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# WAUPACA County Post

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## A Classic Christmas

Colt Jackson Bourne-Bennett performs with Sugar Bush Elementary School's kindergarten class at "A Classic Christmas" Dec. 13 at New London High School. Students from Readfield and Lincoln elementary schools also held their Christmas programs at the high school.

Greg Seubert Photo

# Christmas cheer, charity

## Neuville, Hansen raise money

BY JAMES CARD  
STAFF REPORTER

WAUPACA – Two local businesses came up with creative fundraising ideas for the Christmas season.

For Neuville Motors, it's a gingerbread houses contest. At Hansen Furniture, Appliance and Mattress, it's a Christmas tree beauty pageant.

Melissa Christie at Neuville Motors came up with the gingerbread house idea.

The contest works like this: create an award-winning gingerbread house and drop it off at Neuville Motors where it will be displayed in the lobby. There is no cost to enter and there is a chance to win a Yeti Cooler filled with local beef from Whitetail Valley.

For each entry, Neuville Motors will make a donation to a local children's charity. For children that enter the contest, they will



Neuville Motors is hosting their first-ever gingerbread house contest. They will make donations to local children's charities.

James Card Photo



Hansen Furniture, Appliance & Mattress is hosting the Festival of Trees. Guests can vote on their favorite tree that was decorated by a local nonprofit group and make a donation.

receive gift cards from Shindig candy store.

Neuville staff will announce a winner on Dec. 21.

"We're hoping people like it and next year our hope is to do it again. Next year might have more of a theme and have people bring in their gingerbread house to correlate with that theme," said Christie.

Down the road at Hansen Furniture, Appliance and Mattress is the Festival of Trees. Eight local nonprofits decorated Christmas trees and visitors can "vote" for

their favorite Christmas tree by dropping a cash donation in a small tub next to the tree.

"Basically, organizations come in and they decorate the tree. We supply the trees. We take the money out every day and put it in an envelope for them. I've seen some pretty generous votes," said owner Dan Radue.

Participating organizations are Humane Society of Waupaca County, Waupaca Bread Basket, Agape Help Center, Waupaca Area

Special Olympics, Waupaca Area Fire District, Creative Caring Hearts, Foundations for Living, and LIVE (a Waupaca High School group that helps adult students with independent living skills).

Hansen furniture was also running a separate fundraiser by auctioning off a GE range stovetop. It is run like a silent auction and bidding ends Dec. 30. The winning bidder will split their "silent donation" equally amongst the eight Festival of Trees organizations.

# Cozy seating for children

How tree trunk came to library

BY JAMES CARD  
STAFF REPORTER

WAUPACA – In the basement of the Waupaca Area Public Library is the children's department and the exhibit room. Down there is a giant, gnarled-yet-smooth tree trunk positioned atop a wooden platform. The trunk is hollowed out and split into two halves.

It is a cottonwood tree from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point campus that was dying and turning into a hazard. As it was being removed in 1998, sculptor Bill McKee walked by and asked for a piece of it. He brought it back to his studio via a front-end loader. He debarked the trunk and chiseled out the core. The process took four



The cottonwood sculpture by Bill McKee became known as the Dragon's Reading Tree at Dragonwings Bookstore. When the bookstore relocated in 2014, owner Ellen Davis donated it to the children's department at the Waupaca Public Library.

James Card Photo

weeks and the finished wood sculpture is upside down to the way the tree grew. Inside is a small bench and while

McKee was working on it, he pictured someone inside of the trunk reading a book. It found a home at Drag-

onwings Bookstore, an independent bookstore with

Tree Trunk

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

# Driver faces OWI homicide charges

Four siblings die in crash

BY ROBERT CLOUD  
SENIOR EDITOR

WAUPACA – A head-on crash in rural Weyauwega at 9:14 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, resulted in the deaths of four siblings.

A westbound pickup truck in the eastbound lane of U.S. Highway 10 collided head-on with an oncoming sports utility vehicle.

The driver of the SUV, Daniel Gonzalez, 25, was critically injured and succumbed to his injuries after he was transported to a hospital for medical treatment.



Farmer

His siblings – 9-year-old Daniella, 14-year-old Lillian and 23-year-old Fabian – died at the scene.

Daniella and Lillian attended the Weyauwega-Fremont School District.

Farmer

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2



## Contemplating Santa

Three-year old Emma Koehler studies Santa as he looks to Mrs. Claus for guidance during a Saturday Dec. 9, visit to the Thern Farm in New London. The New London Historical Society hosted a number of holiday activities as part of their annual Christmas on the Farm.

John Faucher Photo

# Two charged in fatal overdose

Suspects have prior convictions

BY ROBERT CLOUD  
SENIOR EDITOR

COUNTY – Two people face homicide charges in the drug overdose death of 27-year-old Jeremyah Zander.

Charged with first-degree reckless homicide are Joseph D. Charlesworth, 34, Appleton, and Sonnie Jo Meier, 31, Waupaca.

Both have prior drug-related felony records and both are currently in custody. Charlesworth is in the Outagamie County jail on a \$500,000 cash bond and Meier is in the Waupaca County Jail on a \$100,000 cash bond.

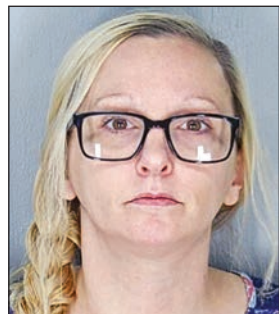
Shortly after 3 a.m. Friday, July 7, Zander's parents found him deceased in their shed on County Trunk N in the town of Little Wolf. They called 911.

Waupaca County deputies responded to the call and found a folded dollar inside the pouch pocket of his sweatshirt. The bill contained a small plastic bag with a gray powder that tested positive for methamphetamine and fentanyl.

His family told investigators that Zander had



Charlesworth



Meier

been with a woman, identified in the criminal complaint as MRM, who gave him a ride to the Fox Valley area earlier that day.

According to the criminal complaint, MRM and Zander picked up Meier and drove to a dealer where Meier used \$200 she received from Zander to purchase fentanyl. They returned to Meier's home where Zander and Meier used the fentanyl. Then MRM drove Zander back home.

Meier identified her supplier for the fentanyl

Overdose

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

**OVERDOSE**

FROM PAGE 1

as “Broadway Joe.” She did not know his actual name and described him as being about 5-feet-3-inches tall and having tattoos on his face.

Detective Sgt. Clint Schroeder spoke with Special Agent Ryan Dobbs with the state Division of Criminal Investigation. Dobbs identified Broadway Joe as Charlesworth and sent him a photo. Meier identified the subject in the photo as her supplier.

**Prior convictions**

Charlesworth has been charged with narcotics-related crimes in three other counties, including an Aug. 29 reckless homicide charge involving a drug overdose in Outagamie County.

On Aug. 22, 2014, Winnebago County Circuit Court sentenced Charlesworth to two years in state prison and three years of extended supervision for delivery of heroin.

His extended supervision was revoked on April 3, 2018, and Charlesworth was returned to prison until his release on Nov. 19,

2019.

A Waupaca County deputy was escorting Meier into the courthouse when he discovered she had heroin in her purse. She was charged with possession of narcotics and convicted on Jan. 24, 2018.

Judge Vicki Clussman placed Meier on three years of probation with the condition that she participate in the drug court program. Meier graduated from the program on May 22, 2019.

Her other prior convictions include burglary and delivery of cocaine on Jan. 24, 2018.

**FARMER**

FROM PAGE 1

In a letter to sent to families on Sunday, the W-F School District noted, “We are truly devastated by this news. Counselors will be available at each of our schools this upcoming week to speak with any students who may need some additional help processing this situation.”

The Gonzalezes were originally from Ecuador. Daniel and Fabian were working on a dairy farm in Waushara County, according to a GoFundMe page organized by a cousin.

The Gonzalezes were the stepchildren of Pastor Kurt Schilling, of Emmaus Lutheran Church in Waupaca, and his wife Paulina, according to a GoFundMe page organized by a church member.

**Criminal charges**

Waupaca County District Attorney Kat Turner has charged the driver of

the pickup truck, Scott C. Farmer, 47, Neenah, with four counts of homicide by intoxicated use of a vehicle, a fifth operating while under the influence and operating while revoked causing death.

According to the criminal complaint, an off-duty officer called the Waupaca County Sheriff’s Office at 9:13 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, and reported a pickup truck going the wrong way on U.S. 10.

A minute later, the officer reported that the truck had crashed with a SUV on U.S. 10 east of County Trunk X in rural Weyauwega.

Waupaca County Deputy Justin Malueg reported seeing an open bottle of vodka in the center console area of the truck.

Malueg noted Farmer’s eyes were bloodshot and his eyelids were droopy.

“He had a very slow, thick and slurred speech,” Malueg reported. “His speech was incoherent at

times and his sentences would trail off so I could not understand them. He also would not listen when asked to stay still in his seat. He attempted to crawl over to the passenger side of the vehicle at one point.”

Weyauwega firefighters and Fremont paramedics struggled to remove Farmer from the truck for more than 10 minutes. He reportedly threatened to fight with them, the complaint says.

When asked how much alcohol he had to drink, Farmer reportedly said, “A lot.”

When Malueg questioned him, Farmer’s responses were vulgar and incoherent, according to the complaint.

While at ThedaCare for treatment of his injuries, Farmer is reported to have told medical staff that he wanted to fight with them.

Farmer is currently in custody on a \$750,000 cash bond.

**PUBLISHER’S LETTER**

**The Beautiful Parallels: Origins of Christmas and the Spirit of Giving**

Dear Reader,

As we approach the most wonderful time of the year, it is only fitting to reflect upon the origins of Christmas and the remarkable parallels between the Christian celebration and the beloved traditions of Santa Claus, embodying goodness and giving.



around the world mirrors the Christian belief in the gift of Jesus, the ultimate present to humanity.

