



Josie Holtz, the Oconto County Youth Fair's Fairest of the Fair for 2026, hands out ribbons Aug. 27 during the fair's swine show in Gillett. Not only did Holtz present ribbons to the top competitors, she also competed in the show in two categories. GREG SEUBERT

Oconto Falls suit leads to concerns in Kaukauna

Parents call for investigation into middle school principal tied to sexual harassment claims

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

A middle school principal in Kaukauna named, but not a defendant, in the sexual abuse and misconduct lawsuit against the Oconto Falls School Board was the center of attention at the Aug. 24 Kaukauna School Board meeting.

Some residents there called for River View Middle School principal Lucas Cromell to either be removed permanently or placed on administrative leave pending an investigation.

The board did not take any action on Cromell's employment status.

"Based on the personnel review and the information currently available related to the Oconto Falls civil complaint, Administration has not identified a sufficient basis to place Mr. Cromell on administrative leave or take other adverse employment action at this time," according to a Kaukauna School Board statement issued to explain the board's actions.

"When the District first learned that Mr. Cromell had been named in the civil complaint, District Administration promptly initiated a personnel review. As part of that review, Administration re-examined the District's hiring process related to Mr. Cromell, including the third-party background check and reference checks conducted when he was hired by the Kaukauna Area School District. The District's review found no information in those background or reference checks related to misconduct or to the allegations described in the complaint."

The district also confirmed that, during Cromell's 10 years of employment with the district, it has not received any complaints alleging misconduct.

A petition collected more than 400 signatures from people asking for some action be taken against Cromell.

"The Kaukauna Area School District understands the concern that parents, staff and community members may have regarding the allegations described in the civil complaint," according to the statement. "In addition to the personnel review, the District, in consultation with outside legal counsel, evaluated the information currently available concerning the allegations in the Oconto Falls Public

KAUKAUNA, continued on page 4

County fair experience twice as nice for Josie Holtz

Fairest of the Fair hands out ribbons and competes for them

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

One minute, Josie Holtz was handing out ribbons to animal show exhibitors at the Oconto County Youth Fair.

The next minute, she was brushing Floppy, one of her two entrants in the fair's swine show.

Exhibiting a pair of pigs and promoting the fair as the event's Fairest of the Fair for 2026 added up to a busy few days for Holtz at the annual event, which wraps up its four-day run Aug. 30 in Gillett.

"You'd think it's a lot of pressure, but I really enjoy exhibiting," she said. "I've been exhibiting for

nine years. I'm showing swine this year and basically I'm helping out with shows, working with other exhibitors to get their animals ready, that kind of stuff."

Holtz, a 2025 graduate of Oconto Falls High School now majoring in electrical engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, has been promoting the fair since being named Fairest of the Fair in May.

"As Fairest of the Fair, I have to plan my outfits, so that's obviously a big part of it," she said. "I've talked to different people just to convince them come and visit.

HOLTZ, continued on page 4



Fairest of the Fair Josie Holtz brushes Floppy, her entrant in the lightweight barrow class of the Oconto County Youth Fair's swine show. GREG SEUBERT

INSIDE
4-H club, football team honor memory of Oconto County teen.

PAGE 2



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4-H club, football team honor Cameron Wagner

Oconto County
13-year-old
took his own
life in March

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

Cameron Wagner apparently left quite an impact on the people he knew.

The 13-year-old took his life March 19, but he was on the mind of many people at this year's Oconto County Youth Fair, held Aug. 27-30 in Gillett, and the Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas football team's home opener Aug. 27 at Lena High School, where he would have been a freshman this school year.

"Cameron knew everybody and loved everybody, just a very kind person," said his mother, Monica Wagner. "He loved making relationships. His best friends were 80-year-olds and they were 13-year-olds. He just loved to get to know you and love you. He liked plowing snow for the neighbors or cutting grass, yet he loved being a boy, hanging out with his buddies."

Cameron attended school in the Suring, Gillett and Lena areas in the past.

"I'm a teacher, so I started at one school and moved to the school district that we actually live in and ended up teaching in my hometown, which is Lena," Wagner said. "My husband, Shaun, is from Suring, and he and I had both taught in Suring. We live in the Gillett School District. When I first started teaching, I taught high school science, but I found out I really loved middle school. When Gillett had a middle school opening, we hopped over there, and when Lena had a middle school science position, I hopped over there."

That helped her son meet people throughout Oconto County, according to Wagner.

"He has friends from all over," she said. "When we did his funeral, he had 10 adult pallbearers and 10 youth pallbearers. He has Suring friends, Coleman friends and Gillett friends. He had all these different connections."

One of Cameron's favorite activities was participating in the Christy Brook 4-H Club.

The Gillett-based club had a booth in the expo building at the Oconto County Youth Fair, where Cameron exhibited animals and other projects over the years, to promote mental health and suicide awareness.



Cameron Wagner's family gave helmet stickers in memory of him to players on the Lena/STA 8-player football team. The players wore the stickers in their home opener against Goodman/Pembin on Aug. 27 and will wear them for the rest of the season. Wagner, who took his life in March, would have been a freshman this school year at Lena High School. His uncle, Ed Huberty, is one of the football team's two coaches.

GREG SEUBERT

"This year, Christy Brook specifically is focusing on mental health and suicide prevention," said Melissa Desterheft, the club's co-leader. "It's a very, very hard subject to talk about, but we have to normalize it. We have a table in the Expo hall that's filled with mental health and suicide prevention literature. That's become a huge passion for all of us."

Meanwhile, two of Cameron's friends and his sister, Addison, showed his cattle during the fair's cattle show Aug. 28.

"We have a boy who's from our 4-H group," Monica Wagner said. "Brody's going to be showing one of his steers and Clark, a friend of his from Suring, is showing his other steer. Everett, his friend from Gillett, is going to walk one of his calves with Addison. They're all friends from the fair, school, sports and 4-H. We're all (in) different 4-H groups, but when you're in the barn, you become one great big family. We're grateful that they're going to walk his animals in Cam's honor."

"This has probably been our hardest week since he passed. (The fair) was like his favorite thing. The kids are doing such great things and we're very blessed. The fair board has been phenomenal, and they're going to let these two young boys sell Cameron's steers. We have a fund started that we're going to give back to all the activities he was involved in, his sports, trap-shooting, his church. We're going to help out in little ways the best that we can

and make his memory live on."

Wagner said the 4-H club was one of her son's many passions.

"This is his favorite week of the year, other than deer hunting," she said. "He loved 4-H. It's a civic group, so you get to help people. We have a small little farmette, so he raised cattle. Addison, our younger daughter, is going to show his calves this year, so it'll be her first time showing. That group means a lot to us. They're not only our friends, they're like our family. We do a lot of community service stuff together and live near each other. We love what it means and what it stands for."

Cameron was going to exhibit two steers and two calves at this year's fair, Wagner said.

"He's been doing mini-showmanships since he was probably 2 or 3 years old," she said. "His first year, he did maple syrup and corn or some vegetable. They all started with chickens and progressively got bigger."

"We did memory books for Cameron and all the kids could do it," Desterheft said. "It's hard because it's a very touchy subject. Our ages probably range from 6 to 15, so you're going to talk to a 6-year-old much differently than a 15-year-old. I know individual parents have looked into a lot of resources and have had those discussions. That's one of the reasons why kids need to be part of a group. You're valued, you're needed, you're cared for. We want to make sure we push that."

Wagner's brother, Ed

Huberty, co-coaches the Lena/STA 8-player football team with Dale Lange.

Cameron's family attended the Titans' home opener against Goodman/Pembin on Aug. 27 and handed out stickers with his initials that the players will wear on the back of their helmets this season.

"He was very excited to have Ed as his coach, so we're kind of sad that that didn't come through," Wagner said. "I taught most of those kids, so it was very heartwarming and made us feel good. Seeing them in their helmets was very emotional. Ed had two lines, and Shaun gave out stickers to one and my daughter Ryann and I gave out stickers to the other line."

"His mom was one of our first trainers here and he's Ed's nephew," Lange said. "It's tough. There were some eyes that weren't dry in the beginning. It was an emotional night."

Wagner said her son never showed any indication that something was wrong.

"Very unexpected and I think that's what was so hard for all of us," she said. "The kid was like the happiest-go-lucky kid ever. The day before was a major snowstorm and he was loving life. He plowed out our two neighbors and plowed a path from our driveway down the county road about a tenth of a mile to their road to help them get out. I know he was supposed to clean the barn that day, the skid steer broke and he had to use the wheelbarrow."

"Here's this kid that so



Cameron Wagner is pictured with his parents, Shaun and Monica Wagner, at a wrestling tournament. He participated in several sports over the years, including football, wrestling and track.

CONTRIBUTED

FYI

Melissa Desterheft, co-leader of the Christy Brook 4-H Club, posted a message Aug. 27 on the club's Facebook page about Cameron Wagner, a club member who took his life March 19.

A conversation we can't be afraid to have

From all of us at Christy Brook 4-H, we want to take a moment to talk about something that can be incredibly difficult, but incredibly important: mental health and suicide prevention.

Sometimes the hardest conversations are the ones we need to have the most.

Mental health struggles don't have an age limit. They don't always have a certain look, and sometimes the person who is hurting the most is the person who seems to have it all together.

That's why we believe we have to start making these conversations more normal. We have to be willing to ask how someone is really doing, listen without judgment, and remind people that they don't have to face their struggles alone. We need to advocate for ourselves. We need to advocate for our children. We need to advocate for our friends, our families, our neighbors, and our communities. Most importantly, we need to remind one another that no problem is too big — or too small — to ask for help.

Whether you're a child struggling to find your place, a teenager feeling overwhelmed, a parent who is exhausted, or an adult quietly carrying more than anyone realizes — your feelings matter. Your life matters. You matter.

There are people who want to help. There are resources available. Reaching out isn't weakness. It is courage.

So let's be the people who check in.

Let's be the people who listen.

Let's be the people who speak up.

Let's be the people who make asking for help feel safe.

If you're struggling, please don't wait until things feel unbearable. Tell someone. Reach out. Ask for help.

We may not always have the right words, but we can always start with "I'm here. You don't have to go through this alone."

Let's take care of our kids.

Let's take care of each other.

Let's make mental health something we talk about — not something we hide.

From our 4-H family to yours: Please reach out. Please speak up. Please keep going. You are worth it.

many people adored and looked up to. He never showed a sign and it just happened. We want to make sure we're educating kids. If you have bad moments, reach out. We want to make sure that kids know

that somebody's there for them. That's what's the hardest thing for our family. As a parent, that's what's hard for me. He was such a bigger-than-life personality. Everybody loved him and he loved life."

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Local 4-H club marks milestone at fair

Christy Brook celebrates 75th year with bigger group

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

The Oconto County Youth Fair observed its 85th anniversary this year, but an area 4-H club has been around for almost as long.

The Christy Brook 4-H Club, one of nine 4-H clubs in Oconto County, is turning 75 this year, according to Melissa Desterheft, the club's co-leader.

"Our kids mostly come from Gillett and Oconto Falls, but we do meet in Gillett," she said while club members and their parents helped run the fair's 4-H food stand on the first day of the fair, Aug. 27, in Gillett.

"This is actually our 75th year, and this is probably the biggest that our club's been in a long time. I'd say about 16 (members). We've nearly doubled what we had last year. It's extremely important to be a part of a club with youths and adults working together. We've done projects, community service, different volunteer opportunities, fundraising. Every different thing has value."

Many of the club's new members are getting their feet wet by working at the food stand, which served up everything from hamburgers to pulled pork sandwiches to chili to



Scott Buhrandt flips hamburgers in the 4-H Food Stand at the Oconto County Youth Fair. GREG SEUBERT

chicken tenders to cheese-cake to ice cream treats.

"With the food stand, face-to-face communication is huge," Desterheft said. "It's the money aspect, making food, making sure the orders are correct."

Besides raising funds for the 4-H organization at the food stand, 4-H members also work on individual projects.

"We have a lot of non-farm kids that are getting involved with projects so they're exposed to the farm environment, different animals," Desterheft said. "We've had nonfarm families come in and work with local farms. They take care of their animals just like the other ones do."

A handful of local families have helped Christy Brook thrive while others have come and gone, Desterheft said.

"I probably joined five years ago, but their tradition keeps going generation after generation," she said. "My kids are only 15 and 12, but I'm hoping we can keep this going so maybe someday they'll have their children be a part of this."

Most club members join while young, stay until they're in eighth or ninth grade and then get involved with an FFA chapter.

"My two children have decided to stay with Christy Brook," Desterheft said. "It's nothing against their school's FFA, it's just we

love our group, we love our family. It is a family."

4-H also gives older members an opportunity to work with younger members.

"We love to see that, because even if we do projects that are geared toward the younger ones, the older kids step in and are role models," Desterheft said. "That's what I tell my boys all the time: These kids are looking up to you, so you better be helpful and caring and kind."

The club typically meets once a month in Gillett, Desterheft said.

"We have a next generation coming in and we want to support them, the best we can," she said. "We



Brielle Elkins, a member of the Oconto River Rockstars 4-H Club, exhibited Sunshine, a buff orpington rooster, at this year's Oconto County Youth Fair. GREG SEUBERT

have a lot of new members, and this is their first time (working at the food stand). There are a lot of things they learn working. It's interaction with the community and they're part of raising funds for our leadership organization. The leadership organization uses the funds raised for various project. There are different camps that the kids attend, different events. We have some new members that will do animals for the first time next year, and our older kinds help the younger ones."

Oconto County's eight other 4-H clubs are the Lena Rocketeers, Little River, Little Seedlings, Morgan Badgers, Northern Riders, Oconto River Rockstars, Team Green and Willing Workers.

