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LOCAL

Waupaca County may divide health, human services departments

BY ROBERT CLOUD SENIOR EDITOR

COUNTY – Waupaca County is examining options on restructuring its Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Ted Phernetton, director of DHHS, explained the original decision to combine the two departments at a county board Executive Committee meeting on May 26.

Waupaca and Shawano counties had unified health services until 1986, when “the decision was made to split from Shawano County and bring those services here to Waupaca under one umbrella,” Phernetton said.

Human services and health services, along with the commission on aging, became a single county department.

At that time, Waupaca County offered more individualized, personal-type health services to people in their homes. Human services also included home visits to the frail elderly and disabled as part of long-term care.

“The state of Wisconsin, beginning back in 2006-2007, started working on removing the adult long-term care services from the counties and creating these managed care organizations, private entities, typically not-for-profit, known as family care,” Phernetton said.

Phernetton also noted that Public Health previously provided personal care services and home support for home-bound residents.

HHS CONTINUES ON PAGE 2



Started in 1989, an estimated 9,000 people come to Waupaca for one day to attend the annual Strawberry Fest. Photo courtesy of the Waupaca Area Chamber of Commerce

Waupaca celebrates first taste of summer

Strawberry Fest set for June 17

BY ROBERT CLOUD SENIOR EDITOR

WAUPACA – The Waupaca community will welcome summer with Strawberry Fest from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 17.

Food tents and nearly 150 vendor booths, offering arts and crafts, will be set up at 316 Jefferson St. and the parking lots of Trinity Lutheran Church and the Waupaca Area Chamber of Commerce.

Beginning at 10 a.m.,

fresh strawberries and strawberry shortcake will be on sale until sold out and Waupaca restaurants will serve a Taste of Waupaca in the Strawberry Lane Cafe.

Hijinx will perform from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The local band features Eric Hendrickson on lead guitar, Chris Ashenberg on bass and Carmen Riebel playing the cajon. They play classic rock and folk tunes.

Dizzy D. Balloon Twister will be at the festival, along with other children’s activities.

Bounce houses will be located next to the Waupaca

Recreation Center, 407 School St.

St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 415 S Main St., will host a bake sale and refreshments in their Prayer Garden and Trinity Lutheran Church, 206 E Badger St., will have a silent auction.

Waupaca Area Model Railroaders will present a model train show from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, June 17-18, at the Waupaca Recreation Center.

Operating model train layouts, demonstrations and

vendors from throughout the upper Midwest will be on hand to entertain and answer questions about the hobby. The show also features Virgie’s Railroad Diner serving food and strawberry shortcake.

The Historic Waupaca Train Depot, 525 Oak St., will be open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

The Waupaca Lions will host their Father’s Day Fly-In/Drive-In Pancake Breakfast from 7 a.m. to noon Sunday at the Waupaca Municipal Airport, 2601 Runway Drive.



Shown, from left, are four of the five New London FFA members who participated in the presentation to the New London Economic Development Committee: Jake Flocker, Evan Retzlaff, Carolynn Backes, Jaylynn Dallman (not a participant) and Heidi Weyland, Hannah Gorman is not shown.

File Photo

FFA students discuss immigrant agricultural labor at city meeting

Economic Development hears presentation

BY ROBERT CLOUD SENIOR EDITOR

NEW LONDON – Members of the New London FFA gave a presentation on immigration’s impact on dairy farming to the New London Economic Development Committee on May 30.

Five students portrayed various roles of the people affected by immigration and dairy farming.

Evan Retzlaff represented the interests of a large-scale dairy farmer, Hannah Gorman depicted

a migrant farm worker from Mexico, Heidi Weyland was a student trying to balance the pros and cons of the issue, Carolyn Backes was an agriculture specialist with Homeland Security, and Jake Flocker characterized a small-scale farmer.

Weyland told committee members that dairy industry has been a key part of Wisconsin’s economy since the 19th century. The state now ranks No. 2 in the nation and produces more than 2.64 million pounds of milk monthly.

There are nearly 1.27 million dairy cows in Wisconsin with an average of 209 cows per farm.

FFA CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

Waupaca’s original commando

Fighting with Devil’s Brigade

BY JAMES CARD STAFF REPORTER

WAUPACA – A few Memorial Days ago, Jeff Dolski remembered that he had an ancestor who served in World War II. It was his third cousin, the son of his great grandfather’s brother.

He did some online research and learned to his surprise that his ancestor’s grave was located in Hope Cemetery in Heffron, only a couple miles from his house.

“When I arrived, there’s an acre or two of a couple hundred gravestones. It was as if there was a spotlight on his gravestone. I could see it from afar. That’s the one,” said Dolski, who is a counselor at Waupaca High School and is developing a second career as a Realtor and auctioneer.

He found the grave of Benedict W. Dulski. There are many Dolskis in the tri-county area where Waupaca, Portage and Waushara counties meet and there are three different spellings of the Polish family name. Also, Benedict’s middle name was Valentine but the Polish spelling of Valentine is spelled as Walenty, which explained the middle initial.

This started a family tradition of Dolski and his family visiting the grave ev-



Benedict Dulski served in the Devil’s Brigade, an elite American-Canadian commando group that was the influence for today’s special operations units. He fought in Italy and is buried at the Hope Cemetery in Heffron.

James Card Photo

ery Memorial Day. Two strange oddities were on the headstone. It did not say that he served in the Army, Air Force or Navy but rather the “1 SP Service Force.” Also, it said that he died on Christmas Day in 1943 in Italy. He was 33 years old.

Building the Force

Dolski did some research and learned that Benedict was a member of an elite joint Canadian-American commando unit that conducted secret missions in Europe. During WWII the group was nicknamed “the Devil’s Brigade” (also simply called “The Force”) and

was the forerunner of modern American special operation groups.

Recruitment posters for this unit called for single men with a preference for rangers, lumberjacks, woodsmen, hunters, prospectors, explorers and game wardens. Dolski learned from a census document that Benedict was listed as a farmhand. Those recruited took a vow of secrecy and they were sent to Helena, Montana for training.

They immediately started parachuting and underwent a demanding physical-fitness regimen. They learned mountaineering and were taught how to ski by Nor-

wegian instructors. They trained with their own weapons and those of the enemy and became experts in hand-to-hand combat and knife fighting. Their unit patch with a red spearhead with the words USA and Canada.

“From what I learned, they trained out there because they were getting this brigade ready for mountain combat. I remember in elementary school that image of General Washington and his troops in the Potomac and it’s all frigid and supposedly the worst conditions ever for American troops in any war.

Commando

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2



Furry gymnast

This squirrel was determined to get some tasty treats from a suet feeder. Holly Neumann Photo

HHS

FROM PAGE 1

"They don't do that anymore," he said. "Public Health has moved from services that provide direct, one-on-one service to individuals to a more global, community-based public health, I would say almost regulatory, processes that they weren't engaged in the past."

By separating the two departments, public health would focus more on broader issues, while human service would remain focused on individuals.

Role of Public Health

"Our role is more focused on population health, community health, not so much individual health," according to Waupaca County Public Health Officer Jed Wohlt.

While the county continues to offers childhood immunizations and vaccinations during the covid pandemic, its focus has become "a more global picture of population health," Wohlt said. "There isn't a whole lot of individual contact anymore."

Wohlt said public health's focus is now to collect community health data, promote healthy behavior and be "a community health strategist."

"For us to do that, we really have to have a platform that is recognizable to the community, to the residents, recognizable to our community partners," Wohlt said.

As part of its data collection, the county has learned that the two most significant local health issues right now are mental health and substance abuse.

