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WAUPACA County Post

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LOCAL

Three injured in wrong-way crash

Suspected drunken driver charged

BY ROBERT CLOUD
SENIOR EDITOR

WAUPACA – The driver accused of injuring three people in a head-on crash on U.S. 10 in the town of Lind is currently in custody on a \$25,000 cash bond.

Daniel Pachecobolanos, 36, Neenah, is charged with three felony counts of second-degree reckless endangerment and one count of operating while intoxicated causing injury.

According to the criminal complaint, at 7:55 p.m. Monday, March 26, a 911 caller reported an eastbound vehicle traveling in the westbound lanes of U.S. Highway 10 near Holiday Road,

The Waupaca County Communications Center received four more 911



Pachecobolanos

calls reporting the vehicle traveling the wrong way on the highway.

At 7:59 p.m. a 911 caller reported a head-on crash on U.S. 10 near Frontage Road in Lind.

When deputies arrived at the scene, they found a red PT Cruiser and a Toyota Corolla blocking traffic in the westbound lanes. Both vehicles had extensive front-end damage.

The driver of the PT Cruiser was identified as Pachecobolanos.

Pachecobolanos
CONTINUES ON PAGE 14



“Get a Clue,” by Marty Yohn from Marshfield, is among the “Peeps Show” on display at the Riverfront Arts Center in Stevens Point.

Elise Fulmer Photo

Peeps show opens at arts center

BY ELISE FULMER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

STEVENS POINT – Local residents are taking a peep at the new exhibition at the Riverfront Arts Center. Riverfront has been host-

ing an exhibition showcasing sugary art for more than 15 years.

Shannon Gardner, the art director of Riverfront, anticipates a lot of excitement for this year’s showcase. Her

favorite part about hosting the exhibition is all the buzz that leads up to the event.

“It’s fascinating to see how much joy these artworks bring to individuals,” she says.

The gallery features several pieces of art featuring the marshmallows. Submissions are made by a wide demographic of people, ranging

Peeps

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2



New London City Clerk Nicole Ryerson speaks to NLHS American Government students in the city council chambers on March 26th. Students took part in the public test of the city’s electronic voting equipment one week prior to the recent spring primary election. See story page 6.

Submitted Photo

Waupaca grant writer speaks to NL committee

Growth and quality of life

BY ROBERT CLOUD
SENIOR EDITOR

NEW LONDON – Residents will soon see inserts in their New London water bills, updating them on the city’s economic progress.

At the New London Economic Development Committee meeting on March 26, members approved inserting cards with information about improvements in the city over the past year.

Produced by the New London Chamber of Commerce, the cards indicate that New London currently has 442 businesses, 7,485 residents and 295 properties.

In 2023, 14 new businesses opened in New London. There were eight facade grants approved and \$13,621 invested in facade improvements.

Ninety percent of the vacancies in downtown New London were filled and the city has 78 more parking stalls downtown.

A total of 71 housing units were built in New London in 2023, according to the information cards.

Future downtown improvements include reconstruction of Oshkosh Street in 2025 thanks to a \$2 million Local Roads Improvement Grant and a \$2.9 million Surface Transportation Program-Urban grant for downtown work in 2023-24.

The establishment of three Tax Incremental Financing districts are projected to result in \$27 million in construction improvements.

Grant writer

The committee also heard a presentation from Greg Grohman, employed as a grant writer for the city of Waupaca, the Waupaca School Board and the Waupaca Area Chamber of Commerce.

Grohman was hired jointly by all three organizations in September 2020 with a goal of raising \$100,000 his first year. In less than a year, he obtained \$1.43 million in grants.

After 3 1/2 years, Grohman has generated about \$3.4 million in grants.

Grohman said his goal is to promote economic

Development
CONTINUES ON PAGE 14

Work on islands, river

BY JAMES CARD
STAFF REPORTER

WAUPACA – Brainard’s Bridge Park will be temporarily closed throughout the month of April as a DNR fisheries crew is working with heavy equipment.

There is an excavator, a tracked grapple machine, and many chainsaws in motion. Giant logs and huge boulders will be moved around. The park may be opened for weekend use depending on the condition of the worksite.

The islands in the stream that are the centerpieces of the park are eroding away.



A DNR fisheries work crew is working to protect the islands at Brainard’s Bridge Park from erosion. They are also removing ash trees killed by the emerald ash borer and using the logs for trout habitat, along with clearing invasive brush.

James Card Photo

The work crew intends to place boulders around the islands to buffer against the current. The islands will not be rip-rapped. The boulders will only be placed at spots

that suffer from the most erosion. They will also move rocks within the river and divert the brunt of the current away from the islands while also manipulating some of

the riffles away from the islands to create deeper holes for trout habitat.

“Most of the direct flow is hitting the islands and that is causing the erosion. They could be gone in 20 years. They keep getting smaller and smaller. I’ve got old photos of the islands and the old bridge and the pillars. It was way more forested back then. You could see the head of this riffle in one of those pictures,” said Kyle Kossel, a DNR fisheries technician as he pointed to a patch of bouncy white-water that is loved by trout and kayakers alike.

They will be working on **Brainard’s Bridge**
CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

Construction begins in Clintonville

CLINTONVILLE – Keller Inc. has begun construction of the Clintonville Utilities building.

Planning on the 26,000-square-foot project began 15 months ago, according to a press release from Keller.

The initial phase involved a thorough discovery and needs assessment process, where the design team, in collaboration with the building committee, delved into the requirements of the facility.

This collaborative effort



Keller Inc. has begun construction of the new Clintonville Utilities facility. Rendering courtesy of Keller Inc.

ensured a holistic understanding of the project’s scope, encompassing considerations for the addition, re-model or the exploration of

multiple building locations. It was through this deliberation that a final plan and budget were established, setting the stage for the proj-

ect’s forward momentum.

Achieving Public Service Commission (PSC) approval was a critical step in this process, one that the design team navigated, ensuring compliance with all necessary regulatory standards.

The construction of the new Clintonville Utilities facility is projected to take approximately one year.

Among the challenges to be navigated are the management of long-lead items, such as the generator, which are essential for the facility’s operational efficiency.

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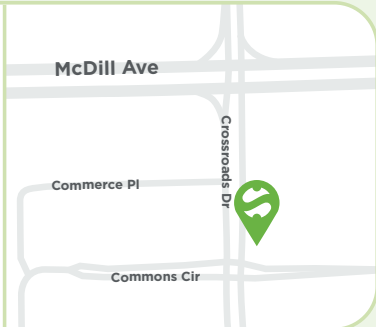
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PEEPS

FROM PAGE 1

from preschoolers to senior citizens. "[We] take pride in inspiring the community with the Peeps Show," Gardner said, noting that it's "a cherished tradition that celebrates the charm of these candies."

A wide variety of pieces can be seen at the exhibit. Many incorporate elements of pop culture.

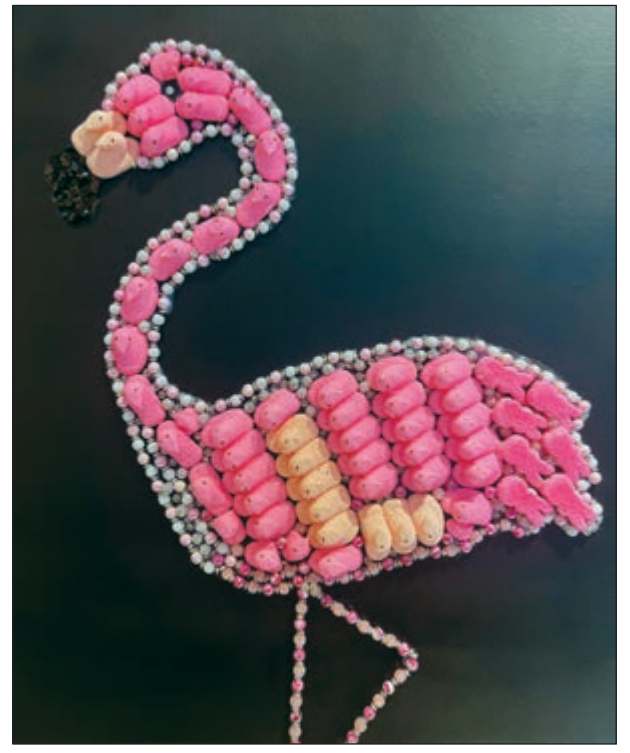
The exhibit features sculptures, paintings and digital art.

This year's show has art featuring Taylor Swift and Pikachu to name a few.

When patrons are done surveying the art, they can vote on which piece was their favorite.

Gardner has seen many unique pieces throughout the years. Her favorite piece she has seen was a replica of one of Andy Warhol's most famous works. The portrait of Marilyn Monroe stood at 5-feet tall.

"The craftsmanship, time, and dedication put



"Peeps and Pearls" made by Heidi Schelke from Plover at the Riverfront Arts Center in Stevens Point.

Elise Fumer Photo

into it will forever stand out in my memory," she said.

The free exhibition is open now until April 14. The Riverfront Arts Center is open from 11 a.m. to 5

p.m. Wednesday through Friday and on weekends from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The exhibition will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

BRAINARD'S BRIDGE

FROM PAGE 1

both sides of the river and a passerby might see an excavator in the middle of the Waupaca River as the operator digs out and moves rocks. They installed a bio-boom downstream to mitigate a potential accidental spill. It is a long tube that resembles a stuffed sock and it is stretched across the river. They are common on construction sites near water.

The work done so far has been felling, limbing and bucking numerous ash

trees that have died from the emerald ash borer. The area next to the park shelter looks like a landing at a logging operation.

"We're going to take them and put them in the stream for cover for the fish. It's a short, simple project but its going to be a lot of work because of the volume of the rocks we need to move. We're also going to take care of as many invasives as we can," said Kossel, referring to the non-native buckthorn and honeysuckle growing along the river bank. The trout-habitat ash logs will be placed around the first

couple upstream bends.

The goal is to have it completed by the end of the month. The crew will host a tree-planting day with students from the Chain Exploration Center. The students will plant a wide variety of trees, along with sowing prairie grass seed.

Trout stocking before the opening day of Wisconsin's trout fishing season will occur at Riverview and Riverside Parks. Brainard's Bridge Park might be stocked but Kossel said that is the decision of the biologist in charge of the program.

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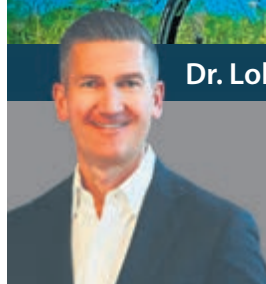
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If we have missed anyone, it is certainly not our intention. You all have contributed to our success and we thank you all.

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Waupaca NEWS

Arts Hub celebrates birthday

WAUPACA – The Waupaca Community Arts Hub, a program of the Waupaca Community Arts Board, is celebrating its third birthday in April.

Birthday month activities include an open house at the Arts Hub 3-5 p.m. Thursday, April 4. Event highlights include a tour of the facility, cupcakes and an art project.

On Saturday, April 20, the second annual Hub Fun-Raiser will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday, April, at the Waupaca Country Club.

Attendees can enjoy music and dancing with MoJoe and Flipside, food and good friends. For more details and tickets go to www.waupacaartshub.org/artshub-3rd-birthday.

Marci and Laura Reynolds, Arts Hub co-directors, said they are excited at the growth they have seen in the past three years.

The Hub's mission has been to provide a space where creativity grows, and where individuals of all ages can discover and nurture their artistic talents, regardless of their ability to pay.

"We started out with one music teacher, and have grown to have 9 music teachers and over 100 music students in just 3 years. It is truly gratifying to know how many families are being impacted by music," said Marci Reynolds, who takes charge of the music programs at the Hub.

"Every week we see 50-70 students coming in for all sorts



Some members of the Art Hub's rock band, The Cheese Curds. Shown are Blake Forseth, Esme Bootz, Luci Niemuth, Emma Adams and Norah Niemuth.

Submitted Photo

of classes, ranging from several levels of digital and 3-D art classes, painting, cooking, art fun for the littles, and classes at our partner venues, HH Hinder Brewing and the Grand National Lounge, for the adults," said Laura, who is in charge of the art and cooking classes.

"It has been great adding talented art and cooking teachers to the Arts Hub, who have the skill and teaching expertise to keep students engaged and help them discover their inner talents, and have fun," she said.

Laura also coordinates many outreach programs.

"It's important to bring our programs to the community so that everyone has access," said Laura.

In 2023, the Arts Hub served more than 1,200 individuals through outreach art, craft and music programs at places like the Waupaca Area Public Library, Waupaca Park and Rec, Head Start, the

CEC, and more.

Along with the music and art teachers, the Hub has a part-time administrator, Rachel Bailey, whose job it is to keep things running seamlessly as 150-170 students pass through their doors weekly.

"I work to make sure that every single student, young or old, gets connected, whether it is with the right music teacher, or in the classes they want to take ... I answer questions, connect with families, and help get information out to our community partners and the community. It's been a fun journey, seeing the Hub grow," said Bailey.

The Arts Hub is able to offer many amenities to make access to the arts possible. The Waupaca School District provides after-school bus service to the Arts Hub. And thanks to donors there is a healthy tuition assistance program that helps more than 45 families with the cost of music and art classes.

Anderson named chamber president

WAUPACA – Jeff Anderson will be the new president and CEO of the Waupaca Area Chamber of Commerce, Foundation and Convention and Visitor Bureau.

He will succeed Terri Schulz, effective on May 1.

With a background in tourism development, community engagement and non-profit organizational management, Anderson brings experience and a fresh perspective to the leadership role.

