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# WAUPACA County Post

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**LOCAL**

## Waupaca School Board OKs 5% pay increases

All staff to  
get raises in  
2023-22

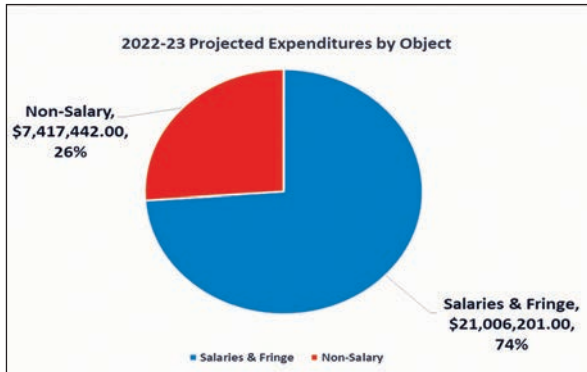
BY ROBERT CLOUD  
SENIOR EDITOR

WAUPACA – The Waupaca School Board voted to give teaching, administrative and support staff 5% raises for 2023-24.

The increases were all recommended by Carl Hayek, the district's director of business services.

"Our district's long-term sustainability depends on logical economic principles of supply and demand," Hayek told the board. "We are not like the private sector, where businesses can simply increase their prices. When we spend more than we have, we increase taxes."

He said the personnel budget is more than salaries and hourly pay. It includes health and dental insurance, short- and long-term disability, payments into the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS), FICA, Social Security, employee flex plans, extra duty pay,



PowerPoint slide from presentation by Carl Hayek, the Waupaca School District's director of business services. Source: Jan. 9, 2023, Legislative Fiscal Bureau memo

substitute pay and pay for professional development, extended contracts and extracurricular duties, as well as Employee Tax-sheltered Annuity Management.

"When all salaries go up, the district is responsible for a 7% WRS on that number," Hayek said.

### Revenues caps and spending

The state sets revenues caps on school district spending, which determines the level of general state aid a district receives and the level of property taxes a district levies.

"The revenue cap con-

trols 88.12% of our money," Hayek said. "Over the past years it hasn't gone up at all."

State funding accounted for 46.7% of the Waupaca School District's general operating funding last year, while property taxes were 41.4% of total revenues.

Hayek said the governor's proposed 2023-25 budget for K-12 education is probably double what the legislature will approve.

"The best-case scenario is that state revenues will increase by 4%, not 8%," he said.

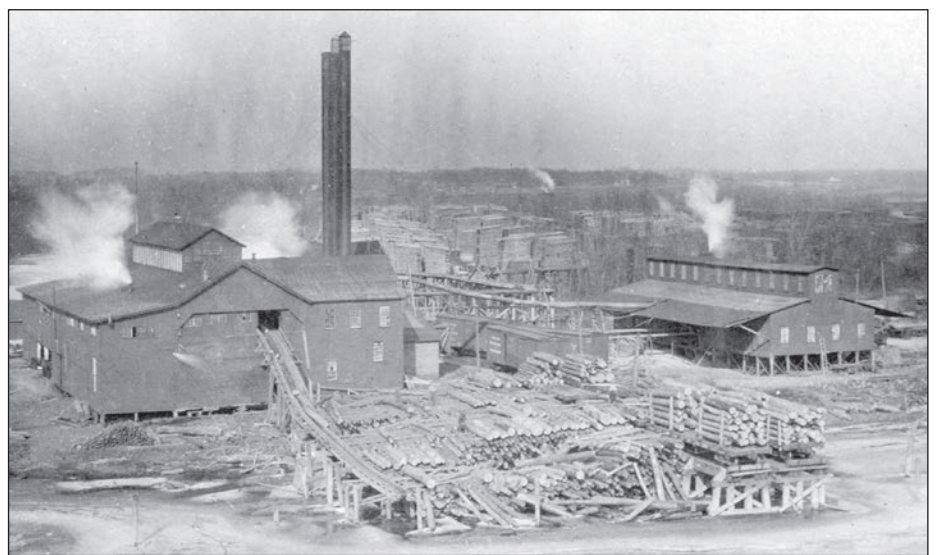
**Pay Increase**  
CONTINUES ON PAGE 2



## Memorial Day in King

Luke Semrau of Pulaski performs "God Bless America" on the bagpipes May 29 at the annual Memorial Day ceremony at the Central Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery in King. Gov. Tony Evers and James Bond, secretary-designee of the state Department of Veterans Affairs, spoke at the ceremony.

Greg Seubert Photo



A vintage postcard from the "Made in New London" exhibit.

Courtesy of the New London Public Museum All Rights Reserved

## 'Made in New London'

Museum  
highlights  
local industry

BY ROBERT CLOUD  
SENIOR EDITOR

NEW LONDON – Two rivers for transportation and uncleared forests for timber attracted early settlers to New London, according to Christine Cross.

Cross, director of the New London Public Museum, is currently organizing an exhibit on the history of local manufacturing.

"Made in New London" opens June 5 at the museum. "New London was a good area for transportation," Cross said. "It started with passable rivers, then rail."

When European settlers first arrived, they found the Wolf and Embarrass rivers provided transportation for shipping lumber and other products from New London. The rivers also provided power for lumber mills, flour mills and condensing factories for dairy products.

Among New London's early manufacturers was

Christian Frederick Laib, who came from Germany via New York to New London in 1849.

Laib was a master woodworker who built cabinets, dressers, desks and game tables. He received a number of patents for his unique furniture designs beginning in the 1870s.

Cross said the exhibit will also include "the last piece of furniture that came off the assembly line at Simmons."

Called a combo unit, this

**Industry**  
CONTINUES ON PAGE 2



Three of the five students from Waupaca High School who are military bound. On May 26 the seniors signed up for the U.S. Army, National Guard, Marine Corps and Air Force. Other students were honored for apprenticeships, skilled labor employment, state certifications and admittance into technical colleges.

James Card Photo

## Grads pick their paths

Scholarships  
at \$809  
per minute

BY JAMES CARD  
STAFF REPORTER

WAUPACA – Graduating seniors in the class of 2023 are heading in many different directions.

Already the Waupaca High School Scholarship Foundation has awarded \$230,650 in scholarship funds which calculates to \$809.30 being awarded per minute during the 4.75-hour selection process. Also, another \$31,250 was awarded through other local scholarship donors.

