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WAUPACA County Post

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LOCAL



Officially New Dublin

Leprechauns, from left, Collin Loughrin, Ryan Lanning, Connor Loughrin and Ryan Malliet changed the name of New London to New Dublin on Monday, March 13. The Shamrock Club of New Dublin holds a week of St. Patrick's events in the city. The Grand Parade and Irish Fest are Saturday, March 18. The parade starts at 1 p.m. Irish Entertainment in the big top begins at 11 a.m.

John Faucher Photo

Homicide charge follows fatal drug overdose

BY ROBERT CLOUD
SENIOR EDITOR

COUNTY — Waupaca County Judge Vicki Clusmann issued a warrant for the arrest of Tyler James Allen, 26, Pulaski.

Allen is charged with first-degree reckless homicide, delivery of fentanyl and felony bail jumping.

Allen allegedly sold the drugs that caused the death of Leland S. Kroening, 42, Clintonville.

On Aug. 2, 2022, Clintonville police were dispatched to an apartment on Morning Glory Drive in response to a reported drug overdose.

When officers arrived, they found Kroening in the bathroom, wedged against the door. They



Allen

forced their way into the bathroom, pulled out the unresponsive Kroening and began lifesaving measures.

Clintonville Ambulance personnel arrived and also attempted to resuscitate Kroening, but were unsuccessful.

Allen

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

Upgrades planned for Lakemen Field

Project to cost \$1.97 million

BY ROBERT CLOUD
SENIOR EDITOR

WAUPACA — Laura Colbert, director of Waupaca's Parks and Recreation Department, spoke to the Common Council on plans to upgrade Lakemen Field at its March 7 meeting.

She said Rettler Corp., a landscape design and architecture firm out of Stevens Point, had prepared a master plan and cost estimate for a project at the field.

The project would feature a new infield, lights, bathroom and concession building, an additional batting cage, right field fence adjustment, backstop, dugouts and 44-stall parking lot.

Rettler estimated the project would cost approximately \$1.97 million.

Colbert said the Lakemen Field stakeholder group met Feb. 28 and decided to take a phased approach to the project.



Rettler Corporation's rendering of proposed Master Plan for Lakemen Field.

The stakeholder group includes representatives from Waupaca High School baseball, Waupaca Lakemen baseball, parents, the baseball board and Josh Peterson, caretaker of the city's parks.

"It's a conglomeration of everyone who's really invested in Lakemen Field," Colbert said.

During the project's first phase, the city's Parks and

Recreation Department would install six new light poles and lights. Currently, the field has eight lights, but the new fixtures are brighter halogens.

The city will also update the sound system and work on upgrading the infield in the first phase.

The total estimated cost for the first phase is \$425,000 to \$450,000.

Colbert said the depart-

ment has set aside \$350,000 from its 2024 capital budget for the lights, with 50% of that amount coming from donations.

The city would contribute \$175,000 to the project's first phase through general obligation bonds.

The department hopes to break ground on the project in the fall of 2024.



Trail connecting parks proposed

New London seeks grants

BY SCOTT BELLILE
CORRESPONDENT

NEW LONDON — New London Parks and Recreation wants a paved trail from downtown New London to Hatten Park.

Parks Director Ginger Sowle has researched grant opportunities and asked the city's engineer, McMahon Associates, to develop drawings.

A concrete trail already exists for most of the way, beginning south of the Shawano Street bridge at River Trail Park. It continues parallel to County Trunk X for a half mile west, passing behind The Waters Supper Club and Johnny's Little Shop of Bait before ending at Riverside Park.

Sowle on March 7 told the Parks and Recreation Committee the city could resurface that existing trail and construct a short addition across the road from Riverside Park along the south side of County X.

This segment could begin by the city garage and head west, veering left around the corner. The undeveloped grass there could be filled in with woodchips or pea gravel and continue south, linking to the gravel road inside Hatten Park near the shooting range.

People already walk the grass path often, complaining when it is not mowed, Sowle said.

She said grant opportunities include the Waupaca County Greenway Com-

Trail

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

Clintonville owes \$46K for building

Funds not included in budget

BY BERT LEHMAN
STAFF REPORTER

CLINTONVILLE — The city of Clintonville must pay \$46,203 for a Clintonville Area Ambulance Service special assessment for the payoff of the ambulance office building.

The Clintonville Common Council approved the building's final settlement payment when it met Feb. 14, with the funds coming from the capital contingency account. The payment had not been included in the 2023 city budget.

The topic was discussed at length at the Finance Committee meeting the prior day.

During the discussion, it was revealed that there have been communication issues between the city and Clintonville Area Ambulance.

City Administrator Caz Muske said there has been some "disconnect" between the city and the ambulance service.

"Apparently this has been ongoing for the past couple of years," Muske said. "So, we've been trying to bridge the gap of information."

Muske said she has met with the chair of the ambulance commission, as well as the administration of Clintonville Area Ambulance.

"There's some pushback of them sending to the (city) administrator information directly for some reason," Muske said. "... So we're continuing to navigate

through this."

Muske told the committee that after discussing the matter with City Attorney Keith Steckbauer, she learned the city is required to make the \$46,203 payment to Clintonville Area Ambulance.

Ald. Brandon Braden, who is the city's representative with Clintonville Area Ambulance, said the Common Council had originally approved the purchase of the ambulance building in January 2021.

"At that time there was already discussions about making this lump sum payment in a couple of years, but it never made its way to our capital plan," Braden said.

Braden also acknowledged he knew there was a "disconnect" between the

city and Clintonville Area Ambulance, but said he didn't realize how bad it was.

"We had this number at the beginning of October, but because of the kind of messy process of getting some of this information, it got overlooked. We didn't get it in the budget," Braden said. "Unfortunately, it didn't get into the budget and it's been missed for a few years now. It kind of crept up on us and we have a bill to pay."

When the building was purchased, Braden said the initial payments weren't going to be more than the city was already paying per year for the rent where the Clintonville Ambulance Service used to be located.

Building

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2



Icicles

It's icicle season. The recent heavy snowfall in early March added another layer of snow to the rooftops. As the daytime sun warms the roof and the snow melts, icicles form on the eaves. Overnight they freeze and the icicles grow bigger day after day.

James Card Photo

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

"Nothing Gold..."

