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WAUPACA

County Post

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Judge sends sex offender to prison

Jury convicts New London man

BY ROBERT CLOUD
SENIOR EDITOR

WAUPACA – Waupaca County Circuit Court Judge Raymond Huber sentenced Devin J. Postel, 49, New London, to 10 years in state prison and six years of extended supervision Monday, Nov. 25.

He must also register as a sex offender, maintain absolute sobriety and have no contact with any victims.

A jury convicted Postel of second-degree sexual assault of an unconscious victim and felony bail jumping on Oct. 8, 2024.

He was initially charged on July 22, 2019, after a then 21-year-old woman reported that Postel had sex with her while she was sleeping in a camper at Wolf River campground in Mukwa.

According to the criminal complaint, the woman and her friend joined Postel at a campsite that his nephew had rented.

There were six adults, sitting around a campfire, drinking.

The woman went into the camper around 3 a.m. to sleep in a bunk bed.

Postel climbed into the top bunk, then asked if he could share her blanket since he had not brought one with him.

The woman agreed, turned to face the wall away from him, then fell asleep.

When she woke up, she was naked from the waist down. Her underwear and shorts on the floor.



Postel

The woman told investigators she immediately believed she had been raped.

The woman and her friend left the campsite and drove to St. Vincent Hospital in Greed Bay for a rape test.

Delays

The case had been delayed multiple times since the charges were first filed.

Courthouse operations were severely delayed from July 2020 to May 2021 due to restrictions during the covid pandemic.

A jury trial scheduled for Dec. 16, 2020, was removed from the court calendar.

In June 2022, Judge Troy Nielsen postponed a scheduled jury trial in response to concerns regarding the Waupaca County Sheriff's Office altering investigative reports before forwarding them to the district attorney's office.

Postel's defense attorney, David Winkel, filed a motion asking Nielsen to require the sheriff's office to appear in court and either "certify that the reports were not altered or provide the defendant with evidence in

Postel

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2



Fort Fremont Marine hosted the Thanksgiving Day Ski Plunge on the Wolf River. They raised \$1,500 for the American Legion in Fremont. More action photos on page 6. Submitted Photo

New London OKs 2025 budget

\$4 million tax levy

BY BERT LEHMAN
STAFF REPORTER

NEW LONDON – The New London Common Council approved the 2025 city budget and a total tax levy of \$4.01 million, when it met Nov. 19.

The total levy is broken down to \$2.99 million for the General Fund tax levy, and \$1.02 million for the debt service levy.

Under the proposed budget, New London homeowners in Waupaca County would see their city property tax rate rise from \$10.25 to \$10.44 per \$1,000 of value.

Outagamie County taxpayers would see their tax rate increase from \$10.20 to \$10.43 per \$1,000 of value.

The budget was explained in detail at an Oct. 22 Budget Committee meeting.

Debt service levy

For 2025 the city of New London is projecting a total debt service levy of \$1.02 million. The total outstanding debt for the city is \$11.9 million, New London Finance Director Judy Radke said. She added that the city's debt limit is \$26.4 million, which is 5% of the city's equalized value.

"We're not even at 50% of



The New London City Council chambers. File photo

our capacity, which means we are in really good shape going into next year," Radke said. "Early next year, we'll be bonding for Oshkosh Street."

Radke said the city's proposed 2025 budget puts the city in a "really good position to look very financially stable," so the city can get the best interest rate for the Oshkosh Street project.

General Fund

Leading off the discussion about the General Fund, City Administrator Chad Hoerth said significant investments have been made in the city's downtown district with a two-year revitalization project involving North Water Street and part of Pearl Street. Most of the construction was funded with a \$2.9 million grant.

Hoerth said one of the biggest projects to be completed in 2025 is the four-lane State Highway 15 project. With the completion of

this project, Hoerth said the city anticipates more families who work in the Fox Valley will choose to live in New London because the commute to the Fox Valley will be easier.

"While the city has some capacity for additional housing units in several existing subdivisions, the potential for increased demand means it will need to prepare for new subdivisions and development opportunities," Hoerth said.

Hoerth also said that making road improvements is one of the city's highest priorities. The city has invested \$8.5 million in road improvements over the past eight years. Road improvements will continue in 2025 with the planned reconstruction of Oshkosh Street at an estimated cost of \$4 million. The city has secured a \$2 million grant for the project.

The cost for the city's

health insurance plan for city employees is projected to increase in the 2025 budget, despite the city competitively bidding out the plan, Hoerth said. The new plan has more options at no increase in premium costs.

"However, the overall cost of health insurance for the city will increase due to more employees opting for the city's plan," Hoerth said.

The proposed budget includes a \$15,000 expenditure for a part-time grant writer shared by the city, the New London School District, and the New London Area Chamber of Commerce. The \$15,000 amount represents one-third of the cost of the grant writer, which would be the city's portion of the cost.

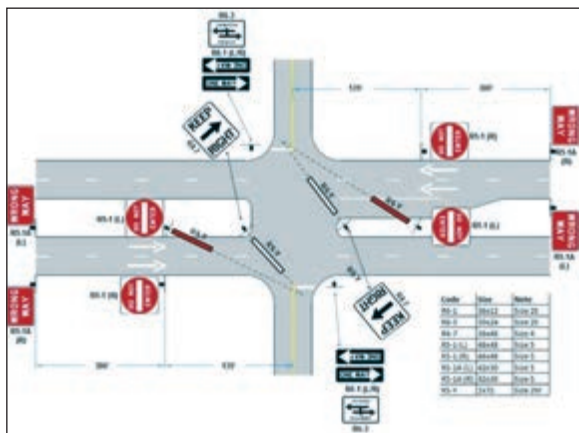
City property and vehicle insurance costs are increasing in the 2025 budget, Hoerth said.

He said the budget also includes funding for an additional fulltime employee for the Zoning Department. This position is scheduled to be filled in the second half of 2025.

Regarding revenue, Hoerth said the city expects an increase in shared revenue from the state of Wisconsin, but a decrease in transportation funds.

2025 Budget

CONTINUES ON PAGE 6



Rendering shows how the Wisconsin Department of Transportation plans to address wrong-way driving on U.S. Highway 10 by relocating signage to be more visible to drivers.

Courtesy of the Waupaca County Sheriff's Office

County installing new signs on U.S. 10

COUNTY – Waupaca County Sheriff Tim Wilz posted a letter on Facebook announcing that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Division of Transportation System Development "has launched a pilot program in Waupaca County, after a formal request from the Sheriff's Office.

The program grants an exception to current highway safety standards, allowing the Waupaca County Highway Department to install signage enhancements at six locations along U.S. Highway 10 between Fremont and Weyauwega.

The enhancements include larger signs with reflective stripes on the posts, designed to improve driver awareness and reduce the risk of wrong-way driving.

According to a Nov. 27 letter from WisDOT to Wilz, "U.S. 10 in Waupaca County has been identified as having a significant history of wrong way driving events."

The letter noted that the signs are enroute and will be installed as soon as possible.

Phase 2 of the program may include pavement marking arrows and stop lines.

"These additions are still under discussion at the state level," according to Wilz's Facebook announcement.

New clinic to open in Stevens Point

STEVENS POINT – ENT & Allergy Associates, an ear, nose, throat (ENT), allergy, immunology, asthma and audiology service provider, will break ground for a new building in Stevens Point.

Located at 5509 Vern Holmes Drive, the 7,500-square-foot clinic, designed and built by Ghidorzi Companies, is scheduled to begin serving patients in the late summer of 2025.

ENT & Allergy Associates will be increasing its staff to support the clinic's full-time ENT, allergy and audiology departments. In addition, a Walk-In Care clinic will also be available



Rendering of the new ENT & Allergy Associates building in Stevens Point, courtesy of Ghidorzi Companies.

Monday-Friday.

"With this new building, ENT & Allergy Associates is affirming our dedication to investing in the communities we serve, ensuring a permanent full-time presence in Stevens Point," said Jennifer Hinks, practice ad-

ministrators of ENT & Allergy Associates. "The walk-in clinic is a key component of this initiative, providing ENT & Allergy care without the need for scheduled appointments."

ENT & Allergy Associates has provided specialty

care to patients for 55 years, expanding its reach across Central and North Central Wisconsin.

Based in The Wausau, ENT & Allergy Associates plans to permanently establish each of its services in Stevens Point. Patients can visit ENT & Allergy Associates with no referral to receive care for ear, nose and throat concerns, hearing loss support, hearing aid fittings and allergy testing and treatment.

Until the new Stevens Point clinic opens, ENT & Allergy Associates will continue serving patients at its current location in Stevens Point, at 5409 Vern Holmes Drive.

POSTEL

FROM PAGE 1

the form of written reports or otherwise of what was removed or altered from the reports.”

In his motion, Winkel noted that staff from the sheriff's office testified on Feb. 21 that “reviewing officers not present for the investigation routinely altered reports of the investigating officer. The changes are not merely grammatical. Rather, staff testified that the changes may be substantive. In at least one case, reviewing officers removed exculpatory information.”

Defendants “have no way of confirming whether the probable cause established through the Waupaca County Sheriff's Office reports is truthful and accurate, manufactured, or whether obviously exculpatory information has been removed,” Winkel argued.

Because of the conflict between Sheriff Tim Wilz and District Attorney Veronica Isherwood regarding the issue of revisions at that time, Nielsen said, “No way on earth we could pick a fair and impartial jury from this county next month.”

After a two-day trial, the jury deliberated less than an

hour before finding Postel guilty of sexual assault and felony bail jumping.