Previously serving as the vice president of tourism for the Waupaca Area Convention and Visitors Bureau and more recently as a Regional Tourism Specialist for the Wisconsin Department of Tourism, Anderson is committed to driving economic growth and fostering community vitality.

"Thank you to the leadership of the Waupaca Area Chamber of Commerce for entrusting me with this role and I appreciate this opportunity to return to the organization as its president and CEO," said Anderson. "I look forward to supporting



Anderson

our community by working with local businesses and organizations through established relationships and programs while seeking additional opportunities for collaboration and partnership. I am grateful to Terri, the chamber staff, and volunteers for the work that they have done and welcome the opportunity to lead in the continuation of chamber initiatives."

In addition to his roles in Wisconsin's tourism industry, Jeff Anderson has also served as a youth agency executive and managed a healthcare foundation in central Wisconsin.

"We are excited to welcome Jeff as our new President and CEO," said Adam Ross, chair of the Waupaca Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. "His focus on relationship-building and vast industry knowledge makes him the ideal choice to lead our organization. The Chamber Board has great confidence in Jeff's ability to lead the Chamber to continued success in the future"

Jeff and his wife Melissa have been residents of the Waupaca area for 14 years along with their son, Mason. Melissa works as manager of the Waupaca County Aging and Disability Resource Center and Mason is a student at Waupaca Middle School. Before moving here, Jeff and Melissa enjoyed the area as visitors including camping and boating on the Chain O' Lakes.

Waupaca Area Chamber of Commerce, Foundation and Convention & Visitors Bureau is located at 315 S Main St.

Children's theater plans auditions

WAUPACA – The Waupaca Community Children's Theatre will hold auditions for its 2024 summer musical production of "School House Rock Live Jr."

Auditions will be held from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, at the Waupaca Learning Center's music room on Shoemaker Road.

Any necessary callbacks will take place on Thursday, April 18. Auditions are open to area youth ages 8 to 18 who have completed second grade.

Participants can show up anytime between the start and finish times and may leave after completing their auditions.

Auditionees should come prepared with something short to sing and may be asked to read from a script. Any youth auditioning without a parent or guardian pres-



ent must have a signed note from home stating that he or she has permission to audition.

Parents are also responsible for picking up their child promptly at the end of his or her audition.

Rehearsals will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Waupaca Middle School beginning June 10. Students will be brought back to the Waupaca Learning Center for lunch and pick up after rehearsals.

Five performances will

take place in the Waupaca Middle School Knoepfel Auditorium on July 19, 20, 22 and 23.

Cast members will also be expected to participate in Waupaca's Fourth of July Parade. Emma (Kelley) Ives, music teacher at the Waupaca Learning Center and Chain Exploration Center, will direct and Erinn Manteufel will be the assistant director.

Based on the popular Emmy Award-winning Saturday morning educational

Auditions

CONTINUES ON PAGE 15

Jazz & Cocktails tickets on sale

WAUPACA – Seven award-winning bands playing at three venues over two days will launch Waupaca's first Jazz & Cocktails event.

Organized by the the Waupaca Community Arts Board (WCAB) and sponsored by Neuville Motors, the event is

slated for Saturday and Sunday, June 1-2.

Beginning at 2 p.m. Saturday, The Donna Woodall Group, Daddio, Janet Planet and Pegasis will play on the main stage at the newly-renovated Indian Crossing Casino.

Erin Krebs and Jeff John-

ston will perform on the Casino's Cabaret Stage between main stage acts, and Kate Voss and Hot Sauce will perform a free concert at the Wheelhouse during the dinner hour.

The Chief Waupaca sternwheeler will be the venue for a Jazz Cruise on from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday. The cruise will feature a continental lunch, cash bar and music by Matt Buchman and the UWSP Faculty/Alumni jazz group.

"To have a jazz festival in Waupaca has been a dream of

Jazz

CONTINUES ON PAGE 14



The Waupaca Community Arts Board will present Jazz & Cocktails will present seven bands at three venues on the weekend of June 1-2. Three of the groups that will perform are Pegasis (top), Janet Planet (bottom left) and Donna Woodall.

Photos courtesy of WCAB

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Stevens Point NEWS

Coffee with a Cop

BY OLIVIA COFFIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

STEVENS POINT – Plover police officers and Portage County deputies spent time with local residents for coffee and conversation at RD's Diner on Tuesday, March 26.

Coffee with a Cop is an opportunity for the community to ask questions, voice concerns and get to know local law enforcement.

The mission of Coffee with a Cop is to create a casual atmosphere where police officers and community residents can engage in real conversations about issues that matter.

Topics of discussion include community issues, sports and even the best places to eat.

"My favorite thing about being on the force was the donuts, we had the best donuts," according to Dave Johnson, a retired officer who participated in the event.

"These meetings are not political, we are not doing this to persuade or change anyone's mind about something. We do this because we are community oriented," said Portage County Sheriff Mike Lucas.

Lucas, who was first elected to office in 2014, has served in law enforcement for 30 years.

There are no formal speeches or agendas during the event.



Portage County deputies and Plover police officers at Coffee with a Cop on March 26 at RD's Diner in Stevens Point. Olivie Coffin Photo

Instead, it's an opportunity for officers and community members to engage in authentic conversations.

"I do my best and so do the other guys, we want to keep our community safe, and we also want to get to know the people in the community and answer any questions or concerns they might have," Lukas said.

By meeting at neutral locations like RD's Diner, officers and citizens can discover mutual goals and strengthen their communities.

Plover Police Chief Ryan Fox took on his current role in local law enforcement in February 2022. He been on the force for 24 years.

"We want people to know we're people too, most of the time if you meet a cop, you are usually having a bad day,

and this Coffee with a Cop event lets us meet people in our communities in a positive environment," Fox said.

"We live in these communities, we want to protect our communities to the best of our abilities," said Deputy Travis Levandowski, who has participated in six Coffee with a Cop events.

"We pick a different spot each time, we go from place to place because we want people to know we support the businesses in our community," Levandowski said. "It also gives us a chance to visit new places and meet new people."

To find out when and where the next Coffee with a Cop will occur go to the Facebook pages of the Portage County Sheriff's Office or the Plover Police Department.

UWSP professor receives state award

MADISON – Rebecca Stephens, professor of English and English Department chair at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, received the Teaching Excellence Award.

The University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents announced the award, which recognizes outstanding teaching and is the board's highest recognition for members of the Universities of Wisconsin faculty and academic staff. Each recipient is awarded \$7,500.

Dr. Stephens joined the English faculty at UW-Stevens Point in 1998. She served as director of composition for six years before stepping into the department chair role in 2018.

Stephens also helps the English Education program, which has a long-standing reputation for excellence. Graduates have a 100%



Stephens

placement rate, and five have been awarded Outstanding Teacher of the Year by the Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English over the last decade.

As a teacher of future secondary English teachers, Stephens works to ensure she is teaching students the most recent scholarship of teaching and learning to apply in their future classrooms and modeling the most effective and innovative teaching methods. Each year, she teaches a

Technologies for English Education class, now part of the senior English Methods course block and soon to serve History and World Language teaching majors in the School of Humanities and Global Studies.

Stephens led the effort to transform "Women's Studies" into "Women's and Gender Studies" (WGS) and participated in workshops and conversations concerning key themes and pedagogical strategies for WGS courses. In 2015, she presented to the National Women's Studies Association Conference on "Threshold Concepts in WGS: A Tool for Teaching and Assessment."

Also receiving the Teaching Excellence Award were Donald Hones, professor, Department of Teaching and Learning, at UW-Oshkosh, and Special Education Department, UW-Whitewater.

Emergency funding available

STEVENS POINT – Portage County has been awarded \$23,234 in federal funds made available through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The funds will be used for direct emergency assistance and focused on children, the elderly, and the prevention of homelessness of all ages.

These funds will be distributed through local agencies in Portage County that apply for the emergency food and shelter funding.

Any non-profit, faith based, or government organization with proven ability to deliver emergency food or shelter assistance to those in need is eligible to apply for EFSP funds. Qualified local emergency

service agencies may request an application by contacting United Way of Portage County by phone at 715-254-2183 or by e-mail at mae@unitedwaypoco.org.

Completed applications must be received in the United Way office at 2801 Hoover Road, Suite 2, Stevens Point, Wisconsin, 54481, no later than 5 p.m. Monday, April 10.

UW tuition may rise 3.75%

MADISON – Universities of Wisconsin President Jay Rothman proposed to increase tuition for resident undergraduates by 3.75 percent during the 2024-25 academic year.

He also asked for an updated affordability review that will be available this fall.

The 2022 review found that compared to peers, Wisconsin's public universities were the most affordable in the Midwest.

"To maintain the excellent education our universities provide, I will be asking regents to approve a tuition increase similar to recent levels of inflation," Rothman said.

"Our universities are facing challenging economic realities, and students and parents should know that we plan to be good financial stewards. Maintaining our affordability advantage, especially compared to our peers, is a priority because we want more students to get access to the unlimited opportunities our universities provide."

The total proposed average cost of attendance for resident undergraduates will increase approximately 3.8% when room and board costs are considered.

The proposal, which is scheduled to be considered by the Board of Regents on Thursday, April 4, would increase tuition for the second straight year after 10 years of a tuition freeze.

Segregated fees will increase on average \$74 per year. Seven universities are proposing an increase on top of the 3.75% to fund specific needs such as academic advising, financial aid and faculty hiring in high-demand programs.

"We know that investing in a degree from one of our 13 universities pays off – not only in career earnings, but also in opportunities," Rothman said. "Our universities provide an education that opens doors and helps our students discover their potential. Our students are being educated to fill jobs that do not yet exist, which is critical in a world

that is changing drastically due to technological advancements."

Rothman said he announced the tuition and fee proposal now so that students and parents have adequate time to plan. He also encouraged students to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form to see if they are eligible for financial aid.

The proposed resident undergraduate tuition and segregated fees for each university in 2024-25 are as follows:

- UW-Stevens Point: \$9,049
- UW-Eau Claire: \$9,643
- UW-Green Bay: \$8,700
- UW-La Crosse: \$9,896
- UW-Madison: \$11,604
- UW-Milwaukee: \$10,398
- UW-Oshkosh: \$8,532
- UW-Parkside: \$8,271
- UW-Platteville: \$8,425
- UW-River Falls: \$8,824
- UW-Stout: \$9,386
- UW-Superior: \$8,813
- UW-Whitewater: \$8,406

The Universities of Wisconsin serve more than 162,500 students and award nearly 37,000 degrees annually.

Public meeting on potential hazards

STEVENS POINT – Portage County Emergency Management Division will update its All-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

As an initial step, the county will host a public informational and planning session to gather input from residents regarding ways to

reduce the impacts of emergencies and disasters.

The public meetings will be held at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 9, at the Portage County Annex Building, 1462 Strongs Avenue, Stevens Point, in Conference Rooms One and Two.

The meeting will provide the public with an opportunity to identify the potential hazards that could occur within the County.

The goal is to document various mitigation measures intended to eliminate or reduce the negative impacts of those hazards.

Eclipse viewing at UW-Stevens Point

STEVENS POINT – Journey to the sun and watch a solar eclipse this April at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

A partial solar eclipse will pass over UWSP on Monday, April 8. A free viewing session of this partial eclipse will be held that day for students and local community at Colman Field, located on the corner of Maria Street and Reserve Street.

Viewing will start around 12:50 p.m. and will follow the partial eclipse for its whole duration until about 3:20 p.m., weather permitting.

Free street parking will be available next to Colman Field during the event.

Telescopes equipped with solar filters along with free solar eclipse glasses will be available for viewing use. Take care to avoid observing the sun without

adequate eye protection. Learn more safety tips at <https://eclipse.aas.org>.

Planetarium shows are offered at the Allen F. Blocher Planetarium on select Saturdays and Sundays from April 6-28. Three shows will be offered Saturday, April 6, as part of UW-Stevens Point's annual Collection Crawl through the Olson Museum of Natural History.

Eclipse
CONTINUES ON PAGE 8

More Stevens Point news on page 8

Follow The Men's NCAA Tournament to see what advertiser will win!



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Clintonville NEWS

Sunita named Dairy Athlete of the Month

Works on family farm

BY BERT LEHMAN
STAFF REPORTER

CLINTONVILLE - When Natalie Sunita, a senior at Clintonville High School, found out that she had been named the Dairy Athlete of the Month she said she felt honored, as well as surprised and happy.

Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Sports Network give the awards,

There are only two Dairy Athlete of the Month awards given out each month, for a total of 24 during the year.

Sunita said she doesn't know who nominated her.

"I'm truly proud and honored because I realize hard work does get recognized," Sunita said. "So, all the hard work I've been doing all throughout my years is finally being recognized."

The fact she is from a small town like Clintonville makes receiving the honor extra spe-



Natalie Sunita, a senior at Clintonville High School, was named the Dairy Athlete of the Month.

File Photo

cial for Sunita.

During her four years in high school Sunita has played three sports each school year except for her sophomore year. But the only reason she didn't play softball that year was due to her tearing the ACL in her knee during the basketball season.

"It definitely made me aware that I could tear it again," Sunita said. "But I've always loved playing sports and after high school I didn't

know if I'd have the chance to ever play the sports that I loved. So, I wanted to continue playing."

Tearing her ACL meant she also couldn't play volleyball the following fall during her junior year. Not wanting to sit on the sideline, Sunita joined the swimming team instead.

"It was definitely hard staying at home and watching my teammates get to play the sports I like playing the most," she said. "But after I got past the first month for recovery, it was great. And my trainer at the school helped me through my recovery to get me back to where I was. I actually did swim that year to get my knee back in shape."

When she returned to sports nine months after she tore her ACL, she earned all-conference recognition in swimming, basketball and softball.

