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WAUPACA County Post

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Rexford-Longfellow Elementary School in Clintonville. File Photo

Clintonville does not release school bids information

St. Martin submitted bid

BY BERT LEHMAN
STAFF REPORTER

CLINTONVILLE – After discussing purchase bids received for the Rexford Longfellow Elementary School complex at two consecutive meetings, the Clintonville School Board has taken no action and the district has not released any information about the bids.

All discussions took place in closed session.

Purchase bids were due to the district by Nov. 1.

According to the bid request sent out by the district, the bids were to include a written offer and proof of funds.

Nov. 13 meeting

At its Nov. 13 meeting, the board discussed in closed session, the purchase bids that it had received by the Nov. 1 deadline.

After reconvening in open session, the board authorized the school district's lawyers to contact the entity that submitted the highest bid to purchase the former Rexford Longfellow Elementary School complex. No further information was released.

While information was not released about the entities that submitted bids, several residents spoke during public comments at the meeting, asking the board to approve the bid

Bid
CONTINUES ON PAGE 2



Santa and Mrs. Claus in New London's 2022 Winter Wonderland parade. Photo Courtesy of New London Chamber of Commerce

New London hosts Winter Wonderland

BY ROBERT CLOUD
SENIOR EDITOR

NEW LONDON – Downtown New London will be transformed into a Winter Wonderland on the Wolf on Friday, Dec. 1.

The event kicks off with Light Up New London. All homes and businesses have been encouraged to get their decorations up by Dec. 1. Those who have registered will be included on a map that can be downloaded from the New London Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.

Twinkling Christmas trees and holiday displays will be set up next to Longevity Nutrition, 201 S. Pearl St.

New London's Christmas parade starts at 5 p.m. Friday. Line up will be in the Longevity Nutrition parking lot. The parade will start there on Pearl Street, turn left onto North Water Street, then exit on Wisconsin Street.

After the parade, children can visit with Santa at Longevity Nutrition and

receive a Santa bag filled with goodies. They should bring a letter to Santa. He plans to answer all of the letters that include a return address.

Christmas carolers will be singing as part of the festivities.

Across the Pearl Street bridge from Longevity Nutrition, the city's Parks and Recreation Department will host Reindeer Boogie at Familiar Grounds, at 206 N. Pearl St. Hot chocolate and light snacks will be served at this family event, as well as music for dancing by Yo DJ.

During the parade, the New London ATV Club will be collecting non-perishable food items for the New London Community Cupboard.

Holiday Hop features holidays and activities at local shops throughout the week.

The New London Heritage Historical Society will celebrate an old-fashioned

Wonderland
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50 years at Neuville Motors

Auto parts manager retires

BY ROBERT CLOUD
SENIOR EDITOR

WAUPACA – John Hewitt remembers when he searched through loose-leaf catalogs looking for automotive parts for the maintenance department at the General Motors dealership in Waupaca.

"We had 8 feet of them," he recalled. "Once a year, we got a new catalog and then we would get pages to add to it."

Hewitt first began working for Kerm Hansen in December 1972. He left for a higher-paying job at White Pines Campers, which offered \$2 an hour, then returned in November 1973 and was paid \$2.25 an hour. He retired in November of this year.

Lou Neuville purchased the business in 1975.

"John came with the building," said Tim Neuville, who began selling cars at the dealership in July 1975 and retired as the owner in June 2021.

In addition to searching through pages and pages of catalogs to find where he could order car parts in the days before computers, Hewitt also remembers using a flashlight to look for parts in the company's inventory.

Hewitt said the lights were hanging from an 8-foot ceiling and the parts bins were 7 feet tall.



Tim Neuville, on left, with John Hewitt who recently retired after 50 years as the parts manager for Neuville Motors. Robert Cloud Photo

"It didn't help to see what was in the bins," Hewitt said.

Since then, there have been four expansions of the building where Neuville Motors is located.

"Now, it's a modern space," Hewitt said, regarding where the inventory is kept. "With the computer, we can find parts all over the country."

Through the network, if Hewitt ordered a part from a GM distributor by 3:30 p.m., he could usually receive it by noon the following day.

"Some parts aren't in stock because they have stopped making them," Hewitt said.

Since 1975, Neuville Motors has grown from 11

employees to nearly 60 full- and part-time employees.

The parts department has gone from Hewitt being the sole employee to four full-time people.

Hewitt said one of the biggest challenges of his career was when Neuville's added Chrysler, Plymouth and Dodge in 1981.

While GM, Chevy and Buick parts were categorized according to group numbers, Chrysler provided an illustrated parts catalog.

Hewitt noted that cars were simpler to maintain 50 years ago.

"You can no longer fix a car without high-end equipment," he said. "They all had round headlights and the wiper blades were the same except for the length."

One of the highlights of Hewitt's career was a trip he won to Hong Kong as part of a GM parts sales contest in the 1980s.

"I loved the trip, but not the food," Hewitt said. "I couldn't get past the suckers on the raw octopus."

Hewitt has no plans to travel after retirement.

"I have a lot of stuff to do that I haven't done in the last 20 years," Hewitt said, including cleaning his shed.

He also plans to pursue his hobbies of welding, computers and amateur radio.

"We were really blessed to have John here for those 50 years," Neuville said, "He was a great team member and a good friend."

More students, pinched for room

Growing pains for W-F district

BY JAMES CARD
STAFF REPORTER

WEYAUWEGA – Two remarkable things are happening at Fremont Elementary School: the new STEM Academy within the school is growing – up to 23 students now – and class sizes of elementary school students are increasing.

The school building has remained the same and now there are more students than ever.

At the Nov. 28 school board meeting, District Administrator Phillip Tubbs pointed out the irony of the situation. For years there was speculation that Fremont Elementary School might be closed because of low enrollment.

Now it's the opposite and projected enrollments show more incoming students in the future.

"The good news is that we are expanding Fremont Elementary. It was below 70 students my first year here and now with the charter school we are up in the 120's," he said.

"You've got to remember, when I first got here our conversations with a lot of people was to close Fremont," said Tubbs.

"I think that's been 20-plus years of conversations," said board president Sandra Smith.



Fremont Elementary School has more students enrolled there. File Photo

"Our goal was to try to expand it and grow it and five years later, here's where we're at," said Tubbs.