Dear Reader,
Recently I read Robert Frost's poem "Nothing Gold Can Stay." This eight-line composition reflects on the beauty and impermanence of life. Frost describes how all things dwindle with time, and how beauty fades to nothingness. The sunset you saw last night lives only in your mind; the christening of your child is only a memory; the wealth you accumulated over the years becomes value-less, since shrouds have no pockets.



The poet is saying that the green of spring's birth eventually evolves to the gold of full being in summer. But autumn winds blow through our lives, and the fleeting beauty of gold vanishes, much as the idyll of Eden gave way to the toil and pain of our current existence. Each cycle of life brings its own aesthetics, both new and familiar to the fore, as all things are limited and temporary.

Being transitions into non-being over time as the body crumbles to dust. The raging priorities driven by bodily and ego needs – the hunger for food, the search for shelter, the quest for riches, power, and prestige – these all wane to nothing. Infinity prevails throughout, and the trans-personal ideals – love, compassion, and a desire for truth and beauty – suffuse whatever reality one experiences in that future state.

Most Christians, through faith, believe in a permanent afterlife with God which supersedes an impermanent physical life on earth. The afterlife is contingent on how well one handles the body and gifts bestowed on earth. If we accumulate and amass treasure, then we must give and share to alleviate the plight of our fellow travelers. If we attain power and influence, then we must leverage these forces to better the world for all of us, not inordinately for a few. Subjugating the soul in favor of the body's cravings during life may determine the final outcome; complete and everlasting loneliness instead of perpetual ecstasy.

In essence, our bodily form is a temporary symbol of all that is beautiful and important, but we cannot stay in this form, for nothing here is changeless forever. That's why recognition of the non-being of the soul is critical to how well we fare in eternity.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

Author of "Dear Reader" and "Tapestry of Love and Loss"

ALLEN

FROM PAGE 1

Waupaca County Deputy Medical Examiner Heather Fail pronounced Kroening dead at the scene.

Officers found a cellphone and a plastic bag with white powder that tested

positive for methamphetamine and fentanyl.

On the cellphone, investigators discovered evidence of text messages involving a drug deal between Allen and Kroening.

They also uncovered evidence that a relative gave Kroening a ride to Black

Creek, where he met with Allen.

An autopsy indicated that a toxic mix of fentanyl and ethanol were the cause of death.

On Aug. 18, 2022, Waupaca County charged Allen with delivery of heroin.

The homicide charge was

filed on Feb. 27, three days after Allen failed to make a Waupaca County court appearance.

Allen currently faces felony narcotics charges in Fond du Lac County, where a warrant has also been issued for his arrest.

BUILDING

FROM PAGE 1

Committee Chair Jim Supanich also said it has been difficult for the city to obtain information from Clintonville Area Ambulance.

"We've been fighting that battle for a while," Supanich said.

Committee member Tammy Strey-Hirt asked if there is a reason it is difficult to get information from the

ambulance organization.

Braden said he receives the information he needs for the meetings, adding he didn't realize the city wasn't receiving the same information.

"I didn't realize the critical link I played (in the city receiving information), and since we realized that, we've continued to have struggles getting something as simple as an extra packet mailed to city hall," Braden said.

Mayor Steve Kettenhoven said the communication issue will be discussed at a future common council meeting.

"This is a very large issue in my opinion," Kettenhoven said. "Darrell (Hansen) is our alternate on the ambulance (board), and he's not even receiving a packet. So, if Brandon couldn't make it, he'd (Hansen) go into the meeting blind."

Strey-Hirt said there is no

reason the city administrator shouldn't be receiving information from Clintonville Area Ambulance.

"She should ask for what she wants and they should hand it right over," Strey-Hirt said. "We're supposed to be working together."

Braden said the organization seems to believe the information is given to him and it is his responsibility to pass it on to whomever needs it in the city.

TRAIL

FROM PAGE 1

mission – the county hopes to extend the Wolf River Sturgeon Trail into the city someday and may see this project as a start – and the Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School program, which awards

money to pedestrian projects.

"A student could walk from wherever they live downtown on that trail system through Hatten Park to either Parkview School or the high school without crossing many [streets]," Sowle said.

Student committee member Rachel Schuler recalled passing through that area with the high school tennis team at practice, calling it "an accident waiting to happen."

"I just think it's a great idea for the safe walks to school," she said. "There's

so many kids trying to get through there."

Committee Chair Bob Besaw said he has heard from multiple people who believe the trail ends at Riverside Park with no easy way to walk into Hatten Park. More marked trail could clear up confusion.

Children's musical to hold auditions

WAUPACA – The Waupaca Community Children's Theatre will hold auditions for its 2023 summer musical production of "Madagascar - A Musical Adventure Jr."

Auditions are scheduled from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 11, at the Waupaca Learning Center's music room on Shoemaker Road.

Any necessary callbacks will take place on Thursday, April 13.

Auditions are open to area youth ages 8 to 18 who have completed second grade.

Auditionees should come prepared with something short to sing and will be asked to read from a script.

Any youth auditioning without a parent or guardian present must have a signed note from home stating that he or she has permission to audition. Parents are also responsible for picking up their child promptly at the end of his or her audition. The students do not need to stay until the end of the audition time.

Rehearsals will be held

from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Waupaca Learning Center beginning June 12.

Five performances will take place in the Waupaca Middle School's Knoepfel Auditorium during the week of July 24-27.

Cast members will also be expected to participate in Waupaca's Fourth of July Parade.

Based on the DreamWorks animation motion picture, the musical follows four friends who are thrust into an international adventure at the moment when they start to imagine the possibilities beyond the safe environment where they live.

Featuring original music

and lyrics by George Noriega and Joel Someillan and book by Kevin Del Aguila, the show follows a group of Central Park Zoo animals who are unexpectedly shipped to Africa.

Lori Zelinske, production assistant for the Waupaca Community Children's Theatre's 2022 production of "Aladdin", Jr., will direct and Emma Kelley will be the assistant director.

This production is a collaboration between the Waupaca Community Theatre and Waupaca's summer school program.

For more information visit www.fineartsfestival.org or Waupaca Community Children's Theatre on Facebook.

