



Rachel Rasmussen and Bill Timm, owners of Rachel's Roadside Bar and Grill, hosted a fundraiser for Chris Richter, right, to help with expenses to rebuild her life after losing everything in a house fire in November. MIRIAM NELSON

Committee agrees to lower wheel tax to \$20

Supervisor recommends exempting Shawano vehicle owners

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

Members of the Shawano County Executive Committee agreed Jan. 15 to a \$20 annual wheel tax, \$5 less than what the highway and parks committee recommended.

The proposal was expected to go to a vote at the Jan. 22 meeting of the county board.

The vehicle registration fee would only apply to vehicles weighing less than 8,000 pounds, per state law. It is estimated there are 37,350 such vehicles registered in the county, which, at \$25 per vehicle, would generate \$933,750.

At \$20 per vehicle, revenue would total \$747,000, \$186,750 less than the original proposal.

Money raised from the fee would be earmarked for road and bridge projects.

"We are really hamstrung at the county, given our levy limits," said Jim Davel, administrative coordinator. "Quite frankly, we need extra revenue."

Supervisor Tom Kautza made the motion to reduce the fee to \$20. It was seconded by Ken Capelle.

"We thought that the \$40 that the city (of Shawano) did was far too high," Davel said of the original proposal. "We thought that \$25 was more than reasonable given the impact that our roads and bridges have on our community. It's probably our most important thing that we maintain in our county."

He said nobody likes the additional fee, but the county's costs have gone up significantly, and the state has limits on what can be levied.

"We need additional revenue to come in just to maintain the services that we are required to perform," Davel said.

TAX, CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Neighbors helping neighbors

Benefit event raises funds for family's new home

By **MIRIAM NELSON**
Correspondent

Having spent many years as an EMT, Chris Richter has been on the forefront of caring for others when tragedy strikes.

Now is the time for the community give back as she and her son, Cody, rebuild their lives after losing everything in a home fire in November.

A fundraiser was held Jan. 18 at Rachel's Roadside Bar and Grill to raise funds for the Richters to rebuild their lives and their home.

To say 2024 was a rough year for them is a bit of an understatement. At the time of the fire, Chris Richter was on medical leave, and Cody Richter was recovering from a car accident that almost took his life in March.

His recovery had been going well, in part due to the comfort his two dogs, Ninja and Brandi, provided during the recovery process. Sadly, both dogs per-

ished in the fire.

Rachel Rasmussen, owner of the restaurant, stepped up, as she often does, to host a fundraiser to help give the Richters a new beginning. This particular fundraiser had a special connection to Rasmussen through her employee, Vicky, who is Chris Richter's daughter.

"I was one of the first people she had expressed the tragedy to, as her mother's house was burning to the ground," Rasmussen said. "I felt my heart break for her when she knew she was helpless and had no power to fix this devastation."

With permission to help the family rebuild, a benefit plan came together and quickly moved forward.

Though she's done many fundraisers over the past 20 years of being in business, in the past 10 years, Rasmussen's goal has been to have at least one larger benefit annually, plus any small charity



Tables are lined with donated prizes for the fundraiser at Rachel's Roadside Bar and Grill on Jan. 18. Proceeds benefited the Richter family, who lost their home and belongings in a fire in November. MIRIAM NELSON

INSIDE

Wittenberg's history no longer fits in existing building.

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HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

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Maintenance department welcomes new staff

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Two people with a combined 60 years of experience retired in January from the maintenance department with Shawano County.

Steve Dreher, director of facilities and grounds, retired Jan. 3 after more than 29 years of service to the county. Julie Harland, office and purchasing specialist with the department, retired Jan. 18 after more than 31 years of experience with the county.

Nicholas Hesse was hired as the public facilities manager at an annual salary of \$92,976.

Hesse has an associate's degree from Fox Valley Technical College with training as an auto body

and paint refinish technician and journeyman millwright.

He has more than 10 years of related experience in a variety of positions ranging from shop manager to lead industrial maintenance technician, with additional experience in management and planning.

To replace Harland, county staff looked down the hall to the planning and development department. Dana Krause will transfer from that department, where she served as an office assistant to the maintenance department.

The county will now seek to fill Krause's former position.

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Enjoying the quilt show



Fellow quilters enjoy the 11th annual quilt show at the WOWSPACE in downtown Wittenberg. The show continues Saturdays and Sundays, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., through Feb. 2.

MIRIAM NELSON

Wittenberg skating rink open

The skating rink behind the Wittenberg Community Center is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. The ice shack is also open.

Visitors can bring their own skates or rent a pair

for free. Anyone who wants to donate skates can bring them to the community center entryway.

The rink was prepared by the Wittenberg Fire Department.



Employees at Banner Bank in Birnamwood stand with the many donated toys that their customers donated to the 2024 Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Toys for Tots campaign. The toys were distributed to area families prior to Christmas.

CONTRIBUTED

Over 1,100 kids receive toys

The 2024 Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots campaign provided toys to more than 1,100 area children.

Toys for the campaign were obtained through toy and monetary donations from area residents, organizations and businesses.

Toy donations were collected at more than 30 area businesses and schools in Birnamwood, Bowler, Clintonville, Iola, Manawa, Marion, Rosholt, Scandinavia, Tigerton, Waupaca and Wittenberg. The monetary donations that were collected were used to purchase toys for the age groups that didn't have enough toys to fill requests. With those donations, roughly 3,100 toys, 625 books and 1,000 stocking stuffers were distributed to area children. Those totals were on par with the numbers from the 2023 CWEC Toys for Tots campaign.

"Christmas is supposed to be a joyous time for families, but the financial situations some families face creates an extra burden for them around Christmas," said Bert Lehman, Toys for Tots coordinator and member relations specialist for



Employees at First National Bank in Bowler stand with the many donated toys that their customers donated to the 2024 Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Toys for Tots campaign.

CONTRIBUTED

CWEC. "Each year, area residents, organizations and businesses come together to help ease that burden for many families, and we are grateful for that help."

The toys were collected, sorted and then distributed to communities and families in the CWEC service area. This area includes the Wittenberg-Birnamwood, Tigerton and

Bowler school districts.

For more than 20 years, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative has partnered with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve to organize a Toys for Tots campaign in the CWEC service area each Christmas. Through the campaign, CWEC provides help to area families in need by supplying donated toys to the families, so they can give their children

Christmas presents.

The campaign's success was also aided by the involvement of the departments at the co-op.

"In a span of only two weeks prior to Christmas, toy donations were collected, toys were purchased and toy requests were filled, in an effort to make Christmas a little brighter for area children and families," Lehman said.

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ABOVE: A house at 221 W. Fourth St., Shawano, will be the subject of an asbestos abatement. The vacant house is owned by the county, and officials are debating when it should be razed. KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA
LEFT: This house at 205 W. Fourth St., Shawano, is one of several on the block west of the courthouse that is owned by the county. It and the others on the block could one day be razed for a courthouse expansion project. KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

Asbestos to to be removed from county-owned homes

Razing decision held until next month

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Asbestos will be removed from a pair of vacant county-owned homes, but whether the abandoned properties will be razed has yet to be decided.

Members of the Shawano County Public Property Committee agreed Jan. 9

to pay nearly \$12,900 to remove asbestos at 205 and 221 W. Fourth St., Shawano. The two homes are west of the courthouse and are part of the block of homes that could one day be used for a courthouse expansion project.

“The yellow one over there (221) still has electricity and water, because when they do the abatements, they will need water,” said Nick Hesse, facilities management director. “We got the heat

set real low, so we don’t freeze. But the other one is totally abandoned and ready to go.”

Years ago, when the county started buying these properties, a special account was established to hold all rent money from the homes. The money can only be used to improve or raze these properties.

“Basically, we’ve been raising money to knock them over,” said Julie Harland, office and purchasing specialist with the

maintenance department. “They’re an eyesore.”

The account has a balance of \$221,165.10. An estimate to have the highway department raze the two homes is \$51,000. Just over \$2,700 has already been paid for asbestos lead inspections on the properties.

Jim Davel, administrative coordinator, questioned whether it is necessary to raze the properties now.

“Do we have to tear

these down? We still don’t know in this concept thing (potential new courthouse) and what we’re going to do,” he said. “I don’t know if I’d spend \$66,000 now, or we have highway come in one time and do this tear-down, which will be multiple buildings and multiple asbestos abatement. I’m not so sure we should spend \$66,000 now just because we have the ability to spend \$66,000. Maybe we board it up.”

“I feel bad for the residents across the street,” Harland said.

Supervisor Rick Giese said it makes sense to do the abatement now, so the county can shut off and stop paying for electricity and water for an empty house.

Supervisor Tom Kautza agreed and suggested holding off on the razing decision until the February committee meeting.

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“I’m not so sure we should spend \$66,000 now just because we have the ability to spend \$66,000. Maybe we board it up.”

JIM DAVEL, Shawano County administrative coordinator

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Historical society growing out of its home

The Wittenberg Area Historical Society hopes to create something new to preserve the past. For more than 50 years, its museum has been the schoolhouse built by St. Paul Lutheran Church in 1904. When the society purchased the property, the stated intent was to preserve the landmark building in its original one-room schoolhouse design. However, the passage of time and the growth of the museum's collection have presented new challenges that call

for innovation. "While the building itself remains structurally sound, aging heating, plumbing and electrical systems severely limit its usability, particularly during the winter," said Josh Powers, of the historical society. "The current space is also struggling to accommodate the society's expanding collection of historical items, documents and photographs. These issues, combined with the lack of handicapped accessibility on both the main floor

and the basement, have made it difficult to fulfill the society's mission of providing an inclusive and functional research space for the public." After looking at possible solutions, the society has announced plans for a new building to be constructed adjacent to the original schoolhouse. This new facility will house many of the society's climate sensitive documents, photographs and displays, while also providing a dedicated workspace for visitors and museum staff.

A central open area in the new building will serve dual purposes, accommodating museum events and temporary displays. The schoolhouse itself will remain a vital part of the museum's identity, with its main floor made handicapped accessible. The society has received an offer of pro bono architectural services from Minneapolis-based architect and architectural designer Beth Koeppel, a Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School graduate.

"With this expert guidance and the support of the community, the society hopes to ensure the past remains an important part of the community's future," Powers said. To share their vision and plans, the Wittenberg Area Historical Society will host a special event and fundraiser from 6-9 p.m. Feb. 21 at the Little White Chapel, 400 E. Front St., another historic gem in the Wittenberg area. This gathering will provide an opportunity for

the public to learn more about the project and how they can support it. Tickets are \$30 each, and attendees must be 21 or older. Harpist Linda Cannon will provide entertainment. There will also be beer, wine, hors d'oeuvres, charcuterie, raffle baskets and 50/50 raffles. A limited number of tickets for the event are available at Refuel Nutrition, Shops on Grand and the Wittenberg Area Historical Society's Facebook page.

Aubrey Wierzba qualifies for state swim meet

Aubrey Wierzba qualified for her third time for the Winter State Meet in March in the 200-yard breaststroke while joining Wittenberg Area Swim Program (WASP) members at the Green Bay Swim Club Subzero Swim Meet on Jan. 11-12 at Green Bay Southwest Big School. The 12-year-old placed fourth in the 200-yard breaststroke in 2:58.94. She also earned a first-place finish in the 100-yard individual medley in 1:13.99. Wierzba finished fifth in the 50-yard backstroke in 36.75 and the 50-yard breaststroke in 38.07. Sixth place was earned in the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:23.16 and the 50-yard freestyle in 30.01. Lucy Wierzba, 7, earned a pair of third-place finishes and a fourth. She was third in the 50-yard freestyle in 42.10, third in the 50-yard breaststroke in 59.25 and fourth in the 25-yard butterfly in 23.97. Brinley Wierzba, 10, finished sixth in the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:47.33, 10th in the 100-yard individual medley in 1:39.38 and 11th in the 50-yard backstroke in 45.57. Kaydence, Peyton and Rylee Crick also earned several top finishes. Rylee Crick 14, captured fourth place in the 100-yard individual medley in 1:09.55, seventh

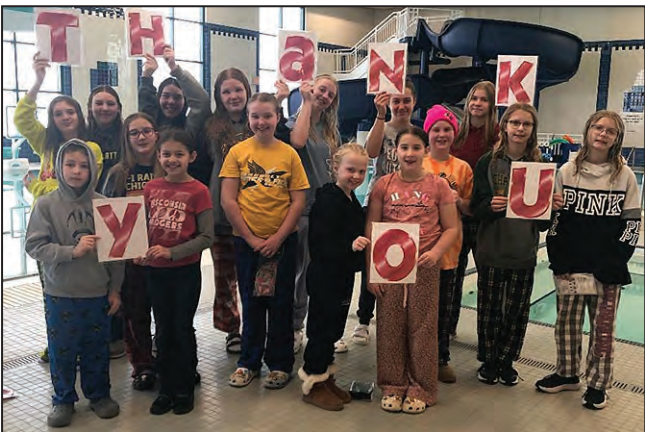


The Wittenberg Area Swim Program 200-yard medley relay team, from left, Peyton Crick, Aubrey Wierzba, Natalie Bessette and Kaydence Crick, placed fifth in 2:26.63 at Green Bay Southwest.

place in the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:18.38 and eighth in the 50-yard freestyle in 28.28. She was also 13th in the 100-yard butterfly in 1:15.43 and 18th in the 100-yard freestyle in 1:04.04. Peyton Crick, 12, fin-

ished in seventh place in the 200-yard breaststroke in 3:11.57. She had three 10th-place finishes — the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:28.26, the 100-yard individual medley in 1:20.89 and the 50-yard butterfly in 36.73. She was also 11th

in the 50-yard breaststroke in 41.14. Kaydence Crick, 12, placed 11th in the 50-yard backstroke in 37.87, 12th in the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:30.53 and 14th in the 100-yard individual medley in 1:23.73.



The Wittenberg Area Swim Program holds a swim-a-thon fundraiser to help offset the costs of the pool and coaching fees, and to raise money for new equipment for the team. The idea of the swim-a-thon is for the swimmers to collect monetary donations, in the form of a single donation or a pledge, based on how many laps that swimmer can swim in either 45 or 60 minutes. This season's event was held Dec. 27.

The team of Natalie Bessette, Kaydence Crick, Peyton Crick and Aubrey Wierzba placed fifth in the 200-yard medley relay in 2:26.63. The team of Natalie Bessette, Peyton Crick, Aubrey Wierzba and Makayla Wild finished sixth in the 200-yard freestyle relay in 2:13.91. Olivia Bessette, 17, earned eighth place in the 200-yard freestyle in 2:26.00. She took ninth place in the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:23.33 and the 100-yard individual medley in 1:14.87. She also finished in 12th in the 100-yard freestyle in 1:15.18 and the 100-yard backstroke in 1:16.73, as well as 13th in the 50-yard freestyle in 28.71. Natalie Bessette, 12,

had finishes of 27th, 50-yard butterfly, 53.97; 27th, 100-yard freestyle, 1:27.61; 28th, 50-yard freestyle, 36.12; 30th, 50-yard breaststroke, 59.43; and 31st, 50-yard backstroke, 53.64. Individually, Wild, 12, finished as high as 18th in the 100-yard individual medley in 1:31.87. She also placed 19th in the 50-yard butterfly in 42.40. Her other four finishes were 22nd in the 50-yard backstroke in 43.79, 23rd in the 100-yard freestyle in 1:19.98, 23rd in the 50-yard breaststroke in 49.89 and 27th in the 50-yard freestyle in 36.05. Ali Rebstock, 13, finished 36th in the 100-yard backstroke in 2:02.38 and 52nd in the 50-yard freestyle in 43.04.

