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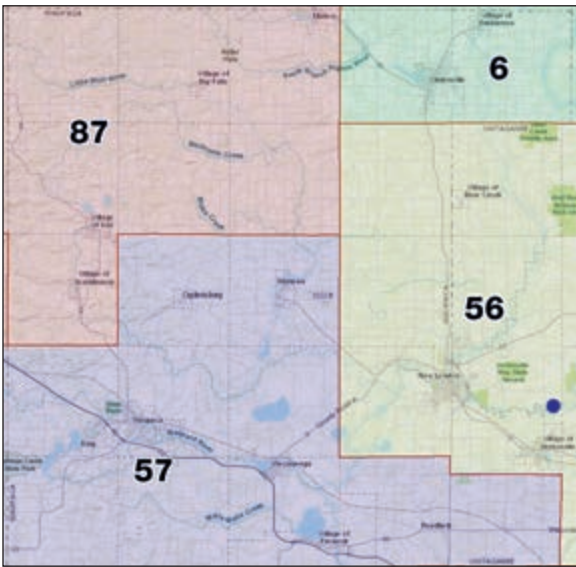
WAUPACA County Post

Published by MMC LLC, a weekly newspaper serving Waupaca County since 1883

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2024 | \$1.50 | Volume 182 | Issue 19

www.waupacanow.com

LOCAL



Waupaca County will have four separate Assembly districts in the 2024 election.

Source: Wisconsin State Legislature

Redistricting in Waupaca County

BY ROBERT CLOUD
SENIOR EDITOR

WAUPACA – Following Wisconsin's recently enacted redistricting law, Waupaca County is now divided among four separate Assembly districts.

As a result, state Rep. Kevin Petersen, R-Waupaca, will no longer represent Assembly District 40.

For Petersen to continue representing AD-40 in the state Assembly, he would need to move to Baraboo.

To represent Waupaca, he will need to run for the AD-57 Assembly seat.

During the 2022 election, all of Waupaca County was in AD-40 except for the village of Embarrass and the town of Matteson, which jut out from the county's upper northeast corner.

In 2024, the city of Waupaca will be in AD-57, which is currently

Redistricting
CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

Portage County recount doesn't change results

BY ROBERT CLOUD
SENIOR EDITOR

STEVENS POINT – A recount of three Portage County Board supervisor elections resulted in no changes to the outcomes.

The Board of Canvassers met for nearly four hours to hand count more than 1,500 ballots from the April 2 election.

Districts 12, 16 and 19 ballots were recounted and the original results were confirmed.

Steve Fritz remains the winner in District 16, Amberle Schwartz won District 19, Michael Splinter won District 12, according to information from the

Board of Canvassers.

The original tally showed Fritz beating John Bertelson 206-203, Schwartz defeating Scott Soik 407-400, and Splinter defeating Karin Sieg 422-409.

After the recount, the tally was Fritz 206 to Bertelson 202, Schwartz 404 to Soik 400, and Splinter 421 to Sieg 408.

"This recount is a testament to the dedication of our local municipal clerks and poll workers throughout Portage County," said Portage County Clerk Maria Davis. "This recount also affirms the accuracy and efficiency of the electronic equipment used within Portage County."



Clintonville Rec Center

File Photo

Rec Center rates hiked by 15%

BY BERT LEHMAN
STAFF REPORTER

CLINTONVILLE – The cost of a membership at the Clintonville Rec Center will increase by 15%.

Special programs offered by the Rec Center will also increase by 15% or to a comparable rate to other rec centers based on research done by the Clintonville School District.

The Clintonville School Board agreed to the rate increases at its April 8 meeting.

During the discussion, Rec Center director Ashley Flanagan recommended a rate increase of around 10%.

Board member Jason Moder asked when the rates were last adjusted.

Rec Center
CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

Waupaca Comets get creative

Teams advance to global finals

BY JAMES CARD
STAFF REPORTER

WAUPACA – Each year small groups of Waupaca students have some very unusual problems to solve.

This year's challenges ranged from inventing a pinball machine, reimagining fine art as performance art, and creating an improvisational skit with costumes to name a few.

It's the core of Destination Imagination: invent some challenges and let the students figure it out through creative thinking, teamwork and innovation. The after-school educational program has challenges that range from technology, science, fine arts, improv theater, structural design and service learning.

This year Waupaca had seven teams from the Chain Exploration Center, the Waupaca Learning Center and the Waupaca Middle School. A total of 41 students participated.

All teams went to the Feb. 24 sectional tournament in Algoma and four teams advanced to the April 6 state tournament at UW-Green Bay. From there, two teams qualified for the Global Finals to be held in Kansas City.

In past years, more than 8,000 students from over 15 countries have participated at the Global Finals.

"It's a big accomplishment to qualify for the tournament because it's a pretty big deal. The biggest thing was the community support that the kids got," said Erin Eller who has coached DI teams for 11 years. "It's all team-led. The coach is not allowed to help with any of the solutions. They have to come up with it all on their own. You're guiding the process for them. It's a lot of teamwork and redirection."

"It's the complete opposite of school. There are not black and white answers for things. You have to think outside of the box and get creative," she said.

The Waupaca Learning Center team, The Cave Cats, earned second place at sectionals, advanced to state, came in third and



The Waupaca Middle School team Kok-A-Do-Doodles scored big at sectionals and state to qualify for the Destination Imagination Global Finals. Shown from left are Katia Peterson, Ben Behrendt, Avery Moore, Rory Wilson, Tenley Moore and Kendal Koeppler.

Submitted photo

qualified for the Global Finals for the fine arts challenge. The team was managed by Sarah Shock is composed of Lincoln Colbert, Maxwell Johnson, Colby Koeppler, Harper McKeen, Juniper Strobusch and Simon Wilson.

The Waupaca Middle School team, Kok-A-Do-Doodles, took first place at sectionals, picked up second at state and qualified for the Global Finals in the service learning challenge. They baked pumpkin bars that they donated to the community bread basket to put into the Thanksgiving meals. They also baked dog treats to be sold at Aquamos Coffee Collaborative to raise money for the Humane Society.

The team was managed by Erin Eller whose roster included Benjamin Behrendt, Kendal Koeppler, Avery Moore, Tenley Moore, Katia Peterson and Rory Wilson.

At each tournament, teams present their challenge solution to a panel of appraisers during an

eight-minute presentation. The students had months to prepare their solutions but then they are thrown a curveball: they are given an Instant Challenge and are given a problem to solve with zero preparation and a limited amount of time. This think-on-you-feet wrangling contributes to their overall score.

Other teams

The Flaming Hot Takis (CEC) was managed by Lucy Cummings and they participated in the early learning Challenge with eight team members: Jalen Akinleye, Liam Cummings, Soren Everson, Oliver Lyons, Harper Mans, Zaki Schaller, Harrison Zoeller and Lauralei Zoeller. There is no competition at this age level and it's more for the experience. They participated in the sectional tournament.

The Flaming Hot Cheetos (CEC) was managed by Lucy Cummings and they participated in the fine arts challenge with five team members: Penelope

Cummings, Trevor Forseth, Aria Martin, Serenity Rhode, Sylvie Sensenbrenner. This team took sixth place at sectionals.

The Awkward Silence (WMS) was managed by Erin Eller and they participated in the fine arts challenge with four team members: Sophia Giron, Layne Hedlund, Shubhreet Kaur and Cullen Rowe. They took fourth at sectionals.

Waupaca Warriors (WMS) was managed by Lindsay Ebben and they participated in the fine arts challenge with six team members: Annaleigh Barden, Madalynn Barden, Julia Duda, Amelia Ebben, Libby Johnson and Tessa Nelson. They took third at sectionals which allowed them to advance to state.

Time Travelers (WMS) was managed by Nicole Hahn and they participated in the scientific challenge with six team members: Jackson Gabbert, Ella Hahn, Jacob Hahn, Zeke Hahn, Harlie Meier and Nora Niemuth. This team took second at sectionals and advanced to state.

Common council urged to make West River Drive safer

BY ELISE FULMER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

STEVENS POINT – Area residents voiced their concerns regarding traffic on West River Drive at the April 15 Stevens Point Common Council meeting.

Herb Wiesel, a 63-year-old resident of West River Drive, was killed in a hit-and-run crash in early March.

The driver, Kenneth Butler of Wisconsin Rapids, faces felony charges of hit and run causing death and homicide by negligent operation of a vehicle.

Several of his family members, neighbors and friends spoke on his behalf for change.

Community members spoke for nearly 45 minutes urging the city to do something about safety.

They talked about how unsafe the road has become. Several shared accounts of drivers traveling more than 40 mph in a 25 mph zone.

The lane markings on the road are fading and it has no paved walkway for pedestrians.

A friend of Wiesel pointed

out that West River Road is one of five roads that run north to south that connects the city. It is the only one without a paved urban walkway.

Another Community member pointed out the high number of car accidents in Stevens Point. This includes one that happened on the Stevens Point Campus. The car was going 40 mph in a 25. The member concluded by saying Stevens Point has a speed problem.

The neighbors and friends of Wiesel urge for a stronger police presence on W River

Road. This would include speed monitoring and issuing more tickets. Community members also proposed adding speed bumps to deter speeding traffic.

Herb Wiesel enjoyed his walks along West River Road and bird watching. Many wore pins at the meeting in his memory. Several of his neighbors and loved ones mourn his death and are demanding change.

Wiesel's nephew said he doesn't want this to happen to any other community member.

REDISTRICTING

FROM PAGE 1

represented by Rep. Lee Snodgrass, D-Appleton.

Snodgrass no longer resides in the new AD-57, so she will not be running against Petersen in the 2024 election.

Waupaca is not the only area in the county to be moved into a different Assembly district for the next election.

Weyauwega, Fremont, Manawa and Ogdensburg also became part of AD-57.

The city of New London is now in AD-56, which is currently represented by Rep. David Murphy, R-Greenville.

The city of Clintonville was moved from AD-40 to AD-6, which is represented by Rep. Peter Schmidt, R-Bonduel.

Iola, Scandinavia and Marion are now in AD-87, which is currently represented by Rep. James Edming, R-Glen Flora. His residence is no longer within the district's boundaries.

Rep. Patrick Snyder, R-Schoefield, currently represents AD-85. His home is now in AD-87.

Petersen did not respond immediately to questions regarding his plans for 2024.

Senate districts

In 2022, all of Waupaca County, with the exception of Matteson and Embarrass, was in Wisconsin State Senate District 14.

Sen. Joan Ballweg, R-Markesan, represented SD-14.

Now, Waupaca County has portions of three Senate districts.

The municipalities of Waupaca, Weyauwega, Fremont, Manawa, New London and Ogdensburg are in Senate District 19.

Sen. Rachael Cabral-Guevara, R-Appleton, lives in and represents SD-19. She recently mailed a card to Waupaca County voters introducing herself.

Iola, Scandinavia, Big Falls and Marion are now in SD-29, which is represented by Sen. Cory Tomczyk, R-Mosinee.

Clintonville, Matteson and Embarrass have been moved into SD-2, which has been represented by Sen. Robert Cowles, R-Green Bay, who has announced he will not seek re-election after his residence was drawn out of the district.

The deadline for candidates to file for state legislative offices is June 3.

REC CENTER

FROM PAGE 1

Flanagan said the last rate increase was around 2009.

Board member Kris Strauman asked if the increase Flanagan recommended was enough.

Flanagan said the increase could be higher, but ultimately the amount of the increase would depend on how much revenue the district wants from the Rec Center.

"Are we trying to make more money and lose a lot of members who can't pay those rates, or are we trying to keep bringing in more people at a more reasonable rate that everybody can afford?" Flanagan asked.

Even though the rates have not been increased in about 15 years, Board President Ben Huber recommended gradual increases in the rates, and not

implementing a huge rate increase at one time.

"But it has to be revisited on an annual basis," Huber said.

Since the rates have not been increased for many years, Moder said the council also needs to consider how the costs to maintain the Rec Center have increased during that time.

"I'd be willing to bet it (maintenance costs) went up 400% in the last 15 years," Moder said.

He added, "It (Rec Center) hasn't been able to be redone and reupgraded because there's no money there to redo it or upgrade it. So, there's a million different ways to look at this, and every way I look at it, that 10% (recommended increase in rates) ain't near enough."

Huber said he agreed that a 10% increase may

not be enough, but recommended a more gradual increase each year.

"But 10% is at least a reasonable number," Huber said. "I think your users expect prices to go up along with everything else, but they don't want it to double all in one year."

Board member Glen Drew Lundt asked if the Rec Center membership has increased since the expansion of the Rec Center.

Flanagan said she thinks that memberships have been increasing since before the expansion.

Huber once again said that a 10% increase would not be unreasonable, adding that a 15% increase in rates also wouldn't be unreasonable.

"I don't think that 15 years without it being raised, I don't think 15% should be out of the question," Moder said.

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

When Autumn Comes

Dear Reader,

There is an indescribable sadness in dying. Dying, while a solitary act, invites the many connections and networks of love a person has affected prior, to be a part of this final physical farewell.

Every being dies. All living things animated by the spark of life eventually will be extinguished. Those who die through some earthly tragedy or by the direct or indirect hand of others, elude the myriad of issues facing death. But for most, there is no art in dying. Most don't die gracefully or well, because the process is polluted by unceasing grasping for those last wisps of earthly life. One would think the Creator of life would have provided a better way.

Life has an unknowable expiration date, an autumn. We look back at the memories that nurtured us through the years. We summon all the childhood ones when we floated in clouds of love with our parents, grandmas and grandpas, and brothers and sisters. Then come the later memories after school was left behind, when we lived through joyful and sorrowful adventures with dear friends. Perhaps we had our own little ones; then came the day when they had their own progeny; and so on.



The question arises: Why are we here? If we are to love one another, why do so many find themselves without love? If we are here to lock arms and embrace as brothers and sisters, why do so many try to dominate their fellows? If we can't responsibly share and care for our brethren, will there be another Ark followed

by a flood and renewal for the venerable ones?

Is there perhaps, as most Christians believe, a Hereafter when the Creator appears in tangible form again wielding an irresistible force of attraction that embraces the good souls with Him? At the same moment, does He release the unworthy into the abyss of oblivion?

Ruefully, autumn comes around for us all, and we weep for what once was but now is lost beyond recall. At the moment of departure, there's a profound sorrow attached to those who lived with a noble purpose; and possibly a momentary sigh of relief when the evil ones are gone.

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

Waupaca airport gets fed grant

WAUPACA – Several rural Wisconsin airports will receive more than \$2.6 million in federal infrastructure funding.

Among the facilities receiving grants will be Waupaca Municipal Airport. It will be awarded \$55,730 to construct a new nine-bay T-hangar.

The funding for the projects comes from the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Improvement Grants (AIG).

U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., announced that the grants will help make critical upgrades to improve safety and increase revenue.

"Wisconsin airports help travelers get where they need to go while boosting tourism, growing the local economy, and creating jobs throughout the state," said Baldwin. "This funding will allow airports in our rural communities to make much-needed infrastructure improvements, improving safety, increasing efficiency, and ensuring our airports can welcome new passengers for years to come."

Chippewa Valley Regional Airport will receive \$2.02 million to construct a new 4,993 square foot two-bay south gen-

eral aviation apron hanger for aircraft storage, maintenance, or service to assist the airport to be as self-sustaining as possible by generating revenue.

West Bend Municipal Airport will receive \$12,554 to install Runway 13 end identifier light and Runway 31 precision approach path indicators and end identifier lights.

Palmyra Municipal Airport is in line for \$448,000 to construct a new six-bay T-hangar.

Manitowish Waters Airport will get \$110,471 to construct a new six-bay T-hangar with two box hangers.

Bridge club meets at Holly Center

WAUPACA – The next game of the Waupaca Duplicate Bridge Club is scheduled for 9 a.m. Friday, April 26, at the Holly Center, 321 S. Main St., Waupaca.

All bridge players are welcome. In bridge action on April 12, first place

went to Cathy and Jay Quella of Waupaca. Coming in second were Patricia Hoehn and Roger Collins of Waupaca. Mary and Dan Schommer of Waupaca came in third place. For more information, call 715-802-3902.