On the morning of the trial's second day, Postel failed to appear in court. Huber authorized an arrest warrant, increased Postel's cash bond to \$500,000 and the trial proceeded without Postel's presence.

In the afternoon, Postel was in custody and in court for closing arguments and jury deliberations.

When he was sentenced on Nov. 25, Postel entered a no contest plea to a second felony bail jumping charge for a Nov. 3, 2019, offense.

Correction**2023-24 school report cards**

WAUPACA – The Nov. 27 article about school report cards using information from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction contained some inaccurate numbers.

Data from the 2020-21 school year was incorrectly entered while the scores were being compiled.

Below are the 2023-24 school report cards for the districts and schools that were previously misrepresented.

Manawa

- The Manawa School District has an enrollment of 598 and received overall score of 63.4 which is a three-star rating that meets expectations.
- Little Wolf High School has an enrollment of 236 and received an overall score of 63.8 which is a three-star rating that meets expectations.
- Manawa Middle School has an enrollment of 113 and received an overall score of 66.1 which is a three-star rating that meets expectations.
- Manawa Elementary School has an enrollment of 199 and received an overall score of 66.1 which is a three-star rating that meets expectations.

Marion

- The Marion School District has an enrollment of 462 and received an overall score of 67.0 which is a three-star rating that meets expectations.
- Marion High School has an enrollment of 216 and received an overall score of 69.4 which is a three-star rating that meets expectations.

New London

- The New London School District has an enrollment of 2,087 and received an overall score of 62.8 which is a three-star rating that meets expectations.
- Lincoln Elementary has an enrollment of 266 and received an overall score of 57.4 which is a two-star rating that meets few expectations.
- Parkview Elementary has an enrollment of 274 and received an overall score of 66.0 which is a three-star rating that meets expectations.
- Readfield Elementary has an enrollment of 136 and received an overall score of 74.9 which is a four-star rating that exceeds expectations.
- Sugarbush Elementary has an enrollment of 119 and received an overall score of 73.0 which is a four-star rating that exceeds expectations.

• New London Middle School has an enrollment of 563 and received an overall score of 67.6 which is a three-star rating that meets expectations.

• New London High School has an enrollment of 685 and received an overall score of 57.8 which is a three-star rating that meets expectations.

Waupaca

- The Waupaca School District has an enrollment of 2,037 and received an overall score of 66.9 which is a three-star rating that meets expectations.
- Waupaca High School has an enrollment of 605 and received an overall score of 59.4 which is a three-star rating that meets expectations.
- Waupaca Middle School has an enrollment of 536 and received an overall score of 68.2 which is a three-star rating that meets expectations.
- The Waupaca Learning Center has an enrollment of 620 and received an overall score of 77.4 which is a four-star rating that exceeds expectations.
- The Chain Exploration Center has an enrollment of 133 and received an overall score of 86.2 which is a five-star rating that significantly exceeds expectations.

Weyauwega-Fremont

- The Weyauwega-Fremont School District has an enrollment of 810 and received an overall score of 68.2 which is a three-star rating that meets expectations.
- Fremont Elementary School has an enrollment of 93 and received an overall score of 86.0 which is a five-star rating that significantly exceeds expectations.
- Weyauwega Elementary School has an enrollment of 259 and received an overall score of 68.8 which is a three-star rating that meets expectations.
- Weyauwega Middle School has an enrollment of 154 and received an overall score of 82.7 which is a three-star rating that exceeds expectations.
- Weyauwega High School has an enrollment of 283 and received an overall score of 54.2 which is a two-star rating that meets few expectations.
- The Fremont STEM Academy has an enrollment of 12 and received an Alternate Rating - Satisfactory Progress as the school is still new and not enough data can be collected.

PUBLISHER'S LETTER**Becoming Instruments of God's Peace**

Dear Reader,

As we go through life, there's one undeniable truth we all share: we are all going to die. This sobering reality has been with us since the dawn of humanity, yet we often fail to confront it until we're forced to. But what if, instead of avoiding this truth, we embraced it as a powerful motivator? What if we used it to drive us toward something greater than ourselves?

Imagine if, knowing that our time here is limited, we dedicated our lives to becoming instruments of God's peace. Imagine if we became peacemakers in a world that so desperately needs peace. The concept isn't new—it's been the call of countless prophets, leaders, and thinkers throughout history. But now, perhaps more than ever, it's a call we need to answer.

Why don't we? Why don't we choose to be God's peacemakers, to show kindness and love that extends beyond our own material needs and desires? Perhaps it's fear, or perhaps it's because we're so often caught up in the mundane routines of life. We focus on accumulating wealth, power, and possessions, thinking that these things will bring us happiness. But deep down, we know that they won't. True fulfillment comes from something far more profound.

What if God's plan all along has been for us to figure out that we're here to spread peace and love? What if our highest calling is to reach out to others, to transcend



our own selfish needs, and to show acts of kindness and compassion? It's a simple idea, yet it's incredibly powerful.

Think about the impact we could have if each of us made the conscious decision to be a peacemaker. If we chose to resolve conflicts rather than create them, to build bridges rather than walls, to spread love rather than hate. The ripple effect of our actions could transform not just our immediate circles, but the world at large.

As instruments of God's peace, we have the opportunity to leave a lasting legacy. We can make a difference in a world that often seems lost in chaos and division. And in doing so, we can find a sense of purpose that goes far beyond our individual lives.

So, let us ask ourselves: why not? Why not become peacemakers? Why not live our lives in a way that reflects the love and kindness that God has shown us? Why not strive to leave the world a better place than we found it?

In the end, we all will face the same fate. But until that day comes, let's commit to living our lives as instruments of peace. Let's reach beyond our material needs, show love to those around us, and embrace the calling that has been with us all along. We may just find that in doing so, we fulfill the very purpose of our existence.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

Author of "Reflections" a new book now available on Amazon.

Community news online.

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Waupaca NEWS

Arts festival begins fund drive

WAUPACA – The annual fund drive for the Waupaca Fine Arts Festival (WFAF) began last week with a mailing campaign to supporters of the arts.

For 62 years, the WFAF has reached thousands of artists and patrons through the Waupaca Community Theatre and Children's Theatre, Waupaca Community Choir and Civic Orchestra, and the Waupaca Art Show.

"The Waupaca Fine Arts Festival is excited to celebrate and share a diverse array of artistic opportunities and performances with the greater Waupaca community," Chair Dan Wolfram said. "Our events and programs have touched nearly every resident over the years, and we hope the community recognizes how much our organization enhances the quality of life here. We deeply appreciate past contributions, which have been vital in sustaining our efforts."

Wolfram noted, "As the costs of our events and programs continue to rise, your support becomes even more crucial. We take great pride in being part of this historic organization, which has significantly enriched the cultural landscape of Waupaca. While we acknowledge the presence of other arts organizations in the area, we are proud to have laid the groundwork for a vibrant arts community. By donating to the WFAF, you are supporting the longest-standing arts organization in the county. Our fundraising goal for the 2024-25 season is \$45,000, and with your help, we can continue to make a positive impact in our community."

This season promises an array of cultural events. It begins with the holiday show, "The Twelve Days of Christmas



The Waupaca Community Choir and Civic Orchestra will perform a "Collage Concert" Sunday, April 6, 2025. The Waupaca Fine Arts Festival, which is responsible for the concert, as well as an art show and theatrical productions in the community, is currently raising funds. Contributed Photo

Cabaret," at the Waupaca Country Club on Friday, Dec 6-7.

The Waupaca Community Theatre will present the musical comedy "The Kids Left The Dog Died. Now What" Friday through Sunday, Jan. 10-12, 2025, at the Gerold Opera House in Weyauwega.

On Sunday, April 6, 2025, the Waupaca Community Choir and Civic Orchestra will perform a "Collage Concert" featuring Broadway hits, spirituals, and new selections, all performed in English, at the Waupaca High School Performing Arts Center.

The original Waupaca Art Show will return to the historic Danes Hall for five days from April 12-16.

The Waupaca Community Children's Theatre will stage Elephant and Piggie's "We Are In a Play" at the Waupaca Middle School Knoepfel Auditorium from July 18-22, followed by this summer's mainstage production of "Hello, Dolly!" on July 26, 27, 31, and Aug. 1-3, at the Waupaca High School Performing Arts Center, featuring a live pit orchestra.

The Festival Committee's Board has approved a working budget of \$95,550 for the

2024-25 season. To support these events, the board aims to raise more than \$45,000 through donations. Contributions are welcomed year-round and are tax-deductible for those who itemize. The Waupaca Fine Arts Festival is a registered non-profit organization under 501(c)(3).

Donors will be recognized in the following categories for their contributions: Presidential Circle-\$2,500+, Director's Circle-\$1000-\$2,499, Patron-\$500-\$999, Benefactor-\$250-\$499, Donor-\$100-\$249, Contributor-up to \$99.

Contributions at the Patron level and above will be acknowledged as Underwriters for all events, including the Community Choir, Art Show, and Community Theatre. Donations received by March 21, 2025, will be featured in the WFAF season's printed brochure. All contributors will also be recognized in the Waupaca County Post and on our new website.

To contribute, mail checks to Waupaca Fine Arts Festival, Box 55, Waupaca, WI 54981. Online donations can be made anytime at www.fineartsfestival.org.

Chainopoly update

BY JAMES CARD
STAFF REPORTER

WAUPACA – Roll the dice, advance to another lake and draw a card that might say, "Free boat tow, advance to boat landing, collect \$250."