DATCP applications for meat processor grants open

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is opening applications for the Meat Processor Infrastructure Grant through Feb. 24. The meat processor grant program aims to grow Wisconsin's meat industry and improve the long-term viability of the

state's livestock industry. "Since Gov. (Tony) Evers and the legislature created the Meat Processor Infrastructure Grant program, the program has supported meat processors in modernizing, expanding and enhancing their capacity," said DATCP Secretary Randy Romanski. "We encour-

age meat processors to apply for this opportunity and grow their business." Eligible applicants must operate or intend to operate a meat processing establishment in Wisconsin licensed by DATCP or the U.S. Department of Agriculture and be engaged in livestock harvest or processing.

Projects must increase harvest capacity or production. Funding from these grants can be used for operating expenses directly related to the grant project — including expenses for engineering, architectural design, construction, food safety consultation, equipment and equipment

installation. DATCP will award grants for up to \$50,000 for projects that last up to two years and help expand capacity or increase throughput. Processors must provide a match of 100% of the grant amount. The selection process is competitive. Grant application and

materials are available at <https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/AgDevelopment/MeatProcessorInfrastructureGrants.aspx>. Applications can be emailed to DATCP grants manager Brian Williams at datcpdadgrants@wisconsin.gov. Grant recipients will be announced in the coming months.

OBITUARIES

Richard Bradley “Dick” Kessen, 74, died unexpectedly, yet peacefully, on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025, at his home in Eland, with his little dog, Ute, at his side.

Dick was born on April 24, 1950, in Shawano, the third son of Harris and Nellie (Pietz) Kessen. He lived most of his life in Bowler, graduated from Bowler High School in 1968 and then enlisted and served his country in the Army National Guard for the next six years.

Dick was united in marriage to Pamela Henry on March 13, 1969, at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Bowler. She preceded him in death on July 5, 1997.

Dick worked in the automotive industry until his retirement. He was the parts manager for All Car Automotive in Antigo, service manager for Brickner’s in Schofield and service writer for Fred Mueller Automotive in Schofield.

Dick and Pam enjoyed shooting pool, snowmobil-

Richard ‘Dick’ Kessen



ing and gardening. They also enjoyed camping at Star Campsite and later created a small campground for family and friends on their property east of Birnamwood.

Dick is survived by two sons, Mark and Chad, both of Birnamwood; grandchildren, Jordan (Katie) Kessen, of Birnamwood, and Kayleen Johnson, of Cass Lake, Minnesota; and great-grandchildren, Jazmyn Johnson and Serenity Moenke.

He is further survived by brothers, Clifford (Audrey) Kessen, of Tigerton,

Larry (Cathy) Kessen and Tommy (Deb) Kessen, both of Birnamwood; brothers- and sisters-in-law, Kenneth Henry Jr., of Bowler, LaMonte (Janet) Henry, of Tomahawk, Steve (Diane) Henry, of Birnamwood, David (Barbara) Henry, of Deerbrown, Linda (Clayton) Laszewski, of Wausau, Susan Henry, of Schofield, and Lisa Cox, of Antigo.

Dick is also survived by many nieces and nephews and special friend, Pamela Daffron.

In addition to his wife and parents, Dick was preceded in death by brother-in-law, Scott Henry, and grandson, Aaron Pingel.

A funeral service was held Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Birnamwood. Burial was in Forest Cemetery, Birnamwood.

Schmidt and Schulta Funeral Home, Birnamwood, is assisting the family with arrangements. Memories and messages of support may be shared at schmidtschulta.com.

TAX, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Prior to Kautza’s motion to lower the fee, Supervisor Randy Young suggested another idea.

Young, who represents the city on the county board, said the city fee was based on 8,000 eligible vehicles. He suggested exempting the city’s 8,000 vehicles, which would leave 29,350 eligible vehicles in the county. Further, he suggested charging everyone else \$40, which would raise \$1,174,000.

“If you don’t like the \$40, and you want to leave it at \$25, that’s fine, but I think it’s only fair that we remove the city residents that are already paying the \$40,” he said.

He also said that whatever rate is set, Tigerton residents, who pay a \$10 annual wheel tax, would have that amount subtracted from the county fee.

Supervisor Kathy Luebke said she is completely against the wheel tax.

Many people own property in the county but live elsewhere, she said. They travel on the roads all the time but won’t have to pay the fee.

“They’re using our roads. They’re not contributing to this at all,” she said. “They’re smiling.

They ruin our roads, but that’s not their problem.”

She suggested somehow adding it to the tax roll for all property owners to pay or not do it all.

Davel said that with a wheel tax, renters would also pay, not just the landlords.

“Affect what you can affect,” he said. “You can’t affect that. They already pay property tax. They drive in to see their property, but they don’t live here. They register their vehicle in a different part of the state, or out of state. Focus on what you can do, not what you want.”

Luebke said she is concerned about equity.

Young said the same equity argument holds true for exempting city residents.

“City residents use county roads. County residents use city roads,” he said. “We’re all in it together.”

Supervisor Bill Switalla, who represents the Wittenberg area, questioned how you can apply a tax only to certain residents.

“I do agree it’s not fair to Shawano (city),” he said. “I don’t agree that we can just leave Shawano out of it.”

Kautza asked what would stop every municipality from adopting their own wheel tax and keeping all the revenue for themselves. Then, the county gets nothing.

“We can’t start picking and choosing,” he said.

Last year, the county repaved 9.6 miles of roads. This year, 8.6 miles are budgeted, Davel said.

Most likely, there would be no additional money for roads and bridges. Some of the money normally used for roads and bridges would be relocated to other departments.

“The bottom line here is highway’s probably going to get the same amount of money, but it’s going to be less contribution from the budget (general fund),” Switalla said.

Kautza, Capelle, Luebke and Tess Serrano voted in favor of reducing the fee to \$20. Switalla and Young opposed that amendment.

On the final, amended motion that would establish the wheel tax and set it at \$20, Kautza, Capelle, Switalla and Serrano voted in favor, with Luebke and Young opposing.

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NEIGHBORS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

drives that focus on local needs.

According to Rasmussen, each charity is different.

“If it is local and a sudden cause, such as this one, others will reach out, offering donations or their time to assist with the event,” she said.

Preparing for an event can take months to plan, sometimes six months

or longer. Her recipe for success starts with a simple meeting — taking notes, laying out ideas, assessing what each person involved can offer and taking things from there.

“Last year, I had my most successful event to date,” Rasmussen said. “The Christmas in July charity fundraiser raised over \$10,000.

“I take pride in arranging and donating many baskets for not only events I hold, but for many other events in the area. I truly believe in giving back to those who are less fortunate. My business is succeeding, and giving back to the community is my way of thanking all those that have become part of my life.”

Help Wanted

NEW Media is looking for a reporter to work out of our Shawano office. Most of the work would involve covering municipal, county board, school and community stories, as well as features on some of the people and groups that call Shawano County or Menominee County home.

We seek talented journalists who can seize someone’s attention by being a talented wordsmith and photographer in a fast-paced news environment where digital comes first. While the office is a base of operations, we want someone who’ll be out in the community gathering the news.

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Send a resume, cover letter, and four to six samples of your work to Editor Kevin Passon at kpasson@newmedia-wi.com. Put “Reporter – Shawano” in the subject header.



SHAWANO LEADER

Community Journalism?

NEW Media is always on the lookout for talented freelance correspondents who can write stories AND take stunning photographs for our three publications — the Shawano Leader, the Oconto County Times Herald, and the Wittenberg Enterprise and Birnamwood News.

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We also seek correspondents who have a nose for news or like to cover sporting events, and those with the talent and interest can go far. We pay \$60 per story and \$10 per photo that are published in print and/or online.

Anyone interested in joining our team of freelancers can send a cover letter to City Editor Lee Pulaski at lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com and include some samples of their previous work, if applicable.





Olivia Schneider, 8, and her brother, Charles LaRock, stand in front of the display of items donated to Olivia's Pantry of Hope and Giving at 1134 S. Franklin St. in Shawano. Olivia decided to start the food pantry for people in need, based on the pantry Charles had operated for about four years, starting when he was 8. Food, hygiene items and clothing are available free of charge to anyone in need.

LYNN ZAFFRANN

Shawano girl follows in her brother's footsteps

8-year-old takes charge of gathering food for needy

By LYNN ZAFFRANN
Correspondent

The Christmas decorations that brightened South Franklin Street in Shawano over the holidays have been put away.

In their place, there is something else that's full of light, hope and love for the needy in Shawano.

Olivia's Pantry of Hope and Giving, 1134 S. Franklin St., Shawano, the idea of 8-year-old Olivia Schneider, takes up part of the front yard of the house. Donations of boxes, cans and bottles of food are on display for those in need to pick up, free of charge, with no limits.

"The other day, I just wanted to start one," Olivia said when asked why there is a food pantry in her yard.

She said that her brother, Charles LaRock, had done the same thing when he was 8 years old.

Sadie Cornelius is the mother of Olivia and Charles.

"I thought it was a great idea when she came up with it," Cornelius said. "I liked doing it with Charles. We did it for about four years."

She said that as Charles got older, he got busy with other things, and they discontinued his food pantry.

Olivia wasn't even born when Charles ran his food pantry from their home, but she said that she had heard about it often as she grew up.

"We were talking about Charles' pantry,

and I asked Olivia if she wanted to do one," Cornelius said.

"Yes, I want to help families," Olivia added.

Olivia just turned 8 years old in December. According to Cornelius, that's just a bit younger than Charles was when he began his food pantry.

Charles is now 18 and out of the house, but he gives Olivia a lot of support with her new food pantry. They still have the freezer and refrigerator that were donated when Charles was collecting food for the needy.

Donations are coming in from family, friends and others, as news of the food pantry is shared on its Facebook page, Olivia's Pantry of Hope and Giving. The Facebook page is administered by Cornelius.

"People are dropping things off," Cornelius said. "It's starting to fill up fast."

A friend of Cornelius dropped off some clothing, and boxes of supplies from family members out of state have arrived.

The Facebook page is the place to watch to see when the pantry is open. Because Cornelius works every other weekend, the open hours follow her work schedule. Typically, days that it is open are posted on Facebook at least one day in advance. Cornelius said that hours would probably be 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Because of Olivia's young age, it's obvious that a lot of the work involved in starting a food pantry and running it is in Cornelius' hands. She explained that Olivia helps organize the donations into categories and puts things in boxes. She also helps to take the donations outside and bring them back into the house.

Olivia recently decided that they should

also have an infant and toddler area in the food pantry. Donations for diapers, baby wipes, clothes and infant/toddler hygiene items are welcome. She said that she wanted children her age to get help.

"Babies, too," Olivia added.

Advertising for the food pantry has been limited to the Facebook page. Cornelius is hoping to find someone who could help with printing flyers to let people in need within the community know about the venture.

Charles said that when he started his food pantry, "Facebook was enough to let people know."

Friends and family helped to spread the word back then looking for donations and people in need to come to pick up food. There were also an article in the Shawano Leader that helped let people know about the pantry.

His pantry was successful for the four years it was in operation. Cornelius said that they didn't keep track of exactly how much was donated and given away. Charles indicated that "it was a lot."

There are plans to clean out the garage in spring, when the city's spring cleaning happens, according to Cornelius. Then they will be able to add storage shelves to hold the pantry items.

When asked if she wanted to do as well with her pantry as Charles did, Olivia said, "I want to do better."

There is a decorative sign hanging on the wall that says "Do All Things With Love." It's apparent that Cornelius has set a loving example for her family and that, first Charles, and now Olivia, have embraced that wholeheartedly.

Iconic restaurant gets fresh updates

River City Diner and Smokehouse becoming modernized

Marti Johnson has been spearheading efforts to modernize and enhance her business, River City Diner and Smokehouse, while maintaining its welcoming, community-focused atmosphere.

The first thing customers will notice is the transformation of the seating area. The newly updated bright red seats add a vibrant and refreshed look to the diner, a change that has been happening gradually to minimize disruptions.

"The new seating gives the space a whole new energy," Johnson said. "We're thrilled with how it's coming together and can't wait for everyone to see the final result."

Further updates are on the horizon. New ceiling fans, set to be installed in 2025, will add both style and functionality to the diner. Plans are also underway to modernize the counter eating spaces with new coverings, creating an inviting first impression for diners as they walk in.

"We're also excited about introducing digital display boards for specials and announcements," Johnson said. "It's another step in creating a more modern and engaging experience for our guests."

In addition to the physical upgrades, River City launched delivery services Jan. 1. Currently available from 4-7 p.m., the service is already gaining popularity. The team plans to expand delivery hours to accommodate daytime orders, especially for local businesses.

To complement the barbecue and smokehouse theme, River City is also introducing an expanded drink menu. This new offering will feature a variety of beverages crafted to pair perfectly with their signature dishes, creating an even more enjoyable

DINER, CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Marti Johnson, owner of the River City Diner and Smokehouse, shows off some of the renovations she has been doing on the iconic Oconto restaurant, and there are more good things to come, she said. CONTRIBUTED

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GARDENING WITH MELINDA MYERS

Maximize seed starting success with chart

Now is the time when many of us are busy ordering seeds. We often end up with many seeds, some new ones we needed or wanted and perhaps a few duplicates of those we have left from past seasons. It is easy to overlook some of these as the indoor and outdoor planting season begins.

Save money by taking inventory of your current seed collection, reducing the risk of ordering seeds you don't need. Decide what seeds you want to keep and grow this season and those you want to pass along to or swap with gardening friends. You may choose to make seed art with older or improperly stored seeds and invest in fresh seeds that are sure to germinate.

If in doubt, check the seed viability of older stored seeds with a simple germination test. Wrap 10 seeds in a damp paper towel and place them inside a



Melinda Myers
Columnist

plastic bag. Check the seeds in a week or so to see how many sprout. If all the seeds sprout, follow the planting guidelines on the seed packets. When only half the seeds sprout, you will need to plant the seeds twice as thick and so on.

Check catalogs and your favorite garden center for any seeds you need to purchase. Place your order early for the best selection.

Once the seeds arrive, look at the back of the packet to determine when to start the seeds indoors or out. Many seed companies now provide this information on their website instead of the seed packet. Check with your local University Extension website

for recommended planting dates in your area.

Record the start date on your calendar, garden chart or spreadsheet to make the process easier. Consider organizing your seeds to make it easier to find and plant them at the proper time. You may want to organize the seeds in alphabetical order or by the month for planting. Design a system that works best for you.

You can create your own seed storage organizer or purchase one. Store the seeds in a cool dark location in an airtight container to help maintain their viability and keep them safe from mice.

Once your seed starting schedule is created and seeds are organized, prepare the space for starting seeds indoors, if needed. Make sure your grow lights are in working order and you have sufficient containers, flats and seed starting mix for planting.

Save money by repurposing yogurt, applesauce and similar food containers into seed starting pots. Just clean and add drainage holes. Look for used cell packs, flats and small pots that can be used again. Disinfect these by soaking them in a one-part bleach and nine-part water solution for 10 minutes, then rinse with clear water. Repurposing saves you money and helps reduce plastic waste and the risk of disease that could kill your seedlings.

Taking time to plan and organize now can save you money while helping you maximize the productivity and beauty of your gardens.

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



Save money on plants by starting seeds indoors with grow lights, containers and seed starting mix. MELINDAMYERS.COM

Crows, ravens not easy to differentiate at first glance

The American crow and common raven can be hard to tell apart. Both species are all black, large, make loud raspy calls, and tend to fly out of range too fast to get a really good look at them.