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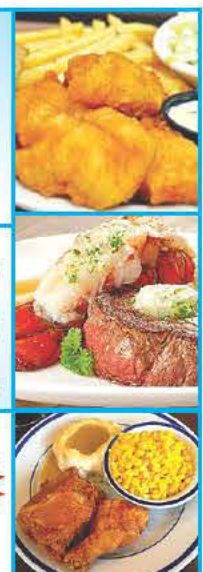
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Waupaca NEWS

Nonprofit seeks to make impact

New resources for recovery

BY JAMES CARD
STAFF REPORTER

WAUPACA – A new nonprofit in Waupaca seeks to help those struggling with drug addiction.

Its executive director and founder, Michael Hall, can be found at the Waupaca County Courthouse every Wednesday at midday. Here he helps in one way, but with this new initiative he believes he can make a much greater impact in their lives.

At 1 p.m. Wednesdays is “drug court” or more formally known as the Waupaca County Treatment Court. It is an alternative to incarceration.

People in the program go to court and meet with the judge. They are required to go to meetings each week, pass random drug tests and fulfill other recovery steps. It is a 16-month transition program.

Other people involved are from probation and parole, the police, the district attorney’s office, the public defender’s office, Wishope and Aspirus. Together they go over the cases and make recommendations.

“I know personally at least five people that I can say without that program that will still be using or still be in and out of jail. It’s an extremely valuable program. We have an extremely supportive probation office and police chief. I wish we could



Impact Wisconsin is a nonprofit founded by Michael Hall. Their goal is to help people with substance abuse disorder in Waupaca County and rural central Wisconsin.

James Card Photo

do more,” said Hall.

His solution to do more was to create Impact Wisconsin (www.impactwi.org), an organization with the goal to provide access to crisis care and addiction recovery services to people in Waupaca and rural central Wisconsin.

So far the group has a board of directors and five recovery coaches. They started out providing what they call peer support or recovery coaching to any individual that needed it at no cost. These people can be incarcerated or just leaving treatment, the hospital or jail or just people coming to terms that they have a problem.

“They go to our website, fill out an intake form and we connect with them and meet with them. I’d call us more like resource brokers. It’s a big part of what we do. We listen to what’s go-

ing on, help them come up with a game plan for their recovery, set goals and then we walk alongside them as they meet those goals and then pointing them to the right resources they need,” said Hall.

While doing this work, Hall discovered two needs that people in recovery could use. The first is a place where they can gather and support each other in a non-bar or dry type of environment. The second is a sober living residence that is alcohol and drug-free.

Hall is now real estate hunting for a place he calls the Ezra Project, a grassroots recovery center, and the Dwelling Initiative, a sober living residence that will have structured oversight. One for men, another for women.

The location of these places should be in town so the residents can make it court appearance, take drug tests, receive counseling and go to AA meetings.

“We have a vastly underserved population – but it’s a large population – of people that are in recovery from substance abuse disorder. It’s impossible to tell the percentages are of people that are suffering but the jail is full, the treatment centers are full. Right now it is meth and heroin and the old classic, alcohol. But fentanyl has become a real big problem with these people because of the overdoses,” said Hall.

Library hosts film series

WAUPACA – The Waupaca Area Public library will show two musicals as part of its Spring Film Series.

Both films will be screened at 1:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month in the lower level meeting room.

The program will open with a pre-recorded introduction by the late Dr. Jack Rhodes, followed by additional comments by local film buff, Steve Imm.

On April 6, “On Moonlight Bay” will feature Doris Day, Gordon MacRae and Jack Smith in a 1951 musical directed by Roy Del Ruth and based on stories

by Booth Tarkington.

On May 4, the 1945 biopic “Rhapsody in Blue” will present a fictional account of the life of American composer George Gershwin.

The movies are free and so is the popcorn and treats.

Synergy HomeCare and the library have teamed up to bring back the Lunch and Learn program.

Director Laura Colbert will talk about the city’s Parks and Rec programs at noon Wednesday, April 5,

At noon Wednesday, May 3, Jacob Guell from Tails for Life Inc will speak about service dogs.

The event is free, but seating is limited.

For more information and to register, go to waupacalibrary.org/adults/.

Insight Nights take place at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday evening of the month. Local educational psychologist Dr. Ivan Wayne will discuss proactive accountability and preventing forest fires on April 20; the psychology of professional wrestling on May 18; and psychological themes in “Lord of the Rings” on June 15.

Poetry contest in Waupaca

WAUPACA – Waupaca’s Poetry Committee is hosting the Poetic Voices poetry contest.

The contest has three categories of writers: ages 6-17 years old, ages 10 and older, and non-English poetry.

Poems can be written in English or in any language of the writer’s choice. A

translation must be included.

Entries should be submitted by April 1 at waupacaarts.org or in person at the Waupaca Area Public Library.

Winners will be notified by April 12.

Poetic Voices will hold a reading at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 18, at Danes Hall.

Winners of the contest will be announced and will read their selections and receive cash prizes. Local poets will read their poems followed by an open mic for audience members.

Waupaca Community Arts Board Poetry Committee and the Waupaca Area Public Library co-sponsor this event.



Shown, from left, are FRONT: Brenda Wedemeyer and Tom Walker; BACK: Tim Stiteley, Warden Joseph Mulrooney, Warden Jonathan Kaiser and representatives from the local WTU, Mike Mazemke and Artie Pethke.

Submitted photo

Disabled veteran goes hunting

WAUPACA – Army Veteran Tom Walker has always wanted to give hunting a try.

With some assistance from Brenda Wedemeyer, director of nursing, and LPN Tim Stiteley, not only did his dream become a reality, it also became a treat for other residents at the Wisconsin Veterans Home in King.

Wedemeyer took Walker hunting in 2019, while Stiteley took him this past fall.

Land was made available through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, with the help of Warden Jonathan Kaiser who coordinates with landowners and determines where hunters with disabilities may hunt.

After having the opportunity to participate, Walker also made a proposal to provide venison snacks for the veterans.

Kaiser, with the help of Mike and Kay Trewin from Northwoods Sausage

in New London, provided a large supply of venison which was made into 150 pounds of venison sticks for the veterans.

The local Chapter of Whitetail’s Unlimited paid for the processing.

Amy Formella, a therapist who works at the veterans home, arranges programs that help to enhance the lives of veterans, worked with Kaiser Whitetail’s Unlimited to create a lasting memory for Walker.

Arts Hub hosts party, open house

WAUPACA – MoJoe and Flipside will perform at the Waupaca Community Arts Hub’s Second Birthday Celebration Fun-Raiser, Saturday, April 29, at the Waupaca Country Club.

