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WAUPACA County Post

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Rachel Bouessa raises grass-fed White Park cattle on her family farm. She sells quarters and halves of beef but her goal is to see more grass-feed cheeseburgers in local restaurants. James Card Photo

Cheeseburger quest

Getting local grass-fed beef on the menu

BY JAMES CARD STAFF REPORTER

NEW LONDON - Rachel Bouessa loves cheeseburgers and one of her biggest goals is getting burgers from her family farm into local restaurants and bars.

She believes that people would love the option to order burgers made with grass-fed beef.

"I think that customers in our area would pay extra to have that option. There are some restaurants that do a good job. I've worked with Green Fountain quite a bit with steaks. I do have restaurants that want steaks from me but I cannot supply enough steaks. The problem with beef producers trying to get into restaurants is the

steak count. You only get so many steaks per animal. It's hard to meet their demand - at least at my scale - to be a consistent supplier," she said.

Ground beef is much easier for the beef producer to maintain a consistent inventory.

"It's more accessible as an entry point for any restaurant. It doesn't take anything fancy to make a grass-fed cheese burger taste good," said Bouessa.

Her family moved to this farm when she was in the first grade. When she was in middle school her parents transitioned into managed grazing during the dairy crisis in the 1990s.

"It was the only economically viable way to stay as dairy farmers without having to quit," she said.

She went to her first grazing conferences as a middle school student. Bouessa

studied in the agronomy and soil program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and went into a master's program in agro-ecology.

Meanwhile the family's dairy barn burned down while almost everybody was across the Pacific Ocean. Her parents were in Australia, one brother was in Hawaii, another in Japan.

"I get to joke that I live in the most exotic place of all - here in central Wisconsin," she said.

She never thought she would go into farming despite her background and being in the FFA in Weyauwega. While working on the agro-ecology coursework, she was learning more about the benefit of grass-fed beef.

In a class about rural sociology, she learned there were three barriers for entry into agriculture: "Access to land. Access to capital. And education. Well, I have all

three of those. I should take advantage of that and go farm," she said.

While the rest of the family was away, they rented the fields to Quantum Dairy. After 14 years in Madison, Bouessa moved back to the 360-acre family farm and started with 15 unrented acres and 13 Angus steers. Now her herd grazes in 80 acres of pasture and is up to 70 head. They are British White Park cattle, a breed well suited for grass.

"They are a really docile and hardy breed," she said. Next year, 28 calves will be born and each one gets a name with the same letter. This year was K, next year is L.

She drove her Kawasaki side-by-side on a two-track out to a far corner of the farm. She looked for Dora,

Beef

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

Waupaca to raise debt service levy

Property taxes to increase

BY ROBERT CLOUD SENIOR EDITOR

WAUPACA - Common Council approved a 14.77% increase in the debt service levy at its Nov. 7 meeting.

City staff presented two options regarding increases to the debt service levy.

Revenues from the debt service levy must be used to pay principal and interest on money the city borrows for capital projects.

Under the first option, the city's debt service levy would increase from \$1.16 million in 2023 to \$1.66 million in 2024.

At the same time, taxpay-

ers will see an increase in their home values due to a recent property revaluation.

"Assuming a property's value increased by the average of the revaluation, this would result in an approximate \$202 tax increase on a \$250,000 home in 2024," City Administrator Aaron Jenson noted in a memo sent to council members prior to an Oct. 17 meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

Ald. Dmitri Martin questioned how the tax increase would impact homeowners and city staff prepared a second option for increasing the debt service levy at the Nov. 7 meeting.

Under the second option,

Property Taxes CONTINUES ON PAGE 11



Weyauwega-Fremont Middle School teacher Rion Urven was the keynote speaker at the Veteran's Day ceremony at the high school. He served as a medic in the Air Force and served overseas. James Card Photo

W-F teacher, veteran gives moving speech

Audience gives standing ovation

BY JAMES CARD STAFF REPORTER

WEYAUWEGA - Middle school teacher Rion Urven was the keynote speaker at the Veteran's Day ceremony at W-F High School on Nov. 10.

Principal Jodi Alix introduced Urven. She noted that while in the Air Force, he served in Texas, Virginia, Nebraska, Japan, Kuwait and Qatar.

He was honorably discharged in 2016 and studied

at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. He became a teacher at the Weyauwega-Fremont Middle School in 2022.

In the Air Force, Urven was a paramedic and a medical lab technician. This was not part of his plan. He said he enlisted to be a hero and that would be achieved in Air Force Pararescue, an elite unit that conducts dangerous rescue missions around the globe.

"They jump out of anything, into anything, to save anyone. It sounded glorious. My parents were terrified.

Urven CONTINUES ON PAGE 5

Clintonville chief concerned about salaries

May impact future hiring

BY BERT LEHMAN STAFF REPORTER

CLINTONVILLE - Police Chief Craig Freitag is concerned with the department's salary structure.

According to Freitag, the salary structure discourages current employees to seek promotions, and it makes it difficult for the department to fill dispatcher vacancies.



Clintonville Police Chief Craig Freitag

work 133 hours more."

Freitag's salary is based on 2,080 hours, while the captain's salary is based on 1,947 hours.

Freitag claimed the way the city's salaries are structured, it makes it difficult to promote from within because employees would have to take a pay cut in certain instances when promoted. Compounding that, Freitag said if the city looks to hire from outside current staff, it would be difficult to find candidates willing to accept a job at the salary the city offers.

"This city has created this culture of management (wondering) why don't people want to get promoted?" Freitag said.

Over the past few years, Freitag said he has had problems hiring dispatchers for the department because of the starting wage for the position.

"We have been fortunate for a lot of years in the dispatch center, having employees that have been there a long time," Freitag said. "They're gone, and now we are in the same boat as everybody else."

In addition, Freitag said based on the numbers he has seen, none of the positions in the police department are in the top five (in wages) in the city.

"We're going to do a wage study. Most likely it will sit on the self because we will not be able to afford to make the changes," Freitag said. "So, why invest that \$15,000 in a wage study when we already know the answer?"

Interview

In a phone interview with the Clintonville Tribune-Gazette, Freitag said the reason he is expressing his concerns is he feels the city's elected officials need to be aware of the potential hiring issues this could cause in the future for the department.

"In looking at numbers, our clerk/dispatchers, based on the numbers that I have seen, they're underpaid quite a bit," Freitag said. "Nobody at the city is looking to be the highest paid in the area, but just looking at averages, our dispatch is under the average, considerably."

As stated, patrol officers are unionized. Their union contract with the city expires after 2024, Freitag said.

"In the past, the wages for our patrol officers have been in the ballpark area of where

Salaries

CONTINUES ON PAGE 11

Oct. 9 Finance meeting

Freitag brought his concerns to elected officials for the first time when he addressed the Clintonville Finance and Personnel Committee at its Oct. 9 meeting.

He told the committee that the Clintonville Police Department is experiencing a lot of wage-related issues, including his own salary. He said that he was hired in 2019, a year after the city of Clintonville hired an outside firm to conduct a wage study.

The first year that he prepared the budget for the police department he said he found out that employees in the department that he supervised

were making more money than he was.

"And the city said, 'Oh, figured you were going to find out,'" Freitag said.

Of note, unionized members of the Clintonville Police Department were not part of the 2018 wage study. Patrol officers are the unionized members in the department.

Freitag said he has contacted consulting firms that conduct wage studies, and asked how they come up with a salary for a position. He said based on the formula he was given, the captain's position makes \$2.44 per hour more than the chief's position.

"However, at the end of the year, my salary is just under \$1,000 more," Freitag said. "I



Truck fire in Waupaca

Waupaca firefighters responded to the Kwik Trip store on County Trunk QQ and State Highway 54 shortly after 9:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 5. Furniture in the 20-foot trailer of a box truck was on fire, which burned through the floor of the trailer. The truck's exhaust system is the suspected cause of the fire. The truck is owned by Boxdrop Mattress and Furniture, located on County QQ. Greg Seubert Photo

BEEF

FROM PAGE 1

her favorite cow and one so friendly Bouressa thinks she might be able to ride her. Dora is the cow people pet when she gives tours of the farm. She hosted children from Sunny Day Child Care Center on the farm and this fall she threw a Bluegrass and Burgers party for friends and neighbors.

"This is my favorite place on the farm. I call this the 'gateway to the new land,'" said Bouressa. She said it's a place where birds migrate through every year and eagles, cranes and turkeys abound. "Prior to me taking this over, it was continuous corn, silage and liquid manure. Even though this

is my family's land, they planted the corn up to the tree line, and they tilled heavily in the fall and we could hardly come up here. It's extra special for me to see the trees and the land," she said.

Bouressa designs grazing plans for other farmers. This was the first time the document read: "Plan written for Rachel Bouressa. Plan written by Rachel Bouressa." She laid it out so that anyone can drive out without passing through fences. She put in lanes where she can move the cattle from any field to other fields by opening gates. There is a mile of water lines she put in herself.