Furthermore, the act of gift-giving during Christmas has become a way for people to express their love and affection for one another. It mirrors the selfless love that Christians believe God demonstrated by sending His Son into the world.

believe God demonstrated by sending His Son into the world.

Christmas, at its core, is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. It traces its roots to the Christian faith, where believers commemorate the nativity of the Savior. The story of the Holy Family, a humble birth in a stable, and the adoration of shepherds and magi exemplifies the theme of humility and simplicity that underlies the Christian message. This very essence of Christmas forms the basis for the notion of giving and selflessness.

The melding of these traditions—from the Christian celebration of Jesus’ birth to the universal appeal of Santa Claus—exemplifies the beautiful essence of Christmas. It serves as a reminder that, regardless of one’s religious or cultural background, the season fosters an all-encompassing sense of unity and goodwill. The spirit of giving is not confined to material presents alone but extends to acts of kindness, charity, and togetherness.

The arrival of Santa Claus, a legendary figure inspired by St. Nicholas, further enhances the spirit of giving associated with Christmas. St. Nicholas was a Christian bishop renowned for his acts of charity and kindness, particularly to children and the needy. This spirit of generosity and compassion is embedded in the modern Santa Claus, who symbolizes the joy of giving.

As we gather with loved ones, decorate our homes, and exchange gifts, let us not forget the profound origins of Christmas and the remarkable parallels that emphasize the values of goodness and giving. This holiday season, may we all be inspired by the enduring message of Christmas and the universal appeal of Santa Claus as we come together to share the love and generosity that define this magical time of year.

Santa Claus transcends religious boundaries and cultural differences, embodying a universal spirit of goodwill and benevolence. His iconic image—jolly, rosy-cheeked, and clad in red—conjures a sense of warmth and merriment that resonates with people of all ages. Santa’s yearly journey to deliver gifts to children

Wishing you a blessed and joyous Christmas!

Warmly,  
**PATRICK J. WOOD**  
Publisher

**TREE TRUNK**

FROM PAGE 1

a focus on young readers. The wood sculpture became known as the Dragon’s Reading Tree and was a focal point in the store for many years.

In 2014, owner Ellen Davis donated it to the children’s department of the Waupaca Area Public Library. She relocated Dragonwings across the street in The Bookcellar at

110 S. Main St., creating a bookstore within a bookstore – and a restaurant, too, as Little Fat Gretchen’s adjoins the bookstore and can be entered through an interior door.

“She wanted the kids of Waupaca to have it. It’s like that piano in your basement: it’s never leaving. It is the place of imaginative play. Every kid that comes in here is either running a restaurant or an ice cream shop or a post office,” said

Sue Abrahamson, youth librarian.

The tree is reminiscent of a famous children’s adventure novel. In the Newbery Award-winning book, “My Side of the Mountain,” 12-year-old Sam Gribbley runs away from home and survives in the Catskill Mountains by foraging plants, trapping and falconry. Sam takes shelter inside of a hollow tree that would be very much like the one in the library.

**ThedaCare volunteers offer scholarships**

WAUPACA – Volunteers of ThedaCare Waupaca are offering \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors who are pursuing careers in a health-related field.

The scholarships are open to seniors attending Waupaca, Amherst, Manawa, Iola-Scandinavia and Weyauwega-Fremont high schools.

Applications for these

scholarships are available from guidance counselors.

The scholarship is renewable for three years to recipients of the initial award. The deadline for completing the application is April 15, 2024.

Renewal and employee applicants can obtain an application in the ThedaCare Waupaca Gift shop. Student renewal applica-

tions are also available on the community board at the Waupaca Area Public Library.

In 2023, Volunteers of ThedaCare Waupaca awarded \$21,000 in scholarships.

These scholarships are funded through the hospital’s gift shop, Triathlon, Books are Fun and other sales.



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# Waupaca NEWS

## Waupaca 'meets expectations'

DPI releases school report cards

BY ROBERT CLOUD  
SENIOR EDITOR

WAUPACA – The Waupaca School Board reviewed the school report cards when it met on Dec. 12.

Every school and every school district in Wisconsin receives an annual report card from the state Department of Public Instruction.

“Overall, we’re trending in the right direction,” Director of Teaching and Learning Mark Flaten told the board. “We’re doing better than some (districts) and not as good as we’d like compared to others.”

Based on data from the previous year, DPI report cards measure Achievement in English Language Arts and mathematics for students in grades 3-11 and year-to-year Student Growth in ELA and math for grades 4-11.

Targeted Group Outcomes is a measure of how students in the bottom 25% compare to the rest of their peers.

On-Track to Graduation measures how successfully students are progressing toward completing their K-12 education.

A score of 83-100 indicates a school or district “significantly exceeds expectations,” 70-82.9 means “exceeds expectations,” 58-69.9 indicates “meets ex-

pectation,” 48-57.9 means “meets few expectations” and 0-47.9 means “fails to meet expectations.”

In 2022-23, the Waupaca School District had an overall score of 69.2, up from 64.9 in 2021-22.

Both scores indicate the district “meets expectations,” according to the DPI.

The district as a whole saw its ELA Achievement score rise from 66 in 2021-22 to 66.7 in 2022-23, while its Growth score remained the same at 65.6.

In the category of Target Group Outcomes, the district saw improvements in achievement, growth and graduation, while the score for chronic absenteeism went down.

The On-Track to Graduation scores dropped from 85.8 in 2021-22 to 84.6 in 2022-23.

### CEC

The district’s charter school, Chain Exploration Center, received the highest overall score among Waupaca schools at 85.2, indicating the school “significantly exceeds expectations.”

“We’ve got some areas that we’re extremely proud of and some areas that we know we have some work to do,” said Carrie Naparella, CEC’s CEO and administrator. “Our English Language Arts score actually decreased even though it looks really great.”

In the category of

Achievement, CEC’s ELA score dropped from 80.5 to 78.8 from 2021-22 to 2022-23.

The school’s Achievement math score rose from 80.1 to 80.9.

In the category of Growth, CEC’s ELA score remained the same at 79.3, while its math score rose from 83.1 to 86.9.

Naparalla said economically disadvantaged students are struggling the most.

CEC is a project-based learning environment where students learn the core disciplines through problem solving and student-driven projects.

One of the challenges CEC teachers face is trying “to infuse their ELA learning targets into their projects so that it’s not two separate components,” she said.

“We’re proud of our increase in achievement and growth,” Naparella said.

“Our target and focus this year is how do we adjust our instruction and intervention to best meet the needs of all of our students, but really, specifically those students that are struggling.”

Teachers and interventionists work in teams that meet to assess and adjust curriculum and methods.

“Our teams have some really honest, collaborative conversations with one another about best practices to help strengthen their teaching,” Naparella said.

Report Card

CONTINUES ON PAGE 10

## Best album for Waupaca native

Ford’s debut scores big

BY JAMES CARD  
STAFF REPORTER

WAUPACA – Waupaca native Amelia Ford’s debut album “Wide Wide Open” won the Wisconsin Area Music Industry (WAMI) 2023 Album of the Year.

Recorded at Rock Garden Studio in Appleton, the album was voted best of the year by fans and professionals in the music business.

“I didn’t know about any if this. I hadn’t put out any music that would have made me eligible for consideration in past years. Since I put out my debut album, that opened me up to be considered in different categories,” said Ford.

A friend messaged her and told her she was nominated for a WAMI in three categories.



Waupaca native Amelia Ford’s debut album “Wide Wide Open” won the Wisconsin Area Music Industry (WAMI) 2023 Album of the Year.

Submitted Photo

Ford lives in Seymour and had no idea about any of this. Later, her husband was looking over the nominations and informed her she was nominated in eight rather than three categories.

“I was shocked to pieces,” said Ford. She was nominated for Rock Album of the Year, Rock Song of the Year and others.

The Turner Hall Ballroom in Milwaukee was the venue for the 41st

Ford

CONTINUES ON PAGE 10

## Pine Lake Camp awarded grant

WAUPACA – The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (WI-BPDD) has awarded a 2023-24 Sparks grant to Pine Lake Camp.

Part of Crossways Camping Ministries, Pine Lake will host a leadership retreat for adults with and without disabilities.

This project will offer a multi-day retreat to support young adults with disabilities and their non-disabled peers to work together on developing leadership and advocacy skills that they will use in their home communities.

Retreat activities will include developing new skills and relationships, campfire activities and outdoor recreational activities and storytelling.

Participants will create a Collaborative Plan for Participation that will include ideas on how they can grow their networks and work together to have more opportunities to be included in the community.

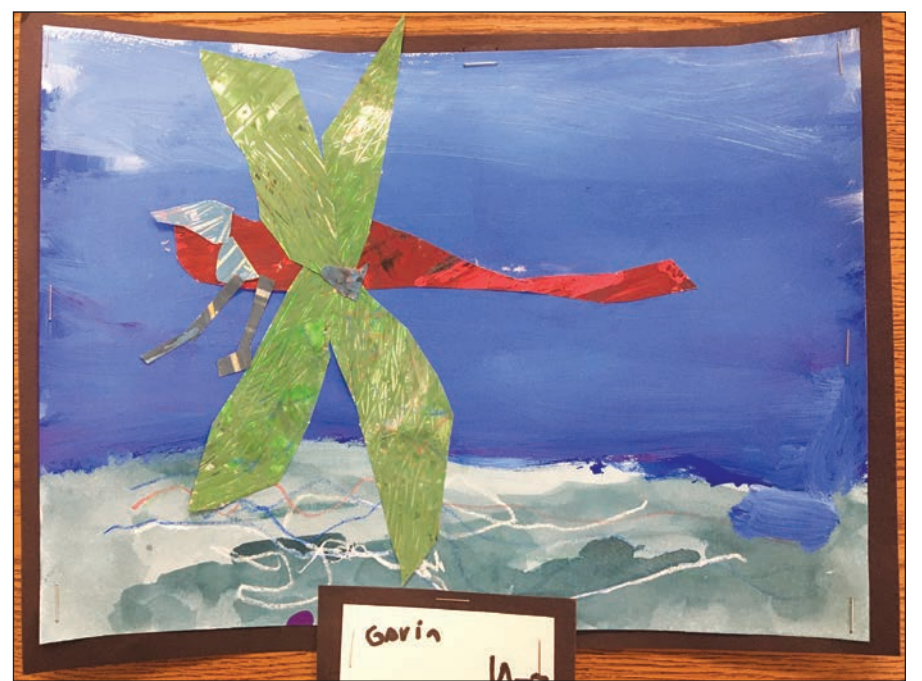
“Churches and camps need to empower people with disabilities by providing more opportunities for leadership development,” said Robyn Koehler, Pine Lake Camp co-director. “We aim to change the historical view that people with disabilities always need to help to one where they can lead and be highly engaged in their community and church.”