The charity event runs 6-10 p.m., with all proceeds supporting the Arts Hub’s tuition assistance and outreach programs.

The Arts Hub is a non-profit program of the Waupaca Community Arts Board.

Tickets are \$50 and include live music and dancing, heavy hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar.

The evening also will offer a 50/50 raffle as a second-

ary way of supporting Waupaca’s Arts Hub.

“We’ve been delighted with the family and community support the Arts Hub has received during its first two years of operation,” said Arts Hub Chairman Laura Reynolds. “Because of great collaborations, dedicated art, cooking, and music teachers and inspired students, the Hub has grown into an active center for arts exploration.”

Tickets for the Birthday Fun-Raiser are available on the Waupaca Community Arts Board’s website, or at the Bookcellar, Chamber of Commerce, or any Arts Hub

committee member.

Also, as part of The Arts Hub Birthday Celebration, they are hosting an open house for families from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 4.

Located in the First United Methodist Church, 720 Demarest Ave., the Arts Hub will offer tours of music lessons and art classes in action.

The open house also will feature a free make-and-take art activity for children.

For more information about the Arts Hub’s the Second Birthday Celebration events, go to the Arts Hub website.

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The School District of Waupaca is seeking bid proposals for the sale of a newly constructed house by the High School Technology Education Department under certified contractor supervision. This three bedroom, two bath, 1,456 Sq. Ft. Ranch house is completely up to code and all that is needed now is a special owner to make this house a home. Moving of the house will be the accepted bidder’s responsibility. The District reserves the right to reject any bid(s). The bid process and requirements are below.
PROJECT NAME: “The Comet House” (RFP)
ISSUE DATE: February 22, 2023
DUE DATE: March 24, 2023
DUE TIME: 12:00 p.m.
OPENING DATE: March 24, 2023
OPENING TIME: 12:30 p.m.
All proposals are due March 24, 2023 by 12:00 p.m. Responses to this solicitation shall be submitted by mail to: Carl A. Hayek – Director of Business Services, School District of Waupaca, E2325 King Rd., Waupaca, WI 54981. The outside of the envelope shall be clearly marked, “The Comet House Proposal RFP.” The RFP bid is due in the District Office no later than 12:00 p.m. Friday, March 24, 2023. Minimal Bid proposal \$50,000. A bid bond of \$2,000 or a certified check shall accompany your bid. The bid bond or certified check will be returned to the bidders who are not awarded the Comet House and applied to the awarded bidder’s payment. Payment in full from the awarded bidder shall be made with a bank certified check by March 31, 2023. It is agreed that the house will be moved by the accepted bidder at their own expense no later than May 12, 2023. All proceeds will go directly to the High School Technology Education Department. If you have any questions or would like to view the building or attain Comet House specification details, please contact Ron Saari or Steve Thomaschfsky at (715) 258-4121
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New London & Hortonville NEWS

Staff dissatisfied with school board

Civility discussed in New London

BY SCOTT BELLILE
CORRESPONDENT

NEW LONDON — The New London School Board committed to improving relations with district employees and the community following negative feedback from some staff.

Board members on March 6 unanimously voted to begin developing a list of “engagement strategies” in response to the district-wide survey, which identified themes including staff discontent with their elected officials.

A report by School Perceptions, a Slinger-based research firm hired to conduct the survey last fall, highlights anonymous comments that accuse board members of pushing political and religious agendas and pursuing issues with little local relevance, leading to infighting among the board and in turn hurting staff morale.

“There are some times that I walk away from our meetings going, wow, if only they could hear how they sound,” Director Mandy Wilz told her fellow board members. “Because I guarantee you some of you guys are not intentionally trying to sound

that way, but if ... it was replayed back to you, I think you guys would have a different viewpoint on how you’re coming across.”

Several political and culture war issues have appeared before the board this school year, resulting in lengthy debates.

The board in September approved on a 5-2 vote Board President Chris Martinson’s resolution to oppose the U.S. Department of Agriculture denying federal meal funds to school districts that do not implement policies to protect transgender students.

In February, the board voted 4-3 to prohibit second graders and below from borrowing two horror books from elementary school libraries following a parent complaint.

The board in September tabled Martinson’s resolution in support of the 2021 Wisconsin Act passed by the Republican state legislature and vetoed by Democratic Gov. Tony Evers. The “parent bill of rights” empowered parents to sue a school district if it violates any of 15 rights, including providing advance notice of “certain subjects” taught in classrooms and the ability to opt out of coursework due to “religion or personal conviction.”

That month, the board also

tabled Vice President John Heideman’s resolution calling upon the state to permit concealed carry in schools and offer firearms training to school staff. On March 6, District Administrator Scott Bleck presented engagement strategies for the board to consider including lunch with the staff, job shadowing and facilities tours.

“If we can have a core group of our board that is committed to making sure that we always have that representation at whatever these engagement activities are, that alone sends the message that it’s important to our stakeholders, to our school community, to our staff who is giving to the board the feedback,” Bleck said.

Board members agreed to return to annually touring each school and holding a board meeting there.

Director Terry Wegner said this past practice allowed parents and taxpayers to come voice their opinions at the school nearest to them.

He suggested staff be provided an app to leave feedback anonymously on the board’s conduct after meetings.

“Nobody wants to get in trouble for what they say,” Heideman said in agreement.

Wilz doubted public appearances at schools would

be the solution, noting the survey respondents’ feedback focused on the board’s behavior internally. She said team building among the board’s directors should take precedence.

“Like the staff is going to give two rips if we go there and shadow them a day if they all know that we can’t interact together professionally or get along,” Wilz said. “They’re not going to care if we’re in their building ... observing them. It’s going to be meaningless to them.”

Board members in December took steps toward civility by participating in a “board norms” professional development session with the CESA 6 educational service agency.

There they developed a school board mission statement and committed to abiding by a list of values — such as respect, understanding and compromise — at all future meetings.

“I think one of the things is that survey was taken before we established board norms,” Martinson said, “and I’m not saying we’ve been perfect since then, not at all, but it was a positive step.”

“We probably wouldn’t have done the board norms if we hadn’t gotten the results of these surveys first,” Treasurer Mark Grossman said.