Principal Jodi Alix also noted that recognition should be given to all of the teachers that continued to work at the school over the years despite rumors of the school being shuttered.

Chamomile Nusz, the school's charter school consultant, explained to the board the current status of the STEM Academy, its funding and the ins and outs of applying for a future expansion grant. The school is growing every year.

When the school opened, it was for 5th and 6th graders. This year they added 7th graders and they plan to add 8th grade next year. In the school's original grant, it was written for 5th through 8th grade with the option to expand

one grade per year. "Fourth would be a direction to go because we have a lot of requests for education going down to that fourth-grade level for project-based learning and STEM learning so that's a discussion that could happen when these grant funds run out," said Nusz.

Paul Krause, president of the charter school board, credited teachers Jennifer Steidtmann and Brianna Lubbers for the success of the STEM Academy. "The staff definitely is making things happen," he said.

One option to handle the growing student body was moving the 5th graders at Fremont Elementary School to Weyauwega Middle School. This led to a 30-minute long conversation about making such a move. They discussed population growth in Fremont, the maturity of 5th

graders making a transition to middle school, comparisons with other school districts on 5th graders, parental concerns and sports and afterschool activities for the 5th graders.

Another option would be to relocate the STEM Academy entirely or build an addition on the backside of Fremont Elementary School that could be funded through a capital campaign.

The board did not make any decisions on these growing pains and the topic would be discussed at future meetings. This was an exploratory conversation. If a decision was made to move the 5th graders to Weyauwega Middle School, they would host an informational meeting with parents and have a question-and-answer session.

W-F School
CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

BID
FROM PAGE 1

submitted by St. Martin Lutheran Church.

One of those residents to speak was Rev. Jason Zobel, who has been a senior pastor at St. Martin Lutheran Church for about two years.

If St. Martin were to receive the bid, the Rexford Longfellow complex would be used by St. Martin Lutheran School, which is across the street

from the complex.

The Clintonville Tribune-Gazette send at email to Zobel, asking if St. Martin was contacted as the high bidder, but did not receive a response.

One resident did speak at the board meeting recommending that the board not award the bid to St. Martin.

Nov. 27 meeting
The Rexford Longfellow property was on the agenda

for the Nov. 27 board meeting with the following information, "The Board of Education will discuss the possible acceptance of a bid received from an interested party for the sale of the Rexford/Longfellow Property."

That agenda item was discussed in closed session.

Superintendent Troy Kuhn told the Clintonville Tribune-Gazette that no action was taken on the agenda item.

Waupaca County sheriff's report

- Nov. 17 - An Embarrass caller On Main Street reported his tires were slashed by a woman the night before.
- Nov. 17 - A New London caller on Mulroy Road reported her neighbor's dogs go into her yard and relieve themselves. It was an ongoing issue.
- Nov. 17 - A Manawa caller on State Highway 22-110 reported she was being harassed by a man who would not stop messaging her.
- Nov. 17 - An Ogdensburg caller on County Trunk K reported he was being harassed by a woman. She would not stop texting him and she has used more than 50 different phone numbers. She also drives past the caller's house.
- Nov. 17 - The Wisconsin Veterans Home in King reported a physical altercation between two residents.
- Nov. 17 - An unknown caller reported a 67-year-old man fell from his tree stand, had pain in his right ankle and could not walk.
- Nov. 17 - A 911 caller reported the death of a 66-year-old man who was found passed out on the floor.
- Nov. 17 - Northport Convenience Store reported a fuel drive-off valued at \$53. The vehicle was a gold pickup truck.
- Nov. 17 - The New London Bus Garage reported a Chevy Traverse did not stop when a school bus had its warning lights on and the stop sign arm extended.
- Nov. 17 - A Waupaca woman on Stone Ridge Road reported a man stated he wanted to kill himself and he was currently in Oshkosh.
- Nov. 17 - A New London man on Hawthorne Road reported a suspicious situation where his neighbor's dogs were barking. Two of their vehicles were in the driveway. He knocked on the door and nobody answered.
- Nov. 17 - A Clintonville woman on Hanson Road reported the sound of gunfire at 11:40 p.m.
- Nov. 17 - An unknown caller reported her husband died. She found him slumped over.
- Nov. 18 - A New London caller on State Highway 55 reported a suspicious Ford F150 parked on her lawn.
- Nov. 18 - A Big Falls woman on Harrison Street reported a person with a black Ford Bronco revs his engine for a half hour. It has been an ongoing issue every weekend.
- Nov. 18 - A Big Falls man on Main Street reported a booming sound outside that starts around noon and lasts until midnight.
- Nov. 18 - A Waupaca caller on Parkview Way reported she was attacked by a dog while walking her

dog. They went inside and when they opened the door, the dog tried attacking her husband.

- Nov. 18 - An Iowa woman on Main Street reported her boyfriend was screaming at her.
- Nov. 19 - A Manawa caller reported a man was hunting near her house and fired shots in the direction of her house.
- Nov. 19 - A Clintonville caller on Elmdale Road reported finding a bag of garbage on his property and believed somebody was trespassing.
- Nov. 19 - An Ogdensburg man on County Trunk K reported neighbors shot a deer on his property. He yelled at them, they took the deer and left.
- Nov. 19 - A Waupaca caller on Young Drive reported her ex-boyfriend was having people harass her.
- Nov. 19 - A 911 caller reported a man dead in the woods. The man shot a deer, the caller went over to see him and found the man face down.
- Nov. 19 - A Fremont caller on County Trunk H reported she thought someone tried to break into her house. There was damage on the door jam.
- Nov. 19 - A New London woman on Stage Road reported there were people on her roof pumping chemicals into her house.
- Nov. 20 - A New London man on Collier Road reported he was at East Side Mobile with some winning lottery tickets but did not get his money.
- Nov. 20 - A Waupaca caller on Demarest Street reported a man gained access to his girlfriend's phone and was sending explicit content to all of the contacts on the phone.
- Nov. 20 - A New London caller on Lyman Street reported a woman left extremely intoxicated with an eight-year-old grandchild, no license and some vodka.
- Nov. 20 - A female caller in the town of Farmington requested an ambulance for a man bleeding from a power saw injury to his hand.
- Nov. 20 - An Iowa man on Aanstad Road reported a woman was outside screaming at him.
- Nov. 20 - An Ogdensburg woman on rail Road reported

the death of a 63-year-old man. The man was found sitting in his running truck with a hose coming into the vehicle.