During her high school sports career, she played basketball four years, volleyball three years, softball three years, and one year of swimming.

Farm work

As if attending high school and playing sports wasn't enough to keep her busy, she also works on the family dairy farm with her parents, Greg and Tasha Sunita.

"I help with basically everything (on the farm)," she said. "I've helped with milking cows, I feed and water calves, I plow fields and harvest crops, I bale hay and unload it, I help with putting up or taking down fences, and I clean the barn. Anywhere I can, I try to help."

That involvement on the farm also made it tough for Sunita when she was recovering from the torn ACL.

"It was really difficult because my dad needed my help at the same time with chores and everything, and him having to do it because my sisters are also in sports, too," she said. "It was just really difficult on him."

She said the farm has been in the family since the 1940s.

"My Dad has helped his

uncles on a farm since he was a boy," she said. "When both of his uncles became sick with cancer they asked him to take over the farm when they passed. We have 240 acres, 120 acres of tillable, and the rest is hunting land. We have dairy cows, and also raise steers. Our milk goes to Dupont Cheese Factory in Marion.

Despite being busy on the farm, Sunita said her parents have always been supportive of her playing sports in high school.

"They both played sports in high school so they understand it," she said. "And they know the mental, social, and physical importance of being part of a team. Getting to know everybody and teamwork. I learned from a very young age, that balancing school, the farming, and athletics can be extremely busy. I have a strong work ethic that helps me focus on farming, school work, and sports. Our family lives together, so if I have a game or something, my sisters would

do the chores. And if they have games, I would do the chores. I also learned from a very young age that cows don't milk themselves and when the alarm goes off, it's time to get going. I stay up late to get homework completed and study for classes. There isn't a lot of downtime."

Sunita said her mom has attended the majority of her sporting events, and her dad tries to attend as many as he can. That can be difficult, though, because the cows need to be milked.

"For home games, he tries to milk the cows early so he can come to all my home games," Sunita said. "My sisters come and cheer me on for every game that my mom attends."

Sunita said she is also involved in a variety of school and community groups and activities.

After high school she plans to attend Fox Valley Technical College to study natural resources.

Library offers park passes

CLINTONVILLE - State park and forest vehicle-admission day passes will be available to library card holders at the Clintonville Public Library.

Starting April 1, library card holders can check out a pass for free admission for one vehicle at any state park, forest or recreation area where admission is required.

This is a collaborative program of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Clintonville Public Library.

"The DNR is continually looking for innovative opportunities to bring more people to state parks and forests, and to ensure everyone in Wisconsin has access to our incredible natural resources," said Steve Schmelzer, director of the DNR Bureau of Parks and Recreation. "By partnering with Wisconsin's library system, we can reach households who may not be as familiar with the wide array of opportunities Wisconsin's state parks and forests have to offer."

The program, Check Out Wisconsin's State Parks At Your Library, is a collaborative effort between the DNR, Wisconsin Library Association's Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, and the C.D. Besadny Conservation Fund from the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin.

The Friends of the Clintonville Public Library who funded the purchase of the passes.

"Our library provides resources for everyone of all ages and backgrounds about a broad range of topics, so adding access to our state park system is a natural fit. We are excited to participate, and we hope to see this program flourish in our community. Anyone with questions about the program should stop by the library," said Library Director Jamison Hein.

The goal of the program is to expand access to the Wisconsin state park system to new park visitors. Clintonville Public Library received 20 passes, each with a one-time use.

Learn more about Clintonville Public Library and how to get a library card by calling the Library at 715-823-4563 or visiting them online at clintonvillelibrary.org.

For more information about the Check Out Wisconsin State Parks At Your Library program, read more at dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/outwigo.

CHS teams placed on probation

Low student participation

BY BERT LEHMAN
STAFF REPORTER

CLINTONVILLE - The Clintonville School Board has placed the district's varsity cross country and swimming programs on probation due to lack of participation by students.

The decision came when the board met March 11.

Letters to coaches

On Feb. 29, Shaun Liesch, activities director for the Clintonville School District, sent letters to the coaches of both the cross country and swim teams. The letters informed the coaches that the programs they coached "did not reach the minimum number of participants" outlined in the Guideline for Extracurricular Activities.

According to the letters, the swim team has had less than 10 participants for a number of years, and the cross country team has had less than eight participants for a number of years.

Because of that, Liesch recommended the programs

be placed on probation.

By being placed on probation, Liesch stated in the letter to the swimming coach that "if the swimming team does not meet the required number of ten members next season, it could be dropped as an extra-curricular activity."

The letter to the cross country coach stated that the cross country team must meet the required number of eight members next year, or it could be dropped as an extra-curricular activity.

Board discussion

During the board discussion, Clintonville Superintendent Troy Kuhn said, "Traditionally, these two teams have been low for the last couple of years."

Board member Glen Drew Lundt expressed his concern that Liesch, as well as no coaches were present at the board meeting.

"For that to be an agenda item, and not have the people that are directly involved with it (at the meeting), I think they're missing the boat," Lundt said. "I'd like to know who's doing what or not doing what, and how we're going to improve this, especially with all the other stuff, sports related, that has

been brought up this year."

Lundt said he would like the athletic director and coaches at a school board meeting so all the details could be discussed.

"Maybe some of these kids don't even know that these sports exist, or whatever," Lundt said. "I just know that it's a bigger problem than, we don't have information to really make a decision."

Board President Ben Huber said in the past, district administration has had conversations with coaches before a sport is on the verge of probation.

"We as a board rely on the administration to do the legwork," Huber said. "We are here to say whether the policies we have voted for in the past are the right ones."

Huber added that the board has put several teams on probation in the past, and participation numbers for those teams eventually increased.

"If these numbers go up, they are off probation," Huber said.

Teams on probation

Board member Laurie Vollrath asked what proba-

tion actually means for a varsity team.

Kuhn said once a varsity team is placed on probation due to low participation numbers, the team could lose varsity status and become a club sport. He said this was done to the varsity tennis team in the past.

"That restricts students from participating as WIAA athletes, etc.," Kuhn said.

Huber said that in the past, the district's varsity wrestling program was on and off probation because of participation numbers.

"Now it has good numbers, which is wonderful," Huber said.

Kuhn said he and Liesch have spoken about co-op sports programs with other school districts, but there are issues that arise when considering that. The main issue is if two districts co-op a team together, the enrollments for both districts are added together, which usually means the team has to compete in a higher division.

Kuhn added that if the cross country team and swim team are placed on probation, nothing changes for this year.

"It just means that there's

low numbers and they're put on probation," Kuhn said.

Huber said the hope is that with the teams on probation, members of the teams and the coaches will try to recruit students to participate on the teams.

Lundt said that is why he would like the athletic director and coaches at a board meeting, so the board could get more information. "Isn't that the job of the athletic director, to tell the coaches what to do," board member Kris Strauman responded. "It's not the board's job. The board is a policy making board. We're not the admin. We're not the government. We make policies, and we have people who are running the show for us. And, quite frankly, Shaun has done a tremendous job, and we've had other sports on probation before. I think we need to follow suit or we're not following our policies."

Kuhn said the district's enrollment is declining and he does not want to take any activities away from students.

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New London & Hortonville NEWS

New London students test voting equipment

NEW LONDON – Juniors at New London High School got a hands-on civics lesson days before the recent spring primary election.

As part of their American Government classes, 11th graders visited to city council chambers in the New London Municipal Building on March 26.

New London City Clerk Nicole Ryerson explained the process of voting and described the city's electronic voting equipment.

By law, all Wisconsin municipalities are required to conduct a public test of their electronic voting equipment not earlier than 10 days before each election.

The test provides an opportunity for the public to witness how officials prepare for an election and to understand the security protocols in place ahead of Election Day.

Considered a public meeting, the public test is noticed at least 48 hours prior. In this way, the public is invited to attend and observe the testing process.

Ryerson provided an Election Day tutorial: she displayed a map of the city's five aldermanic districts, 12 wards and four county supervisory districts.

She explained how optical scan voting machines function by accurately tabulating ballots; and she unlocked a voting machine, showing where the paper ballots are securely stored after a voter casts his or her ballot.

Ryerson then gave students premarked "practice" ballots to demonstrate how the voting machine detects ballots with write-in candidates or those that are improperly marked. All students had a chance to insert at aballot into any of the five voting machines and follow the on-screen prompts if needed.

New London High School students receive civics education in global studies, U.S. history and American government.

Government students will be taking the state-mandated 100-question civics test later this month.

Gary Henschel, Patrick Lawton and Brian Mathu are New London's three American government teachers.

"It is one thing to learn about voting and elections in the classroom," said Henschel. "But to visit an actual polling place made it a far more tangible lesson."

"The best part of this experience is for the students to see part of the voting process," said Lawton, "a process some of them will be taking part in this coming fall election."

Mathu added, "Many students shared they had never visited a polling place on Election Day. This was an excellent opportunity for these students — and so-to-be voters — to see what it's all about."

Freshmen earn academic awards

NEW LONDON – On Freshmen First Day back in September, New London High School teachers and administrators encouraged the incoming ninth graders to do their best academically and to participate in at least one co-curricular sport or activity.

The NLHS Freshmen Academy recently recognized a number of students who met both of those challenges.

A Freshmen Academy Award is earned by any ninth grade student who earned at least a 3.3 GPA for the first semester and was an active member of at least one school-sponsored club, activity or sport. Out of 167 ninth graders, 59 earned the award.

A ceremony was held at New London High School on March 26 to recognize and congratulate the following individuals:

Anakin Abel, Griffin Auer, Henry Auer, Adeline Bauer, Kaden Bethke, Cory Brooker, Ryan Dalhoe, Bristol Elsholtz, Madelyn Esser, Kasey Furman, Kayla Gaskins, Jillian Glatzak, Maren Golla, Logan Grundy, Areonna Helms, Aryiana Hermes, Kaden Hillman, Emberly Hobbs, Liam Hurst, Alexa Kable, Claire Keding, Analiese Kicherer, Taylor Klotzbuecher, Preston Krueger, Anna Kurszewski, Tina Lee, Macy Lemke, Taelyn



New London High School's Freshmen Academy recently recognized 59 ninth graders with certificates at a March 26 ceremony. Submitted Photo

Lubinski, Chesney Magolski, Sawyer Magolski, Janet Maldonado, Morgan Marish, Ruby McCartney, Alyssa Miller, Elizabeth Murphy, Lauren Nollenberg, Hailey Peters, Halle Peterson, Logan Phillips, Taelyr Reger, Berkley Reimer, Onan Retzlaff, Katelyn Roland, Brandon Rosas, Aubree Schmude, Nica Schneider, Trevor Schultz, Joshua Schweitzer, Benjamin Snyder, Landon Sorge, Colton Swanson, Julia Techlin, Jasmine Villalobos, Sophia Volkman, Bailey Wilson, Makenzie Wilson, Elaine Winkelman, Grace Yerkey, Payton Zehner

Two leaders of the NLHS National Honor Society spoke at the event

in the high school auditorium. President Carson Gregory and Vice-President Wyatt Adamovich — both exemplary students and soon-to-be graduates of NLHS — shared their thoughts on character and leadership.

Adamovich noted the importance of character, particularly through participation in co-curricular sports and activities.

"These opportunities provide you with the chance to surround yourself with people who will help you to further develop your character," said Adamovich, "and grow into a person you can be proud

Awards

CONTINUES ON PAGE 15

Jacque to speak at forum

NEW LONDON – State Sen. Andre Jacque will speak at a forum 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 23, at the Washington Center.

The forum is sponsored by the Wolf River Area Patriots.

A Republican candidate for 8th District Congress, Jacque has earned a reputation as one of the legislature's most prominent conservative voices.

He has authored laws protecting life and preventing taxpayer abortion subsidies, eliminating various taxes, including the income tax on



Jacque

active duty military pay. He supports expanding school choice, cracking down on violent crime and sex trafficking, protecting victims' rights and reining in government.

The Washington Center is located at 500 W. Washington St., New London. Forum guests should use the south side entrance off Dickinson Street.

The forum is open to the public. Call Seth Cowan at 920-968-5335 for more information.

Wega-Fremont NEWS

Once-a-week siren

WEYAUWEGA – Nicknamed the "curfew whistle," the outdoor siren that sounds off every evening at 9 p.m. will now only be blasted on noon Saturdays.

The Police, Fire and Ambulance Committee of the Weyauwega Common Council recently decided to make this change. The purpose of the siren is to warn residents

of a life-threatening situation such as an incoming tornado or a train derailment.

If a person hears the siren they should take shelter and tune into a weather radio or other news source for more information.

The siren is located atop Weyauwega Municipal Building at 109 E. Main St.

Carnival is back

Plus spring swing, local film premiere

WEYAUWEGA – The Deadman's Carnival comes back to the Gerold Opera

House on Saturday, April 27.

It's a live-music circus variety show featuring Professor Pinkerton's Irrelevant Orchestra that perform along with fire eaters, stage illusionists, aerial dancers, strongmen, burlesque babes, human oddballs, jugglers, comedians and other musicians on vintage instruments.

The doors open at 6 p.m. and the show starts at 7:30 p.m. There is reserved VIP seating at tables for two at \$45 for each seat. Reserved table seating for eight is \$35 each seat. General seating and balcony seating is \$25 and there is unreserved seating at rear of floor and in the balcony. The Gerold has a full bar along with food for sale.

This is the last chance to get tickets for the upcoming Spring Dance with the Last of the Big Bands on Saturday, April 6. The Last of the Big Bands from Green Bay will be back playing big-band favorites at the Gerold and the dance floor will be open.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the concert will start at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

On Saturday, May 18, the Gerold Opera House will host the premiere of "Back on Track: Rebuilding the Waupaca Train Depot," a feature-film documentary about the history and salvaging of the Waupaca depot and its surprising impact on the community today.