Most of her beef goes to

individual customers and is sold in quarters and halves. She has a long waiting list. But she also understands not everyone can buy a half or quarter cow at a time so she offers retail packages of meat in smaller amounts. These can be ordered via her website (bouressafamilyfarm.com) and Bouressa coordinates delivery. She is working on a creating farm store retail space for visitors.

She also recently offered what she calls the Power Blend, a burger mix of ground beef, liver and heart. The idea is to slip in the healthy nutrient-dense organ meats that some people find hard to swallow, into much more palatable meatballs or cheeseburgers.

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Get Up and Ride (or Walk) the Camino



Bridge club meets Dec. 8

WAUPACA – The Waupaca Duplicate Bridge Club will meet at 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at the Holly Center.

All area bridge players are invited to attend.

A Sectional Bridge Tournament was played at the

Holly Center in Waupaca on Friday, Nov. 10. First place winners were Kristi Massman and Betty Stauffer, both of Waupaca. Second place went to Eric McVickar of Appleton and Dan Schommer of Waupaca. Winning third place was Terry and Janet Liska of Wautoma and fourth place went to Karen Holly and Sue Heideman of Waupaca.

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Dear Reader,

The Camino de Santiago, also known as the Way of St. James, has a history that spans over a thousand years. Its origins are rooted in the early 9th century, when the tomb of Saint James was miraculously discovered in what is now the city of Santiago de Compostela in northwest Spain.

The discovery of the apostle's remains turned the site into a major Christian pilgrimage destination, rivaling even Jerusalem and Rome. Pilgrims from all over Europe began making their way to Santiago, and the routes leading to the shrine gradually formed what we now know as the Camino.

During the Middle Ages, the Camino de Santiago became a well-established network of trails and roads. The pilgrimage was a profound spiritual journey, offering penance and the opportunity to seek forgiveness. It also served as a cultural exchange route, with pilgrims sharing stories, music, and art, contributing to the spread of knowledge and ideas across Europe.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, the Camino saw a decline in popularity, partly due to political turmoil in Spain and changes in religious practices. However, the pilgrimage experienced a revival in the late 20th century, largely driven by a renewed interest in spirituality, adventure,

and a desire to connect with history and culture.

Today, the Camino de Santiago has regained its status as one of the world's most famous pilgrimages. It offers a range of routes, each with its unique charm, from the rugged Camino Francés to the coastal Camino del Norte. Pilgrims, whether driven by faith or a desire for self-discovery, continue to walk or cycle these ancient paths, forging new traditions while honoring the rich history that underlies this remarkable journey.

I walked the Camino eight years ago which was a pilgrimage. Recently my two cousins, Jimmy Shea (famous author of the book "Get Up And Ride") and his trusted wingman Marty Moldovan, rode their bikes from Pamplona to Santiago. I met them for moral support and also with a car to help carry some of their gear towards the end of their pilgrimage. It was glorious to film those guys riding in to the front of the Basilica after their arduous trek on the road. We especially savored the brotherhood of bonding at Mass that Sunday as the last people who were able to enter with hundreds left outside to possibly catch it another time. "Buen Camino," it was!

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

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Waupaca NEWS

Coffee for canines

Fundraiser helps dog rescue

BY JAMES CARD
STAFF REPORTER

WAUPACA – The dog-friendly coffee shop Aquamos Coffee Collaborative wanted to help out Our Pack, a non-profit animal rescue based out of New London.

They came up with an idea to invent an original blended drink based on the quirks and looks of local dogs and the proceeds would go to Our Pack.

The plan was to make a daily special named after a local dog to help other pooches.

They intended to do the Dog Days of Summer fundraiser for a month starting on Aug. 1 but it was so popular they ran it until Oct. 3.

They raised \$1,600 and 305 dogs had mixed drinks made in their name. The drinks ranged from frappes, lattes, chais, teas and espressos. The Mousse Cold Brew was one of the most popular drinks.

“It was huge. People would come in with their dogs and send in pictures of their dogs. The mix was based off of their picture and personality and what the owners told us they liked or didn’t like. Our baristas were phenomenal and they helped build out these drinks out for us. We had 305 different drinks. Each drink had their own unique spin to it based on the dog. It was exhausting but it was worth it. We love dogs,” said co-owner Wayne Cain.

The money raised was for vaccinations, especially Canine parvovirus, also known simply as “parvo.” It is a highly contagious virus and puppies are most at risk.



Aquamos Coffee Collaborative raised funds for Our Pack, a dog rescue in New London, by inventing drinks and naming them after local dogs. The drinks were featured specials and the proceeds were for canine vaccinations. Image from Aquamos

An Our Pack puppy named Ringo died within 24 hours of being diagnosed when he was 11 weeks old. Ringo had parvo before being vaccinated but the vaccine did not take hold and prevent his demise.

The foster mom was Cassie Glodowski, an athletic trainer at Waupaca High School and Aquamos did a tribute for him and made t-shirts, sweatshirts and stickers to sell with the proceeds going to Our Pack.

“As part of this we did an adoption day with Our Pack. We featured about 20 dogs here in our shop and next door in the green space. We had people come in from the community and it was a huge day to look at all these dogs for adoption,” said co-owner Alex Le Clair.

One dog was adopted that day and it got others interested in being foster families for the dogs.

The fundraising campaign ended but the creativity, goodwill and love of dogs will live on in the form of a hardcover book. All of the dogs and all of the recipes will be included and the money from the book sales will go to Our Pack. The book should be out by mid-November. People can sign

up for a book at the shop or online. Already 70 people have signed up for a copy. Also there will be tribute pages in the book for dogs that died and were unable to participate in the original fundraiser.

“We can’t thank the community enough for coming in and supporting it and buying drinks and helping raise money for that,” said Cain.

LeClair said they will be doing it again the same time next year and people can submit their dog photos to them anytime.

The good-cause campaigns will continue at Aquamos. They plan to do a similar fundraiser for cat rescues in February or March and another project they have in mind is to develop a mini dog park green space area near Main Street where people can pop their dogs off the leash.

The logo of Aquamos is Otto the Otter and they are looking to support an outfit in Oshkosh that rescues and rehabilitates river otters. They would like to adopt one, and have a live-feed broadcast on screens in the coffee shop and people can watch otters swimming and playing around.

Local writer named BBA finalist

WAUPACA – “Finding the Bones: A Novella and Stories,” by Nikki Kallio of Waupaca was selected as a finalist in the 20th annual Best Book Awards (BBA) category for outstanding story collection from 2021–23.

Kallio’s stories offer unique explorations of traditional genres such as ghost stories, gothic tales, space travel, dystopian futures and solar-induced madness.

“Fighting the Bones” was

published in January 2023 by Cornerstone Press.

Kallio, who began writing as a child, earned a master of fine arts degree from Goddard College before launching a career as a writer, journalist, editor and creative writing instructor.

“I like moody settings and the liminal space between literary and genre fiction,” Kallio wrote on her website. “I love the conjuring pro-

cess of writing, the magic of watching a story spin from just a few simple words or phrases, and I’m enchanted by how stories manifest for each writer.”

“Sometimes Creek,” by Steve Fox of Hudson, won first place in the short story collection category.

Sponsored by the American Book Fest, the BBA recognizes mainstream, indie and self-published titles in more than 100 categories.

Author to speak at high school

WAUPACA – Author Angeline Boulley will speak at the Waupaca High School at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5.

The event is open to the public and the following day she will be speaking to an audience of Waupaca High School students.

Boulley will be talking about her debut book, “Fire-

keeper’s Daughter.”

The book was listed as one of the top 100 young adult novels of all time by Time magazine and was a New York Times best seller. The story is being adapted for television.

Her books can be purchased at the Dragonwings bookstore in at 110 S Main St. in Waupaca. The shop is

located in the lower level of the Bookcellar.

The author’s visit was made possible by the Waupaca Public Library, Macmillan Publishers, Dragonwings Bookstore, the Waupaca Area Community Foundation Grant, the Mame and Iona Heaney Empowering Women Fund and Waupaca High School.

Doctor recommends getting vaccinated

WAUPACA – Cases of influenza, a respiratory virus commonly referred to as the flu, are on the rise nationally. Cases of Covid are also up as well.

“The numbers of people becoming infected with Covid or the flu are on the rise here in our local area,” said Dr. Zachary J. Baeseman, associate chief medical officer, and family medicine physician with ThedaCare. “Our best advice is for anyone 6 months of age or older to get both a flu shot and the latest Covid vaccine as soon as possible.”

He noted that while both diseases have similar symptoms, different viruses cause them, thus two different vaccines are needed to provide protection. He added that it is OK to get both the flu and Covid vaccinations at the same time.

He also noted that as of this year, those with egg allergies are cleared to receive the regular flu vaccine. Baeseman added that all vaccines should be given in a place where allergic reactions can be recognized and treated quickly.

The flu season typically runs from October through early spring in Wisconsin.

This year’s flu vaccine targets the newest strains of that respiratory virus currently in circulation. The latest Covid vaccine, made by Pfizer and Moderna, attacks a subvariant of omicron, called XBB.1.5, which is responsible for more than 90% of current cases, according to the



Baeseman

CDC.