On Friday, May 26, at the Performing Arts Center, seniors, their parents, educators and employers gathered to recognize numerous graduates and their career choices.

"We're very thankful for our strong relationship with the School District of Waupaca and Waupaca Works. Together our community, schools and businesses are stronger," said Beth Nash, director of Inspire Waupaca County.

She introduced 2020 graduate Noah Lencki who forged his own path in aviation and built a creative design firm that specializes in drone photography. He is currently a flight instructor at the Waupaca airport.

Lencki talked about the value of hands-on work experience and talked about his journey after he left high school.

Six students going the skilled labor route have teamed with local employers, including entrepreneur Robert Melk, employing himself as the CEO of Melk's Mow N' Maintenance.

Three students were recognized for their apprenticeships: Sawyer Bohm with Riesterer and Schnell, Andrew Lehman with Suburban Enterprises and Rhett Nelson with Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 400.

"A special thank you to our employers for your willingness to open your doors to our students and allowing them firsthand to learn the details for your businesses," said Principal Mike Werbowsky.

Twelve students have been admitted to technical

colleges with most of them going to Fox Valley and one student going to Mid-State and another heading to Northeast Wisconsin.

On the stage, 47 students were recognized for earning state certifications in various fields such as AutoCAD, certified nursing assistants, OSHA 10, gas metal arc welding, automotive service excellence, inventor and youth apprenticeships.

"What's really cool about the state certifications is that it allows a student to not only walk out of here with a diploma but with a certification that makes them employable. We have a very comprehensive career and technical program here that allows students to take coursework that doubles down on state certification," said school counselor Jeff Dolski.

Five students have chosen the military route: Andrew Allen and Rachel Thobaben (National Guard), Melvin Covill (Marine Corps), Zack Mondello (Air Force) and Michael Wennesberg (Army).

## College Days for Kids at UWSP

Clintonville  
students  
attend event

BY BERT LEHMAN  
STAFF REPORTER

CLINTONVILLE – Nine sixth-grade students from the Clintonville School District attended College Days for Kids at the UW-Stevens Point campus April 14.

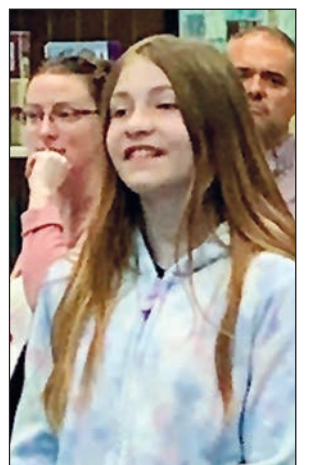
Two of those students attended the May 8 Clintonville School Board meeting to share their experiences with the board.

Brittany Schmidt, district director of curricu-

lum, told the board that College Days for Kids is a program for high-ability sixth graders. Participating students spend a day at UW-Stevens Point participating in enrichment classes taught by faculty and academic staff of the university.

Goals of the program include introducing students to a university setting and encouraging them to set educational goals. Also, to provide exposure to a variety of topics including humanities and sciences, and to

**College Days**  
CONTINUES ON PAGE 2



Keira Kopplinger shared his experience at College Days for Kids with the Clintonville School Board.

Bert Lehman Photo

**INDUSTRY**

FROM PAGE 1

piece of children's furniture featured a chest of drawers with an area for hanging clothes.

Simmons Juvenile Products Co. in New London built children's furniture. It has roots back to the mid-19th century when the business was known as Wisconsin Cabinet and Panel Company. Thomas Edison purchased the business in 1917 to make cabinets for his phonographs.

In 1927, Edison Wood Products shifted its production to children's furniture and eventually became Simmons Juvenile Products.

The New London Simmons plant closed in 2005 after the brand name and product lines were sold to Delta and production moved overseas.

"Made in New London" also includes Hatten Lumber Mill, which was owned by William Hatten from 1889 to 1937.



Hatten Lumber is among the companies featured in the "Made in New London exhibit at the New London Public Museum.

Photo courtesy of New London Public Museum

Hatten and his partner, James Meiklejohn, floated timber down the Embarras River to their mill. They also purchased lumber from area farmers.

In the mid 1930s, Hatten donated \$10,000 to help the city purchase 100 acres for a park and to build a stadium in New London. President Roosevelt's New Deal program, the Public Works Administration, employed New London residents during the Great

Depression to build Hatten Memorial Stadium.

Hatten died in 1937 and the mill closed in 1970.

These are some of the businesses to be featured through photographs and artifacts in the exhibit, which continues through October.

Located at 406 S. Pearl St., the New London Public Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday in the summer. Admission is free.

**PAY INCREASE**

FROM PAGE 1

**Compounded expenses**

"Anything new, any added percentage increase for any annual item, increases the budget by that amount forever unless an annual budget reduction is made in the same amount," Hayek said.

He argued that deficit spending has long-term implications of a cycle of going to referendums year after year to exceed the revenue cap to cover the higher salaries.

He said relying on referendums for operating expenses is unsustainable.

"Once a district starts exceeding the revenue cap without draconian budget cuts, it is extremely difficult to stop short-term borrowing and a district depletes its fund balance in the process," Hayek said.

Hayek showed a possible scenario where the Waupaca School District increased salaries and benefits by 4.5% and other budget items by 3%, while growing revenues by only 1%.

By 2025-26, the district was running an annual \$2.9 million deficit and the fund balance had dropped from \$11.24 million in 2022-23 to \$5.48 in 2025-26.

Hayek said a budget shortfall begins compounding, growing larger year after year, until there is no fund balance.

"Within three years, the district will be short-term borrowing," Hayek said. "You can't borrow money if you don't have a fund balance."

**Per pupil spending**

"How do we balance our budget?" Hayek asked.

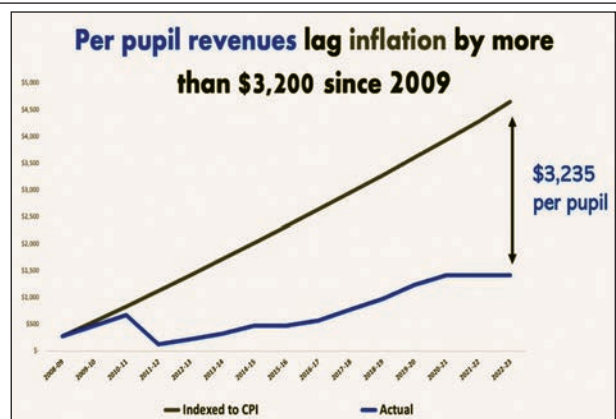
The state of Wisconsin has dropped from being ranked No. 11 nationwide in per-pupil spending in 2002 to No. 25 in 2020, Hayek said.