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Waupaca NEWS



Gov. Tony Evers signed a bill into law that will allow foundries to transport more pig iron to their facilities using fewer truckloads. Photo courtesy of Greg Anderson

New Wisconsin law cuts trucking emissions for Waupaca Foundry

WAUPACA – Gov. Tony Evers signed a bill into law that will allow Waupaca Foundry and other state foundries to transport more raw pig iron to their facilities using fewer truckloads.

The law, 2023 Wisconsin Act 156, changes weight limits and length limits on vehicles transporting metallic or nonmetallic scrap.

According to Waupaca Foundry General Counsel Erik Ellingson, the law eliminates confusion over what a recyclable metal material is.

Originating from iron ore, pig iron is a raw material used in the iron casting process.

Prior to this law being passed, there were restrictions on the amount that could be transported on Wisconsin roads.

“The distinction resulted in a negative impact on the environment, with extra, wasteful truck loads to accomplish the same hauling

task,” Ellingson said. “The new act will reduce the number of trucks needed to haul, which will, in turn, reduce emissions.”

Pig iron is used in Waupaca Foundry iron castings and is purchased overseas and shipped north from the port of New Orleans to a holding site in LaCrosse.

Waupaca Foundry estimates that this law will reduce roughly 300 truckloads and offset rising logistics costs to transport the pig iron from LaCrosse to its four Wisconsin foundries.

According to the National Association of Manufacturers, Wisconsin factories are responsible for 18.95% of the total economic output in the state, employing 16.76% of the workforce. Total output from manufacturing was \$66.32 billion in 2021 and an average of 486,000 people were employed in manufacturing.

“Manufacturing is es-

sential to Wisconsin’s economy,” said Rob Johnson, executive vice president of administration, CFO, and treasurer for Waupaca Foundry. “This legislation eliminates barriers for Waupaca Foundry and other manufacturers operating in the state.”

“I think the public sometimes thinks that business and government are at constant odds with each other,” Ellingson said. “The passage of this new law is a prime example of why that is not true.”

The bill was co-authored by Rep. Kevin Petersen, R-Waupaca, and Sen. Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan).

“Waupaca Foundry does great work for our community, and it’s always a great day when we can cut bureaucratic red tape for businesses in Wisconsin,” said Petersen.

The bill was signed into law on Thursday, March 21.

Waupaca County recommends slowing down

COUNTY – Waupaca County Highway Commissioner Casey Beyersdorf urges people to drive carefully in highway work zones.

“Our highway crews work very hard for our communities, often within feet of traffic,” Beyersdorf said. “Just like you, they want to make it home at night to their families. Please focus on the road ahead and slow down – especially in work zones.”

According to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), over the past five years there have been more than 10,600 crashes in Wisconsin work zones causing 64 deaths and more than 3,800 injuries.

In Wisconsin, work zones can vary in all shapes and sizes. They could include major highway construction and rehabilitation, maintenance, emergency response, utility work, municipal projects and more – any time in which there are flashing lights, signs, barrels or workers on the road.

This year’s National Work Zone Awareness Week takes place April 15-19. This year’s theme is “Work Zones are temporary. Actions behind the wheel can last forever.”

Work Zone Awareness Week is sponsored by federal, state and local transportation officials to draw attention to the safety needs of road workers throughout the construction season.

Wednesday, April 17 is “Go Orange Day” in which people are asked to wear something orange in support of highway safety. Show your support on social media by posting your pictures and use the hashtag #OrangeForSafety, but always refrain from using electronics while driving.

“We ask everyone on the road to eliminate distractions and be mindful of their speed,” Beyersdorf said. “Even in areas with reduced speed limits, things can happen in an instant. Always expect the unexpected.”

While typical construction work zones are prevalent throughout the county and state, there are also significant numbers of maintenance operations that may be short-term or moving operations.

Drivers are reminded of the state’s Move Over Law, which

requires drivers to shift lanes or slow down to provide a safety buffer for a law enforcement vehicle, ambulance, fire truck, tow truck, utility vehicle, or highway maintenance vehicle that is stopped on the side of a road with its warning lights flashing.

In addition, emergency or work zone areas are protected by laws that aim to keep workers safe. Hand-held cell phone use is illegal and fines double in construction zones as well as areas surrounding emergency response vehicles with flashing lights.

Before traveling, drivers are encouraged to check 511 Wisconsin – 511wi.gov and follow @511WI on X/Twitter – or use the 511 Wisconsin app for access to road conditions, live traffic cameras and more.

Safety tips

- Eliminate distractions. Eating, drinking, talking on the phone, or simply changing the radio station can divert your focus to the road ahead.
- Expect the unexpected. Speed limits may be reduced, traffic lanes may be changed, and people and vehicles may

be working on or near the road.

- Slow down. A car traveling 60 mph travels 88 feet per second, and the faster you go the longer it takes to stop.

- Give yourself room. Rear-end collisions are the most common work zone crashes, so don’t tailgate.

- Allow about three seconds of braking distance. Look for signs. Orange, diamond-shaped signs usually give you ample warning of lane closings, construction areas, and flaggers and other workers ahead.

- Be patient. If you don’t see workers, that doesn’t mean they’re not there. Observe the signs until you see one that says you’ve left the work zone.

- Plan ahead. Leave early or map out an alternate route. Find the latest road conditions and work zone news at 511 Wisconsin.

- Follow the law. Move over, if possible, or slow down when you see flashing lights.

- Consider turning off the phone until you reach your destination.

- If you have to make a call, find a secure place to pull over and stop, such as a wayside or a gas station.

Crime-ridden Waupaca?

Not so fast says chief

BY JAMES CARD
STAFF REPORTER

WAUPACA – According to a website that aggregates data, Waupaca is the worst place to live in Wisconsin in 2024.

The source for this information is the website RoadSnacks (www.road-snacks.net). This was recently circulated on Facebook and social media and was also posted and discussed on the r/Wisconsin reddit page.

The mission statement of Roadsnacks is: “We aim to deliver bite-sized pieces of infotainment about where you live. We use data, analytics, and a sense of humor to determine quality of life for places across the nation.”

This story got more traffic when Ken Hayes of B105, a morning show host on a country radio station out of Duluth, posted “Charming small town named worst place to live in Wisconsin” on the station’s website. Waupaca was considered the worst place to live in Wisconsin, followed by Milwaukee, Beloit, Wisconsin Rapids and Antigo in fifth place.

“The crime is the 15th highest per capita in the state as well. Residents had a 1 in 33 chance of being robbed two years ago. Which means you can’t leave your cheese curds in the car without locking the door up here. Waupaca is out in the middle of nowhere on Route 10, just north of Little Hope. Insert joke here,” wrote Nick Johnson, author of the report and co-owner of Road-

Snacks with Chris Kolmar.

Waupaca Police Chief Brian Hoelzel addressed the circulating article during the April 3 city council meeting. “We haven’t had a robbery in our community in three years so I’m not sure where they are getting those statistics. Or a one in 55 chance of becoming a property crime victim. Last year our stat that we shared in our annual report, assaults were down 11.76% , shoplifting was down 39.53% , we did have an increase of thefts from buildings that went from 13 to 23 and that was up 76% . All other thefts in the city were down 44.44% ,” said Hoelzel.

RoadSnacks claim that their data is backed by what they call “Saturday Night Science” and they state, “We are trying to achieve a level of accuracy you’d have with friends arguing at a bar.” They state they follow the Four Ts: Transparent methodology. Trusted sources. Tested with data and timely.

However, on the “Worst Places to Live in Wisconsin” webpage, it says that the data was based on “Friday Night Science,” with no explanation about the differences between the sciences of Friday and Saturday nights.

On the Work With Us section of their website, Johnson and Kolmar said they are the getting-people-to-click game: “We have relationships with several leading companies who want to make dramatic increases to the traffic on their site and on their blog. We can create content and promote it for you, bringing in tens of thousands of new

impressions to your campaigns. We also make stories go viral. If you’re trying to find companies that make videos or content go viral, that’s us. So contact us if you want a wide audience for your content in a short amount of time.”

Johnson has parlayed his statistical hustle onto his Youtube channel where he visits superlative places using the words: best, worst, dumbest, whitest, gayest and most [fill in the blank]. Ironically, in one video he proclaims Milwaukee is the best city in the Midwest despite coming in at second place on his worst places to live in Wisconsin list.

In another video he claims Wisconsin is the happiest state in America.

“I did some fact checking in regards to the numbers they were using; I have no idea where those numbers have come from. Greg [Grohman] our grant writer, expressed that possibly there might be some artificial intelligence that’s maybe grabbing some reports. We also went online and used the same website for the most dangerous cities to live in Wisconsin for 2024 and we were not on that list. Those were bigger municipalities. I do have the stats if anybody would like to look at them after the council meeting. I want to reassure everybody in the community that this is a very safe place to live and a great community to work for. I’m proud to say I work for the city,” said Hoelzel.

Mayor Brian Smith thanked Hoelzel for the update and deadpanned, “I can’t believe the internet is spewing false information. Hard to believe.”

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Stevens Point NEWS



Members of the Stevens Point Civil Air Patrol sent local solar eclipse data to NASA. Submitted Photo

Cadets send eclipse data to NASA

STEVENS POINT – Solar Eclipse data collected locally is on the way to NASA to help improve weather models and forecasting.

The data will also provide engineers with information they need to design radio communication systems that will be more resilient against the effects of solar storms.

Twelve members of the Stevens Point Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol – including nine cadets ages 12-18 participated with MORE THAN 40,000 CAP members and classroom students around the nation in Civil Air Patrol's Solar Eclipse Mission.

During the 6.5 hours of the eclipse the squadron collected data about the effects of the solar eclipse on air temperature, cloud cover/type, wind speed/direction and precipitation.

They also tracked the impact of solar eclipses on VHF radio operations.

The Stevens Point Composite Squadron's data will help increase knowledge of the Sun, the ionosphere and Earth's atmosphere, by adding to the scientific data

collected at more than 630 CAP data collection sites stretching across seven time zones, 50 states and two US territories.

Observations made during past eclipses have been used to discover elements, helped understand space weather, and provided the evidence proving Einstein's Theory of Relativity.

Remarking on the experience, Cadet Staff Sgt. Micah Ritter, age 13, said, "It was a very successful day of data collecting for NASA. It was a cool opportunity and I was happy to be part of it."

Ritter is the unit's Cadet STEM Education NCO. He hopes his fellow cadets will take this opportunity to study STEM careers and see what opportunities are available to them in aerospace and meteorology.

Cadet 2nd Lt. Lily Schaefer, 14, the squadron's cadet emergency services officer and a qualified ground team member and radio operator, hopes this introduction to emergency services missions will help grow the unit's ground team.

"This mission took what we have learned in the class-

rooms and put it into our hands, and we got to work with NASA and help with a bigger mission," Schaefer said.

Schaefer said some cadets were hesitant at first to speak on the radios, something she's trained for previously.

"They did it and did great, so I hope they come back and do more with that. I hope they see the value and want to put in the work now to go further," she said.

While the squadron had a relatively cloudy day, it didn't deter them from enjoying the eclipse. The clouds parted in time to get a great view of the area's 81.9% coverage. The darkness made the runway lights come on and the birds quiet even though there was still plenty of light compared to the path of totality.

"It was fun collecting and researching data for NASA that will be used for years," said Cadet Staff Sgt. Alex Albright, 14.

The Squadron's next mission will be as precautionary ground support for incoming aircraft to EAA's Airventure in July.

Worzella receives Bliss Award

BY OLIVIA COFFIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

STEVENS POINT – Kari Worzella received the Stevens Point Area Public School District's Mandana Bliss Award at the school board's April meeting.

Worzella is a first-grade teacher at Kennedy Elementary School.

She was nominated for the award by Sophia Rosas, a fourth-grade Kennedy student.

"Mrs. Worzella is a great teacher who is always very happy and who is kind all of the time," said Rosas. "She cares so much about us and our learning - she makes sure we can reach our dreams."

Each month students have the opportunity to recognize a staff member who has profoundly impacted their educational experience.

"One time we got to make glow-in-the-dark slime and it was cool." Rosas continued.

The award is given in the name of Mandana Bliss, the first teacher in the Stevens Point Area Public School District.

Renaissance Learning donated solar eclipse glasses to schools around Stevens Point for students to watch the eclipse.

"We want to say thank you to Renaissance Learning for this thoughtful donation, our students loved it." Superintendent Cory Hirsbrunner said.

With summer just around the corner Stevens Point Area School District is open for summer school enrollment.

"So far we have 1,876 stu-



Kari Worzella, Kennedy Elementary School teacher, receives the Mandana Bliss Award, recognition for her dedication to students and education. Worzella is shown with Sophia Rosas, the fourth-grade student who nominated her.

Photo Stevens Point Area Public School District

dents enrolled," said Hirsbrunner.

The school offers a number of programs and class options,

"We encourage you to enroll in one of our many options." Hirsbrunner said.

There were a few Legislative updates during the meeting,

Board member Gee Pope talked about the bills Gov. Tony Evers signed into law.

"The bills will change some things for the school, however we don't know what they will be yet. We will let you know when we know," Pope said.

A teacher and nurse contract renewal was reviewed, and the motion to approve the 2024-25 CESA 5 Contract for services.

Each year the district and CESA 5 meet to develop a preliminary contract for the

following year and CESA 5 services. It is considered preliminary because both the district and CESA 5 are dependent on the state budget process and outcome, which typically isn't completed until late spring/early summer.

This year, 508 teacher contract renewals are coming before the school board, along with four nurse contracts.

Director of Elementary Education and Assistant Superintendent Christopher Nyman mentioned the purchasing of new ELA materials.

"It will come with a heavy price tag," Nyman said, "However, we are hoping to get reimbursed, hopefully 50% reimbursement."

The Stevens Point School Board meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of the month at Bliss Educational Services, 1900 Polk St.

Church offers grants to nonprofits

PLOVER – The St. Bronislava Church social concerns outreach fund offers grants to local nonprofit organizations.

The organizations that apply for the grant must serve people who live in Portage County and have a 501c status.

The fund was established in 1995 to address human needs locally and nationally.

As these needs continue to put demands on local service organizations, St.

Bronislava continues to extend a helping hand to those nonprofit organizations working to promote and protect human dignity.

Monies will be limited to \$400 or less and will be distributed by July 1, 2024.

In order to receive funding, nonprofit groups must complete the official grant application form and provide a short narrative of the purpose of the grant and the population to be served.

In order for any grant to

be considered, it must be submitted on the required application form.

To obtain a grant form, download it at the parish website www.stbrons.com

To receive the grant form in the mail, call 715-344-4326.

Mail the completed form to Attn: Social Concerns Committee, St. Bronislava Parish, P.O. Box 158, Plover, WI 54467-0158

All grant applications must be postmarked by May 14, 2024.

Job fair slated for May 1

STEVENS POINT – The Boys and Girls Club of Portage County will hold its third annual YouthForce Job Fair from 3-5 p.m. Wednesday, May 1.

The free event will be held at the Berard Center, 941 Michigan Ave., Stevens Point.

The job fair offers Portage County teens an opportunity to explore potential career paths, network with local employers, and find employment opportunities for the summer.

Activities, food and beverages, and a virtual reality station to experience 26 different careers through "Transfr VR" virtual reality headsets will also be offered.

The YouthForce Job Fair has garnered participation

from more 40 employers and organizations that offer a diverse array of job and career prospects.

Current employers registered include SentryWorld, Festival Foods, Fleet Farm, Gamber-Johnson, McDonald's, Rockman's Catering, local police and fire departments and more.

The YouthForce programming is offered to all age groups served by the Boys and Girls Club.

From career exploration activities for younger children to the Junior Staff program providing employment opportunities for teens aged 14 and above, YouthForce is encourages the talents and aspirations of the community's youth.

High school students can benefit from a range of services including mentoring, career coaching and job placement assistance.

YouthForce also offers free open office hours for all Portage County teens seeking guidance searching and applying for jobs, finding volunteer opportunities and scholarship applications.

For the most up-to-date information, visit www.bgclubpc.org/workforce-development.