I've learned that there are differences if you have time to spot them; having a good pair of binoculars handy is a big help. According to the Cornell Lab All About Birds website (AAB), the common raven is larger and stockier than the American crow, has a heavier bill, shaggy feathers on the bill and neck, and elongated throat feathers called "hackles" that are raised to show dominance or when threatened.

When in flight, the raven flaps its wings less, soars more and feeds more on carrion than crows do. A distinguishing feature to look for when in flight is the wedged shape to the end of the raven's tail versus the straight edge of the crow's tail.

Both crows and ravens have a large vocal repertoire ranging from croaks, knocks, and rasping calls to mimicking the calls of other birds and animals, even humans according to the AAB website. But the most commonly heard call of the raven is a classic gurgling croak that rises in pitch and is much deeper



The American crow is known to chase larger birds like hawks, as well as being more social than ravens. JOEL TRICK



Cathy Carnes
Columnist

and more musical than the crow's simple, scratchy caw caw. Learn to recognize these two calls and you will be well on your way to discerning a crow from a raven.

You've likely seen crows chasing larger birds like hawks, swooping and dashing down on the predator from above; this is called mobbing. According to Jennifer Ackerman in her book, "The Bird Way, A New Look at How Birds Talk, Work, Play, Parent, and Think," crows are among the most frequent mobbers.

They make short, loud and repetitive alarm calls when mobbing to alert other birds of danger and to recruit them to join in on the mobbing effort to help drive the threat away.

It's also thought that mobbing is a teaching tool. It teaches inexperienced birds about dangerous predators, and produces more future mobbers to deal with predators. The more "hands on deck" to deal with a threat, the better.

Crows and ravens, like many other birds, are very intelligent. In her book, Ackerman discusses how research has revealed that even though the brains of birds are small, they pack a large number of brain cells into that small space. Corvids (including crows and ravens) have more neu-



Common ravens have a large heavy bill and shaggy feathers along the neck, while American crows do not. LYNETTE THONNE

rons in their forebrain than monkeys. This explains why these birds are capable of mental feats on par with great apes.

Ravens put their intelligence to use in many ways. They may distract animals like river otters and steal away their fish, according to the AAB website. And they sometimes work in pairs to grab eggs or chicks out of seabird colonies; one bird distracts the adult while the other grabs the egg or chick. According to Allen Haney in his book, "Jewels of Nature," ravens may follow wolves knowing they may get an easy meal of "scraps" left at wolf kills.

Ravens and crows are intelligent, but also bold, curious and clever. According to AAB, ravens are skilled aerial acrobats. While

flying, they may perform sudden rolls, wing-tucked dives, and use objects in play such as sticks, dropping and catching them in midair. According to Haney, they also like to collect odds and ends. He reports finding not only bones and feathers (which would be expected) but also a comb, teaspoon and eyeglasses at the base of a raven's nest tree.

Crows are more social than ravens, according to Haney. They live in extended families with three generations helping with nesting and raising of the young. They form large non-breeding flocks that roost and forage for food together. This is likely why when we see one crow, we know that there are more about. Ravens, on the other hand, form long term pair

bonds and raise their young with just the help of their mate.

Interestingly, a large flock of crows is called a "murder." Why? There are several explanations, according to a PBS Nature website, that are based on folktales and superstitions. One associates the presence of crows with an omen of death because they are scavengers that feed on carrion, and are seen at battlefields and in cemeteries. They also tend to circle in large numbers above places where animals or people are expected to die. There's another folktale that crows gather together to decide the capital fate of another crow.

Both the American crow and common raven are seen in Wisconsin, the crow throughout the state and the raven in the northern half. Keep an eye out for these intelligent birds, listen for their calls to help identify them, and watch for that aerial acrobat, the common raven, whose antics you will certainly find amazing and entertaining.

Cathy Carnes is a retired biologist in Oconto who worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Green Bay Field Office and prior to that with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch in Buffalo, New York. As endangered species coordinator for the USFWS, she helped conserve and recover federally listed threatened and endangered species in Wisconsin.

RESTAURANT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

dining experience for guests.

"We've always prioritized convenience and connection with our community," Johnson said. "Delivery is just the beginning, and we're exploring

online ordering as well, which we hope to roll out in 2025. The addition of a tailored drink menu brings a new dimension to what we offer our customers."

Samantha Routheau, president of the Oconto

Area Chamber of Commerce, expressed her excitement about the changes.

"River City Diner and Smokehouse is a cornerstone of our community," said Routheau. "These ren-

ovations and new services show how committed they are to evolving and meeting the needs of their customers. It's businesses like this that make Oconto a great place to live and work."

With ongoing renova-

tions and ambitious plans for the future, River City is positioning itself as a modern, community-oriented hub.

"We're always looking for ways to improve and give back to our commu-

nity," said Johnson. "This is just the beginning."

For updates and announcements, follow River City Diner and Smokehouse on social media or visit www.rivercityoconto.com.

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Roommate shared King’s dream of better world

Commemorating Martin Luther King Day always takes me back to 1964 when I was a freshman at Mount Mary College in Milwaukee. A first-class academic institution, MMC was also a “finishing school” for pampered girls from wealthy families.

Could a dairy farmer’s daughter fit in? I was about to find out.

From the day I failed at driving a tractor, I was determined to go to college. I worked hard at St. Mary’s Menasha where our teachers were School Sisters of Notre Dame, doing a side gig recruiting girls to pursue a “vocation” at their convent in Mequon. Definitely not nun material, I stubbornly resisted.

It fell to my typing teacher to make one last try my senior year. She was livid when my answer was no and said I was squandering 12 years of Catholic education and thwarting God’s will by not becoming a nun. I ended up with all



A’s, except for that B-plus in typing.

Though I prayed for a way to pay for college, I hadn’t heard anything by March and got desperate enough to consider the convent. Then in April, I was called to the principal’s office. Sister Lucille Marie said I’d won the Frank Sensenbrenner full-tuition scholarship to Mount Mary. It was a great honor, but I knew I couldn’t afford the housing and fees and tearfully declined.

When I got home, Mom said Gertrude Bergstrom, Frank Sensenbrenner’s daughter, had phoned and asked me to call her. A nervous wreck, I dialed her number. When she came on the line, Mrs. Bergstrom

said she was chairman of the Mount Mary Board of Governors. If I went there, she’d pay all my expenses, provided I maintained a B average and kept this a secret until she died. “Yes!” I said. Just like that, this Cinderella had a fairy godmother.

I toured MMC in August, registered for classes and met with the house mother. All went well until she said girls like me often found dorm life at MMC difficult. “Some of your classmates won’t be here for the same reason you are. Their primary purpose is to find a husband, meeting him at socials hosted by MSOE or Marquette fraternities. These events are popular among upper-classmen seeking a suitable wife. Don’t feel bad when you aren’t invited.”

I thought she was joking — until I met my roommate. I knew little about Marianne except what I’d gleaned from one letter written on expensive stationery.

She was from Indiana, had attended a private all-girls high school, and wrote that if I was quiet and neat, we would get along just fine. Splendid.

Mom and Dad proudly drove me down in September, my bulging suitcase and painstakingly packed cardboard box stowed in the trunk. When we found Room 282, Marianne had already staked out her claim. She’d taken the better bed and dresser; her tailored wardrobe occupied three-fourths of the closet. I was unpacking my belongings when she popped in, chirped a bright hello, then frowned in confusion.

Looking us over, she blurted out: “Oh my God, you’re poor.”

I’d never known my father to be at a loss for words, and he did not disappoint. “Rich or poor, we all put on our pants the same way,” he replied.

Marianne’s face turned a bright red as she made a

hasty exit. With no other choice, we had to get along, though it was no fun living with a neat freak — an immaculately groomed, perfectly coiffed witch with a capital B.

In an amazing stroke of luck, Marianne met Mr. Right at a Marquette Halloween party. A handsome preppy, he’d be graduating early to start dental school. She was engaged by Christmas and gone by January, having punched her ticket to a charmed existence as the Stepford Wife of a successful orthodontist.

Me? I hit the jackpot in the replacement roommate lottery. Ramone was also from Indiana, but as one of the few black girls in our dorm, she’d had her own issues adjusting. She was beautiful, inside and out. Gorgeous hair, flawless skin, flashing black eyes and a laugh that made music.

We talked far into the night about the Civil Rights Movement led by a mes-

merizing Baptist preacher named Martin Luther King. Her brother had been at the Lincoln Memorial for Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech. We both joined the International Relations Club, where I acquired my love for politics, travel and history.

Ramone left MMC at the end of sophomore year to care for her brother. He’d been badly beaten on Bloody Sunday (March 7, 1965) when he and 600 other protesters were attacked with clubs and tear gas by law enforcement at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma. Sadly, I lost track of her, but every MLK Day I remember how we shared the same dream: making the world a better place. Something tells me she succeeded.

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

ASPI auditioning for ‘The Play That Goes Wrong’

Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. is looking for actors who enjoy making people laugh — without cracking up themselves.

Mike Eserkahn, the artistic director of Comedy City in De Pere, will direct the ASPI spring comedy, “The Play That Goes Wrong.” Eserkahn understands comedy, and he’s looking for men and women, ages 16 and older, who love to make people laugh.

Actors can audition anytime from 6-8 p.m. Jan.

28, or Jan. 29 at the Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St., Abrams. Those auditioning are invited to prepare an optional short monologue.

Virtual auditions are available for those unable to audition in person. To schedule a virtual audition, contact ASPI at 920-826-5852 or theater.aspi@gmail.com.

“The Play That Goes Wrong” describes the inept and accident-prone Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society’s attempt to produce

an ambitious 1920s murder mystery. Unfortunately, the set is not yet complete, the props start to disappear, actors go missing, and the set begins to collapse. Mayhem ensues, the acting gets worse, and the set becomes increasingly dangerous. The question is whether any of the cast and crew will remain standing, or conscious, by the final curtain.

The show will be presented May 8-11 and May 15-18 at the Nancy Byng Community Theater.

Wild game banquet coming up in Oconto Falls

Hillside Assembly will be sponsoring its 29th annual Wild Game Banquet on Jan. 25 at Oconto Falls High School, 210 N. Farm Road, Oconto Falls.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their favorite dish to the potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m. with speaker Dean Hulce from “God’s Great Outdoors” at 6:30 p.m. The doors open at 4 p.m.

Hulce is a lifetime hunter who has spent 35 years as a guide in Kodiak Island, Alaska, coastal Florida,

Colorado and Texas. He is a writer for national and regional magazines and newspapers, daily devotionals, and has appeared on hunting and outdoor television programs, videos and podcasts.

Replicas of huge white-tail deer will be on display. Grizzly bear, elk and mule deer mounts will also be featured.

Donation raffle prizes will be available again this year. New this year is a free drawing for a Disabled

American Veteran buck hunt at Butler Rock Ranch. There will be a youth Nerf gun range from 4-5:30 p.m.

Any buck, bear or bull can be brought in for scoring. The event is free, but folks can bring in a canned good for the local food pantry and your their wild game dish. One low level raffle ticket will be given for each wild game dish brought.

For information, call 920-855-2962 or go to www.hillsideassembly.com.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, JAN. 24

SHAWANO: American Red Cross blood drive, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., City Hall, 127 S. Sawyer St. Appointments at Red-CrossBlood.org or 800-733-2767.

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

SHAWANO: Indoor Rum-mage Sale, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., The Boulevard, 744 E. Green Bay St.

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

SATURDAY, JAN. 25

SHAWANO: Panfish Derby, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bamboo Bar, W5884 Cedar Court. Payout first, second and third for most weight. Must fish Shawano Lake only. More info

and rules on Bamboo Bar’s Facebook page or call 715-201-1158.

NAVARINO: Introduction to Cross-Country Skiing, 9 a.m. to noon, Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. One hour introduction to traditional cross-country skiing. Learn basic kick and glide, stopping and turning. NNC members \$5. Non-members \$10. Families \$20. Register by Jan. 23 via navarino.org/events or 715-758-6999.

SHAWANO: Indoor Rum-mage Sale, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., The Boulevard, 744 E. Green Bay St.

NAVARINO: Porcupine Snowshoe Hike, 1 p.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Snowshoe through the woods, bog and past porcupine dens. Bring snowshoes or rent. Arrive early to rent. Members \$5, non-members \$10, families \$20. Register by Jan. 23 via navarino.org/events or 715-758-6999.

SHAWANO: Shawano Pathways winter hike, 1:30 p.m., Sugar Shack Trails, N7061

Ash Road. Arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of the hike to register, get gear on and meet the guide. All hikes are free, but donations are appreciated.

SUNDAY, JAN. 26

SHAWANO: Indoor Rum-mage Sale, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., The Boulevard, 744 E. Green Bay St.

MONDAY, JAN. 27

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

SHAWANO: American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Shawano-Menominee kickoff meeting, 5:30 p.m., Shawano County Library, lower level, 128 S. Sawyer St.

ABRAMS: Machickanee Cross Country Ski Club meeting, 7 p.m., Town Hall, 5877 Main St.

TUESDAY, JAN. 28

NAVARINO: Junior Investi-

gator Home School Program, 1-2 p.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Winter Wonderland hands-on activities. \$5 per child ages 6-12, younger siblings and adults welcome.

ABRAMS: Auditions for Abrams Spotlight Productions play “The Play That Goes Wrong,” 6-8 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St. For information, 920-826-5852 or abrams-spotlightproductions.com.

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

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 29

ABRAMS: Auditions for Abrams Spotlight Productions play “The Play That Goes Wrong,” 6-8 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St. For information, 920-826-5852 or abrams-spotlightproductions.com.

KESHENA: Recovery talking circle, 6-8 p.m. Omaeqnome-

newak Wetohkatikamek Center, 2700 Mianaceqtawak Road. Information: Mindy Thunder at 715-799-3835 or mthunder@mitw.org.

POUND: North Country Kickers line dance lessons, 6:30-9 p.m., Equity Hall, W7403 State Highway 64. \$5 admission. Playing a variety of music. Everyone welcome. For more information, call Nancy 920-829-6316 or Charles 920-606-4370. Weekly through April 2.

THURSDAY, JAN. 30

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

FRIDAY, JAN. 31

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

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

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Chargers' Granquist hits 1,000 points

Wittenberg-Birnamwood stays perfect at 7-0 in conference play, 13-0 overall

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Jan. 18
Gillett 74, Northland Pines 36

Gillett improved to 12-2 overall with a 74-36 dismantling of Northland Pines.

Gillett is on a four-game winning streak.

Menominee Nation 51, Shiocton 25

Jan. 17
Wittenberg-Birnamwood 66, Manawa 31

Wittenberg-Birnamwood's 66-31 win over Manawa was a special night for Melaina Granquist.

Not only did the high school junior lead her team with 28 points and 13 rebounds, she also hit the 1,000-point mark in scoring.

Rory Salvesen added another 15 points for the Chargers. She also led the team with six assists and seven steals.

"We had a great first half tonight jumping out 20-0," coach Nick Mechelke said. "The girls played exceptional defense tonight."

The Chargers improved to 7-0 in the Central Wisconsin East Conference and 13-0 overall.

Shawano 46, Xavier 44

Shawano pulled out a tough victory over Xavier 46-44.

In the back-and-forth game, Ella Stuber hit two 3-pointers in the second half to give Shawano the lead for good.

Shawano improved to 5-1 in the Bay Conference and 12-3 overall.

Gresham 51, Marion/Tigerton 47

Gresham improved to 4-0 in the Central Wisconsin North Conference with



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Melaina Granquist crossed the 1,000-point threshold in a game against Manawa on Jan. 18. A few days, the Chargers defeated Bonduel (shown here), and Granquist moved to within striking distance of the mark.