"I just had a mom reach out to me yesterday and logistically, it doesn't make any sense for her to join in Gillett because she's in

Abrams," Desterheft said. "I gave her the leader name and number for the Morgan Badgers. We all work together, it's not like a competition of who can get the most members. In general, we push kids to be a part of it and kids just need to be part of a family or group."

County fairs let 4-H participants shine and show off the results of their hard work, Desterheft said.

"There are so many benefits," she said. "4-H, in general, is amazing. I see these kids step in and help one another with different projects. If my kids show beef, they'll help with pigs. It's just a really fun, but educational experience."

Anyone interested in joining a club can contact Aimee Elkins, the county's 4-H project coordinator, at aimee.elkins@wisc.edu or 920-834-6845 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

seubert4@gmail.com

Prevea Health addresses staying active, pain-free

Prevea Health is holding Movement Matters, a series of free presentations centered on staying active and pain-free at every age.

Attendees are welcome to join for a single topic, any combination of two, or the entire series. Each standalone session pairs expert insight from a Prevea specialist with a free slice of pie and a cup of coffee.

All three sessions will take

place from 3-4 p.m. in the Assisi Room at HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital, 835 S. Main St., Oconto Falls.

The first session Sept. 9 is titled "A Slice of Healthy Knees and Hips." Knee and hip pain doesn't have to slow you down. Dr. Patrick Riggle, a Prevea orthopedic and hip/knee surgeon, will explain why joint pain develops with age and share treatment options to help you stay

active and comfortable.

"Caring for Your Hands as Easy as Pie" takes place Oct. 8. Your hands work hard every day. Dr. Daniel Williams, a Prevea orthopedic hand surgeon, will cover common hand issues that come with age and practical ways to keep hands strong and resilient for years to come.

The series wraps up with "Sweet Tips for Healthy Feet" on Nov. 12. Chronic foot pain is

manageable with the right strategies. Dr. Wyatt Wiedenfeld, a Prevea podiatrist, will share new techniques for pain relief and long-term foot health, so you can take the first step toward a more comfortable life.

"Living with chronic joint pain or reduced mobility isn't just an inconvenience. It stops people from enjoying the daily activities and hobbies they love," said Riggle. "Our goal with this

series is to break down common health concerns in a welcoming, comfortable environment. We want to empower our neighbors in Oconto Falls and surrounding communities with practical solutions so they can stay active, pain-free, and independent at every stage of life."

Registration is required, as space is limited. For information, visit www.prevea.com/classes-and-events.

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HOLTZ, continued from page 1

It's a lot of marketing. I've done a lot of parades, met a lot of exhibitors, met a lot of people in the community. "I've been working with the Fairest of the Fair Committee to get this fair ready, too. I'm here supporting our exhibitors and our youth. I'm reaching out to people who are doing bigger events throughout Wisconsin and bringing them here and showing them what Oconto County has to offer. We have people here who make their own honey

and make their own jam. It's not just exhibitors who bring their crops in. It's kids that are making their own lotions and body scrubs. It's a bunch of different things." Events like the Oconto County Youth Fair are a big deal for area organizations like 4-H clubs and FFA chapters, according to Holtz. "It allows younger people to get out and meet people in the community and meet people from different cities, bond together

and work with different animals," she said. "Not everybody can work with a pig. Not everybody can work with a 1,500-pound beef steer. It allows the community to come out and support these kids. It shows all their passion and all their work." There's also more to the fair than showing animals, Holtz said. "We do crops. We do vegetables from our gardens. We do photography. I do baking," she said. "You

can bring almost anything into the fair that you do throughout the year, and that's such a big thing." Holtz was the only applicant for this year's Fairest of the Fair position. "I actually have an aunt on my dad's side who was Fairest (of the Fair) 30 years ago for Oconto County, and I have an aunt on my mom's side that was Fairest in 2007," she said. "It's kind of a legacy for my family, and I was like, 'This is the year to do it; it's perfect.'"

KAUKAUNA, continued from page 1

School District civil complaint. "Based on the information available to the District at this time, the review has not identified evidence that substantiates the allegations. The District recognizes that questions and concerns may remain, and it will continue to carefully evaluate any additional information that becomes available."

The lawsuit alleges Cromell sexually harassed students and teachers in Oconto Falls and retaliated against a teacher who rejected his advances. Cromell is one of 12 teachers named in the lawsuit. The plaintiffs in the lawsuit allege the Oconto Falls School Board had a "pervasive unwritten policy, practice and custom of deliberate indifference to sexual

misconduct in all its forms." According to the lawsuit, Cromell faces allegations from three students and at least four staff members. The allegations include sending inappropriate messages and misconduct in a classroom while serving as a substitute teacher. Also, at least four staff members allege he sexually harassed them during his time at the district.

In a statement to WLUK-TV, Cromell denied the allegations. "I categorically deny any such inappropriate conduct," he said. "I am not a defendant in the lawsuit, and I will fully cooperate as needed. My focus has always been, and will continue to be, on the education, safety and well-being of the students and colleagues I serve."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Event shows risks endured to come to US
To the editor:
We would like to thank everyone who attended our Aug. 1 event, "Happy 250th Birthday, USA: A Land of Immigrants and Indigenous People," at Equity Hall in Pound. When reading the

stories of immigrants who came to the United States years ago, we learn how they persisted and endured despite the difficult decision to leave their homelands and the long journey they faced. They believed they were coming to a land where they could provide a better life for their families. As a literacy council, we hear many of these same stories today from

individuals who sometimes risk their lives to give their children a better future. We are fortunate to live in a country that others still strive to be a part of, and we hope we can all learn from each other and live together in peace. We also want to thank everyone who participated in the event by sharing stories and food from their own heritage. Appreciation is also extended

to our Native American neighbors who shared information about their history, as well as everyone who contributed to the patriotic songs, readings, a skit and dancing. Maybe, in 250 more years, there will be more celebrations. Until then, may God bless America.
**Janet Glime and the
Marinette and Oconto
Counties Literacy
Council**

OBITUARIES

BERNICE A. GRAMS

Bernice A. Grams, 86, of Gillett, passed away Friday, Aug. 21, 2026. Bernice was born June 10, 1940, to the late Clemence and Hazel (Kissling) Droese. She married Gerald Grams Sr. on June 11, 1960, at St. Paul Evangelical and Reform Church in Menominee Falls. The couple owned and operated the Choo-Choo Inn in Gillett from 1978 until retiring in 2002. Bernice enjoyed trapshooting with her husband and trips to the casino. Bernice is survived by her children, Cheryl Wolf and Gerald (Debbie) Grams Jr., both of Gillett;

grandchildren, Casey, Keerstin and Nicholas (Elizabeth); great-grandchildren, Justice, Lindsey, Lily, Kayden, Alora, Preston; step-grandchildren, Jodie, Bill Jr.; step-great-grandchildren, Hunter and Aaron; and her siblings, Diane (Vern) Pomeroy, David (Theresa) Droese; sisters-in-law, Kris, Joyce, Lois and Sandy. She is further survived by many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, Gerald, in 2014; son-in-law, William "Bill" Wolf Sr.; her siblings, Roger (Pat), Danny,

Dale, Harold, Jerry, James and Ronald. Bernice's wishes were to have no services. Gruetzmacher Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences can be expressed at www.gruetzmacherfuneralhome.com.



NANCY L. KERSHEK



Nancy L. Kershek died quietly at home Monday, Aug. 24, 2026. She was born June 25, 1941, to the late Joseph Albert and Blanche R. (Hooper) Kershek. Nancy graduated from Oconto Falls High School. She retired from Peterson Ford where she was employed most of her working life. She will be remembered by family for her love of the outdoors and always being ready to lend a hand to whatever project was presented. Survivors are Nancy's nieces and nephews, John Kershek, Jeff Kershek,

She was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Blanche; brothers, Alvin, Joseph Jr. and Gaylord; sister, Avril Konitzer; sister-in-law, Jacqueline Kershek; and nephew, Jerry (Barb) Kershek. The family would like to extend their heartfelt appreciation to Julie and Reid Hansen for the care and companionship given to Nancy in her last years. Per Nancy's wishes, no services will be held. Jones Funeral Service is assisting the family with arrangements. Her final resting place will be at Pine Hill Cemetery in Spruce.

DIXIE


Dixie has a wonderful personality that truly shines once she's had time to build trust. She can be a bit shy when meeting new people, but her loyalty and affection are worth the wait.

KAREN


Karen is a 2 year old cat with a strong personality. She is very confident around the shelter and has made great friends with the staff. She would prefer a calmer home and few visitors. She is suited for an adopter who understands cat-itude!

SHERBERT


Sherbert is a 3 month old large sized mix breed looking for a home. She is the last in her litter looking for her forever home. If you're ready for young pup energy, stop by the shelter to meet her!

LILY


Lily is a quiet and well-mannered cat looking for a calm home. She is very affectionate and playful once she gets to know you. We hope to find this sweet gal a home soon.

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The Friends of the Mountain-Bay State Trail-Shawano County will host a free community celebration packed with activities for children, families, outdoor enthusiasts and anyone who enjoys spending time on the trail. Most activities will take place outdoors at the Mountain-Bay State Trail Information Center in Shawano. CONTRIBUTED

Trail celebration on Sept. 26

Grab the family, lace up your walking shoes – or bring your bike – and head outdoors from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 26 for a day of fun on the Mountain-Bay State Trail.

The Friends of the Mountain-Bay State Trail-Shawano County will host a free community celebration packed with activities for children, families, outdoor enthusiasts and anyone who enjoys spending time on the trail. Most activities will take place outdoors at the Mountain-Bay State Trail Information Center, 620 S. Main St., Shawano.

One of the day's highlights will be a popular Native American medicinal plant walk led by guide

Misty Cook at about 10:15 a.m. Participants will discover native plants growing along the trail and learn about their traditional uses, preparation and proper storage. Cook will also have her book available for purchase.

Families can set out on one of two trail scavenger hunts, turning a walk or bike ride into an adventure.

Complete the challenge and receive a commemorative token, along with an opportunity to win additional prizes.

Back at the celebration, the fun continues with yard games, including cornhole, Jenga and Yahtzee. Children can join a guide for a nature hike,

collect natural items and then turn their discoveries into a creative display. Face painting, chalk drawing, an art project, nature Bingo and games with Friends members will provide even more ways for young visitors to have fun.

For those who appreciate the arts, a poetry and photography trail will offer a chance to enjoy creative works in an outdoor setting. Visitors can also browse vendors, including Amish food offerings and interesting items from Julie Reif.

Guests can enjoy free chili, including meat and vegetarian options, along with hot dogs, chips, cookies and water.

Donations are

appreciated. A 50/50 raffle and two table raffles will add a little extra excitement to the day.

The celebration is part of a busy fall schedule. Upcoming events also include a bike ride to Bonduel on Sept. 7, Nature Bathing on Sept. 17 and Pedal for Pancakes on Sept. 27. For complete event details and updates, visit friendsofthemountainbaytrailshawano.org.

The Friends of the Mountain-Bay State Trail-Shawano County is a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to preserving, promoting and enhancing the trail through education, volunteerism, partnerships and community engagement.

District updates attendance policy

Students will no longer be docked full day for missing one, two periods

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

The attendance policy for the Shawano School District, up until this point, had missing any part of the school day count as a full-day absence.

The Shawano School Board approved changes to the policy Aug. 24 that would allow for partial-day absences. The system is more in line with policies from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, according to Deanna Arrowood, associate principal at Shawano Community High School. Arrowood's primary responsibilities include keeping track of students' attendance, although she noted the new policy is still fairly conservative.

Under DPI's system, students who are absent for less than one-third of the day would count as present for the entire day, while students absent for one-third to two-thirds of the day would be counted as absent for a half-day. If a student is present for less than one-third of the day, it would count as a full day's absence.

Shawano's new system would allow high school and middle school students to miss up to two class periods out of the 10-period schedule, according to Arrowood. Additional

missed classes would align more with state reporting thresholds.

"We're looking at better ways of doing this and communicating better on how it's reported to the state," Arrowood said.

At the elementary schools, attendance is recorded four times per day, so students would be able to miss one part of the day and still be counted as fully present at the school for the day, according to Arrowood.

Working with the previous system, some high school students would schedule appointments to coincide with their study halls. However, if they were not present at the study hall, they would be considered absent for the full day, Arrowood said.

Although the policy is changing, Arrowood noted that the schools will continue monitoring tardiness, frequent part-day absences, class period attendance patterns, habitual truancy and chronic absenteeism. She said students with concerning attendance behaviors would continue to receive interventions.

"We're being very careful in looking at our chronic absenteeism rate, so I want to make sure that we stay below what the state looks at, but I'm asking that we change the wording we have for part of a school day," Arrowood said. "It is wordy and vague,

and I don't know if the state is going to change its percentages."

She added that if those percentages change, the district could change its policy again to remain below the percentages. This is to stress the importance of attendance but not penalize students for missing an hour of school.

Tardiness policies would remain the same, according to Arrowood, with records marked with a T for being less than five minutes late and a M for 5-30 minutes late. After that, it would count as an unexcused absence from the class.

Arrowood told the board she's working on updating the attendance policy to lay out what the district will do once students reach a certain number of unexcused absences.

Superintendent Kurt Krizan said the old policy has inflated the schools' habitual truancy numbers. The district has sent letters to parents at five, 10 and 15 days of absences.

Arrowood said if the new policy had been in place last year, it would have meant 100 fewer students would have parents notified that they'd exceeded 10 absences.

"That's 100 families. Think about how many letters that is," Arrowood said. "Then we have really angry parents."

Funding for additional teachers found

Board approves position already hired, 2nd position at middle school

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

The Shawano School District announced it was hiring an additional fourth-grade teacher in July and set off alarm bells for some Shawano School Board members due to making \$1.77 million in cuts earlier in the year.