- Nov. 21 - An Amherst Junction woman reported a man was drunk, disorderly and fighting her and throwing things at the wall.
- Nov. 21 - Little Wolf High School reported a student being disorderly and violent.
- Nov. 21 - A New London man on Jennings Road reported a white truck involved in illegal dumping.
- Nov. 21 - A female caller reported her ex-husband dropped off a dog and a guinea pig at her house and said he was going on vacation.
- Nov. 21 - A Manawa woman on Fuhs Road reported a person was hunting after dark at the property next door.
- Nov. 21 - A New London woman on Stage Road reported there were people on her roof "throwing gas" into her house.
- Nov. 22 - A Waupaca woman on County Trunk QQ reported her intoxicated husband was being violent and throwing things at her.
- Nov. 22 - A New London man on Poehlman Road reported the death of a man who passed out outside of a bar.
- Nov. 22 - A Clintonville man on County Trunk DD reported the death of a 63-year-old woman.
- Nov. 23 - A Waupaca woman on Melody Lane reported a suspicious man walking around on her property.
- Nov. 23 - Lincoln County Sherriff Department requested help with a child abuse case.
- Nov. 23 - An anonymous caller requested a welfare check on a woman who was sleeping in her car at a cemetery.
- Nov. 23 - An Iowa man on Wolf River Road reported someone was at his house. The garage door was open and the porch light was on.
- Nov. 23 - A Weyauwega woman on County Trunk X reported a man unknown to her stepped out of a dark-colored SUV and wanted her son to come outside. He then took off towards New London.

Sheriff's Report
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W-F SCHOOL
FROM PAGE 1

STEM High School

This led to the possibility of the STEM Academy going to the high school level. Tubbs described the charter school as "a school within a school" and as the STEM students advance through the middle grades, they have no option to continue their project-based learning and science-tech-engineering-math studies at the high school level.

Nusz gave a presentation on how a STEM charter school could be created and provided a timeline over the next few years on how it would play out with grant writing, getting funding and to enrollment leading up to the 2025-26 school year.

"We have this amazing

space of innovation we've created at the Fremont STEM Academy. As Phil [Tubbs] said, where are the kids going to go after that? We are attracting students to this district because amazing education is happening in this district. Just like fears of students leaving and going somewhere else, that's not what's happening right now and we want to continue that trend of having innovative schooling options that aren't happening in our surrounding communities which means we are going to attract students in," said Nusz.

The high school would be a separate charter, making two charter schools within the district. The school could have separate boards of governance or

the existing board for the Fremont STEM Academy could also oversee the high school as their knowledge from launching the STEM Academy is valuable experience. The first year the high school would be opened, it would be for 9, 10, 11 grades and 12-grade would be added in the second year. Nusz recapped how enrollment works at charter schools and explained their lottery system. To make a STEM high school a reality, the next step is for the school board to make a vote indicating interest in starting a high school for a grant to be submitted in February which means a decision would have to be made soon, along with deciding how to make more room at Fremont Elementary.

WONDERLAND
FROM PAGE 1

Christmas from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at the Historical Village, 900 Montgomery St. Santa will visit

the depot from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Visitors can make crafts at the School House and enjoy cookies at the Octagon House.

Also on Saturday, Dec. 2, Santa will visit Familiar Grounds from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Live music will be performed from 10 a.m. to noon to raise funds for the Salvation Army.

The May Festival Crew will host a dart tournament from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at Cruz Inn, 309 S. Pearl St.

Participation costs \$10 a person. Half the proceeds will go towards payout, the other half will be donated to the New London Police Department's Shop with a Cop program.

Dragon's Den Bar and Grill, 318 W. North Water St., will host a gingerbread house contest. Eight teams

of four people each will have two hours to make gingerbread houses and compete for cash and prizes.

Dragon's Den will provide teams with a basic gingerbread house kit. Teams are encouraged to bring their own supplies as well.

Patrons and Facebook followers will vote for the winning entry, which will be announced at 8 p.m.

Registration for the gingerbread house contest costs \$20.

Mosquito Hill Nature Center, N3880 Rogers Road, will host Holiday Make it and Take it for children Saturday, Dec. 2.

Designed for ages 4-10, participants make eight gifts that they wrap and give to family, friends and teachers.

The event costs \$20 per child. Call the center at 920-779-6433 to register.

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will host a gingerbread house contest. Eight teams

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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Love or Soulmates

Dear Reader,

Are there soulmates in this world? Possibly, and possibly not. When I think of my daughter Katelyn's love for her husband, I think of soulmates. When I think of other people who love each other, I think of them as semi-soulmates.

And then, when I think of people who just like each other, and want to be with each other, possibly they are soulmates of some sort too.

Love can be so diverse, from the deep connection of soulmates to the affection between people who simply like each other. It's a reminder that there's no one-size-fits-all definition of love, and that's what makes it so unique and special for each person.



PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

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Waupaca NEWS



The Gouda Life is Waupaca's newest and only dedicated cheese shop. It's located at 112 N. Main St. and the focus is on speciality cheeses and made-in-Wisconsin products.

James Card Photo

Main Street gets cheesier

Wisconsin-made at Gouda Life

BY JAMES CARD
STAFF REPORTER

WAUPACA – Taking the mantle as the only cheese shop in Waupaca, The Gouda Life is filling the void that Cheesie Bob's Bleu Cheese House left behind when Bob Gruenenfelder retired and the store closed in 2018.

Their first day of business was on Nov. 18 and by the end of the weekend; they sold out six different types of cheeses.

"Now I know what people are liking," said owner Sheila Jacobsen.

"People may be apt to try something new if they can actually taste it. So with all of the wedges, you could say, 'Oh, I never had that,' and I could cut you off a piece to taste before you commit to buying it," she said.

The Gouda Life is at 112 N. Main St. Previously, it was home to A Touch of Glass and before that it was a beauty salon.

In 1908 it was a tavern

with a billiards hall in the basement. The ceilings are high and one wall was left alone with the original brick.

For remodeling work, they repainted the ceiling and walls, did some electrical and plumbing work and put in subway tile for the kitchen-cheese cutting area.

Her sister and brother-in-law came up with the name "the Gouda Life" and Jacobsen loved it.