“The flu can be a serious illness, especially for the very young, the very old, those with chronic health conditions and pregnant women,” Baeseman said. “That’s because those groups run the highest risk of developing a complication from the illness. Those same groups also face the greatest risk of complications from Covid.”

Both the flu and Covid viruses are spread between people via small and large droplets that are expelled when infected people sneeze, cough, talk, laugh, sing or yell. The droplets can linger in the air in indoor areas with poor ventilation. Shaking hands with people who are ill or touching surfaces where the virus is present can also infect people.

In the case of both illnesses, people can spread the virus before the onset of symptoms, Baeseman said, which makes transmission harder to determine. He noted that Covid is generally more contagious than the flu and is often transmitted during “su-

per spreader” events such as weddings, funerals or large social gatherings. People with Covid may take longer to show symptoms and may be contagious longer after infection.

“The best advice for avoiding these diseases is to get vaccinated against both, wash your hands frequently, wear a mask in public places if you’re comfortable doing so, and avoid large crowds when local infection rates are high,” Baeseman said. “You should also stay home if you’re not feeling well.”

He noted that symptoms of the flu and Covid are similar, and typically include fever or having chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle pain or body aches, headache, vomiting and diarrhea. Change in or loss of taste or smell is common with Covid.

“The flu and Covid both can cause serious complications and death, especially for those in high-risk categories,” Baeseman said. “These are not illnesses to take lightly. It just makes sense that getting vaccinated against both viruses is the best way to protect yourself and those you love.”

For information about locations and scheduling options for Covid, flu and RSV vaccinations, as well as other types of vaccines, visit [ThedaCare.org/immunizations/](https://www.thedacare.org/immunizations/).

Christmas charity in a shoebox

WAUPACA – Faith Community Church is the collection site for Operation Christmas Child.

Shoebbox gifts prepared by donors and filled with toys, hygiene items and school supplies may be dropped off during National Collection Week that runs from November 13 to 20.

This is the 30th year for Operation Christmas Child and they have collected 209 mil-

lion boxes that have been distributed to children in need, poverty and war-torn countries.

Samaritan’s Purse partners with local churches across the globe to deliver these shoeboxes to children.

To prepare a shoebox, first wrap the lid and the box separately. Indicate if it is for a boy or a girl and select an age range: 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14. Pack the box with one large toy,

several smaller toys, hygiene items and school supplies.

Donors are also encouraged to include a note and a photo.

Boxes can be picked up at Faith Community Church and other locations. The church is located at N2541 County Trunk K, Waupaca.

For more information about the shoebox collection, visit www.samaritanpurse.org.

School shooting rumor dispelled

BY JAMES CARD
STAFF REPORTER

WAUPACA – District Administrator Ron Saari arrived at Waupaca High School wearing blue jeans and a Cabelas sweatshirt on Friday, Nov. 10. That’s what he threw on after he eived a call at 5:30 a.m. concerning a rumor about a school shooting.

As he rushed to the school, police were already knocking on doors in the early morning hours and following leads.

After police gathered more information, it was decided the rumor was not credible.

Saari conferred with Police Chief Brian Hoelzel and they decided the school day would go on as normal, but they would conduct backpack searches as a precaution and would increase police presence.

Saari said the rumor started earlier in the week when a student commented on the vestibule of the new single-point entry at the high school. The student said something to the effect that the new design was safe and would prevent a school shooting.

Another student overheard and misunderstood the “school shooting” and then passed it along to another student and another and another.

“It was like the telephone game,” said Saari as he held out his hand and made small consecutive karate chops on a table mimicking information getting passed down the line.

The telephone game is a children’s game where messages are whispered from one person to the next. Typically when the

first message and last message received are compared, the final message is garbled mumbo jumbo and completely unlike the original message.

No students were disciplined for the rumor that went viral. Police only conducted backpack searches at the main entrance. Some worried parents picked up their children and a few students craftily used morning drama as a way to skip school.

Saari pointed out his own children were at the school, along with children of law enforcement officers. The school was safe from the start and was never locked down. Later in the morning, High School Principal Mike Werbowski emailed parents an explanation of the morning events and stated school was back to normal.



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Clintonville NEWS



Members of Nu Chapter making gifts for veterans are Jan Mielke, Jenny Hangartner, Lynn Aprill, Elaine Schuler and Pat Osmuss. Submitted Photo

Group makes gifts for veterans

CLINTONVILLE – Jan Mielke spearheaded an effort to make the holidays a bit brighter for residents at the Wisconsin Veterans Home in King.

Nu Chapter members donated items such as comfortable clothing, toiletries and slippers during the chapter's November meeting held at Bethany Evangelical Free Church in Clintonville.

Items were also donated

by community members, businesses and churches in Marion, Tigerton, Clintonville, Wittenberg, and Shawano. Chapter members and the community donated \$750.

Mary Polcin, a Stampin Up demonstrator, along with Judy Kucksdorf and Lynn Aprill helped chapter members create holiday cards for veterans. Working in assembly line fashion, the group of 20 made 60

cards in less than an hour.

Nu Chapter, a part of Delta Kappa Gamma International, is a society of women educators from Waupaca and Shawano counties. Chapter members also support the Books for Newborns project, donate \$200 to each of two school libraries each year, and this year will award a \$500 scholarship to a student pursuing a career in education.

Coffee with the Community

CLINTONVILLE – The Clintonville Public School District will host its second Coffee with the Community from 9-10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 7, at the Clintonville High School and Middle School cafeteria.

Parents, guardians and community members are welcome to attend the event.

The event will kick off with a performance by the CHS Jazz Band, followed by the district's curriculum director, Brit-

tany Schmidt, who discuss recent curriculum changes in k-12 mathematics and English. A Q&A will follow her presentation.

Those who are unable to attend in person may join the event online by going to meet.google.com/neq-oend-rhf and connecting online.

"The Coffee with the Community event is an essential part of our ongoing commitment to transparency and

open communication with our valued community members. We want to ensure that everyone has access to information about the educational developments within CPSD," said Superintendent Troy Kuhn.

To make reservations, contact Dena Peters in the district office by calling 715-823-7215, ext. 2605, or by email at dpeters@clintonville.k12.wi.us.

Clintonville Area Foundation raise \$18,000

CLINTONVILLE – The Clintonville Area Foundation raised more than \$18,000 at its annual fundraiser Oct. 21 at Clintonville Riverside Golf Club.

The monies include sponsorship and donations from auction items and raffle ticket purchases.

"All the money raised goes back into our community," said event chair and board member Lori List. "We help organizations around town do

big things."

The Clintonville Area Foundation in many ways, and that would not be possible without the generosity and dedication of donors and nonprofit partners, added Board Chair Sue Aschliman.

Most grants are awarded from charitable funds for which donors recommend local nonprofit organization recipients. The Clintonville Area Foundation also provides

grants from the Clintonville Community Fund, created by donations from community members with a goal to support immediate and ongoing community needs.

For example, this past year, through the power of grants from that fund, the city has a new dog park in Bucholtz Park, and users of the Clintonville Area Food Pantry have access to fresh fruit, a foundation to nutritional eating.

Clintonville considers wage study

City may hire outside firm

BY BERT LEHMAN
STAFF REPORTER

CLINTONVILLE – The city of Clintonville is considering spending around \$15,000 in 2024 to have a consulting firm conduct a wage study.

The firm would also provide direction on how to implement the study's results.

The city last hired an outside firm to conduct a wage study in 2018, at a cost of around \$13,500.

After the wage study was concluded, the Clintonville City Council unanimously approved a new wage schedule at its Oct. 9, 2018 meeting. The new wage schedule included wage adjustments to city employees that amounted to an additional \$75,000 in the 2019 city budget.

Background

City Administrator Caz Muske sent memo about compensation discussions to the Finance Committee for a special meeting on Oct. 24. The main topic of that meeting was the 2024 city budget, but employee compensation was also on the agenda.

According to the memo, Muske began discussing employee compensation with city department heads at a leadership meeting on Dec. 6, 2021.

The timeline indicates that Muske was also in contact with city administrators of surrounding communities throughout 2022 in an effort to conduct an in-house wage study.

At a July 5, 2022, city leadership meeting, Muske asked department heads to provide comments about the city's "Evaluation and Compensation Process."

At that meeting, participants suggested the city discontinue its current Employee Performance Evaluation Program. It was also suggested "to discontinue the 2018 Compensation Method and utilize market value and cost of living data to slowly phase-in adequate salaries that have not been achieved and maintain current adequate salaries as the adopted budget allows."

Discussion of hiring a firm to conduct a wage study began in January of this year.

Oct. 9 Finance meeting

At the Oct. 9 Finance Committee meeting, Muske said there was a consensus among city department heads to hire a consulting firm to conduct another wage study for the city. Muske said the cost of that study was included in the preliminary 2024 city budget. She said if a new study were to be done, it would be done in 2024, with

the results implemented in 2025.