In 2002, Wisconsin per pupil spending for public education was 11% above the national average, in 2020 it was 5.6% below the national average.

Hayek described it as "the largest drop in rankings of any state and that was before the 2021-23 funding freeze."

**Declining enrollments**

Nearly three-quarters of school districts in Wisconsin have been experiencing declining enrollment, including Waupaca.



PowerPoint slide from presentation by Carl Hayek, the Waupaca School District's director of business services.

Source: Jan. 9, 2023, memo from Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau

Waupaca's enrollment has dropped from 2,461 in 2004-05 to 1,993 in 2021-22.

Over the past five years, while the number of students dropped by more than 100, the number of teachers decreased from 183.8 to 181.8.

"We didn't lay off any teachers," Hayek said.

**Referendums**

Hayek noted that while Wisconsin voters approved 83% of school referendums for operating expense above the revenue cap, they passed only 52% in 2023.

"This district hasn't had a referendum to exceed the revenue cap, ever," Hayek said. "There are only 19 school districts that have done that. We're fiscally solvent."

**Raises not matching CPI**

Although the Consumer Price Index, which measures inflation, was at 8% for much of 2022, most districts are raising salaries by less than 5%.

The average increase in teachers' salaries in Wisconsin has been 4.41%.

Given revenue caps and declining enrollments, districts cannot afford to give raises of 8%.

Hayek said a 5% increase in pay, for all district employees, including salaries and benefits, would cost the district about \$1.32 million.

He also projected a \$1.3 million increase in revenues in 2023-24 that would cover most of the higher salaries.

"If one group wants more, what's the alternative?" Hayek asked.

To increase teacher pay by 8%, 22 teachers assistants would have to be eliminated, or all other district employees' wages would have to be frozen, of all teachers' extra duty

pay and extended contracts would be eliminated.

"Are we in this together?" Hayek said. "One group of employees can't really in good conscience think it's all for them."

**Salary matrixes**

Individual teachers are paid according to a matrix that takes into account the number of years they have worked and the level of education they have attained.

For example, a first-year teacher with a bachelor's degree earned a base salary of \$40,040 in 2022-23, while a teacher with 10 years of experience and a master's degree earned \$62,028.

With a 5% pay raise, a first-year teacher will earn base salary of \$41,734 in 2023-24, while a teacher with 10 years of experience and a master's degree will earn \$64,651.

These stories do not include fringe benefits, which are also calculated as part of the 5% increase.

**Hayek's recommendations**

- Increase the teacher salary matrix for certified teaching staff for the 2023-24 school year by 5%.
- District nurses, secretaries, administration and district office staff as well receive the same increase of 5%. The total increase for these employee groups equates to \$137,417.
- All athletic/non-athletic extracurricular pay remain at the same levels as 2022-23 school year.
- Increase food service, custodial, maintenance, educational assistants and special educational assistants receive a 5% increase to all their 2023-24 salary matrixes with special educational assistants getting \$1 per hour in addition to the 5% increase on their salary matrix.

The school board unanimously approved all of Hayek's recommendations.

**COLLEGE DAYS**

FROM PAGE 1

promote healthy and effective development through interaction with peers of other schools.

Hunter Yuma was one of the Clintonville students who participated in the event. He told the board his favorite class at the university that day was one about reptiles and amphibians.

"We got to learn a lot about them," Yuma said. "The main thing we learned about the difference between lizards and snakes."

The most valuable information gained that day was learning about

what it is like to be in college, he said.

Keira Kopplinger said her favorite class during that day was instant improv.

"It was fun to let my creativity flow and work with other people to make something," Kopplinger said.

She said she also participated in classes about cockroaches and paper making.

"The classes let us learn more about our society and the nature around us," Kopplinger said.

She added that making new friends and socializing was also enjoyable.

Mandy Hill, library

media specialist for the Clintonville School District, accompanied the students to UW-Stevens Point. She said College Days for Kids was an amazing opportunity for students.

"I think in sixth grade, they maybe haven't started thinking yet about what they are going to do after high school, so here is one really fun day to get them kind of thinking," Hill said.

She said each student participated in three classes, ate lunch in the university cafeteria and attended a college fair that included different clubs on the university.

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# Waupaca NEWS



Engineers from around the world convened in Waupaca and worked in the Boathouse at Clearwater Harbor. Their mission was to discuss and determine the standards for medical devices. The meeting was organized by Waupaca resident Curt Sponberg. James Card Photo

## Engineers convene in Waupaca

Developing global standards

BY JAMES CARD  
STAFF REPORTER

WAUPACA – A group of engineers have held meetings in California, China, Japan, South Korea, Turkey, Moscow, Portugal, South Africa, Sweden and other points around the globe. Now Waupaca can be added to the list.

The visiting engineers met for four days at the Boathouse at Clearwater Harbor Waterfront Restaurant & Bar to develop standards for electromagnetic disturbances for non-implantable medical equipment such as infusion pumps, ventilators, ultrasounds, x-ray systems and other devices commonly found in hospitals.

They came from around the U.S. and from Sweden, China, Japan, Germany, Finland, Denmark and Japan.

When the German engineer told his travel agent he needed to book a trip to Waupaca, the agent replied, “Wau-what? That’s in the middle of nowhere.”

“I connived them into coming here and I thought this

would be a nice venue – right on the water,” said Curt Sponberg, a Waupaca resident and retired engineer.

He hosted the group at his home for a pre-meeting get-together before the serious work started. He also organized a boat trip for the visitors on the Chief Waupaca.

The group normally meets twice per year. This is the first time they have met face-to-face for three years because of the Covid pandemic. Meeting in-person is more productive because of the deep technical discussions and also because of the numerous time-zone differences make it difficult to convene online.

They start around 9 a.m. and work into the afternoon. They later regroup for dinner and continue their discussions.

“We talk a lot about the standards at dinner. Many times we will be stuck on a problem and we’ll be talking in circles. We’ll have a beer or have dinner and we’ll solve the problem. We had a very famous colleague who would say, ‘That’s a two-beer problem,’” said Sponberg.