Board favors compost fees

BY SCOTT BELLILE
CORRESPONDENT

NEW LONDON — Members of the New London Board of Public Works expressed support for charging an annual fee to use the community yard waste site.

While they did not approve a fee on March 6, they told Public Works Director Robert Garske to develop a plan to fund the purchase of security cameras, which would be operated in conjunction with a paid decal program. “We’ve got to do something,” Alderman Bob Besaw said of the city’s illegal dumping problem. “I think it’s a good idea.”

Garske proposed charging residents \$10 the first year to drop off yard clippings and brush at the wastewater treatment plant and \$5 per subsequent year. The fees would cover a vehicle decal — which would be detectable by the cameras — and a key card to unlock the entry gate.

The proposal is designed to thwart nonresident use of the compost site, which city

officials say adds up to higher costs to haul away brush.

“My concern is if that gate is closed and we have a card system to open that gate, how many [nonpaying] people will take and dump stuff [outside] the fence?” Board Chairman Mike Barrington asked.

“Not many if you have a camera and the word gets out” of enforcement, Garske said.

Municipal code states littering could result in a fine of \$218.50.

The board also recommended the city council renew a \$12,000 contract with storm clean-up company DTAK, allowing city workers to continue transporting yard waste from the drop-off site to DTAK’s premises for another year.

Garske said restricting dumping to residents with paid access would reduce the amount of tree branches at the site, so the smaller piles could be sawed with a woodchipper machine, thereby eliminating the need for future contracts with DTAK.

Candidates’ forum in New London

NEW LONDON — A candidates’ forum will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 28, at the Washington Center, corner of Washington and Dickinson streets.

The Wolf River Area Patriots invited all candidates in the New London School Board election and the Outagamie County executive race on April 4.

State Supreme Court candidates have also been invited to either participate or to send a representative.

Accepting so far are candidate Kevin Sturn (candidate for Outagamie County Executive), as well as two candidates for New London School Board (John Heideman and Chris Martinson). Candidate for State Supreme Court Dan Kelly will either attend or send a representative.

For more information, call Seth Cowan at 920-968-5335.

Those attending the forum should use the south entrance off Dickinson.

Dream cabin nears completion

One man’s creation in the north woods

BY JAMES CARD
STAFF REPORTER

FLORENCE — A New London man is a few steps away from finishing his dream cabin in the Wisconsin Northwoods.

Since 2006, Rick Vissers has driven two and a half hours from his home near Barber’s Landing to his rural property near Spread Eagle to work on a cabin made of massive white pine logs. All that’s left is a little bit of trim work.

“I helped a buddy build a log cabin over by Newald. I thought that was really cool so I always wanted one. I never expected this, though. The size of these logs is just crazy. The one we built were 12, 13-inch logs,” said Vissers, who is a retired millwright and U.S. Army veteran.



New London resident Rick Vissers has spent the past ten years working on his log cabin in Florence County. The cabin was erected in 2013 but work started years earlier when he acquired the woodlot.

James Card Photo

The logs are so large that an average-sized person can barely wrap their arms around them. Vissers bought the 3.5-acre lot in a sheriff’s sale in 2006. He met a guy at a bar named Dave Vista, a log home builder, and Vissers’ cabin would be the last one he built before retiring.

The white pine logs were procured in Dagget, Mich. Vista started construction in 2013 at another location and then marked the logs and dis-

assembled it for transport via flatbed.

At the building site, when the crane topped the cabin with the ridge beam, two-foot thick and 60-feet long, the giant log flexed in the air like a rubber hose. Another contractor put on the steep-pitched roof with the use of bucket trucks.

Weekends of work

The bare-bones roofed

cabin structure was the starting point for years of work. In 2009, Vissers built a detached garage that doubled as storage shed, workshop and base camp. He slept in a camper during his weekend work visits.

The most striking of his cabin’s interior are the tiger-stripe peeled logs. To produce the tiger stripe effect he used 4.5-inch grinders with a roto-clip, a disc used to trim the hooves of cattle. The logs were partially peeled of bark but still had off-colored patches of cambium, the later between the bark and the sapwood. He used scaffolding to reach the high spots.

“We sanded it and polyurethaned everything with a spray gun. We used about ten gallons,” he said.

The cambium on the interior can be tiger-striped for a rustic aesthetic, but the cambium on the exterior has to be completely removed

Cabin

CONTINUES ON PAGE 11

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Minutes 7725

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Minutes 7725

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Ballweg to meet local voters

COUNTY – State Sen. Joan Ballweg, R-Markesan, will hold listening sessions on the state budget in Waupaca and Clintonville on Monday, March 27.

“This session I’m again serving as a member of the Joint Committee on Finance, and I look forward to working on a budget that is good for all of Wisconsin,” said Ballweg. “I look forward to talking direct-



Ballweg

ly with people from the 14th Senate District so I can learn about what issues they see as a priority for state funding.”

Ballweg will meet with constituents in the lower level of the Waupaca Area Public Library, 11 S. Main St., from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and in the meeting room at the Clintonville Public Library, 75 Hemlock St., from 1-2 p.m. Monday, March 27.



Halftime entertainment

Hortonville High School's dance team performed during halftime of Hortonville's girls' basketball game against Kettle Moraine in a Division 1 state semifinal at the WIAA Girls' State Basketball Tournament at the Resch Center in Green Bay.

Greg Seubert Photo

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CABIN

FROM PAGE 4

otherwise the preservative stain would not penetrate the wood tissue. The solution was corn cobs. Instead of sandblasting, grit from corn cobs was used as an abrasive medium. The corn cob grains are biodegradable and environmentally friendly.

Visser did all of the chinking himself, which is the plugging of the gaps between the logs. In the old days, cabin builders used moss and clay. Modern chinking material is a spongy yet firm acrylic elastic compound that can stretch and contract as the logs settle.

“It shrinks. The logs were green and a log shrinks like this,” said Visser as he made a circle with both hands and made it smaller.

“Beneath the center pole, I made a big jack out of 1.5-inch threaded rod and two giant washers under it with the bolts and as it shrinks, I had to relieve that. It would

pop these logs right out. I’m done [adjusting] but every year I had to lower it an inch,” he said.

He installed the doors and windows and from wind-fallen red oak at his New London home. He harvested the wood and had them planed for his hardwood floors. He also used the red oak for the kitchen cabinets. For the live-edge white pine kitchen countertop, he had the timber cut with a Wood-Mizer into thick slabs and took them to a planning mill.

