has put what money that is there to good use.

The council last year awarded a grant to The Badger Project, which together with a watchdog group known as the Invisible Institute, is suing the state Department of Justice for refusing to release records about police officers. That case remains pending.

The Legal Fund also helped cover some expenses in journalist Daniel Libit's suit against the University of Wisconsin-Madison and UW Foundation over access to records about publicity deals for student athletes. A Dane County circuit judge dismissed the lawsuit in September on technical grounds, and Libit did not appeal, but the

suit ultimately prompted disclosure of the requested information.

The council in 2022 provided funds to an individual who successfully sued the La Crosse Police Department and the Holmen Police Department for records related to criminal investigations.

The council's goal in establishing this fund, which began with a \$1,700 contribution from a citizens group grateful for the council's guidance, is to help individuals and journalists who are confronting improper government secrecy. We are focused on funding lawsuits that are likely to succeed, could help clarify and strengthen the public's right of access to government meetings or records, or that involve clear or egregious violations of law. We also consider the financial need of the applicant.

There are some strings attached. Cases must involve Wisconsin's public records or open meetings laws, and the requester must be represented by an attorney with a valid license to practice law in the state. Expenses eligible for grant funding include

fees for filing, process service, depositions and expert witnesses. At present, attorney's fees are not covered, and in cases where the plaintiff prevails and wins recovery of litigation costs, the money contributed by the council must be returned.

Down the line, the council hopes the fund can be substantial enough to cover at least some attorney fees in cases that do not lead to successful outcomes or for actions in which no financial restitution is possible, such as letters from attorneys contesting denials. We're not there yet.

The legal fund is a new dimension to the council's existing efforts to advocate for access to government information. In addition to public education and legislative engagement, we have long been a voice for the public's right to know in Wisconsin courts by filing friend-of-the-court briefs.

This year, the council joined the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty in a brief in Wisconsin Voter Alliance v. Secord at the Wisconsin Supreme



Court involving the public records law.

The council also joined the Wisconsin Newspaper Association, Wisconsin Broadcasters Association and the Society of Professional Journalists in a brief

to the Wisconsin Court of Appeals in Oitzinger v. City of Marinette involving the open meetings law.

If you are interested in applying for a grant, visit wisfoic.org/legalfund. To contribute to the fund,

visit wisfoic.org/donate.

Your Right to Know is distributed by the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council (wisfoic.org), a group dedicated to open government. Council Treasurer Jonathan Anderson is a former Wisconsin journalist and current Ph.D. candidate at the University of Minnesota.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SAW's night meetings starting out slow

To the editor,
After two nighttime meetings, the Shawano Area Writers have not seen much interest in these events. But it's not totally bad news. Only one person has come to the two night meetings, and this person has a lot of potential as a writer.

In the Student Writing Contest years of 2022, 2023 and 2024, Francesca Ullmer a homeschooled student, has won nine awards. Through these

years, she won four first-place, three second-place, one third-place award and one honorable mention. I'm the coordinator for the Student Writing Contest, and when student writers send me more than one entry, like Francesca did, I purposely mix them in with the other entries for that category, so the judge for that category will not read her entries one after another. Her entries still ended up at the top of the pile of stories.

As a group, SAW doesn't know what will happen to these young

writers as they make their way into the big, wide world. I have mentioned more than once that students who have won even an honorable mention in our contest, to make sure they put that on any job application that they fill out, if there's a place to do that. Why? Because knowing how to put words down on paper will put this young person ahead of a lot of applicants. It seems writing is becoming a lost art.

So even though our night meetings are starting out slow, we are going to

continue them for one year and then decide whether we should continue. There are so many people out there who have led interesting lives, and those experiences will be lost forever if not put down in writing. Experiences that could be passed on to their younger family members. In 2005, I got together with my mother and produced a biography of her life. I'm so glad I did that, as she passed away in 2006.

Our next meetings for the Shawano Area Writers will be on Dec. 19 from 10 a.m. to noon in the

basement of the Shawano County Library and then from 5:30-7 p.m. at Shawano's Café, W7389 River Bend Road, Shawano. Questions? Call John Mutter at 715-524-4520.

John J. Mutter Jr., Shawano

To the editor,

Abortion stance is reason Democrats performed poorly

I feel that I should respond to Peter Cameron's article from Nov 22.

I feel that the reason that the Democrats did

so poorly is because they were on the wrong side of the abortion issue. Almost all Lutherans and Catholics, as well as many atheists and nones, feel that abortions should be outlawed or at least restricted.

Some of the ads Democrats ran made you think that they wanted abortion to be allowed for any reason or no reason at all, at any time during a pregnancy. No matter what these voters thought about the other issues, they felt they couldn't vote for that.

Dale Wagner, Krakow

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Tigerton boys pull out two-point win

Dec. 7
Tigerton 68, Green Bay NEW Lutheran 66
Tigerton pulled out a two-point win, 68-66, over Green Bay NEW Lutheran.
Tri-County 71, Gresham 29
Friday, Dec. 6
Bonduel 89, Iola-Scandinavia 61

Cade Johnson led the way with 24 points as five Bears scored in double digits in an 89-61 win over Iola-Scandinavia.

Quinn Wesenberg and Ryan Westrich each scored 16 points, and Carter Moesch and Race Anvelink each had 15. Griffin Uelmen scored the Bears' other three points.

Bonduel led 48-35 at the half and added to their lead with a 43-26 second half.

Bonduel connected on 14 3-pointers in the game.

Wittenberg-Birnarnwood 62, St. Mary Catholic 59

It was a back-and-forth game with several lead changes, but Wittenberg-Birnarnwood pulled it out at the end, winning 62-59 over St. Mary Catholic.

"We managed to execute when needed down the stretch and got some big plays from multiple kids in different ways, both offensively and defensively," coach Garrett Rogowski said.

Jett Rogowski paced the Chargers with 33 going 11-11 from the line and connecting on four 3-point baskets. He also led the team with five assists.

Oliver Fraaza scored 13 points and led the Chargers with 10 rebounds. Jaden Clark scored 10 points and led the team with three steals.

D.C. Everest 54, Shawano 44

The Hawks opened up



Cade Johnson scored 24 points to lead Bonduel to an 89-61 win over Iola-Scandinavia on Dec. 6.
BELLA ROBERTS

a 26-23 halftime lead, but D.C. Everest poured it on in the second half, outscoring Shawano 31-18, to win 54-44.

Will Verkuilen led Shawano with 26 points. Logan Sipple notched four rebounds, Anderson Schmidt had three assists, and Verkuilen led with two steals.

Pulaski 74, Menasha 51

Dec. 5
Bowler 63, Marion 61 (OT)

It was the tale of two halves in Bowler's 63-61 overtime win over Marion.

Marion led 25-18 at halftime, but Bowler bounced back to win the second half 37-30 and send the game into overtime with a 55-55 score.

In OT, Bowler finished on top 8-6 for the win.

Marion was led by Braylon Mielke with 17 points and Nolan Wisniewski with 10. Mielke also led with 13 rebounds, with Sawyer Kamba nabbing 11.



Bonduel senior Race Anvelink goes up for another basket during the Bears' dominating win over Iola-Scandinavia in Central Wisconsin East Conference action Dec. 6.
BELLA ROBERTS

Wisniewski led with four assists, and Kamba had three steals.

Niagara 67, Gillett 21
Ryan Pensis scored 15 points and Jed Herzog had six in Gillett's 67-21 loss to Niagara.

Niagara led 41-9 at halftime and outscored Gillett 26-12 in the second half.

St. Thomas Aquinas Academy 46, Lena 32

St. Thomas Aquinas Academy maintained control of the game, defeating

Lena 46-32.

Lena was down 19-16 at halftime and was outscored 27-16 after the break.

Fox Valley Lutheran 58, Oconto Falls 54

The Panthers made a valiant effort in the second half but came up short in a 58-54 loss to Fox Valley Lutheran.

Trailing 29-21 at halftime, Oconto Falls outscored Fox Valley Lutheran by four points in

the second half, but that wasn't enough.

Evan Yuma led Oconto Falls with 19 points, and JJ Pytleski added 10.

Yuma also led with eight rebounds and three assists. Chase Cariveau had three steals.

Crivitz 67, Suring 31
Crivitz generated more points in the first half than they would need the rest of the game in a 67-31 defeat of Suring.

Crivitz led 41-17 at the break and added 12 points to its margin of victory in the second half.

The Eagles were led by Taylor Booth-Stoffregen's 17 points.

Northeast Wisconsin Christian Home School 59, Tigerton 38

James Brady led the Tigers with 18 points in Tigerton's 59-38 loss to Northeast Wisconsin Christian Home School. Brady also led his team in rebounds with 17.

Caleb Dahlstrom led Tigerton with three assists. With two steals each were Brady, Dahlstrom, Sam Anheuser and Joey Zimdars.

Northland Lutheran 82, Gresham 42

Dec. 3
Pulaski 72, Shawano 47

Pulaski emerged victorious in a 72-47 win over Shawano.

For the Hawks, Logan Sipple scored 14 points, and Will Verkuilen had 12.

"It was a tough loss," Shawano coach Joel Dostator said.

Bonduel 94, St. Mary Catholic 62

Senior Cade Johnson scored 19 points, had 16 assists and grabbed eight rebounds in the Bears' 94-62 season opening win over St. Mary Catholic.

BOYS, CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Chargers' Salvesen joins 1,000-point club

Dec. 7
Gresham 47, Tri-County 25

Dec. 6
Gillett 41, Crivitz 30
Cilena Guns scored 16 points to lead Gillett to a 41-30 win over Crivitz.