The purpose of Sparks grants is to provide more social and meaningful connections for people with

disabilities and help organizations understand how to offer and implement more inclusive programs.

Sparks grants range from \$500 to \$5,000 and are funded by the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities.

“People with disabilities have a lot to offer their communities, but they don’t feel included. These grants are meant to find intentional ways for individuals and organizations to facilitate better connections,” said BPDD Executive Director Beth Swedeen. “These projects will put in motion opportunities for people with disabilities and the larger community to get to know each other and discover they have a lot in common.”



### Dragonfly

Gavin Hicks, a third grader at Waupaca Learning Center, was named Student Artist of the Month. His work shown here, is called “Dragonfly.” It is an 11-1/2 by 8-1/2 inch collage and painted paper. His teachers say he was chosen because he takes his time to express himself, tries his best in class, stays on task and is kind and respectful of others.

Submitted image

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# Clintonville NEWS



Bleachers along the third base line in front of the press box are being removed by the city of Clintonville due to liability concerns. The Clintonville Common Council approved removal of the bleachers when it met Dec. 12. Jeff Hoffman Photo

## City to remove some bleachers

### May save grandstand and roof

BY BERT LEHMAN  
STAFF REPORTER

CLINTONVILLE – The city of Clintonville will remove the bleachers along the third base line in front of the press box at Don Jirschele Stadium at W.A. Olen Athletic Field due to safety concerns.

The Clintonville Common Council approved the removal of the bleachers when it met Dec. 12.

Justin Mc Auly, Parks and Recreation and Public Works director, told the council that after having several meetings, including with the Clintonville School District, the city concluded that the long bleachers in front of the press box needed to be removed due to the risk of people falling through them.

He added that the city is also considering op-

tions to save the grandstand bleachers behind home plate.

“Our goal is to keep that one intact, but remove the long bleachers that’s by the press box,” Mc Auly said.

He said he was looking for the council’s approval to start removing those bleachers.

“The goal is to actually use a lot of the aluminum planking for the retrofitting of the other set of bleachers,” Mc Auly said. “So, the goal is to recycle as much as we can.”

He added that the goal for the bleachers behind home plate is to put two planks instead of one where the footboard is. This would close the gap that is in the bleachers and eliminate the fall risk where the foot board is. The city is also looking at adding a plank by the heel board.

“By doing that, there is no way for individuals to fall through,” Mc Auly said.

Regarding the roof of the grandstand, Mc Auly said he would be meeting with an engineer to come up with options to save the grandstand roof. He said this would probably include the addition of I-beams to replace the piping that is currently being used to support the roof.

If the engineer approves the I-beam option, Mc Auly said the city would then seek cost estimates for the project, and hopefully save the grandstand bleachers and roof.

Even though the city has been told the bleachers are a liability risk, Ald. Darrell Hansen questioned how many other bleachers in Wisconsin are built exactly the same way as the bleachers that are at Don Jirschele Stadium in Clintonville.

Hansen added that since the city has been told there are liability issues with the bleachers, they need to be replaced.

## City to vacate part of Garfield Ave.

BY BERT LEHMAN  
STAFF REPORTER

CLINTONVILLE – The city of Clintonville has started the process to vacate the portion of Garfield Avenue between 12th Street and Wilson Street so it can be incorporated into the new campus of Clintonville Utilities.

At its Dec. 12 meeting, the Clintonville Common Council approved a preliminary resolution to vacate a portion of Garfield Avenue.

During the discussion, it was announced that there will be a public hearing on the matter on Feb. 13.

### Council meeting

The resolution to vacate part of Garfield Avenue was originally on the agenda for



The city of Clintonville plans to vacate part of Garfield Avenue to make way for the new campus of Clintonville Utilities. Jeff Hoffman Photo

the Nov. 14 council meeting.

Prior to that meeting, Justin Mc Auly, Parks and Recreation and Public Works director, sent a memo to the council.

In the memo, Mc Auly said the Streets Committee recommended that the council approve vacating the described

section of Garfield Avenue.

“The Water and Electric Utility plans on including the section in question into their new campus, which will include their new facility and their facility at 65 E 12th

### Garfield Ave.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 10

## City writes off delinquent balances

### Balances deemed uncollectible

BY BERT LEHMAN  
STAFF REPORTER

CLINTONVILLE – The city of Clintonville is writing off \$48,715 in delinquent balances dating back to 2006 that it said are uncollectible.

The Clintonville City Council approved writing off the delinquent balances when it met Dec. 12.

The delinquent balances were discussed at the Clin-

tonville Finance and Personnel Committee meeting the previous night.

At that meeting, Peggy Johnson, clerk/treasurer for the city of Clintonville, said some of the reasons the balances are uncollectible, include a person dying and there not being probate, the delinquent balance is unable to be placed on the city’s tax roll, personal property taxes billed in error, and bankruptcies.

“We need to get our records cleared up so we have true receivables,” Johnson said.

City Administrator Caz

Muske said this process of writing off uncollectible, delinquent balances has been done in other city departments, including Clintonville Utilities.

Johnson said the city has been working to collect funds for past fire calls, but said the city doesn’t have a lot of leverage in collecting those funds.

“We’re really trying to get the procedure down straight and get these collection calls going and start our collections right away,” Johnson said.

### Balances

CONTINUES ON PAGE 10

## District accepts bid for empty school

BY BERT LEHMAN  
STAFF REPORTER

CLINTONVILLE – The Clintonville School District has entered into a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to sell the former Rexford

Longfellow Elementary School complex to New London Investments LLC for \$350,000.

The Clintonville School Board agreed to the MOU after meeting in closed session on Dec. 11.

The Clintonville Tribune-Gazette filed an open records request to obtain a copy of the MOU, as well as all the written bids to purchase the property.

The elementary school complex consists of 4.7 acres located at 105 S. Clinton Avenue and 6.4 acres located at 20 Sixth Street.

According to the MOU, it specified that the \$350,000 “shall be paid in cash with no financing contingency.” It also states that the property would be purchased in “as is” condition with no inspection contingency.

The MOU also specified that the purchase of the property is contingent on the “seller successfully having the Property rezoned for mixed use to include (1) retail, (2) office/professional, and (3) manufacturing of indoor sensory gym equipment and related products and related activities.”

### Empty School

CONTINUES ON PAGE 10

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**Waupaca Country Home!**

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Welcome to the country! This character filled Waupaca 4BR/1BA home with its original trim and most hardwood flooring is located just south of Waupaca on a 1.79 acre parcel. In 2015, the home was remodeled to include vinyl siding, windows, roof, low maintenance porches and furnace. The yard has a large fenced in area. There is an extra 24x60 building once used as a dog grooming business which has its own professional building septic. There is a 24x40 machine shed which needs some TLC, but was used as a garage in the past. Spacious room sizes! Two fenced in areas-1 for a garden & one is used as a dog run. Sit on the two porches & enjoy your country home! The property is zoned Rural Residential & has multiple permitted uses with Waupaca City zoning. MLS# 50285027

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Part-time opening

**County Post REPORTER**

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

The position entails reporting on council and school board meetings, shooting photos at festivals and parades, writing feature stories on people and places in the community.

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# New London & Hortonville NEWS



The New London Public Museum is seeking personal mementos of Hatten Park. File Photo

## Museum seeks Hatten Park mementos

NEW LONDON – The New London Public Museum is asking local residents to search their scrapbooks and closets for information and mementos about Hatten Park.

The museum is working with the Hatten Stadium Foundation, the New London Parks and Recreation Department and historic preservation consultant Elizabeth Miller to nominate Hatten Park to the National Register of Historic Places.

Museum Director Christine Cross said she photos of the park, the stadium and the pool will help build a stronger case for the nomination.

“Do you have letters or diaries from relatives that describe the park? Maybe your

relatives helped build the park. We need that information,” Cross said. “Help us build the Hatten Park story.”

People need to bring what they have to the museum by Jan. 31, 2024.

In March, the New London Public Museum brought the idea of nominating just the stadium to the Hatten Stadium Foundation.

After meeting with foundation and receiving their support, the museum spoke with the State Historic Preservation Office. They suggested nominating the entire park, not just the stadium.

The State Historic Preservation Office awarded the city a Fuldner Heritage Grant, which covers all costs for a consultant to write the

nomination.

“Due to the amount of work necessary, without the ability to hire a consultant, we would not be able to nominate the park,” Cross said. “We need community photos and information to build a strong case for Hatten Park.”

Located at 406 S. Pearl St., the New London Public Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. The museum is closed for the holidays on Dec. 22-25 and Dec. 29 to Jan. 1, 2024.

For more information, visit [www.newlondonwi.org](http://www.newlondonwi.org) or email [museum@newlondonwi.org](mailto:museum@newlondonwi.org).