"My original business model was a strong focus on Wisconsin-made products. Currently, everything in the case is Wisconsin-made cheese," said Jacobsen.

Inside the glass counter case are wedges and huge wheels of cheese. Portions are sliced off and sold by weight. The store also offers butter, summer sausage and salami.

On a shelving rack near the cheese counter is a wall of made-in-Wisconsin condiments, sauces, snacks and crackers. All of the Wisconsin-made products are noted with a yellow sticker that is shaped like the state of Wisconsin with a heart in the center.

Of the other remain-

ing products, Jacobsen has rounded her inventory with products from the upper Midwest.

"My sister and I traveled all around the state and we started the legwork of researching. There are a lot of really unique makers out there," said Jacobsen as she pointed out products from Spooner, Beloit, Iola and the Milwaukee-made Colonel Pabst Amber Lager Worcestershire sauce.

She also assembled a small liquor section featuring Wisconsin wines and vodkas, bloody mary mixes and some regional wines. Also there is a stand-up cooler with soft drinks such as Wisco Pop sodas. In the future she intends to build a separate space as a sampling room per city ordinance.

Jacobsen also plans to offer charcuterie boards and cheese plates that can be pre-ordered for later pickup.

They are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday. They can be contacted through their Facebook page or by calling 715-942-2312.



Salt Cove Wellness Spa offers halotherapy, also known as dry salt therapy. Exposure to aerosol microparticles of salt helps relieve a number of respiratory ailments. The spa also offers a variety of massage treatments.

James Card Photo

Spa with a side of salt

Halotherapy helps asthma, allergies

BY JAMES CARD
STAFF REPORTER

WAUPACA – Sodium chloride or salt is essential to human life and is the original taste enhancer and food preserver.

It is mentioned in the Bible and wars were fought over it.

Not many people are familiar with its healing properties but at Salt Cove Wellness Spa, one can inhale microparticles of salt for better health.

Halotherapy is also called dry salt therapy. At Salt Cove on 418 School St., a guest goes into a room that is warm and cozy. The lights are dimmed through a panel of glowing salt crystals. The floor of the room is covered with Himalaya salt and it is raked in a way that is reminiscent of raked-gravel Zen garden. The comparison is apt as the room is meant to be tranquil. Upon the salt are zero-gravity chairs. No cell phones are allowed and visitors must remove their shoes.

The salt therapy begins as a small machine hums to life. Pure-grade sodium chloride is ground, crushed and dispersed into aerosol microparticles that are absorbed into the respiratory system and skin. Guests only need to breathe deeply

and relax. Some people fall asleep during their 45-minute session.

There are different types of sessions: silent ones, social ones and family ones. Children can play in the salt with beach toys.

"You might be able to taste it right now. We just finished a session so it might be still in the air. An exhaust fan turns on and it circulates the air. You're breathing that in and it helps with allergies, asthma and respiratory issues," said owner Jodi Ketchum.

She said they have also hosted yoga sessions and meditation classes in the salt room.

Ketchum is a Waupaca native that studied at the Pacific College of Oriental Medicine and operated a wellness center in San Diego for 13 years. In 2017, Ketchum sold the wellness center and started a travel business focused on wellness trips around the world. The Covid pandemic wiped that out and she moved back to Waupaca and started Salt Cove this summer as an extended soft opening as Ketchum was still working on the details of the spa and its services.

Ketchum said for a while she suspected she had Long Covid but after salt therapy, those symptoms went away.

Ketchum's mother helps at the spa and has congestive obstructive pulmonary disorder. It's not curable.

She said the treatment made a big difference and said her breathing was amazing. Other clients that are dependent on inhalers have stated they no longer need them as much, if at all.

Three massage rooms, including one with two massage chairs that are auto-programmed with massage rollers with infrared heat inside. Downstairs is a spa lounge with a small bar with tea and water. It's a place to spend time in between appointments. There are six wicker egg chairs aligned in two rows and the room is dimly lit and soft music plays in the background. Each chair has a Shiatsu massage device that clamps around the neck and shoulder area. Nearby is a woman's changing room with lockers and robes.

Salt Cove offers membership packages for the salt therapy, and various types of massage bundles. In the lobby area there are various medicines, lozenges, balms and massage devices for sale, along with winter-survival gift baskets. Gift certificates are available. Appointments can be made at www.saltcovespa.com. They are open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. They are closed Wednesday and are open Friday from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. On Saturday and Sundays they are open from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Waupaca Fine Arts Festival begins annual fund drive

WAUPACA – The Waupaca Fine Arts Festival's annual fund drive recently kicked off with a mailing campaign to supporters of the cultural arts in Waupaca.

The festival has reached thousands of artists and patrons over the past 61 years through the Waupaca Community Theatre/Children's Theatre, Waupaca Community Choir and Civic Orchestra and Waupaca Art Show, according to festival chairman Dan Wolfram.

"The Waupaca Fine Arts Festival is looking forward to celebrating and bringing a wide variety of arts opportunities and performance to the citizens of the greater Waupaca area," he said. "We thank the community for their past support, as contributions have been integral in sustaining the organization. It is an honor to be a part of this historical organization that has brought so much to the city of Waupaca."

"While we realize that there are other arts organizations in the city and in the greater Waupaca area, we are proud of the fact that the WFAF has paved the trail for the foundation of having an arts community," he said. "When you donate to the WFAF, you are donating to the longest-standing arts organization in the county."

The festival's fund-raising goal for the 2023-24 season is \$45,000 and its 61st sea-

son includes varied cultural events, including:

- "Twelve Days of Christmas Cabaret," a dinner show Dec. 1-3 at Waupaca Country Club.

- The Waupaca Community Choir and Civic Orchestra's concert on Sunday, April 7, at the Waupaca High School Performing Arts Center featuring Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Requiem," along with additional musical selections highlighting soloists and chorus.

- The Waupaca Art Show, scheduled for April 20-24 at the Danes Hall in Waupaca.

- A Waupaca Community Theatre dinner theatre production featuring the world premiere of "Critics' Choice" by local playwright Patrick Phair April 25-27 at Par 4 Resort.

- The Waupaca Community Children's Theatre production of "Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr." July 19-23 at Waupaca Middle School's Knoepfel Auditorium.