"So our job then is not only communicate that to the community but work with our community partners so they have an understanding of it and they can prioritize some of their work," Wohlt said.

Supervisor Kevin Will, a retired DHHS employee, said he initially opposed the idea of breaking apart the department.

However, he thinks a designated public health department could do a better job of promoting health issues in the community.

"If we could avoid one

death, two deaths a year, if we could avoid a possible hospitalization because of the health department," Will said.

"If we just save a couple of lives a year, that's worth it," Supervisor DuWayne Federwitz said.

Supervisor Peter Bosquez said he was reluctant to add another county board committee and its associated costs.

"It's not a hard no for me," he said.

The resolution states that Public Health "has its main focus on population-health based services

that include the following: surveillance and investigation to identify community health problems, disease control, disease prevention, identification and mitigation, policy and planning, leadership and organizational competencies, and collaborative community engagement to act as a community leader and chief health strategist."

The Executive Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Waupaca County Board approve the separation of Public Health and Human Services.

FFA

FROM PAGE 1

Farmers milk cows two to three times a day, plus work in the fields and maintain their machinery.

"Who is helping the farmer?" Weyland asked. "Finding employees is challenging across the nation and in Wisconsin."

Legislation

Backes explained some of the laws related to immigrant farm workers, beginning with H-2A that allows farmers to bring in temporary immigrant labor when they cannot find U.S. citizens to perform the work.

Small-scale and large-scale farmers criticized the law.

"It doesn't help the dairy industry at all," Retzlaff, on behalf of large farmers, said. "It only helps those who need seasonal help, which is not the dairy industry. We need workers year-round."

"This is how I started my journey to becoming a

U.S. citizen," said Gorman, acting as a farm worker. "I worked here for short periods of time using this program before I was able to become a legal citizen."

A farmer must apply with the federal government and be unable to fill the position to participate in the H-2A program.

Workers under the program must be provided with housing, transportation and a set pay rate.

It takes 75 days to acquire an H-2A permit, unless it's an emergency, which makes it necessary to obtain the permit within 44 days.

"There's no way I can afford to pay for the transportation and housing," said Flocker on behalf of small farmers. "Workers are needed immediately, not in 75 days, especially if it's an emergency."

Backes noted that Congress is currently discussing the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, HR 1603, which would simplify the H-2A application process and reduce paperwork. She

said HR 1603 would help dairy farmers because it opens the permits for non-seasonal, year-round farm workers.

"The only problem that comes from HR 1603 is it doesn't give these immigrants full, legal, permanent status," she said.

"Immigrant workers want to work full time, an eight-hour work day, 40 hours per week," Retzlaff said. "This is great for me because I milk three times a day and can't afford to rely on teenagers who have extracurricular activities at school and can only work certain days of the week."

Retzlaff also noted that most local workers are not willing to work the third shift or work overtime.

He said immigrant farm workers are more willing to work overtime.

Backes pointed to the 3.4% unemployment rate in the United States.

"Americans want to work," Backes said. "They just aren't working in the dairy industry."

Wages

Retzlaff said he cannot afford to pay the \$25 per hour that the average American citizen earns.

"I can pay a noncitizen immigrant worker legally \$17.34, which is a lot cheaper," Retzlaff said.

Backes explained the "adverse effect wage rate," a rule that sets a floor below which H-2A workers cannot be paid.

"I'm a citizen of the United States, so I am making \$25 an hour," Gorman said. "That is not the case for many immigrant workers in the dairy industry."

Gorman said more than 80% of all immigrants working in the Wisconsin dairy industry are undocumented, "so this law does not help them."

She said, "Undocumented immigrants are barely scraping by with wages that are not livable."

"Immigrant workers hurt me and many other small farmers," Flocker said, adding that small-scale farmers do not need as many employees as large farmers.

"I only milk twice a day versus three times a day that the large-scale farmers do," Flocker said, describing life on his imaginary farm. "I milk in the early mornings with the help of my kids before they leave for school and then in the afternoons when they're home from school."

He argued that immigrant workers force small farmers to either expand or go out of business.

As a large-scale farmer, Retzlaff said he milks three

times daily, at 3 a.m., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

"At each milking, I need one pusher and four milkers to get the entire herd milked in approximately seven hours in a double-20 parlor," Retzlaff said. "At minimum, I need at least 10 full-time workers that work 65 to 70 hours a week just to milk the cows."

Retzlaff said most U.S.-born citizens do not want to work that many hours.

Gorman also addressed the stereotypes that many Americans have about immigrants.

"We're not all criminals or freeloaders," he said. "We're not here to take your jobs or your benefits. We're here because we want a better life for ourselves and our families."

COMMANDO

FROM PAGE 1

But no, there's people saying it was the Devil's Brigade in a winter assault in the mountains," said Dolski.

"black devils" because of their blackened faces smudged for night attacks. On their recently killed enemies they left death stickers marked with their spearhead symbol and the words: "Das dicke Ende kommt noch" that translates to "The worst is yet to come."

Christmas day," said Dolski.

Dolski continues to research his commando cousin. He plans to reach out to the Department of Veterans Affairs and visit some WWII museums.

For a personal connection, he plans to purchase a replica V-42 combat knife - the same knife Benedict carried into battle. It is a blued stiletto made exclusively for the Devil's Brigade and is considered an iconic fighting knife.

More research

"There should be more stories about this brigade. It's fascinating. Even if you ask a seasoned vet or someone that knows it better than WWII, I don't know how many would know, if asked, what's the inspiration for today's special forces. There's not a lot of scholarship," said Dolski.

Dolski's father once told him that Benedict was shot out of the sky as he was parachuting. He is not so sure.

"In my brief research on what was going on that day [Dec. 25, 1943], there was a heavy assault on Monte Sammucro. It appears that they were hunkered down assaulting this mountain and that leads me to believe there weren't any airborne activities that day. I could be completely wrong - I just haven't confirmed airborne missions on

Into battle

Their first mission was uneventful. They went to the Aleutian Islands off the Alaska coast to wage war against Japanese forces occupying the island of Kiska. When they arrived the Japanese were gone.

In October 1943 they were sent to Italy and tasked with taking German strongholds at Monte La Difensa and Monte La Remetanea. Those targets were part of the Winter Line, a network of German and Italian military fortifications that stretched south of Rome.

Their first major assault was attacking the Germans from a position where they least expected the enemy. The soldiers climbed a 1,000-foot cliff in freezing rain under the cover of darkness. They surprised the Germans and overwhelmed them within two hours.

From there, the First Special Service Force made a name for themselves on the Italian front. The Germans called them

PUBLISHER'S LETTER
Seeds of Impact

Dear Reader,

Recently my three daughters held a birthday celebration for me. Prior to the event, they asked all invited to send in a message regarding their insights, perceptions, and role in my life. A book of all the missives was compiled, sprinkled with photographs of many extraordinary families and friends I rode the trails with. It was a magnificently crafted treasure trove of memories.



When reading the messages, what struck me most was how I had affected their lives. So many events and engagements had been lost in my memory since I've pretty much always pushed forward. Their thoughtfully shared reminiscences conveyed to me words and actions that had a profound and lasting effect on their odyssey.

I was reminded of the unknowable impact we all have in our engagements with others. Planned or inadvertent, advice and counsel and the marshaling of available resources can help a person get a leg up on the ladder. Even a positive comment and smile, or a simple question of how one's day is going, can ripple through another person's interactions to still more people on the journey. These seeds are worth planting in the precious days allotted to us.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

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

Advertisement for Farm Fresh Xpress featuring fresh produce, a smartphone displaying the website, and the slogan "Local. Value. Quality. Freshness. 40+ vendors. 1000+ products." Includes QR code and website URL FarmFreshXpress.com.