It is directed by Max Hauser, award-winning filmmaker of *Iola* and *Appleton*, in association with Emmy award-winning producer Ron Scott, and the film focuses on Mike Kirk. His love of model trains inspired him to lead his family and friends in a decades-long journey to restore an abandoned train depot back to its original glory as a historical site. Tickets are \$15. The doors open at 6:30 p.m., the film starts at 7:30 p.m.

Advance tickets and more information can be found at <https://wegarts.org>.

CITY OF NEW LONDON

2024 Spring Yard Waste Pick-up Schedule

The City of New London will conduct its ANNUAL SPRING YARD WASTE PICK-UP beginning April 1st through April 19th. ONLY YARD WASTE AND BRANCHES WILL BE COLLECTED. HOWEVER, THEY MUST BE SEPARATED.

Leaves - Please place your loose leaves in the street, along the curb line. - **NO BAGS OR BOXES.**

Brush - Must be cut into 4 ft. lengths, no more than 6 ft., and left behind the curb BUT cross-ways to the curb (perpendicular)

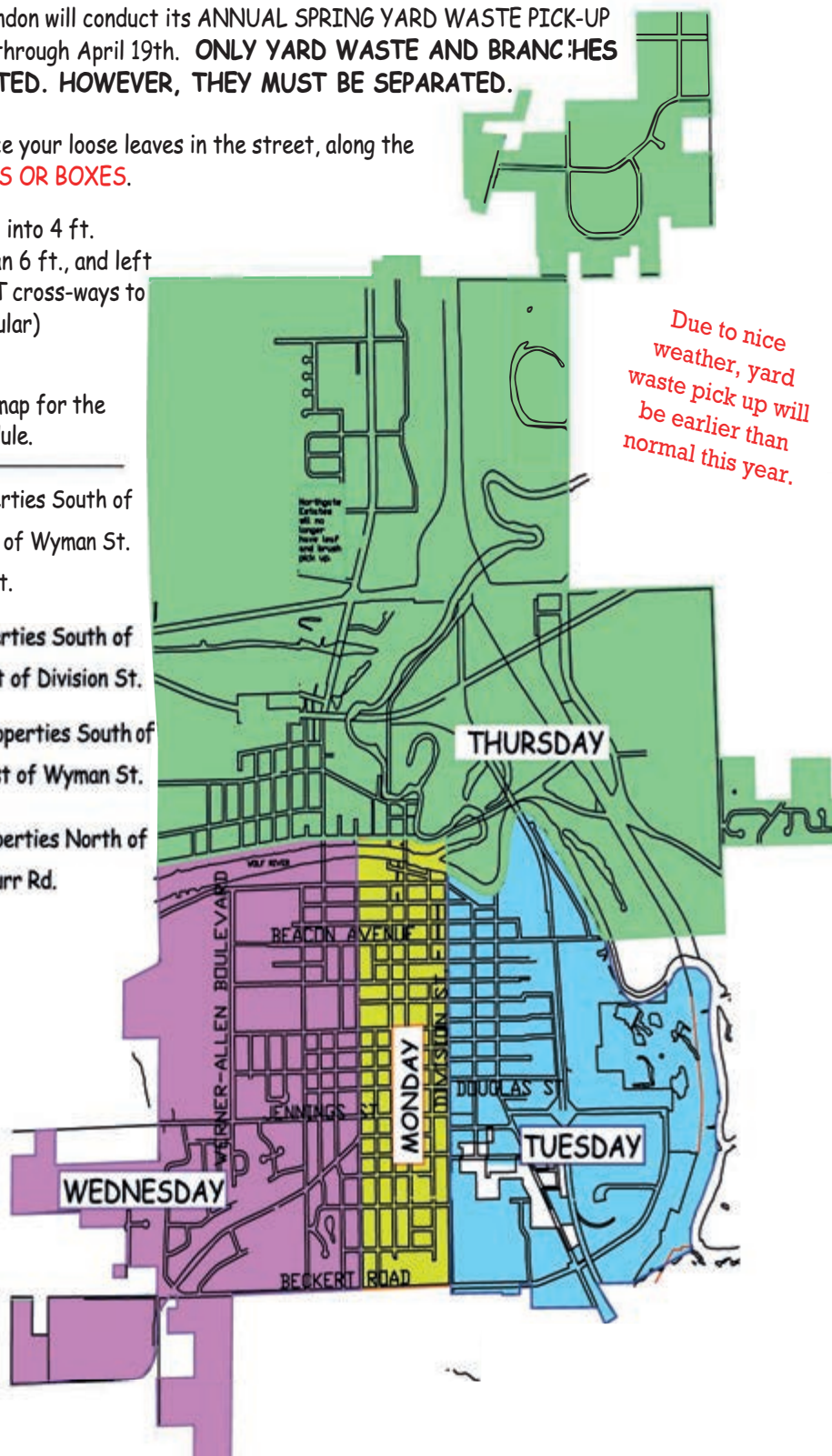
Please refer to the map for the weekly pick up schedule.

MONDAY: All properties South of the Wolf River, East of Wyman St. & West of Division St.

TUESDAY: All properties South of the Wolf River & East of Division St.

WEDNESDAY: All properties South of the Wolf River & West of Wyman St.

THURSDAY: All properties North of the Wolf River to Spurr Rd.



Due to nice weather, yard waste pick up will be earlier than normal this year.

Police department dissolved

Sheriff will cover Fremont

JAMES CARD
STAFF REPORTER

FREMONT – The White Bass Capital of the World no longer has its own police force.

Sgt. Katie Boerst will be the last peace officer serving the village of Fremont in its 142-old police department.

During the last year she was acting as both police officer and interim police chief.

All that remains of the Fremont Police Department is a final Facebook page. The final post on March 25 reads: "As of 4 p.m. today, the Fremont Village Board has dissolved the police department, and it no longer exists. It has been our immense pleasure in getting to know this fantastic community and serve everyone. Thank you all."

Fremont's Board of Trustees convened a special meet-

ing and voted unanimously to dissolve its police department that was founded in 1882 because of staffing problems. The board struggled with attracting candidates because the salary was lower than in other areas and the benefits package did not include health insurance. The police budget is half the tax levy of the village.

"We all know that we've struggled to hire and retain police department employees for many years. This didn't happen overnight," said Board President Bobbi Marks.

"The Village of Fremont does not now, or in the foreseeable future, possess adequate resources to continue to operate, maintain, staff, and fund a police department. The Village Board does not deem it necessary for the public health, safety, and wellbeing for the Village

Police

CONTINUES ON PAGE 15

Iola-Scandinavia NEWS

Iola River Walk remains closed

BY EMILY CONROY
STAFF REPORTER

IOLA – The Community Development Authority (CDA) met March 25 to begin discussions on repairs to the Iola River Walk.

Repair timelines and the re-opening of the river walk are still in question, as solutions were discussed as how to best address the issues facing the trail.

The river walk was built in 2012 with funds received from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which gave just over \$350,000 to the project, as well as donations from the community.

Clifford Mishler, who was president of Krause Publications through the nineties, was influential in the concept, securing donations and building of the river walk.

“We had a lot of cash flow if you will and trying to help the community and one of the ideas that had been floated around for a long time was the idea of some kind of a river walk and cleaning up the riverside along highway 161 coming in to town from the west,”



Iola's River Walk needs repair. Emily Conroy Photo

Mishler said.

Mishler said through Krause Publications he began buying up vacant lots along the riverside, or getting them donated. He said there were a couple of exceptions where he had to get leases for the river walk land.

Mishler said the first two years he did not notice any kind of upheaval on the trail, however by the third and fourth years it had started and was progressively getting worse.

“A lot of people who use it are missing it, so at this point its not an asset for the community and we want it to be an asset for the community again,” Mishler said.

Ken Shustek, president of the Iola Village Board, said

planning and repairs will need to be in stages.

“I mean this is going to be a process,” Schustek said. “We call it the roller coaster right now, this is probably the worst it's ever been.”

A few solutions were proposed at the March meeting. Notably the concept of adding an anchor to each of the wood pylons to thwart the spring thaw damage and potential upheaval.

Another idea was using steel pans, which is a method that is used on the Ice Age Trail boardwalk and has had a lot of success, according to Phil Johnsrud, who was present at the meeting. He said he had called someone associated with the famous trail and they told him they had been using

this method for years.

Then there was the idea of using timber locks which would help to stabilize the trail as well.

There is also the aspect of replacing boards that have rotted.

Glenn Tetzlaff, director of Iola Public Works, said he called the company that provided the wood planks to see if there was a warranty on them.

The company, out of Chippewa Falls, said the southern yellow pine boards do not have a long life expectancy and quoted him about \$30,000 to replace all of the 230 boards that have issues.

Tetzlaff said in the meeting that the yellow pine boards are also not a normal size. The awkward size that makes it difficult to replace with a more common-sized board.

The CDA will reconvene at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 24, at the Iola Village Hall in order to discuss quotes and best options.

The river walk will remain closed as the committee continues to gather information on how to best repair the board walk.



Little Wolf Gallery in Iola offers its own blend of coffee. Submitted Photo

Gallery offers art, coffee

BY EMILY CONROY
STAFF WRITER

IOLA – Donovan Brooke has created his own blend of coffee sold exclusively at the Little Wolf Gallery in Iola.

Brooke is coming up on his third year anniversary of owning the Little Wolf Gallery, which is primarily a glass art gallery.

He said he works with four to five local artists for glass work, as well as artists who work with a variety of mediums.

Along with the glass and art work he has displayed, he also sells coffee drinks, cheese and French wines.

Brooke said he started talking to the head roaster at Ruby Colorful Coffees, a place he began working one day a week a little under three years ago.

He said he wanted a darker blend of coffee, similar to a French roast, which he said would also keep on the French theme he has going in the gallery.

“We got to talking and came up with this Little Wolf Blend and it became my roast,” he said. “This is Ruby's darkest roast, it is not a French roast, it doesn't totally drown out the taste of the bean itself.”

He said he wanted to draw on similar qualities to

a French roast, but did not want to lose the taste of the coffee bean, which he said can often happen with a French roast style coffee.

The Little Wolf blend has tasting notes of dark chocolate, hazelnut, black tea and spices.

He said this is the only blend he intends to create, which is used in all of his coffee drinks, like the latte, mocha, cappuccino and espresso.

The 12 ounce bags of coffee are for sale at the gallery.

The new and exclusive coffee roast is just one of the many exciting things that are happening with the Little Wolf Gallery.

Brooke said he plans to open a glass shop in the back, hoping to open in late fall. He also intends to hold glass art classes and give customers the opportunity to watch artists work.

He said he started working with glass art in 1988 and this will be the second shop that he has owned.

The gallery also has an open jazz jam every second Saturday of the month and once the warm weather picks up he has even more scheduled events.

He hopes to have a coffee club at some point in the future.

Manawa NEWS

Manawa memories published in book

BY EMILY CONROY
STAFF REPORTER

MANAWA – Former Manawa resident Josephine Krause became a published author recently with her book “The Adventures of Martha Lou and Me.”

The book is a collection of short stories from her childhood and growing up in and around the Manawa area.

Krause said she began writing stories in eighth grade while at St. Paul's School in Manawa. She would include her grandmother in the stories, who was originally from Alabama and had a very thick southern accent.

“When I started writing my stories I would imitate her and people would laugh even more,” she said.

Her mother started including one of Krause's stories in their Christmas cards every year, which is when she decided that she would write a story for her



parents annually around the holiday.

In December 2022 she put together a binder of all the stories she had written over the years and gave them out as Christmas gifts.

The idea to publish her stories came up when her father told her the stories were funny and they should be a book.

The stories center not only around her grandmother and her thick southern accent, but also with her sister Martha Lou, who she names in the title.

“Whenever I was well enough, or if someone re-

minded me of something we did in our childhood, I would write a story and then I would put it aside and mail it to my parents for Christmas,” she said.

Stories include one where her sister tries to bathe their cat, when they went on a hunt for Sasquatch in the Pacific Northwest and their mother had an encounter with three bears and a time when the sisters went to cut down their own Christmas tree.

“I try to make every story funny because if you're not going to laugh well then I am not going to write the story,” Krause said.

A struggle with illness has affected her throughout her life, Krause said, being home bound frequently as well as hospitalized, an illness she still struggles with today.

Krause said she is nervous about how people may react to the stories. Living an isolated life, she said she is un-

sure if people in the outside world will find her stories funny.

“It just makes me happy when I can make people laugh, that's basically all I really care about,” she said. “I just want people to laugh because laughter is a really good thing.”

Manawa residents Carol Koehler helped to edit the book and Tanya Lynn Taylor painted the cover.

She said she does not intend on doing any book signings as her vision has started to fade and she is almost completely home and bed bound.

You can find her book for sale on Amazon and there is also a copy of the book at the Sturm Memorial Library in Manawa.

Manawa art team wins third title

BY JACK O'BRIEN
SPECIAL TO POST

MANAWA - The Little Wolf High School art team was escorted back to Manawa by the fire department after their third consecutive state title win on March 25.

Residents cheered with signs in the rain as the team paraded through downtown.

The visual arts classic consists of four categories.

One of the categories is

the individual long-term projects, given five months before competition to fulfill a prompt in a specific media.

Another category is the individual on-site projects, where students are given new prompts and two and a half hours to create a project.

There is also the team critical thinking event, where the team of 12 creates a group project fulfilling a

prompt in one hour.

The final category is the team artists quiz bowl, where students answer question about the pre-determined list of artists that create in the style of the theme, new and old.