Finance Committee Chair Brandon Braden, who was on the Clintonville Common Council in 2018, said immediately after the study was concluded and implemented, he heard from city staff about concerns about how confusing and complicated the study was. He added that it led to a lack of transparency.

"Obviously when that study was done, pre COVID, pre crazy inflation, pre a whole bunch of other things that nobody could have ever anticipated back in 2018," Braden said.

He added that the decision to conduct a new wage study needs to be made before the 2024 budget is approved.

There are factors other than wages that attract people to seek jobs with the city, Braden said.

Committee member Greg Rose asked how much time was spent by city staff conducting the in-house wage study last year.

Muske said she conducted the in-house wage study in collaboration with other administrators in the county.

"We all worked together because we're all experiencing very similar wage issues," Muske said.

After discussing the results with the department heads in Clintonville, Muske said the results weren't agreed upon.

"That's when we went to hire a consultant," Muske said. "Knowing there are so many variables and factors that I do not have the time to dig through, call municipalities up to get these fine details."

Braden acknowledged that an in-house study is a large undertaking for the city, adding that he hasn't heard many positive comments regarding the in-house study conducted last year.

It was also noted that an in-house study can also cause resentment from employees toward the city personnel who conducted the study.

Problems with 2018 study

Clintonville Utilities Manager Dave Tichinel said a wage study does work, and the study done in 2018 would have worked if the city would have followed up on items found in that study.

He added that it wasn't the fault of anybody on the Finance Committee, and it wasn't the fault of Muske, who wasn't with the city when that study was conducted.

"There was a lot that came out of that study that wasn't right," Tichinel said. "We didn't listen to the study."

Tichinel said the city could do multiple studies, but if it doesn't come up with the funds needed to implement the results of the study, the studies

won't do any good.

"I agree with doing a study, but you guys, the board or the council, is going to have to help us out because you know what, we have to find the money to put into these wages for these studies to get us up to speed," Tichinel said.

He added, "We still have to have a plan going forward in our budget to catch people up. I'll tell you right now, you're not going to do it overnight."

Mayor Steve Kettenhoven said he is also in favor of the city hiring a consulting firm to conduct a wage study, and agreed with Tichinel that the city will need to find the funds in order to implement the results of the study. But he cautioned about which communities Clintonville is compared with in the study because Clintonville doesn't have the funds that larger communities have.

"We just can't compete with the bigger cities," Kettenhoven said.

He added that higher wages are paid in larger cities in part because the cost to live in those cities is higher.

"We do need some sort of starting point, but it has to be fair," Kettenhoven said.

Rose said he is also in favor of hiring a consultant to conduct a wage study.

Muske said she is aware of instances when the city deviated away from the study's recommendations.

"Based on my scope, I would not want to do that (deviate)," Muske said. "If we did deviate, it would be a discussion with department heads, if it makes sense. I think there's a feeling of mistrust, and I totally understand. However, we're all over the board."

She added, "Based on conversations, the only option that I'm hearing is a professional wage study. Otherwise, I have not heard any other suggestion. Otherwise, I'm turning to you as elected officials to come up with something else, but based on my conversations with department heads and other city administrators this is the solution that we have."

Braden said if a wage study is conducted, the council needs to make it a priority to work towards implementing the results of the study.

"If we're going to go forward with it, I think we do need to make that a priority for next year's budget, to make sure we do everything we can to implement this as fairly and equitably as possible," Braden said.

Tammy Strey-Hirt said that's what the council thought it was doing after the 2018 wage study.

"We went by the recommendations and we tried to do what was right and here we are now," Strey-Hirt said.

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New London & Hortonville NEWS

Veteran shares experience with students

Roberts served in Iraq

BY JOHN FAUCHER
STAFF REPORTER

NEW LONDON – On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, US Army Reservist Tim Roberts awoke to a phone call from his brother.

His brother, who was also an Army Reservist, said, “We’re going to war! Turn on your TV!”

Roberts turned on his television just as the second plane hit the Twin Towers.

Millions of Americans still recall the morning they witnessed the devastation in New York unfold in real-time.

Less than two years later, Roberts’ unit was getting ready to go fight in Iraq.

In early 2003, he landed in Doha Kuwait with the 257th Transportation Company. They were heading for Camp Arifan one week after the U.S.-led Coalition forces crossed over the border into Iraq.

Their mission was to retrieve all the damaged equipment left along the way in Iraq and bring it back to Kuwait.

One of his first missions was traveling to Baghdad International Airport to drop off supplies and retrieve equipment one week after the US Military took the airport.

He later spent his 21st birthday at the base in Baghdad and recalled being there for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Roberts said the base in Baghdad was on lockdown



Tim Roberts shared his military experience after the attack on the World Trade Center, Sept. 11, 2001. Roberts was a guest speaker during a special Veterans’ Day Program held Nov. 10 at New London Middle School. John Faucher Photo

during Thanksgiving, due to a surprise visit by then President George W. Bush.

He shared slides of his deployment with students and community members attending the program.

While there were some memorable moments such as the presidential visit, “It wasn’t easy being a reservist,” said Roberts.

“Our unit didn’t always have the most modern equipment and we did not travel with security details, but instead we were on our own.

Our trucks didn’t have armor and our support vehicles were soft topped Humvees,” he said. “We even had old Vietnam era flak jackets that would not stop a bullet.”

They often spent days driv-

ing, eating and even sleeping in or on their trucks.

“We did not realize the enemy would target our convoys with IEDs [improvised exploding devices].”

He recalled on one such mission they had a 10-truck convoy returning from Fallujah when all of a sudden they noticed civilian vehicles had disappeared off the road.

That was when Roberts said, an IED detonated hitting the truck in front of him.

“Fortunately, our trucks were 12-feet high and we were able to drive away out of the kill zone. We were lucky we didn’t lose anyone in that convoy attack, but it made it very clear to all of us that we were in a war for sure,” said Roberts.

During their one-year deployment, the 257th Transportation Company drove over two million miles.

Roberts told students to this day, he still could not drive over anything randomly lying in the road.

“This comes from a year of driving in Iraq, never knowing where the bombs were,” he said.

Old Glory Honor Flight

In September Roberts was one of 58 northeast Wisconsin veterans selected to participate in the first of its kind Old Glory Honor Flight to New York City honoring Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

As part of the tour, veterans visited the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, the Statue of Liberty, Tower One and a wreath-laying ceremony at the reflecting pool.

Roberts told students during the tour they were able to meet and talk to people who had lived through the attack at ground zero.

“They had witnessed their fellow FDNY, NYPD and Port Authority Police brothers and sisters lose their lives protecting those in need at the hands of terrorism,” said Roberts.

They met Tim Brown, a member of the FDNY who lost 106 of his close friends and fellow firefighters on that day.

They also met Will Jimano who was buried alive for over

Roberts

CONTINUES ON PAGE 11

Rule changes urged for outdoor events

New London reviews security, hours

BY ROBERT CLOUD
SENIOR EDITOR

NEW LONDON – Parks and Rec Director Ginger Sowle has requested the city amend its policies for special events and outdoor concerts.

In a memo to the Parks and Recreation Committee, Sowle noted that 15 special events were held this summer in New London.

“I would say overall they all were a success, from a city standpoint and also for the groups that held the permits,” she noted in her memo.

Sowle met with event organizers after each event and discussed the “highs and lows.”

She also had meetings with Police Chief Jeff Schlueter, evaluated events of the past two years and looked at the city’s policies for special events and outdoor music.

“Currently, the ordinance allows for music to be played until 9 p.m. and then if a permit holder would like to extend time, they can apply for an extension to no later than midnight,” Sowle noted.

“We had one event that had an extension until midnight this season. During that event, the Police Department recognized the need for additional enforcement, the Parks and Recreation Office and the New London Area Chamber of Commerce received several complaints about the noise. There was also

a lot of garbage left on the streets around the parking area coming from the groups of people leaving the event at the end of the night.”

At a Nov. 7 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee, Sowle proposed amending the ordinance to require permits for all special events.

Schlueter would review the permits and determine the level of security required.

“Having alcohol at outdoor music events increases the need for those additional officers,” Sowle said. “We have seen that is something we definitely want to include from here on out.”

Event organizers will pay fees for additional security.

Permits, hours

Organizers will need to obtain a permit, which is currently not required for outdoor music events, and they will also need to make changes in how they set up their event.

For example, Sowle said Hatten Park is bordered by a residential neighborhood along Werner Allen Road. She recommended the stage face the wooded area on the park’s west side, away from the road to buffer the noise of amplifiers and avoid disturbing neighbors.

“These bigger events have a lot more detail than a parade,” Sowle said.

She noted the need for public restroom facilities and utilities because the event may need power

Events

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Wega-Fremont NEWS

URVEN

FROM PAGE 1

But I did not qualify. My eyes were bad so instead I was put in the lab. It was disappointing at first. I had this whole mindset of what I wanted to be. I didn’t make it. But one thing that I learned in there, was that everyone serves in his own way,” said Urven.