They are members of the Inclusive Engineering Con-

sortium, a nonprofit that advances education and research in electrical and computer engineering.

Within that organization, they form Working Group 23, whose official task is “development and maintenance of a new IEC standard for self-healing A.C. shunt power capacitors having a rated voltage above 1,000 V.”

In the Boathouse they worked on notebook computers in a U-shaped table array. The technical documents they were writing takes three to five years to develop. National committees vote on the document to approve or reject it. Comments are addressed after that and Working Group 23 looks into those concerns.

The document is resubmitted to the national committees and is voted on again and if it passes, the document is published.

It becomes a standard for manufacturers to meet those requirements and is offered to regulatory bodies like the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or the European Commission. Some countries write the standards into law and others use them as guidelines.

## FVTC offers career workshop

WAUPACA – Fox Valley Technical College’s Prosperity Center will offer a free Career Development Workshop at 1 p.m. Mondays, June 12, 19, and 26

Held at the Fox Valley Technical College-Waupaca Regional Center, 1979 Godfrey Drive, Waupaca, the workshop assesses participants’ interests, skills, personality, values, and decision-making style. They

can explore occupations, career paths and education programs.

The workshops meet for three sessions for a total of six hours. An individual appointment with a career counselor is part of this workshop.

The Career Development Workshop is a program of Fox Valley Technical College and Goodwill Industries of North Central Wis-

consin. It is designed to help people navigate postsecondary education through to gainful employment.

For more information about the Prosperity Center or to register for the Career Development Workshop, contact Ray Kaluzny at 920-659-8880 or rkaluzny@goodwillncw.org. Participants must be available to attend all three sessions.

## Energy Fair coming to Custer

CUSTER – The Midwest Renewable Energy Fair at our headquarters will be held in Custer the weekend of June 23-25.

In addition to educational workshops and exhibits, the Energy Fair features seven music acts performing between two stages.

Patchouli & Terra Guitarra will perform at 2 p.m. Friday, June 23, on the Forest Stage. At 6 p.m., vocalist Genevieve Heyward and her backup band will take the stage. Then Nur-D will play dance music on the Main Stage at 8 p.m.

On Saturday, experience

L.A.-based hip-hop artist, Emmitt James, who was a semi-finalist in the Adidas Originals Sound Lab grant competition. This day will also feature Forward! Marching Band from Madison. Their playlist includes diverse tunes of pop, rock, folk, Latin, and New Orleans.

Then, at the Main Stage, Tae & The Neighborly, a Wisconsin-based Soul-pop R&B group will perform.

Dead Horses is schedule for 1:30 p.m. Sunday.

Other notable offerings include a Clean Energy Career Fair, professional CECs

for industry professionals, outdoor survivalist skills workshops, keynote speakers, electric vehicle demos, kid-friendly programming and more.

To bring clean energy and sustainable living education to the largest audience possible, the MREA works to keep admission prices low, and offers free entry to volunteers, children 12 and under and MREA members. Admission tickets and camping are on sale now at [TheEnergyFair.org/tickets](http://TheEnergyFair.org/tickets). The Energy Fair happens rain or shine.



## Taps Across America

Patty Bourgeois of Stevens Point plays “Taps” May 29 in front of Waupaca’s Fleet Farm store. Bourgeois, the band director at Pacelli Catholic Schools in Stevens Point, headed to the store as part of Taps Across America, a national moment of remembrance at 3 p.m.

Greg Seubert Photo

## City hosts outdoor summer movies

WAUPACA – The city of Waupaca will host summer outdoor movies that are free and open to the public.

Three movies will be screened at various outdoor locations in the city.

“It is community events like this and our Halloween on Main event that really draw people out to experience and contribute to the vibrancy of the city,” said Parks and Recreation Director Laura Colbert.

City staff hopes to hold each movie in a different location within the city to promote its community assets as well as provide opportunities for a close-to-home event.

The summer movie series was made possible by the donations of the Wisconsin Public Service Foundation, T-Mobile and the Waupaca Downtown Placemakers.

These three organizations provided funding for all of the outdoor movie equipment such as the inflatable screen, projector, audio equipment and all other accessory items.

Mayor Brian Smith said private-public partnerships like this allow a community to put on such events.

“One of the things that

makes Waupaca so amazing is the amount of community investment that the residents and businesses have,” Smith said. “For us to receive equipment sponsorship as well as continual movie license sponsorship is great to see”.

The first outdoor movie will be held at the Waupaca Municipal Airport, at 2601 Runway Drive at dusk on Friday, June 23. “Top Gun Maverick” (2022) will be shown in a drive-in movie style with non-vehicle seating in the front of the parking area.

This movie is sponsored by Klatt Aero, Waupaca Aviation, Noah Lencki Designs and Celestial Kinetics Flight Academy.

The second outdoor movie will be held at the Bank First greenspace, 105 Jefferson St. at dusk on Friday, July 28.

City staff encourages residents to watch the city’s Facebook page for a movie poll that will be put out in June and will allow constituents to vote for which movie they would like to see. This movie will be presented in blanket and chair movie style with limited ADA vehicle parking. This movie is sponsored by

Bank First.

The third outdoor movie will be at Swan Park, 909 Brainerd Drive, at dusk on Friday, Aug. 11.

A poll will again be put out on Facebook to help select a movie and it can be viewed in blanket and chair movie style with limited ADA vehicle parking.

The city does not have a movie sponsor for the third movie and encourages anyone or any business interested in sponsoring a movie to reach out.

All events will also feature mobile food vendors.

Carry-ins are allowed. All participants are encouraged to bring blankets (front-row seating) or lawn chairs to use during the movie. Vehicle parking for those with disabilities will be available at most of the movie locations but will be limited.

The city requests that once the movie is over, all participants clean up the items they brought with them and discard any trash in a trash receptacle.

In the case of inclement weather, a rain date may be set or the movie may be moved indoors at the Park and Recreation facility on School Street.

[www.WaupacaNOW.com](http://www.WaupacaNOW.com)

# KOLBE

WINDOWS & DOORS

Kolbe Windows & Doors, headquartered in Wausau, Wisconsin, is currently seeking a **Human Resources Coordinator** at our **Manawa location**. Kolbe offers excellent benefits and a friendly and supportive work culture.