- The mainstage production of the musical comedy "Little Shop of Horrors" July 27-28 and Aug. 1-4 at the WHS Performing Arts Center.

The festival committee's board has approved a working budget of \$80,735 for the 2023-24 season. Of that amount, the board is seeking to raise more than \$45,000 through donations to support the events

of the festival. Contributions, which are welcomed throughout the year, are tax-deductible if they are itemized. The Waupaca Fine Arts Festival is a registered nonprofit 501(c3) organization. WFAF donors will be recognized in the following categories for their contributions: Presidential Circle (\$2,500 and up); Director's Circle (\$1,000 to \$2,499); Patron (\$500 to 999); Benefactor (\$250 to 499); Donor (\$100 to \$249); and Contributor (up to \$99).

If a contribution is at the Patron level or higher, individuals will be listed as an Underwriter for all events for the Community Choir, Art Show and Community Theatre.

All donations received by March 22, 2024, will be included in the WFAF season's printed brochure. Checks can be mailed to Waupaca Fine Arts Festival, P.O. Box 55, Waupaca, WI 54981. Online donations to WFAF can also be made throughout the year at www.fineartsfestival.org.

Arts group hosts cabaret dinner

WAUPACA – The Waupaca Fine Arts Festival will present a 12 Days of Christmas Cabaret Dinner Theater at the Waupaca County Club, 1330 Ware St.

Shows are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Friday, and Saturday, Dec. 1-2, and noon Sunday, Dec. 3.

Vocalists include Lori Bauer, John Hammond, Pam Gusmer, Tim Koll, Carmen Riebel, Bob Telfer, Linda Trepasso and Dan Wolfram.

Kay Ellingson and Marcel Van Camp are the actors.


Holly Saunders is the music director and will

play keyboard. John Kelley will play drums and percussion.

Highlights include a three-course meal with main entrées of either rosemary chicken with orange-cranberry sauce or chickpea coconut curry with cauli-

flower, fine chocolates, cash bar, holiday music, poems, prose and caroling.

Tickets are \$35 per person and available at bit.ly/3R1eijy or the Waupaca Fine Arts Festival Facebook page.



OSHKOSH GUN SHOW

Oshkosh Sunnyview Expo Gun Show
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County Post REPORTER

A **part-time reporter** is needed to cover Iola, Scandinavia and Manawa.

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Iola-Scandinavia NEWS

Lions collecting antlers, sheds

IOLA – The Iola Lions are supporting Leader Dogs for the Blind by collecting antlers and sheds at a local business.

Jody Mork, owner of J.R.'s Sport Shop in Iola, has allowed the organization to place a collection box outside his store, located at 195 E. State St.

Wisconsin Leader Dog Ambassador Debi Delie recently spoke to representatives of several central Wisconsin Lions clubs. In addition to financial donations, Delie said Lions clubs could help by collecting deer antlers and sheds.

Leader Dogs for the Blind provides sponsors raising the dogs with a supply of antlers to chew on, which can cost \$15 or more each at pet stores.

Iola Lions member Sandi Moore attended Delie's presentation and brought the idea of a deer antler collection to the local club.

Club member Nick Sieckert built a collection box; Lion family member Brittany Schnobrich did the stenciling; and Moore stained the box and deliv-



Jody Mork recently placed a box to collect antlers and sheds at his business, J.R.'s Sport Shop in Iola. Donated antlers and sheds will be given to Leader Dogs for the Blind, an organization that matches qualified dog guides with blind and visually impaired people. The antlers and sheds are given to the guide dogs to chew on. Submitted Photo

ered it to the sport shop.

"Leader dogs spend the first year of their lives with volunteer puppy raisers, who are responsible for teaching them basic obedience and social and house manners, as well as exposing them to life experiences,

according to the organization's website, www.leaderdog.org. "Dogs return to campus between 12 and 15 months of age for at least four months of formal training with qualified guide dog mobility instructors prior to being matched with a client.

Approximately 200 client/guide dog teams graduate annually."

Once dogs and blind or visually impaired recipients are matched and trained at LDB's Michigan facility, the new pet owners have greater freedom for independent living and travel.

According to its website, Leader Dogs for the Blind is a nonprofit organization established in 1939 that believes everyone deserves a life of independence and mobility.

"All of our services are provided free of charge to our clients, including travel in the U.S. and Canada, room and board, equipment and training," according to the website. "This means that no one is excluded from living their most fulfilling life due to lack of funds."

Individual donors, Lions club, corporate partners and foundations fund the organization.

"Over 4,900 Lions clubs in the U.S. and abroad support LDB, including Iola Lions," Moore said. "That was the impetus for this new project."

Author featured on PBS show

SCANDINAVIA – A local author is featured in season finale of "Wisconsin Life," a show that airs on PBS.

"Wisconsin Life" host Angela Fitzgerald connects viewers with people whose passions, experiences and expertise celebrate the best of Wisconsin.

The season finale, which first aired Nov. 23, included a feature on Scandinavia author Jill Sisson Quinn.

The episode is available to stream at pbswis-

consin.org/WILife and on the free PBS video app on all streaming devices.

"A Mother's Lesson From Rib Mountain" is an animated rendition of Quinn's desire to teach her 4-year-old son about existence in the universe while hiking at Rib Mountain near Wausau.

Her narrative weaves a thread through a variety of sciences, including geology, biology, ecology, sociology and astrophysics.

Village board approves budget

BY HOLLY NEUMANN
STAFF REPORTER

IOLA – The Iola Village Board unanimously approved a 2024 operating budget of \$1,487,371 for the village at its Nov. 14 meeting.

The village anticipates revenues of \$769,515, resulting in an adopted tax levy of \$717,856. The mill rate will increase to 11.04, up 1.64% from last year.

Seeing a largest increase in the budget was the police and fire and ambulance departments.

The police department's budget will increase from \$242,143 to \$272,883 for 2024.

"The police department got \$5,000 less than what they asked for," said Dave Harper, chair of the board's Finance Committee. "It is still quite a jump."

Harper noted squad car replacement has gotten more expensive.

"Besides inflation, Ford has stopped making squads, so the competition has gone down," he said.

The fire and ambulance budget is made up of three categories – Iola Fire Department, Iola Ambulance Service and new ambulance and fire

engine fund – and saw an increase from \$84,440 last year to \$121,204 in 2024.