That changed once district officials presented their rationale for adding that teacher as well as an English teacher position for sixth and seventh grades. The board voted at its Aug. 24 meeting to approve both positions.

Superintendent Kurt Krizan told the board that the district reviewed data like enrollment numbers, students with individual education plans and/or personalized reading plans, the percentage of students below proficiency in math and reading and the total number of behavioral referrals.

With the additional fourth-grade teacher, class size would reduce from an average of 26.5 students to 22.7, below the range of 25-30 students per class for grades 4-12 set by the board when they approved budget cuts.

The additional English teacher would still keep class sizes in the range, with sixth grade dropping from 28.6 per class to 26 and seventh grade dropping from 27.8 to 25.2.

Krizan said one teaching position will be cost neutral because there are two paraprofessional positions at Hillcrest Primary School that are not being filled. The second position came through budget reductions in other operational areas, such as reducing the cost for iReady programs in grades K-8.

"We went back with our team, and we were able to fund two staffing positions," Krizan said, noting that the person filling the

English teacher post was on the agenda for later in the meeting.

Board member Tim Renard was concerned about how the district planned to keep track of the two teaching positions to see if they make a difference in students' learning.

"There's some challenging things with the student body and some less than acceptable learning scores," Renard said. "I want to get to the end of the year and expect to know that we found this money and we're able to get something out of it. Did we get what we paid for?"

Board member John Arens questioned why the data was not brought to light when the board was considering where to cut expenses, most of which was done by reducing staff.

"I like that we're actually doing something now, but this occurred four years ago," Arens said of the fourth-grade students. "Who was asleep at the wheel for four years that this bubble was allowed to come through? We cut real people and real positions, but now you're asking us at the 11th hour to get some positions back because school's about to start."

Besides those two positions, the board also approved shifting the Shawano Community High School French teaching position from three-quarters time to half time with the ability to get 16 students wanting to take French I to do so through the district's partnership with the Rural Virtual Academy.

"We did not have anyone who could teach the French I students," Krizan said. "We sent a letter home to 30 students signed up to take the class and asked if they would like to take an online option or be reprogrammed into something else. We received 23 responses back."

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

Poll open about Shawano Lake

Shawano Area Waterways Management is updating the aquatic plant management portion of Shawano Lake's 2021 comprehensive management plan. The updated aquatic plant management plan will be implemented starting in 2027.

During the summer, Onterra LLC completed several aquatic plant surveys on the Shawano Lake system. As part of this process, the opinions and thoughts of the people who care for

and enjoy the lake are being sought via a public poll.

Anyone 18 or older who enjoys recreating on the lake or has a business associated with the lake is encouraged to take the poll. You do not need to own property on the lake to participate in the poll.

People are asked to only take the poll once, which is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ShawanoWaterwaysSHS>. The poll will be available through Sept. 30.



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Quarterback Challenges at Lambeau Field are a long-standing tradition where local high school football rivals compete in a halftime exhibition. Bonduel High School, led by senior quarterback Quinn Wesenberg, assistant coach Isaac Garside and receivers Gage Scholl and Carter Moesch won the most recent challenge, defeating Peshtigo High School on Aug. 28 during halftime of the Green Bay Packers preseason game against Arizona.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Ribbon cutting for SCHS delayed to end of September

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

The big ribbon cutting for all of the renovations done over the summer at Shawano Community High School originally scheduled for Sept. 1 has been pushed back to Sept. 26.

The ribbon cutting is now scheduled for 10 a.m. at the school, followed by self-guided tours beginning at 10:30 a.m. The event will be on the same day as the Hawks homecoming game against Fox Valley Lutheran, which starts at 1 p.m..

Superintendent Kurt Krizan said the ribbon cutting's delay is due to classrooms not yet being ready. He noted the new date will also give alumni visiting the area a chance to see the improvements.

"Shawano Community High School staff were not able to return to the building as early as anticipated, which limited

the time they had to prepare and personalize their classrooms for the 2026-27 school year," Krizan said in a press release. "Our staff take great pride in their schools and our community. They want their classrooms and learning spaces to showcase the exciting upgrades made possible through the community's support. By postponing the ribbon cutting, we are giving our staff the additional time they requested to make their classrooms ready to welcome the community."

Krizan added that the delay in the ribbon cutting will not keep other activities from taking place. Back-to-school night will still happen Sept. 1 at all the schools. The first day of school will be Sept. 9, with a transition day planned for Sept. 8 for students new to the district and those transitioning to a new school.

Sacred Heart starts new school year

The new school year started early for Sacred Heart Catholic School as students, families, and staff came together to celebrate the return to campus.

On Aug. 25, families gathered for Back-to-School Night, providing an opportunity for students and parents to visit classrooms, meet teachers, reconnect with friends and prepare for the year ahead.

A highlight of the evening was the photo station featuring a colorful balloon arch backdrop. The display was prepared and donated by Full Bloom Events.

Guests also enjoyed baked goods sold by Partners in Education. The sale gave families a chance to support school initiatives while enjoying homemade treats and fellowship with fellow Cardinal families.

Students returned Aug. 26 for their first day of school. The day began with an all-school Mass, bringing the entire school community together in prayer and reflection. Students participated reverently in the liturgy, demonstrating the strong faith foundation that guides the school community.

Following Mass, students gathered for first-day photos and special moments with classmates. From youngest learners to middle school students, everyone was dressed in their newly updated dress code that includes polos and dress bottoms.

SAM25 welcomes Bessette as new executive director

Shawano Area Matthew 25 has named Kayla Bessette as its new executive director.

Bessette will begin her new role Sept. 8. She brings more than 12 years of professional experience in leadership, operations, relationship management, process improvement and problem-solving to the position. While much of her career has been in the utility industry, she has also been active in local nonprofit and community organizations.

Her community involvement includes leadership roles with the Goodfellows of Clintonville and Marion, the Marion Lions Club and Marion Day Care. Through those roles, she has helped with organizational

KAYLA
BESSETTE

growth, fundraising and expansion efforts.

Bessette brings a combination of strategic thinking and a hands-on approach to her new position, with an emphasis on building relationships, finding creative solutions and turning ideas into action.

As executive director, Bessette will oversee SAM25's efforts to serve individuals and families experiencing poverty and homelessness in the Shawano area.

More information about SAM25 and its programs is available at www.sam25.org.

A promotional graphic for a cash prize. The word "WIN!" is in large, yellow, outlined letters. Below it, "\$10,000" is in large, white, outlined letters with a yellow-to-orange gradient. The word "CASH" is in large, yellow, outlined letters. At the bottom, "EVERY SATURDAY IN SEPTEMBER" is in red, outlined letters. The background is a blue sky with white clouds and several hundred-dollar bills floating around the text.

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An advertisement for the band Lakeview. Two men with tattoos and caps are standing in front of a textured, grey wall. The word "LAKEVIEW" is written in large, white, serif letters to the right of the men. Below the band name is the logo for "THE ORION EVENT CENTER", which features a stylized blue star and the words "THE ORION" in a serif font, with "EVENT CENTER" in a smaller font below it.

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New superintendent leads at MISD

Chapman brings 30 years education experience

As it is for students, the first day of school in the Menominee Indian School District will also be new – sort of – for Shannon Chapman, the district’s new superintendent.

Chapman was hired last spring to succeed Marcus Denny, who stepped down at the end of the 2025-26 school year. She has more than 30 years of experience in the education field.

Chapman is a 1991 graduate of Menominee Indian High School. She went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from St. Norbert College in 1996, and a master’s degree in educational leadership from Marian University in 2008.

She spent 20 years working at the Menominee Tribal School as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal/administrator. For the last 10 years, she has served as the Menominee Tribal education director where she primarily focused on higher education, adult basic education and job training initiatives.

Chapman’s board service includes the Menominee Indian School Board (2006-09), the Wisconsin Indian Education Association board of directors (2016-26), the College of Menominee Nation board of trustees (2017-26) and the Kaehkenawapahaeq Charter School Governance Board (2020-26). She also served on a number of advisory boards including the Shawano School District Title VI Parent Advisory Committee and is currently a member of the Wisconsin State Superintendent’s Advisory Council on Charter Schools.

“I was humbled that people would think of me as a good fit for this very impactful role,” she said. “I started to reflect on the responsibilities of a school superintendent, as well as how my tribe invested in me as an educator and provided me with many opportunities over

the years to grow. Serving my community is deeply meaningful to me, and stepping into this role would allow me to continue to serve the Menominee community at-large.”

Chapman emphasized her commitment to strengthening academics, Menominee culture, personal wellness, family involvement and community partnerships.

“My belief is that everyone deserves a high-quality education – and that education is the key to personal growth and advancement,” she said.

Chapman outlined several early goals for her new position.

“My plan is to first learn all that I can about the school district,” she said. “There are many wonderful programs that have been truly impactful on our students. I also need to understand the areas that are in need of improvement. Strategic planning is at the top of my agenda.”

Having spent the last 10 years working primarily with college and high school students as they work toward their post-secondary education and job training goals, she hopes to build a fully aligned college and career pathway so students graduate with clear plans and the skillset for postsecondary success.

Chapman, who has been part of the team that developed the Kaehkenawapahaeq Charter School, hopes to expand cultural integration districtwide as well.

“I have learned so much about the positive impacts of language and culture on student wellness and community wellness,” she said. “My goal is to fully support the integration of the Menominee language and culture throughout the district. I certainly have a learning curve ahead of me, as there would be in any new job position, but I am committed to serving the district and community to the best of my abilities.”



SHANNON CHAPMAN

Lawmakers approve audit involving Newcap

The Wisconsin Joint Legislative Audit Committee on Aug. 25 ordered an audit of the Wisconsin Community Action Program (WISCAP) and its affiliated agencies, including Newcap, a northeast Wisconsin-based WISCAP association that filed for bankruptcy earlier this year after its chief executive officer was placed on administrative leave amid significant financial mismanagement concerns.

The audit will also focus on Newcap’s demise and whether the state provides enough preventative measures.

“Programs that accept taxpayer dollars to carry out their mission also accept a higher level of oversight to ensure they are compliant in carrying

out their intended work,” said Sen. Eric Wimberger, R-Gillett, co-chair of the committee. “When taxpayer funding is mishandled, it’s critical that we get to the bottom of it and bring an end to the waste. Today’s audit will shine further light on recent abuse and give us a clearer understanding of how WISCAP and its partner agencies are using taxpayer dollars.”

Under the scope of the audit, the Legislative Audit Bureau will investigate the compliance and oversight of WISCAP’s expenditures in accordance with its state funding, and analyze whether current internal policies can ensure WISCAP’s integrity with taxpayer financing. Prior audits by

the bureau have noted concerns with WISCAP’s compliance and management, including within its affiliated agencies such as Newcap.

An audit would likely take several months, according to Wimberger.

Newcap closed its doors in March, accused of misusing taxpayer money meant to help residents in 10 counties, including Oconto, Shawano and Menominee. Newcap owes more than \$4 million to more than 200 parties.

In addition, the audit committee ordered audits of the state’s FoodShare program and the Department of Administration’s use of fees collected through the State Building Program.



Hawks christen new stadium with win

By **GREG SEUBERT**
Correspondent

It didn't take long for the Shawano football team to get a win on its new field, as the Hawks handed Lakeland a 16-15 defeat in a nonconference matchup Aug. 28 at the Shawano Stadium.

The home opener at Shawano Community High School's new athletic field ended on a positive note for the Hawks, as they scored 10

unanswered points off of a pair of turnovers in the fourth quarter.

Shawano trailed until Austin Heling's 40-yard field goal in the final minute of the game turned a 15-13 deficit into a 16-15 lead.

Marcus Brezgel scored Shawano's first touchdown on a short run and Tristan Lawe later scored on a touchdown run in the fourth quarter.

"We felt like we owed the community something,"

coach Alan Tomow said. "We said at halftime, 'You guys made a commitment and they deserve your best. They funded this for us, they built this for us.' We want to play for them. We felt we owe the community something."

The Hawks overcame mistakes in the first half, but took advantage of Lakeland's turnovers down the stretch, Tomow said.

"We felt that we gifted a couple things," he said.

"We got caught on a bad snap, lost our coverage and they scored before halftime. The kids came out in the second half and we were moving the ball. It was just a couple of tweaks that we needed to do to spring some of our runs."

The Hawks were able to take advantage of Heling's kicking skills when it mattered, according to Tomow.

The ball bounced off a crossbar, but the kick was

good.

"Never a doubt," Tomow said. When we settled across the 30-yard line, we were all in on Austin kicking a field goal if we need to. He and I talked about this opportunity for a long time to kick a field goal to win a game," he said. "It's a weapon that we haven't had in a long time. He said this senior group has never tasted the playoffs yet. It meant something to him."

The Hawks will open

Bay Conference play at 7 p.m. Sept. 4 by hosting Winneconne, last year's WIAA Division 2 state champion. The Wolves are 2-0 and are coming off of a 42-0 win over Omro. The Hawks are 1-1.

"We have a long way to go, but we made some big strides tonight," Tomow said. "The kids are excited. We've got a tough team coming in next week, but they're going to enjoy this one. They earned every bit of it."



Jackson Raymakers lines up as a defensive back for Pulaski.

GREG SEUBERT

Red Raiders ready for FRCC-North competition

By **GREG SEUBERT**
Correspondent

Now that the nonconference schedule is in the books, it's time for the Pulaski football team to get down to business in the Fox River Classic Conference-North.

The Red Raiders improved to 2-0 Aug. 28 with a 21-16 road win over Hortonville and will open FRCC-North play Sept. 4 at home against another 2-0 team, Bay Port, last year's runner-up in the WIAA Division 1 state championship game.