By 2015, the cabin was livable but he was still putting up walls. On the stairway he finished the railing with twig-work spindles woven with grapevines. Visser did the electrical and plumbing work. He has holding tanks for septic and a drilled well. Power is from a distribution line that snakes through the woods and also serves some other neighbors.

One half of the basement is a garage and the other half

holds the LP forced-air furnace and hot water heater. A woodstove provides supplementary heat and is the centerpiece of the living room. Vissers made a deck of white pine logs on the ground. It was so heavy he lifted it up into position with a backhoe.

The cabin is decorated with shoulder mounts of big whitetail bucks and mounted gamefish. The handles on the kitchen cabinets are made from deer antlers.

“When I built this, I didn’t hunt for six years. I hardly did any fishing, either. Every time I came up here I was working on this,” said Vissers.

He has observed timber wolves, black bears, whitetail deer, wild turkeys and ruffed grouse around the cabin. “We get lots of cool birds in the summertime. Ever see a scarlet tanager? They are up here. Sometimes we see a sandhill crane walking down the road once in a while,” he said.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

FROM PAGE 6

reported a man was at the end of the driveway threatening people inside the house.

• March 11 – A Marion man on State Highway 45 reported his catalytic converter was stolen. There were fresh tracks in the snow.

• March 11 – A Waupaca woman on Otter Drive reported a fraud involving a letter from a bank for a Play Station Visa account.

• March 11 – A female caller reported she was defrauded out of \$2,000 through a cash app.

• March 11 – A Fremont man on County Trunk H reported a hit-and-run involving

an intoxicated woman.

• March 11 – A Manawa caller on Walnut Street reported his father was extremely intoxicated and belligerent and threatened to burn down the caller’s house.

• March 11 – A Waupaca man on Miner Drive reported an intoxicated woman being verbally abusive. She has made suicidal threats in the past.

• March 12 – An Ogdensburg man on Campbell Lake Road said a woman showed up at his house. She was hurt and stated her husband mentally abused her.

• March 12 – A Scandinavia man on Rollofson Lake Road reported he was scammed out of \$1,000 while trying to put money down on a vehicle he

found online.

• There were an average number of deer-auto collisions during this period. There was a large number of auto crashes and vehicles stuck in the ditch from the recent snowfall, including a stuck school bus. Very few residents called in controlled burns. ThedaCare in Waupaca reported a dog bit an Amazon deliver driver and two days later, a neighbor’s dog bit another woman. Berlin Hospital reported a dog bit an insurance inspector. A loose horse was reported near State Highway 54. A loose cow was reported on County Trunk E in Weyauwega. A black cow was reported walking down the road in Ogdensburg.

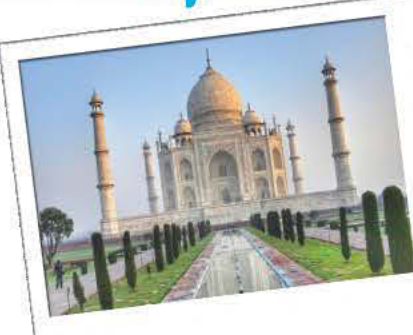
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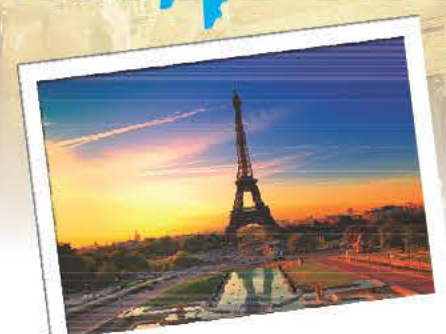


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Sports

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Bulldogs' quest for state ends one win short

BY GREG SEUBERT
SPORTS EDITOR

NEW LONDON – The sectional final round of the WIAA state boys' basketball tournament wasn't very kind to the Bay Conference.

Three Bay teams – New London, West De Pere and Xavier – suited up March 11 for a chance to advance to state, but all three came up short.

New London's season came to an end with a 48-44 loss to La Crosse Central in a Division 2 sectional final in Marshfield, while West De Pere fell to Nicolet 66-59 in another Division 2 matchup and Xavier dropped a 77-73 decision to Brillion in Division 3.

New London had ad-

vanced to the final March 9 with a 61-57 win over Mosinee at Waupaca High School.

LC Central 48, New London 44

MARSHFIELD – New London was attempting to make it to state for the first time since 1999, the year the Bulldogs returned from Madison with the Division 2 championship.

Central was trying to get back to the Kohl Center in Madison after placing second last year. The second-seeded RiverHawks will face No. 3 Whitnall Friday, March 17, while top-seeded Pewaukee will play No. 4 Nicolet in the other semifinal.

The Bulldogs scored the game's first seven points and took a 20-17 lead into the locker room at halftime.

Kyle Wisniewski's basket three minutes into the second half gave the Bulldogs a 25-19 lead, but Central answered with a 10-3 run to go up 29-28.

The lead changed hands three more times in before Frankie Wilk's basket gave the RiverHawks the lead for good at 36-34.

Central held New London's Kyle Wisniewski to 14 points after the senior scored 30 to help lead the Bulldogs over Mosinee.

"We knew Kyle would have to battle, but I thought

Bulldogs

CONTINUES ON PAGE 13



Kyle Wisniewski scored a game-high 30 points for New London March 9 in a 61-57 win over Mosinee in a WIAA Division 2 sectional semifinal at Waupaca High School. The Bulldogs' season ended two days later with a 48-44 loss to La Crosse Central.

Greg Seubert Photo

Coaches name all-state teams

BY GREG SEUBERT
SPORTS EDITOR

WISCONSIN DELLS – Two area girls' basketball players have received all-state recognition from the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association.

Hortonville senior Rainey Welson is one of 11 players on the Division 1 all-state team, while New London senior Lizzie Steingraber is on the Division 2 honorable mention team.

Welson helped lead Hortonville to a 25-4 record and a trip to state.

She averaged 19.3 points,

4.9 rebounds, 4.7 assists and 2.8 steals per game and scored a school-record 41 points March 4 in a 71-54 win over Neenah in a sectional final.

She made the honorable mention all-state team last year as a freshman and has scored 971 points in her first two seasons.