Real estate listing for 1970 Evergreen Lane Waupaca, WI, featuring a photo of the house and contact information for Faye Wilson, Broker/Owner.

Advertisement for Dr. Lohrbach, Orthopedic & Sports Institute of the Fox Valley, featuring a photo of a man with a bicycle and the slogan "SHIFT INTO A Pain-Free 2023".

Waupaca NEWS

Chain Skiers returning to Rainbow Lake

BY HOLLY NEUMANN
STAFF REPORTER

WAUPACA – After three seasons away, the Waupaca Chain Skiers will return to the Waupaca Chain O' Lakes.

The water-ski team will perform its first show of the season on Rainbow Lake in front of the Wisconsin Veterans Home at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 18.

"In 2020 and for the two years following, we were unable to perform at the veterans home due to the pandemic and an effort to keep the residents and staff safe," said Jamie Werner, the team's secretary. "Their grounds were not open to the public during that time and spectators were unable to watch from their lawn."

The show relocated to Bear Lake Resort near Manawa in 2021 and 2022.

"While we loved performing for their warm and enthusiastic crowds, our hearts always remained on the Chain," Werner said. "It was always our goal to return and at the end of 2022, the veterans home gave us the go-ahead to return to their shores with a full audience."

The ski team has a long history in Waupaca, according to Werner.

"As a show ski team, this will be our 51st year performing as the Waupaca Chain Skiers show team at the Wisconsin Veterans Home," she said. "For over 60 years, the Chain O' Lakes has been home to a water ski club."



The Waupaca Chain Skiers, which has performed for more than 50 years on the Waupaca Chain O' Lakes, will return to Rainbow Lake Sunday, June 18.

Submitted Photo

Werner said the pandemic and the move from the Chain O' Lakes resulted in a small but determined team.

"We have been steadily growing and adding new members over the last few years and continuing to do what we love most; water-ski," she said. "We are very fortunate to have faithful community support, encouraging and unwavering alumni support and dedicated volunteer leadership, all of which has seen us through the last few years."

Werner admitted keeping the team together required creativity and out-of-the-box thinking.

"In the end, it brought us all even closer," she said. "We are a team who has spanned many generations and to this day, we have entire families involved in all aspects of the team, whether it be skiing, spotting boat driving, helping with costumes or just coiling ropes and cheering from the water's edge."

The season will kick off June 18 and at 3 p.m. each

Sunday until Aug. 13. A July 4 show will take place at 6 p.m.

Audiences will be able to park at the veterans home and watch the shows from the lawn as in previous years, but only veterans home staff and residents will be allowed in the buildings.

The Waupaca Chain Skiers are always looking to increase sponsorship and donations, which have been a key part of the team's fundraising efforts.

Werner can be contacted about sponsorship opportunities at ChainSkierSecretary@gmail.com. Donations can be made through the team's website, www.WaupacaChainSkiers.com.

"We are always looking for new members, local and seasonal families included, and all ages," Werner said. "If you don't know how to water-ski, we can teach you. We will be offering summer camps this year through the Waupaca Parks & Recreation Department as well. Check our website and Facebook page regularly for updates."

Winchester hosts speaker on bees

WAUPACA – Kent Pegorsch will present "Beekeeping and the Honey Industry from a Waupaca Perspective" at 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 12 at the Waupaca Area Public Library.

Hosted by Winchester Academy, the program is free and open to the public.

Pegorsch will discuss the beekeeping year, how some of the best honey in the world is produced in this area, and how the migration each year of over three quarters of the managed honey bee colonies in the United States to California ensures the sustainability of the industry.

His presentation will include a tasting of varietal honeys.

Pegorsch is co-owner of Main Street Marketplace.

He has been producing honey for 47 years and currently manages almost 500 hives.

He served four years as president of the Wisconsin Honey Producers Association and currently is on the board of the American Beekeeping Federation.

This program is sponsored by Vic and Chris Anthony.



Kent Pegorsch will discuss bees and beekeeping at a Winchester Academy program at 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 12 at the Waupaca Area Public Library.

Submitted Photo

Underdeveloped Lakes." He is a board member of Northwoods Land Trust.

• June 26 – Charles L. Cohen will discuss "Jews and Muslims in Christian America." He is professor emeritus of American Institutions, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

• July 10 – Scott Hebringer will speak on "All of Us Wisconsin." He is a in the Center for Precision Medicine Research at Marshfield Clinic Research Institute.

• July 17 – Doug Bradley will present "Who'll Stop the Rain: Respect, Remembrance, and Reconciliation in Post-Vietnam America." He is distinguished lecturer emeritus at UW-Madison.

• July 24 – Librarian Sue Abrahamson will lead a book discussion of "Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants,"

the Waupaca Area Public Library's Community Read.

• July 31 –Chelsea Lovejoy will speak on "Are Video Games Saving the World? Should You be Playing Them?" She is an associate professor of psychology at UW-Stout.

Winchester Academy is a nonprofit Waupaca organization administered by a volunteer board of trustees. It brings engaging, informative, and educational programs to the community, recognizing that the love of learning continues throughout life and outside of school walls.

There are no dues, tuition or membership fees. For more information about Winchester Academy, visit winchesterwaupaca.org, follow on Facebook, or contact Executive Director Ann Buerger Linden at 715-258-2927 or buergerlinden@gmail.com.



Turning the tassel

Gage Anderson turns the tassel on his cap May 31 at the end of Waupaca High School's graduation ceremony. Anderson plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is one of more than 120 students in the school's Class of 2023.



Riley Wahler receives a rose after picking up his diploma at Waupaca High School's graduation ceremony.

Greg Seubert Photos

Parfreyville UMC awards grants

WAUPACA – Parfreyville United Methodist Church Children and Youth Grant Program was made possible by a memorial donation received years ago to be used to help children and youth.

The fund has grown sufficiently to now help children and youth in the larger community, consistent with the intent of the donors.

The church grant committee began awarding grants in 2018.

2023 grant recipients

Waupaca County ARC Inc.: Awarded \$400 to support Keller Lake Day Camp craft activity kits. The camp serves approximately 80 developmentally disabled and intellectually challenged individuals, ages 5 to 80, from Aug. 7-11. Approximately 100 volunteers from Waupaca

County and the surrounding area assist with the activities during the week.

Waupaca Community Arts Hub: Awarded \$1,000 to support a scholarship fund to offset tuition and help make art and music lessons more accessible to children. The Arts Hub vision is to nurture the creative potential in everyone, providing a place where creativity comes to grow. First United Methodist Church of Waupaca provides a space in their building for the Arts Hub programming.

Golden Sands Research Conservation and Development Council: Awarded \$1,000 to support the Waupaca County Conservation Field Day, a full day of outdoor workshops run by volunteers for 300 to 500 fifth-grade students at Hartman Creek State Park. The event instills a con-

servation ethic through hands-on learning and has been hosted at no charge by Golden Sands RC & D Council, a non-profit organization, since 1990.

City of Waupaca Park and Recreation Department: Awarded \$1,000 to support the Waupaca Area All-Stars Scholarship Fund created through the Friends of Waupaca Parks website and the Waupaca County Natural Resources Foundation. The fund will allow the new and inclusive recreational program for youth with disabilities to be accessible and affordable to all participants, including those who reside in rural communities surrounding the city of Waupaca.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace: Awarded \$1,000 to support

Grants

CONTINUES ON PAGE 10

Bonnie's Bloomers to close

BY JAMES CARD
STAFF REPORTER

WAUPACA – After seven years in business, Bonnie's Bloomers will close by the end of June.