For more information, visit www.bgclubpc.org or contact Jeremy Higgins, director of workforce development at jeremy.higgins@bgclubpc.org or 715-883-1082.



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City launches preservation plan

STEVENS POINT – The city of Stevens Point has initiated efforts to create a community preservation plan.

Previous efforts to document and conserve Stevens Point's historic and cultural character include two National Historic Districts and individual land-

mark properties.

A community preservation plan will outline future preservation policies.

"The most tangible evidence of a community's development and sense of place is its architectural history and development," said Tim Siebert, chair

of the Stevens Point Historic Preservation and Design Review Commission.

The city seeks public input in order to create a unified vision for preservation.

"Preserving our community history is something that needs buy-in from everyone," according to Mayor Mike Wiza. "Doing so will help lay a roadmap to ensuring future generations will have access to the literal foundations this community was built upon."

Residents are encouraged to provide input on this plan through a public survey and four public workshops.

Workshops planned in May

- Overview of the community preservation plan, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 7, LEAD Center, Mid-State Technical College, 1001 Centerpoint Drive.
 - Overview of historic architectural guidelines, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, May 16, LEAD Center, Mid-State Technical College, 1001 Centerpoint Drive.
 - Walking tour of historic residential neighborhoods, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 21, Seramur Park, 1401 East Ave.
 - Walking tour of downtown, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 22, northeast corner of Water Street and Arlington Place.
- The city expects the plan to be finished by December 2024. To learn more about the initiative, visit stevenspoint.com/1441/Community-Preservation-Plan.

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More Stevens Point news on page 8

Clintonville NEWS

Ballfield to get new lights

Capital funds cover costs

BY BERT LEHMAN
STAFF REPORTER

CLINTONVILLE – Diamond 2 at Bucholtz Park will be getting new lights.

The Clintonville Common Council approved hiring Olson's Rural Electric Inc. of Clintonville for a total of \$24,950 for the removal of the existing equipment, labor and materials to install the provided lighting package at Bucholtz Park.

Costs will be covered from capital funds.

The lighting package will be from Wisconsin Lighting Lab, not to exceed \$50,160, according to a March 5 memo from Justin Mc Auly, director of Public Works.

The city received three bids for the installation of the lights, with the bid from Olson's Rural Electric the lowest bid. The city also received a bid from Krueger's Sign & Electric Inc. of Clintonville for \$25,486 and a bid from Elmstar Electric Corporation of Kaukauna for \$55,124.

In the memo to common council, Mc Auly stated, "The lighting on Diamond #2 is the original lighting for the field. The lighting hasn't worked since mid to end of 2023. This limits the number of games that can be played during the year and creates a safety concern for those playing on the field."

Bids

The matter was originally discussed by the council at its March 12 meeting.

Mc Auly recommended hiring Krueger's Sign & Electric for the project, with the cost not to exceed \$35,486, with \$10,000 of the total as an allowance for the electric utility.

Mc Auly told the council he received a quote in October 2023 from a local contractor for a budgetary number so the city could seek grants and foundation money for the ballpark lighting project.

"We were hoping to get enough money to do this lighting and not have to use capital money for it," Mc Auly said.

Since that time, Mc Auly said the city requested a

quote from another contractor, as well as an updated quote from the local contractor that submitted the cost estimate in October 2023.

Mc Auly said the original contractor the city contacted told him the cost would be the same. But between the time when the Clintonville Parks and Recreation and the Clintonville Finance committees met, the original contractor submitted a new quote.

The updated quote was around \$500 less than the quote submitted by Krueger's Sign and Electric, which the Parks & Recreation Committee recommended for approval.

Clintonville City Attorney Keith Steckbauer asked Mc Auly if the two contractors submitted sealed bids.

Mc Auly said the city doesn't need to request sealed bids if the cost of a project is under \$30,000.

Steckbauer said he thought the cost limit for requiring sealed bids was \$25,000.

After doing some research during the meeting, Steckbauer found that any project or purchase over \$25,000, the city must request sealed bids.

Due to this, no action was taken. To move forward with the project, the city would have to request sealed bids from contractors for the lighting project.

March 5 memo

At the March 12 council meeting, Mc Auly didn't mention names of the companies who provided the city with quotes, but the names of the companies were identified in a March 5 memo from Mc Auly to the council.

In the memo, Mc Auly said Olson's Rural Electric was the company that provided the city with the original "budgetary" number in October 2023, and later said that same number would be its quote for the project. When informed that the original number would be Olson's Rural Electric's quote, Mc Auly requested an updated copy be sent to the city with an updated date since most proposals have an expiration date of usu-

ally 30 days.

At its February meeting, the Parks and Recreation Committee recommended the council approve Krueger's Sign & Electric for the project because it was \$4,064 lower than Olson's Rural Electric, according to the memo.

"The next day I opened the envelope from Olson's Rural Electric and more than just the date was changed," Mc Auly said in the memo. "They changed the date and the total and now are \$536 lower than Krueger's Sign & Electric."

He added, "I would recommend that we stay with the Parks and Recreation Committee's recommendation since the cost difference isn't substantial and Krueger's Sign & Electric is a business within the city limits."

Project funding

To pay for the project, the council approved moving up to \$100,000 in funds in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) from 2025 to 2024, with the funds to be used to replace the lights on Diamond 2 at Bucholtz Park.

The funds scheduled in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to be used in 2025 were for the concession stand and bathroom at Bucholtz Park.

Moving the funds forward, Mc Auly said would put the facility update on hold.

He added that the youth league is looking at obtaining a license that would allow them to do fundraising, with funds raised being put towards the lighting project.

"Whatever we spend out of that, some of that will be replenished," Mc Auly said. "And I think it's something they want to do annually, is this fundraiser."

CPD receives drug analyzer grant

Grant through state DOJ

BY BERT LEHMAN
STAFF REPORTER

CLINTONVILLE – The Clintonville Common Council approved acceptance of a \$33,054 grant to purchase a Thermo Scientific TruNarc Analyzer.

The grant is through the Wisconsin Department of Justice for the Clintonville Police Department Approval approval came at the April 9 council meeting.

Clintonville Police Chief Craig Freitag said the analyzer is portable, so it can be taken out in the field by officers.

The scanner will allow drugs to be identified without having to take the

drugs out of the packaging they are in, Freitag said.

"We don't know what we're dealing with half the time," Freitag said.

Freitag said some of the meth that the department's officers have come upon has included fentanyl, which is dangerous to a person exposed to it.

"Officers have actually overdosed because they have been exposed to fentanyl," Freitag said. "So, this machine is going to be great. Without this grant, we probably wouldn't be getting it."

Ald. Darrell Hansen asked if the department's K-9 officer would have the analyzer with him.

Freitag said it will be in the evidence room.

"With this, we won't

have to open the packaging," Freitag said.

He added that all the officers in the department will need to be trained on how to use the analyzer.

Freitag memo

According to an April 1 memo from Freitag to the Clintonville Finance Committee and the Common Council, Sgt. Andrew Kizewski submitted the grant application. The grant amount of \$33,054 will cover 100% of the cost of the analyzer. The city will need to purchase the analyzer, and then the city will be reimbursed through the grant.

The analyzer can scan and analyze more than 500 illicit drugs, Freitag said in the memo.

Clintonville Rotary Student of the Week

Nicole Sasse is the Clintonville Rotary Student of the Week.

The daughter of Michele and James Sasse, she is a senior at Clintonville High School.

Sasse's extracurricular activities include volleyball, basketball, soccer, FFA, National Honor society, Honors Reading, Link Crew, Spanish Club and Student-Athlete Leadership Team.

She is an honor roll student, winner of the Sportsmanship



Sasse

Plus Award and was named to the All-Conference volleyball team.

Among her community activities, Sasse has volunteered at Compassionate Connections, St. John's community dinners and as an elementary assistant teacher.

Sasse plans to continue her education at Midwestern State University in Texas where she will earn a degree as a registered nurse. Her goal is to specialize in labor and delivery as a travel nurse.

Judge orders second exam for Peters

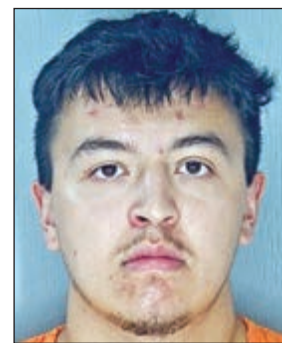
BY ROBERT CLOUD
SENIOR EDITOR

WAUPACA – Circuit Court Judge Vicki Clusman ordered a second psychological evaluation of the Clintonville man accused of killing his mother.

Jordan Peters, 20, was charged Sept. 11, 2023, with first-degree intentional homicide.

Peters is accused of stabbing his mother, Angela S. Zahn, 39, Neenah, while she was driving them in Clintonville.

Zahn graduated from



Peters

were dispatched to an open-line 911 call traced to Olsen Park. A woman could be heard moaning. She said she had been stabbed.

Sgt. Matthew Wright with the Clintonville Police Department found a man standing beside a car with its driver's side door open.

The car was on Memorial Circle, which runs on the northwest side of the park.

A woman was lying in a fetal position down the street from the man. Police

Peters

CONTINUES ON PAGE 14

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New London & Hortonville NEWS

Hortonville plans splash pad

HORTONVILLE – The village of Hortonville will develop a splash pad and ADA compliant playground in Alonzo Park before the end of this year.

The enhancements will make it Hortonville's first ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant park.

The park will feature a poured rubber surface to ensure inclusivity for children of all ages and abilities.

Village Administrator Nathan Treadwell said funding for the initiative will be sourced from the current tax levy, ARPA federal funds, a state grant and community donations.

The village aspires to collect \$200,000 in donations and is actively engaging lo-



Hortonville plans to add a splash pad and ADA compliant playground to Alonzo Park.

John Faucher Photo

cal businesses to contribute. Hortonville has established detailed donation tiers and outlined associated benefits such as naming rights for potential contributors.

Supporters of the endeavor are encouraged to contact Treadwell at 920-779-6011.

Alonzo Park is located off of East Main Street across from Kwik Trip.



Moisture needed

A farmer rolls in seed on an unseasonably dry field between Sugar Bush and Clintonville on Monday, April 15. The fire danger remained high and soil conditions extremely dry with much needed moisture in the forecast for midweek.

John Faucher Photo

Wega-Fremont NEWS

Film chronicles train depot

Premieres at the Gerold

BY JAMES CARD
STAFF REPORTER

WEYAUWEGA – A film about a Waupaca landmark and the man who restored it will premiere at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 18, at the historic Gerold Opera House in Weyauwega.

“Back on Track: Rebuilding the Waupaca Depot” has local written all over it. Director Max Hauser grew up in Iola, studied at UW-Oshkosh and later worked on a variety of films.

“I’ve always loved that venue and the building itself and the genuineness of it all,” said Hauser. “If there was one place that I could pick in Wisconsin, that’s where I would do it. And it sounds great in there.”

The film follows the story of Mike Kirk, a train enthusiast and history buff, who was determined to restore the long-abandoned train depot that is located on 525 Oak St. The project took 24 years and it is now a landmark historical site in Waupaca.

The film chronicles Kirk’s grit to finish the project and also delves into the history of the community and how railroads shaped the country in the early years of America.

“I could do a five-hour miniseries on this topic. It was hard to figure out how to cut it down to an hour,” said Hauser.

The film features modern footage as well as archival footage of the horrid state the depot was in when Kirk started the restoration. It



Artwork from poster for “Back on Track,” a film about restoring the Waupaca train depot.

Submitted image

also includes personal photos and home movies.

Hauser graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh in 2017. From there, his work experience ranges far.

He started a rock documentary on the nomadic singer-songwriter Brett Newski of Milwaukee as he traveled with him all over the world: Vietnam, Japan, Belize, Honduras and Mexico.

In between these jaunts, he worked as a camera operator with Conscious Content, a media company that produces films on subjects that affect humanity. He worked on feature film documentaries about animal shelters, PTSD and clean water.

Meanwhile in 2018, Emmy award-winning producer Ron Scott toured the train depot, was intrigued by Kirk’s story and proposed to Hauser an opportunity for

him to direct a film about it. Hauser shot some initial interviews and realized the story was much deeper than he expected. As Covid-19 emerged, the pandemic put the project on layaway.

Hauser kept at the project and Kirk shared with him a vast archive of historical information about the depot and Waupaca history. As the pandemic wanted, Hauser continued to make trips to Waupaca and shoot more footage.

Tickets are on a sale at wegaarts.org. For those unable to make it to the premiere, Hauser expects the film to be shown at a few other locations in Wisconsin and also he hopes it will be included in this year’s Weyauwega Film Festival held in November.

Eventually the film will be available to be streamed online and Hauser is in talks with a company to make DVDs of the film.

Back-up bus routes

BY JAMES CARD
STAFF REPORTER

WEYAUWEGA – If more bus drivers are not hired, the W-F school district might have to rearrange bus routes that could go into effect this fall according to transportation department head Don Lederhaus.

Lederhaus predicts that there will be longer bus routes and that pickups will be earlier. This current school year the pink route

had earlier pickups and other routes will have to begin earlier if bus drivers are not hired.

Of the seven different routes up to three or four would have to move their leave times.

Another idea is to develop bus stops in certain areas. Some pickups and drop-offs would be merged into one stop.

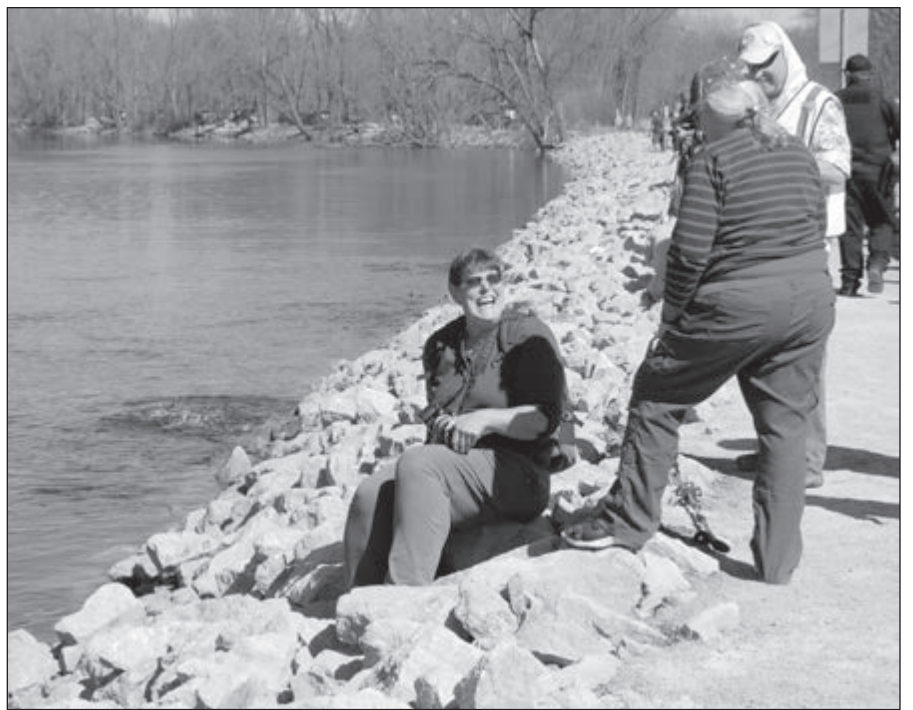
This would result in some students having to hike to the bus stop. Currently stu-

dents in Fremont are picked up or dropped off at the library and Fremont Elementary.

New routes will be developed after registration for the 2024-25 school year has completed in September. L

ederhaus said the drivers would do dry runs to test the efficiency of the routes.

People interested in becoming a bus driver can call the transportation department at 920-867-8943.



Sturgeon time

Hundreds of visitors took advantage of the nice weather to view the annual sturgeon spawning ritual at the Wolf River Sturgeon Trail near New London last weekend and earlier this week. Members of the volunteer sturgeon guard were on hand at several spawning locations to keep an eye on the prehistoric fish and visit with sturgeon viewers.