"Our share of the operation budget, which is 30%, is going up from \$41,518 to \$43,814," Harper said. "The new ambulance and fire engine fund is also going up from \$4,585 to \$16,725. The reason for that is because we have two more budgets after this to pay for a new ambulance in 2026. This will cover our share in preparation for that."

The biggest leap came in the ambulance budget, which went from \$38,337 to \$60,665.

"It used to be that volunteers were paid for their on-call time, guaranteeing that you will be present if there is an ambulance call," Harper said. "Over time, we have lost employment and people that live in the village, so now we have people that go and sit at the firehouse when they are on call and wait. They are not going to do that for the current wage of \$4.50, so they are having a difficult time filling the shifts."

To help with this, on-call pay has been raised to \$10 to be more competitive with other ambulance departments.

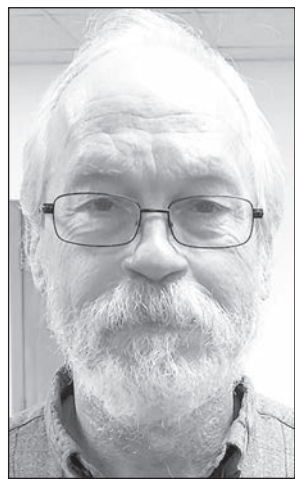
Wilhite joins village board

BY HOLLY NEUMANN
STAFF REPORTER

SCANDINAVIA – Kelvin Wilhite will fill a seat on the Scandinavia Village Board that has been empty for the past two months.

Trustee Mike Hayes nominated Wilhite for the seat, which the Scandinavia Village Board approved on a 3-1 vote at its Nov. 21 meeting.

Some community members questioned why they were not allowed to make



Wilhite

nominations, even though they were allowed to at the board's October meeting.

Board president Dave Mork said he spoke to village attorney Krystle Flansch, who told him the public is not allowed to make nominations.

In other business, the board adopted a balanced 2024 general budget, with revenues and expenditures each set at \$152,001.

The village saw a big increase in state-shared

revenue, from \$47,148 to \$83,382 in 2024.

"I don't know what we would have done without the increase in shared revenue this year," village treasurer Bob Fredy said.

On the expenditure side, the largest increases were seen in snow and ice removal, which cost the village \$8,000 in 2023, and will jump to \$20,000 in 2024.

Legal fees will increase from \$1,000 in 2023 to \$8,500 in 2024.

New look for I-S Chamber Bucks

BY HOLLY NEUMANN
STAFF REPORTER

IOLA – The Iola-Scandinavia Chamber of Commerce has released its newest Chamber Bucks, which feature a picture of the late Chet Krause.

"Chet was definitely the economic leader for the last 60 years in Iola," chamber

president Greg Loescher said. "Dec. 16 would have been his 100th birthday and we also just dedicated his park, so this was a good time to have him on there."

Krause passed away in June of 2016.

Chamber Bucks can be purchased in \$10 increments at Bank First in Iola.

"You will need to call

the bank ahead of time so they can have them ready for you," Loescher. "They can be used at participating businesses."

Retailers can then return them back to the bank for reimbursement.

"This is a great way to boost the local economy," Loescher said. "You can get a piece of pie and a drink,

or even a meal. You could even use them at Johnson's Barber Shop or at the Iola Winter Sports Club."

Chamber Bucks, which have been around for more than 20 years, can also be used as a holiday gift.

Loescher reminded those with Chamber Bucks to use them now, as they will expire at the end of 2023.

Manawa NEWS

Sacred Heart plans annual holiday craft, gift fair

BY HOLLY NEUMANN
STAFF REPORTER

MANAWA – Sacred Heart Catholic Church will host its annual holiday craft and gift fair.

This year's fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, at Manawa Elementary School, 800 Beech St., Manawa.

"This is a great event for the community, as it brings so many people together," organizer Mary Johnson said. "People can visit with friends, family and neighbors while enjoying the holiday atmosphere."

Attendees can browse and shop from 70 different vendors to pick out things for themselves or Christmas gifts for their loved ones.

"There will be booths with hand-painted wine glasses, lawn décor, gnomes, sun catchers, ceramics, corn bags, vinyl decals, hand-crafted jewelry, lighted bottles and Mason jars," Johnson said. "We will also have handmade items that are sewn, embroidered, cro-

cheted, quilted and knit. There will also be afghans, quilts, mittens, towels, scarves, hats, aprons, table runners, rugs and so much more."

The event will also feature homemade pies, candy, caramels, breads, cookies, cakes, baked goods, pickles, jams, jellies, dilly beans, salsa, dip mixes, drink mixes, meal solutions and ingredients.

"Of course, there will be lots of seasonal holiday décor like painted boards and signs, bulbs, ornaments, decorations, wreaths, swags, kissing balls, pine boughs, arrangements, succulents, herbs, gift baskets, plaques, reindeer, snowmen and Santa," Johnson said. "There will even be doggie treats for sale and I can't forget to mention the Rustic Java coffee trailer that will be parked outside."

Santa Claus will also make an appearance, according to Johnson.

"Here is your chance to talk with Santa and find out how the reindeer are doing,"

she said. "You can also tell Santa what you want for Christmas this year, that is, if you've been nice."

A raffle will also take place during the event for a chance to win a handmade Christmas quilt and other items.

The Little Wolf High School Music Department will provide live Christmas music.

Admission to the fair is \$2 for ages 13 and up. All proceeds help fund the ministries of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, which include supporting other local nonprofits.

"This event is the only big fundraiser that our church sponsors," Johnson said. "We want to thank the Manawa School District for the use of their facility. We also want to thank all the wonderful volunteers of Sacred Heart Catholic Church for their hard work in making this event a success and all the vendors and attendees. We couldn't host this event without you."

Stuff the Squad set for Dec. 8

BY HOLLY NEUMANN
STAFF REPORTER

MANAWA – The Manawa Police Department will hold its annual Stuff the Squad food drive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at Manawa Quality Foods.

"Throughout the year, we hear about food needs within the community and help by connecting people to resources," Police Chief Jason Severson said. "This event is a way to provide people with a holiday meal. Food prices are still high

and this may help people to be able to use their funds for Christmas gifts, activities or travel."

People are asked to drop off nonperishable food items that will benefit not only the Manawa Food Pantry, but also the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Meals program.