Facing one of the state's top Division 1 programs on the road is exactly how Pulaski coach Jerad Marsh wants to kick off his team's seven-game conference schedule.

"We don't have a choice," he said. "Bay Port's awfully good. We absolutely want to go against good teams like that early. It shows what you can get better at, it shows what you're good at. There is no issue with that at all."

Besides Pulaski and Bay Port, the FRCC also includes defending Division 2 state champion West De Pere, Green Bay Preble, Green Bay Southwest, Ashwaubenton, De Pere and Appleton West.

All three of Pulaski's touchdowns against Hortonville came on the ground as the Red Raiders ran for 212 rushing yards, including Bohdan Schmidt's 119 yards on 20 carries and 65 yards from Anthony Ficarrri.

"Our offense really relies on communication and making sure the line knows what they're doing," Marsh said. "They just simply worked through some of the things they were seeing in the first half. Our backs really picked up some of the blocking they needed. It's such a fine line from being successful to not being successful against a well-coached team with

excellent athletes like Hortonville. The guys were able to make that adjustment and we were able to find some success."

Neither team scored in the first quarter and Pulaski opened the scoring less than two minutes into the second quarter, as Anthony Ficarrri capped a 63-yard drive with a 3-yard run.

Hortonville found the end zone on its third drive with A.J. Pfeifer's 31-yard pass to Greyson Rankin with 2:39 remaining in the first half, but Solomon Behnke's extra point attempt bounced off of the crossbar and the Polar Bears trailed 7-6.

A three-and-out for Pulaski gave the Polar Bears another opportunity to score.

Another of Pfeifer's passes to Rankin with just under a minute to play set the Polar Bears up at the Pulaski 3-yard line, but an offensive pass interference penalty on the next play backed Hortonville up 15 yards and the Polar Bears had to settle for Behnke's 33-yard field goal that gave the home team a 9-7 halftime lead.

Keeping the Polar Bears out of the end zone on that drive turned out to be big for Pulaski, according to Marsh.

"Our goal is always to keep them out of the end zone," he said. "The thing I'm the most proud of is we had a long ball, but we had pursuit, we ran him down, we got him down before the end zone and then anything can happen. Some good things happened for us there."

After forcing Hortonville to turn the ball over on downs to start the second half, Pulaski drove 71 yards to retake the lead at 14-9 on Ficarrri's 24-yard run with 5:34 left in the third quarter.

Schmidt's long punt return for a touchdown was called back because of a holding penalty late in the

third quarter and Pulaski's next two drives ended with a punt.

Garrett Lom set up Pulaski's final touchdown, as his interception of a Pfeifer pass gave the Red Raiders the ball at the Hortonville 31-yard line with just over two minutes left in the game. Schmidt ended the drive with a 12-yard touchdown run with 1:33 remaining and Pulaski had a 21-9 lead.

Hortonville wasn't finished, however, as the Polar Bears drove 71 yards and Pfeifer connected with Evan Hooks for a 29-yard touchdown pass with 12.5 seconds to go that cut the lead to 21-16.

The Polar Bears attempted an onside kick, but Ficarrri recovered the ball and Pulaski was able to run out the clock.

The Polar Bears had several pass plays of more than 20 yards, but Marsh said he isn't concerned about his team's pass defense.

"Not at all," he said. "Every game's a great learning experience. We've got some guys where it's their first or second varsity football game. You get used to the speed of it, you get used to the adjustments. The corner bit on a post on the last (touchdown), but what a great learning opportunity for a young guy. It doesn't ultimately end up hurting us in the ballgame, but you can't replicate that in practice."

Marsh said he learned a lot about his team in its first two games that also included a 47-6 win over Appleton East in the opener.

"They're a really fun group to coach," he said. "They don't hang their heads, they're constantly being positive with each other. They want to perfect their craft and they want to do well for each other, for the people in the stands and for the community."

Titans get back on winning track



Lena/STAA's Lucas Farley is tripped up after returning a punt for the Titans on Aug. 27 in the team's home opener against Goodman/Pembine. Lena/STAA improved to 1-1 on the season with a 47-6 win over the Patriots.

GREG SEUBERT

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

The losing streak didn't last very long.

Less than a week after the Lena/STAA football team opened its season with a 12-6 loss to Laona/Wabeno, the Titans returned to their winning ways Aug. 27 with a 47-6 win over Goodman/Pembine in a matchup of 8-player teams at Lena High School.

Although the Rebels held the Titans to one score Aug. 21 in the season opener, scoring was not a problem for Lena/STAA against the Patriots. All six of the team's possessions in the first half and the first of the second half resulted in points on the scoreboard.

Isaac Peterson ended the Patriots' opening drive with an interception that set the Titans up at the Goodman/Pembine 40-yard line. Peterson scored on the drive's first play, and the Titans led 8-0 two minutes into the game after a successful two-point conversion.

After forcing a three-and-out and taking over at midfield, Luke Koslowsky found the end zone from 3 yards out. The Titans had a 16-0 lead with just under six minutes remaining in the first quarter.

Koslowsky capped the Titans' third drive with a 7-yard run, and Lena/STAA took a 22-0 lead into the second quarter.

The Titans added to their lead on the first play of their next drive, as Peterson scored on a 59-yard run that made it 30-0 following a successful 2-point conversion.

Kullen Fischer's 3-yard touchdown run with 6:51 to go in the first half started a running clock. Then the Titans added to their lead on the final play of the half when Jake Farley's 18-yard field goal made it 41-0 at the break.

The Titans added to their lead on the first drive of the second half, as Max VandenHeuvel scored on a 38-yard run.

Goodman/Pembine's touchdown came with 7:29 to go in the game on Devin Moddie's 7-yard run.

Co-coach Dale Lange said it was good for the Titans to pick up a win after coming up short in Wabeno.

"We knew last week was going to be a tough game," he said. "It's the little things we stress during the week that make the difference. It's always nice to get the first W. We knew we could take care of business, and we had

to. There's a lot of stuff we have to correct. We played a young team in Goodman/Pembine, and I tip my hat off to their coaches and players. They never quit right down to the fourth quarter."

The Titans lost a number of running backs from last year's team, whose season ended just one win away from the state 8-player championship game, including Max and Sam Peterson.

"We've got some runners," Lange said. "Last year, when we needed that foot, foot-and-a-half, we had two guys. Nobody knew who was coming at them. Lucas Koslowsky's our big power runner, and Isaac (Peterson) is a little faster on the outside."

The Titans will open Across the Bay Conference play Sept. 3 at Wausaukee before returning home Sept. 11 to host Gibraltar. Kickoff for both games is set for 7 p.m.

"We have more players out, and we were able to give our young players a lot of opportunities tonight," Lange said. "That's key down the road because we're not deep. Some of these young guys that were out here tonight may be stepping into some important roles."

Eagles drop 70 points on Niagara in home opener

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

Suring, Bonduel and Wittenberg-Birnamwood picked up wins in week 2 of the high school football season, while Oconto Falls and Marion/Tigerton came up short.

Suring 70, Niagara 8

Not only did the Eagles put 70 points on the board in their 8-player home opener Aug. 27, Suring's defense also held the Badgers to 12 passing yards and 46 rushing yards, with 20 of them coming on a touchdown run by Owen Dunkes.

It was the second week

in a row that Suring had no problem finding the end zone, as the Eagles opened the season Aug. 21 with a 47-6 win over Almond-Bancroft.

Bonduel 19, Coleman 7

The Bears hit the road for the first time this season and returned home Aug. 27 following a non-conference win over the Cougars.

Quarterback Quinn Wesenberg had a hand in all three of Bonduel's touchdowns.

He connected with Carter Moesch for a 4-yard scoring pass in the first quarter, added

a 6-yard pass to Jayden Popp in the second quarter and capped the scoring with a 1-yard run in the fourth quarter.

Coleman's touchdown in the third quarter came on Kollin Peters' 35-yard pass to Kolton Peters.

Bonduel's defense held Coleman to 126 yards of offense.

Moesch led Bonduel's rushing game with 86 yards on 20 carries, while Malachi Gray added 67 yards.

Wesenberg completed four of nine passes for 33 yards.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood 23, Tomahawk 6

The Chargers gained 171 of their 305 rushing yards in the second half Aug. 28 in a nonconference win over the Hatchets in Wittenberg.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood turned the ball over three times, but they resulted in only six points for Tomahawk.

Seymour 21, Oconto Falls 13

The Panthers fell to the Thunder on Aug. 28 in the home opener at ST Paper Stadium.

Greg Salzman scored two of Seymour's three touchdowns on runs of 86 and 62 yards.

The 86-yarder came

with just over three minutes to go in the game following an interception.

Collin Radke stood out for Oconto Falls with a pair of interceptions, as well as a 10-yard touchdown pass from Nathaniel White in the final minute of the first half.

Almond-Bancroft 54, Marion/Tigerton 34

The Thundercatz fell to 0-2 on the season after dropping Central Wisconsin Conference 8-player opener to the Eagles Aug. 28 in Almond.

Almond-Bancroft trailed 34-16 at one point, but scored 38 unanswered points.

The Eagles suited up only 11 layers for the game. Kaden Martinez ran for 401 yards and six touchdowns for Almond-Bancroft.

Sept. 3

8-player: Suring vs. Goodman/Pembine at Goodman, 4 p.m.; Lena/STA at Wausaukee, 7 p.m.

Sept. 4 (all games start at 7 p.m.)

11-player: Winneconne at Shawano; Oconto at Oconto Falls; Kewaunee at Bonduel; Pulaski at Bay Port; Wittenberg-Birnamwood at Weyauwega-Fremont. 8-player: Bowler/Gresham vs. Marion/Tigerton at Marion.



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Hortonville tops Bonduel to win Dairyland

By **GREG SEUBERT**
Correspondent

As good as the Bonduel Broncos were this season in the Dairyland League, the Hortonville Stars were better when it counted the most.

After earning the top seed for the league's

playoffs, the Broncos had home field advantage throughout the post-season and eventually advanced to the Grand Championship game against the Stars on Aug. 30 at Jack Reinke Field.

Hortonville, on the other hand, had the third seed and knocked off

second-seeded Waupaca in the semifinal round to advance to the Grand Championship.

The Broncos didn't have an answer for Connor Roesler, who accounted for all four of Hortonville's runs in a 4-1 win. He opened the scoring with a two-run home run

in the top of the third inning and added a two-run double in the fifth.

Easton Reinke drove in Bonduel's run in the third inning. Eric Yogi Gruenewald and Barret Bohm each had two hits to lead the Broncos at the plate, while Beckett Hartlaben added one.

Jett Thielke took the loss for Bonduel after giving up four earned runs on nine hits with five strikeouts over seven innings. Riley Susa pitched the final two innings.

Despite taking the loss on the mound, Thielke received the Dairyland's Most Outstanding Pitcher

Award.

Although the Broncos came up short in the Grand Championship, their season isn't over, as the team will head to the Felch UP Labor Day Championship in Michigan's Upper Peninsula over the Labor Day weekend.

Pulaski shuts out Xavier

Thursday, Aug. 27
Pulaski 2, Xavier 0

The Red Raiders got two second-half goals and took down the Hawks 2-0 in a nonconference matchup in Appleton. After a scoreless first half, Kevin Cruz Lagunes broke the deadlock with a Pulaski goal in the 46th minute. Brayden Puyleart had the assist.

Cruz Lagunes found the net again in the 71st minute off a direct free kick crossed in by Colin Tackmier that he headed in for the goal.

Blake Batzer had the clean sheet on goal for Pulaski (1-0-1) making three saves.

Tuesday, Aug. 25
Pulaski 1, Fox Valley Lutheran 1

The Red Raiders and Foxes battled to a 1-1 draw in the season opener for both teams on the Fox Valley Lutheran home field.

Pulaski took a 1-0 lead in the 26th minute courtesy of a goal by Walker Wozniak. Daenen Kehoe has the assist.

The Foxes got the equalizer just 11 minutes later when Ezra Schaser found the net off an assist from Jose Martinez.

Blake Batzer made one save in goal for Pulaski. Eric Techlin had five saves in goal for Fox Valley Lutheran.

Ashwaubenon 2, Shawano 0

Shawano's first game on its new field ended in a 2-0 shutout at the hands of Ashwaubenon.



Raymond White handled the catching duties for the Gresham Gophers on Aug. 30 in a BABA semifinal game in Scandinavia. GREG SEUBERT

Little Falls looking for BABA three-peat

By **GREG SEUBERT**
Correspondent

A Labor Day weekend baseball tradition will continue Sept. 6, as Gresham will host Little Falls in the 80th Badger Amateur Baseball Association Grand Championship.

First pitch is set for 2 p.m.

Both teams advanced to the title game after semifinal road wins Aug. 30. Gresham defeated Scandinavia 9-7 in Scandinavia, while Little Falls, the two-time defending Grand Champion, picked up an 8-2 win over Antigo/Polar

in Antigo.

Gresham 9, Scandinavia 7

Scandinavia opened the scoring with two runs in the bottom of the third inning and had a 5-3 advantage heading into the bottom of the sixth before Gresham scored six runs to take a 9-5 lead into the bottom of the ninth.

The Vikings came up with two runs in the final inning.

Little Falls 8, Antigo/Polar 2

Little Falls headed to Antigo and returned home with a win over the Bears. Gresham and Little Falls

are no strangers to BABA championships. The two teams met for the title in 2021 in Little Falls, with the Loggers coming out on top.

Besides defeating Clintonville and Scandinavia to win championships in 2025 and 2024, respectively, Little Falls also won championships in 2021, 2007, 2006, 2000, 1997, 1996 and 1992.

Gresham's last championship came in 2016 with a win over Tigerton after the Gophers also won it all in 1967, 1951 and 1947. Both teams also finished runner-up a combined six times.