The field consisted of 61 teams from across the state and was narrowed down to nine after the regional competitions in early March.

Art Team

CONTINUES ON PAGE 16

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Arts Center seeks surrealist work

STEVENS POINT – Riverfront Arts Center plans an upcoming art exhibition that focuses on Surrealism.

This 20th-century avant-garde movement sought to release the creative potential of the unconscious mind. The art center invites artists from all backgrounds and mediums to submit their work for consideration.

Artists interested in participating are encouraged

to deliver their work from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday, April 18-19, or by appointment.

The opening reception for the exhibition will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, May 2. This will be an exciting opportunity for art enthusiasts to mingle with artists and immerse themselves in the world of Surrealism.

Gallery visitors can also explore the exhibition dur-

ing regular gallery hours, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday to Friday, and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekends. The gallery is closed on holidays and between exhibits.

The Riverfront Arts Center is open to the public and free of charge. For more information, call at 715-343-6251, email the art director at sgardner@stevenspoint.com and like them on Facebook and Instagram.



Children hold rock and mineral specimens as part of the UWSP Collection Crawl.

Photo courtesy of UWSP

Museum to host Collection Crawl

STEVENS POINT – Explore the teaching and research collections at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point as part of the Olson Museum of Natural History 2024 Collection Crawl.

The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 6, beginning and ending at the Olson Museum of Natural History, 2001 Fourth Ave., Stevens Point.

It is free and open to all ages.

Participants may explore the collections across three campus academic buildings, collecting a stamp on their passport at each site. Completed passports may be redeemed at the museum for a prize.

“The Collection Crawl has been a long-standing tradition at the museum for over a decade,” said Brigid Ferkett, an outreach specialist for the museum. “We are excited to bring back this public event to showcase not only our collections, but our future museum spaces in the Science Building.”

The Collection Crawl’s featured collection is entomology, the study of insects. Learn some of the lesser-known traits of insects and how they are collected for the museum.

Participants can also hold a hissing cockroach.

In addition to the exhibits, families may enjoy shows at the Blocher Planetarium, located on

the second floor of the UW-Stevens Point Science Building.

April 6 show times

- 9 a.m. “Habitat Earth” – Journey through Earth’s ecosystems to explore the connections between all life on our planet.

- 10 a.m. “Totality” – Learn about lunar and solar eclipses and look forward to upcoming eclipses and where to witness them.

- Noon, “Laser Shows – Legends of the Constellations: Orion” – A laser show suitable for families with young children.

Learn more at www.uwsp.edu/event/collection-crawl/.

great laser show suitable for families with young children.

- April 7 – 2 p.m. “Totality” – Learn about lunar and solar eclipses and look forward to upcoming eclipses and where to witness them.

- April 7 – 3:30 p.m. “Laser Shows – Legends of the Constellations: Orion” – A great laser show suitable for families with young children.

- April 14 – 2 p.m. “Sunstruck” – Gain an enhanced understanding of the Sun and how it impacts our world.

- April 21 – 2 p.m. “One Sky” – Learn how different cultures see and interpret the night sky.

- April 27 – 2 p.m. “Fragile Earth – Celebrating Earth Day/Week” – With themes of biodiversity and sustainability, see Earth through an astronaut’s eyes

as scientists search the universe for extraterrestrial life.

- April 28 – 2 p.m. “Earth, Sun and the Moon” – Explore the relationship between the Earth, Moon, and Sun through the eyes of an animated coyote character learning about the solar system.

Planetarium seating is first come, first served for up to 55 people. Groups of eight or more may schedule a special showing of any planetarium program by calling 715-346-2208 or completing an online request form. There is a cost for these requests.

The planetarium is located on the second floor of the UW-Stevens Point Science Building, 2001 Fourth Ave., Stevens Point. Parking is available in Lot D behind the building and is free in all university lots after 7 p.m. and on weekends.

Forum on remaking energy system

STEVENS POINT – Nick Hylla will lead a forum on the Inflation Reduction Act at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 20, at the Portage County Library Pinery Room, 1001 Main St., Stevens Point.

Hylla is the executive director of the Midwest Renewable Energy Association.

He will discuss state and federal programs that sup-

port building electrification, energy efficiency, and on-site energy production and storage.

The program will examine market trends, technologies, tax provisions, incentive programs and things to know as a consumer.

The annual Maxine Burrell Community Forum is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters

Stevens Point Area, League of Women Voters Wisconsin Rapids, Stevens Point Chapter Citizens’ Climate Lobby and Clean Green Action.

The forum will be preceded by a social time at 9:30 a.m.

People in need of a reasonable accommodation should make a request at least 10 days in advance by emailing lwvspa@gmail.com.

Senior Spotlight

The mission of the Aging and Disability Resource Center is to support seniors, adults with disabilities and their families and caregivers by offering easy access to services and by fostering a caring community that values lifelong contributions, maximum independence and individual dignity.

Power of Attorney

Attorney Ashley Reimer, from Lauterbach Legal, will answer power of attorney questions at 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, at the Lincoln Center. His presentation is part of National Healthcare Decisions Day, which exists to inspire, educate and empower the public about the importance of advance care planning.

Diabetes Workshop

Healthy Living with Diabetes Workshop is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Mondays, April 15 through May 20.

This workshop provides information and support for adults affected by diabetes and pre-diabetes, including family and friends caring for those with diabetes. The workshop helps participants learn self-management skills to increase their confidence in managing diabetes.

One 21/2-hour session per week for six weeks, with a guest expert on the seventh week.

To register, contact the health promotion coordinator at 715-346-1401.

Nutrition program

The nutrition program is open to Portage County seniors age 60 and older. Call the ADRS Nutrition Program for more information or to register as indicated below. Donations of \$5 per meal are appreciated. No eligible participant will be denied a meal based on ability to contribute toward the cost of the meal.

Congregate dining and grab-and-go meals are available on these days at these locations:

- Stevens Point: Lincoln Center. Serving from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Monday through Friday. Reservations are required one or more days in advance by calling 715-346-1421.

- Plover*: Municipal Building, 2400 Post Road. Serving at noon every Tuesday.

- Amherst*: Jensen Center, 487 North Main St. Serving at noon every Wednesday with bingo after.

- Junction City*: Park Lodge, 224 Case Ave. Serving at 11:45 a.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month.

- Rosholt*: Nelson-Kaminski American Legion Post 509, 290 Grand Ave East. Serving at noon on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month.

*Reservations are required two or more days in advance by calling 715-347-4856.

Home Delivered Meals

Served throughout Portage County on a short-or-long-term basis. Meals are delivered between 11:15 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Hot meals are delivered Monday through Thursday. Call the ADRS at the number above to learn more.



Youth Service Award

The Stevens Point Elks Youth Citizen Award was presented to Wyatt Dorn for his fundraising efforts toward the Plover Police K-9 program. Presented by Lodge 641 Exalted Ruler Anne Cuomo supported by Elks Carl Knuese, Hans Walther, Matt Churas, Suzanne Walther, Karen Pawlak and TJ Jungwirth.

Submitted Photo

State requires vape shops licenses

PORTAGE COUNTY – This month local municipal clerks in Wisconsin began to implement a new state law that requires vape shops to obtain retail licenses.

Until the passage of Wisconsin Act 73 in December 2023, a retailer selling only electronic vaping devices was not required to have a license to sell vape products.

Bryar Drexler, community health educator of Portage County

Health and Human Services, said the new law is a step in the right direction, but more oversight is needed, especially to help protect young people from nicotine addiction.

“The new law is sparking new community conversations about vaping in Wisconsin and the importance of local voices on this issue,” Drexler said.

Wisconsin does not have a state T21 law, which means local law enforcement is not authorized to enforce the federal law beyond the current age 18 state law. The maximum fee for a tobacco/vape shop license in Wisconsin is \$100, which is less than a liquor license that is set and controlled at the local level.

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue recently issued a new retail license form, Form CTV-100, which was updated to include all tobacco and vape products. The form is for use by all villages, towns and

cities in Wisconsin.

Portage County Health and Human Services is reaching out to municipal clerks in towns throughout Portage County to bolster communications with vape retailers, especially about the requirement to follow the federal Tobacco 21 law in Wisconsin.

Portage County’s Division of Public Health also operates the local Wisconsin Wins tobacco and vape retailer inspection and education program.

The program provides free retailer training, store signage and other resources to help prevent underage tobacco and vape sales.

“Achieving a state Tobacco 21 law in Wisconsin will empower our local communities and reclaim our voice on this issue,” Drexler said, “The new vape shop licensing bill strengthens our connection with retailers, which I think is a good thing.”

ECLIPSE

FROM PAGE 4

A special youth-focused program for families will be offered at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, April 7, with story time before the show at 3 p.m.

Planetarium shows are free and open to the public, but donations are appreciated and help continue these programs.

Planetarium programs

- April 6 – 9 a.m. “Habitat Earth” – Journey through Earth’s ecosystems to explore the connections between all life on the planet.

- April 6 – 10 a.m. “Totality” – Learn about lunar and solar eclipses and look forward to upcoming eclipses and where to witness them.

- April 6 – Noon, “Laser Shows – Legends of the Constellations: Orion” – A

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Waupaca County Post SPORTS REPORTER



Sports reporters are needed to cover Waupaca and Portage County high school varsity games.

The position can be either full-time or part-time and entails reporting and shooting photos of games, festivals and parades, writing feature stories on athletes and coaches.

If interested, please email cover letter, resume, samples of writing and photos to bcloud@mmclocal.com.

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Opinion

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

The Bygone

Dear Reader,

As I stroll down memory lane, I am enveloped in a wistful nostalgia for the bygone days. Those were the days when our hearts brimmed with youthful exuberance, and our friendships were pure, untouched by the transactional nature of today's world. We were united not by wealth or status, but by the simple joy of being together.

In those days, we were all just scraping by, but our spirits were rich with hope and optimism. We didn't need material possessions to define our worth; our worth was measured by the depth of our connections and the richness of our relationships.

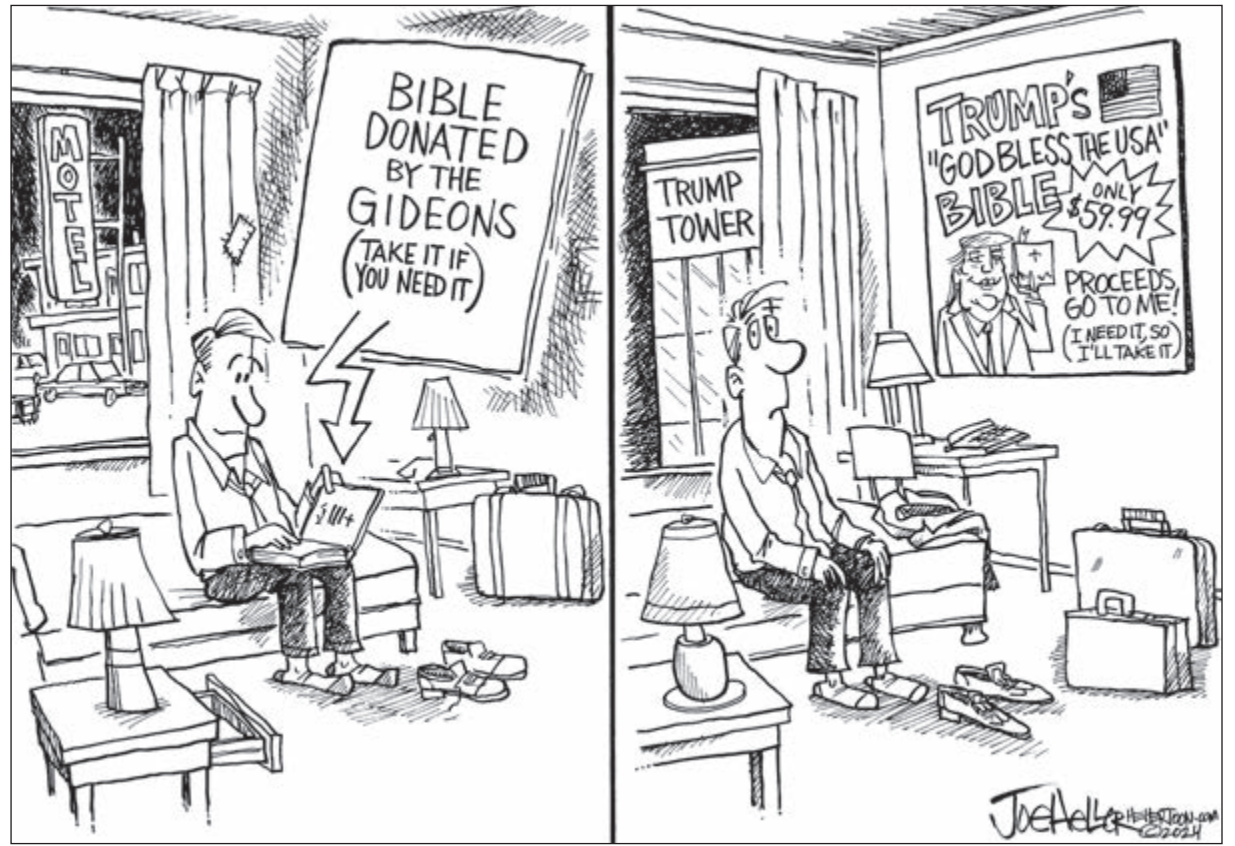
Looking back now, with the wisdom of hindsight, there are few regrets. We realize that those fleeting moments of laughter and camaraderie were the true treasures of our youth. We yearn for the days when time seemed to stand still, when the future stretched out before us like an endless road, full of promise and possibility.