TINA BACON

sin North Conference with its 51-47 win over Marion/Tigerton.

Marion/Tigerton dropped to 2-2.

Lena 60, St. Thomas Aquinas Academy 26

Lena didn't let St. Thomas Aquinas Academy score in double digits until the second half as the Wildcats won 60-26 in the Marinette & Oconto Conference matchup.

Lena maintained its hold on first place at 8-1 (12-2 overall).

Kali Fisher led the Wildcats with 15 points

Hannah Thomson scored 12, and Madilyn Thomson added 11.

Madilyn Thomson led the team with nine rebounds and six assists, while Eva Brooks pulled down eight boards and had five assists. Fischer led with three steals.

De Pere 73, Pulaski 43
Ashley Servais led the Red Raiders with 13 points and Olivia Sprangers added 11, but Pulaski pulled up short, losing 73-43 to De Pere.

It was De Pere in charge pretty much from

the start, taking a 38-19 lead at halftime.

Pulaski dropped to 2-7 in the Fox River Classic Conference and 4-10 overall.

Gillett 44, Niagara 40
Bonduel 49, Weyauwega-Fremont 36

Jan. 16
Northland Pines 66, Bowler 23

Jan. 14
Lena 58, Suring 39

Eva Brooks had a huge night for Lena as she led the Wildcats in scoring, rebounds, assists and steals as Lena beat Suring

58-39.

Brooks scored 21 points, pulled down 11 rebounds, was credited with six assists and had five steals.

Madilyn Thomson scored another 17 points, and Kali Fischer had 12. Bunny Cramer led Suring with 18 points.

Lena nearly doubled up on Suring with a 29-14 first half, but things settled down after the break, but Lena still outscored Suring 29-25.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood 63, Bonduel 40

In a battle of first-place teams, Wittenberg-Birnamwood remained unscathed with a 63-40 win over Bonduel.

Melaina Granquist led the Chargers with a double double of 19 points and 10 rebounds. Rory Salvesen scored 14 points, and seven other teammates also scored.

Salvesen led the team with five assists. With three steals each were Salvesen, Brie Ladika and Harper Rogowski.

"We played great team defense, and everyone got involved on the offensive end," Chargers coach Nick Mechelke said. "I was very pleased with the effort we put out on the court tonight."

The Chargers are 12-0 overall, 6-0 in the Central Wisconsin East Conference. Bonduel is 11-4 and 6-1, respectively.

Gresham 74, Bowler 35

Gresham mauled Bowler 74-35 in a Central Wisconsin North Conference game.

Leading the Wildcats were Lexi Baddmoccasin-Barnes with 18 points, Janay Pecore-Kirkland with 16 and Grade Haffner with 14.

Pecore-Kirkland pulled down 15 rebounds. Baddmoccasin-Barnes recorded six assists and eight steals.

Menominee Nation 57, Manawa 47

Urijih Reeves scored 15 points to lead Menominee Nation to a 57-47 win over Manawa.

Natalie Peters paced the Eagles with nine rebounds, and Reeves had another eight. Peters led with six assists, and

GIRLS, CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Dickman leads hockey team against Marshfield, Northland Pines

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Jan. 18
Marshfield 6, Antigo 5

Owen Dickman scored four goals and Antigo battled back late in the third period but the Red Robins pulled up short, losing 6-5 to Marshfield.

The Tigers took an early 2-0 lead, scoring twice in the first two minutes. Dickman put Antigo on the board at 3:10 with assists from Parker Chaney and Eli Kassler.

Marshfield scored again to take a 3-1 lead. Dickman's second goal came at 9:58 with assists from Kassler and Ethan Novy. Kassler then tied the game at 3-3 at 12:26 with an assist from Dickman.

The Tigers then seemed

to get the better of the Red Robins, going up 4-3 after two periods and taking a 6-3 lead early in the third period.

Dickman, with a Kassler assist, scored at 7:23 and then brought the Red Robins even closer with his fourth goal of the game at 13:24. Unfortunately, that was all the scoring Antigo could muster.

Antigo made the most of its shots on goal, connecting on five of its 19 shots. Marshfield had 39 shots on goal, with Antigo's Richie Veriha notching 33 saves.

Each team was penalized four times for eight minutes.

With his four goals and one assist, Dickman leads the Red Robins with 44

overall points. He is followed by Kassler with 33 and Liam Burt with 10.

Jan. 16
Shawano/Bonduel 7, Beaver Dam 5

After a somewhat quiet first period, Shawano/Bonduel found its footing and scored several times in the second and third periods to beat Beaver Dam 7-5.

Trailing 2-0 after the first period, Kielman Armbruster put Shawano/Bonduel on the board with a goal at 5:20 in the second period; Cameron Schroeder assisted. Just 37 seconds later, Bryce Lammers tied the game at 2-2 with a goal and an assist from Max Huntington.

Blake Swedberg put Shawano/Bonduel up 3-2 with a score at 14:03,

and Gavin Hundt scored at 15:06 with help from Waylon Snider to make it 4-2. The Golden Beavers scored at the end of the second period.

Beaver Dam tied the game at 4-4 at 5:13 in the third period. Blake Knope put Shawano/Bonduel bacon top 5-4 at 7:42, only to see Beaver Dam tie the score at 5-5 at 13:58.

Wyatt Schroeder scored at 14:20 to give Shawano/Bonduel the lead. At 16:23, Hundt ended the scoring with his second goal.

Beaver Dam edged Shawano/Bonduel 8-5 on shots on goal in the first period, but Shawano/Bonduel reversed the trend 11-8 in the second period and 13-12 in the third.

Kaiden Thornborrow

notched 23 saves for the visitors.

The Golden Beavers were penalized twice for four minutes, and Shawano/Bonduel was called for three infractions for six minutes.

Antigo 5, Northland Pines 3

Owen Dickman recorded a hat trick with one goal in each period as Antigo beat Northland Pines 5-3.

The Red Robins scored first on a goal by Eli Kassler just 22 seconds into the game. Dickman assisted.

The Eagles tied the game at 1-1 at 9:18, only to see Dickman get his first goal and the Antigo lead at 12:35. Kassler assisted on the go-ahead goal.

Dickman scored his

second goal at 3:12 in the second period to put Antigo up 3-1. Northland Pines scored at 11:14.

Dickman's third goal came at 13:28 in the third period to put the Red Robins on top 4-2; Kassler assisted. Northland Pines scored at 14:20. Kassler notched his second goal at 15:04 to end the scoring.

The Eagles attempted nearly three times as many shots as the Red Robins, but their shots came up empty. Northland Pines had 44 shots on goal, compared to 17 for Antigo. Richie Veriha recorded 41 saves for Antigo.

Penalties were at a minimum, with the Eagles penalized once and the Red Robins called for two of them.

Lena wrestlers go 2-1 at home quad

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Jan. 17
Lena Quad
Lena's boys wrestlers went 2-1 at their home quad, defeating Kewaunee and Bonduel but losing to D.C. Everest.

Lena 41, Kewaunee 21
Lena started with three wins over Kewaunee. At 106 pounds, Isaac Peterson won 16-0 on a technical fall. Sam Peterson won at 114 on a forfeit, and Brayden Graef won at 120 on a pin in 1:01.

Parker Boomsma lost 16-13 at 126 for Lena's first defeat. That was followed by a double forfeit at 132.

Lucas Heimke pulled out a pin in 1:33 at 138. However, Len'a Riley Windus and Erik Kosch lost the decision at 138 and 144, respectively.

Quinton McDonald won by a pin in 22 seconds at 157, and Max Peterson won by forfeit at 165.

Lena forfeited at 175, Kewaunee forfeited at 190, and there was a double forfeit at 215.

Kewaunee's Mitchell

Boeder won the 285 match over Lena's Dylan Urbanek with a pin in 57 seconds.

Lena 54, Bonduel 24
Lena captured the first three matches against Bonduel, with the 113 and 126 matches won by forfeit. At 120, Graef pinned John Parsons in 3:19.

There was a double forfeit at 132, followed by Heimke winning by forfeit at 138.

There was a return to action at 144 with Bonduel's Aiden RoBarge pinning Windus in 1:28. Kosch pinned Dylan Hillsberg in 1:06 at 150, and Max Peterson won by medical forfeit over Matthew Walenta at 157.

Colin Fischer pinned McDonald in 38 seconds at 165, and Bonduel's Ryley Kurtz pinned Lena's Collin Van Ark in 5:04 at 175.

Lena's Colt Miller pinned Bonduel's Jayden Popp in 2:50 at 190. Bonduel's last win of the match was at 215 when Isaac Seefeldt won by forfeit. Urbanek pinned Jackson

QUAD, CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Boivin jersey retired



Former Menominee Tribal School athlete and alumna Pam Boivin had her jersey retired by Mike Clark, athletic director. Clark had Boivin as a student at the school, where she excelled in volleyball, basketball, cheerleading and softball. Boivin now coaches the Sacred Heart Cardinals.

Barkley places fourth at Wausau meet

By NEW Media Staff

Jan. 18
Wausau Warrior Women's Challenge
There was plenty of stiff competition at the Wausau Warrior Women's Challenge with more than 75 schools and 500 female wrestlers participating on the mats.

"The team wrestled well today as we faced very tough competition," Shawano coach Mike Homan said. "There were many returning state champions at today's tournament."

Adalyn Barkley placed fourth overall in the 145 bracket.

"She has had a great season so far and gets better every single match that she wrestles," Homan said. "She is a team leader and excels on the mat. She is always looking to improve."

GIRLS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Reevis had four. Peters again set the pace with six steals, as Anisa Waupoose and Lena Waukau each contributed four.

Manitowoc Lincoln 40, Pulaski 29
Seven Red Raiders found the scoreboard in the team's 40-29 loss to Manitowoc Lincoln, but none had more than six points.

Lily Urben and Olivia Sprangers each scored six points.

Gillett 57, St. Thomas Aquinas Academy 17
Marion/Tigerton 29, Northland Lutheran 25
Oconto Falls 62, Clintonville 24

Jan. 13
Menominee Nation 81, Port Edwards 27
Urijih Reevis scored 23 points and nine teammates also scored as Menominee Nation tripled up on Port

Edwards 81-27.

Aaliyah Corn scored 10 points for the Eagles.

Also contributing were

Mylee Dixon, Keira Nacotee, Darcie Spruce, Cecilia Grignon, Lena Waukau, Taylesia Pamoncutt,

Natalie Peters and Charlotte Fish.

Wausau led the team

with 11 rebounds.

Peters led with five assists, and Reevis had six

steals.

Manawa 62, Marion/Tigerton 29

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Bonduel boys basketball team wins again

Jan. 18 Northland Pines 83, Gillett 16

The Eagles had their fill of the Tigers as Northland Pines tore apart Gillett 83-16 in non-conference action.

Shiocton 72, Menominee Nation 48

Each half was nearly identical in Shiocton's 72-48 win over Menominee Nation in a Central Wisconsin Each Conference game.

Shiocton scored 35 points in the first half and 37 in the second. The Eagles scored 24 points before and after the break.

Kenew Awonohopay led the Eagles with 23 points, while Ryan Corn added 14.

Xavier 96, Shawano 63

Shawano and Xavier are heading in opposite directions in the Bay Conference following Xavier's 96-63 win.

Xavier is 5-1, while Shawano is 1-5 (2-10 overall).

Shawano trailed by a manageable 42-37 score at halftime, but the hosts blew the game open with a 54-26 second half.

Logan Sipple led Shawano with 23 points. Nine other players also scored.

Jan. 17 Little Chute 71, Oconto Falls 31

Evan Yuma scored 12 points and Jameson Beaman had 11 in Oconto Falls' 71-31 loss to Little Chute.

Yuma also led the Panthers with eight rebounds. JJ Pytleski had three steals, and with one assist each were Yuma, Chase Cariveau, Croix Gardebrecht, Emerich Skarban, Beaman, Aydien Wold and Pytleski.

De Pere 81, Pulaski 68

Jan. 16 Tigerton 72, Northland Lutheran 46

James Brady scored 27 points and pulled down 15 rebounds as Tigerton defeated Northland Lutheran 72-46 in a Central Wisconsin North Conference game.

Maverick Maass and Joey Zimdars each scored 14 points for the Tigers.

Sam Anheuser led the team with five assists and five steals.

Wittenberg-Birn

wood 60, Manawa 38

Wittenberg-Birnwood jumped out to a 38-16 lead by halftime and maintained the 22-point margin throughout the second half to win 60-38 over Manawa.

"We played a solid first half tonight and didn't really separate any more in the second," coach Garrett Rogowski said. "Oliver Fraaza had a very nice performance in the first half, then got in foul trouble."

Jett Rogowski led the Chargers with 21 points (include 7-of-12 free throw attempts), followed by Fraaza with 16 (including 12 in the first half) and Jaden Clark with 10.

Bonduel 78, Weyauwega-Fremont 29

Nine players scored for Bonduel as the Bears manhandled Weyauwega-Fremont 78-29.

Quinn Wesenberg and Race Anvelink each scored 14 points, with Carter Moesch adding 12 and Cade Johnson with 10. Mason Zuleger and Wesenberg each connected on a trio of 3-pointers.

Gillett 59, Suring 54

Jesse DeBauch scored more than half of Gillett's points as the Tigers snuck past the Suring Eagles 59-54.

DeBauch had 32 points, and Ryan Pensis added 14.

For the Eagles, Michael Bailey led with 16 points, followed by Taylor Booth Stoffregen with 13 and

Donny Otradovec with 12.

Coleman 62, Lena 55
Coleman and Lena were tied at 29-29 at halftime, but the Cougars pulled away with a 33-26 second half to beat the Wildcats 62-55.

Lena was led by Mason Belongia's 20 points and Mason Spice's 19.

White Lake 51, Bowler 46

Gresham 46, Marion 45

Jan. 14 Bonduel 71, Valders 58

Ryan Westrich had a double double with 24 points and 14 rebounds in Bonduel's 71-58 win over Valders.

Quinn Wesenberg dropped in five 3-pointers and had 20 total points. Race Anvelink scored another 10 for the Bears.

Gresham 65, Faith Christian Academy 46

Four players scored in double digits as Gresham beat Wausau's Faith Christian Academy 65-46.

Kevin Miller and Thomas Kaquatosh each scored 16 points Kaquatosh also led the Wildcats with 11 rebounds, and Miller had eight.

Wyatt Neitzer scored 12 points, and Kobe Miller had 10.

Neitzer and Kobe Miller each recorded three assists, and Neitzer had four steals.

Oconto Falls 76, Clintonville 31

Jameson Beaman scored 30 points to lead Oconto

Falls to a 76-31 win over Clintonville.

JJ Pytleski scored another 11, and Chase Cariveau had 10.

Beaman had a double double with 10 rebounds to lead the Panthers. Emerich Skarban had nine, and Cariveau had eight.

Cariveau led the team with five assists, while Beaman had three steals.

Pulaski 60, Manitowoc Lincoln 52

Down 27-26 to halftime, the Red Raiders clawed their way back in the second half to beat Manitowoc Lincoln 60-52.

Shawano 63, Green Bay East 56

The Hawks earned their second win of the season with a 63-56 win over Green Bay East.

Logan Sipple led the game with 22 points, and Crew Weisnicht added 14.

Tigerton 82, Elcho 31
Tigerton had little difficulty in dispatching Elcho 82-31.

The Tigers pounced out to a huge 51-12 halftime lead and added another 12 points to the margin of victory with a 31-19 second half.