Another card might read: "Perform onstage at Indian Crossing Casino, owner pays you \$50." Draw another: "Caught tree jumping on Loyola ... chased by Jesuits, go back three spaces." Draw another: "Take the kids to Scoopers, pay \$15."

Chainopoly is the creation of Waupaca native Seth Nelson and he launched the project in the summer of 2023. It nears completion and the boxes will be printed next week.

"Through the Indiegogo campaign we pre-sold 30 board games and raised close to \$2,500. I supplied an additional \$2,500 of my own money to finance the project for 50 games," said Nelson.

He partnered with Ian Polebitski of IJP Graphic Design for the images of the various spaces and lakes, including making the funny money which has the denomination, im-



Seth Nelson's Chainopoly board game will be shipping soon to pre-paid buyers and will be available for purchase. The game is based on the Chain O' Lakes. Submitted Photo

ages of a motorboat and a pontoon boat, and says, "In Lakes We Trust."

Once the pre-sold games are shipped next week, Nelson will be launching a Shopify website to sell the remaining inventory in time for a Christmas gift. Once those sell out, he will produce more games according to customer demand.

Chainopoly is like the classic board game Monopoly but instead of Marvin Gardens and Park Place, its Sunset Lake and a boat landing (collect \$250 when you pass it).

Entrepreneurs seeking to

build a real estate empire on the Chain O' Lakes can rent out boathouses and cottages.

Also like Monopoly's oddball properties like water works, the railroads and the electric company; Chainopoly has the Wisconsin Veterans Home, Camp Onaway and Camp Tamarack and four hotspots: Thom Thumb Mini Golf, the Wheelhouse Restaurant, Indian Crossing Casino and Clear Water Harbor Waterfront Restaurant and Bar.

The boardgame can be found at <https://ut7emt-yi.myshopify.com>.

Winter driving safety tips

COUNTY – Gov. Tony Evers proclaimed Monday, Dec. 2, as Snowplow Driver Appreciation Day in Wisconsin to remind motorists to slow down and give space to snowplow drivers to safely do their jobs.

In partnership with the Wisconsin County Highway Association (WCHA), the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) urges drivers to pay attention on Wisconsin roads this winter.

"As the fall and winter seasons come and go, our snowplows are always harnessed and ready to get to work. Regardless of the amount and type of equipment we have, it's the employees behind the wheel that need our full support and need to know they are appreciated day in and day out since they are the ones ready to serve no matter what time of day when the snow, ice or sleet begins to fall," said Waupaca County Highway Commissioner Casey Beyersdorf. "Please give snow plow drivers the time and necessary room on the roads to perform their work duties so we can all go home safely."

For more than 100 years, Wisconsin has maintained a unique partnership with the state's 72 county highway departments.

During the winter, county highway workers keep interstate, U.S. and state highways safe by snow plowing, salting and applying liquid brine. WisDOT works closely with Wisconsin counties year-round to establish best practices and test new tools for safety and efficiency.

Wisconsin allows flashing green warning lights on county or municipal maintenance vehicles – in addition to red or amber lights. The green warning lights are meant to increase safety, enhance driver awareness and improve visibility of maintenance vehicles.

Before traveling, visit 511wi.gov to check road conditions, live video from traffic cameras and possible incidents. Download the 511 Wisconsin mobile app to "know before you go."

Winter travel safety tips

- Buckle up, phone down. Every trip, every time.
- Watch the road ahead and leave room to brake, especially in slick conditions.
- Most traffic crashes in winter are caused by drivers going too fast for conditions. Posted speed limits apply when travel conditions are ideal. Slow down when roads are slick or visibility is reduced.
- Stay at least 200 feet behind a working snowplow. Make sure that you can see the plow's mirrors to ensure the driver can see you.
- If you must pass a snowplow, be careful. Snowplows often create a cloud of snow that can obscure vision. Remember that road conditions in front of the plow are likely worse.
- Don't be over-confident if you operate a four-wheel or all-wheel-drive vehicle. They still require a considerable distance to stop on slick roads.
- During major winter storms, postpone or cancel your trip. Stranded motorists and vehicles become hazards that interfere with snow removal efforts.

Sheriff's office reports scam caller

WAUPACA – The Waupaca County Sheriff's Office is warning residents that someone is making scam phone calls and impersonating a deputy. The person making the calls claims to be "Dustin Gabrielson" with Waupaca County Sheriff's Office and used a

false badge number. Those who receive calls or voicemails claiming to be from a Waupaca County officer and they do not know why, should contact dispatch at 715-258-4466. They can confirm the validity of the person claiming to be a deputy.

"We are unsure what Mr. Gabrielson is wanting when he calls," according to the Waupaca County Sheriff's Office Facebook page. "If anyone does speak to him, please let him know we would also like to talk him and recommend he gives us a call too."

Funds to stick with studies

Winchester awards scholarships

BY JAMES CARD
STAFF REPORTER

WAUPACA – The Winchester Academy of Waupaca is mostly known for hosting speakers on a wide range of topics throughout the year.

Their programs are free of charge, open to the public and are like a cross be-

tween a university-level lecture and a TED Talk. Past speakers have talked about Wisconsin speech patterns, timber wolves, law enforcement, Apollo 11 and artificial intelligence.

To expand their mission of lifelong learning, the group is awarding scholarships but this is what they are doing different: they noticed that the vast majority of scholarships available are awarded to graduating high school seniors. What

happens when that money runs out after the first year?

"So now you've got kids going into their junior or senior year and the funds just aren't there. We see the increases of costs going up but the availability of scholarship funds just isn't there. We decided to support those students who have established themselves by being in school halfway through their program,"

Winchester
CONTINUES ON PAGE 10

NEW LISTING

IOLA VACANT LAND ACRES
Approx. 56 Acres on 3 adjacent parcels just outside of Iola! Inc 3 parcels. Two parcels are zoned Ag Enterprise & the 3rd is zoned Residential. Public hunting borders the west. Par#17-02-41-2: This parcel consists of 30.90 acres w/ a 30x60 2x6 framed outbuilding w/cedar siding and electricity & cable. The terrain has rolling hills & easily accessible paths allowing for exceptional hunting. This acreage is mostly wooded (+/- 21 acres) w/+/-8.29 tillable field. Par#17-02-41-2: 24.05 acres is open w/a few trees and is mostly tillable land. Lots of deer trails on both parcels. No improvements or utilities to this parcel. Par# 17-02-42-4: 1.66 acres w/ a 36x48 heated garage & 12x18 shed & 6 inch well. Garage w/fiber cement siding & stone facade. MLS#50301326

Faye Wilson
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December 14, 2024
11am - 2pm

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- Face painting
- Holiday music with Tom's Tunes
- Holiday craft
- Tour the farmhouse

The house will be open for tours again in the evening from 5pm - 7pm with no fee to attend. No other activities will be happening at that time.

Email thernfarmn@gmail.com with any questions.

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Stevens Point NEWS

Monteverdi Chorale to present Handel's Messiah

STEVENS POINT – Tickets are now on sale for Monteverdi Chorale's performance of G. F. Handel's Messiah at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, at St. Stephen Catholic Church, 1401 Clark S.

This holiday classic will be brought to life by the Monteverdi Chorale, along with an orchestra of local musicians. Under the direction of Dr. Matheus Cruz, Monteverdi Chorale will also welcome four soloists for the performance:

Natalie Cummings, soprano; Chelsea Betz, mezzo-soprano; Elijah Schuh, tenor; Austin Bradley, baritone. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$20 seniors age 65 and up, \$10 for youths and students with ID, children age 5 and under free

A Holiday Tradition with a Purpose: Support Operation Bootstrap

Monteverdi Chorale is supporting Operation Boot-



The Monteverdi Chorale will perform Handel's Messiah at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, at St. Stephen Catholic Church. Submitted Photo

strap this holiday season by hosting a donation drive at the door to the concert. Operation Bootstrap provides critical services to individuals in need, including transportation, rent assistance, clothing, medical aid, utility support, and operates a food pantry in Stevens Point.

To help make a difference, attendees are encouraged to

bring non-perishable food items to the concert.

For a list of suggested donation items, please visit monteverdichorale.org and click on the "Donation Items" section.

Visit monteverdichorale.org to reserve tickets ahead of the performance. Tickets will be sold at the door, as available.

Quilting group meets mayor

STEVENS POINT – Faithful Knotters, a quilting group from Rosholt, recently met with Mayor Mike Wiza.

The group makes quilts and then donates them to those in need.

This year they have sent more than 120 quilts overseas in addition to providing them locally.

They recently donated about 20 hand-made quilts to the soon-to-open Stevens Point Warming Center run by Evergreen Community Initiative and the Monroe House.

The Faithful Knotters meet at Faith Lutheran Church in Rosholt but also do much of the sewing in their homes.



Members of Faithful Knotters spent time with Stevens Point Mayor Mike Wiza. Photo courtesy city of Stevens Point

"It's wonderful to have such generous people in our community", said Wiza. "These lovely ladies even taught me how to do some pinning and tying, I cannot thank them enough for helping those in need, right here

in our city." Members of Faithful Knotters include Dorothy Knopp, Kate O'Connor, Lois Thorp, Norma Anderson, Bette Kaniecki, Betty Sadogierski, Darlene Knitter and Bev Carter.



Aspirus Stevens Point Hospital's nutrition services team includes (from left) CJ Knechtel, David Hayes, Virginia Reichert, Julie Nagel, Denise Aisbet, Rachel Pretat, Hannah Henry and (not pictured) Amy Dinga. Submitted Photo

Aspirus helps Meals on Wheels

STEVENS POINT – Aspirus Stevens Point Hospital is playing a vital role in providing nutritious meals to those in need in the local community.