Shawano golfers take second in Peshtigo

Thursday, Aug. 27
Bay North Conference Mini-Meet #4

Three Shawano golfers placed in the top 10 as the Hawks finished second at Vernon Hills Golf Course in Peshtigo.

Lauren Seehafer, Mya Coffey and Hailey Hawkinson each scored 50. Alyssa Singer scored 53.

The Hawks tallied 203, and Bonduel scored 237.

For Bonduel, it was Paige Wolf 53, Morgan Graf 56, Quinn Hartlaben 57 and Hailey Eggert 71.

Ashwaubenon Jaguar Scramble Classic

Pulaski golfers finished in the top half of an 18-team scramble at Hilly Haven Golf Course in De Pere.

The Red Raiders placed ninth with a score of 74.

Wednesday, Aug. 26
Little Chute Triangular

Oconto Falls scored a 214 and placed third at the

North Eastern Conference Little Chute Triangular at Mid-Vallee Golf Course in De Pere.

Riley Borkovec led the Panthers with a 46, tied for third best on the day.

Oconto Falls: Riley Borkovec 46, Chloe Anastasopoulos 53, Lilly Wagner 57, Jady Saari 58.

Monday, Aug. 24
Bay North Conference Mini-Meet #2

Shawano golfers placed second while Bonduel finished fifth among five teams at Crystal Springs Golf Course in Seymour.

The Hawks tallied 216, and Bonduel had 254. Despite the last-place team showing, Bonduel senior Paige Wolf's 49 was the sixth best on the day.

Shawano: Alyssa Singer 52, Mya Coffey 54, Lauren Seehafer 54, Hailey Hawkinson 56.

Bonduel: Paige Wolf 49, Quinn Hartlaben 61, Morgan Graf 69, Jennifer Calaway 75.

W-B football program receives grant from Green Bay Packers

A local youth football program is one of 20 from around Wisconsin to receive a \$1,000 grant from the Green Bay Packers.

Wittenberg-Birnambwood Area Youth Football recently received a Packers Youth Football Matching Grant, which supports

equipment purchases, new uniforms and football facility improvements.

All youth football programs in Wisconsin — flag and tackle — were eligible to apply for a grant. Each program was required to raise \$1,000 to secure the grant.



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Getting ready for the opening games



Construction crews were out in full force preparing the Shawano Community High School sports stadium, parking lots and driveways in advance of the first soccer and football games. While the soccer team lost 2-0 to Ashwaubenon on Aug. 25, the football team beat Lakeland Union 16-15 on Aug. 28.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

Pulaski, Shawano tennis teams compete in Wausau

Thursday, Aug. 27
Xavier 5, Shawano 2
Appleton Xavier (6-2) defeated Shawano (3-12) by a 5-2 score.

Tuesday, Aug. 25
The second day of a tournament in Wausau resulted in an even split for the Red Raiders.

Pulaski defeated Wausau East 6-1 but lost 6-1 to Stevens Point.

Riley Hartman, at No. 4 singles, had the only Pulask win against Stevens Point.

Bay Port rolled past Shawano 7-0, and D.C. Everest swept the doubles matches en route to a 5-2 win over the Hawks.

Monday, Aug. 24
Pulaski No. 3 singles

player Alana Stangler won all three tennis matches when the Red Raiders played at Wausau West.

The Red Raiders defeated Green Bay Preble 6-1, then lost 6-1 to D.C. Everest and 5-2 to Wausau West.

Shawano lost all three matches – 6-1 to Wausau East and 7-0 to Stevens Point and Wausau West.

Pulaski 6, Green Bay Preble 1
Singles
No. 1 - Anna Krause, Pulaski, def. Ayla Rozz, Green Bay Preble, 6-0, 6-1.

No. 2 - Emory Groteluschen, Pulaski, def. Bella Aregoni, Green Bay Preble, 6-2, 6-2.

No. 3 - Alana Stangler, Pulaski, def. Samantha Johnson, Green Bay Preble, 6-3, 6-2.

No. 4 - Riley Hartman, Pulaski, def. Dakota Lee, Green Bay

Preble, 6-1, 6-2.
Doubles
No. 1 - Linde Lemerond - Aubrie Schuessler, Pulaski, def. Isabella Garcia - Ayla Rozz, Green Bay Preble, 6-1, 6-2.

No. 2 - Liv Callan - Erin Krueger, Green Bay Preble, def. Cora Hansen - Justine Mielke, Pulaski, 6-2, 6-3.

No. 3 - Lexi Baranczyk - Kae-syn Klarkowski, Pulaski, def. Christina Johnson - Lola Renier, Green Bay Preble, 6-1, 6-2.

D.C. Everest 6, Pulaski 1
Singles

No. 1 - Ina Espinoza-Almazar, D.C. Everest, def. Anna Krause, Pulaski, 6-0, 6-3.

No. 2 - Samantha Yach, D.C. Everest, def. Emory Groteluschen, Pulaski, 6-3, 6-4.

No. 3 - Alana Stangler, Pulaski, def. Demphia Xiong, D.C. Everest, 6-4, 6-1.

No. 4 - Chloe Beckman, D.C. Everest, def. Riley Hartman, Pulaski, 6-3, 6-2.

Bonduel runner wins at Omro race

Thursday, Aug. 27
Pittsville Invitational
Three Wittenberg-Birnamwood girls finished in the top 10 to lead the Chargers to a second-place finish at Pittsville High School's cross country meet.

Brielle Rose placed fourth, followed by Nora Bushman in sixth and Gabrielle Timm in ninth. The team tallied 45 points.

Girls: 4, Brielle Rose, 22:23.77. 6, Nora Bushman, 22:45.98. 9, Gabrielle Timm, 22:52.40. 17, Harper Krull, 25:11.81. 21, Delilah Schairer, 25:55.03.

Gresham/Bowler's Aubrey Miller placed 60th with a time of 48:42.52.

The boys scored 109 points and placed fourth among five teams.

Boys: 15, Marty Nowinsky, 20:16.03. 21, Dalton Fischer, 21:03.19. 31, Colten Mueller, 22:55.34. 37, Milo Salvesen, 23:41.25. 39, Monty Salvesen, 23:43.47.

Standing Rocks Invitational

Suring's Natalie Seibert finished seventh to lead her team at a meet hosted by Amherst at Standing Rocks County Park in Stevens Point.

Seibert had a time of

23:14.20.
Marion's Brooklyn Ahlers placed 45th with a time of 28:27.80.

Suring and Marion boys also competed individually but not as a team.

Suring boys: 31, Charles Richard, 21:40.80; 42, Blake DeGrave, 22:32.40; 44, Liam Matelski, 22:43.70.

Marion boys: 17, Payton Prickette, 19:48.20; 55, Brecklin Gleason, 23:26.40; 73, Brayden Zietlow, 26:00.40; 82, Nicholas Much, 32:20.80.

Wednesday, Aug. 26
Omro Invitational
Bonduel's Gage Anderson won the boys 5,000-meter cross country

run to lead the Bears to a first-place finish in Omro.

Bonduel tallied 44 points to best the other three competitors.

For the girls, Lillian Burrack placed second for Bonduel. The team collected 110 points and placed fourth among five teams.

Boys: 1, Gage Anderson, 17:35.10; 5, Garrett Anderson, 19:20.30; 12, Joah Dworniczak, 20:14.60; 13, Griffin Richter, 20:26.10; 18, Kaiden Thornborrow, 21:09.50; 22, Dylan Keller, 21:31.60; 27, Liam Rosenthal, 21:54.80; 29, Sawyer Rank, 22:14.00; 32, Josiah Ford, 23:31.50; 41, Garrett Klosterman, 26:56.90.

Girls: 2, Lillian Burrack, 22:05.80; 24, Payten Bierhals, 27:20.90; 25, Kember Frome, 27:25.20; 33, Dahlia Harris, 30:44.50; 34, Katie O'Brien, 31:25.50; 36, Audrey Keller, 35:46.20.

Freedom Irish Invite

Noah Soper placed second to lead Gillett's runners in the boys small school competition at Irish Waters Golf Course in De Pere.

For the girls, Gillett's Amanda Pate placed 10th.

Oconto Falls competed in the large schools race.

Large school boys: 17, Sage Mendolla, 19:33.0; 18, Mason Lotto, 19:35.3; 19, Isaiah Holtz,

19:37.4; 22, Landon Timm, 19:57.9; 27, Carson Laluzerne, 22:12.2; 28, Derek Johnson, 22:24.1; 29, Michael Guerts, 22:28.5;

Large school girls: 13, Lily Meissner, 22:05.5; 15, Emma Meissner, 22:46.3; 18, Ava Savage, 23:37.6; 19, Ellie Beschta, 23:54.5; 22, Ava Macha, 24:32.3; 25, Ava Holtz, 24:42.2; 30, Katie Moody, 27:30.8.

Small school boys: 2, Noah Soper, 18:13.5; 25, Braxton Valley, 22:42.2; 32, Nolan Van Don-sal, 23:59.0; 33, Henry Schaal, 24:00.4; 34, Brandon Slatky, 24:32.7.

Small school girls: 12, Hope Soper, 23:44.8; 20, Halle Wend-off, 26:00.5; 35, Maggie Kaczmarek, 30:46.4; 40, Sharlene Stage, 32:36.9.

Bears go 2-2 at home volleyball tournament

Tuesday, Aug. 25
Bonduel 2, Suring 0
The Bears topped the Eagles 25-17 and 25-16.

Bonduel 2, Crandon 0
After bumping off Suring, Bonduel defeated Crandon in two games with scores of 25-14 and 25-15.

Sevastopol 2, Bonduel 0
Bonduel fell short of three wins in a row on

their home court, losing 25-16 and 25-23 to Sevastopol.

Southern Door 2, Bonduel 0

Bonduel lost a second match, this one by scores of 25-17 and 25-20 to Southern Door.

Three Lakes 2, Gresham 0

Gresham lost both non-conference matches to

their hosts, Three Lakes, 25-12 and 25-22.

Prentice 2, Gresham 1
Gresham came back after losing the first game 25-22 to win the second game 25-23 and force a decisive third game against Prentice. However, Prentice won that final game 15-5 to take the 2-1 match victory.

Southern Door 2,

Suring 0

Suring came up short, losing 25-23 and 25-17 to Southern Door at the Bonduel tournament.

De Pere 2, Wittenberg-Birnamwood 0

The Redbirds claimed a 2-0 victory over the Chargers with game scores of 25-20 and 25-14.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood 2, Rhinelander 0

The Chargers defeated the Hodags in two games by identical 25-17 scores.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood 2, Reedsville 0

In the non-league challenge, the host Wittenberg-Birnamwood Chargers scored a 2-0 triumph over the Reedsville Panthers. Game scores were 25-17 and 25-9.

Oconto Falls 2, Howards Grove 0

In the nonconference match, the Oconto Falls Panthers prevailed over the visiting Howards Grove Tigers 2-0. Game scores were 25-19 and 25-17.

Fox Valley Lutheran 2, Oconto Falls 1

The Panthers were edged out in a tough three-game loss to Fox Valley Lutheran. Oconto Falls won the first game 25-17, but the Foxes won the second game 25-23 as well as the final game 19-17.

Freedom 2, Pulaski 0
Freedom edged out Pulaski in both games with scores of 26-24 and 25-21.

Luxemburg-Casco 2, Pulaski 1

The Red Raiders won the first game 25-19 but came up short in the next two, losing by scores of 25-17 and 15-12.

Shawano, Witt-Birn swimmers race at relays

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood swim team placed fifth and Shawano placed seventh at the Bay Conference Relays Meet on Aug. 25 in Sturgeon Bay.

The Chargers earned 60 points, including a first place in the 100-yard

freestyle relay; second place in the 200-yard medley relay, the 450-yard freestyle relay and the 200-yard butterfly relay; and third place in the 200-yard reverse medley relay.

Shawano scored 38 points. School officials did not provide details.

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LENDER

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood swim team placed fifth and Shawano placed seventh at the Bay Conference Relays Meet on Aug. 25 in Sturgeon Bay.

Use 3-D archery course to practice for season

When I finished a challenging 3-D archery course Aug. 16 with fellow traditional bowhunter Larry Morrow, I had one small victory – I had not lost a single arrow.

I'd also shot better than I ever shot such a course with a recurve bow. Maybe I was finally over the hump at shooting a simple stick-and-string bow that lacks the mechanical advantage of a compound bow's cables and cams, and relies on instinctive shooting, not a \$300 lighted sight.

While compound shooters fine-tune their bows with Allen wrenches, tiller adjustments and sight pin tweaks to hit Ping-Pong balls at 50 yards, trad shooters practice at sub-30-yard distances, hoping they will get close enough to slip a fixed-blade broadhead through the lungs.

Although most of the 28 foam animal targets at Clintonville Bow Club's fresh, new 3-D course have tiny 12-point circles inside the kill zone, those spots are meaningless in a hunting situation.

The 10-ring represents a perfect shot in a kill zone, with a slightly larger 8-ring providing a mostly-fatal zone. Hit the foam animal anywhere outside these rings and it scores a 5.



Larry Morrow, of Luxemburg, shoots an arrow from his Fred Bear Takedown recurve bow Aug. 16 during a 3-D archery shoot at Clintonville Bow Hunters Club. ROSS BIELEMA



ROSS BIELEMA
COLUMNIST

Clintonville's course offers various distance stakes for the shot, not unlike a golf course. Target archers shoot from the farthest distances, hunter-class archers stand next to the mid-range hunter stakes, and traditional archers stand by the closest ones.

Some were almost too close, considering a bowhunter must draw the string back and release

an arrow without the deer hearing or seeing that motion. Again, compound bows offer the advantage of allowing a hunter to draw and hold the string for 30 seconds or more, because the pulley leverage allows a draw weight about 10-15% of peak draw.