Maverick Mass led Tigerton with 17 points, followed by Sam Anheuser with 16, James Brady with 14 and Gavin Kielblock

with 11.

Rosholt 63, Suring 60

Jan. 13 Gillett 68, Coleman 58
Jesse DeBauch scored 48 points, and Gillett slowly pulled away in the second half to defeat Coleman 68-58.

He also led his teammates with 21 rebounds. Jed Herzog had another 10. DeBauch led Gillett with three assists and three steals.

Lena 66, Wausaukee 63

Manawa 71, Marion 29
Wittenberg-Birnwood 96, Lakeland Union 63

Menominee Nation 77, Port Edwards 69

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1 Former furnace fodder

5 Attorney-__

10 Female fowl

13 Filled a gas tank

19 All, for starters

20 Garlic + olive oil sauce

21 Mil. mail facility

22 Request the presence of

23 "Careful deliberation is in order"

26 Foundation's awards

27 Name related to Hannah

28 Oscar actress Davis

29 Laundry day step

31 Comics scream

32 Austen novel

34 Text-scanning tech

36 Messy pile

38 Envious to the extreme

47 Dallas hoopster, for short

48 Editor's "Out!"

49 Start a round

50 __ uncertain terms

51 Walk heavily

54 Little prankster

56 Pack animal

57 Whole bunch

58 Angler's disappointing report

63 Misrepresent

64 Ushered out

65 "Small" change

66 '50s White House nickname

68 90-degree shape

69 Big name at SpaceX

70 Took a siesta

71 Arizona river

73 Preceder of "-fi"

76 Telephone trio

77 Vicinity

78 Changes considerably

81 Improves, as a skill

83 "Why the sad face?"

86 Dislodge

87 Prefix for function

88 Hearty laugh

89 Slip-ups

90 Twice tetra-

91 Dwell

94 Unused portion

97 Danson or Turner

98 "Totally preposterous!"

103 Branch of Islam

104 Take legal action

105 "Ditto!"

106 Uno + 1

109 Ancillary map

112 Playful prank

115 Scoundrel

119 Contract signing

121 Venerable sports mag

124 Two-channel audio

125 Baboon, for one

126 Activated, as alarms

127 Cupid alias

128 *Blithe Spirit* playwright

129 "Uh-huh"

130 Crystal-filled rock

131 Resembling thick twine

DOWN

1 Soda flavor

2 Predictive sign

3 It means "opposed to"

4 Follow advice

5 Sound of relaxation

6 Cause for extra innings

7 Actor Rob

8 Hand lotion additive

9 Sift through

10 "A likely story!"

11 Lengthy tale

12 Overly inquisitive

13 Garb in some Eden art

14 Imaginary

15 NASA spacewalk

16 Equator, for instance

17 Diminutive ending

18 Schoolroom furniture

24 Surveillance tools

25 Unspoken but understood

30 Culinary masters

33 Puddle stuff

35 UPS driver's assignment

37 Confident manner

38 Yuletide tune

39 Egg-shaped

40 Somber poem

41 HP PC alternative

42 Warmed up

43 San __, CA

44 Family member

45 Symbol of slowness

46 Alpine falsetto

47 Atlas abbr.

52 Manufactured

53 Book after Job

55 Indy Jones' hat

59 Victor's cry

60 Millionth of milli-

61 *Carmen* composer

62 "Your choice"

63 Hold a membership

66 "__ the picture"

67 Fuzzy fruit

70 Aster family flower

72 Golden Fleece ship

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73 Take photos

74 Living room seat

75 Very quick, in brand names

78 Garden tools

79 Former Japanese capital

80 The RAF, in a Churchill quote

82 *Les __-Unis*

83 Laundry day step

84 Money in Milan

85 \$, in exchange rate tables

87 Flat-topped elevations

91 Target of appeals in a drought

92 AMA members

93 Coax forth

95 Moved in circles

96 Bit of body art

99 Annoying complainer

100 Packet of leaves

101 Marvel's mischief maker

102 Taking more time

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Ad Deadline: 3pm Thursday Prior

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PUBLIC RECORD

SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Jan. 19

Deputies responded to 20 incidents, including property theft on Hillview Road in the Town of Hutchins; child abuse on East Green Bay Street in Bonduel; assisting the fire department on Willow Creek Road in the Town of Pella; assisting the fire department on state Highway 22 in the Town of Belle Plaine; one 911 call; two reckless driving incidents; one welfare check; five crashes, one involving deer.

Jan. 18

Deputies responded to 30 incidents, including property theft on Stone Avenue in Mattoon; assisting the fire department on U.S. Highway 45 in Marion; warrant on County Road Z in Aniwa; sick animal on East Westgor Avenue in Wittenberg; assisting the fire department on Opperman Way in the Town of Richmond; noise on Old Lake Lane in the Town of Wescott; two 911 calls; three reckless driving incidents; two traffic hazards; one welfare check; two crashes.

Jan. 17

Deputies responded to 37 incidents, including assisting the fire department on Hatchery Road in the Town of Seneca; trespassing on Lessor-Navarino Road in the Town of Navarino; assisting the fire department at S&K Hardwoods, 295 U.S. Highway 45 in Birnamwood; sick animal on Murphys Road in the Town of Bartelme; assisting the fire department on Chrissie Circle in the Town of Washington; operating without a license on state

Highway 29 in the Town of Herman; operating without a license on Waukechon Street in Shawano; operating without a license on East Grand Avenue; drugs on state Highway 22 in the Town of Belle Plaine; animal bite on Norrie Road in the Town of Birnamwood; three 911 calls; six reckless driving incidents; two traffic hazards; two welfare checks; two crashes.

Jan. 16

Deputies responded to 19 incidents, including recovering a stolen vehicle on state Highway 22 in the Town of Belle Plaine; dive team call on Maders Circle in the Town of Wescott; operating while intoxicated on Waukechon Street in Shawano; operating while intoxicated on South Airport Drive in Shawano; three 911 calls; one reckless driving incident; two traffic hazards; one welfare check.

Jan. 15

Deputies responded to 27 incidents, including a warrant at the Shawano County Courthouse, 311 N. Main St., Shawano; eviction on East Randall Street in Shawano; scam on Tower Road in the Town of Germania; warrant arrest at Dollar General, 410 N. State Highway 22, Cecil; assisting the fire department on County Road D in the Town of Almon; four reckless driving incidents; two traffic hazards; two welfare checks; two crashes, one involving deer.

Jan. 14

Deputies responded to 30 incidents, including a warrant at the Shawano County Courthouse, 311 N. Main St., Shawano; trespassing on Pine Street in Eland; assist-

ing the fire department on Hillcrest Drive in the Town of Washington; sick animal on Riverside Drive in the Town of Wescott; one 911 call; one reckless driving incident; four crashes.

Jan. 13

Deputies responded to 32 incidents, including an eviction on Prospect Circle in Shawano; sick animal on County Road J in the Town of Almon; fleeing and pursuit on Camp 14 Road in the Town of Bartelme; four 911 calls; two traffic hazards; three welfare checks; two crashes.

SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jan. 19

Officers responded to 21 incidents, including neglected animals on South Lafayette Street; assisting the fire department on West First Street; trespassing on Lakeland Road; threatening on Oak Court; two 911 calls; six welfare checks; one crash.

Jan. 18

Officers responded to 13 incidents, including two drug offense calls at undisclosed locations; juvenile problem on South River Street; one 911 call; one welfare check.

Jan. 17

Officers responded to 24 incidents, including operating without a license on North Sawyer Street; three truancy calls at Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B; drugs at Family Dollar, 413 S. Main St.; animal bite on West Picnic Street; restraining order violation on North Lafayette Street; two 911 calls; one reckless driving incident; two welfare checks; one crash.

COURT NEWS

• Kevin E. Lyons, 45, Gresham, was found guilty at a jury trial July 10 of seven counts of battery or threat to a law officer, one count of attempted battery or threat to a law officer, two misdemeanor counts each of resisting or obstructing an officer and disorderly conduct. Judge Katherine Sloma sentenced him Jan. 13 to 10 years in prison, followed by 15 years of extended supervision with conditions.

• Dylan M. Giese, 25, Shawano, pleaded no contest Jan. 13 to child abuse recklessly causing great harm, first-degree recklessly endangering safety and second-degree recklessly endangering safety. Sloma sentenced him to two years in prison, followed by five years of extended supervision with conditions. Giese was given credit for 318 days already served.

• Cassandra L. Gipp, 34, Cecil, was charged Jan. 13 with possession of drug paraphernalia to manufacture methamphetamine, maintaining a drug trafficking place, possession of THC (second or subsequent offense), possession of methamphetamine, five counts of misdemeanor bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge William Kussel Jr. set a \$1,000 cash bond and scheduled a status

conference for March 19.

• Denny James Frieland, 44, Cecil, was charged Jan. 13 with possession of drug paraphernalia to manufacture methamphetamine, maintaining a drug trafficking place, possession of methamphetamine and misdemeanor counts of possession of THC and possession of drug paraphernalia. Kussel set a \$10,000 signature bond and scheduled a status conference for March 31.

• Brandon J. Gipp, 30, Cecil, was charged Jan. 13 with five counts of felony bail jumping, maintaining a drug trafficking place, possession of THC (second or subsequent offense), and misdemeanor counts of using or possession with intent to use a masking agent and possession of drug paraphernalia. Kussel set a \$1,500 cash bond and scheduled a status conference for March 13.

• Tyler J. Thunder, 22, Keshena, was charged Jan. 13 with felony bail jumping. Kussel set a \$1,500 signature bond and scheduled a status conference for March 25.

• Johnathon K. A. Neumann, 34, Wittenberg, was charged Jan. 13 with two counts of felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (second offense). Kussel set a \$5,000 signature bond and sched-

uled a status conference for Jan. 29.

• Richard A. Pingel, 36, Wittenberg, was charged Jan. 14 with burglary to commit a battery on a person, burglary while armed with a dangerous weapon, first-degree recklessly endangering safety, possession of a short-barreled shotgun or rifle, failure to comply with a person taking a person into custody, two counts of possession of a firearm by a person convicted of a felony, and misdemeanor counts of battery, disorderly conduct and operating a firearm while intoxicated. Kussel set a \$10,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Jan. 17.

• Orman D. Waukau, 39, Shawano, was charged Jan. 14 with four counts of felony bail jumping. Kussel set a \$1,500 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Jan. 21.

• Jessica L. Tepiew, 41, Neopit, was charged Jan. 16 with fleeing an officer in her vehicle, five counts of misdemeanor bail jumping, and misdemeanor counts of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (second offense), possession of THC, possession of an illegally obtained prescription, and resisting or obstructing an officer. Kussel set a \$3,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Jan. 21.

Murder mystery a Pip of a story

The bitter cold weather had me ready to stay indoors and read, so I selected “Dicing Up Disaster” by Emmie Lyn. It is number six in her Little Dog Diner series.

Misty Harbor, Maine, is a friendly place where neighbors help neighbors. Dani Mackenzie has a history of helping solve crimes. Her precious dog, Pip, once belonged to a murder victim, but now Pip is solidly Dani’s dog.

Dani hasn’t told her husband, Luke, that she is terrified of flying, but she goes along with his helicopter flight over Blueberry Bay. It was to be followed by a special picnic, but plans change.

The three see a speed boat rushing out of the bay, then Dani sees a boat with a prone figure on deck. Suddenly, a woman and a large dog jump off the boat and begin swimming toward shore.

Dani returns to the diner to find a wet and cold Sunny Shaw and her Newfoundland, Jasper, waiting in her office. She says she and Jasper were in the bathroom on Benny Chadman’s boat when someone came on board. Sunny was too scared to move. When she did come out, she found Benny’s body on the deck, panicked and swam to shore.

Officer A.J. Crenshaw begins an investigation, and Dani agrees to help Sunny stay safe and find the killer. Benny was doing an environmental study of an area near Pineville. The land was Nine Pine Nursery and it belonged to Hunter Bodane. He’d done a major upgrade but was now drowning in debt.

Bodane hoped to sell to a group planning to create a golf course. Benny had been hired to do an environmental study before the sale can go through. Sunny is advised to stay in town, so Dani gets her friend Lily to let Sunny trade work for a room at the Blue Moon Inn.

Dani and Luke go to Sunny’s house in Pineville to get Benny’s report, Sunny’s clothes, and Jasper’s bed and supplies, but are immediately confronted by local police officer Mick Walker. He claims to be a friend of Sunny’s, but something feels off to Dani.

They only find a piece of paper listing the names of Mick Walker, Hunter Bodane, contractor Josh



Whiting, Sen. Matt Nash and his assistant Crystal Tilson. The group planned to meet for brunch and receive Benny’s report, but

that report is missing and Benny is dead.

As Dani and friends do their best to keep Sunny safe, they also dig into the backgrounds of everyone involved into potential golf course. The investigation turns ugly and complicated, and another person dies before the real killer reveals himself, and of course Pip plays a role in

AT A GLANCE

BOOK: Dicing Up Disaster (Little Dog Diner Mysteries, Book 6)
AUTHOR: Emmie Lyn
PUBLISHER: Tule Publishing
YEAR PUBLISHED: 2019
NUMBER OF PAGES: 280

saving the day.

In the end, Luke and Dani finally get to have their special picnic.

01/24/2025

Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District
Board of Education Meeting January 28, 2024

January 28, 2024
5:00 P.M. – Board Policy Committee Meeting
5:40 P.M. – Budget and Finance Committee Meeting
6:00 P.M. – Regular Board Meeting Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School

AGENDA

I. Meeting Called to Order, Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.84(1).

II. Roll Call of the Board – Pledge of Allegiance

III. Motion to Approve the Minutes of the December 16, 2024 Regular Meeting as Circulated.

IV. Communications and Delegations

V. Public Comments

VI. Board Concerns or Reports

VII. Student Representative

VIII. Financial Report

IX. Approve the Agenda

X. I. The Board will adjourn to Closed Session at the close of the meeting pursuant to WI.STATS.19.85(1)© for Personnel Matters, and 19.85 (1)(g) for Legal Matters and 19.85(1)(e) for Negotiations.
II. The Board will reconvene to Open Session to ratify any decisions made in Closed Session.

XI. Administrative Reports
-Birnamwood Elementary and Middle School
-Wittenberg Elementary and Middle School
-Witt-Birn High School
-Pupil Services
-Technology
-Aquatic Center
-District Nurse

XII. Old Business – None

XIII. New Business
A. 2025-2026 School District Calendar for Review and Approval
B. Staff Transfers for Approval
C. Coach Resignations for Approval
D. Coach Hires for Approval
E. Overnight and Out of State Trips for Approval
F. Chess Club for Approval
G. Designation of Open Enrollment Spaces for the 25-26 School Year for Approval
H. Safety Drill Evaluations for Information
I. First Reading of Board Policies Special Update

XIII. Adjournment

WNAXLP

01/24/2025

VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on Election Day may submit a request to vote an absentee ballot to their municipal clerk. A qualified elector is any U.S. citizen, who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day, who has resided in the ward or municipality where he or she wishes to vote for at least 10 consecutive days before the election. The elector must also be registered in order to receive an absentee ballot. Proof of identification must be provided before an absentee ballot may be issued.

You must make a request for an absentee ballot in writing or online at MyVote.wi.gov.

Contact your municipal clerk and request that an application for an absentee ballot be sent to you for the primary or election or both. You may also submit a written request in the form of a letter, or you may apply for an absentee ballot online at myVote.wi.gov. Your written request must list your voting address within the municipality where you wish to vote, the address where the absentee ballot should be sent, if different, and your signature. You may make application for an absentee ballot in person, by mail, by fax, by email or at MyVote.wi.gov.