## Little Rudolfs

Sugar Bush Elementary School second-graders Chloe Marquardt and Bree Janke added red noses before singing “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” with their classmates at the school’s annual Christmas program Dec. 13 in New London High School’s Performing Arts Center. Greg Seubert Photo



## Service recognition

Members of the New London Firefighter’s Association recently honored Assistant Fire Chief Dick Muskevitch for reaching a 50-year service milestone with the department. He began his service on Dec. 1, 1973. Fire Chief Mark Wilfuer, at right, presented Muskevitch with an engraved gold watch during the association’s annual Christmas banquet held Dec. 9. John Faucher Photo

# Wega-Fremont NEWS



Bryan Austin, owner of Miracles Vintage Lamps & Gifts, restores and repairs all types of lighting. He also crafts one-of-a-kind lamps and chandeliers using salvaged and antique materials. James Card Photo

## Bringing lights back to life

Lamp maker restores, creates

JAMES CARD  
STAFF REPORTER

WEST BLOOMFIELD – Not many people repair old lamps anymore but Bryan Austin does.

He also makes them, often out of antiques and salvaged material. Wood, metal, wire and glass are the mediums he works with in a craft that is a combination of electrical skills, woodworking, sculpting and historical record-keeping.

Walking into Miracles Vintage Lamps and Gifts is a visual delight. The building is his workshop, office, lounge and retail space. The lighting he has on display is warm and welcoming but not overpowering.

Austin despises the lighting showcase aisle at Menard’s that is so bright he says you need sunglasses to inspect a fixture. He shakes his head at the idea of blinding potential customers and said if he used light bulbs that bright his electric bill would spike.

Instead, his lamps and chandeliers are toned down so visitors can see the details in his creations.

What they will not see are the spider web of wires connecting the bulbs. Austin pointed to a block of timber from an old barn. He split the wood open, carved it out, buried the wires and sealed it up so only the power cord is noticed.

He pointed out a chandelier from a Waupaca home

that he refurbished to be re-using in the owner’s entryway.

“The name Miracles Vintage came about because of the miracles we do for people. Whether it’s an old sconce from grandma’s house or an old lamp that was a 100-years old and putting new cords and sockets in it. It’s the miracle of repurposing it. We do a lot of restoration, heirloom lamp repairs and we’re able to do a lot of awesome off-the-wall pieces for people,” said Austin.

Austin salvages material himself and has a wide network of friends who bring him materials and parts. He records all of the information about the materials so he can show its provenance to customers, such as this timber beam came from a certain barn or a light bulb hood came from a closed factory. He is able to pass along the history of each.

“I’ve got the old Mason jars, the telephone insulators, the old barn hoods, and we do a lot of work with old farm implements,” he said.

He also makes “pipe people,” that could be described as an elf-on-a-shelf but made of metal piping and some have air pressure gauges or light bulbs for heads.

Austin grew up in West Bloomfield and served in the U.S. Army from 1994 to 2001. He worked as a land surveyor for McMahon Associates in Neenah before launching Miracles Vintage Lamps & Gifts.

“I always had a fascination with electricity. I always had my hands in it. What got me

going was the history of lighting, going back to when electricity emerged in the United States. For me, it was the box stores—all the wrong things they were doing with lighting, like putting in the wrong wire such as using aluminum wire instead of copper wire. I wanted to make things safer in homes rather than having fire hazards all around,” said Austin.

“We don’t produce hundreds of the same thing. We produce one of one. If there is a request to make 10 pieces for a client like a restaurant,” he said, also mentioning a re-



## Thin ice

On Wednesday, Dec. 13, ice anglers drilled holes in Weyauwega Lake. The first ice of the year is considered to offer great fishing; however, warm temps later in the week thinned the ice to a dangerous thickness. Four inches is deemed safe for walking. James Card Photo

cent job where he did chandelier work and made matching sconces for a veterinary clinic in Green Bay.

Austin pointed out some of the custom creations he has made for client: a weathered wood ladder hanging from the ceiling and illuminated with a track lighting effect.

“It’s an antique. It’s going to go over some guy’s island and he’s going to put pots and pans on it. He came to me with the creation. That’s one of one because you can’t get the same ladder or the same wood. Every piece in here is

timeless and timeless means history,” he said.

The style could be described as steampunk, a genre that is futuristic and retro at the same time and inspired by 19th-century machinery but it also has a rustic farmhouse décor look to it. His lamps start at \$75 and can go up to \$2,000 for complicated chandeliers.

Miracles Vintage Lamps and Gifts is open by appointment.

“It’s so that we can talk with a customer and get the story of the pieces that we are

making. We’re kind of tucked in and a lot of people drive by and stop in and didn’t know there was a lamp shop. We’re not in town and we’re near Waupaca and Weyauwega,” he said.

His workshop has Fremont address but he is located a short skip from West Bloomfield at W1511 County Trunk HH. Look for the hand-painted sign on his red barn.

Austin can be reached at 907-313-0611 and at [www.miraclesvintagelampsandgifts.com](http://www.miraclesvintagelampsandgifts.com).

**WITH THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS & CUSTOMERS!**

Christmas is a time for gratitude, and we’d like to express our deep appreciation to this community for supporting us through these challenging times. We wish you the best for the holiday season and the coming new year and look forward to seeing you soon!

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# Iola-Scandinavia NEWS

## Ice Age Trail, two others added to National Park Service

MADISON – Three trails – including one that runs through Waupaca, Portage and Waushara counties – are the latest additions to the National Park Service.

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail, along with the North Country and New England national scenic trails, are now officially recognized as units of the NPS.

Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin) announced the designation Dec. 7, along with NPS Director Chuck Sams and Luke Kloberdanz, executive director and CEO of the Ice Age Trail Alliance.

The Ice Age Trail stretches for nearly 1,200 miles across Wisconsin and includes the New Hope-Iola Ski Hill and Hartman Creek segments in Waupaca and Portage counties; Skunk and Foster Lakes and Waupaca River segments in Waupaca County; Emmons Creek Segment in Portage County; and Deerfield, Bohn Lake, Greenwood, Mecan River and Wedde Creek segments in Waushara County.

“The Ice Age Trail touches countless communities in the Badger State, charting a path from the St. Croix River through the heart of Wisconsin and all the way back up to Door County,” Baldwin said. “Along those hundreds of miles, local businesses, families, outdoor enthusiasts and communities reap the benefits, as visitors from all over come to enjoy Wisconsin’s great outdoors.”



The Waupaca River Segment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail begins at the corner of Cobtown and Foley roads west of Waupaca. The trail, which stretches for more than 1,200 miles, has been officially designated as part of the National Park Service.

“This is truly momentous for the Ice Age Trail and its thousands of supporters and volunteers,” Kloberdanz said. “Unit status gives the trail and its volunteers the recognition it duly deserves. Make no mistake: the Ice Age Trail is world-class and the number of hours alliance volunteers devote to it consistently rank among the top in all the National Park Service.”

The designation will not result in any immediate changes to the size or structure of the trails, which already have access points, signage, operating budgets, superintendents, staff and dedicated volunteers. Expected to stretch a continuous 4,600 miles across Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont and Wisconsin when completed, the North Country National Scenic Trail showcases an array of landscapes and includes historic sites that tell how

America grew as a nation. The trail includes more than 200 miles through northern Wisconsin’s Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland and Iron counties. Although it has the second-shortest trail distance among the eight states, Wisconsin is responsible for providing the trail’s name with the original 60-mile Northern Country Trail in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

Since 2014, Baldwin has introduced the National Scenic Trails Parity Act, bipartisan legislation to grant NPS unit status to the Ice



The Waupaca River Segment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail follows an undeveloped stretch of the Waupaca River. Greg Seubert Photos

Age and North Country trails to improve management, establish administrative clarity and grant access to additional federal resources.

“I was proud to lead the charge to support the Ice Age and the North Country scenic trails’ new designations, unlocking additional federal resources to ensure generations to come can better enjoy Wisconsin’s wilderness,” she said.

The newly designated trails bring the total number of NPS units to 428. The National Park Service previously administered the trails

as part of the National Trails System.

“The new status for the Ice Age, New England and North Country national scenic trails will increase public awareness and use of these amazing pathways,” Sams said. “Their combined 5,500-plus miles travel through parts of 10 states and hundreds of communities, from large cities to rural towns, providing countless close-to-home opportunities for people to easily access green space and enjoy the benefits of outdoor recreation.”

## School referendum will be included on spring ballot

EDITOR’S NOTE: The Iola-Scandinavia School Board voted Dec. 11 to place a referendum question on the spring election ballot in April. Iola-Scandinavia School District Administrator Chris Nelson provided the following information about the referendum to the Waupaca County Post.

IOLA – In an effort to prioritize the safety of its students and staff, the Iola-Scandinavia School District has recently embarked on a major endeavor.

With the unanimous approval of the Board of Education, the district has initiated a \$2.3 million capital referendum to enhance safety and security across the district buildings as well as updating school maintenance needs. This comprehensive plan aims to build a stronger

foundation for a safer, comfortable, stable learning environment.

### Community engagement, support

The success of any referendum relies heavily on community engagement and support.

The Iola-Scandinavia School District has actively sought to involve the community in the decision-making process regarding the \$2.3 million referendum with a community survey that was initiated this fall.

Through this survey the district has received overwhelming support from parents, teachers, and community members who recognize the importance of investing in the safety, security and maintenance of their schools. The community understands that a safe learning environ-

ment is essential for students to excel academically and emotionally. The results of this survey can be found on the district website.

### Safety, security needs

In recent years, schools across the country have experienced unfortunate incidents that highlight the need for enhanced safety and security measures.

Acts of violence and unauthorized access to school premises have raised concerns among parents and educators alike. It is crucial for schools to stay ahead of potential threats and take proactive measures to ensure the safety of their students and staff.

The Iola-Scandinavia School District, like many others, believes that prevention is key. By investing in safe and secure entrances, they aim to deter potential threats and provide a safer environment for everyone on campus. The presence of surveillance cameras, crisis planning, and safety training are already in place.

Securing our entrances and providing updated interior doors will not only enhance security measure that we have in place, but will also provide a sense of reassurance to students, teachers, and parents.

### Maintenance needs

Alongside the safety and security enhancements, the capital referendum will also address much-needed maintenance projects within the school district. Over time, wear and tear can take a toll on the infrastructure of school buildings, affecting the learning environment and overall functionality. By allocating part of the funds towards maintenance projects, the district ensures that the school facilities are well-maintained and conducive to learning.