For example, a 60-pound-draw compound bow that "lets off" 90% of that weight when the wheels or cams turn over means the hunter will hold just 6 pounds. The recurve or longbow has no letoff, meaning most trad hunters must release in a few

seconds.

While working behind the clubhouse counter that morning, I learned that Morrow, a Luxemburg bowhunter I met at last year's shoot, had shot the day before. I didn't want to put my Jeffery Custom 62-inch recurve bow with 47-pound draw weight against \$1,500 Hoyt, Bowtech and Mathews compounds, and Morrow shoots a Fred Bear Custom Takedown recurve.

I smiled when I heard club president Jim Schoenike say, "Hi, Larry. Did you decide to come back

and shoot again?"

Yes, he did. Now I had a fellow old-school archer to shoot with, as long as I could get out of my food and drink serving duties a bit early. Schoenike gave me the OK, so Morrow and I flung a few arrows at the freshly upgraded practice range before heading to the wooded 3-D range.

Most people shoot the course while standing, but I nearly always sit while bowhunting, so I thought it made sense to carry a folding stool. I made almost all my shots sitting down and feel it definitely will improve my odds come opening day.

Morrow lost two of his feather-fletched aluminum arrows on the course: one near an elk target surrounded by new aspen growth from last year's Managed Forest Law timber cut, and another by a wolverine target. We took a break midway through the course, talking about everything from traditional gear to Italian Catholic mystics, when a miracle of sorts occurred.

Another shooter, who lost his own arrow by the elk target, found Morrow's and somehow figured out it was his (the feather fletching probably gave it away, as most compound shooters use plastic vanes).

Morrow and I only passed on two targets, a giant bear mounted on an elevated platform that normally supports archers

shooting down (missing the bear would mean an almost certain arrow loss) and a caribou that required shooting across a pond.

Both of us were tired and hot as we neared the final targets near the clubhouse. I missed the mountain goat (No. 26) and bobcat (the last target) but quickly found my arrows. I was still pleased with my 177, total and Morrow finished with a 147 – both respectable for two senior archers with primitive gear.

I bought him a beer and my mind wandered to the upcoming season. One of my hunting spots is the wooded club grounds and those foam bears, elk, wolverines and even a velociraptor could be a real, flesh-and-blood whitetail in a few weeks.

Now, I felt ready and confident.

Our club's weekend shoot drew about 80 archers, earned us a little money from food, drinks and entry fees, and got 80 bowhunters ready for the hunt. Whether you try out a full 3-D course or shoot at an indoor pro shop, be sure to practice before the Sept. 12 opener – and include some shots with your hunting broadheads to ensure they fly as straight as your target heads.

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

Runaway horses seek refuge on Reminger farm

During our farming years, we'd raised Holsteins, Black Angus, chickens (upon occasion) and pigs, and along the way held company with a few cherished dogs and cats. Never ever did we have a horse on the farm.

Until the other day.

When I was a little kid on our family farm, I seem to recall a horse keeping residence. My folks owned a 40-acre parcel of land near Big Falls where we kept heifers. We'd have to run water for them on a regular basis. I think I remember grazing with them was an old shaggy horse – put out to pasture as it were.

I'd asked my siblings if they recall this horse. My brother had no recollection at all but my younger sister thought she'd heard our mom talk about a strawberry-roan workhorse. It was a vague memory.

Nonetheless, while we never had any horses, my husband and I farmed 42 years together, selling our herd of dairy cows May 2016 and afterward, raising Angus for a time. It was during those years we'd dabbled in chickens – at one point getting six laying hens from a guy who helped me get started.

Another friend brought a chicken coop over and I gleefully



The Remingers were accustomed to raising Holsteins, Black Angus, pigs and chickens, but horses were nonexistent until the unexpected visitors popped over. KAY REMINGER

gathered eggs for two years until the old hens stopped laying. I got disenchanted with tending chickens – especially in the dead of winter – so we gave our idle hens away to someone wanting meat chickens.

Later, at my insistence and really against my husband's wishes, we bought 40 chicks raising them from babe to full-grown with the intent to butcher them. I got them so big, they looked like lumbering turkeys. I'd kept them on an open smorgasbord. After

selling some and keeping some, we decided that endeavor was a one-and-done.

These days, back to tending Holsteins and pigs, we'd settled into our comfort zone.

One day, my husband was outside feeding cows when he called me. "Kay, look outside in the soybean field."

Immediately, I ran to the back room window and stood there, speechless, as I spotted two horses moseying on down the field toward the cemetery, parallel to our field.

Incredulous, we reasoned who on earth could potentially be the owner of these horses? They looked so out of place in our

soybean field it was almost funny.

We thought of one guy and calling him he exclaimed, yes, he was missing two horses and he'd be right over and do we have a cow yard he could round them up in? He'd bring his cattle trailer.

Not 15 minutes later, he came, bringing a couple of helpers with a trailer in tow. They unloaded two saddled horses and taking off at a slow walk, went looking for the runaways. In the meantime, my husband manned a post in our side-by-side and a gal on horseback stationed herself at the opposite escape route.

I noted the girl was intentionally staying off our lawn. Bless her heart, she was being considerate. Her horse was whinnying, excited no doubt about her comrades being on the run. I noticed horse apples the next day. Good fertilizer.

Stepping outside on our deck, I cupped my hands to my mouth and hollered, "Don't worry about our lawn. Just do what you have to do to get your horses back."

"Oh, OK. Thank you," she gratefully responded.

Presently, I saw the lead guy riding his horse slowly up my walking trail alongside what used to be our Angus pasture. Following meekly behind him were the two fugitives. He'd ridden down and around them and kind of backed up his horse toward them. He could tell they wanted to follow him.

The owner had previously backed up his trailer to our cow yard to create a makeshift block and they submissively walked right into our cow yard. One was a feisty sort – a red-haired beauty. She wanted to bolt back out but the helper quickly shut the gate. Backing their trailer tight to the opening, they got them loaded up without delay.

Good thing we have a secure yard with a gate. My husband had chased the cows in the barn and locked them in so the cow yard was empty and waiting.

The two horses had been on the run for a whole day and probably were thirsty, hungry and no doubt tuckered. Glad for their adventure to be over, they cooperated pretty easily.

A car hitting the horses was the owner's main concern and that someone may get hurt. He was grateful it ended so well.

Cows I understand. Pigs are doable. Chickens have been tried. Horses? That's a new one.

("Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we will remember the Lord our God." Psalms 20:7, King James Version)

Kay Reminger was born and raised on a dairy farm, and she married her high school sweetheart, who happened to farm for a living in Leopolis. Writing for quite a few years, she remains focused on the blessings of living the ups and downs of rural life from a farm wife's perspective.

FARM LIFE FROM A FARM WIFE



KAY REMINGER
COLUMNIST

Back pain affects more than daily life Sacred Heart hosting Rachel's Challenge

When most people think about back pain, they think about discomfort, stiffness or difficulty getting through everyday activities. But research suggests that some back pain may have a much greater impact than many people realize.

Studies have found that severe or ongoing back pain is associated with a shorter lifespan, with the average middle-aged adult potentially losing nearly two years of life. While back pain itself isn't the direct cause, the effects it has on overall health can add up over time.

One major factor is increased reliance on pain medications. Whether over-the-counter or prescription, long-term use carries varying risks and potential side effects that can impact overall health and well-being.

Chronic pain also takes a toll mentally and emotionally. Living with constant discomfort can

make it difficult to enjoy daily life, participate in favorite activities or maintain a positive outlook. Over time, persistent pain is closely linked with increased rates of depression and other mental health challenges.

Another concern is the decline in physical activity. When movement hurts, it's natural to do less. Unfortunately, reduced activity can lead to weaker muscles, poorer endurance, decreased mobility and lower overall fitness. Staying active is one of the most important factors in maintaining long-term health, making it essential to address the underlying causes of persistent back pain rather than simply managing symptoms.

As we age, chronic back pain can also contribute to balance problems and an increased risk of falls. Falls are a leading cause of injury among older adults, making strength, stability and

proper movement patterns even more important for maintaining independence and quality of life.

The encouraging news is that there are proactive ways to improve function and overall health. Spinal rehabilitation focuses on identifying areas of weakness, reduced endurance and movement limitations that may be contributing to ongoing pain. Through personalized rehabilitation strategies, people can work toward improving strength, restoring stability and supporting healthier movement patterns.

Addressing back pain isn't just about feeling better today — it's about your future health. By improving spinal function, increasing physical resilience and helping you stay active, rehabilitation can play an important role in protecting your quality of life and your long-term well-being.

Dr. Brian Grieves is a doctor of chiropractic with a master's in public health and a member of the Shawano Community Health Action Team.



BRIAN GRIEVES
GUEST COLUMNIST

Sacred Heart hosting Rachel's Challenge

Sacred Heart Catholic School will host Rachel's Challenge on Sept. 10, bringing a nationally recognized program focused on kindness, compassion, connection and positive action to students.

Founded in honor of Rachel Joy Scott, the first person killed in the Columbine High School tragedy in 1999, Rachel's Challenge has inspired more than 30 million people worldwide to create safer, more caring school environments through simple acts of kindness and inclusion.

Rachel was known for intentionally reaching out to people who were new, struggling, bullied, or alone. Following her death, many individuals shared stories of how her friendship and compassion changed their lives. Inspired by Rachel's example, her family established Rachel's Challenge to encourage students and communities to build meaningful connections.

At Sacred Heart, students will

participate in age-appropriate sessions for grades K-5 and grades 6-8, along with a special 90-minute student workshop designed to equip student leaders with practical ways to foster kindness and strengthen the school community.

"Our mission as a Cardinals for Christ community is rooted in faith, service and respect for one another," said Autumnne Gee, Sacred Heart admissions and development director. "Rachel's Challenge aligns beautifully with our values and provides students with powerful tools to build relationships, show compassion, and make a positive impact on those around them."

The program's message is centered on a quote Rachel wrote in an essay before her death: "I have this theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion, then it will start a chain reaction of the same. People will never know how far a little kindness can go."

THEME: SOLAR SYSTEM

- ACROSS
- 1. Ancient Peruvian
 - 5. Hit the slopes
 - 8. Bro or sis
 - 11. Thomas the Engine's warning
 - 12. *Sun, e.g.
 - 13. Twist and distort
 - 15. Carpenter's groove
 - 16. *Jupiter's inner "ring"
 - 17. MC Hammer's "2 ____ 2 Quit"
 - 18. *It makes up the majority of Jupiter's mass
 - 20. Narrative poem
 - 21. "When ____ Cry" by Prince
 - 22. Louisville Slugger
 - 23. Chase
 - 26. Puffy cloud
 - 30. Nurses' org.
 - 31. Frozen drink
 - 34. Ricci of fashion
 - 35. Same as climate
 - 37. Buddy Holly's "Peggy ____"
 - 38. Knight's breastplate
 - 39. Flying toy
 - 40. a.k.a. pennant
 - 42. Possesses
 - 43. Appetizer
 - 45. Like certain pine
 - 47. Large edible mushroom
 - 48. ____-Arts, or fine arts
 - 50. Disparaging remark
 - 52. *The largest moon in the Solar System
 - 55. *Jupiter's Great Red Spot
 - 56. Up it in poker

- 57. Exclamation of disgust
- 59. Famous diarist Samuel ____
- 60. Like decorated cake
- 61. Reply from a tunnel
- 62. Tarzan's adoptive dad
- 63. Neither here ____ there
- 64. Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, acr.

- DOWN
- 1. It would
 - 2. Master of ark
 - 3. Buffalo Bill's last name
 - 4. In conflict (2 words)
 - 5. Coach-and-four
 - 6. Type of leaf cabbage, pl.
 - 7. *Reason for Mars' redness
 - 8. Kind of palm
 - 9. Author Murdoch
 - 10. Sandwich with acronym name
 - 12. Snow mover
 - 13. Flash of light
 - 14. *Farthest planet from sun in our Solar System
 - 19. Make awake
 - 22. Opposite of vend
 - 23. Gets ready for a trip
 - 24. Dark
 - 25. Indian restaurant yogurt staple
 - 26. ____ Zhen in "Fist of Fury"
 - 27. *The Solar System spans roughly 1.6 ____-years
 - 28. Uniate church member
 - 29. Impudent
 - 32. ____-friendly
 - 33. *Center of the Solar System

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- 36. *The smallest planet
- 38. Per ____, or yearly
- 40. Vigor
- 41. Approved
- 44. 4 years for a U.S. President, pl.
- 46. Daisies
- 48. Bench in Mexico
- 49. Larger key on the right
- 50. Pas in ballet
- 51. Between trot and gallop
- 52. Effect of pain?
- 53. Mussolini, with II
- 54. Not counterfeit
- 55. Relaxation location
- 58. Ornamental pond dweller

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WHAT’S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, SEPT. 4

SHAWANO: Shawano County Fair, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Fairgrounds, 990 E. Green Bay St. Junior market beef show 8 a.m., bingo 12:30-9 p.m., decorated cake auction 5 p.m., midway rides 5-10 p.m., livestock auction 6:30 p.m., Gate admission \$7, parking \$5 per vehicle.

SURING: Rummage Sale, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 206 Burk St.

SURING: Friends of the Suring Library Book Sale, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Village Hall Learning Center, 604 E. Main St. Brat fry 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

SURING: Burger and brat fry, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Suring Area Public Library parking lot, 604 Main St.. Hosted by Suring Area Historical Society.

OCONTO: Storytime, 10:30 a.m., Farnsworth Public Library, 715 Main St. Story and crafts for preschool children.

A caregiver must stay with the child.