Gillett led 24-15 at the half before outscoring the visitors 17-15 in the second half.

Wittenberg-Birnarnwood 68, Menominee Nation 40

Rory Salvesen saced the 1,000th point of her high school career in Wittenberg-Birnarnwood's 68-40 win over Menominee Nation.

"Tonight was a tail of two halves," Chargers coach Nick Mechelke said. "We didn't play very good

basketball in the first half. We talked some over at halftime and turned it around. I don't think we played a great game this season yet, but we are getting close."

Salvesen led the team with 24 points, followed by Melaina Granquist with 23.

Granquist pulled down 12 rebounds, Salvesen had seven steals, and Harper Rogowski had four assists.

Oconto Falls 54, Luxemburg-Casco 51

Rylie Shallow scored 28 points, and Ella Jahnke added 11 as Oconto Falls defeated Luxemburg-Casco 54-51.

The Panthers 24-20 halftime lead proved to be enough when Luxemburg-Casco outscored them

31-30 in the second half.

West De Pere 71, Shawano 62

The Hawks took the No. 3 ranked Phantoms to the wire but lost a close one at the end.

The score was tied at 32-32 at halftime, but West De Pere pulled it at the end for a 71-62 win.

Leah Nordin led Shawano with 29 points, and Anna Dreier had 10.

Oneida Nation 73, Suring 42

Bonduel 62, Iola-Scandinavia 33
Sheboygan North 54, Pulaski 46

Dec. 5
Bowler 51, Wausaukee 41

Dec. 3
Lena 67, St. Thomas

Aquinas Academy 6

This game wasn't even close, as Lena obliterated St. Thomas Aquinas Academy 67-6.

Madilyn Thomson led the Wildcats with 23 points. Eva Brooks scored 15, and Kali Fischer had 12.

Brooks led with five rebounds and six assists. Haley Van Ark recorded six steals.

Gillett 41, Niagara 30

Four players each scored eight points to lead a balanced attack for Gillett in its 41-30 win over Niagara.

Lily Hansen, Cilena Guns, Maggie Kaczmarek and Audrey Pate each had eight points. Hope Soper scored seven, and Clara Schaal had the other two.

Gillett led 25-15 at the half and won the second half 16-15.

Wittenberg-Birnarnwood 71, Manawa 41

Once Wittenberg-Birnarnwood locked into their game, it was no holds barred as they crushed Manawa 71-41.

"We got off to a slow start in the first half. I called a timeout and made a little adjustment, and we went on a big run," coach Nick Mechelke said. "We weren't getting into our spots early on."

That adjustment led to the Chargers bursting out to a 48-15 lead at the half.

Rory Salvesen led the team with 19 points, followed by Melaina Granquist with 18. Ava Brie and

Harper Rogowski each scored 11.

"We got a really good game from Ava Brei tonight," Mechelke said. "She played very well on both ends of the court."

Granquist set a blistering pace with 13 rebounds, Salvesen nabbed seven steals, and Rogowski and Salvesen each had a pair of assists.

Bonduel 55, Weyauwega-Fremont 28

Gresham 37, Marion/Tigerton 35

Shiocton 41, Menominee Nation 26

Fox Valley Lutheran 51, Oconto Falls 31

Pulaski 45, Seymour 38

Oostburg 70, Shawano 49

Shawano hockey beats Oshkosh

**Dec. 7
Manitowoc United 5,
Shawano/Bonduel 1**

Gavin Hundt scored a short-handed goal early in the third period to bring Shawano/Bonduel to a one-goal deficit to Manitowoc United, but the hosts then scored three unanswered goals to earn the 5-1 win.

Both teams had 24 shots on goal. Kaiden Thornborrow was in the net for Shawano/Bonduel and had 19 saves.

Each team was penalized six times for 12 minutes.

**Dec. 5
Shawano/Bonduel 4,
Oshkosh 2**

In a penalty-laden game that saw a player from each team ejected in the first period, Shawano/

Bonduel finished on top of Oshkosh 4-2.

Shawano/Bonduel's Michael Dillenburg was ejected after grabbing an opponent's facemask, and Oshkosh's Jason Schmid was ejected after head contact. In the same melee, Shawano/Bonduel's Waylon Snider was called for roughing. Prior to the ejections, the teams had already been called for four penalties each in the period.

By the end of the game, the Hawks were called for 12 infractions for 35 minutes, while the visiting Ice Hawks were penalized 10 times for 31 minutes.

Oshkosh led 1-0 after the first period. Shawano/Bonduel tied the game 1-1 on a Max Huntington goal at 15:41 in the second pe-

riod. Cameron Schroeder had the assist.

Oshkosh went back on top 2-1 in the third period. Shawano/Bonduel responded with three goals to earn the win.

Blake Swedberg scored at 10:32 with an assist from Quinten Harkey. Kielian Armbruster scored at 16:01 with help from Schroeder. Finally, Jeremy Helmuth scored at 16:27 with help from Gavin Hundt.

Shawano/Bonduel had 37 shots on goal, with Chase Magadanz getting 33 saves. Kaiden Thornborrow had 18 saves for the Hawks.

Antigo 6, Rhinelander 4

**Dec. 3
Northland Pines 8,
Shawano/Bonduel 1**
The Shawano/Bonduel

boys hockey team (2-1) suffered its first loss of the season with an 8-1 defeat at the hands of Northland Pines at the Crawford Center.

Gavin Hundt put the Hawks on the board just 47 seconds into the game on an even strength goal with assists from Cameron Schroeder and Blake Swedberg.

It was all Eagles from there, as they led 2-1 at the end of the first period. The visitors added two more goals in the second period and four in the third.

Each team was called for three infractions for six minutes.

Kaiden Thornborrow notched 25 saves for Shawano/Bonduel, and Everett Leslie had seven for Northland Pines.



Quinn Wesenberg was one of five Bears to score in double digits in Bonduel's 28-point win over Iola-Scandinavia on Dec. 6. Bonduel improved to 2-0 with the win.

BELLA ROBERTS

Ice Bears top Warbirds, fall to Blake

**Dec. 7
Blake 2, Bay Area 1**

There was one goal scored in each of the three periods with Blake getting the 2-1 nod over the Bay Area Ice Bears.

Down 1-0 to start the second period, Emily Bill scored with assists from Addison Dahl and Faye Brunke to tie the game at 1-1. A Blake goal in the third period goal gave the

win to the visitors.

Reese Spiering had 12 saves, while Blake's Janie McGawn had 31.

Blake was penalized twice for four minutes, while the Ice Bears were called for three infractions for six minutes.

**Dec. 6
Bay Area 3, Warbirds 1**

It took the Ice Bears until the third period

before their onslaught of shots on goal began to connect, as they beat the Warbirds 3-1.

Trailing 1-0 going into the final stanza, Bay Area got on the board at 2:55 with a goal by Faye Brunke and assists by Julianne Bradford and My Sheppard.

Addison Dahl scored at 5:19 with assists from Briana Anundsen and Tiana

Stindt. Brunke scored again at 8:40 with an assist from Emily Bill.

The Ice Bears had 42 shots on goal, with Kennedy Kohlman making 39 saves. Reese Spiering made 11 saves for the Ice Bears.

The Warbirds were called for three penalties for six minutes, while the Ice Bears were penalized once for two minutes.

BOYS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Sophomores Quinn Wesenberg and Carter Moesch had 24 and 22 points, respectively, while junior Ryan Westrich had 19 points and 11 rebounds. Bonduel held a 40-28 lead at halftime and then outscored St. Mary Catholic by 20 points in the second half.

Tigerton 68, Tomahawk 29

James Brady scored 26 points to lead Tigerton to a 68-29 win over Tomahawk.

The Tigers had little difficulty in controlling the game, leading 36-13 at halftime and winning the second half 32-16.

Besides Brady, eight other Tigerton players scored.

Lena 52, Stockbridge 26

Suring 63, Bowler 42

**Dec. 2
Gresham 36, Gillett 30**

Gresham's new basketball season jumped off to a good start with a 36-30 home win over Gillett.

Gillett led 16-13 at the half, but Gresham had a strong second half to pull away with the win.

Gresham was led Kobe Miller with 15 points and Thomas Kaquatosh with 10.

Leading the Tigers was Jed Herzog with 13 points..

Wittenberg-Birnhamwood 67, Menominee Nation 56

The Chargers opened their 2024-25 season with a 67-56 home win over the Eagles.

"I felt our boys played with great effort and together throughout the contest," Wittenberg-Birnhamwood coach Garrett Rogowski said. "Being the first game, we definitely have some takeaways that we can improve upon, but overall very proud of the job they did in both halves."

Jett Rogowski led the Chargers with 30 points, including a pair of 3-point plays and 8-of-9 from the free-throw line. Zandyr Barke scored 15 points.

Kenew Awonohopay led Menominee Nation with 16 points, and King Lyons scored 15. Lyons was also 6-for-6 from the free-throw line.

Shawano girl wrestlers place second

The Shawano girls wrestling team placed second out of 29 teams in Kimberly on Dec. 7.

"The girls wrestled a great tournament and spent most of the day in the top three for points, at times in first place," coach Mike Homan said. "It was a close final round as we finished in second place just six points out of first. All of the girls wrestled aggressively and left everything out on the mat. I'm especially proud of the

way they moved forward off the whistle and fought for positioning against great opponents."