Owner Bonnie Timm crashed her motorcycle last October and walked away with minor injuries. Eleven days later her spleen ruptured.

"The way the surgeon described it, he said less than 1% of spleen injuries will injure on the inside of the spleen instead of the outside and they will bleed inside themselves and fill up like a balloon until they rupture. I went to New London ER when it happened and they took me by ThedaStar [helicopter] to Neenah for emergency surgery. I spent a good part of my winter recovering. I made the decision to slow down a little bit in life. I love what I do and maybe down the road I can do something small-scale again but this was too much for me," said Timm.

The property was purchased by next-door neighbor Par 4 Resort to increase their space for receptions. "I think it's a beautiful facility for that and I think they will utilize the greenhouse as well," said Timm.

Timm plans to stay busy with the small, furry dogs often seen trotting around her



Bonnie's Bloomers will close by the end of June after seven years of business. Owner Bonnie Timm spent the winter recovering from a motorcycle crash and decided to slow down her workload. The property was purchased by Par 4 Resort.

Photo James Card

store and greenhouse. She is a state-licensed breeder of Pomeranians and Pomskis (a Siberian husky-Pomeranian cross). Her kennel is called Bonnie's Little Fluffies. Timm also runs a VRBO rental house in Waupaca. She currently lives in Scandinavia.

The goal is to close shop by the end of June. She is running a closing sale with everything marked down 30% storewide. Also she is selling the furniture and fixtures.

She bought the land

for Bonnie's Bloomers in 2015, built the greenhouse in 2016 and was nearing completion of the building when it burned down in February 2017. The cause of the fire is still undetermined.

Seven days later they knocked it all down and had record-setting warm weather in February that allowed them to pour a new slab of concrete with in-floor heating. She opened up the retail shop later that spring.

Some families are still searching the skies for their **Child Care Provider Superhero**

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Call/Text 920-250-6200

New London & Hortonville NEWS

New American Legion building dedicated

BY JOHN FAUCHER
STAFF REPORTER

NEW LONDON – Veteran organizations in the New London area have long shared a history of cooperation and goodwill towards one another.

More recently, those organizations banded together in support of the Veterans Memorial at Taft Park.

Monday, May 29, 2023 began yet another chapter of that commitment to all veterans.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2732 Commander Tim Roberts said he was humbled this Memorial Day, in the assembly of community members, fellow veterans and city officials during the dedication of a new 30-foot-by-64-foot storage building and pavilion located at the American Legion Post 263 headquarters.

The new building located alongside the Legion post's existing headquarters at 840 East North Water St. is a gift from one veteran organization to another.

VFW Post 2732 had funds remaining from the sale of their former clubhouse and banquet hall located on Beckett Road in New London.



New London VFW Post 2732 Commander Tim Roberts, at right, American Legion Post 263 Commander Ron Gagnow, center, and American Legion Chaplain James Roberts cut the ribbon on a new pavilion and storage building next to the American Legion Post 263 headquarters in New London. The new building was donated by VFW Post 2732 and will be used for open-air events and storage.

John Faucher photo

Roberts said, "We had that money just sitting in the bank for some time and we wanted to put it to work locally for our fellow veterans."

That is when the group decided to build and donate the \$75,000 pole shed and pavilion at the Legion headquarters.

On Monday, they also

handed over the keys to the VFW's M-37 vintage military vehicle to the American Legion Post 263.

"Today's ceremony commemorates the passing of the building and vehicle keys between the VFW and American Legion," said Roberts. "We would like to donate this building and vehicle to the

American Legion to signify the brotherhood and sisterhood shared between veterans from all walks of life and service history."

The ribbon cutting not only served as a reminder of their mission of remembrance, but of the commitment to serving veterans and the community, he said.

Members of the VFW, American Legion, AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans and their respective Auxiliaries and community members shared a meal and held a social in the new pavilion following the ceremony.

A free fill offering produced \$650 for the Old Glory Honor Flight.

VFW Post 2732 also contributed \$10,000 to New London Area School Scholarships in the name of the VFW, and it contributed \$20,000 to the Hortonville American Legion Post 55 towards a major project they are about to announce.

"We all share members, we all work for our country, our communities and our veterans and we wanted to keep it local," said Roberts.

ThedaCare Endowment Fund announces grants

NEW LONDON – The ThedaCare Medical Center-New London Quasi Endowment Fund recently awarded a total of \$57,300 to 14 local nonprofit organizations and programs in the New London area.

"We are pleased the Quasi Endowment Fund supports programs and services that improve the health and well-being of our patients and the communities we serve," said Kellie Diedrick, vice president of ThedaCare Medical Centers-New London and Waupaca. "These programs help all of us to better understand the needs of individuals and families in our area, which leads to solutions that can improve health outcomes."

The following organizations were awarded funding this year:

Allen Matson Wheel Chair Ramp Foundation to support the purchase of materials for wheelchair ramp construction.

Christ Congregational UCC and Clintonville Churches to allow the groups to continue to provide weekly community meals.

City of New London Senior Center to support the continuing collection of plastic bottle caps that will be melted down and made into park benches to be placed throughout the community.

Compassionate Connections Center to assist with the purchase of healthy food for the weekend backpack program.

Friends of the Clintonville Dog Park in support of creating a free dog park.

Harbor House to provide domestic and sexual abuse prevention education, shelter programming and support services.

Manawa Rural Ambulance for the purchase of new cardiac monitors.

Mission of Hope House of Wisconsin, Inc. to assist with operational costs and emergency shelter and homelessness prevention efforts.

New London Area First Responders to assist with training costs for crewmembers and medical supplies.

New London Lions Club to provide eye care and eyeglasses for families in need, particularly in the New London School District.

New London Middle School Bulldogs PLUS+ to purchase supplies for the after-school, extended-classroom learning program.

Project Backpack New London to support purchasing healthy food for students to take home on weekends and holidays.

Rawhide Youth Services to provide sliding-scale assistance for mental health services.

Trinity Lutheran Church to purchase food for the community "Grab and Go Meals."

"Supporting programs such as those awarded aligns with ThedaCare's mission to improve the health and well-being of our communities," said Mike Morse, ThedaCare Family of Foundations trustee. "We understand that many factors affect how well and how long we live. Access to safe, affordable housing, healthy food, quality education and other social determinants of health are just as important as access to comprehensive health care. We're proud to support a wide variety of local programs that make our communities safer, healthier places to live."

Stellar VBS starts June 26

NEW LONDON – Most Precious Blood Catholic Church will host Stellar Vacation Bible School from Monday, June 26, to Friday, June 30.

Children participate in Bible-learning activities, sing songs, play teamwork-building games, make and eat treats and experience Bible Adventures.

They'll take home Sciency-Fun Gizmos that they can play with all summer long.

Youths will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something

called God Sightings.

Each day concludes with a Cosmic Closing that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned. Family members and friends are encouraged to participate daily from 11:05-11:30 a.m.

Stellar VBS is for children from 3K-4K through fifth grade and will run from 8:30-11:30 a.m. each day.

For more information, Email aellis@mpbparishnl.org or visit www.mostpreciousbloodchurch.com.

Concerts at the Chamber kick off

NEW LONDON – A series of free summer concerts kicks off this week behind the New London Area Chamber of Commerce office at 420 N. Shawano Street.

The concerts are held at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month throughout the summer.

Solo artist Dustin Lee kicks off the series this Thursday, June 8. Lee is from central Wisconsin and plays a variety of music genres.

Attendees should bring their own lawn chairs for the event.

Brat fry and concessions are available in the park concession stand during concerts.