Maintenance projects will include repairing roofs, updating heating systems, and replacing inefficient windows and doors. These improvements not only contribute to the safety and functionality of the buildings but also enhance the overall educational experience for students and teachers.

### Key features of upgrades

The safety, security, and maintenance upgrade projects proposed by the \$2.3 million capital referendum are designed to create a safe and efficient environment. The key features of these upgrades include:

- A safe and secure remodel of the main entrance of the middle/high school.
- New boilers at the Middle/High School and HVAC control system. The current boilers are original to the building in 1979.
- Replace exterior windows at the Elementary School. Many of the windows are single pane and are original to

the building.

- Replace interior doors. Many doors have large windows that are not shatter proof.
- Repair and replace roofs on sections of various district buildings.

### Concerns, misconceptions

As with any major undertaking, concerns and misconceptions may arise regarding the \$2.3 million referendum. It is important to address these concerns to ensure transparency and understanding within the community.

One common concern is the cost of the referendum and its potential impact on property taxes. While it is true that the referendum will require funding, the school district has estimated that the tax impact on a \$100,000 property to be an additional \$25 per year.

Additionally, the long-term benefits of enhanced safety and security, as well as improved school facilities, outweigh the initial investment.

### Voting process, timeline

The voting process for the \$2.3 million referendum will follow the established protocols for school district referendums. The community will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed referendum on April 2, 2024.

The school district will provide ample information to the community regarding the voting process, including the timeline for the referendum and the entire scope of the project. This will ensure that all eligible voters are aware of the projects and have the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process.

As we approach April, the school district will continue to engage with the community, address concerns, and provide information to ensure transparency and understanding.

The successful implementation of the \$2.3 million referendum will pave the way for a brighter and safer future for the Iola-Scandinavia School District.

## Huettner won't run again

BY GREG SEUBERT  
STAFF REPORTER

IOLA – A current member of the Iola-Scandinavia School Board will not seek re-election in 2024.

Paul Huettner, who represents the towns of Helvetia and St. Lawrence, has filed a notification of noncandidacy with the Iola-Scandinavia School District.

Qualified district resi-

dents interested in having their name appear on the spring election ballot must file all necessary forms with the district office by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2.

The spring election will be held Tuesday, April 2.

Contact District Administrative Assistant Tammy Bauer at bauert@iola.k12.wi.us or 715-445-2411, ext. 1403, for more information.



## LIGHT A CANDLE OF LOVE.

Since Christmas is a time for remembering, we are lighting a candle in our funeral home for all the families we have served this past year.

As you enjoy this Christmas season, we hope this gesture will serve to remind you of Holidays past and the importance of family.

May the peace of Christmas fill your heart and home.

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### THANK YOU

To all the volunteers and organizations that made this a Merry Christmas for many families.

This Christmas the Manawa Area Food Pantry helped roughly 60 families with its annual Christmas Basket event. The baskets included food for a Christmas dinner and gifts.

Some of the families were “adopted” by organizations that took care of collecting everything for the baskets and delivering them. These groups included St. Mark’s Church, St. Paul’s Church, Tree House Foods and the Manawa 4H Club.

Most of the food was donated by Royalton Christian Church. Gifts came from “Giving Trees” set up at Sacred Heart Church and Manawa First State Bank. Dollar General also helped with some gifts.

The Manawa Masonic Center provided the place for us to assemble everything and the Manawa Fire Department volunteers delivered the baskets.

**Manawa Area Food Pantry**  
114 2nd St, Manawa  
920-596-3744



Sending you and your family warm thoughts and many thanks for allowing us to serve you this past year.



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# Sports

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## W-F wrestlers return from Florida with championship

BY GREG SEUBERT  
 SPORTS EDITOR

ORLANDO, Florida – Two years of planning to compete in a tournament in Florida turned out to be worth the effort for the Weyauwega-Fremont wrestling team. The Warhawks headed to

Orlando for the 30-team Bill Scott Memorial Tournament, held Dec. 15-16, and returned home with the tournament championship.

The team now has a 7-0 record in duals and has won all three of its tournaments. Weyauwega-Fremont did

not have any individual champions, but played 10 wrestlers in the top five of their respective weight classes.

The Warhawks won the meet with 259 1/2 points and other top 10 teams included Doral Academy (241); Timber Creek (237); Lyman

(191); Lake Mary (174); Colonial (143);

Lake Brantley (142); Columbia, New York (126); Winter Park (119 1/2); Jones (110 1/2).

Two Weyauwega-Fremont freshmen came up short in the finals. Jaydon LeNoble

won four matches in a row before losing to a Doral wrestler at 106 pounds, while Carter Birdyshaw pinned four straight opponents at 138 before dropping a 6-4 overtime decision on a takedown to a wrestler from Deltona.

Two other Weyauwega-Fre-

mont wrestlers placed third. Carter McDaniel won five matches at 175 pounds, including three by pins, to win a bronze medal. His only loss was a 4-3 decision to the eventual champion.

**W-F Wrestling**  
 CONTINUES ON PAGE 13



Clintonville's Jack Yaeger has the ball slip through his hands Dec. 12 in the Truckers' North Eastern Conference game with Fox Valley Lutheran. Yaeger led the Truckers with 23 points in a 62-59 loss to the Foxes. Greg Seubert Photo

## Clintonville boys find early success on basketball court

BY GREG SEUBERT  
 SPORTS EDITOR

CLINTONVILLE – It's still early in the season, but the Clintonville boys' basketball team is already making some noise in the North Eastern Conference.

The Truckers improved to 4-1 in conference play Dec. 15 with a 78-70 win in Marinette.

Clintonville also fell to Bonduel 55-54 in overtime Dec. 18 and dropped its first conference game to Fox Valley Lutheran Dec. 12.

### Bonduel 55, Clintonville 54 (OT)

BONDUEL – Ryan Westrich's free throw with 1.3 seconds to go in overtime gave the Bears the one-point win over the Truckers.

### Clintonville 78, Marinette 70

MARINETTE – The Truckers and Marines combined to score 148 points in a game that had 12 lead changes.



Fox Valley Lutheran's Elijah Last guards Clintonville's Linken Korth in the first half. Greg Seubert Photo

Each team led by as many as six points in the first half and Marinette took a 36-35 lead at the break on Lukas Peterson's basket just before the buzzer.

The Marines built a four-point lead early in the second half before Jack Yaeger's three-pointer gave Clintonville the lead for good at 55-52. The Truckers went on to outscore

Marinette 23-18 the rest of the way.

Yaeger led all players with 26 points. Teammates Kade Rosenow, Sam Wegener and Jonathan Scherschel also finished in double figures with 24, 16 and 11 points, respectively.

Peterson led Marinette with 19 points.

**Clintonville Basketball**  
 CONTINUES ON PAGE 12



Waupaca's Ava Widdel plays defense in front of New London's Shelby Glodowski Dec. 14 in a nonconference game at Waupaca High School. Glodowski led all players with 17 points in the Bulldogs' 66-29 win over the Comets. Greg Seubert Photo

## New London girls pick up three wins in four days

BY GREG SEUBERT  
 SPORTS EDITOR

NEW LONDON – After dropping its first game of the season to Stevens Point, the New London girls' basketball team is back to winning games.

The Bulldogs improved to 9-1 overall and 2-0 in the Bay Conference Dec. 15 with a 68-32 win over Green Bay East.

New London also picked up nonconference wins over Waupaca and New London. The Bulldogs handed Waupaca a 66-29 loss Dec. 14 and defeated the Raiders 60-46 Dec. 12.

### New London 68, GB East 32

NEW LONDON – The Bulldogs held the Red Devils to 11 points in the

first half.

New London led 27-11 at halftime and outscored the visitors 41-21 in the second half.

Shelby Glodowski led the Bulldogs with 14 points, while Kenna Mix and Caitlin Stroesenreuther added 12 and 11, respectively.

Green Bay East's Jamaya Mariner led all scorers with 17.

### New London 66, Waupaca 29

WAUPACA – The Bulldogs scored the final 20 points of the first half to take a 37-8 lead at the break and also scored the first 10 points of the second half.

Glodowski led New London with 17 points,

Jensen Mix scored all 15 of her points in the first half and Kenna Mix finished with 13.

Rossi Wehmeyer led Waupaca with 12 points.

### New London 60, Medford 46

NEW LONDON – New London outscored the Raiders 27-23 in the first half and 33-23 in the second half.

Glodowski, Stroesenreuther and Macy Reybrock led the Bulldogs with 16, 14 and 10 points, respectively.

Kayla Baumgartner and Toryn Rau led Medford with 11 points each.

The Bulldogs hosted Shawano Dec. 19 and will host Xavier at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22.

## T-Birds top Falcons in Amherst

BY GREG SEUBERT  
 SPORTS EDITOR

AMHERST – A nine-point scoring advantage in the second half added up to a nine-point win for the Iola-Scandinavia boys' basketball team.

The Thunderbirds outscored Amherst 38-29 in the second half Dec. 14 on the Falcons' home court

and returned home with a 68-59 Central Wisconsin Conference-East win.

Both teams headed to the locker room at halftime tied at 30-30.

Iola-Scandinavia led by as many as 20 points – 60-40 – in the second half before Amherst outscored the T-Birds 18-9 the rest of the way.

Korz Loken led the T-

Birds with 21 points and Alex Robbins and Carter Melum also finished in double figures with 16 and 11, respectively.

The T-Birds improved to 3-3 overall and 2-1 in conference play with the win and will host Edgar at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21, before resuming CWC-East play Tuesday, Jan. 2, at Shiocton.

## Hortonville girls get back on winning track

BY GREG SEUBERT  
 SPORTS EDITOR

HORTONVILLE – A 2-3 start to the season is now a distant memory for the Hortonville girls' basketball team.

The Polar Bears handed Homestead a 67-64 defeat Dec. 16 and also picked up recent Fox Valley Association wins over Kaukauna and Fond du Lac.