Through its collaboration with Meals on Wheels of Stevens Point, the hospital's nutritional services team ensures that homebound individuals - many of whom are elderly or disabled - receive hot, diet-specific meals delivered to their doorsteps.

Each day, the nutrition services team at Aspirus Stevens Point Hospital dedicates 2.5 full-time equivalent staff hours to prepare meals for the Meals on Wheels program. Volunteers then pick up the meals at the hospital and deliver them to clients in the greater Stevens Point area.

"Our team is passionate about the healing power of healthy, great-tasting food," said Catherine Noth, the hospital's manager of food and nutrition services. "We are gratified to know that our time and talents are being shared with those in need

throughout our community."

Meals are delivered Monday through Thursday by volunteers, who drive 16 routes daily, serving between 8 and 14 recipients per route. Volunteers donate their time as it fits their schedules. The program is entirely volunteer-driven, and the Meals on Wheels team is always in need of new volunteers to ensure the program can continue to meet the growing demand.

The program primarily serves individuals over the age of 60, with 77.6% of recipients being over 75 years old.

The meals provided are tailored to meet the specific dietary needs of older adults, including low sodium, low cholesterol, and carb-controlled options, as well as modifications for those with swallowing difficulties or severe arthritis. For many recipients, Meals on Wheels provides more than just food - it offers a sense of safety and community connection. According to Tasha Beestman, executive director of Meals on Wheels of Stevens Point, in 2023, 37,517 meals

were provided, 744 wellness checks were completed by volunteers, and 509 interventions were made, including calls to emergency services and referrals to other community resources.

The Meals on Wheels program is funded through a combination of grants, community donations, Older Americans Act funds and recipient contributions. The average recipient donation is \$2.50 per meal.

While recipients are encouraged to donate toward the cost of their meals, no one is turned away due to inability to contribute. According to Beestman, of the 37,517 total meals provided in 2023, more than 14,000 went to recipients who were unable to contribute at a cost of \$74,718.

For more information about Meals on Wheels or to volunteer, please contact Meals on Wheels of Stevens Point at 715-341-0081 or meals@mealsonwheelssp.com.

Planetarium shows in December

STEVENS POINT – Journey light years away from home this December at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Allen F. Blocher Planetarium.

Planetarium shows will be offered at 2 p.m. on Sundays in December. All regular public shows are around one hour long and include a 25-min presentation focusing on the current night sky of Central Wisconsin.

All events are free and open to the public, but donations are appreciated and help continue these programs:

- Dec. 8 – "MUSICA – Why is the Universe Beautiful?" See how art, music and mathematics are integral to the beauty of the Cosmos.
- Dec. 15– "Season of Light." Go back in time to

learn how winter brings out light in all forms through various holiday traditions around the world and the stars in the expansive cosmos.

A Junior Scientist planetarium program, "Moles, What is Out There?" will be offered 3:40 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 15, with a book reading season starting at 3 p.m. This program is in collaboration with the UW-Stevens Point Museum of Natural History.

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

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

Stargazing sessions are available Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:30-10 p.m., weather dependent, on Colman field, located on the corner of Maria. and Reserve streets. Viewings will be held only if the skies are clear and the temperature is above 15 degrees Fahrenheit. Check the department's website linked below for weather status updates.

Learn more at wsp.edu/smcpa/blocher-planetarium.

West River Drive traffic study

STEVENS POINT – A public informational meeting regarding the West River Drive traffic study is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, at the Stevens Point Public Works facility, 100 Sixth Ave.

Local officials, property owners, residents and other interested parties are encouraged to attend the meeting.

advertise
715.258.3207

Toys for Tots in Portage County

STEVENS POINT – The Rotary Club of Greater Portage County has launched the 2024 Toys for Tots toy drive.

As part of the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program, now in its 77th year, this local effort aims to collect thousands of new unwrapped toys for children and families in Portage County.

"More than 50 businesses and organizations within Portage County host collection boxes," Sarah Scripps, Club President and volunteer Toys for Tots coordinator, said. "Your donations of books, games, puzzles, arts and crafts projects stay in our county and are greatly appreciated."

Go to stevens-point-wi.toysfortots.org/ and click "Donate" in the top navigation bar to find a list of area businesses collecting toys.

The drive seeks to collect high-demand toys like LEGOs, Pokemon, Barbie, toy trucks, cars, tractors and dolls. Additionally, there's a call for more teen-appropriate gifts such as young adult books, and sports brand merchandise like hats, bags

and tumblers, alongside arts, crafts, and STEM projects for ages 10 and above.

When the collection ends on Dec. 10, Rotary volunteers will pick up the collection boxes and Operation Bootstrap will coordinate the distribution of toys.

"In 2023, Operation Bootstrap delivered more than 4,300 toys and books to 1,400 children in Portage County," Scripps said. "We were able to serve more families than ever before thanks to the generosity of our communities."

Toys for Tots in Portage County is supported by generous sponsors including Furniture & Appliance Mart, Ascendance Trucking, Precision Glass and Door, and Cher's Heating and Plumbing.

The Portage County effort is part of the national endeavor of Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots, which has distributed 677 million toys to 301 million deserving children.

For further information or to sponsor, contact Greg Frise, Greater Portage County Rotary, 715-321-1800.

Learn more about these fine businesses online at: www.waupacanow.com

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Clintonville NEWS

City passes sexting ordinance

Police have more options with minors

BY BERT LEHMAN
STAFF REPORTER

CLINTONVILLE – The city of Clintonville adopted an ordinance that prohibits sexting by minors.

The ordinance was passed by the Clintonville Common Council at its Nov. 12 meeting.

The council also suspended the rules requiring a second reading of the ordinance, so the ordinance is in effect.

Sgt. Tyler Bartel addressed the council about the proposed ordinance during a Committee of the Whole meeting.

Bartel said one of his duties with the Clintonville Police Department is handling Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) investigations. He said this involves exploitation of children and child pornography. In the past, Bartel said he has also served as the School Resource Officer (SRO) for the Clintonville School District.

“For several years now, I’ve been dealing with crimes involving children, and as a result, I’ve conducted a fair amount of child pornography investigations that have originated from residents in the city of Clintonville, and more specifically, juveniles,” Bartel said.

By communicating with other police departments to see how they handle such cases, Bartel said numerous communities have a sexting ordinance that is similar to the one proposed to the council, to help curb dysfunctional behavior.

Bartel said a large source of sexually explicit images are self-produced, or images where the victim knowingly and willingly provided the

images, but did not know the images would be saved or sent to others.

“In studies conducted, it is estimated that 25-30% of children between the ages of 14 and 17 have sent a sexually explicit image, whether it be of someone else or themselves,” Bartel said. “It is further estimated that 10% of middle school students have participated in sexting.”

Bartel said the goal of the proposed ordinance is to have local impact on the prevention of child pornography production.

The ordinance addresses the distribution of images by another person, Bartel said. In addition, the ordinance addresses the use of artificial intelligence in producing sexually explicit images.

“A juvenile found to be in possession of or distributing sexually explicit or suggestive images of a child would be violating this ordinance,” Bartel said. “This includes images of themselves, others, or artificially generated.”

Bartel said the proposed ordinance would not cover victims of crime.

If a juvenile receives unsolicited sexually explicit images, they are encouraged to contact an adult, preferably a police officer, Bartel said.

“We are targeting those that are engaged in the distribution and creation of these images,” Bartel said. “This obviously will also not apply to adults engaged in this conduct with children. These would still be referred to the district attorney for prosecution.”

He added, “I firmly believe that having this ordinance enacted will be a useful tool that can be used on solving a problem that exists more than people realize,” Bartel said.

School Resource Officer Casey Ebert told the coun-

cil that he teaches students about internet safety when using social media. He said he also teaches students about sextortion. This included students from fourth grade through 12th grade.

In his two years as the SRO, Ebert said he has seen an increase of the use of social media by younger students.

Ebert said the proposed ordinance would be used to help educate students.

“This ordinance is just another tool in our pocket, and it will greatly help out our community and the schools,” Ebert said.

Ald. Brandon Braden asked if the police department currently does not have the ability to issue a ticket for this type of behavior.

“It’s a charge to the county, it goes through the DA’s office,” Ebert said. “It’s just a lot easier for us to handle things in-house because we work closely with the judges that are in this community. And since I’m working with these kids every day, I think once it gets in my hands, and I’m working directly with them, it probably means a lot more to them, than when I send it down to county and someone that they don’t even know or met before, gives them a phone call and they’re talking about it.”

Clintonville Police Chief Craig Freitag said the only option the police department currently has if two juveniles are sending sexually explicit photos to each other is to refer them for a felony charge.

“I don’t think that’s really appropriate,” Freitag said. “I’m not condoning what they’re doing, but I think when you think of child porn, you think they’re looking at porn. I think this ordinance fits what we are seeing.”



Shown with gifts collected for the Goodfellows holiday campaign are staff from Clintonville Ambulance, Asher Kallio (kneeling) and Devon Nikodem and Jamie Jack.

Submitted Photo

Red Cross holds blood drive

CLINTONVILLE – The American Red Cross held a blood drive Drive Nov. 20 at Memory Lanes in Clintonville

A total of 33 donors contributed blood, benefitin 92 patients suffering from cancer, disease, having surgery, or accidents.

The Clintonville Am-

balance Service teamed up with the Clintonville Goodfellows for their annual toy collection to be distributed in the area.