### Position Summary

This position provides support to the Kolbe Manawa facility leadership and team members in the areas of employment and human resources administration. In conjunction with leadership at the Kolbe Manawa facility and Human Resources at the Kolbe Corporate Office, this position provides guidance and ensures compliance with Kolbe & Kolbe Millwork Co. Inc. policies, procedures, guidelines, and applicable Federal and State laws.

### Essential Functions Statement(s)

- Interview, perform reference verification and recommend the hiring of team members for entry-level positions. Recruit summer, full-time and part-time employment positions.
- Administer wage program set by management and coordinate with Human Resources at the corporate office.
- Complete team member orientation, prepare and update team member files, and follow through with all new team member requirements.
- Consistently administer policies and procedures found in the Kolbe Team Member Handbook.
- Coordinate benefits with Benefits Coordinator at the Corporate Office. Schedule information meetings with eligible team members for benefits training. Complete the appropriate paperwork for family medical leave and disability.
- Complete time and attendance in the AS400 in cooperation with manufacturing Lead People.
- Coordinate team member programs including longevity, health (HRA, Tetanus, Flu), safety (shoes, glasses, PPE, reward programs), attendance, continuous improvement, uniforms etc. Document completion of safety requirements including Worker’s Compensation, OSHA compliance, and other training programs.
- Assist in covering the front desk and phones.
- Prepare daily and weekly reports. These include weekly payroll reports and other reports as needed.
- Provide ongoing support to managers and supervisors to create and maintain a positive and healthy work environment.
- Serve as a point of contact for vendors and community organizations.
- Regular attendance and timeliness are required for this position.

### Skills & Abilities

- Associate degree or equivalent work experience.
- One to two years related experience
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# Clintonville NEWS

## Community meals gets \$4,000 grant

BY BERT LEHMAN  
STAFF REPORTER

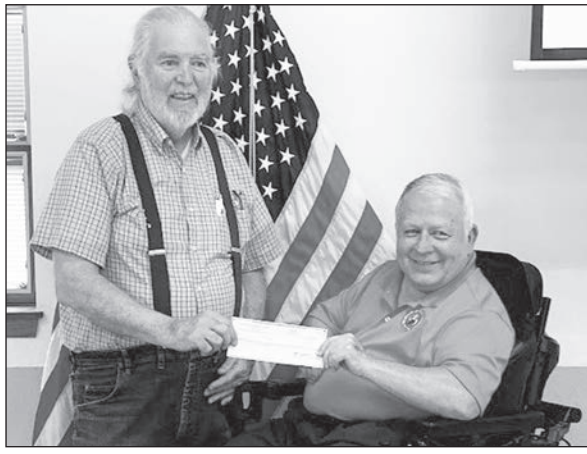
CLINTONVILLE – The group of seven churches that have been hosting a weekly community meal in Clintonville received a grant for \$4,000.

Chuck Manske, representing the seven churches, presented the grant funds to the city at the May 9 Clintonville Common Council meeting.

At its Jan 10 meeting, the council had agreed to waive the Clintonville Community Center rental fees for the churches for 2023. This would allow the community meals to be held in the community center. The churches take turns serving the community meal at the community center each week.

“In light of that, Pastor Jill Meyer applied for, and received, a grant for \$4,000 to help with the costs of operating the community meal in this place,” Manske said.

Manske thanked the



Chuck Manske, on left, represents seven churches that put on a community meal each week in Clintonville. He presented \$4,000 to Clintonville Mayor Steve Kettenhoven. Bert Lehman Photo

city council for approving the use of the community center for the community meals.

“It seems to have already had a positive affect on increasing the number of participants,” Manske said. “That’s what its all about, serving those people in need. We’re glad this grant came through to sort of help you and us get through this initial transition. The city has been very

cooperative about working with the people who serve the community meals so that it can function the same way it has in the past, serving whoever shows up on a Thursday afternoon.”

Clintonville Mayor Steve Kettenhoven thanked all those in the community who help with the community meal each week.

“What you do is great for the community,” Kettenhoven said.



Shown from left are Clintonville forensics advisor Jamie Carmody and students Emma Wittman, Cienna Kuhn, Diana Doroftei and Addison Lundt. They presented information about the high school’s forensics team to the Clintonville School Board. Bert Lehman Photo

## Forensics team has successful year

### Five made it to state competition

BY BERT LEHMAN  
STAFF REPORTER

CLINTONVILLE – Five team members of the Clintonville High School forensics team who participated in the state competition received a third place or better designation.

Emma Wittman received a gold, while Diana Doroftei, Addison Lundt and Olivia Olmsted received a silver. Cienna Kuhn received a bronze.

Four members of the forensics team, along with forensics advisor Jamie Carmody addressed the Clintonville School Board at its May 8 meeting. The presentation focused on what forensics is, and what the students enjoy about it.

Carmody told the board that forensics is an activity that students sign up for and then give speeches in front of people.

In addition to its normal competitions, this year the forensics team also participated in a tournament. Carmody said it was the first tournament she had ever participated in as a coach.

“We’re going to try again next year because it was so much fun,” Carmody said.

In order to qualify for state, students first must compete in an effort to advance to the district competition. Students who advance from the district competition qualify for the

state competition.

Wittman, a senior at Clintonville High School, who is in her second year of forensics, said she thinks forensic club is great for students in the community who want to express what they are passionate about. She said her speech was about being an Asian-American woman in a small community.

“So, when you’re presenting to these people, these strangers, these adults, people you don’t know, a lot of times you get to present information that you do care about and that means something to you,” Wittman said.

She said there are a variety of categories that students can choose from for their forensics presentation.

“It’s a truly great club for our kids to get more involved in,” Wittman said. “And unfortunately, clubs like these are often overlooked for football and other sports.”

Cienna Kuhn said her forensics presentation was poetry, adding that her poems were about the pressures on high achieving students.

“I had a lot of fun this year with the group of people we had,” Kuhn said.

Diana Doroftei, a foreign exchange student attending Clintonville High School, said she was happy with how her speaking skills improved throughout the school year while she prepared for the competitions.

“Back home I’m used to public speaking, and I find myself in many instances

where I have to public speak,” she said. “My experience here with forensics was really unique because I got to do it in a different language.”

Doroftei said her informative speech was about refugees in general and refugees in Ukraine because she had experience with them.