### Hortonville 67, Homestead 64

HORTONVILLE – Hortonville never trailed against the Highlanders, a team ranked in the top 10 in the latest state Division 1 poll.

The Polar Bears led by as many as 10 points in the first half, but Homestead closed the first half with an 8-0 run and the teams headed to the locker room at halftime tied

at 32-32.

A 7-0 run early in the second half gave Hortonville a 47-38 lead and Kallie Pepler's basket gave the Polar Bears a 63-53 lead.

Homestead answered with an 8-0 run that cut the lead to 63-61 with just under two minutes remaining.

A pair of free throws from Rainey Welson pushed the lead back to four points, but Homestead's Lauren Strifling made it a one-point game with her fourth three-pointer.

The Highlanders got the ball back with 52 seconds to go, but a traveling call on Natalie Mueller with 6.7 seconds to go gave the ball back to the Polar Bears. Kardyn Pepler hit a pair of free throws for a three-point lead and Madison Fitzgibbon missed a three-pointer at the buzzer.

Welson led Hortonville

with 19 points, while Mikayla Werner and Kardyn Pepler added 16 and 13, respectively.

Fitzgibbon led Homestead with 19 points.

### Hortonville 75, Kaukauna 46

KAUKAUNA – The Polar Bears improved to 4-1 in Fox Valley Association play Dec. 15 with a road win over the Ghosts.

Welson led Hortonville with 19 points and Kallie Pepler added 12.

### Hortonville 73, Fond du Lac 45

FOND DU LAC – The Polar Bears traveled to Fond du Lac Dec. 12 and returned home with a conference win over the Cardinals.

**Hortonville Basketball**  
 CONTINUES ON PAGE 12



Hortonville's Kallie Pepler holds onto the ball in front of Homestead's Natalie Mueller Dec. 16 during the second half of a nonconference game at Hortonville High School. Pepler and the Polar Bears never trailed and held on for a 67-64 win over the Highlanders. Greg Seubert Photo

**CLINTONVILLE BASKETBALL**  
FROM PAGE 11

**FVL 62,**

**Clintonville 59**

CLINTONVILLE – The Truckers trailed the Foxes by as many as 15 points in the first half and 14 in the second half before having a chance to tie the game on the final possession.

Fox Valley Lutheran led 28-16 at halftime and had a double-digit lead for most of the second half before Clintonville closed the game with a 13-4 run.

Rosenow started the late rally with a three-pointer that cut the Foxes' lead to 58-49 with just over three minutes remaining. A basket from Scherschel and two from Wegener cut the lead to 60-57 with 40 seconds to go.

Clintonville had the ball back with 27 seconds remaining after a missed free throw, but Wegener missed a game-tying three-pointer.



Clintonville's Jonathan Scherschel gets a hand on the ball in front of Fox Valley Lutheran's Sam Ferge. Greg Seubert Photo

A free throw from Yeager cut the lead to 60-59 with 4.3 seconds remaining and the Foxes pushed the lead to three points with a basket.

The Truckers had one more shot to send the game to overtime, but Wegener's attempt at the buzzer was off the mark.

Yeager and Wegener led

Clintonville with 23 and 18 points, respectively.

Fox Valley Lutheran's Adam Loberger led all players with 29 points.

The Truckers will host Oconto Falls at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22, before heading to New London Thursday, Dec. 28, for a 3 p.m. nonconference matchup with the Bulldogs.



Hortonville's Josie Weister plays defense against Homestead's Emma Wolf. Greg Seubert Photos

**HORTONVILLE BASKETBALL**  
FROM PAGE 11

Hortonville led 37-15 at halftime and outscored the home team 36-30 in the second half.

Welson led four Hortonville players in double figures with 16 points. Werner and Kallie Pepler scored 15 points each and Karyn Pepler added 10.

Anna Ciha led Fond du Lac with 10 points.

The Polar Bears will face another ranked team Friday, Dec. 22, as Hortonville faces Appleton East in Hortonville at 7:45 p.m. The boys' teams will also play at 6 p.m.



Karyn Pepler works against Homestead's Grace Zortman in Hortonville's 67-64 win.

**Polar Bears win one, lose one**

BY GREG SEUBERT  
SPORTS EDITOR

HORTONVILLE – Hortonville hit 10 three-pointers Dec. 18 and went on to hand Fort Atkinson's boys' basketball team a 66-42 nonconference loss.

The Polar Bears also dropped a 77-68 Fox Valley Association game to Kaukauna Dec. 15.

**Hortonville 66,**  
**Fort Atkinson 42**

Riley Mueller's game-high 15 points helped lead the Polar Bears to the win

over the Blackhawks. Drake Johnson and Ethan Joling added 11 and 10 points, respectively, for the Polar Bears, with Johnson scoring all 11 of his points in the first half.

Ben Evans led Fort Atkinson with 13 points.

**Kaukauna 77,**  
**Hortonville 68**

A nine-point halftime lead turned into a nine-point defeat as Kaukauna outscored the Polar Bears 50-32 in the second half.

The Polar Bears led 36-27 at halftime.

Joling led Hortonville with 15 points, while Mueller added 12 and Gavin Valeri scored 10.

Kaukauna's Keegan Van Kauwenberg led all scorers with 27 points.

The Polar Bears will host Appleton East in Fox Valley Association action at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22, before heading to Eau Claire Memorial for an invitational. Hortonville will face Hudson at 5:45 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 28, and Madison Memorial at 12:45 p.m. Friday, Dec. 29.

**Parks, Recreation**

**Lutheran Dartball League**

Standings: St. Paul's (Dupont), 13-5; Scandinavia (Scandinavia), 11-7; St. Peter's (Big Falls), 11-7; Immanuel (Waupaca), 9-9; Trinity (New London), 8-10; St. Peter's 2 (Weyauwega), 6-12; St. Paul's (Manawa), 5-13.

Dec. 14 results: Immanuel 3, St. Peter's 2 (Weyauwega) 0; St. Peter's (Big

Falls) 2, St. Paul's (Dupont) 1; Scandinavia 2, Trinity (New London) 1; St. Paul's (Manawa) had bye.

Batters over .499: Sawyer Strebe (.499); Ron Lutzewitz (.526); Doug Plauster (.526); Arden Sellin (.500).

Dec. 7 results: St. Peter's (Big Falls) 3, Trinity 0; St. Paul's (Dupont) 3, St. Paul's (Manawa) 0; Scandinavia 2, St. Peter's 2 (Weyauwega) 1; Immanuel had bye.

Batters over .499: Shawn

Bazile (.647); Doug Plauster (.615); Sawyer Strebe (.529); Spencer Strebe (.500); Lisa Hardel (.500).

Top 10 hitters (first half of season): Doug Plauster (.5556); Sawyer Strebe (.5467); Ron Lutzewitz (.4556); Jon Jossie (.4362); Blair Sawall (.4143); Darrell Krueger (.3978); Spencer Strebe (.3958); Gary Gensler (.3913); Earl Wohlraabe (.3836); Steve Riemer (.3778).

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To All!

WAUPACA County Post Waupaca Buyers' Guide



The Weyauwega-Fremont wrestling team recently returned home from Orlando, Florida, after winning the Bill Scott Memorial Tournament, a 30-team invitational. Submitted Photo

**W-F WRESTLING**  
FROM PAGE 11

Tellyer Alix lost his first match against the eventual 190-pound runner-up, but came back to win six matches in a row, all by pin.

Fourths for the Warhawks went to Josue Azuara, with 4-2 records at 113 and 126, respectively; Aiden Marquette, who posted a 5-2 record at 144; and Connor Johnson, who finished 4-2 at 157.

"All four of those kids battled through two long days of competition to earn their medals," coach Tim Potratz said.

Zander Bachnman and Alex Loehrke placed fifth at 106 and 150, respectively,

with a 5-2 mark.

Caleb Abbey posted a 4-2 record at 165 and fell one match short of the podium, while DeWayne Borntrager finished 3-2 at 132.

Zander Bayer (165), Nolan Schrei (175) and Wyatt Wetzel (215) also picked up wins for the Warhawks.

"The story in this tournament was the entire team as a group just outworking the other teams," Potratz said. "Conditioning and toughness was the key to the team title."

The Warhawks are now off until they head to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Dec. 29-30 for the 37-team Mid-States Holiday Classic.

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**Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Day** No worship service.

Join us for our Sunday Morning Traditional Service at 10:15am or for our Monday Night Contemporary Service at 6:30pm. You can watch our church services for Sunday and Monday via "Livestream" on our Youtube channel "New London United Methodist Church." Our services are uploaded to our website [www.mynewlondonumc.org](http://www.mynewlondonumc.org). Resources tab, then Worship Services or on our Facebook page New London United Methodist Church after each service.

# Wolves split pair of games

BY GREG SEUBERT  
SPORTS EDITOR

MANAWA – The Manawa boys' basketball team split recent games with Shiocton and Adams-Friendship.

Manawa fell to 1-2 in Central Wisconsin Conference-East play Dec. 14 with a 64-58 loss to Shiocton and topped Adams-Friendship 79-33 Dec. 12.

Shiocton 64,  
Manawa 58

SHIOCTON – The Wolves trailed 26-18 at halftime, but outscored Shiocton 30-28 in the second half. Nathan Gorman and Brady Jaeckle led the Wolves with 17 and 12 points, respectively.

Coltan Dewar led Shiocton with 22 points.

Manawa 79,  
A-F 33

MANAWA – Gorman and Jaeckle combined for 41 of the Wolves' points in a nonconference win over the Green Devils.

Gorman led all scorers with 23 points and Jaeckle added 18.

The Wolves hosted Gillett Dec. 19 and will host Wild Rose at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21.

# Comets follow overtime loss with road win over Panthers

BY GREG SEUBERT  
SPORTS EDITOR

WAUPACA – The Waupaca boys' basketball team headed to Oconto Falls Dec. 15 for a North Eastern Conference matchup with the Panthers and returned home with a 59-55 win.