A flu clinic was also held to serve the people of the area. The EMS crew on hand to assist with the event were Asher Kallio, Lance, Notz, Maxwell Law, Devin

Nikodem and Jamie Jack.

Other volunteers assisting with the drive were Carla Wengelski, Mary Kautz, Beth Klotzbuecker, Mary Jolin, Philip, Wais, Barb Mueller and Mary Wais RN.

The next blood drive is slated for March 19, 2025 at Memory Lanes in Clintonville.

School board reviews retirement fund

Clintonville considers changes

BY BERT LEHMAN
STAFF REPORTER

CLINTONVILLE – The Clintonville B School discussed potential changes to how it invests retirement funds for district employees.

At the Nov. 25 board meeting, Superintendent Troy Kuhn said the district has roughly \$295,000 in potential teacher retirements this year.

“In addition to that, if our retirement was fully

funded, that if everybody that is eligible retired today, we would need about \$1.6 million in funds,” Kuhn said. “So, it is a liability that’s sitting out there on our books, so we do have to budget for this.”

Currently, the district has roughly \$400,000 in individual retirement accounts with Mid America, Kuhn said.

He told the board that it has a couple of options.

Kuhn said if those district employees retire and the district honors its handbook, the district would have to take funds from the undesignated fund balance

this year to pay the retirement benefits. He said the other option would be to “band-aid” a solution together for one or two years.

“We could recollect those individual accounts and put them in a trust,” Kuhn said.

This would involve removing the \$400,000 from the individual retirement accounts with Mid America and placing the funds in one account with Mid America. The funds in that one account would still earn interest.

“Then we would use that pool of money to deposit

Fund

CONTINUES ON PAGE 10

Christmas movie at Community Center

CLINTONVILLE – “The Polar Express” will be screened at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13, at the Clintonville Community Center, 30 S. Main St.

Sponsored by Clintonville Parks and Rec, this family film is free of charge.

“The Polar Express” is an animated Christmas adventure film directed by Robert

Zemeckis and starring Tom Hanks as the conductor, a hobo, an Ebenezer Scrooge puppet and Santa Claus. The story is about a magical train heading to the North Pole.

Library hosts holiday social

CLINTONVILLE – The Clintonville Public Library will host a holiday social for adults from 2-4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, in the library meeting room.

The free program will have coffee, tea and snacks, as well as conversation and tasty treats.

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Christmas in Clintonville

2024 Schedule of Events:

- Nov. 22-Dec. 16 | Letters to Santa - Mailbox in front of Community Center
- Dec. 6 | Community Tree Lighting by First State Bank 6 PM
- Dec. 9 | Light Up Clintonville Registration Deadline - Judging Dec. 11,12
- Dec. 13 | Movie Night at the Community Center "The Polar Express" 6 PM
- Dec. 14 | Bingo at the Community Center by Pigeon Lake District 10-12 PM
- Dec. 14 | Holiday Shop Hop (times determined by participating businesses)
- Dec. 14 | Santa Meet & Greet sponsored by Fox Communities Credit Union 1-4 pm Clintonville Community Center - Food by Onward Clintonville and Kid's Crafts
- Dec. 14 | Christmas Parade sponsored by Marketplace Foods (16th St. to 8th St.)
- Dec. 14 | Riverside Golf Course - Arty's Christmas Bash 5-10 PM

Scan the code for parade registration or visit the Chamber website at www.clintonvillewichamber.com for more info!

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Wega-Fremont NEWS

Water skiing for charity



Water skiers at Fort Fremont Marine raised \$1,500 for the American Legion in Fremont on Thanksgiving morning.

Submitted Photos



New London & Hortonville

District approves insurance plans

More options provided

BY BERT LEHMAN
STAFF REPORTER

NEW LONDON – The New London School Board approved health insurances plans for 2025 for district employees when it met Nov. 13.

The approved plans include some changes from the previous year's plans.

According to the Topic Summary Sheet (TSS) for the meeting, prior to the board voting on the proposed plans, the district held an online meeting for staff "to communicate the potential options for 2025 and to gather feedback from employees."

The TSS also stated that the health insurance utilization for the district has been high the past 18 months.

"For over a decade, the utilization for our fully insured plan was well below industry averages for the district," according to the TSS. "The Board responded to those positive results with limited changes while remaining fiscally responsible to the budget."

Over the past two years, the plan utilization has had a loss ratio of more than 140%.

"The budget supports an 8% increase but significant plan design changes are needed to get the total premium costs to that budget target," the TSS noted.

2024 plan

According to the TSS,

the district offered two plans to district employees in 2024. A Focus plan was the base plan for the district. Employees could choose a traditional deductible plan or a high-deductible plan.

A Broad plan was also offered, which allowed employees to choose a traditional plan or a high-deductible plan, but also pay an additional premium share to "buy-up" to that plan.

2025 plan

The plan approved by the board meets the 8% increase for health insurance in the 2024-25 school budget.

The base plan for the district is now the Select plan. The Focus and Broad plans will continue to be offered as buy-up options.

The traditional deductible plan will see an increase in the deductible amount, and will also have a 20% co-insurance in inpatient and outpatient procedures. Co-pays will also increase for RX's and for visits.

The high deductible plan will also see an increase in the deductible amount. The plan is offset by an HSA contribution by the district.

Future outlook

According to the TSS, the long-term goal of the district is to be self-funded for health insurance.

"The timing is bad right now with the loss ratio, but it continues to be a goal," the TSS says.

Holiday giving at First State

NEW LONDON – Community members are invited to support First State Bank's Share the Joy Holiday Giving Program.

The bank is again partnering with residents and local organizations to fulfill holiday wishes for area children in need.

Volunteer shoppers wishing to donate can stop by the bank's New London, Clintonville, Waupaca, Manawa or Stevens Point offices to choose an ornament from the Giving Tree in the lobby. Participants then purchase a gift to fit the needs listed on the ornament tag.

Return new, unwrapped gifts to First State Bank in New London and Clintonville by Dec. 6, in Waupaca by Dec. 11, in Manawa or Stevens Point by Dec. 13.

Gifts will be distributed to local families in need by Christmas for Kids in New London, Goodfellows of Clintonville and Marion, Waupaca Miracle Tree, the Manawa Food Pantry and Boys and Girls Club of Portage County.

For more information about how to help Share the Joy, contact the local First State Bank office or call 800-994-2500.

2025 BUDGET

FROM PAGE 1

Because of the city's recent growth, Hoerth said the city's allowable levy increase will be \$54,972, which is double what it has been in recent years.

"With the budget as proposed and preliminary assessment values reported from the state, residents at this point in time can expect a nearly flat municipal tax rate from 2024, with a modest increase of about \$40 for a \$200,000 assessed home," Hoerth said.

He said that represents about a 1.9% increase in the city's tax rate.

Radke said wages for the police department increased by \$51,000 in the budget.

She added that the city's general fund employee wages increased by \$65,045. She said the wage increase was 4% for employees.

The budget includes a total increase in revenues in

the amount of \$193,800, which is up from previous years, Radke said. The budget includes a total increase in operations expenditures of \$334,000, which equates to a 4.2% increase over last year.

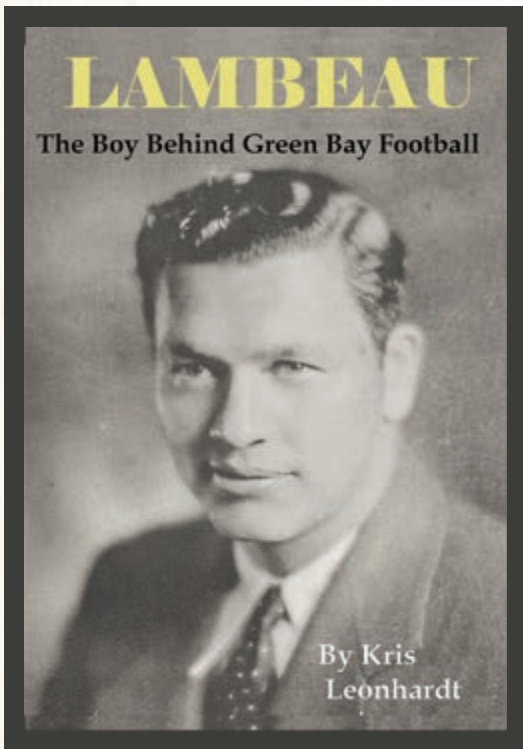
The total general fund budget of \$9.16 million is an increase of 3.79%, she said.

"Which I think is quite conservative when we know that inflation and cost of living are hitting almost double digits," Radke said.

Wheel tax

Radke said the city will carry forward wheel tax revenue in the amount of \$135,000. The city estimates that it will add \$130,500 in wheel tax revenue in 2025. After projected 2025 projects are completed, Radke said the city estimates the balance at the end of 2025 to be \$153,000.

"A fascinating TALE



of dedication that will inspire fans and readers alike. If you love football, community and tales of grit, this book is a must-read.

The story of the beginning of the Green Bay Packers and the life of Earl Louis "Curly" Lambeau are so intertwined that it is hard to imagine one without the other.

From the streets of Green Bay, Lambeau developed a passion for football and grew that yearning into a football team that would exist long past his lifetime.

Like the Packers, Lambeau's story is a tale of adversity and challenge, but also a story of triumph and perseverance. While his personal life and professional career were wrought with challenge, his legacy continues to resonate in the Green Bay community, including a massive structure along Lombardi Avenue that shines a light on his contribution to the professional team.

RESCHEDULED BOOK RELEASE EVENT

Tuesday, Dec. 17 - 4-6 p.m.