This was the main message in Urven’s speech, of how one can play an important role that is part of a bigger picture. It might not be the role one signed up for, but it was an important job nonetheless.

“You need to make the whole thing run. You need to make the operation work. For many of us, teachers are considered heroes, but we’re not the only ones that work at the school. It’s the same way in the military. We’ve seen the action movies but maybe you know a veteran whose experience might not be as glamorous,” he said.

Urven recalled an experience that many veterans can relate to such as when a vet is thanked for their service and asked about it. He said he was in some dangerous situations but if he had to explain his experience in the service, it would be 99% boredom and 1% sheer terror.

“For many of us, it’s a day-to-day job. It could be medical, it could be maintenance. It’s a job that’s pretty parallel to civilian life but there is that 1% chance something’s going to go on,” he said.

He said one thing that always stuck with him was a line

in the Airmen’s Creed, a 94-word oath where the airman refers to himself as his “nation’s sword and shield.”

Why they serve

He listed various reasons why people choose to serve in the military.

“Whatever the reason, these men and women took an oath and said ‘I will be my nation’s sword and shield’ and they answered that call. All I ask is to listen to their story. Hear what they have to say. Many of them came home changed. Many didn’t come home at all,” he said.

He also focused on the good things his military experience provided. By the time he was 27 years old he had been around the world numerous times.

“I got to see Japan, something I never thought I would have got to do before. I got to learn about their culture. It gives you an open mind,” he said.

Urven would never have met his best friend who became his best man if it wasn’t for enlisting the Air Force. They grew up on other sides of the country.

“He’s the next person in line to take care of my family if something happens to me. These are the relationships and the bonds you can get from serving in the military. It’s humbling and also terrifying at times,” he said as he choked up a little.

As a parting remark, he encouraged the audience to take care of the people around



During October, the Tri-County 4-H Club did a food drive in Fremont and collected canned goods and other items for the Weymont Food Pantry. Tri-County 4-H members pictured are: (L-R) Madelyn Haase, Rylei Bruesewitz, Brooklyn Bruesewitz and Archer Umnus. Submitted Photo

Driver killed in crash

WEYAUWEGA - Samuel T. Kemper, 28, of Weyauwega, was pronounced deceased at the scene of a single-vehicle crash in the Town of Rose, Waushara County on Nov. 2.

His identify was determined on Nov. 6. The accident occurred on 15th Road, south of County Trunk A. The vehicle went off the road and crash into several trees. The Waushara County Sheriff’s Office, Wild Rose Fire/Rescue, and Waushara County EMS were dispatched to the scene.

them.

“It didn’t matter if you were Army or Navy or Air Force or where you grew up. You raised your hand, you took the oath. That means you’re brothers and sisters. You protected them. You looked out for them. You called them an idiot when they needed it but you would take a bullet for them. In some cases, they could actually prove that to you. That is what we do in the civilian world—look out for the people next to you. Whether it’s the front line or the line at home, we all have our backs. That was the biggest lesson I took with me be-

sides heroes are both large and small,” said Urven.

At the end of his speech, he received a long standing ovation. Student leaders read short essays about veterans that ranged from a quote by Thomas Paine to statistics of how many people have served over the years. Members of the FFA folded an American flag while one member narrated the symbolism of each fold. A microphone was passed around the audience and veterans stated their name and branch of service. Two band members performed Taps to conclude the event.

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Two-hundred reasons to love fishing

BY GREG SEUBERT
SPORTS EDITOR

AMHERST JUNCTION – Finding a way to kill time during her sister's soccer practices turned into a big deal for Aubrey Raddatz.

Armed with their fishing poles, the 13-year-old Amherst Middle School seventh-grader and her father, Timm, would head to the Tomorrow River in Amherst to fish for trout or whatever was biting at the time.

That was in April and started Aubrey's string of 200 consecutive days of fishing that ended Nov. 12 with a family outing to Sunset Lake Park in Portage County.

Aubrey didn't intend to fish every day for more than seven months, but saw an opportunity to do something she'd never forget.

"Eventually, we realized it's been so many days in a row," she said. "We just thought it would be fun to see how long we could get it. I wanted to go as long as I can."

Why 200, she was asked while wrapping up the streak fishing for rainbow trout on Sunset Lake.

"It just works out on a Sunday," she said. "It's a good number, a nice, round number."

Finding time to fish can be difficult at times, especially for a teenager also involved in school and church activities, sports and 4-H.

"It's been difficult because you have to balance everything," Aubrey said. "It's really hard because I have basketball and confirmation. I have something every night."

Timm figured his daughter caught 18 different species of fish during the streak, including brook, largemouth and rainbow trout; bass; walleye; northern pike; tiger musky; yellow perch; black crappie; bluegill; and pumpkinseed.

"We traveled a lot in the summer and we fished 30 different lakes and rivers," he said. "We try a lot of new plac-



Aubrey Raddatz wrapped up 200 straight days of fishing Nov. 12 by catching this 20-inch-long rainbow trout at Portage County's Sunset Lake.

Photo Courtesy of Timm Raddatz

es. We especially love trout, so we'll open the gazetteer book and look for bridges. It's led to a lot of fun little discoveries of new places to go."

Aubrey's fishing destinations this year ranged from small trout streams in the Amherst area to northern Wisconsin lakes around the family's Vilas County cabin to Madison's Lake Mendota.

"I have pictures on the camera roll in my phone from every day," Timm said. "We have a written record of every lake we fished and every different species we caught."

A fishing family

Being around fish is nothing new for Aubrey and her family.

Timm and his wife, Michelle, operate a fishing lure business, TR Custom Lures, out of their Sunset Lake home.

Aubrey and her sister, Alli, help their parents with the business. The girls also make their own lures and have won blue ribbons for them at fairs in Rosholt and Amherst.

Being close to Sunset Lake helped keep the streak going, according to Timm.

He said about half of Aubrey's days were spent

on the lake.

"After chores, homework and supper, we'd have 10 minutes to fish and come over the boat landing," he said. "That helped and it also helped that everyone was supportive. My wife's sister helped out and my wife took her a lot. Everyone just wanted to see it continue."

Timm and Michelle grew up in fishing families and passed on that passion to their daughters.

"When I grew up, if my dad and I weren't on a fishing trip, we were planning our

Fishing

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Bay announces all-conference football teams

BY GREG SEUBERT
SPORTS EDITOR

REGION – A spot in the WIAA playoffs was not in the cards this season for the New London and Waupaca football teams, but the Bulldogs and Comets still placed several players on the Bay Conference's all-conference teams.

New London's Tommy Fields was a unanimous first-team selection as a running back and outside linebacker, while teammate Parker Walbruck made the first team as an offense and defensive lineman and another New London player, Jonah Schluter, made the first team as an outside linebacker.

Four Waupaca players and three from New London made second team, including Waupaca's Andre Hendrix (fullback), Cullen Friedrich (defensive lineman), Trayse Hanson (inside lineman) and Owen Hansen (outside linebacker).

New London's Hunter Beebe (wide receiver), Ira Stein (offensive lineman) and Tyler Gerrits (defensive back), also made the second team.

Waupaca's Henry Mouw made the honorable mention team as a wide receiver and kicker, along with New London's Braxton Bryant (offensive lineman), Ian Liebl (defensive end) and Logan Ten Haken (defensive back).

Bay Conference All-Conference Football Teams First Team

Offense
Quarterback: Brady Immel, senior, Winneconne.
Running back: Tommy Fields*, senior, New London; Ethan Mathe*, senior, Winneconne; Isaiah Des Jardins*, senior, Xavier.
Fullback: Nathan Welter, senior, Xavier.
Wide receiver: Logan Sipple*, junior, Shawano; Dylan Sharratt*, senior, Winneconne; Brody Schaffer*, sophomore, Winneconne.
Lineman: Owen Brantley*, senior, Winneconne; Adam Earle*, senior, Xavier; Eddie Heuring*, junior, Xavier; Parker Walbruck, junior, New London; Brock Socha, junior, Seymour; Dane Katz, junior, Xavier.
Flex player: Jerzy Brocker,

Bay

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Peterson, Carlson on NEC first team

BY GREG SEUBERT
SPORTS EDITOR

REGION – Four area players have been named to the North Eastern Conference's all-conference volleyball teams.

Two of them – Waupaca's Josie Peterson and Peyton Carlson – made the first team as unanimous selections as a setter and outside hitter, respectively.

Meanwhile, Waupaca's Natalie Waller is one of two liberos on the second team and Clintonville's Nicole

Saase made the honorable mention team as a setter.

North Eastern Conference All-Conference Volleyball Teams First Team

Setter: Josie Peterson*, senior, Waupaca.
Outside hitter: Annalise Patchett*, senior, Fox Valley Lutheran; Aubrey Frey*,

NEC

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New coach wants to make Warhawks relevant again

BY GREG SEUBERT
SPORTS EDITOR

WEYAUWEGA – It's been 10 years since the Weyauwega-Fremont girls' basketball team won its last conference championship.