All of the girls improved with each match they wrestled.

Gwyn Hermann was the champion at 107 pounds.

"She was aggressive and relentless in all her matches," Homan said. "She racked up many bonus points throughout the day and led the team in points."

Vivian Waldburger finished in second place. She scored the team 42 points.

"She is continuously getting better and looks to keep on improving throughout the season," Homan said.

Maddie Moesch also finished in second place.

Kendall Knope wrestled well in her first tournament and took third.

"She fights hard and wrestled well," Homan said.

Also placing third were

Zannah Bosetski, Mille Panske, Ella Korth, Lauren Seehafer and Adalyn Barkley.

Placing in fifth were Jozlyn Bocker and Brynn Hannes.

In sixth were Jenna Moe and Ayanna O'Kimosh.

Lily Tomas placed ninth, and Bella Supper was 10th. Chloe Gilling placed 11th,

Maddie Miller and Kiara Johnson each finished in 12th place, and Emmy Marien was 14th.



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Preliminary figures show hunters registered 189,622 deer during the 2024 gun deer season, including 89,787 antlered and 99,835 antlerless deer, according to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Compared to 2023, the gun season harvest total is up 5.2% statewide, with the antlered harvest up 3.6% and the antlerless harvest up 6.6%. CONTRIBUTED

Gun deer season harvest up 5.2% from a year ago

Preliminary numbers from the 2024 Wisconsin gun deer season show an increase in deer licenses and the number of deer killed compared to 2023. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) said that as of Dec. 1, sales for deer hunting privileges (which include gun, archery, crossbow, conservation patron and sports licenses) reached 791,023, up from 788,697 for the same time period last year. Of those, 553,652 were for gun privileges only, up from 553,479 in 2023.

Deer hunting license and harvest authorization sales will continue throughout the remaining deer hunting seasons. Final license sales figures will be available in January, when DNR staff will perform a thorough analysis and interpretation.

Preliminary figures show hunters registered 189,622 deer during the 2024 gun deer season, including 89,787 antlered and 99,835 antlerless deer. Compared to 2023, the gun season harvest total is up 5.2% statewide, with the antlered harvest up 3.6% and the antlerless harvest up 6.6%.

Since the opening of the bow and crossbow seasons, Wisconsin hunters have registered 289,361 deer. This harvest is 8.7% ahead of the same time last year.

Adams County in the Central Farmland Zone led the state with 12.4 deer registered per square mile. Vernon County led the Southern Farmland Zone with 7 deer registered per square mile. Adams County also led the Central Forest Zone registering 4.2 deer per square mile. Finally, Florence County led the Northern Forest Zone with 2.9 deer registered per square mile.

The DNR's Wisconsin Deer Harvest Summary webpage (<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/harvest/deerharvest>) contains more information regarding preliminary harvest registration totals, including county-level numbers.

In Shawano County, there were 5,380 deer harvested, including 2,702 antlered and 2,678 antlerless. In Oconto County, the harvest was 3,826, includ-

ing 1,823 antlered and 2,003 antler less.

The regular gun deer season ran from Nov. 23 through Dec. 1 and is followed by the statewide muzzleloader season (Dec. 2-11), the statewide antlerless-only four-day hunt (Dec. 12-15) and the antlerless-only holiday hunt in select farmland zone counties (Dec. 24 to Jan. 1, 2025).

The DNR reports only one nonfatal firearm-related hunting incident during the 2024 gun deer season.

That happened in the Town of Wheatland in Vernon County. About 4 p.m. Nov. 29, a 14-year-old boy was sitting in an enclosed tower stand with his father, hunting on private property. The father heard what sounded like a gunshot in the distance. Shortly after, the boy felt pain in his feet and found that he was shot through both the left and right foot. He was transported privately to a hospital and received medical treatment for his injuries. The shooter has been identified, and an investigation is pending.

M&O all-conference selections announced

Coming off his seventh place finish at the state cross country meet, Gillett High School junior Bradyn Wendorff was honored as most outstanding runner and named to the Marinette & Oconto Conference first team all-conference boys team, officials announced.

Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas Academy senior Mason Belongia was also named to the first team.

Second team honors were earned by Gillett senior Scott Herroux and Lena/STAA junior Erik Kosch.

For the girls, Gillett sophomore Hope Soper was named most outstanding runner and also named to the first team all-conference.

She was joined there by Lena/STAA sophomores Asypynn Anderson and Adrena Rabas.

Second team honors were earned by Gillett junior Sophie Limberg and Suring junior Ginger Gerndt.

Suring High School senior Emma Kristof was named the defensive specialist in the Marinette & Oconto Conference all-conference volleyball list for 2024.

Joining here with first team honors were Lena High School seniors Eva Brooks and Peyton Dorow.

Gillett High School sophomore Audrey Pate and Suring sophomore Lexi Remic were named to the second team.

Honorable mention status was earned by Suring freshman Ellayna Skarban.

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Winners from the Shawano Pathways Trails Photography Contest are, from left, Diane Williamson, JoRene Gorshe and Isaac Curran.

CONTRIBUTED

Pathways photo contest winners announced

Top winners of the Shawano Pathways Trails Photography Contest were announced at Pathways’ annual Social and Report to the Community, held Nov. 12 at Twig’s Beverage Museum.

JoRene Gorshe, after an evening outing with the Shawano Paddlers, captured a tranquil moment as the Wolf River reflected a rising moon for her first-place photo.

Isaac Curran took second place with a photo aptly named “Squirrels in the Park,” a landscape featuring bright red foliage balanced against an autumnal sky. Last year, another entry by Curran earned

first place.

Third-place winner Diane Williamson walks the Mountain Bay Trail nearly every day and enjoys capturing seasonal changes from the same spot on her hike. Last year, she placed with another winter scene on the trail.

The contest was open to amateur photographers whose 2024 photos were judged based on two measures: technical composition and promotion of a route or trail for biking, walking or paddling within Shawano County.

Winners took home cash prizes and framed prints of their respective photographs.

Early ice covers unsafe, DNR warns

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) urges the public to practice early-winter ice safety on all of Wisconsin’s waterbodies, and remember that no ice is safe ice.

The temperature swings that mark the final weeks of every year can create ice covers.

“After we have the first cold nights, we start to see the early ice. It may look solid to the naked eye, but it’s not,” said Lt. Jacob Holsclaw, DNR off-highway vehicle administrator. “There can be, and often are, cracks and changes in the ice thickness that you will not see.”

The ice covers hide the currents, debris and underground springs still feeding lakes and rivers.

“These factors and more are why no ice is ever considered safe – no matter the month,” Holsclaw said.

The DNR does not monitor ice conditions, but they are monitored locally. Local fishing clubs, outfitters and bait shops are the best sources for local current ice conditions.

However, the best idea for safe winter fun is to enjoy outings without travel over ice.

If the outing does involve travel over a waterbody, remember every waterbody has its own characteristics. Check if

the lake has inlets, outlets or narrows, is spring-fed or has currents, which can thin the ice.

Some smaller lakes can have aerators that are run throughout the winter either covering a large area towards the center of the lake or may have smaller aerators placed by private property landowners adjacent to their shore or piers.

Equally as important is to stay alert for pressure ridges or ice heaves. These can be dangerous due to thin ice and open water and often are created, move or grow with changes in temperatures and high winds. This can happen on Wisconsin’s largest lake – Winnebago, a popular home to sturgeon spears – and the Bay of Green Bay.

Here are more safety tips:

- Carry a cell phone, and let people know where you are going and when you’ll return home.
- Wear proper clothing and equipment, including a personal flotation device or a float coat to help you stay afloat and to help slow body heat loss.
- Take an extra pair of mittens or gloves so your hands can remain dry and warm.
- Wear creepers attached to boots to prevent slipping on clear ice.

COURT NEWS

• Alexander E.J. Fischer, 30, Kenosha, pleaded no contest Dec. 2 to false imprisonment and misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct and criminal damage to property. Judge William Kussel Jr. withheld sentencing and placed him on four years’ probation with conditions, including nine months in county jail.

• Sandra L. Reed, 40, Green Bay, pleaded guilty Dec. 6 to possession of narcotic drugs, possession of methamphetamine and five counts of felony bail jumping. Kussel withheld sentencing and placed her on three years of probation with conditions.

• Robert W. Carey, 52, Marion, pleaded no contest Dec. 6 to felony bail jumping and misdemeanor charges of bail jumping and possession of drug paraphernalia. Kussel withheld sentencing and placed him on three years of probation with conditions.

• Colby D. Wright, 27, Shawano, was charged Dec. 2 with strangulation and suffocation, battery and disorderly conduct

as a domestic abuse repeater. Judge Katherine Sloma set a \$1,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Dec. 10.

• Kevin Arnold Brewer, 31, Gresham, was charged Dec. 2 with strangulation and suffocation and misdemeanor counts of battery and disorderly conduct. Sloma set a \$2,000 signature bond and scheduled a status conference for Jan. 28.

• Mark A. Ciboski, 50, Shawano, was charged Dec. 2 with two counts of misappropriating ID information to obtain money and misdemeanor counts of resisting or obstructing an officer and disorderly conduct. Sloma set a \$5,000 signature bond and scheduled a status conference for Jan. 28.

• Heather Kofnetka, 40, Wausaukee, was charged Dec. 2 with battery or threat to a law officer and misdemeanor counts of battery, resisting or obstructing an officer, bail jumping and disorderly conduct. Sloma set a \$2,000 signature bond and scheduled

a status conference for Jan. 21.