Bosse's News Depot
107 S Broadway, De Pere

Manawa NEWS

Family restores historic carousel

BY EMILY DOUD
STAFF REPORTER

SYMCO – The Union Thresherman’s Club is looking to put Symco on the map with the purchase and renovation of a vintage, steam-powered carousel.

Andy Moravec is a member of the Union Thresherman Club and decided to make one of his bucket list dreams come true with the purchase of a carousel circa June 1948. He had been watching out for a carousel for the last couple years.

Moravec said the carousel renovation was on his bucket list because of the draw he noticed when steam-powered carousels were at various tractor shows he attended.

Another reason he wanted to go after this endeavor was because there are no steam-powered carousels in Wisconsin, Moravec said, he wanted to be able to bring one to the club in order to be the first in the state.

Moravec found the carousel and purchased it from a former carnival worker in central Iowa who had owned the carousel and



Union Thresheree Club member, Andy Moravec, renovated a carousel this past year, a project that is ongoing as he works to restore the steam-power element to the carousel, which will make it the only one in Wisconsin.

Emily Doud Photo

many other eclectic carnival rides to entertain his grandchildren.

The carousel itself was purchased by the club and money was raised to pay for it through a sponsorship program where people could sponsor a horse or seat on the carousel.

As of right now, the carousel operates with an electric motor, however it

is Moravec’s plan to restore the ride’s steam power.

To be able to run off of steam power he will need to add a steam engine and boiler to the ride that is separate from the carousel.

Carousels were steam powered due to electricity not being readily available in fields where carnivals were traditionally held.

Moravec said that to get

the carousel running he had to fix almost everything. The carousel had been under a roof however there were no sides, so it had been exposed to the elements.

Starting with the horses, which are aluminum, he sand blasted to get numerous coats of paint off of them.

Moravec said once the paint was taken off he

picked four different colors for the horses to be painted. His mother, Tammy, did the intricate painting of the saddle and adding details.

Moravec did the bulk of the work. However in order to be a certified amusement ride, the welding had to be done by someone who was certified.

The main skeleton stays up year-round, however the rest of the ride is stored inside during the winter. Moravec said they intend to build a structure over the carousel, something he calls phase two.

“Once we get a building over it, then it’ll be able to stay erected year round because it’ll be closed in and hidden from the elements,” Moravec said. “That would open it up to more possibilities of running it for other events.”

The intentions are for the carousel to be housed in a building that is reminiscent of the older style buildings already on the grounds. There would also be a bit of history on carousels in the building as well.

Phase three is restoring the carousel to steam power,

which Moravec said will not happen until they have a building over the ride.

The Threshree Club will charge for the ride solely to pay for insurance. They are not looking to make a profit on the ride so they can keep the cost low.

“We just want to keep it cheap and affordable for everyone to enjoy,” Moravec said.

Moravec said they are going to start raising funds for phase two of the project, and hope to be able to get a structure built over the carousel in the near future.

The fundraising is currently in the planning stages. The purchase of the carousel was financed, however they were able to sell sponsorships for the horses and seats on the carousel.

“The really cool thing about that carousel was it was a club driven project because everyone donated money to make this thing a reality, you know, they had a lot vested in it,” Moravec said.

Improvements planned at Triangle Park

BY EMILY DOUD
STAFF REPORTER

MANAWA – The Manawa Common Council voted to apply for a grant to continue revitalization of Triangle Park.

Greg Moser presented the grant opportunity to the Improvements and Services committee Nov. 14.

The grant is through the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. It is a vibrant spaces grant that is geared at addressing underutilized spaces near a business corridor.

The grant is \$25,000 to \$50,000. The committee is looking to receive the maximum amount.

The grant would need to be matched by funds currently held by the Triangle Park committee, which is

currently at \$50,000.

The main piece that the park committee is looking for is a roof over the bandstand along with an American with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible ramp.

Upgrading the electric is also in the plans, both at the bandstand and at the light poles on Bridge Street, for the potential purpose of a possible future food truck rally, Moser said.

Providing a large plaza area is also being considered, along with better seating and improving the crosswalks to and from the park.

“To really connect the park from the east side of town it’s kind of hard as a pedestrian to navigate an unusual intersection,” Moser said. “You have the fire trucks right there



The Triangle Park Committee is looking to continue to improve the park. One of the projects includes putting a roof over the band stand along with an ADA accessible ramp.

Emily Doud Photo

so it’s a little bit awkward as a pedestrian to get into the park if you’re on the east side. So that crosswalk from City Hall over to the park would definitely, I

think, improve that access from a pedestrian perspective.”

Moser said there are two people currently working on site plans. After the city

gives its blessing for the grant, they intend to evaluate the two plans and get them over to Logan Hass, the city clerk, to turn in by the Dec. 9 deadline.

“I think we view it as a really good opportunity to continue the momentum at Triangle Park that started with the 150th,” Moser said.

Waupaca County sheriff's report

- Nov. 22 – An unknown caller reported a person pulled out of Silver Mist and dumped a bunch of rocks in the roadway.
- Nov. 22 – A Waupaca caller on Cleghorn Road reported a man broke into her home and caused a domestic incident.
- Nov. 22 – An Embarrass man on Grand Avenue reported he received a death threat on the phone. He did not know the caller. “Lay a hand on her and I will beat you and put a gun to your head,” said the caller.
- Nov. 22 – A Clintonville man reported a woman in the middle of the road who could not breathe. She said she was trying to get away from her boyfriend.
- Nov. 22 – A Manawa man on Mountain Lake Road reported a trespasser wearing camouflage with a shotgun was captured on his trail camera.
- Nov. 22 – A Waupaca caller on Pleasant View Lane reported his neighbor’s front window was open and the screen was broken.
- Nov. 22 – A Marion caller on Circle J Road reported a person was walking in the road and every time a car passed, the person darted across the road and into the trees.
- Nov. 22 – A Waupaca woman on Glenvale Court reported a suspicious car with its lights going on and off near Pryse Road.
- Nov. 23 – Betty’s Bar and Grill in Clintonville reported several people were banging on the back door trying to get it. It was 2:41 a.m.
- Nov. 23 – A New London man on County Trunk B reported a gray SUV driving down the road and shooting into a field. This was the morning of the opening day of deer season. It was 3:49 a.m.
- Nov. 23 – A caller requested a welfare check for a man

- he found slumped over the wheel of a vehicle.
- Nov. 23 – A New London caller on Ritchie Road reported the death of a 65-year-old man that was in a box blind in a tree.
- Nov. 23 – ThedaCare requested a welfare check on a man who said he would be better off if he wasn’t here. He was crying on the phone.
- Nov. 23 – A Marion caller on Main Street reported her landlord removed mail from her mailbox.
- Nov. 23 – A female caller (different than the caller above) reported her landlord took mail out of her mailbox.
- Nov. 23 – A Larsen caller reported a trespasser on his property near White Lake Road.
- Nov. 23 – A Waupaca caller on Pleasant Park Lane reported he was walking his dog and a man grabbed his dog and started choking it for no reason.
- Nov. 23 – A Sheboygan Falls caller reported he was camping on his property and trespassers shot a buck on his property and dragged it off.
- Nov. 23 – Rawhide Youth Services reported a juvenile runaway.
- Nov. 23 – A Waupaca caller on Western Avenue reported she was having a possible cocaine overdose.
- Nov. 23 – A 911 caller reported the death of a man in the woods near Caledonia.
- Nov. 23 – An unknown caller reported seeing flames on a house near County Trunks O and T.
- Nov. 23 – A female caller reported five horses were missing.
- Nov. 43 – A Waupaca man on Park Avenue reported seeing a woman being dragged by her hair in the hallway and into an apartment.

Sheriff’s Report
CONTINUES ON PAGE 10

Iola-Scandinavia NEWS

Group appeals mine permit

BY EMILY DOUD
STAFF REPORTER

IOLA – An appeal was filed to the Waupaca Circuit Court Nov. 26 on behalf of neighbors to the recently approved sand mine in the town of Scandinavia.

The Scandinavia Plan Commission recommended denying the proposed conditional use permit on May 3, 2023. Their recommendation when forwarded to the Scandinavia Town Board, which also

recommended denial for the CUP.

The CUP was then given to the Waupaca County Planning and Zoning Committee. Following a July 2023 public hearing, committee members voted in August to deny the CUP request.

Eventually the Waupaca County Planning and Zoning Committee voted to allow the CUP for the proposed mine in January 2024 upon agreeing to conditions. Board member

Joe McClone cast the single dissenting.

An appeal was filed on behalf of the neighbors to the mine. Christa Westerberg of Pines Bach law firm out of Madison is representing the neighbors.

The appeal went to the Board of Adjustments and after over 10 hours of testimony Oct. 25 the board

decided to uphold the decision made by the Planning and Zoning Committee last January.

According to Greg Ambrosius, one of the neighbors named in the appeal, the Board of Adjustment will have 20 days to provide a written answer to the petition and then the case will be assigned to a judge.