Besides Welson, the Division 1 all-state team includes Germantown's KK Arnold; Neenah's Allie Ziebell; Appleton East's Sammie Beyer; Kimberly's MaKenzie Drouit; Kettle Moraine's Grace Grocholski and Braelyn Torres; Brook-

field East's Shae Kelley and Annika Pluemer; and Kaukauna's Alexa Kinas.

Steingraber helped lead the Bulldogs to a 20-5 season that included a regional championship and a second-place finish in the Bay Conference.

She is one of 25 players on the honorable mention team. Other Bay Conference players on the team are Shawano's Leah Nordin, West De Pere's Faith Walder and Menasha's Mara Rieder.

All-state and honorable mention teams for divisions 3-5 will be announced later.

Hortonville girls fall to eventual state champion

BY GREG SEUBERT
SPORTS EDITOR

GREEN BAY – A first state championship for the Hortonville girls' basketball program has been put on hold.

Again.

The Polar Bears' season ended March 10 with a 77-67 loss to eventual Division 1 state champion Kettle Moraine in a semifinal game at the WIAA State Girls' Basketball Tournament at the Resch Center in Green Bay.

Hortonville saw its season end with a 25-4 record, while the Lasers went on to win their second straight state title.

The Polar Bears trailed 6-2 less than two minutes into the game, but responded with a 19-5 run to take their biggest lead – 21-11 – on Jada Stuewer's layup.

Kettle Moraine then scored 17 of the game's next 19 points to take a 28-23 lead with just over three minutes remaining in the

first half and scored the final seven points of the half to take a 35-24 lead into the locker room.

"We went on a run early," coach AC Clouthier said. "We've been very fortunate that we've been able to start off a lot of games that way. They went on a couple of more runs than we did and couldn't weather it."

Braelyn Torres' basket gave the Lasers their biggest lead – 50-32 – with 13 minutes to go in the game. Hortonville later cut the lead to 54-48 on a three-pointer from Leah Heraly and to 71-65 on another three-pointer from Rainey Welson with 1:15 to go, but never got any closer.

"They played really well," Clouthier said. "They've got some really good basketball players. Their bench really showed up tonight. We really tried to put pressure on (Grace Grocholski and Torres) and the rest of their team made a lot of plays for them



Hortonville's Trinity Mocadlo guards Kettle Moraine's Grace Grocholski March 10 in a Division 1 state semifinal game at the WIAA State Girls' Basketball Tournament in Green Bay. Grocholski scored a team-high 21 points in the Lasers' 77-67 win over the Polar Bears. Mocadlo scored 15 points in her final high school basketball game and Kettle Moraine went on to win its second straight state championship with a win over Brookfield East.

Greg Seubert Photo

tonight, which obviously shows up in a state championship basketball team."

Welson ended up leading all scorers with 28 points.

"They changed up their

matchups a couple different times and I think that's a credit to our athletes making plays early," Clouthier said. "It really kept us guessing a couple times. They did

a little more face guarding on Rainey later and we had trouble getting her the ball. That's when we got stale for a little bit. Credit Rainey. She battled and battled and

battled."

Trinity Mocadlo and McKayla Werner added 15 and 13 points, respectively, for

Hortonville

CONTINUES ON PAGE 13



New London senior Lizzie Steingraber has been named the Bay Conference girls' basketball player of the year after averaging 17.7 points and 3.2 assists per game. She will continue her basketball career at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Greg Seubert Photo

Steingraber named Bay's top player

BY GREG SEUBERT
SPORTS EDITOR

NEW LONDON – Not only did Lizzie Steingraber leave her mark on the New London girls' basketball team this season, she left it on the Bay Conference as well.

Conference coaches selected the senior as the Bay's player of the year after she helped lead the Bulldogs to a 20-5 record that included a second-place finish in the league with a 10-2 mark.

Although Steingraber's high school basketball career ended with a sectional semifinal loss to eventual state qualifier Lakeland, she still has plenty of time on the court ahead of her. She will suit up for the Division 1 women's program at the University of St. Thomas in

St. Paul, Minnesota.

The Tommies offered Steingraber a scholarship even though she missed most of her junior season recovering from a torn ACL.

"The coaching staff was amazing and with my situation of tearing my ACL last year, they really put a lot of trust in me," she said. "I had some other schools recruiting me as well, but I really wouldn't want to go anywhere else. It's a faith-based school and that's exactly what I love. That was the icing on the cake and that means a lot to me."

Steingraber's season-ending knee injury helped lead her to a successful senior season. She led the Bulldogs

Steingraber

CONTINUES ON PAGE 13

BULLDOGS

FROM PAGE 12

Kyle handled it really well," coach Zach Molner said. "(Central's Boston Brinley) is one of the better defenders he's seen and he still held his own."

Central came into the game holding teams to just over 40 points a game in its three tournament wins over Tomah, Onalaska and Medford.

"That's what they're best at, they play really, really good defense," Molner said.

The Bulldogs finished their season with an 18-10 record and tied with Menasha for fourth place in the Bay standings.

"Our seniors led us, all eight of them," Molner said. "We're just going to keep trying to build off of it. This should motivate some kids coming in. We have a lot of talent coming back, but we're certainly going to miss those seniors."

New London 61, Mosinee 57

WAUPACA – Almost half of New London's points against Mosinee came from one source: Wisniewski.

The senior scored the Bulldogs' first 11 points and went on to lead all players with 30.

Wisniewski's 17 points in the first half helped the Bulldogs take a 32-24 lead at the break.

A basket from Mosinee's Garrett Shupe and a three-pointer from teammate Keagen Jirschele quickly trimmed New London's lead to three points, but the Bulldogs answered with an 8-0 run to take their biggest lead of the game, 40-29.

The Indians chipped away at the lead and eventually tied the game at 50-50 with just under six minutes to play on Davin Stoffel's three-point play. However, Mosinee never regained the lead and the

Bulldogs scored their final six points from the free-throw line.

Wisniewski was the only New London player to finish in double figures. Jonah Schluetter added nine points and Brett Krause chipped in with eight.

Molner had two words when asked what led to the Bulldogs' 18th win of the season.

"Kyle Wisniewski," he said. "I keep saying that he has that senior attitude where he doesn't want his career to be over. He's playing some of the best ball of his career."

Wisniewski's 30 points included a three-pointer with just under three minutes remaining that gave the Bulldogs a 55-50 lead.