John Faucher Photo

Waupaca County sheriff's report

- April 5 – A Fremont woman on Arrow Lane reported she had a girl in her car. She had been walking down the roadway and crying. The caller said the girl would not talk and has no idea where she belongs.
- April 5 – A male caller reported people were trespassing on his property in a Ford pickup truck.
- April 5 – An anonymous caller reported people were living in a camper at an address with no running water or sewage.
- April 5 – A female caller reported a male driver sleeping in a blue Tesla. The vehicle was going the speed limit but swerving a little.
- April 5 – A Clintonville caller on Bennett Street reported a man was trespassing on his property.
- April 5 – A Clintonville caller on Lakeshore Road reported her husband called her and said he was going to end his life. He recently bought a firearm and has a history of suicidal ideation.
- April 5 – Rawhide Youth Services reported a juvenile runaway.
- April 6 – An anonymous caller reported a suspicious man walking down the road with a shopping bag and he suddenly jumped in front of the caller’s car and demanded a ride.
- April 6 – A New London man on Shioc-ton Street reported the death of an 80-year-old woman.
- April 6 – An anonymous caller reported there was a suspicious man with blood all over his white shirt walking

- down State Highway 45 between Bear Creek and Clintonville.
- April 6 – An Iola woman on Willard Road reported the death of a 68-year-old man.
- April 6 – A New London caller on Waupaca Street reported a man camping at a wayside for the past two weeks. He has a tent set up and a campfire.
- April 6 – A Weyauwega caller on Manor Drive reported a mother and daughter were fighting and the mother struck the 23-year-old daughter.
- April 6 – A Manawa caller on Riverview Drive reported the sound of adults and children screaming.
- April 6 – A Waupaca man on Melody Lane reported getting harassing messages about killing the caller and his family via the Discord social platform.
- April 7 – Rawhide Youth Services reported a juvenile runaway.
- April 7 – A Clintonville man reported the death of a 61-year-old woman.
- April 7 – An Appleton man reported the theft of two quarter panels that were sitting next to a 1965 Pontiac Gran Prix.
- April 7 – A Clintonville man on Buckbee Road reported the death of a 35-year-old woman.
- April 8 – Rustic Woods

- Campground reported the theft of \$1,500.
- April 8 – A Waupaca caller reported the theft of \$200.
- April 8 – ACR Repo reported they were repossessing a 2011 silver Chrysler and a 2016 black Nissan Titan.
- April 8 - A Weyauwega man on Manor Drive reported a suspicious silver sedan with a person inside was sitting in a parking lot for an inordinate amount of time.
- April 9 – An unknown caller reported the theft of a black Nissan Titan.
- April 9 – Sanbur Corners reported a fuel drive-off valued at \$45. The vehicle was a black GMC Acadia with a white male driver.
- April 9 – The New London Bus garage reported a black van did not stop when a school bus as stopped at had the stop-sign arm extended and lights flashing.
- April 9 – Advanced Collateral Recovery reported they were repossessing a 2015 Dodge Durango.
- April 10 – A Waupaca woman on Ebbe Lake Road reported she was calling on behalf of a person that gave her debit card into to a person and believed it was part of a fraud.
- April 10 – A caller reported that she was the

Sheriff's Report
CONTINUES ON PAGE 14

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Iola-Scandinavia NEWS

Sand mine decision appealed

BY EMILY CONROY
STAFF REPORTER

IOLA – An appeal filed by neighbors of a proposed sand mine in Iola is now with the circuit court and the Board of Adjustments.

The appeal is regarding a conditional use permit (CUP) that was approved in January for a sand mine located on the Iola Car Show grounds.

Waupaca County Zoning Director Ryan Brown said the process for the appeal will take several months as employees of the planning and zoning office continues to put together the record.

The record will need to provide all documentation, including a transcription of every meeting that took place about the CUP for the proposed sand mine.

Once the record is assembled the Board of Adjustments will have an opportunity to review.

The next difficult task is lining up a time where the Board of Adjustments, members of the planning and zoning department and attorneys from both sides of are able to get together.

Brown said coordinating all of those schedules

can be tricky.

Christa Westerberg, the attorney representing the neighbors of the proposed sand mine, sent the appeal to both the Board of Adjustment as well as the circuit court as an attempt to cover all of the bases.

Brown said there are a number of ways the appeal could go in the Board of Adjustments as the board does have the ability to make modifications to the decision or change the decision.

However, Brown also said that if the Board of Adjustments sends the CUP back to the planning and zoning committee, telling them that their interpretation is incorrect, then the planning and zoning committee could disagree with the Board of Adjustment.

This could mean that it would be appealed again and sent back to the Board of Adjustment, going in what Brown calls a loop.

If the Board of Adjustments upholds the decision made by the planning and zoning committee this would mean that they would then need to send the appeal to the circuit

court, Brown said.

Waupaca County submitted a motion to dismiss the appeal in circuit court, the court date for this has been set for May 17.

The hearing will be a video conference with Judge Vincent Biskupic, who is a judge out of Outagamie county.

Greg Ambrosius, a neighbor to the sand mine and listed in the appeal, said each side is capable of dismissing a judge once.

Ambrosius said the case was originally assigned to Judge Troy Nielson, then was reassigned to Judge Carrie Schneider out of Outagamie County, and she reassigned the case to Judge Vicki Clussman, which Waupaca County then reassigned to Judge Raymond Huber.

Westerberg then got the case reassigned out of county with Judge Biskupic, who will be the judge that will hear the motion to dismiss.

The next step will be a written response to the motion to appeal in circuit court that will be submitted by Westerberg two weeks prior to the hearing, she said.



The Iola Village Board voted to upgrade the village's welcome sign.

Emily Conroy Photo

Village board approves new sign

BY EMILY CONROY
STAFF REPORTER

IOLA – The Iola Village Board met April 9 and approved a measure to update and replace the Iola welcome sign at the corner of State Highways 161 and 49.

Jennifer Schustek, board president, said the sign is in dire need of restoration.

“It’s been a true, true eye sore for a very long time,” she said at a Community Development Authority (CDA) meeting March 26.

Joe Opperman, executive director at the Iola Car Show, has been working on the new design for the sign.

“We would like to make this kind of an updated sign that has a fresh look and get some positive attention,” Opperman said at the March 26 CDA meeting.

A lot of time and effort has been put in to updating the sign by the Iola Car Show, Schustek said.

The sign itself is being paid for by funds that were donated to the CDA, Schustek said.

This includes the flowers that will start off being donated. Schustek said moving forward they will determine where the funds should come from.

Schustek said where she has run into the most issues regarding the welcome sign involves signage for businesses. She said there are restrictions on advertising on highways.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) only allows for signs to be on the business itself, Schustek said, which creates difficulty when the welcome sign is at the intersection of two highways.

The piece of property that the sign sits on belongs to the village of Iola, and concerns as to who will be taking care of the maintenance of the property led to the plan of using decorative concrete around the sign instead of keeping the grass.

A quote from Melum Masonry, located in Iola, for \$7,500 was approved by the Iola Village Board for the decorative concrete.

The concrete will cover 260 square feet of space.

The board also approved to waive the permit fee for the sign, should any permits be needed.

Board member Mark McCoy cast the sole dissenting vote.

McCoy questioned the ordinance for permits during the meeting.

“I am just trying to wrap my head around, it seems like we incentivize nonprofits for building by waiving all the fees, but we don’t do that for business,” McCoy said. “I don’t know how that is listed in the ordinance but I think we are unfairly incentivizing nonprofits and therefore penalizing business for doing the same things.”

Dave Harper, the village of Iola president pro tem, said that the CDA is not a nonprofit and is in fact a government entity.

“For nonprofits and for municipality things, we vote consistently to waive the building permit fees where we don’t do that for businesses, business have to pay and non profits do not and I think unfairly incentivizes nonprofits,” McCoy said.

Schustek said that by waiving the permit fees she is trying to incentivize the process. She wants to start moving forward to get the sign updated and restored because the sign is in such disrepair.

McCoy said he completely agrees that the sign needs to be updated, but wanted the discussion of waiving permit fees to be included in the official minutes.

Rosholt students stage comic play

ROSHOLT – Rosholt High School students will present the play “Don’t Take My Penny!” at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 26-26, in the high school auditorium.

One of the most popular high school plays in the 1940s and ‘50s, the play is by Anne Coulter Martens.

The action takes place during one day in the life of sixteen-year-old Penny Pringle, who is walking around with a book on her head and practicing elocution with her mouth full of pebbles, preparing herself to play the star role in the movie version of a popular novel.

The author is search-

ing the country for his ideal and he’s coming to town tomorrow. Penny just knows she’ll be chosen.

What Penny doesn’t know is that she may have some competition from Sally, the Pringles’ new maid. Sally is a former child movie star, now grown up, whom a clever publicity agent has planted there to be miraculously “discovered” by the author.

At the end of her whirlwind day, will Penny be headed for stardom? Will Sally reveal her secret and make a surprise decision of her own?

The play features a cast of 16 students, in-

cluding Isabelle Knutson, Daniel Kurszewski, Mary Bolinger, Joshua Miller, Jasmine Woyak, Michael Bassett, Emily Rutta, Megan Burns, Matthew Wrycza, Abby Phillip, Willem Peuse, Luke Milanowski, Daniel Bolinger, Lia Landsverk, Iva Bassett and Lily Wrycza.

The play is directed by Kathryn Kawleski, with Cheryl Kawleski serving as assistant director.

Tickets will be available at the door beginning one hour prior to the performances. Ticket prices are \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$3 for K-12 students.

Manawa NEWS

Stampede returns to Manawa

MANAWA - The 15th annual Stampede is in the Manawa Rodeo weekend lineup again this year and will take place Saturday, July 6.

The Stampede is a 5K run or walk or participants may choose to do the 10K run.

Hosted by the Little Wolf River Trail Organization in Manawa, this event is scheduled to start at 7:30 a.m.

The 5K course runs through Manawa and winds around to include the river trail before returning to Lindsay Park for

the finish.

The 10K course allows runners to see the entire city of Manawa.

The course is on both streets and trails, including four trails within the city.

Both races start and end at Lindsay Park in Manawa.

This is a chipped time event by Adesports.com.

Snacks and refreshments will be available following the race.

Awards will be given to the top three males and top three females in each race.

There will also be awards

given to the top three in each age group for both events.

To receive a shirt, runners must be registered by June 21.

Online registration will end July 2, however participants can register in person on race day as well as the day before at Lindsay Park between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Participants can register online at www.active.com or by mail, look for the link on the Little Wolf River Trails Facebook page or e-mail littlewolftrivertrails@yahoo.com to request a registration form.

few minutes later.

The Manawa Rodeo parade begins at 10 a.m.

Sponsorship letters were mailed out in March to local businesses. Those who want to be a sponsor should contact Ann Wade by calling 920-615-6184 by June 1 to get their business name printed on the stampede shirts.

Those who are interested in donating to the runners’ goodie bags, things like small product samples or coupons, should also contact Ann Wade.

Trail brochures with a

map can be found in info tubes on the Pat Wade Trail and at Manawa City Hall.

All of the funds that are raised are used to create more trails in Manawa.

Wade said the Little Wolf River Trail committee is always looking for people with ideas or strong arms to volunteer.

Donations for the trail system can be mailed to Little Wolf Trails, Box 121, Manawa, WI 54949. Checks can be made payable to WCNRF (Waupaca County Natural Resource Foundation).

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Reducing falls in older adults

STEVENS POINT – According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in four older adults has a fall each year.

Wisconsin leads the nation in fall-related deaths for people aged 60 and older.

Falls are not a normal part of aging and can be prevented.

The Stepping On program is an evidence-based class and has been proven to reduce falls by more than 30%.

The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of Portage County is offering Stepping On from May

16 to June 27. The program will run from 1-3 p.m. every Thursday.

The ADRC at Lincoln Center is located at 1519 Water St., Stevens Point.

In seven weekly, two-hour sessions, Stepping On participants learn strategies to avoid falls including balance and strength exercises, home safety suggestions, medication review and more.

Guest experts specializing in fall-related topics will visit over the course of the seven sessions providing fall prevention information and strategies for avoiding falls.

Participants can expect to leave with more strength, better balance, and a feeling of confidence and independence.

The program is made possible through a grant from the United Way.

To help cover the cost of materials, the suggested contribution for people 60 and older is \$32. The cost for people under 60 is \$32.

Adults age 55 and older are encouraged to attend.

For more information or to register, contact the Health Promotion Coordinator at 715-346-1401, or toll-free at 1-866-920-2525.

Duplicate bridge winners announced

STEVENS POINT – Duplicate bridge winners at the Lincoln Center on April 5 were Ellie Brush and Janice Doxatator, Mary Kruger and Larry Kruger, and Sandy Davis and Barbara Ringberg.

Tom Rowe and Larry Niederhofer, Gene Clark and Bob Alexejun, and Emalyn Nikstad and Jim Golz were the winners on April 11.

On April 12, the winners were Gene Clark and

Rick Jansing, Sandy Davis and Barbara Ringberg, Polly Garbe and Mary Beth Anday. The next game is 12:15 p.m. Friday, April 19. For more information, call Sandy Davis at 715-252-3365.

Candlelight hike at Schmeckle Reserve

STEVENS POINT – The annual Spring Candlelight Hike will be held at UW-Stevens Point's Schmeckle Reserve from 7-9:30 p.m., Friday, May 3.

This family-friendly event offers torch-lit trails, character programs at 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., snacks, crafts and live animals.

Located 2419 North Point Drive, Stevens Point, parking is offered in the reserve's overflow lot and on North Point Drive, Michigan Avenue and Maria Drive. The paved Visitor Center lot is reserved for those with disabilities or other special needs.

A donation of \$4 per person or \$10 per family is suggested to support future events, programs and projects of the Friends of Schmeckle Reserve.

Family Nature Programs are free, open to the public and led by UW-Stevens Point students studying environmental education and interpretation. Be prepared to go outside and dress for the weather.

Participants should meet at the Visitor Center.

Spring Family Nature programs

"De-Stress in Nature," is



Spring nature programs, including the annual Spring Candlelight Hike, will be offered this April and May at UW-Stevens Point's Schmeckle Reserve.

Submitted Photo

planned from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 20. Participants will explore the different ways the great outdoors can help their wellness.

"Hop, Slither, Swim," will be offered 5-6 p.m. Friday, April 26. Learn about critters that creep and crawl and why they are misunderstood.

"The Need for Seeds," is from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 27. Create a seed ball to grow while learning about the connection between humans and seeds.

"Focus in on Nature," 1-2 p.m. Saturday, April 27. Participants can develop their photography skills as they learn how to look at landscapes with a different

perspective.

"A Flower's Purpose," 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 4. Discover the uses of the flowers found around Schmeckle Reserve.

Participants must register for the Family Nature Programs by emailing schmeckle@uwsp.edu, calling 715-346-4992 or in person at the Visitor Center. Information should include the programs you want to attend, total in your group, your email address and phone number. Confirmations, cancellations or rain rescheduling information will be sent via email.

Reasonable accommodation for special needs will be made with advance notice.

UWSP students focus on tourism

STEVENS POINT – Students at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point are collaborating with the Stevens Point Area Convention and Visitors Bureau to help find funding for local tourism.

The inaugural Case in Point Business Solutions Competition has four teams, made up by 19 students. They are working on the challenge from the local bureau: "How might our organization increase revenue from our partnership program, thereby diversifying our income stream?"

Students met their teammates, coaches, judges and the client to hear about its problem at a kick-off meeting on March 6.

After a month of research, the teams pitched their solutions to judges on Wednesday, April 10, in the Dreyfus University Center Alumni Room.

The Stevens Point Area Convention and Visitors Bureau represents and promotes all of Portage County, creating a positive economic impact and enhancing the area's quality of life.

Tourism contributed approximately \$245.9 million to the local Stevens Point economy in 2022. By joining the SPACVB's Partners in Tourism program, local businesses can be included in the Visitors



UW-Stevens Point students Avery Koepsell and David Kaminski, part of a team coached by Associate Professor of Business Reed Stratton, listen to a discussion at the kick-off meeting for the Case in Point Business Solutions Competition.

Submitted Photo

Guide and other print and digital promotions.