Church DIRECTORY

New London 2055	Waupaca Area 2090
Emanuel Lutheran Church (WELS) 200 E. Quincy St., NL Sat 5:15, Sun 8 & 10:30, Mon 6:30 Pastors Bill Heiges, Marcus Schulz & Mark Tiefel. Youth & Family Counseling. Lutheran School: 3-Pre - 8th Grade. 920-982-5444 www.EmanuelNL.org eman@EmanuelNL.org	St. Mary Magdalene N2845 Shadow Rd., Waupaca (715)258-2088 Saturday Mass 4:30 pm Sunday Mass 8 am & 10 am www.smm-waupaca.org
Waupaca Area 2090	Weyauwega 2100
Emmaus Lutheran Church Town of Lind, N180 Cty. Rd. A, Waupaca. Rev. Kurt Schilling. Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 7 pm A Missouri synod church. Visitors welcome.	First Presbyterian Church 200 S. Pine St., Weyauwega 10:30 a.m. Sunday Service 920-867-2880 All welcome! Open Communion
Immanuel Lutheran Church WELS 1120 Evans, Waupaca. 715-258-0204. Sunday Worship: 8:00 am & 10:30 am, Thurs 7 pm Pastors Ron Siemers & Ben Kempfert. Sunday Radio Service 8:00am (WDUX 92.7) www.immanuelwaupaca.com	SS Peter & Paul Catholic Church 608 E. Main St., Weyauwega, Mass Sat. 4:30pm Sun. 10:30am Tues 9am, Thurs 9am 920-867-2179 www.sspeterpaulchurch.org
St. Mark's Episcopal Church 415 South Main Street, Waupaca, WI (715) 258-5125 Holy Eucharist Sunday 9:30 AM www.stmarkswaupaca.com	St. John's Lutheran Church LCMC N3882 Cty. Rd. KK Weyauwega, 920-867-3793 Worship at 9:30 a.m. Sunday FM 101.7 for Outdoor Option stjohnslutheranlcmc.org
St. Peter Lutheran (WELS) 312 W. Main St., Weyauwega Services 4:00 pm Saturday, 8:00 am and 10:30 am on Sunday. (920)867-3169, www.splwegacn.org	

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WINCHESTER

FROM PAGE 3

said Linda Kassera, a trustee of the Winchester Academy. Winchester created their scholarships to help those already enrolled to keep their studies moving forward. Students can be in tech school, college or graduate school.

"Our theme is lifelong learning. We're not just talking about it, we're supporting it. We need support people going onto school. That's the direction we're going," said Kassera.

This will be the second year they have awarded scholarships. In 2024, they awarded two \$1,000 scholarships. Payton Thurber, a teacher at the School District of Waupaca,

was awarded a scholarship to study English-as-a-second-language education as the district has more non-native speakers enrolled. Another scholarship was awarded to Hayden Walkush, a Waupaca graduate and student at UW-Stevens Point working towards as master's degree in wildlife ecology and management.

This year the academy will award one \$1,500 scholarship. The Winchester Scholarship application will be open in January 2025.

The criteria: students can be in any field of study and have completed the second semester of a two or three-year program at a Wisconsin accredited institution and be enrolled

for the following semester or completed the second year of a four-year program at a Wisconsin accredited institution and be enrolled for the following semester. Also students pursuing an advanced degree that enrolled for a following semester at Wisconsin-accredited institution are eligible.

The applicants must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.8 or higher, shall reside in Wisconsin and preference will be given to those residing in the greater Waupaca area. Also preference will be given to "first-in-family" applicants.

Applications can be found at www.winchesterwaupaca.org.

FUND

FROM PAGE 5

into the individual account upon eligibility of retirement," Kuhn said.

Kuhn told the board that the only drawback to placing individual funds into one single account would be the individual accounts would no longer be earning interest. Interest would be earned on the funds in the single account.

If the district does nothing, and it has to payout the upcoming retirement benefits, Kuhn said the district will need to start budgeting for retirements. The balanced budget approved for the 2024-25 school year did not include any funds for retirement benefits.

"The reason we had a lot of deficits in the past, is this wasn't put in the budget, and when people announced their retirement by February 15, we just eat that cost," Kuhn said. "I'm saying we can't do that anymore. We need to project the budget model out. We need to predict what these retirements

are going to be so we don't have any surprises."

Board President Ben Huber said the district implemented this HRA retirement benefit around five years ago.

"We were trying to change the way our retirement system worked, we thought this would be a pretty good idea," Huber said. "And I think it still is a pretty good idea, but we have to tweak it from stored individually to stored-as-a-group money. We've already paid it in. It's already there to be used."

Kuhn said moving the funds from individual retirement accounts into a single district account is legal.

Retirement funds were discussed at a previous board meeting in closed session. Kuhn said the district can't take possession of the \$400,000 in retirement funds with Mid America and create a new fund within the district, because those funds would then need to be counted as revenue by the district.

"And that's going to affect

future budgets," Kuhn said.

Board Vice President Kris Strauman said she thinks moving the funds into a single district account with Mid America is a good solution.

Board member Glen Drew Lundt questioned the interest lost by individual employees.

Kuhn said to make up for that, an extra \$50 would be added to the amount each year for salaried employees, and an extra \$25 would be added for support staff.

Currently, salaried employees in the district have \$1,000 added to their retirement benefit each year, while support staff receives \$500 each year. Kuhn said that hasn't been done for the last two years.

Kuhn reminded the board that this retirement benefit is not available to new teachers in the district because the board agreed in 2022 to change the contracts for incoming teachers.

Those who leave the district prior to retiring, do not receive these retirement benefit funds from the district.

Waupaca second in deer kill

BY JAMES CARD STAFF REPORTER

COUNTY – According to a preliminary DNR report, as of Nov. 26 the current tally for the total whitetail deer harvest for all seasons (archery and firearm) for Waupaca County is 3,995 antlered deer and 2,718 antlerless deer for a total of 6,713.

These numbers do not include tribal harvests, road-killed deer or deer taken via agriculture damage permits.

That puts Waupaca in second place behind Marathon County (7,292) and above Shawano County at third place (5,958). These three counties traditionally have held the top spots for deer harvest in Wisconsin.

The total current harvest for Marathon, Waupaca

and Shawano is 19,963. By comparison in 2023, the entire state of New Hampshire harvested 14,082 deer, Massachusetts took 15,522 deer and Vermont killed 16,845 deer.

All three top counties are in the Central Farmland region and the harvest total for that area is 117, 838. The Central Forest region had a total of 8,186. The Northern Forest region had 30,932 and the Southern Farmland region had 43,979.

During opening weekend, hunters statewide harvested 89,203 whitetail deer, a 2% decrease from last year.

The preliminary report for the archery season as of Nov. 26 puts Waupaca bowhunters shooting 762 bucks and 425 antlerless deer for a total of 1,187.

The summary for the crossbow season as of Nov. 26 lists Waupaca hunters taking 1,305 bucks, 706 antlerless deer for a total of 2,011.

During the October youth hunt in Waupaca, young hunters harvested 142 bucks and 80 antlerless deer for a total of 222.

The deer-hunting season is not finished yet. This week is the muzzleloader season which ends on Dec. 11. The next day is the start of the four-day antlerless-only season that ends on Sunday, Dec. 15. Next, the archery and crossbow season resumes and lasts until Jan. 5, 2025. In other counties in the state (but not Waupaca this year) is the antlerless-only holiday hunt that runs from Dec. 24 to Jan. 1.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

FROM PAGE 7

- Nov. 24 – Rawhide Youth Services reported a juvenile runaway.
- Nov. 24 – Taco Bell in Waupaca reported a woman yelling and screaming at the drive-through.
- Nov. 24 – A Clintonville man on Gratzke road reported a garage had white smoke pouring out of it.
- Nov. 24 – A Clintonville caller on County Trunk CC reported he received a caller from a person posing as a deputy from the sheriff's office. The person stated the caller needed to send money for a sex registry violation. He sent \$200 via a Kwik Trip kiosk.
- Nov. 25 – A Clintonville caller on Main Street reported a man in a Chevy Silverado pointed a gun at him.
- Nov. 25 – Rawhide Youth Services reported a juvenile runaway.
- Nov. 26 – A Clintonville man reported a domestic

- dispute in the Fleet Farm parking lot.
- Nov. 26 – A Marion caller on Meyer Street reported a female was at her residence that was fearful of being hurt by her brother.
- Nov. 26 – A Manawa caller on Hillside Road reported a man was not welcome to retrieve a tree stand on her land.
- Nov. 26 – An lola caller on Anderson Road reported her daughter was out of control.
- Nov. 26 – A Waupaca woman on Oman Street reported a man was trying to break into her house.
- Nov. 26 – A Waupaca caller on Shambeau Trace reported she heard a noise and her dog was acting funny.
- Nov. 26 – A Waupaca woman on Riverside Drive reported hearing a banging sound around her house.
- Nov. 27 – A DNR warden requested the sheriff to send a deputy to warn hunters on state land that some hunters were standing in the roadway to shoot driven deer.

- Nov. 27 – Rawhide Youth Services reported a juvenile runaway.
- Nov. 27 – A Scandinavia man on Nottleson Road reported a suspicious flashing light coming from the top of a ridge.
- Nov. 28 – A Tigerton man on County Trunk J reported a deer hunters shot towards his house and shattered a window.
- Nov. 28 – A Marion caller on Main Street reported a man with a restraining order was text messaging her.
- Nov. 29 – A New London caller on Seefield Road reported her neighbor was drunk and in her home. He refused to leave and he locked the caller out of her own house but she got back inside.
- Nov. 29 – A Clintonville man on Steenbock Road reported his back door was open and it looked like it had been kicked in. An upstairs light was also on.
- Nov. 30 – An unknown caller provided an address with loud music and yelling and possible underage drinking.
- Nov. 30 – A Waupaca man on Chad Court reported someone was possibly breaking into his house. The person came on foot. There was a flashlight and an alarm went off.
- Nov. 30 – A Manawa caller on North Bridge Street reported his snowmobile was stolen along with his father-in-law's trailer.
- Nov. 30 – Rawhide Youth Services reported a juvenile runaway.
- Nov. 30 – A Waupaca man on Shambeau Court reported finding shotgun shells and beer cans on his property.
- Nov. 30 – An lola woman on Water Street reported a suspicious van near her mother's property. The van was not running and had been sitting there for a couple hours.
- Dec. 1 – A Marion caller on Prospect Avenue reported his girlfriend's 27-year-old son was refusing to leave the house. He had been staying there for the past 15 months.
- Dec. 1 – A New London man on Ely Lane reported the theft of a package. The package was confirmed to be delivered via a photo.
- There were 17 deer-related calls during this period. Eight controlled burns were called in. A Clintonville man was bitten on his thumb by his own cat. ThedaCare reported two cases of Waupaca residents bitten by dogs. A Waupaca man on Radley Road reported longhorn cattle running loose. A Hortonville man reported an injured red-tailed hawk on the roadway. A caller reported some horses were neglected and without water.