Whether the Warhawks finish at the top of the Central Wisconsin Conference-East standings this season remains to be seen, but if they do, it will be under first-year coach Jason Parker.

The former Weyauwega-Fremont boys' assistant coach replaces Joe Titus, who stepped down earlier this year after six seasons.

"A lot of stuff is new, but they're catching on pretty quick," Parker said. "They had coach Titus here for how many years and now, it's a new coach. Everything's new: a different-style offense, a different-style defense."

Although Titus has moved on, Parker's staff includes returning assistant coaches Shawn Pantzloff and Kristen Samz.

Bonduel won the CWC-East championship with a 13-1 record last season, followed by Wittenberg-Birnhamwood (12-2), Iola-Scandinavia (10-4), Menominee Indian (7-7), Shiocton (6-8), Amherst (5-9), Manawa (3-11) and Weyauwega-Fremont (0-14).

Parker expects Bonduel to be the team to beat this season.

"Bonduel's tough and I don't think they lost too much from last year," he said. "If you look at the last couple years,

it's been tight between the teams at the top, a game here or there."

Parker will build the Warhawks around junior Olivia Witkowski, a first-team all-conference player as a sophomore and a second-teamer as a freshman.

"She's only going to get better," he said. "Hopefully, we can get her a little bit of help. There's talent here. This junior class is pretty strong and there are some up-and-coming freshmen. We'll see where they're at. They have a lot to learn."

Other returning players include juniors Riley Delwiche, Brooklyn Buss, Hannah Pantzloff and Avery Samz; and sophomore McKenna Ferg.

The Warhawks will count on their underclassmen, as the roster includes only two seniors: Hailey Wohlt and Ava Loehrke.

Parker and his staff are working with a program that has only one CWC-East win in the past three seasons, including none in the last two.

"Having Olivia, it's kind of baffling," he said. "Everybody tells (teams) that she's the one you have to stop, so now we need the other girls to help her out. She has to trust them, too. The biggest thing here is getting everybody to trust each other and play together. Winning will happen eventually. I'm not a miracle maker. I don't have this one big speech to tell the girls and we win every night. There will be some ups and downs, but we'll work through it."

Two-a-day practices began Nov. 7 and the Warhawks will open the season Thursday, Nov. 16, with a nonconference game at Lourdes Academy in Oshkosh.

The Warhawks' early schedule also includes nonconference games against Almond-Bancroft, Little Chute and Port Edwards, as well as a pair of games over the Thanksgiving break at the Cranberry Classic at Assumption High School in Wisconsin Rapids.

"I'm looking for them to gel, become more of a team and not watch your teammate play the game," Parker said. "I want everybody involved. It's time to step up, trust your abilities and get after it."

"I'm a fundamentals guy: pass, run, catch, shoot," he added. "To me, fundamentals are huge. You can teach fundamentals and break it down. The game is simple, don't make it hard. Communication is key. You can't play this game without talking to each other, whether it's setting a screen, moving or whatever."

Twenty-eight players will suit up for a varsity, junior varsity or JV2 team.

"You have to have numbers," said Parker, who worked with boys' programs at New London and Hortonville before joining Weyauwega-Fremont boys' coach Kyle Loughrin's staff. "We're not a Kimberley or Kaukauna, where we can pick and choose. We need every athlete in the gym and work with them. We need everybody in here regardless of talent. I don't want to put



Hailey Wohlt and Alyson Baehman are two of 28 players on the Weyauwega-Fremont girls' basketball roster this season. The Warhawks will field a varsity, junior varsity and JV2 team.

Greg Seubert Photo

a girl in a position to not succeed. I have to learn that, too. Where are you better for us as a team?"

His plans down the road include being involved in Weyauwega-Fremont's youth basketball program.

"It definitely has to get better," he said. "We have some good coaches that are stepping up and trying to get it going in the right direction. I'm definitely going to be more involved with that. I asked them to give me the benefit of the doubt here because I have to get this going."

Parker also hopes to build on the success of Weyauwega-Fremont's volleyball and softball programs.

"They've been successful for

years," he said. "I want to be right with them. When you talk Weyauwega-Fremont girls' sports right now, it's volleyball and softball. There's a reason for it: they've been successful. We have to get it back on the map."

Weyauwega-Fremont Girls' Basketball 2023-24 Schedule

Thursday, Nov. 16 – at Lourdes Academy, 7 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 20 – vs. Almond-Bancroft, 7 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 24 – at Cranberry Classic, Wisconsin Rapids, TBA
Saturday, Nov. 25 – at Cranberry Classic, Wisconsin Rapids, TBA
Monday, Nov. 27 – at Little Chute, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 28 – vs. Port Edwards, 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 1 – vs. Amherst, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 7 – vs. Manawa, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 12 – vs. Shiocton, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 15 – at Bonduel, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 22 – at Shiocton, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 4 – vs. Iola-Scandinavia, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 9 – at Menominee Indian, 7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 12 – vs. Wittenberg-Birnhamwood, 7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 15 – vs. Rosholt, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 18 – at Manawa, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 23 – at Amherst, 7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 2 – at Iola-Scandinavia, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 6 – vs. Bonduel, 7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 9 – vs. Menominee Indian, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 15 – at Wittenberg-Birnhamwood, 7 p.m.



New London's Tommy Fields made the Bay Conference all-conference football first team as a running back and outside linebacker. Greg Seubert Photo

BAY

FROM PAGE 12

junior, Shawano. Kicker: AJ Seidler*, senior, Xavier. Defense Lineman: Quinton Lumsden*, senior, Xavier; Parker Walbruck, junior, New London; Mason Bunnell, junior, Seymour; Zander Bartel, senior, Winneconne. End: Alex Marsh*, junior, Seymour; Carter Appl*, junior, Xavier. Inside linebacker: Reid Hietpas*, senior, Xavier; Jordan Thompson, sophomore, Seymour; Carter McGlone, senior, Xavier. Outside linebacker: Tommy Fields*, senior, New London; Cole Hietpas*, junior, Xavier; Jonah Schlueter, senior, New London. Back: Jerzy Brocker*, junior, Shawano; Isaiah Des Jardins*, senior, Xavier; Mason Dorn, senior, Winneconne. Punter: Ayden Loukidis, senior, Winneconne.

Second Team

Offense Quarterback: Reid Hietpas, senior, Xavier. Running back: Xavier Salzman, sophomore, Seymour; Mason Bunnell, junior, Seymour; Matthew Potter, sophomore, Xavier. Fullback: Andre Hendrix, junior, Waupaca. Wide receiver: Hunter Beebe, senior, New London; Dylan Hodkiewicz, senior, Shawano; Evan McCormick, senior, Xavier. Lineman: Ira Stein, junior, New London; Blake DeChateau, junior, Seymour; Mason Theis, senior, Shawano; Daniel Simon, senior, Winneconne; Casen Frassetto, senior, Xavier. Kicker: Mason Dorn, senior, Winneconne. Defense Lineman: Michael Bouwma, senior, Shawano; Cullen Frier-

dich, senior, Waupaca. End: Mason Theis, senior, Shawano; Chase Danke, senior, Winneconne. Inside linebacker: Ayden Bystol, sophomore, Shawano; Trayse Hanson, senior, Waupaca; Alex Thomas, senior, Winneconne. Outside linebacker: Wyatt Bunnell, junior, Seymour; Owen Hansen, junior, Waupaca. Back: Tyler Gerrits, senior, New London; Ethan Volz, senior, Seymour; Brody Schaffer, sophomore, Winneconne; Tyler Brightman, senior, Xavier. Punter: Reid Hietpas, senior, Xavier.

Honorable Mention Team

Offense Wide receiver: Henry Mouw, senior, Waupaca. Tight end: Jack Quigley, junior, Winneconne. Lineman: Braxton Bryant, junior, New London. Kicker: Henry Mouw, senior, Waupaca. Defense End: Ian Liebl, senior, New London. Outside linebacker: Lucas Nuthals, senior, Shawano; Ethan Mathe, senior, Winneconne. Back: Logan Ten Haken, sophomore, New London; Riley Young, senior, Seymour; Brady Poch, junior, Seymour; Alex Zierden, junior, Shawano. Players of the year: Ethan Mathe, senior, Winneconne (offense); Brody Schaffer, sophomore, Winneconne (wide receiver); Adam Earle, senior, Xavier (offensive lineman); Isaiah Des Jardins, senior, Xavier (running back); Reid Hietpas, senior, Xavier (defense, linebacker); Carter Appl, junior, Xavier (defensive lineman); Jerzy Brocker, junior, Shawano (defensive back). * - Denotes unanimous selection.

NEC

FROM PAGE 12

freshman, Luxemburg-Casco; Amber Otto*, junior, Oconto Falls; Peyton Carlson*, sophomore, Waupaca; Avery Lang, junior, Freedom. Middle blocker: Emma Nilson*, senior, Fox Valley Lutheran. Libero: Riley Schmitz*, sophomore, Fox Valley Lutheran.