"Since March 2021, N2N has served nearly 19,000 meals," program director Brenda Vander Zanden said. "This has been possible because of God's provision and the generos-

ity of our community.

"Events like Stuff the Squad provide pantry supplies and donations to clients who experience need," she said. "We are so blessed and thankful for their support, as well as all the groups, organizations and private individuals who donate."

The goal is to help make the holidays a little brighter for families in need.

A donation box will also be located in Manawa Police Department lobby all week long.

Park improvements approved

BY HOLLY NEUMANN
STAFF REPORTER

MANAWA – The Manawa City Council approved having the Triangle Park Committee move forward with updates to the park.

Those updates include the addition of an electronic sign and moving the Wisconsin State Historical Marker honoring Melvin O. Handrich from Triangle Park to the Manawa Area Veterans Freedom Park.

The council also approved a new wage schedule for city employees at its Nov. 20 meeting, with most employees to see a 5% across-the-board increase, with the exception of the Manawa Police Department and Sturm Memorial Library personnel.

The council also approved purchasing of a new squad car, with equipment, in the amount of \$71,906, and also declared Monday, Dec. 18, as Ellen Connor

Day in honor of Connor's retirement as director of the library.

T-shirts and sweatshirts in preparation of Manawa's 150th anniversary celebration will be available for purchase during the holiday fair Saturday, Dec. 2, at Manawa Elementary School.

The council's next meeting will be held at 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18, at City Hall.

Sports

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'Why not me?' Waupaca native trains basketball players

BY GREG SEUBERT
SPORTS EDITOR

APPLETON – Jordan Johnson honed his basketball skills on youth and high school teams in Waupaca.

He's been sharing those skills for years in the Fox Valley and recently opened Grit365, a basketball training facility, on Appleton's north side.

"It's taken 14 years to get to this point just growing the training business from one kid to four to 32 to 100 to 400," said Johnson, who went on to play basketball at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh from 2004-08 after graduating from Waupaca High School. "This is a membership facility and there are a lot of kids that come here on a nightly basis just to work on their game. Over the course of the last dozen years, it's been putting the time into the gym with community players and eventually making the leap of faith that something like this would exist. Why not me?"

Johnson's love of the game of basketball started in Waupaca, including playing for former high school coaches Ron Weber and Tim Locum.

"Certainly, Waupaca is my roots for all sports: football, baseball, basketball," he said. "I learned a lot from youth coaches all the way up to high school and college coaches. I would travel over to some of the daylong or two-day camps in Appleton, but the majority of what I did was in Waupaca."

Recruited for basketball and football, Johnson eventually decided on basketball and UW-Oshkosh.

"I saw how much you had to put into the game to really

be good," he said. "The decision really came down to being close to home, being close to family, and being able to have family at games. I knew I wanted to go into business and Oshkosh is a business school. It was a perfect fit."

Johnson graduated from UW-Oshkosh with an accounting degree in 2009 and eventually settled in the Appleton area.

"Growing up in Waupaca and having been over here for the last dozen years, it's certainly opened my eyes to how big the area is, not only with high schools, but middle schools and elementary schools," he said. "They're feeder systems and we're talking Division 1 (Fox Valley Association) schools. Over the past several years, I've certainly seen a vision for an area like Appleton to have an exclusive basketball training area. This is the first one in Appleton."

Focus on skills

Grit365 focuses on skills and fundamentals, according to Johnson.

"We bring kids in here throughout the school year and we'll train them in the evening, in the morning, after school," he said. "During the summer, we run our big camps. It's not a day camp, it's not a three-day camp, it's a full summer-long camp. There are members that are part of this facility just like a 24/7 fitness that can come here and use the facility. That's really what it's about: them using this space as a place to get their skills and fundamentals better. On a given night, there are a couple hundred kids that will be in here on a weekly basis."

Johnson said a facility like Grit365 wouldn't work in a community the size of Waupaca.

"You have to have a large area with a pretty good population to be able to do this," he said. "It's about trying to inspire kids at an early age. I have young kids. I want to inspire them. If basketball is their sport, that's awesome. If it ends up being volleyball, football, baseball or softball, that's great, too."

Johnson has worked with several players that keep coming back to Grit365.

"There are kids that will graduate this year that have been with us for seven, eight, nine years," he said. "They started as third-graders or fourth-graders. There are a few Kimberly girls that started training with me in fourth grade and now they'll be graduating this year and going on to play high-level college basketball. I'm just a small part of that. At the end of the day, they have to commit to being here."

Grit365 includes players of different ages and skill levels.

"People have to understand that to be a high-level college player, you have to start in third grade, second grade, kindergarten, whatever it may be," Johnson said. "These boys and girls that are playing high-level college basketball did not start as great players. They started with the same fundamentals as a beginner."

"We focus on third-grade boys and girls all the way through collegiate boys and girls," he said. "We do not mix and match age levels and

Grit365

CONTINUES ON PAGE 11



Waupaca native Jordan Johnson takes a break while working out with Hortonville basketball players Kallie and Kardyn Pepler at Grit365, the basketball skills facility that Johnson recently opened in Appleton. The Peplers are two of several Fox Valley area basketball players that work on their skills at the gym.

Greg Seubert Photo

Basketball a way of life for Peplers

BY GREG SEUBERT
SPORTS EDITOR

HORTONVILLE – A serious knee injury forced Kallie Pepler to miss the second half of her junior season with Hortonville High School's girls' basketball team.

The injury happened 10 months ago during the first half of a Fox Valley Association game at Kimberly High School. The Polar Bears de-

feated Kimberly 73-60 and went on to place second in the Fox Valley Association standings before ending their season with a loss to eventual Division 1 state champion Kettle Moraine in the semifinal round of the WIAA state tournament.

Pepler is back for her senior season with the Polar Bears and her sister, Kardyn, is a freshman on the team.

If the name Pepler sounds familiar, Kallie and Kardyn's older sister, Kamy, recently began her second season of college basketball at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, one of Wisconsin's four Division 1 women's basketball programs, along with Marquette, UW-Madi-

Peplers

CONTINUES ON PAGE 11



Pulaski's Ella Hasser fouls New London's Jensen Mix Nov. 21 in the second half of a nonconference game at New London High School. Mix scored nine of her 12 points in the first half of the Bulldogs' 42-37 win over the Red Raiders.