It was the first time the Comets returned to the court since a 75-66 overtime loss to Freedom Dec. 12.

Waupaca 59,  
Oconto Falls 55

OCONTO FALLS – Waupaca headed to the locker room at halftime with a 28-17 lead, but the

Panthers came back in the second half by outscoring the Comets 38-31.

"The Panthers' press and sharpshooting proved effective in the second half," coach Matt Resch said. "However, we got solid offensive nights from Aaron Wolff and Ethan Harms and hung on for a hard-fought victory."

Harms and Wolff combined to hit nine three-pointers. Harms led all players with 17 points and five three-pointers, while Wolff hit four threes and finished with 16 points.

Alex Haines led Oconto Falls with 15 points.

Freedom 75,  
Waupaca 66 (OT)

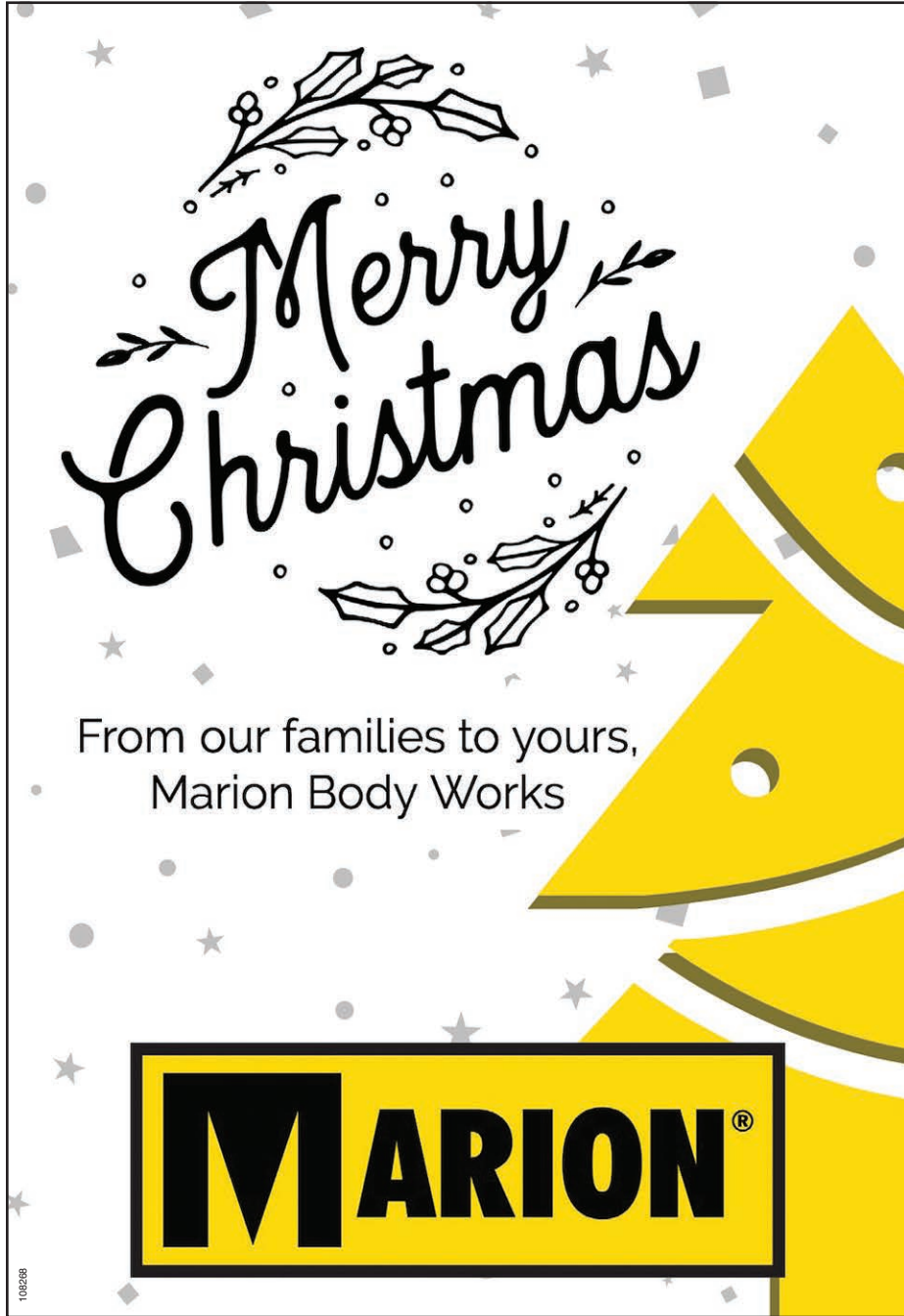
WAUPACA – The Irish outscored the Comets 11-2 in overtime, but didn't have an answer for Waupaca's Riley Bechard.

Bechard scored a career-high 33 points, including 21 in the second half and overtime period.

The Comets trailed by as many as 15 points in the first half, but an 8-0 run before halftime cut Freedom's lead to 32-26 at the break.


Freedom took a 47-37 lead in the second half on

**Waupaca Basketball**  
CONTINUES ON PAGE 15



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# T-Birds looking for first win

BY GREG SEUBERT  
SPORTS EDITOR

IOLA – Amherst kept the Iola-Scandinavia girls' basketball team out of the win column Dec. 15 by handing the Thunderbirds their ninth straight loss.

The T-Birds hosted the Falcons in a matchup of Central Wisconsin Conference-East teams, but ended up on the short end of a 54-24 score.

Iola-Scandinavia didn't score until Maya Munoz hit a free throw midway through the first half. By that time, the Falcons had built a 21-0 lead and Amherst never trailed by less than 20 points the rest of the way.

Amherst led 32-7 at half-time and outscored the T-Birds 22-17 in the second half.

McKenzie Bonikowske led Iola-Scandinavia with nine points, while Amherst's



Iola-Scandinavia's Brylee Jueds guards Amherst's Scout Spadoni Dec. 15 in the first half of a Central Wisconsin Wisconsin-East game in Iola. Spadoni scored a game-high 24 points to help lead the Falcons to a 54-24 win over the Thunderbirds.

Greg Seubert Photo

Scout Spadoni converted four three-point plays and led all players with 24 points.

The T-Birds hosted Pacelli Dec. 19 and will head to Almond Thursday, Dec. 21, to face Almond-Bancroft.

# Comets stay perfect in GNC

BY GREG SEUBERT  
SPORTS EDITOR

WAUPACA – Three boys' hockey teams are off to a 3-0-0 start in the Great Northern Conference.

One of them is the Waupaca Comets.

The Comets stayed unbeaten in conference play Dec. 14 with an 11-0 win over Medford at the Waupaca Ice & Expo Center. Waupaca also dropped a 4-1 nonconference game to Marshfield Dec. 12.

## Waupaca 10, Medford 3

The Comets found the net five times against the Raiders in the first period before adding two goals in the second and four more in the third period.

Ryan Mace, Jace Moen, Liam Bloedow and Alex Gusmer had two goals for Waupaca and Zack Gusmer, Blake Schoenecker



Waupaca's Cullen Friedrich matches up against Medford's Cole Pernsteiner Dec. 14 in a Great Northern Conference boys' hockey game in Waupaca. Friedrich and the Comets handed the Raiders an 11-0 loss.

Greg Seubert Photo

and Warren Carlson added one each.

The Comets had 41 shots in the game and goalie Gavin Hafferman stopped all 14 of Medford's attempts.

## Marshfield 4, Waupaca 1

Tyler Reissmann's hat trick helped lead the Tigers

to the win.

Alex Gusmer scored Waupaca's goal in the third period.

The Comets will host their annual holiday invitational Wednesday to Friday, Dec. 27-29, at the Expo. Teams from Merrill, Mosinee and Whitefish Bay will also compete.

# WAUPACA BASKETBALL

FROM PAGE 14

Drew Kortz's three-pointer, but Bechard and Wolff combined to score the game's next 14 points that turned a 10-point deficit into a 51-47 lead.

The lead changed hands six more times before Bechard's three-point play gave the Comets a 62-57 lead.

Waupaca held a 64-61 lead until Freedom's Ashton Peterson tied the game with a three-pointer with 10 seconds left in the game.

Bechard scored Waupaca's only two points in overtime that cut Freedom's lead to 68-66, but the Irish outscored the Comets 7-0 the rest of the way.

Wolff also finished in double figures for Waupaca with 22 points.

Kortz led four Freedom players in double figures with 24 points.

Waupaca is now off until the Comets host Winneconne Thursday, Dec. 28. The Comets will also host Clintonville Tuesday, Jan. 2. Tipoff for both games is scheduled for 7 p.m.

# Bears roar back in second half

BY GREG SEUBERT  
SPORTS EDITOR

WEYAUWEGA – A big second half helped Bonduel's boys' basketball team pick up a Central Wisconsin Conference-East win over Weyauwega-Fremont.

The Bears trailed 45-33 at halftime, but outscored the Warhawks 41-18 in the second half and returned home with a 74-63 win Dec. 14.

Weyauwega-Fremont

led by as many as 20 points in the first half.

Eight players – four from each team – scored in double figures.

Brayden Arndt led the Warhawks with 16 points, while Chris Gunst added 15, Caleb Leschke scored 14 and Parker Wilson chipped in with 12.

Noah Weier and Race Anvelink led the Bears with 21 and 19 points, respectively.

The Warhawks will

head to Shiocton Friday, Dec. 22, for a CWC-East matchup with Shiocton before joining Auburndale, Augusta and Neillsville for a holiday tournament at Auburndale High School.

The Warhawks will open the tournament at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 28, against Auburndale. Consolation and championship games are scheduled for 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 29.

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# Johnson to coach in all-star game

BY GREG SEUBERT  
SPORTS EDITOR

MANAWA – An assistant football coach at Little Wolf High School has been named one of the assistant coaches for next year's Wisconsin Football Coaches Association's all-star games.