Second Team

Setter: Ava Patchett, junior, Fox Valley Lutheran; Molly Bixby, junior, Fox Valley Lutheran; Alayna Deprez, sophomore, Luxemburg-Casco. Outside hitter: Brooke Cloude, senior, Little Chute. Middle hitter: Lucy Ripley, freshman, Oconto Falls. Libero: Payton Kaminski, senior, Luxemburg-Casco; Natalie Waller, junior, Waupaca; Kyndra Staidl, senior, Oconto Falls.

Honorable Mention Team

Setter: Nicole Saase, senior, Clintonville; Audrey Baugnet, junior, Denmark; Wynn Erdman, senior, Marinette; Ella Fandrey, junior, Wrightstown. Outside hitter: Brianna Stewart, sophomore, Fox Valley Lutheran. Middle hitter/outside hitter: Ella Vander Velden, junior, Luxemburg-Casco.



Peyton Carlson is one of three Waupaca volleyball players to receive all-conference recognition from the North Eastern Conference. Greg Seubert Photo

Middle hitter: Brynn Bousley, junior, Wrightstown; Miranda Schmidt, senior, Luxemburg-Casco. Right setter: Grace Graf, senior, Freedom. Middle blocker: Olivia Ullman, senior, Denmark; Eva Wall, junior, Freedom. Opposite hitter: Jacinda Bennett, senior, Luxemburg-Casco. Libero: Kaia Leick, junior, Wrightstown. Player of the year: Emma Nilson, senior, Fox Valley Lutheran. * - Denotes unanimous selection.



Aubrey Raddatz of Amherst Junction fishes for rainbow trout Nov. 12 from the swimming beach at Sunset Lake Park. Raddatz wrapped up 200 consecutive days of fishing with a trip to the Portage County park with her family and friends. Greg Seubert Photo

FISHING

FROM PAGE 12

next one," Timm said. "The same with my wife and her father. It's just the way we grew up, it was part of our lifestyle. It is our family activity."

Aubrey said she gained plenty of fishing knowledge during the streak.

"I bought my first new rod and reel," she said. "I used new types of baits and learned how to fish them. Every time you don't catch a fish, you learn a little bit more. It's always fun to keep learning."

"It was fun watching her grow as an angler this summer: her fishing technique, how she handles rods, working lures, fighting fish," Timm said. "This morning, she caught that giant trout and the reel malfunctioned. We had to adapt and land it without a reel. She had to back up and keep the line tight and we got it."

That 20-inch rainbow trout came out of Sunset Lake. Aubrey, her family and friends returned to the park later that day to celebrate her achievement.

It wasn't the biggest fish she landed this year. That honor goes to the 34-inch tiger musky she landed during a trip to the family cabin.

"I was in my pajamas," Aubrey said. "We saw a splash near shore and I had my spinnerbait that I had been using all day."

"We had just cooked supper

and had s'mores and decided, 'Hey, let's go out fishing for a little quick outing,'" Timm said. "When I went to net it, it dove and broke the net."

Unlike most girls her age, Aubrey has no problem touching the fish she catches.

"I get a little touchy with worms, but I love unhooking fish," she said.

Another streak

Aubrey didn't catch fish every outing, but that was fine with her.

"I don't get disappointed," she said. "You're not going to catch something every time."

"We learned that fishing doesn't always equal catching," Timm said.

Aubrey's favorite techniques include using topwater baits for bass.

Her favorite species, however, might be trout.

"I like trout streams because of the challenge," she said. "I like climbing over trees in the river."

She's also looking forward to another streak, even longer than 200 days.

"I know lots of people haven't experienced something like that," she said. "Not a lot of people can do this."

"I think she has fished more this year than a lot of average adults in their entire lifetime," Timm said.

Although her streak is over, Aubrey didn't want it to end.

"No, I didn't," she said. "I wanted to keep fishing."

Lundt swims at state meet

BY GREG SEUBERT
SPORTS EDITOR

WAUKESHA – Addy Lundt wrapped up her sophomore season with the Clintonville girls' swim team by placing 12th at state.

She turned in a time of 1:08.53 Nov. 10 in the Division 2 100-yard breaststroke event at the WIAA State Girls' Swimming & Diving Championships at Waukesha South High School.

Lundt had qualified for state for the second year in a row Nov. 4 at a 14-team sectional meet in Plymouth, where she placed second in the 100 breaststroke (1:08.43) and fifth in the 100 butterfly (1:04.28). Three other Division 2

sectional meets were held across the state the same day and the top 16 swimmers in each event qualified for state. Lundt had the 10th-fastest qualifying time in the 100 breaststroke.

Two other Clintonville swimmers also competed at the Plymouth Sectional. Dani Huss placed 17th in the 200 freestyle (2:23.98) and 19th in the 100 freestyle (1:03.55), while Kenzie Smith finished 21st in the 50 freestyle (30.1) and 26th in the 100 freestyle (1:07.28).

"Addy had a great race at the state championship competition," coach Cassie Hoffman said.

Lundt placed 11th in the same event at state last year as a freshman.



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Let's go girls!



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mark your calendars for all of the fun events & sales coming up!



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A gift of fine jewelry from Fletcher's Jewelry this year!

Fletcher's Jewelry 118 North Main • Waupaca
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Painting, Pottery, Fibers, all individually crafted by multiple local artists.
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9 **ThedaCare Volunteers Annual Bazaar**
Fri. Nov. 17 9am - 3pm
Sat. Nov. 18 8am - 3pm
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950 Park Avenue
Handmade Quality Items!
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H Scarves H Dish Towels H Hats
H Aprons H Baby Blankets H Slippers
H Plus Much More!
Everything that we profit goes back to the community!

13 **Waupaca Thrift Store**
FRI. NOV. 17 & SAT. NOV. 18
10% OFF STOREWIDE
LARGE VARIETY OF CHRISTMAS ITEMS!
MON. - FRI. HOURS: 10AM - 3PM
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Offers valid 11/17/23 & 11/18/23 only.

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Saturday November 18th
8am-4pm
Celebrate 29 years of hand-made primitives and more!
N2559 Melody Lane, Waupaca
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AT YULETIDE TREASURES

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Let's go girls!



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12 Visit Santa & Mrs. Claus!
 Sunday December 3rd 11am - 2pm
 Donations of new, unwrapped toys, non-perishable food or monetary contributions will be accepted for the Waushara Holiday Christmas Project
FREE PHOTOS WITH SANTA!
 SNACKS & REFRESHMENTS
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 Sluggers Sports Bar & Grill
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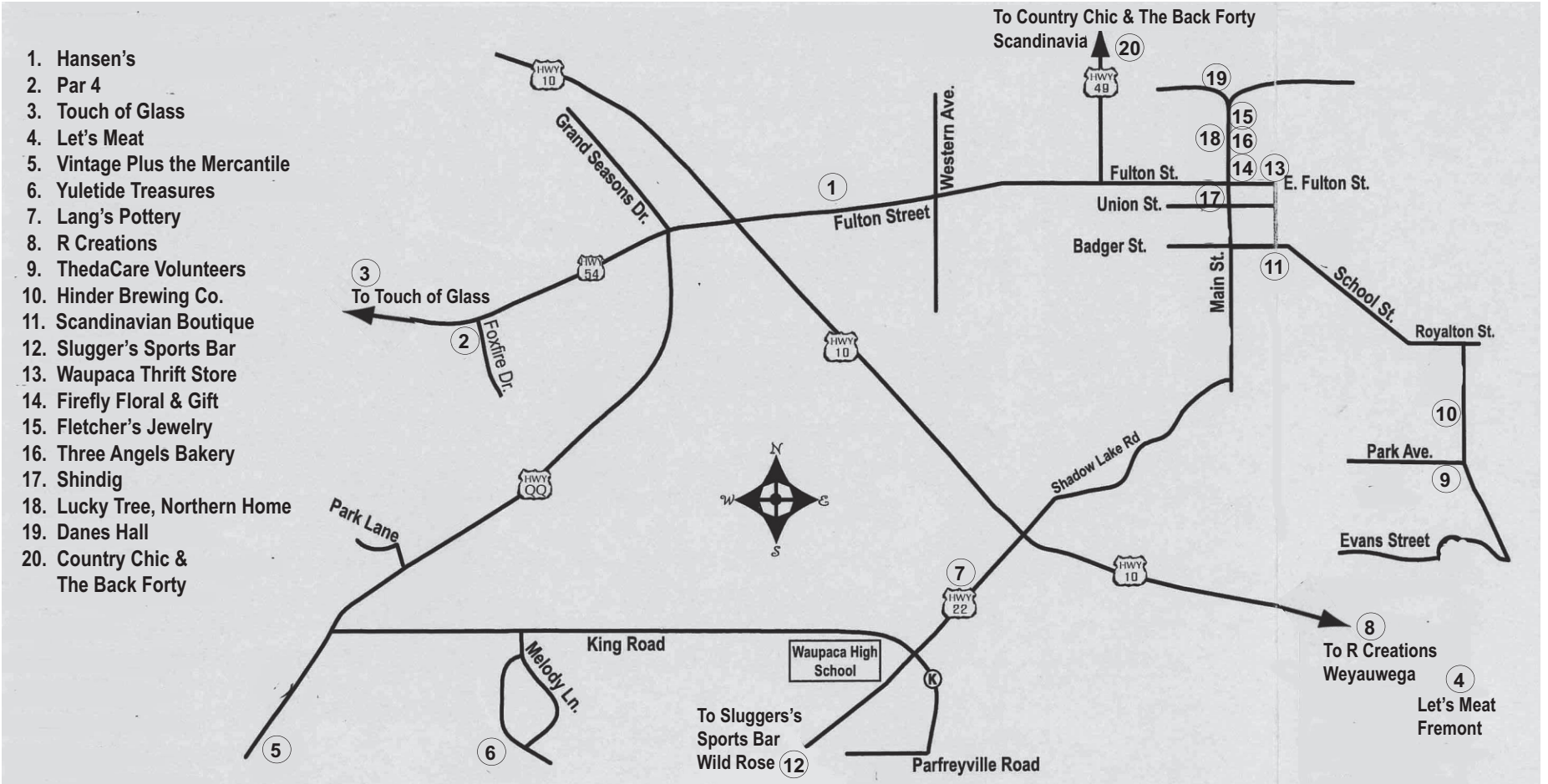
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Trumbower competes at national collegiate water ski tournament