"That was big," Molner said. "I think he earned that one, so we'll take it. He's done so much more. He's been a heck of a playmaker for us."

Jirschele and Stoffel led the Indians with 22 and 20 points, respectively.

STEINGRABER

FROM PAGE 12

in points (17.7) and assists (3.2) per game.

"It put a little bit of a stop to my recruiting, but I think that's what made me work harder because I didn't want it to put a stop to it at all," she said.

Steingraber returned to the court Nov. 15 by scoring 12 points in a season-opening 54-45 win over Mosinee. Later in the season, she had buzzer-beating baskets in wins over Winneconne and Stevens Point.

"I worked really hard to get there," she said. "I knew my teammates were cheering for me. It felt really great and it was everything that I had worked for."

Steingraber grew up around the sport of basketball.

"I had three older sib-

lings that played and watching them, I always knew I wanted to be better than them," she said. "I was a shorty when I was little, but I wanted to work hard and be better than they were."

Steingraber's season ended March 2 with a 77-46 loss to Lakeland in a Division 2 sectional semifinal.

"We did a lot and worked really hard to get here," she said. "I know we could have gone farther, but the ball just didn't go in the hoop like we wanted. This team worked really hard and we deserved everything that we got."

Bay Conference All-Conference Girls' Basketball Teams

First Team

Guard: Lizzie Steingraber*, senior, New London.

Shooting guard: Ella Francois, sophomore, West De Pere. Point guard: Faith Walder*, sophomore, West De Pere. Guard/forward: Leah Nordin*, freshman, Shawano. Forward: Mara Rieder*, senior, Menasha.

Second Team

Guard: Carsyn Stempa, junior, Xavier; Jensen Mix, junior, New London; Rayanna Jenkins, freshman, Menasha. Shooting guard: Madiyn Berggren, sophomore, West De Pere; Katie Waukau, senior, West De Pere.

Honorable Mention

Guard: Jamaya Mariner, sophomore, Green Bay East; Keira VandeHei, sophomore, Seymour.

Forward: Shelby Glodowski, junior, New London; Kenna Mix, junior, New London; Abigail Bystol, junior, Shawano. Player of the year: Lizzie Steingraber, senior, New London (overall); Leah Nordin, freshman, Shawano, Ella Francois, sophomore, West De Pere, Mara Rieder, senior, Menasha (defensive players).

* - Denotes unanimous selection.

HORTONVILLE

FROM PAGE 12

Hortonville, while Grocholski led the Lasers with 21 points.

Clouthier coached the Polar Bears to their fourth trip to state in his first season at Hortonville. The Polar Bears lost in the semifinal round in 1987, 2017, 2018 and 2019. The team also qualified in 2020, but the tournament was called off because of the coronavirus.

"I'm not looking at the

future at this moment in time," Clouthier said. "I just want to spend it with the kids I went to battle with. These kids are great. They're even better kids in the community. They do so many cool things for our youth and our schools. That's what makes them who they are. Win or lose tonight, they're still champions in my book."

• Kettle Moraine went on to win its second straight Division 1 championship the following day with a

47-40 win over Brookfield East. In other championship games, Notre Dame won its third straight Division 2 title with a 64-49 win over Pewaukee, Kewaskum won its first state championship with a 55-51 win over Milwaukee School of Science in Division 3, Laconia topped Aquinas 64-51 in Division 4 to win its first state championship and McDonell Catholic won its first state title with a 61-46 win over Blair-Taylor in Division 5.

Parks, Recreation

Pool

Clintonville

Women's League

Division 1 (wins): Jeanne Rose 2 (148), Bun's Ball Busters (137), Lowell's Landing (129), Suzy Q's 1 (110), Club 45 (103), Bun's 1 (97), Bump's (95), Racks & Rails 1 (93), Big Sal's (84), D's Corner Pocket (76).

Division 2 (wins): Gopher's (152), Sticky Buns (150), Big Falls Tavern (124), Bun's Pocket Rockets (118), Mike's (100), Racks & Rails 2 (82), Suzy Q's 2 (80), Philagains (74),

Jeanne Rose 1 (64).

8 ball run: Connie Lang, Gopher's.

Volleyball

Clintonville

Men's League

Standings: Net Worth (35-7); Tom's Construction (32-10); Total Foam Specialists (28-14); Sand Baggers (26-15); Tower Crew (23-19); G-Force Building (14-28); Durie Electric (6-35); Team No Name (3-39). Results: Tower Crew 3, Durie Electric 0; Tom's Construction 2, Total Foam

Specialists 1; Net Worth 2, G-Force Building 1; Sand Baggers 3, Team No Name 0.

Clintonville

Women's League

Standings: Club 45 (34-5); Aces Down, Set Up (28-8); Serves of Steel (22-20); Been There, Dug That (16-26); Rad Raddants (11-28); A-OK Construction (9-33). Results: Club 45 2, Aces Down, Set Up 1; Serves of Steel 2, Rad Raddants 1; Club 45 3, A-OK Construction 0; Been There, Dug That 2, A-OK Construction 1.

W-F Middle School wrestlers place fourth in Wrightstown

WRIGHTSTOWN – The season may be over for high school wrestling teams, but the Weyauwega-Fremont Middle School team is finding plenty of success on the mat.

The team competed March

11 at the Northeast Wisconsin Conference Tournament in Wrightstown and returned home with a fourth-place finish.

"This is the biggest middle school conference tournament in the state, with 24

of the best teams in north-east Wisconsin competing," coach Tim Potratz said. "The team placed fourth behind Kaukauna, Luxemburg-Casco and Hortonville."

Jaydon LeNoble won the 95-pound championship;

Collin Hamm finished second at 126; Jake Buss (112), Caleb Leschke (148), Conner Mannel (160) and Wyatt Wetzel (190) placed third; and Camden Stichman placed sixth at 119 to round out the team's medalists.

Logan McDaniel and Zander Bayer won four matches in the tournament, but did not place. Joe Thraen, Grant Baehman, Nick Olson and Jason Hansen also won matches for Weyauwega-Fremont.

Coleman finished fifth and the rest of the top 15 included Brillion, Shawano, Shiocton, Wittenberg-Birnamwood, Neenah, Marinette, Oconto Falls, Fond du Lac, Lena and Wrightstown.



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