“It was nice to share about it, and the judges were really nice about it too,” Doroftei said. “I do remember after a meet, one of them hugged me. They waited for everyone to get out. That was really nice.”

Addison Lundt said her forensics experience was different because she did a radio presentation.

“It’s kind of like a separate category because I always have to leave 30 minutes early to prepare my news pieces that I put together,” Lundt said. “I remember the first meet, it was pretty rough.”

Carmody said Lundt was the first student she had ever coached for radio.

“We kind of had to learn together because I had absolutely no idea how to coach her because it was the first time we did it,” Carmody said. “But we survived, and she made it to state, which is super awesome.”

She added that for some categories students have to memorize their speech, others allow students to use note cards, while others allow students to have their entire speech in front of them.

“Next year my goal is to get some play acting in there,” Carmody said.

## Strauman back on school board

### Fills vacancy after resignation

BY BERT LEHMAN  
STAFF REPORTER

CLINTONVILLE – After being voted off the Clintonville School Board in the April election, Kris Strauman is back on the board.

He is filling the vacancy left when board member Larry Czarnecki resigned in April.

At its May 22 meeting,

the board voted to appoint Strauman to the board to fill the remaining year left on Czarnecki’s term.

Czarnecki resigned from the board to accept a math teaching position at Clintonville High School.

Strauman was one of two candidates who applied to fill the board vacancy. The other candidate to apply was Lois Bressette.

Prior to the board appointing Strauman, Clintonville School Board President Ben Huber said

Strauman was the only candidate, as Bressette had withdrawn her application to be on the school board.

Prior to the April election, Strauman had served on the Clintonville School Board for six years.

“I’m very impressed at where this district has evolved,” Strauman told the board. “I’m very pleased with where we’re headed with curriculum and programs and availabilities of things for kids. I still want to be a part of it.”

## Nighbor named Teacher of Year



Clintonville High School Principal Kelly Zeinert presents the Clintonville Teacher of the Year Award to health and physical education teacher Jim Nighbor. Submitted Photo

CLINTONVILLE – James Nighbor, a high school health and physical education teacher, was recently selected as the 2023 Clintonville Public School District Teacher of the Year.

“We could not be more proud of Mr. Nighbor,” said Clintonville Superintendent Troy Kuhn. “This is an extraordinary achievement for Mr. Nighbor and his family. He is a talented, dedicated, and exemplary educator and I am truly excited about the impact that he will continue to have in his classroom.”

Nighbor has taught students in Clintonville for the past 21 years.

Since earning a bachelor’s degree in coaching, physical education and

health from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh in 2006, Nighbor has found his greatest reward comes from the successes of his students – not just in his classes, but in life.

He believes teaching is not only about curriculum but also helping young people become better humans.

A former student once said Nighbor is like a strict father who holds students accountable when they need to be, he pushes them to be the best they can be but is also there

to listen and cheer them up when they need that soft spot to land.

“I’m truly honored yet humbled to have been selected for this award, as I can think of many other staff that are more deserving of this honor. “It’s hard to believe that I’ve been part of the Clintonville Public School District for 21 years, as I feel like it was just yesterday that I was interviewing for the position with Sig Shaw, Peggy Nerby and Brian Dunlavy,”

Nighbor said.

“I couldn’t be happier with my decision to take the job all those years ago as the community of Clintonville has been great to me since day one. I’ve been fortunate enough to get a front-row seat to watch some of the great things that our CPSD students have done and continue to do on a regular basis as they make their families and community proud,” he said.

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# New London & Hortonville NEWS

## New London library launches summer program

NEW LONDON – Starting Monday, June 5, adults, teens and children can sign up for the New London Public Library's 2023 Summer Reading Program.

Children will have the opportunity to log their reading in a fun activity booklet while earning coupons along the way. If they finish all levels of the program, they will receive an invitation to a make-your-own dog stuffie event at the end of summer.

Teens and adults will earn a prize entry for every two books they read. Summer Reading will run through July 28.

There will be weekly take-home crafts for children each week of June. The kits are as follows:

- June 5-9: Paper chain snake;
- June 12-16: Maraca;
- June 19-23: Spider puppet;

- June 26-30: Swimming jellyfish.

Throughout June, adults and teens can pick up a kit to make a mason jar ring suncatcher.

Summer will also be filled with fun events and activities. Space is limited for the adult Take a Break to Make: Summer Sock Gnomes at 6 p.m. Thursday, June 8. Registration is required by calling 920-982-8519.

The library will make all types of bubble crafts from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Thursday, June 15, The Appleton International Airport Ice Cream Bus will also be available for treats. The rain location for this event will be Hatten Park.

Also on June 15, from 4-5 p.m., teens can learn how to use a simple app on their phones or tablets to create Lego stop-motion animation videos.

Teens can head to the

library for Dungeons & Dragons from 4-6 p.m. Thursday, June 22. This event is for all experience levels. Registration is required by calling 920-982-8519.

Families can learn about New London's new city trucks in the library's Touch-a-Truck event from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Thursday, June 29. The rain location will be at the City Garage.

Outdoor Story Time will take place at 9:30 a.m. each Wednesday from June 14 through July 26. Registration is required by calling 920-982-8519. Special story times include Bilingual Story Time on June 21, and Story Time with Percy the Bulldog on June 28.

The Next Chapter Book Group will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, June 26, to discuss "Lions of Fifth Avenue" by Fiona Davis. Books are available at the circulation desk.



### Milestone moments

New London School Board Clerk Katie Batten snaps a photo for New London High School graduates, Izaak Fibke, at left, and Holden Kluever, at right, with school social worker Ms. Erin Marsh. Nearly 200 graduates from the Class of 2023 received diplomas during the school's commencement held Wednesday, May 24.

John Faucher Photos



### Top of their class

New London High School Valedictorian Jane Johnston and Salutatorian Glavin Lubinski at New London's graduation ceremony held May 24, 2023. Both graduates plan to attend Michigan Tech University. Johnston is pursuing a degree in chemical engineering and Lubinski plans to study environmental engineering.



### No holding back

New London High School seniors Carson Barker and Rachel Schuler could not hold back their smiles during a graduation processional into the school's gymnasium, Wednesday, May 24.

## First State celebrates Dairy Month

NEW LONDON – First State Bank announced that it will serve free root beer and orange ice cream floats at its offices in celebration of June Dairy Month.