• Justin M. Wilbur, 34, Bonduel, was charged Dec. 2 with burglary to a building or dwelling and two counts of felony bail jumping. Sloma set a \$100 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for Feb. 4.

• Calvin J. Olson, 31, Surging, was charged Dec. 2 with substantial battery intending bodily harm and a misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct. Sloma set a \$2,000 signature bond and scheduled as status conference for Feb. 10.

• Brandon J. Kleczka, 36, Gillett, was charged Dec. 2 with operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fourth offense). Sloma set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for Jan. 30.

• Coree T. Lauersdorf, 35, Shawano, was charged Dec. 3 with felony bail jumping. Sloma set a \$500 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for Jan. 30.

• Nicole S. Madosh, 38, Keshena, was charged Dec. 3 with three counts of felony bail jumping, one count of

misdemeanor bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of operating a motor vehicle without a valid license. Sloma set a \$250 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for Jan. 13.

• Leland J. Okimosh, 37, Shawano, was charged Dec. 4 with possession of narcotic drugs, three counts of misdemeanor bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. Sloma set a \$500 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until Jan. 2.

• Derek J. Powell, 44, Antigo, was charged Dec. 6 with possession of narcotic drugs. Sloma set a \$3,500 signature bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Dec. 12.

• Brandy A. Moede, 40, Bowler, was charged Dec. 6 with two counts of felony bail jumping, two counts of misdemeanor bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (second offense). Sloma set a \$750 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Dec. 11.

PUBLIC RECORD

SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT

Dec. 8
Deputies responded to 26 incidents, including operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated near Lake Drive and Curt Black Road in the Town of Wescott; a vicious animal report on Deer Path Lane in the Town of Wescott; a disturbance on West Summit Street in the Village of Wittenberg; four welfare checks; two reckless driving incidents; two 911 calls; two crashes, one involving deer.

Dec. 7
Deputies responded to 32 incidents, including an assault on North Shore Lane in the Town of Wescott; drugs on North Main Street in Shawano; suspicious activity on Balsam Row Road in the Town of Wescott; a vehicle fire near River Road and state Highway 29 in the Town of Morris; operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated on County Road Y in the Town of Belle Plaine; disorderly conduct on Redwood Lane in the Town of Richmond; OWI near Airport Drive and East Green Bay Street in Shawano; two welfare checks; two 911 calls; two reckless driving incidents; two crashes, one involving deer.

fare checks; two 911 calls; two reckless driving incidents; two crashes, one involving deer.

Dec. 6
Deputies responded to 33 incidents, including suspicious activity on Litzen Drive in the Town of Red Springs; theft on Blueberry Road in the Town of Herman; threatening on Knoke Street in the Village of Gresham; suspicious activity on County Trunk S in the Town of Lessor; three reckless driving incidents; four welfare checks; three 911 calls; two crashes involving deer.

Dec. 5
Deputies responded to 26 incidents, including a suspicious vehicle on Oriole Road in the Town of Birnamwood; an arrest warrant pickup near East Green Bay and North Fairview streets in Shawano; harassment on East Red River Road in the Town of Herman; two welfare checks; one 911 call; three crashes.

Dec. 4
Deputies responded to 37 incidents, including an arrest warrant pickup on North Main Street in Shawano; assisting at a fire on County Road Q in the Town of Wittenberg; two welfare checks; one 911 call; one reckless driving incident; nine crashes.

Dec. 3

Deputies responded to 28 incidents, including criminal damage to property on Maple Road in the Town of Wittenberg; drugs near Maple and High streets in the Village of Birnamwood; suspicious activity on Sandy Drive in the Town of Washington; four welfare checks; two 911 calls.

Dec. 2
Deputies responded to 29 incidents, including a failure to report to jail; assisting at a fire on Main Street in Birnamwood; burglary on County Trunk E in the Town of Waukechon; four welfare checks; one 911 call; two crashes, one involving deer.

SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Dec. 8
Officers responded to 22 incidents, including shoplifting at Walmart, 1244 E. Green Bay St.; a suspicious vehicle near West Eagle and South Lafayette streets; theft on East Lieg Avenue; threatening on East Green Bay Street; three welfare checks; two 911 calls; one reckless driving incident; three crashes.

Dec. 7
Officers responded to 12 incidents, including suspicious activity on East Green Bay Street; shoplifting at Charlie’s County Market, 521 S. Main

St.; three welfare checks.

Dec. 6
Officers responded to 13 incidents, including suspicious activity on Skyline Drive; two welfare checks; two 911 calls.

Dec. 5
Officers responded to 19 incidents, including an arrest pickup at Probation and Parole, 1340 E. Green Bay St.; a suspicious vehicle near Shawano Lawn and Stone, 950 Waukechon St.; a disturbance on North Franklin Street; six welfare checks; two crashes.

Dec. 4
Officers responded to 24 incidents, including a juvenile problem at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B; disorderly conduct on South Water Street; four 911 calls; one reckless driving incident.

Dec. 3
Officers responded to 17 incidents, including automobile theft on Prospect Circle; an arrest warrant pickup on County Road B; truancy at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B; a disturbance near South Lincoln and East Schurz streets; suspicious activity on Acorn Street; disorderly conduct on East Green Bay Street; three welfare checks; one 911 call.

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Is age really a factor in hip replacement surgery?

Maintaining mobility and a comfortable quality of life becomes increasingly important as people age. For many older adults, joint replacement surgery offers a path to greater independence, pain relief and improved functionality.

Joe Mueller, DO, an orthopedic surgeon with Aspirus Health, explains that there is no age too young or too old for joint replacement, whether it be a hip, knee or shoulder procedure. The decision to undergo surgery is more about the individual's life expectations and the sever-

ity of their condition rather than age.

"At Aspirus Health, our goal with joint replacement surgery is twofold: pain relief and improving mobility," Mueller said. "Especially as we age, having a new joint can be life-changing. It might mean the difference between staying independent and being able to live alone versus requiring constant assistance."

The decision to move forward with surgery is not made lightly. Mueller said several factors are considered when determining if someone is a good candi-

date for joint replacement, including the level of pain, the severity of the joint damage (as seen through X-rays) and the individual's overall physical health.

"The goal is to ensure that the patient is in good enough health to handle a major surgery and that it will improve their quality of life," he said.

For older patients, one of the biggest concerns is their ability to take care of themselves post-surgery.

"We often recommend a bit of help around the house in the first few days after surgery to prevent falls, especially since bal-

ance can become more challenging with age," Mueller said.

However, he emphasizes that joint replacement surgery in older adults is typically very safe, provided the patient has appropriate support and follows recovery guidelines.

Joint replacement surgery aims to restore quality of life by reducing pain and increasing mobility. For those considering the procedure, it's essential to discuss with a health care provider to assess whether it's the right option based on individual needs and health.



Dr. Joe Mueller, an orthopedic surgeon with Aspirus Health, said several factors are considered when determining if someone is a good candidate for joint replacement, including the level of pain, the severity of the joint damage (as seen through X-rays) and the individual's overall physical health.

CONTRIBUTED

Best of

Wolf River Region

WITTENBERG
ENTERPRISE
& BIRNAMWOOD NEWS

BEST OF
ENTERPRISE
2024

2024

Readers Poll

Deadline: January 20, 2025

BALLOT #1

Best Goods:

☐ Flower Shop

☐ Grocery Store

☐ Hardware Store

☐ Tile/Flooring

Best Services:

☐ A/C & Heating

☐ Child Care

☐ Chiropractor

☐ Dentist

☐ Insurance Agency

☐ Optometrist

☐ Pharmacy

☐ Real Estate

☐ Tax Service

☐ Veterinarian

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& BIRNAMWOOD NEWS

ENTRY FORM

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email

Clip & Mail Your Ballots To: Shawano Leader
Attn: Best Of
1464 E. Green Bay St., Shawano WI 54166
e-mail: advertising@newmedia-wi.com

Deadline: January 20, 2025

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

No purchase necessary to win.

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BEST OF
ENTERPRISE
2024

2024

Readers Poll

Deadline: January 20, 2025

BALLOT #2

Best Thing To Do:

☐ Bowling Alley

☐ Casino

☐ Happy Hour

☐ Live Music

☐ Meat Market

☐ Night Spot

Best Outdoor Activities:

☐ Bait/Tackle Shop

☐ Golf Course

☐ Lawn/Garden

Best Vehicle Services:

☐ Auto Body Repair

☐ Auto Parts Supply Store

☐ Car Dealer

☐ Vehicle Service Center

☐ Tire Store

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No purchase necessary to win.

Christmas River trouble leads to murder mystery

I must have been in more of a holiday mood than I thought, because this week I chose “Meltdown in Christmas River” by Meg Muldoon.

Cinnamon Peters is finally feeling content. She’s married to Sheriff Daniel Brightman and loves running her successful pie shop. The stresses of the previous year are fading into memory.

Just before Thanksgiving, her best friend Kara asked Cinnamon to read the first draft of a romance novel she’d written. This is a surprise because Kara is busy with her toddler daughter Laila and owns a popular ornament shop. Cinnamon assures Kara the book was very good and should do well at the writing workshop put on by famous author Pam Dallas.

It is a group event with other writers helping critique segments of each book. The final critique will be done face to face by Dallas. Today, Kara is furious, because local gossip Moira Stewart has totally trashed her writing.

Cinnamon was raised by her eccentric grandfather, Warren. He is the town’s biggest booster and uses his Geronimo Brewing Company as a way to help where he can. This year, he’s planning a huge fundraiser to support the local food pantry.