LA CROSSE – New London's Sage Trumbower has wrapped up her collegiate water ski career at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

The school's competitive ski team, the Skiing Eagles, competed Oct. 26-28 at the National Collegiate Water Ski Association's Division 1 national championships in Zachary, Louisiana, and returned home with a 12th-place finish.

The team had qualified for nationals by placing fourth at a regional meet in Decatur, Illinois.

Trumbower grew up in New London and was a member of the Fremont-based Webfooters show team from 2004-14, as well as the Aqua



Sage Trumbower of New London competed with the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse's competitive water ski team in October at a national collegiate meet in Louisiana. Submitted Photo

Skiers of Wisconsin Rapids.

She is a senior at UW La Crosse and has skied for the Skiing Eagles for three years.

The team competed in slalom, trick and jump events at nationals. Trumbower, a team captain, was the top point-earning female, contributing 480 team points, the second-highest of 19 men and women.

Her highlights included a 52-foot long-distance jump and a 620-point trick run, her career best.

Although Trumbower's collegiate skiing days may be over, she looks forward to continuing to ski on the Wolf River with family and friends for years.



Division 1 recruits

Three Hortonville High School seniors recently signed their National Letter of Intent for three Division 1 athletics programs. From left are Mikayla Werner (women's basketball, St. Thomas University, St. Paul, Minnesota); Kallie Peppler (women's basketball, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee); and Paige Lillie (softball, Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana).

Photo Courtesy of Hortonville Area School District

Hunters urged to test for CWD

BY GREG SEUBERT
SPORTS EDITOR

WAUPACA – The chair of Waupaca County's County Deer Advisory Committee is urging local hunters to get their deer tested for chronic wasting disease.

"Since we had positives in wild deer in the last two years, we would like to ramp up testing this year to monitor the prevalence of CWD in our wild herd," Scott Bestul said. "Hunters may want to have their deer tested before consuming."

Hunters have several options to have their deer tested, including self-service CWD

testing kiosks, in-person tests through a cooperating business, at-home lymph node extraction or by appointment with local state Department of Natural Resources staff.

- Local testing sites include:
- Hartman Creek State Park, N2480 Hartman Creek Road, Waupaca (920-420-0384).
 - Northwoods Sausage, N4731 Larry Road, New London (920-982-9773).
 - J.R.'s Sport Shop, 195 E. State St., Iola (715-412-3403).
 - Marion Plaza Shell, 1107 N. Main St., Marion (715-508-1677).
 - Breaker's Taxidermy, N3276 Comet Road, Tigerton (715-535-2970).

Locations and other information on all testing and disposal sites throughout Wisconsin can be found on the DNR website – dnr.wi.gov – and searching for "CWD testing."

Wisconsin's nine-deer gun season opens Saturday, Nov. 18, and runs through Sunday, Nov. 26.

The archery and crossbow season opened Sept. 16 and continues through Sunday, Jan. 7. Wisconsin also has a muzzleloader season that runs from Monday, Nov. 27, through Wednesday, Dec. 6, as well as a four-day antlerless-only hunt scheduled for Thursday to Sunday, Dec. 7-10.

Players on all-state teams

REGION – Three area football players earned all-state honors from the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association.

Rosenow and junior Sam Wegener were named to the small-school honorable mention all-state team as a quarterback and wide receiver,

respectively, while Hortonville senior Miles Sillas made the large-school honorable mention team as an inside linebacker.

Parks, Recreation

Clintonville Women's Pool League

Division 1

Week 9 standings (wins): Sticky Buns (53); Big Falls Tavern (48); Bun's Pocket Rockets (48); Mike's Saloon (32); Jeanne Rose 1 (31); D's Corner Pocket (28); Club 45 (27); Racks & Rails (26).

Division 2

Week 9 standings (wins): Gopher's (58); Lowell's Landing (48); Bun's Ball Busters (45); Bun's 1 (38); Jeanne Rose 2 (38); Bump's (37); Philagain's (36); Suzy Q's (35); Big Sal's (20).

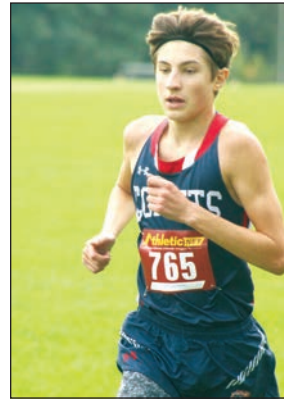
Runners on all-conference teams

BY GREG SEUBERT
SPORTS EDITOR

REGION – Five Waupaca cross country runners and one from Clintonville received all-conference recognition based on their finish at the North Eastern Conference meet.

Owen Lencki made the first team after placing sixth in the boys' race; Sienna Timm is on the second team after placing 13th in the girls' race; Ian Sherman and Kadin Becker made the second team after placing 14th and 16th, respectively, in the boys' race; and Gus Olson made the honorable mention team after finishing 17th in the boys' race.

Clintonville's Mason Carico made the boys' honorable mention team after placing 19th.



Waupaca's Owen Lencki made the North Eastern Conference's all-conference cross country first team based on his finish at the conference meet. Greg Seubert Photo

junior, Freedom; 8. Bradey Obermueller, junior, Freedom. Girls: 1. Ashley Wilson, junior, Little Chute; 2. Leigh DeWitt, senior, Freedom; 3. Sami Miller, junior, Little Chute; 4. Brooke Hodkiewicz, junior, Oconto Falls; 5. Katherine Cook, freshman, Freedom; 6. Claire Helmila, junior, Freedom; 7. Kristin Donart, senior, Fox Valley Lutheran; 8. Claire DuChateau, freshman, Luxemburg-Casco.

Second Team

Boys: 9. Griffin Kopke, junior, Oconto Falls; 10. Dominic Fletcher, junior, Little Chute; 11. Mason Dobbstein, sophomore, Fox Valley Lutheran; 12. Dawson Jarmolowicz, junior, Freedom; 13. Jonathan Salentine, sophomore, Luxemburg-Casco; 14. Ian

Sherman, senior, Waupaca; 15. Ryan Trzebiatowski, sophomore, Little Chute; 16. Kadin Becker, freshman, Waupaca. Girls: 9. McKenna Rank, junior, Luxemburg-Casco; 10. Hailey Delzer, junior, Oconto Falls; 11. Campbell DeBoth, sophomore, Little Chute; 12. Lydia Merrick, junior, Freedom; 13. Sienna Timm, junior, Waupaca; 14. Natalie McDonald, freshman, Wrightstown; 15. Rowen Volhard, sophomore, Fox Valley Lutheran; 16. Emma Meissner, freshman, Oconto Falls.

Honorable Mention Team

Boys: 17. Gus Olson, sophomore, Waupaca; 18. Alex DeGrave, senior, Luxemburg-Casco; 19. Mason Carico, senior, Clintonville; 20. Derek Christoph, sophomore, Luxemburg-Casco; 21. Isaiah Holtz, freshman, Oconto Falls; 22. Mathias Schroth, freshman, Wrightstown; 23. Marcis Doell, freshman, Luxemburg-Casco; 24. Gavin Trygstad, sophomore, Fox Valley Lutheran. Girls: 17. Lauren Wegand, junior, Little Chute; 18. Claire Fischer, sophomore, Fox Valley Lutheran; 19. Hannah Ludemann, senior, Oconto Falls; 20. Addison Lacy, junior, Marinette; 21. Amelia Stein, senior, Little Chute; 22. Carys Wendland, junior, Fox Valley Lutheran; 23. Cady Bevins, junior, Luxemburg-Casco; 24. Sami Vosters, junior, Freedom. Runners of the year: Ben Adams, junior, Oconto Falls (boys); Ashley Wilson, junior, Little Chute (girls).

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