SURING: Labor Day Celebration, 4 p.m. to close, Veterans Memorial Park, 414 E. Brook St. Food stand opens 5 p.m., 4x4 truck pull 7 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, SEPT. 5

CROOKED LAKE: Fire Department Breakfast and Bake Sale, 7-11 a.m. or until food runs out, Crooked Lake Community Center, 15455 County Road W. 12 and older \$9, ages 7-11 \$5, 6 and younger free.

BONDUEL: Amish Consignment Auction, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., N4310 Hill Road. Quilt preview 7:30-10 a.m., crafts sales start 8:30 a.m., field auction 9 a.m., quilt auction 10 a.m., furniture at noon. Bake sale 8 a.m. and lunch stand available.

SHAWANO: FRESH Project

Shawano Farmers Market, 8 a.m. to noon, Franklin Park, 235 Washington St.

STILES: St. Patrick’s Rumage Sale, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., 5760 County Road I.

SHAWANO: Shawano County Fair, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., Fairgrounds, 990 E. Green Bay St. Junior dairy cattle show 9 a.m., midway rides noon to 11 p.m., kiddie tractor pull noon, bingo 12:30-9 p.m., stock car races 6 p.m., dairy futurity show 7 p.m., Gate admission \$7, parking \$5 per vehicle.

SURING: Buy-Sell-Swap, 8 a.m. to close, Ehlinger Street.

SURING: Rummage Sale, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 206 Burk St.

SURING: Friends of the Suring Library Book Sale, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Village Hall Learning Center, 604 E. Main St.

SURING: Labor Day Celebration, 10 a.m. to close, Veterans Memorial Park, 414

E. Brook St. Tractor pulls begin and food stand opens 10 a.m., bounce houses 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. (\$5 wristband), chili cook-off at fire station 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Boots and Mugs Bean Bag Tourney 4 p.m., Farm and NEW Hot Farm tractor pulls 7 p.m.

TOWN OF RIVERVIEW: 43rd annual Fire Department Corn Roast, 11 a.m., Riverview Fire Department, 15471 State Highway 32. Free corn all day, bounce houses, meat raffles.

TOWNSEND: Red Arrow Snowmobile/ATV Club Corn Roast, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Old Town Hall Sports Bar and Restaurant, 17767 State Highway 32. Parade 10:30 a.m., meat raffles, 50/50 raffles, ticket raffle, Red Arrow clothing, food, beverages and free sweet corn.

MOUNTAIN: Mountain Memories Labor Day Celebration, 4-8 p.m., 13073 State Highway 32. Music by Stepdog.

SHAWANO: Auto racing, 6 p.m., Shawano Speedway, 990 E. Green Bay St. Gates open 4 p.m. Adults \$15, seniors \$12, younger than age 11 free.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 6

SHAWANO: Shawano County Fair, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., Fairgrounds, 990 E. Green Bay St. Junior and open horse show 8 a.m., St. James Church service 9:30 a.m., open dairy show 10 a.m., polka Mass 11 a.m., pee wee dairy show noon, midway rides noon to 11 p.m., bingo 12:30-9 p.m., demolition derby 1 p.m., Gate admission \$7, senior 62 and over \$5, parking \$5 per vehicle.

SURING: Labor Day Celebration, 10 a.m. to close, Veterans Memorial Park, 414 E. Brook St. Bounce houses 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (\$5 wristband). Food stand opens

10:30 a.m., Suring Homecoming Dinner noon at Romy’s Holiday Inn Kelly Lake, Suring alumni basketball and volleyball games 3-8 p.m. at the school gyms.

ABRAMS: Farmers Market, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Town Square, 5877 Main St.

MONDAY, SEPT. 7

SHAWANO: Shawano County Fair, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Fairgrounds, 990 E. Green Bay St. Fun animal events 9 a.m., small animal auction 10 a.m., Fun Day Horse Show 11 a.m., midway rides noon to 5 p.m., bingo 12:30-5 p.m., Dinosaur Races and Monster Trucks Live 1 p.m., Gate admission \$7, senior 62 and over \$5, parking \$5 per vehicle.

SURING: Labor Day Celebration, 10 a.m. to close, Veterans Memorial Park, 414 E. Brook St. 96th Annual Labor Day Parade 10 a.m., Food stand opens 10:30 a.m., Bounce houses 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (\$5 wristband), Booyah 11 a.m., noon, kids money hunt 1 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 8

LENA: Car Show On Main, 4:30-7 p.m., Main Street. Each classic car parked on Main Street will get one ticket for a free hamburger from the Wooden Shoe. Vendors welcome.

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, SEPT. 9

STILES: St. Patrick’s Rumage Sale, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., 5760 County Road I.

BONDUEL: Farmers Market, 4-7 p.m., corner of Cecil and Green Bay streets.

SOBIESKI: Yoga on the Farm

with alpacas and sheep, 6 p.m., Acres of Joy Ranch, 718 School House Road. Suggested \$20.

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.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 10

OCONTO: Thursday Play Group, 10:30 a.m. to noon, Farnsworth Public Library, 715 Main St. Meant for children to play and interact with other children at the library. A caregiver must stay with the child.

SHAWANO: Park After Dark, 6:30 p.m., Arlington Park, 300 N. Humphrey Circle. Glow in the dark games, “Minecraft Movie” 7:45 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 11

OCONTO: Storytime, 10:30 a.m., Farnsworth Public Library, 715 Main St. Story and crafts for preschool children. A caregiver must stay with the child.

SHAWANO: Gun Show, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Republican Party of Shawano County, 712 E. Green Bay St. Admission \$5.

SHAWANO: Salute to Service Night, 4-7 p.m., St. James Lutheran School, 324 S. Andrews St. Volleyball matches, opening invocation and ceremonies between first and second matches, approximately 5 p.m. Doors open 3:30 p.m.

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

SURING: Suring Car Show, 6-10 p.m., Main Street and Veterans Memorial Park, 414 E. Brook St. Car Cruise 6 p.m., live music 7-10 p.m., bonfire, camping.

FOOD COLUMNIST

The food column in NEW Media's publications has been a favorite as families have learned to make tasty treats, healthy dinners and breakfasts, warm soups for cold days and more. Our previous columnist has moved on, but we want to keep up efforts to help folks try new and delicious stuff.

That's where we need your help.

We're looking for someone who not only knows how to cook but also has knowledge — or is willing to research — information on food like how healthy it is and/or the historical background on it. Whether it's a single item or several recipes for a special occasion, we seek someone who loves food, loves to make it, and loves to write about it and take awesome photos of it. The food column would run twice a month, along with some extras for key special sections.

We pay a minimum of \$60 per column and \$10 per photo in print and/or online.



Contact City Editor Lee Pulaski at lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com if you'd like to be NEW Media's new food columnist!



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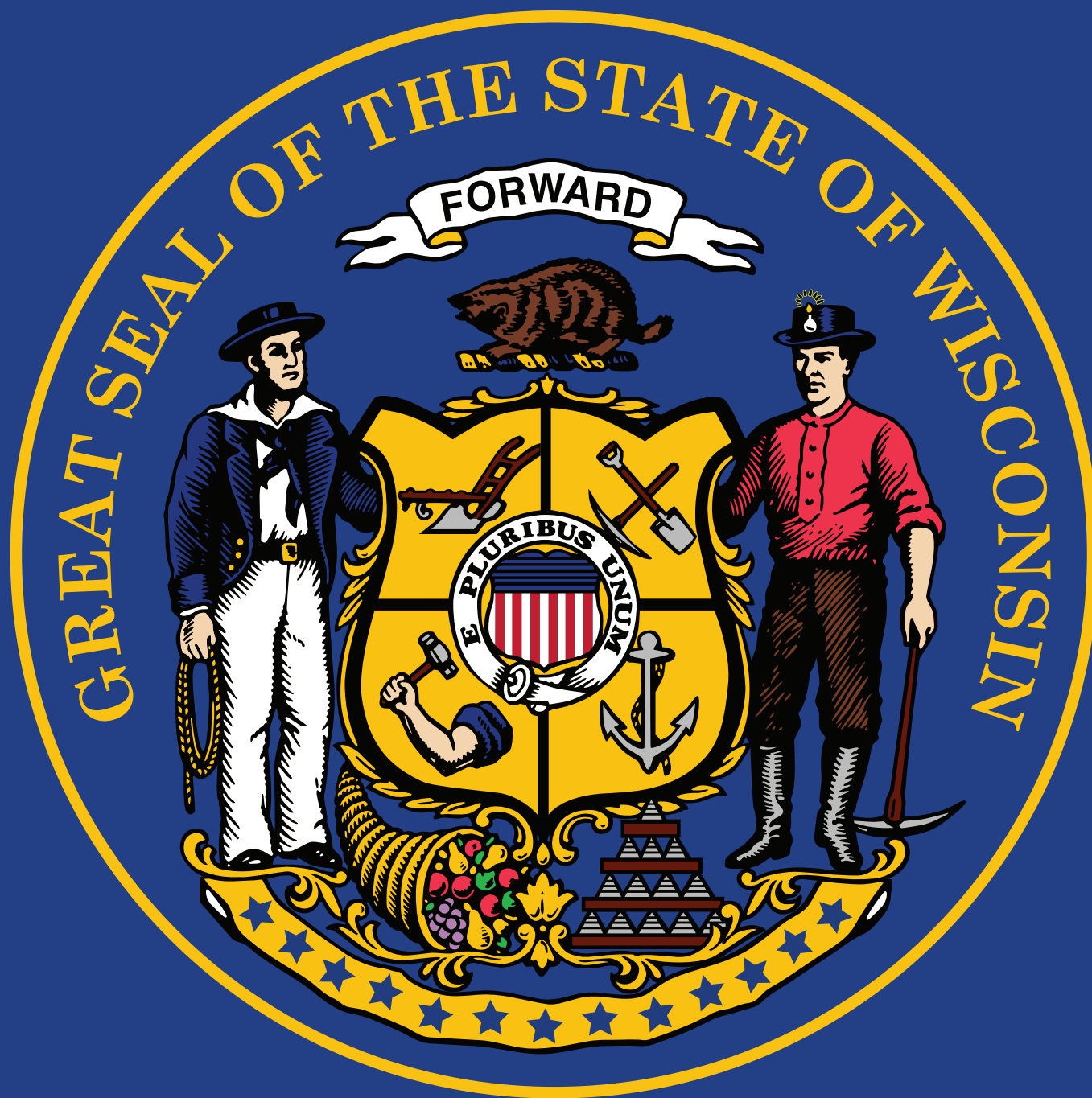
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PUBLIC RECORD

OCONTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Aug. 30 Deputies responded to 36 incidents, including automobile theft on West Main Street in Lena; criminal damage on Old 32 Road in the Town of Mountain; a fatal crash on Yarwood Road in the Town of Gillett; harassment on Old 32 Road in the Town of Riverview; one traffic offense, two citizen assists, two miscellaneous traffic incidents, two welfare checks; one 911 hangup; three ambulance calls; two crashes.

Aug. 29 Deputies responded to 46 incidents, including underage alcohol on East Armstrong Street in Gillett; a noise disturbance at Zippel Park, 150 N. McKenzie St., Gillett; an animal bite on Fendryk Lane in the Town of Little River; property damage on state Highway 22 in the Town of Stiles; fire on Laurene Road in the Town of Lakewood; a noise disturbance on Old 32 Road in the Town of Riverview; one traffic stop, two traffic offenses, two citizen assists, one miscellaneous traffic incident; one 911 hangup and three

open lines; two ambulance calls; one crash. Aug. 28 Deputies responded to 60 incidents, including harassment in the Law Enforcement Center lobby, 220 Arbutus Ave., Oconto; trespassing on Joyce Lane in the Town of Lakewood; a drug-endangered children case at a redacted location; theft near County Road S and Kunzers Beach Road in the Town of Pensaukee; nine traffic stops, two traffic offenses, one citizen assist, one miscellaneous traffic incident, four welfare checks; three 911 hangups and three open lines; one ambulance call. Aug. 27 Deputies responded to 45 incidents, including suspicious activity on state Highway 22 in the Town of Gillett; trespassing on County Road M in the Town of Spruce; a fire control burn on East Frontage Road in the Town of Little Suamico; a disturbance on Pleasant View Drive in the Town of

Chase; suspicious activity on Moody Road in the Town of Pensaukee; five traffic stops, one traffic offense, one miscellaneous traffic incident, two welfare checks; two open-line 911 calls; two ambulance calls. Aug. 26 Deputies responded to 70 incidents, including fire on state Highway 22-32 in the Town of Gillett; a disturbance on Harris Lane in the Town of Breed; a disturbance on Farnsworth Avenue in Oconto; a fire control burn on East Frontage Road in the Town of Little Suamico; automobile theft on D and B Frontage Road in the Town of Lena; trespassing on Hall Road in the Town of Little River; suspicious activity on County Road J between Sampson and Oak Orchard roads in the Town of Pensaukee; eight traffic stops, one traffic hazard, two traffic offenses, three citizen assists, four miscellaneous traffic incidents, three welfare checks; four open-line 911 calls; six ambulance calls;

three crashes, one involving deer. Aug. 25 Deputies responded to 54 incidents, including property damage on Downtown Lane in the Town of Underhill; burglary on County Road VV in the Town of Underhill; an internet crimes against children incident in Oconto; attempted fraud on Morning Retreat Road in the Town of Oconto; suspicious activity on Valley View Drive in the Town of Townsend; trespassing on state Highway 22 in the Town of Stiles; an internet crimes against children incident at a redacted location; trespassing on state Highway 22 in the Town of Oconto; suspicious activity on County Road VV in the Town of Underhill; fireworks on Maple Street in Abrams; suspicious activity on state Highway 64 in the Town of Mountain, a disturbance on West Main Street in Lena; a noise disturbance at Zippel Park, 150 N. McKenzie St., Gillett; a wanted person on County Road V in the Town of

Maple Valley; a disturbance on Tree Farm Road in the Town of Doty; suspicious activity on Goatsville Road in the Town of Lena; three traffic stops, two traffic offenses, one citizen assists six miscellaneous traffic incidents, one welfare check; four open-line 911 calls; four ambulance calls; two crashes, one involving a turkey. Aug. 24 Deputies responded to 51 incidents, including theft on County Road W in the Town of Mountain; a structure fire on Klaus Lake Road in the Town of Gillett; a disturbance on County Road E in the Town of Abrams; theft on Allen Road in the Town of Little Suamico; an animal bite on Dudzik Road in the Town of Chase; an incident at the county jail, 220 Arbutus Ave., Oconto; suspicious activity on Mourning Dove Road in the Town of Little Suamico; three traffic stops, two traffic offenses, four citizen assists, two miscellaneous traffic incidents, one welfare check; one open-line 911 call; two ambulance calls; two crashes.