On July 13, the band Pearl Street will perform 1950s, '60s, and '70s pop rock and country music.

On Aug. 10, local favorite Sheamus Fitzpatrick and the McNally Boys perform. This Irish folk band is sponsored by the Shamrock Club of New Dublin.

Other concert sponsors include the New London Lions Club and Frog Country Radio 92.3 FM WJMQ.

Tri-Five Chevies

Wolf River Classic Chevy Club member Dave Ostermeier, at left, has a little fun with Wayne and Dawn Buskirk as they register a 1957 Chevy Bel Air Convertible during the club's 37th annual car show in New London Sunday, June 3. Approximately 300 cars were on display at Hatten Park. Tri-Five 1955, '56 and '57 Chevrolets were the featured cars this year. Ostermeier purchased this Bel Air convertible from Bruce Schoen for \$500 more than 50 years ago. He took the car apart in 1982 then, with Buskirk's help, put it all back together again in 2014. The car recently turned over 80,000 miles.



John Faucher Photo

Wega-Fremont NEWS

Star Dairy steps up

More groceries in Weyauwega

BY JAMES CARD
STAFF REPORTER

WEYAUWEGA – Weyauwega Star Dairy has transformed its retail space into an inventory-packed grocery store, giving more shopping options to residents in a supermarket-less town.

Three-quarters of the shelving is new and is loaded with 1,300 new grocery products.

They have a new eight-door freezer for meat products. They have Angus beef that is locally grown in the town of Lind by Waupaca High School FFA alumni Joey Gullickson. The meat is processed by Niemuth's and Nueske's. They have another four-door freezer for frozen foods. There is an ice cream freezer loaded with 80 flavors from Cedar Crest, Kemps and Blue Bunny with 20 more flavors coming in. There are also sherbets, sorbets and custards.

"One thing I'm working on is getting in Berres Brothers full line of coffee. I'm talking to Mud Creek to get their bakery mixes in. They are really popular along with Namaste Foods baking



mixes. They make one of the best baking mixes in the country. I'm also working with Nueske's to get their pork products in like bacon and pork chops. We're really going for Wisconsin-themed high-quality products. We've got about 1,300 grocery items at this point. We're slowly going refine that and as the community gives its feedback we'll keep improving. It's a lot of stuff in one little store," said manager John Mlsna.

"I've been checking prices with Festival and we're right in line with them. We didn't raise prices because we're a small store," said Mike Knaus who co-owns the business with this brother

Gerard.

They still have fresh cheese curds daily and fresh Colby is on sale in June to celebrate National Dairy Month. Weyauwega Star Dairy has also branded their own bloody mary mix and they make their own frozen pizzas in-house.

Will Star Dairy try to make another world's longest piece of string cheese again and beat their record?

"We haven't decided that yet but we might. My brother gets an aching in his body and then the next thing you know, we'll be out there making the world's longest string cheese again. That was fun last time. We had a big crowd," said Knaus.



Jon Dahlke snipped the ribbon at the new Dahlke Funeral and Cremation Care/Celebration of Life Center on May 24. Inside are offices, a spacious lobby, a Heritage Hall that seats 150 people, a family room lounge with a small kitchen, a conference room and a large garage in the rear of the building. The space is not just for funerals but family events. There will be an open house from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, June 25.

James Card Photo

Dahlke Funeral opens celebration center

WEYAUWEGA – The Dahlke Life Celebration Center has opened at 101 E. Main St. in downtown Weyauwega.

This 7,500-square-foot facility is the former Bank First building.

The updated venue will include a multi-purpose events hall, arrangement suites, business offices and audio and video capabilities.

Keller Structures was the architect and general contractor for the project.

Jon Dahlke, owner of Dahlke Funeral and Cremation Care, expressed gratitude to city officials and local residents for their support and willingness to work with him to offer this new venue to Weyauwega and surrounding communities.

"We want to continue investing in our community and provide services for grieving families to help honor, celebrate, and remember lives well-lived," said Dahlke.

He noted that families' needs

and expectations are changing when it comes to celebrating the lives of loved ones who have died.

More families want to host a reception or gathering after a funeral, complete with food and beverages.

Dahlke Funeral and Cremation Care seeks to serve the community with options and hospitality – and has paid special attention to the details. This includes an entrance from the Life Celebration Center to the city's community center, which will give families access to a commercial kitchen and a space for luncheons and gatherings.

"Our hope with Dahlke Life Celebration Center is to provide a welcoming and diverse setting so we can offer families a place to celebrate the life of a loved one, and in the near future, other significant milestones such as graduations, birthdays, weddings, retirements, anniversaries and

more," said Dahlke.

After two generations of serving area families in Weyauwega, Manawa, and the surrounding areas, Dahlke Funeral and Cremation Care is not only opening this new venue but also changed their name (formerly Cline-Hanson-Dahlke) and created a new logo.

Voie Funeral Home in Iola, which Dahlke purchased in July of 2020, will retain its name.

They are offering additional natural burial options and have recently invested in a new crematory.

All staff remains the same and Dahlke Funeral and Cremation Care will honor any existing prearrangements.

The Dahlke Life Celebration Center will hold an open house from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, June 25, featuring tours at 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served, and the public is welcome.

Iola-Scandinavia NEWS

Two names added to Walk of Honor

BY HOLLY NEUMANN
STAFF REPORTER

IOLA – Michael Richberg and John Wendlandt have been added to the Walk of Honor Monument in Iola.

A ceremony was held May 29 during the community's Memorial Day service.

The Walk of Honor recognizes individuals that are awarded commendations from the Medal of Honor through the Purple Heart and Prisoner of War Medal.

Richberg, of Iola, who served in the U.S. Army, received a Bronze Star Medal while serving in Operation Desert Storm during the Gulf War in Kuwait.

The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to individuals who, while serving in the Armed Forces in a combat theater, distinguish themselves by heroism, outstanding achievement or by meritorious service



Richberg

not involving aerial flight.

Richberg also received the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with two bronze stars, Humanitarian Service Medal, two NCO Professional Development Ribbons, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Army Service Ribbon, two overseas rib-



Wendlandt

bons, Army Lapel Button and Expert Rifle M16.

Richberg is the 34th recipient of the Bronze Star Medal on the Walk of Honor Monument and is a member of Sheveland-Taylor American Legion Post 14.

Wendlandt, of Scandina-

via, served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, was wounded and awarded a Purple Heart Medal.

The Purple Heart is awarded to any member of the Armed Forces who has been wounded, killed or died of wounds received from an opposing enemy force while in armed combat or as a result of an act of terrorism.

He also received the Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Wendlandt is the 37th recipient of the Purple Heart on the Walk of Honor Monument. Thirteen of those recipients were killed in action.

On behalf of the Post 14, Lyle Mork thanked Richberg and Wendlandt for their service and going above and beyond the call of duty.

Pie in the park planned in Iola

BY HOLLY NEUMANN
STAFF REPORTER

IOLA – Sheveland-Taylor American Legion Post 14 will hold its third annual Pie in the Park event in Iola.

The fundraiser will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 10, at Veterans Memorial Park, 200 N. Main St., Iola.

Crystal Café and Iola Sentry Foods are cosponsoring the event.

Judy, Jennifer and Sadie from the Crystal Café will serve pie with the help of Legion members. A slice

of pie will cost \$6; a sundae will be available for \$3; and a cup of coffee or bottle of water can be purchased for \$2.

Funds raised at the event will go to Post 14's General Fund to help sponsor Badger Boys State representatives, scholarships, Camp American Legion, Wisconsin Veterans Home, park expenses and other expenses.