Naturally, Cinnamon donates pies and is nearly run over as she is delivering them. She gets a good look at the driver before he drives off.

The next morning, rumors fly about Daniel and Cinnamon fighting, because he is having an affair with his secretary and embezzling from the charity fund.



Jan Jones
Columnist

Cinnamon tries to confront Moira, but she doesn’t answer her door.

As she’s stomping away, Cinnamon trips over Moira’s dead body. She’s been murdered, her “gossip books” are missing and Cinnamon is the prime suspect.

She’s agreed to help her friend Brad create a gingerbread house for a contest. He wants to prove himself to a teacher who once said he had no talent. One night, she’s at the shop when she sees a fire in the woods behind the building. The same man who almost ran her down is mumbling something about being sorry. He runs away when she approaches, but she finds one of Moira’s books in the fire.

The strange man is Kent Utley. Moira was his aunt. He hated her for abandoning his mother when she got pregnant as a teen and refusing to help while he was in jail. But he swears he didn’t kill her.

After Cinnamon solves the case, to her delight Brad wins the gingerbread contest but quietly takes his entry home. He has learned that he doesn’t need to prove anything to anyone. A good lesson for everyone.



Our Shawano and Oconto Falls Offices
WILL BE CLOSED
Wednesday, January 1st

Regular business hours will resume Thursday

Special Holiday Advertising Deadlines for:

Product	Publication Date	Advertising Deadline
Times Herald	Fri., Jan. 10	Noon Thurs., Jan. 2
Shawano Leader	Fri., Jan. 10	Noon Thurs., Jan. 2
Wittenberg Enterprise	Fri., Jan. 10	Noon Thurs., Jan. 2

Classified Ads Deadlines:

Product	Publication Date	Advertising Deadline
Times Herald	Fri., Jan. 10	Noon Thurs., Jan. 2
Shawano Leader	Fri., Jan. 10	Noon Thurs., Jan. 2
Wittenberg Enterprise	Fri., Jan. 10	Noon Thurs., Jan. 2



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2024 Readers Poll

Deadline: January 20, 2025

BALLOT #3

Food/Dining:

- ☐ Bar _____
- ☐ Breakfast _____
- ☐ Burger _____
- ☐ Coffee House _____
- ☐ Dessert _____
- ☐ Dinner _____
- ☐ Family Restaurant _____
- ☐ Fish Fry _____
- ☐ Lunch _____
- ☐ Pizza _____
- ☐ Sandwich _____

Best of Wolf River Region

WITTENBERG
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ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Clip & Mail Your Ballots To: **Shawano Leader**
Attn: Best Of
1464 E. Green Bay St., Shawano WI 54166
e-mail: advertising@newmedia-wi.com

Deadline: January 20, 2025

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Tail-Off Cooked Shrimp
\$17.99
26/30 ct. 2 lb.



Shrimp Ring with Sauce
\$9.99
16 oz.



Brown Easy Peel Raw Shrimp
\$19.99
16/20 ct. 2 lb.



Raw Tail-Off Shrimp
\$13.99
31/40 ct. 2 lb.



The Great Fish Co. Wild Caught Boneless Salmon Fillets
\$7.99
1 1/4 lb.



The Great Fish Co. Tilapia Fillets
\$4.99
16 oz.



Wild Caught Canadian Walleye Fillets
\$9.99
16 oz.



Hawk's Catch USA Wild Caught Breaded Cod or Haddock Fillets
\$6.99
16 oz.



Rogge's Jumbo Sea Scallops
\$14.99
10/20 ct. 16 oz.



Seafarer Crab Flavored Seafood Flakes
\$3.99
16 oz.



Rogge's Herring
\$5.49
16 oz.



California Sunkist Lemons
69¢ ea.



Grassland Butter
\$3.99
1 lb.



El Dorado Oven Ready Breaded Shrimp
\$14.99
16/20 ct. 2 lb.



Wild Caught Large Snow Crab Legs
\$16.99
lb.



Wild USA Reds Large King Crab Legs
\$39.99
lb.



Cold Water Wild Caught Canadian Lobster Tails
\$14.00
6 oz. each



Tail-Off Cooked Salad Shrimp
\$6.99
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CenSea Tail-On Cooked Shrimp
\$10.99
16/20 ct. 16 oz.



SeaMazz Peeled & Deveined Tail-Off Cooked Shrimp
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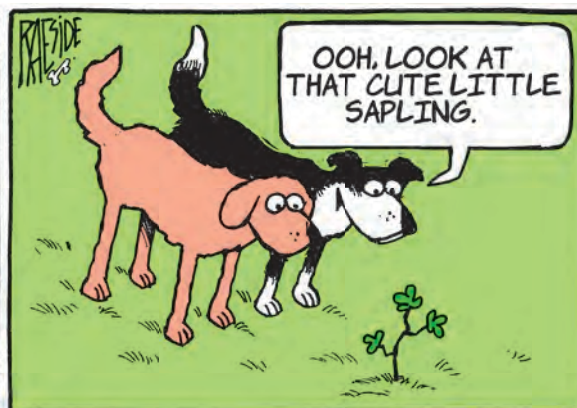
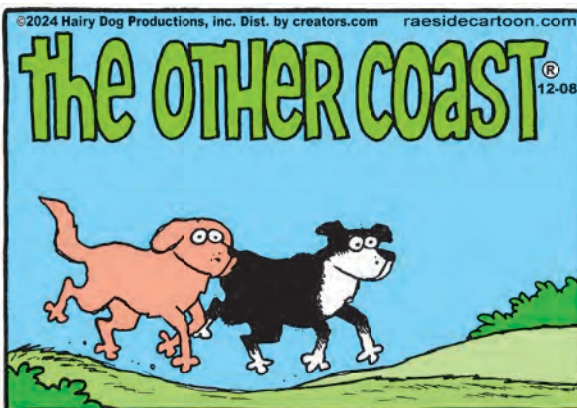
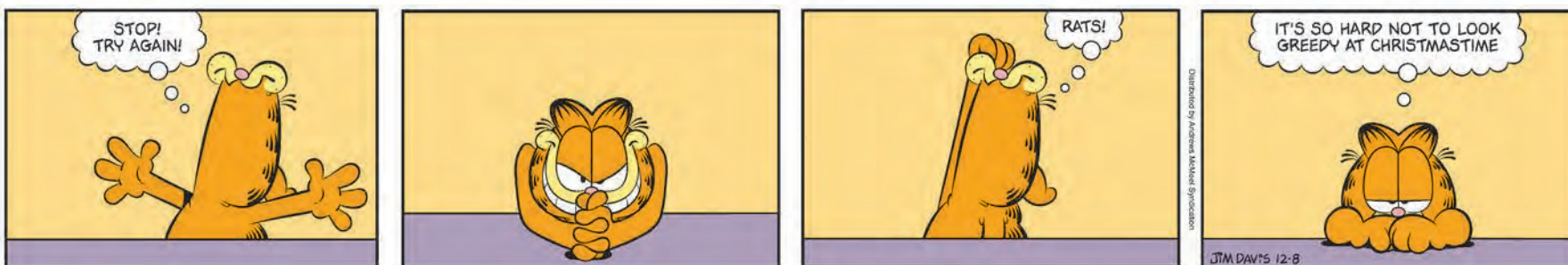
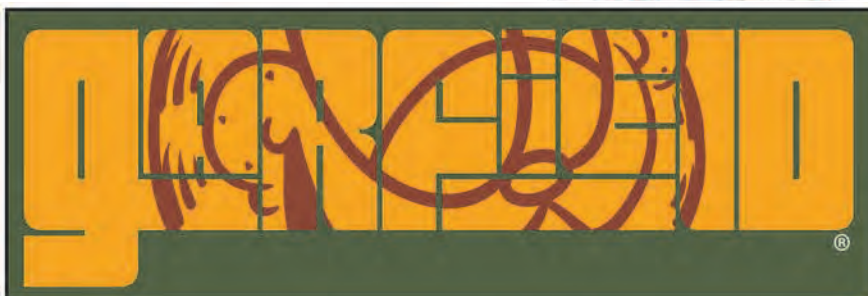