COURT NEWS

• Brian Scott Volk, 52, Wausaukee, pleaded no contest June 26 to possession of methamphetamine. Judge Jay Conley imposed and stayed a prison sentence Aug. 24, then placed him on two years of probation with conditions. • Florentino Hernandez Rodriguez, 29, Lena, was charged July 29 with four counts of felony bail jumping. Conley set a \$15,000 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until Nov. 2. • Robert T. Albert II, 54, Oconto, was charged possession of methamphetamine, two counts of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of resisting or obstructing an officer and possession of drug paraphernalia. Conley set a \$2,000 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until Oct. 14.

9/4/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
OCONTO COUNTY

Public Notice
Busynook Rd Pulverizing and Grading
Town of Stiles, Oconto County, District 17
The Town of Stiles will be performing the following work:
TOWN OF STILES REQUEST BIDS FOR PULVERSIZING AND GRADING - BUSYNOOK RD
Busynook Road from the east end termination going west 1,350 feet towards County Highway I. Pulverize existing surface, supply, place, water and compact ~400 ton of 3/4" Crushed Asphalt. Bids can be submitted to Terrah Patton, Town Clerk 5718 Watercrest Rd Lena, WI 54139 and must be received by Wednesday 9/9 at 6pm. Proof of Insurance must accompany all bids. Quotes will be reviewed, and the contracts will be awarded to the vendors whose quotes are most responsive to the solicitation and most advantageous to the Town of Stiles, considering price, quality and other factors. The Town of Stiles reserves the right to reject any, and all quotes.
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT CHAIRMAN JASON FLYNN 920-609-3541

WNAXLP
OCO099

9/4/26, 9/11/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
OCONTO COUNTY

ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS
VETERAN'S MEMEORIAL PARK PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
VILLAGE OF SURING
OCONTO County, Wisconsin

The Village of Suring is seeking proposals for playground equipment and installation at Veteran's Memorial Park. Proposals will be accepted via electronic (PDF) to Kim Gruetzmacher kg Gruetzmacher@vi.suring.wi.gov until 1:00 p.m., Friday – September 18, 2026. All proposals will be reviewed by the Village staff and the design team.

The Request for Proposal and Site Plan for the project is available and should be requested via email from drammer@misa-ps.com .

Selection of the preferred Bidder will be made in September/October 2026. The playground is expected to be installed in spring/summer of 2027 with final completion anticipated by July 2, 2027.

The project has received a Federal Land and Water Conservation grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Build America, Buy America Provisions are expected to apply.

The Village reserves the right to reject one and/or all proposals if the above criteria is not met and falls below the proposed budgets.

Published by the authority of the Village of Suring.

ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:
MSA Professional Services, Inc.
Dan Rammer, PE
920-931-0095
drammer@misa-ps.com

WNAXLP
OCO101

9/4/26, 9/11/26, 9/18/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
OCONTO COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT
MENOMINEE COUNTY
Capital Credit Union
Plaintiff
Case No. 26CV10
Code No. 30301
-V-
Edwin J. Olson
XYZ Unknown Defendant
Defendants.
PUBLICATION SUMMONS
STATE OF WISCONSIN
To each person named above as a Defendant:
You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you.
Within 40 days after September 4, 2026, you must respond with a written demand for a copy of the complaint. The demand must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is Clerk of Courts, Menominee County Courthouse, W3269 Courthouse Lane, PO Box 279, Keshena, WI 54135-0279, and to Justin J. Bates, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is PO Box 1473, Wausau, WI 54402. You may have an attorney help or represent you. If you do not demand a copy of the complaint within 40 days, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.
Dated: August 25, 2026
Bates Legal Group, LLC
Attorneys for Plaintiff
By: /s/ Justin J. Bates
Justin J. Bates
State Bar No. 1066128
P.O. Box 1473
Wausau, WI 54402-1473
(715) 843-5599

WNAXLP
OCO100

8/28/26, 9/4/26, 9/11/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
OCONTO COUNTY

Notice is hereby given, that The City of Oconto Falls Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on September 22, 2026 at 6:00 PM in the Municipal Building, 500 North Chestnut Avenue, Oconto Falls, Wisconsin. The purpose of this hearing is for the consideration of:
• Abandonment of an alley that is located at: 102 S. Washington Street, Former Washington Middle School Property.
All residents of the City of Oconto Falls are encouraged to attend. The meeting room is handicapped accessible. Persons needing additional accommodations should contact City Hall at (920) 846-4505.

WNAXLP
OCO097

Don't store it in the attic. SELL IT!


NEW MEDIA INC.
715-526-6188

OCONTO FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS			
BUDGET PUBLICATION - 2026 - 2027			
GENERAL FUND	Audited 2024 - 2025	Unaudited 2025 - 2026	Budget 2026 - 2027
Beginning Fund Balance	3,719,157	3,915,648	4,674,219
Ending Fund Balance	3,915,648	4,674,219	4,674,219
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES			
Local Sources (Source 200)	9,503,399	11,738,000	11,885,592
Inter-district Payments (Source 300 + 400)	1,150,347	1,244,034	1,394,684
Intermediate Sources (Source 500)	13,306	15,188	13,200
State Sources (Source 600)	16,156,997	15,107,891	15,321,627
Federal Sources (Source 700)	478,361	522,872	508,013
All Other Sources (Source 800 + 900)	346,893	214,756	389,013
TOTAL REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	27,649,303	28,842,742	29,512,129
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES			
Instruction (Function 100 000)	11,304,097	11,667,486	11,795,076
Support Services (Function 200 000)	9,658,060	10,203,856	11,295,864
Non-Program Transactions (Function 400 000)	6,490,655	6,212,829	6,421,189
TOTAL EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	27,452,811	28,084,171	29,512,129
SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND	Audited 2024 - 2025	Unaudited 2025 - 2026	Budget 2026 - 2027
Beginning Fund Balance	484,413	529,040	595,423
Ending Fund Balance	529,040	595,423	598,573
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	6,077,627	6,239,608	6,035,358
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	6,033,000	6,173,226	6,032,208
DEBT SERVICE FUND	Audited 2024 - 2025	Unaudited 2025 - 2026	Budget 2026 - 2027
Beginning Fund Balance	885,122	849,045	841,412
Ending Fund Balance	849,045	841,412	831,812
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	3,137,348	2,482,767	2,488,950
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	3,173,425	2,490,400	2,498,550
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	Audited 2024 - 2025	Unaudited 2025 - 2026	Budget 2026 - 2027
Beginning Fund Balance	30,036,225	10,347,427	7,193,694
Ending Fund Balance	10,347,427	7,193,694	6,336,336
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	1,116,251	751,405	909,000
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	20,805,049	3,905,139	1,766,358
FOOD SERVICE FUND	Audited 2024 - 2025	Unaudited 2025 - 2026	Budget 2026 - 2027
Beginning Fund Balance	303,224	273,364	192,514
Ending Fund Balance	273,364	192,514	168,193
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	871,499	890,787	913,169
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	901,358	971,638	937,490
COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND	Audited 2024 - 2025	Unaudited 2025 - 2026	Budget 2026 - 2027
Beginning Fund Balance	171,418	180,438	152,276
Ending Fund Balance	180,438	152,276	140,047
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	205,556	187,946	165,000
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	196,536	216,108	177,229
Total Expenditures and Other Financing Uses			
ALL FUNDS	Audited 2024 - 2025	Unaudited 2025 - 2026	Budget 2026 - 2027
GROSS TOTAL EXPENDITURES -- ALL FUNDS	58,562,179	41,840,681	40,923,964
Interfund Transfers (Source 100) - ALL FUNDS	3,667,172	3,407,787	3,472,753
NET TOTAL EXPENDITURES -- ALL FUNDS	54,895,007	38,432,894	37,451,211
PERCENTAGE INCREASE - NET TOTAL FUND EXPENDITURES FROM PRIOR YEAR		-29.99%	-2.55%
PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY			
Levy Summary	Audited 2024 - 2025	Unaudited 2025 - 2026	Budget 2026 - 2027
General Fund	9,286,904	11,416,640	11,565,927
Referendum Debt Service Fund	2,566,075	1,896,050	1,904,550
Non-Referendum Debt Service Fund	536,415	569,975	568,400
Capital Expansion Fund	20,000	20,000	20,000
Community Service Fund	100,000	80,000	80,000
TOTAL SCHOOL LEVY	12,509,394	13,982,665	14,138,877
PERCENTAGE INCREASE --			
TOTAL LEVY FROM PRIOR YEAR		11.78%	1.12%

9/4/26
STATE OF WISCONSIN
OCONTO COUNTY

ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
OCONTO FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRICT OFFICE
200 N FARM ROAD, OCONTO FALLS
Monday, September 14, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

Agenda: • Call to order, Pledge of allegiance, call to meeting. Introductions, appointment of Parliamentarian, election of chairman, reading of minutes of Annual Meeting, September 15, 2025, and reading of Treasurer's report.
New Business: • Hearing on budget. Resolutions: School board member salaries, reimbursement of school board members expenses, authorization of school board to borrow money on a short term basis to meet expenses of operation. Authorization of the school board to acquire, by purchase or condemnation, real estate deemed necessary for school district purposes. Free textbooks, hot lunch and breakfast program, legal proceedings, continued contribution to a sinking fund for the purpose of future outdoor facilities and maintenance, and tax levy resolution. Sale of unneeded school property and building site. Set the date of the 2027 annual meeting.
Adjournment.

Dated this 4th day of September, 2026.
Clint Gardebrecht, Clerk
WNAXLP
OCO102

Pat's Market

GILLETT (920) 855-6040



STORE HOURS: Mon-Fri 7:00 am-7:00 pm
Deli Hours: 8am - 6pm
Sat 8:00 am-5:30pm Sun 8:00am-1:00pm

HSHS PHARMACY HOURS:
MON-FRI 9:00AM-5:30PM

These Prices Good Sept. 8th thru Sept. 13th, 2026
While Supplies Last!

Accepting Mastercard, Visa, Discover and Quest Cards
We reserve the right to limit quantities.



**Food Club
Drinking
Water**

2/\$5.00
16.9 oz.
24 pk.



**Food Club
Purified
Flavored
Water**

\$1.99
Asst.
Variety
6 pk.



**Boneless
Frying Chicken
Breast Tenders**

\$1.49
lb.



**USDA CHOICE
Boneless Sirloin
Sizzlers Steaks**

\$7.99
lb.



**Midwest
Pride Bacon**
\$7.29
20 oz.

**St. Louis
Style Pork
Spare Ribs**

\$2.99
lb.



**Jumbo
Seedless Green
or Red Grapes**

\$2.49
lb.



Blueberries

2/\$5.00
1 pint



**Green Haas
Avocados**

89¢
ea.



**Romaine
Hearts**

\$3.39
ea. 3 Ct.



**Acorn, Buttercup,
Butternut, or
Spaghetti Squash**

99¢
lb.

**Badger
Off-the-Bone
Smoked Ham**

Shaved or Sliced



\$4.99
lb.

**Betty Crocker
Brownie or
Cake Mixes or
Ready-to-Serve
Frosting**



3/\$5.00

Asst. Variety 12-16.3 oz



**Food Club
Pasta
Dinners**

\$1.29
Asst Variety 5.5-6.4 oz.

**Daisy 2% or 4%
Cottage Cheese**



2/\$5.00
16 oz.



Doritos

2/\$7.00
Asst Variety 9-10.75 oz.



**Orv's Ultimate
Rizer Pizza**

2/\$8.00
25.45-28.45 oz.
Asst Variety



**Angel Soft
Mega Roll
Bath Tissue**

\$6.99
8 pk.



**Yoplait
Yogurt**

Asst Variety 4-6 oz.

59¢



**Old Orchard
100% Juice**

2/\$5.00
Asst Variety 64 oz.



**Crav'n Family
Size Sandwich
Cookies**

\$3.49
19.1-20 oz.
Asst. Variety

MEET THE PATRIOT

Get yours today and get ready for winter.

and get a winter's worth of heat for **FREE!***

The all-new Freedom Stoves Patriot PS24 has arrived at Earth Sense!

POWERFUL. SMART. DEPENDABLE.

The Patriot delivers up to 59,964 BTUs and can heat spaces from 1,000 to 2,600 square feet, with WiFi connectivity, remote operation and available battery backup.

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL

Purchase a qualifying Patriot PS24 vent and installation package and receive:
6,000 LBS. OF FREE PREMIUM WOOD PELLETS!

That's **3 tons** of fuel and potentially enough pellets to **heat your home all winter!**

PLUS

FREEDOM STOVES

*This model qualifies for the charitable donation.



Red Freedom PS 21
Vintage Edition Stove

***PLUS, this year, a portion of proceeds from all Freedom Stoves brand product sales will be donated to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation.**



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ENERGY SYSTEMS INC.

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