American Legion members will be on hand to help explain the park's Memorial, Gold Star Recipient and Walk of Honor monuments.

Fireworks sponsors sought

BY HOLLY NEUMANN
STAFF REPORTER

IOLA – The Iola-Scandinavia Chamber of Commerce is urging everyone to become a part of its Stars & Stripes Forever program to help pay for the annual fireworks extravaganza, which is set to take place Monday, July 3, in Iola.

Spielbauer Fireworks Co. has once again been contracted to put on the show.

Businesses, organizations and individuals are welcome to contribute at

the following levels: Stars (\$50), Stripes (\$100) and Forever (\$250). All sponsors will be mentioned during the event and posted on the Iola-Scandinavia Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.

The estimated cost of the fireworks display is \$13,000.

Interested parties can send sponsorships to Iola-Scandinavia Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 167, Iola, WI 54945, or drop them off at Bank First.

The deadline is Friday, June 30. Contact Mark Sether at 715-445-4700.

Iola Community Garden gets facelift

BY HOLLY NEUMANN
STAFF REPORTER

IOLA – Local gardeners recently planted nearly 1,000 plants from the Prison Plugs program at the Iola Community Garden.

Gary and Stephanie Doine, co-coordinators of the community garden, were excited to receive the plants.

"During Gary's time on the Hatch Lake Association, there was a lake study taking place," Stephanie Doine said. "Through his interactions with the DNR, Gary heard about Lara Fondow and wanted to learn more."

Fondow, works for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services out of the agency's Green Bay office.

"Gary and Stephanie reached out to me with an interest in potentially planting more native plants in this community garden to benefit our native pollinators," Fondow said. "I came here last September to take a look at the garden and to see what they needed."

Fondow then reached out to a colleague who works with the Prison Plugs program in Dane County.

"Through this program, Dane County Parks collects



Liam Reilly, 8, was one of many volunteers who showed up to plant plugs at the Iola Community Garden.

Holly Neumann Photo

wildflower seeds and has the inmates from one of the prisons grow them into plugs that can be used in conservation programs," she said. "I tapped into this program and got quite a few plugs and the Iola Community Garden had the first crack at them."

The hope is that the plants will increase the number of pollinators that are currently on the decline.

"They are not only so important for our native ecosystems, but also for the foods we eat, our economy and so many of the clothes we wear come from pollinated plants," Fondow said. "It's a major

conservation issue right now. There is a big push to try to reverse the trend of pollinator decline."

They include the Karner blue butterfly, whose larvae feed only on wild lupine. The Iola Community Garden already has wild lupine, so Fondow brought other native plants.

"The Prison Plugs program is awesome," Fondow said. "It can be pretty expensive to plant plugs for a landowner or a small organization such as the Iola Community Garden. This helps with cost so landowners can do things like this." Fondow brought partridge

pea, purple prairie clover, great blue lobelia and other plants.

"The common areas had sadly been overgrown with weeds," Doine said. "This kind of program allows us to reclaim the areas that were in such bad shape. Getting these plugs is huge. It will not only deter the weeds and promote the beauty, but is also good for the pollinators, the bees and the butterflies."

When the plants became available, Doine sent an email asking for volunteers to help with the prepping and planting.

"We could not have done this without our volunteers," she said. "This will really give the garden a facelift and it will help the garden overall. Not only will it help the vegetables, but also nature. We need the bees to sustain our food source."

It will take one to two years to see the difference with the new plants, according to Doine.

"I am looking forward to seeing all the color, the butterflies and the bees," she said. "It truly is a beautiful thing."

"The best part of all this is meeting the people that want to do something good for our world," Fondow said.

Manawa NEWS

Beyer places third in first pro bowling tournament

BY HOLLY NEUMANN
STAFF REPORTER

MANAWA – Manawa native Carlene Beyer recently placed third in her first professional bowling tournament, the USBC Queens PWBA Major Championship in Las Vegas, Nevada.

"It is a dream come true because it is my first tournament as an official pro," the 23-year-old said. "I can't quite explain the feeling, except for that I am beyond thankful and grateful that I had my parents believing in me even when they were not sitting right behind me."

Beyer is the daughter of Matt and Jennie Beyer, who own Keglers Bowling Center in Manawa.

"To be competing at

this level means that I did something that my dad always thought I could do," she said. "My coach, Amber Lemke, at Stephen F. Austin State University had constantly texted, 'To be the best, you have to be the best' and that is exactly what I did in my debut tournament."

Beyer said the people she bowls against keep her motivated.

"My dad is very competitive and I always want to beat him when we bowl, whether its practice or a tournament," she said. "My boyfriend Ty also bowls and he constantly pushes me to keep being better even when I think my game is fine. He and my dad work together to help fine-tune my physi-



Carlene Beyer of Manawa recently placed third at her first professional bowling tournament in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Submitted Photo

cal bowling game and they push me to keep being the best."

Beyer typically practices for 30 minutes to an hour each day.

"I do like to take a day off to spend time enjoying my life and not think about

bowling," she said. "My practice routine is more often just shooting spares and working on my consistency in keeping a solid release when I throw the bowling ball."

Beyer said she still loves the game.

"I get to compete against people I always watched while I was a youth bowler," she said. "Now, I get to bowl with and against them and prove that I belong there. I love it because it's something that I can do with my family and they cheer me on. My mom and grandparents are my biggest cheerleaders."

Beyer graduated last year from Stephen F. Austin University with a bachelor of science Degree in interdisciplinary studies.

"I then started my master's (degree) in interdisciplinary studies," she said. "I am currently living at home and will resume my master's in a couple years. I am also working on getting my reciprocal certification from Texas to Wisconsin teaching."

Her advice to young bowlers is to keep working.

"Truly have fun and find a passion in the sport," Beyer said. "Don't put all the pressure on yourself that

you have to be the best. You just have to focus on your game and bowl your game."

Beyer credits her parents, coaches, boyfriend and teammates for her success.

"My mom and dad for getting me started in bowling," she said. "All my coaches that I had through middle and high school and even when I went to other tournaments," she said. "I have to give credit to Amber Lemke, who brought me to Texas and got me the experience of bowling on TV and my teammates are still rooting for me now. And my boyfriend helps me chase my dreams by always texting me reassuring messages and practicing with me."

She also thanked her sponsors, Keglers Bowling Center, Motiv Bowling, Turbo Products and Kameleon Sportswear.

A replay of this year's USBC Queens tournament can be found on YouTube.

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200107

Car shows coming to Manawa

BY HOLLY NEUMANN
STAFF REPORTER

MANAWA – Friday Night Car Shows will be held at Union and Bridge streets in Manawa.

The free events start at 5 p.m. and are open to anything on wheels, including classic cars and trucks; hot rods; road rats; and motorcycles.

Themes are All American Night (July 7); Gear

Head Night with live music from the Steve Arnold Band (July 14); Back to the '50s Night, where attendees are encouraged to dress in costume (July 21); and Cruise the Night with

live music from Madison's Basement (July 28).

Concessions will be available each night.

Call 715-281-6925 for more information.

Sports

www.WaupacaNOW.com

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State track meet twice as nice for Vater

BY GREG SEUBERT
SPORTS EDITOR

LA CROSSE – If there was any question whether Charlie Vater is one of the state's top high school distance runners, he answered it with a pair of exclamation points.

The Iola-Scandinavia junior won the boys' Division 3 1,600- and 3,200-meter runs at the WIAA State Track & Field Championships, held June 2-3 at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

He wasn't the only area athlete to return home with a state championship, as Hortonville's Ben Smith won a second straight boys' Division 1 shot put title.

Two for two

Vater, competing at state for the second year in a row, had the fastest qualifying time in both races.