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Sports

Wildcats pull away in second half

BY GREG SEUBERT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Playing in front of a home crowd for the first time this season, the Iola-Scandinavia girls' basketball team had an opportunity to pick up its third win in as many games.

The Wild Rose Wildcats, however, kept that from happening.

The Wildcats used a pair of big runs in the second half, outscored the Thunderbirds 31-17 over the final 18 minutes, and returned home with a 65-46 win on Nov. 26.

Neither team led by more than seven points in the first half. The Thunderbirds led 15-8 early in the game, but Wild Rose answered by outscoring the home team 26-14 to take a 34-29 lead into the locker room at halftime.

The Wildcats opened the second half with a 7-2 run to push the lead to 10 points, and the Thunderbirds never got closer than six points the rest of the way.

Iola-Scandinavia trailed



Iola-Scandinavia's Brylee Jueds snares a rebound while surrounded by Wild Rose players Nov. 26 in the first half of the Thunderbirds' 65-46 loss to the Wildcats.

Greg Seubert Photo

53-44, but the Wildcats sealed the win by outscoring the Thunderbirds 14-4 the rest of the way.

CayLeigh Woyak and Emma Printz led Iola-

Scandinavia with 18 and 13 points, respectively. Wild Rose's Cali Halvolitz led all players with 32 points, and teammate Aly-

son Henschel added 20.

Berlin holds on to top Waupaca boys

BY GREG SEUBERT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WAUPACA – In some ways, the season opener for the Waupaca boys' basketball team on Dec. 2 was like "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly," the 1960s western movie starring Clint Eastwood.

The good? The Comets overcame an early 11-0 deficit against Berlin.

The bad? Waupaca had opportunities down the stretch to catch the Indians.

The ugly? Berlin's 18-3 run to start the second half kept the Comets from getting a nonconference win on their home court, and the Indians returned home with a 59-50 win.

The Indians wasted little time taking control of the game by scoring the first 11 points. Waupaca chipped away at the lead and took a 19-18 lead late in the first half on Andrew McDonald's three-pointer. The lead changed hands three more times before Carter Hess gave Berlin a 27-26 lead at the break with a basket just before the buzzer.

A slow start in the second half hurt Waupaca, as an 18-3 run gave the Indians their largest lead, 45-29.



Waupaca's Westen Lauritzen and Berlin's Aaron Bartol keep their eyes on the ball in the first half of a nonconference game Dec. 2 at Waupaca High School.

Greg Seubert Photo

Once again, however, the Comets cut into the lead and eventually pulled to 56-50 on a three-pointer from Westen Lauritzen with 35 seconds remaining.

Berlin, however, sealed the win from the free-throw line, and the Comets never got any closer.

Waupaca's Austin Adamczak led all scorers with 16 points, and Aaron Wolff added 12.

Hess led four Berlin play-

ers in double figures with 15 points. Hayden Redington added 14, and Ryder Beulen and Aaron Bartol scored 11, respectively.

The Comets will open North Eastern Conference play Friday, Dec. 6, by hosting a doubleheader with Wrightstown and Freedom. The boys will face Wrightstown at 5:45 p.m., and the girls will host Freedom at approximately 7 p.m.

Truckers girls basketball lose home opener

BY NICK GRIESBACH
SPORTS REPORTER

CLINTONVILLE- Truckers girls basketball dug themselves out of an early hole to bring the game within single digits before falling 52-40 at home against the Shiocton Chiefs on Tuesday, Nov. 26.

The Chiefs went up 24-4 in the opening nine minutes of the game as they forced turnovers at will and turned them into easy transition layups.

Clintonville began to show signs of life at the end of the second half as their transition defense started to get stops as they went on an 11-7 run as they went into



Samantha Lerma leads the break for the Truckers after a defensive stop.

Nick Griesbach Photo

the locker room at halftime. In the second half, the Truckers cut the deficit to 48-39 as Zoey Ferg scored in the paint. Ferg led all scorers with 17 points and

contributed eight rebounds. The Truckers outscored the Chiefs 25-19 in the second half, but it was not enough to overcome the first-half deficit.

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PRESENTS

Senior Spotlight

Jackson Schroeder-SPASH

Stevens Point Panthers hockey looks to add to their trophy case with another Wisconsin Valley Conference championship and a possible trip to state. A key to those hopes is Jackson Schroeder, the Panthers' leading goal scorer in the 2023-2024 and a two-time All-State selection, who led the Panthers to the Division 1 WIAA state sectionals a season ago.

Jackson, the son of Jason and Tina, was introduced to hockey by his dad and took to the ice at eight, "My favorite part about the sport is being at the rink every day with the boys. All my friends have made me love hockey so much that I never want to quit playing the sport I love."

Jackson's biggest asset is his ability to find the back of the net, as he scored 30 goals a season ago. Jackson considers beating Wausau West in the first three years of his high school career his best experience playing for the Panthers, and the overtime win his sophomore season is the best moment of the rivalry.

Cole Caufield, a SPASH and Wisconsin Badgers alum and one of the NHL's leading goal scorers this season, is the player that Jackson looks up to. "He went to Spash and played for the Wisconsin Badgers. I hope to play at a high level like him someday."

Over his time in high school, Jackson has matured in the classroom, on the ice, and in his workouts and eating habits.

Jackson believes the sky's the limit for the Panthers as he gives shout-outs to his coaches and teammates." Matthew Pohlkamp, Nate Bolton, and coach Koss for pushing the boys every day to get better. We have the talent and depth for a state title this year."



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Bulldogs girls hoops lose home opener

BY NICK GRIESBACH
SPORTS REPORTER

NEW LONDON – The Bulldogs girls basketball team started off slow in their home opener against Berlin.

Berlin went on an early 12-0 run that put the Bulldogs at an early disadvantage. Guard Djunie Langel got the Bulldogs on the board with a layup on a fast break.

Sophomore Chesney Magolski hit a three-point shot for the Bulldogs to make it a 12-5 deficit, but Berlin went on a 10-3 run to make it 22-8. Berlin went into halftime with a 28-13 lead.



New Londons Caitlin Stroesenreuther secures the rebound in a crowd of players.

Nick Griesbach Photo

In the second half, the Bulldogs rallied, going on a 14-4 run to cut the deficit to 32-27, which was capped by a Sarah Daly layup.

It would be as close to

closing the gap in the score that the Bulldogs would get. Berlin outscored New London 19-10 to finish the game with a score of 51-37. The Bulldogs are now 0-3 on the season.

Area Boys Basketball first week results

BY NICK GRIESBACH
SPORTS REPORTER

Tuesday, Nov. 26
Manawa 86,
Rosholt 47

MANAWA-The Manawa Wolves delivered an 86-47 trouncing over Rosholt in the first game under new Head Coach Connor Scheid.

Weyauwega-Fremont 57,
Wild Rose 42
WILD ROSE- The Warhawks had three different double-digit scorers. Ethan Kopljen leading the way with 19 points to go along with 13 rebounds. Broc Billington contributed 16 points, and Chris Gunst scored 15.

Friday, Nov. 29
Hortonville 85,
Lourdes Academy 40
OSHKOSH- In the Steve Randall Memorial Classic held at Oshkosh West, the Hortonville Polar Bears dominated from the opening tip.

All-Conference guards Riley Mueller and Ethan Joling dominated as Mueller scored 25 points and Joling scored 23, respectively.

Mosinee 57,
New London 47
MOSINEE-The New London Bulldogs started their season with a road loss against Mosinee, in the Mosinee Thanksgiving Classic. Joseph Daly led the Bulldogs in scoring with 22 points and pulled down 13 rebounds.

Saturday, Nov. 30
New London 60,
Lakeland 37
MOSINEE-In the second day of the Mosinee Thanksgiving Classic, the Bulldogs got their first win of the season as they defeated Lakeland. Joseph Daly scored a team-high 22 points to go with 12 rebounds.

Bay Port 85,
Stevens Point 77

STEVENS POINT-The Panthers lost a highly competitive game against Bay Port at home as Grant Chandonais led all scorers with 27 points.

Shawano 81,
Clintonville 58
SHAWANO-The Truckers fell on the road to Shawano in their season opener. Sam Wegener led the Truckers in scoring with 18 and rebounding with eight.

Hortonville 70,
Fort Atkinson 67
OSHKOSH-In the second game of the Steve Randall Memorial Classic held at Oshkosh West. The Polar Bears found themselves locked in a battle with Fort Atkinson as they were down sown 40-36 at halftime. Alden Rogers came through for Hortonville as he scored 25 points and made four three-pointers to help his team get the win.

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