But alas, nothing lasts forever. Life moves on, carrying us along with it, and the innocence of youth slips away, leaving behind only memories and echoes of the past. Yet, amidst the bittersweet longing for what once was, there remains a glimmer – a hope that we can still find gladness and possibly elation in the moments that lie ahead.

So let us savor each day as it comes, holding onto the memories of the past while embracing the beauties of the future. For in the end, it is not the wealth we amass or the possessions we acquire that truly matter, but the love we share and the memories we create along the way.



PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher
Author of "Reflections" a new book now available on Amazon.



Gallagher betrayed Republican voters

Mike Gallagher's recent decision to resign from Congress is a dereliction of duty and is a betrayal of the citizens of the 8th Congressional District and Oconto and Waupaca County Republicans.

Mike Gallagher hides behind the Marine Shield and is leaving his post before his term ends; no

Marine would ever do that even when times are tough at home.

We in Waupaca and Oconto County and members of the 8th District are excited that he has resigned from the 118th Congress and demand he does it immediately. We view this as a win for the 8th district and the United

States as we look forward to a special election or the November election where we can elect a strong patriotic Congressman to serve the 8th district.

We wish nothing but the best for Congressman Gallagher with his new career, which we feel he used his position in Congress to obtain. Finally, let us be

clear we will never support him in District 8 or Wisconsin politics again.

JOEL BARTEL
WAUPACA COUNTY
REPUBLICAN CHAIRMAN

KEN SIKORA
OCONTO COUNTY
REPUBLICAN CHAIRMAN

After 28 years, it's time for me to fly

BY GREG SEUBERT

WAUPACA – "Time for me to fly, I've got to set myself free. Time for me to fly, and that's just how it's got to be. I know it hurts to say goodbye, but it's time for me to fly."

Kevin Cronin's lyrics from the REO Speedwagon classic "Time For Me to Fly" are going through my head as I sit at my work computer in Waupaca on the night before Easter.

By the time most of you read this, my 28 years as sports editor of the Waupaca County Post – as well as 38 years in the newspaper business – will be over. I'm not going to go into the decision to move on, only to say that it was my decision and it was not an easy one to make.

My last day was April 2 and the final sporting event I covered for the County Post and its sister publication, the Waushara Argus, was the Almond-Bancroft boys' basketball team's first appearance at the WIAA State Boys' Basketball Tournament March 15 at the Kohl Center in Madison.

Covering teams at state individual and team tournaments and meets was one of the highlights of the job. Over the years, I was able to cover athletes and teams from Waupaca, Iola-Scandinavia, Weyauwega-Fremont, Manawa, Amherst, Wild Rose, Clintonville, New London and Hortonville high schools at state. Many of them returned home with individual gold medals or helped their team win a state championship.

Off the top of my head, I watched the Waupaca, Amherst and Iola-Scandinavia football teams, Waupaca baseball team, Iola-Scandinavia, New London and Amherst softball teams, New London boys' and girls' basketball teams and Amherst girls' basketball team win state championships. I also had a front-row seat as several track athletes and wrestlers returned home from state meets in La Crosse



Seubert

and Madison, respectively, with individual titles.

I spent almost half of my 60 years covering thousands of athletes and hundreds of teams. I also met some fantastic coaches, teachers, athletes and other people that helped me make my job a lot easier.

Here are a few of them:

- Former Waupaca High School football and baseball coach John Koronkiewicz.

Koronk was one of the first teacher/coaches I met after arriving in Waupaca at the start of the 1996-97 school year. It didn't take me long to realize why his football program was the talk of the town, especially in the fall. My first season covering the Comets ended with a loss in a state semifinal game, which means Koronk's team came up just short from a return trip to state.

He eventually won WIAA Division 3 state football championships in 2006 and 2008 and capped his 40-year teaching career in Waupaca by leading the Comets to a Division 2 state baseball championship in 2016.

One of the best and most helpful coaches I've ever dealt with also made an impact on me years after he retired and moved to Lake Geneva.

In 2022, he made a last-second decision to drive from Lake Geneva to Waupaca to watch his former team face Winneconne at Comet Field. Instead of hanging out on the sidelines with Waupaca fans, which he did after the game, he spent most of that game in the north end zone talking to me and me alone about trout

fishing and our lives.

My only regret was that I never got to go fishing with Koronk when he lived in Waupaca. Now that I've got some more free time and he has plenty of that, he can expect a phone call or email from me. He told me he comes up to this area to fish.

- Former Waupaca boys' hockey coach and current Waupaca Learning Center Principal John Erspamer.

He may not know it, but I considered Ersh and I as in the same boat. We arrived in Waupaca at the same time in 1996 – he as a social studies teacher at Waupaca High School and I as the County Post's new sports editor – and I covered his teams over the years, including the two that won conference championships and helped put high school hockey on the map in Waupaca.

Ersh worked his way up the ranks from teacher to high school dean of students to elementary school principal, while my job pretty much stayed the same. He even took a break from coaching for a few seasons, but came back and even gave me a free Comet hockey sweatshirt a few years ago and apologized to me because the shirt was covered in dog hair from sitting in his truck. That was OK with me, though. Great guy and a good friend.

- Former Waupaca High School boys' and girls' soccer coach Mark Polebitski.

Polo was one of the first teacher/coaches I met in Waupaca and it was a pleasure to cover his boys' and girls' teams that came close to heading to state a couple of times.

One of the more accommodating coaches I've ever worked with, Polo was happy to turn in results from his teams' games. I remember getting a phone call at work about 20 years ago complaining about my sports coverage. The guy said there was too much soccer coverage and not enough from other sports. Hey,

not my fault. Blame Polo.

Polo went on to serve on the Waupaca School Board, retired from teaching and coaching and moved to Platteville a couple of years ago. I was able to speak to him by phone for a few minutes one last time a few years ago right after he moved.

- Weyauwega-Fremont wrestling coach Tim Potratz and photographers Perry and Melissa Thomas.

Po recently coached the Warhawk wrestling team to its most successful season in program history and Perry and Melissa helped me cover the team over the years with their photos.

Po was always there with results and comments and I can tell that he really loves the program he has overseen for more than 30 years. Perry also turned into my newest fishing buddy and I enjoyed our day trips in his boat on the Wisconsin and Wolf rivers. Perry and I were together in a packed downtown Madison restaurant in 2020 during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. A few weeks later, the WIAA called off its boys' and girls' state tournament because of the pandemic. I can't believe neither him or I came down with a case of covid that weekend. With all of the people we were around, we probably should have. Perry appreciated the media passes I would get for him and his wife over the years and their photos were outstanding.

- Former WDUX sports guys Jack Tomlinson, Terry Nellis, John Wright and John Hammond. These guys were a breath of fresh air and a barrel of laughs.

Jack, known on the air at Jack Barry, was notorious for ignoring speed limits while driving the WDUX van. I'm sure he's the only person who's ever driven the 80 miles from Antigo to Amherst in way less than an hour. I couldn't tell how fast we were going because it was

pitch black after a basketball game in Antigo, but once he got on a straight stretch of County Trunk A between Rosholt and Amherst, it was all over. It was very impressive and kind of scary at the same time.

I called Terry "Touch-down Terry" and he was one of the most knowledgeable sports guys I've ever met. Like Jack, Terry could do it all – football, hockey, softball, baseball and basketball – and was very good at it. He also knew the area's best fishing spots and took me out in his boat one spring day a couple of years ago for a story I was doing about where to fish for panfish on the Chain O' Lakes. We didn't catch many fish that day, but I couldn't believe I was getting paid to go fishing with a guy who knew more about fishing the Chain than anybody I've ever met.

John Wright – most people call him Crow – knew the Waupaca boys' basketball program inside and out. The road trips with him and Jack were legendary, especially the ones to Madison for state basketball. I remember one trip where the three of us covered a game together in Little Chute. Jack and Crow came in the WDUX van, while I drove myself. I followed Jack on U.S. Highway 10 out of Appleton. Once he hit the straight stretch past the State Highway 76 exit, Jack took off and a minute later, I couldn't even see his taillights anymore. And I was going 70 mph.

John Hammond – I still call him "The Hammer" – was and is a good friend. I won't go into our state road trips to Madison because I don't want to incriminate myself and don't want the authorities to come looking for us. Well, they can come looking for Hammer if they want. He's guilty as charged, but I'm innocent.

- Former Waupaca County Post editor Loren Sperry; current editor

Bob Cloud; and former reporters Angie Landsverk and Holly Neumann.

Loren took a chance on an unemployed guy 28 years ago and hired me on the spot before my interview was done. I showed up in Waupaca for the interview in a shirt and tie – just like I had dressed for work for all three of my previous jobs – and one of the first things he said to me was, "Don't show up to work dressed like that." It was a big deal for me to lose the dress shirts and ties I had worn almost daily for seven years and replace them with jeans, T-shirts and hoodie sweatshirts. I was in heaven.

Loren retired about a year after I arrived and Bob, his replacement, has done an outstanding job since he arrived. Bob and I have turned into good friends over the years and I'll miss our time together.

Angie was on board as a reporter for the County Post when I arrived and did a great job covering government in Waupaca and Weyauwega. I hadn't seen her for a few years after she stepped down, but ran into her twice in the last couple of months.

Holly helped me cover Iola-Scandinavia and Manawa sports for years before retiring last year. I was kind of jealous because she had a better camera than I did and her photos were better than anything I could come up with. She and her husband, Tony, became good friends over the years and I still expect that fishing trip that we've talked about but never took together. Hint: Call me, guys. I have some free time now.

I figure I've covered about 2,000 games, meets and matches over the years. It'll be strange not covering them anymore and I certainly won't miss driving to Oconto Falls during a Tuesday night snowstorm to watch a pair of 2-18 basketball teams.

No, let me rephrase that. I miss it already.

We welcome readers to share their thoughts and opinions as a letter to the editor.

Letters must be no more than 500 words and be emailed to bcloud@mmlocal.com. Letters can also be dropped off to our offices in Waupaca, New London or Clintonville. Letters must be received by Monday in order to be included in the Thursday edition.

Obituary Notices

Myers Sr., William



William Marshall Myers Sr., age 83, of Iola, passed away after a courageous battle with Parkinson's, on Saturday, March 30, 2024, at Theda Care in Appleton. He was born on September 14, 1940, in the Town of Wyoming, Waupaca County, son of the late Lee and Jeanette (Thoe) Myers. Bill graduated from Iola High School in 1958. On August 12, 1961, he was united in marriage to Jean Leiskau in Bowler, WI. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army. After coming back from the service, he started working at Iola Plumbing & Heating for a few years and then finished his career as a Supervisor at the Waupaca Foundry, retiring in 2001. After retiring, he enjoyed bow hunting, and fishing for Trout and Walleye. He especially enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and attending their events.

He is survived by his children: Deb (Loren) Johnson, Darla (John) Williams, Bill (Angie) Myers; grandchildren: Logan (Megan) Johnson, Billy and Burkley Myers; great granddaughter Hazel Johnson; special friend Mary Jane Bennett; eight surviving siblings; nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Besides his parents, Bill was preceded in death by his wife Jean and one brother.

A funeral service for Bill will be held on Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Iola with Rev. Dale Wilson officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery. A visitation for Bill will be held at the church on Thursday from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the service. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Our Savior's Lutheran Church or Scandinavia Lutheran Church.

A special thanks to The Willows in Iola for their wonderful care of Bill. Voie Funeral Home of Iola is serving the family.

Koepfen, Richard



Richard "Dick" R. Koepfen, age 83 of Clintonville passed away unexpectedly at his home Wednesday morning March 27, 2024.

Richard Robert Koepfen was born on March 1, 1941 in Shawano as the son of the late Joe and Marie (Samz) Koepfen. Richard, affectionately known as "Dick", was not even a year old when his father passed away of leukemia. Dick was then raised by his grandmother in rural Clintonville. He attended Pella Rural Elementary School and graduated from Clintonville High School in 1959 lettering in baseball. Dick became a standout baseball player for the Clintonville A's in BABA. He led the league in hitting in 1975 and was the homerun champion in 1965 & 1977. He also played with the Green Bay Blue Ribbons in 1972. Dick attended St. Norbert's College and graduated from Wisconsin Institute of Mortuary Science in Milwaukee. He worked briefly at Harder Funeral Home in Milwaukee and returned to Clintonville to care for his ailing grandmother where he also worked a short time at Rhodes & Beil Funeral Home. Dick was then employed as an Advertising Manager and Sports Writer for the Tribune Gazette in town for 24 years. He served as a volunteer fireman for 15 years and spent time as an EMT with Clintonville Area Ambulance Service. He was also a faithful member of St. Rose Catholic Church in Clintonville where he served as an usher. Since 1987 Dick operated Koepfen's Medical Transports, Truck City Taxi, and Koepfen Livery Service; a job he loved and operated until the day he passed.

Richard was united in marriage to Kay Hupke on September 1, 1962 at St. Rose. The couple had 3 children; Jeff, Sherri, and Robert prior to Kay's passing. He was later married to Nancy Manser Harris on October 14, 1995 at St. Martin Lutheran Church in Clintonville; welcoming stepchildren Jodi, Mark, and Bobbi and their families into his life.

Many will remember Dick for his time spent as a public servant which included the following: City Council 1990-2000, and was Mayor of Clintonville from 2000-2004. On the Statewide level, Dick was an active member of the Wisconsin Counties Association from 2009-2015, serving as president of the association from 2011-2012. He served on the Shawano Hospital Board and as chair was instrumental in the construction of the new hospital. He was also a valuable member of the Wisconsin County Mutual Insurance Corporation Board since 2014. Dick was part of the County Board from 1998-2024 and was Chair from 2004-2024. He served on multiple county committees and also served the East Central Wisconsin Regional Plan Commission Board Member 2004-2024 and Commission Chair 2008-2009. Dick definitely had a passion for trying to better his community and surrounding area. His efforts, knowledge, and dedication will be greatly missed.