Making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail

The deadline for making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail is: 5 pm on the fifth day before the election, Thursday, February 13, 2025.

Note: Special absentee voting application provisions apply to electors who are indefinitely confined to home or a care facility, in the military, hospitalized, or serving as a sequestered juror. If this applies to you, contact the municipal clerk regarding deadlines for requesting and submitting an absentee ballot.

Voting an absentee ballot in person

You may also request and vote an absentee ballot in the clerk’s office or other specified location during the days and hours specified for casting an absentee ballot in person.

MUNICIPAL CLERK: NAME / TELEPHONE # / ADDRESS	DATES & TIMES OF ABSENTEE VOTING	
TOWNS:		
ELDERON – Mary Ostrowski 215401 BLACK CHERRY DR, ELAND, WI 54427	715-454-6845	Please call for an appointment. 02/04/2025 – 02/14/2025: 8:00AM – 6:00PM
FRANZEN – Ralph Kizewski 203340 STATE HWY 49, WITTENBERG, WI 54499	715-454-6677	Please call for an appointment.
NORRIE – Carla King 183453 CORNELL ST, BIRNAMWOOD, WI 54414	715-432-5036	Please call for an appointment.
VILLAGES:		
BIRNAMWOOD – Lauri Klumppan 362 RAILROAD ST, BIRNAMWOOD, WI 54414	715-449-0059	Please call for an appointment. 02/04/2025 – 02/14/2025
ELDERON – Rob Wyman 183987 STATE HWY 153, ELDERON, WI 54429	715-584-4203	Please call for an appointment.
HATLEY – Joan Fraaza 435 CURTIS AVE, HATLEY, WI 54440	715-574-2597	Please call for an appointment. 02/07/2025 – 02/16/2025

No in-person absentee voting may occur on the day before the election.

The municipal clerk will deliver voted ballots returned on or before Election Day to the proper polling place or counting location before the polls close on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Any ballots received after the polls close will not be counted

TYPE E NOTICE

WNAXLP

Legals
WNAXLP

458c7888
01/24/25
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT,
WINNEBAGO COUNTY

Plaintiff(s):
Petit & Dommershausen, SC
1650 Midway Rd.
Menasha WI 54952
-vs-
Defendant(s):
Dylan M Giese
W7621 County Rd. MMM
Shawano WI 54166
Publication Summons and Notice

(Small Claims)
Case No. 2024SC003523
Publication Summons and Notice of Filing

TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE AS DEFENDANT(S):
You are being sued by the person(s) named above as Plaintiff(s). A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. The lawsuit will be heard in the following small claims court: Winnebago County Courthouse
clerk of court: 920-236-4858
Courtroom/Room Number: 150
415 Jackson St.
Oshkosh State WI Zip 54901
March 12, 2025 Time: 3:30 p.m.
If you do not attend the hearing, the court may enter a judgment against you in favor of the person(s) suing you. A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate (property) you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.
You may have the option to Answer without appearing in court on the court date by filing a written Answer with the clerk of court before the court date. You must send a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff(s) named above at their address. You may contact the clerk of court at the telephone number above to determine if there are other methods to answer a Small Claims complaint in that county.
Plaintiff/Attorney
Dylan Gehrtz 1099170
12/23/2025
Petit & Dommershausen, SC
1650 Midway Rd.
Menasha, WI 54952
920-739-9900

WNAXLP

a3db7e7b
01/24/25
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT,
SHAWANO, COUNTY
Publication Summons and Notice (Small Claims)
Case No. 25 SC 12

Plaintiff(s):
Nsighttel Wireless LLC, d/b/a Cellcom
P.O. Box 5301
De Pere WI 54115
-VS-
Defendant(s):
Frank C. O Kimosh
712 1/2 S Franklin St.
Shawano WI 54166

Publication Summons and Notice of Filing

TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE AS DEFENDANT(S): You are being sued by the person(s) named above as Plaintiff(s).
A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. The lawsuit will be heard in the following small claims court: Shawano County Courthouse
715-526-9347
Courtroom/Room Number. Branch 2
Address: 311 N Main St
Shawano, WI Zip 54166
on the following date and time: 02/04/25 1:00 a.m. S pm.
If you do not attend the hearing, the court may enter a judgment against you in favor of the person(s) suing you. A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate (property) you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property. You may have the option to Answer without appearing in court on the court date by filing a written Answer with the clerk of court before the court date. You must send a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff(s) named above at their address. You may contact the clerk of court at the telephone number above to determine if there are other methods to answer a Small Claims complaint in that county.
01/14/25
Plaintiffs/Attorney's Telephone Number
1-800-550-8091

WNAXLP

Legals
WNAXLP

743e7bdc
01/24/25, 01/31/25, 02/07/25
IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF
Dakota Kay Bannister-Wiegand
By Ava Watson
NOTICE AND ORDER for Name Change Hearing case No.25cv04
NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: Dakota Kay Bannister-Wiegand
To: Dakota Kay Wiegand
Birth Certificate: Dakota Kay Wiegand
IT IS ORDERED:
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Shawano County State of Wisconsin: Judge's name: Judge Katherine Sloma 311 N Main St Shawano WI 03/10/2025 8:30 a.m. If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-526- 9347 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.
WNAXLP

84a1782d
01/24/25, 01/31/25, 02/07/25
STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT SHAWANO COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Frank J. Roe Jr.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
(Informal Administration) Case Number - 25pr01
DOD 12/23/2024
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE :
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 01/04/1962 and date of death 12/23/2024, was domiciled in Shawano County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address 307 Mills St, Shawano, WI 54166, USA.
3. All interested persons waived notice. You do not need to appear unless you object. The application may be granted if there is no objection.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate 04/22/2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Shawano County Courthouse, 311 N Main St, Shawano, WI Wisconsin Room 202 Probate Office.
Form completed by
Megan Frank
1712 Bouten St
Appleton, WI 54915
920 858 0480
WNAXLP

HOUSE FOR SALE

NEW MEDIA INC.

715-526-6188

b7f3f724
01/17/25, 01/24/25
Notice of Public Hearing
Planning, Development and Zoning Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 5, 2025 @ 9:00 AM, Shawano County Courthouse, Rooms A & B
Members: Ken Capelle, Jeremy Gretzinger, Lowell Hammett, Kathy Luebke, Theresa Serrano
AMENDED CU-21-24: Daniel J and Julie Brown Hanauer request a conditional use permit for the placement of up to 650 cubic yards of fill on a parcel greater than 2 acres in size (044-80350-0170) and up to 500 cubic yards of fill each on two parcels less than 2 acres in size (044-80350-0171 and 044-80350-172) in the Residential Sewered Zoning District pursuant to the Shawano County Zoning Ordinance No. 7-14, Table X.2.02 and Section X.9.03(120)(c) for the purpose of preparing the lots for future single family dwelling to be located at W4696 Swan Acre Lane (044-80350-0170). Property is located and described as Outlots 1, 2, and 3 of Certified Survey Map No. 4897 being part of Swan Acre Drive, located in Government Lots 2 and 3, unrecorded Plat of Swan Acres, Section 19, T27N R17E in the Town of Washington.
NOTE: Any person may appear at the public hearing and/or submit comments to be read into the record for Committee consideration. Correspondence must bear a legible signature of the author as well as the primary address of the signer. Accommodations due to disability can be made by calling 715-526-6766. Meeting notice emailed/posted: Shawano County Courthouse, Department of Human Services, Shawano County Library, Shawano Leader, WTC Radio, Shawano County Civic website @ coshawanowi.civicweb.net
WNAXLP

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can be when sat next
to all that you are
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and a life of service.

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your history of addiction,
the things you
may have done
that you are not
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be small enough
to deal with
while allowing you
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—Joseph
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19.70	19.90	20.10	20.30	20.50
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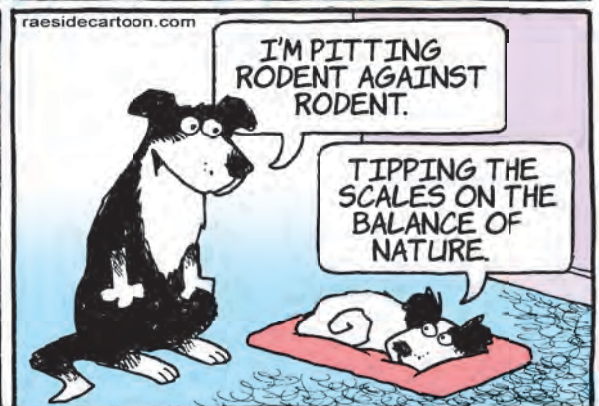
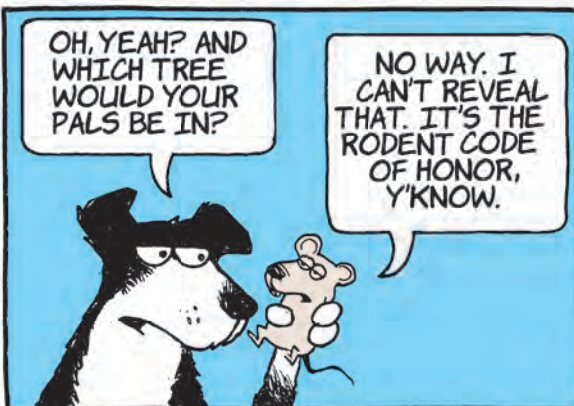
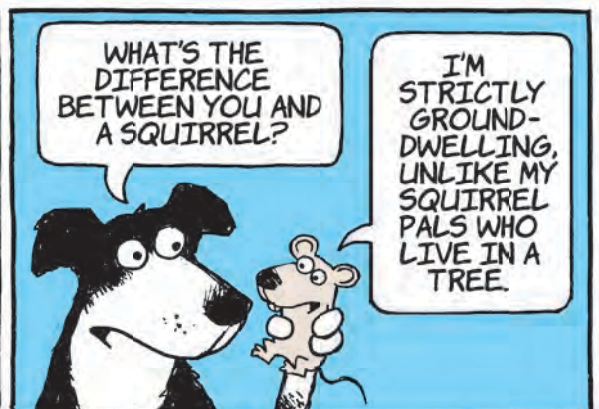
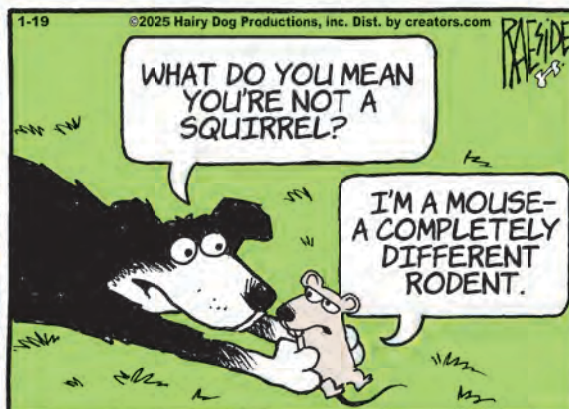
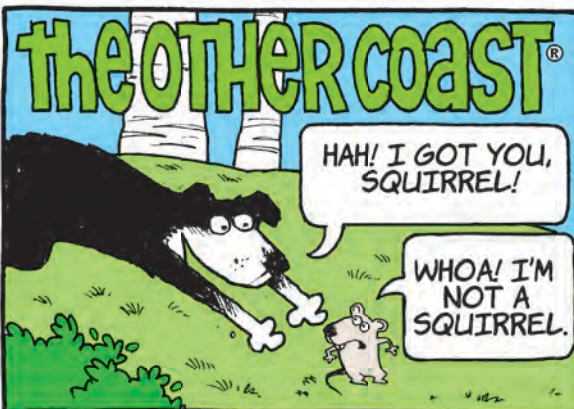
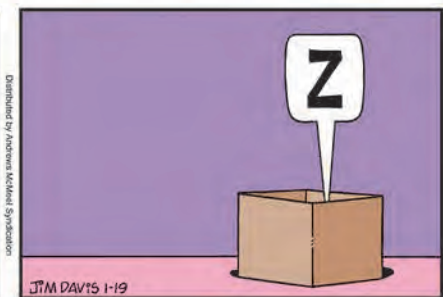
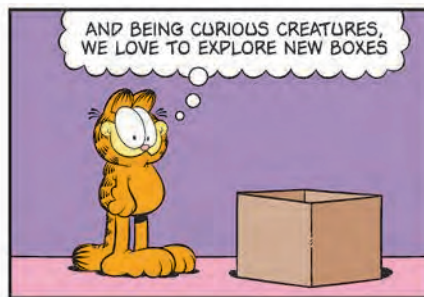
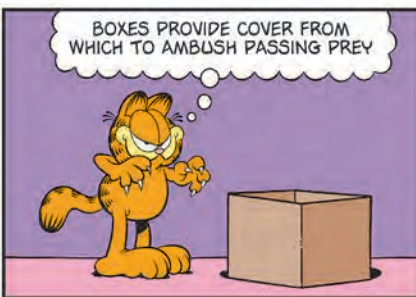
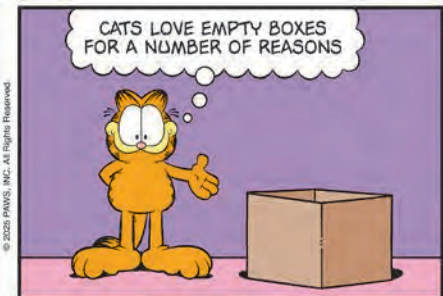
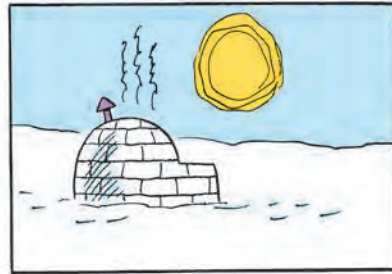
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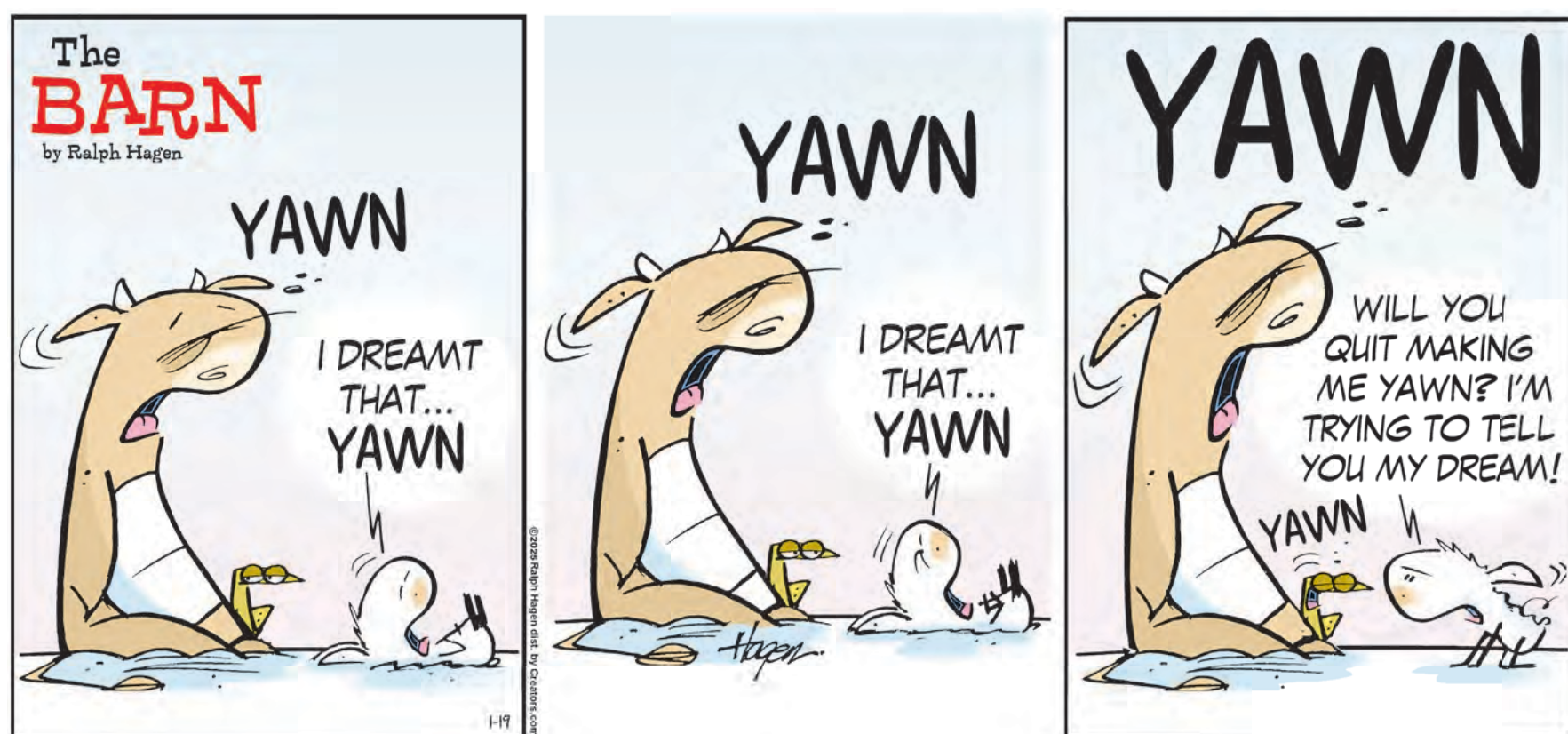
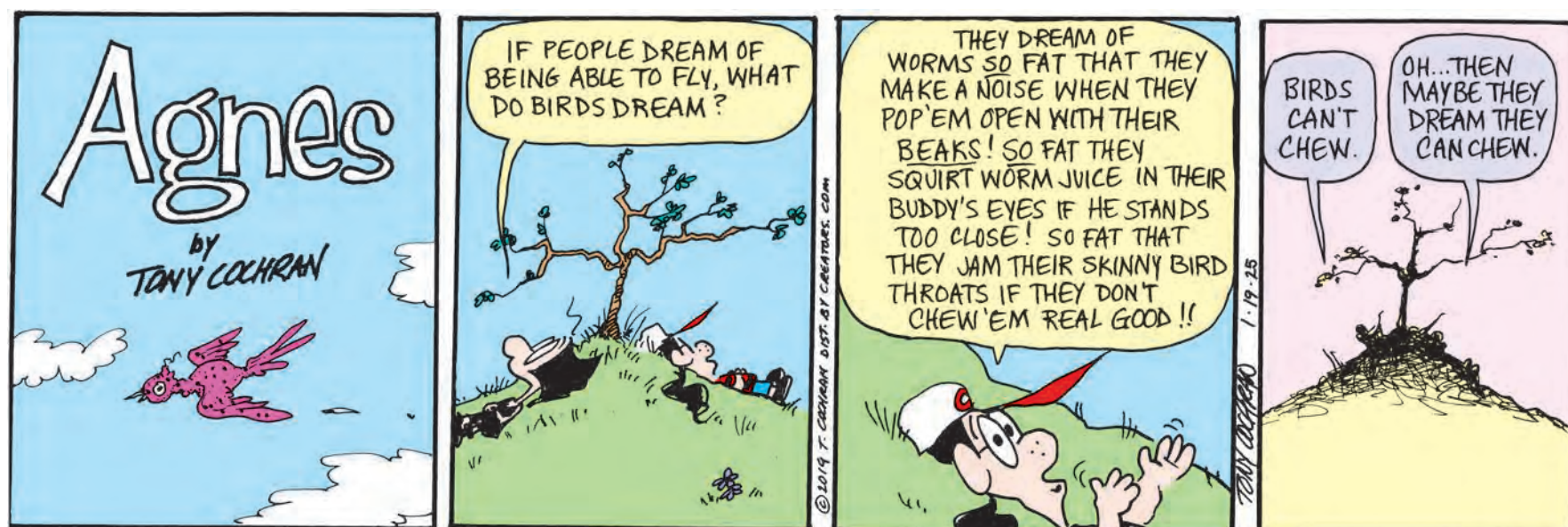
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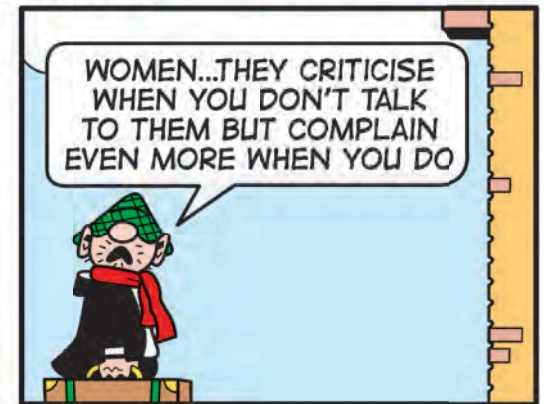
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Report to the Community