"It was a goal to win both of them," he said. "It feels amazing. There's just so much relief that all this work has paid off."

Vater finished more than 13 seconds ahead of runner-up Wesley Pronschinske of Cochrane-Fountain City in the 3,200 and almost five seconds faster than runner-up Adam Eiden of Pacelli in the 1,600.

Winning the 3,200 gave Vater a boost heading into the 1,600.

"I was like, 'Why not do it again,'" he said. "I was confident."

Vater is no stranger to state competition, as he also placed

11th in the boys' Division 3 race at last year's WIAA State Cross Country Championships and 17th in 2021.

"I love the reward and the heartbreak," he said. "It's just an amazing sport. This makes me look forward to the future, especially cross country."

Repeat champion

Smith repeated as a shot put state champion with a top throw of 66 feet, 11 1/2 inches.

The top five finishers in the event all came out of the Fox Valley Association.

"It feels good," Smith said. "After last year, I kind of had the mindset that I had to work hard, practice, work on my technique and get it down to a perfect form. Right away, I threw a 65-footer indoors and that was a big shock. I was hoping to start around that 59-foot range. That 65 really gave me confidence and helped me start fast and strong."

Smith opened the meet by placing second in the discus event behind Waterford Union's Bryce Ruland.

"After I did it last year, I was hoping I could do it again," he said. "I would say being top two in both of them is still pretty good, especially is the discus, where two of the top throwers in the nation are in the same state. There were certainly a lot of eyes on me and a lot of pressure to repeat. I just had to put it behind me and

not think about it."

Second at state

New London senior Kyle Wisniewski wrapped up his high school track career with second-place finishes in the boys' Division 2 high, long and triple jumps.

"I can't really ask for better," said Wisniewski, who won the Division 2 triple jump event last year. "God gave me gifts, I use my gifts and I'm happy to have these gifts. I wish I would have had a first, but some things don't work out. Everything happens for a reason."

Wisniewski placed second in five events at state over the past three years and plans to join the track team at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

Meanwhile, Weyauwega-Fremont's Isiah Schuh set a school record in the pole vault event with a top height of 14 feet in the Division 3 competition.

It was the senior's first trip to state.

"It feels pretty good and I'm pretty excited," Schuh said. "I'm sure it'll settle in on the bus ride home. I put in the work for it this summer and I was very consistent with heights. There were a few slumps I had, but I got over it. It was a big deal for me and one of my goals at the beginning of the season. Actually, sectionals was a lot more pressure. Once I was here, I felt comfortable."



Iola-Scandinavia's Charlie Vater reacts after winning the boys' Division 3 1,600-meter run June 3 during the second day of the WIAA State Track & Field Championships in La Crosse. He also placed first in the 3,200-meter run.

Greg Seubert Photo

Softball teams heading back to familiar place



Eve Hedtke and the New London Bulldogs are heading back to state for a second straight season. The Bulldogs beat Rice Lake and Medford in WIAA Division 2 sectional final and semifinal games, respectively, and will now play a state semifinal game in Madison Friday, June 9.

Greg Seubert Photo

Grand slams lift Bulldogs in final

BY GREG SEUBERT
SPORTS EDITOR

REGION – After rolling through the Bay Conference with a 12-0 record, the New London softball team is two wins away from the program's second state championship.

The Bulldogs are heading back to state for the second year in a row and eighth time overall following Division 2 sectional wins over

Rice Lake and Medford.

New London received a No. 4 seed and will face top-seeded New Berlin Eisenhower at 2:30 p.m. Friday, June 9, at Goodman Diamond in Madison. No. 2 Freedom and No. 3 Beloit Turner will meet in the other state semifinal and the winners will play for a state championship at 4 p.m. Saturday, June 10.

The Bulldogs advanced to state June 1 with a 13-3 sectional final win over Rice Lake and opened sectional play May 30 with a 2-1 win over Medford.

New London 13, Rice Lake 3 (6 inn.)

MOSINEE – Kenna Mix and Ava Baehman had grand slams for the Bulldogs in the same inning in a win over the Warriors.

Rice Lake opened the scoring with two runs in the top of the first inning, but the Bulldogs sent 14 batters to the plate in the third and came up with 11 runs.

Baehman had two of New London's nine hits, scored

NL Softball

CONTINUES ON PAGE 12

Thunderbirds knock off No. 1 seeds

BY GREG SEUBERT
SPORTS EDITOR

IOLA – Sectional wins over a pair of top-seeded softball teams are sending the Iola-Scandinavia Thunderbirds back to state for the second year in a row.

The T-Birds used a pair of seventh-inning home runs from Jaelyn Sivertson and Maddie Much to beat Algoma 3-2 June 1 in a Division 4 sectional final in Crivitz. Iola-Scandinavia also opened sectional play May 30 with a 9-6 win over Bonduel on the Bears' home field.

The T-Birds are seeded fourth at state and will take on another No. 1 seed – Grantsburg – at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, June 8, at Good-

man Diamond in Madison in one of two semifinal games. The winner will play No. 2 Stratford or No. 3 Waterloo at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 10, for a state championship.

I-S 3, Algoma 2

CRIVITZ – The T-Birds trailed 1-0 heading into the seventh inning before Sivertson tied the game with a solo home run with two outs and Much added an inside-the-park home run that gave Iola-Scandinavia its first lead.

Brooklyn Berrens added to the lead after she singled, stole second base and scored on an error.

Macie Zimmerman had given the Wolves a 1-0 lead with a solo home run in the sixth inning. Algoma came up with a run in the bottom of the seventh and had runners at first and second, but Macie Zimmerman hit into a fielder's choice to end the game.

Much picked up the win on the mound and also had three of the T-Birds' nine hits, while Berrens added two.

I-S 9

Bonduel 6

BONDUEL – The T-Birds fell to the Bears twice during the regular season, but eliminated them from

IS Softball

CONTINUES ON PAGE 12

Volleyball players get opportunity to play in college

BY GREG SEUBERT
SPORTS EDITOR

WAUPACA – Three recently graduated Waupaca High School seniors are taking their volleyball skills to the next level.

Olivia Grall, Grace Bogard and Brooklyn Johanknecht will suit up for college teams in New Jersey, Iowa and Wisconsin, respectively.

Grall will walk on at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark; Bogard

will play at Loras College in Dubuque; and Johanknecht is headed to Bryant & Stratton College in Wauwatosa.

New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark has a Division 1 women's volleyball program, which is what Grall was looking for in choosing a college.

"Getting this opportunity is really cool for me," she said. "Once I decided I wanted to play in college, I wanted to shoot high and D1 was my

goal. They have really good academics and athletics at their school, which is a big thing for me."

Grall received offers from other Division 2 programs in New Jersey, but ultimately turned those down to pursue her dream of playing Division 1 volleyball with an opportunity to earn an athletic scholarship while pursuing a degree in biology. She

Volleyball

CONTINUES ON PAGE 12



Waupaca's Grace Bogard, Olivia Grall and Brooklyn Johanknecht are taking their volleyball skills to college. Bogard will head to Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa; Grall will play for the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark; and Johanknecht will suit up for Bryant & Stratton College in Wauwatosa.

Greg Seubert Photo

Athletes compete at state track meet

BY GREG SEUBERT
SPORTS EDITOR

LA CROSSE – Athletes from seven area high schools wrapped up their track season June 2-3 at the WIAA State Track and Field Championships in La Crosse.