Richard is survived by his wife Nancy, Children Jeff (Lisa), Sherri, and Robert (Julie) Koepfen. Grandchildren: Erik, Troy, Katherine, Jordan, Jett, and Isabella. The family would like to give a special thank you to Keith "Sod" Soldner for his friendship to Dick.

He was preceded in death by his parents, grandparents, wife Kay, and numerous friends and relatives.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held for Dick on Saturday April 6, 2024 at 11am at St. Rose Catholic Church, 27 7th Street, Clintonville, WI 54929. Fr. Timothy Shillcox O. Praem will officiate and burial will follow at the church cemetery in Clintonville. Visitation will be held at the church on Saturday April 6, 2024 from 8am until the time of the service. The Eberhardt-Stevenson Funeral Home & Crematory of Clintonville is assisting his family. www.eberhardtstevenson.com

Maksyn, John



John Douglas Maksyn, age 69, of Waupaca, Wisconsin passed away peacefully in his home, Saturday, March 23, 2024. John, more commonly known as "Johnnie Luv" was born September 16, 1954 in Chicago, Illinois to John and Ann Valaria (Val) Maksyn whom lived in Cicero, Illinois.

He attended Morten East High School and graduated in 1972. He moved to the Waupaca area in 1980. John spent most of his working years as a truck driver. He most recently worked part-time for Kathy Nickel assisting with farm trucking needs, he had experience hauling milk and drove for several businesses including Alliance and Paradise Trucking. At one time, John owned his own bar and grill, Gill's Landing, he made instant friends with his patrons with his quick-wit and flashy smile.

John loved being on the road, whether a truck, his Mini-Cooper or one of his motorcycles. The more style, comfort, and distinctiveness the machine had, the better he liked it. He favored driving his Yamaha motorcycle because it was a "smooth ride." John enjoyed buying goofy and unique items, shaking for shots, and just tinkering around. He had a love for native American décor and you would commonly find him wearing a piece of turquoise jewelry. John had a style and flare straight out of Old Hollywood. He could imitate and sing just like Frank Sinatra. Johnnie always an entertainer himself, liked to share a few cold ones and would often get on a roll with the many fun voices and characters he could imitate. He enjoyed recent annual trips to Dannelon, Florida to visit his pal, Dale and hanging out at Swampy's Bar. Time spent with John was time filled with plenty of laughter, kicking back, and just being ... delighted.

Survivors include his sister, Shirley (Dennis) Kub of Peoria, Arizona. His niece and nephews: Daniel Kub of Peoria, Arizona, David (Dawn) Kub of Orlando, Florida and Shelly (Kenneth) Gordon of Peoria, Arizona. John is further survived by "the daughter he never had" Leigh Jacobson (significant other, Jacob Cariveau) and her two children, Josie and Frances and many great nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, April 6, from 11:00 AM until 2:00 PM at Hidden Waters Golf Course and Resort in Waupaca, Wisconsin. There will be no official services as per John's wishes. Holly Funeral Home will be assisting the family and friends with arrangements.

"May the wind be at your back and the sun in your face and the winds of destiny carry you aloft to see the stars."

Koehler, Linda



Linda J. Koehler (63), New London, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully on March 23, 2024, at her home, following a short illness. Linda was born in Chicago on January 29, 1961, the daughter of Constance and the late Fred (Fritz) Koehler.

Linda lived a life of many

challenges due to her disabilities, however, her life was filled with much joy and adventure, always smiling and engaging in conversations and activities with her large family and many friends. She spent much of her early life in the Northcenter neighborhood of Chicago, attending Coonley and Burbank Grade School and Spaulding High School. After her mother retired, Linda moved with her to the family's farm in Waupaca, Wisconsin. Later, Linda moved into her Clarity Care community home in New London, Wisconsin where she enjoyed the company of many friends. She especially enjoyed attending her workshops, shopping at Walmart, bowling with her friends, and many community outings.

Linda will be dearly missed by her mother; her siblings, Ray (Pam), Mary, Mike (Helen), Jack and Joe; her Aunt Lenore, Uncle Carl and Aunt Rhonda, Uncle Edgar and Aunt Pauline; her nieces, Emma and Clare Koehler; her nephews, John, Mark and Luke Koehler; and her many cousins and friends.

She now joins her beloved father and many dear aunts, uncles, cousins, relatives and friends already in heaven where they are certainly enjoying each other's company.

Linda's family is especially grateful to her caregivers at her Clarity Care home in New London, Wisconsin and Community Care in Waupaca. Their compassionate care provided Linda a beautiful home until her recent passing.

Linda will be interred at All Saint Cemetery in Des Plaines, Illinois next to her father.

A Celebration of Her Life will be held from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 25, 2024 at Danes Hall of Waupaca.

www.clinehansonfuneralhome.com

Stemwedel, Toni



Toni Stemwedel, age 59, passed away peacefully on March 31, 2024. Toni was born in Portage, WI on July 18, 1964, to Daniel Koch and Phyllis Koch.

She was a dedicated nurse, wife, mother, and nana.

Toni's commitment to the well-being of others was unparalleled, and she touched the lives of countless veterans during her career at Wisconsin Veterans Home at King along with many other patients at various healthcare facilities. Her legacy of service will forever be remembered by those who she served and inspired.

Aside from her professional accomplishments, Toni was a devoted wife to her husband, James Stemwedel. James and Toni were married on August 31, 1991. Their bond was a testament to enduring love and partnership. Their love will carry on forever and a day.

Toni is survived by her husband James; her mother Phyllis Koch; her father-in-law Ed Stemwedel; her brothers Wade Koch, Jodi Koch, Rory (Julie) Koch, Timothy Koch and special friend Becky; her sister Dana Soerens; her children: Edward (Alicia) Stemwedel, Justin Stemwedel, Natasha Stemwedel; her granddaughters: Amaurah and Aveylah Stemwedel. She is further survived by nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Toni was preceded in death by her father Daniel Koch; her mothers-in-law Eleanor Warner and Judy Stemwedel; brother Todd Koch; and her brother-in-law Mark Soerens.

A Funeral Mass for Toni will be held on Monday, April 8, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Weyauwega with Fr. Robert Chinnapan officiating. A gathering of family and friends will be held on Sunday, April 7, from 1-4 p.m. at the Dahlke Life Celebration Center in Weyauwega and AT THE CHURCH on Monday from 9:30 a.m. until 10:45 a.m.

Toni's passing leaves a profound void in the hearts of her family, friends, and colleagues. Her warmth, kindness, and unwavering dedication to helping others will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Neelis, Diane



Diane Louise Neelis was born in 1947 in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin to Art and Dorothy Hill. She was one of five siblings and grew up in the Wisconsin Rapids area. Diane met and married Dave Neelis Sr. in 1964, where they lived in Illinois until 1976 when they moved to Waupaca, Wisconsin. They ran Dave's Sewer Service for over 40 years in Waupaca. She spent many years as a CNA at Bethany Home taking care of people. She always had a smile to share, and a contagious laugh.

In 1989, Diane opened Stoney Acres Kennel. After the success of being one of only a few in the state, her and Dave built a larger facility in 1994. Upon opening, Diane was approached by the city of Waupaca to handle the stray dog population, as there was no permanent housing for stray dogs. She accepted in 1995. She extended her help to become the area housing, and constable, for the dogs of many/much surrounding area townships. In 2002 to service as many stray dogs as she could, she merged her business into the non-profit rescue operation called the H.E.L.P. Shelter Dog Rescue. She went on to rescue thousands of dogs throughout her career, and find them "forever" homes.

In 2004, she took her education and love for higher learning to the next level. She became certified through the state of Wisconsin as the area's Animal Control Officer. Diane was truly an advocate for all animals. Everyone in the community knew Diane as the "Dog Lady". Her heart was so big, and she worked many selfless hours to be an advocate for animals. As an Animal Control officer, she was called for all sorts of animals including pigs, goats, horses, cats, and raccoons to name a few.

She loved family gatherings and adored her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In the summer she loved to go out on her pontoon boat. Her birthday was on the 4th of July, so fireworks were a favorite as well.

Diane will be missed by her children, siblings, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Diane was preceded in death by her parents Art and Dorothy Hill. She is survived by her husband Dave Neelis Sr, her children Cora Hammond (Chuck), and David Neelis Jr. (Tina), her grandchildren Nicole Stalles (Nathan), Elizabeth (Karl) Carpio, and Samantha Neelis. She had four great grandsons, Owen, Arlo, Zephyr, and Onyx. Her siblings: Art (Christy) Hill, Sandy [Diggle] Hill, Loren "LiDi" Hill, Gary (Loretta) Hill. Her stepchildren Ken, Larry, Carla, and Lori. She had many nieces and nephews, cousins, and friends.

Diane was a beautiful soul, and she will be greatly missed. Her loss will be felt by many but especially by her husband Dave Neelis Sr. Their love story started in 1964, and they were married for fifty-nine years. May she find comfort, and may God welcome her with open arms.

There will be a funeral service for Diane at 1:30 pm Thursday, April 4, 2024 at the Maple Crest Funeral Home. Visitation will be held from 11am until the time of the service. Burial will follow at Barton Cemetery in the Town of Farmington.

Beall, Sarah

Sarah M. Beall, "Maxine", 94, of Westminster, MD and formerly of Clintonville, WI, went to be reunited with loved ones on March 25, 2024, at the Dove House, Westminster, MD, surrounded by her family.

Maxine was born January 15, 1930, in Nathan's Creek, NC, the daughter of the late Thomas Edgar and Clara Annis (Elliott) Dixon. She was preceded in death by her husband, Vernon Edward Beall, and by her brothers Harold, Leslie, French and Charles Dixon, and sisters Mary Frances Hartsoe and Clara Maud Wagner.

Her memory lives on by her children Diane Beall of Taneytown, MD, the Rev. Julia A. Beall, of Hanover, PA, Vernon Edward Beall, Jr. of Columbia, MD, David Beall of Silver Run, MD, and Cynthia Wandtke of Ogdensburg, WI. She is also survived by 14 grandchildren, Vernon Edward "Teddy", Adam, Keith, Rachel, Thomas Ethan, Michael, Sarah Grace, Emily, Dustin, Elizabeth, Jessica, Daniel, Hannah and Cayla and six great grandchildren. Additionally, she is survived by her sister, Dorothy Andrus of York, PA, and many nieces, nephews and dear friends.

Maxine grew up in the years of the Great Depression on a farm in the mountains of the northwest corner of North Carolina, the sixth of eight children, whose father she often said, "made each of them feel like they were the apple of his eye." On that farm Maxine learned homemaking skills in times of scarcity. Her family lived their faith, never doing business on Sundays, donating the land on which the community built a school which still serves today, and practiced the values of hard work, self-reliance, and caring for others, values Maxine lived each of her days. After moving to Maryland on her 16th birthday, Maxine was the captain of her high school basketball team, winning the championship and earning the team a trip to the nation's Capital. She went on to graduate from business school and worked as a bookkeeper for Green Spring Dairy. As her children got older, Maxine worked at JoAnn's Fabrics, where she shared her skills at sewing; at Mather's, where her gift for eyeing up someone allowed her to know which outfits would fit and flatter, eventually leading to her going on buying trips for the store; and for a short time at Bon-Ton and the Lenox outlet. With her eye for fashion and quality, she helped many customers. Additionally, she was the bookkeeper for the farm Maxine and Vernon bought in retirement, Silver Run Poultry.

In Baltimore, she met her husband at a New Year's Eve party where he played in a band. They married that Easter Sunday, April 5, 1953, sharing 67 years together. They shared a love of community service, belonging to the Jaycees, Lions Clubs, the Eastern Star, church, PTAs, volunteering at school, teaching Vacation Bible School, and supporting their children in a host of activities. Maxine was a talented seamstress, sewing hundreds of layettes for Church World Service, suits for her husband, sons and daughter, wedding and prom dresses, school play costumes, and just about everything her daughters wore through school. She excelled in crochet, smocking, embroidery, and dabbled in creating wall-hangings. She loved growing things, landscaping and gardening most of her life, canning enough food each year to fill every basement shelf. She lived southern hospitality, always having something in the freezer for an unexpected guest, and the home she shared with Vernon was seldom quiet, where impromptu summer parties and New Year's celebrations were a joy to be a part of.

She was a member of St. Mary's UCC, Silver Run, where a service of remembrance and committal was held on Saturday, March 30, 2024, with her home pastor, The Rev. Sam Chamelin and former pastor, the Rev. Julian Hall leading the service. A visitation was held from 12noon to 1pm, at which time her service began. A committal followed at the church cemetery.

Memorial gifts may be made to St. Mary's UCC at Silver Run, 1441 Mayberry Rd, Westminster, MD 21158 or to Bridging Life - Dove House, 292 Stoner Road, Westminster, MD 21157.

Cremation services provided by Pritts Funeral Home & Chapel, Westminster. Online condolences may be offered to Maxine's family at www.prittsfuneralhome.com

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Speaker discusses KKK in Wisconsin

WAUPACA – In the mid-1920s, the Ku Klux Klan recruited in the Fox Valley and Green Bay areas, and held meetings in Waupaca. The Klan focused not only on their hatred of African Americans, but also Catholics, immigrants and Prohibition violators.



Jacobs

Though their influence was small in Wisconsin, their presence was still felt in local communities.

Dr. Michael D. Jacobs will present “The KKK in Wisconsin 100 Years Ago” at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 11, at the Holly History and Genealogy Center. This is part of the Waupaca Historical Society’s spring program series.