"The enthusiasm and creativity these student teams are bringing to the table is impressive," said Sara Brish, executive director of the Stevens Point Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. "Diversifying our income stream is a key priority and I am excited to consider the students' fresh perspectives on how we can achieve that goal."

The students analyzed this challenge using Design Thinking, an innovative approach that emphasizes understanding the user's or customer's needs through interviews and observations.

By participating in Case in Point, the students have gained experience while helping to improve the community.

At the same time, participants have built key skills associated with an entrepreneurial mindset: creativity, problem-solving and teamwork.

"We challenge every student to think like an entrepreneur," said Kevin Neuman, head of Sentry School of Business and Economics at UW-Stevens Point. "From small companies to large, from non-profits to government, the world needs leaders who know how to think like entrepreneurs."

Each team has a coach to guide them through the problem-solving process. Judges include local professionals from Sentry School Corporate Partners organizations including Aspirus, Sentry, Skyward and Church Mutual Insurance Company.

Creative excellence recognized

STEVENS POINT – The the Portage County Business Council presented its Creative Excellence Awards Wednesday, April 3.

The awards were presented at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center in Stevens Point.

The Entrepreneur of the Year Award was presented to Nordic Night Sauna, owned by Nicole Terrill.

Located at 1027 Union Street in Stevens Point, they were selected based on their business growth, financial stability, innovation, ability to identify a market niche and dedication to customer service.

They have been holding a steady profit margin of 21%, and quarter over quarter growth of 225%. 85% of their revenue is from public community sauna sessions, demonstrating that a culture of sauna among community is taking hold in Stevens Point.

The Ignite Young Professional of the Year Award was presented to Harlee Stinson.

Stinson was chosen based on her service and volunteering in the community as well as her professional accomplishments with Summit Credit Union.

She is an active Career Committee co-chair and Community Committee co-chair for Ignite Young Professionals. Through Ignite, she leads by example by sharing her own leadership and networking skills



Winners of the Portage County Business Council's Creative Excellence Awards are, shown from left, FRONT: Nicole Terrill and Harlee Stinson; BACK: Don Wigington and Brooke Mahoney.

Submitted Photo

with other young professionals. She was awarded Committee Member of the Year in 2022 for Ignite.

The Golden Apple for Excellence in Education Award was presented to Brooke Mahoney from Tomorrow River School District.

Mahoney's commitment to her students goes beyond the classroom, as she coaches dance teams, advises student councils, supervises Battle of the Books teams and mentors' new teachers, showcasing her passion for holistic education.

Her teaching philosophy is grounded in innovation and dedication. She is constantly exploring new teaching strategies, such as developing an immersive reading

curriculum and embracing digital learning tools, to ensure her students receive the best education possible.

The Portage County Charitable Community Award was presented to Midstate Independent Living Choices (MILC).

MILC's comprehensive range of programs and services has contributed to breaking down barriers and promoting inclusivity. For more than two decades, they have helped support individuals with disabilities. Their enduring commitment has touched the lives of thousands, guiding them on the path to independent living.

Accepting the award was MILC Executive Director Don Wigington.

YMCA, ADRC host Senior Prom

STEVENS POINT – To celebrate Older Americans Month, the Stevens Point Area YMCA and the ADRC of Portage County will host a Senior Prom dinner and dance.

The event will be held from 5-8 p.m. Friday, May 3, at the Stevens Point YMCA, 1000 Division St., Stevens Point.

DJ Buffet will play tunes through the years. The dress code is "prom casual"

tuxedo's and/or blue jeans.

Dinner will consist of chicken cordon bleu, garlic mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, dinner roll, spinach salad with strawberries and poppyseed dressing and lemon strawberry poke cake.

Anyone age 60 and older can eat on a donation basis. Suggested donation is \$5. Persons not eligible to eat on donation basis are required to pay \$12 per meal. Dinner participants

should bring exact change. No eligible participant will be denied a meal based on ability to contribute toward the cost of the meal.

Registration is required for this event.

For more information and to register, contact Lisa by calling 715-347-4856 or emailing adrc@co.portage.wi.gov. Register by April 24 for dinner and dance or by May 1 for just the dance.

Music festival set for May 26

STEVENS POINT – On Point Music Fest will feature four bands performing from noon to 9 p.m. Sunday, May 26, on the square in downtown Stevens Point.

The event is free, family

friendly and open to the public.

Headlining the festival will be Sonic Circus. This Wausau band won the 2004, 2006 and 2009 Wisconsin Area Music Industry award for Best Cover Band.

Sonic circus has performed at Summerfest, the Wisconsin State Fair, Rock USA and venues throughout the Midwest.

Other performers include Boogie Train, Scorched Waves and Soul Whiskey.

Text to 911 service available

WAUPACA – Waupaca County Sheriff's Office is now accepting Text to 911 service for Waupaca County.

Citizens can send a text to 911 in an emergency, when placing a call is not possible.

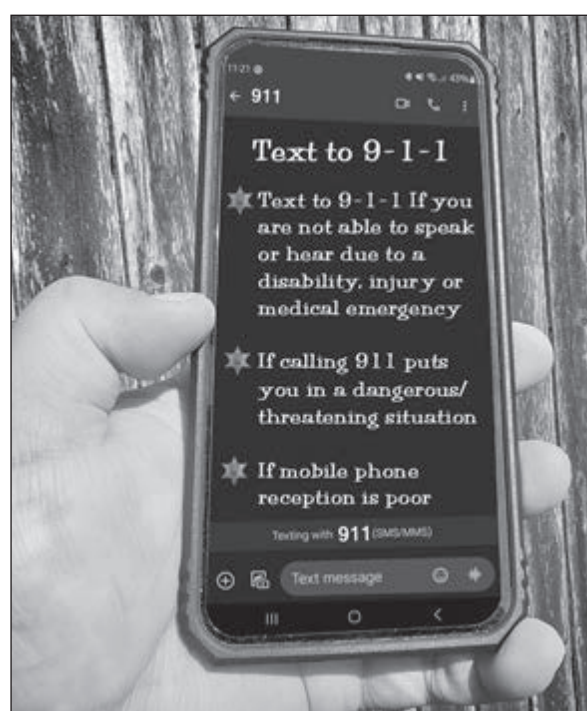
Text to 911 is helpful if the caller is deaf, hard-of-hearing, speech impaired or when speaking out loud would put the caller in danger.

When using Text to 911, the sheriff's office asks people to remember these steps:

- Don't text and drive.
- In the first text message send the location and type of emergency.
- Text in simple words – send a short text message without abbreviations or slang.
- Be prepared to answer questions and follow instructions from the 911 call taker.

Text to 911 is only for emergencies. It is a crime to text or call 911 with a false report. Prank-texters can be located.

Text to 911 service may still have challenges. The cellular service must have a text or data plan to



The Waupaca County Sheriff's Office is taking Text to 911 emergency calls.

place a text to 911.

Those who do not receive a text response from 911 to confirm it has been received should try to contact 911 another way.

Text to 911 services are not available everywhere in Wisconsin or the U.S.

Text to 911 cannot include more than one person. Those using the service

should not send their emergency text to anyone other than 911.

Text to 911 is only available in English. People who require services in another language should call 911 to be connected with a translator service.

Voice calls to 911 are still the best and fastest way to contact 911.

Community news online.

Waupaca County Post WaupacaNOW.com

Obituary Notices

Halverson, O. Scott



O. Scott Halverson, passed away at the Marshfield Medical Center, on the morning of April 8, 2024, at the age of 77. Many knew him as Orv, The Big O, Salty, Scotty, or Orville (we think only by his hunting buddy, Mike Disher).

He was born September 17, 1946, in Hancock, Wis. to Eleanor M. (née Lane) Halverson-Fredrick and Orville E. Halverson. Scott had three sisters: Connie (Krakow) Judi (Holder), and Sally (Worzalla). In his younger years, he loved spending time at his grandfather's (Dr. E.L.Lane) cottage on Fish Lake where he played, fished, and enjoyed the summers with all of his family members, his good friend Johnny Holder, lots of buddies, and, the closest thing to a brother, his first cousin, Steve Wandrey.

Scott loved cars and horsepower, which was a love and interest he found early and stayed with him through his entire life. He picked pickles (cucumbers for those of you who must) for about 50 cents or so, he says, and loved the Lonar Roller Rink on Old Hwy 51 just north of Hancock.

One of his favorite memories when he was younger was driving with his dad, who he lost at 18, to Two Lakes for a pizza, which they would bring back to Hancock.

He attended grade school in Hancock and attended Tri-County High School and was proud to be a Penguin (which he said with enthusiasm and sarcasm simultaneously). He graduated in 1965 and held various jobs until he volunteered for service in the U.S. Army and enlisted February 14, 1966.

He was activated, attended basic training in Texas, and was sent to Vietnam, where he served in combat with the 633rd CC&S Company in Cam Ranh Bay, until he was honorably discharged, later in 1968. Scott was always very sensitive to the cause of Vietnam Veterans who were not welcomed home and treated with the respect they so deserved and earned.

After Vietnam, Scott was employed in Janesville at GM, spent time at the Belvidere assembly, and in 1969 was hired by the Wisconsin DNR Fire Control for fighting forest/wildland fires throughout Central and Northern Wisconsin, where we are told he also dressed up like Smokey (The) Bear, at various parades and events to promote fire safety. Scott was also a heavy equipment operator for the DNR.

During that time, he could also be found at The Outer Limits, Poor Henry's, The Brat Barn, and other various locations in the 1970s like Mr. Lucky's, where he could put on quite a show on the disco dance floor.

Scott was hired by the Stevens Point Fire Department in 1973 where he served until the year 2000 reaching the rank of company officer/captain. Scott fought many fires like the Northside IGA fire and the Top Hat Bar fire, where he found and kept a shot glass in his helmet for years up until the last day when he retired, when it fell and broke (John and Marie forgave him for the theft!!). He loved serving on the ambulance with Fuzzy, Geno, George, Dorny, and too many more to name.

He especially loved his time on the department with his good friend Jay Gordon, and, of course, razzing any new rookie who would come on the department, like future Chief Tracy Kujawa and future Lt. Ron Heibler, who would later save his life and extend his time with family just three weeks ago.

The fire service was truly at the core of who Orv was: FDNY 911 was his license plate in honor of so many in the fire service that died in the line of duty that day.

Scott enjoyed racing more than any other pastime, watching the Packers and college basketball being a close second. He loved racing with his good friend Fluff Furo and driving the car hauler and being on the pit crew for Dick Trickle and running the ambulance at Golden Sands Speedway throughout the 1970s and early '80s.

Scott was also an avid snowmobiler and Ski-Doo fan. He raced at Eagle River in the 1970s with his Ski-Doo Blizzard, the same sled he so proudly pointed out, was the sled that his son at age 6 or 7 took up to about 70-80 mph on Oneida Lake. Anything that had horsepower, torque and speed was exactly right up his alley.

Scott would also so often reminisce about the great times (and Manhattans) he had deer hunting with the Disher boys up in Glidden, and the times he and Kim spent with Tammy and Rich at Badger Games. Scott was especially touched by being able to be on The Never Forgotten Honor Flight in 2018 and visit the Vietnam Memorial.

On October 26, 1974, Scott married Kim M. Kraft at St. Peter's Church and called Stevens Point home ever since then.

They enjoyed their time together through camping trips with friends, packer games, dart leagues, bowling leagues, traveling, spending time up north, and serving together in so many organizations. Kim and Scott enjoyed numerous firefighter conventions and countless campfires together and most importantly, their grandchildren Alex, Mason, and Elise. Just last year they were able to fulfill a life-long dream of being able to see and experience Alaska on a cruise.

NASCAR, The Green Bay Packers, horsepower, Old Thompson's, deer hunting, and patriotism, really define who The Big O was. Scotty was a lifetime member of AMVETS Post 1051 where he served multiple tours as Commander, Stevens Point American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, and most proudly, Plover VFW Post 10262 where he also served as Commander and for years on the Honor Guard and Rifle Squad. Scott was also a member of the Stevens Point Elks Lodge BPOE #641.

He so loved watching his grandkids play football, basketball, or run track. He especially loved bringing donuts in the morning for his granddaughter Elise, his little "Tootie Frootie" on the mornings he would come and sit with her before school, then insist on driving her the the blocks to school.

Orv, The Salty Dog, will be missed by so many. His unwavering humor, harsh tongue, and honesty will be tough to match for anyone...and the shine on his vehicle will be hard to replace.

Survivors include his wife of 49 years Kim Halverson; son, Andrew (Shana) Halverson; three grandchildren, Alex, Mason, and Elise Halverson; his sister, Sally (née Halverson) Worzalla and nieces, Tamara Holmes (Rich Sweet), Loni Holder, Lori Holder Moore, and Janelle Holmes-Lane; and nephew Barkley Holder.

He was preceded in death by his mother Eleanor, father Orville (Ole), sisters Connie and Judi, and nephew Scott.

Visitation will be held at Boston Funeral Home on Friday, April 12, from 4-7 p.m. with a Fire Department Honor Guard, followed by a visitation from 10-11 a.m. at Boston Funeral Home on Saturday, April 13, with a VFW ritual at 11 a.m. Memorial Services will follow at 11:15 led by his niece, Rev. Leiloni Holder, with procession and burial following at Guardian Angel Cemetery with military and fire department honors.

In lieu of flowers, the family would gratefully accept donations in Scott's honor, to be donated at a later date for patriotic scholarships, VFW support, and Stevens Point Fire Department initiatives. Donations can be sent to the Boston Funeral Home, 1649 Briggs St., Stevens Point, Wis., 54481.

Edge, Linda



Linda Ann (Knickerbocker) Edge, age 68 of Scandinavia, WI, passed away on Thursday, April 11, 2024. She was born on March 10, 1956 in Salinas, CA, daughter of the late Joseph and Elna (Wohlrabe) Knickerbocker. Linda fought a short but extremely hard battle to cancer.

She is survived by her husband of 13 years, Mike Edge; her children: Dan Powell (Megan) of West Bend, Anthony Ybarra of Ashwaubenon and Vincent Powell (Jenny) of Mayville; her sisters: Norma Jones of West Bend and Celeste Knickerbocker of Manawa; brothers: Roger Knickerbocker of Silt, CO, Robert Knickerbocker of Manawa, William Knickerbocker of Oklahoma City and Joseph Knickerbocker Jr. of New London. She is further survived by grandchildren, nieces and nephews, great nieces and great nephews, great-grand nieces, great-grand nephews, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her great niece, Lilly Ann Jones; her father, Joseph Knickerbocker Sr.; eldest sister, Judith Knickerbocker; mother, Elna (Wohlrabe) Knickerbocker and many other relatives.

Linda worked mostly factory jobs and enjoyed the fast pace of it. She loved gardening and canning what she grew. She loved to crochet and bake. She made the best Strawberry Cake that we all loved. She loved to watch the birds at the feeders. She loved her family more than anything else. She had a heart of gold and would help when she could. She had the best smile that warmed everyone's heart. She also loved the Green Bay Packers.

Linda's children - Dan and Anthony and her sister Norma, would like to thank the nursing staff at ThedaCare Medical Center - Waupaca for taking such good care of her and helping her boys through the most difficult time of their lives.

As requested by Linda, there will not be a service or funeral. The Maple Crest Funeral Home of Waupaca assisted the family with arrangements.

Cooper, James



James M. Cooper, age 67, of Waupaca, passed away peacefully Wednesday, April 10, 2024, surrounded by loved ones in his own home, after an 8 year battle with health complications.

James, nicknamed Jimmy, grew up playing in the streets of Iola where he attended high school. He met the love of his life, Debra, at the Waupaca square in 1976 and they were married in 1980. They bought a fixer-upper in Weyauwega in 1984 and with his love of remodeling and house projects, the renovations continued over the next 20 years. He and Debbie enjoyed hosting the family gatherings, dart league and their dogs. Along with Debbie came Chrissi and Sarah, taking them on as his own and creating many memories including snowmobiling and camping. This continued with his grandchildren that he enjoyed spoiling. Mercedes "Bud, Miranda "Randi", Marissa "Pumpkins", Amanda and Chase, all held a special place in his heart.