Casey Johnson has been named as one of seven assistant coaches for the North small-school team, which will face the South team at noon Saturday, July 20, at Titan Stadium in Oshkosh.

Mike Olson of Pepin/Alma

will coach the North team and other assistants besides Johnson are Troy Ingli, Pepin/Alma; Dave Wellhoefer, Omro; Chris Trawick, Edgar; Nick Sturm, Stanley-Boyd; William Paris, Wisconsin Dells; and Dustin Vickerman, Mauston.

Three all-star games will be played July 19-20. The eight-player game is set for 6 p.m. Friday, July 19; and the large-school team will be held at 4 p.m. July 20.

Player nominations will begin in January with player selections to be announced in February.

Wishing that this holiday season brings lots of joy to you!

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# Waupaca County sheriff's report Dec. 17

- Dec. 11 – A Waupaca woman on Berlin Street reported a hit-and-run where a vehicle crashed into a ditch, leaving tire tracks and smashed into multiple trees. The caller picked up left-behind car parts.
- Dec. 11 – An unknown caller reported a juvenile sent text messages to a friend about “blowing [a juvenile’s name] brains out.” The caller said they could email copies of the text messages.
- Dec. 11 – A Waupaca caller on Pine Ridge lane reported someone keyed the side of his vehicle.
- Dec. 11 – A New London man on Heinke Road reported someone struck his mailbox.
- Dec. 11 – A Scandinavian caller on Lake Breeze Lane reported she was missing three necklaces from her residence.
- Dec. 11 – A female caller was threatening suicide.
- Dec. 11 – A New London man on Driftwood

- Road reported finding a locked black safe lying in the ditch.
- Dec. 11 – A Clintonville caller on Swamp Road reported being assaulted over the weekend by his nephew.
- Dec. 11 – A Green Bay caller reported he got into an argument with his girlfriend at the Crystal Pub. She left for volleyball without him. Now he was trying to find a way home before his phone died.
- Dec. 11 – A Combined Locks man reported his neighbors at his Waupaca County property have let their dogs roam around on his land for the past three years.
- Dec. 11 – A Weyauwega caller on North Shore Road reported her husband said he was going to kill himself; he grabbed a gun and went to his vehicle.
- Dec. 12 – Rawhide Youth Services reported an assault. No ambulance needed.

- Dec. 12 – A Manawa caller on Swan Road reported her husband said he was going to take his own life via a text message. It was after a fight and he did not say how.
- Dec. 12 – An anonymous caller reported hearing an elderly neighbor call for help.
- Dec. 13 – A Mukwa town supervisor reported a problematic incident regarding snow plowing.
- Dec. 13 – A Waupaca caller on Julie Lane reports a suspicious man taking photos of her home. His silver car was in front of her house with the trunk open.
- Dec. 13 – The Heart and Vascular Institute of Wisconsin in Appleton reported an elderly woman in their waiting room who did not know her name or why she was there.
- Dec. 13 – A 911 caller reported a man with an active warrant from the Department of Corrections was currently staying at his par-

- ent’s residence.
- Dec. 13 – Sandbur Corners reported a white Toyota took off without paying for \$35 worth of fuel.
- Dec. 13 – Corner Express in Embarrass reported a \$32 fuel drive-off and another vehicle prepaid at one pump and pumped gas from another and drove off.
- Dec. 13 – A caller reported a pickup truck was parked on his property for the past five days and he wanted it removed.
- Dec. 14 – A Waupaca woman on Haase Road reported finding suspicious footprints on her back deck and in the backyard.
- Dec. 14 – A 911 caller reported a male cut his wrist with a knife while in a bathtub.
- Dec. 14 – A Marion man on Town Hall Road reported receiving threatening messages online and doesn’t know who was sending them.
- Dec. 15 – A Pine River

- man on Hobson Road reported he had a package stolen off his front porch.
- Dec. 16 – A male caller reported his trail camera was shot on his hunting land that borders a public hunting area. The SD card was also taken.
- Dec. 16 – The Wisconsin Veterans Home in King reported a nursing assistant taking care of a resident was verbally rude to the person.
- Dec. 16 – A 911 caller reported a possible structure fire.
- Dec. 16 – A Marion woman on Sherman Street reported she was trying to move out and her roommate was throwing things.
- Dec. 16 – A Scandinavian caller on Pleasant Street reported a woman who possibly overdosed.
- Dec. 16 – A cell phone caller reported a trespassing homeless man was standing outside and would not leave.
- Dec. 16 – A Clintonville woman on Country Trunk

- DD reported she thought someone was stealing her mail. The postal carrier stops at the mailbox but she hasn’t had any mail for a week.
- Dec. 17 – A anonymous caller reported a man was hitchhiking and that something might be wrong with him but did not want to pick him up.
- Dec. 17 – Cobblestone Inn and Suites reported a man with gray hair and beard was refusing to leave.
- Deer-auto collisions are back to normal. Four controlled burns were called in. A caller reported dogs in the roadway eating a dead deer. An Iola woman on County Trunk C reported sheep were in her field eating her crops. ThedaCare reported a woman was bitten by her own dog. A Waupaca woman on Duvenick Lane reported five white pigs were in her front yard.

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**mad city** WINDOWS & BATHS a division of renuity **920-471-1739** MadCityBaths.com

Minimum purchase required. Not valid with any other offer, or previous job. Does not include material costs. Financing available with minimum purchase and approved credit. Mad City Windows & Baths, LLC, reserves a limited time benefit. Financing is provided by third party lender. All subject to credit requirements and satisfactory completion of finance documents. Any finance terms advertised are estimates only. Interest will be charged to your account from the purchase date if the purchase balance is not paid in full within 12 months. If you report in the payment, 0% interest continues and product demonstration (homeowner). Limit one per household. Electronic gift card is only valid for one year from date of issuance. Subsequent do not carry gift cards for security reasons. Gift card valid on in-home visits only, not applicable to Virtual Sales Appointments. Offer not approved or provided by Walmart and is subject to change without notice prior to expiration. About 2 weeks after demonstration to receive a gift card. If gift card not used in 90 days, it will expire. Offer good while supplies last. Payment in full required. Offer valid on original initial consultation only. Rates subject to change. Taxes, post charges and process fees not included. Must provide own transportation to and from departure points or resort. Ask for details. See website only for appointments completed by 12/31/2023. Offer expires 12/31/2023.

As we pause to reflect on the year, we're touched by the many fond memories we've made with our cherished friends and customers here. Your unwavering support reminds us how fortunate we are to be a part of this close-knit community, and we're truly grateful for good neighbors like all of you. Thank you for bringing so much joy to our year with your visits, and for your continued trust in us.

**Warm Wishes and Merry Christmas!**  
**Steve, Julie & Mitch Noffke**  
**& the entire staff of Noffke Lumber**

**715-258-8101**  
N3155 Hwy. QQ, Waupaca

**For unto you is born this day in the city of David a saviour, which is Christ the Lord**

**Ss Peter & Paul Catholic Church**  
608 E. Main St., Weyauwega  
**Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 - Mass at 4:30pm**  
**Christmas Day, Dec. 25 - Mass at 10:30am**  
**New Year's Day, Jan. 1 - Mass at 10:30am**  
**920-867-2179**  
www.sspeterpaulchurch.org

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church**  
415 S. Main Street, Waupaca  
**Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 PM**  
**Christmas Day Holy Eucharist at 9:30 AM**

**Christmas & New Year Services**

**Christmas Eve 10am**  
**New Year's Eve 10am**

**Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
125 North St. Iola, WI  
715-445-3172  
redeemerlutheraniola@gmail.com  
RedeemerLutheraniola.com

**Farmington Lutheran Church**

**Christmas Eve Services at 8:30 am**

N4414 Cty. Rd. Q, Waupaca, WI  
**(715) 467-2246**

**St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church**  
N2845 Shadow Rd. Waupaca  
715-258-2088

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

We will be live streaming on Facebook St. Mary Magdalene Waupaca

**Christmas Eve December 24**  
4:30 PM Children's Mass and  
8:00 PM Evening Mass  
**Christmas Day December 25**  
8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

**Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church - WELS**  
1120 Evans Street • Waupaca, WI  
715-258-0204

**Children's Christmas Service**  
December 24  
10:30 am

**Christmas Eve Worship**  
4:30 pm

**Christmas Day Worship**  
9:30 am

**Christmas Eve THE LAKES CHURCH**

**10 am Worship**  
**4 pm Candlelight**

153 CTY RD QQ WAUPACA  
WWW.THELAKESWAUPACA.COM

**First Presbyterian Church**  
200 S. Pine St. Weyauwega  
920-867-2880

**Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Worship at 10:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.**

*Everyone is always Welcome!*

**Advent Worship**  
Dec. 21 6:00 PM  
Fellowship meal 5PM  
All are welcome  
Food is provided

**Christmas Eve**  
Advent Service 10:30 AM  
Candlelight Service 5:00 PM

Calvary Lutheran Church LCMS  
E1887 King Rd  
Waupaca  
715.258.3530

**ST PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**  
312 W. Main St., Weyauwega, WI.

December 24 - 4:00 pm  
Christmas Lessons & Carols Worship (streamed on Facebook live)

December 24 - 6:00 pm  
Christmas Lessons & Carols Worship

December 25 - 9:00 am  
Christmas Day Worship w/communion (streamed on Facebook live)

**FCC FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**Christmas Eve 8:45am & 10:30am**  
**Evening Service 5:00pm**

N2541 CTY RD K  
FAITHWAUPACA.ORG

**WARM UMC**

The Waupaca Area Regional Ministry of the United Methodist Church: Crystal Lake, Parfreyville, and First United Methodist Church  
**December 24**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**

6:00pm at First United Methodist Church  
720 Demarest Avenue, Waupaca

7:00pm at Parfreyville United Methodist Church  
N1979 County Road K, Waupaca

8:00pm at Crystal Lake United Methodist Church  
N697 County Road K, Waupaca

Join Us on Facebook at Waupaca Area Regional Ministry of the UMC  
www.warmumc.com