The events are open to customers and community members from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., starting at First State Bank's Manawa and New

London offices on Friday, June 2, followed by Clintonville on Friday, June 9, and Waupaca on Friday, June 16.

"First State Bank is proud to be a partner to our local dairy farmers and other agri-business customers," said Brenda Hansen, vice president –

marketing. "We invite everyone to stop by for a free ice cream float in celebration of June Dairy month and our dairy farmers."

For more information about First State Bank and its June Dairy Month celebration, visit bankfirststate.com or call 800-994-2500.

## Overeaters Anonymous meets weekly

NEW LONDON – Overeaters Anonymous meets at 4:30 p.m. Mondays at UCC Church of Christ, located at 110 E. Hancock St., New London.

## Wega-Fremont NEWS



Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts from Weyauwega marched in the Memorial Day parade in Fremont.



Children set flowers at the base of the flagpole at Oakwood Cemetery in Weyauwega during the Memorial Day Service.



At the conclusion of the Memorial Day service in Weyauwega, the VFW/American Legion rifle team fired a salute and a student from the W-F Marching band played "Taps."

James Card Photos



Elvis made an appearance at the Memorial Day parade on Wolf River Drive in Fremont.

## PUBLISHER'S LETTER

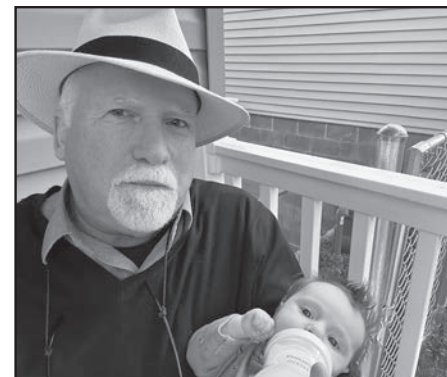
### A Simple Feeding

Dear Reader,

I'm no expert on taking care of babies... not by a long shot. Upon hearing that I had recently changed a diaper, my son-in-law comically responded, "3 kids, 7 grandchildren, 1 diaper 🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌 Well done!!!" When our three daughters were born and raised some time ago, my wife Mary shouldered the lion's share of the day-to-day childcare responsibilities as I worked outside the house to financially support our family.

Today we have grandchildren and recently with the last granddaughter born in March, I've jumped into the fray after basically skipping a generation. No, I'm not retired but I have things a little more under control these days as an entrepreneur than when I was in the corporate rat race.

As I take a more hands on approach to supporting the everyday subsistence of a baby, I am reminded of the little things that bring contentment. Just in feeding my granddaughter a bottle, I find the simple things like a bottle of warm milk, a shoulder to snuggle into, and the sound of a loved one singing goes a long way.



While each day little Maddie's world gets a little bit bigger and her needs grow in conjunction with this expansion, there's something to be said for these basic elements embedded into the process of a good bottle feeding. In many ways, these basic steps that fulfill the needs of an infant are not entirely unrelated to what can fulfill ours. After all there's nothing like a good meal, a warm hug, and the sound of song from loved ones.

**PATRICK J. WOOD**  
Publisher

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















# Sports

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## Trip to state up next for area track athletes

**BY GREG SEUBERT**  
 SPORTS EDITOR

REGION – Several local athletes – including a pair of defending state champions – will wrap up their track season this week at the WIAA State Track & Field Championships in La Crosse.

The meet, scheduled for Friday and Saturday, June 2-3 at the University of La Crosse, includes individuals and relay teams in three divisions.

Qualifiers for this year's meet include a pair of 2022 state champions: Hortonville's Ben Smith in the boys' Division 1 shot put and dis-

cus and New London's Kyle Wisniewski in the boys' Division 2 triple jump.

Division 1 athletes needed to place in the top three at their respective sectional meets, held May 25, while competitors in divisions 2 and 3 needed a top-four finish.

Local state-qualifying athletes from Waupaca, Iola-Scandinavia, Manawa, Weyauwega-Fremont, Clintonville, New London and Hortonville high schools are:

### Division 3 Marathon Sectional

MARATHON – Iola-

Scandinavia, Manawa and Weyauwega-Fremont competed at the Marathon Sectional.

Iola-Scandinavia's qualifiers are:

- Charlie Vater, first, boys' 1,600-meter run; first, 3,200-meter run.

- Jensen Rice, second, boys' 110-meter hurdles; third, 100-meter dash.

- Ian Koss, third, boys' long jump.

- Boys' 3,200-meter relay team (Benjamin Beck, Will Meier, Jacob Lashua, Charlie Vater), third.

Manawa's qualifiers are:

- Boys' 1,600-meter relay team (Drake Frasier, Hunter

Schlueter, Tanner Nienhaus, Nathan Gorman), first.

- Olivia Santos, second, girls' shot put; second, discus.

- Boys' 800-meter relay team (Thomas Bartelt, Tanner Nienhaus, Justin Buschke, Hunter Schlueter), second.

- Boys' 400-meter relay team (Thomas Bartelt, Tanner Nienhaus, Justin Buschke, Hunter Schlueter), third.

Weyauwega-Fremont's qualifiers are:

- Brayden Arndt, first, boys' 100-meter dash.

- Isiah Schuh, second, boys' pole vault.

### Division 2 Little Chute Sectional

LITTLE CHUTE – Waupaca, Clintonville and New London competed at the Little Chute Sectional.

Waupaca's qualifiers are:

- Jack Barbeau, first, mixed 100-meter wheelchair dash; first, mixed 400-meter dash.

- Boys' 1,600-meter relay team (Nathan Lemkuil, Xzaver Pitmann, Phillip Masias, Riley Wahler), third.

Clintonville's qualifiers are:

- Lauren Zwirschitz, second, girls' 100-meter hurdles.

- Trystan Krueger, second, boys' 400-meter dash.
- Sam Wegener, fourth, boys' long jump.

New London's qualifiers are:

- Kyle Wisniewski, first, boys' long jump; first, triple jump; second, high jump.

- Ian Oberstadt, second, boys' triple jump.

- Macy Reybrock, fourth, girls' 400-meter dash; fourth, triple jump.

- Girls' 1,600-meter relay team (Elsie Abba, Maren Stepniak, Rianna Schultz, Macy Reybrock), third.