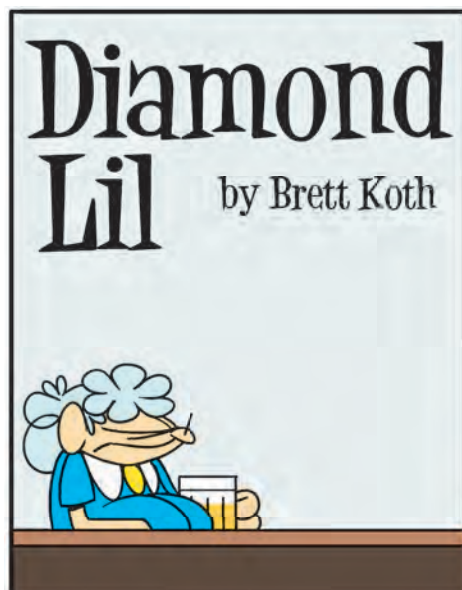
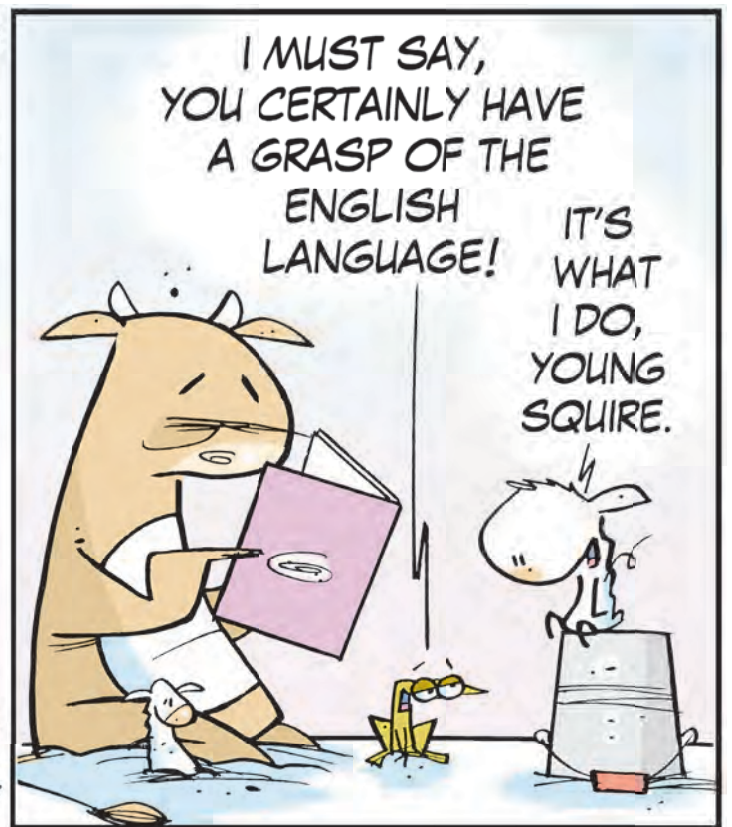
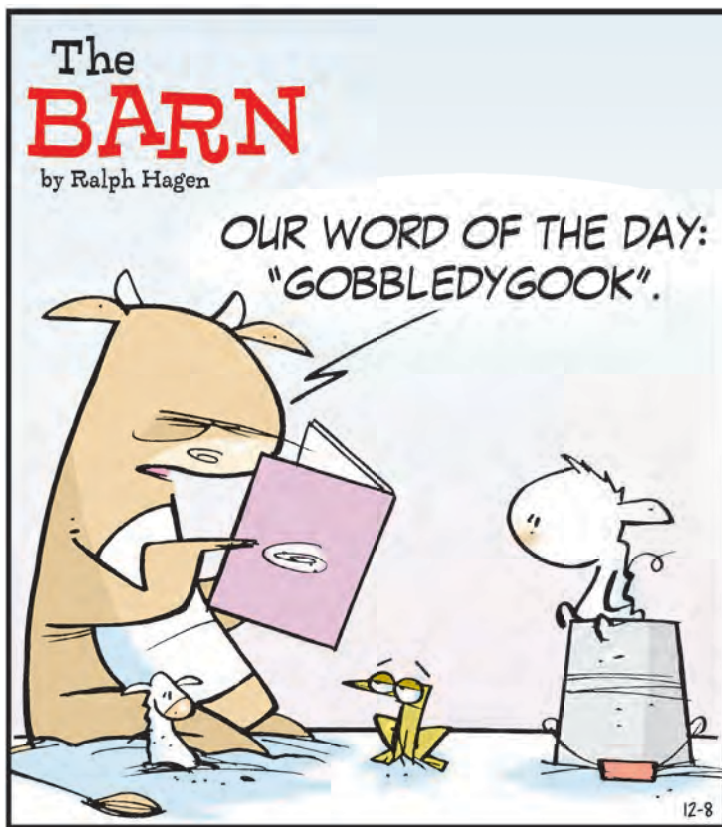
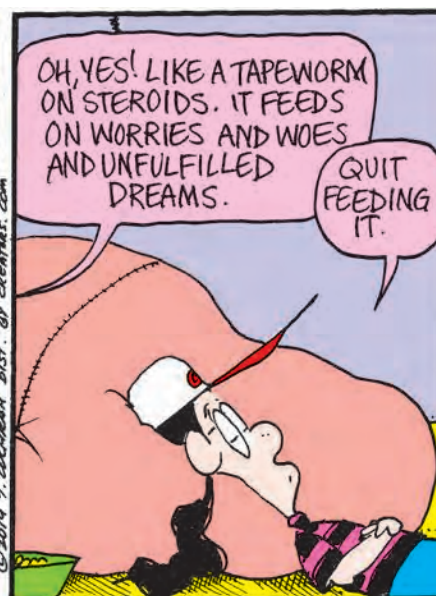
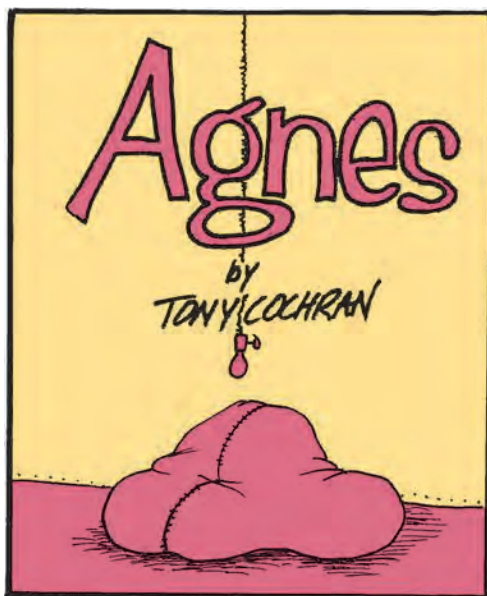
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COMICS

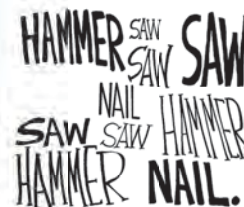
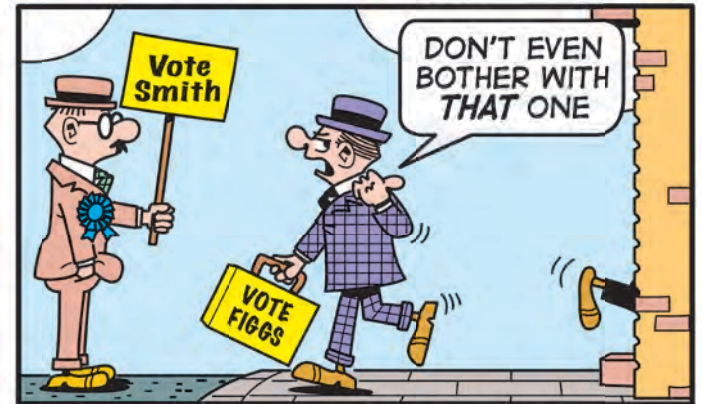
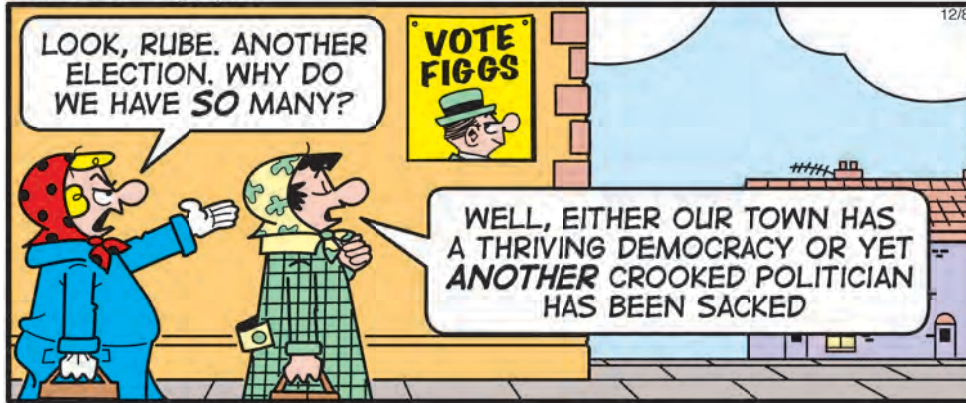
CLASSIC PEANUTS

BY CHARLES SCHULZ





ANDY CAPP



DOGS OF C-KENNEL

BY MICK MASTROIANNI AND MASON MASTROIANNI



PACKERS DIVISION TITLE HOPES PUT ON HOLD

GREEN BAY LOSES TO LIONS ON BATES' LAST-SECOND FIELD GOAL

BY LUKE REIMER
Green & Gold Express

For the second time this season, the Green Bay Packers were unable to beat Detroit, as they lost 34-31 on a last-second field goal.

With the game tied at 31-31, the Lions marched down to the Packers' 21-yard line and were faced with a third-and-one. On the third-down play, Packers backup safety Zayne Anderson stopped Lions running back David Montgomery short to force a fourth-and-inches with 43 seconds left.

Instead of attempting a field goal on the fourth down, Lions head coach Dan Campbell called another Montgomery run, which Detroit converted to run the clock all the way down and kick the game-winning field goal.

"That is how Dan (Campbell) has done it throughout the course of his career, so it doesn't necessarily surprise me," said Packers head coach Matt LaFleur, on whether he was surprised about the Lions going for the fourth-and-inches. "That gave us an opportunity there. Hats off to them; they executed it, and we didn't."

While Detroit came away with the victory, Green Bay was just as good on offense as Detroit.

The strength of Green Bay's offense in the game was on the ground. Josh Jacobs registered another great game, as he picked up 66 yards on 18 carries and scored three touchdowns. Jacobs surpassed 1,000 rushing yards on the season during this game.