Greg Seubert Photo

Bulldogs make it three in a row

BY GREG SEUBERT
SPORTS EDITOR

NEW LONDON – A 16-2 run in the first half helped the New London girls' basketball season open the season with three straight wins.

The Bulldogs improved to 3-0 Nov. 21 with a 42-37 nonconference win over Pulaski.

Pulaski led by as many as five points in the first half before New London closed the half with a 16-2 run to take a 25-16 lead into the locker room at the break.

The Bulldogs scored 13 straight points to erase a 14-9 deficit. Pulaski's Lydia Gwidt scored to cut the home team's lead to 22-16, but Jensen Mix's three-pointer at the buzzer gave the Bulldogs a nine-point advantage.

Pulaski scored eight of the second half's first 10 points to cut the Bulldogs' lead to 27-24. Jada Fischer's three-pointer tied the game at 33-33 and her second three of the game gave the Red Raiders a 36-35 lead with 5:40 remaining.

Neither team scored

again until a pair of free throws from Mix gave New London a one-point lead with 2:06 to go. New London then outscored Pulaski 5-1 the rest of the way.

Shelby Glodowski and Mix led the Bulldogs with 13 and 12 points, respectively, while Maggie Lardin led Pulaski with nine.

The Bulldogs faced Wausau East Nov. 28 and will travel to Wisconsin Rapids Friday, Dec. 1 before opening their Bay Conference schedule Tuesday, Dec. 5, at home against Seymour.



Warhawks vs. Eagles

Weyauwega-Fremont's Kendra Behn guards Almond-Bancroft's Lexi Dernbach Nov. 20 in a matchup of Central Wisconsin Conference teams in Weyauwega. Almond-Bancroft, out of the CWC-South, handed the Warhawks, out of the CWC-East, a 44-22 loss. See details from the game, as well as the Warhawks' other recent games, on page 11.

Greg Seubert Photo

Warhawks hope to rebound from disappointing wrestling season

BY GREG SEUBERT
SPORTS EDITOR

WEYAUWEGA – Weyauwega-Fremont's wrestling team wants to improve from its performance during the 2022-23 season.

The Warhawks will again compete in the Central Wisconsin Conference and will open the season Saturday, Dec. 2, at the Little Chute Invitational in Little Chute.

"Last season was a tough one on our team," said Tim Potratz, entering his 34th season as the team's coach. "We expected to be very solid, but some issues derailed our season and left us determined to come back strong this year."

Potratz has 28 wrestlers on the team that includes a mix of upperclassmen and talented rookies.

"We lost two sectional qualifier seniors to graduation – Isiah Schuh and Caden Meisenhelder – who both had real nice senior seasons for us," he said. "We have a ton of talent returning and a solid group of freshman who will complete our lineup."

Returning wrestlers include senior Vanden Hoffman, who was 48-3 last season and placed third in Division 3 at 220 pounds at the WIAA State Individual Meet.

Other returning wres-

tlers include senior Caleb Abbey (165); and juniors Riley Scherg (120), Aiden Marquette (144), Alex Loehrke (150), Nolan Schrei (175) and Tellyer Alix (190).

Also back are three juniors back who missed last season: Connor Johnson (157), Carter McDaniel (175) and Cashten Hoffman (215).

"All three of those kids are top-notch wrestlers who will make us much better right away," Potratz said.

Sophomores that varsity matches that are back are Rylan Konen (113) and

Wrestling

CONTINUES ON PAGE 11

Comets go 2-1 in Sheboygan

BY GREG SEUBERT
SPORTS EDITOR

WAUPACA – The Waupaca boys' hockey team won two of three games at a tournament in Sheboygan.

The Comets competed with six other teams Nov. 24-26 at the Kyle J. Neurohr Memorial Hockey Tournament at the Sheboygan Lakers Ice Center and picked up wins over the Oshkosh Ice Hawks and WNS Storm while falling to Ashwaubenon.

Waupaca also handed Wausau East/Merrill a 12-2 loss Nov. 21.

Waupaca 5, Oshkosh 2
SHEBOYGAN – Wau-

paca wrapped up the tournament Nov. 26 with a win over the Ice Hawks.

Oshkosh took a 1-0 lead into the second period, but Waupaca took the lead for good with three unanswered goals in the second period and adding two more in the third.

Ryan Mace scored twice for the Comets and Alex Gusmer, Dylan Smith and Warren Carlson also scored.

The Comets outshot the Ice Hawks 47-28.

Ashwaubenon 8, Waupaca 1

SHEBOYGAN – Gusmer scored the Comets' goal in the second period in a loss to the Jaguars Nov. 25.

Ashwaubenon outshot Waupaca 31-18.

Waupaca 6, WNS 3

SHEBOYGAN – Waupaca opened the tournament Nov. 24 with a win over the Storm.

Mace found the net twice in the third period, while Gusmer and Smith added goals in the first period; Jace Moen in the second; and Liam Bloedow in the third.

Waupaca outshot the Storm 46-25.

Waupaca 12, Wausau East/Merrill 2

WAUSAU – Waupaca rebounded from a

season-opening loss to Homestead by scoring a dozen goals in a win over Wausau East/Merrill.

Gusmer and Mace had a hat trick for the Comets and were two of six Waupaca players to score.

Nate Haes and Smith added two goals for the Comets, while Colin Everts and Colin Lockwood scored once.

Waupaca outshot Wausau East/Merrill 42-20.

The Comets headed to Shawano Nov. 28 to face Shawano/Bonduel/Clintonville and will open Great Northern Conference play at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30, against Northland Pines in Eagle River.

Truckers open season with win

BY GREG SEUBERT
SPORTS EDITOR

CLINTONVILLE – It didn't take long for the Clintonville boys' basketball team to pick up its first win.

The Truckers opened the season Nov. 25 with a 63-52 nonconference home win over Shawano.

Clintonville led by as many as 16 points midway through the first half, but the Hawks ended the half with a 13-0 run that cut the lead to 28-26 at the break.

Shawano eventually tied the game at 30-30 and led 46-39 at one point.

The Truckers then outscored the Hawks 24-6 the rest of the way and also scored the game's final nine points after the Hawks cut the lead to three points.

Clintonville opened North Eastern Conference play Nov. 28 at Freedom. The Truckers' next home game against Fox Valley Lutheran is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12.

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