After 37 years at the foundry, he was forced to retire in 2016 due to his kidney removal and cancer diagnosis. A house in Waupaca was purchased to downsize and self-modeled to be closer to dialysis and family. He lived there enjoying out the last 7 years of his life with Debbie by his side, as well as their Dobermans, Maggie and Piper. He loved the Green Bay Packers

James is survived by his wife, Debra Cooper; brothers, George (Michelle) Cooper and Jerry Cooper; sister, Joan Holland; daughters, Chrissi (Jeff) Robbins and Sarah (Greg) Tryba; son, John Altman; grandchildren: Mercedes Graham, Miranda (Krzysztof) Rus, Marissa (Nick Swenson) Graham, Amanda Hanson and Chase Martin; nephews: Alex (Rachel) Cooper, Bill Cooper, Eric (Katie) Holland; niece, Lindsay (Nuno) Bilkes; great-grandchild, Laken Derozier; cousins: Holly (Dennis) Jorgenson, Tom (Candice) Weiss, Sally McIntyre, Wanda (Joe) Pleshek, Kent Waush, Kurt Waush, mother-in-law: Jean Tester, sisters-in-law: Peggy (Dave Ehrenberg) Tohm, Karen (Brad) Huven, Sue (Mike) Heidger; brothers-in-law, Gary (Jack-ilee) Tester, Steve (Liz) Tester and their children.

James was preceded in death by his parents, Mary Boettcher and Lloyd Cooper; grandparents, Rita and Raymond Waush; uncles, Mike Waush and Ray (Janice) Waush; aunt, Karen Weiss; father-in-law, Robert Tester; brother-in-law, Bobby Tester; nephew, Damion Tester; and cousin, Kyle Waush.

The Memorial Service will be on Saturday, April 20, 2024 at 3 p.m. at the Maple Crest Funeral Home. The visitation will be on Saturday at the funeral home from 12 pm until the time of the service.

A special thank you to his care team of Dr. Spencer and Dialysis team at Fresenius Waupaca and his neighbors, Helen and Kevin Luebstorf, Eric Omit, Kylene and Mike Parman and special thanks to Braden Parman for the extra help.

Ozuna, Gilberto

Gilberto Ozuna, age 66 of the Township of Larrabee, passed away on Friday morning, April 12, 2024.

Eng, James Sr.

James Alan Eng, Sr, age 80, of Freedom passed away on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, surrounded by his loving family.

Buckbee, Lyle

Lyle C. Buckbee, age 91 of Neenah, formerly of the Clintonville area, passed away on Saturday, April 13, 2024.

Barden, Arlin



Arlin "Butts" Barden, age 97, passed away peacefully on April 10, 2024 at Bethany Home in Waupaca, WI, with his sons by his side.

Butts was proud to have spent much of his life in service. He enlisted in the Army at age 18 and fought in World War II as a member of a mortar squad, earning a Bronze Star Medal. When he returned, he joined the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King as a firefighter and rose through the ranks to Commandant through hard work and dedication. Butts was the longest-serving Commandant in King's history, a role he held from 1965 until his retirement.

Butts married Betty Borchardt in 1947, and they remained married for over 60 years until her passing in 2008. Together, they raised two sons, Bill and Bob. Butts loved to hunt and fish, and taught multiple generations of his family to enjoy and appreciate the outdoors. He loved living in Waupaca, and spent 92 years of his life there. He gave back through active membership in a number of veterans' and community organizations, including the American Legion, VFW, DAV, and AmVets. He held leadership positions on the Bethany Home board of directors and at Trinity Lutheran Church, where he was a longtime member.

Butts was preceded in death by his parents, Wallace and Iona Barden; his wife, Betty; his brothers-in-law Gus Zadra, Irv Rehbein, and Leroy Borchardt; and numerous friends. He is survived by his sisters Arvilla Rehbein and Carol Zadra; his sons Bill (Betsy) and Bob (Peggy); his grandchildren Beth (Chuck) Bornhoeft, Brad Barden, Kristin (Andy) Paluch, Megan (Alex) Pickett, and Jeff (Jenessa) Barden; five great-grandchildren; and many more relatives and friends.

A celebration of life will be planned this summer. In lieu of flowers, donations would be appreciated to the Waupaca Library or the Honor Flight Network.

A special thank you to the staff of Bethany Home for their thoughtful kindness, generosity, and humor, particularly Butts's good friend Casey "Charlie" Brown, who always made time for him. Thank you as well to Heartland Hospice for providing compassionate care and support over the last several weeks.

Lucht, Carl



Carl Thomas Lucht, 71, of Manawa, Wisconsin, passed away surrounded by his family on Thursday, April 11, 2024, at Cherry Meadows in Appleton after a hard-fought battle with cancer. Carl was born on October 29, 1952, in New London and grew up in Manawa. He graduated from Little Wolf High School in 1970 and spent most of his career driving semi. Carl enjoyed playing cards, watching the Badgers, Brewers, Bucks, and Packers, keeping up on politics, bird watching, listening to music, singing, and spending time with his grandkids. It was rare for Carl to walk into a place without knowing at least one person there, and if he didn't know anyone, he did by the time he left - he loved talking to people.

Carl is survived by his wife of 38 years, Kathleen (Rueden) Lucht; children: Landon (Niki) Lucht, Ashley (Matt) Timm, Courtney (Brent) Erickson; four grandchildren: (Camden, Kyla, Madison, and Miley); siblings: Larry Lucht, June (Frank) Voss, Jack (Janice) Lucht; brothers-in-law: Denny Nelson and Ron (Paula) Rueden; sisters-in-law: Diane Knops and Becky (John) Sager; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and close friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Carmen (VanStraten) Lucht; sisters: Patsy Lucht and Lurana (Lucht) Nelson; parents-in-law: Roger and Verona (King) Rueden; sisters-in-law: Sandra Lucht and Debby Rueden, and brother-in-law Ron Knops.

The Funeral Mass for Carl will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 27, 2024, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Manawa with Fr. Xavier Santiago officiating. A gathering of family and friends will be held at the church on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. Friends may visit www.dahlkefh.com to share memories and condolences with Carl's family.

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Teacher position.
c. Amy Blashe – Transfer from a 6th Grade Science/CA Teacher to an 8th Grade English (CA) Teacher position. Ayes and nays called, all voting aye. Motion carried.

Other:
District Facilities Rental and Usage: Moved by Laurie Vollrath, seconded by Kris Strauman to approve changes made to the District Facilities Rental and Usage Policy and Procedures. Ayes and nays called, all voting aye. Motion carried.

Family Savings Plan/Cash in Lieu Information: The administration updated the Board of Education with data regarding Cash in Lieu and Family Savings Plan options.
Board of Education Senior Scholarship Interviews: The Board of Education discussed the Senior Scholarship amount and date for conducting interviews.
2024-2025 CESA 8 Contractual Services Agreement: The administration presented information to the Board of Education regarding the process for the CESA 8 contractual services agreement for 2024-2025.
2024-2025 Budget Update: The administration updated the Board of Education regarding the 2024-2025 budget process.
Record/Longfellow Building and Grounds Property Updates: The administration and Board of Education gave an update.
ITEMS FOR FUTURE STRATEGIC DISCUSSION
Auditorium RFP – Upgrades to Sound and Light Systems – discussed with auditors.
Dellwood Kitchen Upgrades – we have a temporary plan (blueprint)
Budget Meeting for Referendum
ANNOUNCEMENTS
March 27 NO SCHOOL – Teacher In-Service
March 28-April 1 NO SCHOOL – Spring Break
April 2 School Board Election
April 8 Board of Education Meeting 6:00 p.m. @ CHS IMC
April 10 Early Release – Staff Collaboration 1:00 p.m.
April 22 Board of Education Reorganizational 6:00 p.m. @ CHS IMC And Regular Meeting
April 26 NO SCHOOL – Teacher In-Service
ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION: Moved by Kris Strauman, seconded by Laurie Vollrath to adjourn to closed session for the consideration of matters over which the Board has jurisdiction pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1) (c)(g) – Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the government body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, for the purposes of reviewing individual employment contracts/language, salary/wages, benefits, and performance; for the purposes of reviewing administrative contracts/language, salary/wages, benefits, and performance. Confering with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or likely to become involved. Roll call vote was taken with Ben Huber, Mark Zachow, Laurie Vollrath, Jason Moder, and Kris Strauman voting aye. Motion carried, and meeting adjourned to closed session at 6:52 p.m.
RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: Moved by Laurie Vollrath seconded by Kris Strauman to return to open session. Roll call vote was taken with Mark Zachow, Laurie Vollrath, Jason Moder, Kris Strauman, and Ben Huber voting aye. Motion carried and meeting returned to open session at 7:45 p.m.
ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Laurie Vollrath, seconded by Jason Moder to adjourn. Ayes and nays called, all voting aye. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.
Mark Zachow, Board Clerk
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Remote Board Participation Via Technology During Closed Session (Policy 188)
Not applicable.
VIII. ADJOURNMENT
A motion was made by M. Grossman and seconded by Katie Batten to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m. Motion carried on a roll call vote of 7-0.
Katie Batten, Clerk
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MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NEW LONDON BOARD OF EDUCATION AT THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING Monday, March 25, 2024
PRESENT: K. Batten, J. Heideman M. Grossman, C. Martinson, H. Schweitzer, T. Wegner, and M. Wilz.
I. VISITORS AND COMMUNICATION (PUBLIC FORUM)
II. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM
The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by C. Martinson, President. A quorum was established. The pledge of allegiance was led by C. Martinson. Holly Schweitzer joined the meeting virtually.
III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS
Consent agenda items were moved to Closed Session.
IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
A. Review and Potential Approval of Revised Policy
It was moved by M. Wilz and seconded by K. Batten to approve revised Policy 411, Equal Educational Opportunities/ Complaint Procedure as presented. M. Wilz called the question. Motion carried on a roll call vote of 5-2 (M. Grossman-no, J. Heideman-yes, H. Schweitzer-yes, T. Wegner-no, M. Wilz-yes, K. Batten-yes, C. Martinson-yes).
B. Review and Potential Approval of Pupil Nondiscrimination Self-Evaluation Report 2023-24
K. Martin reviewed the pupil nondiscrimination self-evaluation report. It was moved by T. Wegner and seconded by M. Grossman to approve the Pupil Nondiscrimination Self-Evaluation Report 2023-24 as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote of 7-0.
C. Review and Potential Approval of ESSER III Funding for School Furniture Resources
S. Bleck and J. Marquardt reviewed the proposed funding for school furniture resources. It was moved by M. Grossman and seconded by M. Wilz to approve the additional ESSER funding areas as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote of 7-0.
D. Review and Potential Approval of Youth Apprenticeship K-12 Education and Information
Technology Pathway Compensation S. Bleck reviewed the proposed Youth Apprenticeship pathways. It was moved by T. Wegner and seconded by J. Heideman to approve the development of the Youth Apprenticeship K-12 Education and Information Technology Pathways at \$12.00 per hour. Motion carried on a roll call vote of 7-0. The Board will be updated as the program is further developed.
E. Legal Conference Update
C. Martinson reviewed the legal conference he attended on February 29 in Appleton.
F. Review and Approval to Allow Remote Board Participation Via Technology During Closed Session (Policy 188)
It was moved by M. Wilz and seconded by J. Heideman to allow remote board participation via technology during Closed Session. Motion carried on a roll call vote of 7-0.
VI. CLOSED SESSION
It was moved by T. Wegner and seconded by K. Batten to enter into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes as listed on the agenda at 7:03 p.m. Motion carried on a roll call vote of 7-0.
It was moved by K. Batten and seconded by J. Heideman to enter open session at 7:57 p.m. Motion carried on a roll call vote of 7-0.
VII. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION TO TAKE ANY NECESSARY ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS
A. Resignation of Personnel
It was moved by H. Schweitzer and seconded by M. Grossman to approve the resignations of:
□ Angela Williamson Emmert, English High School
□ Barbara Dodd, Vocal Music, Intermediate/Middle School
□ Abigail Hernandez, Bilingual Tutor, Lincoln
Motion carried on a roll call vote of 7-0
B. Employment of Personnel
It was moved by M. Wilz and seconded by J. Heideman to approve the employment of Coral Newton, Special Education Teacher. Motion carried on a roll call vote of 7-0.
It was moved by M. Wilz and seconded by M. Grossman to approve the employment of Philip Sloma, Associate Principal/Activities Director. Motion carried on a roll call vote of 7-0.
VIII. ADJOURNMENT
A motion was made by J. Heideman and seconded by K. Batten to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. Motion carried.
Katie Batten, Clerk
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hopefully we can get this to go down. When USI Group is on board we are hoping that they can come up with some things to lower the increase for the next school year.
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ms. Loehrke asked about the status of the middle school roof.
STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE
Ms. Wisner was not available.
OLD BUSINESS
CHARTER SCHOOL UPDATE
Mr. Krause gave an update to the board on the open enrollment and stated that right now they have 21 new applicants and the enrollment closes on March 15th. They are looking at an enrollment of approximately 44 students for the next school year. He stated that the teachers are doing a great job and depending on the enrollment we may need to add a third teacher. He also noted that Chamomile submitted the application for the high school charter and should hear back mid-June.
CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS
Motion by seconded by Ehrenberg, seconded by Smith, to approve the February monthly payments as printed. Roll call vote: Smith, aye; Kohl, nay; Wagner, aye; Loehrke, aye; Leschke, aye; Ehrenberg, aye; Gerrits, aye.
Seven (7) ayes.
Zero (0) nays.
Motion carried.
Motion by Smith, seconded by Gerrits, to approve the February monthly cash receipts as printed. Roll call vote: Ehrenberg, aye; Kohl, aye; Gerrits, aye; Wagner, aye; Smith, aye; Leschke, aye; Loehrke, aye.
Seven (7) ayes.
Zero (0) nays.
Motion carried.
OLD BUSINESS
Nothing to report.
CONSENT AGENDA
Motion by Leschke, seconded by Smith, to accept the consent agenda as presented.
Six (6) ayes.
One (1) nays.
Motion carried.
Under the Consent Agenda, the Board of Education approved the following:
A. Committee of the Whole Meeting – 2-12-24
B. Regular Board of Education Meeting – 1-22-24
C. Hires – Alexander Muir - Director of Business Services, Tiffany Malin - Paraprofessional
NEW BUSINESS
2022-2023 District Audit Presentation (Discussion)
David Minch from Kerber Rose gave a presentation to the board on the 2022-2023 audit of the financial statements. The fund balance decreased approximately \$290,000 due to increased operating costs and healthcare. They also looked at the ESSER funds and there were no instances of non-compliance.
2024 Summer School Dates (Action)
Motion by Smith, seconded by Ehrenberg, to approve the summer school dates as they were presented.
Seven (7) ayes.
Zero (0) nays.
Motion carried.
OUT OF STATE FIELD TRIP (Action)
Motion by Smith, seconded by Leschke, to approve the out of state field trip as it was presented.
Seven (7) ayes.
Zero (0) nays.
Motion carried.
CALENDAR & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
March 11th Committee of the Whole
March 25th Regular BOE Meeting
Motion by Smith, seconded by Kohl, to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m.
The March Regular Board of Education Meeting will be held on March 25, 2024 at 6:00 PM in the High School Community Forum Room.
Monthly Regular Board of Education Meeting agendas will be posted on the district website at www.wegafront.k12.wi.us, the Weyauwega Public Library, Weyauwega City Hall, Fremont Village Hall, Neuschafer Community Library, Waupaca County Post, and at all W-F District locations.
Dawn Loughrin
Board Secretary
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aye; Wagner, aye; Smith, aye; Leschke, aye; Loehrke, aye; Gerrits, aye/nay.
Seven (7) ayes.
Zero (0) nays.
Motion carried.
OLD BUSINESS
Mr. Krause noted that the open enrollment for the Stern Academy is open until Mid March. They have 11 new applications and will be having an open house on February 15th from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm. They are ramping up their ad campaign and will be on Channel 2 which will air in February. They have rec'd an extension for the grant for next year.
CONSENT AGENDA
Motion by Gerrits, seconded by Smith, to accept the consent agenda as presented.
Seven (7) ayes.
Zero (0) nays.
Motion carried.
Under the Consent Agenda, the Board of Education approved the following:
A. Committee of the Whole Meeting – 1-8-24
B. Regular Board of Education Meeting – 12-18-23
C. Resignations – Director of Business Services
Mr. Tubbs thanked Mr. Kiefer for his years of service.
NEW BUSINESS
2022-2025 OPEN ENROLLMENT PROGRAMMING (Action)
Motion by Ehrenberg, seconded by Gerrits, to approve the 2024-2025 open enrollment programming as it was presented by the Director of Pupil Services.
Seven (7) ayes.
Zero (0) nays.
Motion carried.
HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTION HANDBOOK (Action)
Motion by Smith, seconded by Leschke, to approve the 2024-2025 high school course description handbook.
Seven (7) ayes.
Zero (0) nays.
Motion carried.
CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL AUTHORIZER / GRANT APPLICATION (ACTION)
Motion by Wagner, seconded by Smith, to approve the School District of Weyauwega-Fremont as the Authorizer for a High School Charter School and to move forward with the High School Charter Grant Application.
Five (5) ayes (Wagner, Smith, Leschke, Ehrenberg, Gerrits)
Two (2) nays (Loehrke, Kohl)
Motion carried.
CALENDAR & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
The February Regular Board of Education Meeting will be held on February 26, 2024 at 6:00 PM in the High School Community Forum Room.
Motion by Wagner, seconded by Smith, to adjourn meeting at 6:40 p.m.
Seven (7) ayes.
Zero (0) nays.
Motion carried.
Monthly Regular Board of Education Meeting agendas will be posted on the district website at www.wegafront.k12.wi.us, the Weyauwega Public Library, Weyauwega City Hall, Fremont Village Hall, Neuschafer Community Library, Waupaca County Post, and at all W-F District locations.
Dawn Loughrin
Board Secretary
Publish April 18, 2024 WNAXP