Jordan Love complemented Jacobs well in the game, as he completed 12-of-20 passes for 206 yards and one touchdown. Tight end Tucker Kraft was on the receiving end of Love's touchdown pass, as the South Dakota State alum finished the game with 41 yards on three receptions. It was Christian Watson, though, who led the team in receiving, picking up 114 yards on four receptions.

As for Detroit, quarterback Jared Goff continued his run for the NFL most valuable player award, completing 32-of-41 passes for 283 yards and three touchdowns. He also threw one interception.

Jameson Williams was the main benefactor of Goff's big day, catching five passes for 80 yards. Tight end Sam LaPorta added another 54 yards on five receptions. Green Bay did



Behind a strong game from defensive tackle Kenny Clark (eight tackles, one tackle for loss), the Packers turned away the Lions on a fourth-down run and got a big interception from Keisean Nixon. Tucker Kraft caught a 13-yard touchdown pass from Jordan Love to begin the comeback, which was ultimately derailed when a Packer go-ahead score was wiped out on a penalty. With the loss, the Packers fell three games behind Detroit with four left in the regular season, but with their 9-4 record, Green Bay still has a 97% chance of making the playoffs, per [PlayoffStatus.com](https://www.playoffstatus.com)

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

a solid job in limiting Lions superstar Amon-Ra St. Brown, holding him to just 43 yards on five receptions. Tim Patrick, however, was the X-factor for the Lions, catching six passes for 43 yards and two touchdowns.

On top of limiting St. Brown, Green Bay was also somewhat able to limit Detroit's dynamic run game, holding them to just 111 yards. Coming into the game, the Lions were averaging 154.4 yards per game running the ball. Montgomery was the leading rusher for the team, taking

14 carries for 51 yards and a touchdown. Jahmyr Gibbs added another 43 yards on 15 carries, registering a receiving touchdown.

While the play of the game saw the Lions converting on fourth-and-inches to essentially seal the victory, a key turning point of the game arguably came much earlier. Down 7-0 at the start of the second quarter, Love connected with Watson on a crossing route in which Watson turned up field. To avoid being tackled, Watson fumbled the ball, which

was recovered by Detroit. The Lions were immediately able to turn the turnover into points, converting a Bates field goal to go up 10-0; eventually, they won the game by three points.

Another key part of the Lions' success was converting third and fourth downs, especially when compared to Green Bay's success in those situations. On third down, Detroit went 7-for-15, while Green Bay converted just one out of five attempts. While the Packers were never faced with a fourth-down conversion

attempt, Detroit converted four of five chances to help prolong drives and dominate the time of possession 36:06 to 23:54.

With the loss, Green Bay stays the sixth seed in the NFC playoff picture behind the Minnesota Vikings, who occupy the fifth seed. The Detroit Lions continue to dominate the NFC with a 12-1 record as the No. 1 seed.

While there are still four games yet to be played this season, it is becoming more apparent that the Lions are going to host at least one

playoff game. The same can't be said for Green Bay, but there is a possibility these two teams will meet up again in the later rounds of the NFC playoffs.

"That is one thing where we have to continue to take it a week at a time, like we always talk about," said Love, on a possible third matchup. "Obviously we have a couple of games left here, and we are trying to finish on the right note and win out these last couple games. We will see what happens in the postseason time."

KEYS TO THE GAME

Packers must play better situational football

By JACOB WESTENDORF
Green & Gold Express

The calendar has turned to December, and the Green Bay Packers are coming off a tough loss in Detroit against the Lions. The Packers were good enough to stay with Detroit but made too many mistakes in key situations to beat a team as good as the Lions. That included giving up four fourth-down conversions, two of which resulted in touchdowns. The Packers will be able to get a mini-bye with 10 days off between their game against Detroit and the next one against Seattle.

The Seahawks are not a pushover by any stretch. They currently lead the NFC West and would be Green Bay's playoff opponent if the season were to end today. It does not end today, and the Packers need to win to ensure they have a spot in the postseason. Here are the keys to doing just that.

Packers' DBs vs. Seahawks' receivers

Last week, it was the dynamic backfield of Jahmyr Gibbs and David Montgomery that was the primary focus for the Pack-

ers' defense. This week, they face a trio of receivers that are as good as any in the sport. Former Packers' draft favorite, Jaxon Smith-Njigba, leads the Seahawks in receiving and is likely to top 1,000 yards on the year. He operates mostly from the slot. On the outside, the Seahawks have DK Metcalf and Tyler Lockett who can give a defense fits at any given moment of a game. The Packers' defensive backfield is tattered and in flames at the moment. Jaire Alexander has struggled with injuries all season and re-aggravated his PCL tear against Chicago in early November. He has not played since then and has only practiced twice. Without him, the Packers' cornerback group is being held together with bubble gum and sticky tack. That was before Javon Bullard and Evan Williams left Thursday's game with an ankle injury and a concussion, respectively. Williams may be able to return, but concussions are not predictable. Bullard was seen leaving Ford Field in a walking boot and with crutches. He's unlikely to be able to suit up. Green Bay's secondary full of reserves just got beaten up by Tim Patrick. No disrespect to Patrick, but he's not near the level of the guys they will see on Sunday night. The defensive backs need to play better, and the guys up front need to help them out.

Pass rush vs. Geno Smith

Green Bay's pass rush looked like it was finding the form from earlier in the summer in their Thanksgiving Day win over the Miami Dolphins. They had five sacks that night and kept Tua Tagovailoa from ever getting comfortable. Rashan Gary notched another sack against Detroit. He has at least half of a sack in four of his last five games, but the rush as a whole, was not good enough. The rest of the edge rushers hardly sniffed Jared Goff for a majority of the night, and he made them pay. That was a big reason he was able to complete all 10 of his passes in the fourth quarter. Geno Smith can be prone to mistakes if you are able to put him under pressure. The Packers have not been able to do that for most of the year, but the Seahawks have given up 40 sacks on Smith going into Week 14. This is an opportunity to be a get right game for Green Bay's pass rush. Time is running out for them to assert themselves. They'll need to if they're going to make a playoff run.

Situational football

When you get into December, and playing against better teams, sometimes a play or situation can decide who wins or loses. Against Detroit, the Packers were horrendous in situational football. The Lions were 4-of-5 on fourth down. They scored two touchdowns on fourth downs. They have four touchdowns on fourth downs against the Packers just this season. As if that was not enough, a fourth-down conversion essentially iced the game for the Lions. Goff was stepped on while trying to get the ball handed off to Montgomery. Goff got the ball away, and Montgomery picked up seven tough yards. The conversion essentially allowed the Lions to bleed out the rest of the clock before kicking a short field goal.

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GREEN BAY PACKERS AT SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

TIME AND DATE: 7:20 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 15
LOCATION: Century Link Field
TV: NBC
RADIO: Flagship WRNW-FM Milwaukee — 97.3; Packers Radio Network includes WIXX-FM Green Bay — 101.1, WRLO-FM Antigo — 105.3, WLST-FM Marinette — 95.1, and WSAU Wausau — 55.0 AM and 95.1 FM
2024 RECORDS: Packers 9-4, Seahawks 8-5.
HISTORY: The Seahawks and Packers have had some high profile matchups in the last 10 years. In total, they've met 24 times with the Packers leading the all-time series 15-9. When Aaron Rodgers and Russell Wilson were facing each other, there was a clear theme. Whoever was at home was the team who won the game. The last meeting between these two teams was November 2021. Rodgers returned from the Reserve/COVID-19 list, and the Packers' defense suffocated Wilson, winning 17-0. The last meeting at Century Link Field came in 2018. The Packers jumped out to an early lead but could not hold on to it. Wilson and Seattle's dynamic running game ran through the Packers for a 27-24 victory.
COACHES: Packers - Matt LaFleur, fifth season, 65-31. Seahawks - Mike MacDonald, first season, 8-5.

PACKERS SCHEDULE
Friday, Sept. 6 at Philadelphia, L 29-34
Sunday, Sept. 15 vs. Indianapolis Noon W 16-10
Sunday, Sept. 22 at Tennessee Noon W 30-14
Sunday, Sept. 29 vs. Minnesota Noon L 29-31

Sunday, Oct. 6 at LA Rams 3:25 p.m. W 24-19
Sunday, Oct. 13 vs. Arizona Noon W 34-13
Sunday, Oct. 20 vs. Houston W 24-22
Sunday, Oct. 27 at Jacksonville W 30-27
Sunday, Nov. 3 vs. Detroit 3:25 p.m. L 14-24
Week 10 BYE
Sunday, Nov. 17 at Chicago Noon W 20-19
Sunday, Nov. 24 vs. San Francisco W 38-10
Thursday, Nov. 28 vs. Miami W 30-17
Thursday, Dec. 5 at Detroit 7:15 p.m. L 34-31
Sunday, Dec. 15 at Seattle 7:20 p.m. NBC
Monday, Dec. 23 vs. New Orleans 7:15 p.m. ESPN
Sunday, Dec. 29, at Minnesota

Noon FOX
Week 18 vs. Chicago TBD

NFL SCHEDULE
Thursday, Dec. 12
LA Rams at San Francisco, 7:15 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 15
Washington at New Orleans, Noon
Kansas City at Cleveland, Noon
Cincinnati at Tennessee, Noon
Miami at Houston, Noon
Baltimore at NY Giants, Noon
NY Jets at Jacksonville, Noon
Dallas at Carolina, Noon
Tampa Bay at LA Chargers, 3:25 p.m.
Indianapolis at Denver, 3:25 p.m.
New England at Arizona, 3:25 p.m.
Buffalo at Detroit, 3:25 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 3:25 p.m.
Green Bay at Seattle, 7:20 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 16
Chicago at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Las Vegas, 7:30 p.m.