Published by NEW Media Jan. 24, 2025

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SUZANNE WITTMAN

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we eagerly anticipate the opportunities that lie ahead, I am filled with optimism for the continued growth and prosperity of our business community and all the communities that encompass Shawano Country.

We believe in the power of collaboration and the importance of building strong relationships within our community through the various programs we offer.

Our Coffee Connections have proven to be a resounding success, fostering valuable connections among our members.

We are seeing continued growth with our Shawano Area Young Professionals (saY-Pro.) Their ideas, dedication and active participation is a testament to their collective strength.

Leadership Shawano County (LSC) continues to thrive while educating their participants on what leadership can look like and how they can leave a legacy in our communities.

Your participation and unwavering support have been instrumental in shaping a vibrant and thriving business community.

The year ahead promises exciting prospects. We are committed to:

- Strengthening our efforts to help our members: We will find out your specific needs and how we can help in your efforts to establish or grow your business/nonprofit. Whether that be resources, connections or “how to” advice, we want to help!
- Expanding member benefits: We will explore new and innovative ways to enhance the value of your chamber membership, providing exclusive discounts, educational workshops= and networking opportunities that will help your business thrive.
- Fostering community engagement: We will actively engage with our community through events and initiatives that celebrate local businesses/organizations and promote civic pride.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to working with you to build a brighter future for Shawano Country.

Suzanne Wittman
Executive Director
Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center

2025 board members, officers announced

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

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

Newly elected board members are Jodi Anderson, Value Added Distributors; Jeannie Otto, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College; Raul Beltran, Acupuncture of Shawano and Jiu Jitsu of Shawano; and Carrie Bohlman, Nueske’s Applewood Smoked Meats.

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

Outgoing chamber board members are Zachary Linsmeyer, KerberRose; Mary White, Nueske’s Applewood Smoked Meats; Char Larsen, Premier Investment Services; Scott Parson, Thrivent Financial-Wolf River Associates; and Lori Singer, Celerity Staffing.

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

The board is comprised of 15 chamber members from throughout Shawano County representing the areas of agriculture, manufacturing, retail/business, tourism, education, government and professionals.

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

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



Congratulations to this year’s award winners!

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Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce Member.



Dennis Bohm was named the Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Citizen of the Year. After three years of active duty with the U.S. Marine Corps, he has spent his life volunteering with veterans organizations and advocating for the men and women who served in the military.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Bohm celebrated for service to community

Volunteer efforts largely focused on helping veterans

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Dennis Bohm has packed a lot of volunteering into his 85 years. From willingly joining the Marine Corps one month after graduating from high school to a Sunday School teacher to driving veterans to their medical appointments and covering more than a quarter of a million miles, Bohm has offered himself up to others throughout his life. Never one to volunteer for his own benefit, he was named the Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce 2024 Distinguished Citizen

of the Year. “The love of my country, my feeling for my fellow veterans and the drive to serve our community, along with the love of those close to me, makes serving others easy with the grace of God,” he said.

Early life

Born and raised on a dairy farm, Bohm graduated from Bonduel High School in 1957. Just one month later, he enlisted in the Marines. “I was good at athletics, and I wanted to be part of the best there was,” he said of his choice to join the Marines. He served three years of active duty and three

years in the Reserves. Bohm spent two years and four months on a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier performing security and intelligence work. Back home, he took a job at Fort Howard Paper Mill in Green Bay, where he worked for nine years. He and Carol Shannon married, and they bought a home in Shawano. After the paper mill job, he started his own painting and decorating business that he retired from after 35 years. A member of Peace United Church of Christ, Bohm taught Sunday School for three years, served as head usher and was a member of the church council.

Volunteering for veterans

Another veteran

reached out to him to get him to join the AMVETS Post 10. Bohm found his volunteer niche. He would go to serve as commander the post from 2003-10 and was instrumental in reorganizing the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary. Membership in the post grew, and Bohm was the top recruiter in the state for three consecutive years. The local post was named AMVETS Post of the Year, and Bohm would go on to be chosen as the AMVETS Commander of the year in 2007. Volunteering at several fundraisers over the years, the post collected and distributed funds to benefit homeless shelters, food pantries, cancer walks, community building projects, 4-H and Scout troops,

and high school marching band from Shawano, Bonduel, Marion and Pulaski. As post commander, he initiated a national program for students in grades K-12 in which students wrote essays or poems and created drawings about either the U.S. in general or against the use of drugs and alcohol. First-place winners advanced to the state competition with a chance to win a trip to Philadelphia to visit historic sites. The local post has sent four winners, and this year, a Bowler student won. Bohm is also a lifetime member of American Legion Post 117, for which he serves as chaplain. He was also once chosen as the post Legionnaire of the Year. He also worked with

the Bonduel American Legion Post 217 and received an certificate of appreciation for his efforts. Bohm can still be found with his fellow veterans at parades, Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies, and honor guards. “At 85 years of age, his active participation provides vital services to enhance the quality of life for numerous individuals and families,” said Joe Skaleski, one of two men who nominated Bohm for the chamber award. “Dennis a role model for his dedication and enthusiasm for serving the United States of America, the state of Wisconsin, Shawano County and city. It would be hard to find someone more committed and de-

BOHM, CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



Never one to volunteer for his own benefit, Dennis Bohm was named the Shawano County Chamber of Commerce 2024 Distinguished Citizen of the Year. GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

BOHM, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

pendable in their service to others though his volunteering efforts.”

Bohm didn’t serve in Vietnam, but that hasn’t stopped him from volunteering with those veterans.

With Vietnam Veterans Chapter 206, he reads and grades essays written by students seeking college scholarships.

The Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) presented him with its Fellowship Award, the highest award given to members.

“I’m an associate member of the AVVA, because even though I had three tours in the Far East, I

wasn’t physically in Vietnam,” Bohm said.

In 2023, Bohm was presented with the Advocacy Award from the County Veterans Service Officer Association of Wisconsin.

Driving efforts

For Bohm, one of the lasting impacts of his many efforts has been with the veterans he’s met over the years, particularly those he drove to medical appointments for more than 20 years.

“I still call some of them just to see how they’re doing,” he said.

From 2003-24, he drove fellow veterans to medical appointments in Milwaukee, Green Bay, Appleton,

Madison, Tomah, Wausau and Manitowoc.

He finally stopped last fall when he decided he had enough of the traffic in places like Milwaukee.

Bohm was recognized for volunteering more than 14,000 hours, driving more than 270,000 miles and serving about 2,450 veterans.

“Dennis has touched the lives of so many people of all ages,” said Greg Stezenski, who also nominated Bohm for the award. “Dennis is an amazing person. It would be hard to find a person who is more deserving of this award.”

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It's Sun Drop as far as the eye can see for the Hartwig family. Founded by Floyd Hartwig in 1951, Twig's Beverage has given a lot to the community that has given to them, earning them the Business of the Year Award by the Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce. GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Twig's bottling up community success

Company gets Business of the Year honor through caring, giving back

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

Twig's and Shawano go hand in hand, so it's likely surprising to no one that Twig's Beverage was named the Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce's Business of the Year.

Starting as a humble business in the heart of Shawano in 1951, it can be hard not to see signs of the Twig's name in the community today. With the name adorning athletic field scoreboards, Franklin Park's amphitheater and

the Shawano Ski Sharks jump, as well as the soda being the primary drink of choice at the annual Sun Drop Dayz music festival, it's hard to miss.

Even with all that marketing and promotion, though, it doesn't show a lot of what Twig's does behind the scenes. The company donates to local Easter egg hunts and Shop With a Cop, has contributed to the scholarship endowment for Northeast Wisconsin Technical College's Shawano campus, has been a field trip destination for schoolchil-

dren and organizations like the Red Hats and hosted the Forget Me Not Soda Pop Swing Party to raise money for research into Alzheimer's and dementia.

Ever since Dan and Diane Hartwig took over the company in 1986, from Dan's father, Floyd Hartwig, the company's workforce has tripled. The company offers employees the option of working four 10-hour days or five 8-hour days, as well as performance payouts, bonuses and staff parties, to help keep them happy and motivated.

Now, Twig's is securely in the hands of the third generation of Hartwigs, and that generation is determined to make the name well known beyond the borders of Shawano.

"We love Shawano, and we love supporting them," said Ben Hartwig, a vice president at Twig's along with his brothers, Luke and Jacob. "Whenever we feel that support back, we're extremely grateful. We always say that our business wouldn't be successful anywhere else. Shawano has always been there for us, so we always do what

we can for Shawano."

Hartwig noted Twig's gratitude extends to its employees. He said it's important for the workers to have time outside of work to live their own lives, so that's where the choice on the work schedule came into play. The company has also implemented one-on-one meetings between management and individual employees to look at what's going well and what can be improved.

"We wouldn't be what we are today without our staff," Hartwig said. "Our team here, day in and day

out, does a lot of hard work behind the scenes that people don't see."

A new production line has recently been added, according to Hartwig, and many employees are ready to work when it starts up at 6 a.m.

"They're able to produce in a couple of days what we used to produce in a week on that other line," he said. "They've been so efficient, so the schedule's really worked for us. The one-on-one meetings, those have

TWIG'S, CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



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TWIG'S, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

helped because we want to provide the space for our employees to feel comfortable to talk to us and to tell us anything that may be troubling to them, whether it's at work or outside of work. We just want to make sure we're there to support them and do what we can to help."

Hartwig said he's excited to be continuing the family business.

"I know, when my grandpa started, he just started with a small bottling crew, and they just did returnable bottles, and then they branched off to Sun Drop," he said. "It's always exciting to see us expanding, and when my dad took over, he added on another line with non-returnable bottles. He added on the gift shop and museum. We did water for a time period, and now we're moving on updating our lines, and we're looking at adding on new seltzers. So I love looking back at where we started and kind of how we're progressing along the way with different trends and what our customers love."

Besides keeping up with what the customers want, Twig's continues to imprint values on the community. Working with Jaime Lee, Twig's Sun Drop Girl, the company started a youth Golden Boy and Golden Girl project in 2024 that allows Lee to work with children on being brand representatives and show-



Twig's workforce has expanded three-fold in the last four decades, with plenty of focus on the glass-bottled sodas, which include the iconic Sun Drop and over a dozen other sodas with real sugar that bear the Twig's logo.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

casing hometown family values. "She's done an amazing job promoting our brand," Hartwig said. "She's been doing now these 'Drop Ins' this year where she'll stop

at local businesses that carry our products, and she's been supporting them." There are very few businesses competing with each other in Shawano, Hartwig noted, which makes it

easier for them to work together collaboratively to make the community a better place for everyone. "You can have one amazing business in town, and that's not going to

draw a ton of people," Hartwig said. "If you have a huge community that has a bunch of amazing locations in town, then people are going to make it a destination to visit. I think col-

laborating with multiple businesses is huge, and I notice a lot of businesses work together in town. It's fantastic to see."