They include:

Division 3

Manawa: Boys' 800-meter relay team (Justin Buschke, Drake Frasier, Tanner Nienhaus, Hunter Schlueter), third; boys' 1,600-meter relay team (Drake Frasier, Tanner Nienhaus, Hunter Schlueter, Nathan Gorman), third; Olivia Santos, fourth, girls' discus, 15th, shot put; boys' 400-meter relay team (Thomas Bartelt, Tanner Nienhaus, Justin Buschke, Hunter Schlueter), seventh.

Weyauwega-Fremont: Isiah Schuh, second, boys' pole vault; Brayden Arndt, boys' 100-meter dash (12th in preliminaries, did not make final).

Iola-Scandinavia: Charlie Vater, first, boys' 1,600-meter run (4:15.87); first, 3,200-meter run (9:23.43);

Jensen Rice, third, boys' 110-meter hurdles, sixth, 100-meter dash; boys' 3,200-meter relay team (Benjamin Beck, Will Meier, Jacob Lashua, Charlie Vater), seventh; Ian Koss, 16th, boys' long jump.

Final team standings: Iola-Scandinavia boys, tied for third; Manawa boys, tied for 15th; Weyauwega-Fremont boys, tied for 34th; Manawa girls, tied for 43rd.

Division 2

Waupaca: Jack Barbeau fourth, 100-meter wheelchair dash, fourth, 400-meter wheelchair dash; boys' 1,600-meter relay team (Nathan Lemkuil, Xzaver Pitmann, Phillip Masias, Riley Wahler) (13th in preliminaries, did not make finals).

New London: Kyle Wisniewski, second, boys' high jump, second, long jump, second, triple jump; Ian Oberstadt, eighth, boys' triple jump; Macy Reybrock, 10th, girls' 400-meter dash; girls' 1,600-meter relay team (Elsie Abba, Maren Stepniak, Rianna Schultz, Macy Reybrock) (12th in prelimi-

naries, did not make final). Clintonville: Lauren Zwirschitz, seventh, girls' 100-meter hurdles; Sam Wegener, 16th, boys' long jump; Trystan Krueger, boys' 400-meter dash (13th in preliminaries, did not make final).

Final team standings: New London boys, 10th; Clintonville girls, tied for 53rd.

Division 1

Hortonville: Ben Smith, first, boys' shot put (66 feet, 11 1/2 inches), second, discus; Blake Radish, eighth, boys' 800-meter run; Ethan Lund, 12th, boys' pole vault;

Ayden Smith, 13th, girls' high jump; Tori McGowan, 15th, girls' shot put; girls' 3,200-meter relay team (Leah Worley, Hannah Huza, Maleiyah Streck, Paige Morrell), 16th; girls' 400-meter relay team (Abby Hernandez, Emma Garthus, Grace Forinash, Ayden Smith) (disqualified from preliminaries, did not make finals).

Final team standings: Hortonville boys, 11th.

IS SOFTBALL

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the state tournament for the second year in a row.

Sivertson singled, stole second, reached third on an error and scored on Berrens' single in the first inning to take an early 1-0 lead. Bonduel tied the game 1-1 in

the bottom of the inning.

After Bonduel took a 3-1 lead in the third inning, the T-Birds scored a run in the fourth. Jady Krusa singled to right field to score Marin Hoyord from second base.

Iola-Scandinavia took the lead for good with three runs in the fifth inning and four more in the sixth. Siv-

ertson led off the fifth with a home run to left field. Much, Berrens and Julia Munoz had RBI singles in the sixth and Hoyord drove in a run with a double.

Berrens and Sivertson led the T-Birds at the plate with three hits, while Much added two and also picked up the win on the mound.

NL SOFTBALL

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twice and drove in six runs, while Mix, who also picked up the win on the mound, drove in four runs. Jensen Mix, Kelsie Hamel and Savannah Schaff also scored twice.

New London 2, Medford 1 (11 inn.)

MEDFORD – A sectional semifinal between the Bulldogs and Raiders turned into a duel between Kenna Mix and Martha Miller, as the pitchers combined for 25 strikeouts.

Pinch runner Olivia Hamel broke a 1-1 tie in the top of the 11th inning, as she scored from third base on Eve Hedtke's hit to center field.

Medford opened the scor-

ing with a run in the bottom of the sixth inning, but the Bulldogs answered with a run in the seventh.

The score remained 1-1 until Sommer Krull reached on an error to open New London's half of the 11th inning and moved to second base on Shelby Glodowski's sacrifice bunt.

Hedtke and Jensen Mix each had two of New London's seven hits.

T-Birds, Polar Bears win regional

BY GREG SEUBERT
SPORTS EDITOR

REGION – Two area high school baseball teams kept their season alive by winning a WIAA regional championship.

Iola-Scandinavia handed Marion a 12-10 loss May 31 in a matchup of Division 4 teams, while Hortonville needed only five innings to beat West De Pere 11-1 June 1 in Division 1.

Fifth-seeded Iola-Scandinavia joined No. 2 Pacelli, No. 3 Florence and No. 4 Edgar at the Athens Sectional June 6. Hortonville, a No. 2 seed, headed to Pulaski for a sectional that also included No. 1 Kimberly, No. 5 De Pere and No. 6 Appleton North.

Sectional champions will advance to state, scheduled for Monday to Thursday, June 12-15, at Fox Cities Stadium in Grand Chute.

I-S 12, Marion 10 (8 inn.)

MARION – The Thunderbirds picked up a run in the top of the first inning, but Marion answered with two runs in the third.

Iola-Scandinavia's first seven batters reached base in the fourth, as the T-Birds went on to score five runs.

The T-Birds added another



Iola-Scandinavia's Carter Melum slides into second base as Sevastopol's Chase Haberli waits for the ball.

Holly Neumann Photo

run in the fifth to go up 7-2 before Marion cut the lead to 7-4 with two runs in the bottom half of the inning.

Both teams scored three runs in the sixth to make it 10-7.

Three walks loaded the bases for Marion in the bottom of the seventh and the Mustangs tied the game after a wild pitch and two-run single.

The Thunderbirds came up with two runs in the top of the eighth inning before ending the game with a double play.

Hortonville 11,

VOLLEYBALL

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ceived a NJIT Highlander merit scholarship.

"In between my sophomore and junior year, my trainer that I work with said, 'Hey, you should really look into college volleyball,'" she said. "I decided to start looking into it. All my coaches told me it was a possibility, but I never really thought it was until I got my first offer. Then I got a couple others and I was like, 'Wow, this is really happening.'"

Grall was named to the North Eastern Conference's honorable mention all-conference volleyball and softball teams a senior. Besides playing three years of varsity volleyball for the Comets, she also started playing club volleyball in sixth grade.

"I played with the Waupaca Fire team for a while and then I also played in the Fox Valley area and Mosinee," she said. "Going to the national level really helped me get noticed."

Grall, Bogard and Johanknecht played for Waupaca volleyball coach Liz Kneer.

"We were blessed with nine great seniors this year," she said. "These three were outstanding leaders on that team and will go on to do great things as college athletes. I definitely think they're ready and I hope that we prepared them in our program. We really have a high level of work ethic that we expect out of our players. It's nothing compared to the collegiate level, but as far as high school programs go, we put in a lot of time in

the weight room and playing in a lot of open gyms in the summer. Having that work ethic and leadership is what colleges look for."

Most players get noticed while playing on club teams, according to Kneer.

"All three of these girls played club," she said. "(College scouts) travel to these club tournaments and watch those girls play. That's where they get noticed. All three of these girls put in the work in the offseason as club players to get where they want to be."

"It'll be fun to watch what they do," she added. "I'm looking forward to keeping track of them as they get into their college careers and see where they go with it. If you have that desire, that drive and that goal to get to the next level, good things happen."



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