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My favorite Green Bay Packer memories

"I have memories of watching the game with my son Jeff and daughter Jolene. I would enjoy having a beer while watching the game. Bart Star was a good player."

Daniel Bechard,
Golden Pond Resident

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WEEK 14/DEFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 31 vs. LIONS 34



Green Bay defensive end Lukas Van Ness zeroes in on one of his three tackles in the Dec. 5 NFC North matchup against surging, first-place Detroit. Lions running back Jahmyr Gibbs, the focus of Van Ness' attention on this play, finished with just 43 yards on 15 carries in Detroit's 34-31 victory.

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BEAT The Expert



Week 15 Games: Sun., Dec. 15

Dallas @ Carolina
NY Jets @ Jacksonville
Buffalo @ Detroit
Chicago @ Minnesota - Mon. Dec. 16

Tie Breaker Game:
Green @ Seattle

Weekly Standings	Weekly Record	Overall Record
Tim Murphy, NEW Media	5-0	54-16
Mike Worachek, Card & Coin	4-1	51-19
Matt/Rory, Buss Automotive	4-1	49-21
Jacob Westendorf, NEW Media	4-1	47-23
Luke Reimer, NEW Media	5-0	46-24
Tanya Hintz, Shawano Health Services	2-3	45-25
Staff, Walsh Dental Group	5-0	44-26
Karen Jaeger, The Cottages at Meadowlands	4-1	42-28
Ken & Kate Cisar, The Cottages on Golden Pond	1-4	41-29
Kevin Passon, NEW Media	2-3	41-29
Staff, Iverson's Piggly Wiggly	3-2	36-34



This Week's Picks:

Dallas
Jacksonville
Buffalo
Minnesota

Iverson's Staff
Iverson's Piggly Wiggly

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 21 @ Seattle 10

Week 14 Winner:

Tim Murphy
NEW Media



This Week's Picks:

Dallas
NY Jets
Buffalo
Minnesota

Buss Automotive

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 31 @ Seattle 17



This Week's Picks:

Dallas
NY Jets
Detroit
Minnesota

Mike Worachek
Card & Coin

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 21 @ Seattle 20



This Week's Picks:

Dallas
NY Jets
Buffalo
Chicago

Marilyn Kielman
The Cottages at Meadowlands

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Seattle 21



This Week's Picks:

Carolina
NY Jets
Detroit
Minnesota

Daniel Bechard
The Cottages on Golden Pond

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 16 @ Seattle 12



This Week's Picks:

Dallas
Jacksonville
Buffalo
Minnesota

Kevin Passon
New Media

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Seattle 21



This Week's Picks:

Dallas
Jacksonville
Detroit
Minnesota

Tanya Hintz
Shawano Health Services

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 24 @ Seattle 17



This Week's Picks:

Carolina
Jacksonville
Buffalo
Chicago

Staff
Walsh Dental Group
Shawano

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 21 @ Seattle 24



This Week's Picks:

Dallas
Jacksonville
Detroit
Minnesota

Jacob Westendorf
New Media

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score : Green Bay 27 @ Seattle 10



This Week's Picks:

Carolina
NY Jets
Detroit
Minnesota

Tim Murphy
New Media

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 27 @ Seattle 20



This Week's Picks:

Dallas
NY Jets
Detroit
Minnesota

Luke Reimer
New Media

Tie Breaker Game:

Final Score: Green Bay 28 @ Seattle 27

WEEK 14/DEFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 31 vs. LIONS 34



Behind a strong game from defensive tackle Kenny Clark (eight tackles, one tackle for loss), the Packers turned away the Lions on a fourth-down run and got a big interception from Keisean Nixon. Tucker Kraft caught a 13-yard touchdown pass from Jordan Love to begin the comeback, which was ultimately derailed when a Packer go-ahead score was wiped out on a penalty. With the loss, the Packers fell three games behind Detroit with four left in the regular season, but with their 9-4 record, Green Bay still has a 97% chance of making the playoffs, per [PlayoffStatus.com](#).

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

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GREEN BAY

PACKERS

2 Malik Willis.....QB

7 Quay Walker.....LB

8 Josh Jacobs.....RB

9 Christian Watson.....WR

10 Jordan Love.....QB

11 Jayden Reed.....WR

13 Dontayvion Wicks.....WR

17 Brandon Mcmanus.....K

18 Malik Heath.....WR

19 Daniel Whelan.....P

20 Javon Bullard.....S

21 Eric Stokes.....CB

22 Robert Rochell.....CB

23 Jaire Alexander.....CB

24 Carrington Valentine.....CB

25 Keisean Nixon.....CB

26 Corey Ballentine.....CB

27 Kitan Oladapo.....S

29 Xavier McKinney.....S

30 Chris Brooks.....RB

31 Emanuel Wilson.....RB

33 Evan Williams.....S

39 Zayne Anderson.....S

42 Matt Orzech.....LS

45 Eric Wilson.....LB

50 Zach Tom.....OL

52 Rashan Gary.....DL

53 Arron Mosby.....DL

55 Kingsley Enagbare.....DL

56 Edgerrin Cooper.....LB

57 Brenton Cox Jr.....DL

58 Isaiah McDuffie.....LB

59 Ty'Ron Hopper.....LB

62 Jacob Monk.....C/G

63 Rasheed Walker.....T

71 Josh Myers.....C/G

73 Andre Dillard.....T

74 Elgton Jenkins.....G/T

75 Sean Rhyan.....G

76 Kadeem Telfort.....T

79 Travis Glover.....T

80 Bo Melton.....WR

85 Tucker Kraft.....TE

86 John FitzPatrick.....TE

87 Romeo Doubs.....WR

89 Ben Sims.....TE

90 Lukas Van Ness.....DL

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

94 Karl Brooks.....DL

95 Devonte Wyatt.....DL

96 Colby Wooden.....DL

97 Kenny Clark.....DL

SEATTLE

SEAHAWKS

1 Jaelon Darden.....WR

2 Rayshawn Jenkins.....SS

4 Michael Dickson.....P

5 Mason Myers.....K

6 Sam Howell.....QB

7 Geno Smith.....QB

8 Coby Bryant.....FS

9 Kenneth Walker III.....RB

10 Uchenna Nwosu.....LB

11 Jaxon Smith-Njigba.....WR

13 Ernest Jones IV.....LB

14 DK Metcalf.....WR

16 Tyler Lockett.....WR

18 Josh Ross.....LB

19 Jake Bobo.....WR

20 Julian Love.....FS

21 Devon Witherspoon.....CB

22 Tre Brown.....CB

25 Kenny McIntosh.....RB

26 Zach Charbonnet.....RB

27 Riq Woolen.....CB

28 Nehemiah Pritchett.....CB

29 Josh Jobe.....CB

30 AJ Finley.....S

32 Jerrick Reed II.....FS

38 Brady Russell.....TE

41 Chris Stoll.....LS

42 Drake Thomas.....LB

48 Tyrice Knight.....LB

50 Trevis Gipson.....LB

51 Olu Oluwatimi.....C

52 Patrick O'Connell.....LB

53 Boye Mafe.....LB

55 Dre'Mont Jones.....DE

58 Derick Hall.....LB

61 Jalen Sundell.....C

63 Sataoa Laumea.....G

64 Christian Haynes.....G

65 Michael Jerrell.....T

67 Charles Cross.....T

70 Laken Tomlinson.....G

72 Abraham Lucas.....T

82 Cody White.....WR

83 Dareke Young.....WR

86 Pharaoh Brown.....TE

87 Noah Fant.....TE

88 AJ Barner.....TE

90 Jarran Reed.....NT

91 Byron Murphy II.....DT

94 Mike Morris.....DE

97 Johnathan Hankins.....DT

98 Roy Robertson-Harris.....DT

99 Leonard Williams.....DE

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WEEK 14/DEFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 31 vs. LIONS 34



Green Bay defensive stalwarts Isaiah McDuffie (No. 58, 15 tackles), Quay Walker (7, 10 tackles), Xavier McKinney (29, seven tackles) and Kingsley Enagbare (55) celebrate the fourth-down stop of Detroit's Jahmyr Gibbs deep in Lions territory. The Packers' third-quarter stand set up the score that gave Green Bay its first lead of the night.

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WEEK 14/OFFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 31 vs. LIONS 34



In addition to completing 12-of-20 pass attempts for 206 yards and a touchdown, Packers quarterback Jordan Love ran four times for 24 yards, including this 14-yard scamper for a first down (his longest run of the season, in the Dec. 5 34-31 loss to Detroit. After the tough defeat, Love and the Pack seek to regroup and find the momentum they generated at playoff time last year.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

POSTSEASON MOBILITY

PACKERS SEEK TO REGROUP AND FIND PLAYOFF MOMENTUM

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WEEK 14/DEFENSE

THE MOMENT

PACKERS 31 vs. LIONS 34



Green Bay Packers linebacker Quay Walker (7) and defensive tackle T.J. Slaton (93) zero in on Lions quarterback Jared Goff (16) in the Dec. 5 game in Detroit. Goff was 32-of-41 for 283 yards with three touchdowns, one interception and a 109.7 rating. Running backs David Montgomery (14 carries, 51 yards) and Jahmyr Gibbs (14-43) combined for 94 yards on the ground.

GREG MELLIS | GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

TRYING TO HOLD THE LINE



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