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SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

El Tequila growth coincides with community support

Restaurant cited as strong advocate for sports teams, youth groups, community activities

BY KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

El Tequila is more than a restaurant that serve Mexican food. It's a community gathering space for family and friends who want to share and build memories.

It's also a huge supporter of events and groups in Shawano and Menominee counties.

Owned by Sergio and Perla Hernandez, El Tequila is located at 1240 E.Green Bay St. Chosen as the Small Business of the Year, it was nominated by Chris Caldwell, president of the College of Menominee Nation.

Caldwell said El Tequila is fundraising supporter for local sports teams such as Menominee youth baseball and Shawano hockey, and the College of Menominee Nation golf outing.

It supports other local businesses and events such as Oktoberfest in Shawano, Standing Pine Convenience Store and Lake Mart in Shawano. Also, they give free food to first responders Shawano and Menominee Counties.

El Tequila recently expanded its offering through food truck service at various events, and in the summer of 2023, it opened El Jefe Mexican Bar and Grill inside the Four Seasons Hotel.

"The food trucks are an enhanced equipment purchase," Caldwell said. "They allow for more business and faster meals,

especially serving the country and outer areas of Shawano and Menominee counties.

The Hernandezes moved to Shawano in 2008. Sergio Hernandez said the first El Tequila was opened in Antigo, and two years later, another restaurant was opened in New London before the family came to Shawano.

Regardless of the business venture, Caldwell said the restaurant offers employee advancement opportunities, focuses on their team and provides a satisfying work-life balance with no work on holidays.

"We've seen them support both counties, youth groups, community events, fundraisers," he said. "They are a strong local community advocate."

Perla Hernandez said her husband practically grew up in the restaurant world.

"I started at 13, washing dishes," Sergio Hernandez said, in a 2023 article about the opening of El Jefe.

"His dad was an immigrant worker, from Mexico," Perla Hernandez added. "He would work at a factory (in Chicago) but also decided to open a restaurant in the late 1980s. Sergio came from a good background of restaurants, he knows what it is, and I kinda got involved with it when I met him, and started learning from the bottom up."

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El Tequila supports many community events and groups. One of their biggest contributions comes from its support of the livestock animal auctions at the Shawano County Fair.

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The Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce and its ambassadors group stays busy welcoming new businesses to the community through ground-breakings, ribbon cuttings and new chamber memberships. Above, at left, are Shopko Optical employees at a ribbon cutting event in October. Shopko Optical is located at 1056 E. Green Bay St. Below, at left, is the grand opening and ribbon cutting for Acupuncture of Shawano, 820 E. Green Bay St., Suite A. Above is Chloe Genske, the owner of The Daily Drip Coffeehouse, 215 N. Main St. In the summer of 2024, she purchased the former Beans & Books Espresso.

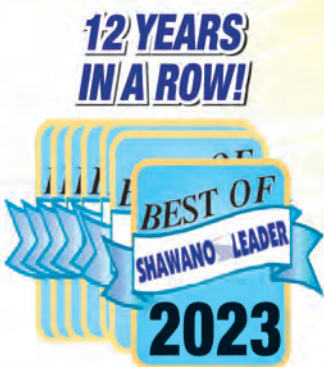
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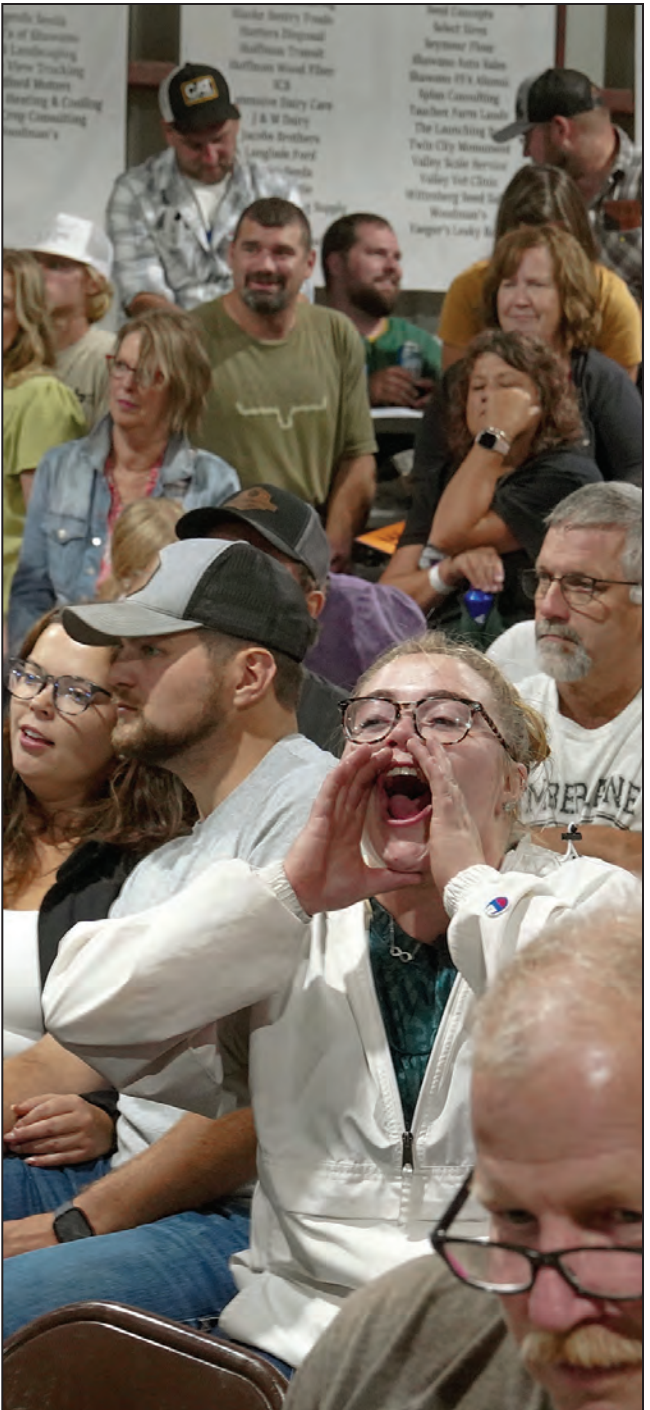
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Above are members of the nonprofit Shawano County Humane Society upon its joining of the chamber. At right is Annelies Hartwig of A New Lease, 152 S. Main St. Her boutique offers clothing that has been given "a new lease on life." Find unique merchandise, accessories and gifts for the whole family at A New Lease.

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Area residents and businesses support the local 4-H clubs by purchasing hundreds of animals at various livestock auctions at the Shawano County Fair.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA



Community in good hands with likes of Steenbock

Young professional manages work, community and family activities

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

Shawano's professional community is in good hands with the likes of Ashley Steenbock.

Steenbock is the Shawano Area Young Professionals (saYPro) 2024 Young Professional of the Year.

Steenbock started her career working in diagnostic imaging at ThedaCare Shawano. She was in that role for about six years.

"I always had a passion for leadership and helping others achieve their goals, which is what lead me to transferring to a clinic supervisor role," she said. "I worked as the clinic supervisor for the Shawano call group for about three years before I transferred back to diagnostic imaging as the manager."

This recent promotion to imaging manager came in December 2024.

"I have always aspired to becoming the diagnostic imaging manager, and reaching this has been my ultimate career goal. Being in a leadership role comes with its challenges, but it also offers the rewarding opportunity to guide and develop a team, witness their success and directly impact the overall goals of the team and the organization."

Steenbock was nominated for the award by her friend and co-worker Maggie Bohm.

"Ashley is an amazing leader in the clinic," Bohm said prior to Steenbock's promotion to diagnostic imaging manager. "She never thinks twice about stepping in to the work and helping out if they are short staffed or to cover lunches. She is humble, kind and sees issues from all angles before making a decision."

Steenbock said the two instantly bonded when they started working together in the clinic.

"She is someone I consider a great friend, and I am grateful to have Maggie in my life to laugh, support and collaborate with," Steenbock said. "We complement each other well."

The community at large is also in good hands with Steenbock's participation in several activities.

She was a part of last year's Leadership Shawano County where she worked with the Hometown Heroes military banners program. She is still a part of that group and joined the steering committee for Leadership Shawano County, where she contributes to ideas of how to ensure this years group gets the best experience as well.

"She is also always looking for other ways to



Ashley Steenbock is the Shawano Area Young Professionals (saYPro) 2024 Young Professional of the Year. Her community involvement and leadership style have been shaped by several inspiring people throughout her career, she said.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

support nonprofits and fundraising efforts," Bohm said.

Steenbock said being a participant in Leadership Shawano County provided a unique opportunity to learn about the area, develop leadership skills and grow relationships within the community.

"It was rewarding to see the interactions and teamwork that was developed with my classmates through each session," she said. "Each person brought a different perspective and skill to the table. Working together, being creative, coming up with solutions and following through with those solutions was gratifying. This why I chose to join the steering committee after wards. I wanted to share these amazing opportunities for involvement within our community and to make a meaningful impact with others."

Part of the mission of saYPro members is to engage "in a career and exemplify strong morals and ethics, and strive for personal and career related growth, achieved by experience, education and positive relationships."

Bohm said Steenbock fits that mission well.

"She always looks for more education opportunities and learning



The first Hometown Heroes banner is hung on South Main Street at Elizabeth Street on May 15 by Shawano Municipal Utilities employees Brett Nelson. Local veterans are honored through a new public program created by members of the 2024 Leadership Shawano County class.

FILE

opportunities, whether it be seminars, trainings or podcasts and books," Bohm said. "She engages in her communities, both in Shawano and Clintonville where her boys go to school. Treating everyone fairly is a big part of who she is, and she holds her employees to a high standard, while also guiding them and supporting them

to be the best they can be."

Steenbock said she strives to exemplify strong morals and ethics as she goes personally and professionally.

"I consistently prioritize honesty, integrity, fairness and accountability in all professional interactions," she said. "I continue to seek opportunities to learn and develop new

skills, take on challenges, build on communication and expand my knowledge base."

Serving as an example of the group's mission statement both takes effort and comes naturally for Steenbock.

"It can be challenging to live up to the standards set by a mission statement, as everyone makes mistakes and faces situations where they might not perfectly embody the ideals they strive for, leading to constant self-reflection for improvements," she said. "However, there are pieces to the mission statement that just occur naturally, because it's a reflection of my purpose, values and direction, that I want to guide my team toward. Being a part of a team is a privilege, and being in a leadership position is an opportunity to positively impact those around you."

Like all good leaders, Steenbock has been inspired by others along the way. Samantha Sperberg played a large part in Steenbock's community involvement.

"Her unwavering positivity and commitment to improving our community really motivated me to get involved," Steenbock said. "Sam is passionate, determined and a positive

influence to those around her. She challenges you to grow by getting you outside of our comfort zone to pursue higher heights, and sees your strengths and encourages you to believe in your potentials."

"I have witnessed Sam dedicate countless hours to organizing fundraiser events, actively champion innovative ideas for community involvement and confidently lead others by working collaboratively toward a common goal."

Of course, there are those at work who inspire Steenbock.

"My leadership style has been shaped by several inspiring people throughout my career," she said. "Each individual, whether through their actions, behaviors or teachings, have positively influenced my development as a leader and provided me with valuable insights and examples to model my own leadership approach."

Steenbock and her husband, Tyler, have two sons, Hudson, 6, and Jackson, 4.

Along with her work and community activities, she also manages her time to attend the boys' baseball practices, games and swimming lessons.

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- 4 = believe that there are too many Federal regulations and more control needs to be given back to the states (10th Amendment)
- 5 = believe in legal immigration and that illegal immigration must be stopped which includes deportation

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JR Machine was named the Shawano County Chamber of Commerce Manufacturing Business of the Year. Tim and Parker Tumanic maintain their leadership roles and ownership within the company after founding it more than 30 years ago. Paul Knoll, pictured above, joined JR Machine as CEO.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

MANUFACTURING BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

JR Machine reaching for new heights

Community involvement goes hand in hand with business enhancements

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

As quality assurance manager at JR Machine, Keegan Gast is a witness to the many aspects of

the machining business — whether on the production floor or in the Shawano community that is supported by the company and its employees.

Tim and Parker Tu-

manic founded the company more than 30 years ago. Today, it employs 48 full-time workers at 1355 Beauprey Road.

JR Machine was named the Shawano Country

Chamber of Commerce Manufacturing Business of the Year.

JR Machine regularly donates to the local Boys and Girls Club, the Fourth of July fireworks display and Thanksgiving food drives for families in need. It works with the trades programs at area high schools to provide equipment for the classes that raise awareness of the machining industry.

“JR Machine works closely with the Shawano and Bonduel High School trades programs to enhance the learning and possibilities for students interested in entering the trades field for machining, providing new CNC machines, tooling and materials to work on projects through the year,” Gast wrote in his nomination letter. “New this coming year, we are also working ... to create a personalized training program for all

new employees that do not have any machining experience to gain knowledge quicker and become familiar with the trade at an easier pace for them.”

Gast has seen significant growth in the business, with sales doubling in the past five years. JR Machine is constantly adding new state-of-the-art machines for complex machining. Employment has risen by 72% in that time.

Landing solid, qualified employees is a constant challenge. JR Machine offers a competitive wage and benefits package, a 401(k) match, health care contribution, quarterly profit-sharing bonuses and a bonus referral program for new hires.

It also holds job fairs. Again, its regular partnership with local high schools contributes to its success in landing qualified candidates.

Gast said JR Machine

also continually reinvests in the equipment, with a 10-year replacement plan in the works for all machines.

JR Machine employees are skilled at procuring castings, forgings and bar stocks in a range of materials, including steel, aluminum, nickel alloys, titanium, inconel, brass and superalloys.

Manufacturing services include engineering, project management, material traceability, production, post-machining management and inventory management. Core services are turning, welding and milling centers, assembly, coating, part washing, sawing and heat treating.

The company serves the aerospace, defense, medical device, hydraulics, power, heavy machinery, and oil and gas industries.

JR MACHINE,
CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



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Keegan Gast is the quality assurance manager at JR Machine. He has been a key part of the team for more than a decade. He creates the control plans used by operators throughout the manufacturing process. Gast also programs and operates the coordinate measuring machines for checking critical dimensions and parts.

JR MACHINE

JR MACHINE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

The success of JR Machine is also due in part to its leadership team continually searching for new and emerging markets. The current focus is the aerospace market and space exploration, as the company holds an AS9100 certification to be able to machine these complex parts.

In May 2024, JR Machine secured a strategic investment from Schneider

Resources Holding (SRH) to launch an expansion. SRH, a family-owned private investor, is now a majority equity member in JR Machine.

“Building parts for the most recognizable names in space exploration has allowed us to ... revolutionize how we work. Now we can reach the next stage for our customers faster,” said Tim Tumanic. “Schneider Resources

Holding is a perfect match. We share long-held values of quality, innovation, providing good careers for our staff and supporting out commitment to grow in the Shawano area.”

Tim and Parker Tumanic maintain their leadership roles and ownership within the company. Paul Knoll joined JR Machine as CEO.

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Mission

Our mission is to create relationships by connecting young professionals while contributing to our community.

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