Ku Klux Klan in Wisconsin and pay special attention to Waupaca County, looking at how the organization recruited members and its place in the area’s past and present.

Jacobs is professor of history at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, primarily at the Baraboo

campus. He earned his doctorate in U.S. history at Marquette University in 2001 by completing his dissertation on the Catholic Response to the Ku Klux Klan in the Midwest, 1920-1928. He researches and writes primarily on intolerance movements in the American Midwest. He served as consultant on the PBS television series, “History Detectives,” and continues to be a consultant for the Wisconsin Historical Society on Klan-related artifacts, papers and photographs.

This Waupaca Historical Society program will take place at the Holly Center at 321 S. Main St. Refreshments will be served.

Waupaca to partner with UniverCity

WAUPACA – The city of Waupaca is one of six local governments statewide to partner with the University of Wisconsin–Madison’s UniverCity program.

The goal is to use university resources to address community-identified challenges.

Since 2016, UniverCity Alliance has connected Wisconsin communities with faculty, staff, instructors, students and courses during a three-year partnership. UniverCity is an alliance of interdisciplinary leaders dedicated to fostering innovation in communities of all sizes.

“Year after year, we are excited to work with Wisconsin local governments and pair them with UW–Madison’s faculty, staff, instructors, and

students to jumpstart their goals,” UniverCity’s Managing Director Gavin Luter said. “Our primary aim is to listen to these local leaders and find the best match for their community’s needs.”

Since inception, 29 communities have partnered with UniverCity. The new cohort brings the total to 35 communities, with 18 counties and 17 cities, towns, and villages participating.

“UniverCity is making UW–Madison more accessible and responsive to a growing number of Wisconsin communities,” Luter said. “These partnerships are a two-way street: We learn from our partner communities, and they learn from UniverCity’s on-campus

partners.” The six communities include the villages of DeForest and Mount Pleasant; the city of Waupaca; and Chippewa, Jackson, and Iowa counties. Jackson County applied to UniverCity in collaboration with the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin.

Over the past several years, UniverCity community partners have worked during a three-year engagement to identify and complete projects.

DeForest, Mount Pleasant, Waupaca, and Chippewa and Jackson counties are partnering through 2026, while Iowa County is engaged in a more accelerated timeline.

Piano Fondue set for April 21

WILD ROSE – Piano Fondue returns to the Wild Rose High School auditorium at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 21.

The brainchild of Josh Dupont and Francie Phelps, Piano Fondue presents an evening jazz and blues on pianos with vocals by Phelps.

The duo have performed numerous times at Red Cross

Heroes events in the home of John and Vicki Jenks. Now, they return to Wild Rose on a larger scale, performing in an auditorium.

This concert is sponsored by Wild Rose Kiwanis Club.

Advance tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students and children under 18, and can be purchased

from any member of the Wild Rose Kiwanis Club, the Patterson Memorial Library in Wild Rose, the Waushara Argus office in Wautoma, or Office Outfitters in Waupaca, or email WildRoseKiwanisConcert@gmail.com.

Tickets at the door cost \$25 and \$15.

Spring hearings set for April 8

BY GREG SEUBERT CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WAUPACA – In-person state Department of Natural Resources and Wisconsin Conservation Congress spring hearings will resume this year and meetings in each of Wisconsin’s 72 counties are scheduled for Monday, April 8.

Each meeting will be held at 6 p.m. and Waupaca County’s meeting will be held in the Waupaca High School Performing Arts Center, E2325 King Road, Waupaca.

Scott Bestul of Iola, one of the county’s WCC delegates, said those attending the meeting have the opportunity to vote and give their opinion on several local issues.

“Some of the issues that

affect Waupaca County that attendees can provide input on are a 15-inch size limit for walleyes and a daily bag limit of 25 white bass on the Wolf/Winnepago system; banning shining of wild animals from Sept. 15 thru Dec. 31; removing landowner preference from the spring turkey drawing; allowing group bagging of antlerless deer by bow and crossbow in farmland zones; banning live scope imaging on Wisconsin waters; a wake boat ban in Wisconsin; and phasing out lead in all hunting ammo by 2030,” he said. “There also will be a chance for people who cannot attend to provide input online from noon Wednesday, April 10, to noon Saturday, April 13.”

Other meetings in area counties include:

- Portage County: Benjamin Franklin Junior High School auditorium, 2000 Polk St., Stevens Point.
- Outagamie County: Appleton North High School auditorium, 5000 N. Ballard Road, Appleton.
- Waushara County: Wautoma County Board room, Waushara County Courthouse, 209 S. St. Marie St., Wautoma (enter through Door H).
- Winnebago County: Alberta Kimball Auditorium, Oshkosh West High School, 375 N. Eagle St., Oshkosh.
- Shawano County: Shawano Middle School LGI room, 1050 S. Union St., Shawano.

AUDITIONS

FROM PAGE 3 cartoon series, this musical follows Tom, a young school-teacher, who is nervous about his first day of teaching.

He tries to relax by watching TV, and when various characters representing facets

of his personality emerge from the set and show him how to win his students over with imagination and music, his lesson plans vividly come to life.

This production is a collaboration between the Waupaca Community Theatre and the Waupaca School District’s

summer school program. The Waupaca Community Children’s Theatre is part of the Waupaca Community Theatre and a division of the Waupaca Fine Arts Festival.

For more information visit www.fineartsfestival.org or Waupaca Community Children’s Theatre on Facebook.



Student of the Month

Seventh grader Liliyanna Macdonald is the Chain Exploration Center’s Student Artist of the Month. Shown is Mcdonald’s 3-inch by 4-inch clay horse. According to her art teachers, “Lily is a leader in class. She demonstrates responsibility, kindness and creativity.”

Submitted Photo

AWARDS

FROM PAGE 6 of. You will be faced with many situations and challenges in life, but remember to always react to them in a way that allows you to demonstrate and build your character.”

Gregory reflected on leadership. “You are not born a

leader; leadership is a trait that you develop throughout life,” Gregory said. “It’s similar to riding a bike or swimming: the more you practice, the stronger at the task you will become. You are all here today because you have exhibited the true work ethic that is necessary to be responsible, contributing students here at New

London High School.”

Principal Brian Yerkey also spoke, praising the 59 award winners for their character and leadership, reminding them that “Comfort and convenience are the enemies of progress.”

He encouraged them to continue embracing challenges and doing what is right, even when it is not easy.

POLICE

FROM PAGE 6 to continue to provide its own police services,” read resolution 24-01.

Historically, the police chief position was a part-time job. The board discussed making it a full-time job because of increased tourism but debated on how cost-effective that would be. The village population is 685 but it balloons into the thousands with summer tourists at the local

campgrounds and resorts along the Wolf River.

On Oct. 10, 2023, the board unanimously voted to keep the police chief position as a part-time job.

Trustee Todd Bartol said he spoke with Sheriff Tim Wilz and confirmed that the sheriff’s office already answered 75 percent of the incoming calls.

On Jan. 10, the board’s Employee and Purchasing Committee interviewed three candidates for a part-time police chief position.

The candidate they selected quit shortly after accepting the position.

The village of Fremont will contract permanent law enforcement services with the Waupaca County Sheriff’s Office.

The department already provides these services when the Fremont officer was off-duty.

“We have our officers responding to your calls anyway. So, we might as well set up a police department here,” said Wilz.

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Waupaca County sheriff's report

- March 25 – A New London man on Bear Creek Road reported his neighbor was trespassing on his land. The man said he exhausted all efforts by phone, text messages and face-to face conversations and the neighbor keeps trespassing.
- March 25 – A female caller requested a welfare check on a man dressed in all black who was staggering and walking sideways in and out of traffic.
- March 25 – A Menasha woman reported the death of a 73-year-old man. He did not answer the door and his vehicle was in the driveway when the caller checked on him.
- March 25 – An Appleton woman requested a welfare check on a man who was drinking alcohol and feeling suicidal.
- March 25 – A female caller reported a woman was harassing her over the phone and through text messages.
- March 25 – A Waupaca woman on Jefferson Street reported her boyfriend was intoxicated and he left after an argument. He came back but was still upset.
- March 26 – Branch One of the Waupaca Circuit Courts requested an officer go out to the parking lot to be sure a disturbance between two parties in the courtroom did not escalate further after they left the courthouse.
- March 26 – A Waupaca man on Silver Lake Drive reported a hit-and-run. The call was translated from Spanish to English.
- March 26 – Thedacare in Waupaca reported a juvenile was accidentally shot by another juvenile with a pellet gun. The juvenile on the receiving end had a puncture wound in his left arm.
- March 26 – A Tigerton woman on Ledge Street reported a residence where nobody lived but now there

- March 26 – A Waupaca woman on William Drive reported hearing someone in the house and she locked herself in the bathroom and called 911.
- March 26 – A New London woman on County Trunk T reported a suspicious silver Ford F150 parked in front of her residence.
- March 27 – A New London woman on County Trunk WW reported a woman was screaming at her at Schueller's bar and grill and then tailgated her to New London while flipping off the caller.
- March 27 – Haufschildt's Brew Haus in Weyauwega reported a man was causing a disturbance.
- March 28 – The Wisconsin Veterans Home in King reported they captured a floating dock and they tied it up to their dock for the owner to retrieve it.
- March 28 – A Fremont woman on Hidden Pine Road reported the neighbor put up a new shed and many people were coming and going out of it and a strange smell was coming from the shed.
- March 28 – A Waupaca man on Main Street reported his sister came over while he was moving and she hit his female friend, leaving her with a large lump on her head.
- March 29 – A Waupaca woman on Parfreyville Road reported her father's firearm was stolen.
- March 29 – A Waupaca woman on King Road reported her neighbor's were shooting firearms and she heard the sound of breaking glass.
- March 29 – A Waupaca man on Sunnyview Lane reported a female was being disorderly on his property and he wanted her removed.
- March 29 – Sandbur

- March 29 – Corners reported a theft valued at \$49. The male driver of a gold Ford Ranger took off westbound toward Iola.
- March 30 – An Ogdensburg woman on Swamp Road reported "female came after male with a hammer after dog peed in the house."
- March 30 – A Waupaca woman on Covered Bridge Road requested a welfare check on a person. A package was left outside the door and the deadbolt was missing. There was also a foul odor coming from the apartment.
- March 30 – A Waupaca woman on County Trunk E reported a male in a silver Buick with South Dakota plates pulled a pistol on her.
- March 30 – Rawhide Youth Services reported two juvenile runaways.
- March 31 – An anonymous caller reported an underage drinking party and people were smoking marijuana.
- March 31 – Chain One Stop reported a suspicious man loitering around outside the store.
- March 31 – A Weyauwega woman on High Street reported a man was kicked out of a bar three times and then threw a rock through the front window.
- There was a slight increase in deer-auto collisions during this period. Fifteen controlled burns were called in. ThedaCare reported a Weyauwega woman was bitten by her own barn cat and in another call a woman was bitten by a neighbor's dog. A Waupaca man requested an officer dispatch a raccoon injured by a vehicle. An anonymous caller reported some skinny horses that were not being fed. ThedaCare in Shawano reported a woman was bitten by her own dog.



The Little Wolf High School art team returned home for the third time with a state title. Shown, from left, are FRONT: Grace Pingel, Mya Stephens, Alexa Korotka, Mollie Riske, Addie Bortle, Emilia Sitter, Piper O'Brien; BACK: Hannah Meyer, Beau Otto, Bailey Ort, Jack O'Brien, J Forseth, Olivia Ogle, Ricky Pingel and Kale Fenske.

Submitted Photo

ART TEAM

FROM PAGE 7

Little Wolf High School won the UW-Stevens Point regional overall and quiz bowl competition, qualify-

ing them for the state overall title, beating other local teams like New London and Hortonville.

After finishing in first place in quiz bowl and

second place in critical thinking, Little Wolf High School secured the victory, beating second place Oak Creek and third place Wauwatown.

Construction at St. Peter

School expansion breaks ground

BY JAMES CARD
STAFF REPORTER

WEYAUWEGA – Ground was officially broken for the expansion project underway at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church.

One side the church's school is barren ground surrounded by a construction-site fence. The new building addition will be another three classrooms for their elementary and middle school grades. There will also be five more classrooms for their new early learning center which will accommodate children from infant to four-year olds. The new addition will have a warming kitchen and a lobby entrance.

Planning for the expansion began in January 2021 and it developed from there.

To celebrate this project milestone, the congregation gathered outside after Easter service to say a few prayers, sing a couple hymns and formally dig up some dirt with some ceremonial gold-painted shovels.

"This is a great reminder that the foundation we build on spiritually is Christ. Even more solid than the excellent



Breaking ground for the school expansion (from left) are Pastor Aaron Kristopeit, congregational president Richard Rupno, Principal Jeff Miller, staff minister Benjamin Ristow, and director of the early learning center Lindsay Voeltner.

James Card Photo

work Faulk's [Brothers] is doing here compacting this soil, Christ is a rock-solid unmoving foundation for all of our ministry—whatever form it takes over the years in the various facilities that God allows us to build," said Rev. Aaron Kristopeit as he then led the group in the hymn, "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" while playing an acoustic guitar.

The ceremonial ground-breaking included Kristopeit, Principal Jeff Miller, staff minister Benjamin Ristow, director of the early learning center Lindsay Voeltner and congregational President

Richard Rupno. Catalyst Construction is the general contractor. Faulk's Brothers is currently prepping the site with an excavator.

The goal is to have the three school classrooms open by September for the start of the school year. The early learning center should be finished right after in October.

Behind the school, there are big dirt piles and the playground equipment is jumbled up. That will be replaced after construction and two new playgrounds will be added. Each age group gets their own playground.



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