**Track**

CONTINUES ON PAGE 11



Ava Baehman bats for New London during the Bulldogs' 8-0 win over Waupaca. Greg Seubert Photo

## Bulldogs stay alive in softball tournament

**BY GREG SEUBERT**  
 SPORTS EDITOR

NEW LONDON – Not only did the New London softball team cruise through the Bay Conference this season with a 12-0 record, the Bulldogs also won a WIAA Division 2 regional championship.

The Bulldogs opened WIAA tournament play May 22 with an 8-0 win over Waupaca and wrapped up their second straight regional title May 25 with a 3-1 win over Mosinee.

### Mosinee 3, New London 1

MOSINEE – New London came up with two runs in the top of the first inning and held on for the win over the second-seeded Indians.

The score remained 2-0 until both teams scored a run in the sixth.

Jensen Mix had three of the Bulldogs' seven hits; Sommer Krull added two hits; and Mackenzie Bruette, Shelby Glodowski and Eve Hedtke had an RBI.

Kenna Mix went the distance to pick up the win on

the mound. She gave up four hits and struck out six batters.

### New London 8, Waupaca 0

NEW LONDON – The Bulldogs scored five runs in the bottom of the fourth inning and added three more in the fifth to defeat the sixth-seeded Comets.

Savannah Schaff and Jensen Mix had two of New London's eight hits against the Comets; Hedtke and Schaff scored twice; and Ava Baehman and Schaff drove in

two runs each.

Kenna Mix held Waupaca to two hits over six innings to get the win.

Third-seeded New London headed to Medford May 30 to face the top-seeded Raiders in a sectional semifinal. The winner of that game will play No. 3 St. Croix Central or No. 4 Rice Lake Thursday, June 1, in a sectional final in Mosinee.

Sectional champions will then advance to state, which will be held Thursday to Saturday, June 8-10, in Madison.

## Thunderbirds get rematch with Bonduel

**BY GREG SEUBERT**  
 SPORTS EDITOR

IOLA – A pair of Central Wisconsin Conference-East teams faced off in a WIAA Division 4 sectional semifinal.

Top-seeded Bonduel hosted No. 3 Iola-Scandinavia May 30, with the winner advancing to a sectional final Thursday, June 1, in Crivitz against No. 1 Algoma or No. 2 St. Mary Catholic.

Iola-Scandinavia advanced to sectional play May 25 with an 8-2 win over Coleman for its fourth straight regional championship and opened state tournament play May 22 with a 12-10 win over Oconto.

### I-S 8, Coleman 2

COLEMAN – Iola-Scandinavia scored three runs in the third and fourth innings and added two more in the sixth to eliminate the second-seeded Cougars.

Brooklyn Berrens opened the scoring for the Thunderbirds in the third inning. Maddie Much reached on a single to left field and scored on Berrens' inside-the-park home run to right field. The T-Birds also took advantage of a hit batter and three straight walks to take a 3-0 lead.

Much singled and Brooklyn Berrens walked in the fourth and both runners scored on Clara Koles' dou-

ble. Koles later scored Marin Hoyord's single.

Coleman cut into the lead with a run in the fourth and fifth innings before the T-Birds scored their final runs in the sixth. Hoyord drove in a run with a bases-loaded infield single and Chloe Timdal drove in the final run on a groundout.

Much and Hoyord led Iola-Scandinavia at the plate with three and two hits, respectively; and Hoyord, Berrens and Koles drove in two runs each.

Much allowed seven hits and struck out five batters to get the win on the mound.

### I-S 12, Oconto 10

IOLA – Iola-Scandinavia led 6-1 lead after two innings, but the Blue Devils responded with seven runs in the third and fourth to take an 8-6 lead.

The T-Birds tied the game with runs in the fourth and fifth innings and added four more runs in the sixth.

Much and Koles had RBI singles and Jady Krusa drew a bases-loaded walk to give Iola-Scandinavia a 3-0 lead.

Berrens had a sacrifice fly to left field that scored Jaelyn Sivertson from third base in the second inning and Julia Munoz drove in two more runs on a bases-loaded single to right field.

**Softball**

CONTINUES ON PAGE 11

## Golfers compete in sectionals

**BY GREG SEUBERT**  
 SPORTS EDITOR

REGION – One area boys' golf team and five individuals are one step closer to a trip to state.

The Manawa team of Dakota Stroud, Ben Stern, David Helgeson, Tate Drummond and Cash Botting competed in a WIAA Division 3 sectional meet May 30 at Hunter's Glen Golf Club in Crivitz, along with Weyauwega-Fremont's Charlie Mueller and Iola-Scandinavia's Samuel Groeschl.

Meanwhile, Waupaca's Dylan Smith advanced as an individual out of the Division 2 Wautoma Regional and New London's Jonah Schlueter and Hortonville's Weston Burkhardt qualified out of the Division 1 Appleton West Regional.

### Division 3 Marathon Regional

MARATHON – Mana-

wa advanced to sectional play after placing fourth out of nine teams May 23 at a regional meet at Pine Valley Golf Course.

Dakota Stroud led Manawa with a 94 to place 12th overall, followed by Ben Stern (21st, 101); David Helgeson (22nd, 102); Tate Drummond (tied for 23rd, 103); and Cash Botting (38th, 119).

Mueller and Groeschl advanced as individuals after tying for 13th place with a round of 96.

### Division 2 Wautoma Regional

WAUTOMA – Smith moved on for Waupaca after tying for 12th place May 23 at Two Oaks North Golf Course with a round of 80.

He then competed May 30 at a sectional at De Pere's Hilly Haven Golf Course.

**Golf**

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Henry Williams had a big day on the mound at at the plate, as he held Sheboygan Falls to one run over five innings and hit a three-run home run in Waupaca's 11-1 win over the Falcons in a WIAA Division 2 regional baseball game May 25 at Waupaca High School. Greg Seubert Photo

## Comets win baseball tournament opener

**BY GREG SEUBERT**  
 SPORTS EDITOR

WAUPACA – The Waupaca baseball team opened WIAA state tournament

play with a home win.

The Comets took a 7-0 lead into the third inning of their Division 2 regional matchup with Sheboygan

Falls May 25 and held on for an 11-1 five-inning win over the Falcons.

Waupaca came up with two runs in the bottom of

the first inning and added five more in the third, with three of them coming on

**Baseball**

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