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The GC also discussed fundraising for the purchase of playground equipment, and surveys were sent out regarding mental health.
Joint School Board-Governance Council Charter School Contract Committee:
Committee Chairperson Dale Feldt advised that the Committee met earlier this afternoon. The contract has been completed and the Committee will be working on the Benchmarks at their next meeting. Their goal is to complete everything at the March 28th meeting. After which, he will send the contract to all members of the School Board and Governance Council for their review, with final approval of the contract being made at the School Board's April 9th meeting.
Finance Committee Meeting:
Committee Chairperson Dale Feldt advised that the Finance Committee met on February 26th and discussed several items, one of which was the purchase of a video board for the WHS gymnasium. He asked Director of Co-Curricular Activities and Athletics Rob Scherrer to provide a brief update on that. Mr. Scherrer shared that he would like to purchase an 8' x 15' video board for the WHS gymnasium which would be 100% paid for by sponsorships. Since the Committee meeting, a final product has been created and he has secured two partnerships and is looking for four more. The video board would generate revenue of approximately \$7,000 per year for the first three years and then approximately \$42,000 per year after that if the price remains as is. A motion was made by Dale Feldt, per Committee recommendation, to allow Director of Co-Curricular Activities and Athletics Rob Scherrer to move forward and secure sponsorships, and then proceed to purchase an 8' x 15' video board for the WHS gymnasium as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.
Mr. Feldt provided updates relating to the Spirit Gas Pumps at the Shell and two Mobil gas stations, as well as car wash subscriptions at Waupaca Pump N' Munch Mobil.
An update to the 2024-2025 budget was presented and Mr. Feldt advised that the District will not have to go to an operational budget referendum, and asked Director of Business Services Austin Moore to summarize the update. Mr. Moore advised that they have now received solid numbers from DPI and the CPI is now locked in. Those new numbers along with other miscellaneous items resulted in bringing the deficit down to approximately \$65,000, which can be taken care of through the normal budgeting process.
Consent Agenda:
A motion was made by Steve Klismet and seconded by Molly McDonald to approve the items of the consent agenda as presented.
Approval of Minutes:
February 13, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
February 22, 2024 Joint SB-GC Charter School Contract Committee Meeting
February 26, 2024 Finance Committee Meeting
February 26, 2024 Special Board Meeting
February 27, 2024 Joint SB-GC Charter School Contract Committee Meeting
Financial Reports:
Accounts Payable Approval: \$1,453,287.12, and Building Fund Payable: \$14,922.06
Treasurer's Report – January – Total Cash per Reconciliation: \$9,819,705.08 Budget to Actual Comparison by Fund Groups for February:
Fund 10 Ending Balance: \$9,892,666 [2022-2023: \$10,742,863]
Fund 21 Ending Balance: \$375,084 [2022-2023: \$451,551]
Fund 27 Ending Balance: -\$1,494,739 [2022-2023: -\$1,666,283]
Fund 38 Ending Balance: \$-1 [2022-2023: \$0]
Fund 41 Ending Balance: \$0 [2022-2023: \$0]
Fund 49 Ending Balance: \$1,194,032 [2022-2023: \$922,336]
Fund 50 Ending Balance: \$454,306 [2022-2023: \$410,869]
Resignations:
Tanya Saari – WLC Ed. Asst.-Spec. Ed. Abby Marshall – WHS School Education Teacher
Renewal of CESA 5 Lease Agreement for 2024-2025
The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.
Communications:
District Administrator Ron Saari recognized two observations which occurred last week – National School Breakfast Week and National School Social Worker Recognition Week.
Donations:
Mr. Saari advised of a donation made to WHS Boys Hockey from Waupaca Area Youth Hockey, as well as many donations from various individuals and businesses to WHS SADD post prom. A motion was made by Nic Genske and seconded by Bob Adams to accept, with gratitude, the donation made to WHS Boys Hockey from Waupaca Area Youth Hockey, as well as the various donations made to WHS SADD post prom from Liebe Family, Mace Family, River Hill Mental, Chain O'Lakes Litho, Subway, Waupaca Pump N' Munch, Farmers State Bank, Health and Fitness, Waupaca Foundry, Spine and Sport Therapy, and Holly Funeral Home as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.
District Administrator's Report:
Mr. Saari shared that over 100 8th graders participated in The Pitch, which is an entrepreneurial workshop, and there will be a student hiring expo this Thursday at WHS, both sponsored by the Chamber.
He provided an update on the Tiny House project advising that there is a meeting next week to discuss marketing it. In response to a question raised regarding the budget for this project, Mr. Feldt asked that it be put on the agenda for the upcoming Instructional Committee meeting on March 18th.
Mr. Saari shared that our Inspire Coordinator has resigned, he and Board President Dale Feldt attended the School Law Conference, and he provided the Grant Writer update as well.
Mr. Saari advised that he along with Building and Grounds Supervisor Matt Vassar met with the County Highway Department to review how to manage this location as the parent staging area in the case of an emergency and they will be meeting again on April 15th. He also explained the reunification process and shared the reunification card.
Because websites and/or cell phone lines may be down/overloaded, an Infinite Campus (IC) blast will go out to all parents to notify them of the status and where their child is. The process is for parents to go to the staging area at the County Highway Department and they will then be escorted by law enforcement to the reunification location. Some discussion then continued regarding parent notification, the staging area, and the reunification process.
Monitoring:
Student Services Update:
Director of Student Services Laurie Schmidt provided the annual update outlining enrollment data and services provided for students of special populations such as students with disabilities, students with 504 plans, English learners, and students identified as homeless. Normally this report is provided later in the year, but she shared it tonight because it correlates with the EL program update which is next on the agenda.
She advised that the District has seen a consistent upward trend in special education identification over the past four years and now consists of approximately 18% of our student population. All students with a disability have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and the services provided are based on student needs. The District also has five students placed at the Waupaca County Alternative Program (WCAP) through CESA 5 at a cost of \$39,000 per year per student. This year the District was able to claim a high cost reimbursement for those costs.
Ms. Schmidt advised that the District has 15 students with a Section 504 plan, which is considered an accommodation plan and requires the District to provide eligible disabled students with equal access to regular education services, programs, and activities offered by the SDW.

Minutes 7725

She also advised that our English Learner (EL) population has significantly increased this year from 33 to 67. Therefore, the District now meets the state criteria for a mandated bilingual-bicultural program, and the Administration will be requesting additional staffing for the EL program. She shared that technology and artificial intelligence are used daily to communicate with students and families.
Ms. Schmidt advised that the District works with the Waupaca Public Library, the City of Waupaca, as well as the Foundry to share information and assist families. She further advised that most of the Spanish speaking students are not bilingual, but the WHS Spanish V students assist with these students. Ms. Schmidt advised that students are identified as homeless during the enrollment process and are offered resources throughout the community. Currently the District has 34 students identified as homeless.
Administration:
Staffing for English Learner (EL) Program:
Ms. Schmidt advised that, as previously mentioned, the District has seen a significant increase of English Learners. Therefore, given the increase in Spanish speaking students, in particular, which requires more attention than one EL Coach can provide, she is requesting the addition of one certified EL Coach and two EL Educational Assistants for the 2024-2025 school year. All of these positions have been factored into the 2024-2025 budget, and in addition the District now qualifies for a \$40,000 grant which she will be applying for. She added that although this should have been brought to a Personnel Committee first, she would like to get these positions posted as soon as possible. Therefore, per her discussions with Personnel Committee Chairperson Betty Manion and Board President Dale Feldt, it was agreed that it could go directly before the full Board.
As she stated earlier, the District now meets the threshold for the state's requirement that it create a plan for a bilingual-bicultural program for grades K-3 and 4-8 in reference to the Spanish language.
Ms. Schmidt advised that the new EL Coach will provide services to 5-8 grade students followed by supporting the 9-12 grade teachers and students, and the Educational Assistants will support the EL Coaches and students. The additional staffing will support students, teachers and families throughout the District by providing interpreting and translation.
Ms. Schmidt also shared the position descriptions for both the EL Coach and EL Educational Assistant.
A motion was made by Ron Brooks and seconded by Steve Klismet to approve the EL Educational Assistant position description, and to approve the additional 1.0 FTE EL Coach and 2.0 FTE EL Educational Assistants as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.
Chain Exploration Center Enrollment Update:
CEC Administrator Carrie Napparella provided the CEC's enrollment information for the 2024-2025 school year. Everyone in grades 4K-3 are returning and she was excited to share that a lottery is needed in grades 4K-5. However, enrollment continues to struggle in grades 6-8. They want to encourage the 5th graders to stay, and have sent out flyers and placed posts on Facebook to encourage new applicants. She also advised that they send exit surveys to families leaving the CEC.
Approval of 2025-2026 School Year Calendar:
Director of Teacher and Learning Mark Flaten advised that Administration provided staff with four different 2025-2026 calendar options for their review, and the 2025-2026 school calendar for Board approval tonight best satisfies most based on the feedback they received. It was noted that, per past practice, spring break is scheduled between the winter and spring sports seasons, although it may interfere with winter postseason activities.
A motion was made by Bob Adams and seconded by Nic Genske to approve the 2025-2026 school year calendar as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.
Proposed Cell Tower on District Property:
Director of Business Services Austin Moore advised that LLC Telecom has been hired by Tillman Infrastructure to find suitable locations for a cell phone tower. LLC Telecom has identified two locations on the western most portion of WHS property that would be suitable for a 100' x 100' area for a 250' cell tower to be erected. Administration has signed a non-binding document that allows LLC Telecom and Tillman Infrastructure to begin the process of evaluating the property. Once their engineers approve the installation process, their construction manager and engineer will meet with the District regarding which location they have chosen and the logistics. At that time, this will come before the Board again with final details on the location and logistics, and for final approval and signature of the lease agreement and related easements. Mr. Moore shared a map indicating where the two proposed areas are located. Several Board members along with Mr. Moore advised that they preferred Option #1, and Mr. Moore advised that the District can agree or not agree with the location chosen.
Mr. Moore advised that this project will positively impact the District as well as our community, and he outlined the proposed terms of the contract. Tillman Infrastructure would be responsible for all costs associated with the installation (which includes fencing) as well as any needed maintenance; the District would not be responsible for any fees or costs. If the tower is no longer needed, Tillman would be responsible for complete removal of the tower, equipment and fencing, as well as any foundations, footings, and concrete below grade. Liability insurance coverage will be the responsibility of Tillman Infrastructure. A motion was made by Steve Klismet to authorize Administration to negotiate and proceed with signing a lease agreement with LLC Telecom to install a cell phone tower project on District property as presented, and then bring that information back to the full Board for final approval and signature. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.
Construction Update:
Mr. Saari advised that the construction projects are coming to an end. He has a walk-through scheduled tomorrow with Miron Construction at the WLC. The entire project is approximately \$139,000 over budget due to unforeseen change orders that took place over the course of the construction process. This additional expense will be covered in the present budget.
Adjournment into Closed Session:
A motion was made by Steve Klismet and seconded by Ron Brooks to adjourn into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. § 19.85(1)(c). Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, and Wis. Stats. § 19.85(1)(f). Considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary action of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons, which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations. Specifically, to discuss personnel issues. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote at 6:56 p.m.
The Board did not reconvene in open session.
Adjournment:
A motion was made and seconded to

SHERIFF'S REPORT

FROM PAGE 6

guardian of a disabled woman and she gave out personal information online that might be used for fraudulent purposes.

April 10 - A Waupaca caller on Parfreyville Road reported he received an email from a person claiming he or she killed someone.

April 10 - A Scandinavia man on Poverty Hill Road reported there was a different name on one of his accounts and someone was charging it without his knowledge.

April 10 - A 911 caller reported a house fully engulfed in flame on Akron Road.

April 10 - Rawhide Youth Services reported two juvenile runaways.

April 10 - A Scandinavia caller on Pleasant Street reported she was receiving harassing messages from her ex-boyfriend who had threatened her life.

April 11 - A Fremont caller on County Trunk W reported her medical equipment was stolen while being transferred.

April 11 - Wisconsin Veterans Home reported a possible case of elder abuse as an unknown staffer grabbed a resident by his shirt.

April 12 - A Plainfield caller reported the theft of a fish locator, an iTroll and a remote control were taken and their wires were cut.

April 12 - A Manawa woman on Nuthatch Lane reported a man with suicidal tendencies reported he no longer wants to live.

April 12 - Wisconsin Veterans Home reported a woman was kicking and punching staff and locking people in rooms.

April 12 - A Hortonville caller on School Road reported she argued with a man earlier and he locked her out of the house.

April 12 - A caller reported the theft of a matching set of a necklace, earrings and a ring valued at \$15,000.

April 12 - A New London caller on County Trunk B reported his neighbor broke his window while mowing the yard. The neighbor stated he did not do it and would not pay for it. They got into an argument about it.

April 12 - A New London caller on Depot Road reported the theft of a tree stand.

April 12 - A Manawa caller on County Trunk O reported a number of items were missing from her residence.

April 12 - A 911 caller reported the death of a 72-year-old woman.

April 13 - A De Pere man reported he was being chased by some people because he flirted with one of their girlfriends.

April 13 - An Iola caller on County Trunk GG

reported a tree smoking against a power line.

April 13 - A New London caller on Larry road reported damage to her van while it was parked on a friend's property. She accused her friend of doing it and her friend told her to prove it.

April 14 - A Clintonville caller on Lakeshore Drive reported his neighbor keeps harassing him and telling people on Facebook that he sells drugs.

April 14 - Rawhide Youth Services reported a juvenile runaway.

There were few deer-auto collisions during this period. Forty-three controlled burns were called in. A white pit bull on Behnke Road attacked another dog. A New London caller on Fitzgerald Road reported cat-killing dogs on her property. A Marion caller reported an Amish cart with a dead horse was partially blocking the roadway with nobody around. A Clintonville caller reported a truck hauling an oversized load took out a power line. A female caller reported a dog had food and water but it wrapped itself around a tree that it was tied to and could not reach the water for the past two days. A Waupaca man reported an aggressive German shepherd charged at him. Multiple mailboxes were smashed or run over during this period.

DNR awaits sturgeon decision

BY GREG SEUBERT CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WAUPACA - We just don't know what's going to happen.

That, in a nutshell, was the message from a state Department of Natural Resources fisheries supervisor regarding an upcoming decision to potentially place Wisconsin's lake sturgeon population on the federal Endangered Species List.

Tom Meronek, based at the DNR's Wautoma office, commented on the pending decision April 8 during Waupaca County's DNR and Wisconsin Conservation Congress annual spring hearing at Waupaca High School.

The Arizona-based Center for Biological Diversity petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2018 for a threatened listing under the federal Endangered Species Act for all lake sturgeon in the country, or separate threatened or endangered listings of distinct populations.

"The DNR has been actively involved in this process," Meronek said. "It's a federal process, so we are not in charge of it. We've taken every opportunity to work with the Fish and Wildlife Service and comment on this process. The DNR has submitted to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service extensive information. We've done comments on the draft document that came out last summer. We sent them well over 150 comments on the draft document that they have been working to address, at least we hope they've been working to address them. I think they have."

The USWFS has a court-ordered deadline of June 30, 2024, to finalize its document, according to Meronek. "The initial decision on listing sturgeon as endangered, threatened or however they decide to list it could come down at any time," he said. "It could come down tomorrow or it could come down in June before the deadline."

"We don't really know," he added. "We'll be issuing news releases and statements concerning that as we get more

information or when the decision does come down."

While lake sturgeon populations are a concern in other parts of the country, that's not the case in Wisconsin. The DNR has managed a popular spearing season for the prehistoric-looking fish for several years on Lake Winnebago and three upriver lakes (Buttes des Morts, Winneconne and Poygan).

A fisheries management advisory question put before the public at this year's spring hearings gauged interest to establish a catch-and-release hook-and-line fishing season for lake sturgeon from the first Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March on specific waterbodies with healthy sturgeon populations.

Current hook-and-line opportunities for lake sturgeon vary based on location. They can be harvested on specified inland waters during a season that runs from the first Saturday in September to Sept. 30.

Minnesota and Michigan also have eight- to nine-month-long catch-and-release seasons on specific waterbodies, including the Menominee, Mississippi and St. Croix rivers.

"Recently, the DNR conducted a lake sturgeon hooking mortality study to determine if expanding sturgeon angling opportunities would have negative biological effects on their population," according to information from the DNR provided at the spring hearings. "This study took place on multiple lake sturgeon fisheries throughout the state and across a range of water temperatures. No lake sturgeon mortality was observed during the two-week post-angling event. Additionally, physiological impacts of the angling event on individual sturgeon were low, with a high proportion of individuals in all locations considered recovered immediately and not impaired post-angling. It is anticipated that expanding the catch-and-release opportunities will have very little, if any, negative impacts on lake sturgeon populations."

Lake Winnebago isn't the only waterbody with a thriving lake sturgeon population, according to the DNR.

"Surveys conducted by the DNR around the state show strong sturgeon populations in most waterbodies where lake sturgeon exist," according to the information. "Surveys have also shown populations growing in size in waterbodies that previously had small or remnant populations."

Fisheries update

Also at the hearing, Meronek provided an update on the state's experimental panfish regulations currently in place on several waterbodies statewide.

"The experimental regulations would be sunset in 2026," he said. "We presently are working to extend and maybe change a lot of those regulations. It'll probably be at next year's spring hearings. We're drafting proposals right now for lakes where we would like to see panfish regulation changes. There are going to be a lot of panfish proposals coming your way to vote on."

"The ones that are experimental are going to be expired in 2026, so we have to get them to hearing so if we want to make changes, they don't expire first," Meronek said. "What we had the most success with is a 15-bag (daily limit) for panfish on a specific waterbody with no more than five of those fish being one species. If you had a lake with the 15-bag, you could take five bluegill, you could take five crappie, you could take five perch. You couldn't take 10 bluegill, 10 crappie or 10 perch."

"That was the most successful regulation, but not all lakes are going to that," he said. "We're still going to have a lot of 25-bag lakes, a lot of 10-bag lakes. In the local area, we're mostly going to be pursuing a lot of 10-bag regulations, which is already in our toolbox to use."

DNR

CONTINUES ON PAGE 16

PETERS

FROM PAGE 5

identified her as Zahn.

Zahn had difficulty breathing and she had suffered a stab wound just below her sternum.

While an ambulance crew was treating her, Zahn told Wright that her son had stabbed her and "he hates me."

Theda Star flew Zahn to Theda Care Medical Center

in Neenah, where she later succumbed to her injuries.

According to the criminal complaint, Peters told Wright, "I stabbed her."

He then threw a folding knife at Wright's feet.

When he was questioned by investigators, Peters reportedly said, "I guess I got really angry and was thinking about the past and got to that breaking point and just stabbed her."

At a court hearing on Feb. 5, Peters changed his plea to not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect. Clusman ordered a psychological exam.

On April 11, after both District Attorney Kat Turner and defense counsel Alex Gelhar had proposed that the court accept Peters plea, Clusman ordered a second psychological evaluation.

A review hearing is scheduled for June 13.

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Church DIRECTORY listing for Manawa 2045, Waupaca Area 2090, Weyauwega 2100, and New London 2055. Includes details for Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Emanuel Lutheran Church, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, St. John's Lutheran Church, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. Peter Lutheran (WELS).

Advertisement for FarmFreshXpress.com featuring high-quality, premium products from 70+ local vendors. Includes logos for Creamery, Ledgerview Gardens, Traveling Roots, Wienie's Market, Wascada Farms, Olden Organics, and Bearcats Fish House. Text: "Love the Farmers Market but too busy to go? FarmFreshXpress.com will deliver the Farmers Market to you!"

Outdoors

First-time hunters flock to turkey program

BY GREG SEUBERT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WAUPACA - Charlie Wanty was only a teenager when he shot his first turkey in 2004.

Twenty years later, his love for the sport of turkey hunting is stronger than ever and he is now president of Waupaca Learn to Hunt, a program that gives first-time turkey hunters a chance to bag their first bird.

More than 30 hunters participated in this year's program, held April 6-7 at Brooks Dairy Farm near Waupaca.

"I didn't grow up in a hunting family," Wanty said. "I started hanging with some buddies that liked to hunt. This program, for me, was an outlet to get into something. It was the second year of this program."

Wanty was able to have a successful hunt in his first year of participating in the program.

"You can participate multiple times, but if you shoot a bird, you can't do it again," he said.

Wanty now oversees the group that helped jumpstart his obsession with turkey hunting.

"Every turkey hunter who becomes die-hard once they really experience it, it's in their blood," he said. "It's fun and it's being around guys with passion."

Wisconsin's spring turkey season is unlike other hunting seasons, as it is the first major hunting opportunity after winter.

"A lot of guys are deer hunters, so they're sitting in their bow stands and their gun stands all fall," Wanty said. "Come spring, they just want to go. Turkey hunting's great because it's all during the day. They're out there."



William Bowman (left), of Neenah and his hunting mentor, Max Jenson, of Stevens Point show off Bowman's 14.8-pound jake that he shot April 7 during the second day of the Waupaca Learn to Hunt program in Waupaca County. Bowman harvested the bird near Poy Sippi in Waushara County.

Greg Seubert Photo

Participants in the program learn there's more to hunting than harvesting an animal.

"We have a warden and a local biologist talk. We have a guy who talks about what I call Turkey Hunting 101: the gear, the guns, the decoys. We have a guy talk about etiquette, how to treat land, how to get permission from landowners. It's not just about the hunt."

He compared Waupaca Learn to Hunt to an angler learning how to use a fly rod to fish for trout from an experienced angler instead of trying to figure it out on their own.

"It is learning to hunt," he said. "What's cool about this program is we have no age limit. A lot of people mistake it with the youth hunt and it's not. If you're 55 years old and you've never hunted for turkey, come to Learn to Hunt. We get people from all over: Milwaukee, Madison. A couple of years ago, I took a guy out in an outdoors wheelchair. If you want to learn to turkey hunt, we'll have you hooked."

The program is more popular than ever, according to Wanty.

"We fill up every year," he said. "We have a ton

of volunteers who are extremely passionate, want to give back and the fire is still burning. Three of the guys on the board started the program. They kind of handed the torch off, but they didn't run. They're still here to help."

The program has been based for years at Brooks Dairy Farm. Some of the hunters and mentors hunt on the property, but most others head out to different locations.

"We kind of go above and beyond," Wanty said. "What makes this program successful is we do a lot for hunters with gear

bags and raffles."

Twenty years after shooting his first turkey, Wanty now mentors other first-time hunters.

"They're not paid, it's all volunteer," he said. "They just love turkey hunting so much. Some just want to take their kid or their nephew, but our mentors are saying, 'Whoever you have, I'm going to show them the ropes.' A lot of our mentors have killed 20, 30, 40, 50 birds and they just love taking new hunters out."

Wanty doesn't see the program slowing down anytime soon.

"We're constantly full and this year is the fastest we've ever filled," he said. "The signup usually starts Jan. 1. We get so many referrals. People are telling their friends, families and neighbors. We get a lot of siblings coming through where we get three different generations. We have five or seven different mentors now that all came through the program and they're giving back. It's creating a culture that they want to be part of."

Kyler Meyer, 11, of Weyauwega shot his turkey at 6:30 a.m. April 6 with his dad, Jake, and his mentor, Adam Ruelle, in the blind with him.

"We were only in the blind for 30 minutes," he said. "We heard turkeys gobbling from our right and our left. Adam was going to call, but then he heard them fly down. Then, two other toms came and the tom that I shot gobbled at them. Then, two hens flew down. The tom saw the hens and when he got closer, he strutted and kept walking closer to us. I shot him from about 10 yards. It was like now or never for that bird. We were all screaming and yelling."

Meyer found out about the program through his dad.

"When my dad shot his turkey last year, I wanted to do it," he said. "He went on Facebook and saw this."

He said he learned a lot through the experience.

"If you're going to shoot a tom if they're strutting, you should wait until they at least pick their head up," he said. "You could damage the feathers. He was right there and dropped right away."

The turkey had no idea Meyer was only a few feet away.

"He was just worried about the decoys," he said. "We had three decoys: two hens and one jake."

Meyer, who also hunts deer and rabbits, said he would tell others interested in turkey hunting to sign up for the program.

"I would tell them this is a good way to learn to hunt," he said.

First-time hunters like Meyer get more out of the program than just having the opportunity to harvest a turkey, according to Wanty.

"Let's compare this program to the youth hunt, which is next weekend," he said. "What's different? It's the social aspect. We have an education night and they're around other kids and others in the same boat as them, talking about hunting and sharing stories. For people that have maybe had a tougher hunt, at least they come here and they're sharing lunch, seeing other birds and getting excited."

"I get a little stressed out with all of the insurance, logistics and the week leading up to it, but I always picture kids' faces on Saturday morning with their first bird," he added. "We're just trying to give them a good experience."

HAPPY EARTH DAY

NEXTERA ENERGY RESOURCES



Chad Hungerford of Manawa caught his personal best walleye on the Wolf River Monday, April 15. The fish measured 26-inches. Hungerford and many anglers are planning to fish the 48th Annual Whopper Weekend event in New London April 19-20.



Lee Ann Herschberger of Waupaca caught and released this healthy spawned-out female walleye while fishing the Wolf River between Weyauwega and New London Thursday, April 11. John Faucher Photo

Anglers geared up for Whopper Weekend

Walleye on Wolf River

BY JOHN FAUCHER
STAFF REPORTER

NEW LONDON – A record early ice out, low water levels and a mild spring have created a perfect scenario for anglers on the Wolf River this spring.

Water levels rose several feet after an early April snowstorm.

The influx of cooler water drew even more fish up the system and prolonged the spawn.

For more than two weeks, anglers from Fremont to above Shiocton caught a mix of up-run pre-spawn fish along with spawned out fish.

Some would argue it has been the best walleye fishing on the Wolf for decades.

Last week a return to warm

weather caused many walleye to spawn in shallower bayous, pockets and flooded woods, causing a massive back run of post spawn females.

Lake Sturgeon also arrived in large numbers at their spawning sites and began their reproductive ritual on the banks of the Wolf.

Anglers out on the water this past week reported catching an abundance of walleye, catfish and some early season white bass.

Lee Ann Herschberger of Waupaca and her 12-year-old grandson Elliott, were on the water fishing with friends between Weyauwega and New London, Thursday, April 11.

It was their first time fishing the Wolf River walleye run.

Both caught their limit, and each had their personal best walleye measuring in at around 24-inches respectively.

“We caught so many we were letting them go so we could stay fishing,” said Herschberger, who released her biggest fish to let it spawn again another season.

This is the fifth year since the daily bag limit for walleye on the Winnebago system went to three fish per day from the previous five.

“Most people around here prefer to eat the smaller males,” said Les Simon, a volunteer with the New London Fish and Game Club.

“Since the bag limit was reduced to three, I think a few more people who come from a long ways away to fish are tempted to keep those bigger ones to make it worth their while,” said Simon. “That’s one thing that worries me about the three fish bag limit,” he said.

Simon has volunteered at

the fish registration table for Whopper Weekend for the past decade.

He said the club awards a trophy for the longest walleye, longest one-day stringer and longest three-day stringer of walleye and longest bass.

Keep or release

Anglers have a choice to keep or release their fish after registering them in the Whopper tent at Riverside Park in New London.

Anglers purchase one raffle ticket for the \$15,000 grand prize giveaway to enter the fishing contest. After that, they are given a door prize ticket with each fish they register and have a chance to win a daily door prize.

The three-day fishing event is open 24 hours a day, with fish registrations ongoing

from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and Sunday from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m.

“In 48 years of record we have never registered a 30-inch walleye,” said Simon. “We’ve had some come close, but never a 30-incher.”

“The most fish we ever registered in the three day event was 1,700, but that was when the daily bag limit was five fish,” he explained.

There were also a couple years where the event was largely modified due to Covid restrictions.

When asked about his predictions for this year’s event, Simon said, “I think it will be a good year. Some of those fish got all the way up to Shawano, so there’s still a lot of fish to come back yet,” he said.

Chad Hungerford of Manawa agrees.

Hungerford was in New

London pre-fishing for Whopper Weekend Monday, April 15, when he caught his first limit of Wolf River Walleye and his personal best, a 26-inch female.

“I saw that thing’s head come up and started hollering for the net,” he said. “That one’s going on the wall.”

“I’ll definitely be back this weekend,” said Hungerford.

The event takes place at Riverside Park in New London April 19-21.

The shelter opens at 6 a.m. Friday and closes after the raffle drawing at noon on Sunday.

The event’s famous Buffalo burgers, and other food and refreshments will be served around the clock. Live entertainment is offered from 6p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday.

DNR

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CWD update

Jake Fries, a DNR wildlife biologist stationed at Hartman Creek State Park, said anyone interested in shaping harvest quotas for Waupaca County’s upcoming archery and gun deer seasons can attend the county’s County Deer

Advisory Council meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 1, at Manawa City Hall.

Each county in Wisconsin has its own CDAC that makes recommendations that help shape deer hunting seasons.

“Your local Conservation Congress delegates and CDAC delegates will be talking about the framework for the 2024 deer hunting season,” Fries said. “If you

can’t make it to the meeting, there’s another opportunity for you to provide public input. Go to the DNR website and search for ‘County Deer Advisory Council.’ Up toward the top of that webpage will be a banner inviting you to participate in a public survey. The results will be made available to the CDAC members at this meeting so they can incorporate those com-

ments in their discussion.” Fries also gave an update on an ongoing testing program in Waupaca County for chronic wasting disease.

“We found CWD in wild deer first in the county in the 2022-23 hunting season,” he said. “In response to that, we made a concerted effort to increase the number of samples in the county and also to geographically get a representa-

tive sample from all corners of the county. In the most recent deer hunting season, we found no additional wild CWD-positive deer.

“I don’t want to be too optimistic, but it was certainly better than finding more,” he added. “We have one more season where we’ll continue to intensively sample deer for CWD within the county. Hopefully, next year, I’ll be able to

report the same.”

Bob Peterson will join Waupaca County’s delegation on the Wisconsin Conservation Congress after agreeing to fill a seat that had been vacant. Arlyn Splitt and Scott Bestul were also re-elected to a three- and two-year term, respectively. Delegates Jason Shelley and Bob Knorr were not up for re-election this year.



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